



NEAR Definitions Paper

NEAR has used the terminology “Local Actor” and “Local Organization” synonymously while engaging its members and various external parties. The use of both terms in various advocacy conversations has diminished the role of the various local actors and minimized their representation in such discussions. NEAR will moving forward ensure, as a network and as a representative of its members, a clear distinction amongst Local and National Actors in the Global South to realize the efforts and various agendas of each local and national actor.

NEAR has clearly defined a local and/or national organization, this may include a community-based organization, a non-governmental or civil society organization, as well as a Southern Regional/Cross-Border Organization. Each of these groups are defined by the following criteria:

- to be present in locations, before, during, and after a crisis,
- accountable to local laws,
- accountable to communities where they work,
- led by local nationals, and not internationally affiliated in terms of branding, governance, or financing (that results from that affiliation).

1. **Local and national non-state actors** are “Organizations engaged in relief that are headquartered and operating in their own aid recipient country and which are not affiliated to an international NGO”. Local and national non-state actors include:
 - National NGOs/Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): National NGOs/CSOs operating in the aid recipient country in which they are headquartered, working in multiple subnational regions, and not affiliated to an international NGO. This category can also include national faith-based organizations.
 - Local NGOs/CSOs: Local NGOs/CSOs operating in a specific, geographically defined, subnational area of an aid recipient country, without affiliation to an international NGO/CSO.
2. **National and sub-national state actors** are “State authorities of the affected aid recipient country engaged in relief, whether at local or national level” (text endorsed by GB signatories). This includes:

- National governments: National government agencies, authorities, line ministries and state-owned institutions in aid recipient countries e.g. National Disaster Management Agencies (NDMAs). This category can also include federal or regional government authorities in countries where they exist.
 - Local governments: Sub-national government entities in aid recipient countries exercising some degree of devolved authority over a specifically defined geographic constituency e.g. local/municipal authorities
3. **Global South Actors** which are a part of the Global South movement but work across borders in the Global South:
- Southern Regional/Cross Border NGOs: NGOs based in aid recipient countries that are not OECD member countries, carrying out operations outside of the aid recipient country in which they are headquartered and not affiliated to an international NGO. The same organization can be classified as a national NGO/CSO when carrying out operations within the country in which they are headquartered.
4. Definitions which further define the role of humanitarian/development actors, **which are not defined by NEAR as a local and/or national actor** but can be headquartered or operating in the Global South.
- Local Affiliate Organizations: Organizations that are affiliated to an international organization through inter-linked financing, contracting, governance, branding and/or decision-making systems.
 - International NGOs: NGOs not based in an aid recipient country and carrying out operations in one or more aid recipient countries.
 - International Affiliate Organizations: NGOs which are a nationalized arm of an International NGO
 - Multilateral Organizations: Agencies of the United Nations (UN), Multilateral Development Banks and other international organizations.
 - International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), as well as Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies operating outside of their own country.
 - Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies: National Societies that are based in and operating within their own aid recipient countries. A national society in many circumstances has an affiliation with their respective governments through legislation.
 - International private sector organizations: Organizations run by private individuals or groups as a means of enterprise for profit, that are not based in an aid recipient country and carrying out operations in one or more aid recipient countries.