

Funding the Front Lines: Efforts to Unlock and Disburse Funds in the COVID-19 Response

Moderator:

- Ms. Mervat Shelbaya, Head, Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) secretariat

Speakers:

- Mr. Win Tun Kyi, National Director, Karuna Mission Social Solidarity
- Ms. Anita Kattakuzhy, Humanitarian Policy Adviser, Oxfam
- Mr. Robert Hurt, Head of the Implementation Management and Assurance Service, UNHCR
- Ms. Alice Sequi, Chief, Pooled Fund Management Branch, OCHA
- Mr. Hong-won Yu, Counselor, Humanitarian Affairs, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in Geneva

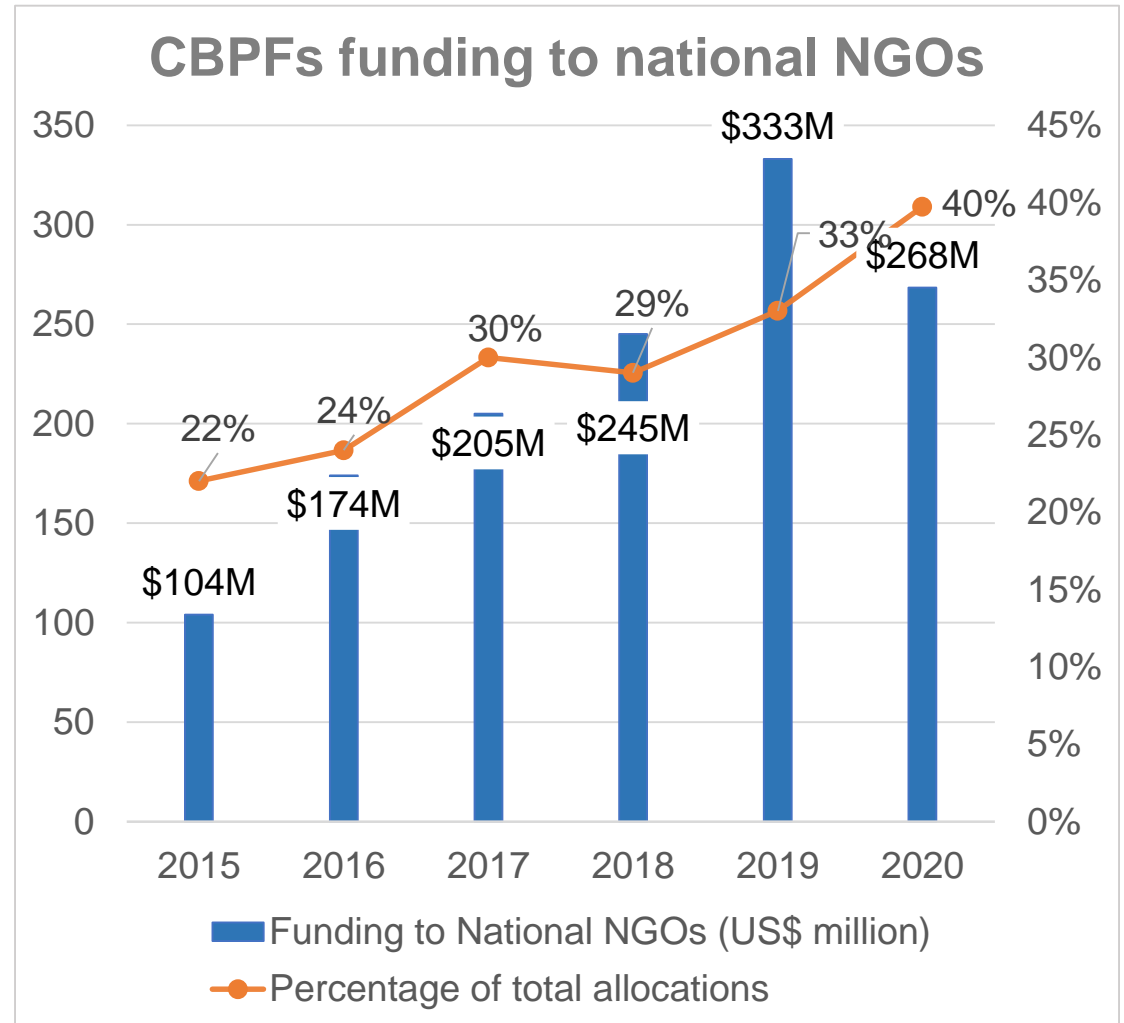
OCHA's Grand Bargain Commitments to Localization

