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Local and national NGO SEG representatives' concern about the circular on CERF allocation to NGOs on COVID 19 – conditions hinder application of local NGOs _please revise the position

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To: Mia Seppo <mia.seppo@one.un.org>

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Dear HE Mia Seppo and All

(i) We received the circular on 30th June morning via different sources and the date of submission is 2nd July 5 pm. So, we wonder whether all the national and local NGOs have received the circular in time when the dateline is very short. We consider this as a kind of challenge for application from local and national NGOs. Could the deadline be extended?

(ii) We also felt it could be challenging for local and national NGOs due to the following reasons:

a. The selection criteria require the applicant NGO to have an independent COVID 19 project that is already included in the addendum of the JRP 2020. We have the following points in this regard.

- How it could be considered that the NGO would have a project with their own money? The local and national NGOs hardly have such financial capacity. This is unrealistic, especially for local NGOs. It means, the projects in fact will go to the INGOs or big national NGOs who have their own money already invested

- We have been urging the ISCG for a long time to include the local and national NGO representatives into the JRP preparation through democratic and transparent processes. The process is hardly inclusive, and a lot of local and national NGO working in Rohingya response hardly received any scope to participate in the JRP process. That's why they have been implementing projects which is not included in the JRP addendum

- There are a number of local and national NGOs working on COVID 19 as because of the present circumstances. Moreover, there are also a good number of health NGOs who are local and national. As they have not been present in WASH and Health Sectors, the criteria will prohibit their participation- As because the JRP process is limited to some NGOs, many of local and national NGOs are hardly familiar with GAM (Gender with Age Marker) and other requirements as asked-for.

b. The criteria are seen somehow biased to the INGOs who are already in partnering or sub-contracting with national NGOs as mentioned in the line "Localization: the extent to which the submitting partner is a national NGO or is partnering with / sub-contracting a national NGO." We feel this is against the spirit of localization as it might limit the independent application opportunity for local and national NGOs and also might promote the sub-contracting culture. While in Grand Bargain and also in the IASC interim guideline on localization during COVID 19 (May 2020) pleaded for more and more direct funding to national and local NGO and to create space for their independent growth.

c. This is also against the interpretation of IASC interim guideline on localization during COVID 19 (May 2020) which clearly spelled and used the term "local and national NGOs" again and again. We define the local NGOs in Cox's Bazar as "the NGO or its leader are originated from Coxsbazar", and the "national" means who work nationwide. We believe all the projects should be equally offered where local NGOs should have a priority.

d. We have already expressed our concern in respect of commenting on the draft LTF report. that there is an unprecedented delay in implementation of localization and you know, delaying is denying. This should not be another missed opportunity. We have trust on you to revise the position and to create appropriate flexibility for the participation of local NGOs.

01/07/2020

Gmail - Local and national NGO SEG representatives' concern about the circular on CERF allocation to NGOs on COVID 19 – condition...

Sincerely

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Bimol Dey Sarker

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