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Appendix 2: Summary of online survey

Background

The online survey was used to gather perspectives on Sweden's application of the Grand Bargain localisation agenda. The main audiences for the online survey were: 1) Sida and MFA staff in Stockholm and in Swedish missions abroad; 2) direct recipients of Swedish funding at HQ and country levels; and 3) indirect recipients of Swedish funding, mainly national and local NGOs at country level.

The survey was available in English, French, Ukrainian and Burmese. Participants were able to respond to the survey between 29 May to 16 August 2023, with the bulk of responses received in June and July 2023.

Survey respondents

A total of 146 people responded to the survey.

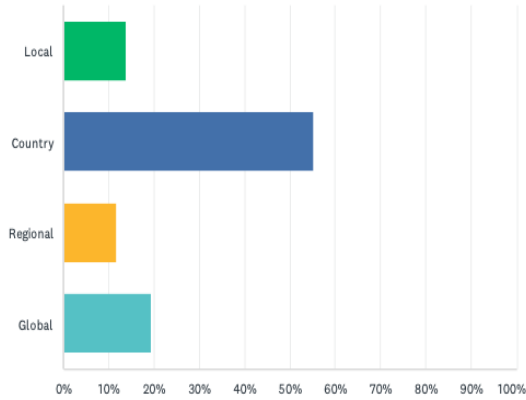### Geographic coverage

The majority (55 percent) of survey respondents had a country-level focus; 19 percent were global/HQ level-focused; 14 percent were locally focused; and 12 percent were regionally focused (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Geographic focus of survey respondents

Q1 Do you have a local, country, regional or global focus?

Answered: 145   Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Local	13.79%	20
Country	55.17%	80
Regional	11.72%	17
Global	19.31%	28
TOTAL		145

Those survey respondents that were country-focused, responded that they were working in thirty countries.

Organisation types

The largest group of survey respondents indicated that they worked for international NGOs (INGOs), representing 40 percent of total survey respondents; followed by national NGOs (NNGOs) and local NGOs (LNGOs) combined, representing a combined 30 percent of the total. The next largest group worked for the Swedish government, representing 14 percent of total respondents, then UN

organisations, representing 12 percent of the total. See Figure 2 for a full breakdown of survey respondents by organisation type.

Figure 6: Survey respondents by organisation type

Q3 Which type of organisation do you work for (please select one)?

Answered: 146   Skipped: 0
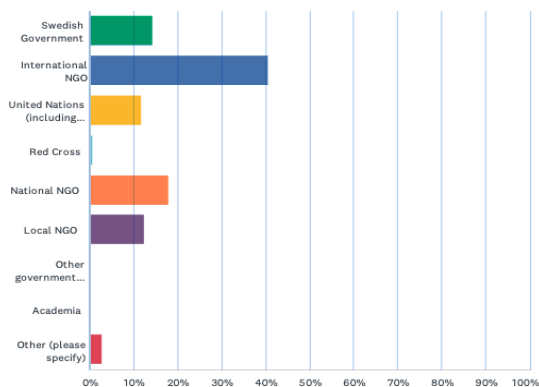
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Swedish Government	14.38%	21
International NGO	40.41%	59
United Nations (including pooled fund managers)	11.64%	17
Red Cross	0.68%	1
National NGO	17.81%	26
Local NGO	12.33%	18
Other government (recipient of ODA)	0.00%	0
Academia	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	2.74%	4
TOTAL		146

Survey results

## Sweden's vision of localisation and how it can contribute

The majority (34 percent) of survey respondents said that they thought Sweden had a clear vision of localisation and how Sweden can contribute to the localisation agenda. The next most popular

response was 'quite clear', which was selected by 25 percent of survey participants (see Figure 3).

Figure 7: Does Sweden have a clear vision of localisation and how it contributes to localisation

Q6 To what extent do you think Sweden has a clear vision of localisation and how Sweden can contribute to the localisation agenda?

Answered: 146   Skipped: 0
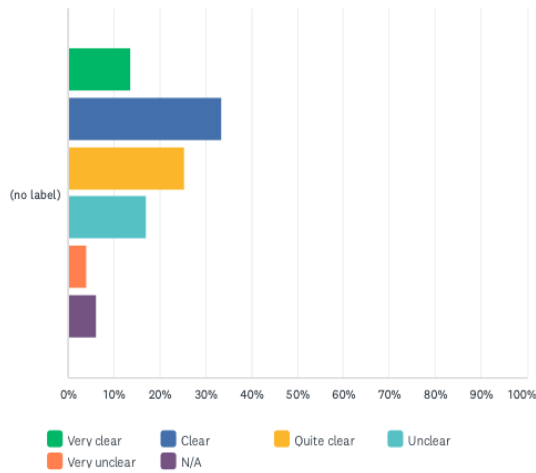
|	VERY CLEAR	CLEAR	QUITE CLEAR	UNCLEAR	VERY UNCLEAR	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	14% 20	34% 49	25% 37	17% 25	4% 6	6% 9	146	2.62

Perceptions of localisation as a priority for Sweden

The majority (37 percent) of survey participants considered that Sweden 'prioritises' its global commitments on localisation (see Figure 4).

Figure 8: Perceptions of Sweden's prioritisation of localisation

Q7 To what extent do you think Sweden prioritises its global commitments to 'localise' humanitarian action by promoting and empowering national and local responders?

Answered: 146   Skipped: 0
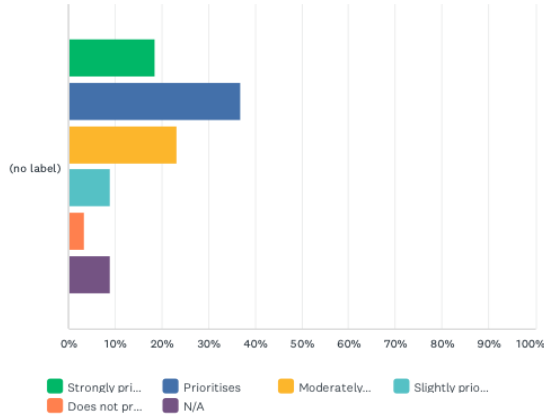
|	STRONGLY PRIORITISES	PRIORITISES	MODERATELY PRIORITISES	SLIGHTLY PRIORITISES	DOES NOT PRIORITISE	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	18% 27	37% 54	23% 34	9% 13	3% 5	9% 13	146	2.36

Perceptions of positive change

Most survey respondents indicated that they had observed a positive change in Sweden's contribution to the localisation agenda since its commitment to the Grand Bargain (see Figure 5).

Figure 9: Perceptions of positive change in Sweden's contribution to localisation

Q8 Have you observed a positive change over the last 8 years (since 2016, when Sweden became a signatory to the Grand Bargain) in the way that Sweden engages with and on behalf of local and national actors in humanitarian contexts?