OCHA'S GRAND BARGAIN COMMITMENTS ON LOCALIZATION

Grand Bargain commitment to provide **25%** of funding to national responders

CBPFs are **largest direct source of funding** for national partners, exceeding 25% target from 2017

In 2018, **CERF** recipient agencies sub-granted **\$73M** (14.5%) to national partners



CBPFs: SUPPORT TO THE LOCALIZATION AGENDA

CBPFs provide funding to actors which are “best placed” to support agreed strategies - most funding (62%) goes directly to **front-line responders** including national NGOs (40%)

CBPFs promote participation of local actors in **governance mechanisms**
-- 17/18 CBPFs have at least two national NGOs on the Advisory Board

CBPFs promote participation of local actors in **project review and selection processes**
-- 18/18 CBPFs involve national NGOs in strategic and technical review committees

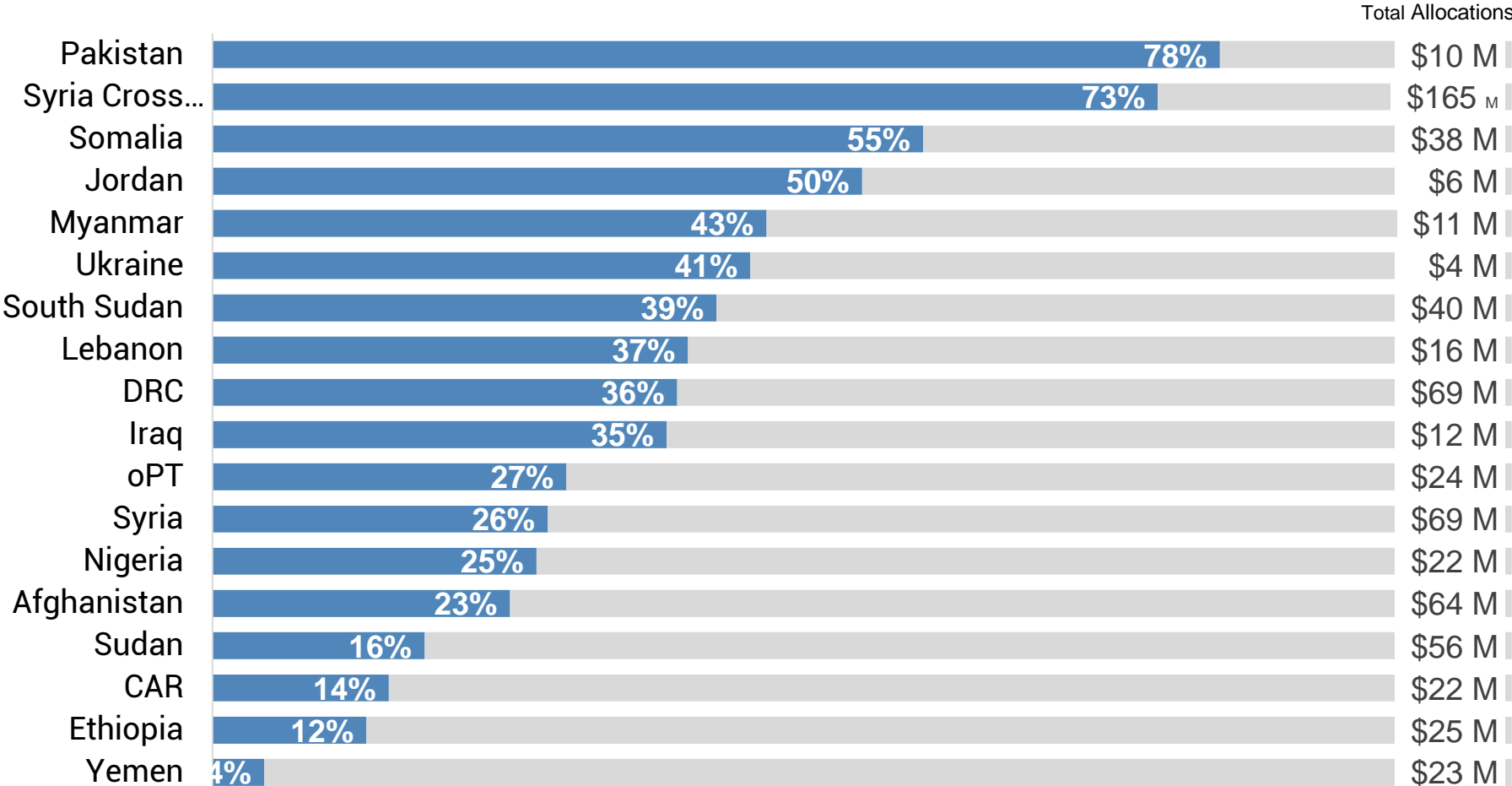
CBPFs invest significant effort in **training for national NGOs**: over 150 training sessions held for 560 local partners in 2019. Development of new training modules in progress

