



**2020 UNICEF-NGO PARTNERSHIP IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION
ANNUAL CONSULTATION (VIRTUAL)
'WORKING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS EMERGING CHALLENGES'**

17-19 NOVEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A4EP	Alliance for Empowering Partnership
ARDD	Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development
AWYAD	African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD)
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CCCs	Core Commitments for Children
CO	UNICEF Country Office
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
ECOWEB	Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits, Inc.
EMOPS	Office of Emergency Programs
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GMI	Global Mentoring Initiative
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HQ	UNICEF Headquarters
ICVA	International Council of Voluntary Agencies
INGO	International Non-governmental Organization
IRC	International Rescue Committee
LNGO	Local Non-Governmental Organization
Local2Global	Danish Church Aid
NNGO	National Non-Governmental Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PCA	Programme Cooperation Agreement
PSEA	Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
RO	UNICEF Regional Office
UN	United Nations
UNPP	UN Partner Portal

INTRODUCTION

To reach results for children, partnering with civil society organizations (CSOs) and national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) – herein ‘NGOs’ – as well as community-based organizations (CBOs) and academic institutions is crucial to UNICEF. This partnership acquires a specific significance in humanitarian settings, where the challenges faced in delivering results for children are even more critical.

Established in 2019 as an ongoing dialogue between UNICEF and NGOs to strengthen partnership, the 2020 Consultation was jointly convened by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies ([ICVA](#)) - a large Consortium of international, national and local NGOs; and the UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS). The consultation provided an opportunity to take stock of the progress made on recommendations stemming from the 2019 UNICEF-NGO Consultation, and to discuss about the impact of COVID-19 on partnerships; the UNICEF simplified partnership procedures and their impact on NGO work on the ground; funding flexibility for NGOs; anti-racism and anti-discrimination efforts and challenges in the sector; as well as about decolonization of aid and progress on the localization agenda.

Two other networks joined ICVA and UNICEF in the preparations of this consultation and led some of the sessions on day two and three of the consultation: [InterAction](#), the largest network of international NGOs and partners in the United States, and the [Alliance for Empowering Partnership](#) (A4EP), whose mission is to create an active and effective network of independent and locally grown organizations and global activists. Their engagement contributed in bringing a diversity of participants, panelists and invaluable perspectives discussed during the consultation.

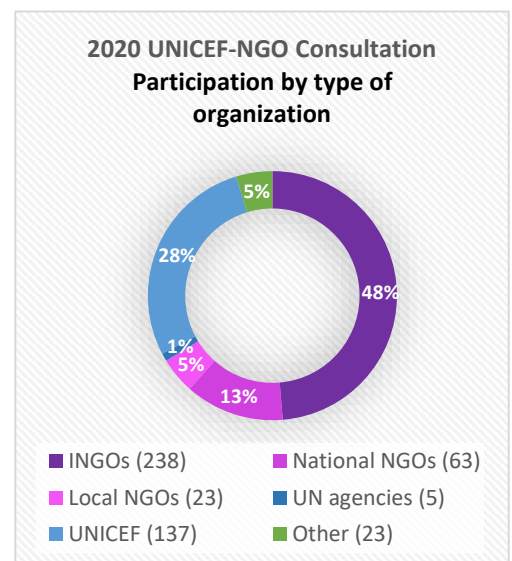
The three-day consultation, which took place from 17 to 19 November 2020 consisted of 6 sessions attended by over 489 participants from 90 countries; including 324 civil society colleagues. 137 UNICEF colleagues also participated in the Consultation: 59% from Country Offices (CO), 15% from Regional Offices (RO) and 26% from UNICEF Headquarters (HQ).

Each of the sessions brought together a panel constituted of international, national and local NGO representatives, as well as UNICEF colleagues. The 28 panelists shared concrete experiences, insights and recommendations on how to address partnership challenges faced in various contexts around the world. Some of the questions from participants, received prior and during the Consultation, were answered by the panelists during the specific sessions. All questions were collected and will be answered in due time.

