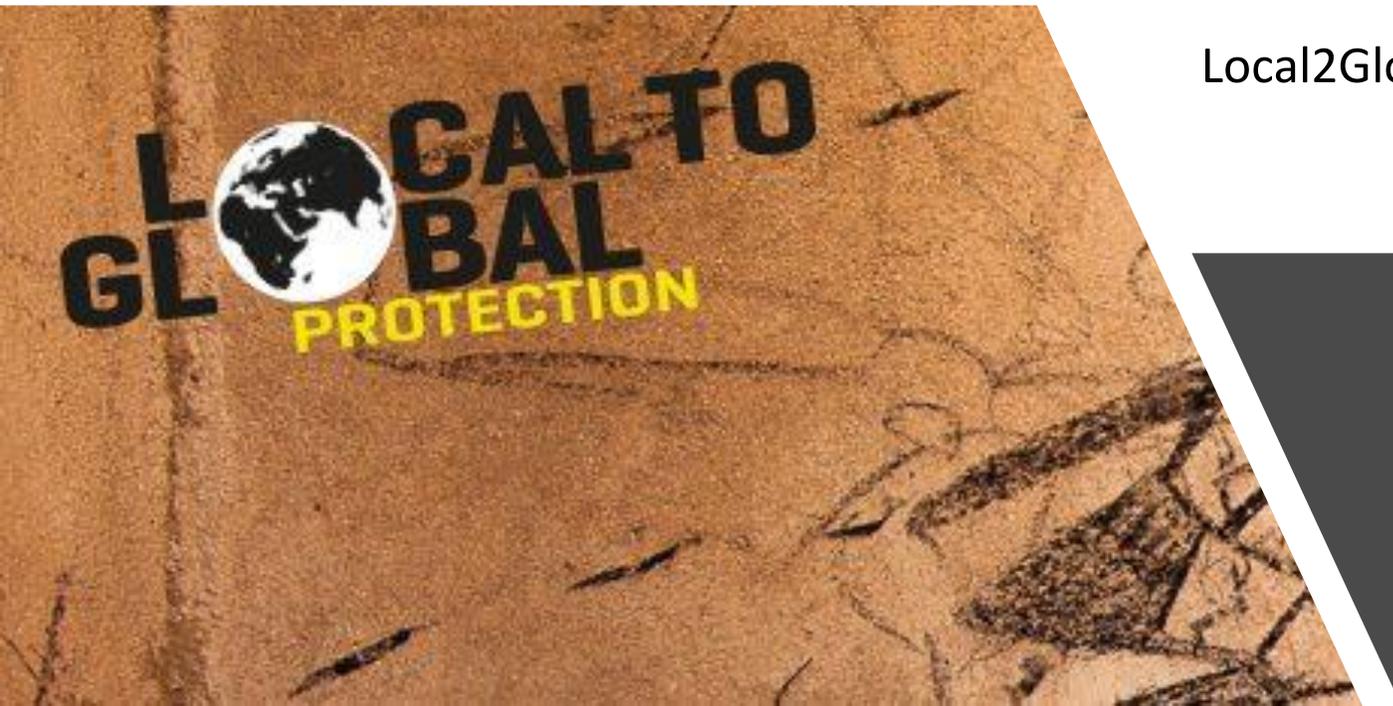
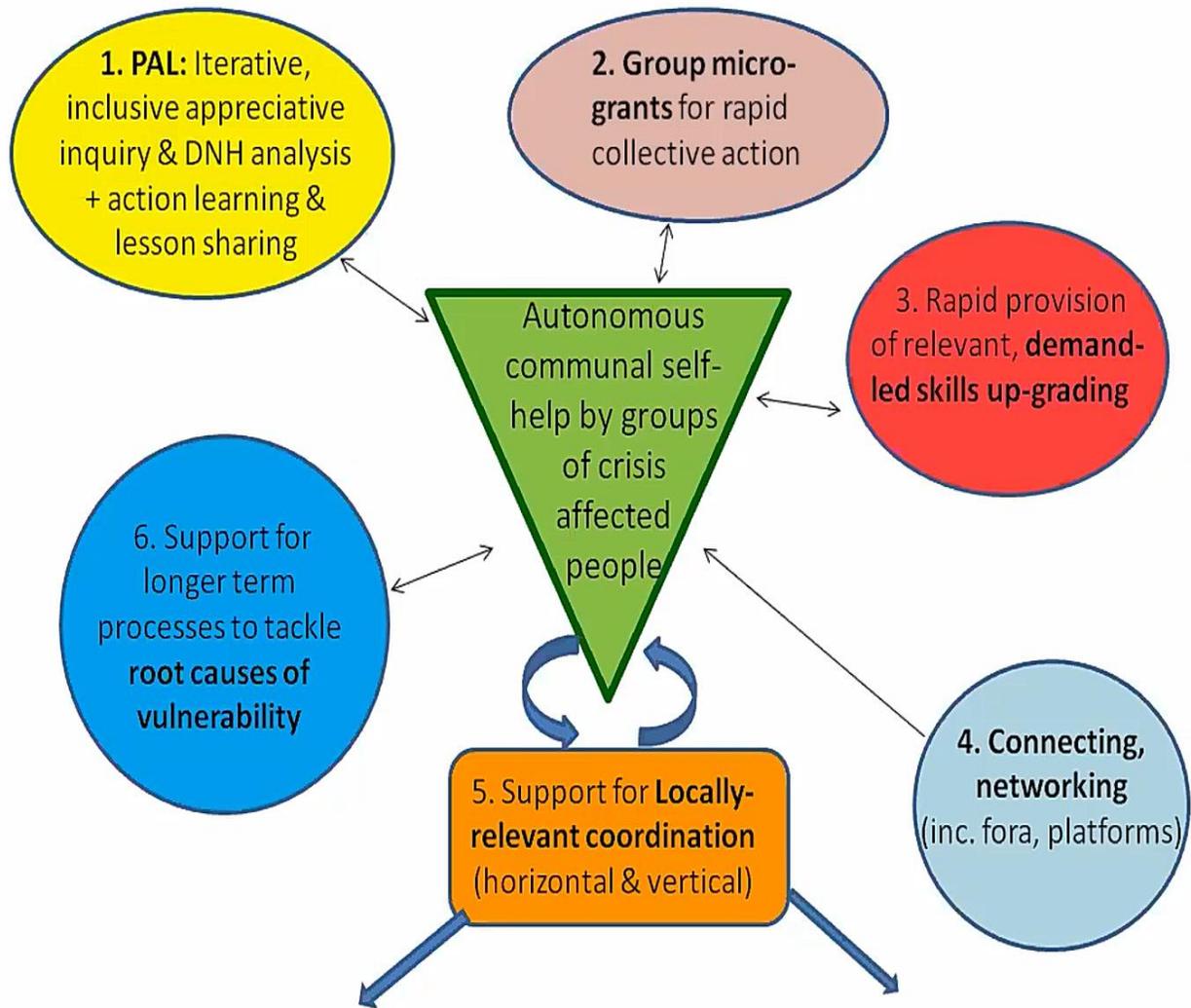




