LOCAL HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP PHILANTHROPIC TOOLKIT | RESOURCES

SECTION I – UNDERSTANDING LOCALIZATION: Foundational articles on guidelines, principles and practice reviews in the humanitarian sector. Websites for additional donor information on issues related to funding internationally are also included.

Resource	Description	Tips for the Reader
De-internationalising Humanitarian Action: Rethinking the Global-Local Relationship. **Publication Type:** Research/Literature Summary **Publication Date:** 2014 **Authors**: Alice Obrecht/Humanitarian Affairs Think Tank	Supporting local capacities for disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response was a focal issue in the discussions and preparation for both the Hyogo Framework for Action and the UN World Humanitarian Summit. INGOs have also increasingly highlighted this issue on the basis that "Partnerships between international humanitarian actors (whether donors, UN or aid agencies) and the government and local and national organisations of affected countries are emerging as a key way to work with local capacity as part of a coordinated response."	This article pre-dates the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 yet outlines the key drivers for decisions made at that meeting.
As Local as Possible, as International as Necessary: Understanding Capacity and Complementarity in Humanitarian Action **Publication Type:** Working Paper **Publication Date:** November 2018 **Authors:** Veronique Barbelet/Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG)	A critical look at the localization discourse. Provides a summary of key issues and lessons.	Excellent discussion on capacity strengthening and complementarity.
Localization and Locally Led Crisis Response: A Literature Review **Publication Type:** Literature Review **Publication Date:** 2016 **Authors**: Imogen Wall and Kerren Hedlund/Local2Global Protection	A comprehensive review of localization efforts with a discussion of challenges in supporting local humanitarian action and practical recommendations.	Includes sections on specific challenges and evidence based on experience with: - Local Leadership - Financing - Cash Grants - Working with Volunteers - Working with Local Governments - Locally-led Protection

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Localization in Practice: Emerging Indicators and Practical Recommendations **Publication Type:** Report/Method Guidance **Publication Date:** 2018 **Author**: START Network	Commissioned by the START Network's Disasters and Emergency Preparedness Programme (DEPP) Learning Project, report addresses two areas: 1) Seven Dimensions Framework for Localization 2) DEPP Contributions to Localization	Good resource for funders who want to get a jumpstart on measuring localization. Sections 1-5 are most relevant (Intro, Methodology, Understanding Localization, Emerging Indicators and Advancing Localization).
Understanding the Localization Debate: An Introduction to a Confusing Conversation **Publication Type:** Primer/Introductory Brief **Publication Date:** 2017 **Authors**: Global Mentoring Institute/Koenraad Van Brant and Smruti Patel Other relevant and recent by the same authors: **Local Capacities and Locally Led Response** **Publication Date:** April 2019 **The Finance and Economics of Localisation: Is the 25% Target a Key performance truth?** **Publication Date:** June 2019 **Prepared for Partnership: Trust and Distrust in International Cooperation** **Publication Date:** February 2019	Examines the arguments for and challenges to localization, including the problems localization is seeking to address. Includes terminology and definitions for 'local actors' in the common humanitarian discourse. An Overview of Global Mentoring Institute (GMI) Perspective and Work on Localization Examines the question: "Does the 25% target guarantee us that crisis response will be more cost-effective because they are led by strong local/national actors?" Different attitudes toward local actors in the relief sector and the peace-building field.	Excellent as an introductory/overview document, with relevant vocabulary.
Researching Local Humanitarian Action Through Partnerships with Local Actors **Publication Type:** Briefing Note **Publication Date:** August 2019 **Authors:** Larissa Fast, Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG)/ODI	Draws on insights from working with local actors for the HPG 'from the ground up' research project in Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), northern Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nepal and Uganda. It includes reflections from HPG researchers as well as the local researchers with whom HPG partnered.	This paper is the second in a series that synthesizes findings from HPG's local humanitarianism research (Fast, 2017) that describes HPG's approach to researching local humanitarian action, followed by a discussion on developing research partnerships and conducting research. It concludes with a series of reflections about partnering with local institutions.

