Equitable Partnerships and Localisation

'Grab and Go' Pocket Guide

April 2025

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Acknowledgement

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About ICVA

The [International Council of Voluntary Agencies](#) (ICVA) is a global network of 168 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in 160 countries, operating at global, regional, national and local levels, whose mission is to make humanitarian action more principled and effective by working collectively and independently to influence policy and practice.

What does this mean?

Equitable partnerships: Equitable partnerships and localisation are central to ensuring a more inclusive, effective, efficient, and sustainable humanitarian system. These concepts, anchored in the five Principles of Partnership – equality, transparency, results-oriented approach, responsibility, and complementarity – emphasise mutual respect and shared power. Other frameworks and platforms such as the Grand Bargain, Charter4Change and Pledge for Change also include a strong focus on equitable partnerships. It is important to highlight the distinction between equality and equity: while equality provides the same opportunities to all, equity ensures that all partners have a fair chance to participate and contribute, considering systemic power imbalances and varying levels of need or access. At the heart of equitable partnerships lies mutuality: the recognition of shared responsibilities, reciprocal learning, and the co-creation of solutions that utilise the unique strengths and knowledge of all partners. Equitable partnerships aim to redistribute power by ensuring that local and national actors (L/NAs) have an equal voice in decision-making processes. These partnerships value the unique strengths and knowledge of L/NAs; while ensuring they have the funding, tools, and support needed to lead effectively. See ICVA (2024) *Strengthened Partnerships for Principled and Effective Humanitarian Action*.

Localisation: There is no single definition of localisation. Under the Grand Bargain, signatories have committed to "making principled humanitarian action as local as possible and as international as necessary", while continuing to recognise the vital role of international actors, especially in situations of armed conflict. Localisation can be understood as the process of shifting greater power, decision-making and resources to L/NAs in humanitarian action to enhance their leadership and ownership. Equitable partnerships provide the principles and framework that make localisation possible. Localisation, in turn, operationalises these principles by placing L/NAs at the forefront of humanitarian action, ensuring they are empowered and have the capacity to lead responses in ways that are fair, culturally relevant, and impactful. See ICVA (2019) *Unpacking Localisation*. However, localisation is a contested term, with varied understandings that reflect diverse perspectives on how humanitarian assistance should be delivered and who should lead these interventions. See Devex (2024) *Are international NGOs 'hijacking' localization?*.

Localisation measurement frameworks: Structured tools or methodologies developed to assess, track, and promote progress towards the localisation of humanitarian action. These frameworks provide metrics and indicators to evaluate the extent to which L/NAs are meaningfully engaged, empowered, and resourced in humanitarian decision-making and leadership, and help humanitarian actors identify gaps, set benchmarks, and drive systemic changes needed to advance localisation. See Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) (2023) Collective Monitoring and Accountability Framework, Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) and Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) (2019) Measuring Localisation Framework and Tools, NEAR NETWORK (n.d.) Localisation Performance Measurement Framework, Global Mentoring Initiative (n.d.) Seven Dimensions Framework, GlobalGiving and Global Fund Community Foundations (2020) Community Led Assessment Tool, Movement for Community-led Development (n.d.) Community-led Assessment Tool, and Keystone Accountability and Root Change (2020) Pando Localization Learning System.

Donors: Bilateral and multilateral providers of funding. Donors, also known as "funding partners", may also implement humanitarian actions directly. See Grand Bargain (2022) *Towards Co-Ownership: The Role of Intermediaries in Supporting Locally-Led Humanitarian Action*. Donors can play a pivotal role in shaping funding priorities and operational norms. Examples include governments, multilateral organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), philanthropic foundations, private sector entities and individuals.

Intermediaries: International organisations, networks or mechanisms which act as an intermediary between donors/funding partners and L/NAs through the provision of funding, technical, logistical or administrative support. Examples include UN agencies, international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), private sector entities and some national organisations. Organisations, networks or mechanisms may sometimes act as intermediary, as well as directly implement. See Grand Bargain (2022) *Towards Co-Ownership: The Role of Intermediaries in Supporting Locally-Led Humanitarian Action*.

