



# **INTRODUCTION TO LOCALIZATION IN HUMANITARIAN AID**

**JOANNA AŚKA WARCHAŁ-BENESCHI**  
**CLES, 16.11.2024**



**1. LOCALIZATION**

**2. GRAND BARGAIN**

**3. LOCAL ACTORS**



# **WHAT IS LOCALIZATION?**



**more funding  
to local actors**

***AS LOCAL  
AS POSSIBLE AND  
AS INTERNATIONAL  
AS NECESSARY***



**LOCALIZATION IS THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH A DIVERSE RANGE OF HUMANITARIAN ACTORS ARE ATTEMPTING, EACH IN THEIR OWN WAY, TO ENSURE LOCAL AND NATIONAL ACTORS ARE BETTER ENGAGED IN THE PLANNING, DELIVERY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION, WHILE STILL ENSURING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS CAN BE MET SWIFTLY, EFFECTIVELY AND IN A PRINCIPLED MANNER.**



# **WHY LOCALIZATION?**

# WHY LOCALIZATION?

In humanitarian crises, the primary stakeholders in managing the response are the local and national actors.

**They remain in the communities before, during and after emergencies.**

**They are also often the first to respond to crises,** playing a key role in rapidly delivering life-saving assistance.

\*European Commission on Localization



# WHY LOCALIZATION?

- Strengthening **inclusion of, accountability to, and acceptance by affected populations**
- **Increasing resilience** through linking preparedness, response and recovery efforts
- **Enhancing the speed, quality and scale** of humanitarian response
- Adding value through **improving the efficiency and effectiveness** of humanitarian action
- Promoting **diversity, innovative and contextual** approaches

*\*Localization Examined: An ICVA Briefing Paper, 2018*





**LOCALISATION MEANS EMPOWERING LOCAL RESPONDERS IN AFFECTED COUNTRIES TO LEAD AND DELIVER HUMANITARIAN AID. IT AIMS AT STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY AND RESOURCES OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO RESPOND TO CRISES AND PROMOTE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY.**

**THIS APPROACH RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING IN PROVIDING EFFECTIVE AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE AID.**

**BY EMPOWERING LOCAL ACTORS, LOCALISATION AIMS TO IMPROVE THE RELEVANCE, EFFICIENCY, AND IMPACT OF HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS.**



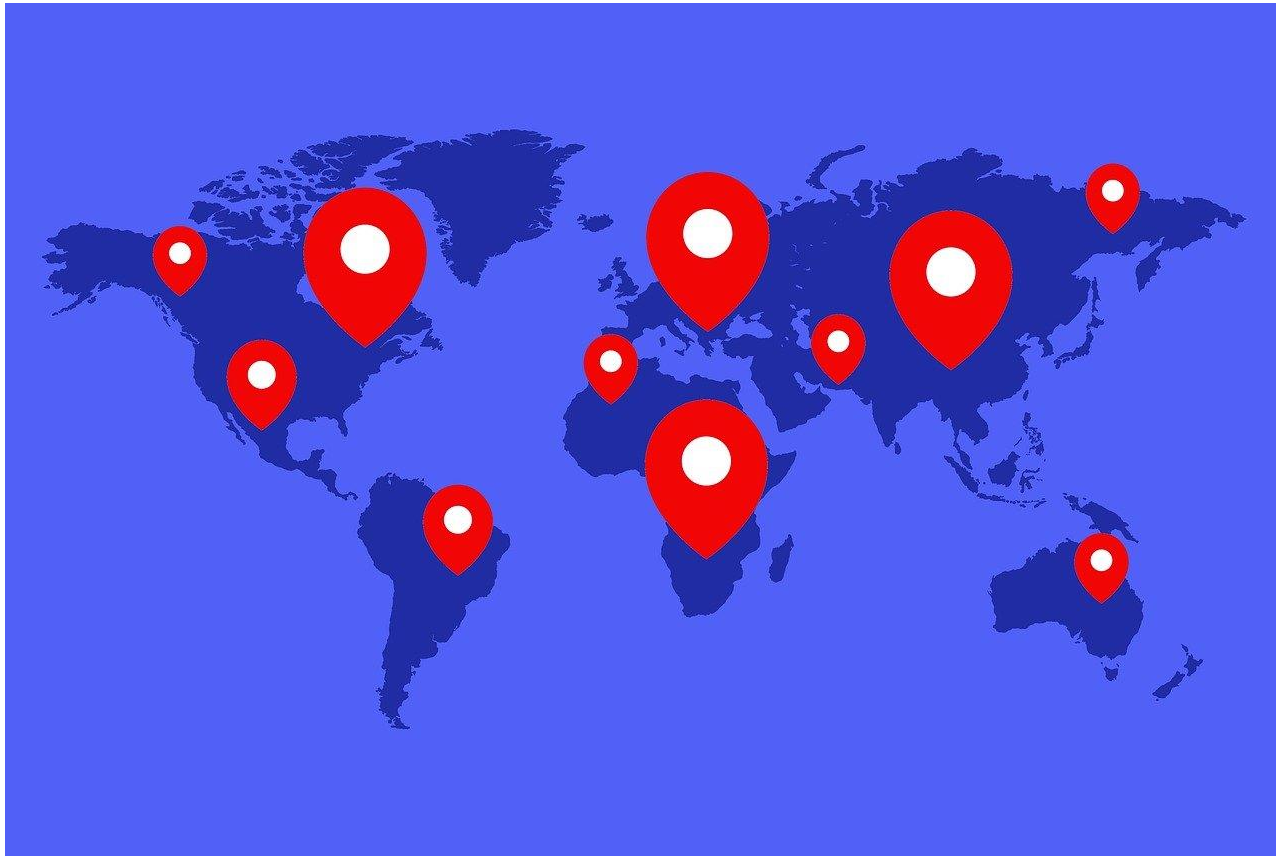
**LOCALIZATION MEANS INCREASING  
INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AND  
RESPECT FOR THE ROLE OF LOCAL  
ACTORS, WITH THE GOAL OF  
INCREASING THE REACH,  
EFFECTIVENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION.**

