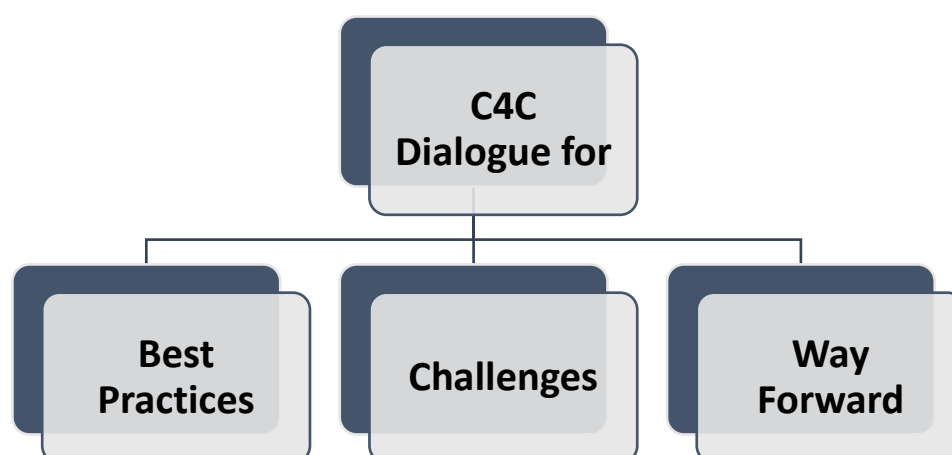


C4C Country Level Dialogue Outcome Report, Bangladesh

November 2023

What's happening at the country level?



Country Co-host (Endorsers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM)▪ Jago Nari▪ Garib Unnayan Sangstha (GUS)▪ Network for Information, Response And Preparedness Activities on Disaster (NIRAPAD)
Technical Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ National Alliance of Humanitarian Actors Bangladesh (NAHAB)



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Summary of Findings

The overarching goal of the localisation in humanitarian action is to empower national actors, fostering their leadership in defining and spearheading relief efforts. This involves cultivating equitable and synergistic partnerships among local, national, and international entities, aligning with the principle of 'as local as possible and as international as necessary.' A key aspect of this approach is supporting financial independence for national and local organizations, enabling them to respond more efficiently. Additionally, efforts focus on enhancing the capacity of local and national entities to ensure effective and targeted responses, while concurrently securing relevant support from international actors. Essential to the entire process is the commitment to ensuring that humanitarian actions genuinely reflect the priorities of affected communities and national actors, with an emphasis on enabling communities to actively lead and participate in decision-making related to humanitarian response.

In the C4C Country Level Dialogue in Bangladesh, the participants discussed the experiences regarding the localization process that has been witnessed in recent years. A notable change can include the adoption of a Consortium Approach, fostering collaboration between National Non-Governmental Organizations (NNGOs) and their counterparts at local and international levels (NNGOs-LNGOs, NNGOs-INGOs). Besides, the cooperative framework is complemented by the inclusion of Local Networks in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCTT) and Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) memberships, strengthening the involvement of national agencies in decision-making processes.

Humanitarian response strategies have evolved to emphasize collaboration and complementarity, with a focus on leveraging the specific strengths and addressing the weaknesses of partners. The technical capacity of national civil society coordination mechanisms has been augmented, enabling more effective participation in humanitarian response efforts. The Flood 2022 response saw the mapping of LNGOs and NNGOs as first responders, showcasing their crucial role in disaster management. In case of funding we see, the direct funding for LNGOs and NNGOs in the Sylhet flash flood response in 2022 reached 17%, while the 'as direct as possible' funding increased to 32.5%¹. Some progress also found in the consideration of affected people's opinions during the design and implementation of interventions, reflecting a commitment to inclusivity and responsiveness.

The increased participation of the international actors in national-level dialogues on disaster planning and response, fosters a collaborative approach to crisis management. Localisation Technical Working Group (LTWG) and other networks like NAHAB and NIRAPAD work to strengthen the accessibility to information for the local agencies fostering two-way information sharing, and local representation in coordination forums and meetings.

Standardization is evident in the tracking of humanitarian response-related financial information, ensuring consistency across organizations.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/localisation-technical-working-group-ltwg-bangladesh-financial-tracking-dashboard-floods-2022-response-1st-december-2022>

The HCTT and Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) have played a pivotal role in supporting local organizations, enhancing awareness of standards, tools, and available information. Local and national agencies actively participate in Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) preparation, fostering a collaborative and inclusive approach.