Local and national actors: Formal and informal organisations and groups, including those from governments, local authorities, civil society (including community groups and networks) and the private sector, that are rooted in the communities they serve, with operations, leadership and staff drawn predominantly from the local or national context. Local and national non-governmental actors "are organisations that are headquartered and operating in their own aid-recipient country and which are not affiliated to an international NGO (INGO)". National and sub-national state actors "are state authorities of the affected aid-recipient country whether at local or national level". See IASC (2018) *Localisation Marker Definitions Paper* and Grand Bargain (2022) *Towards Co-Ownership: The Role of Intermediaries in Supporting Locally-Led Humanitarian Action*.
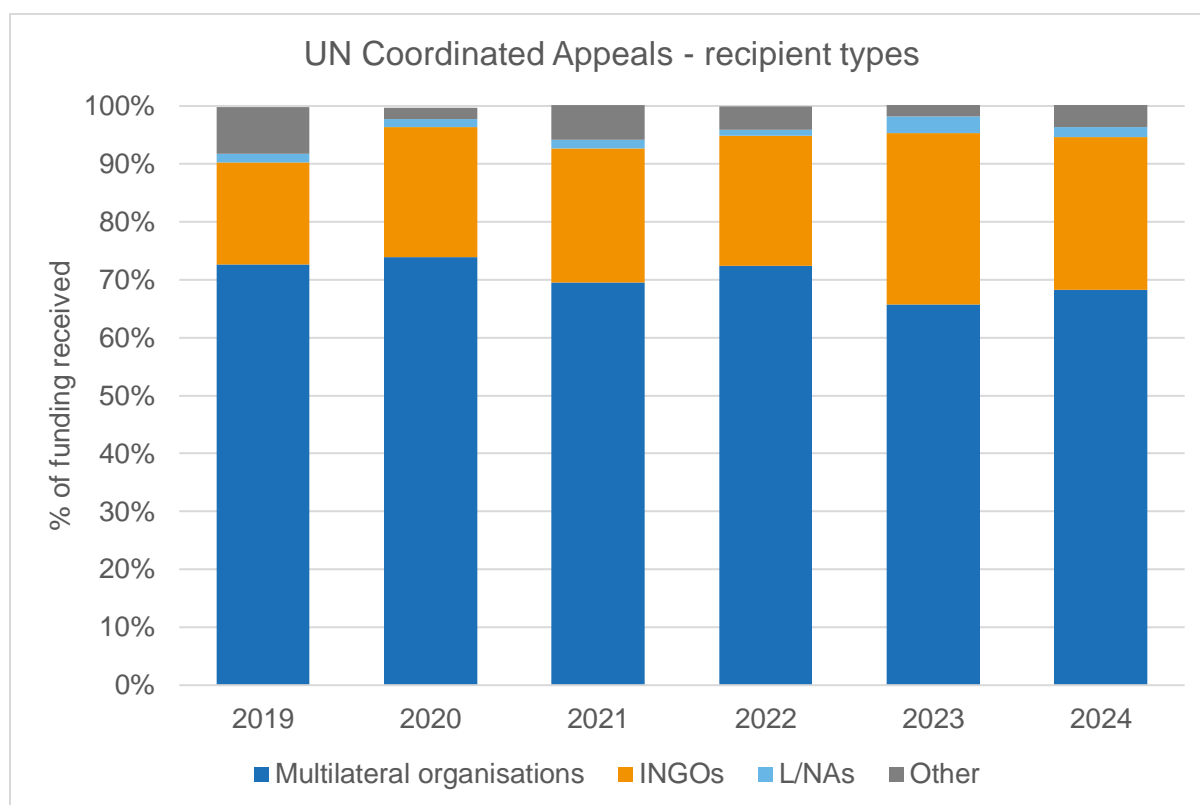
National non-governmental/civil society organisations: "National non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or civil society organisations (CSOs) operating in the aid recipient country in which they are headquartered, working in multiple subnational regions, and not affiliated to an INGO. This category can also include national faith-based organisations". See IASC (2018) *Localisation Marker Definitions Paper* and Grand Bargain (2022) *Towards Co-Ownership: The Role of Intermediaries in Supporting Locally-Led Humanitarian Action*.

Local non-governmental/civil society organisations: "Local NGOs/CSOs operating in a specific, geographically defined subnational area of an aid recipient country, without affiliation to an international NGO/CSO. This category can also include community-based organisations and local faith-based organisations". See IASC (2018) *Localisation Marker Definitions Paper* and Grand Bargain (2022) *Towards Co-Ownership: The Role of Intermediaries in Supporting Locally-Led Humanitarian Action*.