The Consultation was concluded by ICVA and UNICEF Executive Directors, who recognized the critical role of NGOs in supporting UNICEF’s efforts to advance children’s rights and well-being; at the eve of the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and UNICEF’s 74th Anniversary on 25th of November. Building on the 2020 Consultation, they acknowledged the importance of organizing regular consultations to maintain a dialogue with NGO partners and to deliver on the recommendations identified to further enhance UNICEF-NGO partnerships for a more inclusive and equitable world, where no child is left behind.

This report summarizes the main issues, discussions and recommendations arising from the UNICEF-NGO Partnership.

The full video recordings of the sessions – including with Arabic, French and Spanish captioning - resources are available on replay [here](#); along with the Agenda and related material accessible; some of which is also available in Annex 1 of the Report.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Progress and follow-up on the 2019 engagements

(Tuesday 17 November, 3-5 p.m. CET)

Objective: Introduce participants to the objective and process behind the 2020 Consultation, its structure and subjects to be discussed. Discuss on progress made on the six main recommendations arising from the 2019 Consultation.

Video available on replay [here](#) (Day 1 Replay 0:00 – 56:00)

Key highlights

The session provided an opportunity for NGOs to exchange with UNICEF on the engagements undertaken in 2019 and progress reached so far. The engagements undertaken in 2019 covered the following subjects:

1. The Core Commitments for Children (CCCs);
2. Partnership Management;
3. UNICEF Partnership Procedures;
4. Join Advocacy;
5. The localization agenda;
6. Engagement at Humanitarian Country Team level.

For each of the subjects, UNICEF colleagues indicated the actions completed in 2019 and highlighted those still in progress. Participants enquired on challenges faced and adjustments required to respond to COVID-19. It was agreed that all the engagements undertaken in 2019 remain relevant and have to be further pursued by UNICEF in 2021. Participants were asked to their top three priorities for UNICEF and its NGO partners in 2021. Responses provided by 73 respondents through the poll function indicate the following priorities:

- **Partnership management and organizational accountabilities** (58%)
- **Guidelines on NGO partnership procedures and partnerships focal points in UNICEF Offices** (55%)
- **Joint advocacy efforts to further support children's rights in humanitarian contexts** (48%)
- Comprehensive roll out strategy of the revised Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) and proactive reach to NGOs (45%)
- Global strategy for the implementation of the localization agenda (38%)
- A harmonized approach in the UN / Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) family at country level on Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), data management and Duty of Care (38%)

In the follow-up to the 2020 Consultation, in 2021, UNICEF and ICVA propose the following next steps:

- In 2021, UNICEF to put further emphasis on its partnership agenda including on: i) Partnership management and organizational accountabilities; ii) Joint advocacy efforts to support children rights in humanitarian contexts; iii) The comprehensive roll-out strategy of the revised CCCs and proactive reach to NGOs.
- ICVA to organize jointly with UNICEF regular updates on progress achieved and provide a platform to discuss challenges and ways forward.
- ICVA and UNICEF to organize specific discussions with NGOs on priorities such as the revised CCCs and on fostering joint advocacy.

Panelists:

Ms. Mirela Shuteriqi, Director of Policy, ICVA (Moderator)

Ms. Meritxell Relano, Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF

Mr. Luc Chauvin, Chief Inter Agency and Humanitarian Partnerships, Office of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF

COVID-19 and its impact on partnership in 2020

(Tuesday 17 November, 4-6 p.m. CET)

Objective: Discuss how COVID-19 has impacted partnership; provide an update on new developments from UNICEF and the NGOs, discuss challenges and opportunities in humanitarian settings and agree on areas (covered by the 6 recommendations) where continued investment is needed.

