

# Survivor and community-led response: Putting people first in a crisis



Photo credit: *Hayata Destek Derneği* | [Support to Life](#)

June 8, 2023

CENTER FOR DISASTER PHILANTHROPY





## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

### **Submit questions:**

Use the Q & A box at the bottom of your screen.

### **Use #CDP4Recovery to tweet along.**

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### **Complete the survey.**

The link will open as you exit the webinar.

### **Look for the fully captioned webinar recording and summary at [disasterphilanthropy.org](https://disasterphilanthropy.org).**

Live captioning is available now via Zoom. Click on Closed Caption/Live Transcript to access it.

# Thank you to our co-sponsors



# Land Acknowledgment

“Acknowledgment is a simple, powerful way of showing respect and a step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people’s history and culture and toward inviting and honoring the truth.”

<https://usdac.us/nativeland>

CDP’s Land Acknowledgment is inspired by Dawn Knickerbocker, Native Americans in Philanthropy.





## AT THE END OF THE WEBINAR, GRANTMAKERS WILL:

1. Understand the principles of survivor and community-led response (sclr).
2. Increase their awareness of sclr activities and the impact of funding these initiatives.
3. Learn when and how to invest in sclr after disasters.

# Speakers

Thank you to our guests for joining us today.

#CDP4Recovery



**Mandeep Mudhar**

Independent consultant

Local to Global Protection



**Guy Cave**

President

Legatum Foundation



**Endalkachew "Endy" Yaregal**

Director

ዜጎች ለዜጎች Zegoch Iezegoch (Citizen to Citizen Development Organization)

# What is survivor and community led crisis responses (sclr)?

sclr has evolved through over 10 yrs' collaboration between a wide range of L/N/I NGOs, including in:

Myanmar, Palestine, Philippines, Sudan, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Myanmar, DRC, Turkey, Madagascar, Somalia, Colombia, and Ukraine.

## Sclr in numbers:

KORAL & SJM, **Haiti**: £584k via 137 microgrants, reaching 48,668 people.

CFTA, **Gaza**: £100k via 8 microgrants reaching 30,000 ppl.

APH, **Ukraine**: £296k via 97 microgrants, reaching 52,550 people.



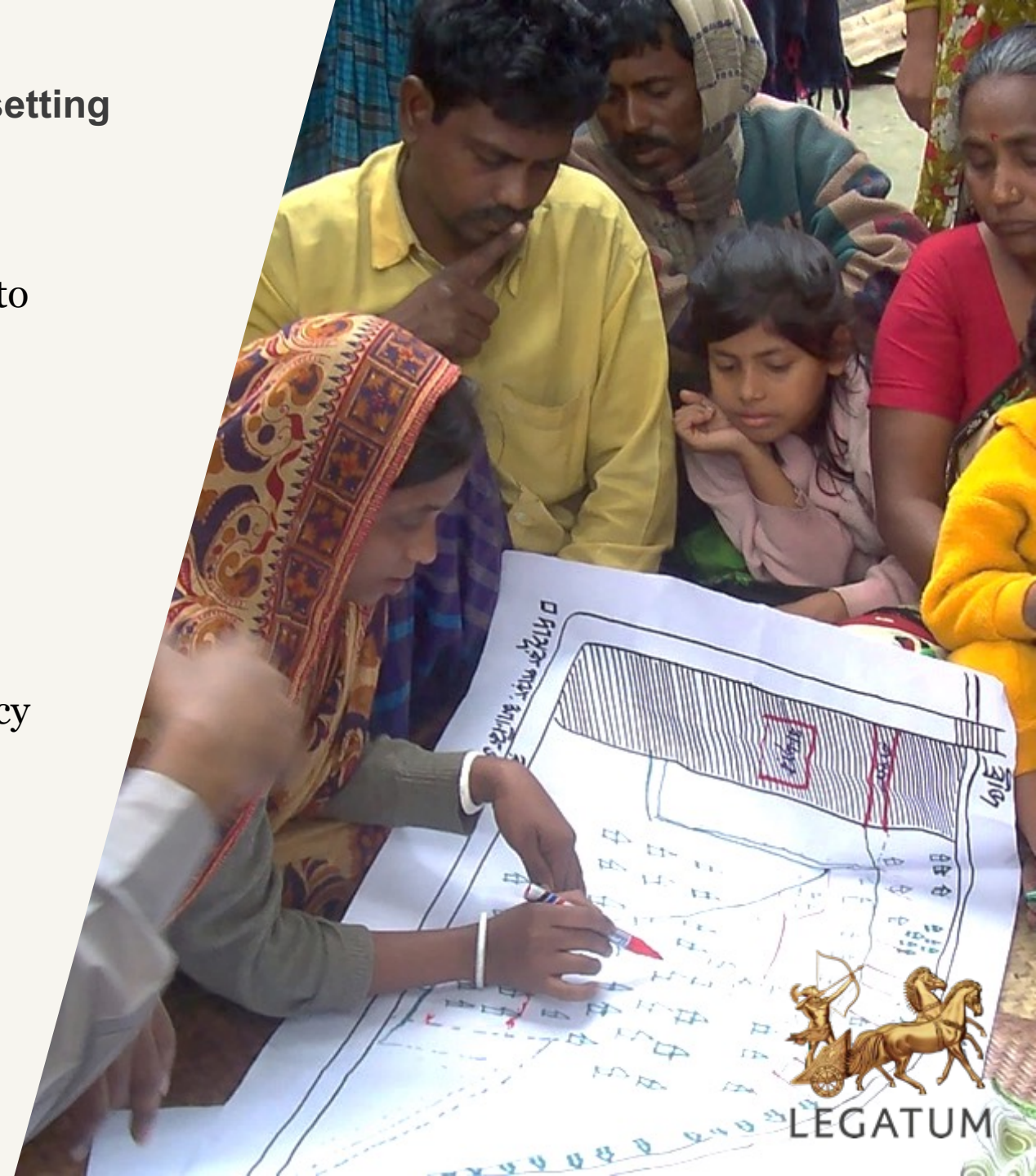
**Strengthen the initiatives of crisis-affected people to help each other survive with dignity, recover communal well-being and start addressing root causes of vulnerability.**



