**ZERO Draft Checklist and model language for promoting Grand Bargain localisation goals in agreements between donors and international intermediaries**

(version of 22 August 2019)

**Introduction**

In 2016, major donors and international agencies signed the “Grand Bargain” committing to transformation in a number of their working practices, including with regard to investment in the leadership and capacity of national and local actors.[[1]](#footnote-1) Since then, Grand Bargain signatories have worked individually and as a group through the “Localisation Workstream” to facilitate and promote the achievement of their commitments in this area. Workstream initiatives have included regular dialogue, the dissemination of relevant research findings, the organization of a series of “demonstrator country” missions by Grand Bargain signatories, as well as regional workshops.

One of the recommendations that has arisen from the Workstream’s initiatives has been to develop specific suggestions for the agreements between donors and international actors that might promote localisation objectives. This suggestion arose from the awareness that, while the Grand Bargain favours more direct funding to local actors, the vast majority of international funding available to local actors is still channeled through international intermediaries.

This document is intended as a **voluntary guidance document** to support both donors and international intermediaries (including UN agencies, INGOs and the international components of the RC/RC Movement) in considering provisions for their contractual agreements with each other that support their ability to fulfil Grand Bargain commitments on localisation of aid. It consists of two parts: (1) a checklist of considerations, and (2) some model agreement language (along with examples from existing agreements).

**Part 1: Checklist of considerations in promoting Grand Bargain localisation goals in agreements between donors and international intermediaries**

1. **What is the role of international and local actors in the agreement?**
   1. **Have consortia proposals been considered?**

* Donors are encouraged to promote, and intermediary agencies are encouraged to present, consortium proposals including local actors as full parties.
  1. **Are the expectations of the international intermediary consistent with localisation goals?**
* It is recommended that agreements be structured so that the international intermediary’s value is determined by how well it supports, nurtures and oversees local actors, so the latter can deliver the most effective results. They may also be asked to identify and report on learning they plan to gain from the local actor.
  1. **Has communication between local actors and back donors been promoted?**
* Even where local actors are not parties to a contract, it is recommended that the agreement provide for periodic opportunities for local actors to communicate with back donors about project progress and challenges.

1. **Does the agreement ensure effective financing for local actors?**
   1. **Are adequate overheads and core costs** **for local actors included?**

* It is recommended that agreements expressly stipulate a specific (reasonable) overhead rate and/or core cost contributions for local actors.
  1. **Is multi-year funding passed on to local actors?**
* It is recommended that agreements allow for multi-year funding for local actors.
  1. **Is adequate funding ensured for the security needs of local actors?**
* It is recommended that specific budget line items be included for security-related needs (with flexibility to consider needs as identified by the local actor).
  1. **Is adequate funding included for mutually-agreed capacity strengthening**?
* It is recommended that agreements allow for funding for strengthening capacities of the local actors, with the types of capacity to be strengthened and they ways in which it is to be accomplished to be mutually agreed between the intermediary and the local actor within budgetary limits.

1. **What is the impact of the agreement on local actors?**
   1. **Is there specific consideration for** **women’s organisations** and **women-led organisations?**

* It is recommended that agreements provide that international intermediaries ensure active consideration of women’s organisations and women-led organisations in the selection of local partners (with exceptions, as appropriate, for membership-based international networks whose local partners are pre-determined).
  1. **Are opportunities to reduce duplicative capacity assessments seized?**
  + It is recommended that agreements allow for the international intermediary to accept the results of capacity assessment processes of local actors carried out by other international actors, as agreed with the donor.
  1. **Is adequate visibility ensured for the work of local actors?**
  + It is recommended that agreements include commitments to ensure the visibility for the work of local partners in project outcomes, both in reporting to the donor, in communications materials and in discussions about the projects within the sector .
  1. **Is potential harm to local actors from personnel practices mitigated?**
* It is recommended that agreement include commitments from international actors to take appropriate actions to mitigate harm to local civil society and governmental bodies in their requirement of local staff.

**(STILL TO BE ADDED:** Part 2: Model language for promoting Grand Bargain localisation goals in agreements between donors and international intermediaries**)**

1. While the Grand Bargain refers to “national and local responders”, this document will use the term “local actors” as a shorthand to refer to all national, provincial and local actors, including governmental authorities and civil society. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)