CDA Collaborative Learning Projects

# From Where I Stand: Unpacking 'Local' in Aid

*A virtual collaborative learning forum*

## BACKGROUND

In April 2020, CDA launched From Where I Stand: Unpacking 'local' in aid, a virtual collaborative learning forum, to highlight diverse and often overlooked perspectives about the challenges and successes of fostering greater local leadership and what "localization" looks like in practice.

Since then, we have shifted the focus of the forum toward listening to people leading humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts in their own communities and/or working to shift power in the broader international aid sector. The forum seeks to amplify our authors' leadership experiences, stories, and recommendations on how to strengthen and improve the international aid ecosystem.

As facilitators of the collaborative learning forum, we occasionally publish reflections on emerging themes and insights. In December 2020, we published a two-part reflection on the forum: What we've heard and From where we stand.

## LOOKING FOR BLOG CONTRIBUTORS

From Where I Stand features over 40 blogs from practitioners across two dozen countries on a wide array of topics. We are seeking authors who can write from their own direct experience. While we welcome all entries, we are prioritizing submissions from people working within their own communities as well as those representing traditionally marginalized and underrepresented groups.

The topic of the blog can be wide ranging and largely depends on the author's experience. Here are a few examples:

- Is the Aid Sector Tèt Anba? - by Marie-Rose Romain Murphy
- Localization - 'Us vs Them' - by Hasangani Edema
- No Angels, No Devils: a view on 'localization' from Cité Soleil - by Louino Robillard and Sabina Carlson Robillard
- Power and accountability: Lessons from Nepal about the value of community ownership and devolution of power - by Ujjwal Amatya

## BLOG REQUIREMENTS

- **Length** – We are looking for blogs around 800-1000 words in length.
- **Language** – Blogs can be written in languages other than English. CDA will work with authors in English, Spanish, French, Swahili, Haitian Creole, and Arabic, among a few other languages – and we can find translation services for other languages.
- **Tone** – Blogs should be written in the first person and showcase the author's personal experiences and background, and therefore should be direct and tell a story.
- **Citations** - If a blog includes any citations, we ask authors to use hyperlinks. Blogs cannot include footnotes.
- In addition to submitting a draft blog, every author will also need to send:
    - **2-3 photos or images** to accompany their blog. The images should include a caption and photo credit. Photos/images from online sources must be creative commons licensed.
    - **A short bio and headshot** of the author(s)

If you are interested in contributing a blog to our collaborative learning forum, please contact Becca Fogel at rfogel@cdacollaborative.org. Becca will work with authors to finalize the blog for publication, which may include rounds of editing and revision.