

A woman wearing a traditional conical straw hat and a blue and white striped long-sleeved shirt is smiling at the camera. She is wearing green work gloves and holding a green strap. In the background, another person is working in a lush green rice field under a bright sky.

Localisation: Shifting Power Through partnership

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Many meanings of localisation

Various definitions and commitments:

- Grand Bargain: “Making principled humanitarian action as local as possible and as international as necessary.”
Key commitment: 25% funding as directly as possible to local actors.
- Charter 4 Change ‘8 Commitments.’
- START Network ‘7 Dimensions of Localisation.’
- Pledge for Change ‘3 Pledges.’

Evolution of different rationales, definitions, agendas and language for Localisation from different stakeholders and perspective.

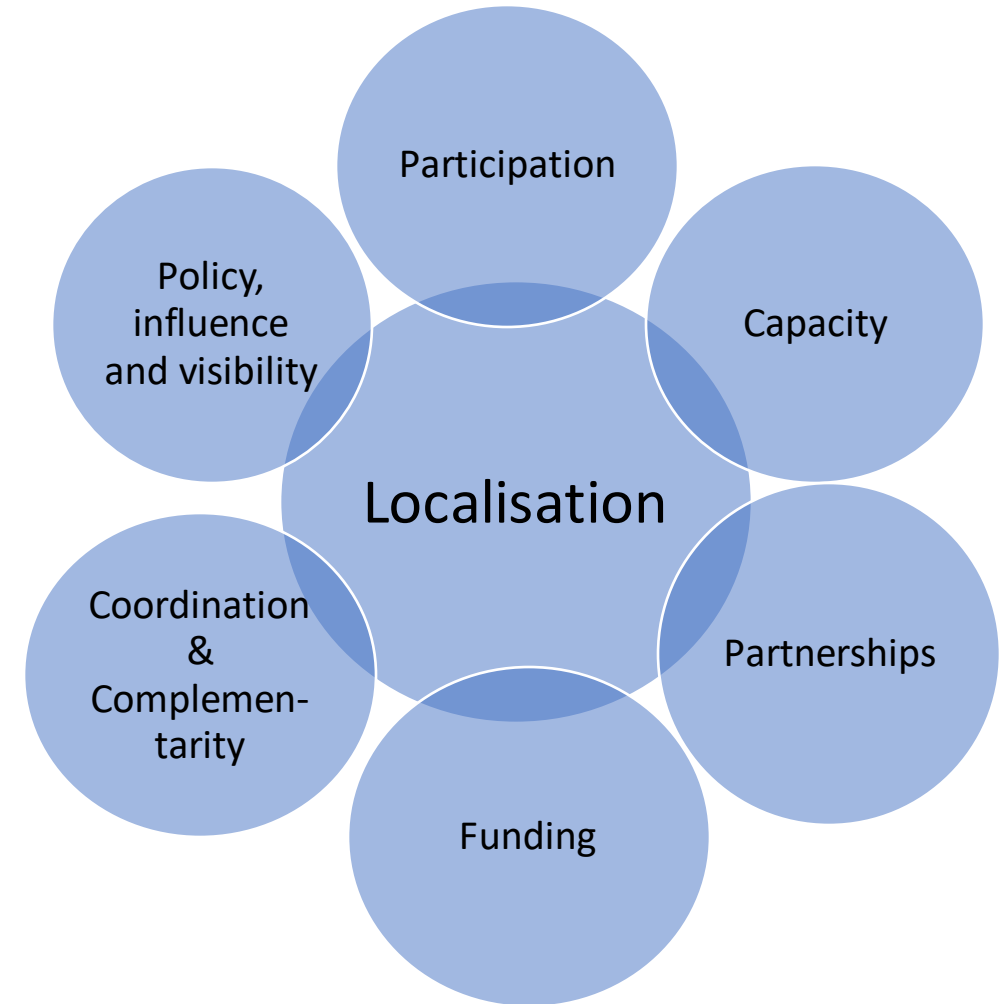
“The term “localization” has always been ill-defined, serving as an umbrella term for nearly any kind of humanitarian reform involving local actors. ... There is still a lack of consensus about what localization actually means in practice.”

Localization: A “Landscape” Report.
Boston, MA: Feinstein International Center, Tufts University, 2021.

Network of Empowered Aid Response (NEAR)

*Localising humanitarian response (or localisation) is a process of **recognising, respecting and strengthening the leadership** by local authorities and the capacity of local civil society in humanitarian action, **in order to better address the needs of affected populations** and to prepare national actors for future humanitarian responses.*

(OECD, 2017)



FROM 'LOCALISATION' to 'decolonisation'