A noteworthy contribution has been made to the review of the Standing Orders on Disaster, creating opportunities for improved decentralization. Local and national organizations have successfully integrated some local priorities into disaster planning and policy, exemplified by the incorporation of widely used cash support processes into national policy. Ongoing advocacy efforts focus on areas such as mobile banking for cash transfers, already introduced in some regions, and the establishment of disability-inclusive shelters, highlighting a commitment to addressing diverse needs in disaster response.

Nevertheless, there are still many challenges and improvement rooms that exist for better response through localization.

- The current landscape of disaster response still reflects a centralized decision-making approach, irrespective of the scale of the disasters.
- International partners continue to exercise significant influence over decision-making processes, often overshadowing the leadership within responding organizations.
- Notably, the voices of local and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are underrepresented due to limited spaces in coordination platforms, exacerbated by language barriers.
- The absence of long-term partnership agreements, coupled with a complex and unharmonized due diligence process, hinders organizational development.
- The scarcity of multi-year and flexible funding options poses a challenge, limiting the adaptability of response efforts.
- The aid transparency and accountability in humanitarian response is a pressing concern.
- The indirect costs and resources allocated for capacity development of local agencies are constrained, impeding their ability to take on a more significant role.
- Despite aspirations, the integration of an effective AAP approach remains challenging.
- Lastly, there is a notable dearth of involvement from local and national actors in shaping humanitarian policies and national planning processes, indicating a need for greater inclusivity in decision-making spheres.

Background

Charter4Change is a movement for “Localization of Humanitarian Aid” and an initiative which has been accepted both National and International humanitarian actors for a balanced humanitarian system to enable more locally led response. This is an outcome of extensive consultations and discussion generated at the 2016 Istanbul World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) process. Till to date, 39 international NGOs have signed the Charter with 8 Commitments for their organizations as Signatories and 676 national and local organizations from 57 countries across the globe signed the 8 commitments as Endorsers.

The C4C secretariat is keen to learn and update their strategy based of the feedback received from the Signatories (INGOs) and Endorsers (L/NNGOs) annually. An annual consultation take place each year to know the progress and way forward of the C4C Signatories on their commitments. In these circumstances, a country level dialogue is preferred to know the situation best by involving the Signatories and Endorsers.

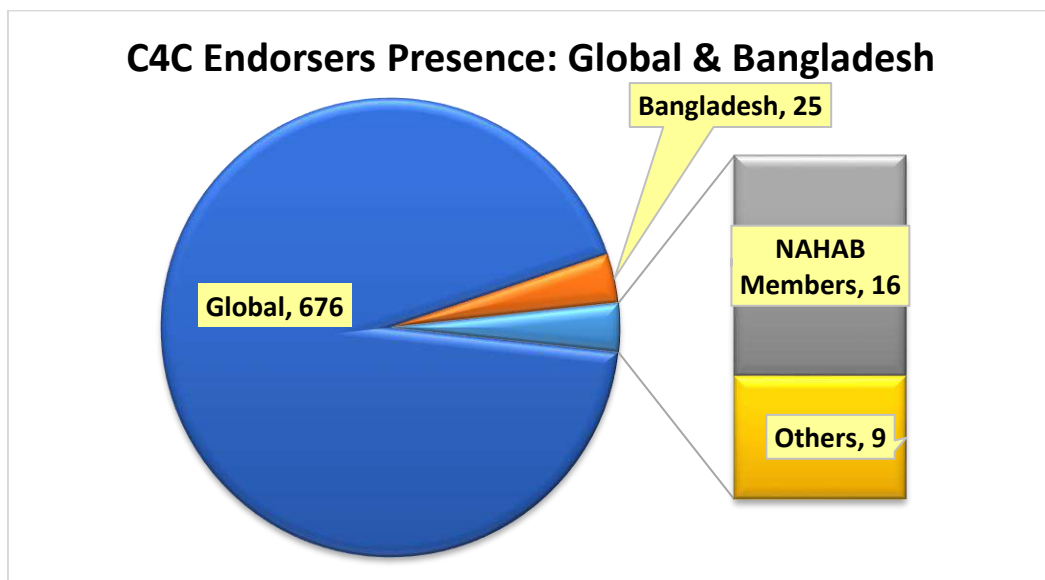
C4C Country level dialogue with Signatories and Endorsers

Four Endorsers from Bangladesh, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Jago Nari, Garib Unnayan Sangtha (GUS) and Network for Information, Response And Preparedness Activities on Disaster (NIRAPAD) come together to hold a country level virtual dialogue with C4C Signatories and Endorser on 27 November 2023 from 1430 hrs to 1700 hrs (GMT). The virtual dialogue schedule is attached in **Appendix-01**.

