The organisation’s representatives in the workshop will discuss each indicator identifying their organisation’s experiences, strengths and significant gaps. They will use the framework to rate their current level of competence, providing documentary evidence, explanations and examples as to why they consider themselves

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Planning and Review

A capacity strengthening programme will then be developed according to the needs and priorities agreed by the partner and the Shifting the Power Consortium. The priorities, needs and aspirations identified during the capacity assessment will form the basis of a capacity strengthening plan. This will be developed by the local organisation through a separate, but related process. The completed SHAPE framework provides baseline information of the organisation’s competencies at the start of the Shifting the Power project. In the second and subsequent years of the project the framework will provide a basis to assess progress.

Shifting the Power

The Shifting the Power project is an initiative by six international NGOs (ActionAid and CAFOD (lead), Christian Aid, Oxfam, Tearfund and Concern Worldwide). It aims to strengthen the role of local organisations in emergency response and create a humanitarian system where local organisations take their rightful place alongside international actors. The project is working together with 54 local and national NGO partners (in Bangladesh with 11 organisations) who share the vision of a locally owned and led disaster response in their countries. The project is strengthening local and national organisational capacity for decision making and leadership in humanitarian response. The project is part of the Start Network and is supported by the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID) through the Disasters and Emergencies Preparedness Programme (DEPP), which aims at improving the quality and speed of humanitarian response through capacity strengthening.

Our vision of shifted power is

POWER that is SHARED
Identify competencies required to deliver a powerful humanitarian response

Understand their strengths and weaknesses in relation to the key components of humanitarian programme management, and ability to influence design and delivery of humanitarian response

Foster ownership and commitment to improving humanitarian capacity

Prioritise areas for capacity strengthening support

Review the progress of humanitarian capacity strengthening initiatives

The SHAPE framework

Strategic Humanitarian Assessment & Participatory Empowerment Framework

The SHAPE framework is a tool to support local and national organisations taking part in the Shifting the Power project to assess their capacity to not only manage humanitarian programmes, but also to control and influence the humanitarian response. The framework is based on a model of humanitarian capacity that emphasises the importance of power.

The capacity assessment workshop will primarily be facilitated by representatives from the Shifting the Power consortium member and the local organisation. The self-assessment will involve 12 to 20 staff and key people responsible for different aspects of humanitarian work. It is essential that senior management participate. Ideally all participants will be available for the full three-day process.

It is critical that the organisation is fully committed to the self-assessment process and understand that it is the starting point of an organisational change process. Organisations should feel comfortable to have honest, robust internal reflections about their current competence and aspirations. The capacity self-assessment process is not an audit or external evaluation; the findings will not influence funding decisions.

During the assessment process organisations will review their humanitarian capacity across the following domains:

1. Governance and Leadership
2. Influence
3. Preparedness and Response

They will analyse their capacity using 3 indicators:

1. Organisational Foundations - core features that underpin a successful humanitarian response
2. Humanitarian Capacities - the range of abilities needed to respond to humanitarian crises
3. Power - capacities to control and influence

Our Partners: