

Lead Agency: Oxfam GB **Consortium Members:** Christian Aid, Tearfund **Budget:** Total: £1,655,920 **Countries of operation:** 1 disaster prone country from Mozambique, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Philippines **Timeframe:** Three years

The idea behind the project

The proposal promotes a southern-driven collaborative capacity-strengthening agenda by systematically investing in the development of national preparedness and response capacity. National actors are recognised for being well positioned to steer humanitarian aid towards being appropriate, relevant and linked to longer-term development but they often, due to capacity constraints, do not succeed in maximising their contribution to the global humanitarian effort. This project aims to implement a sustainable approach of “shifting power” towards national actors because to be effective and sustainable, capacity development needs to be locally appropriate and context-specific. The project draws upon growing knowledge of how multi-stakeholder arrangements can play a role in the ‘shifting power’ agenda, by creating space for local-led and internationally supported response strategies.

Brief Description of the selection process

An initial light-touch stakeholder and partnership mapping exercise in the four pre-selected countries (Mozambique, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Philippines) will identify the 2 strongest opportunities for generating new, and strengthening existing, humanitarian collaborations based on a series of criteria. These two will then be invited to develop a full proposal detailing their vision for the consortium as well as a detailed project document. One proposal will then be chosen for immediate project implementation. Once the country of implementation has been selected, national consortia will be invited to engage in an application process for the disbursement of a fund to be dedicated to humanitarian capacity development as identified and described by the consortium itself. Fund disbursement will be related to the presence of a Start Network member agency in-country and a minimum number of national organisations as being part of the consortia. Exchange of experience and learning will be a key requirement of the collaboration engagement.

What kinds of projects might be successful?

A grant will be made available initially to one national consortium to assist in the collective identification, planning and implementation of capacity development for the benefit of the consortium. A successful application will show strong leadership by national institutions (NGOs, authorities, academia and any other relevant stakeholders) able to capitalise on the support available from international capacity in country. The intention is for the consortia to propose whatever they find most critical to develop national humanitarian response capacity, aligning with accepted international standards and codes of conduct. Bringing the comparative advantages of INGOs and national actors together will allow for more effective humanitarian partnerships and for multiplier effects of joint capacity development, which will result in taking gains to scale.

What change does this project envision to achieve?

The project aims to provide national consortia of – through flexible grants and partnership brokering support – real autonomy and opportunities to develop their own solutions for humanitarian capacity development.

What are the key activities associated with this project?

A transparent process for identifying the country of implementation, prospective consortia and activities eligible for funding; stimulation of national-level applications, based on context-specific needs analysis and incorporating collaboration as the key driver of project implementation; evaluation of proposals and funding recommendations; finalising of sub-grant agreements; resourcing of strong knowledge management function; implementation of activities by consortium developing evidence for consortia-managed capacity development.

How will this project make a difference to people affected by crisis?

Humanitarian capacity, autonomy and decision-making are transferred to organisations close to people affected by crises, as a way of facilitating more effective and appropriate aid. The experience of national actors in previous programmes, and their involvement and relationship with communities will assist in the identification of capacity development activities which will ultimately better address needs of communities affected by disaster.

