

Report

LOCALIZATION OF WASH COORDINATION AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN BANGLADESH (DHAKA)

Good Practices from IASC Task Force 5

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Localization of WASH Coordination and Humanitarian Response in Bangladesh (Dhaka)

Localization dashboard: Using data and evidence for objective dialogue and action on localization within Clusters

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Geographical coverage

Bangladesh, Dhaka



Actors and Stakeholders

Actors include WASH Coordination and Humanitarian Bangladesh members comprised of Local and National Government agencies (13 per cent), Local and National non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (44 per cent), INGOs (29 per cent) and UN Agencies (14 per cent).



Context

National humanitarian coordination is conducted by the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) of the country, which is co-chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. The Bangladesh Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) coordination platform is not an activated cluster but provides support to the government to coordinate WASH humanitarian disaster response. In 2022, the HCTT developed the Flash Floods Humanitarian Response Plan 2022 appeals to provide essential needs for over 1.5 million targeted people in five heavily-impacted districts of Bangladesh, to complement the Government’s lead role.



Implementation and objective

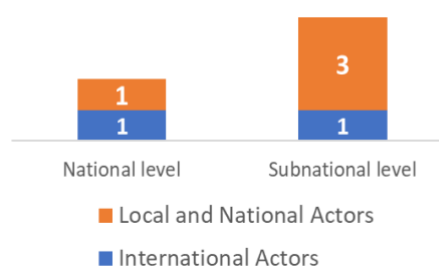
The Bangladesh WASH Cluster conducted a WASH localization assessment amongst its members to monitor five dimensions: governance and decision-making, participation and influence, capacity strengthening as well as partnership and funding of local and national actors.



Methodological approach

Bangladesh WASH coordination and humanitarian response group has been championing localization policies and practices among its coordination group. In 2022, the group had a consensus to measure their progress on localization as well as develop clear strategies and tactics to be implemented in 2023. A localization orientation session was conducted in September 2022 with assistance from the Global WASH Cluster. There were a total of 37 participants from government, UN, INGOs, and local and national actors (L/NAs). One of the key questions asked during the session was on what

Leadership – National and sub national



This good practice was identified and documented through a template developed on the basis of the [2021 IASC Guidance on Localization](#), which aims at supporting efforts to strengthen the meaningful participation, representation, and leadership of local and national humanitarian actors (L/NAs) within IASC humanitarian coordination structures. Its objective is to share knowledge and inspire progress and positive change regarding the meaningful participation of local actors in Humanitarian Coordination platforms. The original draft of this good practice template was developed by the [KORE \(Knowledge Platform for Emergencies and Resilience\) team](#) in the Office of Emergencies and Resilience of the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#) and was tailored to the needs of this IASC initiative.

individuals/organisations say versus what they do regarding localization within the WASH coordination group. The results are provided in the graphs below:

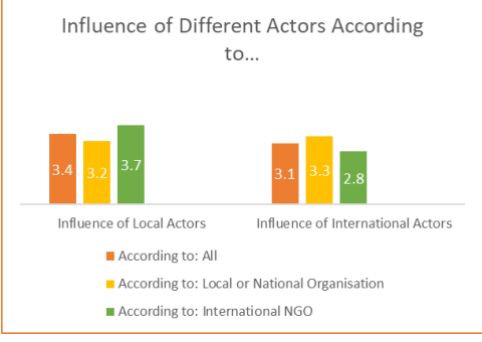
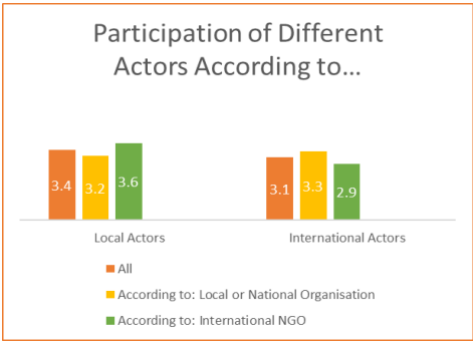


The data shared, provided an opportunity for dialogue on what are the enablers and blockers of localization in the Bangladesh WASH Cluster. In order to develop a clear action plan, it was agreed that a progress survey be conducted to analyse how the coordination was progressing in five key areas: **1. Governance and decision-making; 2. Participation and influence; 3. Institutional Capacity; 4. Partnerships; and 5. Funding.** With support from Global WASH Cluster, a [Localization Dashboard Guidance and Tool Kit](#) developed by Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR) was contextualized to WASH cluster and data collection tools sent to international, local and national actors.

