

The co-conveners welcomed the participants and presented the proposed agenda of the teleconference to the localisation workstream members.

1. Highlights from the Regional Conferences

The three regional conferences held during the summer (between July and August) – Africa held in Addis Ababa, Middle East held in Amman, and Asia Pacific held in Jakarta – brought the localisation dialogue to the regional and country levels. The events gathered a total of 291 participants from 41 countries representing donors, UN agencies, INGOs, RC/RC Movement, host governments and local and national NGOs to discuss and debate progress and challenges as well as to share good practices, opportunities and proposed actions on localisation.

The meeting in Addis Ababa was hosted by the African Union, in Amman by the Jordan Red Crescent, and in Jakarta by the AHA Centre. Women's leadership and gender mainstreaming was a key message in Addis Ababa along with calls for more awareness on the Grand Bargain and Localisation commitments within agencies/organisations and across the different stakeholder groups and clarity on and enhancement of the role of Government in the localisation agenda. In Amman, much of the discussions focused on accountability and risk management particularly on the tension between due diligence and the need for more flexibility and space for decision-making as well the relevance of the humanitarian-development and triple nexus. A strong narrative emerged in Jakarta to confirm localisation as a driving issue in the Region, the strong role of ASEAN states in capacity development for management of natural hazards, and a call for good donorship to incentivise flexible localised financing models. More details on the regional conferences are available [here](#).

2. Updates on the guidance notes

Draft of the guidance notes on partnership, capacity strengthening, coordination, financing, gender, and donor and intermediary arrangements will be presented in the Brussels meeting. A detailed workstream review will be made after the meeting in further teleconferences.

Question was made on the process for 'endorsement' and 'sign off by the Workstream as an indication of agreement that the Workstream is recommending their use. The Workstream has no standard practice on how to adopt document; different procedures are used for different documents. While it is good practice to have as much broad feedback as possible there is the risk that the Workstream will get stuck in too much detailed discussion on the wording. Many felt that 'endorsement' of a meaningful product is not feasible given procedural matters, the short timeframe and the broad range of actors involved. There was a consensus, however, on the importance of having a Workstream 'buy in' for the guidance notes as being a useful condensation of the localisation agenda/commitments. Specific suggestions were made to include a common introduction for all guidance notes and add links to references/resources used.

Agreed next steps:

- Co-conveners to review and decide on terminology to be used, whether 'endorse' or 'validate' or another more appropriate term in the coming weeks as part of the review process
- Co-conveners to propose a process and timeline for the review to be made between November and December

3. Brussels Meeting

The meeting is scheduled on 23-24 October in Albert Borschette Congress Centre in Brussels to be hosted by ECHO. Online registration for the meeting is now open in the Workstream website and will close on 08 October 2019. Between 60-80 participants primarily composed of Workstream members

are expected to attend. Interested participants outside of the Workstream can also register and the Steering Group will review the registration and make decisions on space. The meeting aims to have at least 25% of participants from local actors with around 16 to be sponsored by the budget provided by ECHO. The final agenda will be shared the following week.

The new Workstream workplan (2020-2021) will not be drafted in the meeting but instead strategic decisions and initial ideas will be discussed to inform the draft Workplan that will be prepared by the co-conveners following the meeting.

4. Other Localisation Events

a. World Humanitarian Action Forum in Istanbul on 15-16 October

b. IOM is organising a consultation for the MENA Region with Humanitarian NGOs on end October also in Istanbul.

Present:

Philimon Majwa/UNICEF, Robert White/UNHCR, Lene Aggernaes/UNFPA, Alix Masson/NEAR Network, Alycke Slomp/ZOA, Clare Clement/Australia Mission, Katja Rosenstock/Save the Children, Makany Toure/WFP, Marina Skuric/OCHA, Vanessa Rizzi/WFP, Ramzi El-Hage/CRS, Julia Knittel/SDC, David Fisher and Coree Steadman/IFRC