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Humanitarian Innovation Guide **Publication Type:** Online Guidance/Resource Pack **Publication Date:** 2018, continually updated **Author:** elrha	From the author: As the first step-by-step guide to managing innovation in the humanitarian sector, the Guide is written with two audiences in mind: humanitarian practitioners who are seeking to develop a new approach to their work and want to apply an innovation lens to solving problems and social entrepreneurs from outside the sector who have identified an opportunity to engage with the sector and need a humanitarian framework to contextualize their innovation plans.	Highlight: Module 3.4 on Local Adaptation Section: Understand How Your Solution Interrelates with Local Systems
R2HC Research Ethics Tool **Publication Type:** Practical Tool **Publication Date:** 2017 **Authors**: Humanitarian Innovation Fund/elrha	Updated and now easier to use. Developed to provide guidance on research ethics for public health researchers interested in applying to the R2HC program and for other researchers working in humanitarian crisis contexts.	Tool is relevant to funders who commission and fund research.
Shifting Mindsets: Creating a More Flexible Humanitarian Response **Publication Type:** Report with Practical Guidelines **Publication Date:** September 2019 **Authors**: Alice Obrecht/ALNAP **Link** to full set of Shifting Mindsets/Flexibility Resources	End-of-project report for a two-year workstream that undertook exploratory research on the support factors and barriers to flexibility and adaptation in contemporary humanitarian action.	**Part I** offers a framework for thinking about flexibility in humanitarian response, including the differences between anticipatory and adaptive approaches to flexibility. It distinguishes different types of flexibility organizations may need to balance or trade off. Part II consists of 3 sections; each addresses one of the main pillars for a flexible humanitarian response, including funders: **Systems**; **People and Culture**; **Funding**.
Breaking Down the Silos Webinar Series: Good Practices and Tips from the Field on Working with National and Local Actors **Publication Type:** Practical Tips **Publication Date:** 2017	Developed by the Global Cluster Coordinators Group and published as a summary of best practices to localize during the early recovery phase. Provides international coordination actors with a clear list of specific and actionable recommendations for improving operational coordination with national governments and NGOs.	At only five pages, this is quick read that includes tips on working with national authorities and national/local NGOs, plus tips on improving coordination with local actors.

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Localization Related Reports + WHS/Grand Bargain Analysis **Publication Type:** Reports, Assessments and Evaluations **Publication Date:** Various **Author:** HERE Geneva Link to **Resources** and **Projects**	Website has reports, videos and articles produced by HERE (Humanitarian Exchange and Research Centre), along with general news about the humanitarian sector.	Look for those pieces that are related to the Grand Bargain, such as information on the donor accountability gap.
SmartResponse **Website:** Information on local organizations preparing for, providing relief or assisting in recovery from disasters Link to **Information** and **Database**	SmartResponse, an initiative of Disaster Accountability Project (DAP), aims to channel more funding directly to local organizations, thereby maximizing the impact of preparedness, response and relief through citizen oversight and engagement, policy research, advocacy and public education. Ultimately, the project focuses on transparency and public accountability to make sure donated dollars save more lives.	This site regularly posts information about local organizations responding to specific disasters by type, such as COVID-19, and location. Users can login to search for local response organizations or nominate an organization, or organizations can recommend themselves to be added to the database.
Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) **Publication Type:** Report **Publication Date:** 2020	Among the sustainable development goals agreed to by members of GNDR, one is championing a localization movement. This report outlines the five-year (2020-2025) strategy to achieve the goals, and describes aims, signs of success and impacts of this work.	This report suggests actionable approaches to shift the balance of power to local leaders.
Is Racism Part of Our Reluctance to Localise Humanitarian Action? **Publication Type:** Blog **Publication Date:** June 2020 **Author:** Hugo Slim	The former head of policy for ICRC and author of "Humanitarian Ethics" reflects on the general confusion about the role of racism in the sector in this piece from the Humanitarian Practice Network.	With quotes from leaders on the ground, this is a brief exploration of the distance between those leaders and the leaders of the humanitarian community in understanding systemic racism.
From the ground up: it's about time for local humanitarian action **Publication Type:** Research reports and studies **Publication Date:** May 2020 **Authors:** Larissa Fast and Christina Bennet	Between 2017 and 2019, ODI/HPG researched local humanitarian action from a ground level perspective across four key themes: capacity and complementarity, financing, dignity and protection.	Key learnings: • Humanitarian action is always stronger with local action. • Effective and local humanitarian action does not necessarily reduce roles for INGOs and increase those for local actors. • Power is the greatest resource and greatest impediment to effective local humanitarian action.