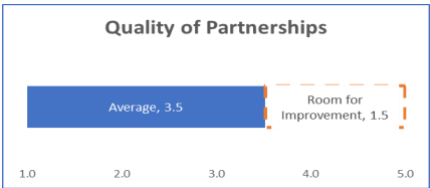
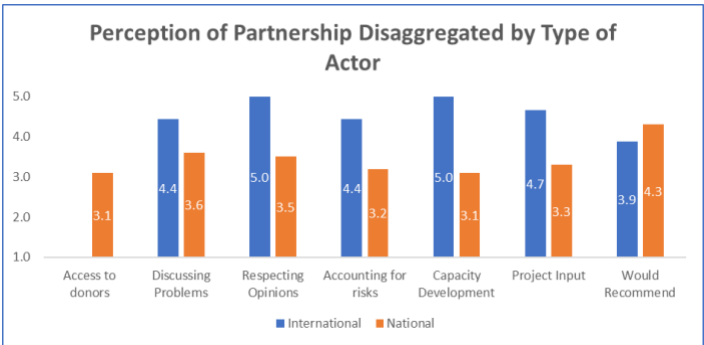
Below are the results from the localization dashboard developed:



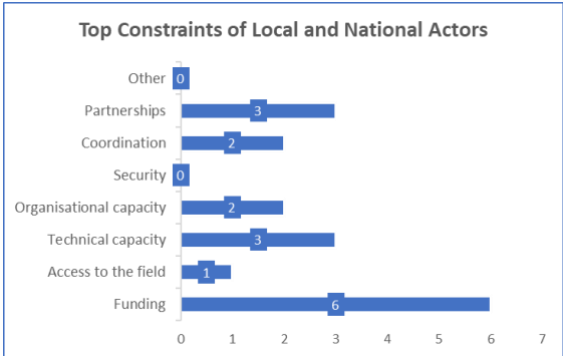
Governance and decision-making



Participation and Influence



Partnerships



Capacity strengthening areas

Other good practices to highlight from the Bangladesh WASH Cluster:

- Sub-national Cluster Meetings in local languages (Bangla), MoM in local languages— was previously in English and L/NAs were quiet, not comfortable to speak. Then changed to Bangla and L/NAs felt more comfortable to raise their issues, increased their participation
- Advocacy with donors for direct funding of women-led organizations on hygiene management.
- Building institutional capacity of L/NAs at the district level on WASH in the Emergency: financial management, planning, implementation and accountability.
- Publication of the [National WASH Compendium](#) in Bangla, more user-friendly for preparedness and response.



Results and impact

Findings from the localization dashboard results enabled the Bangladesh wash cluster to identify areas of improvement in order to entrench localization policies and practises within the coordination group. The results also reaffirmed the need to continue with initiatives previously conducted by the group in promoting localization.

- The findings indicated that a higher number of cluster members are L/NAs at 57 per cent.
- The perception of participation and influence of L/Nas according to both international and L/Nas was higher at 3.4 compared to international actors at 3.1 (the best score is 5.0). The high score can be traced from initiatives that the coordination group has implemented in the past, e.g. conducting meetings in local language (Bangla,) including publication of documents, e.g. the recent [National Compendium Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Technologies for Disaster Response, 2023](#).
- Findings also indicated that the three top constraints of L/Nas include funding, partnerships, and technical capacity. While international actors' perception is that they work very well on capacity development together with L/NAs, L/NAs perceive that capacity strengthening initiatives are ad hoc. It was recommended that the coordination group conduct a capacity needs assessment where feasible, as well as facilitate in situ and 'horizontal' learning between local responders, and with international actors.
- On quality of partnerships, the coordination group scored 3.5 out of 5.0. An area that needs further exploration is risk sharing and risk transfer. L/NAs perception of risk to their respective staff was that it was moderately managed.



Replicability and upscaling

The localization survey and dashboard can be replicated in any country, following the guidance: <https://www.cpaor.net/resources/localization-dashboards-guidance-and-toolkit>



Related resources

<https://www.cpaor.net/resources/localization-dashboards-guidance-and-toolkit>
[National WASH Compendium](#) in Bangla



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