



# The Shift: MENA Region Perspectives on Localisation

This webinar presented a range of perspectives from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region, on the localisation commitments and their implementation in practice. The session included a refresher on the Grand Bargain and the commitments it contains, a regional view from NEAR Network, and the accounts of Al Awn Foundation (a Yemeni donor organisation) and Hope Revival (a Syrian diaspora organisation based in Turkey), on how they experience localisation as a concept and in practice.

## Our key take-aways:

There is no direct translation of 'localisation' in Arabic, a fact which highlights the need to work on **shared definitions of how we work together, and particularly of partnership**. Criticisms of INGO partnering include that it is contractual, arrogant in terms of the assumptions about capabilities of each partner, and using so-called 'partnerships' to deliver western policies.



There is a need to move from a tradition of providing project /activity-based funding, to an **investment culture** approach, whereby we invest in the development of strong systems and civil society that are resourced and equipped to take forward humanitarian action according to their own strategies, approaches and needs.



Shifting the power requires us to look at **how, as a sector, we approach risk**. Our perception of risk is heavily influenced by distance. In response, funds proximate to crisis-affected areas are being established as alternative sources of support to reduce dependence on INGOs & facilitate community contributions – NEAR Network's Bulsho Fund in Somalia, and the Türkiye-Syria Solidarity Fund.



**Diaspora organisations** have a specific perspective on localisation. For example, Hope Revival in Turkey seek to shift the ownership, leadership, and implementation of programs to local actors in Northwest Syria who have a deep understanding of the needs of the and are well-positioned to deliver effective assistance. In this case, a local/national organization is also seeking to further localise its own activities.



## Access resources referenced in the webinar:

- [NEAR's Localisation Performance Measurement Framework](#)
- [Measuring Localisation: Framework & Tools \(Humanitarian Advisory Group/PIANGO\)](#)
- [Grand Bargain commitments and updates](#)

## Contact the organisations:

- [Al Awn Foundation](#)
- [Help Age International](#)
- [Hope Revival](#)
- [Humanitarian Leadership Academy](#)
- [NEAR Network](#)

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