## Why this approach is good in a conflict or crisis setting

- Communities are always the first to respond
- It's a micro-local approach – so always responsive to actual needs
- Particularly well-suited when:
  - Mainstream aid is being restricted. E.g. Myanmar
  - There is significant insecurity. E.g. Sudan
- Helps communities move across artificial humanitarian / development lines & builds resiliency
- It's a tool to use alongside other forms of aid

Legatum is currently funding in: Somalia, Sudan, Myanmar (Burma), Ethiopia, & the Philippines.





# Experience of C2C – conflict induced crisis

A **strengths-based** (AI) approach focus on:

- Strengths and capacities
- Community spirit and compassion
- Existing coping mechanisms and success stories
- Local solutions and ideas
- The potential for wider collective self help

No need assessment but looks for **opportunities** to build on

<b>Working language</b>	
<b>Empathy</b>	መተሃሰብ
<b>Compassion</b>	መተዛዘን
<b>Cooperation/collaboration</b>	መተባበር
<b>Discussion/dialogue</b>	መወያየት
<b>Helping each other</b>	መረዳዳት
<b>Support each other</b>	መደጋገፍ
<b>Listening/ joining</b>	መደማመጥ
<b>Loving each other</b>	መፋቀር (የእርስ መተሳሰብ)
<b>Organizing</b>	መደራጀት



Range of meetings





# Early Successes

- Improve of social integration and relationship - (Dignity, helping each other's, inclusion, kindness and self-worth, psychosocial recovery etc)
- Given the chance, communities respond to crises holistically and in multiple ways
- Confirmed about natural tendency of people for the nexus plan
- Locally-led responses is faster and more cost-efficient; Increase confidence ;
- Ownership and decision making, protect resource
- How we engage with people affects how they behave
- Dreams high – challenging wait and see mentality. Road, water, education, grain storage
- Emerging of successful women groups – becoming a model for other
- Partners started to see the benefit (mindset up; trust and integrity; amplifying social-cohesion; Robust action; mobilizing local capacities/resources



## Now is the time for change

- Limited action against localisation commitments
- Beyond participation to agency, power, and leadership
- COVID-19 showed the power of compassion, mutual aid, and collective assistance – and the limitations of international actors
- True and meaningful partnerships – which means stepping aside and letting go of control
- Create and protect space and structure for civil society leadership and action – which includes community groups and individuals

*”If you give a stick to someone, it means they’ve been given power. Empowerment means letting them make decisions, giving them resources. Why do we hold on to the power? Release it! Let them use it!”*



## Why this approach appeals to Legatum Foundation

- Our Values
  - Belief in the infinite value of everyone means supporting their dignity and agency
  - Promotes local ownership & resilience
  - How aid is given really matters – “serve not ‘save’”
- Our approach to investment
  - “Product differentiation” – this is fast, high quality, efficient
  - Subsidiarity
  - Supports recovery of local markets

*“... proven ways of working that support the remarkable humanity, capacity, initiative and collective compassion of people in crisis.”*

ODI HPN PAPER – MAY 2021



## Advice for funders thinking about community-led approaches

- Philanthropic money is well-placed to support this & have outsized impact
- Let's put people first in crisis response
- Let go of your sectoral focus
- It requires a change of mindset
- Let's collaborate & go to scale!
- Let's learn together!

