

WORKSHOP CONCEPT NOTE & AGENDA

A stock-take on approaches to localisation and partnerships: Cross-country learning from the ground up

The commitment to localisation represents a fundamental belief that the humanitarian and development systems that we work in should promote the dignity and agency of people, communities, and empower the diverse organisations and civil society actors that represent them. Our efforts are an expression of global solidarity and justice. Further, we believe that localisation is not just the *right* thing to do but will have additional benefits in increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of reaching those most vulnerable and left behind. This commitment calls for transformative change also within our own organisation. In practice it means letting go of power, sharing resources and trusting that local people are masters in their own house - and that we play an enabling/facilitating role in this process.

The workshop will ask the question “how do we move resources, capacities and decision-making power as close to the people and local partners that we want to help - and what does that mean for our ways of working”. More specifically, it will address following questions:

- How do we move decision-making and influence closer to people of concern and allow their needs and their voices to influence our work from local to global level?
- How do we strengthen capacities at local levels?
- What changes in mindset and organisational structure should international NGOs undertake to be better able to support and empower locally led action and local organisations?

As an underlining thematic it is also our ambition to better measure, monitor and evaluate progress in our partnerships/localisation work (that goes beyond funding).

Objectives:

The objectives of this workshop is: (i) to align commitments and practices across the organisation on localisation and partnership approaches, (ii) to develop concrete input and good practices to the Danida Strategic Partnership Application local leadership/partnerships/accountability to local actors, and (iii) to raise awareness of new ways of working with CSO partners across humanitarian-development and peace related programmes (dismantle power imbalances, taking a back-seat and acting more as ‘facilitator’).

Intended outcomes:

- Improved understanding the partnership approach with local partners and local actors
- Strengthening cross-country learning on localisation
- A learning paper on localisation/partnership approaches
- Input to country offices’ annual plans and strategic documents

Methodology:

The workshop consists of three group work sessions of which each participant will participate in two sessions. Participants will register for all three group work sessions but in prioritised order. Priorities will be accommodated as much as possible. The duration of each group work session is 45 minutes and will be facilitated.

Group work sessions:

- 1. Moving resources to local level:** What are the best ways for international NGOs to move more leadership, power, influence, and resources into local community action? Resources may include both financial resources, technical resources, and organisational resources. The session will provide practical examples on the barriers and opportunities channelling more resources to the local levels.
- 2. Supporting local capacity strengthening:** How can international NGOs best support local capacity strengthening? This includes how we strengthen institutional and organisational development among our local partners and bring their capacities and knowledge in play effectively. The session includes good practices on governance models where partners take/influence on organisational decisions at country level.
- 3. Partnership approach:** What changes in mindset and organisational structure should international NGOs undertake to be better able to support localisation and local organisations? It takes a transformational process within our own organisation (the international humanitarian system) to respect, recognise, and invest in local and national humanitarian capacity and leadership. The session will bring local-to-global inputs on how this can be done.

AGENDA	
9.00 - 9.10	Welcome and introduction to workshop
9.10 - 9.40	Setting the scene
9.40- 10.25	Group work - Round 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Moving resources to local level ii. Supporting local capacity strengthening iii. Partnership approach
10.25 - 10.35	Break
10.35 - 11.20	Group work - Round 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Moving resources to local level ii. Supporting local capacity strengthening iii. Partnership approach
11.20 - 12.00	Summary of group work & key learnings in plenary