What are some quick facts and figures?

Overall funding to L/NAs continues to stagnate, and the Grand Bargain commitment to channel at least 25% of humanitarian financing "as directly as possible" to L/NAs remains unmet. In 2024, just 2% (US $392.2 million) of humanitarian financing was provided directly to L/NAs including local and national NGOs (L/NNGOs), local and national governments, and Red Cross or Red Crescent National Societies. See OCHA Financial Tracking System. Humanitarian pooled funds have become an important vehicle for meeting Grand Bargain commitments on localisation. In 2023, Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) provided 31% (US $338 million) of funding directly and a further 10% (US $69 million) of funding indirectly to L/NNGOs, more than ever before. See Development Initiatives (2024) *Falling Short? Humanitarian Funding and Reform*. There are also a growing number of NGO-led and NGO-focused humanitarian pooled funds. See Development Initiatives and Norwegian Refugee Council (2024) *Out of the ordinary: New approaches to financing NGO-led crisis response mechanisms*. L/NAs remain underrepresented in international humanitarian coordination structures and governance mechanisms. In 2022, L/NNGOs represented just 8% of members in Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) and just 4% of leaders in Clusters globally. See ICVA (2024) *Localisation in Humanitarian Leadership*.

Humanitarian financing trends

To access the latest data on UN Coordinated Appeal requirements and contributions, see OCHA Financial Tracking Service and OCHA Humanitarian Action.

What's the background?

In 2007, the Principles of Partnership were endorsed by the Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP) to improve collaboration between international actors and L/NAs. The GHP was created as an outcome of the 2006 Dialogue between UN and Non-UN Humanitarian Organisations, which comprised around 40 members from humanitarian agencies. In 2015, the Charter4Change initiative committed signatories to advancing localisation, including increasing funding to and supporting the leadership of L/NAs. In 2016, the Grand Bargain, agreed at the World Humanitarian Summit, had a particular focus on localisation, signalling a groundbreaking shift toward more equitable humanitarian action. This focus on localisation has been maintained through the Grand Bargain 2.0 and Grand Bargain 3.0 (see the table below for further details on the Grand Bargain localisation commitments). In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the indispensable role of L/NAs, while global movements for decolonisation, anti-racism and feminist approaches in humanitarian action spurred reflection on power, patriarchy, diversity and representation. In 2021, the IASC Task Force 5 on Localisation, co-chaired by the NEAR Network, Titi Foundation and UNICEF, emphasised local leadership and accountability; and the Grand Bargain launched the Caucus on the Role of Intermediaries. In 2022, the Grand Bargain launched the Caucus on Localisation and published the Role of Intermediaries Final Outcome Document. In the same year, the Pledge for Change initiative advocated for three commitments – equitable partnerships, authentic storytelling, and influencing wider change – aimed at re-imagining the role of INGOs in the global humanitarian aid and development system. In 2023, the Collective Monitoring and Accountability Framework was introduced to systematically track localisation commitments, and provide guidance to donors and intermediaries on how to monitor their funding to L/NAs and how to report this funding transparently. In 2024, the Grand Bargain Caucus on Localisation published reflections from a Learning Space Event with all members.

Summary of Grand Bargain localisation commitments

Core commitments: Grand Bargain 1.0	
2.1. Increase and support multi-year investments in the institutional capacities of local and national responders, including preparedness, response and coordination. 2.2. Understand better and work to remove or reduce the barriers that prevent organisations and donors from partnering with local and national responders in order to lessen their administrative burden. 2.3. Support and complement national coordination mechanisms where they exist and include national and local responders in international coordination mechanisms as appropriate and in-keeping with humanitarian principles.	2.4. Achieve by 2020, a global aggregated target of at least 25% of humanitarian funding to local and national responders as directly as possible to improve outcomes for affected people and reduce transaction costs. 2.5. Develop, with the IASC, and apply a localisation marker to measure direct and indirect funding to local and national responders. 2.6. Make greater use of funding tools that increase and improve assistance delivered by local and national responders, such as UN-led CBPFs, the IFRC Secretariat's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), and NGO-led and other pooled funds.