*“Progress here may only come when – or if – a non-traditional donor steps in to support community-led and -owned responses at scale”*

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## A possible role for partners and funders ...



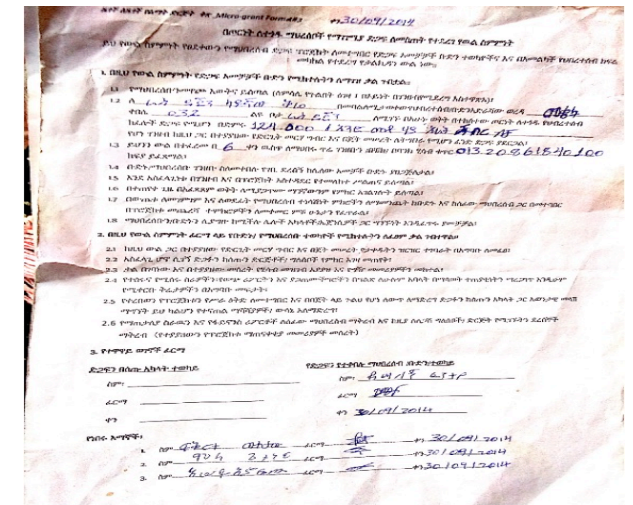
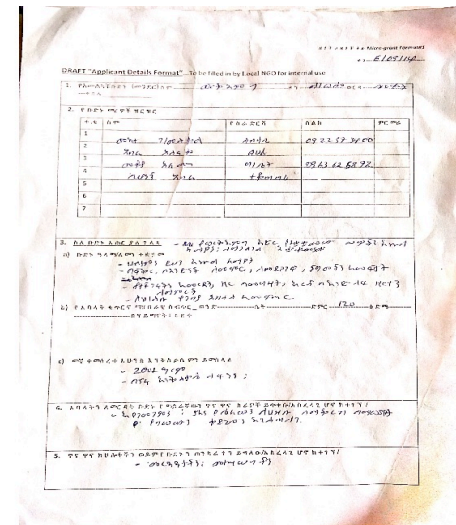
- Flexible multi-context multi-year ***funding***
- Listen, observe, and ***be led by people*** most affected by crises
- Create and protect ***space for local action, leadership,*** and learning
- ***Unlearn or adjust*** SOPs to create space for testing sclr
- Allow local actors to ***take risks and test sclr,*** and learn from action
- Invest in ***local and regional practice networks*** and peer-exchanges
- Consider how ***sclr and traditional aid can complement and co-exist***
- Encourage an ***environment of safe-to-fail,*** reflect, and learn
- ***Be willing to change*** your roles, procedures, mindsets, and that of others.



# Funders – open the space & trust to local capacity

- Local actors and communities can change the whole system – trust
- shift thinking- build on the local initiatives , recognition of local capacity, true equal partnership,
- Letting people to safe to fail, mind changes, trying to learn from the real time,
- Explicit transfer of power and resources
- Give the space & resources, flexible to try new ways of doing aid – leading, making decisions,
- Genuine localization (community group & local CSO)
- Enabling env't – community practice and training and awareness for local leaders to recognize communities

	Sum of Visited villages	Sum of Submitted	Sum of Approved	Sum of Funded	Sum of Pended	Sum of Rejected
Woreda						
L/Gayint	245	174	53	52	35	97
Meket	199	159	61	43	31	89
Wadila	144	116	33	30	15	73
<b>G Total</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>259</b>





## NEXT STEPS AND ACTIONS

**Revisit the power and centrality of your role in the funder-grantee relationship.**

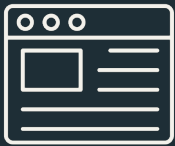
**Trust is huge.**

**Adapt the principles to your own context.**

# Expert Resources



## Disaster Philanthropy Playbook



## Website

- Blogs, Issue Insights, Disaster Profiles, Weekly Disaster Updates



## Webinars



## Special Reports

- Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy
- COVID-19 and Philanthropy
- U.S. Household Disaster Giving Report



## CDP Staff

- Speaking engagements, Analyses, Opinion Pieces, Consulting Services



[disasterphilanthropy.org](https://disasterphilanthropy.org)





## OUR UPCOMING WEBINARS

### **The gendered nature of climate change**

July 13 at 2 p.m. ET

### **Disaster case management: Navigating recovery one person at a time**

Aug. 10 at 2 p.m. ET

[disasterphilanthropy.org/events](https://disasterphilanthropy.org/events)

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# Thank You

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