Answered: 146   Skipped: 0
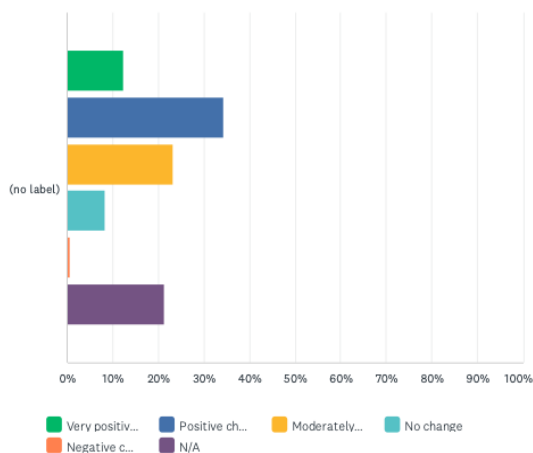
|	VERY POSITIVE CHANGE	POSITIVE CHANGE	MODERATELY POSITIVE CHANGE	NO CHANGE	NEGATIVE CHANGE	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	12% 18	34% 50	23% 34	8% 12	1% 1	21% 31	146	2.37

Quantity and quality of funding to LNAs

The majority of survey respondents felt that increasing the quantity and quality of funding to LNAs was a priority for Sweden (see Figure 6).

Figure 10: Perceptions of Sweden's prioritisation of more/better funding for LNAs

Q9 To what extent do you think increasing the quantity and quality (timely, predictable, multi-year, flexible, inclusive of overheads, transparent, etc) of funding to local and national actors is a priority for Sweden?

Answered: 143   Skipped: 3
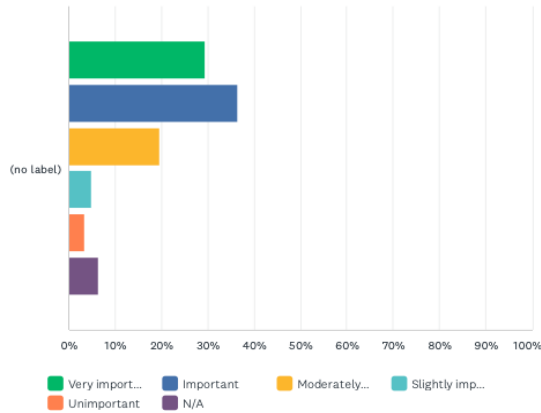
|	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	UNIMPORTANT	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	29% 42	36% 52	20% 28	5% 7	3% 5	6% 9	143	2.11

Other aspects of localisation

The most popular way in which survey respondents considered that Sweden has furthered the localisation agenda was 'support for the leadership and participation of LNAs' in leadership, coordination and policy-making groups' – 57 percent of respondents selected this option (see Figure 7).

Figure 11: Other priority aspects of localisation for Sweden Barriers

Q10 Beyond funding, select the main ways in which you think Sweden has used its influence to further the localisation agenda (select all that apply)

Answered: 143   Skipped: 3
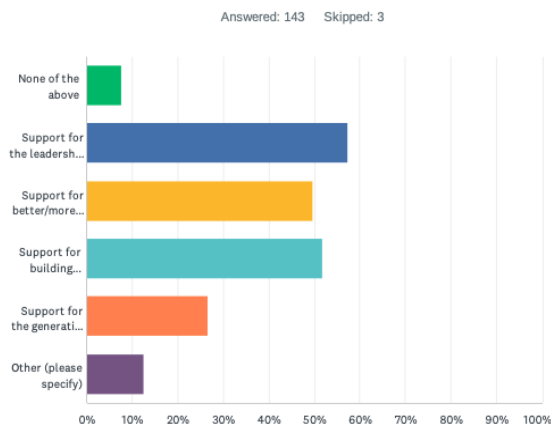
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	8%	11
Support for the leadership and participation of local and national actors in humanitarian leadership, coordination and policy-making groups	57%	82
Support for better/more equal partnerships between international organisations and local and national actors	50%	71
Support for building stronger institutional capacities for local and national actors	52%	74
Support for the generation of learning and research on localisation, including evidence generated in the 'Global South'	27%	38
Other (please specify)	13%	18

Survey respondents identified bureaucratic and legal constraints, capacity constraints of LNAs and the administrative burden of overseeing multiple grants as the main barriers to localisation (see Figure 8).

Figure 12: Main barriers to localisation

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	1%	2
Bureaucratic and legal constraints on funding local and national actors directly	52%	75
The administrative burden of overseeing multiple, smaller grants	43%	61
Political and economic interests of the Swedish Government	15%	22
Willingness and ability of international intermediary organisations to share power and/or resources with local and national actors	35%	50
The lack of binding commitments/agreements on localisation, making it difficult to hold international actors to account	34%	49
Real and perceived capacity constraints of local and national actors to respond in an emergency and adhere to donor compliance requirements	46%	66
Real and perceived capacity constraints of local and national actors to take on leadership roles and participate in coordination mechanisms/decision-making bodies/policy forums	33%	47
Repressive, weak or corrupt national governments	24%	35
Insecurity (for local actors in particular), lack of access and/or compromised civil society space	25%	36
A lack of a clear and shared understanding of localisation and Sweden's role in contributing to the localisation agenda	38%	55
Other (please specify)	11%	16
Total Respondents: 143		

Looking ahead

Question 13 asked respondents what they thought Sweden should prioritise or change as it continues to implement its commitments on localisation/ which are the areas where Swedish funding and influence could have the most impact within collective efforts on localisation. The main themes to emerge were:

- Direct Swedish funding for LNNGOs.

- More emphasis on capacity building of LNAs.

- More genuine partnerships with LNAs.

Final comments

Q14 asked for any other comments or reflections. The main themes to emerge were:

- More and better funding for LNAs.

- More emphasis on capacity building.

- Linking humanitarian and development approaches.

Appendix 3: List of interviewees

Organisation	Position
Act Church of Sweden	Policy & Programme Development Adviser
Act Church of Sweden	Director of Finance, Management and Operations Support
Action Against Hunger (AAH)	Localisation Contact Person
Action Against Hunger (AAH)	Institutional Donor Manager
Action Against Hunger (AAH)	Country Director, DRC
Action Against Hunger (AAH)	Country Director, Ukraine
Action Against Hunger (AAH)	Partnership Coordinator, Ukraine
Action Against Hunger (AAH)	Country Director, Myanmar
Action Against Hunger (AAH)	Deputy Country Director, Programmes, Myanmar
Action des Volontaires Unis pour le Développement et la Santé (AVUDS), DRC	Executive Secretary
Action pour le Développement des Milieux Ruraux (ADMR), DRC	Country Coordinator
Appui aux Initiatives de Bien-Etre Familial (AIBEF), DRC	Country Coordinator
BAID – Help Ukraine Romania	Coordinator
Bon Dieu dans la Rue International (BDRint), DRC	Country Director
Caritas Bukavu, DRC	Director of Operations
Caritas Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine	Director

Caritas Ukraine	President
Child Development Association, Myanmar	Director
Child Development Association, Myanmar	Staff
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Strategic Thinking and Localisation
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Strategic Thinking and Localisation
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Country Director, DRC
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Head of Program, DRC
Diakonia	Humanitarian Advisor, Diakonia International Hum Law Centre
Diakonia	Manager, Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre
Diakonia	Methods Advisor, Diakonia International Hum Law Centre
ECHO	Policy Officer
ECHO	Policy Officer
ECHO	International Policy Officer
Eastern Naga Development Organization, Myanmar	Director
Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)	Office of Emergencies and Resilience/focal point for localization
Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)	Office of Emergencies and Resilience/focal point for localization
Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)	Livestock development expert & project manager, DRC
Femmes Unies Pour la Promotion Agricole et Sociale (FEUPAS), DRC	Country Coordinator