Core commitments: Grand Bargain 2.0
The Grand Bargain 2.0, endorsed by Signatories in June 2021, introduced two new 'enabling priorities' often summarised as "quality funding" and "localisation". It also launched a series of political caucuses tasked with furthering progress on key issues including cash coordination, scaling up anticipatory action, quality funding, the role of intermediaries, and funding for localisation; and introduced National Reference Groups to support greater engagement of local and national actors. For additional details, see ICVA (2022) *The Grand Bargain 2.0 Explained*.

Core commitments: Grand Bargain 3.0
The Grand Bargain 3.0, endorsed by Signatories in June 2023, articulated a renewed focus on localisation, participation of affected communities and quality funding under 'Focus Area 1', and introduced the need to catalyse sector-wide transformation through anticipatory action, multi-sector collaboration and innovative financing mechanisms under 'Focus Area 2'. Additionally, there are two cross-cutting issues: gender and risk-sharing. See Grand Bargain (2023) *The Grand Bargain beyond 2023 Framework* and Grand Bargain (2023) *The Grand Bargain beyond 2023 Visual.*

Why does it matter?

Equitable partnerships between donors, intermediaries and L/NAs are essential for delivering more effective, efficient, and sustainable humanitarian responses, and are central to advancing localisation efforts. L/NAs – comprising affected communities, organizations, and governments – are on the ground before, during, and after crises, often serving as the first responders. Their deep understanding of political, social, and cultural contexts, coupled with trust and acceptance from crisis-affected communities, enables them to provide context-specific, sustainable solutions that align with community priorities and minimize unintended consequences. Working with L/NAs enhances cost efficiency, as they are already familiar with the operational environment and have established networks. See The Share Trust (2022) *Passing the Buck: The Economics of Localizing International Assistance*. Supporting and strengthening local systems also builds long-term resilience, ensuring crisis-affected communities are better equipped to respond to future emergencies. Beyond operational benefits, localisation is an ethical and moral imperative. Shifting power and decision-making

in favour of L/NAs reflects a commitment to decolonisation, anti-racism and feminist approaches, promoting greater equity, inclusion and justice. However, despite some progress towards the Grand Bargain localisation targets, L/NAs remain underfunded, underrepresented and undervalued within the international humanitarian system. Equitable partnerships and localisation are critical to building a more inclusive humanitarian system that better serves crisis-affected communities.

What's been achieved?

The localisation agenda has gained significant momentum through commitments and platforms including the Grand Bargain Localisation Workstream, the Localisation Caucus, and initiatives including Charter4Change and Pledge for Change. These efforts have driven systemic and operational progress in addressing power imbalances, increasing direct funding, and amplifying the role of L/NAs. Many donors, including Australia, Denmark, the European Union, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States, have linked funding to localisation priorities and published specific strategies and policies. Donors and intermediaries such as the European Union and UNHCR have introduced policies and practices on coverage of overheads costs for L/NAs. A range of frameworks, guidance, and measurement tools have been developed to support, track and report on progress towards localisation commitments. Humanitarian pooled funds have been particularly effective in achieving localisation targets. In 2023, CBPFs provided 31% (US $338 million) of funding directly to L/NNGOs and an additional 10% (US $69 million) indirectly, marking a record high. See Development Initiatives (2024) *Falling Short? Humanitarian Funding and Reform.* The number and value of humanitarian pooled funds that are locally led and/or prioritise L/NA recipients are also increasing. See Development Initiatives and Norwegian Refugee Council (2024) *Out of the ordinary: New approaches to financing NGO-led crisis response mechanisms*. In some cases, the leadership, representation and participation of L/NAs has improved. Three L/NAs – A4EP, LOCAL and NEAR NETWORK – are now signatories to the Grand Bargain; the NEAR Network is represented on the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group; and a Grand Bargain National Reference Group was established in Türkiye, with others to follow. There is also equitable representation of L/NAs on CBPF Advisory Boards in 15 countries, with women-led organisations (WLOs) and women's rights organisations (WROs) actively involved in decision-making in many funds. See OCHA (2023) CBPF Annual Reports.

What's left to do?

