

Our Common Space, Our Complementary Roles

Equitable Partnership for Sovereign and Accountable Civil Society Growth

18 Expectations and Demands from the Bangladeshi NGOs

Contemplating at one year of WHS (World Humanitarian Summit), Grand Bargain and Development Effectiveness Principles, the Bangladeshi NGOs and CSOs raised 18-point expectations and demands for the I-NGOs, Donors and UN Agencies. This is an outcome of Bangladeshi NGOs involved in WHS initiated long interaction during 2015 to 2017 and presented in an event held on 19 August 2017 in Dhaka and endorsed by 50 NGOs (www.coastbd.net). The three global policy discourses ensure the importance of local actors in promoting a humanitarian and democratic society.

1. INGOs and UN agencies' primary role should be to facilitate and promote local civil society in global south.
2. Principles and criteria based partnership with NNGOs, creating a transparent and healthy competition but maintaining highest level of inclusiveness and coordination.
3. Bengali should be the communication language for all INGOs and UN agencies working in Bangladesh while they will be communicating with partners.
4. Activate existing networks first; prior to going for forming new network, the process must be transparent and inclusive.
5. INGOs must prioritize a campaign against "De- globalization of humanity and responsibility" in their country of origin.
6. Cash programming without considering local context, undermines civil society development and a community approach in southern countries.
7. Priority should be to create self-esteem and self-made approach: capacity standard have to be contextual, accountability should be first rather than accounts-ability.
8. Localization means local control: national pooled fund should be managed, controlled and owned by NNGOs. Creating intermediary has concern in respect of sustainability.
9. LNGO and NNGOs whose leadership originated from specific locality or from specific group of people should get priority to get projects for that specific locality or groups: No to imported NNGO or LNGOs with temporary project assignments only.
10. We all (UN organization / INGOs/ NNGOs/ LNGOs) should have participatory multi stakeholder and open review of cyclone (e.g. Ruanu and Mora) and flood (e.g. Haor) response in view of WHS and GB policy outcome. Repeated duplication of mistakes is wastage of resources.
11. Local contexts of corruptions have to be considered. Generalizing stigmatization and threats cannot be an answer; our own capacity and NNGO governance must be given space to respond first.
12. INGOs and UN agencies must be transparent about their project details to their NNGO partners. Each other overhead or management cost should be jointly decided.
13. INGOs and UN agencies must distinguish luxury vs. necessity in their cost culture. Maintaining the same of level of cost structure for development services should be same at least at field level.
14. Expatriate employment should be demand driven, emphasize local expertise. Deploying fresh graduate expatriates in executive position should be avoided.
15. We demand rightful representation in the LCG (Local Consultative Group) and the HCTT (Humanitarian Coordination Task Team).
16. Accountability toward communities is indispensable in localization: The Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) is a key reference and certification an option available in this regard.
17. INGOs and UN agencies should orient their partners to be inclusive and transparent toward a single NGO sartorial unity or coordinated process based on common minimum principles to regain pride and also to regain bargaining capacity.
18. Last but not least: We, national and local NGOs, need to stand on our own feet with an accountable, inclusive and knowledge based approach.

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