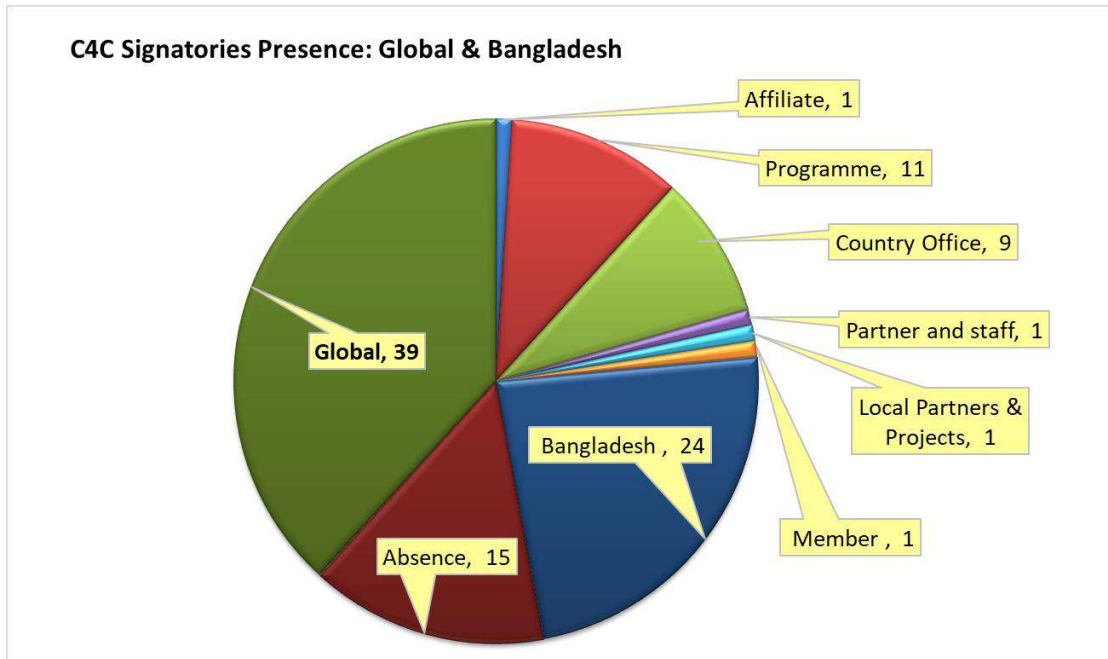
A total of 33 participants contributed in the C4C country level virtual dialogue were representing from 19 out of 25 Endorsers and 8 out of 24 Signatories presence in Bangladesh.

Presence of C4C Signatories and Endorsers in Bangladesh and Global

The following chart showing the presence of 676 Endorsers from 57 countries (list enclosed in **Appendix-01**) but in Bangladesh we found 25 where 16 are NAHAB members (<https://charter4change.org/>).



In the similar way, there are 39 Signatories globally (list enclosed in **Appendix-02**) but we found 24 signatories with different forms of their presence in the country i.e., Affiliate, Program, Country Office, Partner and staff, Local Partners & Projects and Member. An illustration of the signatory's presence is shown below:



Grouping of C4C 8 Commitments'

NAHAB made an analysis of the 8 commitments and grouped in 4 categories showing in the following table:

