**Collaboration for good**

**Alliance4Impact (A4I)**

*Facilitating cross sector collaboration for social good.*

*A service that advocates, unites and supports collaborative resilience to humanitarian crises*

**About A4I**

Based in Geneva, Switzerland – renowned as the world’s humanitarian capital – A4I facilitates cross sector collaboration for social good. It was founded in response to the growing need for independent quality support for collaboration between different sectors of society attempting to achieve practical objectives of mutual interest.

A4I was born out of the historic initiative *Leave No One Behind: Partnering for impact* in Davos in 2018. This initiative was delivered in support of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting theme *Creating a shared future in a fragmented world*. It brought together 22 companies, humanitarian and development organisations for the first time to work as partners in a shared space called the Sustainable Impact Hub to demonstrate the practical value of the public and private sectors working together towards objectives of mutual interest.

A4I continues with these efforts to build a world in which people are better able to avoid, mitigate, prepare for, and respond to humanitarian crises and rebuild a more resilient society. A resilient society provides a stable and secure environment for people and businesses to flourish. It is the A4I belief that this can only be achieved effectively and sustainably if those who are directly affected can work together to control decisions and actions that affect them.

A4I therefore focuses on helping stakeholders collaborate to achieve a sustainable and self-sufficient society by delivering tangible impact.

A4I:

* provides information and advice drawing on a wide network of trusted and experienced professionals;
* brokers and supports relationships between companies, organisations and communities;
* manages collaborative processes towards commonly agreed objectives for tangible impact;
* facilitates and convenes events for people to build relationships of mutual benefit.

**Founder**

Andy Andrea is a process facilitator. He has more than 25 years of facilitating collaboration between partners for risk management, humanitarian and development related objectives.

Andy Andrea is the Executive Director of Alliance4Impact and Co-Founder and Director of Impact17.Net.

He began his career in a parliamentary consultancy where he helped company clients work together to develop lobbying strategies to influence UK Government and EU policies before joining ActionAid, one of the UK's largest development charities. While developing press and publication products he launched the aid & development sector’s first internet based collaborative communications platform in 1993. He brought this experience to the United Nations where he created new partnerships between UN humanitarian agencies, NGOs, companies and governments to design and launch ReliefWeb, the international humanitarian response system’s first ever web based information management tool. He replicated this experience at the World Health Organisation for health related humanitarian emergencies.

Andy then became part of the team that launched what has become the world’s leading independent armed conflict mediation organisation, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue based in Geneva, where he was Director of Communications for 12 years. Here he facilitated groups of stakeholders from varied backgrounds to achieve practical impact on issues of mutual interest. This was a platform for his involvement with the World Economic Forum as Head of Government and Public Affairs. He brought together and facilitated groups of leaders and experts from the public and private sectors to jointly address risks and other global challenges, and sought to include academic experts in cross sector activities and discussions. He was also responsible for designing the highest level multisector meetings in Davos.

When leading the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Private Sector Section, he was responsible for the unprecedented involvement of the private sector in the World Humanitarian Summit, its contribution to the Agenda for Humanity, launching the Connecting Business initiative, a global multi stakeholder collaboration to build local resilience and respond to humanitarian crises, and the creation of the first ever Sustainable Impact Hub in Davos to further encourage collaboration between international humanitarian organisations and the private sector.

He continues to improve humanitarian emergency preparedness and response, and to localise ownership and action by facilitating cross sector collaboration. Andy has been accredited by the International Association of Facilitators. Andy has been accredited by the International Association of Facilitators and has a fundamental belief in the power of collective action for mutual benefit and in the ownership of solutions by people directly affected.

**Context**

The needs of people directly affected by humanitarian crises are growing in our increasingly **interconnected** **and interdependent world.** The impact on previously remote societies can now easily be felt on the other side of the world and across all aspects of society. Philanthropy and CSR, contributions by governments, and efforts by international organisations dedicated to helping others can no longer meet increasing the challenges alone. The fact that these international organisations exist is a reflection of the failure of society and of people to be able to look after themselves.

There is an imperative for **joint action** to better address humanitarian challenges that affect us all in the economic, societal, environmental and political spheres. Businesses, international organisations, NGO’s, governments, academics and civil society organisations share mutual interests in **building resilient societies**. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, innumerable reports, studies and individuals from the private and public sectors are rallying the global community to **collaborate** in addressing humanitarian and development challenges.

A4I provides support and encouragement for that collaboration.

**Vision**

A world in which people have greater control over their resilience to potential humanitarian crises

**Objective**

A4I commitment to that vision is to increase effective collaboration between different sectors of society on resilience building objectives of mutual benefit

**Strategy**

Fostering partnerships to transform resilience

A4I helps different sectors of society collaborate and succeed by:

1. Encouraging cross sector collaboration and recognition of the strengths of different actors.
2. Increase understanding of mutual interests and principled action.
3. Providing information and advice on collaboration and the objectives of most potential impact.
4. Supporting cross sector partnerships and processes locally and globally to communicate and collaborate.

**Values**

1. Cross sector partnerships are between equals – Although collaborating partners may bring varied degrees of skills, experience, resources, and influence, they are all equal stakeholders attempting to achieve objectives of mutual concern.
2. Self-sufficient societies are more effective societies – The focus of collaboration is the positive impact it has on the ability of people to look after themselves. The more effective this is the more positive effect on society and the economy.
3. Collaborative action is an investment in a joint objective – By working together we increase our power and ownership of a shared future.
4. Humility is the most effective methodology – A4I recognizes its strength in agile facilitation and that collaborating partners own the process. Whenever more efficient, effective or knowledgeable partners can be brought in, A4I will strive to do so.
5. Although values differ, humanitarian principles must be shared and encouraged – By addressing the needs of the most vulnerable people, such as children, women, and the elderly we are more likely to create a resilient society. The positive impact of collaboration must be provided without political, religious, or ideological prejudice nature and without discriminating by ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political opinions, race, or religion. Any intervention must respect the culture, customs, and structures of local communities.

**Key messages**

* Working together can achieve a greater impact
  + The private sector is a fundamental component of local communities
  + Different sectors have complimentary approaches, skills and resources
  + Effective partnerships require sustainable effort
* A more resilient society is in the interests of all
  + The private sector benefits from a stable economy
  + Engaging in humanitarian action is a right for all
* When stakeholders can look after themselves they become more resilient
  + The existence of humanitarian organisations is a reflection of the failure of people to look after themselves
* Different sectors of society need help to work together effectively
* Current approaches are paternalistic
  + International humanitarian assistance can have a negative impact on local societies and economies