

# State and future of the aid response: NCCI partner surveys and FGDs

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# Background

- Unclear future/ potential phasing out of humanitarian response
- Need to ensure a collective NGO position on the future of the aid response and inform our next steps in this space
- Challenges facing the DS architecture
- Understand the coordination needs of NGOs involved and/or interested in the DS and development space
- Surveys and FGDs conducted between January and March 2022

# Survey findings

- 95% of respondents stated that humanitarian funding reductions impacted their ability to respond to humanitarian needs
- Respondents raised concerns around continued gaps and needs in locations where NGOs had to phase out due to lack of funding (most of these locations have very limited government capacity to respond to those needs)
- Main gov. handover challenges: insufficient financial resources, insufficient human resources and unwillingness
- Main barriers to participation: financial power dynamics, insufficient time and/or space to provide inputs or feedback

# Survey findings: NNGO gaps and challenges

- 79% stated that reduced humanitarian funding and an increased focus on longer-term and development support impacted their access to funding
- Biggest obstacles impeding the work of NGOs: limited access to direct funding, limited access to core funding or partnerships
- Main barriers to participation on DS coordination forums: financial power dynamics and lack of available translation

# Key FGD takeaways

- **Lack of coordination between levels of government/DNGO and other ministries**
  - There should be a discussion on what would be their role and how are they coordinating with each other, before phasing out the clusters
- **Over-estimation of government capacity to take over (decisions should be needs driven rather than perceptions of income and governance)**
- **Mischaracterization of the Iraq context as a post conflict context**
- **More nuanced approach needed to define resilience/ vulnerability (e.g. several households may be teetering on the edge of severe needs, but not targeted)**

# FGD takeaways: NNGO gaps and challenges

- Funding: limited opportunities; different experiences (positive and negative) working with donors
- Government handover: limited NGO influence on policy and planning despite importance of collective messaging
- Presence of too many coordination groups – leading to stretched resources, esp. for smaller NGOs

## Recommendations by partners

- Need for a more coordinated government engagement - as NGOs, but also pushing the UN to maintain that interlocutor role during the transition, in line with their access and political mandate
- More streamlined/ integrated coordination approach required
- That protection considerations are more clearly integrated across planning
- Active involvement and consultation of local actors in strategic decision making and programme design