

## **CSO-NGO Sector with Self-esteem: Campaign on Grand Bargain and Localization**

### **Khulna Divisional Workshop**

**15 September 2018, CSS AVA Center, Khulna**

A day-long campaign and workshop titled “CSO-NGO Sector with Self-esteem: Campaign on Grand Bargain and Localization” was held in the CSS AVA Center in Khulna on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, 2018. Representatives from Local and International NGOs, Trade Unions and Environmentalist Organizations from the 10 Districts in the Khulna Division participated in the workshop, in addition to the plethora of journalists and Government officials. The introductory segment was conducted by Mustafa Kamal Akanda, Assistant Director of the COAST Trust. The workshop itself was conducted by Shawkat Ali Tutul, another Assistant Director of the COAST Trust.



The chief guest of the program was Lokman Hossain Mia, the Divisional

#### **Khulna: Campaign on Localization**

Commissioner of Khulna. Also present among the guests were Jakia Akter Hossain, Executive Director of *Banophul* and Chairperson of the Khulna District Committee of ADAB; Khondokar Faruk Ahmed, Managing Director of Trinamool Unnayan Sangstha; Amaresh Chandra Das, Chairman of FMB in Khulna; Agraj Kumar Roy, Assistant Director of Bureau of Non-Formal Education, Bagerhat; Hasna Hena, Zilla Women's Affairs Officer, Bagerhat; and Md Asaduzzaman Sheikh, Executive Director of Udayan – Bangladesh and the Divisional Convener of the campaign on localization.

The program commenced with a performance of the National Anthem. Then Shawkat Ali Tutul from COAST Trust laid out the itinerary of the day. He explained the 18 visions on basis of the results of the WHS, i.e. the World Humanitarian Summit. “We are expecting more worthwhile collaboration from the root-level and the local NGOs,” he said, “In today’s workshop we will try to give you some ideas, but you will have to know more of this by yourselves.”

The guests thereafter gave their welcome speeches. Jakia Akter Hossain, Executive Director of *Banophul* and Chairperson of the Khulna District Committee of ADAB, said in her speech, “I find this to be a very exceptional workshop.” According to her, the donors give a preference to the bigger NGOs as opposed to the smaller ones; however, if the smaller local NGOs were given the chance to operate more fruitfully, the overall efficiency would increase. Amaresh Chandra Das, Chairman of FMB in Khulna spoke of his expectation

regarding the workshop's future and how it could in fact play a paramount role in the development of the NGOs and the country.

Moral Noor Mohammad, *Rustic*'s executive director, pointed out that as many similar efforts were taken up before and had subsequently failed, everyone should be conscious to preserve the infinity. Agraj Kumar Roy, Assistant Director of Bureau of Non-Formal Education, said, "The indispensable gist of all this is to lend a hand to other people, to leave the cycle of money and credit, to be as pure as the nature." Md Asaduzzaman Sheikh, Executive Director of Udayan Bangladesh thanked everyone in his speech and expressed his sanguine hope of this large workshop bearing its fruit through discussions amidst unity and self-esteem. Hasna Hena, Zilla Women's Affairs Officer from Bagerhat shared her experiences, contending that if a local organization is involved in the execution of a project, there is an increase in accountability, which largely reduces the overall cost.



Lokman Hossain Mia, Divisional Commissioner of Khulna remarked, "The topic of today is a current demand. We learn a lot but internalize so little. If we want to go towards the good, we must praise the beautiful." He added to this, "The CSOs and the NGOs have a considerable influence on the people of Bangladesh", subsequently inviting those present to develop unity and understanding among the NGOs. At the end of speech, Lokman Hossain Mia inaugurated the workshop.

## 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 Grad 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 acivities 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 BarkatUllahMaruf, 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

### Group Work

The participants were split into three groups, and each group was given a particular topic to discuss and analyze, so that they may express their desires and their opinions regarding the said topic.



