

# PROGRESS REPORT

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## Co-conveners' Summary of Progress in 2018

The Grand Bargain signatories' annual reports show that many are moving forward on localisation, including through significant shifts in organisational policy and strategy. There is also encouraging evidence that the localisation commitments are having a tangible impact at the country level, while collective efforts by signatories, incl. "demonstrator country" missions have helped to maintain a crucial political momentum.

However, there is still a long way to go before the full promise of the localisation agenda has been realised. The amount of funding channeled as directly as possible to local actors has increased but remains significantly below the 25% goal set out for 2020. Also, traditional ways of working that treat local responders as sub-contractors still predominate.

# 1

## PARTNERSHIP

Commitment 2.2: Understand better & work to remove / reduce the barriers that prevent organisations and donors from partnering with local and national responders.

### FINDING FROM DEMONSTRATOR COUNTRY MISSIONS:

While sub-contracting short-term partnerships still exist, there are also some long-standing partnerships in Bangladesh, peer-to-peer partnerships in Iraq, and long-term, non-financial partnerships in Nigeria that contribute to the increase of response capacity of local actors.

## RESEARCH ON PARTNERSHIP

**InterAction** executed an 18-month study with case studies in Northeast Nigeria and South Sudan with funding from USAID on how risk is managed in INGO-L/NNGO partnerships in complex, conflict driven crises

**A consortium of NGOs led by Christian Aid**, with ECHO funding, commissioned a research to identify best practices, barriers and solutions to partnerships between INGOs and NNGOs/LNGOs in 4 countries

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## NEW TOOLS AND FRAMEWORKS FOR BETTER PARTNERSHIPS

**The Global Education Cluster (GEC)**, co-led by **UNICEF** and **Save the Children** released a localisation checklist and instigated a wider localisation initiative to develop partnership tools for country-based clusters.

**NEAR** developed a *Localisation Performance Measurement Framework (LPMF)*, to be used as a tool to monitor progress of localisation amongst different target groups (donors, UN/INGO, local and national actors, researchers)

# 2

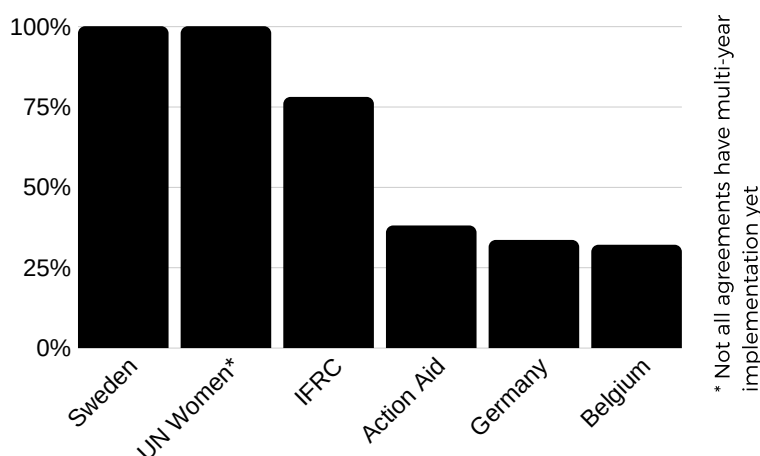
## CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Core Commitment 2.1: Increase and support multi-year investment in the institutional capacities of local and national responders.

### FINDING FROM DEMONSTRATOR COUNTRY MISSIONS:

Capacity strengthening should be two-way and built on local actors' knowledge and detailed understanding of how the context operates. More investment and focus should be made towards long-term demand-driven institutional capacity strengthening initiatives.

**Percentage of Partnership / Funding Agreement Including Capacity Strengthening Support**



## INNOVATIVE & INCLUSIVE APPROACHES

**Oxfam** has begun using a systems approach to capacity strengthening, supported by new funding tools towards improved complementarity - not just between international and local actors, but local state and non-state actors.

**Norway** has a budget line for capacity building of local NGOs, twinning with Norwegian NGOs.

## DEMAND-DRIVEN CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

In **Mercy Corps'** capacity building program, *Investing in Syrian Humanitarian Action*, local partners receive remote coaching, mentoring, training and ongoing support to strengthen their capacity in financial, operational, and programmatic areas.

**CRS** promotes local humanitarian leadership through multi-year partnerships with co-created, demand driven accompaniment and capacity strengthening programmes, such as the four-country PEER project.

Through the **UN Women's** flagship programme - *Leadership, Empowerment, Access, and Protection* (LEAP) - women receive essential leadership and skills training including through women's empowerment hubs.

# FUNDING

# 3

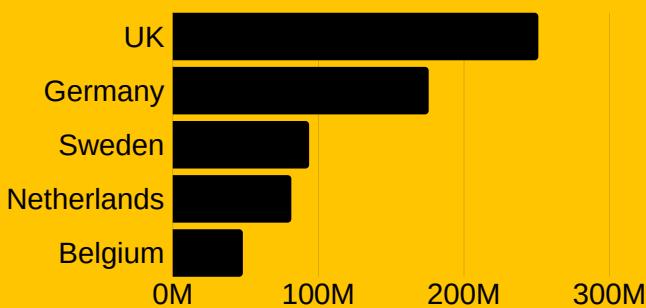
Commitment 2.4 Achieve by 2020 a global aggregated target of at least 25% of humanitarian funding to local and national responders as directly as possible.

Commitment 2.6 Make greater use of funding tools which increase and improve assistance delivered by local and national responders.

