

Country Report on

Charter4Change (C4C) County Level Dialogue Outcome, Bangladesh



Country Host : **Oxfam in Bangladesh**

Country Co-host : **▪ Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM)**
▪ Jago Nari
▪ Programme for Helpless and Lagged Societies (PHALS)

Technical Support **▪ National Alliance of Humanitarian Actors, Bangladesh (NAHAB)**

November 2021

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1. Background

The INGOs and donors are agreed in principle for making the journey by committing to the recommendations arising at the 2016 Istanbul World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) process and deliver change within their own organizational ways of working. Now, it's high time for humanitarian actors to implement the **8 points Charter for Change (C4C)** and ensure their commitments. Till to date, the C4C has been signed by 38 INGOs and endorsed by more than 450 local and national organizations and networks from across the globe. The Charter 4 Change is an initiative that aims to transform the way the humanitarian system operates to enable local and national actors to play an increased and more prominent role in humanitarian response.

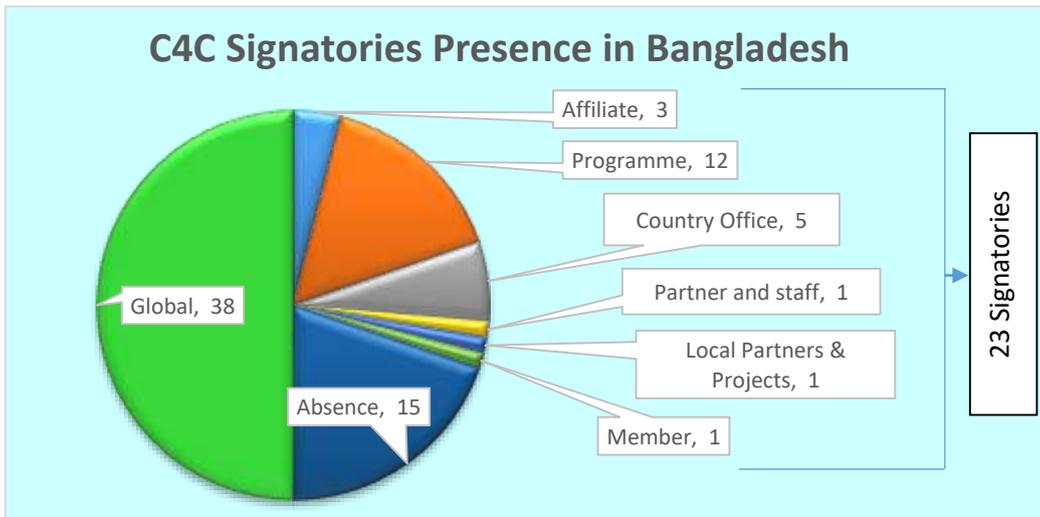
Each year the C4C Secretariat has organized an annual meeting by involving the signatories, endorsers and other humanitarian actors around the globe to share the good practices, achievements and challenges. Like previous year, C4C annual meeting will also be held on 7-9 December, 2021. Signatories, endorsers and networks are jointly organizing country level dialogues to capture the progress for this year and submit to the secretariat.

This year the C4C Secretariat decided to conduct country level dialogues by involving Signatories as Host and Endorsers as Co-host with support from other networks or humanitarian actors. In this connection and as part of annual meeting preparation, Bangladesh C4C country level Signatories and Endorsers dialogues jointly organized by Oxfam in Bangladesh as Host and Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Jago Nari and Programme for Helpless And Lagged Societies (PHALS) as Co-host with technical support from National Alliance of Humanitarian Actors, Bangladesh (NAHAB).

