

## Report

# Country Level Dialogue Process on Localisation – Nigeria

## Grand Bargain Localisation Workstream



**Abuja-Nigeria**

**June 2021**

**By Co-Facilitators:**

**Ohaha Family Foundation, Women in Humanitarian Response in Nigeria Initiative, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development and Christian Aid**



## Background

One of the great outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul, Turkey in May 2016; was the launching of the “Grand Bargain”. The ‘Grand Bargain’ is an agreement between more than 50 of the biggest donors worldwide. It aims to get more aid into the hands of people in need; reduce the costs and improve the effectiveness of humanitarian action. In 2019, Nigeria played host to one of the three Grand Bargain “Demonstrator Country Mission” visits. And in November 2020, Nigeria led by a consortium of co-facilitators - Ohaha Family Foundation, Women in Humanitarian Response in Nigeria Initiative, Catholic Agency For Overseas Development and Christian Aid; responded to the Grand Bargain Localization Workstream Call for Expression of Interest. Nigeria alongside other 5 countries was selected as a Grand Bargain Localization “Focus Country” - to promote country level dialogue process for a period of six (6) Months - from January to June 2021.

## Objectives of the Country Level Dialogue (CLD)

The objectives of this Grand Bargain Localisation Workstream-facilitated country dialogues process are; **promote** implementation of Grand Bargain commitments on localisation at the country level, **create a greater sense of momentum on these commitments** –when possible- exploring synergies and linkages with existing humanitarian coordination mechanisms (within Humanitarian Country Teams and beyond), donor coordination mechanisms and platforms as well as civil society networks, **encourage in-country counterparts** to identify their context-specific opportunities, challenges and specificities when it comes to localisation and develops its own plans or solutions, **learn lessons** that will inform discussions and strategic direction in relation to the next phase of the Grand Bargain beyond June 2021.

## The process

The four (4) Nigeria co-facilitators set up a platform for communication (Virtual meetings and mailing groups) and held series of virtual consultations and events – a consultative forum with participants from donors, INGOs, LNGOs, representatives of 3 Government Ministries. One of the highlights of the co-facilitators activities was the rapid assessments and dissemination of the results of the country’s Post Covid-19 Localization situation – i.e. it’s designed and carried out 2 surveys (one for Donors/INGOs, and another for LNNGOs). The co-facilitators had bilateral talks with donors, and requested for a meeting with the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria.

## Key outcomes of the CLD-Nigeria

Through a multi-stakeholders consultation process, there was consensus to focus on three (3) thematic areas i.e. engagement/participation in HCT, capacity building/capacity strengthening, and the New ways of working due to Covid-19. The dialogue process started with a pre-briefing among the co-facilitators to agree on the ways of working, and how to pursue the process, before the briefing with the GB LWS Members. In deciding on the process due to the size and diversity of stakeholders in Nigeria, the co-facilitators started by preparing an inclusive Terms of Reference (ToR) to accommodate representatives from all the key stakeholders.

## Survey Report

The country co-facilitators initiated and deplored a two-prong rapid assessment (one for Donors/INGOs, and another for LNNGOs); with the aim to **assess the impact of Localization Actions** on the Capacity and Participation of CSOs in Nigeria Humanitarian Response, **highlight gaps/challenges** faced by CSOs' in the Humanitarian Response in Nigeria – with particular references to Capacity and Participation, **understand how CSOs coped and responded to the Covid-19 challenges**; and identify opportunities emerging from the crisis and the lessons learned. The survey was widely disseminated to stakeholder's in-country, results were collated and presented to larger forum of in-country stakeholders. The final report of this rapid assessment is the first of its kind to focus exclusively on the Grand Bargain Localization Workstream for Nigeria.

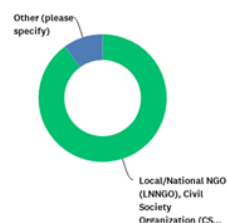
Overall, this report presents an overview of the situational analysis the impact of localization actions on the capacity and participation levels of the different CSOs and other non-state actors in the Nigeria humanitarian response. This report fills a knowledge gap and offers funders, governments, CSO groups and other key stakeholders' data-based on evidence to inform their local actors' engagement to reinforce localization actions. And finally, it showcases the challenges and opportunities that emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic and provided sustainable actions and tools to strengthen capacity and participation of Nigeria CSOs in the Humanitarian Response.