Video available on replay [here](#) (Day 1 Replay 56:00 – 2:57:45)

Key highlights

The session analyzed the context in which the operations and partnership were developed in 2020. A specific focus was placed on COVID-19 and its impact on the most vulnerable children in fragile contexts. Panelists from South Sudan NGO Forum, World Vision Country Office in Venezuela, UNICEF and ICVA gave concrete examples on how COVID-19 has hampered access to education – in particular for girls; reduced livelihoods opportunities for many families and communities; and aggravated child protection risks in many contexts. In addition, disruptions in other critical services such as health and nutrition were discussed with panelists also elaborating on concrete solutions explored on the ground.

In 2021 and beyond, child rights actors will continue to work with children and communities to address these issues. As COVID-19 vaccines are approved, joint advocacy is needed to ensure all children can access the vaccine. Identification and management of cases as well as community engagement efforts need to go hand in hand with vaccination plans at country level, requiring an ever-close collaboration between UNICEF and NGOs.

Despite the challenges, the panelists underlined several opportunities that emerged during the pandemic, concluding with a number of recommendations and ways forward, which include:

- **Flexibility:** 2020 showed that UNICEF can implement flexibility measures while remaining accountable for funding, and this balance between flexibility and accountability needs to be maintained in the future. Trust building between all partners, and in particular with local and national NGOs, is crucial in this regard.
- **Risk sharing between partners** is central: There is a need for UNICEF, NGOs and donors to jointly consider how to ensure that resources are available to improve support for occupational safety, health and related services in order to ensure the safety of NGO partners and their staff, as well as to protect the communities they serve.
- **Sustainable local capacity:** Investment in building institutional capacities of local and national actors has improved. However, it was recognized that this awareness now needs to translate into concrete improvements in the respective partnership agreements and procedures.
- **Joint ownership and strengthened partnership** are critical to face the difficulties ahead and better equip all actors to stay and deliver safely in challenging contexts.

The global response to COVID-19 has pushed the international community to work better together to achieve results for children. It is clear from the discussion that despite the numerous challenges, 2020 has also given an opportunity to review each organization's internal architecture as well as that of the humanitarian system, to make it more efficient and better benefit of children and communities.

In the follow-up to the 2020 Consultation, in 2021, UNICEF and ICVA propose the following next steps:

- ICVA and UNICEF to organize a meeting with NGOs on how partnership agreements can better support duty of care and occupational safety and health.

Panelists:

Ms. Kehkashan Beenish Khan, Head Civil Society Partnerships, UNICEF Division of Communications (Moderator)

Mr. Manuel Fontaine, Director, UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes

Mr. Carlos Navarro, Principal Advisor, Public Health Emergencies, UNICEF

Mr. Ignacio Packer, Executive Director, ICVA

Mr. Pius Ojara, Director, South Sudan NGO Forum

Ms. Carmen Garcia, Venezuela Country Director, World Vision

UNICEF Civil Society Organizations partnership survey

(Wednesday 18 November, 2:00-2:30 p.m. CET)

Objective: Present key findings from the UNICEF 2020 Civil Society Organizations partnership survey and compare with results from the ICVA 2019 humanitarian partnership survey.

Video available on replay [here](#) (Day 2 Replay 0:00 – 37:50)

Key highlights

Day two of the Consultation focused on the operationalization of partnership. It opened with a presentation of the key findings from the [2020 UNICEF Civil Society Organizations Partnership Survey](#), which gathered 408 responses between late 2019 and early 2020. NGO feedback suggests that notable results are being achieved through partnerships and that NGOs generally appreciate their partnership with UNICEF.

The most common strengths that NGOs identified are communication, technical assistance, financial support, while the most common weaknesses are determined to be insufficient timeliness, unclear communication, budget and reporting challenges. Several of the elements most commonly cited by some partners as UNICEF strengths were simultaneously cited by others as weaknesses, which indicates that partner experiences with UNICEF may vary in different contexts.

The NGO perceptions collected in the UNICEF survey also reflect the findings of [ICVA's scoping study on UNICEF-NGO partnership in humanitarian settings](#), published in April 2019, where NGOs underlined that communication, technical assistance and joint analysis, planning, implementation and advocacy were strengths of their partnership with UNICEF, while noting financial support, heavy administrative processes and unclear guidance and lack of engagement in advocacy to be the top weaknesses.

