

SPOTLIGHT

2024

The Charter for Change (C4C) Commitments provide targets for INGOs to make meaningful change towards localisation of aid. Since 2015, 39 signatories have joined the Charter, supported by over 600 local and national NGOs holding signatories accountable. This Annual Spotlight looks at self-reporting from 23 signatories at global headquarters, and 194 responses from 20 signatories at the country level,

tracking change across key areas in support of locally-led response: developing the transparency and quality of funding, building quality partnerships and supporting change at the country level. The 2024 Spotlight, while falling slightly short of the 25% funding target, shows progress in 4 out of 8 of the commitments compared with 2023, with 2 others remaining constant.

Commitments

Funding



24%

Commit to pass 25% of humanitarian funding to National NGOs

Based on 23 complete responses

Partnership



3.7

Reaffirm principles of partnership

Transparency



3.5

Publish the amount or percentage of funding that is passed to NGOs

Recruitment



4.0

Address and prevent the negative impact of recruiting NGO staff during emergencies

Advocacy



4.7

Emphasise the importance of national actors to humanitarian donors

Equality



4.0

Address subcontracting and ensure equality in decision-making

Support



4.0

Provide robust organisational support and capacity building

Promotion



4.4

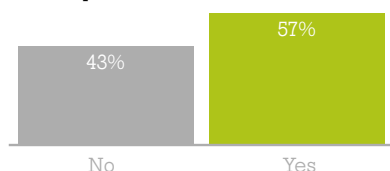
Promote the role of local actors to media and public

Scores calculated from 23 signatories ranking compliance with each commitment on a scale of 0-5.

Transparency & Quality of Funding

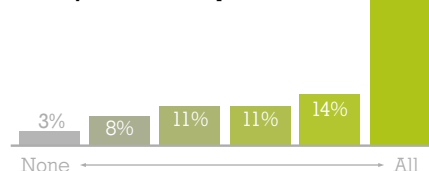
Organisational policy supports core/ admin funding for local partners:

HQ: 21 responses



Core funding is provided to local and national partners:

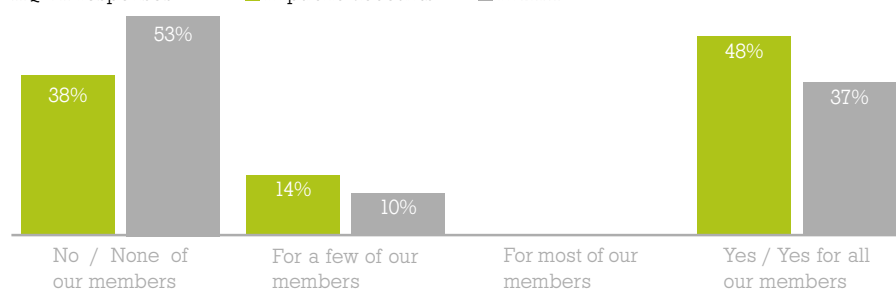
Country Level: 156 responses



The amounts going to national and local partners are published:

HQ: 21 responses

in public accounts in IATI



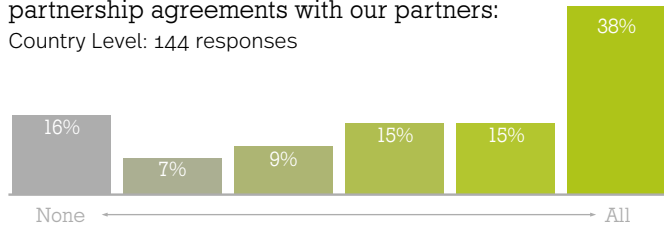
Internal cost recovery for national partners is an essential foundation for localisation, allowing local and national organisations to invest in strengthening capacity and plan for the long term. For the first time, over half of the reporting organisations have a policy supporting structural provision of internal cost recovery for partners, an additional four organisations have implemented such policies since the last report. In practice, this number seems to be increasing too with nearly 70 percent of country offices providing such funding for all or most of their partners, an increase from 60 percent in previous reports. Transparent publication of funds going to national and local partners similarly remains at around half of the reporting signatories in public accounts and/or IATI.

¹ Reporting figures remain low this year with only 23 of 39 signatories, increased from 19 last year, but only just over half. Along with the stagnation of progress towards localisation commitments this points to a worrying trend in the sector, which consistently fails to follow rhetoric with action at the global or country level. The low response rate limits comparability with previous years and should be taken as representative only of those who responded.