Grameen Credit Agricole Microfinance Foundation	Head of Technical Assistance and Partnership
Ground Truth Solutions	CEO
International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)	Director of Policy
International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)	Regional Representative, MENA
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Senior Officer, Localisation
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Senior Portfolio Manager, Awards Management Unit
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Global Partnerships Director
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Deputy Director of Programmes, DRC
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Country Director, Ukraine
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Deputy Director of Programmes, Myanmar
Islamic Relief	Head of humanitarian Department
Islamic Relief	Humanitarian Department
Islamic Relief	Country Director, Palestine
Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS), Myanmar	Director
Local Resource Center, Myanmar	Director
Metta Foundaiton, Myanmar	Director
Network of Empowered Aid Response (NEAR)	Senior Advocacy Advisor

Ministry of Foreign Affairs MFA), Sweden	Grand Bargain Focal Point
Myanmar Health Assistant Association	Head of Programmes
Myanmar Heart Development Organization /Asian Harm Reduction Network	Director
Myndigheten för samhällsskydd och beredskap (MSB)	Handläggare, enheten för humanitära insatser, Operativa avdelningen
Myndigheten för samhällsskydd och beredskap (MSB)	n/a
Nadha Makers Organisation (NMO), Yemen	Chairperson
NEEMIA, Ukraine	Director
NGO World to Ukrainians	CEO
NGO League of Business and Professional Women	Executive director
Non-violent Peace-force, Ukraine	Head of Programme in Ukraine
Non-violent Peace-force, Ukraine	Programme Manager
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Director of Institutional Partnerships
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Head of Programme, Yemen
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Country Director, DRC
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Head of programmes, DRC
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Country Director, Ukraine

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Partnerships Manager, Ukraine
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Head of Programmes, Myanmar
Nyein (Shalom) Foundation, Myanmar	Executive Director
OCHA	Donor Relations Section/Humanitarian Financing and Resource Mobilization Division
OCHA	Chief, System-wide Approaches and Practices Section, Coordination Division
OCHA	CBPFs Chief/H/Q
OCHA	CBPF Office/H/Q
OCHA	Chief, CERF Secretariat
OCHA	CERF Programme Unit
OCHA	Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) Manager
OCHA	Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund (EHF) Manager
OCHA	Deputy Head of Office, Palestine
OCHA	Head of CBPF, Palestine
OCHA	Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) Manager
OCHA	Head of Fund/CBPF, DRC
OCHA	South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF), Manager
OCHA	Head of Fund, Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) & Deputy Head of Office
OCHA	Deputy head of office, DRC
OCHA	Deputy Head of Office, Ukraine

OCHA	Head of Fund, Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF)/CBPF
OCHA	Deputy Head of Office, Myanmar
OCHA	Head of Fund, Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF)/CBPF
Oxfam International	Sida Humanitarian Partnership Agreement (HPA) Manager
Oxfam International	Nordics Lead for Oxfam Great Britain/also works on the Sida ICR
Oxfam	Humanitarian and Resilience Programme Manager, Somalia
Oxfam	Funding Coordinator, Somalia
Overseas Development Institute (ODI)	Senior Research Fellow and HPN Coordinator
Overseas Development Institute (ODI)	Research Associate
Palestinian NGO Forum	Director
Posmishka UA Charitable fund, Ukraine	Head of organisation
Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)	Operations Director
Programme d'Actions pour le Développement des Bases Unies (PADEBU), DRC	Coordinator
Proliska, Ukraine	Head of organisation
Rokada, Ukraine	Head of Board
Save the Children DRC	Humanitarian Director, DRC
Save the Children Sweden	Senior localisation advisor
Save the Children Sweden	Partnerships Manager, Ukraine
Save the Children Sweden	Programme Development and Quality Director, Myanmar

SMC Faith in Development	DRR and Resilience Focal Point
Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix et le Développement Intégral (SOFEPADI), DRC	Country Coordinator
Somalia NGO Consortium	Director
Stabilisation Support Services, Ukraine	Executive Director
Swanyee Development Foundation, Myanmar	President
Swe Tha Har, Myanmar	Director
Swedish Embassy	Bangladesh humanitarian focal point
Swedish Embassy	Ethiopia humanitarian focal point
Swedish Embassy	Palestine humanitarian focal point
Swedish Embassy	Kenya/Somalia humanitarian/nexus advisor
Swedish Embassy	South Sudan humanitarian focal point
Swedish Embassy	Yemen humanitarian focal point
Swedish Embassy	DRC humanitarian advisor/focal point
Swedish Embassy	Ukraine humanitarian focal point
Swedish Embassy	Myanmar humanitarian focal point
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	Localisation Task Team, Humanitarian Unit
Sida	Programme Manager, Humanitarian Unit
Sida	Ethiopia Desk Officer, Humanitarian Unit
Sida	Bangladesh Desk Officer, Humanitarian Unit

Sida	Afghanistan Desk Officer, Humanitarian Unit
Sida	Palestine Desk Officer, Humanitarian Unit
Sida	South Sudan Desk Officer, Humanitarian Unit
Sida	Yemen Desk Officer, humanitarian unit
Sida	DRC Desk Officer, Humanitarian Unit
Sida	Ukraine Desk Officer, Humanitarian Unit
Sida	Myanmar Desk Officer, Humanitarian Unit
Sida	CIVSAM Unit
Sida	Chief Controller
Sida	Policy Specialist
Sida	Controller, Humanitarian Unit
Sida	Research/Evidence Unit
Sida	Research/Evidence Unit
Swedish Red Cross	Head of humanitarian/donor partnerships/ programme lead/ localisation focal point
Swedish Red Cross	Myanmar
The New Humanitarian	External Relations Officer
The Tenth of April, Ukraine	President
UMOJA IN ACTION, DRC	Coordinator
UNCHR	Head of our Partnership and Coordination Service, and Sherpa for the Grand Bargain
UNCHR	Donor Relations Officer
UNCHR	Sida Evaluation Focal Point, DRC

UNCHR	Sida Evaluation Focal Point, DRC
UNCHR	Senior Donor Relations Officer, Ukraine
UNICEF	Evaluation at UNICEF
UNICEF	Europe Team
UNICEF	Partnerships Specialist, Ethiopia
UNICEF	Deputy Representative, Ethiopia
UNICEF	Partnerships Specialist, Somalia
UNICEF	Deputy Representative, Somalia
UNICEF	NEXUS Advisor, DRC
UNICEF	Senior Emergency Coordinator, Ukraine
Union pour l'Encadrement des Femmes Autochtones (UEFA), DRC	Coordinator
Union pour la promotion/Protection et la Défense des Droits et de l'Environnement (UPDDHE), DRC	Executive Director
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)	External Relations and Project Officer
UNRWA	Deputy Director for Programmes, Gaza
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	Humanitarian Specialist, CSOs and Localisation
Village d'Espoir (VE), DRC	Executive Secretary
WFP	Deputy Director, Technical Assistance and Country Capacity Strengthening Service (PROT)
WFP	Chief, NGO Partnerships Unit
WFP	Government Partnerships Officer
WFP	Head of Partnerships, Yemen

WFP	Head of Programmes, Yemen
WFP	Partnerships Officer, Yemen
WFP	Global partnerships focal point, DRC
WFP	Head of Programmes, Ukraine
WFP	Head of Programmes, Myanmar
Yemen Donor Coordination Group/ECHO	Head of Regional Office/Co-chair DG
Yemen Donor Coordination Group/ECHO	Programme Officer

Appendix 4: Country case studies

The findings of the three in-depth case study countries (DRC, Myanmar and Ukraine) are integrated in the main findings of the evaluation and are a core analytical component underpinning the overall analysis and conclusions. The summaries below highlight the salient findings for each of the three countries. These are the summaries prepared by the national researchers for the 'sense-making' workshop with EBA and Sida in Stockholm in October 2023 – and therefore reflect the key observations derived by the national researchers from their in-country interviews and literature reviews.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Context: The complex and protracted crises in the DRC have resulted in 25 percent of the population (approx. 26.4 million people) estimated to require humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 2023). The DRC has the largest number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Africa - approx. 6.2 million people - and globally, it has the highest number of food insecure people (Sida, 2023b), and high levels of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Humanitarian crises in DRC are driven by decades of conflict, fragility and insecurity, mainly in the Eastern provinces, and are exacerbated by natural disasters, epidemics and poverty. Humanitarian access is largely hampered by the presence of armed groups and absence of infrastructure (OCHA, 2021).

