

OCIC GLOBAL CITIZENS FORUM 2022

LOCALIZATION MATTERS



REPORT

'LOCALIZATION' MATTERS



To kick off International Development Week 2022, OCIC's 'Global Citizens Forum 2022: Localization Matters' brought together 192 participants, issue-specific experts and advocates, academics, funders, and youth from Argentina, Burundi, Canada, Haiti, Mozambique, Philippines, Tanzania, the United Kingdom and the United States in six virtual sessions, over two days.

192 PARTICIPANTS

The goals of the Global Citizens Forum were:

- to build awareness and shared understanding of the 'localization' agenda and its broader objective towards shifting power;
- to highlight the roles and perspectives of diverse stakeholders in this agenda, with a focus on civil society actors from grassroots and small and medium-sized organizations; and
- to share related research, tools, and good practices within the international cooperation sector and with Canadians

Sessions at A Glance

Exploring the OECD DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society



"It was really amazing to see what can happen when you work more on principles and creativity versus fixed activity plans and parameters"

"The whole vision of viable food systems and localization of food systems, what it means is it changes the way that we're in relationship with the earth"



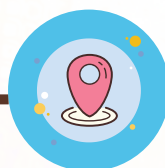
'Localizing' Food Systems

Connecting Mind and Body Thru Yoga



'Feminist Approaches to Localization'

Maintaining the Gains: People, Projects, and Partnerships in the Time of COVID-19



Haitian Women at the Forefront of Community Solutions and Locally-Led Change

To read more about sessions and contributors see pages 10-18 or visit our website, [here](#).

Why 'Localization'?

Recognizing the growing importance of the 'localization' agenda for all stakeholders in the international cooperation sector, over the past year OCIC has been keenly interested in creating spaces for our community – particularly those defined as 'small and medium-sized organizations' (SMOs) with intimate connections to grassroots community organizations and leaders – to reflect, learn and contribute to spaces of multi-sectoral learning and action through capacity building, dialogue and transformative public engagement approaches.

As a part of our context analysis and internal learning process we began by compiling and reviewing a range of related resources available [here](#), recognising that there are different perspectives and understandings of what 'localization' means, and questions regarding the relevance of the 'localization' agenda to diverse stakeholders in our sector and work, including whether it is the right term and focus at all. At the same time, we undertook an internal scan of our organizational members' websites to gauge their interest in and engagement, and in November 2021 we hosted a member 'Idea Jam' to share some of the insights gained, and to invite member perspectives, questions and ideas on where they think their organizations need to build capacity.

These inputs and the diverse views, challenges and questions the 'localization' agenda inspires lead us to offer a capacity building workshop focused on 'Re-Imagining International Solidarity: Foundations of Equitable Relations in International Cooperation' with Gloria Novovic on January 7, 2022; our two-day virtual Global Citizens Forum detailed in this report; and Season 2 of OCIC's 'Tapestry 2030' podcast and illustration series, available [here](#).

Definitions

Oxfam International defines localization as “a transformational process to recognize, respect and invest in local and national humanitarian and leadership capacities, to better meet the needs of crisis-affected communities”, and posits that the localization agenda prioritizes ideas and solutions that are grassroots led, and views these approaches just as or more important than broad international guidelines.

Known also as ‘community-led’ or ‘locally-led’ initiatives, the core of localization is recognising that communities are far from homogenous, they often hold different views, and are deeply involved and aware of local politics. It encourages participatory local governance and citizen engagement and aims ultimately for systemic change over short term projects.

In July 2021 the OECD Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) released the ‘DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance’, the first international standard of its kind. Comprising three pillars, the Recommendation recognises that the 2030 Agenda requires engagement from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in localisation, implementation, and monitoring. The three interconnected pillars: Respecting, Protecting and Promoting Civic Space; Supporting and Engaging with Civil Society; and Incentivising CSO Effectiveness, Transparency and Accountability, all embody the core values of localization, including supporting “more equitable partnerships between provider country and/or international CSOs” and taking “reasonable steps to do no harm to civic space in partner countries or territories”.

