



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2



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LOCALISATION - TRANSFORMING HOW CHILD PROTECTION WORKS IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION



GOAL: The child protection sector transforms its way of working, rooted in the sharing of capacity, expertise, opportunity, and the intentional shift of power and resources to community, local, and national actors.

The Alliance believes an expanded understanding of localisation²⁸ – one that addresses existing privilege and power structures in humanitarian decision-making, financing, and programmatic interventions – ought to guide equitable, dignified, and principled humanitarian action. Therefore, The Alliance will lead by example. Making this important process of change a priority in the coming years, The Alliance will seek to forge a better way of working, through defined and intentional action. Rooted in the mutual sharing of knowledge, skills, and opportunities, and in an intentional shift of power, The Alliance will change how it undertakes its work and realises its mandate. The Alliance will focus on leveraging its comparative advantage as a body that leads normative work for child protection in fragile and humanitarian settings, to expand what localisation can mean and look like in practice for the child protection sector. This may include actions such as:

- Promoting a culture of principled partnership²⁹ between community, local, national, and international actors, including recognition that within displacement contexts, true partnership and integration includes community, local, and national organisations led by or meaningfully inclusive of displaced populations, in addition to those that contribute to their protection;
- Facilitating engagement in The Alliance for [community, local, and national actors](#), while actively breaking down the barriers that hinder meaningful participation and equal access to the opportunities for leadership, influence, growth, and resources that membership enables;



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- Providing opportunities for learning, exchange, and strengthening of both child protection technical knowledge and skills, as well as institutional support and growth;
- Re-conceptualising understandings of capacity and expertise that prioritise indigenous values and approaches to children's protection and well-being; that build on the wealth of knowledge from community, local, and national actors; and that use these as the basis for [capacity sharing](#) and learning initiatives;

- Generating learning, knowledge, and evidence that centres around the perspectives of children, their families and communities, and re-envisioning how these inform the development and contextualisation of standards, programmatic interventions, learning initiatives, and technical guidance and tools; and
- Advocating for the re-distribution of power, resources, and trust within humanitarian financing, notably through the provision of direct and flexible funding for community, local, and national actors. This should be accompanied by adaptive and responsive management models and opportunities for institutional support and growth. The Alliance and its members can reflect these actions in their own efforts to redistribute funding to national and local actors.

The Alliance views two paths for its work on localisation: one focused on its own internal governance and structures; and a second that looks to transform the child protection sector's ways of working in culture and practice, including its locus of power and influence. Building on The Alliance's work on community-level approaches to the protection and well-being of children, and recognising the diversity in local knowledge and approaches within and across communities, The Alliance's work on localisation can support progress across all its strategic priorities. Effective *prevention* must be rooted in local knowledge, understanding, and practices. Child protection outcomes within *multi-sector programmes* can be strengthened through integration of local perspectives, expertise, and initiatives. *Centring children, their views and protection*, as well as those of their families and communities, in the processes that generate learning, knowledge, and evidence can help to ensure their *meaningful participation* and contributes to greater *accountability* within child protection interventions.



To achieve better protections for children globally, child protection **must start locally.**



Actions and changes such as the examples listed above will be identified and led by an empowered and resourced body to be established within The Alliance, led by its community, local, and national members, and supported by its international members through commitments to supporting sector-wide changes in practice, culture, and accountability. To affect meaningful and sustained change will require more time than the period covered within this strategy; however, progress is an evolving and ongoing process.

Between 2021-2025, The Alliance will look to:

Overall

- **FOSTER** and **PROMOTE** greater action on the sharing and shifting of power, influence, and leadership with community, local, and national child protection organisations across humanitarian action.
- **PROMOTE** the importance of and facilitate opportunities for direct and flexible funding for community, local, and national child protection organisations.

On The Alliance's Governance and Structure

- **INCREASE** inclusion and diversity within The Alliance, by facilitating membership processes and expanding opportunities for leadership, influence, and engagement for community, local, and national actors.
- **IMPROVE** the accessibility and diversity of Alliance products, platforms, and events to reach broader and more diverse audiences.

On the Child Protection Sector

- **ENCOURAGE** meaningful and principled engagement with community, local, and national actors, recognising them as equal partners in the development and contextualisation of child protection standards, guidance, tools, and interventions.
- **CREATE** and **EXPAND** equitable opportunities to share, exchange, and showcase learning, knowledge, and expertise amongst community, local, national, and international actors across the child protection sector.
- **IMPROVE** and **EXPAND** the accessibility and diversity of learning opportunities that strengthen child protection technical expertise and grow institutional capacity.