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# The Grand Bargain- Embracing Localization

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# Grand Bargain

The Grand Bargain is an agreement among major humanitarian donors and organizations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian financing. One of the key commitments of the Grand Bargain is to localize humanitarian action.

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# Localization

The localization agenda is a growing movement in international development that aims to shift decision-making and control of aid and development programs from international actors to local organizations.

This shift is driven by a belief that local organizations are better placed to understand and address the needs of their communities, the desire to increase the sustainability of aid and development programs, and the need to reduce the cost of aid and development programs.

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# Localization

In 2021, the Grand Bargain was updated to place a greater emphasis on localization. The new Grand Bargain 2.0 commits to:

- (a) Increase the proportion of funding to local and national actors to 30% by 2023.
- (b) Support the leadership and capacity of local responders.
- (c) Promote the participation of affected communities.

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# Current Progress

Progress towards these commitments has been mixed. According to the 2023 Grand Bargain Annual Independent Report, only 6.4% of humanitarian funding went directly to local and national actors in 2022. This is down from 7.2% in 2021.

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# Challenges

There are a number of reasons for the slow progress on localization. One reason is that many international donors are still not comfortable giving funding directly to local organizations. They may be concerned about the capacity of these organizations to manage and deliver aid, or about the risk of misappropriation.

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# Challenges

Another challenge is that local organizations often lack the resources and expertise they need to effectively participate in humanitarian action. They may need capacity building in areas such as financial management, program management, and monitoring.

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# Call to action

All stakeholders should embrace localization as a fundamental principle of international development. Let us support local organizations, empower their leadership, and invest in their capacity to lead development efforts. Let us foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among all stakeholders to accelerate progress towards a truly localized approach to development.

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# What is your best advice on localization?

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