Grouping & Nos.	C4C Commitments
Funding (1 & 3)	<p>1. Direct Funding: Increase direct funding to national and local NGOs for humanitarian action Commit to pass 25% of humanitarian funding to National NGOs.</p> <p>3. TRANSPARENCY: Increase transparency around resource transfers to national and local NGOs. Publish the amount or percentage of funding that is passed to NNGOs.</p>
Partnership Values (2 & 6)	<p>2. PARTNERSHIP: Reaffirm the Principles of Partnership.</p> <p>6. EQUALITY: Address subcontracting and ensure equality in decision-making.</p>
Organizational Support & Capacity Strengthening (4 & 7)	<p>4. RECRUITMENT: Stop undermining local capacity. Address and prevent the negative impact of recruiting NNGO staff during emergencies.</p> <p>7. SUPPORT: Robust organisational support and capacity strengthening.</p>
Promoting Roles of National Humanitarian Actors (5 & 8)	<p>5. ADVOCACY: Emphasise the importance of national actors to humanitarian donors.</p> <p>8. PROMOTION: Communication to the media and the public about partners. Promote the role of local actors to media and public.</p>

Outcomes of the Bangladesh C4C Country Level Dialogue

During the country level virtual dialogue, we've worked out in four breakout rooms for an hour to identify the achievements and good practices, challenges and recommendations & way forward.

Group-A: Funding (1 & 3)

1. Direct Funding: Increase direct funding to national and local NGOs for humanitarian action. Commit to pass 25% of humanitarian funding to National NGOs.

Achievements and good practices	Challenges	Recommendations & way forward
1. The initiative of Start Fund Bangladesh (SFB) (Anticipatory Action)	1. Still it's not acknowledged of the potentials of local and national actors.	1. Initiative for fund raising capacity and harmonization of due diligence tools
2. Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) Project- a consortium project involving INGOs and local & national NGOs	2. Not clear to all partners about the proposal and budget	2. Co-creation and sharing the whole proposal and budget with partners.
3. USAID: Agricultural Extension Support Activity (AESAs)/ USAID-Host and Impacted Community Resilience Activity (HICRA) – Bangladesh Project	-	3. Transparently data sharing of funding.
4. Increase sharing of ICR Cost	-	-
5. Develop capacity to access the global fund (Limited scale) by the local and national NGOs.	-	-

3. TRANSPARENCY: Increase transparency around resource transfers to national and local NGOs. Publish the amount or percentage of funding that is passed to NNGOs.

Achievements and good practices	Challenges	Recommendations & Way forward
1. Contingency Plan developed	1. Increased number and types of disaster due to climate change	1. Creating space for the small local actors through flexibility.
2. Execution of CHS	2. Governance (Donor, Government, Local Government and Implementing organization)	2. Enhance of the local actors
3. Increased Coordination and Communication mechanism	3. Openness of sharing the proposal and budget	3. Collective voice
4. Reduced duplication of humanitarian support	-	4. Advocacy initiative for globally changing the process
5. Co-creation approach	-	5. Networking among global, regional and country level.

Group-B: Partnership Values (2 & 6)

2. PARTNERSHIP: Reaffirm the Principles of Partnership.

Achievements and good practices	Challenges	Recommendations & Way forward
1. Improvement in the behavior of an upward partner	1. Undermine capacity of L/NNGOS	1. The INGOs should support leadership development of LNNGOs
2. Increased number of Youth/Women/PWD Led partners	2. Uneven staff benefit	2. Complementing each other's contributions should be increased
3. Improved access for LNNGOs	3. Lack of transparency related to the budget of the upward partner	3. Simplified Due diligence
-	-	4. Multiyear and flexible funding
-	-	5. Diversity in partnership

6. EQUALITY: Address subcontracting and ensure equality in decision-making.

Achievements and good practices	Challenges	Recommendations & Way forward
1. Enhanced engagement in budget preparation	1. Access to information	1. Improvement in Policy Framework
2. Improved accessibility in decision making	2. Access to communication platforms	2. Strengthening information sharing
-	3. Access to infrastructures	-

Group-C: Organizational Support & Capacity Strengthening (4 & 7)

4. RECRUITMENT: Stop undermining local capacity. Address and prevent the negative impact of recruiting NNGO staff during emergencies.