Swedish engagement in DRC

Sweden is an important donor to DRC and it is among Sweden's top five recipient countries of humanitarian assistance (OCHA FTS). Between 2021 - 2023, Swedish humanitarian aid to the DRC totalled

SEK 1.2 billion, but nearly halved over the period (from SEK 504 million in 2021 to SEK 245 million in 2023).

Sweden has a strong and long-standing presence in the DRC, with in-country staff actively engaged in the humanitarian donor group, Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), nexus agenda, and a donor representative on the DRC Humanitarian Fund (DHF) advisory board. However, staff capacity was stretched and limited, with only one staff responsible for all the nine Sida humanitarian partners while the in-country Embassy team has limited human resource capacity to support in-country humanitarian operations.

Sida's Humanitarian Country Appeal (HCA) 2023 prioritised protection, food insecurity and malnutrition among IDPs and the host communities, with funds channelled through nine (9) international partners; 5 UN agencies and 4 INGOs. The appeal also prioritised partnerships with organisations operating in hard-to-reach areas, and those in strategic engagement with LNAs.

Localisation in DRC

Most international actors in the DRC are committed to advance localisation by implementing reforms for a more equitable and inclusive humanitarian landscape in the country.

Opportunities have increased for LNA representation and participation in country humanitarian coordination mechanisms, notably in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), DHF advisory board (which includes 3 LNAs), cluster and sub-cluster coordination, among others. There is also CONAFOHD, an umbrella platform for LNAs which is made up of five provincial platforms for LNAs to engage on localisation in the country.

Recent examples of localisation progress included shifts in allocations from the DHF: 53.7 percent of DHF funds in 2022 were allocated to LNAs (both direct - 46.4 percent and indirect – 7.3 percent), and the DHF also decentralised its operations to Eastern

DRC where 90 percent of the funds are targeted (OCHA, 2022b). At the same time there are on-going discussions among humanitarian actors on overhead cost sharing with LNAs, equitable partnership principles and consortia arrangement with LNAs.

Despite the progress made, there are still some obstacles to localisation in the DRC. Interviewees noted that progress is too slow and disjointed, explained by one LNA; "we have talked a lot about localisation and yet we have not seen it in reality. Time for speeches is over, we have to act now." The reluctance of international partners to recognise and give equal space to LNAs coupled with Sweden's lack of clarity of its localisation expectations was said not to bond well with the goal of localisation.

Methodology

The researcher conducted 27 interviews: 2 Sweden officials; 13 INGOs and UN agencies; and 12 interviews with LNA partners of Sweden's SPOs (including 4 women-led LNAs). Nineteen respondents from DRC responded to the global online survey for this evaluation: 61.5 percent LNAs and 38.4 percent Sweden officials, UN and INGOs. Nearly, all interviews with international actors were conducted remotely, while interviews with LNAs were conducted in person.

Summary of findings

Strategies: Sweden had no localisation definition or strategy, but its approach was generally understood by partners in DRC to be aligned with the Grand Bargain (GB) definition. When compared to other donors, Sweden was perceived as less assertive and clear about its localisation goal to partners, who used their own organisational interpretation or the Grand Bargain definition for guidance. The reluctance of Sweden to clearly define localisation expectations were partly premised on its assumption that all partners are signatories to

the Grand Bargain and will somehow fulfil their commitments. But without Sweden's clarity and communication of its localisation expectation to partners, there were wide variations and inconsistencies of their localisation approaches.

Funding: SPOs noted that Sweden's flexible humanitarian funding (inclusive of overheads cost) had either been stable or slightly increased over the years but did not provide information on the amount of funding received from Sweden. However, official Sweden (Sida) data show a general decline in Sweden's humanitarian funding to the DRC overall (see above).

There was a similar challenge with accessing information on funding pass through to LNAs by SPOs. Neither SPOs nor LNAs interviewed shared relevant information on pass through. As one LNA noted; "we do not even know how much our international partner receive from Sida. There has never been a clear communication related to money." Some international organisations acknowledged LNA criticism around the lack of pass-through: one INGO explained: "we are also guilty of the same ICR issue as other INGOs. …we give nothing from the ICR we receive from Sida." Sweden's lack of assertiveness and clarity with SPOs on the mandatory pass-through rates and the percentage of overhead cost sharing with LNAs remain a barrier.

Leadership and influence: There was notable improvement in the participation of LNAs in various coordination mechanisms: localisation working group, HCT, DHF advisory board, cluster and sub-cluster under the UN-led formal coordination mechanism but these were not specifically attributable to Sweden's influence or efforts. The centralised nature of humanitarian decisions making still limits LNAs humanitarian participation and leadership at the country (Barbelet, et al, 2019). Being a large and important humanitarian donor to the DRC, Sweden could leverage its soft powers to improve LNA's meaningful participation and leadership at the country level.

Partnerships: Several interviewees noted that a lack of clarity by Sweden on risk-sharing drives SPO's fear or unwillingness to partner equitably with LNAs in DRC. Fear of fiduciary risk made several SPOs avoid partnerships with LNAs, especially those they perceived not to meet their requirements. At best, SPOs engaged in short term sub-contracts instead of long-term and equitable partnerships with LNAs, even though they routinely relied on LNAs to implement in places where access is constrained due to insecurity. The short-term nature of Sweden's humanitarian funding and the demand to satisfy donors' due diligence requirements complicated relationships and resulted in unequal partnership models. But interviewees emphasised the importance of long-term and equal partnerships with LNAs for mutual accountability.

Capacity development: There was no evidence that Sweden prioritised or pushed SPOs on the capacity development of LNAs in DRC. Instead, Sweden's humanitarian funding priority to save lives was felt to be at odds with the demand to develop LNAs capacity. Interviews revealed that SPOs still implemented a range of capacity development activities, however the focus was on meeting donors' compliance requirements to minimise fiduciary risk – a source of criticism by some LNAs (Barbelet et al, 2019). The top-down approach to capacity development was also seen by LNAs as problematic. One LNA explained; "most capacity-building activities are designed and imposed on LNAs. Very often, institutional capacity assessments are carried out by INGOs/UN, who determine and develop LNAs capacity building needs, tools and sessions." However, LNAs prioritised capacity development areas that support staff welfare and organisational institutional capacity and are also cognisant of their own capacity although international actors do not always recognise it.

Conclusions and lessons

- Most LNAs lacked sufficient information about Sida's work and contribution to the humanitarian response in the DRC. In fact, some LNAs were not aware that the humanitarian funds received from SPOs were Swedish funding.