In Canada, various CSOs are taking steps towards the institutional, behavioral and regulatory changes needed for localization and some, including OCIC, have joined Cooperation Canada’s newly formed Localization Working Group, which seeks “to coordinate, learn and facilitate actions around a long-term effort of shifting international cooperation paradigms in ways in which support the implementation of the principle of locally-led and nationally-owned civil society development and humanitarian interventions.”

Emergent Themes throughout the Forum

01 Shifting Power and Questioning Relationships

A consistent theme throughout OCIC's pre-Forum workshop with Gloria Novovic, and within each of the Forum sessions, is the fundamental need to shift power.

Localization calls for power shifting and at its core requires that donors, agenda setters and civil society actors in the Global North release power to their partners in the Global South. This power includes the ability to make decisions around development priorities, allocation of funds, performance indicators, and overall autonomy in shaping projects, programs and agendas. Gender equality in particular was noted as a key element that needs to be considered in the conversation of shifting power as without ensuring the empowerment of women, girls and gender diverse people, an equitable, just and gender-equal world cannot exist.

Questioning relationships goes hand in hand with shifting power. It asks us to question the power dynamics and potential power imbalances that exist on both structural and individual levels. Questioning how we are in relationships with others enhances our partnerships and allows us to work more effectively.

“WE HAVE TO [SHIFT POWER] IN A FEMINIST WAY. OTHERWISE THERE’S A RISK THAT THE PROCESS WILL JUST PERPETUATE OR REPLICATE OR DEEPEN THE CHALLENGES THAT WOMEN AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS FACE, AND SOME OF THE GENDERED INEQUALITIES BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN THEIR NATIONAL CONTEXT.”

- BRITTANY LAMBERT

Trust and accountability go hand-in-hand and are needed for equitable relationships

02

Many of the other themes discussed throughout the Forum, like shifting power and being flexible, ultimately relate back to the larger themes of ensuring accountability and ultimately building trust with partners. Recognizing that partners are the experts in their own contexts, honouring that expertise, and putting those partners in positions of leadership over development projects that impact them and their communities is core to building that trust and working from an equitable standpoint.

“CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IS NOT ABOUT EXTERNAL SOPHISTICATED CERTIFICATION PROCESSES OR QUALITY SCENES. AND IT IS NOT ABOUT THE FEAR ABOUT CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS’ CORRUPTION. IT’S DIFFERENT. IT’S A CALL TO BUILD SYSTEMS OF TRUST AND IT’S NOT ABOUT REINVENTING THE WHEEL BUT AS TO BUILD ON EXISTING GOOD PRACTICES. IT’S A RECOGNITION THAT THERE IS AND THERE ARE IN MANY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD GOOD PRACTICES THAT SHOULD BE SUPPORTED AND BUILT UP”

- ANABEL CRUZ

03

Localization and a localized approach to working encourages sustainability and longevity in projects

Localization encourages sustainability first through the flexibility principle. When solutions and projects are co-created they are more likely to be widely adopted within the community. Using local expertise also supports the longevity of projects

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*“I see people from NGOs explain a community-led approach as what participants from a community express in meetings [and] focus groups as solutions. But at RSCH we act together with the people and we combine knowledge, means, labour, responsibility, and transparency. **Community-led solutions for RSCH is like integrating the living in the community as family members”***

- Renaud Thomas

04

The need for flexibility in funding structures and when working with partners

Another theme that echoed throughout each conversation is that flexibility needs to be a core element in every project. Flexibility as it pertains to funding was spoken about the most. From grassroots actors to the OECD DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society, advocates are clear: a best practice for enabling local actors is through providing flexible, ongoing financial support.