Approaches to survivor and community response

Local2Global Protection – Oxfam – ACT Alliance EU





Component tools and processes of an emerging practice



Seeing crisis affected people as first responders

Survivor and community-led crisis response is for use alongside emergency programming: to **complement** existing externally led aid interventions. The approach is based on identifying and supporting both existing community-based groups and those groups that form organically in response to crisis.

These are groups that may or may not seek to respond in the long term and become an official NGO

How?

The Local2Global Protection community of practice equip and train national NGOs or even local government units in the SCLR approach.

In the event of immediate crisis, the NGO or unit deploys a team to a crisis affected area alongside other mainstream aid actors in regular surge activities and carry out analysis of first response present and possibilities for complementary action.



Autonomous
communal self-
help by groups
of crisis
affected
people

Participatory action learning

A rapid process of appreciative inquiry: to identify the existing capacities, resources and to facilitate thinking about what is needed to expand what they are doing to help the community in crisis.

This motivates self help and saves lives as it builds on, connects and disseminates local knowledge.

The process explores local systems of do no harm:

It takes as a starting point identification of local power dynamics, and of culturally relevant safeguarding mechanisms, accountability and transparency mechanisms, inclusion and exclusion.

We have found many groups are well able to meet compliance requirements.

Example from Sudan

When war began in the Nuba mountains, experience showed the significant life saving effect of the approach: first responders shared isolated knowledge on dealing with bombing raids and wild foods contributing to many saved lives.



1. PAL: Iterative, inclusive appreciative inquiry & DNH analysis + action learning & lesson sharing

Funding mechanism

One of the core needs for community response is often a lack of resources

The SCLR approach has a comprehensive system for national NGOs to disburse micro grants in a user friendly way. These are simple systems with downward accountability systems allowing the group to accept simple applications from community groups.

Group action micro-grants:

- To emergent self-groups of survivors from affected population
 - Up to 4,000 euros (usually 800-1,300)
 - Mechanisms to allow scale, speed, accountability (can be within 4-5 hours of a crisis)
- We take more time for a more developed funding structure where dealing with protracted crisis.

Training

Rapid, demand-led skills upgrading is often the priority for community groups.

Helping national NGOs to find out how to access demand-led training such as early warning systems, pro-bono training from doctors and engineers, linking local professionals to those wishing to respond.

Connecting and networking – coordination

Networking local groups horizontally and vertically with coordination structures and the state: the role of the national NGO is crucial in connecting the local groups horizontally and vertically to duty bearers.

Rooting longer-term processes:

There is huge interest for longer term engagement to tackle root causes and to develop transformative action. To do so, INGOs, NNGOs, the state have a key facilitation role in supporting communities to develop longer-term response.

3. Rapid provision of relevant, **demand-led skills up-grading**

4. **Connecting, networking**
(inc. fora, platforms)

5. Support for **Locally-relevant coordination**
(horizontal & vertical)

6. Support for longer term processes to tackle **root causes of vulnerability**

Khartoum – Sudan

Rayan Nimir - Safer World – peace focused NGO

5 national NGOs have been running the SCLR approach and supporting various youth-led, women-led, community organisations. One NGO can support 30 local initiatives in a month on average. The total in 6 months among the 5 NGOs is 150.