**IT IS ALSO A WAY OF RE-THINKING  
THE HUMANITARIAN SECTOR FROM  
THE GROUND UP—RECOGNIZING THAT  
THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF  
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IS  
ALREADY PROVIDED BY LOCAL  
ACTORS.**

**APPROACH + TAKING ACTION**

**DONORS / IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS  
→ PARTNERS**

**CAPACITY BUILDING → CAPACITY  
STRENGTHENING → CAPACITY SHARING**

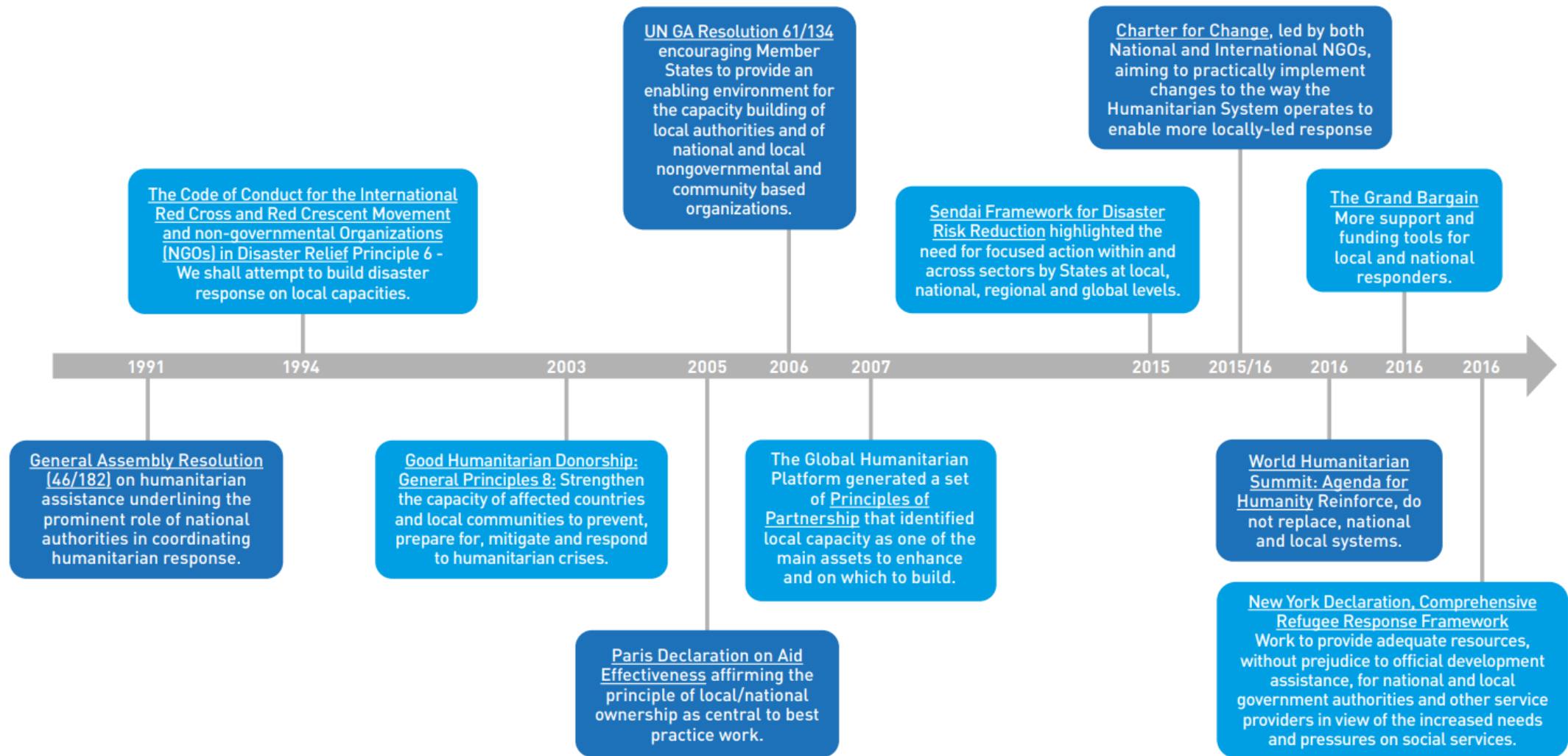


**ONE-SYSTEM-FITS-ALL →  
CONTEXTUALIZED APPROACH  
ENHANCING EXISITING ECOSYSTEMS**



**HOW TO  
ACHIEVE IT?**

# The Evolution of Localization in International Policy:



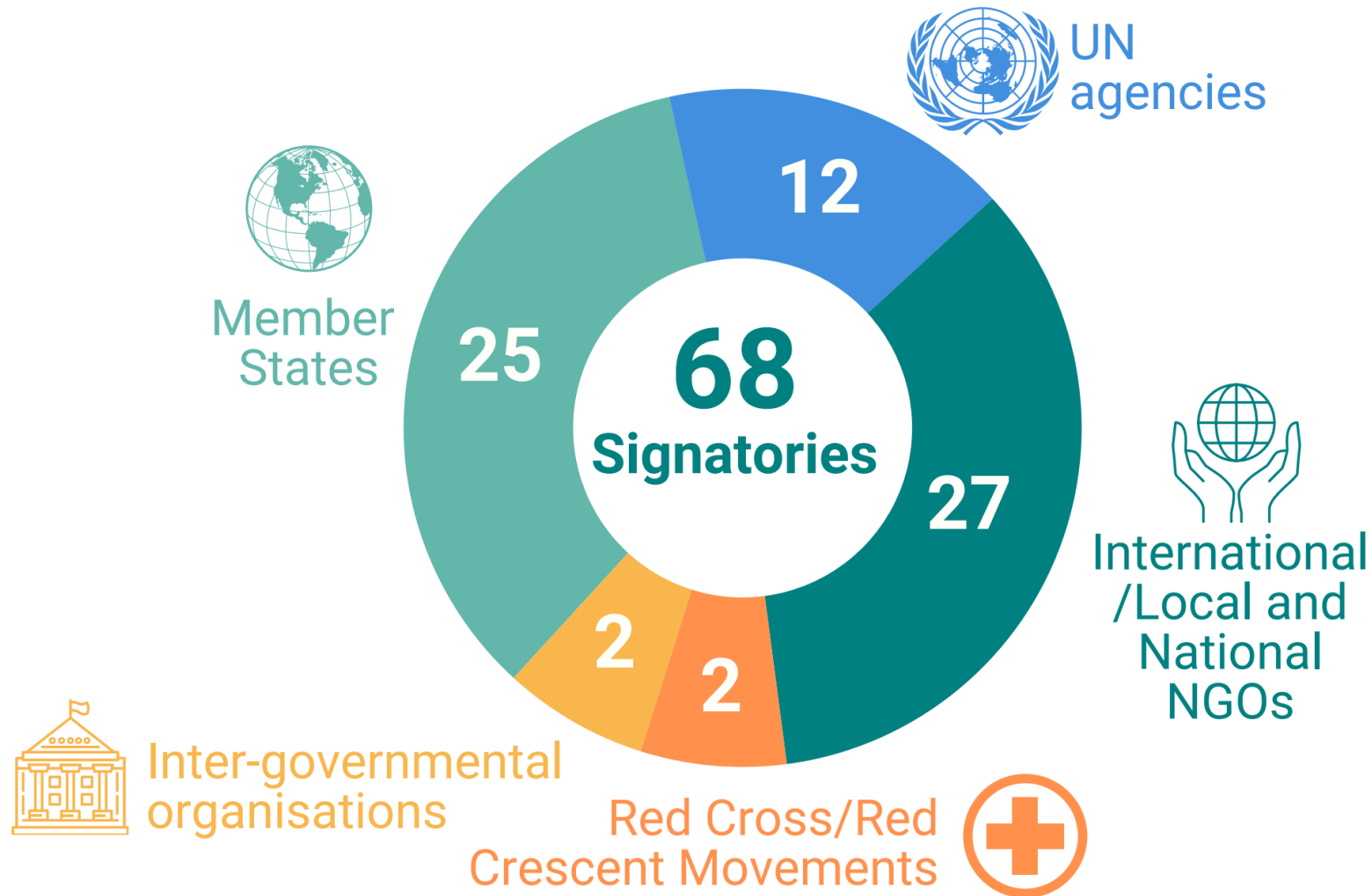
# GRAND BARGAIN

*As part of the preparations for the **World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in 2016**, the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing sought solutions to close the humanitarian financing gap. Their report made recommendations to shrink the needs, deepen and broaden the resource base for humanitarian action, and to improve delivery. In relation to the latter recommendation, the report suggested “a Grand Bargain between the big donors and humanitarian organisations in humanitarian aid”.*

The Grand Bargain, launched during the WHS in Istanbul in May 2016, is a **UNIQUE AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOME OF THE LARGEST DONORS AND HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE COMMITTED TO GET MORE MEANS INTO THE HANDS OF PEOPLE IN NEED AND TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE HUMANITARIAN ACTION**. Currently 68 Signatories (25 Member States, 26 NGOs, 12 UN agencies, 2 Red Cross/Red Crescent movements, and 2 inter-governmental organisations) are working across workstreams and caucuses to implement the commitments.

\*Grand Bargain Secretariat

# GRAND BARGAIN





# GRAND BARGAIN LOCALIZATION COMMITMENTS [2016]

## WORKSTREAM 2: More support and funding tools for local and national responders

CORE COMMITMENT: 2.1. Increase and support **multi-year investments in the institutional capacities of local and national responders, including preparedness, response and coordination.**

2.2. Understand better and **work to remove or reduce the barriers that prevent organisations and donors from partnering with local and national responders** in order to lessen their administrative burden.

2.3. **Support and complement national coordination mechanisms** where they exist and include national and local responders in international coordination mechanisms as appropriate and in-keeping with humanitarian principles.

CORE COMMITMENT: 2.4. **Achieve by 2020, a global aggregated target of at least 25% of humanitarian funding to local and national responders as directly as possible to improve outcomes for affected people and reduce transaction costs.**

2.5. Develop, with the IASC, and apply a **localisation marker to measure direct and indirect funding to local and national responders.**

2.6. Make **greater use of funding tools that increase and improve assistance delivered** by local and national responders, such as UN-led CBPFs, the IFRC Secretariat's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), and NGO-led and other pooled funds.

