

Summary Report on NAHAB Localization Café on Charter for Change (C4C)

Date: 10 May, 2018

Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan, Dhaka



Background

The **National Alliance of Humanitarian Actors, Bangladesh (NAHAB)** is organizing a series of Café to promote and practice localization in the humanitarian program in Bangladesh in the year of 2018. Café is an advocacy device of NAHAB for interaction of humanitarian actors in a flexible setting on selected strategic topics relating to humanitarian actions to explore way forward for a balanced humanitarian architecture in the country that enables development of local Humanitarian leadership. Over last one year six such Café have been organized with the support of Shifting the Power project under START



Network, Christian Aid as lead. In continuation, with assistance from DAM- ELNHA project supported by OXFAM, the 1st Localization Café of 2018 has been organized on 10 May'18.

A glimpse of Charter for Change (C4C)

The Charter for Change (C4C) was initially presented at the World Humanitarian Summit's (WHS) Global Consultation in Geneva in October 2015, and officially launched at the WHS in Istanbul in May 2016. The organizations working in humanitarian action welcome the extensive consultation and discussion and the majority of the signatories had signed up to the Charter by October 2015, and most started to work on organisational change initiatives post-May 2016. A number of International NGOs, commit themselves to deliver the changes identified in the Charter for Change within their own organisational ways of working so that southern-based national actors play an increased and more prominent role in humanitarian response.

The Charter for Change (C4C) have now 31 signatories and more than 200 endorsers globally. In Bangladesh we have Care, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Danish Church aid, Help age International, Islamic Relief as signatories and Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication, Barokupot Ganochetona Foundation, Caritas Bangladesh, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust as endorsers. In the case of international NGO signatories they commit to implement the following 8 point Charter for Change by May 2018.

1. Increase direct funding to southern-based NGOs for humanitarian action
2. Reaffirm the Principles of Partnership
3. Increase transparency around resource transfers to southern-based national and local NGOs
4. Stop undermining local capacity
5. Emphasize the importance of national actors
6. Address subcontracting
7. Robust organisational support and capacity strengthening
8. Communication to the media and the public about partners

Objective of this Localisation Café:

Localization Café organized by **National Alliance of Humanitarian Actors, Bangladesh (NAHAB)** on **10 may, 2018** was dedicated to discuss about the Charter for Change (C4C). The main objective was to find out that in the context of Bangladesh, whether the 8 commitments mentioned above have been fulfilled or not. If not what should be the next step of signatories and endorsers. In line with this objective, the Signatories and Endorser to C4C working in Bangladesh has been discussed progress and the gap for implementing C4C.



Level of Participants:

Most of the Country Director, Executive Director, Specialists and Senior level personnel's from Bangladesh based signatories and endorsers organizations, Development partner, INGO, N/LNGO and UN agencies has participated in the Café and discussed about their position on C4C commitments. The Honorable Director General of Department of Disaster management in Bangladesh attended the café and shared the insight of government on localisation. The café also enriched with comments from Global Humanitarian professionals.

Key Outcomes

- The café was a worthwhile discussion having experiences from **Ms. Anita Katakuzhy, Humanitarian Policy Advisor, OXFAM** about the global changes after Grand Bargain and Charter for Change. In 2016, a group of a major donors and humanitarian agencies negotiated “the Grand Bargain” with commitments in 10 areas of “workstreams” related to making humanitarian aid more efficient and effective. Grand Bargain, 51 signatories (**24 donors, 13 UN agencies, 19 INGOs and their network, OECD, IFRC, ICRC**) have continued to work together to facilitate the completion of their commitments and achievement of joint objectives. The “Localization Workstream” of the Grand Bargain, composed of donors, UN agencies, NGOs and the Red Cross/Red Crescent signatories as well as representatives of non-signatory local actors, has developed a workplan for 2018-19 with a number of joint activities. At the Grand Bargain’s annual meeting in 2017, signatories agreed to find ways to implement actions related to Grand Bargain initiatives at the field level. Accordingly, signatories participating in the localization workstream decided that the workstream would collectively visit 3 demonstrator countries which are Bangladesh, Nizeria and Iraq. In Bangladesh now NAHAB is on the localization workstream to lead the demonstration at field.
- Ms. Anita also connected the C4C commitments to Grand Bargain Localisation Workstream in such way that indicate to a clear need to work more within broader international community. Currently collective progress report on C4C are being published and its decided with proof to extend the timeline of original initiative meeting the commitments that was May,2018.
- A study titled as ‘Money Talk’ was presented by Shamnaz Ahmed from OXFAM which identified that globally 2% funding related to global Humanitarian response go to LNGOS. \$62.5 million of international humanitarian funding provided to Bangladesh in 2015. \$12.4 million (20 percent) of this figure was provided by the original donor directly to the GoB. No funds were provided directly to other types of LNHAs (whether NNGOs or the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (RCNS)). A further \$12.2 million was indirectly transferred to LNHAs, first channeled through other actors, bringing the total they received to \$24.6 million (39 percent of all identified funding). Most indirect funding (\$11.2 million) went to NNGOs.
- From the discussion of participants from NNGO and LNGO, it cleared to put more emphasize on capacity building need. But it should be specified first that what kind of capacity local NGOS really need. It is not fair enough to make in general comments that local NGOS have lack in



capacity. INGO should work on that. INGO should made more investment to their partners capacity building as well as local capacity building

- Localisation is not all about direct funding allocation from INGOs to LNGOs. There is scope of negotiation with government as they are receiving huge percent of direct funding. UN organizations are also another source as well.
- Transition in partnership is still needed. Partnership hasn't come in true sense. We haven't come out of power structure. We should build partnership in relation to joint decision making approach.

