

Summary note
Localization workstream teleconference
20 July 2018

The co-conveners welcomed the participants to the teleconference of the Grand Bargain localization workstream.

1. Gender in the Localisation Workstream's plans

A representative from the Friends of Gender Group (FoG), an informal group created at the Grand Bargain sherpa meeting in Bonn in 2016, discussed how gender is being taken on board in the key workstreams – cash, needs assessment, participation revolution, and localization. FoG produced an [Aide Memoire](#) to assist GB partners in identifying gender equality and women's empowerment outcomes in the context of the GB. Despite some progress, the 2017 Independent GB report highlighted uneven attention to gender equality across and within workstreams. Included in the Chair's Summary during the last GB Annual meeting was a recommendation for signatories "to report more extensively on gender and find ways to increase attention to gender equality and women's empowerment in their work, including through support to and engagement with the Friends of Gender Group."

For the localization workstream, FoG put forward the following suggestions:

- a. For the workstream to be a pathfinder and set an example for other workstreams;
- b. Support signatories to articulate gender on their reporting. This can be through forming a facilitation group that would think through what constructive, meaningful indicators would be;
- c. Making sure that planned guidance note and relevant documentation cover gender well, looking at the Friends of Gender Group as a resource, and ensuring gender is mainstreamed in the upcoming field mission to demonstrator countries.

To allow investment in supporting the workstreams, UN Women will provide some resources as a contribution. A suggestion was made to bring people together to discuss potential work in this regard.

Next step : The indicators will be one of the main discussion points alongside rationalising the commitments in all the workstreams in the co-conveners meeting in September to be led by the Facilitation Group.

Action point: Friends of Gender Group members will develop a 1-pager on how to bring gender better in the workstream workplan to be circulated for comments/inputs

2. Outcomes from the GB annual meeting and what they mean for the Workstream

Two key outcomes from the annual meeting require discussion/focus by the localization workstream - merging workstreams and developing indicators for success. The Facilitation Group with support from ODI will work on rationalising/prioritising workstreams and targeting commitments to lighten the bureaucratic burden and streamline things.

After the explanation of the discussion during the annual meeting and the task given by the Facilitation Group to the co-conveners, the discussion was launched. Following are the main comments and feedback out of this discussion:

- If the localization workstream develop more focus, the possibility of merging with other workstreams will be based on this. Also acknowledging that the 6 localization commitments are related to commitments of other workstreams e.g. multi year investment in capacity
- Linkages must be clear; what matters is what is happening on the ground. There may be a risk of losing focus if we streamline too much
- The localization workstream scored low on linkage with other workstreams in the last Independent Annual Report. On prioritisation, the workstream would achieve greater traction if collective prioritisation is done such as on tracking funding
- How will rationalisation affect the four areas of work identified by the workstream?
- The Facilitation Group is careful not to impose anything; this is a conversation that needs to happen within and between workstreams. Each workstream should bring their ideas and concerns in the September co-convenors meeting.

Action point: Above comments and feedback to be considered as part of the key points to be raised in the co-convenors September meeting by the workstream co-convenors.

3. Progress report on the demonstrator countries

The IFRC Secretariat presented a brief update about the planned missions to demonstrator countries.

The date has been set for Bangladesh (9-13 September) with five participants to date, confirming interest to participate in the mission (including IFRC as a team leader). The list of participants will be finalized and shared. The pre-mission was successfully conducted, and a background/briefing report prepared. A core group/task team from various stakeholders in Bangladesh will help in drafting the itinerary, in other preparatory work and in the actual conduct of the mission.

The missions to Iraq and Nigeria are still under discussion and consultation including specific concerns on security. The workstream will be updated on developments and decisions/plans accordingly.

Action point - Share the background report and other relevant information on the Bangladesh mission to all workstream members

4. Discussion on a letter sent by local actors to the donors in DRC

Local actors in DRC sent an open letter to donors alongside the donor pledging conference in April 2018. A copy of the letter was received by Oxfam and shared with the WS. The letter was signed by 44 CSOs engaged in humanitarian response in different parts of the country and called for a series of commitments of further investment, including referencing the commitments made in the Grand Bargain. No reply has been received to date.

A question was made on the possibility for the workstream to answer this collectively. Local actors are starting to understand and engage on GB and they are getting their voices heard specially with regards to delivering the localization commitments. It has to be acknowledged that in DRC, there is not much action and attention on localization especially with donors and that advocacy at country level should be made. As a workstream, we cannot respond to this letter as the response should come from the country level.

5. Recent discussions with IASC HFTT regarding the FTS

Separate meetings have been held with IASC HFTT and FTS in relation to operationalising the localization definitions. There was some disagreement on whether this task should sit and be led by HFTT or the localization workstream who had initiated discussions with FTS on this. The issue was further discussed in HFTT's monthly meeting in July where the IFRC Secretariat and FTS were invited. In this meeting, FTS presented some ideas/proposals on how it can use the definitions and what was required. A global list/directory of all humanitarian agencies for use by FTS to categorize inputs into their system might be necessary but FTS need to know who will make decisions on and how will complaints and or disagreements in the definitions be managed. No agreement was reached whether this piece of work sits with HFTT or the localization workstream and as such as a follow up call will be made.

Comments and feedback:

- The focus should be on how this can move forward not only with FTS but also on how to support GB signatories to have the systems to enable them to report and track progress on the 25 percent.
- Hold on to the definitions and discussion should not be reopened
- It was good that the co-convenors added the reporting/financial tracking as one of the question allowed to put in the annual reporting framework. Only 12 signatories, however, reported on this.
- A suggestion was made for co-convenors to draft a letter to all GB signatories and focal points for the workstream to send again the definitions and encourage them to set up own tracking and reporting systems for next year.
- While there should be support for everybody to report on this, changing the format will only create confusion. Conversations should be made on a higher level. FTS could be a handy tool for actors if the categories are clear.

6. The new Localisation WS webpage

The draft [webpage](#) was shared to workstream members and a few comments were received. If no additional comments will be received it will go live after the final adjustments are made including those that came from the meeting with the GB Secretariat. Key sections and documents of the webpage will be translated to Arabic, French, and Spanish.

7. Feedback from recent events

- a. ECOSOC HAS side events – Start Network and C4C on Localization, final report to be shared; IFRC and SDC on Participation and Localization, report also to be shared
- b. Country-based Pooled Funds workshop in Geneva – for discussion in the next telecon

8. Workplan review

No changes

9. AOB

Final remarks:

- There were no local actors on the call – need to strategize about this and try to have them included next time.
- There were not enough donors on the call – also need to address this issue next time.

Participants: Regina Gujan and Nathalie Goetschi (Switzerland); Anne Street (CAFOD), Anita Kattakuzhy (Oxfam), Jane Backhurst and Michael Mosselmans (Christian Aid), Frederique Lehoux (CARE), Brigitte Mukengeshayi (ECHO), Elisabeth Bellardo (USAID/OFDA), Elena de Giovanni (FAO), Philimon Majwa and Frankie Chen (UNICEF), Janet Puhalic (OCHA), Jeremy Wellard (ICVA), Elena Garagorri (ICRC), Amanda Schweitzer (CRS), Daniel Seymour (UN Women), David Fisher, Coree Steadman and Atwa Jaber (IFRC)