Based on feedback during the session, participants in the Consultation highlighted the need to improve timeliness, enhance communication, improve information sharing and increase transparency in partner selection as top priorities for UNICEF-NGO partnership relations. It was noted during the discussion that follow-up on the issues raised through the 2020 Partnership Survey as well as the annual consultation will require additional work in 2021. In addition to engagement with NGO partners, it will be important to work with other UN agencies to identify opportunities to harmonize and simplify partnership tools and approaches that are similar across agencies.

UNICEF partnership procedures

(Wednesday 18 November, 2:30-15:15 p.m. CET)

Objective: Discuss how new partnership modalities can support the delivery of results for children and how UNICEF and NGO partners could address future challenges.

Video available on replay [here](#) (Day 2 Replay 37:50 - 1:45:30)

Key highlights

The session was dedicated to UNICEF partnership procedures. Moderated by ICVA, panelists from UNICEF HQ and CO Kenya, Kenya Red Cross and InterAction discussed UNICEF's current CSO Guidance, best practices, challenges, with particular emphasis on country and regional office partner relations with NGOs in support of programme implementation.

Panelists:

Mr. Jeremy Rempel, Head of Humanitarian Finance, ICVA (Moderator)
Mr. Frankie Chen, Programme Manager (Civil Society Partnerships), UNICEF Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring

Panelists:

Mr. Jeremy Rempel, Head of Humanitarian Finance, ICVA (Moderator)
Ms. Kate Phillips Barrasso, Director of Humanitarian Policy, InterAction
Ms. Miriam Mbembe, Head of Health, Nutrition and Social Protection, Kenya Red Cross
Ms. Josephine Odanga, Health Specialist-Systems and Emergency, Health Section, UNICEF Kenya
Mr. Frankie Chen, Programme Manager (Civil Society Partnerships), UNICEF Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring

NGOs highlighted the [UN Partner Portal \(UNPP\)](#), the [UNICEF PSEA assessment and PSEA toolkit](#) and collaboration and guidance in gap analysis, prioritization, support for implementation of programmes as examples of good practices in place. Different challenges were raised as well including insufficient investment in building capacity of NGOs, tight implementation timelines and cumbersome Programme Cooperation Agreements (PCAs), time-consuming development processes, administrative burden linked to processing cost extensions/amendments, lack of clarity on cost coverage, and inconsistency in implementation of policies across countries.

The panelists identified opportunities to improve UNICEF partnerships, including:

- **Further simplification of procedures:** where possible, it is important to simplify existing processes, such as reporting, PCAs, costing and budgeting methodologies, partner selection, etc. This work should involve further consultation with NGO partners and other UN agencies to both simplify, and where possible, harmonize process across agencies.
- **Improved clarification and consistency in policies:** ensure that global CSO Guidelines, policies, and procedures are interpreted and applied consistently by UNICEF staff in COs, ROs and HQs. It is also important to develop clearer consistent communication on such interpretation and application internally and with partners to support common understanding.
- **Harmonization within the UN system:** NGOs applaud the ongoing dialogue between UN agencies; however, more common solutions need to be found. UN agencies can learn from each other more and share common approaches to resolving challenges in partners relations. Among NGOs, there is broad support for further development of existing common partnership platforms, such as the UN Partner Portal, to further harmonize and simplify the approach to partnership across UN agencies.
- **Capacity-building and harmonization of policy applications across all partners:** UNICEF agreements need to facilitate capacity-building, in particular for local NGOs. NGOs have asked that, in the spirit of localization, the 7% administrative cost apply for both international NGOs and local NGOs.