- Some interviewees expressed a lack of trust between LNAs and SPOs, with LNAs voicing suspicions that some SPOs were misusing Sida's flexible funding.

- USAID/BHA, another major donor like Sweden/Sida in DRC, is already directly funding to some local actors. Sweden could take lessons from BHA on its direct funding to LNAs in the country. Given that the presence of strong national organisations with high comparative advantage to international organisations, there was a clear call Sweden to pilot direct funding to such LNAs.

- Even though Sida's funding may be small compared to other donors, in terms of their global portfolio, it was still perceived as an important entry point to other bigger funding opportunities including ECHO.

- The evaluation revealed the methodological difficulties of conducting comprehensive research with local actors: most LNAs were reluctant to take part in the online survey, which required several reminders by email, phone calls and physical visits to enlist their participation. There were also issues with the accuracy and meaning of the French translation of some difficult words and concept used in the interviews such as "engaging communities, localization of aid, accountability to affected people".

Myanmar

Context: The complex humanitarian crisis in Myanmar is rooted in the country's long history of civil war since independence in 1948. The crisis is driven by a combination of the political militarisation, systematic human rights violations, armed conflicts, natural disasters, poverty, and long-term displacement and re-displacement of the population (Sida, 2023).

According to the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, approximately 17.6 million people (around a third of the population) required humanitarian assistance, compared to 1 million and 14.4 million people in 2021 and 2022 respectively (OCHA 2023c). The increased need resulted from the significant impact of the 2021 military coup, which exacerbated the extreme poverty (around 50 percent of the population are impoverished). Additionally, there are approximately 1.8 million IDPs, the majority within the Sagaing region (Sida 2023). The coup also heightened violence and worsened the insecurity, highly constraining humanitarian access – Myanmar scored 5/5 in the ACAPS humanitarian Access Index.

Swedish engagement in Myanmar

Sweden is one of the most significant humanitarian donors in Myanmar, contributing 5.8 percent of the total humanitarian funding in 2023 (Sida, 2023). Its contribution to Myanmar humanitarian funding increased in the last years in response to the military coup of 2021. Between 2021 – 2013, Sweden contributed SEK 289 million to the Myanmar humanitarian response.

Sweden's 2023 humanitarian funding priorities to Myanmar emphasised a life-saving multisectoral approach to provide humanitarian assistance including food security and protection through five international partners - 2 UN agencies and 3 INGOs who operate in a wide geographic reach, and with direct and indirect presence in the conflict affected regions of the country.

Although Sweden has a diplomatic presence/embassy in Myanmar, key staff responsible for overseeing the humanitarian and development portfolio were relocated out of Myanmar because of security reasons. This poses a challenge to coordination and communication with partners in the country.

Localisation in Myanmar

Sweden is among the 12 donors of the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) that funds over 40 LNAs and has three LNAs representation on the advisory board. In parallel to MHF, Local Intermediary Actors (LIA), a consortium of 14 national organizations that represents hundreds of community-based organizations (CBO)s across Myanmar also facilitate locally-led humanitarian response and offers opportunities for LNAs collective leadership.

There is also LNAs representation in the UN Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) that oversees Myanmar's humanitarian response and coordination. As part of the HCT, LNAs are actively engaged in national cluster and sub-national cluster thematic working groups.

Yet despite all the above, gains to LNAs leadership and participation in the humanitarian response during Covid-19 is felt to have regressed, especially since the military coup of 2021, with LNAs having to maintain a low profile for fear of possible security profiling, harassments, arrest and attacks (HARP, 2022) Additionally, the European Union Fund that supported localisation engagements among INGOs and LNAs scaled down and/or closed some of their programmes because of the military coup and subsequent humanitarian crises.

Methodology

The Myanmar researcher conducted 20 interviews: 3 Sweden officials; 7 INGOs and UN agency which are Swedish SPOs; and 10 LNA partners of these SPOs, in addition to desk reviews.

Summary of findings

Strategies: LNAs and SPOs felt that Sweden did not have and communicate a clear understanding of its localisation definition or strategy to partners. Although in general, Sweden's localisation strategy was perceived to be aligned with the Grand Bargain definition. In the absence of a clear localisation guidance or communication from Sweden, partners, UN agencies and INGOs referred to their organisation localisation strategy where it existed, resulting in significant differences and inconsistencies in localisation approaches across SPOs.

Funding: Sweden does not currently provide any direct funding to LNAs although it is in the process of exploring how it might do so in a pilot, including through consortia and collaboration with other donors. Decisions on this were pending at time of this research.

Presently, Swedish funding only reaches LNAs indirectly through its flexible funding to international partners. Evidence on pass-through funding to LNAs from SPOs was unclear and inconsistent. Interviews with SPOs showed a lack of transparency on funding information - very few of them shared relevant financial data and what was provided was inconsistent or incomplete. This data did not present a clear picture of progress made by Sweden and partners to achieve the 25 percent Grand Bargain commitment. Interviewees from LNAs were critical that without mandatory or specific allocation on pass-through funding by donors like Sweden, the 25 percent mark may not be attainable.

Leadership and influence: Apart from LNA representation on the MHF advisory board, in general, evidence on improved LNA

participation and leadership in Myanmar was weak. Moreover, LNAs interviewees still felt that most decisions were made by the expert advisory board members of the MHF – comprised of the donors, HCT and UN/INGOs representatives, which made LNAs representation on the board superficial.

Partnerships: Sweden's support to the Myanmar humanitarian crisis has helped to support formation of partnerships between SPOs and a vast network of LNAs. For example, the MHF, a recipient of Sweden humanitarian support has close to 40 LNAs beneficiaries. While this is a positive development, some of the new partnerships with LNAs were considered reactive to the constricting humanitarian access in the country, especially for international agencies.

However, interviews noted some good practices of equitable partnership implemented by Sida's development-funded projects. For example, SPOs holistically included LNAs as part of the project design and decision making. They suggested that Sida's humanitarian unit could incorporate some of the creative and equitable partnership models implemented and learned by Sida's development cooperation in their own approaches instead of reinventing the wheel.

Capacity development: Capacity development activities provided to LNAs by SPOs largely focused on compliance requirements but fell short of addressing LNAs' long-term technical and institutional development priorities. Sweden's humanitarian funding priority of saving lives and the short-term nature of humanitarian funding without clear capacity strengthening budget lines remained a barrier to prioritising capacity development under its humanitarian funding.

Conclusions and lessons

- The level of distrust from LNAs towards SPOs was striking.

- LNAs and SPOs expressed a broad range of concerns and priorities around localisation making it difficult to draw hard

conclusions: some viewed partnership as the most critical aspect of localisation, others viewed flexible and long-term funding as the most important element of localisation, while some were concerned with the power dynamics between LNAs and SPOs as the most vital element of localisation.

- The evaluation was conducted within a short timeframe which limited the number of interviews the country consultant could carry out within the available time for the study. However, of the 10 LNAs interviewed, they represent hundreds of small NGOs and community-based organizations, therefore, it is safe to conclude that a lot of the concerns raised by these 10 KIIs reflect those faced by others LNAs in Myanmar

- Generating financial data as part of the study was challenging, and most SPOs were either reluctant or unwilling to share financial information, especially on pass through funds to LNAs. And even what was provided was not standardized financial data which made it challenging to make sense of it.

