
Humanitarian Exchange 79 Localisation¹ and local humanitarian action

Call for expressions of interest

The **Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN)** is a forum for people working in humanitarian action, policy or research to share their knowledge and experience. It publishes short articles in the *Humanitarian Exchange* magazine, more extensive **Network Papers** and **Good Practice Reviews** and runs a resource [website](#) on which blogs and online articles are published. The purpose is practical: to help individuals and organisations to learn from one another's experience. HPN is run by the **Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG)** at ODI but the views and opinions expressed in HPN publications are those of the contributing authors.²

Invitation for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

HPN invites expressions of interest (EOI) from local and international actors engaged in humanitarian action who are interested in contributing an article (2000 words maximum) to edition 79 of the *Humanitarian Exchange* the theme of which is localisation and local humanitarian action. HPN will:

- encourage authors from local actors and international agencies to contribute articles which critically reflect on their experiences, initiatives they've been involved in and their perspectives on localisation and local humanitarian action.
- involve a diverse range of local actors and will conduct outreach through key localisation networks and coalitions such as NEAR, Charter for Change, Alliance for Empowering Partnership (A4EP) and others to share the call for expressions of interest with their members.
- reach out also to other categories of local actors including donor, government, private sector, and research institutes among others and will also look for individuals and actors who have been less vocal or have had fewer opportunities to share their experiences in the public domain.
- accept by prior arrangement articles from local actors written in languages other than English and arrange to have them translated.
- support first-time authors to finalise their articles for publication.

EOIs should include a brief summary of the topic of the article and the key issues to be discussed within it, the names and affiliations of the proposed authors, and be no more than 500 words in length. EOIs should be submitted by email to hpn@odi.org.uk by Monday, 9 November 2020, 18:00 pm GMT.

¹ ‘Localisation’ here refers to the reform agenda and process of change required within the humanitarian system through changes in donors’ and other international actors’ practices and policies to further enable and support local humanitarian action, leadership and complementarity. HPN acknowledges that localisation is a contested term and that its use has too often implied that the capacities and approaches of an ‘international’ level should be transferred ‘down’ to local groups, rather than recognising the work local actors are already doing.

² HPN publications do not necessarily state or reflect the views and opinions of HPG or ODI and may not be attributed to HPG or ODI. HPN maintains editorial independence. It is supported by a broad funding base of institutional donors and NGOs. It is under no obligation to publish submissions from any individual, organisation or institution. HPN publications do not necessarily state or reflect the views and opinions of HPG or ODI.

Potential themes

Some potential themes which could be explored in this issue from both local and international perspectives and experience **could include but are not limited to:**

- Examples of innovative partnerships and effective collaboration between local and international actors
- Local leadership, decision-making and influence in inter-agency coordination
- Funding policies, practices and trends enabling (or not) local humanitarian action and domestic resource mobilisation.
- Capacity strengthening, capacity sharing (including local-to-local), quality assurance and certification
- Experience and involvement of local actors in specific sectoral or programming areas (cash, protection, climate change, resilience etc)
- The role of country-based, regional and/or global networks of local actors
- Erosion of civil society space and humanitarian access, including perspectives on engagement with/influence on host government authorities, and relations with international actors in navigating these issues
- Historical perspectives on the evolution of local civil society and its involvement in humanitarian work in specific contexts/regions/sectors
- Risk, risk management, risk sharing and safeguarding
- Reflections on the journey of a local actor over time (using diary or story-telling type approaches) on their experience of organisational capacity strengthening; or engagement in inter-agency needs assessment coordination or other decision-making processes; or access to and management of humanitarian funding, or other issues
- Gender, diversity and inclusion efforts in local humanitarian action (including contributions from staff from different backgrounds – eg LGBTQI, persons living with disability, women, youth)
- The Participation Revolution and Accountability to Affected People - reflecting on links and differences between localisation and local communities' leadership/participation/accountability
- Impact of Covid-19 on local humanitarian action and partnerships

Articles can be co-authored by several people from the same or different organisations. However, the authorial lead on an article from a national/local actor should be a national/local actor, even if international partners are co-authoring and/or providing support on English language editing or input on content.

Article submission process

If your EOI is accepted, you will be asked to submit the first draft of your article by 5 February 2021. Along with the draft, authors should include the following:

- Their name(s), title(s) and affiliation(s) and confirmation of whether they agree to allow their email address(es) to be published to enable readers to communicate with them directly.
- Clear indication of which author will be HPN's main point of contact, along with that author's contact details.
- Good quality photographs/graphics (300 dpi or better or at least 1 MB), if available, to illustrate the subject matter including the photographer credit, and captions explaining what is going on in the image. For all photographs containing images of recognisable people, please provide proof that informed consent has been obtained. For data tables or graphs, please ensure the version submitted can be re-formatted by HPN if necessary. If more than one photo/graphic is supplied, HPN will select one.

Review process

Each draft article submitted for publication in this edition will be reviewed by the HPN Coordinator and two other reviewers, one from a local actor and another from an international organisation. Using clear and agreed criteria, the reviewers will provide feedback to the HPN Coordinator. The Coordinator will review the feedback and make the final decision as to whether the article is likely to be suitable for publication once reviewers' queries and comments have been addressed and revisions to content and/or structure made.

Once the review is complete, the HPN Coordinator will provide the reviewers' consolidated feedback on the article to the author(s) and ask them to respond to any queries from reviewers, approve or respond to any initial edits or changes made, and/or make further changes to structure or content. The HPN Coordinator will make every effort to support authors in revising and finalising their articles for publication.

After the HPN Coordinator and the author(s) agree on a final draft of the article, it will be read again and copy-edited to ensure the article adheres to house style and grammatical standards. The edited draft will then be sent to the author(s) for review and approval prior to publication.

Please note that HPN will only be able to publish a maximum of 16 articles in this edition of the *Humanitarian Exchange* magazine. Any additional articles that the Coordinator and other reviewers agree are publishable, can be published over time as online articles on the HPN website.

Timeline

- Expressions of interest to be received by 9 November 2020.
- Selection of EOIs for articles by 30 November 2020.
- Deadline for submission of first drafts of articles 5 February 2021
- Review, revision and acceptance of drafts by 1 March 2021
- Editing and typesetting of issue by 16 April 2021
- Publication by 30 April 2021
- Launch/dissemination activities over the following months to include regionalised/decentralised approach (eg webinars and/or events) with national/local partners hosting or involved

Further guidance

Style

Humanitarian Exchange publishes in clear, accessible and non-academic English. Authors should avoid using jargon and overly technical, specialist vocabulary. Where technical terms are unavoidable, their meaning should be clearly explained. When writing in English, please use UK English and spelling. By prior arrangement, articles can be written in other languages and HPN can organise English translation.

Authors are encouraged to refer to case material or other credible evidence and consider the lessons of that experience and the implications for humanitarian programmes. HPN does not publish lobbying, advocacy or campaign material (or 'advertorials') or articles which do not provide some new information or critical perspective on current issues. Articles which praise one's own organisation or portray its work in a highly positive or uncritical light may be rejected.

Authors should keep referencing to a minimum, as *Humanitarian Exchange* is a magazine rather than an academic journal. If used, please supply references as footnotes with hyperlinks. Bibliographic information for any publications cited in the text should be supplied in full and correctly, with author name, full title of the publication, name and location of the publisher and date of publication. For articles, please supply the article title and the name of the journal, volume, number and page reference.

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