Additionally a great deal of flexibility is needed in project plans and the way we work with our partners. A best practice for projects that effectively respond to local needs is co-creation of projects. Listening is a necessary skill; based on the feedback from local partners the projects will likely need to change or shift in some way, resulting ultimately in a stronger outcome. Both the 'Localizing Food Systems' panel and the 'Feminist Approaches to Localization' session provided examples of development projects that ended up changing and incorporating many other projects and results that were not included in the original design, but came about because of flexibility and co-creation from local partners.

"THIS IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE NEED: TO BE FUNDED FROM FUNDERS THAT BELIEVE IN OUR VISIONS AND DON'T TAKE THAT TOP-DOWN APPROACH"

- CELESTE SMITH

"... ONE OF THE PROVISIONS CALLS ON PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE FLEXIBLE AND PREDICTABLE SUPPORT AND SPECIFICALLY MENTIONS CORE OR PROGRAM BASED SUPPORT. THIS IS ABOUT TRYING TO GET PROVIDERS TO MOVE AWAY FROM SHORT-TERM PROJECT BASED FUNDING FOR CSOs THAT IS SO OFTEN DESIGNED TO MEET PROVIDERS' PRIORITIES AND IS NOT NECESSARILY GROUNDED IN CSOs PRIORITIES."

- MARILYN BACHMANN

What's Next?

The process and themes identified by key stakeholders and participants in OCIC's explorations of 'Localization Matters', to-date, pave the way for continued dialogue, sharing and mobilization – particularly of grassroots and community-led approaches from those with lived-experience. OCIC plans to continue prioritizing and creating space for local voices to speak, unfiltered, about their communities, projects, beliefs, and desires.

OCIC is also currently a member of the new Cooperation Canada-led Localization Working Group. We look forward to engaging with the broader sector and larger organizations that may participate at that table in particular, to further enhance our shared efforts and advocacy. Our goal, and the goal we hope for our membership, is to continue learning and asking questions, and to ensure that grassroots and community voices are centered in the discussion. OCIC is dedicated to continuing to support this discussion and subsequent action.

APPENDIX

Sessions & Contributors

Exploring the OECD DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society

This panel brought together high-level experts, policy makers, policy analysts and other professionals for a conversation around the OECD DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society, approved by OECD Development Assistance Committee members, including Canada, in July 2021. The panel intended to share the nature and content of this Recommendation, its significance SMOs, how SMOs can advocate for changes in Global Affairs Canada (GAC)'s support for civil society through the Recommendation, and the opportunities for improving conditions facing civil society from a global south perspective.



Moderator:

Brian Tomlinson - Executive Director, AidWatch Canada

Brian Tomlinson is the Executive Director of AidWatch Canada, which focuses on issues related to Canadian and global aid priorities as well as global trends in the development effectiveness of civil society organizations (CSOs). Brian is also an adjunct professor in the Department of International Development Studies at Dalhousie University. He has had a long career working with international civil society organizations in international development. He retired in June 2011 as Senior Policy Analyst (Aid Policy) at the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC), where he worked for 16 years. He is widely published on Canadian development cooperation. He closely follows trends and issues relating to Canadian international climate finance.

At the global level, in 2015/16 he chaired the Monitoring Advisory Group, a 12-person experts group mandated to review the monitoring framework of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which includes the elaboration of an indicator on CSO enabling environments. He was a founding Co-chair for the multi-stakeholder Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and the Enabling Environment, for five years, until June 2015, and closely follows issues related to enabling legal and policy environments for CSOs around the world. He worked with CSO colleagues globally in 2019 to elaborate and launch the Belgrade Call to Action on closing civic space in April 2019.

Contributors:

Anabel Cruz – Director, Communication and Development Institute (ICD) of Uruguay

Anabel Cruz is originally from Uruguay and has a long experience in civil society promotion, research and training in various countries in Latin America, the regional and in the global context. She is the Founder Director of the Institute for Communication and Development (ICD) in Uruguay and has worked with local, national, regional, and global CSO networks and platforms. She has extensively promoted civil society transparency and accountability, leading international research and coordinating efforts to implement common standards as well as spaces for reflection, exchange of information and training.

