



Title:

Localising Humanitarian Assistance: Empowering Local Actors through better Financing Partnerships and Capacity Building

Sponsors and Organizers:

Charter for Change (C4C), Shifting the Power Project, Disaster and Emergencies Preparedness Programme (DEPP), Federal Foreign Office - Germany, Welthungerhilfe

Time and Date: Wednesday, 21 June 2017, 18:00-19:15

Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

This is one of the side-events that will take place during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), in keeping with this year's theme: *Restoring Humanity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.*

Background and objectives

Over the past years, there have been new voices, energy, and ideas building in the humanitarian system around the localisation agenda. With the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and specifically the Grand Bargain, as well as the Charter4Change (C4C) – a tipping point has been reached: reform for localisation is inevitable, if not already ongoing. Governments, aid agencies, communities all remain committed to localisation – what remains is the much harder practical implementation.

The objective of this side-event is to discuss how all the commitments that humanitarian actors have made in different international processes (e.g. WHS, Grand Bargain, and C4C) put local and national actors first. Whether discussing innovative forms of humanitarian financing mechanisms to ensure funding to national and local actors as directly as possible or ensuring that capacity development components benefiting national/local actors are integrated in humanitarian projects, the local perspective should always be at the centre of all decision-making. This side event will delve more deeply into where and how localisation is occurring, and what works and does not work when localising humanitarian response.

This side-event will facilitate an open multi-stakeholder discussion, including local and national NGOs, representatives from disaster affected governments, as well as donors (donor perspective represented by Germany). Sharing lessons and comments from local and national actors will make the conversation contextually relevant and focus on the actual needs of affected people, based on best practice examples (e.g. the Disaster and Emergencies Preparedness

Programme - DEPP, the Shifting the Power Project or the ACBAR Humanitarian Twinning Program in Afghanistan that the Welthungerhilfe is carrying out) and relevant analysis (e.g. the Global Humanitarian Assistance Report, presented by Development Initiatives).

Discussion points

Against this backdrop, the side-event will focus on the following suggested questions and discussion points:

- *What does or does not work in terms of capacity building for a local humanitarian response from the local perspective?*
- *Which financing mechanisms have proven to be most effective when supporting local actors? What are the challenges involved in direct funding to local actors?*
- *What have been the most important lessons learnt and most successful practices on partnerships? How can they contribute to a more representative humanitarian system where local actors have a say in decision-making?*

Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations

This side-event intends to provide practical recommendations for the implementation of the localisation agenda, focusing on the key issues around financing, capacity development and partnership, which are supported by the Charter4Change and Grand Bargain. By facilitating an open multi-stakeholder discussion, we want to encourage an exchange of experiences between local actors, national actors, and government representatives.

This side-event aims to look at where, how, and to what extent localisation is already occurring in the humanitarian context, while understanding what more can be done and how we can all benefit from the implementation of this agenda.

Format

To ensure a lively, inclusive dialogue, we are proposing a side-event facilitated with an adapted 'Fish Bowl' format.

The Fishbowl is a tool for facilitating dialogue between experts, in a creative and interactive way that includes a wider public and encourages sharing ideas from different perspectives. Three experts and the moderator sit in the inner circle to discuss a series of directional questions surrounded by a larger group of experts and observers in an outer circle.

The inner circle is the stage for speaking and contributing. Those in the outer circle listen actively and contribute to the discussion by giving short statements from the audience or by moving into the inner circle when participating in the conversation. The chair of the side-event will open and close the conversation. This more interactive format allows including more experts for short interventions and encourages the participation from the audience. The inner circle will include a national NGO representative, a local NGO representative and the representative of a disaster affected government, as well as the moderator. The outer circle will include representatives from the international donor

community (represented by Germany), humanitarian actors, INGOs, UN-organisations, academia, and international development organisations.

In order to illustrate and visualize successful localisation projects in the field, we intend to organize a photo slideshow on the side of this side event (if technical and spatial conditions allow).

Chair:

- Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Under Secretary General, Partnerships, IFRC, Confirmed

Moderator:

- Ms. Lesley Bourns, Acting Chief, Policy Analysis and Innovation Section, OCHA (TBC) or Anita Kattakuzhy, Charter4Change

Panel composition (inner circle):

- *Mr. Samiullah Naseri, Programme Director of Afghanistan National Re-Construction Organization (ANCC), National NGO perspective (TBC), <https://www.linkedin.com/in/samiullah-naseri-79258735/>*
- *Ms. Joyce Chepkoech Charles, Chairperson of the Disaster Management Committee, Kongelai Women Network, Western Pokot, member of the Pokot Women Empowerment Organisation (POWEO), Kenya, Local NGO perspective*
- *Mr. Reaz Ahmed, Director General of the Department of Disaster Management from Bangladesh (TBC)*

Background Material

Charter4Change: <https://charter4change.org/>

Shifting the Power Project: <https://startnetwork.org/start-engage/shifting-the-power>

Disasters and Emergencies Preparedness Programme (DEPP): <https://startnetwork.org/disasters-and-emergencies-preparedness-programme>

ACBAR Twinning Programme: www.acbar.org/

Afghanistan National Re-Construction Co-ordination (ANCC): www.ancc-af.org

Pokot Women Empowerment Organisation (POWEO): <https://poweorg.wordpress.com/>

Development Initiatives (DI), presenting outcomes of the Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) Report 2017: <http://devinit.org>

Government of Bangladesh, Department of Disaster Management: <http://www.ddm.gov.bd/>

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