In the follow-up to the 2020 Consultation, in 2021, UNICEF and ICVA propose the following next steps:

- ICVA to disseminate the new [Guidance for Civil Society Organizations on Partnership with UNICEF](#) among NGOs and organize a session to gather practical NGO input.
- As part of its work on Emergency Procedures, UNICEF to include specific provisions on partnership to further simplify and expedite partnership in humanitarian contexts.
- UNICEF to reflect on the insights and recommendations received through the 2020 UNICEF Partner Survey and other sources to inform the revision of the CSO procedure.
- UNICEF to engage with other UN agencies to further improve the UN Partner Portal based on user feedback and promote the Portal's use for enhanced information sharing, transparency in partner selection and greater timeliness.
- UNICEF to develop and/or further rollout digital tools and platforms to accompany and support the implementation of the Procedures.
- UNICEF to produce/update partner-facing guidance to improve communication and reduce information asymmetry on operationalization of partnership.

Funding flexibility for NGOs in the context of COVID-19 and beyond

(Wednesday 18 November, 3:15-4:30 p.m. CET)

Objective: Discuss accessibility to and flexibility in funding as well as reporting requirements, especially in the light of COVID-19 and moving beyond to incorporate measures into standard practices, and cascading benefits and risk transfer.

Video available on replay [here](#) (Day 2 Replay 1:45:30 - 2:48:00)

Key highlights

The panel, composed of speakers from UNICEF, International Rescue Committee (IRC), AMEL Association International and Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) underlined the positive work done during 2020 in terms of increasing flexibility measures to enable better response to COVID-19 needs and increasing that cascading of the benefits of quality flexible funding to NGO colleagues in the field.

In the following discussion, NGOs highlighted the need to examine current UNICEF practice with match funding requirements and coverage of shared direct and overhead (or indirect) costs as part of the necessary flexibility adjustment in response to COVID-19 needs and beyond. For many NGO partners, both local and international, match funding requirements for UNICEF programmes can be difficult to meet under current humanitarian funding constraints and are reportedly inconsistent from country to country. Lack of clarity on definition and eligibility of direct shared costs creates discrepancies and lengthens negotiations. Limitations on allowable shared direct and indirect cost recovery can also be a burden for local NGO partners in particular.

On the topic of localization, local partners shared the challenges they face to enter in partnership with UNICEF, and their perception that most funding goes to governments or international NGOs. UNICEF notes that in reality, local/national NGOs as a group receive more than half of all funding provided by UNICEF to civil society. Still, the panelists requested further support from UNICEF to better include local and national NGOs in decision-making and policy-making processes, as part of UNICEF's commitment to localization.

Based on the new flexibility measures implemented in 2020, NGO panelists also recommended to integrate these COVID-19 flexibility measures into standard practice in 2021. The panelists highlighted the potential benefits that specific measures could have on humanitarian programmes, with priority interest in increased budget flexibility, harmonization of cost classification (Money Where it Counts initiative), and multi-year flexible and predictable funding.

In the follow-up to the 2020 Consultation, in 2021, UNICEF and ICVA propose the following next steps:

- ICVA to lead on and organize a meeting with NGOs on match funding requirements.
- UNICEF to examine with NGO partners how to integrate COVID-19 flexibility measures into standard practice.

Panelists:

Mr. Jeremy Rempel, Head of Humanitarian Finance, ICVA (Moderator)

Ms. Magda Cavanna Highams, Senior Compliance Officer UN, Compliance and Policy, IRC

Ms. Virginie Lefèvre, Program and Partnership Coordinator, Amel Association International

Ms. Samar Muhareb, CEO, Arab renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD)

Ms. Jelena Jovanovic, Senior Adviser, Humanitarian Financing, UNICEF Division of Public Partnerships

Mr. Frankie Chen, Programme Manager (Civil Society Partnerships), UNICEF Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring

Anti-racism, anti-discrimination efforts for a respectful, inclusive, diverse, equitable, mutually accountable and safe partnership

(Thursday 19 November, 2:30-4:00 p.m. CET)

Objective: Address both the programming and institutional side of racism and discrimination, highlighting what UNICEF and partners are doing to address these issues.

