

POTENTIAL PARTNER ASSESSMENTS & SELECTION

To identify potential partners in a humanitarian setting is a challenge. Are we looking for a local actor that is best suited for program implementation, or for one that can be supported outside of a project logic? Do we choose partners or do they choose us (as well)? Do donor requirements play a role in the exploration and decision to partner with a local organisation? These are the questions we want to explore in this seminar.

In four online sessions, we will discuss current assessment practices, explore potentials for partnership, and get insights into partnership agreements. We will look at key attention areas in a partnership like commitment, values, complementarity, capacities, compliance requirements, risk and trust. After each online session, participants will engage in individual and group works.

The seminar is the first one in a series on 'Localisation and Partnership' with further seminars on 'Partner Dialogue' and 'Change of Partnership Roles' to follow later in 2021. The seminar is directed at experienced staff of German and local/national humanitarian NGOs.

The seminars are designed to facilitate peer learning, enriched with inputs from some national/local agencies and other guest speakers.

Smruti Patel and Koenraad Van Brabant of the [Global Mentoring Initiative](#) will facilitate the sessions. They bring many years of experience working in and on humanitarian action and are extensively involved in localisation and partnership debates, research and organisational accompaniment.

They also draw on approaches to foster constructive collaboration, such as Being at Full Potential, Organisational and Relationship Systems Coaching, and Partnership Brokering.

WHEN?

Thursday, 4 March 2021,
Thursday, 11 March 2021,
Tuesday, 23 March 2021,
Tuesday, 30 March 2021

Individual/group work between sessions

WHERE?

Online (Zoom)

REGISTRATION

Please register [↘ here](#) until 24 February 2021.

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The seminar is part of a joint project of the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) of Ruhr-University Bochum and VENRO. This seminar and the following seminar on 'Partner Dialogue' can be credited for the "Certificate of Advanced Studies in Locally-Led Humanitarian Action". Participants that would like to receive a certificate have to take part in a course exam.

To enable interactive sessions, the number of participants is limited. Participants are expected to take part in all four sessions. The sessions will be in English. Participation is free of charge.

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This training is supported by the German Federal Foreign Office.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 4 March 2021: Discovering Diversity

- 09:00 – 12:30 **Setting the scene, discovering diversity, getting peer conversation going**
- We will discuss current assessment practices, including the reliance on assessments by others (or not). The session includes inputs, discussions in break-out groups and plenary as well as short breaks.
- Participants will start with the first exercise after the session. Exercises will involve individual or group work of about one hour.

Thursday, 11 March 2021: Exploring Potential for Partnership

- 09:00 – 12:30 **Experiences with partner assessments**
- Participating organisations will share in detail how they explore the potential for partnership with national/local NGOs and come to a decision. Local/national NGOs share their experiences with partner assessments. The session includes presentations, Q&A and inputs from GMI as well as short breaks.
- Participants will start with the second exercise after the session. Exercises will involve individual or group work of about one hour.

Tuesday, 23 March 2021: Key attention areas 1

09:00 – **Commitment & values; complementarity & capacities; risk & trust**
13:00

The session will start with an external input on how to identify contributions for a possible collaboration. We will discuss how potential partners assess commitment and integrity in each other. They get an overview of different types of risks from international and local perspective and how to come to shared risk management rather than risk transfer. Finally, we will engage in a role-play on cautious trust.

Participants will start with the third exercise after the session. Exercises will involve individual or group work of about one hour.

Tuesday, 30 March 2021: Key attention areas 2

09:00 – **Power; partnership agreements; donor requirements; sharing assessments**
13:00

Power is always present in collaborations, but do we handle it consciously? When is the use of power responsible, when is it abuse? Global Mentoring Initiative will introduce different approaches that enable us to reflect and talk explicitly about power dynamics in the partnering relationship. We will look at how to balance task and relationship management, looking particularly at the contract arrangement and when tensions arise. Finally, we will pay attention to the role of donors in influencing our partnering practices.

Participants will start with the last exercise after the session. Exercises will involve individual or group work of about one hour.