

## Summary Notes - WS2 Teleconference

24 September 2020

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*N.B. This summary note combines the key discussion and action points from both the morning and afternoon sessions.*

1. The co-convenors welcomed the participants including the new local actor member invitees to the Workstream.

### **2. Updates from sub groups:**

#### A. Pooled fund

A desk review on *Enhancing the potential of pooled funds for localisation* commissioned by Oxfam that is also leading this sub group has been completed. The review included a broad-based desk research and study of specific pooled funds that provide local actors significant funding. One of the key findings of the study is that pooled funds, in volume and proportion, are giving more to local actors than direct funding although it represents a small percentage of the overall humanitarian funding. The study also pointed out that the funds could be doing more to be consistent in supporting localisation as some of its contribution are a bit ad hoc such as in increase in local actors's representation in decision making mechanism, the degree to which localisation is acknowledged as a policy direction, and in supporting women rights/led organisation.

Next steps/Action points:

1. Report to be shared to all Workstream members
2. Subgroup to meet to discuss and plan the distribution of the report and organize a webinar

#### B. Country dialogue

The subgroup considered the Draft Terms of Reference for country dialogue that is aimed around promoting implementation of the GB WS2 commitments, catalysing collaboration between and exploring synergies between different stakeholders and initiatives, identifying context-specific opportunities, challenges and solutions and, learning lessons that can inform the next phase of the GB. The subgroup felt that the Workstream has limited capacity and should aim to have these processes only in at least three contexts/countries to have some sort of focus and comparability. The dialogue will be open to the different stakeholder groups at country level – ensuring that they will lead the process and take ownership in moving the results forward – while facilitation and process support will be provided by the Workstream.

The focus of each dialogue will be determined at the country level and could be around four areas - (1) implementation of GB WS2 commitments at country level ; (2) implementation of GB WS2 guidance notes; (3) wider GB agenda from a localisation perspective and; (4) addressing specific

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issues eg risk management, Covid 19 and localisation. The ToR is expected to be finalised by October, the process of country/context selection and expression of interests/proposals submitted by end November, and the actual dialogues to start by end of this year or early next year through to May 2021. The findings/results of these dialogues should be ready by mid to end May in time for the next Annual GB meeting in June 2021. Emphasis was made on the importance of the buy in of the different stakeholder groups specifically the need to engage a minimum of mix of the relevant groups to have a GB character to it.

Comments on the draft ToR:

- Important to have at least one donor and UN agency specially the Humanitarian Coordinator to endorse or engage to help bring in others in the process.
- It would be good if these dialogues can contribute to the consultations on the future of the GB but the timeline given might make this difficult.
- Provide more emphasis on the role or leadership of local actors in the process.
- Key stakeholders/GB signatories should be engaged in the process (as the GB added value) and it will be up to the different stakeholders at country level how they should come together and bring this forward
- Include/Explore the link and relevance of the current pandemic specially lessons learned as one of the focus for the dialogues
- The Workstream should not limit itself to three countries and these dialogues should revolve on the energy and appetite of country stakeholders.

**Action point:**

- The next version of the draft will be made and sent to be subgroup for review and finally to the whole Workstream but only for silence procedure.

C. Nexus sub group

IFRC conducted a light desk review and key informant interviews to develop a background paper for the planned high level meeting on *leveraging investment across the nexus for local actors' capacity strengthening*. The paper explores the synergies between localisation and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and how these are reflected in the current understanding, policies and practice of key donors and aid agencies. It presents some examples of good practices and key learnings on what makes a good investment for capacity strengthening of local actors and provides some of the evidence to date on the impact these investments have made. Funding opportunities and challenges across the hdp nexus that support local actors' institutional capacity strengthening are also identified and some ideas/recommendations on how to maximise these opportunities and address the remaining barriers.

Comments on the draft background paper:

- More information and analysis on the peace building element of the nexus; the high level meeting should build on the peace-building architecture review and bring on local examples on this. Need to continue to ensure a strong gender analysis - nexus is a reality for local women; look at Compact on Women, Peace and Humanitarian Action.

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- Clarify that this paper and the planned high level meeting came out of the urgent issue of underfunding of capacity strengthening and that humanitarian funds are not the only funding stream and that they are limited.
- On strengthening the business case, need to bring in the experiences of local actors including examples of what good capacity strengthening looks like from their perspectives
- look as well on how to tailor capacity building in different forms as well as the issue around the (misplaced) notion that all local actors lack capacity

D. Intermediaries and risk project

SDC is currently looking at developing a concept on the future role of international intermediaries in a more “localized” system. The thinking so far relates to risk sharing, and SDC has been in touch with ICRC and Netherlands about their risk project to understand potential links. There is time pressure to move this forward and to take advantage of the appetite by a number of key actors including on aspects relevant to localisation including the issue of overhead costs.

