



50 years Medicus Mundi Switzerland: The Changing Role of CSOs in International Health Cooperation and Global Health

Terre des hommes Lausanne

Basel – 02.11.2023

Decolonization and Localisation – Changing role of international players



Origins of the Localisation at Tdh

Tdh wants to be part of the dynamics of more **localisation of aid**, engaging in a shift in power dynamics between the different actors

Ambitions for 2024:

- 1/ To have a **clarified positioning** on partnership and localization. Provide an structural approach to **decolonization**.
- 2/ An **institutional framework** will set out the **organisation's approach to partnerships**.
- 3/ To improve Tdh's commitment to working in partnership by supporting the teams (Tdh and partners) through skills-building, organizational development, **development of partnership management methods and tools etc.**



Origins of Localisation at Tdh

Decolonising Aid

Definition Centre for Humanitarian Leadership:

*“Call from humanitarian actors for a **fundamental shift in power and resources**, grown out of concerns that the current international aid system is of a colonial construct that operates on Western terms and from Western points of view, **perpetuating power imbalances between the global North and the global South.**”*

Localisation

Tdh definition

*“a process of **recognizing and strengthening the leadership by local authorities** as well as the capacity of local and national authorities and civil society in Humanitarian and Development action, in order to **protect and fulfil the rights of affected populations** and to strengthen the preparation of local and national actors for future responses”*

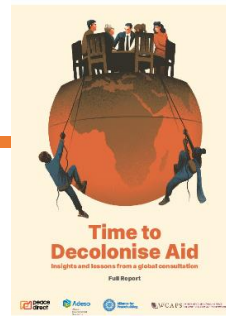
«Time to decolonise Aid»

Recommendations for INGOs specifically

- End the practice of ‘White gaze’ fundraising and audit your communications through a ‘Diversity, Equity and Inclusion’ lens.
- Adopt a transition mindset for organisational strategies, which puts in place clear milestones for the transfer of power and resources to local organisations. Such a transition mindset should be enshrined in clear organisational strategies that measure success according to the extent to which an INGO is reducing, rather than expanding, its traditional organisational footprint.
- Avoid localisation spin. Don’t reframe ‘localisation’ to defend a particular organisational position or to justify the status quo.
- Re-evaluate partnerships with local organisations so that they are more equitable, and mutually accountable, and support and strengthen local leadership and sustainability.



Terre des hommes
Helping children worldwide.



Tdh and the decolonisation of Aid

How to approach the Decolonisation of Aid?

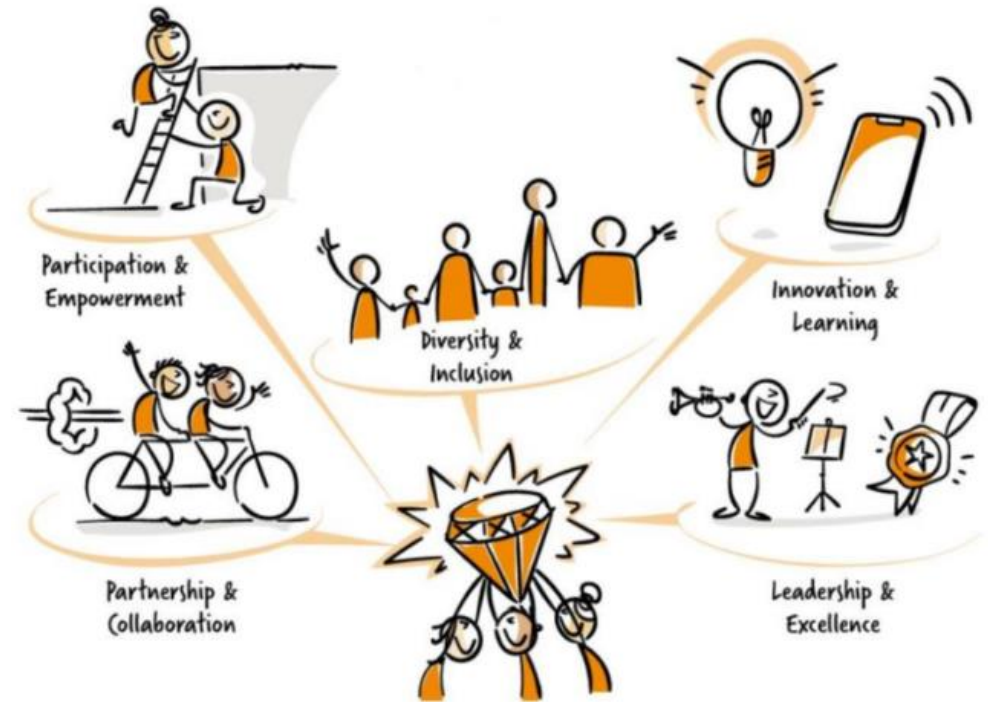
Duncan Green- How to decolonize international development – practical suggestions (December 2020)