Video available on replay [here](#) (Day 3 Replay 0:00 – 1:28:30)

Key highlights

Led and moderated by one of the founding members of the Alliance for Empowering Partnership (A4EP), the third day of the Consultation began with a session, which discussed anti-discrimination and anti-racism efforts for a respectful, inclusive, diverse, equitable and accountable and safe partnership. The session addressed the internal, institutional aspects of anti-racism and discrimination efforts, the external aspects regarding programming and partnership, as well the inter-linkages between them. NGO speakers from COAST, African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD), Oxfam GB and UNICEF colleagues shared their personal experiences in the aid sector as partners at country level and their perspectives as staff members of international organizations and presented their ongoing initiatives and also explored opportunities to leverage results for concrete changes in the system.

As explained by Oxfam GB, international development is firmly rooted in a long and racist history and the international aid architecture centered on white power. Since capacity, knowledge and resources coming from the North are considered superior, capacity development, policy influencing, and campaigning are devoid from the context or the struggles of the global South. To be anti-racist means we must interrogate all structures and systems that hold up white supremacy and work towards dismantling these, going beyond diversity and inclusion.

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, many were the institutions, particularly in the sector of humanitarian aid, that began a process of introspection and reflection and that initiated discussions around anti-racism and anti-discrimination. Oxfam GB presented its strategic work on decolonization and its ambition to become an anti-racist organization, an internal and external plan for its decolonization work centered on four axes: communications and engagement; culture and behavior; international development; and policy and practice, to transform the internal culture and how Oxfam GB shows up in its work externally.

An example step taken by UNICEF is the creation of a task team on anti-racism and discrimination, convened by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore and mandated to create a space for dialogue and formulate an action plan. “A journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step”, and this discussion is part of that process.

Within international organizations, people of color have had to deal with many prejudices. Hence, leading the work to dismantle racist systems and structures means confronting a multitude of barriers and embarking on a colossal review process. Nonetheless, there is willingness at the organizational level and more voices are continuing to emerge. There is need to gather data and evidence to deal with racism systematically and collectively. Furthermore, there is a need to make sure that the work is led by people of color and that staff addressing these issues get the support and resources they require.

As noted by AWYAD and COAST the issue is, however, not only internal but also affecting partnerships - in particular with local and national actors, which often suffer the most from power inequalities between actors due to “master-servant type relationships”, lack of mutual trust and respect, additional due diligence and reporting requirements and limitations in budgets. There is a need to create an enabling environment that

Panelists:

Ms. Smruti Patel, Global Mentoring Initiative (GMI) Director and member of A4EP (Moderator)

Ms. Ritah Nansereko, Executive Director, African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD)

Ms. Julie Diane Hackett, Resource Mobilization & Advocacy Specialist, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, UNICEF

Ms. Ferdous Ara Rume, Deputy Director, Gender Relation, Training and Community Radio, COAST Trust

Ms. Saranel Benjamin, Head of Partnerships, Oxfam GB

supports local knowledge and practices to thrive by listening and learning from partners. Partners are doing crucial work at the country level and need to be supported through equitable partnership and funding.

As underlined by the Oxfam GB, it is important to not only understand and recognize that racism is created and perpetuated and enabled through systems and structures that center whiteness and its corresponding power (white supremacy), but also that it is essential to dismantle such systems and structures that hold up white supremacy and perpetuate racialized spaces. This process will be long and burdensome with many challenges still lying ahead. The whole sector needs to listen, collect and analyze data, address power inequalities and hold each other accountable working within and with the community.

In the follow-up to the 2020 Consultation, in 2021, UNICEF and ICVA propose the following next steps:

- UNICEF and ICVA to explore the organization of a webinar and provide a space for deeper level dialogue to deal with the issue of racism and discrimination.

Localization and decolonization of aid efforts for a respectful, inclusive, diverse, equitable, mutually accountable and safe partnership

(Thursday 19 November, 4:00-5:30 p.m. CET)

Objective: On decolonization of aid; discuss how reaffirmed principles of partnership can better ensure diversity and equality in partnership. On localization; discuss how the international humanitarian community can adapt its delivery modalities in response to COVID-19 consistent with existing commitments on localization of aid, strengthening partnerships with local and national actors.

