



# South Sudan Nutrition Cluster Localization Workshop; a One-pager

**Background** The workshop was held at Palm Africa Hotel 3-4 June 2025 and was co-facilitated by the Ministry of Health, the South Sudan Nutrition Cluster, Charter4Change, and the Global Nutrition Cluster. In total, 120 participants attended, either in-person (48%) or virtually (52%). Of these, 41 (34%) represented local and national actors (LNAs) and 75 (63%) represented international actors (IAs).

## Key concepts

- **Localization** is “a process of changing the way support to communities is designed, funded and delivered where local response systems have the agency and resources they require to support communities before, during and after crises.” – NEAR Network
- Simply put, localization means **shifting power** from international actors to local and national actors
- Localization should not be confused with **nationalization**, which is the process of international actors hiring more national staff or allowing them to fill higher roles in the organization
- Per the IASC, local and national actors (LNAs) are 1) National and sub-national actors who are **state authorities** of the affected aid recipient country engaged in relief, whether at local or national level and 2) Local and national **non-state actors** who are organizations engaged in relief that are headquartered and operating in their own aid recipient country and which are not affiliated to an International NGO. **In South Sudan this looks like:**



**"We suffer in silence"**

- An LNA Forum representative, summarizing the challenges LNAs face in South Sudan

### Local and National Actors

Community-based organizations, civil society organizations, local NGOs, national NGOs, faith-based organizations, women-led organizations, youth-led organizations, honorable members of parliament, line ministries, academia, cooperative societies, foundations, private sector, the South Sudan Red Cross

### International Actors

Donors, UN agencies, INGOs, MSF, IFRC/ICRC, multinational private sector

### Local and national actors *possess*

- Deep contextual expertise
- Access to and connection with affected communities
- Many technical/organizational capacities
- The willingness and courage to respond

### Local and national actors *lack*

- Ownership
- Funding and resources
- Some technical/organizational capacities
- Visibility for their work
- The trust of international actors

### Overarching *barriers* to localization in South Sudan

- Power imbalances in the sector
- Low representation of LNAs in decision-making forums
- Only 0.4% of direct funding was awarded to LNAs in 2024<sup>1</sup>
- Inequalities in partnerships
- Poor quality capacity strengthening activities
- Assumptions that LNAs lack capacity
- Preference for INGOs as implementing partners

**Next steps** All information and insights from the workshop will be detailed in a report. This will inform the development of a **South Sudan Joint Localization Action and Implementation Plan** including actions informed by the workshop to further authentic localization in South Sudan.

<sup>1</sup> OCHA Financial Tracking Service