# WHAT DOES 'AS DIRECTLY AS POSSIBLE' MEAN?

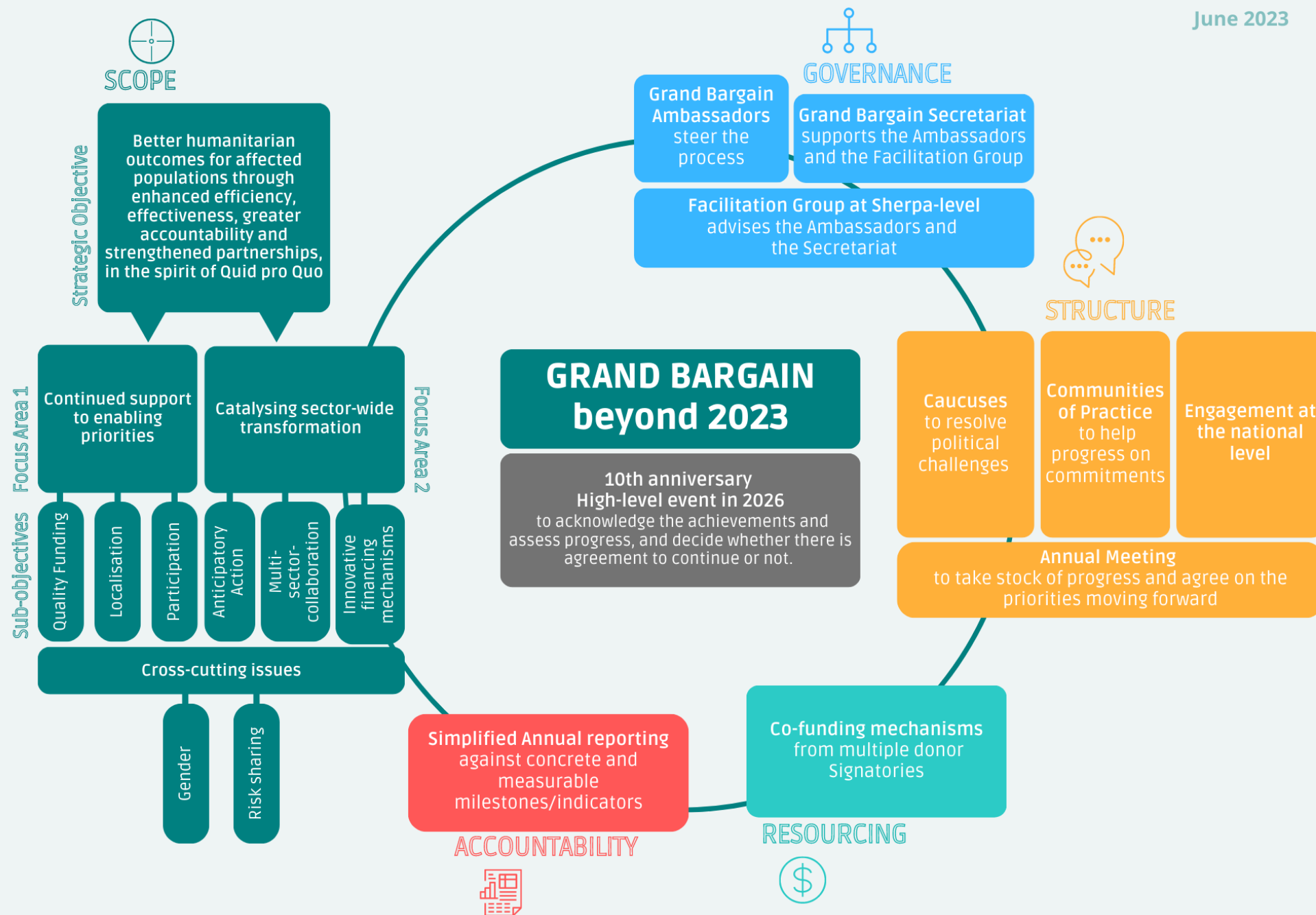


## 1. Direct funding:

- For institutional (mainly government) donors - direct funding from the original donor to local and national organisations i.e. funding that does not pass through an international intermediary.
- For UN agencies and international NGOs – the direct onward transfer of publicly-raised funding (i.e. funding that does not come from institutional donors) to local and national organisations.

## 2. 'As directly as possible' funding:

- Funding channeled through a pooled fund that is directly accessed by national and local actors.
- Funding to a single international aid organisation (including a federated/membership organisation) that reaches a local/national actor directly from that one intermediary



# 2023-2026

Focus area 1: Continued support to localisation, participation of affected communities, and quality funding

- I. Incentivise further actions on the Grand Bargain enabling priorities with a view to reach a critical mass of quality funding, achieve cost efficiency, increase funding and support to local actors, and ensure greater participation of affected populations in decision-making at all stages of the programme cycle. Galvanise efforts to advance implementation at country level, and strengthen the visibility of humanitarian action.
  - I.1. Reach a critical mass of quality funding that allows an effective and efficient response, whilst ensuring visibility, transparency, and accountability.
  - I.2. **Provide greater funding and support for the leadership, delivery and capacity of local responders.**
  - I.3. Ensure greater support for the participation of affected communities in addressing humanitarian needs.