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Localization and Capacity Assessment **Publication Type:** Opinion Piece	An argument for the necessity of international humanitarian organizations to create a more efficient way to assess the capacities of their local and national partners.	The need described in this article suggests a fruitful avenue of funding.
Innovative and Empowering Partnerships: A dialogue between NGOs and donors on the future of the Grand Bargain **Publication Type:** Webinar Recording	Seven leaders assess the progress of the Grand Bargain in October 2020.	Responds to questions: What innovations of 'the humanitarian system' are needed to strengthen local leadership? And how could a new Grand Bargain enhance these systemic innovations? What changes do donors need to make in the funding mechanisms to encourage equitable partnerships and address the power imbalance? And what do local actors need to do to build trust and address risks?
A Humanitarian Re-Set: Impacts of an Historic Year **Publication Type:** Webinar recording	A look back on the acute crises of 2020 to understand how the combination of global recession, greater attention to racism and restrictions on internal aid actors will shift humanitarian systems and impact local humanitarian leadership.	Another event originating from ODI.
2020 Global Humanitarian Policy Forum **Publication Type:** Recordings of conference panel presentations	Series of sessions from December 2020 with experts across industries and sectors, sponsored by OCHA and the United Nations Foundation.	Of specific interest: Crisis preparedness and partnerships with frontline leaders.
Centre for Humanitarian Leadership 2021 Conference **Publication Type:** **Recordings** of conference presentations **Select session recordings and summaries.**	Two days of panels, workshops and presentations on approaches to current challenges through systemic change, with a focus on decolonizing aid.	A look at humanitarian system transformation based on economic, environmental and political change with affected communities, local organizations, business community and national governments in the lead.

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Sharing the Keys to the Localization House **Publication Type:** Blog post **Publication Date:** April 2021 **Authors:** Oheneba Boateng and Claudia Meier	Authors argue for a Localization Index that puts local actors in the evaluative role.	Particularly important for those concerned with the increased presence and delivery of services by large INGOs.
What's Stopping Localization in the Humanitarian Sector? **Publication Type:** Blog post **Publication Date:** April 2021 **Author:** Lisa Cornish	An unlevel playing field and lack of diversity in leadership is inhibiting the localization movement.	Experimentation and a new language structure will support new structure in humanitarian work.
Decolonisation and localisation: new dawn or old history? **Publication type:** Blog post **Publication date:** April 2021 **Author:** ALNAP	Commentary on the historical burdens and past failures to act on commitments to decolonizing aid, while at the same time listing signs of promise.	Interesting piece with an even more interesting back-and-forth in the comments.
Humanitarian Exchange 79: Localisation and local humanitarian action **Publication type:** Magazine **Publication date:** May 2021 **Author:** Multiple for Humanitarian Practice Network	Seventeen articles which reflect on a range of cross-cutting themes including the history of localization, survivor- and community-led approaches, locally designed and managed pooled funds and the impact of COVID-19 on local leadership.	Individual articles may be accessed from the home page.
The role of community-led innovation in decolonizing aid **Publication type:** Summary of session at 2021 Humanitarian Leadership Conference **Publication date:** May 2021 **Author:** Elrha	Key takeaways from a conference panel, including representatives from the Philippines, Guatemala, Somalia and Indonesia.	**Link** to the full recording.
Building local giving is central to shifting power **Publication type:** Blog post **Publication date:** May 2021 **Author:** Jenny Hodgson	This post suggests that supporting a local community giving platform as well as assisting in building local fund-raising capacity is crucial to the aims of the localization movement.	Global Fund for Community Foundations is a grassroots grantmaker working to support institutions of community philanthropy around the world.

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COVID-19: Implications for localization **Publication type:** Research report **Publication date:** June 2021 **Authors:** Ullah, Khan and Wijewickrama	This study draws on relevant literature, 50 key informant interviews and survey analysis to understand the influence of the pandemic on humanitarian aid in two countries.	Case studies from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Available in Dari and Urdu.