



Strategic Advocacy & Localization Bulletin

Abs Development Organization for Woman and Child (ADO)

Advancing local leadership, equitable partnerships, and the
Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus in Yemen.

Advocacy

Localization

Nexus

Partnerships

Protection

Resilience

COVERAGE PERIOD

January 2026 - June
2026

AUDIENCE

Donors, UN agencies,
INGOs & coordination
bodies

PURPOSE

Showcase advocacy,
localization &
partnership value



Where local leadership shapes global reform

ADO's engagement during January–June 2026 demonstrates how national and women-led organizations can shape humanitarian reform, strengthen local leadership, influence coordination spaces, advance Nexus approaches, and build equitable partnerships with donors and agencies. Across these engagements, ADO consistently advocated for localization measured by **power, resources, accountability, and local leadership**—not by consultation alone.

— EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A national actor connecting communities to global policy

From January to June 2026, ADO strengthened its advocacy presence across national, regional, and global humanitarian and development platforms. The organization used these spaces to promote local leadership, equitable partnerships, HDP Nexus approaches, child protection, feminist humanitarian action, disaster risk reduction, community-led recovery, flexible financing, and strategic collaboration with donors and agencies.

ADO's role was not limited to attendance or representation. The organization contributed technical knowledge, field evidence, policy recommendations, and partnership proposals that reflect the realities of communities and local responders in Yemen.



Core Localization Position

For ADO, localization means more than transferring activities to local partners. It means enabling local actors to **shape priorities, co-design strategies, access direct and flexible resources, lead coordination discussions, carry fair levels of risk**, and influence the systems that determine humanitarian and development outcomes.

ADO IN ACTION





SECTION 01

ADO's Role in Localizing Humanitarian Action

ADO has consistently positioned localization as a practical and structural agenda. Across engagements with humanitarian coordination platforms, funding actors, UN agencies, INGOs, feminist networks, and global technical bodies, ADO emphasized that national organizations must be treated as strategic actors with decision-making power—not only as implementers of externally designed programs.



Direct & flexible financing

Increasing direct and flexible financing that reaches local organizations working on the frontline.



Meaningful participation

Strengthening leadership of national NGOs within coordination and cluster structures.



Equitable partnerships

Building partnerships based on trust, mutual accountability, transparency, and fair risk-sharing.

These priorities were reinforced in discussions on Yemen localization, Grand Bargain reform, locally led disaster financing, philanthropy, Concern Worldwide's strategy consultation, and community-led response models.



Persistent barriers to genuine localization

ADO also highlighted challenges that continue to limit genuine localization: complex donor compliance requirements, limited access to direct funding, underrepresentation of local organizations in formal coordination mechanisms, unequal transfer of operational risk, short-term project cycles, shrinking civic space, and the disproportionate burden placed on women-led organizations operating in fragile and underfunded contexts.



SECTION 02

Strategic Advocacy Pillars



Advocacy & humanitarian reform

Contributed to global and country-level reform—localization accountability, National Reference Groups, coordination mechanisms, equitable partnerships, and pathways for translating global commitments into country-level change.



Localization & equitable financing

Advocated for simplified donor requirements, pilot direct-funding pathways, flexible and unrestricted financing, pre-arranged disaster-risk financing, diversified sources, and trust-based philanthropic support.



HDP Nexus & regional collaboration

Advanced the Yemen Nexus Initiative as a locally led model for integrated humanitarian-development-peace programming, regional knowledge exchange, social protection linkages, climate/service mapping, and bilingual accessibility.



Partnerships with donors & agencies

Used strategic consultations and global forums to build relationships with donors, UN agencies, INGOs, philanthropic actors, and technical networks—advocating for local inclusion in strategic planning and program design.



Protection, gender & feminist leadership

Reinforced rights-based protection, child protection, safe education, women's health equity, feminist leadership, women-led disaster risk reduction, and inclusive safeguarding as essential priorities.



DRR, resilience & community-led recovery

Promoted locally led early warning, anticipatory action, disaster risk reduction, environmental stewardship, community organizing, and recovery that restores systems, trust, and social cohesion.



SECTION 03

Key Contributions by Thematic Area



Localization influence

Highlighted barriers to local NGO funding access, advocated for simplified requirements and pilot direct funding, and promoted meaningful local representation in cluster and coordination structures.