- Funding
- Partnership governance and management (decision making)
- Communication and networking
- Language

How does Tdh want to transform itself ?

Terre des hommes initiatives

- Localisation and Partnerships – a pathway to **decolonisation**
- Decentralisation : regional hubs with a degree of autonomy (less centralized organization)
- Children's voices (children and local organisations given a voice in the program design and implementation)



A Project designed for Localisation

PROJECT

- **Title:** Strengthening local organisations' capacities and engagement through Tdh interventions
- **Period:** July 1st, 2022 to June 30th, 2026 – 4 years.
- **Coverage:** Worldwide, with specific focus on 4 pilot countries (Albania, Bangladesh, Hungary and Nepal) + India and their pilot LNA partners
- **Objective:** Define Localisation for Tdh and design/test Partnerships tools and methods.

OBJECTIVES

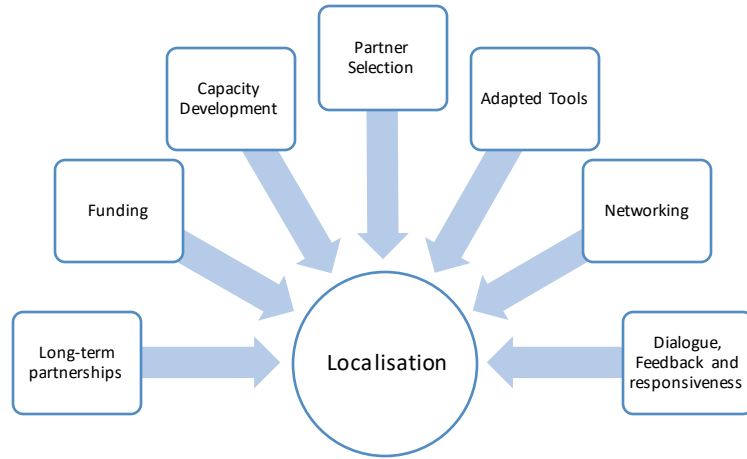
- ✓ Situation Analysis Report – **July 2023**
- ✓ Partnership Online Platform – **January 2023**
- ✓ Partnership Framework Document (Policy) – **February 2024**
- ✓ Partnership Toolkits and Procedure Guidances – **Summer 2024**
- ✓ Policy Rollout and testing phase– **2024 to 2026**
- ✓ Mutual Capacity Development Tdh/LNA partners – **From 2023 to 2026**

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Expectations and Limitations

Graph 1 - Terre des hommes' path towards Localisation



Expectations

- **Overhead funding** to Local and National Partners (CSOs)
- **Partnership Strategy Plan** per country and partner
- **Capacity Development** Funding and Mutual Capacity Development plan
- Co-designed **fundraising strategies** and regular **dialogue instances** throughout the partnership (quarterly meeting).
- Adapted **mutual appraisals** (due diligence) to assess each other's capacity upon partnership building step. **Partner-friendly toolkits** adapted to the Partners' legal status (government, CSO, INGO, university...).
- Local partner governance in **decision-making process at Regional and Global level**

Limitations

- **Funding opportunities** dedicated to long-term procedural changes within INGOs – Decolonisation of Aid is rarely the first priority.
- **Existing funding structures are still predominantly top-down**
- **Sensitive and political Topic** to discuss internally: "check your privileges" / "What are we going to become?"
- Reduction of your own power as an International NGO : **Shifting power is not a popular decision**
- Complexity of **measuring progress** towards decolonization – data and indicators ?