

Strengthening capacities of local actors in humanitarian response, preparedness, coordination and advocacy



Programme Summary



Caritas
Germany

Diakonie 
Katastrophenhilfe



Malteser International
Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

Context

The humanitarian system seeks adequate answers to the immense and constantly growing humanitarian needs. As part of the local civil society, local actors are usually the first responders after a shock. Effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action can be improved through local knowledge, trust and other complimentary capacities, giving local actors an increasingly important role. While local and national humanitarian organisations provide an important work, they often still function as mere implementers of strategic and operational decisions taken by international humanitarian organisations.

It is therefore crucial to support local actors in their own operational preparedness and response capacity, their organisational and institutional ability, in the availability of adequate funding and integration in relevant humanitarian coordination mechanisms. Equally important is the transformation of roles between the different actors within the humanitarian system.

Programme set-up

For supporting local actors in strengthening their capacities in humanitarian response, preparedness, coordination and advocacy, four German humanitarian NGOs (Caritas Germany, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and Malteser International) have agreed to work together in a localisation programme.

Country	Lead Organisation
Bangladesh	Malteser International
Colombia	Caritas Germany
DR Congo	Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe
Ethiopia	Welthungerhilfe
Indonesia	Caritas Germany
Myanmar	Malteser International
Somalia	Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe
Pakistan	Welthungerhilfe

The programme will take place from March 2020 to February 2023 in altogether **eight countries** with funding from the German Foreign Office (AA). Each consortium member will have the operational lead in two of the participating countries. In each of the eight participating countries up to five national organisations can participate in the programme as **Local Humanitarian Partners (LHP)**. They will have the opportunity to jointly develop and undertake capacity strengthening measures, in order to reinforce their institutional and operational capacity to effectively respond to humanitarian crises.

Vision

In line with its spirit and vision, the programme has been called “ToGETHER - Towards Greater Effectiveness and Timeliness in Humanitarian Emergency Response”.

“Together” means that four INGOs will join forces with 40 local humanitarian partners in order to create a space for realizing their potential as leading local actors in humanitarian response. Putting localisation into practice is therefore the clear focus of the programme.

The programme wants to move beyond organisational boundaries, providing the opportunity for all participating local and international partners to jointly develop approaches to humanitarian challenges which on their own they could not have realized at such scale and with such value added. The programme and its success will thus depend on the active cooperation of all stakeholders in a spirit of mutual engagement.

Objectives of the ToGETHER programme

Programme Outcome

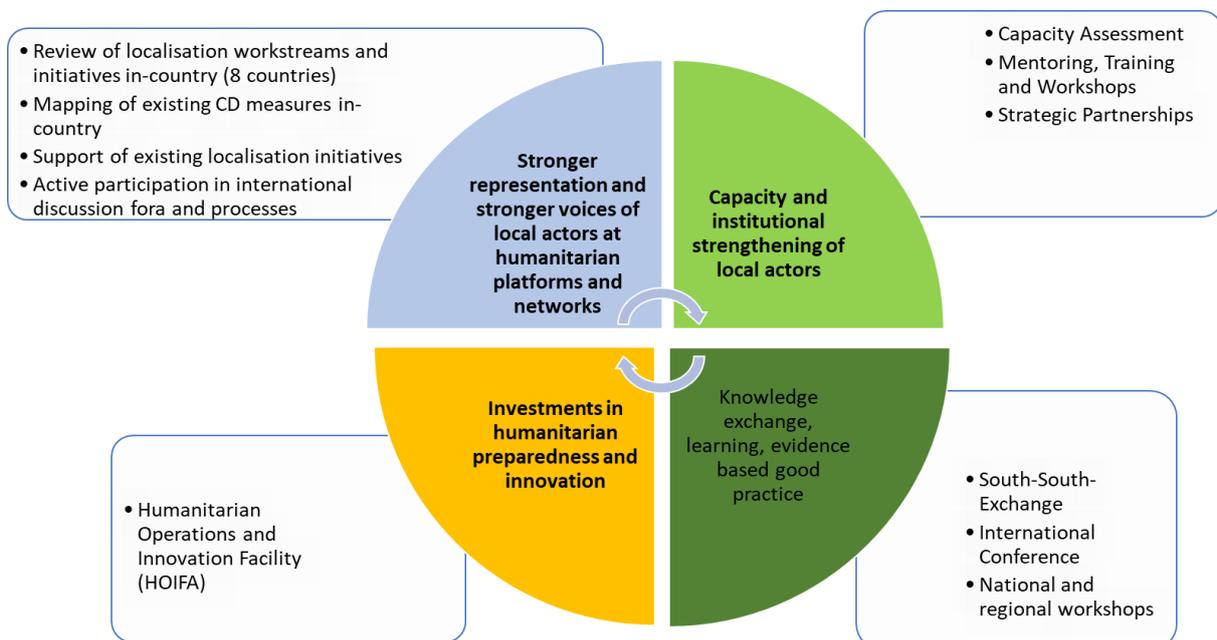
- Local Humanitarian Partners of the programme are integrated and take responsibilities and actions in the humanitarian system of their countries for a principled humanitarian assistance.
- Additionally, the Localisation Programme is resulting in a stronger contribution of the organisations and their partners to the international policy discussion on strengthening the role of local and national humanitarian organisations.

