

NEAR's Recommendations on the Future of the Grand Bargain

With less than a year remaining of the Grand Bargain, NEAR consulted with its members and partners in the Global South to gather perspectives and suggestions for what should follow. Discussions were held with local and national organisations (LNNGOs) in Asia Pacific, Africa and the Middle East, and additional perspectives were received via an online survey. The following recommendations are informed by the expertise and insights of these LNNGOs in the Global South:

The Grand Bargain should continue

Despite the shortcomings of the Grand Bargain, LNNGOs overwhelmingly felt that it should continue, largely because it helped make localisation a higher priority and has somewhat helped improve the effectiveness of humanitarian action. It is also the only global process for the humanitarian sector. However, it cannot continue in its current form – there needs to be a **bold transformative shift in the process to one which is inclusive, truly global and accountable.**

Local actors must be part of the global process

Local actors were missing during the development process of the Grand Bargain and this has continued during its implementation. The coming months are an opportunity to rectify this and to create an open consultation and design process. Local actors, including **LNNGOs and Global South governments, must play an integral role in defining, developing and carrying forward** the next phase of the Grand Bargain. An equal number of **signatories should be invited from the Global South – including Governments and Local and National Organisations.**

Moving from the Global to Local

Grand Bargain sensitisation efforts have been uneven across countries and regions. In order for the next iteration to be successful, there needs to be increased communication and co-operation between the global to national levels, including across INGO, donor and government offices and their decentralised branches/offices. **Local actor led national networks (informal and formal) should be created where they do not already exist, and adequately and sustainably resourced** to help inform and support the process.

The Grand Bargain commitments should be streamlined

In order for the Grand Bargain to be effective and strategic, there should be a **reduction in the number of workstreams and a refocus of commitments.** Localisation is a cross-cutting area which has been identified not only as a key area by LNNGOs but also by signatories during this year's Grand Bargain Annual Meeting. NEAR proposes the following key issue areas for the next iteration of the Grand Bargain which will help further the localisation agenda:

1. **Quality funding:** Including risk sharing and due diligence; true localisation of funding; tracking of funding; and overhead costs.
2. **Power Rebalance and Equal Partnerships:** Including capacity sharing; complementarity; principles of inclusion and diversity and equal and strategic partnerships between LNNGOs, Global South Governments and other humanitarian actors.
3. **Systematic ways of engaging:** Including genuine engagement of affected communities; supporting national coordination structures; sensitisation and ongoing dialogue and collaboration between the global, national and local levels.