

Accelerating Grand Bargain beyond 2026

ADVANCING HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN BANGLADESH

BDCSO COAST's Call to Action for the Grand Bargain 2026-2030



Photo: Din M Shibly/COAST Foundation

Introduction BDCSO COAST

This year, the Grand Bargain will mark its 10th anniversary, with reforms taking shape in a different form. But at the country level, Grand Bargain commitments and true localization of humanitarian aid have yet to be achieved.

Therefore, humanitarian activists across the globe are also discussing the future directions of the Grand Bargain. Emerging perspectives suggest the focus should emphasize the continuation of the Grand Bargain along with Quality Funding, Equitable Partnership, Locally-led response, Risk sharing, Accountability and Aid Transparency. Several networks and groups are active in supporting these priorities. COAST Foundation has initiated a popular country-wide local NGOs and network effort—the BDCSO COAST, a signatory to the Grand Bargain, is sharing the priority areas and call to action from Bangladesh, intending to bring these concerns and insights to broader international discussions on the future of the Grand Bargain, localization, and locally-led response.

Call to Action journey

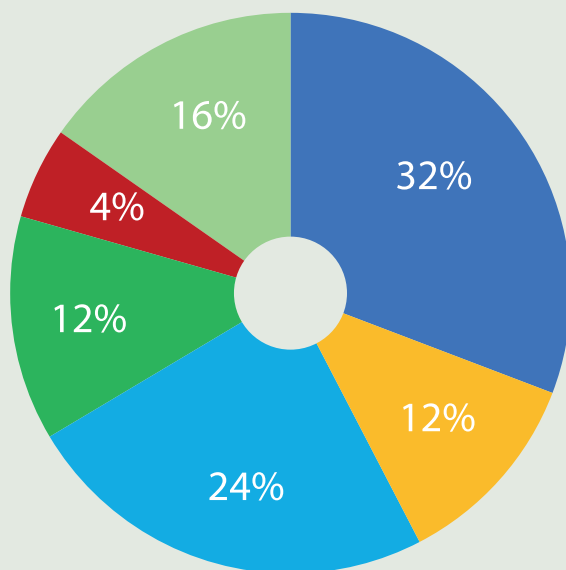
BDCSO COAST, in collaboration with COAST Foundation and the Cox's Bazar CSO-NGO Forum (CCNF), conducted research and organised two seminars titled "Grand Bargain Beyond 2026: Local Perspectives" in Cox's Bazar on 8 October 2026, followed by an online seminar on 10 October 2026. These initiatives assessed the current localisation practices, identified key challenges, and gathered insights from Cox's Bazar-based CSOs and NGOs, many of which are engaged in the Rohingya humanitarian response. The online seminar broadened the consultation by bringing together grassroots CSOs and NGOs from across Bangladesh. Government officials and representatives of a few UN agencies also participated in these seminars. The collective perspectives and recommendations gathered through these consultations informed the development of this Call to Action. The key research findings and proposed Action Points for the future of Grand Bargain 2026- 2030 are presented below.

10 years have passed, what progress has been made in Bangladesh?

BDCSO COAST conducted a survey with its network members for Grand Bargain self-reporting in 2026. A total of 25 local/national NGOs and networks responded to the survey. We will put a few findings below that will help you to understand a basic scenario of localization progress in the country.

Of the total humanitarian funding received in 2025 by your local/national organization, how much % was multi-year (with a duration of 24 months or more) funding?

Figure: Multi-year humanitarian funding received in 2025 (%)