Anabel has been the Board Chair of CIVICUS, the World Alliance for Citizen Participation in two different periods (2007–2010 and 2016–2019). She led the creation and is the co-coordinator of Rendir Cuentas, a Regional Civil Society Accountability Initiative gathering active CSO members and partners in 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. She is also leading on the design and implementation of the Global Standard for CSO Accountability. Since January 2022 Anabel is the incoming Civil Society Co-Chair of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

Marilyn Bachmann – Policy Analyst, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, France

Marilyn is an international development specialist with a decade of experience in the areas of development co-operation, democratic governance and civil society. Marilyn currently works as a Policy Analyst in the Foresight Outreach and Policy Reform Unit in the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate. She supports the civil society work stream which aims to assist Development Assistance Committee members to develop more effective development co-operation policies and practices on civil society. Prior to joining the OECD, she worked for UNDP in New York, in the Inclusive Political Processes team of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, and the UNDP Country Office in Lao PDR, as interim Head of Governance. Marilyn is a French and Lebanese national. She holds a Master's Degree in International Relations from the School of International and Strategic Relations in Paris.

Susan Pereverzoff – Director, Global Citizens Division, Global Affairs Canada

Susan Pereverzoff is Director of the Global Citizens and Engagement Division at Global Affairs Canada. She has spent her career in international development, on strategic policy, bilateral programs in Africa and the Americas as well as programs to foster partnerships on climate change and indigenous peoples. She has been posted to Canadian missions in Mozambique, Senegal and Brazil and has lived, studied and volunteered in the United States, the United Kingdom and Indonesia. She has a Master's of Arts in Political Science (Environmental Studies) from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor's of Arts in International Relations from the University of British Columbia. Susan was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and currently lives in Ottawa, Ontario with her two lively children.

Carmen Zubiaga – Founder and Executive Director, Women with Disabilities Leap to Social and Economic Progress, Inc (WOW-LEAP), Philippines

Carmen Zubiaga, a disability rights advocate, is currently the Executive Director of Women with Disabilities Leap to Social and Economic Progress (WOW-LEAP) Inc., an organization of and for women with disabilities. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication from the Trinity University of Asia and a Masters in Development Management from the Asian Institute of Management. She has worked as a Public Relations and Fund-raising officer at the House With No Steps in the Philippines for nine years, prior to joining the UNDP Cambodia, as a technical advisor to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labor, Veterans and Youth in Phnom Pehn. After her contract, she returned to the Philippines and worked as Public Information Officer in her hometown, Taytay Rizal, under the Office of the Mayor. In 2012, she was appointed by the Philippine President as Executive Director on the National Council on Disability Affairs. until 2019 Currently, she is a subject matter expert/content developer for online courses; and a freelance consultant on gender equality, disability, and social inclusion. Carmen filed her candidacy for senator in the upcoming Philippine elections in May 2022. With this platform, Carmen hopes to amplify the voice of millions of disabled Filipinos.

'Localizing' Food Systems

This panel brought together different perspectives around the 'localization' of food systems, food justice, and ending hunger. We explored grassroots initiatives from an Indigenous perspective, what it might mean to 'decolonize aid', and how community-led approaches are used by organizations working to end hunger in Argentina, Canada and internationally.



Moderator:

Elizabeth Tuck – Special Events Coordinator, Ontario Council for International Cooperation

Elizabeth Tuck (she/her) is a Rhodes Scholar (Maritimes & Linacre College, 2020) who recently completed her MSc in Comparative Social Policy from the University of Oxford. She received her undergraduate degree from St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick where she honoured in Human Rights and completed double majors in Political Science and Great Books. An advocate for gender justice, Elizabeth has held various volunteer and other leadership positions with YWCA Canada, Plan International Canada, Girls Guides of Canada, the Canadian Council for Youth Prosperity, and Fora: Network for Change (formerly G(irls)20).

