

**CSO-NGO Sector with Self-esteem: Campaign on Grand Bargain and Localization  
Dhaka Divisional Workshop  
25 October 2018, NGO Bureau auditorium, Dhaka**

A day-long campaign and workshop titled “CSO-NGO Sector with Self-esteem: Campaign on Grand Bargain and Localization” was held in the NGO Bureau auditorium in Dhaka on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018. NGOs from 13 districts of the Dhaka division, the representatives of the INGO, representatives of the donor organization, , journalists, government officials participated in the workshop. The introductory segment was conducted by Mustafa Kamal Akanda, Assistant Director of the COAST Trust, while the workshop was conducted by Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Executive Director of the COAST Trust.



ঢাকা: স্থানীয়করণ বিষয়ক প্রচারণা

NGO Bureau Director General (Additional Secretary) KM Abdus Salam was present as the chief guest at the program. The inaugural session was also attended by Director of NGO Bureau Gokul Krishna Ghosh, Programme Director of Oxfam M B Akhter, Executive Director of Gram Bikash Sohayak Shangst Masuda Ratna, Chairman of CDF Murshed Alam Sarker, Director of FNB Md. Rafiqul Islam, director of ADB AKM Jasimuddin, Among others.

The day's session begins with national anthem. Then the Executive Director of the Coast Coast Trust Rezaul Islam Chowdhury described the day's program. At the beginning, he described the context and background of grand bargain. He said the main goal of this grand bargain was localization. He gave basic ideas about Grand Bargain, Charter for change, Development Effectiveness, GPDC, etc. in the workshop. He told the participants to know a lot by their own initiative, if local NGO-CSO does not become the



KM Abdus Salam

Knowledge Leader, then they will have to lag behind.

Director of NGO Bureau Gokul Krishna Ghosh said, NGOs are supplementary forces of the government. We NGO Bureau help NGOs. And to promote localization we are determined to help NGOs as a Government organization. And we will be always with NGOs to accelerate development activities.

Programme Director of Oxfam Mr M B Akhter said, 'Bangladesh has progressed much in the sector of localization. And the way Oxfam sees localization from here. We believe it should be institutionalized and knowledge should be built on it.'



Gokul Krishna Ghosh



M B Akhter

Suresh Halder from Association for Village Advancement (AVA) said that, Most of the fund goes into the pocket of the intermediary organizations.



AKM Jassim Uddin



Suresh Halder

President of ADAB AKM Jassim Uddin said small local NGO are kept away from developing activities as excuse of lack of capacity. Fund is not sanctioned. Considering this fact there is a competition among small local organization with large organizations. He raises the question, NGOs are not a trade organization but they have to take trade license from local municipality, union council or City Corporation. Sometimes they were asked for the NGO bureau registration for development work in local level. Another thing is that, by paying registration fees and renewal fees to NGO bureau, NGOs are paying the revenue to the government. But VAT has been imposed on that payment. He claimed that there should be a reflection on the national budget about the amount of money that NGOs are bringing and the amount of employment they have created.



**Rebeka San Yat**



**Masuda Ratna**

Rebeka San Yat, Executive Director of CUP told us, “As the economic structure of our country is improving, a large part of foreign aid will come through the government. By regulations this involves a process of “tender”. But in the “tender” system NGOs cannot compete with business organization, and smaller NGO are having a hard time.

Masuda Ratna, Executive Director at Gram Bikash Sohayak Shangstha said, “Donors do not have faith in the local small NGOs and resort to more trained ones from outside. And their new policy is to have a different locally accumulated source of money as opposed to what they will give.”

Tofazzal Sohel, General Secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, Habiganj Branch said, “New ways can be explored to secure funds. Not everyone can work on a pure voluntary basis.”

K.M. Abdus Salam, Additional Secretary and Director General of the NGO Affairs Bureau said to us, “PKSF gives almost 6000 crore taka per year on behalf of the government. Similarly NGO Foundation, Protibondhi Foundation and others are given aid. If government becomes more competent, more money will flow. So, there is no place to worry of funding.”

Arifur Rahman, Chief Executive of YPSA said, “Local organizations sometimes willingly get involvcd in NGO works. They then have a deficiency in performance. But local organizations are at times unable to meet the criteria set for donations from international organizations.



**Murshed Alam Sarkar**



**Rafikul Islam**

Murshed Alam Sarkar, Chairman of CDF told us in the interview, “Donors keep on saying that local organizations are not capable. This is just an excuse. It is wrong to say they are not capable when they come forward in every local crisis.”

Rafikul Islam, Director of FNB said, “World’s biggest NGO works are done in Bangladesh. We have an experience of 48 years in this arena. It would be futile to say that we are new in the sector.”

## **Principles of Partnership:**

This segment was hosted by Shawkat Ali Tutul, Assistant Director, COAST Trust.

