# Power and Inequality in the Humanitarian Sector
N = 248 (Humanitarian sector workers)
May 8- May 17, 2021

Q1.   I have worked in the humanitarian sector for:

     2%   Less than one year
     9%   1-3 years
     9%   3-4 years
     23%   5-10 years
     57%   10+ years
     0%   I have never worked in the humanitarian sector [excluded from sample]

Q2.   I most recently worked or currently work for:

     4%   A local NGO or community-based organization -- operating in a specific
             geographical area of an aid recipient country
     6%   A national NGO or civil society organization -- operating in an aid recipient
             country in which you are headquartered and not affiliated with an international
             NGO
     8%   The International Committee of the Red Cross
     58%   International Nongovernmental Organization
     10%   United Nations
     0%   International Financial Institution
     0%   Regional Organization (AU, ASEAN, EU)
     2%   Donor government (i.e., United Kingdom)
     4%   Think tank
     7%   Other (please specify)

Q3.   Which best describes where you work:

     42%   Headquarters
     10%   Regional Office
     33%   Country office
     15%   Other (please specify)

Q4.   Looking at the map above, do you currently work in the West (shown in blue) or the
        South (shown in red)?

     45%   West (blue)
     55%   South (red)

Q5.   What is your country of origin?

Q6.   Have you ever worked outside your home country for three or more consecutive months?

80% Yes
20% No

Q7. Has your position required you to work extensively with: *(Select all that apply)*

85% Western international nongovernmental organizations
74% National governments
83% Local nongovernmental organizations
73% UN
78% Donors
20% Other (please specify)
0% None of the above

Q8. Based on your best guess, how large is the annual budget of your current or most recent employer?

6% Less than $1 million USD
19% Between $1 and 10 million
24% Between $10 and 100 million
25% Between $100 and 1 billion
18% Over 1 billion
8% Don't know

This section asks you to comment on some of the barriers that appear to hinder cooperation between local and international agencies.

Q9. Have you had the opportunity to participate in large humanitarian gatherings attended by both staff from international and local agencies?

89% Yes, have attended
11% No, have not attended

[If Q9=1, ASK] (N=220)
Q10. Did your attendance increase or decrease your belief that the humanitarian sector is a single community with a shared purpose?

14% Increase greatly
18% Increase slightly
25% No change
20% Decrease slightly
19% Decrease greatly
5% Other (please specify)

[If Q4=1, ASK] N=112 WEST
Q11. When you are working in or traveling to a field office in the global South, are there opportunities for exchange with local staff?

4%   No opportunities
29%   Some
68%   Many

[If Q4=2, ASK] N=136
Q12. Generally speaking, how often do you socialize with people from international aid agencies?
    4%   Not at all
    46%   Occasionally
    51%   Frequently

[If Q4=1, ASK] N=112
Q13. Generally speaking, how often do you socialize with people from national or local aid agencies?
    13%   Not at all
    50%   Occasionally
    38%   Frequently

[If Q4=2, ASK] N=136
Q14. Which of the following best describes your personal experience with staff from Western-based agencies?
    68%   They treat me as an equal
    31%   They treat me as inferior to them
    1%   I do not work with any international staff

Is there anything else about this you would like to share? (optional)
[Open end]

This section examines how local and international agencies view each other. Local agencies are those that operate in their homeland and are not legally or institutionally connected to an international agency. International agencies are those whose primary headquarters are outside the country of the affected population.

Q15. Which of the following do *you* think international agencies use to determine whether local agencies have capacity? *Select all that apply*
    48%   Size of the budget
    36%   Number of English-speaking staff
    64%   Reputation
    71%   Evidence of past effectiveness
    46%   Years in existence
    32%   International accreditation or membership in humanitarian networks (such as the CHS Alliance)
    14%   Staff have attended accrediting seminars and programs
    67%   Access to and connections with affected populations
    57%   Previous relationship with local agencies
    18%   Other (please specify)

Q16. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: International donors and partners will always see local agencies as lacking capacity.
   31%   Strongly agree
   47%   Somewhat agree
   18%   Somewhat disagree
   4%   Strongly disagree

Q17. Who defines the capacity needs of your organization?
   14%   Foreign Actors
   4%   National Actors
   73%   My organization
   9%   Other (please specify)

[If Q4=1, ASK] N=112
Q18. How much of an obstacle is each of the following for creating more trust between local and international agencies?

