The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The text is centered in a white, sans-serif font.

# Challenges in Local NGO/CSO development in Cox's Bazar

# Only 5.25% local NGO

As NGO Platform surveyed:

Among 75 partnerships of INGO,  
national/local NGO

**there are only 7 local NGOs**

(registered with NGOAB, but there are 80  
NGO/CBOs in Cox's Bazar) **i.e., only**

**5.25%.**

If we consider the IASC definition of local NGOs.



# Local NGO in Cox's Bazar

- ▶ UNHCR and other UN agencies (especially WFP and UNICEF) have been **working in Cox's Bazar since 1978**.
- ▶ GoB did not allow until 2014 other NGOs (except partners of UN agencies) to work in UKhiya and Teknaf with the refugee community.
- ▶ A lot of local NGO projects have been turned down.
- ▶ Only **microfinance NGOs have expanded**.
- ▶ Only 7 local NGOs in Cox's Bazar are registered with NGOAB to receive foreign fund, while in Kurigram there are more than 15.



# Competition between I-NGO, N-NGO and L-NGO

- ▶ One UN agency has almost **90% partnership is with INGOs.**
- ▶ One UN agency had **cancelled local NGO partnership** without any rectification opportunity and gave the project to INGO.
- ▶ INGOs and N-NGOs are competing with the L-NGO.
- ▶ I-NGO should not apply for UN funds at national level. They used to **bring fund from their own origin country/ abroad.**



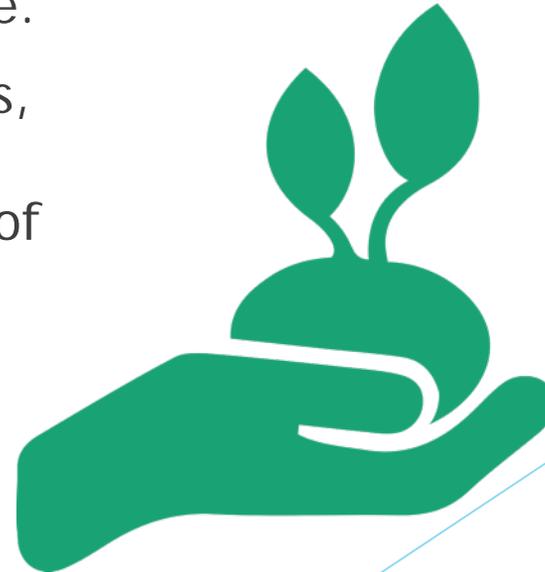
# Partnership Policy

- ▶ INGOs and UN agencies goes with **Project after Project Approach**.
- ▶ Selection is done in **Hand Pick Approach** with biasness and there are **conflict of interest**.
- ▶ They must have Partnership Policy which should contain:
  - ▶ Long term goal;
  - ▶ Institutional development support;
  - ▶ Milestone indicator to develop as sustainable CSO at local level
  - ▶ Criteria based; and
  - ▶ Transparent and competitive in practice.
  - ▶ Flexible and customized in assessment for local NGOs.



# Service Delivery Vs. Civil Society Development

- ▶ 94.75% of UN agency and INGO partnership are with non-local and national NGOs.
- ▶ Most of the INGO/NNGO approach is “Project then Fly” approach, which is not sustainable.
- ▶ They seem like service delivery contractors, having little role to develop civil society or have little interest to work on rights issues of the communities in local and national level.



# NGO pooled fund

- ▶ UN agencies and INGOs should initiate a NGO POOLED FUND to promote local level CSO/NGOs, local govt. supporting to leaders and organizations who **will act on rights issues and advocacy and develop a secular and human right based society** in Cox's Bazar in line with localization and **refugee rights**.
- ▶ There are good example of such a pooled fund in Bangladesh run exclusively by Bangladeshi professionals.



# Orientation on local language and culture

- ▶ **Expatriate** working in Cox's Bazar should be **oriented on local language and local culture** during their induction;
- ▶ They should also be trained on how to work more as **FACILITATOR** rather than on **OPERATION** role.
- ▶ They should remind that they are here to **TRANSFER TECHNOLOGIES AND KNOW-HOWs**.



# No 'cost sharing' and recognize partners' visibility with dignity

- ▶ UN agencies and INGOs should not demand any cost sharing from local NGOs.
- ▶ Rather, they should give overhead cost and long term institutional development support.
- ▶ They should reorient their approach more "CAPACITY CONVERGANCE" rather than capacity development
- ▶ They should consider "EQUALITY IN PARTNERSHIP" rather than treating them as **vendor/ sub-contractor**.
- ▶ Treat partners equally in respect of visibility and media or any exposure.



# Complaint Response Mechanism

- ▶ There are hardly any **official COMPLAINT RESPONSE MECHANISM** neither for the affected population nor for the partners.
- ▶ All INGOs and UN agencies should have **open and transparent** complaint response mechanism.



# Challenges for youth

- ▶ The district **lag behind several human development index** in comparison to national average, like in education.
- ▶ **High drop out** of youths and adolescent girls from higher secondary and college level.
- ▶ **Low level civil society activism** in both district and sub district level.
- ▶ Young people are **exposed to yaba (drugs) and human trafficking.**
- ▶ 55% refugee population do not see any future; spending time idle, non-secular elements are active both in and outside the camps.
- ▶ Maybe Cox's Bazar is lying with a **SLEEPING VOLCANO threat of extremism and terrorism.**
- ▶ The best solution is massive and planned intervention to invest in **CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERSHIP** and **ORGANIZATION of YOUTHS** both in refugee and host community.

