

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

LOCALIZATION

This section contains:

- Definition of localization
- Guidance for a CCCM Cluster coordination team to work on localization
- Resources and tools for Cluster coordination teams to use, and to share with partners

You will find suggestions and tips for localization throughout the Toolkit. Some additional guidance and resources to consult can be found below here.

DEFINITIONS

There is no single definition of “localization”. In the Grand Bargain (a 2016 agreement between some of the largest humanitarian donors and agencies) signatories committed... to “making principled humanitarian action as local as possible and as international as necessary” while continuing to recognize the vital role of international actors, in particular in situations of armed conflict. Other actors have developed their own definitions and localization objectives.

The overall objective of localization is improved humanitarian response, ensuring access for all in need to fast, quality, impactful and sustainable humanitarian assistance that is efficient, effective and fit for purpose. Local actors are key for this and have distinct strengths, as they often play a crucial role in ensuring early response and access, acceptance, cost effectiveness, and link with development (i.e. reducing impact of future crises).

In order to achieve these benefits, the specific objectives of localization are to:

- Increase investment in local actors, and
- Improve partnerships and coordination between international and local responders

Localization is also about complementarity, which looks to a balance between local and international action to maximise the comparative advantages of both and increase effectiveness of humanitarian response.¹

The localization commitments of the Grand Bargain are:

- **Partnership:** remove barriers to partnership; include capacity-strengthening in partnership agreements
- **Capacity-strengthening:** invest in institutional capacities; reinforce not replace
- **Financing:** more use of pooled funds, measure more direct and indirect funding to local actors
- **Coordination:** support & complement local mechanisms; involve local actors in international mechanisms

CLUSTER RESPONSIBILITIES

RESPONSIBILITIES

A CCCM Cluster coordination team, led by the Cluster Coordinator and Co-Coordinator, must proactively promote and support meaningful participation of local and national actors. You should be aiming to:

- Encourage partnership modalities that build local capacities
- Promote funding opportunities for local actors
- Promote participation and influence of local and national actors in CCCM Cluster coordination, and representation in CCCM Cluster governance mechanisms

¹ IFRC Policy Brief, Localization – what it means and how to achieve it, 2018

You can use the resources listed below and the “tips for localization” throughout the Toolkit to help you promote localization in the work of the Cluster, including in:

- ✓ Coordination – including in Cluster Co-ordination, and Strategic Advisory Groups
- ✓ Conducting needs assessment and analysis
- ✓ Developing CCCM Response Strategies
- ✓ Humanitarian Program Cycle & developing HNOs/HRPs
- ✓ Advocacy and resource mobilization

FIND OUT MORE

Use the [Checklist for Localization in Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms](#) in Related Resources below to help guide you.

LOCALIZATION STRATEGIES

To make real progress on localization, you might wish to consider setting specific priorities and agreeing activities that the Cluster will undertake to support localization – and, monitoring the progress of these.

For example:

- ✓ Including localization priorities and activities in the CCCM Response Strategy and HRP
- ✓ Including specific activities on localization in the Cluster workplan
- ✓ Monitoring activities relating to localization through regular CCCM reporting
- ✓ Monitoring the work of the Cluster on localization through the annual Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM)
- ✓ Developing a specific strategy and workplan on localization

SOMALIA – LOCALIZATION FRAMEWORK & WORKPLAN

The CCCM Cluster in Somalia adopted a **Localization Framework** in 2021 and develops **annual localization workplans** with practical actions the Cluster undertakes to do.

Why? A large number of local actors deliver CCCM response and are members of the CCCM Cluster in Somalia. However, they were largely not able to access bilateral funding or partnerships with larger international organizations and were reliant on short-term pooled fund grants. Local CCCM partners highlighted their frustration with inability to access funding, and that they did not feel respected for their local knowledge and contribution to CCCM response.

How? To start, CCCM Cluster coordination team engaged with experts in Somalia on localization, including the Somalia NGO Consortium Taskforce on Localization – with the objective to develop a strategy that was not just a ‘checkbox’ exercise, but could deliver actual results on localization and hold the Cluster accountable. After this initial consultation, the Cluster held two workshops with Cluster members to come up with ideas for the Framework, focusing on practical activities and the priority initiatives for the Cluster to focus on. Suggestions included capacity-building to support local partners’ support units (grants, finance, etc.), including Cluster Lead Agencies providing trainings, and advocating on multi-year funding from the Somalia Humanitarian Pooled Fund.

What? A Localization Framework was drafted outlining the Cluster’s commitments and actions that would be taken, with a Workplan attached so that progress could be measured. The Framework included objectives, activities, and indicators to measure progress. An election was held for two Localization Focal Points within the Cluster, to lead on the Localization Workplan. The Focal Points are also members of the Somalia NGO Consortium Taskforce on Localization, to link the CCCM Cluster with larger initiatives especially on capacity-building. A session was held with CCCM donors for them to endorse the Workplan – to make sure they were on board with actioning it.