	Major obstacle	Minor obstacle	Not an obstacle
Cultural misunderstandings	43%	51%	5% =100
Different priorities	58%	38%	4% =100
Different understandings of humanitarian principles	34%	46%	21% =100
Too few opportunities for informal interaction	45%	46%	10% =100
Local agencies do not have the knowledge or capacity to make critical decisions	19%	38%	44% =100
Local agencies do not have the knowledge or capacity to implement complex tasks	14%	28%	59% =100
Racism of international agencies	62%	25%	13% =100

[If Q4=2, ASK] N=136
Q19. How much of an obstacle is each of the following for creating more trust between local and international agencies?

	Major obstacle	Minor obstacle	Not an obstacle
Cultural misunderstandings	44%	50%	6% =100
Different priorities	66%	32%	2% =100
Different understandings of humanitarian principles	32%	46%	21% =100
Too few opportunities for informal interaction	32%	51%	17% =100

International agencies treat local agencies as inferior	68%	28%	4% =100
International agencies do not have the knowledge to make critical decisions	38%	41%	21% =100
International agencies refuse to equitably share decision making	72%	23%	5% =100
International agencies refuse to equitably share resources from contracts	63%	29%	8% =100
Racism of international agencies	39%	38%	24% =100

Q20.   International aid agencies pursue local partnerships because:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
They are mandated by donors and funding agencies	44%	38%	13%	6% =100
It improves access to populations in need	62%	32%	4%	2% =100
It shifts risks to local actors	35%	34%	22%	9% =100
It increases opportunities for learning	18%	38%	29%	15% =100
It improves the effectiveness of aid	36%	39%	20%	5% =100
It improves their reputation	37%	46%	13%	4% =100

Q21.   Local aid agencies pursue local partnerships because:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
It improves access to populations in need	45%	33%	15%	7% =100
It provides access to additional funding sources	67%	28%	4%	1% =100
There are no alternative funding sources	44%	36%	16%	4% =100
It creates opportunities for learning	27%	54%	16%	2% =100
It improves the effectiveness of aid	27%	49%	19%	4% =100

It improves their reputation	46%	44%	9%	1% =100

Q22. How important are the following characteristics to local aid agencies seeking a potential partner organization?

	Very important characteristic for partners	Somewhat important characteristic for partners	Not an important characteristic for partners
Shared humanitarian principles	43%	45%	12% =100
Established trust through informal connections or networks	61%	35%	4% =100
A common goal or purpose	58%	36%	4% =100
Language	33%	54%	13% =100
Expertise	56%	40%	4% =100
Reputation as a good partner	70%	28%	2% =100

The following section asks your views about localization. We understand localization in the broadest possible way: a shift of authority, power, and resources from international to local agencies and affected populations.

Q23. How important is localization for the humanitarian sector?

Not important _____ Very important
   0   100

Mean: 78

[If Q23>0 ASK] N=248 (ALL)

Q24. Localization is important because:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
International donors and organizations have too much power	58%	30%	9%	3% =100
It will improve the legitimacy of humanitarian action	60%	32%	6%	3% =100

It will improve the effectiveness of humanitarian action	65%	28%	6%	1% =100
It will improve accountability to affected populations	60%	30%	9%	2% =100

Q25. Whose voice is most important when making the following decisions in an emergency?

	International agencies	Local agencies
Declaring an "emergency"	42%	58% =100
Deciding what affected populations need	24%	77% =100
Deciding *which* affected populations are aided and protected	35%	65% =100
Deciding *how* affected populations are aided and protected	31%	69% =100
Deciding which areas, i.e. sanitation, health, medicine, to prioritize	31%	70% =100

Q26. International agencies have *too much* influence over local agencies in:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Setting program priorities	59%	34%	5%	1% =100
Deciding program duration	62%	29%	8%	2% =100
Daily operating decisions	20%	42%	31%	7% =100
Deciding whether and how risk will be shifted to local agencies	51%	36%	11%	2% =100
Shaping hiring decisions	22%	37%	29%	11% =100
Deciding revenue split on funded projects and indirect costs	65%	26%	7%	2% =100
Deciding whether and what percentage the local agency receives in indirect costs	63%	27%	8%	2% =100