### **The Basis of Partnership Policy :**

1. Humanitarian actions due to ethical obligation, increase of efficiency in the workings of partner NGOs, and accountability to the harmed population.
2. Acknowledging diversity as an asset of the humanitarian community and recognizing the interdependence among humanitarian organizations.
3. Commitment to building and nurturing an effective partnership.

### **Principles of Partnership:**

#### 1. Equality:

Equality requires mutual respect between members of the partnership irrespective of size and power. The participants must respect each other's mandates, obligations and independence and recognize each other's constraints and commitments. Mutual respect must not preclude organizations from engaging in constructive dissent.

#### 2. Transparency:

Transparency is achieved through dialogue (on equal footing), with an emphasis on early consultations and early sharing of information. Communications and transparency, including financial transparency, increase the level of trust among organizations.

#### 3. Result-oriented approach:

Effective humanitarian action must be reality-based and action-oriented. This requires result-oriented coordination based on effective capabilities and concrete operational capacities.

#### 4. Responsibility

Humanitarian organizations have an ethical obligation to each other to accomplish their tasks responsibly, with integrity and in a relevant and appropriate way. They must make sure they commit to activities only when they have the means, competencies, skills, and capacity to deliver on their commitments. Decisive and robust prevention of abuses committed by humanitarians must also be a constant effort.

#### 5. Complementarity

The diversity of the humanitarian community is an asset if we build on our comparative advantages and complement each other's contributions. Local capacity is one of the main assets to enhance and on which to build. Whenever possible, humanitarian organizations should strive to make it an integral part in emergency response. Language and cultural barriers must be overcome.

## **Grand Bargain : Hosted by Shawkat Ali Tutul, Assistant Director, COAST Trust**

In 2015 the Secretary-General of UN had been Ban Ki Mun, who appointed a high-level panel on humanitarian financing that was titled :“Too Important to Fail: Addressing the Humanitarian Financing Gap”. This panel recommended an increase in financing to prepare for disasters and to mitigate the ensuing losses. Its recommendations also included an increase in asset-based humanitarian activities to lessen humane demands worldwide, an emphasis on localization of power, and a reduction of transaction costs.

To realize these recommendations, UN, Red Cross, Red Crescent and more than 35 donor organizations and International NGOs signed a pact titled “Grand Bargain”. In the Istanbul World Humanitarian Summit this Grand Bargain was first discussed, and it was included in the WHS outcome report.

In this global pact, 52 commitments were pledged grouped into ten (10) branches. A large number of donors and aid organizations signed the pact to make the humanitarian activities more efficient.

### **The Ten Branches :**

The signatories' committed to:

1. Greater transparency
2. More support and funding for local and national responders
3. Increase the use and coordination of instant cash-based programming
4. Reduce duplication and management costs with periodic functional reviews
5. Improve joint and impartial needs assessments
6. A revolution in participation : include the affected people in making the decisions
7. Increase the number of partners in collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning and funding
8. Reduce the earmarking of donor contributions
9. Harmonise and simplify reporting requirements
10. Enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors

These key notes were discussed in brief subsequently.

## **Charter for Change**

This segment was hosted by Mujibul Haq Munir, Assistant Director, COAST Trust.

BarkatUllahMaruf detailed the funding parameters and strategies in his speech. The discussion quickly moved to why the local NGOs are not treated equally as the International ones when a donor organization contemplates funding. Barkat Ullah Maruf stressed that what

should dictate the amount and the implementation of the fund is the need of a local organization, not the themes and the whims preset by the donor. In the Charter for Change, 150 Donor organizations from 43 countries pledged to fulfil 8 conditions. These conditions are :

1. Increase direct funding for humanitarian action to NGOs working in the least-developed and developing countries.
2. Reaffirm the Principles of Partnership.
3. Increase transparency around resource transfers to southern-based (i.e in Asia, Africa and South America) national and local NGOs.
4. Stop undermining local capacity.
5. Emphasize the importance of national actors.
6. Address subcontracting.
7. Robust organizational support and capacity strengthening.
8. Communication with the media and the public about partners.

## From Aid-Effectiveness to Development Effectiveness

Hosted by Barkat Ullah Maruf, Assistant Director, COAST Trust

In the discussion titled “AID effectiveness to Development Effectiveness” this much became clear that the so-called aid is more commercially motivated than a help. But, contrary to the approach of aid and for the benefit of NGOs of multiple tiers, the Istanbul Principles were formulated. With GPEDC by our side we have accumulated a reservoir of moral energy and now can demand for equity based redistribution.

### Aid Effectiveness

- Charity
- Analysis of the symptoms of poverty
- Human needs
- Trickle down
- Short-term result
- Supervised by Donors
- Equality for women
- Employment
- Apolitical aid

### Development Effectiveness

- Equity
- Analysis of the roots of poverty
- Human rights
- Equal Distribution
- Long-term result
- Supervised by all partners
- Sexual equality
- Work with respect
- Politics is power