Ukraine

Context: The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24th February 2022 caused an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in the country. Approximately 17.6 million people were estimated to require humanitarian assistance and protection services in 2023. The war also led to the mass displacement of the population, 5.1 million internally displaced inside Ukraine and 6.2 million Ukrainian refugees globally by 2023.

The crisis led to serious protection challenges: nearly 15.4 million people in need of various protection support in 2023, while humanitarian access remained a challenge, especially along the frontlines, in newly accessible areas (NAA) and in areas controlled by the Russian Federation. National non-governmental organisations and local volunteer networks remain essential in enabling access to humanitarian assistance in these areas (Sida, 2023).

Swedish engagement in Ukraine

Sweden is one of the major humanitarian donors to Ukraine, which is one of the top five recipient countries of Swedish humanitarian funding, receiving SEK 797 million between 2021-2023. Since the Russian invasion in February 2022, Sweden's humanitarian funding to Ukraine has increased, with SEK 544 million extended that year. Sweden also undertook various initiatives to respond to the war, including adopting macroeconomic support and sanctions against Russia.

At the country level, the Embassy staff (though few) are remotely supported by Stockholm based staff (about 35) and are actively engaged in Humanitarian Country Team and the small donor group on Ukraine's humanitarian response.

Sweden's humanitarian priorities in 2023 covered: assistance in hard-to-reach areas, displacement-related concerns, locally-led response

and providing protection services which were channelled via 7 international partners – 3 UN agencies and 4 INGO partners. There is also ongoing consideration to pilot direct support to LNAs.

Localisation in Ukraine

Localisation initiatives implemented in Ukraine include: the 2022 "If not now-when?" appeal signed by 37 LNAs on the implementation of localisation. LNAs are represented on the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT); participate in the cluster coordination meetings where there is a localisation working group under the Protection cluster; represented on the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF) advisory board (3 LNAs) and are also beneficiary of the fund. There is also ongoing NGO Forum advocacy on localisation.

Increasingly, international actors recognise LNA capacity and rely on them, especially to gain access in hard-to-reach areas. Many LNAs are working in partnership with INGOs and UN agencies to provide humanitarian assistance. For example, at the end of 2022, UHF partnership increased from 51 (prior to the invasion) to 92, of which 35 are with LNAs who received 33 percent (23 percent direct and 10 percent indirect) of its funds in 2022. Moreover, nearly 300 CBOs, CSOs and volunteer groups working as frontline responders received funds or other forms of support from the UHF in 2022 (OCHA, 2022). All these are progress in the right direction, providing opportunities to LNAs to accumulate the necessary capacity to engage in the humanitarian response.

However, some obstacles to localisation still persist, notably: the lack of direct donor funds to LNAs due to associated fiduciary risk, complicated due diligence procedures, language barriers, and a highly centralised humanitarian system and decision-making processes that exclude LNAs.

Methodology

The Ukraine researchers conducted 26 interviews: 2 Sweden officials; 13 INGOs and UN; and 11 interviews with LNAs, in addition to desk review.

Summary of findings

Strategies: Although most partners in Ukraine perceived localisation as a process to empower LNAs in the humanitarian response, its definition and approaches were not clearly articulated and differed significantly between LNAs and international partners. Notably, LNAs expressed a clear lack of understanding of localisation as well as Sweden's strategy but SPOs perceived Sweden's localisation approach to be aligned to the Grand Bargain commitment even though there was no clear communication from Sweden on this. In the absence of any clear guidance by Sweden, SPOs expressed confusion or a lack of clarity of Sweden's localisation expectations of them.

Funding: Since the beginning of the invasion, interviewees noted an increase in funds transferred by SPOs to LNAs – consistent with Sweden's increased funding for the response. For example, 65 percent of UNHCR's funds go to LNAs, while the UHF now requires partners to share 7 percent overhead cost with LNAs. However, the evaluation could not establish information on the quantity and quality of Sweden's funds passed on to LNAs. SPOs inability to separate Sweden's contribution from other donor funding to the organisation and unawareness among some LNAs of receiving Swedish funding made it hard to trace indirect pass through to LNAs. Additionally, Sweden's lack of direct funding to LNAs, short term humanitarian funding (up to 1 year) and a lack of multi-year funding to SPOs in Ukraine were expressed as additional barriers to LNAs' access to funding.

Partnership: Sweden's flexible funding enabled SPOs to establish partnerships with LNAs but there was weak evidence of improvement in the quantity and quality of partnership with LNAs. The only notable example was an increase in UHF partnerships in 2022, from 51 to 92, of which 35 were LNAs. Short-term funding, complicated due diligence, and high staff turnover in some SPOs were cited as challenges and barriers to establishing sustainable and equitable partnerships with LNAs.

Leadership and influence: Sweden's indirect funding toward the participation of the national NGO Forum in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) promoted the representation of LNAs in humanitarian coordination fora. Most SPOs also encouraged similar participation of LNAs in different coordination platforms; NGO forum, cluster and sub-cluster coordination meetings including being members of UHF. But all the same, meaningful LNAs participation and leadership in humanitarian coordination fora was still limited, partly due to language barriers and time constraints. And to circumvent limitations to LNA participation in the formal coordination mechanisms, some LNAs coordinated among themselves.

Capacity development: SPOs organised and provided various kinds of capacity development activities in relevant areas identified by LNAs. An INGO interviewee explained; "we use a questionnaire for the local partners where they indicate their training needs. This year, we have planned training on crisis management and organisational development." Definitely, LNA interviewees lauded these approaches which were considered relevant and suitable to their contexts, but still, a number of SPOs supported capacity development activities were described by LNAs as highly ineffective - unnecessarily expensive and ill-adjusted to the local context.

Conclusions and lessons

- The emergence of active LNAs networks out of the main humanitarian coordination fora present a good opportunity for Sweden to extend direct support to LNAs networks to advocate for and promote localisation in the country. There is also a call for Sweden to coordinate efforts to improve the participation and influence of LNAs in the UN-lead country humanitarian coordination mechanisms.

- To cater for the different capacities among LNAs, Sweden's and partners' due diligence requirements and procedures should be adjusted and simplified to suit different categories of LNAs – by size and the amount of funding requested. Sweden could consider this recommendation in its plan to pilot direct funding to LNAs in Ukraine.

- There is a need to deepen quality partnerships with LNAs including with small and young LNAs to advance localisation efforts in the country. Many of the LNAs interviewed for this evaluation started their humanitarian operation following the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine. These LNAs primarily relied on their past contacts and networks including cooperation with the local communities and governments to access conflict affected populations. There should be some efforts dedicated at strengthening these LNAs and local networks including their coordination with local authorities to increase humanitarian access to crisis affected populations and communities on the frontline and hard to reach areas.

- The lack of information about knowledge and learning exercises supported by Sweden wasn't necessarily surprising as the response in Ukraine recently started with a strong focus on providing emergency assistance. We expect that as the response stabilises, maybe a shift to knowledge generation and lessons learnt would then make sense.

- Most organisations interviewed had conducted and/or supported needs assessments of the affected population prior to receiving any Swedish funding. They had a good sense of what was working well or required additional attention in the response.