2. Country level C4C Signatories and Endorsers dialogues

| Date | Time (BD Time) | Dialogue |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 23 September, 2021 | 11:00 am – 01:00 pm | C4C county level Endorsers dialogue |
| 09 November, 2021 | 03:00 pm – 04:30 pm | C4C county level Signatories dialogue |
| 18 November, 2021 | 03:00 pm – 04:30 pm | C4C county level joint dialogue with Signatories and Endorsers |

3. Presence of Signatories and Endorsers in Bangladesh



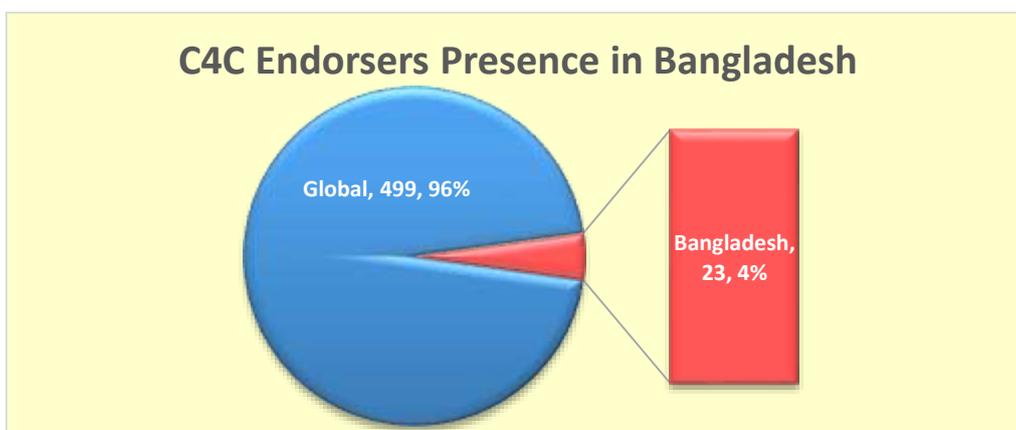
A. Signatories presence in Bangladesh

There are 38 Signatories presence globally but in Bangladesh it is found 23 Signatories presence in different forms of their working modalities and involvements as mentioned in C4C Mapping¹ where 15 Signatories are absent in the country.

The chart is reflecting the Signatories involvement and number as per categorization (Affiliate, programme, country office, partner and staff, local partners & projects and member) of C4C and out of 38 in Bangladesh. But, out of 38 Signatories 23 are affiliated with NGO Affairs Bureau of Bangladesh² government.

B. Endorsers presence in Bangladesh

In the C4C website, it is showed that globally 499 Endorsers³ has endorsed eight points of the charter for change where only 23 organizations from Bangladesh endorsed the charter. The chart showed only 4% endorsers' presence in Bangladesh in compares to global endorsement.



¹ <https://charter4change.org/signatories/>

² <http://www.ngoab.gov.bd/site/page/3de95510-5309-4400-97f5-0a362fd0f4e6/->

³ <https://charter4change.org/endorsements/>

4. Grouping of C4C Commitments

NAHAB made an analysis of the C4C 8 commitments and related commitments are grouped into four categories which are shown below:

| Group | C4C Commitments |
|--|--|
| 01. Funding (1 & 3) | 1. Increase direct funding to national and local NGOs for humanitarian action. |
| | 3. Increase transparency around resource transfers to national and local NGOs. |
| 02. Partnership Values (2 & 6) | 2. Reaffirm the Principles of Partnership. |
| | 6. Address subcontracting. |
| 03. Organizational support & Capacity strengthening (4 & 7) | 4. Stop undermining local capacity. |
| | 7. Robust organisational support and capacity strengthening. |
| 04. Promoting Roles of National Humanitarian actors (5 & 8) | 5. Emphasize the importance of national actors. |
| | 8. Communication to the media and the public about partners. |

