



Strategic Objectives

July 2016 - June 2018

Introduction to the INGO Forum Strategic Objectives July 2016 through June 2018

This strategy has been developed to outline the overall objectives of the INGO Forum during the period July 2016 through June 2018.

Goal of the INGO Forum Myanmar

The INGO Forum aims to influence and increase the effectiveness and coherence of humanitarian relief and development aid in Myanmar. It does this by exploring opportunities to develop and strengthen policy and best practice through coordinated information sharing, facilitated dialogue and constructive engagement with national and international decision-makers involved in humanitarian and development activities. In doing so it supports an enabling environment for INGOs to better fulfil their mandates.

General Objectives

- The INGO Forum supports information sharing and facilitated dialogue between INGO decision-makers on operational matters, and on opportunities to strengthen policy and best practice through constructive engagement and collaboration with national and international decision-makers in Myanmar.
- The INGO Forum provides a means through which INGOs, United Nations, local NGOs, donors, the Government of Myanmar and other stakeholders can exchange information, share expertise and establish guidelines for coordinated, efficient and effective relief and development activities.
- The INGO Forum provides opportunities for strategic discussions through which common or complementary strategies will be developed based on collective analysis and mutual learning.

Values and Principles

Members of the INGO Forum share common values and principles based on common interest and commitment to promoting social equity, economic progress and better standard of living for the people in Myanmar. This commitment is based on the agencies' appreciation of their own ethical obligations and reflects the rights and duties enshrined in international law.

- Forum Members promote and advocate for the right to life with dignity and security and undertake all possible steps to prevent or alleviate human suffering.
- Forum Members subscribe to principles of Humanity, Impartiality, Independence, Neutrality and Non-Proselytising
- Forum Members provide assistance on the basis of need alone regardless of ethnic backgrounds, political affiliations, religious beliefs, and gender difference or preference.
- Forum Members attempt to build and strengthen local capacities, work through/with local organisations/civil society and hold themselves accountable.
- Forum Members mutually respect each other's independence while recognising the necessity of discussion and dialogue and the benefits to be gained from close interaction and coordination.
- Forum Members follow a not-for-profit principle and are prohibited from distributing profit.

Strategic Objective 1: Thought Leadership (20%)

INGO Forum will provide a forum to share, discuss and analyse information on the operational and political context in Myanmar.

The Forum will produce common positioning and influence key stakeholders on humanitarian and development issues in Myanmar. It will focus on two key priorities, reviewed every 6 months.

Sub-Objective 1.1: INGO Forum will convene discussions among members on issues of strategic and operational importance, and support conversations among different Working Groups on key humanitarian and development issues.

Activities for Sub-Objective 1.1:

- Providing a platform for discussion, organizing of working groups, topic meetings, think-tank meetings.
- Supporting Steering Committee and other INGO Forum members to discuss strategic issues and the political context in order to suggest strategic actions for the INGO community, donors, UN and Government.
- Producing analytical 'think pieces' on key issues to inform advocacy.
- Initiating discussion and improving awareness amongst members on key initiatives and debates at a global level, to explore its applicability in the Myanmar context.
- Engaging with local NGOs to explore opportunities for joint advocacy or initiatives with INGOs and local civil society.

Sub Objective 1.2: INGO Forum will facilitate common positioning and advocacy initiatives to improve access to basic services, human rights and dignity and sustainable development for people in Myanmar.

Activities for Sub-Objective 1.2:

- Supporting Steering Committee and INGO Forum Members to act as a voice for INGO community towards the UN, Donors, Government officials and other stakeholders.
- Supporting INGO Forum Members to participate in and influence National/State Development and Donor planning with a common position on behalf of the Member Body, or relevant Members, setting up key objectives, talking points or shared understanding and ways of working (as seen for example at Government led Sector Working Groups meetings and Humanitarian Coordination meetings).
- Exploring opportunities to build relationships with key Government officials in order to improve understanding and awareness of INGO efforts to open avenues for engagement and advocacy.
- Advocating on operational and legal frameworks, access and other key issues that affect INGO programming and operations, in partnership with INGO Forum members, UN and donor representatives.
- Strengthening of INGO Forum Member's voice in the global level strategic discussions and coordination structures.

