



THE REALITY OF SHIFTING POWER TO LOCAL ACTORS: CASE STUDIES ON CHILD PROTECTION INITIATIVES IN NIGERIA, KENYA, & MALAWI

FEBRUARY 1ST, 2022

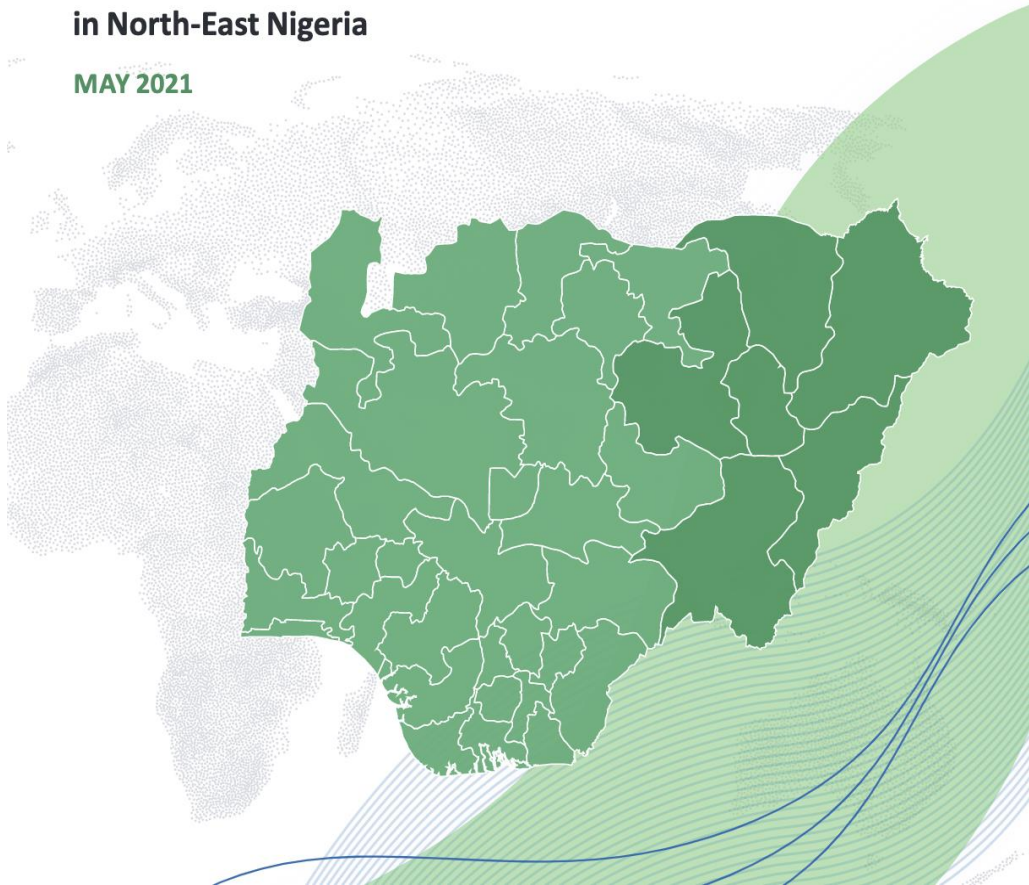
OBJECTIVES OF THE WEBINAR

- Share background information on the three initiatives from Nigeria, Kenya, and Malawi which aimed to increase engagement of national and civil society organisations in the child protection in humanitarian action coordination system
- Share overlapping findings across the three contexts
- Have a candid discussion about the reality of shifting power to local child protection actors, its challenges, promising practices, and lessons learned

Nigerian National Non-Governmental Organisation Consortium

Case Study Documenting the
Successes and Challenges of
Implementing a Consortium Model
in North-East Nigeria