Other specific issues suggested include: risk sharing and downward accountability, complementation and recognition of each actors’ capacities and weaknesses as well as shared principles and values, bringing in trust more in the discussions and building relationships on the centre.

3. Cooperation with Workstreams 7 & 8

Canada as one of the co-conveners of the Quality Funding Workstream (WSs 7 & 8) noted that over the last few months the issue of cascading quality funding including to local actors have been raised in multiple fora and this continues to be an important issue in the ongoing Covid 19 response. Feedback on the Workstream’s 2020-2021 workplan are being requested from WS2 members specifically on the linkages between localisation and QF, how best to leverage these linkages, and how to envision to formally establish relationship between the two Workstreams (by objectives or specific actions). The QF Workstream Workplan is scheduled to be finalised by beginning of October.

The EP convenes an informal/sherpa level call between WS co conveners and others on how to move forward on the issue of cascading. There is a scope at the political level to make cascading QF to local actors one of the main issues. Discussion is also on going at GHD and it is important to note that there is close collaboration between IASC RG 5 and the WS 7& 8. IRC has drafted five criteria for cascading overheads to frontline responders. The understanding is that frontline responders could be local and national actors or an internal actor at the frontline. A sixth criteria to promote quality funding as directly as possible to local/national actors was also brought up in the most recent meeting of the IASC RG 5.

Comments on the Workplan:

- How can local actors can be part of the important discussions on QF rather than just how they benefit on the results?
- Stress the need the increase funding for women at the frontline and the importance of age and disability analysis. Funding to local actors should not be (only) project based but linked to nexus that addresses gender equality and women’s rights

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- The issue of overheads is also part of the interim guidance of localisation and the IASC covid guidance. Will this be included in the QF process/discussions?
- Link as well to risk sharing and safeguarding issues.
- What about the due diligence issue specifically about harmonisation and making this affordable/accessible to local actors?

#### 4. AOB

- a. IASC RG 1 - a localisation subgroup has been formed and they are trying to collect information, research guidance, etc on localisation issues. The subgroup is interested in bringing in more local actors in the group and they are also leading on the roll out of the IASC guidance on localisation and covid 19.
- b. CHS is holding its annual exchange meeting on the 8th of October and the focus will be on accountability framework and localisation. C4C submitted an open letter to CHS relative to this event that speak specifically on the risk sharing issue.
- c. GB Secretariat circulated survey on the Future of GB for signatories and non signatories, planning a conversation on this in WS2
- d. Reminder : The list of members for the three sub groups that currently exist is on Teams. Interested members are requested to sign in.

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**Present (Morning session, 0900-1030 CEST) :** Win Kyi (Caritas Myanmar), Smruti Patel, Sudanshu Singh and Nanette Antequisa (A4EP), Cristina Contini (WHO), Sharon Bhagwan Rolls (StPC), EDjohi, Butch Meilly (PDRF), Charles Lawley (Syria Relief), Gry Hjeltnes, Gloria Soma (Titi Foundation), Claire Clements (Australia Mission-Geneva), John Ede, Howard Mollett (CAFOD), Erdem Vardar (Turkey), Delphine (CARE), Guy Tchami (ILO-Geneva), Hero Anwar (REACH), David Fisher and Coree Steadman (IFRC), Jonathan Brunggel (SDC)

**Present (Afternoon session, 1500-1630 CEST) :** Maria Margarita Sanchez (Colombia RC), Alix Masson (NEAR), Niki Ignatiou and Francisco Yermo (Action Aid), Camille Pabalan (Canada), Brigitte Mukengesheyi (ECHO), Ehsanur Rahman (NAHAB), Lene Aggenaes (UNFPA), Alycke Slomp (ZOA), Fie Lauritzen (DCA), Hero Anwar (REACH), Kurniawan Muhammad (Save the Children), Marina Skuric (OCHA), Michael Mosselmans (Christian Aid), Rita Nansereko (AWAD), Amanda Schweitzer (CRS), Terez Curry (Bahamas RC), Maria Isabel Castro (UN Women), Jonathan Brunggel (SDC), David Fisher and Coree Steadman (IFRC).