Engagement and collaboration with the **NGO Dialogue Platform**, including over 200 national NGOs, to ensure that feedback and concerns are considered

CBPFs promote the work of local actors in **donor reporting and public communications**

CBPFs: SUPPORT TO FRONTLINE RESPONDERS IN 2020

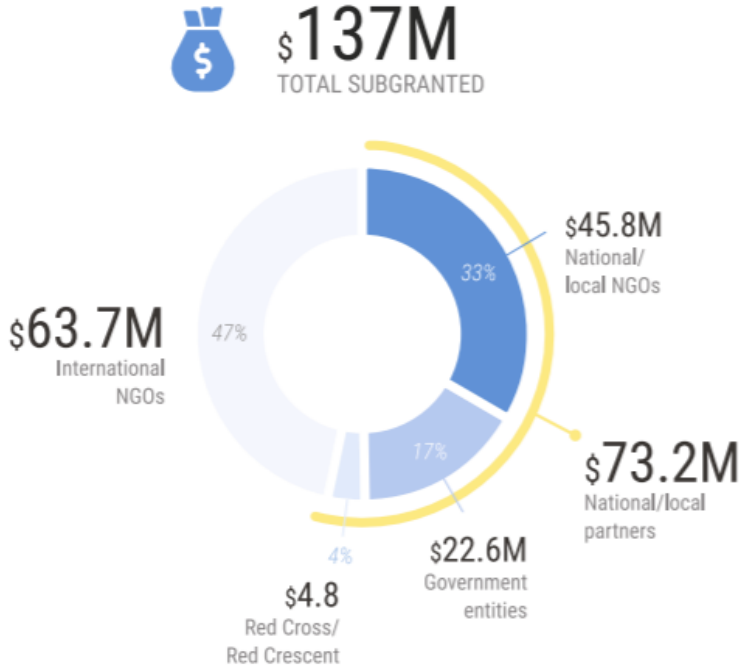
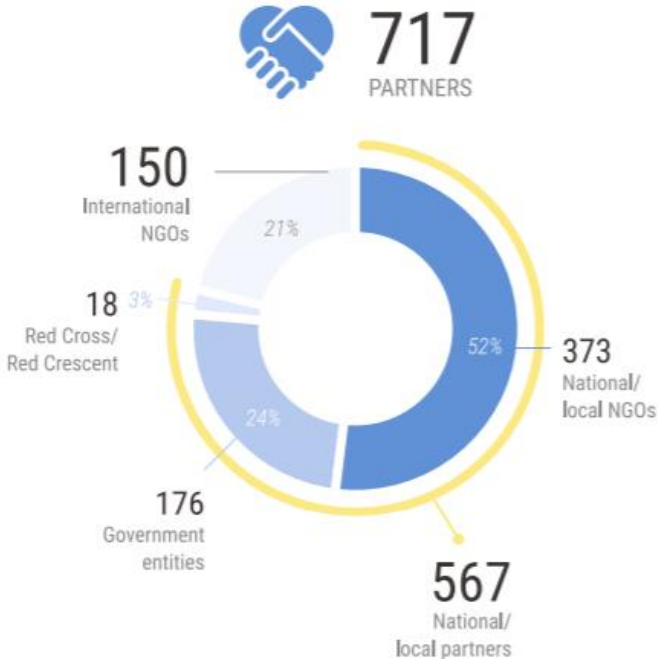
40% of the total allocated by CBPFs in 2020 to date is for national NGOs (\$256M)



