



Charter of Accountability

Local Organisations' Coalition for Advancing Localisation (LOCAL)

1. About LOCAL

LOCAL, a platform of Indian local and national NGOs, is an endeavour to bring Indian homegrown and grassroots NGOs, corporates and other stakeholders under one platform to support coordinated humanitarian response, led by local actors, and aims at seeking durable solutions for communities facing perennial risk.

2. How we Work

As individual organisations we are small, but collectively we can address the concerns of donors on capacity, compliance and trust. We seek to advance the localisation of aid by becoming a credible intermediary or direct recipient of grants. We work through mutual cooperation with other networks and organizations in instances in which this is the best way to advance our objectives.

3. The Purpose of the Charter

This Charter outlines our common commitment to integrity, excellence, transparency and accountability. To demonstrate and build on these commitments, we also seek to:

- Identify and define shared principles, policies and practices
- Enhance transparency and accountability, both internally and externally
- Improve our effectiveness as local organizations.

We LOCAL recognize that transparency and accountability are essential to good governance, whether by governments, businesses or non-profit organizations. Wherever we operate, we seek to ensure that the high standards which we demand of others are also respected in our own organization and across our platform.

It is a mandatory charter for LOCAL members and the organisations seeking LOCAL membership, and draws upon a range of accepted, existing codes, norms, standards and guidelines. We agree to apply the Charter progressively to all our policies, activities and practices. The Charter does not replace existing codes or practices to which signatories may already be a party, except as specified by them. Its adoption does not prevent signatories from supporting or using other tools to promote transparency and accountability. We will refine the Charter as and when appropriate, taking into account future developments, particularly those that improve accountability and transparency.

4. Our Principles – Act with integrity, respect, trust, diversity, inclusiveness, transparency and accountability

5. Our commitments

- We, LOCAL, are committed to openness, transparency and honesty about our activities, structures, objectives and policies. We will communicate actively to stakeholders about ourselves and make information publicly available through a National Dashboard for Aid Transparency.
- We commit to publishing timely, transparent and harmonised data in a way that helps to trace the donors' funding throughout the transaction chain until it reaches the affected population.
- We will promote accountable, transparent and meaningful partnerships across our network and with the stakeholders. We will do so by ensuring programmes are co-designed by partners and communities and by sharing documents including partnership agreements with all the parties engaged in the implementation of a project/programme.
- We commit to sharing the programme budget design with the target groups to seek their opinion on interventions.
- We commit to establishing a robust feedback & complaints mechanism in all programme areas.
- We should be held responsible for our actions and achievements. We will accomplish this: by having a clear mission, network structure and decision-making processes; by acting in accordance with stated values and agreed-upon procedures; by ensuring that our programmes achieve outcomes that are consistent with our objectives; and by reporting on these outcomes in an open and accurate manner. The governing structure of each of our local organizations will conform to relevant laws and be transparent. We seek to follow the principles of best practices in governance.
- We commit to ensuring fair and transparent procurement practices and the best value in our procurement dealings with vendors and external parties. We will ensure this by declaring any conflicts of interest, reporting instances of fraud, collusion and corruption and by blacklisting vendors and parties involved in such practices.
- We respect the rights of donors, institutions and individuals, to be informed about the causes for which we are fundraising and to be informed about how their donations are being utilized.
- We commit to extending necessary support to the country offices of the signatories of Charter4Change, Grand Bargain and Pledge4Change for better delivery on the commitments made, and also hold them to account towards the commitments they have made.
- To effectively promote local leadership across our programmes, we will continuously improve the capacity of our staff to meet the highest standards in implementation.
- We will make endeavours to improve our compensation and provisions of benefits to our staff. We will improve our policies and systems to improve the security and well-being of our staff, especially those working under stressful conditions.
- We commit to supporting each other and sharing human and other resources to address capacity issues and make our responses comprehensive.
- We commit to making all endeavours to keep our responses timely and relevant to the needs of the affected population. We will acknowledge the wisdom and capacity they have to serve themselves.
- We will uphold the dignity, protection and rights of the people we serve in our communication across our all platforms. We will promote the role of local actors and recognize the partnerships that enable the delivery of the humanitarian response.