

Philippine Statement on Grand Bargain Annual Meeting 2026 From Participation to Power: A Call for Locally led Humanitarian Action

Ten years after the Grand Bargain, localization in the Philippines must be measured by **who holds power, whose priorities shape decisions, and who controls resources**. Local actors have gained visibility and opportunities to participate, while community-led approaches have demonstrated their value. Yet participation does not always translate into influence. Commitments must now deliver real decision-making authority for local actors and crisis-affected communities, funding that enables their leadership, and equitable partnerships built on mutual capacity sharing and fair sharing of risks and responsibilities—with community priorities driving actions and outcomes.

Our 2026 Philippine perception survey and participatory localization stocktakes—including the September 27 **Walk Our Talk on Localization** public event and September 28 Localization Dialogue—show that local actors still face significant barriers to **direct, flexible, and multi-year funding**. The findings reinforce three connected calls: **Shift the Power**—transfer decision-making authority and control over resources to local actors; **From Voice to Power**—ensure community priorities shape programmes and outcomes; and **Fund the Shift**—provide sustained, accessible funding on terms that enable local leadership.

We therefore call on ourselves and our partners to act in five areas:

- 1. Share decision-making authority.** Local and national actors, including community-based organizations, should help define priorities, design responses, lead coordination, and decide how resources are used. International actors should also give their country offices sufficient authority to negotiate equitable partnerships, adapt systems, allocate resources, and initiate meaningful localization reforms. Their roles and authority should be clear in partnership agreements. Locally led actions should connect humanitarian response with recovery, development, climate resilience, and peacebuilding, according to community priorities and context.
- 2. Make participation consequential.** Affected people must be able to influence decisions throughout assessment, design, implementation, and review. Organisations should document what communities recommended, what changes as a result, and how decisions are explained back, including when recommendations cannot be adopted. Participation must deliberately include groups too often excluded: women, children and youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, and affected communities.
- 3. Fund local leadership on workable terms.** Donors and intermediaries should expand direct, flexible, and multi-year funding to local and national actors, with a clear, measurable pathway toward the Grand Bargain's original commitment to channel 25% of humanitarian funding to local and national responders as directly as possible. Funding should cover institutional, safeguarding, compliance, indirect costs; share risk fairly; and apply requirements proportionate to the funding provided.
- 4. Make partnerships equitable and system simpler.** International and local partners should co-create more harmonized due diligence, reporting, contracting, and compliance processes; ensure transparent budgets, and fair sharing of indirect cost recovery (ICR); recognize local expertise; and make capacity strengthening mutual rather than one-directional.
- 5. Make commitments measurable and accountable.** Track funding flows, decision-making authority, grant terms, ICR, community feedback, and partnership practice alongside perception surveys. Assess whether localization is shifting power, improving access to resources, strengthening community influence, and connecting immediate response with longer-term recovery, development, climate resilience, and peacebuilding. Guided by its 2026-2028 Roadmap, the NRG Philippines will convene dialogues, document progress and barriers, and support public follow-through on agreed actions.

We call on Grand Bargain signatories and international actors to **commit to specific and measurable changes, with clear responsibilities and timelines** for reviewing progress.

We urge the Philippine government to **directly work with affected communities and marginalized sectors to strengthen locally led disaster response** and recovery, and advance coherent, sustained, and locally grounded humanitarian-development-climate-peace action.

We call on local and national actors to **uphold accountability to the communities we work with and represent**, and ensure that commitments translate into meaningful changes in people's lives. Measure localization by the decisions communities can influence, the resources local actors can use, and the changes people experience.

We will continue to walk the talk on localization.

Communities lead. Institutions support the decisions and systems communities build. ###

Signed by the participants of the September 27-28 Localization Dialogue in the Philippines, convened by the National Reference Group (NRG) Philippines, and represented by affected communities, local and national organizations, and international humanitarian actors:

LOCAL AND NATIONAL ACTORS

- Assistance and Cooperation for Community Resilience and Development (ACCORD), Inc
- Binangonan Ondoy Survivors Association (BOSA) Rizal
- Buklod Tao, Inc.
- Candon Youth for Empowerment Movement (CYEM)
- Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP) Foundation
- Citizens' Disaster Response Center (CDRC) Federation, Inc.
- Community-Led Empowering Action to Resilience Network (CLEARNet)
- Community Organizers Multiversity (CO-MULTIVERSITY)
- Disaster Risk Reduction Network Philippines (DRRNetPhils)
- Dumlog Urban Poor Cluster Association (DUPCA)
- Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits (EcoWEB), Inc.
- Genuine Unity for Localization and Development (GULOD)
- Hininang ni Menang
- HOMENET Philippines
- Lakas Bayi Network
- Local Coalition for Community Resilience (LCCR) - Leyte, Inc.
- Manila Informal Workers Association (MAIWA)
- Maranao People Development Center (MARADECA), Inc.

GRAND BARGAIN SIGNATORIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

- CARE Philippines
- IFRC Philippine Office
- OXFAM Pilipinas
- Save the Children Philippines

- Mayon Integrated Development Alternatives and Services (MIDAS), Inc.
- Nagkakaisa at Gabay ng may Kapansanan na Itataguyod ng Samahan (NAGKAISA), Inc.
- NAPC Victims of Disasters and Calamities Sectoral Council
- National Confederation of Labor (NCL)
- Pambansang Kalipunan ng mga Manggagawang Impormal sa Pilipinas (PATAMABA)
- Philippine Arab Cooperation Council, Inc. (PACCI)
- Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF)
- Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ)
- Philippine Red Cross (PRC)
- Samahan ng Responsableng Anak ng Nayon (SARANAY)
- Socorro Hinabangay Inklusibong Pederasyon (SHIP)
- Solar Solutions, Inc.
- The Moropreneur, Inc. (TMI)
- Ugnayan ng mga Mamamayan at Mangingisda sa Rizal (UGMMARIZ) Federation
- Ungayan ng mga Babay Association
- United Youth of the Philippines-Women (UNYPHIL-Women)
- Unlad Pamilya OFW, Inc.
- UPCAVILLE | Housing Cooperative

INTERNATIONAL ACTORS & HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS

- AWO International Regional Office - Southeast Asia CBM Global Disability Inclusion
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG)
- Kindernothilfe e.V. Philippine Branch

Note: A number of UN agencies and international NGOs also participated in the dialogue but are not listed as signatories to this statement, as their representatives did not have the delegated authority from their respective principals to formally endorse or sign it.

Hundreds of localization champions composed affected communities, local and national organizations, and international humanitarian actors join the Walk our Talk public event.



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