Percentage allocated to NNGOs

CERF: SUPPORT TO THE LOCALIZATION AGENDA

- CERF encourages partnerships with national and local organizations in the implementation of grants and tracks the flow of funding to implementing partners
- In 2018, **CERF** recipient agencies sub-granted **\$73M** (14.5%) to 567 national/local partners
- CERF and the CERF Advisory Group have worked with agencies to ensure faster disbursement of funds to implementing partners



*The last full year for which complete data is available

OCHA's Support to Front Line Actors during the COVID Response

POOLED FUND 2020 ALLOCATIONS

CERF AND CBPF

\$1.4 billion allocated by CERF and CBPF so far in 2020

- \$730 M from CERF to 53 countries
- \$665 M from CBPF to 18 countries

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Of the total, 25% (\$344 million) allocated to COVID response

- \$134 M from CERF to 46 countries,
- Of which 19% allocated directly to NGOs
- \$210 M from CBPF to 18 countries
- Of which 62% to NGOs

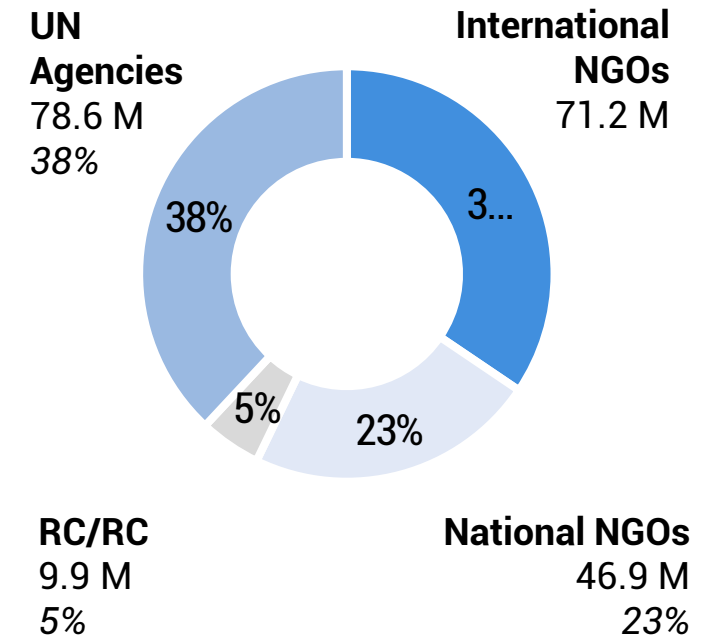
COVID FUNDING IS EXPECTED TO REACH 82 MILLION PEOPLE IN 48 COUNTRIES

CBPFs: SUPPORTING THE FRONTLINE RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- \$210M to support 42M people in 18 countries
- Over 500 humanitarian projects

A localized response

- 28% of funding (\$56.8 million) to national responders
- Includes 118 national NGOs and 4 RC/RC national societies



Includes funds received as primary recipients and as implementing partners of other primary recipients (sub-grants)