2023		2024	2025			2026
WHAT WE AGREED		LEVERS OF TRANSFORMATION	ACTIONS REQUIRED			EXPECTED RESULTS & LINK TO OUTCOMES
QUALITY FUNDING	REACH A CRITICAL MASS OF QUALITY FUNDING	AOs adapt internal systems towards <b>multiyear planning/budgeting</b> in protracted crises and provide MYF to LNAs	FG engages donors and AOs as part of the follow-up on Quality Funding caucus outcome.	Signatories engage with peers on good practices.	AOs invest in adapting their systems for 2026.	Multiyear planning and budgeting enables more MYF across the system including for LNAs <b>1.1.A, 1.2.A, QF caucus</b>
		Donors adopt strategies to increase the <b>flexibility of funding</b> e.g. pooled funds, regional earmarking, quality earmarking	GBAs convene a high-level dialogue with major donors that provide limited flexible funding.	Signatories engage with peers on existing good practices on flexible funding.	Major donors integrate relevant practices in their budget allocations for 2026.	The flexibility of humanitarian funding is increased <b>1.1.A, 1.2.A</b>
		AOs improve internal systems to <b>track and report</b> on funding including for LNAs and WLOs	Through the CoP on localisation and gender, signatories exchange innovative solutions and good practices.		AOs invest in changing their internal systems to enable reporting against the GB self-reporting indicators.	
LOCALISATION	PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR LEADERSHIP, DELIVERY AND CAPACITY OF LOCAL RESPONDERS	AOs solidify and expand progress on <b>overheads</b> without increasing reporting burden	GBAs engage with the IASC Deputies to promote the implementation of overheads guidance.	Signatories engage with peers on good practices incl. through the CoP on localisation.	AOs and donors agree on and include provisions on transferring overheads to LNAs in partnership agreements.	Solutions are found to provide overheads to LNAs consistently <b>1.2.A/B, Intermediaries caucus</b>
		Donors increase contributions to <b>pooled funds</b> that provide at least 25% of funding to LNAs, and include them in their advisory/other oversight bodies	GBAs dialogue with ERC/OCHA to discuss increasing funding to LNAs and their meaningful role in decision making.	Donors adopt and implement guidance on promoting locally led action through pooled funds.	Donors that do not fund LNAs directly increase their contributions to pooled funds.	Pooled funds are effective tools that enable donors to progress towards the 25% target <b>1.1.A, 1.2.A, funding localisation caucus</b>
