

CSO-NGO Sector with Self-esteem: Campaign on Grand Bargain and Localization
Rangpur Divisional Workshop
20 September 2018, Begum Rokeya Auditorium, RDRS, Rangpur

A day-long campaign and workshop titled “CSO-NGO Sector with Self-esteem: Campaign on Grand Bargain and Localization” was held in the Begum Rokeya Auditorium of RDRS in Rangpur on 22 September 2018. In the workshop, NGOs from eight districts of the Rangpur division, the representatives of the INGO, representatives of the donor organization, environmental organizations, journalists, government officials participated. 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.



Rangpur: Campaign on Localization

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 Former Director of RDRS Manjushree Saha, President of Metropolitan Chamber and Commerce Rapur Mohammad Rezulul Islam Milon, Local Government Deputy Director Md. Ashraful Islam, Oxfam's Shamnaz Ahmed, RDRS director Humayun Khaled and director of ADB AKM Jasimuddin. The day's session begins with national anthem. Then the Executive Director of the Coast Trust Rezaul Islam Chowdhury described the day's program.

At the beginning of the discussion, he described this content and bbackground of grand Bargain. He said the main goal of this grand bargain was localization. He gave a basic idea about Grand Bargain, Charter forcibility, Development Effectiveness, etc. in the workshop. He told the participants to know a lot by their own initiative because if NGO-CSO do not become a Knowledge Leader they will have to backtrack.

He also said on 19th August, 2017 in Dhaka, In the presence of 32 INGO and UN organizations at a meeting we gave eighteen expectations. This is not the end here. With these workshops, you have the opportunity to change these points, to be revised.

We hope this year in Dhaka on October 20th and next year in April after the elections with the new government we'll rally again. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury explained the process of this three-dimensional material of state, market and civil society. He said that if these three associations work properly the society will work well. Civil Society - SGOs are working themselves as self-entrepreneurs as a third party outside state and market.

Manojushree Saha in her speech, emphasized on coordinating between NGOs, CSOs, government and donors, and said that working together is important for the development of the society and increase the local NGO's ability to work.

President of Rangpur Metropolitan Chamber and Commerce Mohammad Rezulul Islam Milon said in his speech, "Through today's workshop on self-esteem you will lead the country ahead in the future. The business community will help you."

Local Government Deputy Director Ashraful Islam In his speech, references the government, SGO and other organizations, he emphasized on working together and said that development is not possible after someone is behind. He urged everyone to take part in this workshop.

Thanking the organizers Oxfam official Shamnaz Ahmed said, Oxfam is working for a society of equal status to all. We think of forming a knowledge based leadership as well as forming a self-respecting society. In this regard the role of civil society vital.

Emphasizing on localization RRRS director Humayun Khaled said, If development and efficiency are not localized then national development is never possible and prosperity can be achieved. When we work with donor organization the interim expenditure is high. By this program initiative has taken steps to reduce intermediate expenditure. This is a good aspect. For whom this money is allocated, those should be spending it for them. We hope that local plans will be given importance in development activities. We hope that local organization will get priority in local development policy, because local designs are the best in local development. If the local people are involved then the current development phase of Bangladesh will continue.

ADAB director AKM Jasimuddin said, Now the SDG target is an important issue. According to this target, no one should be excluded from the development activities still local organizations are being excluded for the excuse of absence of eligibility. But local NGOs are very capable. Local organizations should have priority over the funds that come in the country. He emphasized the increase in the efficiency of the local organization and said, The efficiency of the local organization will not increase in one day, initiatives should be taken to increase their skills. And for the allocation of government money, local organizations need to be given priority. Besides, there is a need work on to mobilize local resources. Government initiatives can be taken to spend local funds by local organization. But the biggest thing is that local organizations have a right to work in their area. And because of the funding

process, small organizations are deprived, small organization become a follower of big organization.

The President of the Disabled Foundation and convenor of Rangpur Divisional Committee on Localization Akbar Hossain, said, Many NGOs are dependent on donors but due to the reduction in funds small NGOs are facing many problem. If the government and NGO bureau take initiative, it will be possible to solve the problem. Through this workshop, the CSO-NGO will be able to play a pioneering role.

NGO Bureau Director General (Additional Secretary) KM Abdus Salam said, you have remember that Bangladesh is now being financed in middle-income countries. Our GDP has increased, economic development is going on, maternal mortality The infant mortality has decreased, we have developed in any index. "He said that very few NGOs are working on foreign funds, many other NGOs work with them. Many are expressing fear on current status of NGOs. It is an era of IT and digitalization now you can work to increase their self-sufficiency. At the end of his speech, he announced the inauguration of the workshop. At the beginning the workshop's policy and values were presented by Assistant Director of Coast Trust Shawkat Ali Tutul.

