

**ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOs**  
**14 – 16 JUNE 2017**  
International Conference Center Geneva

***DISCUSSION PAPER***

**Session title:**            ***Harnessing the breadth of local partnerships***

**Date:**                      ***Thursday 15 June***

**Time/Room:**            ***16h30 – 18h30 – Room 3***

**Background:**

The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) clearly focuses on humanitarian action at the local level with a multi-stakeholder approach. The WHS has coined the term “humanitarian eco-system” which alludes to the fact that humanitarian actors have different mandates, motivations, priorities and organisational set-ups. Apart from professional humanitarian organisations, there are other actors such as faith-based organisations, volunteer groups and the Red Cross/Red Crescent societies with their volunteer networks.

Through concrete examples, this session will examine the potential benefits and challenges linked to involving community actors – grass-roots and volunteer organizations, faith-based groups etc. - in the practical application of the CRRF.

It will specifically explore how the CRRF/Refugee Compact can contribute to reaching out to new local actors, including host communities, thus strengthening the whole-of-society approach and widening the scope of the Principles of Partnership.

It will also explore the latest developments around the localisation work stream of the Grand Bargain. This work stream, co-led by the Swiss Government and IFRC, has seeks to support implementation of the commitment to increase support to local and national responders. Work to date has highlighted the crucial comparative advantage of local actors, and the importance of investing in capacity strengthening, as well the need for more investment in effective and sustainable capacity strengthening initiatives.

**Objectives of the session:**

This event will explore the challenges and opportunities of investing in local and national humanitarian actors, including how to strengthen their capacity for an effective and practical application of the CRRF. It will draw on recent humanitarian crises to illustrate learning and good practice in building strong sustainable local and national organizations, capable of delivering on their mandate and relevant in their own context. This event will explore how these objectives can be better reached from a variety of perspectives: Red Cross Red Crescent perspectives, faith based organisations and NGOs.

**Desired outcome of the session:**

This session is an opportunity to broaden the localization conversation across the humanitarian system and to see the applicability to the roll out of the CRRF. It should identify lessons learned and examples of good practice to be included in the CRRF roll out and identify relevant issues to be captured in the future Global Compact on refugees.

**Methodology:**

Opening remarks from the IFRC and the UNHCR to frame the discussion;

- Short Video clip (2 minutes)
- Panel discussion
- Facilitated discussion through a Q&A (support of pigeonhole)