**Khulna:** Group work

**Group 1:** Make a list of our demands from Donors, the UN, International NGOs and our government with respect to the Grand Bargain and other similar global pacts. Make sure that everyone participates in the task.

**Group 2:** Make an announcement outlining the minimum that we can do to keep our self-esteem intact and to guarantee our accountability to our beneficiaries (the people), the laws of the state, and the ones who send the donations and the management facilities (i.e. donor organizations, donor countries, UN, INGOs). Develop it further with everyone's active participation.

**Group 3:** What can be done to unite the local NGOs and the CSOs? (CSO = Civil Society Organizations) Make a list of such tasks and develop it further with everyone's active participation.

#### Recommendation from Group 01

1. Increase the strength of local bodies

2. Prepare the list of NGOs working in district and send them to the donor organization
3. Initiate and implementation of local demand-based projects
4. District based separate funds should be allocated
5. Build a common network for a self esteemed CSO-NGO
6. Reduce the distance between NGO and Government, and increase the coordination
7. A portion of the national budget of the developed country should spent for the poor country

### **Recommendation from Group 02**

1. Ensure proper use of funds and ensure the development of the organization
2. INGO should not directly conduct activities at the field level to uphold their self-esteem
3. NGOs should organize of under the existing laws of the country including Implementation of the programs
4. Donor organizations Should reduce the administrative costs, the surplus money will have use to increase the field level cost
5. Coordinating the unequal opportunities that exist between donor agencies and implementing agencies
6. Work must be done with ensuring the quality

### **Recommendation from Group 03**

1. Collection of information by electing local NGO-CSO
2. Networking
3. Formating Coordination Committee
4. Monthly / Quarterly / Annual Meeting
5. Making a policy
6. Creating funds tinhrough local / national / government / donor organizations
7. Creating skillaed manpower by organizing various training
8. meetings with different classes / offices for idea exchange.
9. Issue -based pojectplaning. Implementation in root level.
10. Ensure transparency and accountability at the local level.
11. Coordinate with local different network

After the groupwise presentations, the women leaders from multiple Districts came up on the stage and expressed their opinions on the information and lessons gleaned from the workshop. Hasna Hena in her closing speech said, “It is time to come under the same umbrella now.” She praised the workshop for creating a bond between the people which she hoped would only be stronger in time. After her speech, Md Asaduzzaman Sheikh, the Divisional Convener in Khulna of the campaign on localization expressed his gratitude to everyone present. The program ended with a performance of patriotic songs.

## **Opinion**

Advocate Runa Siddiki from Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association said in the interview, "The first and foremost thing is to have transparency within myself. And to secure a minimal position, one needs certain qualifications."

Abu Imam Md. Baker, Executive Director of *Integrated Social and Agriculture Development Organization* (ISADO) of Magura said, "It is impossible to make demands or present them as individuals. This is why we need organization, why we need a platform. We can spread the words from today's discussions across the country, and then after successive analysis of the failings of development works can present the results to the donor organizations." He believes that to embark upon this kind of work, the local organizations must mend their flaws and create a balance between their works and their demands.



Advocate Runa Siddiki



Abu Imam Md. Baker



Amaresh Chandra Das

Amaresh Chandra Das of Khulna Zilla FMB said, "The principal demand of every local NGO is financial and technical support."

Hasan Mehedi, Chief Executive of *Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network* (CLEAN) said, "When we are talking about local organizations, we must talk about their quality and efficiency as well. Weakness is prevalent in both financing and financial management. There is inadequacy in documentation too. So the administrative management, the financing, the accounting and the information depository, everything should be scrutinized." He strongly claimed for direct financing of local organizations from government and international donors without any intermediaries, for the emancipation of local organizations from being unfairly treated, and for guaranteeing equal treatment for every NGO.



Hasan Mehedi

Nazma Aktar Tania from Chinnamool Manob Kolyan Society told us, “As we are still a small organization, we do not get the chances of communication. If the donors helped form organizations in addition to funding projects, our organization would have the chance to grow. As there is no such help, our organization remains as small as before.”