Nexus leadership

Showcased the Yemen Nexus Initiative as a scalable locally led model linking evidence, planning, capacity strengthening, climate/service mapping, and regional collaboration.



Coordination reform

Contributed to discussions on Grand Bargain accountability, National Reference Groups, participation in coordination mechanisms, and reforms creating space for national NGO leadership.



Financing reform

Advocated for flexible, direct, pre-arranged, diversified, and trust-based financing—including disaster-risk financing, philanthropic engagement, and local resource mobilization strategies.



Partnership building

Strengthened dialogue with donors, agencies, INGOs, technical networks, feminist platforms, child-protection coalitions, and resilience actors—converting visibility into collaboration.



Protection & rights-based

Contributed to child protection, safe education, ethical documentation, women's health equity, and survivor-centered approaches connecting protection evidence to sustainable planning.



Women-led leadership

Advanced feminist humanitarian leadership, women-led DRR, inclusive safeguarding, and stronger access to crisis-response financing for women-led organizations.



Resilience & recovery

Promoted community-led recovery, environmental stewardship, early warning, anticipatory action, popular education, and grassroots leadership as foundations for sustainable resilience.



SECTION 04

Priority Engagement Highlights

1 Localization in Yemen: Challenges & Opportunities

Delivered strong national-level advocacy on barriers preventing local NGOs from accessing direct funding and participating meaningfully in coordination—reinforcing ADO's call for simplified requirements, fair partnerships, expanded local representation, and practical direct-funding pilots.

2 HDP Nexus & Localization in Yemen Webinar

Presented the Yemen Nexus Initiative as a locally led model connecting humanitarian, development, and peace approaches through evidence-based planning, capacity strengthening, community participation, climate/service mapping, and digital learning.

3 Concern Worldwide Country Strategic Plan Consultation

Contributed local evidence and strategic recommendations to inform a major INGO country strategy for 2027–2029, reinforcing the importance of local organizations in strategic planning, program design, and equitable partnership development.

4 Grand Bargain NGO Constituency Call

Contributed to global humanitarian reform dialogue by advocating for practical, country-level accountability mechanisms and resourced platforms that enable local actors to shape and monitor reform commitments.

5 Child Protection in Humanitarian Action Engagements

Strengthened technical visibility in global child-protection spaces through abstract review and annual meeting participation—contributing to discussions on child protection under resource constraints, adaptive programming, innovative financing, and system transformation.

6 Locally Led Financing & Philanthropy Platforms

Used financing-focused discussions to advocate for flexible, unrestricted, pre-arranged, and trust-based funding that reaches frontline and underfunded crisis contexts, including forgotten and protracted emergencies.

HDP NEXUS AND LOCALIZATION IN YEMEN

WEBINAR

Tuesday, March 3 at 11:00 UTC

Zoom



Dr. Aisha Thawab



Dr. Wafa Mohammed



Basem Al-Saqir



Giacomo Negrotto



Moderated by:
Carl Abilem

HDP Nexus and Localization in Yemen webinar — ADO presenting alongside the Yemen Nexus Initiative and UNDP.



SECTION 05

Strategic Value for Partners

ADO offers partners a combination of community access, national legitimacy, technical experience, field-informed advocacy, women-led leadership, and the ability to translate operational realities into policy-relevant recommendations. For partners advancing localization, Nexus, protection, resilience, and equitable partnerships in Yemen, ADO represents a credible platform for collaborative action.



For donors — a trusted local entry point for flexible, accountable, and community-responsive funding models.



For UN agencies & INGOs — contextual evidence, local networks, and strategic guidance for inclusive planning and equitable partnerships.



For coordination bodies — practical insights on local NGO participation, cluster representation, accountability, and country-level reform.



For feminist & protection networks — women-led leadership, safeguarding, child protection, safe education, and rights-based programming.



For resilience & DRR actors — community-led early action, environmental stewardship, local recovery, and Nexus approaches.

— CLOSING POSITIONING STATEMENT



A clear institutional role

ADO's January–June 2026 engagements show a clear institutional role: bringing local realities into policy spaces, translating community priorities into advocacy messages, influencing humanitarian coordination, advancing locally led Nexus models, and building partnerships that support more equitable, accountable, and sustainable humanitarian and development action in Yemen.