Elizabeth enjoys cross-stitching, hiking, cooking, and baking in her spare time and has recently started learning the sport of curling. She currently resides in Mi'kma'ki, known colonially as Nova Scotia, and has been working at OCIC since October 2021 on the coordination of our Global Citizens Forum 2022 and 'Tapestry 2030' Season 2 podcast and illustration series.

Contributors:

Marisa Giraldez – Executive Director, Banco de Alimentos, Argentina

Marisa Giraldez is an Argentinean Industrial Engineer who began her professional career in the private sector until 2005, when she decided to accept a new challenge to work in the Department of Projects for Development at the Agency for Cooperation and International Affairs of the Province of Buenos Aires. During those years she also began to carry out volunteer activities for the Banco de Alimentos Foundation, contributing with his experience in the area of quality and leading the team that led the organization to achieve ISO 9000 Certification in 2007, a certification that was important because there was a legal vacuum regarding food donation and donor responsibility.

In 2008, once again working in the private sector, she became part of the Board of Directors of the Banco de Alimentos Foundation. In 2010, faced with the Board's proposal, she decided to accept the position of General Director of this institution, resigning from her role in the Board and definitively abandoning activity in the private sector. She is currently also part of the Executive Committee of RACI, the Argentine Network for International Cooperation.

Theresa Rempel Mulaire – Conservation Agriculture Program Manager, Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Theresa Rempel Mulaire currently works as the Conservation Agriculture Program Manager with Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Theresa's career has focused on facilitating economic and agricultural programming together with local partners in Asia and East Africa. Theresa is currently based in Winnipeg and has lived and worked internationally in Taiwan, China, Kenya, India and Colombia.

Celeste Smith – Founder, Cultural Seeds

Celeste Smith (she/her) is Oneida from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. As an intergenerational trauma survivor, she has made it her life's mission to help Women/Gender Diverse People rebuild their connections to the land and their lifeways. Celeste is a seed steward, traditional agriculturalist and former professor of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) at Niagara College. Her TEK comes from a strong connection to her family's agricultural traditions and 30 years of personal/community gardening, and she continues to educate herself through ceremony and mentorship with traditional healers and agricultural Knowledge Holders from around the world.

Her current work centres around Indigenous Food Sovereignty, Land Justice and Indigenous Human Rights. She is the Founder/Director of Cultural Seeds (culturalseeds.com) an Indigenous seed store/rematriation project and Ga Gitigemi Gamik (wewillplantlodge.com) an ecological centre on a permanent Indigenous stewarded site, where women and 2SLGBTQIA+ persons can (RE)learn ancestral agricultural methods lost to colonization. Ga Gitigemi Gamik recently won the i3 Indigenous Innovation Challenge at the Desjardins Cooperathon which is the world's largest Social Innovation Challenge. The project has also been chosen as a Pow Wow Pitch Finalist and as a future funding recipient from the Grand Challenges Canada - Indigenous Innovations Initiative. Celeste is the current Chair of the Peel Food Action Council and is active on several National and Provincial Boards. Celeste's academic experience was at Niagara College (Social Sciences), Brock University (Poli Sci/Sociology/Indigenous Education) and she was invited to Columbia University NYC (ISHR: Institute for the Study of Human Rights) to study Indigenous Rights and Policy. She is involved with work on Land Rights issues globally.

Geneviève Talbot – Program Officer – Africa Hub, Solidarité Union Coopération

Avant d'assumer des fonctions comme chargée de Programme Pôle Afrique à SUCO, Geneviève Talbot a travaillé de nombreuses années dans le milieu des ONG au développement et la gestion de projets et programmes, de même qu'à la recherche et au plaidoyer sur les changements climatiques et les systèmes alimentaires.

