

Summary note
Localization workstream teleconference
14 December 2018

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

1. Review of proposed Core Commitment Indicators

The Co-Conveners updated the workstream on the process following the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group's request to develop performance indicators for each 'core commitment'. As agreed during the call on 30 October, the indicator regarding humanitarian funding to local and national responders as directly as possible had already been set by the original commitment 2.4.¹ In order to develop an indicator for the workstream's second core commitment, "investment in institutional capacities of local and national responders", a small group members comprising representatives of USAID, CAFOD, NEAR, CARE, CRS and UN women and the Co-Conveners was formed. Keeping in mind the limits of the exercise, including the difficulty of breaking down a complex commitment to one single indicator, the absence of related commonly accepted definitions, and the fact that several years will be needed to develop meaningful measuring systems to capture adequate data, the following joint indicator had been proposed by email to the workstream:

Indicator: *% of partnership agreements that incorporate capacity strengthening support for local and national responders.*

Optional sub-indicator: *% of partnership agreements that incorporate capacity strengthening support for local and national women-led organizations and or women's rights organizations.*

It is understood that most workstream members do not have the monitoring/measuring systems in place to provide this data as early as 2019. While workstream members raised a few questions – how the multiyear component is reflected, how the fact that capacity building should be "institutional" is reflected, no objections to the proposal were raised and participants of the call agreed that, under the given circumstances, this indicator would serve as a starting point. The deadline for submission of comments was extended to Monday, 17 December.

Note: Additional language as agreed during the call was received from USAID and integrated. Indicators were considered adopted after the closure of the deadline.

Next steps:

- (1) The Co-conveners will submit the CCTRI to the FG, expressing at the same time the concerns about the limits of the exercise.

2. Priority actions and updates on the workplan

An update of the workstream's workplan is ongoing. Prior to the call, the Co-Conveners had circulated a written proposition of including four "priority actions" as identified by ODI into the existing work plan, in the understanding that the workplan will continue to serve as the main tool orienting the activities of its members.

Recommendations for Priority Actions as identified by ODI

Core Commitment 2: Increase and support multi-year investments in the institutional capacities of local and national responders

- (1) "At the collective level, the Eminent Person, together with a small group of principals or Sherpas, should come together to actively secure high level political investment for localisation from across the wider group of signatories;" -- reflected in the workplan under "Engagement"; Lead Co-Conveners (Sherpas)
- (4) "Sharing detailed lessons learned (including on risk mitigation) from those signatories that already have or have had many such partnerships may help "encourage" others to take a leap forward" - reflected in the workplan under "Shared guidance".

Core Commitment 3: Achieve by 2020 a global, aggregated target of at least 25% of humanitarian funding to local and national responders as directly as possible.

¹ % of humanitarian funding awarded as directly as possible to local and national responders.

Optional sub-indicator:

% of humanitarian funding awarded as directly as possible to local and national women-led organizations and or women's rights organizations

- (1) Greater clarity and guidance is required for all signatories on how to measure funding/support to local and national actors and how this will be calculated to assess progress against the 25% aggregated target -- reflected in the workplan under "Measurement"; - Identification of lead still in the process, can therefore not be adopted as priority action;
- (2) Risk Management – "more systematic gathering, analysis and communication of available evidence for risk" -- reflected in the workplan under shared guidance. - Identification of lead still in the process, can therefore not be adopted as priority action;

Workstream members generally approved, but no leads could be identified for the two proposed additional priority actions under core commitment 3.

Next steps:

- (1) UN women expressed their interest support the development of additional guidance on measuring funding/support to local and national actors, without taking the lead;
- (2) UN women will submit concept notes for gender-responsive localization to the workstream for consideration as joint workstream products;
- (3) Oxfam and IFRC will develop ToR for guidance on risk management without taking the lead.
- (4) Oxfam will share insights on tested risk materials;
- (5) CARE will share a guidance note on meaningful collaboration in women responders protection programming ;
- (6) The Co-conveners will follow-up on the coordination or lead roles defined in the workplan for the specific activities.

3. Feedback from Iraq mission

The mission was conducted from 18 to 23 November co-led by IFRC's Under Secretary General Jemilah Mahmood and Switzerland's Philippe Besson and included representatives from donor (Germany), UN agencies (UNOCHA and UNICEF), and INGOs (Oxfam and Care International). The local actor representative from Nigeria, Palmer Okpako, unfortunately didn't manage to secure a visa in time to participate in the mission. The mission co-leads spent a day in Baghdad and met with the RC/HC, the Director General of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC) and the NGO Directorate, and a delegation from the Iraqi Red Crescent, IFRC and ICRC. They were joined by the rest of the mission team in Erbil, Kurdistan Region where discussions were held with humanitarian actors from various agencies and organizations and stakeholder groups - Federal Government and Kurdistan Regional Government, local and national NGOs including five women's rights organizations, Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, UN agencies, International NGOs, and donors. In two separate groups, the mission team spent a day to visit IDP and refugee camps.

Localization is progressing in Iraq although there is uneven progress across Grand Bargain signatories and other entities, as well as across the different commitments. Local and national NGOs and civil society organizations have been on the frontline of humanitarian assistance as they had access to highly insecure, sensitive and inaccessible areas at the onset of the ISIL takeover.. On the flip side, they recognized their capacity constraints to take on a larger role and more leadership role in humanitarian programming. Both international and local/national actors acknowledged the ongoing difficulty in finding the right balance of risk-sharing between them when it comes to fiduciary and operational risks.

Steps have been taken by international actors to address some of the partnership and capacity problems and the mission team learned of a number of good practices contributing to the advancement of the localization agenda, especially those around complementarity and working towards true partnership. Key stumbling blocks that remain include risk aversion that leads to lack of trust, attitudes and ways of working that are perceived by local actors as a "superiority complex", and methods of capacity strengthening that remain one way and project-delivery focused. The lack of self-organization among local and national actors, in particular civil society organizations engaged in humanitarian work to demand change and find "local solutions" was also found to be an impediment to progressing localization.

Focused group discussions were also made with women rights and women led organizations to understand and capture the gender aspects of localization. A debriefing workshop with all key stakeholders was held on the last day of the mission.

The mission was made possible with support from REACH, Iraqi Red Crescent Society, NGO Coordination Committee Iraq, Oxfam and the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator.

4. Update on Nigeria mission

Due to organizational reasons and the fact that General Elections are scheduled to take place in Nigeria on 16 February, the workstream was informed that the Demonstrator Country Mission to Nigeria is postponed to late March/Early April.

Participants: Alycke Slomp/ZOA, Meixi Guo/ICRC, Anita Kattakuzhy/Oxfam, Frederique Lehoux/CARE, Michael Mosselmans/Christian Aid, Elizabeth Ross and Alex Kuhn/USAID, Maria Karadenizli/UN Women, Jonathan Abrahams/WHO, Brigitte Mukengeshayi/ECHO, Jennifer Gibbs/DFID, Mohammed Ismail/Sweden, Regina Gujan, Sarah Herrendorff and Julia Knittel/SDC, David Fisher and Coree Steadman/IFRC