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Cox’s Bazar local NGOs urged multiyear localization and development plan of district until Rohingya repatriation

**Leading Role of Local Government and Local NGOs CSOs is indispensable to ensure Whole of Society Approach in Rohingya Response**

Cox’s Bazar, 23rd May 2019. Today Cox’s Bazar Civil Society and NGO Forum (CCNF) and COAST Trust organized a workshop on localization where 82 participants from 47 local and national NGOs took part. Speakers in the workshop urged government, UN agencies and INGOs to roll back from field operation and draft a multiyear localization and development planning for the district over Rohingya response until the repatriation.

The workshop was presided by Mr. Abu Moshed Chowdhury, Executive Director PHALS and Co-Chair CCNF while it was inaugurated by Mr. Mohammed Abu Kalama NDC, the Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC). The workshop was moderated by Mr. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, COAST. Other main speakers are Mr. Bimol Chandra Dey Sarkar of Mukti, Ms. Sheuly Sharma of Jago Nari, Mr Abul Kashem of Help Ukhiya, Mr Barkat Ullah Maruf of COAST and Ms. Nabila Tarannum Khan of Gonoshastya.

The concluding session was moderated by Ms. Subarna Barua of BRAC while Ms. Tahrima Afroz Tumpa of COAST, Ms. Nilima Akhter Chowdhury of Agrajatra, Ms. Korobi Barua of Mukti, Ms. Nurunnahar from SARPV, Ms. Munmun Gulshan and Ms Dominika Arseniuk of NGO Platform spoke.

Speakers in the workshop discussed about the international commitments endorsed by the UN agencies and international NGOs manifested in Principle of Partnership, Charter for Change and Grand Bargain where primacy and leading role of local NGO CSOs are accepted. Participants of the workshop through separate group discussions identified the ways of implementing the international commitments in Rohingya response along with the course of actions for localization and Whole of Society Approach to be considered.

The workshop also declared a localization roadmap mentioning short-term, mid-term and long-term proposals for the government, UN agencies and international NGOs to implement in Rohingya response.

Mr. Mohammed Abul Kalam NDC, the Refugee, relief and Repatriation Commissioner appreciated the CCNF’s localization road map, especially the proposals of using Bangla language in ISCG (Inter Sectoral Coordination Group) proceedings, gradual phase out of the expatriates with technical knowledge transfer to the locals, common salary framework for all actors in the Rohingya response and enhanced involvement of local NGO CSOs and Local government in the Rohingya response. He expressed doubt that present high-level salary structure might not be sustainable in this dwindling aid situation.

While presenting the draft roadmap Mr. Abu Morshed Chowdhury said, the UN agencies and INGOs should gradually roll back from the field operation and the transparency of aid is necessary to ensure the participation of public and reducing the transaction cost. There should be a comprehensive multiyear humanitarian and development plan for Cox’s Bazar to ensure a sustainable humanitarian support, local development and economic opportunities in Cox’s Bazar.

Mr. Bimal Chandra Dey Sarker said in his speech, INGO should not compete with the local NGOs for the local fund, rather a greater civil society development in Cox’s Bazar is necessary to promote a human right sensitive society here. Only 5.25% of partnership is done with the local NGOs, he added. He recommends, UN agencies and INGOs to support the local community-based organizations and civil society organizations even if they are not registered with NGO Bureau. He mentioned that historically Cox’s Bazar civil society and NGO has grown quite less than the other districts of the country.

Mr. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of COAST said that 55% of Rohingya are young boys and girl who should be provided with education and income generating support otherwise they might fall in the trap of terrorism, trafficking or drug dealers.

Ms. Nabila Tarannum Khan of Gonoshastya said that, the local staff do the most laborious and risky job struggling with the huge difference of salary and facilities compared to the staff of international NGOs and UN agencies.

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