Achievements and good practices	Challenges	Recommendations & Way forward
1. Improved in some policy level.	1. Policies are less in practice level.	1. Frequent knowledge sessions.
2. Developed coordination in some context. i.e., Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG), Localization Technical Working Groups (LTWG) & Cluster Approach	2. Poor Information sharing system. Means- discussions are made at HQ levels, but at field levels, it is need to be discussed.	2. More awareness events at district level
3. L/NNGOs are trying to come together under a platform. i.e., NAHAB, SFB	3. Difficulties to keep it functional	3. Funding partners should give additional priority to keep these platform/group.
-	4. Organizational facilities to staff members of INGOs are far differ from LNGOs	4. Find out the affordable solution. Good HR practice

7. SUPPORT: Robust organisational support and capacity strengthening.

Achievements and good practices	Challenges	Recommendations & Way forward
1. ActionAid Bangladesh divides ICR 50/50 and shares 50% of ICR with local implementing organization	1. ICR provision is not uniform	1. % of ICR should be uniform.
2. START Fund and few other INGOs are practicing	2. No solid information who are providing support and who are not.	2. No restriction on ICR expense
3. Best example in APH-III project in Cox's Bazar highest 85% and lowest 20% fund transfer to local partners by INGOs.	-	-

Group-D: Promoting Roles of National Humanitarian Actors (5 & 8)

5. ADVOCACY: Emphasise the importance of national actors to humanitarian donors.

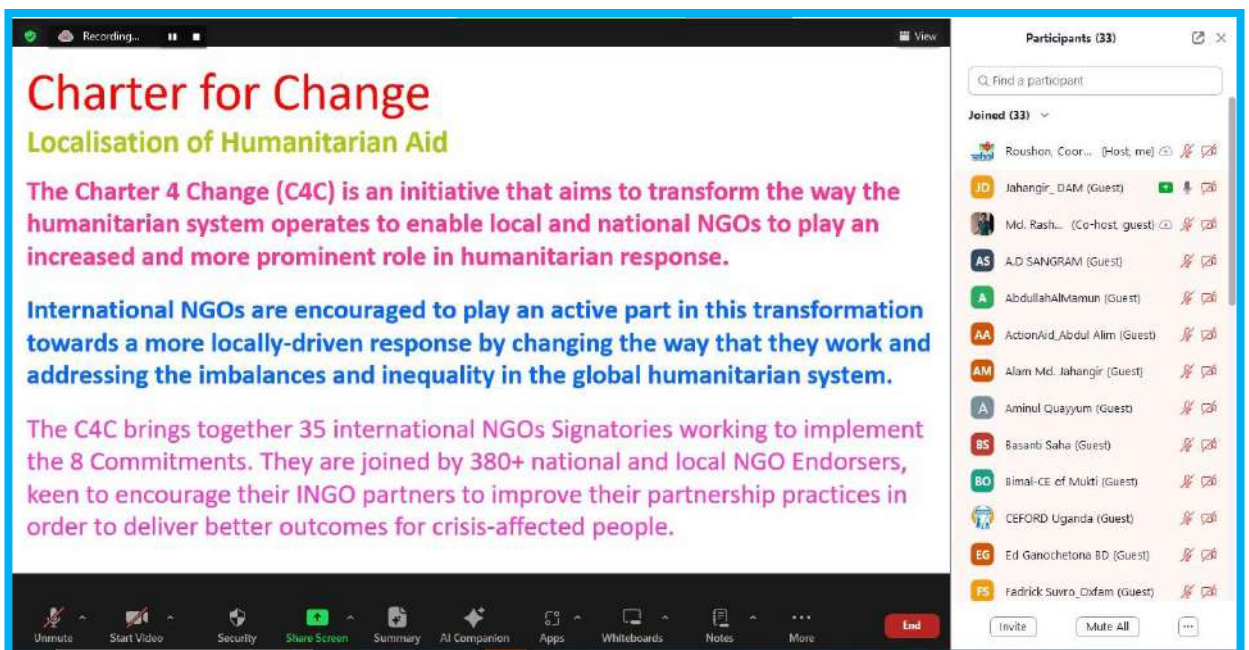
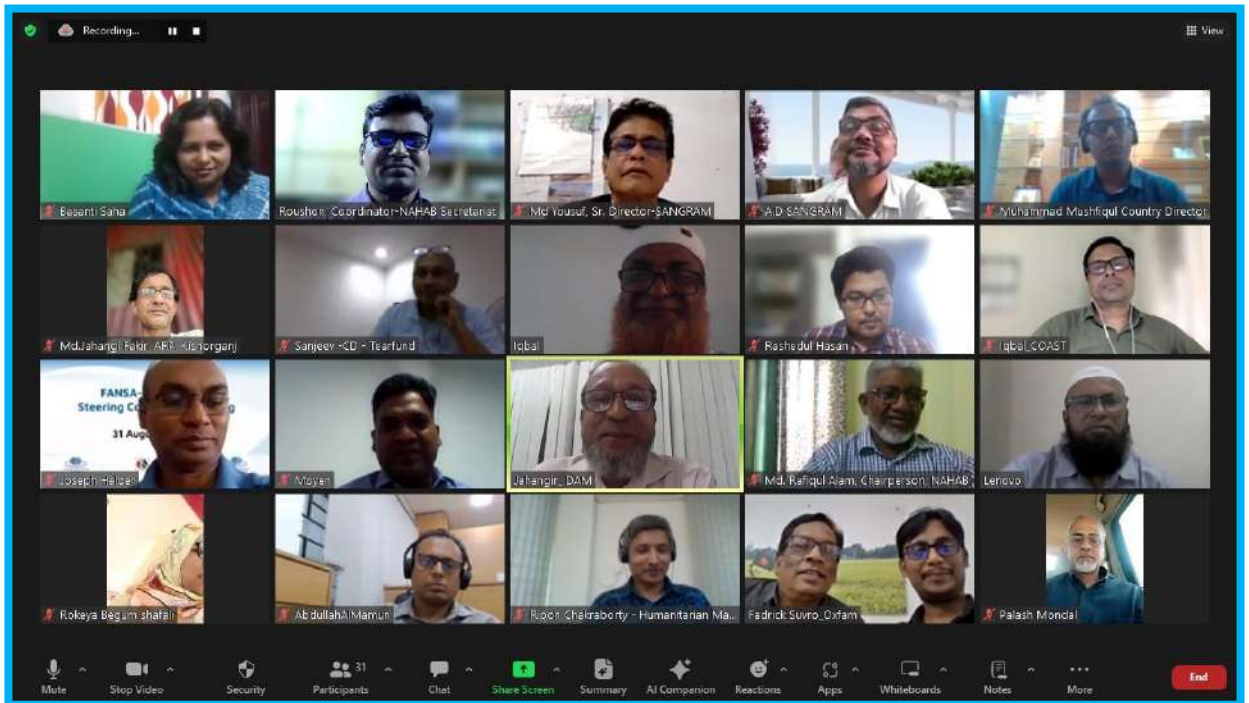
Achievements and good practices	Challenges	Recommendations & Way forward
1. All humanitarian actions are led by the local actors mentioned by HelpAge International	1. Need based capacity enhancement and shortage of funding from the donors.	1. Increase policy and practice at the organization level.
2. Consortium led by local partner and INGO (HAI) in secondary role	2. Challenge in Policy level practices at the organization level in L/NNGOs.	2. More advocacy with donors to change their mind sets
3. Action Aid- All program implemented through local partners except Rohingya Response.	3. Attitude towards local humanitarian actors.	3. Advocacy on funding in local actors' capacity enhancement.
4. Support local partners in the global networks as part of localization.	4. Different donor with different requirement for DD	-

