Side-event summary

Event Title: "Making it real: Examples of localisation in humanitarian preparedness and response"

Date, time and room: 20th June 2018, 08:30-09:45, Room 12

Sponsors: Charter4Change and Start Network

Objective: The main objective of this side event is to build international momentum and support for localisation initiatives, including the centrality of and interconnections between investing in preparedness and localisation, by providing examples that work and showcasing good practice.

This side event is aligned to ECOSOC HAS 2018 theme: "Restoring humanity, respecting human dignity and leaving no one behind: working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability" by:

- Presenting ways in which donor governments are shaping their global policies and shifting their practices to support local actors, as demonstrated by the Government of Australia

- Highlighting efforts in Iraq and the Philippines, where local and national NGOs have been supported to lead on humanitarian preparedness and response, and build networks for coordination and collaboration in order to work more effectively and efficiently within their communities

- Sharing positive examples of putting localisation into practice that have emerged from the Start Network's DFID-funded Disasters and Emergencies Preparedness Programme and from members within the Charter for Change network.

Panel Members: (names and titles)

- Chair and moderator: Michael Mosselmans, Head of Humanitarian Policy and Practice, Christian Aid/ACT Alliance
  (please make sure the Chair is included in listings as he also kindly shared some examples)
- Nanette S. Antequisa, Executive Director, Ecosystems Works for Essential Benefits (EcoWEB), Philippines
- Steve Scott, Head of DFAT's Humanitarian and Refugee Policy Branch, Government of Australia
- Hero Anwar, Executive Director, Rehabilitation, Education, and Community Health (REACH), Iraq
  Md Reaz Ahmed, Director General, Department of Disaster Management, Government of Bangladesh *(please note that unfortunately Md Reaz Ahmed was not able to participate due to the flooding disaster response).*

Main points raised by each panelist:

The localisation agenda has strong synergies with other Grand Bargain priorities, including reducing duplication of compliance and assessments of local partners, and participation and leadership of survivors in humanitarian response work.

There is a consistent need to acknowledge local agencies' existing capacities and the need to trust communities to lead humanitarian responses. This was echoed by Ms Anwar who said: "Localisation is trust, care, working together, transparency, and importantly no different classes because sometimes NGOs are treated like second class".

Mr Scott shared that some donor governments are already shaping their global policies and shifting their practices to support local actors. A key is to go to talk to local actors to find out what is useful. This provides good examples to peer government agencies.

Efforts where local and national NGOs have had more space to lead on humanitarian preparedness and response, has been enabled through building networks for coordination and collaboration to work more effectively and efficiently within communities, Ms Antequisa said.

Mr Mosselmans called on international NGOs interested in advancing on the Grand Bargain commitment to localisation to join the Charter4Change as a way to share learning, experiences and challenges.

Key messages of the side event:

Change within the sector will come from 'leading and demonstrating the change, by doing the work'. Achieving Localisation should be a positive and constructive process for all in order to deliver better outcomes for crisis affected people.

Main points raised during the discussion with participants:

Capacity exists at every level and facet of the sector, and that all humanitarian organisations have gaps in capacity so we can all learn from one another.

Many of the successful initiatives by C4C members and the START Network combined with knowledge within the sector, highlight the centrality of investing in local actors during 'peacetime' through capacity strengthening and other preparedness work.

Localisation can help us be more inclusive, such as ensure gender sensitive programming as well as addressing the full spectrum of the 'leave no one behind' agenda.

Outcomes of the side event:

- All stakeholders continue putting localisation into practice, challenging mindsets, and exchanging learning.
- Charter4Change resources on a range of topics within the localisation agenda is here. A good and innovative examples of practices in localisation, shared during the session – by both panellists and audience members, will be made available on the Charter4Change website.
- More on the Start Network's Disasters & Emergencies Preparedness Programme (DEPP) is here. Watch a video on work in Kenya, keep up to date with Start Network's localisation efforts https://startnetwork.org/localisation.