MEASURING LOCALISATION

INTENTION TO IMPACT: THE LOCALISATION OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN THE PACIFIC

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Why is it important to measure localisation?

Can localisation be measured?

Types of approaches

- **Self-reporting** on WHS commitment progress at the organisational, and initiative level (e.g., Charter for Change progress report 2017)
- **Independent reporting** on WHS collective commitment progress, and individual WHS commitments (e.g., Global Public Policy Institute's Independent Grand Bargain report)
- **Independent research** on sector-wide thematic localisation priorities (e.g., Ground Truth Solutions' report World Humanitarian Summit: Perspectives from the field)
- **Project, program, organisational or donor level research, reporting and monitoring and evaluation frameworks** (e.g., START Network's Shifting the Power project)

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What are the current measurement approaches?

Global level examples

- World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) Commitments
- Grand Bargain Commitments

  Workstream 2 for local and national actors
- Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG), 2017-2019 Integrated Programme

Regional level examples

- DFAT and MFAT Humanitarian Monitoring & Evaluation Framework (MEF) for the Pacific
- START Network, Dimensions of Localisation
- Australian Red Cross
- Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) Disaster READY

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What are the gaps and challenges in current approaches?

Challenge 1: Many initiatives seek to measure progress mostly through self- reporting operationalising specific commitment areas and activities.

Challenge 2: Measurement approaches have largely focused on one particular aspect of localisation.

Challenge 3: Existing initiatives are focused on reporting activities of international actors.

Challenge 4: There is little evidence to show what localised humanitarian aid looks like in emergency response.

What does ‘as local as possible and as international as necessary’ mean in practice?

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How do we measure the process and impact of localisation?

- Include a suite of relevant and useful dimensions of measurement
- A representative mix of local, national and international stakeholders should participate in the measurement process
- Develop a balanced mix of qualitative and quantitative indicators, including objective and subjective areas of measurement
- Use of proxy indicators
- Include methods to measure large-scale change over time, rather than only adherence to commitments
- Ensure approaches are simple, clear and adaptable to context

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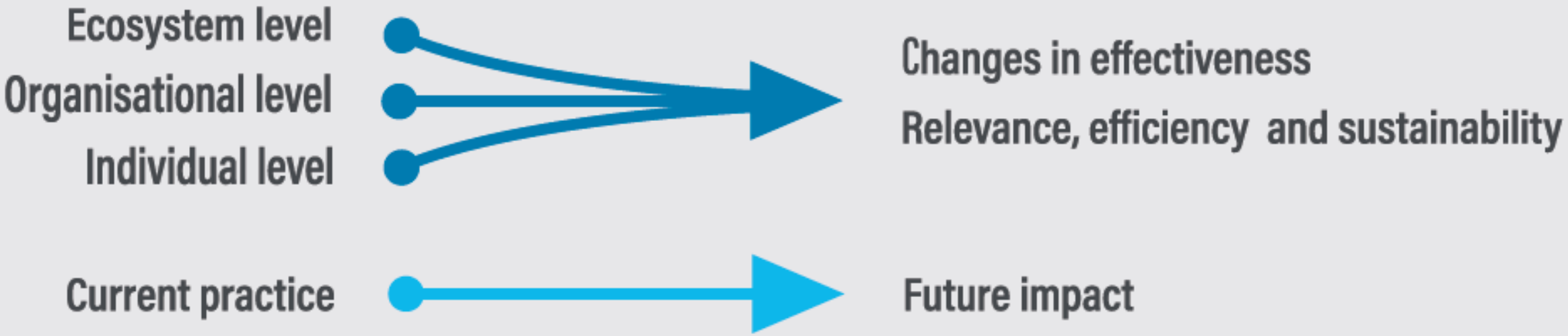
How do we measure the process and impact of localisation?



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Measurement approach propositions

Proposition 1: The measurement of localisation requires a holistic framework that considers process and impact indicators across all areas of localisation including funding, partnerships, transparency, capacity, participation, decision-making, coordination, visibility and policy influence.

Proposition 2: Indicators need to encompass qualitative and quantitative datasets to ensure effective triangulation within and between areas of localisation.

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Proposition 3: Tools and approaches draw on the experience of other sectors.

Proposition 4: Measurement processes seek input of range of stakeholders.

Proposition 5: Measurement across areas should be able to combine meaningfully to determine impact on the effectiveness of humanitarian response.

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What can we learn from other sectors?

International development sector

The international development sector has long worked in areas of capacity development and local ownership and developed tools for measuring progress and impact that can be used and adapted to measure aspects of localisation.

UNDP Capacity Measurement Framework

Private sector

The private sector has long used tools to measure decision-making effectiveness at scale in large multinational corporations and identify links with business outcomes including efficiency and profitability.

Bain and Company – Five steps to better decision-making

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Impact of localisation on the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action

Measured at the ecosystem, organisational and individual level

Partnerships

IMPACT LEVEL: Equitable and complementary partnerships between local, national and international actors

Funding

IMPACT LEVEL: Increased number of national/local organisations describing financial independence that allows them to respond more efficiently to humanitarian response

Capacity

IMPACT LEVEL: Local and national organisations are able to respond effectively and efficiently, and have targeted and relevant support from international actors

Impact of localisation on the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action

Measured at the ecosystem, organisational and individual level

Coordination and complementarity

IMPACT LEVEL: Application and respect for commonly agreed approaches to 'as local as possible and as international as necessary'

Policy influence/advocacy/visibility

IMPACT LEVEL: Humanitarian action reflects the priorities of affected communities and national actors

Participation

IMPACT LEVEL: Local and national actors fully shape and participate in humanitarian response

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Developing a framework: where to next?

- **Provoking** thought and contributing to conversation
- **Welcoming** feedback on proposed approach to develop comprehensive framework
- **Trialling** framework in pilot countries in Pacific region
- **Sharing** of lessons learned: what works and what does not

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Humanitarian Horizons Research Programme

http://humanitarianadvisorygroup.org/humanitarian-horizons-research-programme/

The multi-year programme seeks to inform and elevate the profile of humanitarian action in Asia and the Pacific.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

The Humanitarian Horizons Research Programme is a three-year research initiative. The humanitarian space is facing unprecedented challenges. With more protracted crises in the world than ever before and demand for humanitarian funding at an all-time high, humanitarian actors need to be more effective and efficient. The program adds unique value to humanitarian action in the Asia and Pacific contexts by generating evidence-based research and creating conversation for change. The program is supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The Humanitarian Horizons Research Programme consists of two pillars:

- **4** multi-year research projects
- Series of **12** practice papers