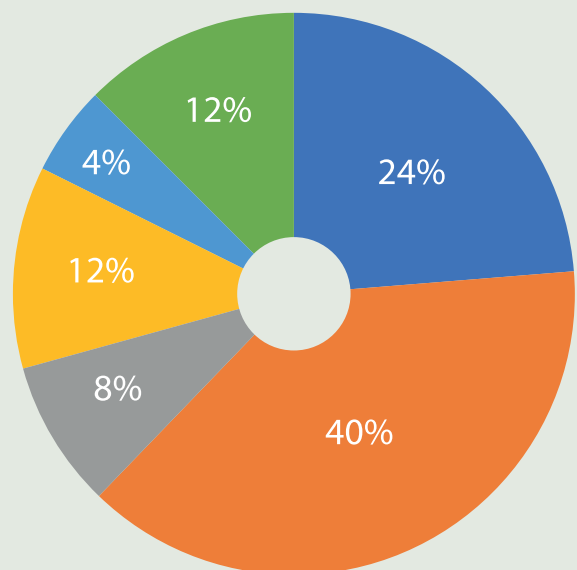


- 0% ● - **32%** of respondents reported receiving 0% multi-year funding.
- 1-10% ● - **12%** of respondents reported receiving 1-10% multi-year funding.
- 11-20% ● - **24%** of respondents reported receiving 11-20% multi-year funding.
- 21-30% ● - **12%** of respondents reported receiving 21-30% multi-year funding.
- 31-40% ● - **4%** of respondents reported receiving 31-40% multi-year funding.
- 41-50% ● - **16%** of respondents reported receiving 51% or more multi-year funding.
- 51% or more ● - **0%** of respondents reported receiving 51% or more multi-year funding.

Major comments said that, due to the global funding crisis, funding opportunities have become extremely competitive. Donor organizations and INGOs have not sufficiently prioritized localization, and most still prefer partnering with international NGOs rather than directly engaging local or grassroots organizations.

Of the total humanitarian funding received in 2025, how much % was flexible funding (*unearmarked, softly earmarked, earmarked, and tightly earmarked, e.g., Budget flexibility of at least 10%; Pre-financing or simplified release of funds; Simplified procedures for no-cost extensions and carryover, easy reporting, etc.*)?

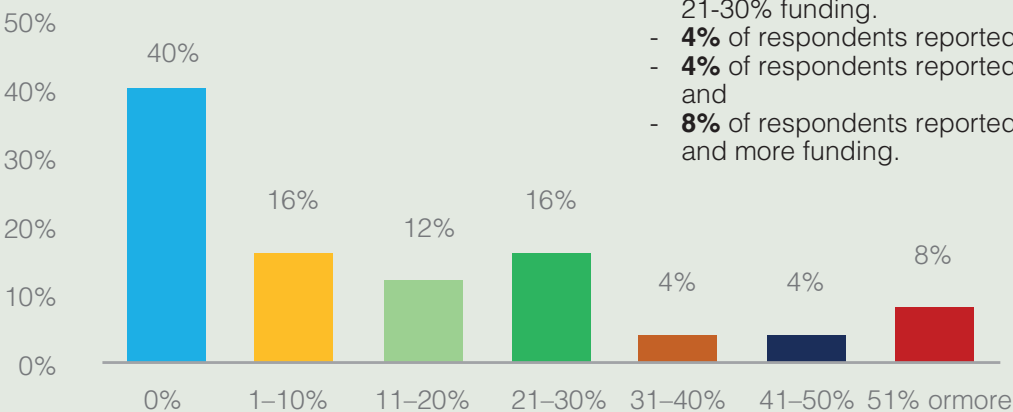
Figure: Flexible humanitarian funding received in 2025 (%)



- 0% ● - **24%** of local/ national respondents reported receiving 0% flexible funding.
- 1-10% ● - **40%** of respondents reported receiving 1-10%.
- 11-20% ● - **8%** of respondents reported receiving 11-20%.
- 21-30% ● - **12%** of respondents reported receiving 21-30%.
- 31-40% ● - **4%** of respondents reported receiving 31-40%.
- 41-50% ● - **12%** of respondents reported receiving 41-50%.
- 51% or more ● - **0%** of respondents reported receiving 51% or more flexible funding.

(A) How much % of humanitarian funding did your local/national NGO receive directly in 2025?
From Local or national non-state actors-

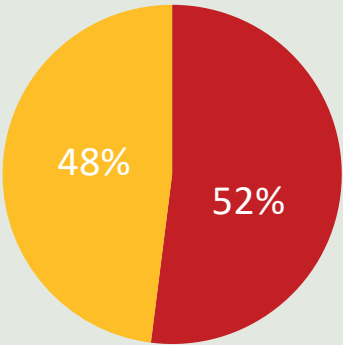
Figure: Humanitarian funding received directly from local/national non-state actors in 2025 (%)



- **40%** of respondents reported receiving 0% funding directly from non-state actors.
- **16%** of respondents reported receiving 1-10% funding.
- **12%** of respondents reported receiving 11-20%.
- **16%** of respondents reported receiving 21-30% funding.
- **4%** of respondents reported receiving 31-40%.
- **4%** of respondents reported receiving 41-50% and
- **8%** of respondents reported receiving 51% and more funding.