Elle a vécu et travaillé en Équateur et aux Philippines. Forte d'une dizaine d'années d'expériences comme chargée de programmes à l'international pour diverses organisations, Geneviève possède une vaste expérience en gestion et développement de programmation en Afrique de l'Ouest et Asie du Sud Est. De plus Geneviève contribue régulièrement à diverses publications portant sur divers enjeux internationaux, mais surtout sur les changements climatiques et les systèmes alimentaires.

Elle possède une formation universitaire en science politique, sa maîtrise portant sur l'impact du mouvement zapatiste dans les processus de démocratisation au Mexique.

Connecting Mind and Body Thru Yoga

This session with Nikki Martin had the aim of re-centering our mind and our bodies, reflecting on the many learnings from throughout day one of the forum, and preparing us for a second day of learning and collaborating.

Instructor:

Nikki Martin

Nikki Martin is an inspired and creative teacher with a passion for learning and a desire to offer her students the time and space to land, experience their breath and be present in their bodies despite the distractions of the mind. She is an E-RYT 200hr with more than 3000 hours of in room and studio teaching experience including assisting a 200hr YTT with one of her teachers, Leslie Bishop. She is in the midst of completing her 300hr YTT and is also a committed student of ParaYoga, a lineage of Tantra Yoga, which honours tradition in a way that's relevant to the modern world and that she has felt called to pursue. With more than 700 hours of training with some amazing teachers she is just at the beginning of her learning and teaching journey and feels humbled by the opportunity to offer what she knows and is passionate about. She has been a lululemon ambassador since 2016 and continues to be a leader in her local community in various ways.

As a writer and storyteller, she loves the idea that a yoga class can lead you somewhere, that you can tell a story with body and breath and she believes the same well of inspiration she draws her stories and words from help her to craft meaningful classes and hold space for transformation. Whether it's a couple of people or a crowded room, she tries to pass along the greatest gift this practice has given her, "Ultimately this is a practice of connectivity. It connects us with the world. It connects us with ourselves. And it connects us with each other.

Feminist Approaches to 'Localization'

This session with Oxfam Canada unpacked how 'localization' is part and parcel of an intersectional feminist approach. Drawing on its interviews with local women's rights actors working across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, and on its experience supporting the leadership of local women's rights organizations in its international programming, Oxfam shared reflections and lessons learned on this crucial topic.



Moderator:

Aniqah Zowmi – Community Engagement & Gender Equality Specialist, Ontario Council for International Cooperation

Aniqah Zowmi (she/her) works from an intersectional, anti-oppressive operational framework. As a Muslim woman of colour with multiple other intersectional identities, she brings her lived experience authentically into her work. Some of her recent efforts have included supporting humanitarian projects in Jordan focused on mental health, psychosocial awareness, and economic empowerment, for the Italian NGO Un Ponte Per... (UPP) and for the Canadian NGO Menonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA). Aniqah has also served as a Youth Representative to the United Nations' Department of Global Communications' Steering Committee, the Canadian Youth Delegate to the Youth20 (the official youth engagement arm of the G20) in 2018, and a member of the Joint Youth Delegation to the Commonwealth Youth Forum in 2015. She is currently the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Leading Change Canada, a Youth Advisor to the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, and the incoming Chair of Girls Action Foundation. Aniqah holds a Master of Arts in Social Justice and Equity Studies from Brock University, where she looked at feminist and anti-colonialist perspectives on social enterprise. Prior to her Masters, she completed her Honours Bachelors of Science in Neurobiology, specializing in learning, memory, and neurobiophysics.

Contributors:

Brittany Lambert – Women's Rights Policy and Advocacy Specialist, Oxfam Canada

Brittany Lambert is a Women's Rights Policy and Advocacy specialist at Oxfam Canada. She leads Oxfam Canada's policy and advocacy on humanitarian and refugee issues, bringing a strong gender lens to this work. She has been an advocate for the role of local women's rights actors in humanitarian action – authoring *A Feminist Approach to Localization, Protected and Powerful and Making Gender Transformative Humanitarian Action a Reality*. Women's rights and human rights are at the heart of her vision for social change. Prior to working for Oxfam, she worked at the Canadian Council for International Cooperation and the McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy. She has a Master's degree from McGill University.

