



## The Charter for Change at Crossroads

April 2019

The Charter4Change held its 3rd annual meeting on 4-5 December 2018 in Oslo, Norway and close to 50 representatives, INGO signatories and local NGO endorsers participated in the meeting. Below is an overview of the progress so far.

Whilst much remains to be done at global level, progress toward localisation has been somewhat patchy and not as fast as we had hoped, but there are some positive signs of progress, including in the context of commitments made under the Grand Bargain's (GB) Workstream 2 on more Support and Funding to Local and National Actors. [The 2018 annual report](#) showed greatest improvement in increased funding to local actors (US\$500 million in 2016 to \$1.2 billion in 2017, an average of 19.7% across signatories) and transparent reporting of funding flows. This includes a modest increase of direct donor engagement with, and funding to, local actors, increased reporting on funding flows to local actors, some innovative ways to fund capacity strengthening, some funding for the piloting of locally-led approaches (ECHO Syria pilot, Accelerating Localization through Partnerships project, amongst others). At UN-level, there is some increased access to and participation in some humanitarian coordination fora for local actors and efforts to include localization into humanitarian instruments. Global trends are increasingly pointing towards regionalization and decentralization, e.g. START Network, INGOs and UN decentralization processes. "We are calling for 3 Cs: more and better **Capacity strengthening**, stronger **Communication** about C4C at country level, and greater **Coherence** between INGO head office and country office policy and practice" (Indian endorser). Signatories agreed that "we need the endorsers to keep us sharp" and that we should go beyond our own self-assessments and the 2018 endorsers' survey will become a defining feature of future annual reports as well as rewording of the Charter.

Secondly, 13 local NGO endorsers reported on how Localization plays out in their own country context so far. "C4C is not so much at cross-roads, it is taking roots, getting momentum in Bangladesh, especially in the Rohingya response. Although we have a long way to go, we all need to change, including our local organizations" (Bangladeshi endorser). We were reminded that localization is first and foremost about affected people "their agency, centrality, dignity, needs, rights, and role in crisis response," and to "not let reflections on INGO/NNGO dynamics distract us from empowering and respecting the people we serve" (East Jerusalem endorser). In the Philippines, where localization has progressed significantly, endorsers identified enabling conditions as "participatory, people-led governance, a vibrant civil society, strong local networks and alliances, collective advocacy, committed C4C signatories, and locally-led response delivering real gains on the ground." Local actors are increasingly asserting their role and influence in various fora or sectors: in the DRC, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) is an effective entry point for local women's rights organizations "where we participate and make our voice heard in SGBV coordination and decision-making spaces from Goma, to Kinshasa and Geneva" (DRC endorser). South Sudan endorsers spoke about the critical role of the NGO Forum "in representing the interests and facilitating the collective voice of local NGOs". Nigerian endorsers spoke about mentorship schemes that help local actors meet due diligence requirements and access pooled funding.

For more information on the Localisation Agenda please visit the [Charter4Change website](#) or to sign and endorse the Charter please contact [admin@charter4change.com](mailto:admin@charter4change.com).