MAY 2021



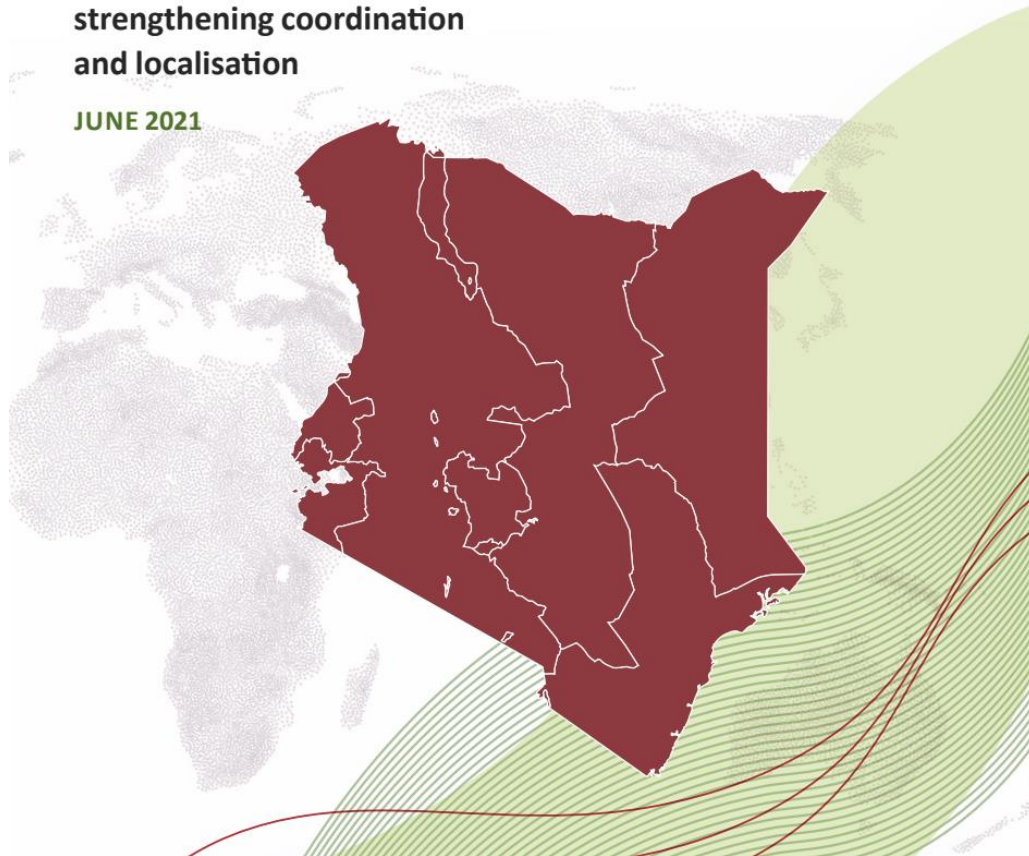
NIGERIAN NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION CONSORTIUM

- Local initiative with a mission to support Nigerian organisations and to increase the presence of local NGO representation within the aid coordination structure in north-east Nigeria
- Consortium's goals:
 - Promote localisation and ensure that the Grand Bargain is implemented across north-east Nigeria
 - Institutional capacity building of Nigerian NGOs (administrative & programming)
 - Connection with donor community to access funds
- The consortium served as an **opportunity for national organisations to come together with a strong, collective voice** - critical to the success of the field

Implementing a National Action Plan for Child Protection in Emergencies in Kenya

Case study documenting the successes and challenges of strengthening coordination and localisation

JUNE 2021



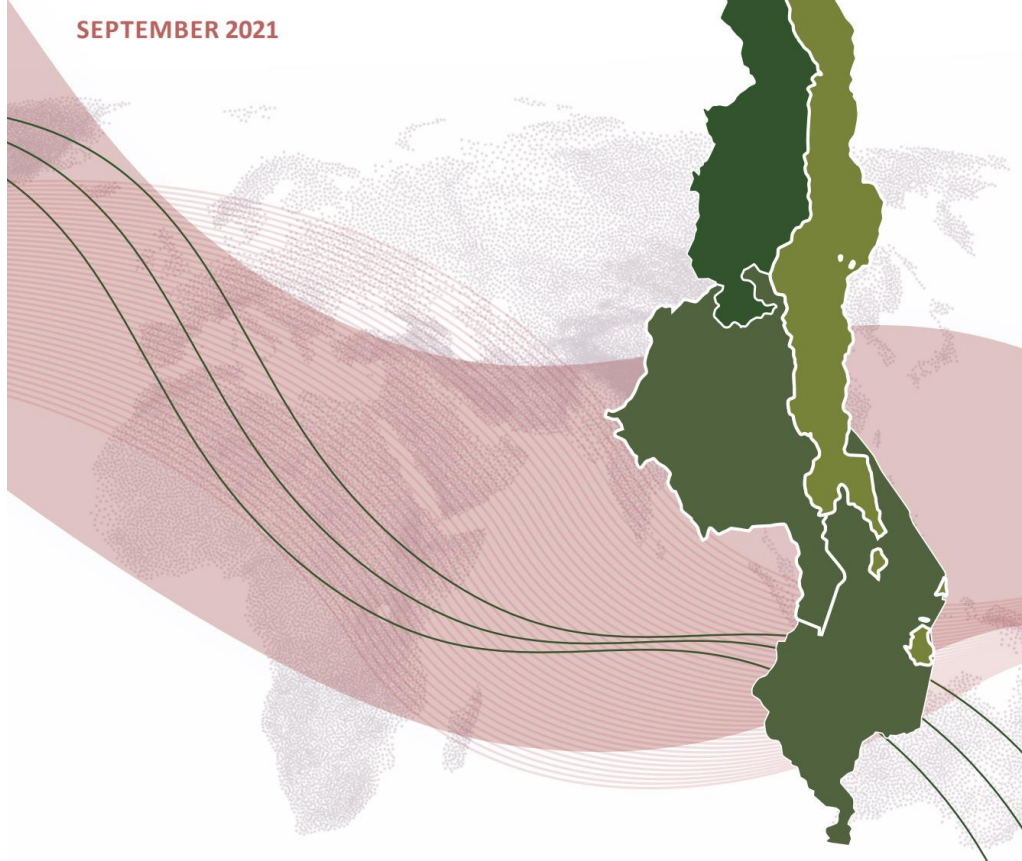
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES IN KENYA

