

**Strategic Executive Group (SEG) Co-Chairs  
Note on Localization and Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ) Report  
June 2020**

Since the onset of the most recent Rohingya refugee crisis in August 2017, Bangladeshi non-governmental organisations have underpinned the humanitarian response in Cox’s Bazar District, consistently representing a significant number of the partners to Joint Response Plans for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis (JRP). In the most recent JRP for 2021<sup>1</sup>, Bangladeshi NGOs made up more than a third of the 64 appealing partners to the JRP and more than two thirds of the 70 implementing partners for humanitarian activities.

The SEG Co-Chairs – the UN Resident Coordinator, IOM Chief of Mission and UNHCR Representative – restate the overall commitment of the UN in Bangladesh to working with Bangladeshi partners even more closely, including to advance localization efforts. This is with a view to ensuring a more effective response for refugees and host communities. With this in mind, the JRP – the strategic framework and planning tool for the overall Rohingya response – reinforces the importance of the collective efforts of the humanitarian community and the centrality of localization in Cox’s Bazar.

In 2020, the JRP<sup>2</sup> stated that the Rohingya response should be “aligning with and mainstreaming the work of the Localisation Task Force (LTF), so that localization objectives and considerations inform the development and working modalities of the coordination architecture in the response.” In the 2021 JRP, recently released in May 2021, the need for mainstreaming of localisation is clearly recognised as “one of the key considerations informing all aspects of humanitarian action and maximize the impact of the work of all humanitarian actors.” The successive JRPs have been negotiated and agreed with the Government of Bangladesh and therefore provide an important reference point for the work of the humanitarian community work and the prevailing policy environment.

In support of these localization efforts, the SEG Co-Chairs also take this opportunity to welcome the efforts of the Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ) of BRAC University<sup>3</sup> for its important and comprehensive report on localization and the humanitarian response in Cox’s Bazar. The report, as it states, builds on the UN-led Grand Bargain 2018 Bangladesh Mission Report<sup>4</sup>, the important work of the Localization Task Force in Dhaka, formed under the leadership of UNDP and IFRC and comprised of UN agencies, donors, and international and Bangladeshi NGOs, as well as commitments outlined in the Grand Bargain<sup>5</sup>.

The SEG Co-Chairs appreciate that the report was completed in September 2020 and recognise that full consideration of its contents has been delayed, particularly owing to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. At this critical juncture, we take this opportunity to recommit and renew collective efforts to advancing the localization agenda further. While, as the report commissioned by the LTF notes, the contents in their entirety will not result in consensus from

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<sup>1</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/2021-joint-response-plan-rohingya-humanitarian-crisis-january-december-2021>

<sup>2</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/2020-joint-response-plan-rohingya-humanitarian-crisis-january-december-2020>

<sup>3</sup> Localization Roadmap – Humanitarian Response in Cox’s Bazar, September 2020

<sup>4</sup> <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain/mission-report-bangladesh-localization-workstream-demonstrator-country-field-mission>

<sup>5</sup> <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/about-the-grand-bargain>

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all stakeholders, we fully agree that it offers an important opportunity to find common ground, particularly “with the shared goal of improving efficacy, and efficiency, which could result in better outcomes for the Rohingya refugees and host communities in Cox’s Bazar.”

In this regard, we believe the report provides a number of positive and constructive findings and areas for future consideration as well as some areas that would require further discussion and consultation. We believe both international partners and Bangladeshi NGOs have much to learn from each other and agree this is an important area we should collectively work on, while recognising work in this regard is already underway. We believe that further confidence-building among actors, will create opportunities to work toward common goals.

We reiterate our appreciation of the multiple discussions on localisation that have taken place to date and recognise the importance of a continued dialogue on ways to move forward to build consensus on this issue.

SEG Co-Chairs  
15 June 2021