SECTION 06

Recommended Follow-Up Priorities



Develop a localization advocacy package

Concise talking points, a two-page profile, and a donor brief on ADO's asks: direct funding, flexible financing, equitable partnerships, fair risk-sharing, and local leadership in coordination.



Position the Yemen Nexus Initiative

Prepare a bilingual profile including model, tools, regional value, potential partners, and priority areas for funding and technical collaboration.



Convert engagement into donor follow-up

Use the engagement register to track organizations, opportunities, commitments, and next steps with donors, UN agencies, INGOs, and global networks.



Strengthen evidence for coordination reform

Develop a short policy note on barriers and solutions for local NGO leadership in clusters and country-level humanitarian platforms.



Build thematic partnership briefs

Prepare short briefs on women-led humanitarian action, child protection, safe education, DRR/resilience, community-led recovery, and flexible financing to support targeted outreach.

PARTNERSHIP WRO speakers and commentators



ADO featured among women-led organization (WRO) speakers in a global partnering engagement.

31

Strategic engagements

6

Advocacy pillars

6

Months of coverage

GLOBAL PLATFORM



ADO delivering remarks at an international humanitarian and development platform.



ANNEX

Engagement Register · Jan-Jun 2026

This register provides a structured reference for reporting, donor follow-up, and partnership tracking. The full register of 30 engagements continues on the following three pages.

— ANNEX · ENGAGEMENT REGISTER (1 OF 3)

Date	Engagement	Organizer / Network	Strategic area	Institutional contribution
11 Jan 2026	Localising Disaster Risk Financing	GNDR · Centre for Disaster Protection	Localized financing & anticipatory action	Contributed frontline perspectives on delays, triggers, access barriers, and the need for pre-arranged financing tools that reach local responders.
11 Feb 2026	MENA Nexus Coalition & Social Protection Coordination	MENA Nexus Coalition · Yemen Nexus Initiative	Regional Nexus & social protection	Advanced the Yemen Nexus Initiative as a platform for multi-country learning, evidence-based advocacy, and HDP-social protection linkages.
23 Feb 2026	Humanitarian Principles in Action Toolkit	Global Policy Technical Working Group	Principled action & risk-sharing	Brought Yemen operational realities into global guidance—confidentiality, fair risk-sharing, safeguarding, and practical decision pathways.
24 Feb 2026	Committee Nominations & Network Updates	Feminist humanitarian network	Women-led governance & funding access	Contributed to protection/research committees and accessible crisis financing for women-led and local organizations.
26 Feb 2026	Advisory Committee Introduction	Uganda feminist humanitarian initiative	South-South peer learning	Shared lessons on locally led coordination, feminist leadership, safeguarding, and inclusive participation in restrictive environments.
26 Feb 2026	REAP Partnership Week Overview	REAP · UNDRR · IFRC · WMO	Early warning & early action	Strengthened visibility in global resilience spaces and advocated for frontline perspectives within locally led early warning systems.
27 Feb-13 Mar	CPHA Annual Meeting Abstract Review	Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action	Technical global learning	Contributed to the technical review process shaping the agenda of a major child-protection learning event.
2 Mar 2026	Nexus Academy Open House Preparation	UNDP · Yemen Nexus Initiative	Inclusive regional learning	Supported bilingual engagement and regional outreach for accessible HDP Nexus learning and collaboration.
3 Mar 2026	HDP Nexus & Localization in Yemen Webinar	UNDP · Yemen Nexus Initiative · Nexus Academy	Locally led Nexus model	Presented the Yemen Nexus Initiative as a practical model for evidence-based planning, climate/service mapping, digital learning, and local leadership.
3 Mar 2026	GNDR Policy & Advocacy Training	GNDR · ActionAid · UNDRR	Policy influence capacity	Strengthened DRR policy engagement, storytelling, campaign design, solidarity, and civic-space protection.
3 Mar 2026	Locally Led Recovery Panel	International recovery platform	Community-led recovery	Promoted recovery as restoring systems, trust, social cohesion, and local accountability—not simply rebuilding infrastructure.