5. Outcomes of country level dialogues

A. Achievements and good practices

- The trend of practicing consortium led projects where Signatories become the member of consortia lead projects. Partners lead the consortium where co-creation and joint proposal development leading to successful implementation.
- It is found from the country level dialogues that few Signatories are sharing their Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) with their local partners where the ratio of ICR sharing varies accordingly. A positive evidence of ICR cost sharing has increased from the previous year and some are sharing equally (50-50) or more 80%.
- Signatories are supporting their partners for organizational capacity building to promote localization with some shared responsibilities.
- Localization Technical Working Group (LTWG) is working under the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT)⁴ at the country level by involving all the stakeholders of the country including government, UN agencies, INGOs, L/NNGOs, networks, etc. to promote the localization practices. This is a platform to conduct localization study both at Cox's Bazar and rest of the country and conducted lessons learnt from recent disasters. Another instances are localization roadmap for humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar which is endorsed by SEG and also practicing country level localization roadmap by different networks, i.e. NAHAB which shows complementarity with C4C.
- Start Fund Bangladesh (SFB) promoting locally led response and direct funding with the pooled fund mechanism and practicing faster humanitarian response at the community level also very important achievement in relation to localization.

⁴ Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) is the highest coordination body in Bangladesh.

B. Challenges

- There is an information and communication gap between Signatories Head Quarter and country level office in terms of localization and C4C.
- The due diligence process varies from donor (UN & INGOs) to donor that makes the funding process more complicated for the L/NNGOs.
- Lack of well documented ICR sharing policy by donors, INGOs and UN agencies and their respective HQ and Country Office (CO).
- Almost all the Endorsers or local partners are not informed about the budget allocation and accounts of expenditure of their international partners for the emergency response projects implemented so far.
- Only one fourth of the endorsers get the opportunity to put their opinion and decision regularly during the planning and execution phase of a project.
- One fifth of the endorsers feel the humanitarian projects help their organization in future development.
- Low budgetary allocation for local actor's staff but demanding for high quality reporting with no budgetary allocation for organizational Capacity Strengthening.
- Partnership is not equally maintained and shown lack of Principles of Partnership (PoP). It means Top Down approach still prevailing in terms of relationship between INGO's & L/NNGO's.

C. Recommendations and way forward

- C4C should have prepared a clear indicative pathway on Localization for its Signatories and Endorsers.
- Signatories need to go for directing funding for L/NNGOs.
- Establish country level initiatives for joint advocacy to donors, INGOs and UN agencies to clarify their ICR policy. This issue seems especially increasingly getting attention for joint advocacy linking country to global which is recognized as one of the key priority in the newly established Grand Bargain 2.0 'Caucas' on localisation and New Way of Working by UN General Assembly resolution 71/243 on August 2016.
- The equal share of Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) has to be ensured for the L/NNGOs which enable the future development of organizations. A high level consultation with head of INGOs and UN agencies at country level and their respective counterpart at HQ level important to identify barriers and way forward for equal sharing of ICR with implementing endorser's agencies.
- Harmonization of due diligence process to be followed across INGO's and donor's to make the local organizations comfortable to handle that issue.
- Establish a country level Localization Information Hub and establish progress tracking mechanism through involving Signatories, Endorsers, UN agencies along with other networks (i.e. NAHAB, Localization Technical Working Group, CCNF, etc.) to share the progress at local, national and global level and make them accountable to share their progress on localization and C4C commitments.
- Engaging more L/NNGOs, networks, CBOs and others in the C4C process, which will enable them practicing localization at the country level.
- Robust advocacy with government decision makers on the C4C commitments and localization by involving Signatories and Endorsers.

6. Snapshots of Signatories and Endorsers dialogue sessions



Endorsers dialogue on 23 September, 2021



Signatories dialogue on 09 November, 2021



Joint dialogue with Signatories and Endorsers on 18 November, 2021.

7. Proposed outcomes for C4C Country-level annual meetings 2021

Below is the format that Countries will be requested to share their annual meetings deliberations. The report should be a maximum of one page A4 size and the request is to have it shared **by 28.11.21** (one page A4 maximum per country). This will be shared before the session to all participants.