The proportion of quality funding reaching L/NAs "as directly as possible" remains well below the Grand Bargain commitment of at least 25%. L/NAs continue to face significant barriers to accessing bilateral government funding and equitable partnerships with international actors. Donors and international actors can be risk averse, which often result in tightly controlled sub-contracting arrangements that fail to meet the standards outlined in the Principles of Partnership. This imbalance hinders genuine collaboration and denies L/NAs the flexible funding needed to effectively manage risks and deliver impactful programming. Shrinking levels of humanitarian financing, increased donor conditionality, and declining civil society space in the face of rising autocratic leadership and counterterrorism measures, have exacerbated these challenges. Where funding opportunities are available, L/NAs continue to face administrative hurdles such as complex due diligence and compliance requirements, duplicative partner capacity assessment processes, and burdensome grant management and reporting requirements. In many cases, application and proposal processes are difficult to navigate, with short deadlines, long review timelines and language barriers favouring access by larger international actors. The limited leadership, representation, and participation of L/NAs in international humanitarian structures, such as HCTs and Clusters, restricts their ability to shape policies, plans, and decisions effectively. There has been slow progress on the establishment of Grand Bargain National Reference Groups which were designed to facilitate more consultative engagement with L/NAs. There remains a lack of

visibility and direct engagement between donors and L/NAs, as some international actors tend to play a gatekeeper role to protect their own space. There are also significant gaps in the transparency of tracking and reporting of humanitarian financing to L/NAs, particularly to WLOs/WROs, refugee-led organisations (RLOs) and grassroots organisations.

How can you get involved?

- **Seek out long-term partnerships with donors and international actors who share a common approach:** Familiarise yourself with the various policies, processes and templates that these organisations use to assess and formalise partnerships with NGOs. Reach out to the agency focal points in your country and/or region to learn more about potential funding opportunities, and to engage in dialogue on priority issues and concerns. Attend annual UN-NGO partnership consultations to learn more about the opportunities and challenges involved. Summary reports from these consultations are available for the 2024 UNICEF NGO Partnership Consultations, 2024 UNHCR Global Consultations with NGOs, and 2022 WFP Annual Partnership Consultation. There is also the InterAction (2022) UNHCR NGO Partnership Survey Report.

- **Strengthen organisational capacities**: Familiarise yourself with the various policies, processes and templates that donors, and, by extension, international actors, require when disbursing funding, on areas such as governance, programming, grant management and reporting, and sign up for training opportunities to improve your knowledge and skills. Be honest with donors and international actors and proactively engage in transparent and open dialogue about your organisation's strengths and weaknesses, and what support your organisation may need to strengthen capacity on these issues.

- **Participate in humanitarian coordination structures:** International actors should support L/NAs to engage by actively seeking out opportunities for leadership, representation and participation of L/NAs in international humanitarian coordination structures such as HCTs, Global Clusters, CBPF Advisory Boards and Grand Bargain National Reference Groups to influence planning and decision-making, funding allocations, and policy priorities. Find supportive champions within these forums and bring them on board. Sign up for one of ICVA's regular HCT induction sessions for NGO members. Amplify the voice of L/NAs and support and enable their meaningful participation, voice and leadership, including by ceding space.

- **Advocate and network:** Engage with the various advocacy platforms and networks available to connect with donors, international actors, and policymakers on the localisation agenda. Challenge and hold donors and international actors accountable to their expressed commitments. Examples of global multi-stakeholder forums include Aid Reimagined, Charter4Change, Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative, Grand Bargain Facilitation Group, ICVA Humanitarian Financing Working Sub-Group on Localisation, NEAR Network, Pledge for Change, Reimagining the INGO (RINGO) Project, and Shift the Power. Preparations are also underway to launch a Grand Bargain Localisation Community of Practice. There are also regional and country level NGO-led forums such as Congress of Localized Humanitarian Action in Colombia, LokaNusa in Indonesia, National Council of Humanitarian and Development Forums in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Grand Bargain National Reference Group in Türkiye, and Towards Greater Effectiveness and Timeliness in Humanitarian Emergency Response (ToGETHER) Programme which brings together 40 local and national actors from Bangladesh, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan and Somalia, along with four international actors from Germany. Additionally, ICVA is rolling out a Regional Localisation Barometer project with NGO forums across Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Mali, Niger and

Nigeria. ICVA has also been participating in the Facilitating, Aiding Locally-Led Engagement (FALE) initiative led by the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, and potentially Papua New Guinea.