8. PROMOTION: Communication to the media and the public about partners. Promote the role of local actors to media and public.

Achievements and good practices	Challenges	Recommendations & Way forward
1. In some cases, jointly implementation of the media coverage with partners	1. Acknowledge of local partner in international media coverage and publication	1. During designing the project it should be clearly mentioned the local actor's role.
2. Recently most of the humanitarian response led by the local actors and INGOs promoting them	2. Lack of joint planning with the partners and donors.	2. Local actors led the humanitarian actions and promote in the communication and media
3. Preparing joint statement for a common agenda.	3. Shortage of skilled staff for media and communication.	3. Recruitment of media related staff

Screenshots of the C4C Country Level Virtual Dialogue

Date: 27 November 2023



Appendix-01: Schedule of C4C Country level Dialogue

Time (BDT)	Session Plan	Methodology	Facilitated/ Moderated by
02:30-02:50 PM	: Session inauguration ▶ Session inaugurated by Md. Rafiqul Alam, Chairperson-NAHAB and ED-DUS	Discussion	Md. Roushon Ali Coordinator, NAHAB
02:51-03:00 PM	: Self-introduction Schedule sharing, Group Choice & ground role description	Discussion	
03:01-03:20 PM	: ▶ Background of C4C and Commitments of Signatories	Presentation	Md. Jahangir Alam Joint Director, DAM
03:21-04:00 PM	: Zoom Breakout Room Group Work: Each group will work on the following three points: 1. Achievements and good practices; 2. Challenges, and 3. Recommendations & way forward Group divided into four groups and each group work on two commitments: Group-A: Funding (1 & 3) 1. Increase direct funding to national and local NGOs for humanitarian action. 3. Increase transparency around resource transfers to national and local NGOs. Group-B: Partnership Values (2 & 6) 2. Reaffirm the Principles of Partnership. 6. Address subcontracting. Group-C: Organizational Support & Capacity Strengthening (4 & 7) 4. Stop undermining local capacity. 7. Robust organizational support and capacity strengthening. Group-D: Promoting Roles of National Humanitarian Actors (5 & 8) 5. Emphasize the importance of national actors. 8. Communication to the media and the public about partners.		Md. Jahangir Alam, DAM Duke Ibn Amin, Jago Nari Md. Rashedul Hasan, Nirapad Md. Roushon Ali, NAHAB & MD Asaduzzaman (Ripon), GUS
04:01-04:40 PM	: Group work presentation	Presentation	Group Lead & Duke Ibn Amin
04:41-05:00 PM	: Plenary Session: Question & Answer (Q & A)	Discussion	Md. Jahangir Alam
05:01-05:20 PM	: Concluding remarks: 1- Signatory & 1- Endorser	Discussion	Signatory & Endorser

Appendix-02: List of C4C Endorsers in Bangladesh

SN	C4C Endorsers Presence in Bangladesh
	NAHAB Members
1.	Ashroy Foundation
2.	Association for Integrated Development (AID-COMILLA)
3.	Association of Voluntary Actions for Society (AVAS)
4.	Caritas Bangladesh
5.	Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust (COAST Trust)
6.	Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM)
7.	Garib Unnayan Sangstha (GUS)
8.	JAGO NARI (Barguna Nari Jagaron Karmoshuchi)
9.	Sangathita Gramunnyan Karmasuchi / Organized Village Development Program (SANGRAM)
10.	SKS Foundation (SKS)
11.	Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)
12.	Association for Rural Poor (ARP)
13.	Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)
14.	Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)
15.	Barokupot Ganochetona Foundation (BGF)
16.	MONISHA (A Social and Human Development Organisation)
	None NAHAB Member
17.	Bangladesh Model Youth Parliament (Protiki Jubo Sangsad) (BMYP)
18.	Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC)
19.	Network for Information, Response And Preparedness Activities on Disaster (NIRAPAD)
20.	Cox's Bazar Environment, Human Rights & Development Forum (CEHRDF)
21.	Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO)
22.	ISDE-Bangladesh
23.	Participatory Research Action Network (PRAN)
24.	Programme for Helpless And Lagged Societies (PHALS)
25.	Mukti Cox's Bazar

Appendix-02: List of C4C Signatories in Bangladesh

SN	C4C Global Signatories	Presence in Bangladesh
1	ActionAid	Affiliate
2	ACPP	-
3	CAFOD	Programme
4	Care	Country Office
5	Caritas Denmark	Programme
6	Caritas Norway	-
7	Caritas Spain	-
8	Christian Aid	Country Office
9	Church of Sweden (Svenska Kyrkan)	Programme
10	Cordaid	Programme
11	CRS	Partner and staff
12	DCA	Country office
13	Diakonia	Country Office
14	Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe	Programme
15	Finn Church Aid	-
16	Help	Programme
17	HelpAge International	-
18	Human Appeal	-
19	Humedica	-
20	ICCO/KiA	Country office
21	IPPF	Member
22	IRW	Country office
23	Johanniter	-
24	Kindernothilfe	Country Office
25	Mission East	-
26	NCA	Programme
27	Norwegian People's Aid	-
28	Oxfam	Country office
29	Rescue Global	-
30	SCIAF	-
31	Street Child	Local Partners & Projects
32	Tearfund Australia	Program
33	Tearfund	Programme
34	Terram Pacis	-
35	Trocaire	-
36	WarChild	-
37	World Jewish Relief	Programme
38	Xavier Project	-
39	CBM Global Disability Inclusion	Country Office

Source: <https://charter4change.org/>

For more information, please contact with us:

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