



## GPC GLOBAL PROTECTION FORUM 2020 CONCEPT NOTE FOR VIRTUAL EVENTS

*Shifting the Power Paradigm – Increasing Resources for and Representation of L/NNGOs and CSOs  
in Protection Coordination Mechanisms – Challenges and Opportunities*

*September 28<sup>th</sup>, 3pm, Geneva Time*

### Rational/purpose

‘Localisation’ has come to the foreground in the international humanitarian sector, starting at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit and its outcome document, the ‘Grand Bargain’. Under Commitment 2, the signatories, which include most bilateral and multi-lateral actors in the international humanitarian sector, and some INGOs or INGO platforms, commit to ‘reinforce rather than replace’ local and national actors, and to deal with them as equal partners, irrespective of size or financial power. The commitment to support and build on ‘local capacities’, is much older however. It was already inscribed in the 1994 Code of Conduct for the Red Cross and INGOs, and finds further articulation, with also explicit reference to ‘partnership’, in the 2007 Principles of Partnership.

The GPC Annual Forum provides an opportunity for leaders in the Protection Sector to come together and share learning, best practices, and challenges associated with complex issues facing the community. The Covid-19 pandemic coupled with movements for social justice and ongoing work to recognize the importance of local and national actors are raising issues of aid effectiveness, and forcing the community to look inwards at its role in perpetuating global inequality. Progress towards the localization agenda cannot be had without also recognizing the role of power dynamics and unequal representation of local actors in decision making bodies. It is important to create space for frank conversations about power and where we need to go as a community to see real change happen.

The goal of humanitarian protection work is to reduce risk, and alleviate harm to civilian communities affected by disaster. Local and national organizations (L/NNGOs) are already responding in their communities, often in different and more effective ways than many international organizations. It is important to learn from and leverage the unique skills and capacities of L/NNGOs, but as an aid community there are distinct barriers to progress on that front. Barriers include access to quality funding for protection, burdensome bureaucratic systems, and even the way that protection programs are designed and measured, as this is often determined at the global level. To achieve protection outcomes – programs should be results based, iterative, and contextualized – all things that many local organizations are already doing by default as they are rooted in community-based approaches.

This session at the GPC Annual Forum will be an opportunity to outline concrete steps to take as humanitarian practitioners and policy makers to move towards a more equitable and inclusive protection sector. This will include discussions on the below key questions:



1. How can we increase participation of L/NNGOs and CSOs in inter-agency decision-making bodies and protection coordination mechanisms at the global and country level. How will this improve desired protection outcomes? What are the barriers to this? How has the Covid-19 pandemic already impacted on this?
2. How can we go beyond discussions around inclusion and meaningful engagement, to a real dialogue on power dynamics. This requires putting the voices, experiences and knowledge of L/NNGOs at the center and elevating them into positions of power. What would be the tangible measurements of this? What could we expect from this transition in terms of protection outcomes?
3. Who are the stakeholders we need to engage with to ensure these desired outcomes are achieved?
4. How do these conversations link with existing dialogues and initiatives such as the Charter for Change?
5. As the GPC is working with Protection Clusters at the field level, how are they encouraging them and empowering them to include the voices of L/NNGOs and CSOs. Are the clusters structured in a way that is conducive for participation and leadership from these organizations?
6. Many L/NNGOs are reliant on UN or INGO funding or pooled funding, which can often be restrictive, and prohibits those organization from implementing strategic approaches, being adaptive, or developing long term interventions that are developed around the centrality of protection. This is essential for protection to be central to humanitarian action, as it requires funding and expertise.
7. For protection strategies to reflect the objectives set by L/NNGOs there must be an active agenda for raising the voices and strengthening capacity/empowering those groups in that space. What does that look like? How do we envision the role of protection actors in shaping the conversation? How could a shift in power towards local organizations and local actors lead to improved protection outcomes for affected populations?

Another important aspect to look at as it relates to localization and protection is how the goals and objectives of L/NNGOs match with those of large international organizations (INGOs, UN Agencies, Donors) for reduced risk and improved protection outcomes for affected communities. This is linked with how programs are designed, and how they are measured. It is also linked with funding, donor restrictions (including INGO partner, UN partner) on activities, monitoring and evaluation etc. can inhibit creative/innovative approaches to risk reduction and increased safety/improved protection outcomes.



## Expected Outcome

1. Defined next steps/requests of the GPC to improve representation and elevate voices of L/NGOs in country and global level coordination.
2. Concrete next steps for ongoing and sustainable dialogue to carry this conversation forward and create accountability within the GPC and other structures – both at the global and field levels
3. Recommendations for donors and other stakeholders to increase access to quality protection funding for L/NGOs, or at least a better understanding of the barriers.

## Format/Content of the Event?

This event will consist of a panel discussion of diverse representatives to discuss best practices, prompted by some of the 'Key Questions' outlined at the top of the concept note. This will also be an opportunity to frame the conversation in terms of how protection is perceived and managed by non traditional local actors. Speakers and organizations to be confirmed but will be led by L/NGOs, CSOs or other local actors.

- Language: English
- Time zone: Geneva
- Platform: Zoom meeting. Other interactive tools may be used to promote better participation.

## Speakers/Moderator/ technical donor partner

The specific speakers, moderators and technical donor partner are still being determined. The event will be L/NGO led, and diversity amongst organizations including geography will be considered.

Moderator: **Dr Bikubusyo Alimasi Symphorien**, Coordinating Administrator, Centre de Recherche JURISCONSULTE, CRJ.

1<sup>st</sup> Panellist – **Office Of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance** (name TBC)

2<sup>nd</sup> Panellist – **Sema Genel Karaosmanoğlu**, Executive Director, Support to Life, Turkey

3<sup>rd</sup> Panellist – **Ritah Nansereko**, Executive Director African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD) and Chairperson Charter for Change Working Group in Uganda

4<sup>th</sup> Panellist – **Marie-Emilie Dozin**, Protection cluster Coordinator, Mali



## Background Reading

1994: *Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations in Disaster Relief*

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### GENERAL

#### 1. Localisation Why and What?

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<https://www.odi.org/publications/10381-time-let-go-remaking-humanitarian-action-modern-era>
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<https://www.gmentor.org/equitable-partnership/>
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[https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/hfft\\_localisation\\_marker\\_definition\\_s\\_paper\\_24\\_january\\_2018.pdf](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/hfft_localisation_marker_definition_s_paper_24_january_2018.pdf)

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<https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/document/world-disasters-report-2015-focus-local-actors-key-humanitarian-effectiveness/>
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## THEMATIC ASPECTS OF LOCALISATION

### 1. Partnerships

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▪ GMI October 2019: *Partnerships: Preconditions, principles and practices*

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