



SHORT REPORT

# LOCALIZATION IN BANGLADESH WHAT DID WE HEAR: WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

REPORT OF THE SHARING MEETING

**11 FEBRUARY 2018**

Dhaka, Bangladesh

## INTRODUCTION

'Localisation' is an older issue, but has gained great prominence through the World Humanitarian Summit and the 'Grand Bargain' commitments resulting from it. In essence it commits international humanitarian actors to reinforce rather than replace national and local actors in the management of crises. This complements the primary objective of saving lives and protecting people at risk. It is widely recognized that, localization can make the aid effective. Localization is also needed to ensure transparency and accountability of the humanitarian responses, to enhance capacity aiming to promote sustainable local NGOs/CSOs and to ensure effective coordination among the Local NGOs and Government Service Providers.

The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss the following:

- Understanding localisation: Share our advancing work on what localisation means in practice, from the strategic to the operational level;
- Localisation in the Rohingya response: Report back on a rapid survey conducted by COAST on localisation relevant issues & share what we heard, and our

observations, about 'localisation' in the response to the most recent, large, influx of Rohingya into Bangladesh. Then listen to your feedback and comments;

- Localisation in Bangladesh: Create another opportunity for conversation among different actors in Bangladesh, on how localisation can be responsibly taken forward in Bangladesh.

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## THE EVENT

The discussion event was participated by participants from diverse group includes Local NGO, National NGO, INGO, Local & National Network and UN agencies. The event included two presentations and open discussion. Koenraad Van Brabant and Smruti Patel from Global Mentoring Initiative & Navigation 360 Consulting presented their recent review finding. The review focused on. Md. Mujibul Haque Munir of COAST Trust presented results of the recent survey on the localization situation of humanitarian aid in Cox's Bazar. The survey was prepared by Cox's Bazar CSOs and NGOs Forum (CCNF) and COAST Trust.



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## PRESENTATION OF SMRUTI PATEL AND KOENRAAD VAN BRABANT



**Localisation or Business-As-Usual? Impressions of The First 5 Months Response to the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals**

**Internationalisation:** the review finds that, there are a large number of internationals (1200 in January 2018) working with the humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar. Many of them are working for a short term. Many of these internationals are seasoned, young & inexperienced. The overall "internationalisation" is found "supply driven – not demand led".

**"Partnership with Dignity": Mindset & Behaviours:** The review shows that, there is small presence of INGOs to support national/local partner and there are some generalised prejudices among the INGOs about L/NGOs like- they work "project-to-project" and they "want to become like Brac".

**Capacity of N/LNGOs: Recruitment Bonanza:** L/NGOs are losing their staff, since many of them are being recruited by INGOs. INGOs are not respecting the notice periods, nor release certificate and no references are being asked during recruitment. INGOs even who are signatories of C4C, are not considering any compensation for L/NGOs for hiring their staff, thus L/NGOs are losing years of investment for their staff. INGOs are offering with high salary, thus inflation of salary are taking place.

**Develop Common Standards to Strengthen Decision-Making, Transparency, Accountability and Limit Duplication:** The study finds that, more than three quarters (77%) of refugees feel that they do not have enough information to make good decisions, almost two-thirds (62%) report that they are unable to communicate with aid providers, less than 20% of affected populations know about feedback and complaints mechanisms, response to

feedback is very weak with almost 80% not closing the feedback loop, information still is being printed in English, lots of studies have been carried out but not enough action.

The review also finds, poor understanding of the affected population – not homogenous, varying needs. It says, there is not sufficient attention to participation of affected populations in decision-making process to shape the response and there is no clear idea on how were affected populations involved the Joint Response Plan.

Hundreds of new staff employed in short period of time, some have no in emergency response. Language barriers are huge and need for soft skills to engage with populations incidence of disrespectful behavior and prejudice. No information to the community on what is the expected behavior from our staff, no information about how to feedback or complain about sensitive information.

**Host Community:** The researcher identifies generosity & tension among the host communities. Among the host communities there are both winners & losers and thus inequality is rising. There are some changes in markets & prices in the host communities are visible. They are already big victims of environmental damage. The review suggests special activities for the host communities to avoid conflict. It also suggests activities based on SDGs.

