

WORKING TOGETHER ON DURABLE SOLUTIONS June 2022

The World Humanitarian Summit and the regional pre-consultations was seen as a very positive process and brought hope to local actors that some key and long-standing challenges in the humanitarian system would be addressed. The local actors actively engaged with the Grand Bargain commitments with the hope that it would ensure more effective and efficient humanitarian response to the needs of the people affected by crises. Huge amount of resources has been invested in the process. A4EP will be following closely the commitments made under the GB caucuses to ensure accelerated progress is made, as the progress towards localisation remains slow so far.

1. Expanding the space for more local voices

The Grand Bargain is the only forum where donors, UN agencies, INGOs and local organisations come together to collaborate and try finding solutions to specific issues that hinder effective and efficient response to the crises and disasters. The Alliance for Empowering Partnership (A4EP) is proud to be a signatory to the Grand Bargain. It has taken almost five years of active advocacy by A4EP and NEAR to get the space for local actors to play their rightful role in the decision-making processes. Commencing in July, A4EP will be representing local actors in the GB Facilitation Group. **We commit to expanding the space for more local voices to be present** so the signatories truly live up to the pledge that GB is “a level playing field where we all meet as equals”. A4EP will help ensure more local actors’ engagement in country-level GB processes such as National Reference Group (NRG) to make it more inclusive, collaborative and empowering local leadership. A4EP will also initiate a regular dialogue process between donors and local actors towards developing a clear mechanism for 360 degrees feedback where voices of the people affected of crisis are heard.

2. People’s Participation

The commitment to include the people affected by humanitarian crises and their communities in the decisions is essential to make sure the humanitarian response is relevant, timely, effective and efficient. Being able to adopt the response based on **the feedback from the people affected by crises is crucial to ensuring that the funds are being utilised in the most appropriate way to meet the needs of the affected populations**. At present local actors are unable to do that because of the way projects, programmes and funding structure are designed, hence the necessity for flexible and multi-year funding for local actors. The GB report shows there is no significant progress on this commitment thus we call on the signatories to accelerate actions to create change to make participation revolution tangible. **We will continue to push to address the power imbalance between international and local actors and governments by providing more space and voice to local and national actors in the decision-making processes.**

3. Transparency and accountability

Transparency around how funding moves from donors down the transaction chain until it reaches the final responders and, where feasible, affected people, was one of the key ambition of the GB transparency commitment. Over the last 5 years there has been a lot of investment in trying to find technological solutions to identifying and implementing a shared open-data standard and common digital platform to enhance transparency and decision-making. Now we need to have political commitment to **make transparency a requirement to ensure better accountability**

about how the funds that are raised in the name of crisis affected population are being spent. Signatories should be encouraged to publish data on IATI dashboard in a way that is easily comprehended by all stakeholders for analysis and decision-making.

on funds to local actors, donors need to develop other effective mechanisms too to pass on funds directly or as directly as possible to LNHA, particularly in the contexts where no pooled funding mechanism exists.

4. Addressing Quality Funding and resource deficit:

Majority of funding and resources continues to remain in the hands of a few international actors, instead of means in the hands of local and national CSOs who are there to assist before, during and after the crisis. The quality funding including adequate percentage for overheads and institutional strengthening is still not reaching to those who are closest to the affected populations and best placed to respond in a timely manner. **The inequity in the decision-making processes on funding allocations remains the biggest hurdle**, it is still dominated by international actors. When the funding is passed through the intermediaries, the decision making remains top down and inequitable subcontracting relationship, leading to programmes and projects being designed in western capitals leading to lack of flexibility, transparency and accountability to people affected by crisis in meeting their needs. **Donors need to do more to shift the balance and strengthen their capacity in monitoring that allocated funds are meeting the localisation commitments. CBPFs exist only in a few contexts. While CBPFs are a good mechanism to pass**

5. Thinking beyond 2023 to longer term platform for change

The focus on two priority areas and focusing on political blockages through caucuses has created a space for open dialogue between Donors, UN, INGOs, RC/RC Societies, and Local Actors. However, it is now clear that it will take courage and commitment to ensure that we do not lose the gains already made through longer term commitment. With increasing climate related disasters, conflicts, pandemic and economic downturn globally there is even a greater need to ensure that **we agree on a way forward beyond 2023 and create the humanitarian system that is inclusive, equitable, supporting more holistic nexus approach and fit for the future so we can respond more effectively to the people affected by crisis. Building on the gains and acknowledging the gaps identified in the Grand Bargain report we call for a Grand Bargain where we all work side by side to find durable solutions to unprecedented challenges of our time.**

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