What’s next?
The project is working to enhance the effective engagement of NGOs in humanitarian reform. This includes:

- Supporting more effective national and international NGO engagement with clusters
- Improving NGO access to pooled funds including direct access for national NGOs
- Enabling better involvement of, and accountability to, affected populations, particularly in the work of the clusters
- Promoting closer collaboration on sharing needs assessment frameworks, vital for improving the appropriateness of humanitarian aid
- Advocacy for better humanitarian leadership including monitoring of performance
- Global level advocacy to instigate broader improvements in the various elements of the reform process
- Facilitating workshops for NGOs at the country level on humanitarian reform and related issues
- Documenting and sharing good practice with key humanitarian stakeholders

How can NGOs get involved?
NGOs from outside of the consortium, especially national NGOs, as well as other humanitarian actors, are strongly encouraged to contact the Humanitarian Reform Officers (HROs) or other project members, to learn how they can engage with the project.

Kavere (left) and Kanyere trying to cook in the rain at Goma DRC Kibati camp for displaced people

The HROs are contactable as follows:
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Cover photo by Katie Holt/Shoot the Earth/ActionAid – November 2008
Woman and her family return home after fleeing fighting in Eastern Congo
**Project findings and key issues**

- Inconsistent coordination: lack of clarity on the roles of cluster co-leads or co-chairs and a need for more effective NGO participation in the clusters.
- Weak partnership: barriers which limit the involvement of NGOs, particularly national NGOs, in reform processes need to be more consistently addressed.
- Leadership gaps: Humanitarian Coordinators and cluster leads often have insufficient humanitarian experience and training.
- Accountability to crisis-affected communities: clusters need to devote more attention to ensuring accountability to affected populations.
- Humanitarian financing: limited local and national NGO access to country-based humanitarian pooled funds and slowness of disbursement to NGOs of ERF and HRF funding, and lack of direct access to the CERF or transparency of allocations.

**Who is involved?**

Six NGOs - ActionAid, CAFOD, CARE International UK, International Rescue Committee, Oxfam, and Save the Children UK - together with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), a global NGO network, make up the project consortium. In some of the project focus countries other international NGOs participate in the project consortium on a non-contractual basis. The project is funded by DfID and runs until October 2011.

**Work so far**

In July 2009 the project published *Mapping Studies* assessing the current state of global humanitarian reform efforts in five countries: Afghanistan, DRC, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Sudan. A subsequent Synthesis Report was produced in October 2009: *Review of the engagement of NGOs with the humanitarian reform process.*