

Concept note

Strengthening localisation through capacity building and inclusion: *From Rhetoric to concerted Action*

Background

The States Parties recognize that, while each State Party is responsible for implementing the provisions of the Convention in areas under its jurisdiction or control, enhanced cooperation and assistance can support implementation of Convention obligations as soon as possible. To facilitate cooperation and assistance and to ensure effective and efficient implementation, the Oslo Action Plan (OAP), adopted by the States Parties at the Fourth Review Conference, highlights the critical role of national ownership and the strengthening of partnerships at the international, regional and local levels. The OAP further stressed the important role of an inclusive approach to implementation of Convention commitments, taking into consideration gender and the diverse needs of affected communities.

A greater focus on Localisation, defined by some as a process where international humanitarian actors shift power and responsibilities of development and humanitarian aid efforts toward local and national actors¹, has increasingly been seen as essential to ensure that the efforts of mine affected States Parties are effective and efficient in addressing the needs of mine-affected communities. The importance of localisation in humanitarian aid in general has been trumpeted by some of the largest humanitarian donors and organizations recognizing that the strengthening of the capacity of local partners and their involvement and lead in decision-making processes and implementation will, in addition to supporting implementation efforts, ensure a long-term sustainable response, another matter addressed in the OAP

Despite this realization, Localisation is just now being thoroughly discussed in mine action and there is a lack of consensus on what an increased focus on localisation means for the mine action sector, including donors and implementing partners, and how a shift in our approach can better support localisation efforts. What is clear is that the success of localisation will require national ownerships, a commitment from all partners to foster an inclusive approach and build the capacity of national organization to participate on an equal basis in national implementation dialogues. The need to turn our attention to this matter has been exacerbated by recent events associated with the global pandemic. Likewise, recent events have also shone light on the lack of progress in this regard. Progress in strengthening localisation will also require attention to matters which go beyond technical exchanges and training and a closer look at more human and structural components of implementation to place national organizations in the driver's seat.

Objective

The objective of the High-Level Panel is to explore:

- what *localisation* means to stakeholders within the mine action sector; The importance of localisation to ensure an effective response to our efforts;
- How our current approach supports or hinders localisation efforts
- how capacity building and inclusion can strengthen *localisation* efforts;
- progress and challenges in strengthening *localisation through capacity building and inclusion*;

¹ International Council of Voluntary Agencies

- elements that support the strengthening of *localisation* (e.g. National ownership, establishment of mine action platforms);
- How future partnerships can better support *localisation*.

Guiding questions

- What does *localisation* mean to you?
- Strengthening *localisation* has been high on the agenda of donor countries and international organizations. How have we progressed in strengthening *localisation*?
- How can *localisation* support the efficient and effective implementation of the Convention by affected State Parties and contribute to building capacity at the local level?
- What have we learned about the applicability of *localisation* in different contexts in mine action? Has the global pandemic taught us anything in this regard?
- How can capacity building efforts and strengthened inclusion better support *localisation* efforts?
- How does national ownership support *localisation* and how a focus on *localisation* strengthens national ownership?
- How do we best empower national and local organization to take the lead in the implementation of mine action activities what would need to be modified in our current way of doing business