Appendix 5: Evaluation Matrix

Table: Evaluation matrix

Evaluation questions	Indicators	Data sources	Limitations and risks
1. What efforts and interventions have been undertaken by Sweden to implement and further the localisation agenda within its humanitarian work? What does this imply for Sweden's interpretation of the agenda? More specifically: what problem does Sweden search to deal with in applying the agenda?			
1.1 To what extent has Sweden attempted to clarify its **understanding of localisation** and how it can contribute?	**Clear definition** ● Evidence and perceptions that Sweden has attempted to define localisation. ● Evidence and perceptions that Sweden has made efforts to communicate its understanding of localisation internally and externally. ● Evidence that Sweden has used its influence/connections with others to promote and encourage clearer and more aligned understanding of localisation. **Clear strategy** ● Evidence that Sweden has made efforts to articulate strategies for what it is trying to achieve vis-a-vis localisation of its humanitarian assistance. ● Evidence that Sweden has policies, structures (eg. Task Teams) and supporting guidance for implementation of its strategies on localisation. ● Evidence that Sweden has supported and encouraged its partners to produce clear and aligned strategies on localisation.	● Document review to identify definitions, strategies, commitments and objectives. ● Global and country KIIs with internal and external stakeholders.	● Availability of documents clarifying Sweden's definition of localisation and its strategy, commitments and objectives. ● Key informants are willing and able to share information on Sweden's strategy efforts.

| 1.2 To what extent has Sweden sought to increase the **quantity and quality of its funding to local and national actors** in humanitarian contexts? | **Policy commitments and administrative/bureaucratic changes:**

● Evidence of policy commitments and practical changes to increase the quantity and quality (quality can be defined as eg. timely, predictable, multi-year, flexible, inclusive of overheads, transparent, etc) of <u>direct funding to local and national actors</u>.
● Evidence of policy commitments, direct influence, and practical changes to increase the quantity and quality of <u>indirect funding</u> to local and national actors <u>via intermediary organisations</u>.
● Analysis of the political and legal operational environment in Sweden and the extent to which it allows Sida and MFA to provide more direct quality funding to local and national actors.
● Evidence and perceptions of efforts to overcome bureaucratic and legal constraints hindering Sida and MFA from funding local and national actors directly and providing quality funding.
● Evidence and perceptions that Sweden has used its influence among other donors to encourage changes in the quality and quantity of funding to local and national actors.

Transparency:

● Evidence of efforts by Sweden to increase the transparency (appropriate tracking) of its pass-through funding to downstream partners/local actors through Pooled Funds, MFA's core-funded partners and Sida's programme-funded partners.

Willingness to adapt:

● Perceptions that increasing the quantity and quality of funding to local and national actors is a priority for Sida and MFA.
● Perceptions and evidence of Sweden's willingness to change the current model of bilateral donor humanitarian funding to allow for more resources to go to local and national actors (factors to consider: appetite for risk, willingness to make smaller-scale investments, shifting from an international intermediary to a local intermediary funding approach, consortium of local and national actors, etc.)
● Perceptions that intermediary organisations receiving Swedish funding (UN/INGO) are willing and able to pass more funding to local and national actors. | ● Financial data to establish a baseline of Sweden's direct (and to the extent possible, indirect) funding to local and national actors.
● Document review to identify commitments and practical changes to increase funding to local/national actors, and commitments to ensuring accountability to affected populations (AAP) within Swedish-funded interventions.
● Online survey.
● Global and country KIIs with internal and external stakeholders. | ● Availability of granular financial data, particularly for passthrough funding.
● Availability of shareable documentation on Sweden's funding policies and practices.
● Key informants are willing and able to share evidence and perceptions on Sweden's funding policies and practices. |

1.3 To what extent has Sweden sought **to promote the active leadership and influence role of local and national actors** in humanitarian contexts?	**Promotion of the active leadership and influence of local and national actors:** • Evidence and perceptions of Sweden's direct efforts to promote and enable the active leadership, participation and voice of local and national actors in strategic and operational discussions at the global and country levels. • Evidence and perceptions of Sweden's role in encouraging, incentivising, and supporting its international grantees to promote the leadership and influence of local and national actors in coordination and decision-making forums at country and global level. • Examples or case studies of Sweden's approach to promoting the influence of local and national actors. **Contextual factors:** • Analysis of the contextual factors affecting local and national actors from leading/participating in humanitarian action eg. repressive, weak or corrupt national governments; complex relationships with NSAs; insecurity for local actors in particular)/ lack of access; and complex power dynamics	• Global and country KIIs with internal and external stakeholders. • Online survey.	• Key informants are willing and able to share perceptions.
1.4 To what extent has Sweden sought to improve its **partnerships with local and national actors**?	**Improving direct partnerships:** • Evidence and perceptions of Sweden's efforts to partner directly with local and national actors. • Analysis of the political, legal and bureaucratic operating environment in Sweden and the extent to which it allows Sida and MFA to partner directly with local and national actors. • Evidence and perceptions of efforts to overcome bureaucratic and legal constraints hindering Sida and MFA from partnering directly with local and national actors. • Perceptions of the extent to which efforts to promote engagement with/accountability to affected populations are actively considered as part of Sweden's approach to localisation. **Improving partnerships overall:** • Evidence and perceptions of Sweden's prioritisation, clarity of expectations, and overall support for better/more equal partnerships between international organisations and local and national actors. • Examples of Sweden using its funding and influence to simplify and harmonise due diligence, assurance, reporting and risk management approaches between international and local/national actors.	• Global and country KIIs with internal and external stakeholders. • Online survey.	• Availability of shareable documentation on the political, legal and bureaucratic operating environment in Sweden regarding partnerships with local and national actors. • Key informants are willing and able to share perceptions on Sweden's partnerships (and those of its international grantees) with local and national actors.
1.5 To what extent has Sweden supported the development of	**Capacity development:** • Perceptions of Sweden's prioritisation and overall support for institutional capacity development between international organisations and local and national actors.	• Global and country KIIs with internal and external stakeholders. • Online survey.	• Availability of documentation on capacity development between international organisations

strong and sustainable institutional capacities of national and local actors	• Examples of Sweden's requirements and/or incentives for capacity development between international recipients of Sweden's funding and local and national actors. • Examples of existing/emergent direct forms of support by Sweden to support capacity development of local and national actors.		and local and national actors. • Key informants are willing and able to share perceptions on Sweden's requirements and incentives for capacity development.
1.6 To what extent has Sweden sought to produce and contribute to relevant **knowledge products and evidence on localisation and by local actors**?	**Researching localisation:** • Evidence and perceptions of Sweden's direct and indirect support for the generation of learning and research on localisation. **Localising research:** • Evidence and Perceptions of Sweden's direct and indirect support for the production of evidence generated in the 'Global South'. • Analysis of the contextual factors affecting local and national actors from generating research and evidence eg. lack of resources, political factors such as repressive regimes, insecurity, lack of in-country capacity, etc.	• Document review to identify Swedish-funded knowledge products and evidence on localisation. • Global and country KIIs with internal and external stakeholders. • Online survey.	• Availability of documentation on Sweden's support for research and evidence on localisation. • Ability to attribute indirect support for local research to Sweden's support

2. What results have these interventions led to and how can such outcomes be explained? More specifically: what factors enable or hinder the furthering of the localisation agenda within Swedish humanitarian work?