Strategic Objective 2: Member services and information sharing (40%)

INGO Forum will support members to be able to respond to developments in the operational, political and humanitarian context and ensure effectiveness of their operations.

It will do so by collecting and sharing information in an inclusive and transparent manner and supporting its Members with access to operational and strategic information.

Sub Objective 2.1: INGO Forum will ensure information sharing with its Members.

Activities for Sub-Objective 2.1:

- Sharing information through weekly newsletters, website, emails and meetings.
- Serving as a support unit and point of contact on operational information.

Sub Objective 2.2: INGO Forum will serve a liaison role amongst its Members and between different stakeholders.

Activities for Sub-Objective 2.2:

- Serving as a focal point for Member organizations and its staff to reach out to other INGOs and stakeholders.
- Serving as an INGO focal point for external bodies so they can reach out to INGOs.
- Reaching out to local NGOs to build relationships, improve mutual understanding, two way communication and capacity building and supporting efforts to create more inclusive and effective partnerships.

Strategic Objective 3: Coordination (40%)

INGO Forum will contribute to effective coordination amongst INGOs and with key stakeholders, such as UN, Donors, Government and local NGOs, and explore options for building synergies and improving coherence between them.

Sub Objective 3.1: INGO Forum will improve internal coordination and exchange of information amongst its Members.

Activities for Sub-Objective 3.1:

- Facilitating INGO Forum meetings, discussions, working groups, topic/sectorial meetings.
- Ensuring INGO Representatives are feeding back information from strategic meetings they have attended to the Membership.

Sub Objective 3.2: INGO Forum will ensure its representation at key relevant meetings and focus on close cooperation amongst the INGO community and UN, Donors, Government, and local NGOs.

Activities for Sub-Objective 3.2:

- Reaching out to key stakeholders and ensuring that INGO Representatives are welcomed to participate in strategic meetings to share their expertise and perspective.
- Organizing transparent and inclusive elections within the INGO Forum to select INGO Representatives for different strategic meetings.
- Working towards improving humanitarian and development coordination systems at national and local level.

Review process for the Strategic Plan

A review should take place after one year with possible revision of the Strategic Objectives to reflect the changing context. The Strategic Plan will be accompanied by an internal Indicators Table that it will be reviewed against periodically. Stakeholder analysis and priorities for engagement.

Coordination Groups: Myanmar has over eighty sector and thematic groups working on technical issues and coordination in the development and humanitarian spheres. The groups incorporate a range of stakeholders, for example, the Government of Myanmar, Donors, the UN, INGOs, LNGOs, CBOs and the private sector. Often there is little interplay between development and humanitarian coordination, and geographically based coordination groups. INGOs are members of over fifty of these groups. The following table indicates how the INGO Forum intends to engage with external stakeholders and what the priority areas for engagement are.

Stakeholders in Humanitarian and Development issues

| External Stakeholder | Priority areas in which the INGO Forum may seek to engage or to have influence |
|---|--|
| Government of the Union of the Republic of Myanmar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National and Sector Development Plans Sub-National Plans Laws Pertaining to INGOs |
| Donors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donor strategy Feedback on Call for Proposals |
| UN: HCT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electing INGO representatives Passing messages from the INGO community to the HCT Supporting the HCT in setting priorities and objectives |
| UN: Clusters and Sector WG | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaison and participation |
| GoM-DP Sector Working Groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electing INGO representatives to represent Forum members Encouraging that two-way feedback mechanisms are in place Playing a role in determining National Development Plans, sectoral plans, annual action plans of SWGs |
| LNGO Networks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing linkages and sharing information Developing joint strategies |
| LNGOs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing information to LNGOs Sharing information |
| Civil Society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing information to Civil Society Sharing information |
| Myanmar Information Management Unit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic and Planning Support Supporting information exchange |
| Multi-laterals: WB, ADB, ASEAN etc | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum for engagement on policy and strategy To advocate for a rights-based approach |
| International NGO coordination bodies: InterAction / ICVA / Voice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For external high-level advocacy and sharing information |
| Media | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For engagement and information sharing |