

The Charter for Change (C4C) Commitments provide targets for INGOs to make meaningful change towards localisation of aid. Since 2015, 39 signatories have joined the Charter, supported by over 600 local and national NGOs holding signatories accountable. This Annual Spotlight looks at self-reporting from 19 signatories at global headquarters, and 118 responses from 18 signatories at the country level, tracking change across key areas in support of locally-led

response: developing the **transparency and quality of funding**, building **quality partnerships** and supporting **change at the country level**. The 2023 Spotlight, while being the first year to reach the 25% pass-on-funding to national partners, illustrates that progress towards meeting other localisation commitments is continuing - but at a modest pace among the reporting C4C signatories.

Commitments

Funding



25%

Commit to pass 25% of humanitarian funding to National NGOs

Based on 16 complete responses

Partnership



4.2

Reaffirm principles of partnership

Transparency



3.5

Publish the amount or percentage of funding that is passed to NNGOs

Recruitment



4.0

Address and prevent the negative impact of recruiting NNGO staff during emergencies

Advocacy



4.5

Emphasise the importance of national actors to humanitarian donors

Equality



3.8

Address subcontracting and ensure equality in decision-making

Scores calculated from 18 signatories ranking compliance with each commitment on a scale of 0-5.

Support



3.7

Provide robust organisational support and capacity building

Promotion



3.7

Promote the role of local actors to media and public

Transparency & Quality of Funding

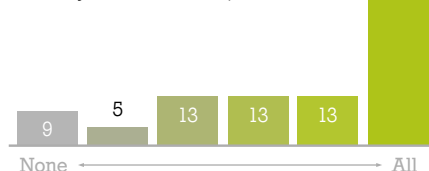
Organisational policy supports core/admin funding for local partners:

HQ: 19 responses



Core funding is provided to local and national partners:

Country Level: 104 responses

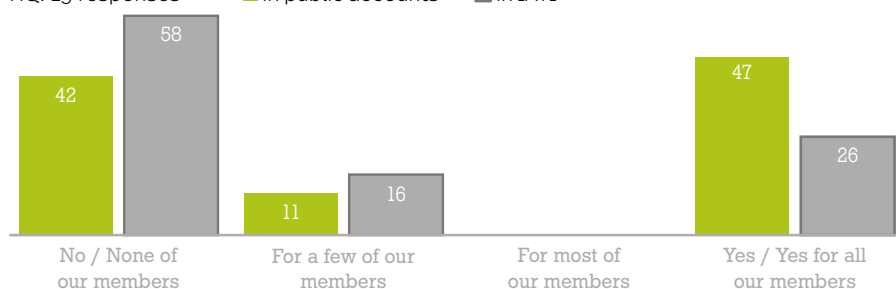


Internal cost recovery for national partners is an essential foundation for localisation, allowing local and national organisations to invest in strengthening capacity and plan for the long term. However, progress towards these C4C commitments has slowed, most organisations still do not have a policy supporting structural provision of internal cost recovery for partners, though four organisations have implemented such policies since the last report. In practice, the majority do provide such funding for all or most of their partners at country level, this remains at around 60 percent as in previous years. Transparent publication of funds going to national and local partners similarly remains at around half of the reporting signatories in public accounts, and only a quarter in IATI.

The amounts going to national and local partners are published:

HQ: 19 responses

■ in public accounts ■ in IATI



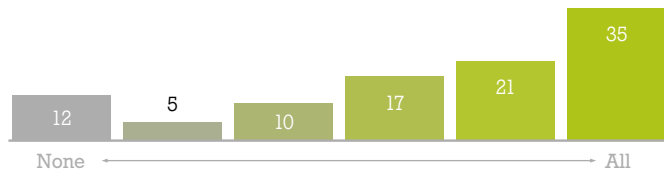
All figures given are percentages

¹ Reporting figures remain low this year with only 19 of 39 signatories, less than half, responding. Along with the stagnation of progress towards localisation commitments this points to a worrying trend in the sector, which consistently fails to follow rhetoric with action at the global or country level. The low response rate limits comparability with previous years and should be taken as representative only of those who responded.