2.1 To what extent is Sweden's **strategy** for contributing to the localisation agenda understood and shared by other key actors?	**Understanding of Sweden's approach to localisation** • Evidence and perceptions of a shared understanding across Sida, MFA and partners regarding Sweden's commitments and objectives on localisation. **Alignment of localisation approaches** • Analysis of the alignment of Sweden's objectives and approach to localisation with localisation efforts of other key actors. • Perceptions that Sweden's contribution to localisation complements that of other key actors.	• Document review to identify definitions, strategies, commitments and objectives. • Global and country KIIs with internal and external stakeholders.	• Availability of documents clarifying Sweden's definition of localisation and its strategy, commitments and objectives. • Key informants are willing and able to share perceptions on Sweden's approach to localisation.
2.2 To what extent has the **quantity and quality of funding** for local and national actors increased as a result of Sweden's actions?	**Quantity of funding:** • Evidence of an increase in the volume and proportion of indirect funding to local and national actors through intermediary organisations and funds (noting that none of Sweden's funding is currently provided directly to local and national actors). • Evidence of an increase in the number of local and national organisations receiving passthrough funding from Sweden via intermediary organisations and funds.	• Financial data on FTS, OECD DAC platform. • Financial data provided directly by Sida, MFA and recipients of Swedish funding. • Global and country KIIs with internal and external stakeholders. • Online survey.	• Availability of granular financial data, particularly for passthrough funding. • Key informants are willing and able to share financial data. • Key informants are willing and able to share evidence of and opinions on quality funding.

	● Evidence and perceptions of Sweden's leverage to encourage/require international recipients of its funding to pass on more funding to local and national partners.		
	Quality of funding:		
	● Evidence of improvements in the effective passthrough of quality funding to local and national actors through intermediary organisations and funds (quality can be defined as eg. timely, predictable, multi-year, flexible, inclusive of overheads, transparent, etc.). ● Evidence of more transparency of Sweden's humanitarian contributions, including passthrough funding from international organisations to downstream partners/local actors. ● Perceptions that the efforts of Sida and MFA have led to positive changes in the quantity and quality of direct and indirect funding to local and national actors.		
2.3 To what extent has Swedish **influence** contributed to greater **local and national leadership/particip ation in coordination mechanisms and policy discussions**?	**Local and national leadership:** ● Evidence and perceptions of Sweden's prioritisation and support for the leadership, participation and influence of local and national actors in humanitarian leadership, coordination and policy-making mechanisms, both nationally and internationally, including local women-led organisations, organisations representing persons with disabilities, and those representing other marginalised people. **Constraints on local and national leadership:** ● Analysis of the real and perceived constraints preventing local and national actors from taking on leadership roles and participating in coordination mechanisms/decision-making bodies/events/publications eg. lack of time and resources, language issues, remoteness, , travel/visa constraints, willingness of international organisations to make space, etc.	● Document review of general literature on localisation to identify constraints. ● Global and country KIIs with internal and external stakeholders.	● Availability of documentation on local and national leadership/participation in coordination mechanisms. ● Key informants are willing and able to share perceptions on local and national leadership/participation in coordination mechanisms.
2.4 To what extent have **partnerships with local and national actors** improved as a result of Sweden's actions.	**More partnerships with local and national actors:** ● Evidence of an increase in the number and diversity of partnerships between Swedish-funded organisations and local and national organisations. e.g., big/small LNAs, capital city based and remote LNAs, etc. **Better partnerships with local and national actors:** ● Evidence of a shift from project-based to strategic partnerships between international Swedish-funded organisations and local/national partners. ● Perceptions (particularly those of local and national actors) that partnerships between Sweden's international grantees and local and national actors have become more in-depth, genuine and equitable.	● Document review of partnership documents between Sida/MFA and recipients of Swedish funding. ● Global and country KIIs with internal and external stakeholders.	● Key informants are willing and able to share evidence of and opinions on changes to partnerships between international and local/national organisations.

- Examples of Sweden and Swedish-funded organisations making efforts to simplify and harmonise due diligence, assurance, flexibility, reporting and risk management approaches for their local and national partners.

Engagement with affected communities

- Perceptions of fuller and more influential involvement of crisis-affected people in what relief is provided to them and how (as a higher-level result of localisation efforts) as a partial result of Swedish influence and funding.

2.5 To what extent has the capacity of local and national actors improved as a result of Sweden's actions?

Overcoming capacity constraints:

- Evidence and perceptions of Sweden's awareness of the real and perceived capacity constraints of local and national actors to respond to emergencies.

Support for capacity development

- Perceptions of more effective support for strong and sustainable institutional capacities for local and national, state and non-state actors as a result of Swedish requirements, support, influence and incentives. e.g., mentorship, peer learning more than training, etc.
- Perception of collaborative capacities between LNAs and intermediaries.

- Document review of partnership documents between Sida/MFA and recipients of Swedish funding.
- Global and country KIIs with internal and external stakeholders.

- Availability of documentation on the capacities of local and national actors.
- Key informants are willing and able to share perceptions on the capacities of local and national actors.

2.6 To what extent has there been increased uptake of knowledge and learning on localisation, in part because of Sweden's support?

Uptake of research on localisation:

- Evidence and perceptions of increased uptake of learning and research on localisation supported by Sweden, including knowledge products developed in the 'Global South'
- Evidence and perceptions of increased power and profile of local and national researchers to influence the humanitarian research agenda, produce research, and achieve effective uptake of that research, as a result of Swedish support.

- Global and country KIIs with internal and external stakeholders.
- Online survey.

- Ability and willingness of key informant to comment on research and evidence on localisation.

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3. What lessons can be learned for future efforts to further the localisation agenda?

3.1 Overall, to what extent have Sweden's efforts and interventions contributed to advancing the Grand Bargain localisation agenda?

Overall sense of progress:

- Perceptions that Sweden has made progress according to its own strategy and objectives on localisation (to the extent that they exist - see EQ1.1).
- Perceptions that Sweden's efforts have either directly or indirectly (through its funding, experience and influence) contributed to advancement of the Grand Bargain's localisation agenda.
- Perceptions of Sweden's awareness of the enabling and hindering factors regarding localisation.

- Global and country KIIs with internal and external stakeholders.

- Key informants are willing and able to share perceptions on both positive and negative experiences on localisation.

	● Examples of steps taken by Sweden to capitalise on opportunities and overcome barriers to advancing its own strategy on localisation and the Grand Bargain's localisation agenda. ● Analysis of the extent to which it is possible to isolate Sweden's actions on localisation from those of the wider international community (particularly from other Grand Bargain stakeholders) to identify Sweden's contribution.		
3.2 What lessons can be learned for Sweden and others to inform future efforts to further the localisation agenda?	**Good practice and learning from experience:** Examples of successful and unsuccessful attempts (and the reasons behind these) by Sweden and its partners to: ● Articulate and align definitions, objectives and approaches to localisation. ● Provide more and better funding to local and national actors, including an understanding of the bottlenecks and how they may be overcome. ● Promote the leadership, participation and influence of local and national actors in humanitarian leadership and coordination mechanisms. ● Build stronger partnerships with local and national actors, as well as identifying the bottlenecks to building stronger partnerships and taking steps to mitigate them. ● Recognise and build on the capacity of local and national actors. ● Ensure greater participation of affected communities in what relief is provided to them and how. **Replicating good practice:** ● Suggestions for how to replicate successful efforts by Sweden and other actors to promote localisation, and ways to avoid repeating patterns of behaviour that prevent progress. ● Examples of good practices learnt during the Covid-19 pandemic and other specific crises on the important role of local and national actors in humanitarian action that can improve the localisation work of Sweden and other actors.	● Global and country KIIs with internal and external stakeholders.	● Key informants are willing and able to share perceptions on both positive and negative experiences on localisation.