## Summary Recommendations and learning from the CLD-Nigeria process

### Which of the following best describes your organization?

Q2: Which of the following best describes your organization?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



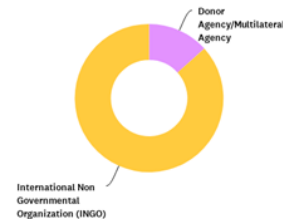
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Local/National NGO (LNNGO), Civil Society Organization (CSO), Networks, Groups	90.00%	54
Other (please specify)	10.00%	6
TOTAL		60

### LNNGOs

Q2: Which of the following best describes your organization?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Donor Agency/Multilateral Agency	13.33%	2
International Non Governmental Organization (INGO)	86.67%	13
TOTAL		15

### Donors and INGOs

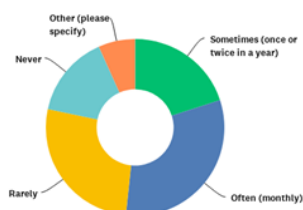
**Increase engagement/participation of Local actors in the HCT and decision making:** Majority of the **LNNGOs** echoed that their experience was either poor or weak in terms of support corroborating that LNNGOs lacked much influence in the humanitarian response or there was

minimal consultation of LNNGOs only on a need basis, participation in decision making process was overall weak from the LLNGOs perspectives. In order to improve this situation, there was consensus from the **Donors** to encourage and the support National Government to live up to its responsibility in terms of the security situation, encourage field visits as a means to connect directly with local partners, intermediaries could also help to bridge the gap by providing linkage with local actors and the donors. Donors reported strong solidarity for “Committed dialogue and engagement” in partnership building between donors and local partners. Also to reflect on the role of intermediaries and incentives and means for more equal partnership approaches. **INGOs** shared their perspective to increase participation of LNNGOs in the HCTs would require investment and commitment to capacity building and capacity strengthening. Trust building and long term relationships/partnerships would improve participation of LLNGOs by recognizing the input and impact of local partners, and encouraging greater active participation of local partners. Support and encourage more local partners to engage in decision and coordination architecture.

### How would you rate your organizations localization actions in the Nigerian humanitarian response?

Q5: How often do you engage in with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), clusters, and forums?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



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Answered: 60 Skipped: 0

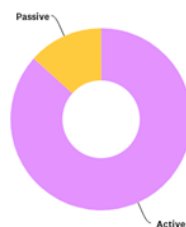
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Sometimes (once or twice in a year)	20.00% 12
Often (monthly)	31.67% 19
Rarely	26.67% 16
Never	15.00% 9
Other (please specify)	6.67% 4
TOTAL	60

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### LNNGOs

Q5: How would you rate your organizations localization actions in the Nigerian humanitarian response?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



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Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Active	86.67% 13
Passive	13.33% 2
Inactive	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	0.00% 0
TOTAL	15

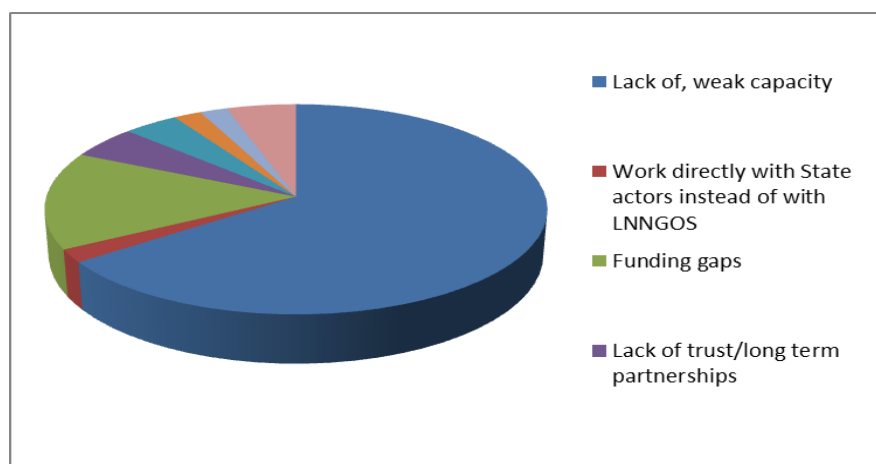
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### Donors and INGOs

**Build/strengthen institution capacity of Local organizations:** Regarding the capacity need, LNNGOs shared their needs to include but not limited to access to funding i.e. overhead cost had predominance in the list in terms of capacity building/strengthening needs, followed by partnership, coordination and leadership mechanisms. **Donors** reflected that it will be helpful to

prioritize capacity building and promote partnership, linking localization efforts to the development nexus. There was consensus by the **INGOs** to prioritize and encourage capacity strengthening of local organizations and its staff member in proposal and report writing, financial reporting, provide flexible and direct funding to cover administrative and ICT systems. Some INGOs described direct funding to local partners as critical to support institutional capacity which potentially removes intermediaries making more funds available for programming.

