

Recommended Measures to Facilitate Locally Led Humanitarian Action

On 28 November 2017 during the first [World Humanitarian Action Forum](#) conference, a roundtable was held to discuss the localisation agenda with a focus on the need to build sustainable capacity. Attendees included representatives of responding organisations from around the world, networks, donors, learning initiatives and UN agencies. The roundtable discussions utilised a three Ps approach, working through the Problem, Practice and Policy.

Throughout the day the discussions included a diverse range of participants sharing examples where things had worked well and other examples of where there had been issues. The chairs ensured the focus was on concrete solutions and encouraged participants to ask themselves honest but difficult questions where appropriate.

Several key matters were recognised throughout the roundtable:

- That it is essential to include a diverse mix of voices in any discussion on these issues;
- That all stakeholders need to collectively maintain the momentum, continually reminding the wider humanitarian sector and beyond why the localisation agenda is important;
- That it is crucial that the evidence of how and where localisation initiatives are successful, and communities are able to enhance their resilience to shocks, is collected and shared;
- That all stakeholders must hold each other to account for the achievements they have committed to;

During the Problem and Practice sessions, numerous matters were discussed, some of which include the importance of domestic funding streams; the need to invest in coalitions, consortia and through networks to improve coordination and sustained capacity; and an encouragement for actors to work together to adopt common frameworks for assessing competencies and for staff salaries.

During the Policy session, the participants reviewed some of the most relevant recommendations that came out of the [Wilton Park conference](#) on localisation held in June 2017. From these, the following were the most popular:

New and Adapted Funding Mechanisms: Develop proposals for new and adapted funding mechanisms, to operate at national, regional or global levels, to support local organisations. These facilities should focus on enabling local organisations to promote community resilience by developing sustainably, including by strengthening their administrative systems, investing in sustainable core capacity between project cycles and improving governance and performance.

Support for overheads and core costs: Urge donors to adopt, as standard policy, provisions to ensure that local organisations implementing projects financed by contributions from donors, UN agencies and INGOs receive adequate overhead payments. Partnerships with these local organisations should include commitments to contribute towards their core costs, to ensure the quality of performance and the sustainability of the organisations.

Partnerships: Urge international NGOs to develop partnerships that support local and national organisations rather than seeking to 'nationalise' their own local offices in crisis-affected countries.

Harmonisation: Work together to develop and implement harmonised reporting systems, standardised registration and quality assurance mechanisms and transparent ways of measuring the progress of individual local organisations towards agreed benchmarks.

All stakeholders are encouraged to play an active role in disseminating, considering and where relevant implementing these recommendations. All these matters deserve further discussion, particularly in specific contexts to determine the relevance and potential impact.