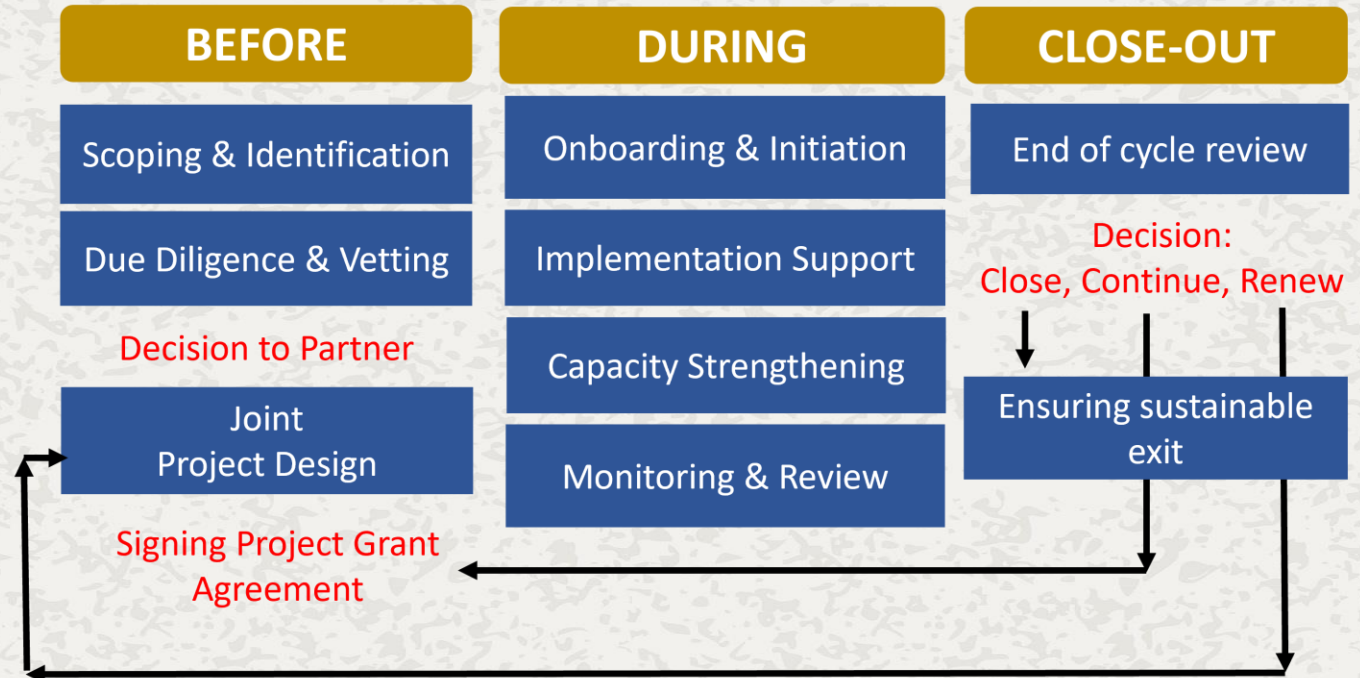
- Disappointment with 'localisation agenda': dilution of grand rhetoric, slow and inconsistent change.
- Reckoning with legacies of colonialism and racism in aid in the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020.
- Growing discontent with the term 'localisation' – seen as paternalistic and neo-colonial.

Image: **How structural racism shows up in the sector.**

- *'Time to Decolonise Aid'*, Peace Direct, 2021

Trócaire's partnership Approach

Trócaire has worked in partnership with local organisations for 50 years. It is a core and defining aspect of who we are. Our commitment to partnership stems from the belief that development must be locally-owned and driven by a vibrant local civil society and the communities they represent and work with.



OUR commitment – Shifting the power: Progressing localisation, Putting local partners first

- 2017: *'More than the money – Localisation in Practice'* research.
- 2019: *'Partnership in Practice: Steps to localisation'* research.
- 2021:
 - Commitment to a 'step change' from Partnership to Localisation in Strategic Plan.
 - Establishment of Global Hub on Partnership and Localisation to operationalise shift.
 - Development of Partnership and Localisation Strategy 2021-2025.

**Strategic Plan
2021 - 2025**

PARTNERSHIP



LOCALISATION

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Trócaire's localisation definition & approach

Localisation is a collective process involving different stakeholders that aims to ensure local actors, whether communities, civil society organisations, or local public institutions, are at the centre of **humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding systems**.

Localisation challenges the root causes of **unequal global to local power dynamics, structures, and systems, including the legacies of racism and colonialism**.

In addition to shifting power to local actors, localisation aims to **deliver effective, timely, accountable, relevant, and appropriate services and supports** to programme participants.

- Trócaire Partnership and Localisation Strategy, 2021-2025



Trócaire's work on localisation - highlights

VOICE AND INFLUENCE

- Supporting local actors to attend and meaningfully participate in key coordination and decision-making spaces at the international, national and local level.
- Supporting the establishment and operation of country-level mechanisms for advancing the localisation agenda: Charter4Change, National Reference Groups.

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

- Adopting a partner-driven, harmonized approach to capacity strengthening with greater financial autonomy for local partners.
- Developing & piloting a harmonized approach to due diligence assessments with other INGOS.

PARTNERSHIP QUALITY

- Shifting from project-based partnerships to longer term relationships aimed at supporting partners' own strategic ambitions.
- Ensuring mutual accountability and ability for partners to influence and shape Trócaire's work.

FUNDING AND RESOURCES

- Sharing adequate core costs with partners to enable greater financial and organisational resilience.
- Enabling partners to access greater quantities of direct funding from institutional donors.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT

- The demand for ‘localisation’/‘decolonisation’ is here to stay and only getting louder.
- Operationalising the shift to localisation means a real reduction in funds and resources for international actors.
- Evolving role of ‘intermediaries’ and INGOs – what is our added value?
- Localisation requires international actors to cede power and space.
- There are no easily replicable templates for operationalising localisation – every organisation must go on their own journey.

Thank you.



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