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.

PNSA Zia said in a discussion about the political party, NGOs and civil society organizations can make political movements. And through Political Participation it is possible to do the development activities that we are doing. Unless we are involved with politics, many kinds of work cannot be done. Such as Microcredit Regulatory Authority registration is not available without having a specific amount of outsourcing, Angain Microcredit cannot be run if it is not registered. Then how small organizations will reach up to forty lakhs. Therefore, CSO delegates should be involved in politics.

Responding to this, Rezaul Karim Chowdhury said, anyone can be political but should not involve to any political party. We are not a agent from any party. We are doing politics for equality; we are doing politics of social justice, discussing human rights. We are not from any party.

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 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 Barkat Ullah Maruf, Assistant Director, COAST Trust.

Barkat Ullah Maruf 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.

Abdul Hamid of Dinajpur said, We have taken some for NGOs from the Department of Women's Affairs, Someone from the Social Services Department and someone from the NGO Bureau. Whether there any simplification can be made here. Whether anyone can make these applications in the development process. Shawkat Ali Tutul said in response that the government is also trying to bring all the NGOs under one registration.

Firoza Begum, executive director of Lalmonirhat Fida said, The people who funded the project may be 5 lakh, But for visiting this project they are coming on a million taka car. However, they do not want to pay 500 taka for our electricity. These are our pain. Again, when there is a workshop at the district level, they are taking expensive bags, the allowance. Again In our case they say we will have to provide food within 150 taka, folders within 35 taka. in these places we got hurt. Small NGOs should be seen by the administration's people. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury said to remark this humbly while When discussing with donors.



Firoza Begum

Shawkat Ali Tutul said that to dare to say this, all our NGOs will have to share the same speech unanimously.

Manik Chowdhury, director of the Jibika of Kurigram said, Many days after working with a lot of donors, many donors are involved in the development of other NGOs on the pretext of not creating capacities. So, why did not the capability of the local NGO created after work so long with them? Our question is that. And at the local level it's not possible to get voucher such as voucher for buying bamboo. so this kind of thing should not be called inefficiency.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury said we will look at everything positively. We can not achieve anything by accusing or blaming.

Alauddin Ali, executive director of NilesHPamari's USS, said Here the government has also been consolidated. What kind of program will be taken is important. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury said, "We are introducing you with some of the donors' commitments. From these, you can talk to donors and find out solutions.

Saida Yasmin, executive head of AFD of Kurigram said, According to their commitment, we will have to figure out how we will fulfill the needs of local organizations.



Chamsun Nahar Mili



Sarathi Rani Saha

Sarathi Rani Saha, Executive Director of the Seed Organization of Rangpur, said Local NGOs are formed from a emotion, If we can convey it to donors and INGs, then there will be no gap between us.

Regarding this, Rezaul Karim Chowdhury said, International organizations are very committed to localization. But the change in behavior will take time.

The organizing director of Jago Nari Pragati Snagstha, Chamsun Nahar Mili said, we the local NGOs who are doing small works those are not for anything in return. But from liability. There are many kinds of opportunities in those works. We can work more if donors cooperate. There are, but we need a common forum. We should think how to get to that place.

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.



Rangpur: Campaign on Localization: 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.

Recommendations of Group 1:

1. Language for PP should be Bengali
2. Local NGO for local development
3. 25% allocation for local development
4. Easy access to get grants
5. Provision for getting Local /national fund without NGO BUREAU registration
6. Consideration of all NGOs on the basis of equality
7. Renew of registration to be made easy and remove all complexities
8. Corruption free administration
9. NGO Platform should be made strengthened and united.

Recommendations of Group 2:

A. To beneficiaries

1. Involve in all activities
2. Ensure transparency (financial)
3. Involve in monitoring and evaluation

B. To government:

1. All information should be made available and known to all
2. Progress should be submitted regularly
3. Involve in monitoring and evaluation
4. Activities should be implemented respecting laws and regulations.

C. To Funding agencies:

1. Timely implementation of approved activities
2. Timely submission of financial progress
3. Ensure transparency
4. Maintain regular communications

Recommendations of Group 3:

1. Prepare list of active CSO & NGOs
2. Organize sharing/ discussion meeting for relationship development,
3. Formation of convening committee
4. Participatory decision making
5. Mobilizing local resources,
6. Accountability to local administration & local government

7. Transparency and accountability of convening committee.



Rangpur: Campaign on Localization

At the closing session after the group presentation, women leaders from all the districts took seat on the stage. And provide feedback on the information and teaching in the workshop. The workshop ends with patriotic song.