Q27.   International nongovernmental organizations limit opportunities for local agencies to improve their funding opportunities by:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Not including them in interactions with funding sources	57%	30%	10%	3% =100
Not sharing rejected funding proposals or the full results of partnership assessments	40%	38%	17%	4% =100
Selectively sharing correspondence with the donor (MoU, audits and/or evaluation reports)	44%	38%	15%	4% =100
Holding meetings in ways that exclude local agencies, such as conducting meetings in English or in capital cities that are not easily reached	49%	33%	13%	5% =100
Not crediting local agencies for their contributions in promotional materials, evaluation reports and narratives	40%	33%	20%	7% =100

Q28.   Please rank the following international actors on the basis of *most* to least power over local agencies:
Drag and drop the response options below in ranked order (1-3). The position of the response options below will move as you drag them.

	Donors	UN agencies	International non-governmental organizations
First ranking	51%	31%	18% =100
Second ranking	22%	55%	34% =100
Third ranking	27%	15%	59% =100

Q29.   Please identify the importance of the following for localization:

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Strengthening the trust between international agencies and local partners	81%	18%	1% =100
Improving cooperation between local and international agencies	82%	17%	1% =100
Increasing the independent capacity of local and national agencies	84%	14%	2% =100
Improving accountability to affected populations	84%	14%	2% =100
Improving the visibility and publicizing the accomplishments of local organizations	66%	30%	4% =100
Increasing direct funding for humanitarian efforts	77%	20%	2% =100
Ensuring that local actors have a greater voice in international policy debates	83%	15%	1% =100

Q30.   Has there been major, minor, or no progress toward...

	Major progress has been made	Minor progress has been made	No progress has been made
Strengthening the trust between international agencies and local partners	11%	76%	13% =100
Improving cooperation between local and international agencies	18%	72%	10% =100
Increasing the independent capacity of local and national agencies	13%	65%	22% =100
Improving accountability to affected populations	12%	63%	25% =100
Improving the visibility and publicizing the accomplishments of local organizations	10%	61%	29% =100

Increasing direct funding for humanitarian efforts	6%	54%	40% =100
Ensuring that local actors have a greater voice in international policy debates	8%	50%	43% =100

Q31.   For each of the following, please indicate if you think it is a major obstacle, minor obstacle, or not an obstacle to shifting more power and authority from international to local agencies?

	Major obstacle	Minor obstacle	Not an obstacle
Western donors and agencies are reluctant to provide more direct funding because of fear of fraud, corruption or possible ties to criminal or terrorist organizations	79%	19%	2% =100
Western donors claim that their publics want the funds to go to organizations from their countries	38%	42%	20% =100
Local agencies do not have the administrative capacity to effectively provide aid and protection	33%	49%	18% =100
International agencies set unrealistic capacity requirements for local agencies	60%	30%	10% =100
Local agencies do not have the necessary credentials and training valued by Western agencies	37%	45%	19% =100
Local agencies are not part of the key informal networks in the humanitarian sector	47%	38%	15% =100

International agencies do not believe that southern agencies will uphold the humanitarian principles of impartiality, independence, and neutrality	50%	34%	16% =100
Language barriers	33%	44%	23% =100
Many local agencies are not a part of important sector-wide networks such as the CHS Alliance, Sphere, and START	35%	45%	20% =100
Racism	55%	31%	14% =100

=100

Q32.   Do you think that racism has a major, minor, or no impact on each of the following:

	Major impact	Minor impact	No impact
The treatment of workers in southern agencies	63%	29%	8% =100
Southern aid workers' access to high quality jobs	66%	29%	5% =100
Access to funding	55%	38%	7% =100
Willingness to act on how affected populations define their needs	47%	40%	13% =100
Willingness to be accountable to local agencies and affected populations	51%	35%	14% =100
Support for localization	56%	32%	12% =100

Q33.   There has been a shift from the traditional Western donors to nontraditional donors such as Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, South Africa, Russia, and China. Please assess the potential effect of the following nontraditional donors on localization:

	Increase the possibility of localization	Decrease the possibility of localization	Have no effect on the likelihood of localization
Brazil	43%	8%	49% =100
Saudi Arabia	18%	40%	42% =100
Turkey	43%	26%	31% =100
South Africa	59%	10%	31% =100
Russia	12%	50%	38% =100
China	18%	54%	28% =100

Do you think localization will help or hurt the goal of saving and improving the lives of vulnerable populations?

     85%   Help
     6%   Hurt
     9%   No effect

DEMOGRAPHICS