Video available on replay [here](#) (Day 3 Replay 1:28:30 – 2:55:30)

Key highlights

This second panel of day three, also co-organized with A4EP, highlighted how decolonialization of aid and the principles of partnership should be so implemented so as to ensure joint decision-making, respect, diversity, equality and mutual accountability in partnership at the benefit of children and their families. Specific attention was dedicated to the roll out of existing commitments on localization of aid in country programmes, the strengthening of partnerships with local and national actors and progress reached since last year's consultation.

Through interventions from UNICEF, Local2Global, Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits, Inc. and Yemeni Women Union, the discussions touched upon issues of trust between partners, power balance and power sharing, and the need for commitment to change the system not only in words but also in action – that is, “walking the talk”. On the issue of leadership, the panel noted that in clusters at national and subnational levels, national NGOs are often not involved in leadership roles despite being members. As most of the discussions are held in English, it is difficult for them to participate meaningfully and confidently. Another weakness identified is that national and local NGOs continue to benefit mainly from indirect funding flows. Data on funding cascades from the UN agencies and some major INGOs is not sufficiently available. This hampers a full picture on localization progress and does not contribute to financial transparency. The panelists also highlighted and discussed the crucial issues of lack of allocation of overheads to local partners and the lack of institutional investment and core funding.

The discussions then focused on capacity and the need to rethink how leadership of national actors, including local governments, NGOs and local communities, can be enhanced. A greater focus needs to be placed on how

Panelists:

Ms. Smruti Patel, GMI Director and member of A4EP (Moderator)

Mr. Philimon Majwa, Humanitarian Policy Specialist, UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes

Mr. Christian Els, Local2Global (Danish Church Aid)

Ms. Regina “Nanette” Salvador-Antequisa, Executive Director, Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits, Inc. (ECOWEB)

Ms. Noha Yeha, GBV Sub-Cluster co-lead, Yemeni Women Union

local organizations can work with communities in a more participatory way in order for the latter to have a greater say in decision-making processes with regards to priorities. Diversity and inclusion are also very important in the advancement of localization agendas. The panel underlined that no localization can be achieved unless there is meaningful partnership between national and international actors, donors and governments. There is a need to have a clear partnership framework, respect for partnership principles such as equality, transparency, responsibility and complimentary and a need for increased accountability in partnership.

In the follow-up to the 2020 Consultation, in 2021, UNICEF and ICVA propose the following next steps:

- ICVA to continue supporting national and local NGOs meaningful participation in inter-agency local, national, regional and global coordination mechanisms.
- UNICEF to disseminate and roll out the UNICEF technical note on localization.

Concluding remarks

(Thursday 19 November, 5:30-6 :00 p.m. CET)

Objective: Closing session and ways forward, with concluding remarks by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore and Ignacio Packer, ICVA Executive Director.

Video available on replay [here](#) (Day 3 Replay 2:55:30 – 3:31:00)

Key highlights

The Consultation was closed by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore and ICVA Executive Director Ignacio Packer who thanked the participants for their engagement during the Consultation and their work in support of children and their rights.

UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore acknowledged the close link between institutional culture and quality of partnership. She highlighted three main institutional priorities for UNICEF which she expects to also result in stronger partnerships with NGOs: **digitalization and streamlining of procedure, protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, and anti-racism and discrimination. She took note of the many useful points and recommendations raised by NGOs during the consultation on these subjects and others of direct impact on the partnership.**

On the eve of the 31st anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and few weeks prior to UNICEF 74th anniversary, the two Executive Directors also highlighted how joint work in the past has led to substantial improvements in children's lives and emphasized the joint commitment to strengthen further this partnership.

Panelists:

Ms. Natascha Paddison, Chief of Partnerships, Special Projects and Institutional Events, UNICEF Division of Communication (Moderator)

Ms. Henrietta H. Fore, UNICEF Executive Director

Mr. Ignacio Packer, ICVA Executive Director