

PoP 2021-22 for ToGETHER Project

ToGETHER Project Description:

With the support of the Federal Foreign Office Germany, Malteser International in Partnership with COAST Trust is implementing in a consortium the localisation program “ToGETHER! - Towards Greater Effectiveness and Timeliness in Humanitarian Emergency Response”. The three-year program will be implemented in Asia, Africa and Latin America and aims to offer an opportunity to five local or national organisations in each of eight participating countries to jointly develop and undertake capacity strengthening and exchange measures in order to reinforce their institutional and operational capacity to effectively respond to humanitarian crises. In Bangladesh, the ToGETHER!-project is implemented jointly by Malteser International and the local NGO “COAST Trust”, one of the leading actors in the localization discourse nationwide and internationally since July 2020. In case of Bangladesh, 4 LHPs have been selected, as COAST Trust already been as LHP as well as the co-host of the Project for Bangladesh.

ToGETHER! will create a space for establishing complementary partnerships and promoting local partners’ roles as leading local actors in humanitarian response. Capacity strengthening and exchange activities will be based on LHPs’ self-defined needs and priorities and the larger humanitarian context in their countries. LHPs will have access to funding for implementing innovative humanitarian approaches and for institutional strengthening. The programme will further provide technical support and advisory services to LHP and facilitate the creation of platforms for knowledge exchange, learning and evidence-based good practice. The programme and its success depend on the active cooperation of all stakeholders in a spirit of mutual engagement and genuine partnership.

ToGETHER! wants to move beyond organisational boundaries, allowing for all participating local and international partners to jointly develop approaches to humanitarian challenges. The programme is therefore equally an opportunity for consortium members to learn from local partners and to build lasting partnerships based on trust and respect. The programme and its success will thus depend on the active cooperation of all stakeholders in a spirit of mutual engagement.

Last Year Achievement:

- 4 Local Humanitarian Partners (LHPs) have been selected. CPU are able to select the active and effective locally grown organisations, Particularly those who are internally inclusive, democratic and accountable, which proactively reaches out to the marginalised and response first in an emergency situation.
- EoI documents were prepared in October and every documents were translated in Bangla & Web-based application submission.

- Option for LHPs for their submission and other language option was open wither Bangla or English. Call for EoI was published in 13th November and the last date of the submission of EoI was 30 November 2021.
- In November, data collection, recording, filtering and shortlisting process were conducted. Then, setting up meetings with potential partners for one-on-one interview.
- One on One Virtual Meeting with the shortlisted LHPs & Two-way assessment workshop.
- Reference check of each LHP & Initiate a process of mutual trust-building and for transparent communication with the partner origination.
- In order to achieve best outcome, we, the Parties, agree to uphold the Principles of Partnership formulated by the Global Humanitarian Platform in 2007 and later endorsed by the Charter for Chang.
- Wherever applicable we, the Parties, further commit to advancing the Partnership Practices for Localisation identified by the Accelerating Localisation through Partnerships programme and endorsed by the Grand Bargain Localisation Workstream.
- Capacity Self Assesment of each LHPs. & Capaccity Strengthening Planning with LHPs.
- Formation of Program Advisory Committe, Country Steering Committee for Bangladesh.
- LHPs share their thoughts during the engagement evaluation & Initiate a process of mutual trust-building and for transparent communication with the partner organization
- Demonstrate active listening to encourage team collaboration
- Giving enough space for the Local Humanitarian Partners (LHPs) and listen their voices and receive their feedback & opinions. Transparency and well coordination from the CPU team.

A. Not achieved / Limitation

- During CoVID-19 situation, timeline for the whole partner engagement process has to be re-adjusted frequently, therefore, it took more time than expected.
- Initial EoI publication took lit bit more time than the expected time, as the CPU Coordinator was not able to join the country office due the visa unavailability and country wise lockdown.
- MEAL Setup and CRM for the project.
- Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the whole process was digital. Personal meetings with LHPs and consortia partners would have been more beneficial for mutual exchange and learning.

C. Stakeholder Opinion (Through zoom meeting or phone)

1. Member participants

Positive	Negative	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency & Accountability • Engagemet & trust Building • Conceptualizing and shaping the partner engagement process takes time. However, using multiple steps for engagement process to get a broader perspective and using participatory tools is very effective. • In Bangladesh, we publish all of the Eol document in both English and Bangla (State Language of Bangladesh). That's why was quite easy for every LHPs to have a well understanding. Besides this, it also promoting the local language which is one of the commitment for localization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection process takes lot of time. • Partship Agreement takes times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the whole process was digital. Personal meetings with LHPs and consortia partners would have been more beneficial for mutual exchange and learning.

2. Local people/ Government official.

Positive	Negative	Recommendations
N/A	N/A	N/A

3. Non-member participants:

Positive	Negative	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trasparent the selection process • Web-based Application is a goode example for transparacy • Web-based application submission helps for the submission their Eol's especially this pandemic time. It saved time and money as well. If anyone finds any difficulties, they sent emails the CPU team, team solved the issues instantly. Besides this, online Eol process in more transparent, there is no change for any kind of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of selected partners only 5. It will be better to increase the number of LHPs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next time consider increasing the number of LHPs who will be able to access the direct funding.

persuasion or lobbying for getting favor.		
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4.1 Staff: (Program)

Positive	Negative	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound knowledge and understanding on Localization • Supportive and Cordial • Strong working ethics • Leadership Skill 		-

4.2 Staff (Management)

Positive	Negative	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent and Supportive • Giving enough space for the Local Humanitarian Partners (LHPs) and listen their voices and receive their feedback & opinions. Transparency and wel; coordination from the CPU team & COAST Foundation. 		-

D. Objectives for 2021-22:

- LHP of a country increase their joint humanitarian preparedness, response, coordination and advocacy capacity to at least 60% and in line with international humanitarian standards.
- LHP of a country coordinate needs assessments, delivery of humanitarian aid and monitoring of its implementation with other relevant actors to at least 60%.
- Communities and people affected by crisis report a significant improvement in the assistance and protection they receive by LHP.
- Through the Country Steering Committee and the Programme Advisory Committee LHP develop strategic priorities for programme implementation.
- LHP use a Peer review mechanism to integrate Lessons Learnt (LL) in programming and implementation of humanitarian action.
- 80% of LHP/country have a MEAL system (CHS 7) including a Complaint Response Mechanism (CRM).

- 60% of LHP have access and test appropriate use of anticipation and/or early warning systems to engage in early humanitarian action.

E. Next Year (2021-22) challenge:

- During CoVID-19 situation, timeline for the whole project activities might be re-adjusted frequently, therefore, it may take more time than expected.
- Difficulties and/or delays in finding suitable mentors/trainers, large humanitarian emergency takes attention/capacity of LHPs/partners, access to project locations is severely restricted or closed.
- LHPs are not allowed to participate physically to major exchange events and conferences in because of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Might face the difficulty to find appropriate consultancies for some of the proposed activities.

Prepared By,
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