

Local Leadership in Humanitarian Response Initiative



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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS SECTOR

Redefine guiding principles and values for enhancing local leadership	Amplify local voices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek out and elevate the perspective of local leaders Draw on knowledge and experience of frontline staff
	Acknowledge local contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name partner organizations in reporting and acknowledge their unique contribution and added value Approach partnerships or collaborations in a spirit of complementarity and relative strengths
	Prioritize community empowerment rather than assuming proximity is inherently better	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize meaningful community participation to ensure relevance, effectiveness and sustainability Commit to addressing underlying power dynamics and incentives that undermine recognition and implementation of community-identified priorities
Reform humanitarian systems for locally led shelter responses	Enhance access to humanitarian funding for local actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure overhead support for downstream partners rather than seeking decreased costs Allocate pooled funding towards local and national actors or measure percentage to local organizations against set targets
	Foster equitable partnerships across multiple actors and sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek strategic alliances that recognize and work towards complementarity, including development of exit strategies Support approaches that recognize local stakeholders and affected communities as first responders and the needs prioritized by them
	Facilitate self-determination in capacity strengthening for local actors as well as international approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let organizations define their own capacity strengthening requirements and priorities Remove barriers to capacity exchange and knowledge sharing by increasing information sharing opportunities
	Institute relevant and appropriate coordination mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize hubs and sub-clusters to increase access, relevance and participation Promote approaches that reconfigure coordination models or initiate direct access between donors and local organizations
	Co-develop a nurturing policy environment for local leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for and build capacity to foster supportive policies that can enable local leadership Strengthen coalitions between national NGOs, community-based organizations, and refugee-led organizations to increase visibility and influence
Recenter local voices and actors in operations in shelter and settlements response	Strengthen accountability for progress on defined localization goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a country working group to set a baseline and monitor the integration of localization Monitor progress on access to direct donor funding, capacity strengthening initiatives and leadership roles of local and national NGOs in humanitarian coordination structures
	Increase visibility of sub-national actors contributing to humanitarian response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include a section on the contribution of local actors in all country level reporting Report against localization indicators at sector, country and global level through Global Shelter Cluster information updates
	Facilitate inclusion of a wide range of stakeholders and address barriers to participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host coordination meetings in regional languages as well as in hybrid mode with interpretation Allow reports to be submitted in the local language, with the burden for translation shifted to donors/international NGOs
	Enhance opportunities for local actors to access funding and capacity strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take steps to address information asymmetry by publicly sharing information on funding opportunities, requirements, conditions, and eligibility – specifically reaching out to local NGOs and in local languages Offer technical and financial support to grassroots organizations for legal constitution and access to funding