

PRE-CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

BACKGROUND

Many donor and international agencies have signed on to the Grand Bargain agreement established at the May 2016 Humanitarian Summit. In the past three years, significant efforts have been undertaken at the international, national and local level by the Grand Bargain signatories to achieve the goal of providing more support and funding tools for local and national responders (Workstream 2) to realise the Grand Bargain commitments.

The Regional Conference on Localisation of Aid aims to bring these efforts together to effect even more significant changes at system, strategic and operational levels.

To ensure a more inclusive process and optimise the opportunity provided by the regional conference, we invite participants to undertake a light preparation as described below. We would like to encourage conference participants to initiate informal pre-conference discussions with other conference participants as well as those who are not attending the conference but have relevant experiences. These discussions will help us get a better sense of issues, debates, and possibilities to inform the Regional Conference.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. What is the emerging in-country consensus in terms of understanding and measuring localisation of humanitarian aid? What is driving this emerging consensus? Is there a range of understanding that exists among humanitarian actors?
2. Where are in-country actors making good progress and where are significant challenges in terms of the realisation of the focus areas of commitment in the localisation workstream? What are important drivers or constraints?
Capacity Building & Strengthening: Progress towards long-term, multi-year investment in capacity development; embedding capacity strengthening in partnership agreements and innovations; measurement of capacity improvements
Partnerships: Progress towards direct partnerships and joint needs assessments; rationalisation of roles of international actors within the localisation agenda; emerging principles of partnerships
Financing: Progress towards positive changes in donor and aid organisations' funding practices, including non-earmarked and multi-year grants; harmonisation of reporting requirements; improved transparency and cost efficiency; innovative tools and mechanisms
Coordination: Progress towards effective national and local coordination; complementarity in terms of roles and action of different actors
Gender: Progress towards women leadership and addressing the differential practical and strategic needs of women: addressing underlying gender relations to effect substantive change in the humanitarian system
3. What are the most urgent strategic issues and challenges that need to be addressed to realise substantive, transformative change? What are significant institutional, policy and political dynamics - at the national level and beyond - that drive these issues and challenges?

It would be appreciated if you could provide us with a short, bullet-point summary / highlights of your discussion prior to the conference. Please send your feedback to Esther Waldmeier (esther.waldmeier@ifrc.org) or Roger Ricafort (roger.ricafort@exchangeconsultancy.org)