		OCHA supports the <b>participation</b> of LNAs, incl. WLOs in HCTs, ICCGs, CBPF Advisory Boards and Cluster Lead Agencies ensure LNAs co-leadership of clusters	GBAs convene with IASC Deputies to discuss the implementation of an inclusive guidance.	Signatories support existing fora or new ones for LNAs representation in strategy discussions.		Participation of LNAs in humanitarian decision-making is the norm <b>1.2.C &amp; 1.3.A, Intermediaries caucus</b>
		Donors increase investments in <b>capacity strengthening</b> of LNAs, including for their engagement in decision-making fora at the country level	GBAs initiate consultations incl. at country level to explore scalable good practices to increase investment in capacity strengthening.	GBAs may convene a caucus to generate support and commitments from donors and AOs.		Effective mechanisms are developed to invest in the capacities and institutional development of LNAs. <b>1.2.C &amp; 1.3.A, Intermediaries caucus</b>
		REMENTAL / INDIVIDUAL CHANGES				

## HOW IS THE GRAND BARGAIN TRANSFORMING HUMANITARIAN AID?

### QUALITY FUNDING

By reaching a critical mass of quality funding that allows an effective and efficient response, whilst ensuring visibility, transparency, and accountability.

### LOCALISATION

By providing greater funding and support for the leadership, delivery and capacity of local responders.

### ANTICIPATORY ACTION

By scaling up anticipatory action, better integration of technology, and more flexibility in programming to foresee and respond to future shocks.

### FOCUS AREA 1

### PARTICIPATION

By ensuring greater support for the participation of affected communities in addressing humanitarian needs.

### NEXUS

By using the convening power of the Grand Bargain as a platform to bring together all relevant stakeholders of the nexus.

### INNOVATIVE FINANCING

By mapping, supporting and scaling-up existing financing mechanisms that enable cross-sector collaboration and innovative financing approaches, that are fit for purpose in protracted crises.

### FOCUS AREA 2



# GRAND BARGAIN



## LOCALISATION

Grand Bargain has been driving policy and practice changes to advance localisation; ensuring participation of local actors advancing access to funds for local and national actors and promoting equitable partnerships.



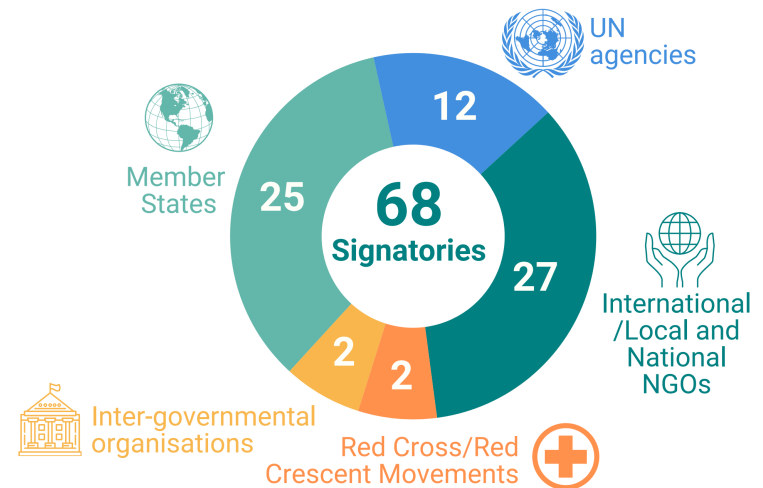
## REACHING THE 25% TARGET OF FUNDING TO LOCAL/NATIONAL ACTORS AS DIRECTLY AS POSSIBLE

The Grand Bargain caucus on funding for localisation members (USAID, DG-ECHO, Denmark, OCHA, UNHCR, Save the Children, IFRC, A4EP and the Northwest Syria NGO forum) agreed to:

1. Measure funding to Local and National Actors (LNAs)
2. Report all funding to LNAs through publicly available platforms (FTS and/or IATI)
3. Develop individual roadmaps for when and how the 25% target will be reached.

