

## **2021 Economic and Social Committee Humanitarian Affairs Segment**

**Title:** Locally-led humanitarian action – How to advance the Localization Agenda

**Sponsor:** Switzerland

**Organizers:** UNFPA, Start Network, UNICEF, IFRC and Center for Global Development

**Date and Time:** 21 June from 13:00 – 14:30 Geneva time (link to join provided below)

### **Background and objectives of the event**

Engaging Local/National Actors (L/NAs) is critical to the success of every humanitarian action but local expertise and leadership are often overlooked. L/NAs are often the first responders and provide an invaluable understanding of local challenges and potential solutions. They are able to easily mobilize local networks and offer greater access to affected populations, contributing to a more effective, efficient, and accountable humanitarian. Most of them work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus on preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience building and remain after international actors withdraw.

In the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and ensuing Grand Bargain, a commitment was made for 'More support and funding to local responders' and to make humanitarian work 'as local as possible and as international as necessary.' While some progress has been made to deliver the commitments around financing, capacity strengthening, coordination and partnership, transformative change is yet to happen in shifting the balance to a more locally led humanitarian action. The COVID-19 pandemic and the broader climate crises have further accentuated the need to strengthen the role and leadership of L/NAs as localisation has become both a necessity and opportunity to effectively meet humanitarian needs as well as in preparedness, adaptation and resilience building.

This side event is being organised to present and discuss the key areas of progress to date as well as work that requires further action from the perspectives of the different stakeholder groups including L/NAs themselves. The objective is to share practical experiences in advancing the localisation agenda and reflect on specific localisation issues such as capacity strengthening and complementarity, cascading quality funding and risk management, coordination, leadership, and decision making, and locally led early action.

An outcome of this session is to identify key recommendations for the various stakeholders that take part in the humanitarian sector.

# 2021 Economic and Social Committee

## Humanitarian Affairs Segment

### Discussion points or guiding questions

1. What progress have we seen in the localisation of humanitarian action? What good practices could be highlighted from the COVID-19 pandemic response?
2. What is your reflection on humanitarian actors' complementary role (local government/ governments/ donors/ local organisation/ international organisations) play in supporting a more locally led humanitarian sector?
3. How do we strengthen the operationalisation of localization commitment by humanitarian actors? What are the main blockages hindering national and subnational organisations from having a leading role in responding to crises?

### Key issues:

1. The linkage between global and national level initiatives on the localization agenda — IASC guidance, Grand Bargain initiatives.
2. Funding and funding flexibility for national and subnational partners.
3. Early action led by local actors.
4. Involvement of national and subnational partners from the beginning in the planning, coordination structures and implementation of humanitarian action.
5. Lessons from and opportunities for national and subnational women-led organisations.
6. Capacity sharing between international and local actors.

### Key concrete action points and recommendations/take away messages

- Member States and humanitarian actors adopt strategies which advance commitments on localization agenda.
- Understand the role of local governments as partners in humanitarian response and a critical component in advancing the humanitarian and development nexus.
- Listen to experiences from first line responders and discuss complementarity in capacities among humanitarian actors.
- Document recommendations and actions on shifting the power in humanitarian action to local actors.

### Format of the side event

Moderated discussion with panellists sharing practical experiences guided by questions from the moderator. This will be made lively with short answers to questions rather than statements.

**Chair:** Mr. Philippe Besson, Head of Multilateral Division, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation

**Moderator:** Nimo Hassan, Somalia NGO consortium

**Setting the scene:** Ms. Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Shifting the Power Coalition, Fiji (video presentation)

# 2021 Economic and Social Committee Humanitarian Affairs Segment

## **Panel composition**

1. Ms. Farzana Ahmed, Start Fund Bangladesh (SFB) representative,
2. Ms. Jennifer Miguel, Head of UNFPA's Regional Syria Response Hub, Jordan,
3. Mr. Edmon Gharios, President, Chiyah council, Chiyah, Lebanon
4. Mr. Patrick Saez, Senior Policy Fellow, Center for Global Development
5. Ms. Margarita Arias Sanchez, Colombia Red Cross
6. Dr. Linah Jebii Kilimo, Chief Administrative Secretary, State Department for Gender, Ministry of Public Service and Gender Affairs, Government of Kenya

Final remarks: Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments

## **Background Material (feel free to share links to relevant documents)**

1. [IASC Interim guidance on localization and COVID-19 response](#)
2. [Grand Bargain practical actions on operationalizing the localization commitments](#)
3. [UNICEF internal assessment on cascading quality fund to implementing partners](#)
4. [GBV AOR: Promising practices for partnerships supporting national and local women's organisations and groups undertaking Gender-Based Violence \(GBV\) prevention and response programming in emergencies](#)
5. [Start Fund Bangladesh](#)

## **Connection details to join the event**

(Ex: RSVP link and/or meeting platform, such as MS Teams, Zoom, WebEx connection details and password)

You are invited to a Zoom side event.

When: 21 June from 13:00 – 14:30 Geneva/Jun 21, 2021 12:00 PM London

Topic: Locally-led humanitarian action – How to advance the localization agenda (ECOSOC HAS 2021)

Please click the link below to join the side event:

<https://zoom.us/j/97766807063>

Passcode: 8012697966

Or One tap mobile :

United Kingdom: +442080806592,,97766807063#,,,,\*8012697966# or  
+443300885830,,97766807063#,,,,\*8012697966#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

## 2021 Economic and Social Committee Humanitarian Affairs Segment

United Kingdom: +44 208 080 6592 or +44 330 088 5830 or +44 131 460 1196 or +44 203 481 5237 or +44 203 481 5240 or +44 203 901 7895 or +44 208 080 6591

Webinar ID: 977 6680 7063

Passcode: 8012697966

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/abPk2UkQ0h>

### **Contacts**

	<b>Focal Point 1</b>	<b>Focal Point 2</b>
Name:	Philimon Majwa	Myriam Castaneda Solares
Mission or Organization	UNICEF	START Network
Email:	pmajwa@unicef.org	Myriam.Castaneda@startnetwork.org
Phone:	+19173409047	+44(0)7568234063
Mobile:	+19173409047	+44(0)7568234063