

Grand Bargain

National Reference Groups Guidance Note

February 2022

Background

- The establishment of National Reference Groups (NRGs) was proposed in the Grand Bargain 2.0 framework and agreed during the Grand Bargain Annual Meeting in June 2021.
- NRGs are national level, constituent-based, consultative forums for humanitarian stakeholders that are led by local and national actors.
- This brief document is a guidance note and can be adjusted by any national - level actors based on the contextual situation.

Aim

- NRGs, led by local and national actors, will support action to promote the Grand Bargain 2.0 Framework and its two enabling priorities: unblock barriers to **quality funding** to allow effective and efficient response while ensuring visibility and accountability; and greater support provided for the leadership, delivery and capacity of **local responders** and the **participation of affected communities** in addressing humanitarian needs.
- The establishment of an NRG should be prompted by local stakeholders' expressed energy, capacity, and desire for a national level consultative body, based on key information received about the Grand Bargain objectives and processes.
- NRGs would ideally be inclusive with representation from diverse groups, including women's rights organizations, women-led organizations, youth groups, disabled persons organizations, and others.
- NRGs may choose to engage with the Grand Bargain at the global level and, in so doing, coordinate with the Facilitation Group, Workstream 2, Caucuses, and participate in Annual Meetings.
- NRGs would ideally not duplicate or mirror existing coordination structures in country. If an NRG is established, it should be based on specific needs in a given context and ensure close collaboration with other mechanisms.

Program of Work

- A detailed Terms of Reference will be decided and produced in country. This could be the first activity of an NRG.
- An NRG's program of work will be determined by its members and can include, but is not limited to:
 - National-level information sharing and agenda setting
 - Coordinating joint advocacy and evidence-based learning on relevant issues, including quality funding and local leadership

- Improving and enabling multi-stakeholder consultation that includes national authorities, local and national stakeholders, and where relevant, international humanitarian agencies and/or Grand Bargain signatories
- Improving and enabling equitable coordination that includes local and national actors
- Increasing the voices, influence, and leadership of local and national actors in national humanitarian assistance
- Peer-to-peer learning and sharing best practices with other NRGs
- Establishing connections with the Grand Bargain at the global level and informing its work where relevant
- Meetings will be conducted in the language that enables access to a wide range of local actors in the country

Launch

- Where appropriate, those establishing NRGs may build on efforts launched by the Grand Bargain's Workstream 2 Country-Based Dialogues, Charter for Change's national working groups, or other existing consultative forums.
- In countries where there are no existing consultative forums, national and local actors may need to establish an NRG from scratch.
- National Reference Groups can seek external support from the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group, Workstream 2 and NEAR for peer-to-peer support and advice in unblocking barriers to meaningful participation of local actors and communities and access to funding.
- In 2022, the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group in collaboration with Workstream 2 will identify up to 3-5 locations where national stakeholders express interest for support.
- Progress should be documented by NRGs during the early stage of their establishment to be shared at the 2022 Annual Meeting.