



Executive Summary: IASC Guidance on Strengthening Participation, Representation and Leadership of Local and National Actors in IASC Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms

July 2021

At a glance

This guidance note provides concrete action-oriented recommendations to enhance the meaningful participation, representation, and leadership of local and national humanitarian actors (L/NAs), including women leaders and other marginalized groups, within IASC humanitarian coordination structures, followed by indicators that should be tracked, either at global level or country level, depending on the issue.

It provides guidance for Humanitarian Coordinators, Humanitarian Country Teams, Cluster and Inter-Cluster Coordination Groups, and other related Task Forces and Working Groups.

Six key elements

1. Support the active participation of L/NAs in coordination structures and respective decision-making, including by mapping L/NAs, providing inductions, interpretation, logistical support, and other forms of support, sharing information, and actively including them in the preparation of meetings, with the aim to increase their representation and the diversity of marginalized groups in humanitarian coordination forums.
2. Consider local actors as co-leads for certain clusters, working groups, etc., and ensure fair and transparent selection processes by developing clear term of reference (ToRs) and exploring rotational seats for them.
3. Promote capacity strengthening with a two-way approach of learning and capacity transfer (not one-way capacity building), e.g., through learning needs assessment and beyond capacity building workshops such as twinning, mentorship, coaching, shadowing, and peer-to-peer support, as well as through respective multi-year plans.
4. Ensure resourcing for Coordination and more for capacity strengthening in direct relation to coordination, e.g., training, staffing
5. Promote visibility of L/NAs and acknowledge the role of L/NAs e.g., in reporting to donors and media.
6. Ensure preparedness, Response and Humanitarian-Development-Peace Collaboration in all stages of response planning - preparedness measures, needs assessments, HDP strategies
7. Strengthen accountability and monitoring in advancing the participation and leadership of L/NAs in coordination mechanism by clarifying accountability of humanitarian country team (HCT) but also of L/NAs.

The full IASC product is available at: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/operational-response/iasc-guidance-strengthening-participation-representation-and-leadership-local-and-national-actors>

For support using this product, or to provide feedback on the product or this summary, contact the IASC secretariat at: iasccorrespondence@un.org.

More information can also be accessed in the Localisation repository on Relief Web:

<https://reliefweb.int/topics/iasc-result-group-1-sub-group-localization-online-repository>.