Date	Engagement	Organizer / Network	Strategic area	Institutional contribution
15 Mar 2026	Localization in Yemen: Challenges & Opportunities	OCHA Yemen · Yemen Humanitarian Fund	Direct localization advocacy	Highlighted barriers to direct funding, cluster participation, simplified requirements, equitable partnerships, and pilot direct-funding pathways.
18 Mar 2026	School-Related Gender-Based Violence Webinar	UNGEI · UNICEF · UNESCO	Safe education & protection	Contributed to community-based prevention, referral pathways, psychosocial support, and safe learning environments.
25 Mar 2026	Funding Diversification for Resilience & Localization	International financing & development experts	Flexible & diversified financing	Advocated for donor trust in local organizations and more flexible, diversified, locally accessible resilience financing.
25 Mar 2026	Strategic Alliances for Policy Impact	Climate-resilience & advocacy alliances	Grassroots policy influence	Promoted community data, public expenditure tracking, and strategic alliances to move local actors from implementers to policy actors.
1 Apr 2026	Strengthening Capacity of Partners & Project Staff	BMZ · Vision Hope	Operational quality & resilience	Contributed to expenditure review, activity updates, and monitoring parameters linked to community resilience and biodiversity.
8 Apr 2026	Global Gag Rule Impact Analysis	Humanitarian policy & protection coalition	Policy risk mitigation	Contributed to analysis of funding restrictions affecting gender, health, protection, and civil society operating space.
8 Apr 2026	Natural DRR Advocacy Campaign Coordination	Environmental & women-led coalition networks	Women-led environmental action	Supported shared tracking, public advocacy, community stewardship, and women-led disaster risk reduction.
21 Apr 2026	Grand Bargain NGO Constituency Call	Grand Bargain	Reform & accountability	Advocated for resourced country-level accountability, National Reference Groups, and practical reform mechanisms inclusive of local actors.
21-23 Apr	Nutrition Multisectoral Plan Workshop	GNC · UNICEF · AAH · BMZ · MoPHP	Multi-year multisectoral planning	Contributed to localized gap analysis and a governorate-level results framework and workplan for 2026-2030.
23 Apr 2026	Feminist Leadership in Crisis Series	Feminist advocacy & learning forum	Transformative leadership	Contributed to dialogue on trust-based, people-centered, feminist leadership and more inclusive organizational cultures.
26-27 Apr	Participation & Leadership in Coordination Mechanisms	NMO · Oxfam · HST-LHL	Coordination system analysis	Contributed to mapping barriers limiting meaningful participation and leadership of local and national NGOs in cluster structures.

Date	Engagement	Organizer / Network	Strategic area	Institutional contribution
28 Apr 2026	Fundraising Strategy Meeting	Multi-regional humanitarian/gender networks	Resource mobilization	Explored multilingual engagement, community platforms, and decentralized funding routes for local organizations.
30 Apr 2026	Documenting Violations of Children's Rights in Armed Conflicts	Arab Network for Child Rights	Rights-based protection & Nexus	Connected ethical documentation of child-rights violations with survivor-centered protection and sustainable Nexus planning.
5 May 2026	Towards a Local & Community-Led Response	Dutch Relief Alliance · SHS	Operational localization	Advanced recommendations on flexible financing, women's community leadership, local advocacy spaces, and community-led response.
6 May 2026	Community Organizing & Popular Education	Grassroots education & organizing movement	Community empowerment	Explored storytelling, dialogue, and popular education as pathways from reflection to collective community power.
7 May 2026	Mobilizing Philanthropy in Complex Crises	Center for Disaster Philanthropy · MSF · Minderoo	Philanthropic engagement	Advocated for flexible, unrestricted, trust-based financing for forgotten and underfunded protracted crises.
11 May 2026	Global Landscape of Endometriosis Policies & Guidelines	World Health Organization	Gender-responsive health advocacy	Contributed to global dialogue on women's health equity, inclusive policy, awareness, and community participation.
16 Jun 2026	Concern Worldwide Country Strategic Plan Consultation 2027-2029	Concern Worldwide	Strategic partnership influence	Contributed Yemen-focused recommendations and advocated for equitable partnerships and local inclusion in strategic planning.
2026 Annual Mtg	Child Protection in a Resource-Constrained World	Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action	Global child-protection engagement	Participated as a national NGO member in discussions on adaptive programming, local leadership, innovative financing, and system transformation.



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Empowering women & children · Localization · Nexus · Partnerships · Sana'a, Yemen