## FINDING FROM DEMONSTRATOR COUNTRY MISSIONS:

Many local and national actors believe that direct funding to them will mean quicker response and more beneficiaries reached. In Bangladesh, local actors suggested support for a local consortium to apply collectively to support greater collaboration and more learning between large and small local NGOs while in Iraq local actors are also looking at the feasibility of fundraising activities.

## Top Donors to CBPFs in 2018:



# 6%

increase in the proportion of humanitarian funding channeled to local actors between 2016 - 2018.

## INCENTIVES FOR INCREASED INVESTMENT

**CRS'** EMPOWER project facilitates local actors' accessing public funds from multiple donors by strengthening their internal systems to meet public donor eligibility requirements

**Germany** has put in place a mechanism that allows NGOs to pass on a share of their funding received for indirect costs directly to their local implementing partners

## NEW HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TOOLS

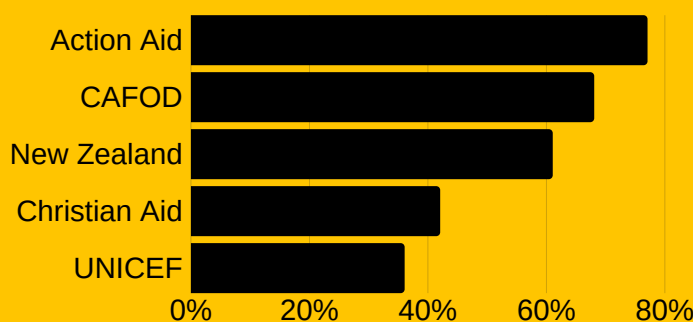
**Save the Children** established a disaggregated financial tracking data to provide a global picture of its funding going to L/NGOs

**ECHO** set up a funding tool, *Leave no One Behind-Local Initiative Fund in Turkey* in an effort to support community based initiatives specifically targeting hard to reach people.

**IFRC** implemented the *Preparedness for Effective Response (PER)* framework through which National Societies assessed, analysed and took actions to improve their response capacities; and together with **ICRC** created the *National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA)* to provide multi-year financing and support to National Societies for capacity development.



## of humanitarian funding provided to local / national responders



# COORDINATION

Commitment 2.3: Support and complement national coordination mechanisms and include local and national responders in international coordination mechanisms.

# 4

## FINDING FROM DEMONSTRATOR COUNTRY MISSIONS:

While there is greater representation in the HCTs and UN clusters / sectors, coordination meetings remain intimidating for many local actors due to the complexity of documents, the use of English as main communication language and the absence of translation in local and comprehensible language that is jargon-free.

## IMPROVED POLICIES FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION

**Switzerland** integrated localisation commitments into its Policy for Engagement with Swiss NGOs and contributed to the elaboration of new global guidelines and standards, such as the Child Protection Minimum Standards, which require the cluster lead agency to build on existing local coordination structures and encourage local CSOs to co-lead.

# 5.1%

of HCT seats surveyed by OCHA were held by NNGOs

# 50%

of 254 surveyed clusters / sectors have national / local authorities in leadership roles

## MAINSTREAMING GENDER

The Workstream is collaborating with the Friends of Gender group to make the workstream a pathfinder and set an example for other workstreams on mainstreaming gender. Besides contributing to the joint activities, UN Women, on behalf of FOG, has added two activities to the workplan that will lead on (1) research on strengthening the understanding of "gender transformative" humanitarian interventions with localisation-focused and participation-centred approaches in four IDP / refugee settings, and (2) development of a technical guidance note on gender responsive localisation.

During the demonstrator country missions, separate discussions were held with women-led / women rights organisations and a briefing paper on how to integrate gender was provided to the mission team. Particular attention was also paid to incorporating gender considerations into the newly defined indicators to measure progress on localisation.



## 3 OUT OF 10

invited local actor organisations in the Workstream are women's organisations from Kenya, Nepal and Liberia

The Localisation Workstream has served as a platform for discussions and joint planning for the 36 regularly participating GB signatories and 10 invited local and national actors (representing their individual organisations and networks).

## INFORMATION SHARING

and engagement through regular bi-monthly teleconferences, emails and bulletins, support for 2 webinars and the development of a website with relevant documents translated into four languages

## EXPERIENCE SHARING

and a coordinated approach to filling knowledge gaps through periodic update teleconferences of an expert group of researchers and uploading research publications onto the workstream website

## INTER-AGENCY MISSIONS

to two demonstrator countries - Bangladesh and Iraq - aimed at better understanding good practices and challenges, as well as promoting field level implementation of localisation commitments

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# WORKSTREAM PLANS

## Key Workstream Activities (June to December 2019)

- 1 Regional Conferences on Localisation:** Africa (15-16 July 2019), Middle East (29-30 July 2019) and Asia Pacific (26-27 August 2019) - bringing together local and national humanitarian actors, donors and international aid agencies in a dialogue on the opportunities and challenges of localisation. The conferences aim to contribute to on-going initiatives and plans for individual and collective action on localisation in the region.
- 2 Global Guidance Products:** Development of guidance notes, tip sheets or similar tools drawing on relevant research findings and consultations in regional meetings and country pilots, on how best to implement commitments, with a focus on:
  - Best practices in humanitarian response partnerships
  - Model provisions on localisation for partnership agreements
  - Supporting local actors to strengthen their capacity
  - Country-level financing for local actors
  - Gender-responsive localisation initiatives (promoting women's leadership and funding for women's organisations, good practices, opportunities and challenges)

Read more: [https://media.ifrc.org/grand\\_bargain\\_localisation/](https://media.ifrc.org/grand_bargain_localisation/)