

Localisation

World Humanitarian Summit Commitments

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) recognized that increased localisation is fundamental to the delivery of a dignified and effective humanitarian response, concluding that humanitarian action should be “as local as possible, as international as necessary.” The associated Grand Bargain emphasized the need to make more deliberate and explicit efforts to better engage with, empower and promote the work of local actors. This brief describes projects led by the Child Protection AoR that are designed to make significant progress in broadening and strengthening local actors’ capacity and engagement in the child protection sector.

Localisation: Understanding the Barriers and Seeking Solutions

It is fundamental to the principles of localisation that national NGOs fully participate in analysing the barriers to localisation and in identifying solutions for improvement. To achieve this goal the CP AoR has established a Global Strategic Advisory Group that includes eight national representatives (the first global coordination group to do so). These partners are provided with support to participate in global discussions and capacity development programmes.

Localisation in Coordination Conceptual Framework

To better understand and focus localisation efforts the CP AoR has developed a conceptual framework identifying five key dimensions and possible actions to advance the localisation agenda in protection coordination groups. This key tool clearly

articulates areas where coordination groups can target their efforts in meeting localisation commitments.

- **Governance and Decision Making:** Local actors should be supported to play leadership and co-leadership roles and be involved in strategic decision-making.
- **Institutional Capacity:** Encourage more systematic and coordinated opportunities to provide local partners with support to strengthen operational functions.
- **Participation and Influence:** Local actors should have equitable access to information and analysis along with the opportunity to influence the AoR’s decisions.
- **Partnerships:** Promote a culture of principled partnership between the coordination group and its members and between the members themselves.
- **Funding:** Support access to more and better funding, especially country based pooled funds

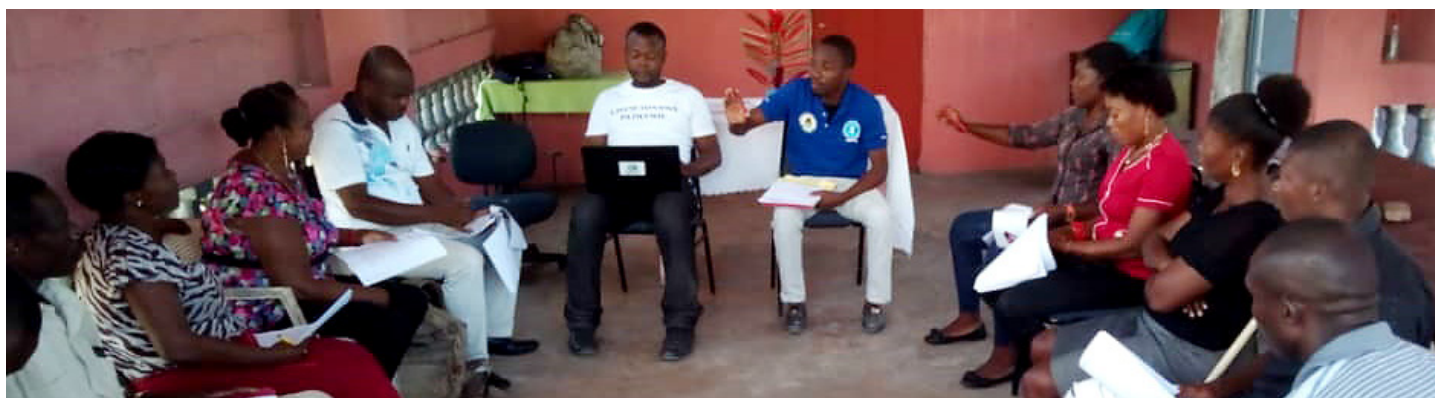


A local NGO programme for children in Colombia © APOYAR NGO

“ Localisation is important because the NGO’s, national governments and local communities will become more central players in humanitarian action. CP AoR is playing a vital role in building our organization’s capacity and PAO took a huge benefit from the CP AoR’s technical support.
National NGO, Iraq

The technical support provided by the CP AoR has been of great support; through the global guidelines on Child Protection and good practices of other countries (that the CP AoR has shared) we have been able to implement new CP strategies
National NGO, Colombia