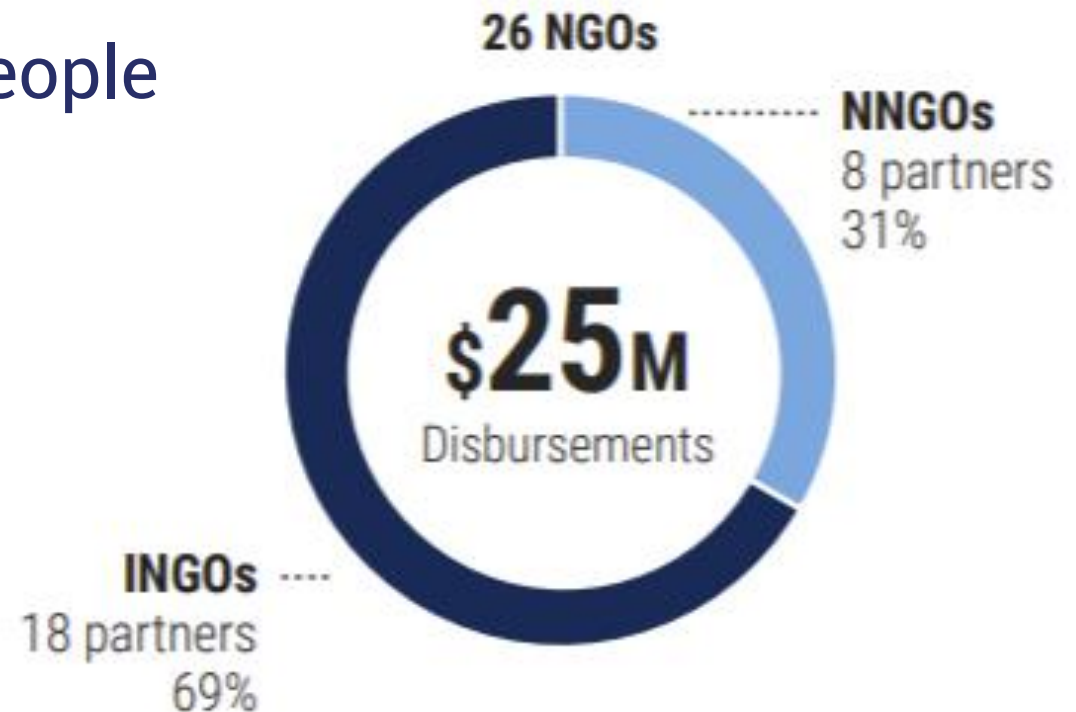
CBPFs put in place a set of "flexibility measures" in the area of budget, administration and risk management, while maintaining a robust oversight

- ✓ **Aligned with IASC RG5 guidance**
- ✓ **Built on NRC-OCHA study**
- **Received favorably by partners.**
- **Will be reviewed for wider applicability.**

Fast-tracked and simplified arrangements:
reprogramming of activities
blanket no-cost extensions
discretionary cost extensions
raised budget ceilings
flexibility in the use of budget lines

\$25M allocation specifically for NGOs

- 26 NGO projects supporting 1.38M people
- **1/3 are national NGOs**
- 6 countries prioritized
- 4 Sectors - Health, WASH, GBV, child protection



Initial Lessons from the NGO Allocation:

- Smooth NGO selection process, engaged HCs
- NGOs granted comparable terms to UN agencies
- High-quality project proposals
- Contracting 26 partners takes time
- Positive feedback from NGO consortia

More lessons to be collected via survey and consultations

OCHA's Tracking of Funding to Front Line Actors during the COVID Response

Financial Tracking System

- Voluntary reporting – but more NGOs have reported funding contributions to FTS this year than in previous years.
- FTS has more accurately tagged “pass through” funding, whose percentage (out of the total funding) increased in 2020 compared than in 2019.