Country: **Bangladesh**

Date of country-level C4C annual meeting:

1. Endorsers Meeting: **23 September, 2021**
2. Signatories Meeting: **09 November, 2021**
3. Joint Meeting (Signatories & Endorsers): **18 November, 2021**

| Achievements and good practices (Max of 3 points) | Challenges (Max of 3 points) | Recommendations & Way forward (Max of 3 points) |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The trend of practicing consortium led projects where Signatories become the member of consortia lead projects. Partners lead the consortium where co-creation and joint proposal development leading to successful implementation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is an information and communication gap between Signatories Head Quarter and country level office in terms of localization and C4C. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C4C should have prepared a clear indicative pathway on Localization for its Signatories and Endorsers. ▪ Signatories need to go for directing funding for L/NNGOs by giving priority to harmonization of due diligence process to be followed across INGO's and donor's to make the local organizations comfortable to handle that issue. ▪ The equal share of Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) has to be ensured for the L/NNGOs which enable the future development of |

| Achievements and good practices (Max of 3 points) | Challenges (Max of 3 points) | Recommendations & Way forward (Max of 3 points) |
|--|---|---|
| | | <p>organizations. A high level consultation with head of INGOs and UN agencies at country level and their respective counterpart at HQ level important to identify barriers and way forward for equal sharing of ICR with implementing endorser's agencies.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is found from the country level dialogues that few Signatories are sharing their Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) with their local partners where the ratio of ICR sharing varies accordingly. A positive evidence of ICR cost sharing has increased from the previous year and some are sharing equally (50-50) or more 80%. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of well documented ICR sharing policy by donors, INGOs and UN agencies and their respective HQ and Country Office (CO). ▪ Almost all the Endorsers or local partners are not informed about the budget allocation and accounts of expenditure of their international partners for the emergency response projects implemented so far. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish country level initiatives for joint advocacy to donors, INGOs and UN agencies to clarify their ICR policy. This issue seems especially increasingly getting attention for joint advocacy linking country to global which is recognized as one of the key priority in the newly established Grand Bargain 2.0 'Caucas' on localisation and New Way of Working by UN General Assembly resolution 71/243 on August 2016. Robust advocacy with government decision makers on the C4C commitments and localization by involving Signatories and Endorsers. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signatories are supporting their partners for organizational capacity building to promote localization with some shared responsibilities. ▪ Localization Technical Working Group (LTWG) is working under the Humanitarian Coordination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The due diligence process varies from donor (UN & INGOs) to donor that makes the funding process more complicated for the L/NNGOs. Partnership is not equally maintained | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a country level Localization Information Hub and establish progress tracking mechanism through involving Signatories, Endorsers, UN agencies along with other networks (i.e. NAHAB, Localization |

| Achievements and good practices (Max of 3 points) | Challenges (Max of 3 points) | Recommendations & Way forward (Max of 3 points) |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Task Team (HCTT)⁵ at the country level by involving all the stakeholders of the country including government, UN agencies, INGOs, L/NNGOs, networks, etc. to promote the localization practices. This is a platform to conduct localization study both at Cox's Bazar and rest of the country and conducted lessons learnt from recent disasters. Another instances are localization roadmap for humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar which is endorsed by SEG and also practicing country level localization roadmap by different networks, i.e. NAHAB which shows complementarity with C4C.</p> | <p>and shown lack of Principles of Partnership (PoP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Only one fourth of the endorsers get the opportunity to put their opinion and decision regularly during the planning and execution phase of a project. And One fifth of the endorsers feel the humanitarian projects help their organization in future development. ▪ It means Top Down approach still prevailing in terms of relationship between INGO's & L/NNGO's. | <p>Technical Working Group, CCNF, etc.) to share the progress at local, national and global level and make them accountable to share their progress on localization and C4C commitments.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Start Fund Bangladesh (SFB) promoting locally led response and direct funding with the pooled fund mechanism and practicing faster humanitarian response at the community level also very important achievement in relation to localization. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low budgetary allocation for local actor's staff but demanding for high quality reporting with no budgetary allocation for organizational Capacity Strengthening. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engaging more L/NNGOs, networks, CBOs and others in the C4C process, which will enable them practicing localization at the country level. |

For any queries feel free to communicate with: nahabsecretariat@gmail.com and visit: www.nahab.net

⁵ Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) is the highest coordination body in Bangladesh.