### Donors and INGOs shared barriers to localization efforts/actions in Nigeria



### LLNGOs specific Capacity building/strengthening needs

Q7: What are your organizations specific capacity building/strengthening needs?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 0



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Answered: 60 Skipped: 0

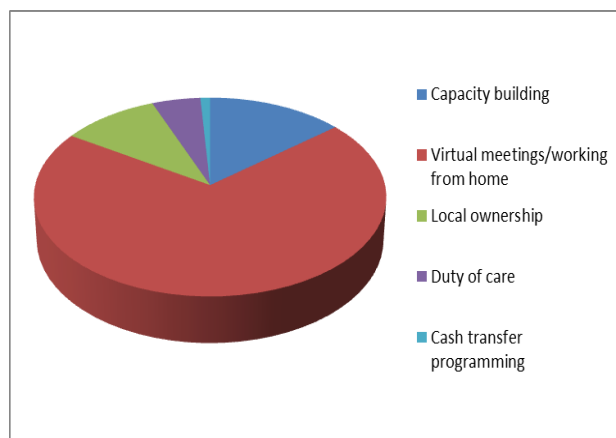
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Partnerships	50.00% 30
Leadership	18.33% 11
Coordination	30.00% 18
Overhead cost	33.33% 20
Access to Funding (including support for resource mobilization, grants/proposal writing, small grants, administrative/overhead cost etc.)	73.33% 44
Other (please specify)	10.00% 6
Total Respondents: 60	

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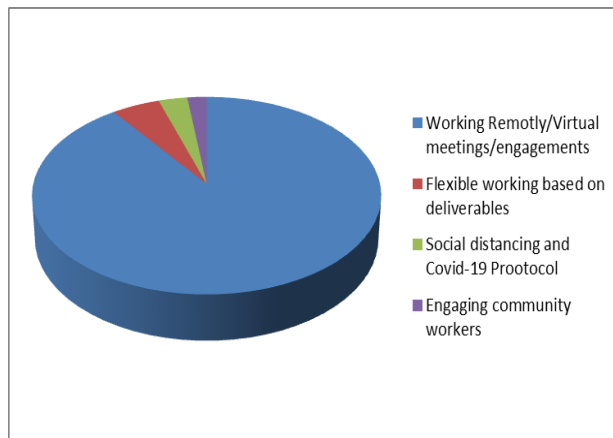
**New ways of working occasioned by Covid-19 pandemic:** Local organizations reported that during the Covid-19 pandemic they experienced funding cuts, shortages of funds due to bureaucratic impediments occasioned by the Covid-19 protocols which impacted heavily on jobs & salary cuts, offices & operational infrastructure, followed by restricted spaces for LNNGOs and lack of inclusion in the decision and coordination process in the humanitarian response. Virtual meetings, events, and working remotely was one of the best practices that they shared to be helpful in working during the Covid-19 pandemic. Compliance to the Covid-19 protocol also meant flexible working hours and alternating working days, focusing more on deliverables. Social distancing was challenging, hence, LNNGOs reported that they engaged community-based workers to bridge the social distancing challenges especially when programs involved mass gathering. **Donors** shared

that encouraging and supporting local partners to boost humanitarian response, build experience, visibility leverage partnerships with different actors is a critical component to support sustainability. INGOs observed that through due to Covid-19 pandemic, there was increased and consistent application of support for local partners to engage more online, and virtual trainings, meetings and events, remote operationalization of programming, monitoring and evaluation, staff members were encouraged to ensure compliance to the Covid-19 protocols, and alternative working days.

### Good practices or new ways of working during the COVID-19 pandemics in Nigeria



LLNGOs



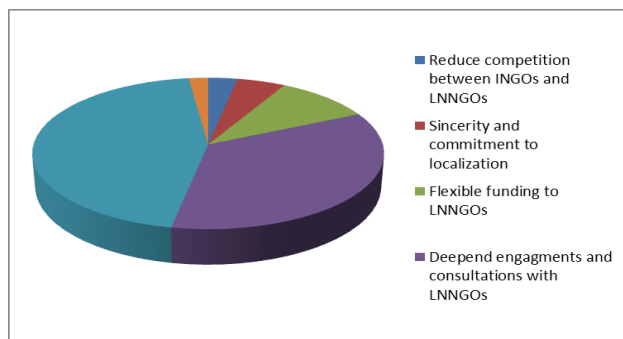
Donors and INGOs

**Reflections to improve on the Grand Bargain Localization efforts at country level: LNNGOs** indicated that increasing participation of LNNGOs in the HCT and other decision making bodies would open up the 'restricted' space to LNNGOs make meaningful and purposeful contributions in the humanitarian response. LNNGOs responders revealed the need to build institutional capacities in terms of technical and operational skills to improve localization efforts. Another reflection was surrounding access to funding which would enhance localization considering LNNGOs compete with INGOs and Local office of INGOs for funding, complementarity will strengthen equal partnerships. Promoting advocacy and awareness rising in terms of compliance to the Localization commitments, and expanded information sharing would intensify localization efforts in-country.

