

# Capacity building

A field perspective

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## Experiencing disasters in the South

- Disasters are increasing
- Differential impact and recovery
- Women are worst affected, yet are first responders
- Local community groups & civil society lead responses
- Local government & local private sector play a critical role
- International participation brings technical expertise & resources
- Needs of affected community (particularly of women), and their participation & leadership still not central in all preparedness & response

## Why is capacity building important? to shift power to the South

Southern actors need to be equipped to:

- prepare for and respond to shocks and stresses
- connect with each other to share skills, strategies & build solidarity
- engage with decision making structures so that
  - a) responsibility stays with the state
  - b) national decisions are informed by local realities



## What are the challenges?

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Underlying belief amongst humanitarians that all capacity exists in the North

- Yet local civil society is at the forefront of responses

Civil society organisations deliver around **70%** of humanitarian assistance globally

(ALNAP, 2010)

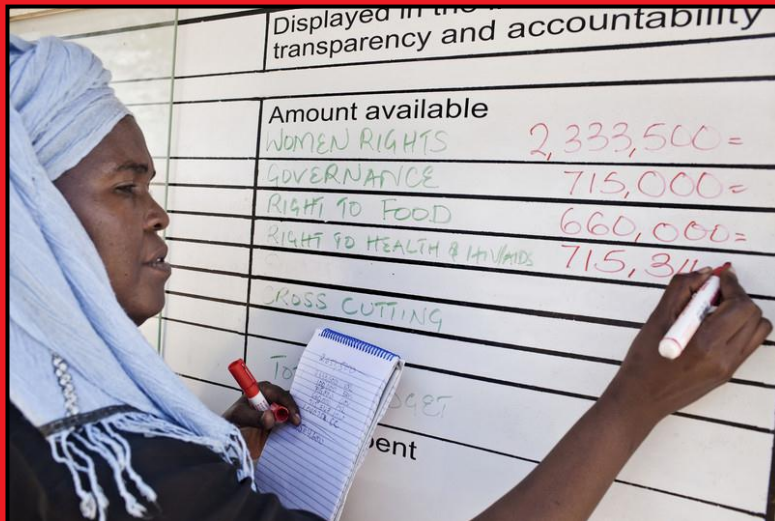
Recognising that sustainability is dependent on local institutions

### Attitudes

- North has capacity / South is dependent
- Patriarchal attitudes undermine local civil society and role of women

Donors' belief that the role of local organisations should be limited.

This impacts their funding decisions, focusing investment in INGOs rather than capacity building of local organisations.



In 2009, INGOs received 67.5% of first-level recipient funding channelled via NGOs compared with just **1.9%** received by local NGOs. (GHA 2011 Report)

# The way forward

Building capacity- preparedness & response skills; to make the system accountable; to partner and to lead. This is best done by:

## 1. Supporting decentralised network of networks

## 2. Principle of subsidiarity - including engendering

decision making processes

## 3. Frontloading resources (goods, money, supply chain etc.)