- **Adopt common messaging and approaches:** Collaborate with L/NAs working in your country or region to develop a 'Humanitarian Partners Directory' to help donors and international actors understand which L/NNGOs are present and operational. Undertake an annual mapping of L/NAs to identify priorities for capacity-strengthening initiatives and encourage joined-up and coordinated approaches by international actors. Support stronger linkages and collaboration between INGO and L/NNGO forums, donors and international actors. Agree on key messages in pre-meetings and consultations ahead of humanitarian decision-making processes. Build the localisation evidence base and share examples of good practice. In some cases, using evidence on the cost effectiveness of direct funding to L/NAs, compared with sub-granting arrangements, can be useful in building the argument for localisation and demonstrating incentives, particularly to donors.

Top Tips: Partnering with UN agencies

All NGOs are eligible to partner with UN agencies on funding opportunities. Several UN agencies including FAO, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNOPS, UN Women, WFP and WFO have joined forces to establish the UN Partner Portal (UNPP). This provides an easy way for NGOs to complete due diligence and partner capacity assessments, and view and apply for funding opportunities. All NGOs who wish to partner with UN agencies must register in the UNPP and create a profile, which is then verified. UN agencies issue 'calls for expressions of interest' and 'calls for proposals' through the UNPP, and registered NGOs can submit proposals through the platform. If successful, NGOs must sign a partnership agreement, such as a Programme Cooperation Agreement used by UNICEF, Project Partnership Agreement used by UNHCR, or Field-Level Agreement used by WFP. For more information on partnering with UN agencies, and to access guidelines and templates, go to the UNPP resource hub; UNICEF NGO Partnership website or contact email@unicef.org; UNHCR NGO Partnership website or contact partnerships@unhcr.org; or the WFP NGO Partnership website or contact wfp.ngounit@wfp.org.

What messages can you share with donors and funding partners?

- **Enhance the leadership, representation and participation of L/NAs in humanitarian coordination mechanisms:** Value and amplify the voices of L/NAs, including L/NNGOs, WLOs/WROs, and crisis-affected communities in decision-making. Allocate dedicated seats to ensure equitable levels of representation for L/NAs in HCTs, Inter-Cluster Coordination Groups (ICCGs), Clusters, and pooled fund governance mechanisms. Actively seek out and support L/NAs for leadership positions in these forums. Update operational guidance for HCTs, ICCGs, Clusters and pooled fund governance mechanisms to promote inclusive approaches for leadership, representation and participation. Provide specific funding to support L/NA participation in meetings and workshops and ensure simultaneous interpretation and translation services are available. Be mindful of the use of acronyms and jargon.

- **Make greater levels of quality funding available to L/NAs.** Fulfil existing commitments to the Grand Bargain and Charter4Change and ensure that at least 25% of humanitarian funding is shared directly with L/NAs, including WLOs, WROs, RLOs, and grassroots organisations. Increase minimum project durations to at least 24 months to allow for sustained impact, and support this through predictable and

timely multi-year contributions. Provide greater flexibility for budget adjustments, particularly for staff costs and changes in budget lines to enable more responsiveness. Take steps to address specific barriers faced by L/NAs by harmonising and simplifying due diligence and partner capacity assessment requirements, sharing risk, providing adequate resources, making proposal applications available in multiple languages, and providing technical support and feedback during proposal development.

- **Promote equitable, genuine and strategic partnerships with L/NAs:** This should include opportunities for joint project planning and decision-making. Reform partnership policies and guidelines to include requirements for donors and international actors to demonstrate evidence of equitable, genuine and strategic partnerships with L/NAs in proposals. Encourage risk-sharing approaches that support the cascading of benefits and shared costs across all partners. Support allocation of at least 15 percent of budget to overhead costs for L/NAs to support organisational development, and in addition, cover risk management, especially for safety and security costs. Increase the visibility of L/NA partner contributions in donor advocacy, communications, and reporting.

- **Scale up capacity strengthening initiatives:** Prioritise reciprocal and demand-driven approaches that provide targeted longer-term support based on the needs and priorities of L/NAs. This could include information sessions, practical workshops, peer learning, on-the-job training, mentoring and coaching. Allow capacity-strengthening initiatives to be included as a funded objective in proposals to prepare L/NAs to implement larger value and more complex grants. Translate guidance and templates into multiple languages. Establish an online central repository for resources.

What are some good practices?