(B) How much % of humanitarian funding did your local/national NGO receive directly in 2025?
From local or national actors

- 0% funding
- different segments of funding,



- Likewise, **52%** of respondents reported receiving 0% of funding from local or national actors.
- **48%** of respondents received different segments of funding, but their percentages are low.

Comments said that donor organisations look for NGOs that are prominent and financially sound. For this reason, they always avoided grassroots-level local NGOs. Responders also said that localization should not be just a term, but an implementation.

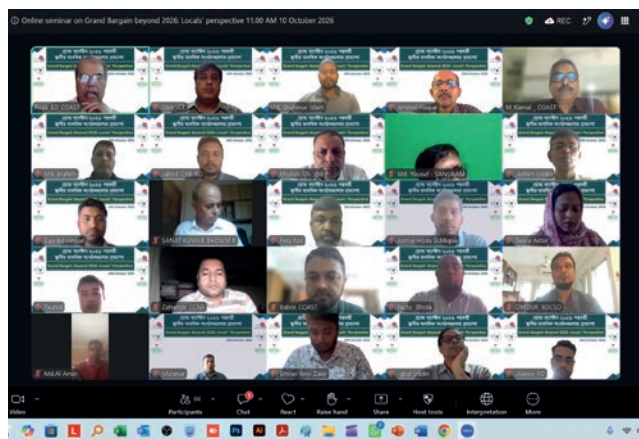
Funding and Co-leadership gaps in Rohingya Response in Cox’s Bazar

COAST and Cox’s Bazar CSO-NGO Forum (CCNF) conducted a research in September 2206 and found Rohingya response coordination platform comprises eight major sectors, all led by UN agencies, with only one sector having an INGO as a sector co-lead. No sector is led by a national or local NGO. On the other hand, the Joint Response Plan— JRP 2026 analysis shows that UN agencies have secured the lion’s share of the funding for Rohingya response. The study found that the UN Agencies have secured 87.96% of the total JRP funding in 2026, against just 7.78% by International NGOs and 4.26% by National NGOs. Local NGOs have received no funding at all, demonstrating that local NGOs have little or no direct financial access through JRP channels.

The findings also highlight a significant gap between the Grand Bargain’s global localisation commitments and operational realities on the ground. One of the core commitments is to increase direct funding to local actors and strengthen their institutional leadership. However, progress remains a concern as the Grand Bargain enters its tenth year.



Seminar on Grand Bargain beyond 2026: Locals' perspective.
Cox's Bazar, 8 October 2026



Online seminar on Grand Bargain beyond 2026: Locals' perspective.
Dhaka, 10 October 2026

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1. Establish a common definition and strategy for localization at the country level. Some UN agencies recognize INGO branch offices registered locally in Bangladesh as local actors and count their funding towards localization commitments, including the 25% target. A common definition is needed to ensure consistency and prevent the misclassification of international actors as local organizations.
2. Increase quality funding providing direct, timely, needs-based, flexible, and multi-year support for local actors, who are often the first responders to crises but face greater financial fragility and sustainability challenges than larger national and international organizations.
3. Strengthen local leadership in humanitarian governance by ensuring at least 50% representation of local and national actors, and promote locally led responses.
4. Clarify the respective roles of UN agencies, INGOs, and local and national NGOs, with UN agencies and INGOs focusing on monitoring and facilitation, while local and national NGOs lead the implementation.
5. Reform pooled funding mechanisms to ensure that a greater share of humanitarian funding reaches local organizations directly.
6. Promote the local intermediary model by adapting funding modalities to channel resources through local intermediaries, thereby reducing operational costs and improving funding efficiency.
7. Move capacity strengthening beyond short-term training to include multi-year institutional support, organizational development, and sustainable capacity-building initiatives.
8. Promote equitable partnerships through simplified requirements for local and national actors, harmonized due diligence and passporting, equal accountability for intermediaries and partners, fair allocation of overhead costs, and the adoption of risk-sharing.
9. Strengthen aid transparency and public reporting through disaggregated data that tracks funding flows and reveals how much funding ultimately reaches local and national actors.
10. Encourage INGOs to mobilize funding from their countries of origin rather than compete for funding within the countries where they operate, thereby creating more opportunities for local and national organizations to access domestic humanitarian funding.



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