## BACKGROUND: PRESENTATION OF COAST AND CCNF

On behalf of COAST and CCNF, Md. Mujibul Haque Munir presented a recent survey findings. Key discussion of the survey are as follows: According to a latest IOM report (as on 26th December) new 655,000 FDMNs have arrived in Bangladesh since last 25th August. In response to this recent FDMN crisis in Cox's Bazar, NGOs and CSOs of Cox's Bazar have come first with fast humanitarian supports. Along with the Bangladesh Government, about 80 NGOs, INGOs and UN agencies are working with FDMN took shelters in Cox's Bazar. Local NGOs and CSOs are mainly providing food, non-food items, water and sanitation, shelter, children-women and adolescent care, health care, cloths etc.

From the very beginning of the humanitarian responses for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) in Bangladesh, local NGOs and CSOs have been demanding localization of these emergency responses. Please see

the activities of Cox's Bazar CSO NGO Forum (CCNF) in [www.cxb-cso-ngo.org](http://www.cxb-cso-ngo.org). There are some strong reasons to demand the localization. It is now worldwide recognized that, localization can make the aid effective. Localization is also needed to ensure transparency and accountability of the humanitarian responses, to enhance capacity aiming to promote sustainable local NGOs/CSOs and to ensure effective coordination among the Local NGOs and Government Service Providers.

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## WHY THIS SURVEY?

The main rationale of the study is the intention of ensuring the humanitarian response effective, sustainable, transparent and accountable. This study will try to find out the situation of localization of aid in FDMN Relief. This study is needed for: Continuation of the mobilization, Dialogue for behavioral change, Produce cases and evidences.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY

The main objective of this report is to examine the situation of localization of humanitarian actions for FDMN in Cox's Bazar, specially in the view of the commitments of Grand Bargain. It will also examine how the capacities of the local NGOs and CSOs have been enhanced by the INGOs and CSOs. This study will also try to place some specific recommendation in this regard. The specific objectives of this study are:

- || To get a glimpse of the overall situation of the Humanitarian Responses for the FDMN, specially on the actors and their activities.
- || To know about the types of partnership, coordination among the Local NGOs, National NGOs, INGOs and UN Agencies

- || To capture the best practices and weaknesses of these partnership and coordination.
- || To assess the overall localization process and situation
- || To identify challenges towards the localizations
- || To place some specific recommendations.

### ROLE OF LNGOs/CSOs IN COX'S BAZAR FDMN RELIEF

According to a latest IOM report (as on 26th December) new 655,000 FDMNs have arrived in Bangladesh since last 25th August. In response to this recent FDMN crisis in Cox's Bazar, NGOs and CSOs of Cox's Bazar have come first with fast humanitarian supports. Along with the Bangladesh Government, about 80 NGOs, INGOs and UN agencies are working with FDMN took shelters in Cox's Bazar. Local NGOs and CSOs are mainly providing food, non-food items, water and sanitation, shelter, children-women and adolescent care, health care, cloths etc.

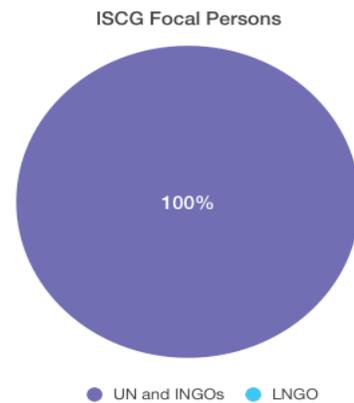
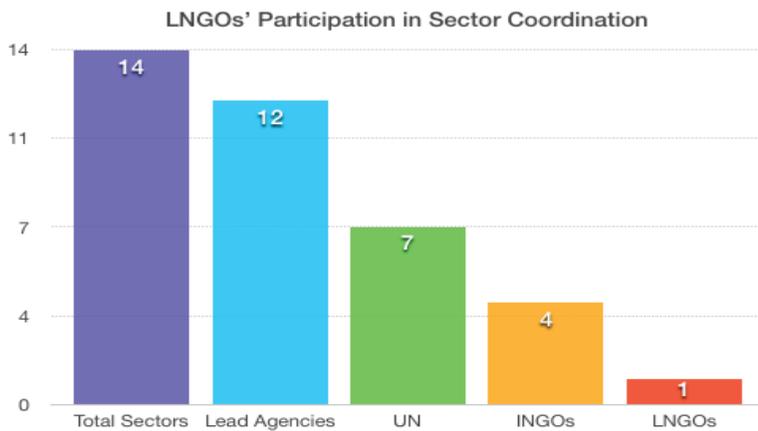
# FINDINGS: FAST RESPONDERS ARE AT TOO FAR!