## Examples of policy shifts include:

- Christian Aid decided to phase out all direct implementation by 2024
- WHO has developed new localisation strategy
- UNHCR rolled out its new simplified grant agreement designed to enable direct funding for local organisations led by displaced and stateless persons.
- The US launched its first Equity and Inclusion strategic framework aimed at embedding a localisation approach across its operations.
- EU DG/ECHO developed a a Guidance Note on Promoting Equitable Partnerships with Local Responders in Humanitarian Settings



# Charter **4** **CHANGE**

**PLEDGE** FOR  
**CHANGE**

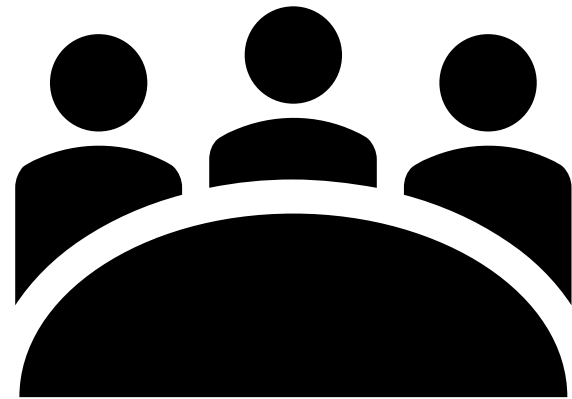




**IT'S NOT ENOUGH THAT  
THE LOCAL ACTORS ARE  
INVITED TO THE TABLE.**

**THEY NEED TO WANT TO  
STAY IN THE ROOM.**

\*Heard on a conference



# WHO IS A LOCAL ACTOR?

1. Local and national non-state actors are “**Organizations engaged in relief that are headquartered and operating in their own aid recipient country and which are not affiliated to an international NGO**”. Note: “**A local actor is not considered to be affiliated merely because it is part of a network, confederation or alliance wherein it maintains independent fundraising and governance systems**” (text endorsed by GB signatories).
2. National and sub-national state actors are “**State authorities of the affected aid recipient country engaged in relief, whether at local or national level**” (text endorsed by GB signatories).