Farwah Qasim – Program Officer, Oxfam Canada

Farwah Qasim is a Program Officer for Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) unit at Oxfam Canada. She manages implementation of the Creating Spaces Project in Philippines, Nepal and Pakistan. Farwah specializes in Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response and Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) programming using community driven development approaches. Farwah is a Muslim Feminist who has advocated for women's rights from a young age. Prior to working for Oxfam, she worked at the World Bank Group and other international development organizations as a gender specialist and researcher. She is born and raised in Pakistan and has a Master's degree from George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Maintaining the Gains – People, Projects and Partnership in the Time of COVID-19

This session was organized and led by the Primate's World Development and Relief Fund.

For the past two years, PWRDF, together with its partners in Burundi, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Tanzania, with support from GAC, has carried out two one-year projects that have responded to the COVID-19 global pandemic. In this panel PWRDF's Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Bart Dickinson, together with partners from Village Health Works, Burundi; the Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania; and EHALE, Mozambique, explored the impacts of COVID-19 through the data they have gathered and through experiences on the ground. They discussed how this has made new work possible, challenged existing ways of working and changed the ways they live out their partnerships.



Moderator:

Sophie Kiwala – PWRDF Representative for the Diocese of Ontario (Kingston and area)

Sophie was appointed PWRDF Diocesan Representative for the Diocese of Ontario in 2020. From 2014 to 2018, she served as Member of Provincial Parliament for Kingston and the Islands. Prior to that, she worked for seven years in federal constituency offices as a manager and chief of staff. Sophie lived in Turkey and France for five years and studied politics at Athabasca and Queen's University. She is currently working on her Professional Masters of Public Administration degree. Sophie is a tireless community advocate and is passionate about supporting vulnerable sectors of society and Indigenous reconciliation.

Contributors:

Bart Dickinson – Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, PWRDF

Bart has been working in international development for more than a decade, the last six with PWRDF. He specializes in project management, applied social research, evaluation and learning, curriculum development, field training and capacity building. Bart works closely with partner organization staff to maintain and strengthen monitoring mechanisms and help develop, define and refine indicators to measure and learn from PWRDF's intended beneficiaries. Before COVID-19 he frequently visited PWRDF's partners in the field to observe and learn from them. Bart is fluent in three languages and has an M.A. in International Affairs from the Norman Paterson School at Carleton University.

Ramula Issa – Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, EHALE, Mozambique

Ramula is a university lecturer and Researcher in the areas of Nutrition and sexual and reproductive health. She has a Masters in Clinical Nutrition (2014), and a Degree in Nutrition Sciences (2012). She works as a Consultant for various organizations where she conducts baseline and endline project evaluations, as well as situational analysis of project implementation in the area of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, Children's Education, Nutrition and Early Childhood Development.

Witness Gerald Mushi – Gender Officer, Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania

Witness has worked closely on the All Mothers and Children Count program implemented by the Anglican Church of Tanzania, Diocese of Masasi and the Gender focal person for Diocesan operations. She has six years experience in the field of supporting mothers' and children's health with a focus on gender sensitivity and special needs.

Melchiade Nginganza – Program Manager, Village Health Works, Burundi

Melchiade worked as the Project Coordinator for the All Mothers and Children Count program, which focused on increasing access to maternal and child healthcare both through activities at VHW's clinic, as well as within the community through Community Health Workers. Previously, he worked with Village Health Works in communication and community organization, where his responsibilities included producing radio shows, conducting sensitization campaigns and organizing community members. Melchiade has a B.A. in History with a specialization in political science from Burundi University, as well as certificates in global health from the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the University of Washington.