Implementation & monitoring The Localization Workplan is updated every year. Each quarter (every three months), the Localization Focal Points review what has and has not been achieved against the Workplan commitments, and provide an update in the national Cluster meetings.

See Related Resources below for the Localization Framework (2021) and Workplan (2023).

PRIORITY ACTIONS

The following are – practical! – priority actions that are identified in the Inter-Agency Toolkit on Humanitarian Coordination, that can help guide the work of a CCCM Cluster coordination team:

1. Conduct meetings in the appropriate **local/national languages** and/ or provide **interpretation** (during meetings) as well as **translation** of written documents
2. Proactively **map and reach** out to local/national actors relevant to the response... and ensure interaction with local/national coordination groups which co-exist with the international humanitarian coordination mechanisms through sharing strategies and plans to mutually inform decisions.
3. Provide all new coordination group members with an **induction session**.
4. Ensure **meeting locations and remote meeting platforms are accessible** to, and suitable for local/national actors, and provide transportation/ logistical support when needed.
5. **Share leadership** roles between local/national and international actors - See [Toolkit Section 1.5 Shared Leadership](#)
6. Conduct a **capacity needs assessment** of all cluster partners in order to develop reciprocal institutional and technical capacity strengthening and exchange initiatives – see [Toolkit Section 8.5 Capacity Building](#)
7. **Advocate for direct and multi-year funding** that cover institutional and technical capacity strengthening for local/national actors among donors, and encourage international actors to form consortiums with local and national organisations – see [Toolkit Section 7.1 Advocacy](#), [Toolkit Section 7.4 Resource Mobilization](#) and [Toolkit Section 5.6 Pooled Funds](#)
8. **Arrange workshops for local/national actors**, including e.g. community-based organisations who are not members of coordination groups, as well as local/national actors who are already members, in local/national languages, to gather their input and integrate these in all joint plans, measures and reports related to the Humanitarian Program Cycle, including Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) – see [Toolkit Section 4. Strategic Planning](#) and [Toolkit Section 5. Humanitarian Program Cycle](#)
9. **Explicitly reference localisation practices** and strategies in key planning documents see [Toolkit Section 4 Strategic Planning](#) and [Toolkit Section 5 – Humanitarian Program Cycle](#)
10. **Monitor and assess** the progress on localisation in coordination in all relevant reviews and evaluations – see [Toolkit Section 1.10 Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring](#)
11. Ensure the **Principles of Partnership** are included in the Terms of Reference of the coordination groups/cluster, accompanied by a monitoring tool – see [Toolkit Section 1. Cluster membership and participation](#)

RESOURCES ON LOCALISATION

There are practical “tips for localization” throughout this CCCM Cluster Coordination Toolkit, to give you suggestions on how to consider and promote localization in all aspects of the work of the Cluster.

The **Inter-Agency Toolkit on Localization in Humanitarian Coordination** (see Related Resources below), contains multiple practical tools and guidance, that you can use:

USE RESOURCES to support the Cluster coordination team, including:

- Advocacy tool on promoting funding for local/national actors
- Tipsheet and Framework on capacity strengthening
- Tipsheet for Integrating Localization in the HNO and HRP – see [Toolkit Section 5. HPC](#)

- Checklist for localization in humanitarian coordination mechanisms - see Related Resources below
- Checklist for induction of new Cluster partners – see [Toolkit Section 1.3 Cluster Membership and articulation](#)

SHARE RESOURCES with local and national actors, including:

- Quick guide on [Humanitarian coordination and the cluster approach](#) available in multiple languages
- Roles and rights for humanitarian coordination
- Guidance on how to advocate for key issues
- Proposal writing guide
- Tipsheet on complementarity between local and international actors in humanitarian coordination
- Frequently Asked Questions about Clusters and the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HNO and HRP)

READ & UNDERSTAND

- Arguments for localization in humanitarian coordination
- Simple Q&A guidance on localization in coordination – what it is and why it is important

RELATED RESOURCES

Title	Type	Language	Date
Inter-Agency Toolkit on Localization in Humanitarian Coordinationj	Guidance	English	2022
Checklist for localization in humanitarian coordination from Inter-Agency Toolkit on Localization in Humanitarian Coordination	Guidance	English	2022
Good practices and tips on working with local and national actors, GCCG	Guidance	English	2017
IASC Guidance on Strengthening Participation, Representation and Leadership of Local and National Actors in IASC Humanitarian Coordination Mechanism	Guidance	English	2021
Somalia – Self-Assessment Tool for local partners planning to work in CCCM	Example	English	2021
Cluster Localization Framework Somalia	Example	English	2022
Localization Workplan 2023, Somalia CCCM Cluster	Example	English	2023

References and further reading

- [Global Education Cluster webpage](#)
- Global Education Cluster (2020) [Quick guide on humanitarian coordination and the cluster approach](#), Available in multiple languages
- IASC (2021) [IASC Guidance on Strengthening Participation, Representation and Leadership of Local and National Actors in IASC Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms](#). Available in multiple languages
- IFRC (2018) [Policy Brief: Localization – what it means and how to achieve it](#)