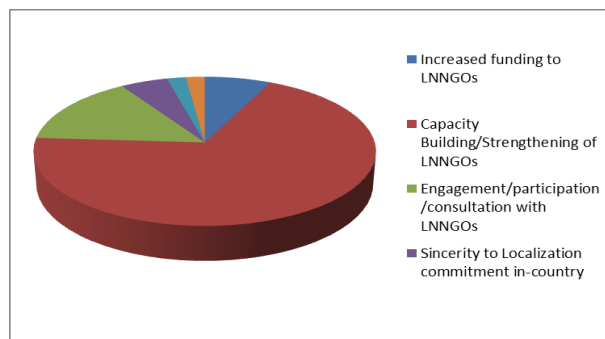
**Donors** raised concerns about the security situation in the region which makes localization challenging, and there is a huge data gap and increasing local partners in the coordination structures, and longer term investments in institutional capacities of local partners would improve localization efforts.

**INGOs** shared that providing flexible funding and empowering local partners by demonstrating localization commitments, promote greater participation of local partners the humanitarian country teams and coordination groups holds great potentials to improve localization actions in Nigeria. Also, INGOs expressed that increased consultation and dialogues with local partners in program design and long term partnerships is critical to demonstrate localization commitments. INGOs criticized in strong terms and discouraged competition between INGOs and LNNGOs which could negatively impact on collaboration and inclusion of localization.

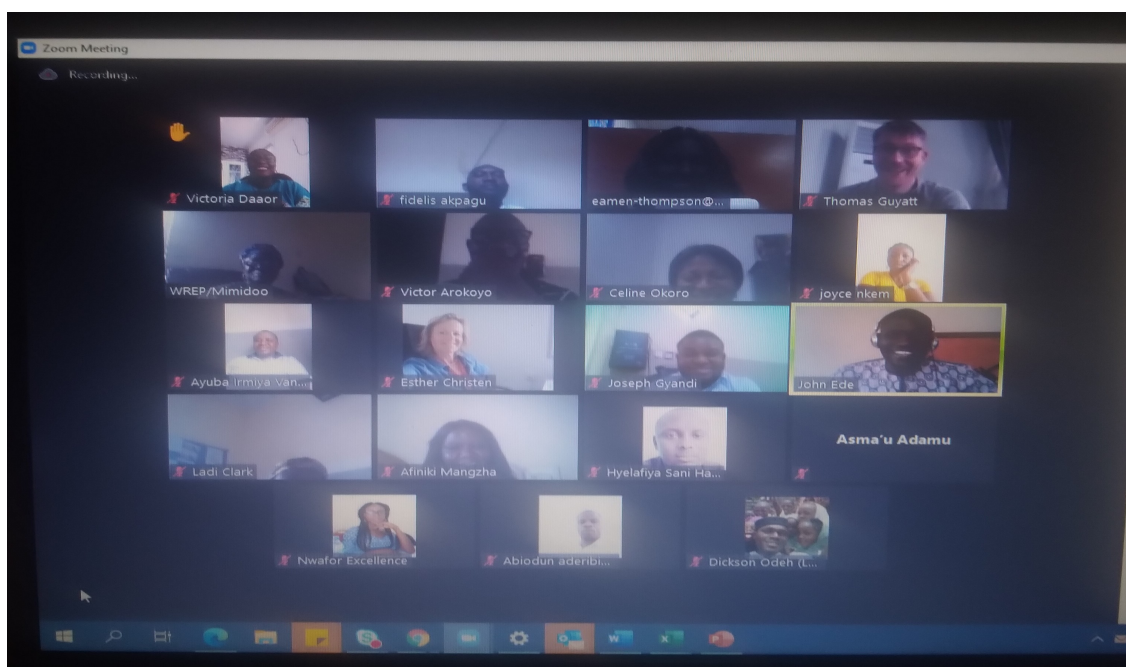
### Reflections to improve on the Grand Bargain Localization efforts at country level?



**Donors and INGOs**



**LNNGOs**



### **Survey report presentation to stakeholders during the virtual National Dialogue on Localization in Nigeria by the Co-Facilitators**

We hope you enjoy the report. We also hope to be able to collaborate with you in our efforts to promote and deepen localization actions in Nigeria.