Haitian Women at the Forefront of Community Solutions and Locally-led Change

In this panel speakers shared insights on how community-led and grassroots solutions are transforming communities in Haiti. It built upon the conversation between leaders from Rayjon Share Care Canada, Rayjon Share Care Haiti, and the Haitian Women's Federation in OCIC's 'Tapestry 2030' podcast and illustration series, Season 1, focusing on how grassroots actors, particularly women, are the drivers of sustainable change.

Moderator:

Safa Shahkhalili – Producer, OCIC 'Tapestry 2030' Season 1

Safa is a podcast producer and international development consultant based in Toronto. She recently facilitated a "Podcasting for Public Engagement" training for OCIC members and was the producer for OCIC's Tapestry 2030 podcast.

Contributors:

Denis Côté – Policy Analyst, Association Québécoise des Organismes de Coopération Internationale (AQOCI)

Denis Côté has been a Policy Analyst with the Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI) since 2016. In this role, he works on a number of issues related to international cooperation and solidarity, and he facilitates the network's community of practice on the environment. He participates on behalf of AQOCI in various provincial and national alliances on topics such as corporate accountability, climate change, and trade agreements. He also participates and supports the organization of civil society delegations to international events like the World Social Forum and the COP. Before joining AQOCI, Denis was the coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Working Group with the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) from 2009 to 2016. He has also been working as a freelance translator since 2015 and has recently become the co-owner of a small farm in Quebec.

Miselande Parisien – General Secretary, Fédération des Femmes de Haut-Saint-Marc (Haitian Women's Federation, Haut de St. Marc)

Miselande Parisien is a well-respected leader in her rural community of Barbes, where she serves as the Vice-President of the local women's association l'Organisation des Femmes Actives pour le Développement de Saint-Marc (OFACDES). Miselande completed her university education in 2019, and currently teaches at the Jean Calvin School in Saint-Marc. She is also the elected General Secretary of the la Fédération des Femmes de Haut-Saint-Marc (Haitian Women's Federation), and a passionate promoter of Adult Literacy programs throughout the region. As an executive member, Miselande is deeply involved with the Haitian Women's Federation's ongoing initiative to operate a cooperative breadfruit processing factory and sustainable tree nursery.

Heather Smith – Executive Director, Rayjon Share Care Canada

Heather Smith has been Executive Director and Project Manager for Rayjon Share Care (based in Sarnia, Ontario) since 2016. Her education and work history have allowed her to explore grassroots approaches to intercultural communication and community-centric fundraising, and best practices in international cooperation. In her role with Rayjon Share Care Heather facilitates dialogue and collaboration between Rayjon Share Care and their partners in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Together they support local solutions to sustainable community development through health care, education, microcredit and the empowerment of women.

Renaud Thomas – Community Coordinator and RSCH Manager, Rayjon Share Care, Haiti

Renaud Thomas was born in Jacmel, Southern Haiti, to a large family with 5 sisters and 3 brothers. In 2011 he graduated from the State University of Haiti (Faculty of Agronomy and Veterinarian Medicine) with an advance degree as an Engineer-Agronomist. Additional training both in Haiti and abroad has earned him specializations in permaculture design and breadfruit propagation.

Renaud has co-founded several local Haitian organizations (Fond Paysans de Fond'Oies (FPF), Association Haïtienne de Permaculture (HPC), Inisyativ Sante Peyizan (ISAP), and Zanmi Lagrikilti (ZL). He has been the Community Coordinator and Manager of Rayjon Share Haiti (RSCH) at Saint-Marc since 2018. He also provides independent consultation in permaculture design at different levels from local farms to universities. Renaud has worked with numerous NGOs in Haiti and has a particular interest in community development with a focus on sustainability, and a passion for mobilizing local communities. Renaud and his wife (who is a nurse and midwife) recently welcomed their first child.

Thank You

A very big thank you to all our contributors for bringing such rich perspectives and insight to the discussions on localization, and for collaborating to help us reflect, learn, and plan for action at our Global Citizens Forum 2022.

Thank you to our audience for participating and for taking the time join in reflection, dialogue and action on 'localization'.

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