

We need to stand with dignity at our work

We believe in inclusiveness with complementarity

Charter of Expectations

This charter of expectation of the local CSO NGO of Bangladesh is prepared based on the practical experience and need in the field of development and humanitarian interventions and inspired by the discourses of Development Effectiveness (DE), Grand Bargain (GB) commitments, Charter 4 Change (C4C) and New Way of Working (NWoW) of UN. This charter is an outcome document of a country wide campaign on localization during the last two years. Details of the campaign are available at www.bd-cso-ngo.net. The objective of this charter is to develop a sovereign, accountable and sustainable NGO / CSO sector in Bangladesh as a third sector next to the state and the market/ private sectors. We can't do this alone. Not to hurt or undermine anyone, we need inclusiveness and complementarity among all the actors of development and this is what our expectation stands on.

A. Common Expectations from whom it may concern

1. To implement GB (2016), C4C (2015) and NWoW commitments instead of letting it become a mere rhetoric. Implementation of these commitments will bring a better result and sustainability in the development and humanitarian field.
2. In respect of expenditure it is better to define necessity and luxury so that we all can keep trying out to reduce the transaction cost without compromising the quality of service but keeping the sustainability and accountability at local level so that major portion of the fund would go to the affected population.
3. To establish Bangla for all communication including the proposals and reports for enhanced participation of local NGOs.
4. Development and humanitarian organizations including local and International NGOs as well as UN agencies should public code of conduct, complaint response and whistle blowing policies to make organizations open for public scrutiny with minimum exception.
5. Local CSO/ NGOs should have priority access to the development and humanitarian funds available at the national level without competition with the INGOs.

B. Expectations from the Government

Government is the guardian of a nation to protect its citizen while the citizen's responsibility is to develop a right-based and pluralistic society. This is how the government and the citizen complement each other for development as a whole. According to the development effectiveness discourse and GPEDC (Global Platform on Effective Development Cooperation), where Bangladesh is one of the Co-Chairs, government recognizes the CSO as an equal development partner. Our expectations from the government are as follows:

1. To recognize CSO/NGO work as important as the government work and develop a CSO employee's welfare system like the government facilities with the contribution of the CSO/NGO.
2. There are a number of government and non-government institutions developed by both government and CSO/NGO being part of the democratic culture in the country. These institutions have to embody complaint response mechanism, right to information policies,

and policies toward promotion and protection of whistle blowers for the effectiveness and ensuring results.

3. Historically, the government of Bangladesh facilitated a conducive policy environment for the non-profit sector to promote the human rights and poverty reduction and this enabling environment let a vibrant civil society to grow. Drafting any new law or policy, therefore, is expected to provide more enabling environment for the sake of democracy and human right. Registration and verification process for the CSO/NGO are expected to be easier and welcoming.

C. Expectations from development partners/ donors

Historically development partners / donors played a significantly positive role in respect of CSO/NGO growth in Bangladesh through strengthening the knowledge and leadership. The goal of this effort was to enable them to be able to serve the local people as well as to contribute to the global development, human right and democracy. Now we feel that the local organizations have achieved expected capacity and need more space to contribute. So, our expectations from the donor community are as follows:

1. More direct funding to local CSO/NGOs to enable them to take more independent and leadership role and that will be more result-oriented.
2. For the sake of a sovereign, sustainable and accountable local NGO/CSOs donors could consider more capacity convergence than capacity development approach, so that basic accountability is minimally compromised. Localization to get importance according to GB and NWoW as well as to Whole of Society Approach (WoSA).
3. Development partners / Donors should encourage demand side mobilization in respect of accountability and transparency to the local level and invest on it, otherwise institutions might become monopolistic and dictating. A culture of polemics and promotion and protection of whistle blowing should be encouraged. There should be critical mass, voices from affected populations and local actors toward the institutions providing services.

D. What we expect from UN agencies and INGOs

Since the emergence of the country, UN agencies and International NGOs have played a great role through different development and humanitarian interventions. They are the one who introduced and popularized the terms Human Rights, Gender, Trainings etc. They have a lot of contribution to develop the local CSO/ NGOs to be able to become what they are today. They still need to contribute more and this is where we have some expectations to them:

1. We believe in complementarity and inclusiveness. Local CSO/ NGOs are expected to implement in the field while UN agencies and INGOs would facilitate the monitoring of the implementation and technical assistance for the leadership of local NGO / CSO.
2. Principles of Partnership (2007), GB and C4C is expected to be reflected in the policy and practice of partnerships with local CSO/NGOs with a transparent and competitiveness in implementation.

3. To publish financial and activity report of the organization and make them available to the affected population and local partner to promote a culture of transparency, ownership and inclusiveness.
4. Expatriates are sometimes essential for particular technical knowledge and it should be demand driven. Job description of the expatriate should include the transfer process of technical know-how to local staff in a given time period.

This is a draft. Your valuable comment and feedback is highly appreciated.