- The Action plan aimed to strengthen coordination at the national and county levels to ensure effective service provision to children in emergencies
- Most emergencies in Kenya are climate-related, with the government retaining the primary role in the coordination and implementation of humanitarian action
- Kenya uses a sectoral approach - WASH, Health, Nutrition, Education, Livelihood/Agriculture, and Peace & Security sectors where the government takes the lead. Parallel to this structure, the UN manages interagency coordination.
- Governmental **authorities established the department of children services within the national government and built local capacity** through increased awareness of Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, building the capacity of volunteers, and the creation of dedicated coordination bodies

Implementing an Action Plan for Child Protection in Emergencies in Malawi

Case study documenting the successes and challenges of strengthening coordination and localisation

SEPTEMBER 2021



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES IN MALAWI

- The Protection Cluster in Malawi is led by the Ministry of Gender and co-led by a focal person from UNICEF
- The Action Plan has been implemented via a cluster system and integrated into existing plans spearheaded by the Department of Disaster Management Affairs
- Many emergencies in Malawi are environmental and are reoccurring in nature. The protection cluster in Malawi was particularly active during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic due to increases in child protection related issues such as an increase in child marriages
- The Action Plan **increased coordination** of child protection issues, **advocacy for protection-related issues**, and **strengthening of protection mechanisms** at the national level

OVERALL FINDINGS ACROSS THE CASE STUDIES

- **Mistrust in the capacity of national organisations to manage funds and ensure safeguarding**
- **Obstacles to funding:** direct funding remains in the hands of a few large international organizations and UN agencies and funds directed to national organizations are rarely dedicated for operational capacity strengthening of the organization
 - National organisations are often not seen as able to pass the “due diligence” test
- **Seats at the national & regional decision-making table:** actors from national and civil society organisations hold few leadership and decision-making roles
- **Including child protection in humanitarian action across sectors:** child protection is not always considered a priority and as such, is generally not well integrated in country humanitarian response systems

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Be mindful of stereotypes and avoid generalisations** when speaking about the “capacity” of national organisations
- Earmark **larger amounts of funds for national and civil society organizations** with specific funds allocated for **operational capacity strengthening**
- Encourage **integration of community perspectives on child protection** into higher level decision-making
 - Ensure that **actors from national and civil society organisations have seats at the decision-making table and** establish **accountability mechanisms to make it a reality**
- Examine **power dynamics at play** when government and international NGOs partner with national organisations to implement programming. **Ensure national organisations are able to act independently and due consideration is given to their perspectives**

PANELIST DISCUSSION

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- **Abba Yusuf**, Executive Director, Grow Strong Foundation, Nigeria
 - **Edem Edem**, National Coordinator/Founder, Green Concern for Development, Nigeria
 - **Hellen Mafumbo**, Senior Child Protection Officer, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Kenya
 - **Martin Nkuna**, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF, Malawi
 - **Mirriam Kaluwa**, Protection Cluster Coordinator, UNICEF, Malawi