



Civic peacebuilding, regional stability, and Indo-Pacific pivots

Australasian Aid Conference
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Context: The State of Civic Peacebuilding in South and Southeast Asia, 2023

- Shrinking civic space: similar challenges faced by the peace and humanitarian sectors
- A rise in protracted and complex crises calls for greater integrated responses
- The role of other 'non-traditional' and local actors where the legitimacy of international humanitarian actors is eroding

Emerging solutions for the way forward:

1. Integrated responses (nexus)
2. Risk sharing practices
3. Local leadership and inclusion
4. Supporting networks



1. Integrated response

Thinking the humanitarian sector as siloed and separated from other development, preparedness and/or peacebuilding efforts is less and less appropriate in current context of protracted crises and climate change

In protracted-crisis settings

- Women-led organisations in conflict settings call for greater integration of development-humanitarian-peace objectives and funding mechanisms

In disaster-prone settings

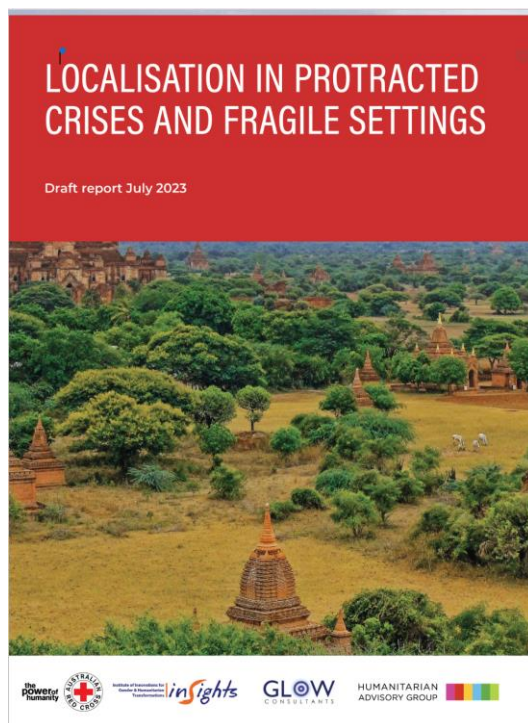
- Communities call for a longer-term solutions to a 'constant emergency mode'

e.g. By November 2023, Vanuatu experienced Category 4 Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin (February-March), a 6.6 magnitude earthquake (March), Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Lola (October) – the earliest ever recorded in the Southern Hemisphere cyclone season.

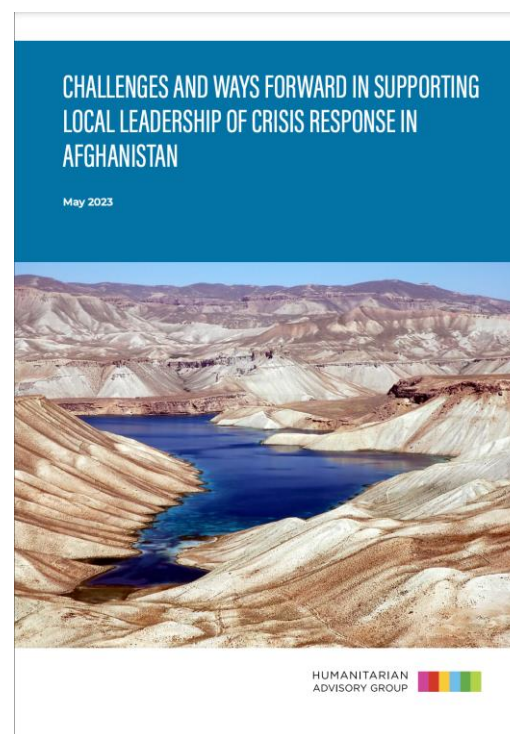


2. Risk sharing practices

‘Risk and compliance requirements are higher in complex crisis settings and affect local/national partners disproportionately’



‘Only 0.3% of tracked funds for humanitarian responses in Ukraine were estimated to have gone directly to local actors by July 2023’

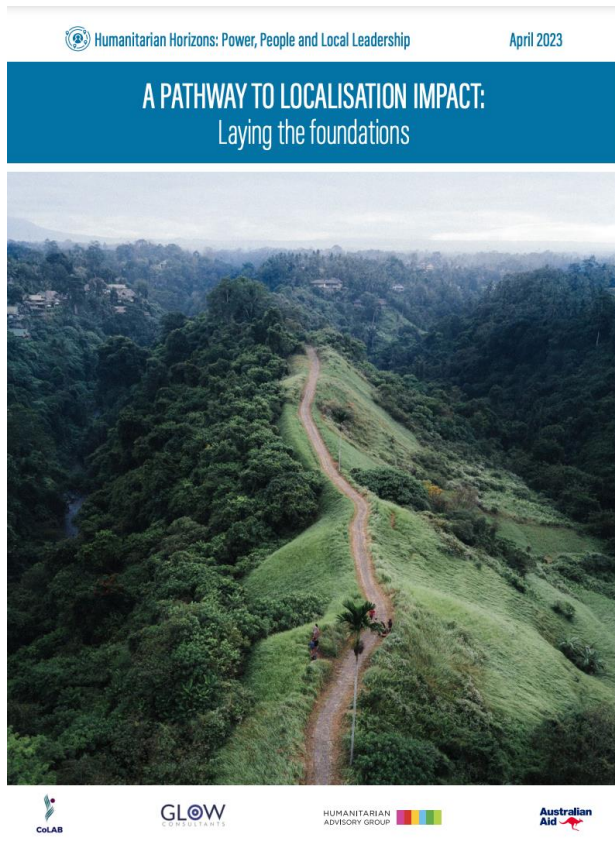


‘More equitably share the burdens of the operating environment in INGO-LNNGO partnerships’



3. Local leadership and inclusion

Investing in local leadership and diversity not because it is the right think to do but because it bears greater outcomes



“By placing children at the centre of anticipatory action, Nepal is nurturing the future generation and creating a resilient society.”
Danish Red Cross



4. Supporting networks

“In this space we have the freedom to talk, to let go, to laugh and also to cry ... all this thanks to the support we have received, the learning and knowledge shared with us and that we also share now with others.” [WLO Colombia]

Examples of benefits reported by women-led-organisations participating in informal and formal networking:

- Exchange of information, tools and peer-to-peer experiences (Cameroon, oPt)
- Moral support and validation (Colombia)
- Support a sense of joint purpose and solidarity (oPt)
- Support local voice and joint advocacy initiatives (Cameroon and oPt)





Thank you!

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