

**Grand Bargain
Localisation Workstream**

**Guidance note on
gender-responsive
localisation**

Issued May 2020

Guidance note on gender-responsive localisation

This guidance note was prepared by UN Women and the Grand Bargain Friends of Gender Group and developed through extensive research and three regional consultations with local women's rights and women-led organizations (WROs and WLOs) as well as feedback from the Grand Bargain Localisation conferences in Addis Ababa, Amman, Jakarta and Brussels. The guidance is predominantly focused on local WROs and WLOs but is also relevant for networks of, and national, WROs and WLOs¹. It is a product of the Grand Bargain Localisation Workstream, but does not necessarily represent the official position of Workstream members and co-conveners.

Access to financing

1. Ensure increased, specific, global and national allocation of funds - including unearmarked and core funding - to WROs and WLOs.
2. Determine a dedicated percentage of local funds in support of institutional strengthening of WROs and WLOs, networks and movements.
3. Increase access to humanitarian funding, ensure its sustainability and support the capacity for self-sustaining fundraising of local WROs and WLOs, prioritizing multi-year, flexible and sustainable funds.
4. Streamline funding application procedures and criteria for local organisations addressing specific challenges and capacity gaps faced by WLOs and WROs at country level.
5. Increase investments through funding mechanisms (for example, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund) that target WLOs/WROs directly and address the needs of crisis affected women and girls in line with existing IASC commitments².
6. Identify opportunities and modalities for further strengthening partnerships and increasing funding for local WROs through the Country-Based Pooled Funds.
7. Consider funding WLOs/WROs in order to address gender equality and women's rights in line with existing IASC commitments³, including through promoting WLOs/WROs in Advisory Board and Review Committees of Country-Based Pooled Funds.

Towards more equitable partnerships and institutional strengthening

1. Adopt and invest in multi-year and sustainable approaches to institutional capacity strengthening for WROs and WLOs, focusing on their needs, priorities, value, and contribution as first and local responders in humanitarian settings.
2. Establish long-term partnerships, allowing for growth, accountability and transparency, knowledge sharing and sustainable management, including in view of the necessary long-term

¹ The Grand Bargain refers to local actors as "National and local responders comprising governments, communities, Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies and local civil society."

² [IASC Policy on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian action \(2018\)](#), at page 6: "All IASC Members and Standing Invitees to make financial provision to fully resource GEEWG programming for both mainstreaming and targeted action, creating specific budget lines for the purpose. Include GEEWG requirements in all formats used by IASC-led coordination and pooled funding mechanisms to apply for, and report on, funding for humanitarian action."

³ See note 2.

engagement of WLOs and WROs on gender equality, empowerment of women and girls and addressing the needs of women and girls in humanitarian settings and more broadly along the humanitarian-peace-development nexus.

3. Provide alternative means of partnership/collaboration by supporting coordination hubs, training, consortia and peer support, focusing on strengthening the capacities of WLOs and WROs.

Humanitarian coordination/humanitarian needs assessment and planning

1. Engage with relevant IASC bodies in a discussion on the creation of an enabling environment for women's leadership and decision-making and develop standards and guidance on enhanced representation of WLOs/WROs in humanitarian coordination structures drawing on promising practices, data and analysis of challenges and opportunities emerging from the field.
2. Ensure that WLOs and WROs are part of the development of the Humanitarian Needs Overview, including inputting into Secondary Data Reviews and humanitarian assessments and are part of any validation processes.
3. Tangibly promote the meaningful and safe participation, transformative leadership, and collective action of women and girls of all backgrounds at all stages of humanitarian action, also reinforcing similar efforts in conflict prevention, peace building and state building².
4. Invest in alliance building to increase WLO and WRO influence, visibility and resource base, and to ensure the specific needs of women and girls are met, their human rights are promoted and protected, and gender inequalities are redressed in line with existing IASC commitments
5. Disseminate good examples on WRO and WLO engagement in humanitarian coordination mechanisms, ensure that relevant inter-cluster coordination and sub-groups integrate a gender perspective.
6. Enhance coordination between UN, national and local governments, INGOs, and local WROs and WLOs in support of the gender transformative localisation agenda.

Women's leadership

1. Support humanitarian networks and consortia of WLOs and WROs to enable exchange of information, access to resources, and knowledge building.
2. Advocate for and support individual women leaders, as part of comprehensive leadership programs, to build support for women's leadership in communities and organisations and enhance women's self-organisation and dialogue between WROs and WLOs and humanitarian actors.
3. Enhance and expand women's leadership and build on existing cultural notions of women's leadership, drawing on the specificities of each country and social context.
4. Expand localisation to include women's grassroots groups and self-organized groups of crisis affected women and girls.
5. Create an enabling environment in global spaces for the participation and engagement of local WLOs, WROs and networks.
6. Promote progressive social norms on women's leadership, inclusion and gender equality while addressing unpaid work and overlapping types of marginalisation through advocacy and programmatic interventions.