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## ***Security and Rule of Law and Building Back Better: Why localisation matters in promoting inclusive and sustainable development in a post-COVID world***

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### **Online Discussion**

January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Thursday) from 14:00-15:30  
Zoom Event

[COVID-19](#) has nations and governments all over the world operating in a context of radical uncertainty, facing difficult trade-offs between health, economic and social challenges. The pandemic can no longer be referred to as simply a health crisis, as it has exposed inequalities in the systems and has revealed enormous disparities in our society. Programming and policy responses to this crisis carry the potential to give a different shape to societal and institutional dynamics. However, it cannot be presumed that such responses will necessarily bring positive shifts towards equality. Potential interest-based allocation of resources could re-enforce inequality, polarisation and division of societies. COVID has provoked a lot of development response in a short time window, which exacerbates the (already existing) risks of not addressing local systemic inequalities: fighting inequalities is a complex issue that demands deliberate, pro-active inclusive and multi-disciplinary action to improve local resilience, dependent on extensive context analysis and long-lasting partnerships of trust.

The [Dutch government](#) recognizes these risks to sustainable development, which could result in progress being reversed or lost. In order to *build back better*, international cooperation between civil society organisations, governments and the private sector is needed. The risks on governance make the work of civil society more relevant than ever in promoting citizen engagement and more accountable and responsive governments.

*Building back better* avoids the status quo and a return to 'business as usual'. To build back better, innovations to jump-start economies, trigger behavioural change, and build resilience must be jointly prioritized by all actors. Viewing the COVID-19 epidemic as not only a humanitarian or development crisis, but rather an intersection between both that requires a long term recovery plan led by the local actors who are most impacted is crucial. Re-framing COVID-19 crisis into a catalyst that prioritizes localisation in the governance of long term funding is required to reduce poverty, fight inequality, prevent conflict, and promote stability.



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As Sigrid Kaag, Dutch Foreign Trade and Development Minister, said, “Our goal is to emerge stronger from the crisis, and to take advantage of the opportunities before us by pursuing an equitable, inclusive and green recovery.

## The Event

COVID-19 compounds broader challenges of conflict, poverty, inequality, food security and stability, and deeply undermines development efforts. This is particularly true for fragile and conflict affected settings, and this is why any attempt to respond to the pandemic must go well beyond the sole emergency/humanitarian framework. Ensuring that the response provided is contextualized (and values/strengthens the local capacity), comprehensive and multidimensional is key.

The Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus provides an interesting framework within which to unpack localisation.

Using the HDP nexus lens, the online discussion will unpack the localisation agenda by discussing its key principles and how it can promote inclusive and sustainable recovery. Looking especially at fragile and (post) conflict settings where security and rule of law (SRL) remains a crucial sector and where nexus approaches for food security and stability are applied in resilience, livelihoods and markets programming. By discussing the importance of localisation and understanding the different examples and evidences in practice, SRL as well as humanitarian, development partners and other stakeholders, including the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will be equipped with programme and policy recommendations that enable effective use of COVID-19 and development related funding in the future.

Based on concrete approaches tested by practitioners, the interactive discussion aims to:

- discuss the localisation agenda by understanding what it implies in practice, why it matters (while trying to build forward together), how to define the local (legitimate voices) and how to value and strengthen the local resilience;
- identify emerging operational challenges of its implementation;
- and identify specific recommendations for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, multilateral institutions and civil society actors.

To this end, the workshop will bring together key staff of the Dutch MFA, implementing partners from the Department of Stability and Humanitarian Aid (DSH) as well as researchers working on both SRL and humanitarian issues.



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## Agenda

14:00 Welcome & introduction, KPSRL

14:05 Setting the scene: Why does localisation matter for *building back better*, and what is the role of civil society? Care Nederland

14:15 Story telling panel discussion: Panelists will reflect on their own experiences and will share best practices supporting localisation for inclusive and sustainable recovery in fragile and conflict affected settings

Panelists:

1. *The Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP)* - José Jódar Vidal, Senior Technical Officer  
Presenting main findings and priority actions about Cash and Vouchers Assistance and localisation highlighted in the State of the World Cash Report (SOWC) 2020.
2. *NORCAP* - Katja Jose, Lake Chad Programme Manager & Marga Ledo, Expert, Cash Response Team/CashCap  
Sharing NORCAP's approach, experience, lessons learned, challenges and "building back better" opportunities related to localisation, reflecting in particular on NORCAP's two flagship programmes - Lake Chad Basin programme and CashCap.
3. *Mercy Corps* - Danielle Jolicoeur, Regional Resilience Director for Africa: Sharing approaches and experiences from the DRC and Somalia.

*Department of Stability and Humanitarian Aid (DSH) representative, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs* Reflecting on experiences shared by panelists.

14:55 Plenary Q&A, moderated by KPSRL

15:30 Wrap up & closing, KPSRL