

July 2016

I can hardly believe that it is 12 months since I wrote my first blog and I said at that time that it would be a steep learning curve, and I wasn't joking.

The more I learn, the more I realise I do not know!

Change is always difficult, and as I moved from Assistant Programme Director (APD) in Health up to Programme Director I did so with enthusiasm, trepidation and a large portion of bravado. I knew that I had some very hard acts to follow, but also that I was taking on the job at a time of many proposed changes. There was the new Programme Action Reporting Database, the new Federation Project – [Meru Women's Garden Project](#) and Vision 2021 – the strategic plan for SIGBI's future.

I have also made suggestions about improving communication and effectiveness of Programme Action.

I have received tremendous support from SIGBI HQ in Stockport and the Federation Management Board (FMB), not to mention how grateful I am for my brilliant team of [APD's](#), who work quietly in the background putting in a huge amount of work for SIGBI.

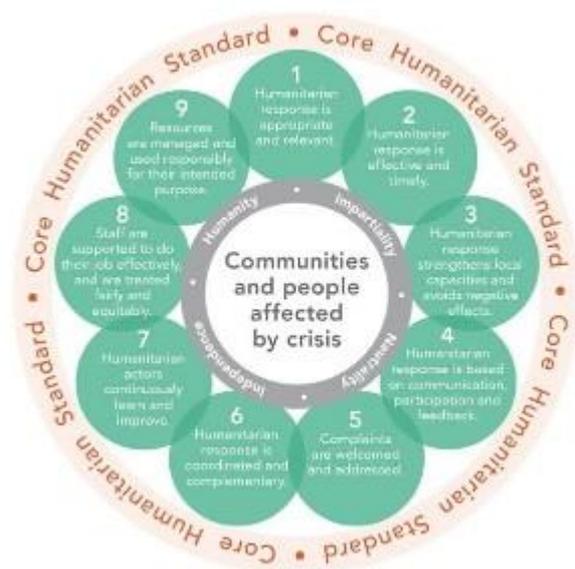
This year has seen many tragedies, some natural and some man made, and every one brings home to me the importance of our project work.

I have just returned from Greece where they are struggling to cope with their own financial crises as well as trying to accommodate thousands of refugees who have sailed over from Turkey. As we know many did not make that journey successfully but perished in an attempt to reach a place of safety.



Clubs around the world continue to help those who have limited access to food, security, healthcare and education through humanitarian acts.

[The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability \(CHS\)](#) sets out Nine Commitments that organisations and individuals involved in humanitarian response can use to improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance they provide. The Core Humanitarian Standard



The focus of the alliance’s work aims to improve how humanitarian work is delivered. The standard is said to have been developed in consultation with “many hundreds of humanitarian actors” around the world.

There are nine broad commitments to communities and people affected by crisis, for example: “Communities and people affected by crisis receive assistance appropriate and relevant to their needs.” These commitments are supported by guidance notes and indicators – detailing how [humanitarians](#) can deliver high-quality programmes consistently and be accountable to those they assist – which are themselves supported by technical guidance notes elaborating on the performance indicators.

The CHS follows the same principles as the [International Red Cross’ code of conduct](#).

As a Global organisation we aim to Educate, Empower and Enable women and girls to reach their full potential. We are in a changing world, sadly not all good changes so together we must aim to make a difference.

Barbara Dixon
Federation Programme Director