“In one year, those NGOs can spark and support more than 300 locally-led initiatives across a wide range of contexts.”

These initiatives range from gender equality, peaceful coexistence, sport for peace, advocates for people with disabilities, enhancing the role of media in democratic transition. The PAL approach is helping us to find the relationship between civil society and communities, it helps communities and NGOs to adopt new methods for accountability and transparency. To increase ownership of the communities.

We create positive competition between communities, by fostering innovation and thinking outside of the box of sectoral responses. For example, one national NGO promotes art and culture for peacebuilding and has facilitated related action at community level.

“The key is in identifying strengths rather than problems.”

This is showing that we’re shifting the paradigm of getting local people involved in our initiatives, and us as aid actors learning how to participate in the extraordinary wealth of initiatives and capacities at local and community level



Right click picture for video presentation



Northern Kenya

– Eva Darare
CEO IREMO



Right click picture for video presentation



Philippines:

ECOWEB

Nanette Antequisa,
Executive Director



Oxfam DRR and protection through community-based protection coordination

- **COPI** – the steering committee for humanitarian response in the Oicha region of the DRC is a platform of local organisations addressing health and protection needs in Oicha, DRC. This is a crucial example of the possibilities to develop community-led response and link this effectively to the formal humanitarian system and the centrality of local groups to effectively deliver DRR early warning and protection mechanisms.
- **Coordination:** At local level, COPI link the local response to local authority structures and at national and international level, Oxfam has promoted this role by facilitating the participatory approach and linked us to other organisations in the international coordination mechanisms for protection and the related issues we work on.
- COPI represent the Oicha region, transmitting protection reports to OCHA in Beni. The Platform use locally-led existing protection mechanisms and early warning systems which are culturally relevant and well understood by communities.
- The platform develops structures, including the Community Protection Committee and women's forums, to enhance coordination and develop existing early warning and protection initiatives in place. Those women's forums are crucial for legal and psychosocial support to victims of sexual violence.

Video introducing the work of COPI – DRR in Oicha, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Right click picture for video presentation



Click [here](#) for transcribed script in French

Challenges facing locally-led response

- Pre-defined sectoral funding within institutional sectoral silos is a hindrance to existing community and national initiatives.
- **Sudan:** a challenge is finding continuous support for the national NGO team: they accompany the initiatives and ensure that they are doing things right, and to carry out good advocacy around the policies and practices at state level so that the local initiatives don't fade away. This requires good capacity and commitment at all levels. And exit strategy for the NGOs is possible when all aspects are included: capacity sharing alongside financial resourcing through the grant structure.
- **Philippines: Complementarity and coordination with agencies is key:** a challenge is that many international partners appreciate the approach but don't invest in full support committed, and at times their systems don't allow for release and transfer of the grants to the local communities. There are even those who procure the materials themselves. To build the trust necessary, we must begin with transferring decision-making and planning to the community first.
- **Northern Kenya:** A challenge is inadequate knowledge of approaches of survivor and community led response locally and internationally. Complementarity and coordination are challenges: we need INGOs to be responsible for implementing such approaches. But these approaches entail losing some power and not all want to lose power and this causes delays.

Challenges facing locally-led response: Oicha, DRC

- **Funding** - Policies for funding of local actors remain largely superficial in application in-country;
- **Many INGOs remain reluctant** to support local organizations, due to their limited management capacity. Unfortunately, not enough is done within INGO capacity to overcome this obstacle and to support the approach.
- The contribution of local partners to INGOs is enormous, but most of them use them as sources of knowledge used for data collection, with little involvement in their strategies and actions of the LHL approach.
- Factors limiting the **scope of advocacy** of local actors:

Risk in operational contexts: for example in Oicha, security is very volatile and there are high levels of violence, kidnapping, rape and incursions. Therefore, the women's forums and focal points and other COPI members remain at great risk. It would be desirable for them to be in contact with human rights and advocacy organizations so that their efforts are reported and advocated at the highest level.
- **Visibility:** Links to the international advocacy spaces will facilitate the creation of a space and visibility of their efforts in DRR and It will also allow connection with donors and help to demonstrate the strong capacity of local actors.

Outcomes and lessons to date

- Highlights role of national actors (NGOs and Local Government)
- Generates significant increases in responsiveness, local solutions, speed, cost-efficiency
- Automatically generates nexus response
- Strengthens dignity, psychosocial recovery and communal self-help
- Increases women's leadership
- Generates new opportunities for reducing future vulnerability
- Demonstrates high levels of accountability (not high risk)
- Once running, INGOs presence is less crucial

Next steps...

- Roundtable with DG ECHO on approaches to survivor and community-led development in January in the pipeline;
- We are happy to discuss further with those interested from civil society in the methodology and advocacy aspect: please make contact with Ruth Watson, ruth.watson@actalliance.eu for either;
- You are welcome to directly contact those NGOs and organisations involved in the SCLR approaches.