## Benchmark

National non-governmental actors are encouraged to be part of coordination meetings (also among INGOs) and allowed to contribute in their own language.

## Situation:

Participation of the Local NGOs in the Inter Sector Coordination Group is critically poor. There are 14 sectors, only one LNGOs are there as one of the lead agencies. There are 24 Sector Focal Points for the ISCG, no one from the LNGOs and NNGOs!



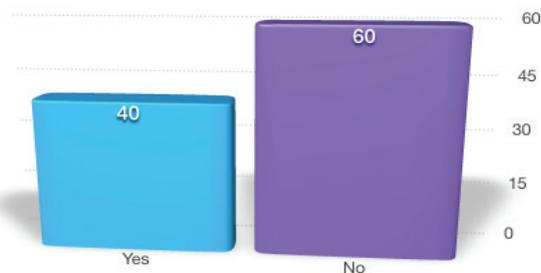
## Benchmark

National actors receive quality funding: there is a reasonable and unrestricted 'management fee'

## Situation:

According to the information we have got from the LNGOs, 40% of them are getting Management Fee. Majority number of LNGOs are not getting any management fee. Regarding the projects, 55% project budget do not include any allocation for management fee.

LNGOs getting Management Fee



## SOME MAJOR FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY

According to the information we have got from the LNGOs, 40% of them are getting Management Fee. Majority number of LNGOs are not getting any management fee. Regarding the projects, 55% project budget do not include any allocation for management fee. 55% of the project LNGOs are implementing don't have any management fee. On the other hand 58.33% INGOs demand that, they provide management fee, 33.33% INGOs accept that they don't provide any management fee, rest of the INGOs did not want to make any comment.

INGOs have recruited staff from 80% of LNGO responders, where 90% LNGOs alleged prior consent was not taken from them. 56% INGO Responders said, they did not recruit any staff from LNGOs, while 44% accepted that they had recruited from LNGOs. 63% INGO taken consent of LNGOs but 37% INGOs accepted that they had not taken any consent/reference from LNGOs during recruiting their staff.

70% LNGOs said, they had never been involved in capacity assessment of any INGOs. On the other hand 100% INGOs claim, they involved their local partners in their own capacity assessment

70% LNGOs said, they didn't get any capacity building support, 80% LNGOs are not getting any support in emergency needs. 100% demanded that, they provided capacity building support to their local partners, 50% INGOs accepted that, they did not provide any support to LNGOs for their emergency needs., 30% LNGOs were

found providing emergency support, 35% INGOs did not make comment.

40% LNGOs have found could not make any changes in project design, 60% accept that they can make changes. On the other hand, 75% INGO claim they allow LNGOs to make change if needed, 25% don't want to comment

60% LNGOs thing that INGOs don't allow them to know full information about budget, 40% LNGOs believe that INGOs allow full information. 65% INGOs believe they inform full information, while 35 accept that, they don't provide full information. 90% LNGOs said, they participate in project design, while 91% INGOs claim they involve LNGOs in project design.

50% LNGOs said, their names and logos are mentioned in the project reports prepared by INGOs, while 89%. INGOs claim the same.

80% LNGOs consider that INGOs website/newsletters are accessible, 80% LNGO say, INGOs have complaint response mechanism, 70% LNGOs report that, their partner INGOs have website-newsletters in local language.

