



Realising Localization: Extending our thinking and practice

Alwyn Chilver, Georgie Evangelou, Rachi Perera

Context/ Scene Setting

- **Teskey & Chatter papers 2022**
 - Staff insights, methodology, 2 governance programs
 - The localization spectrum
 - The 4 Ss
 - And the 'real politik'
- **DFAT's LLD Discussion Note 2023**
- **Another perspective to compare, contrast, extend?**

- **Differences and (unique?) Distinctions of the Market Development Facility (MDF)**
 - Multi-country, Same Purpose/deliverables (so good for controlled comparisons)
 - Large local teams, Small spend
 - Explicit focus on local systems, not just government
 - Mostly private partners
 - Co-creation & co-investment an explicit requirement
 - **Methodology to glean localization insights**

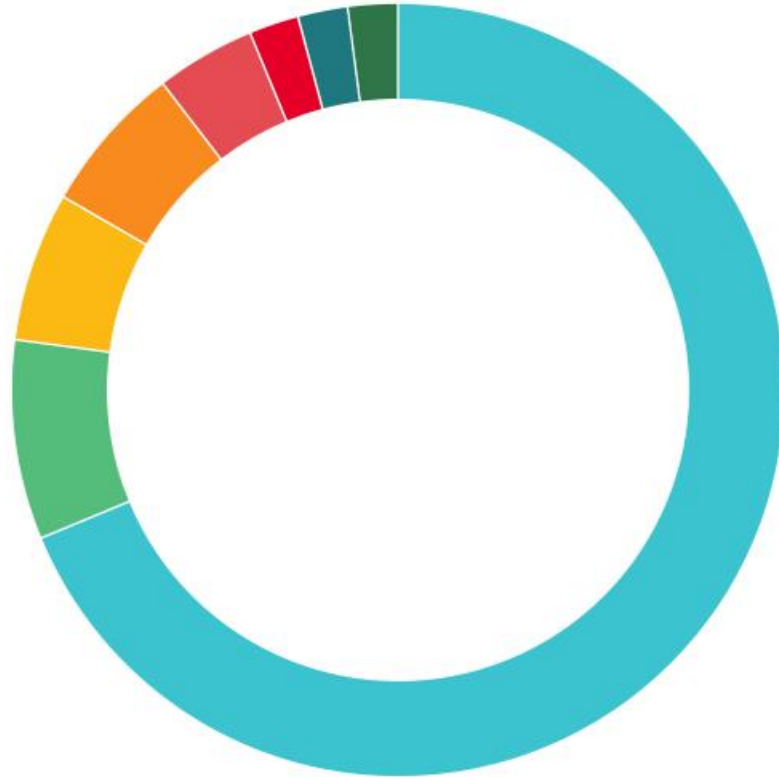


MDF countries





Find ideas and partners (businesses, government, etc.)



- Private Sector - Individual
- Private Sector - Association or Group
- Consultant
- University
- Multi-Stakeholder
- Government
- Civil Society
- Other DFAT Program

INSIGHTS: Systemic (who's goals and strategies)

- Localisation means empowering **any and all local actors**, not just government (DFAT paper)
- Sustainability – change that lasts – at the core drives a localized approach
- Tensions over who sets the agenda at different levels
 - Working with, or around host government policy
 - Introducing climate, gender, indigenous agendas
 - Engagement with government

INSIGHTS: Strategic (what you do and how you do it)

- Co-investment (and co-creation)– driven by sustainability – is critical

Figure 5: The localisation spectrum

	Stasis	Consultation	Co-creation	Localisation Proper
Dimension	The default 'principal-agent' relationship, where the donor retains control of all aspects of the investment	Donor consults local partners but is not bound by their preferences	Local partners considered as equals and agreements are negotiated	Where responsibility for all aspects of the investment are in local hands

- High level agenda setting often not 'localised' (DFAT, host govt)

INSIGHTS: Spending (management, control)

- Differentiated approach according to partner maturity and capability
 - Simple, low value agreements
 - Relationships > Fiduciary assessments
 - Stepped, output-based agreements
 - Amendments as a way of life
- External constraints to working with low-capacity partners

INSIGHTS: Staffing (composition, structures) – the most debate!

- Aspirations for totally localized/ national teams (Fiji, Pakistan; Timor Leste?)
- Does MSD's 'newness' justify (temporary) expatriate presence
- Debates around the value of expatriates in country teams
 - ✓ World view, wider perspectives & experience
 - ✓ Able to take risks nationals can't
 - ✓ Able to resist malevolent pressures more easily
 - ✓ Sometimes better able to 'open doors' and start dialogues
 - ✗ Can never fully appreciate local political economy
 - ✗ Senior officials take locals more seriously
 - ✗ Locals better able to handle complexity appropriately

Suggestions for DFAT's Discussion Note: Consider

1. Making Co-investment & Co-Creation more explicit pre-requisites for all aid activities; adapt MDF's approach to social and governance sectors?
2. More flexible ways of working with low-capacity partners
3. Indicators – easy to measure or meaningful to measure?
 - “Many of the current indicators seem to focus on activities not on changes to local systems”
 - Consider intermediate indicators around changing capabilities of local orgs and actors
 - Co-ownership or co-investment as a proxy measure?
 - Tracking local system change is surely key (MDF's system change frameworks may be helpful here?)
4. Reflecting on how best to introduce and embed Australia's agenda
 - Speed of impact versus sustainability/localization of impact

THANK YOU