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Grand Bargain Localization Workstream Demonstrator Country Field Mission Bangladesh, 09 – 13 September 2018

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Grand Bargain

Signed by donors, Governments and international humanitarian organizations in May 2016 during the World Humanitarian Summit.

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To make the humanitarian ecosystem more efficient, more effective and more people-centred.

Commitment: Funding, Partnership, capacity Building and Coordination,

Bangladesh and Localization

Bangladesh has an active civil society organizations engaged in both humanitarian and development work.

- The Start Network DEPP Shifting the Power project.
- Oxfam's Empowering Local and National Humanitarian Actors (ELNHA).
- Formation of the National Alliance of Humanitarian Actors in Bangladesh (NAHAB).
- A pilot National Start Fund.

- Localization campaign of a group of local NGOs that is supported by NEAR network, Charter for Change, Oxfam, Start Fund and the Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Network.

Mission to Bangladesh

- At the Grand Bargain's annual meeting in 2017, signatories agreed to emphasize field level implementation and accordingly they decided to undertake field missions to 3 "demonstrator countries." - **Nigeria, Bangladesh, Iraq.**
- The first Grand Bargain Localization Workstream Demonstrator Country Field Mission to Bangladesh took place from **9 to 13 September 2018.**
- **The purpose** of the mission was to learn about the successes and challenges in carrying out the localisation commitments of the Grand Bargain and to support its continued progress.
- **The mission to Bangladesh** was an important milestone for the Grand Bargain Localisation Workstream and has created opportunity to provide a safe and productive space for dialogue on what localisation means at the operational/field level as well as identifying practical recommendations for Grand Bargain signatories and the humanitarian community in country and globally.
- **A nine-member mission team** comprising of IFRC Under Secretary General, representatives from donors (Australia, Switzerland and Germany), UNHCR, international NGOs (Oxfam and Christian Aid), local NGO (REACH from Iraq), and the Red Cross (IFRC and Australia Red Cross) conducted the mission.

Organizer

The Mission to Bangladesh was jointly organized and coordinated by the country core team

- IFRC/BDRCS
- Oxfam
- Christian Aid
- COAST
- NAHAB and
- UNRC office

Mission Itinerary

- **09-Sep-2018**, Mission team met with **11 local actors, Additional Secretary, MoDMR and UN agencies**
- **10-Sep-2018**, visited Cox's Bazar and observed different camps level activities operated by COAST, Christian Aid and BDRCS/IFRC. And later in the evening, the team met with the Cox Bazaar CSO-NGO Forum (CCNF) and the RRRC to discuss about the localization.
- **11-Sep-2018**, a debriefing session was organized with the INGOs and NGOs to share the findings in Cox's Bazar. Later the mission team was split into 2 groups and visited Kurigram and Sylhet.
- **12-Sep-2018**, In Kurigram, the team visited community led disaster risk reduction project location implemented by BDRCS.
- **12-Sep-2018**, , In Sylhet, the team visited Tahirpur Upzaila of Sunamganj. In Sylhet the field visit was arranged by POPI and ERA, local partner of NAHAB/Oxfam.
- **13 Sep-2018**, met with the Bangladesh Women Humanitarian Platform (BWHP) arranged by Oxfam. Later in the evening, the debriefing session was organized by NAHAB.

Early Recommendation Draft

Donors (Institutional and bilateral donor agencies)

- Define a minimum percentage coverage for overhead costs provided by international actors who pass funding to local and national NGOs in partnership agreements.
- Increase the proportion of unearmarked and multi-year humanitarian assistance either through direct or as-direct-as-possible (one transaction layer) partnerships with national and local actors or through country based pooled funds, which are directly accessible for local and national actors.

Early Recommendation Draft

UN agencies and International NGOs

- International humanitarian actors should work together with local humanitarian actors on a mapping the humanitarian actors in country and developing a road map towards
 - **development of ethical human resource/ recruitment principles/ practices/ minimum standards**, relevant to surge and other stages of the emergency
 - **development and supporting for mutual capacity building systems** (learning by doing approach, buddy systems, ensure access to platforms and networks and increased participation and leadership of local and national actors etc.),
 - **putting in place more flexible, contextualized, inclusive coordination mechanisms** (providing translation, using simplified jargon and making joint assessments),
 - **improved engagement with the humanitarian donor architecture** for local and national actors (some sort of forum could be considered with the theme of demystifying funding processes, helping local and national actors to understand, navigate and focus their efforts in applying for funds as well as pooled funds),

Early Recommendation Draft

- **support for facilitated reporting / reviews** (some sort of forum could be considered with the theme of facilitating reporting processes, helping local and national actors to understand, navigate and focus their efforts in reporting),
- **fostering the engagement of women** through building on and supporting the work of the Bangladesh Women Humanitarian Platform around increased women leadership in humanitarian coordination mechanisms and decision-making bodies, strengthening capacities of local/national humanitarian actors in addressing gender-based violence, and improved humanitarian safeguarding and protection measures for female staff
- **including host communities/affected population in the response.**

Early Recommendation Draft

Local and National Actors

- Local and national humanitarian actors should work together with smaller local humanitarian actors in networks in a transparent and equal manner, applying the same standards defined in the roadmap and including them adequately in the work with international humanitarian actors.
- Use existing networks such as NAHAB, CCNF, and the NGO Platform to come up with a common definition of local and national actors and agree on ways of how to better collaborate, respect and build on each others' strengths.

Early Recommendation Draft

Additional recommendation on Cox Bazaar

Mission supports/call for a sustainable transition in Cox Bazaar, to achieve which:

- ISCG and local actors work with government officials to agree on a three year timeline of transition, where each year, local actors, led by local government, have greater responsibility in directly managing and delivering the response;
- Capacity strengthening efforts are integrated, namely issues around protection and refugee rights-based programming (which has been raised by ISCG Heads of Sub-Office), camp management, and coordination;
- There are supporting targeted investments in national and local organizations, which may have the ability and desire to scale up their responses to meet a greater proportion of needs.



Thank You