Reflection from the participants

Mr. Md. Reaz Ahmed, Director General, Department of Disaster Management said, “We need to develop a system to respond as early as possible from local capacity. There will be National district level fund soon. Govt want decentralization, increase local capacity, transparency, and accountability to promote localization.”

Ms. Anita Katakuzhy, Humanitarian Policy Advisor, OXFAM said, “Both national and international organizations want change guided by the spirit of Localisation. Original initiative of C4C was set until May 2018, we will extend. If the commitments fulfill appropriately, there will b a significant change”.

Mr. Shakeb Nabi, Country Director, Christian Aid said, “Localisation is all about working together. Still there is gap in internalization of localization. We need to know that our commitment is going to right direction and it's a home work for INGOs”.

Mr. Ranjon Francis Rojario, Assistant Executive Director, Caritas Bangladesh said, “Local NGOs most big demand is to strengthening capacity . NAHAB should work on this.”

Mr. Murshed Alam Sarker, Executive Director, POPI said, “Localisation is a myth.”

Mr. Mark Manash Saha, Coordinator, BNRC said, “It's not fair enough to make an in general comment that LNGO have less capacity.”

Ms. Rahat Ara Sirajum Munir, Program Officer, Christian Aid mentioned, “ Localisation is not all about INGOs, NNGOs and LNGOs. Why we are not focusing to government?”

Mr. Mozibur Rahman, Executive Director, Shariatpur Development Society urged to INGOs, “Pls be committed to C4C commitments, give recognition to LNGOs for their existing capacity and set up a positioning on localization.”

Ms. Rabeya Sultana, Country Director, Help Age International said “Pls Make solidarity to all above commitments and maintain inclusiveness in funding”.



Ms. Rahima Sultana Kajol, Executive Director, AVAS said, “Small Local NGOs are in a challenging face. Localisation made all big National NGOs to Local NGOs. Small Local NGOs who are really local are being deprived. In one day they may have no existence”.

Director of BDRCS, Mr. M. A. Halim said, “Not only the NNGOs/LNGOS capacity building is needed, but also we need to focus on community capacity building.”

Md. Nuru Miah, Deputy Director of UDPS mentioned, “LNGO should realize they have resources also. It’s not wise to wait for fund always.”

Mr. Suman Ahsanul Islam, Academy Centre Director of Humanitarian Leadership academy mentioned, “INGOs need to measure that how much they are investing differently for local staff capacity building. local community, local govt capacity building.”

Mr Omar Farook, Humanitarian Advisor, DFID put some burning questions while commenting including “Is funding getting is localization? How much funding we are investing for resources? Is donor our main partne? Where we should take the leadership for localization?” Which provoked the thoughts of participants.

Mr. Dipanker Datta, Country Director, OXFAM said, “We need to hit the mental block of Global organizations for fulfilling the commitments.”

Ms. Wahida Bashir Ahmed from CBM said, “Commitment wording should be corrected based on actual reflection about localization in practice level.”

Recommendation from participants Based on discussion:

- Need to make a common understanding ground of localization which will lead us to right direction of fulfilling Grand Bargain and C4C commitments.
- Need to specify by INGO and LNGO, what capacity we really need and how it can be strengthened.
- Need to build the capacity of Local humanitarian actors/Community so that they can understand the global localization scenario.
- Team building is needed within INGOs and LNGOs.
- Need to be a follow up mechanism by INGO after closing of any project for ensuring greater sustainability.
- Need to invest on resources by INGO as they want to provide resources to NNGOs and LNGOs.
- Need of stock taking of capacity building

Concluding Remarks

Mr. Abdul Latif Khan, DM Specialist and Technical adviser, NAHAB put the summary and it was clear that Café dominated mostly funding, which is not all about localization and C4C commitments. The whole Café was moderated by Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman who at the end announced that NAHAB next plan is to organize Café on Partnership which will be dedicated to talk about what we want to see and mean by partnership. This café clearly stated that we should think of, where we should take the leadership for localization from the essence of commitments.

Photo Gallery





Participants List:





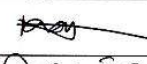
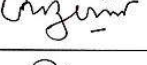
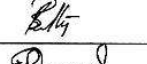
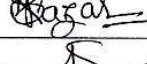

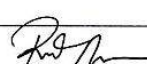
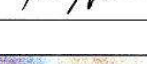
Localisation Café on Charter for Change(C4C) Attendance Sheet


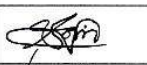
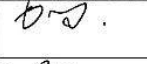

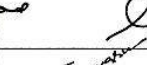
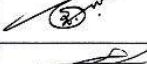

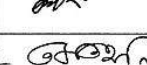

Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Dhaka

Date: 10 May, 2018

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