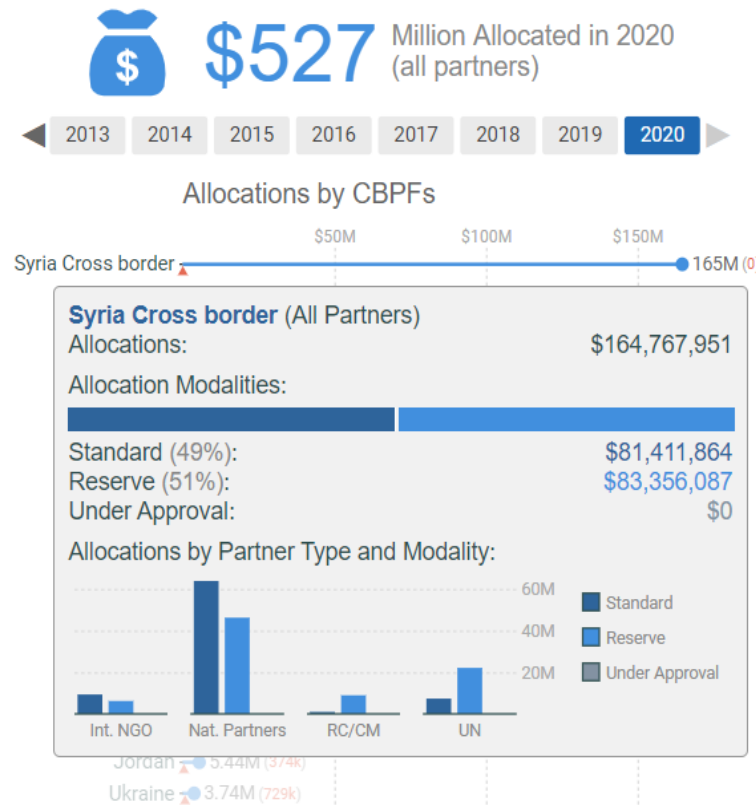
TRACKING FUNDS TO FRONT LINE RESPONDERS

Business Intelligence Platform

- Portal for CBPF -- Real time tracking of funding provided to humanitarian partners, disaggregated by partner type including national NGOs

<https://pfbi.unocha.org/>

Allocations by Organization Type



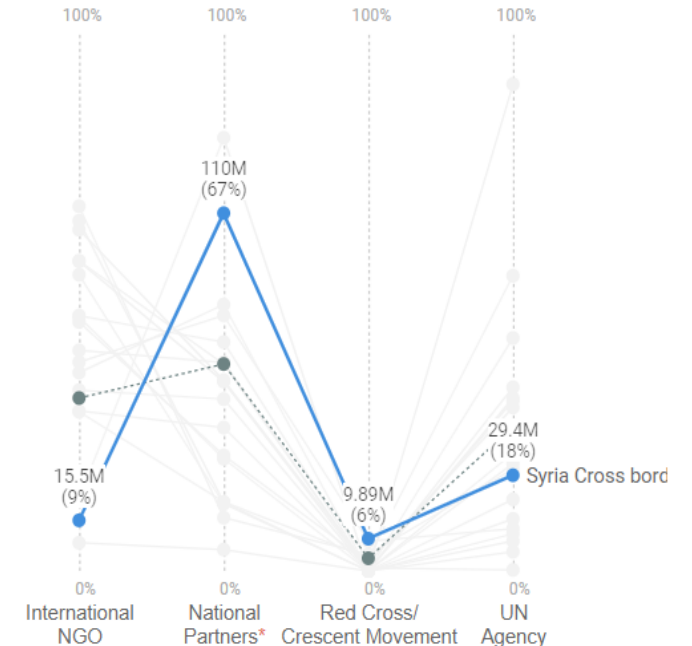
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\$152 Million under Approval (All Partners)

18 CBPFs

Int. NGO Nat. Partners* Red Cross/Cres. Mov. UN Agency All partners

Allocations by Partner Type (including sub-impl. partners)



IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee

Where to go for more information:

- IASC website:
<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/>
- IASC Results Group 5 on Humanitarian Financing website:
<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/results-group-5-humanitarian-financing>

Key resources:

- IASC Proposals to Address the Inconsistency in Unlocking and Disbursing Funds to NGOs in COVID-19 Response
- IASC Proposal for a Harmonized Approach to Funding Flexibility in the Context of COVID-19



Upcoming IASC Briefing:

Public Health and Social Measures for COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Operations in Low Capacity and Humanitarian Settings

Date to be announced soon on our IASC briefings page!

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-briefings-0>

Questions? Email us at iasccorrespondence@un.org

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