Quality Partnerships

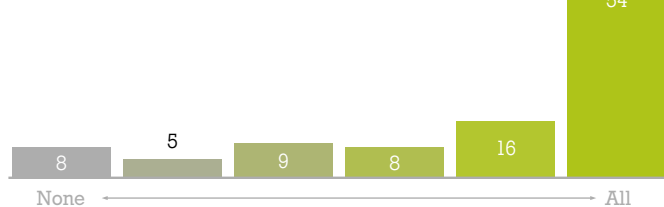
We have long-term strategic partnerships and partnership agreements with our partners:

Country Level: 103 responses

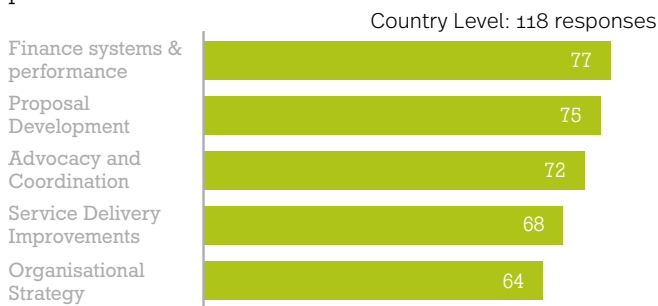


We have two-way partnership review and feedback mechanisms with our partners:

Country Level: 109 responses



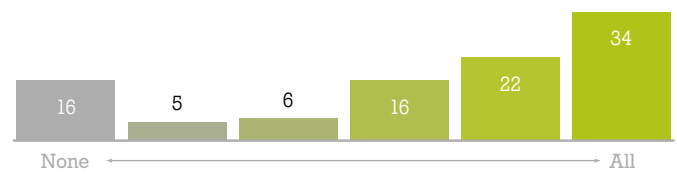
We have supported the organisational development of our partners in these areas*:



*This chart shows the top five responses. Respondents could select more than one so results will total more than 100%.

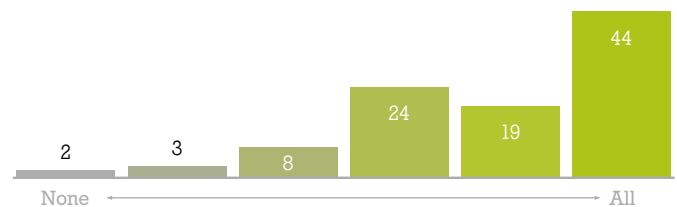
Our partners have taken part in our country strategy development and review:

Country Level: 93 responses



Our partners have taken a leadership role in joint activities or project design:

Country Level: 109 responses

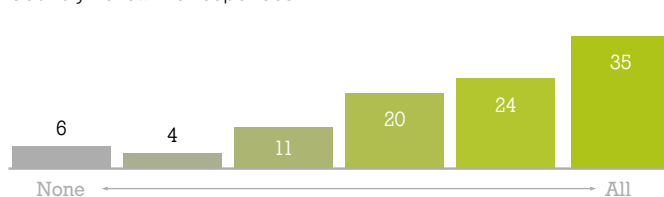


As with other areas, responses remain consistent with previous years, C4C signatories do have strong and lasting partnerships with local and national NGOs. While around 70 percent of country level responses report having two-way partnership review and feedback mechanisms in place and 63 percent report that partners lead in joint activities or project design, further progress is required to transition to longer-term and strategic partnerships where partners consistently participate in agencies' country strategy development and review processes and strategic partnership agreements govern the relationship. This year capacity strengthening continued to focus mostly on financial systems and proposal development, though organisational strategy support has increased since last year.

Country-level Uptake

We actively support our local and national partners to network, coordinate and advocate for locally-led humanitarian action:

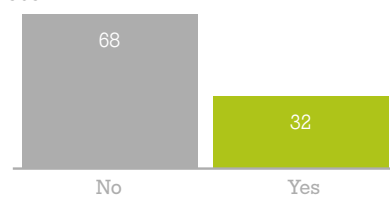
Country Level: 110 responses



Advancing localisation at the country level is central to the work of C4C, with around 60 percent of country level responses reporting to have actively supported local actors to collaborate to advance the agenda at country level, beyond signatories' individual relationships with partner organisations.

The performance of our country director/leadership is regularly measured against progress on the C4C and other localisation commitments:

HQ: 19 responses



This relatively high level of engagement and support is not yet institutionalised across all agencies. Nearly 70 percent of reporting signatories do not yet regularly or systematically measure progress against C4C and other localisation commitments as part of performance management processes for country level leadership.

Conclusions

The Charter for Change, when first conceived in 2015, offered an important roadmap towards meaningful change that would shift the balance of power in the humanitarian sector away from large INGOs towards local and national NGOs taking the lead in crisis response. These Commitments provide concrete targets for change in organisational ways of working at both the global and programme level. This year's survey, looking at 2022, found that initial progress has slowed, and many of the targets still have not been met. While the country level surveys provide useful

insight into signatories' actions at the country level, the low response rate at the global level (as compared to 29 reporting signatories in 2019-2020) continues to be a significant source of concern for the Charter for Change and signatories' accountability against the Commitments. Renewed commitment by senior management of all the C4C signatories is needed to further drive the localisation agenda as central to humanitarian action and system reform, rather than risk it becoming a rhetorical rather than a real commitment.