Donors and international actors are working to meet localisation commitments through policy changes, inclusion in decision-making, innovative financing mechanisms, capacity-strengthening, and visibility for L/NAs. Donors are pledging to allocate a significant share of direct funding to L/NAs, with USAID committing 50% of funding to programmes that "place local communities in the lead" by 2030. L/NAs are actively participating in key decision-making fora. A4EP and the NEAR Network represent L/NAs in the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group, while a Grand Bargain National Reference Group has been established in Türkiye. WLOs and WROs are shaping policy, as seen in Afghanistan and Syria, where HCTs have established Women's Advisory Groups. In South Sudan, CARE International, Trócaire, and the GBV Area of Responsibility have enabled WLO/WROs to lead gender-based violence coordination.

There are examples of innovative peer-to-peer funding mechanisms for RLOs, such as the Refugees and Asylum Seekers Information Centre (RAIC) in Indonesia, Refugiados Unidos in Colombia, St Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS) in Egypt, and Young African Refugees for Integral Development (YARID) in Uganda. There are examples of locally-led NGO consortia models, such as the Humanitarian Operation and Innovation Facility (HOIFA) in multiple countries, Somalia Nexus Consortium in Somalia, and Trócaire's pre-positioning funding for locally-led responses in Malawi, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. There are examples of capacity-strengthening initiatives to support L/NAs such as USAID/BHA's and Catholic Relief Services' EMPOWER Project; Islamic Relief's STRIDE Conceptual Framework; Oxfam's Empowering Local and National Humanitarian Actors (ELNHA) Project; the ActionAid, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Tearfund, Oxfam and Concern Shifting the Power Project and the Strategic Humanitarian Assessment & Participatory Empowerment (SHAPE) Framework.

Some international actors are working to better promote visibility of L/NAs in public

communications and donor engagement, such as IOM Poland's range of regular 'Storyteller' articles which consistently highlight the role of L/NAs working on the Ukraine humanitarian response by mentioning them by name and clearly crediting their activities. There are also platforms established specifically to support dialogue between donors and L/NAs, such as LIFT in Myanmar and European Union funding to national NGO-led civil society funding mechanisms in Syria.

There are also a range of resources which provide more examples of good practices and learnings. This includes the IASC Good Practices and Initiatives of Grand Bargain Signatories with specific sections on Participation of Local and National Actors; Overheads; and Investment in Capacity Strengthening. There is also the ALNAP Locally-Led Humanitarian Action Resource Library; Global Mentoring Initiative Equitable Partnership Resource Library; Humanitarian Practice Network (2021) Humanitarian Exchange Magazine: Localisation and local humanitarian action; IASC (2024) Localization - Good Practices from IASC Task Force 5; Save the Children Localisation Resource Centre; Terre des hommes LocalLink Hub; and Tufts University Localisation of Humanitarian Action Library.

Who can you contact?

ICVA NGO members are eligible to join the ICVA Humanitarian Financing Sub-Working Group on Equitable Partnerships and Localisation, contact Manon Glaser manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org. Grand Bargain Signatories are eligible to join the Grand Bargain Community of Practice on Localisation, contact the Grand Bargain Secretariat gbsecretariat@un.org. Grand Bargain Signatories can raise issues through A4EP or ICVA as the NGO representatives on the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group. Contact: Dr Ahmed Al Zubaidi ahmed@ihsco.org and Elise Baudot elise.baudot@icvanetwork.org. For more information on the Regional Localisation Barometer project in West Africa and Lake Chad Basin, contact Fatoumata Konate fatoumata.konate@icvanetwork.org. For more information on the FALE initiative led by PIANGO in the Pacific, contact Keya Saha-Chaudhury keya.sahachaudhury@icvanetwork.org or Asma Saleem asma.saleem@icvanetwork.org.

We may not always get everything right! If you have suggested comments on the Grab and Go Pocket Guides, or more information you think we should add, including good practices and policy and advocacy messages, contact Manon Glaser manon.glaser@icvanetwork.org. We will regularly update these materials, so keep an eye out for the latest versions.

Where can you go for further information?

Essential reading

Grand Bargain (2022) *Localisation Caucus Outcome Document – Towards Co-Ownership: The Role of Intermediaries in Supporting Locally-Led Humanitarian Action.* Available at: https://reliefweb.int/report/world/towards-co-ownership-role-intermediaries-supporting-locally-led-humanitarian-action

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International Council of Voluntary Agencies (2025) *Strengthened Partnerships for Principled and Effective Humanitarian Action: Principles of Partnership Workshops* (forthcoming).

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