Starting with a review of the localisation workstreams and a mapping of the existing capacity development initiatives in the eight countries of operation, the programme will design and implement country-specific activities to increase the representation of local actors in the national humanitarian system and to shape their advocacy in relevant policy processes at country level as well as global level (like Charter4Change, Grand Bargain etc.).

The ToGETHER programme will select 40 local humanitarian organisations (5 in each country) to strengthen their capacities for a more effective operational humanitarian response. These organisations will benefit from trainings, workshops, mentoring and a strategic partnership with the four consortium partners.

The programme also includes a Humanitarian Operation and Innovation Facility (HOIFA), which provides financial support to partners for the implementation of one or more of the skills acquired during the programme period.

Reflection on roles and responsibilities, intense exchange of international and local humanitarian actors, evidence-based learning from LHP worldwide, continuous dialogue among involved stakeholders (international organisations, local organisations, donors and relevant networks) will be organised at national, regional and international level through workshops and conferences.



Participants

National and local humanitarian organisations who take part as LHP in the ToGETHER programme will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Shown willingness and ability to further develop capacities in humanitarian response, based on a set of basic institutional structure;
- Not part of another long-term capacity building/development/strengthening project from other international humanitarian stakeholders;
- Preferably the LHP already have an established working relationship with at least one of the Consortium Members.

How will participating LHP benefit from the ToGETHER programme?

By taking part in the ToGETHER programme, Local Humanitarian Partners (LHP) will have the opportunity to further develop their humanitarian response capacity in a way, that alone they would not have been able to. They will have the chance to not only participate but to jointly develop and implement with likeminded local NGOs a long-term capacity strengthening programme, which will be based on their individual needs and the larger humanitarian context in their country. Through ToGETHER they will have access to a joint learning and capacity strengthening platform, to technical support and advisory services, all with a view to reinforce their capacities in humanitarian response.

LHP will also have access to funding for putting into practice innovative humanitarian activities to which they might have become inspired in the course of the programme. For being able to integrate capacity strengthening and learning within the organisational structure of their organisation, each participating LHP will also receive funding for the position of a capacity strengthening focal point within their organisation, as well as an administrative lump sum and a contribution to their local operational costs.

Provided they meet the minimum requirements, even smaller organisations will have the chance to bring their humanitarian response capacity to a new level. In the same way, it is an opportunity for consortium members to learn from the local partners and to assist them with access to structured and long-term support, even in countries where the consortium members will not be in the lead.

Support Structure

Process and organisational structure at Country Level

In each of the eight programme countries the programme implementation will be led by one of the consortium partners. Each consortium member is responsible for establishing an operational structure in its two lead countries. Depending on the organisational structure of the lead organisation, this **Country Project Unit (CPU)** may be attached to the country office of a consortium member or a national organisation and is comprised of a **Country Project Coordinator (CPC)**, a Process & Finance Administrator and a MEAL Advisor.

The **CPC** facilitates the cooperation at country level between the 5 participating Local Humanitarian Partners in order to enable a productive and transparent joint capacity strengthening process which is beneficial to all participants. S/he will support the implementation of the different stages, particularly by providing guidance on the overall framework and formats that will be provided by the **Programme Management Unit (PMU)** and assure reporting and financing requirements of the donor.

The leading body at the country level will be the **Country Steering Committee**, comprised of the CPC plus one member from each of the five participating LHPs. Based on the global operational framework provided by the PMU, in the inception phase a key task of the Country Steering Committee is to jointly develop a work plan for a country programme that gives all partners equal access to the opportunities and resources of the programme. Furthermore, the Country Steering Committee advises the CPC and provides the link to the participating LHP.

Relevant **LHP** will qualify for participation in the programme based on a selection of criteria. Once qualified, they will jointly conduct a capacity assessment, considering previous capacity strengthening activities and the needs as defined by the relevant local communities. Based on identified country-specific priorities, a joint **capacity strengthening plan** will be set up. The plan will be implemented in the course of the programme, using different means of external and peer-to-peer training, mentoring and practical application.

Organisational structure at the Global Level

In order to implement the programme, on a global level the four Consortium Partners will set up a **Programme Management Unit (PMU)** at the headquarter of Welthungerhilfe as the consortium lead and programme contract holder. This PMU will be comprised of a Programme Coordinator, a Process & Finance Administration Manager and a MEAL Advisor.

The PMU is responsible for ensuring contractual and general compliance of the consortium programme. In addition, the PMU is in charge of global monitoring of the programme implementation, as well as coordinating global learning, knowledge management and advocacy activities within the ToGETHER Programme. For this purpose, the PMU will provide guidance for the country activities and make available standardised formats that need to be adapted at the country level to their specific context.

The PMU will be advised and supervised by a **Programme Advisory Committee**, composed of 12 members: one representative from each consortium member and one representative from each of the eight Country Steering Committees. This is to ensure that concerns raised in the Country Steering Committees will be taken into account at the programme level and in larger strategic decisions.

Consortium Focal Point

In order to facilitate and support the process within their own organisations and to provide a technical and advisory link between global and country level, each consortium member will have a **Consortium Focal Point**. S/he will be based in the structure of the respective consortium member, either in the field or at HQ, depending on the organisational reality of the lead organisation.