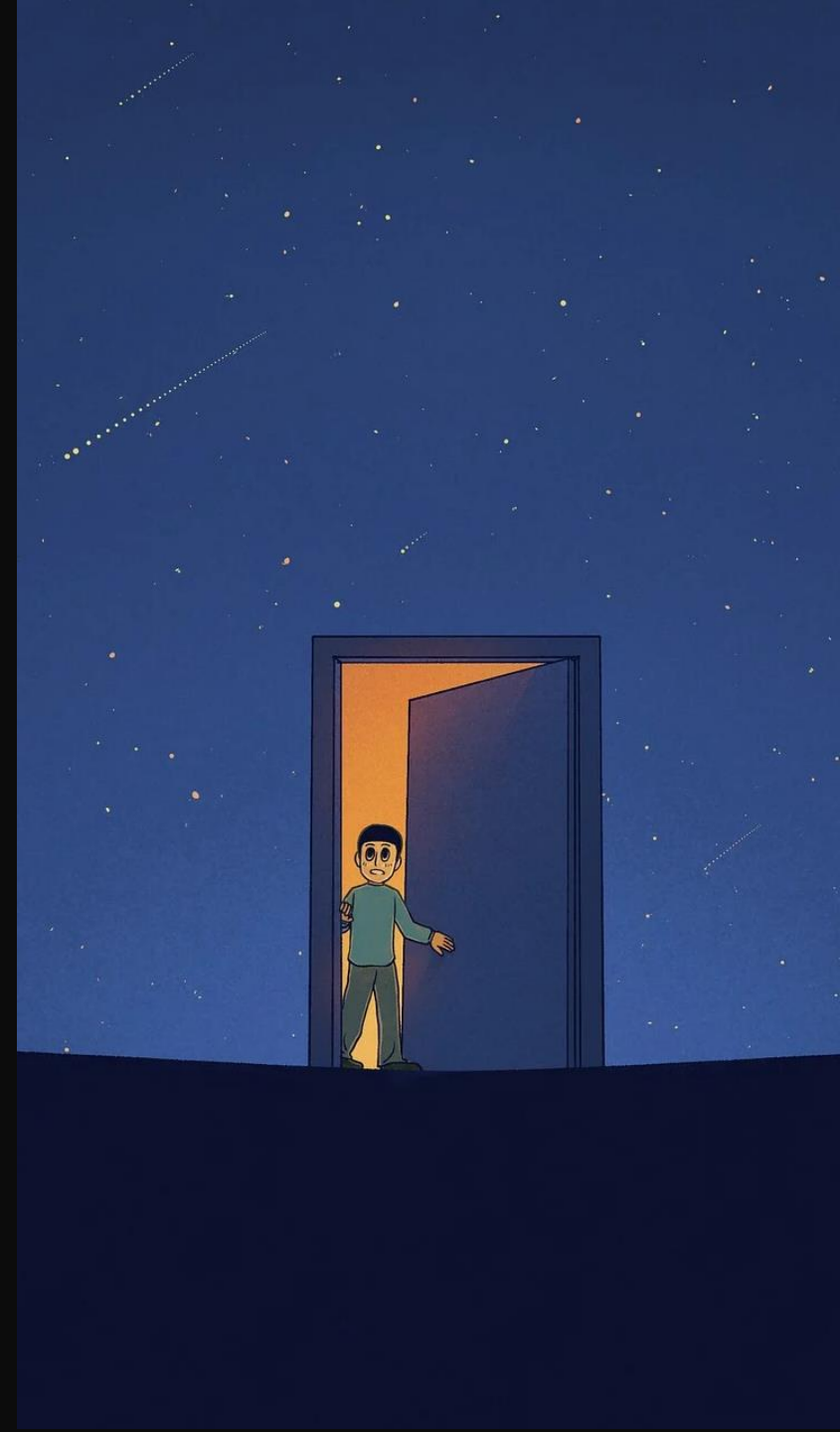
*National and local actors are of two types:*

1. *Local and national non-state actors are “Organizations engaged in relief that are headquartered and operating in their own aid recipient country and which are not affiliated to an international NGO”.*  
Note: *“A local actor is not considered to be affiliated merely because it is part of a network, confederation or alliance wherein it maintains independent fundraising and governance systems”* (text endorsed by GB signatories). Local and national non-state actors include:
  - 1.1 National NGOs/civil society organisations (CSOs): National NGOs/CSOs operating in the aid recipient country in which they are headquartered, working in multiple subnational regions, and not affiliated to an international NGO. This category can also include national faith-based organisations.
  - 1.2 Local NGOs/CSOs: Local NGOs/CSOs operating in a specific, geographically defined, subnational area of an aid recipient country, without affiliation to an international NGO/CSO. This category can also include community-based organisations and local faith-based organisations.
  - 1.3 Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies: National Societies that are based in and operating within their own aid recipient countries.
  - 1.4 Local and national private sector organizations: Organisations run by private individuals or groups as a means of enterprise for profit, that are based in and operating within their own aid recipient countries and not affiliated to an international private sector organisation.
2. *National and sub-national state actors are “State authorities of the affected aid recipient country engaged in relief, whether at local or national level”* (text endorsed by GB signatories). This includes:
  - 2.1 National governments: National government agencies, authorities, line ministries and state-owned institutions in aid recipient countries e.g. National Disaster Management Agencies (NDMAs). This category can also include federal or regional government authorities in countries where they exist.
  - 2.2 Local governments: Sub-national government entities in aid recipient countries exercising some degree of devolved authority over a specifically defined geographic constituency e.g. local/municipal authorities.



# LOCALIZATION FOR LOCAL ACTORS

- Learn about the international actors: **knowledge is power** and it will be easier to find common ground and meaningfully engage in coordination structures
- **Claim your space by putting forward solutions**
- **Invest your part** in forming an equitable partnership
- **Form networks with other local actors**, to share good practices and address possible challenges jointly
- Advocate for measuring the progress of localization in your context and keeping each other **accountable**
- **Be strategic** about where do you invest your capacity





# WEBINARS

GRAND BARGAIN LOCALIZATION  
COMMITMENTS (POLAND CASE STUDY)



Supported by  **NRC** NORWEGIAN  
REFUGEE COUNCIL

# FEEL INVITED!

20, 21.11.2024



**MERCI!**

[aska@warchal-beneschi.com](mailto:aska@warchal-beneschi.com)