

**Summary note**  
**Localization workstream teleconference**  
**March 27 2018**

The co-conveners welcomed the participants to the teleconference of the Grand Bargain localization work stream, especially two new participants from local organizations (Hero Brzo from REACH, Iraq and Ehsanur Rahman from NAHAB, Bangladesh). The aim of the call was to continue the discussion on the demonstrator countries, review and discuss the workplan, provide an update on the research projects as well as on recent and upcoming localization-themed events.

**1. Discussion on the demonstrator countries**

The co-conveners briefed participants on the results of the online surveymonkey that was circulated February 19<sup>th</sup>. It included a summary note detailing the criteria for selection and also which demonstrator countries had already been proposed. The aim of the survey was to vote for preferred demonstrator countries and to indicate if any in-country support could be offered. Bangladesh, Iraq and Nigeria received the most votes (in line with the selection criteria) and there was no objection to move ahead with this selection of demonstrator countries.

The following organizations came forward to provide support for the organization of these joint missions in country: Oxfam for Iraq (confirmed) and for Bangladesh (tbc), REACH-Iraq is also willing to support with the logistics and to make sure local actors are involved. CRS is potentially interested to provide support for Iraq and Nigeria but would need have more clarity on the ToR's of such a mission. Germany, Unicef and IFRC also kindly announced that they would consider supporting the joint missions to demonstrator countries.

The objective of the joint mission would be to learn what is taking place, identify good practices and to catalyse increased action and implementation at the country level. Co-conveners will develop draft Terms of Reference and share it before the next workstream teleconference.

**2. Review and discussion of the workplan**

This is a standing agenda item providing participants the possibility to review and update the workplan and its activities. Ideally the organization mentioned under "coordinator/lead" should inform the group on updates.

IRC mentioned a new project with the Global Protection Cluster and Unicef CP AoR, and they would like to share the learnings and outcomes of the project with the workstream. IRC and Oxfam also stated that they were happy to contribute to developing the guidelines (one of the workplan activities).

**3. Update on localization research projects**

The co-conveners updated participants on the last teleconference on localization research that was held on 15 March. The aim of this follow-up call was to provide an update on activities of the workstream, including the launch of a series of public webinars – where results can, in the future, be featured; and to share updates on current or planned research projects.

Raj Rana, Consultant from the Wolfgroup, then presented the initial Research on *"Provision and Conditions of Core/Overhead/Indirect Costs for Local/National Humanitarian Actors"* commissioned by the co-conveners of the localization workstream and funded by NRC and IFRC. The objective of the research was to develop a broad overview of current policies and practice on the provision of overhead costs to local and national humanitarian actors by State donors, Pooled Funds, UN agencies, iNGOs, ICRC and IFRC, and formulate recommendations. This initial Research report can be found [here](#).

This overhead issue is also one of the funding/financing issues being studied as part of the research component of the Accelerating Localization Project of CARE, Tearfund, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam, and Action Aid. UNICEF suggested that the workstream take this forward as an advocacy and volunteered to lead in putting together an advocacy note with key messages on the common position on some basic principles.

Action points: Invite co-chairs of relevant workstreams to participate in future calls, provide links to research projects on website and UNICEF to send out email to check interest on suggested advocacy note

#### **4. Update on recent and upcoming localization-themed events**

- i. GHD-ICVA meeting – frank and honest discussions were held between NNGOs, INGOs and donors particularly on donor practices and their realities. Similar events are being planned at country level.
- ii. The Oxfam review on financing to local actors in Uganda and Bangladesh is now published. Plan to replicate the GHD-ICVA meeting in Uganda in April.
- iii. Bangladesh – a series of events are planned in April in Cox Bazaar including a workshop in Bangla to follow up on the studies with IOM. NAHAB is planning a discussion on funding for local actors.
- iv. The SDC Swiss Humanitarian Aid held an internal discussion on localization during its annual meeting with its field staff in March. Participants pointed out that both operational and administrative barriers can hinder accomplishment of Grand Bargain commitments on localization.

Participants: Amanda Schweitzer/CRS, Anita Kattakuzhy/Oxfam, Anne Street/CAFOD, Anthony Nolan/Unicef CP AoR, Catherine Gill/Australia, David Fisher/IFRC, Ebert Swedish MFA, Ehsanur Rahman/NAHAB, Elena de Giovanni/FAO, Frankie Chen/UNICEF, Frederique Lehoux/CARE, Hero Brzw/ REACH-Iraq, Jane Backhurst/Christian Aid, Janet Puhalic/OCHA, Jeremy Wellard/ICVA, Jonas Lossau, WFP, Kirsten Hagon/IFRC, Mark Compas/France, Marie Dozin/IRC, Michael Mosselmans/Christian Aid, Michael Ahrens/Germany, Nathalie Goetschi/Switzerland, Neil Patrick/ DIFD, Philippe Decker/OCHA, Raj Rana/The Wolfgroup, Regina Gujan/Switzerland, Rolla Hinedi/Syria Relief