Quality Partnerships

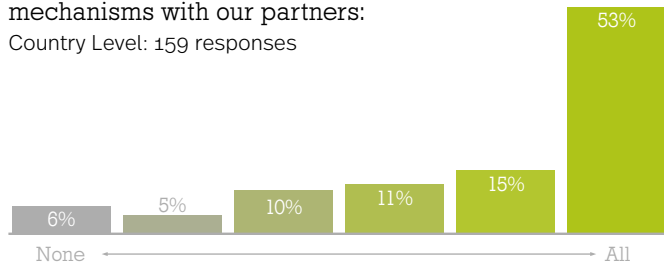
We have long-term strategic partnerships and partnership agreements with our partners:

Country Level: 144 responses

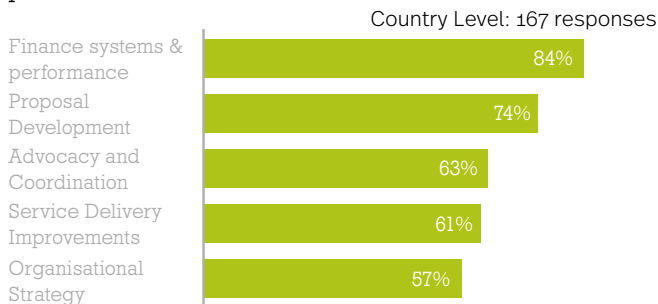


We have two-way partnership review and feedback mechanisms with our partners:

Country Level: 159 responses



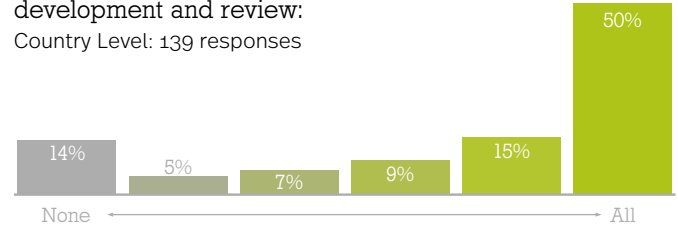
We have supported the organisational development of our partners in these areas*:



*This chart shows the top five responses. Respondents could select more than one area, so results will total more than 100%.

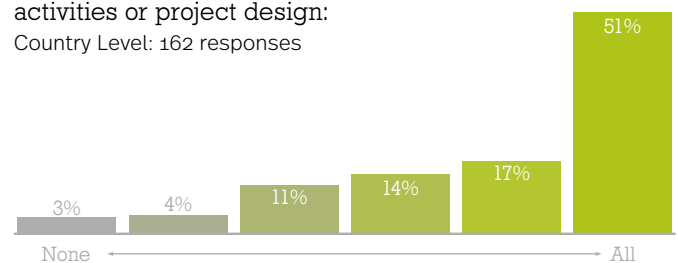
Our partners have taken part in our country strategy development and review:

Country Level: 139 responses



Our partners have taken a leadership role in joint activities or project design:

Country Level: 162 responses



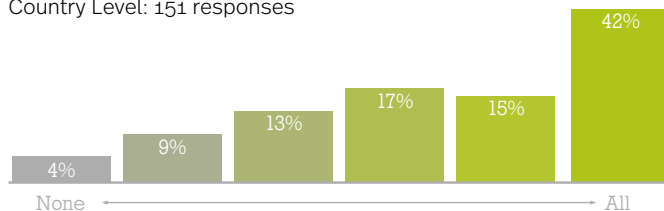
Over 50 percent of country level responses report all partners being involving in country strategy and taking leadership roles in activities and projects, this is significant progress from last year (34 and 44 percent respectively). Other areas in quality partnerships have remained consistent with previous years, showing progress is still needed, especially in long-term partnerships.

Organisational development areas have also remained very consistent compared with previous years.

Country-level Uptake

We actively support our local and national partners to network, coordinate and advocate for locally-led humanitarian action:

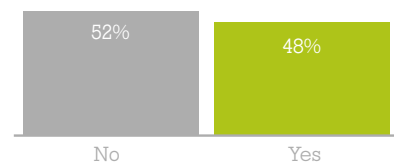
Country Level: 151 responses



Advancing localisation at the country level is central to the work of C4C, with just over 60 percent of country level responses reporting to have actively supported local actors to collaborate to advance the agenda at country level, beyond signatories' individual relationships with partner organisations.

The performance of our country director/leadership is regularly measured against progress on the C4C and other localisation commitments:

HQ: 21 responses



There has been a considerable increase in engagement and support, with nearly half of signatories regularly measuring progress against commitments compared with about 30 percent last year. It is encouraging to see C4C and other localisation initiatives used as part of performance management processes for country level leadership.

Conclusions

This report reflects modest but meaningful progress in advancing localisation, with improvements in half of the Charter commitments. More organisations are now providing indirect cost recovery (ICR) and core funding to local partners, and country-level engagement has strengthened, particularly in partner leadership and strategy involvement. Performance tracking of localisation commitments by country directors has also increased, marking a step forward in accountability.

Despite these gains, challenges persist, particularly in meeting the 25% funding target and improving transparency in financial reporting. Long-term partnerships remain underdeveloped, and global-level reporting continues to fall short, limiting the ability to assess sector-wide change. Continued leadership commitment and structural support are essential to move from rhetorical support to real, sustained localisation.