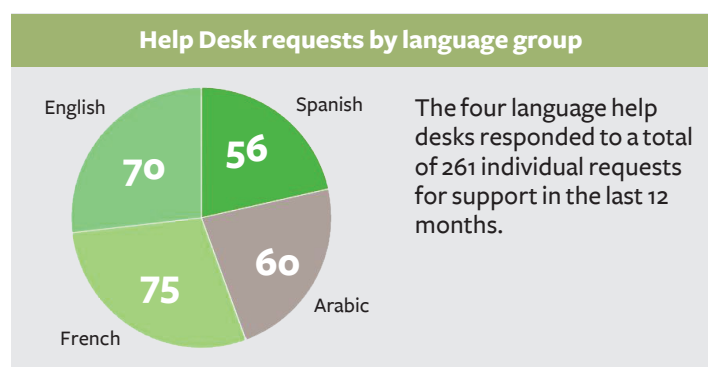


Community meeting with key protection actors, local elected officials and adolescents on the perception of violence, [as part of a] needs analysis for the integration of community actors in the prevention and response to protection cases. © IDETTE, Haiti

Accessible Support through Arabic, English, French and Spanish Helpdesks

Only a quarter of child protection coordination groups are held in English, yet the majority of information, materials and tools shared by the global level are provided in English. To address this barrier four help desks are providing direct support to country coordination groups and partners. As well as skype calls and emails, helpdesk specialists translate key documents and tools and assist in capacity development including trainings and webinars.

The multi-language helpdesks were highlighted as a key resource by national partners and their continued support to the field will be critical for both the inclusion of national NGOs within the coordination system and the building of these partners capacity to allow them to take on more active roles and ultimately leadership positions.



Strengthening Government Capacity in Child Protection in Emergencies Coordination

Building coordination with and through national systems is key for localisation to be successful. Government staff must be brought into coordination leadership roles and government systems must be strengthened to be better prepared to cope with crises. Although in conflict contexts there are legitimate concerns of what roles governments can play in coordination groups, governments retain ultimate accountability for the protection of their citizens.

In West and Central Africa (WCAR), a major initiative initiated by the regional office was undertaken targeting 17 countries. A total of 72 individuals participated in a series of workshops aimed at building the capacity of Government coordinators, sharing lessons learned between the countries and developing a stronger understanding of the role of Government in Child Protection Coordination. This initiative has continued with seven English speaking countries in Africa; and in close partnership with the IFRC, UNICEF Regional Office and the Global Partnership.

Following the success of this initiative a new round is being launched in the Latin-America and the Caribbean region that will focus on seven countries with ongoing responses to displacement crises. The overall aim is to strengthen governments' institutional capacity for coordination of child protection response in humanitarian and preparedness situations; and further, for governments to have increased national capacity to implement evidence-based strategies for the prevention of and response to violence against children.

Building local institutional capacity and increasing the number of local organisations in coordination leadership positions

The Grand Bargain commits donors and aid organizations to providing 25 per cent of global humanitarian funding to local and national responders by 2020. However local actors face many challenges in accessing and utilising funding. As well as increased technical capacity, local organisations need to build their institutional capacity through strengthening human resources, monitoring, financial and child safeguarding systems and processes. To support local NGOs in addressing these challenges the CP AoR is working with Save the Children and Street Child UK on two localisation projects that aim to:

- Equip local actors with the necessary knowledge, skills and resources to lead or contribute to coordination (capacity building)
- Contribute to ensuring that local actors participate meaningfully in the humanitarian planning process, have access to funding and that their experiences as frontline workers are reflected (governance reform)
- Strengthen the capacity of local level actors to compete for funding and deliver quality, efficient emergency programmes for children
- Generate evidence on the impact of localisation, share lessons learnt and advocate to scale and spread effective and efficient localisation strategies

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility will soon be launching a new five-year strategic plan which will be accompanied by an initial two-year work-plan 2020-2021. We would very much welcome support or interest in our work. To find out more please contact the CP AoR Global Coordinator Michael Copland (mcpoland@unicef.org) or join our mailing list here.