



A PATHWAY TO LOCALISATION IMPACT: Testing and Learning in the Philippines



Introduction

The humanitarian sector has made significant progress in measuring the process of localisation, with various frameworks and tools supporting organisations on their journey towards more localised humanitarian action. Despite this progress, there is a gap in sector-wide understanding of, if and how, localised approaches are impacting affected communities. This learning paper contributes towards filling this gap by showcasing learning from work undertaken to define and test localisation outcomes in the Philippines, as outlined in *A Pathway to Localisation Impact: Laying the Foundations* (Box 1).

Box 1: The Foundations

A Pathway to Localisation Impact: Laying the Foundations explores to what extent localisation impact is being measured at the community level. The paper puts forward an evidence-based model (Figure 1) that illustrates domains for change, suggests causal pathways, and proposes a process to guide articulation of intended outcomes and subsequent measurement of localisation impact against those outcomes.

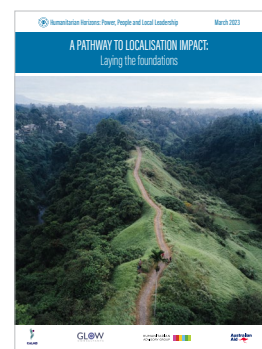
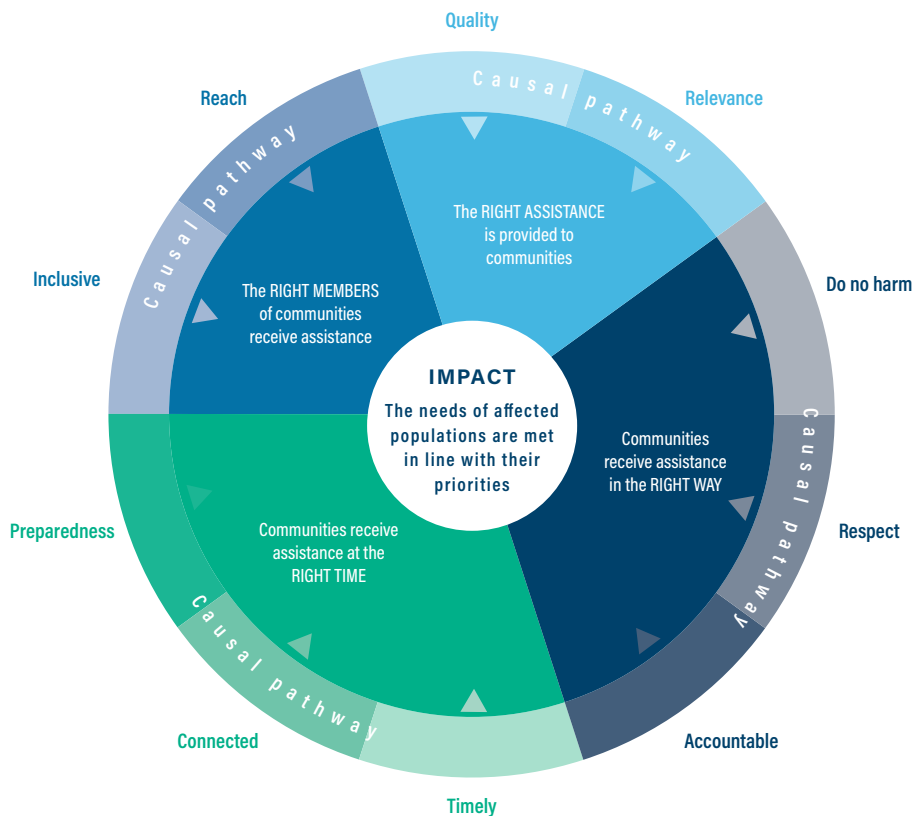


Figure 1: Potential domains of change as a result of localised practices

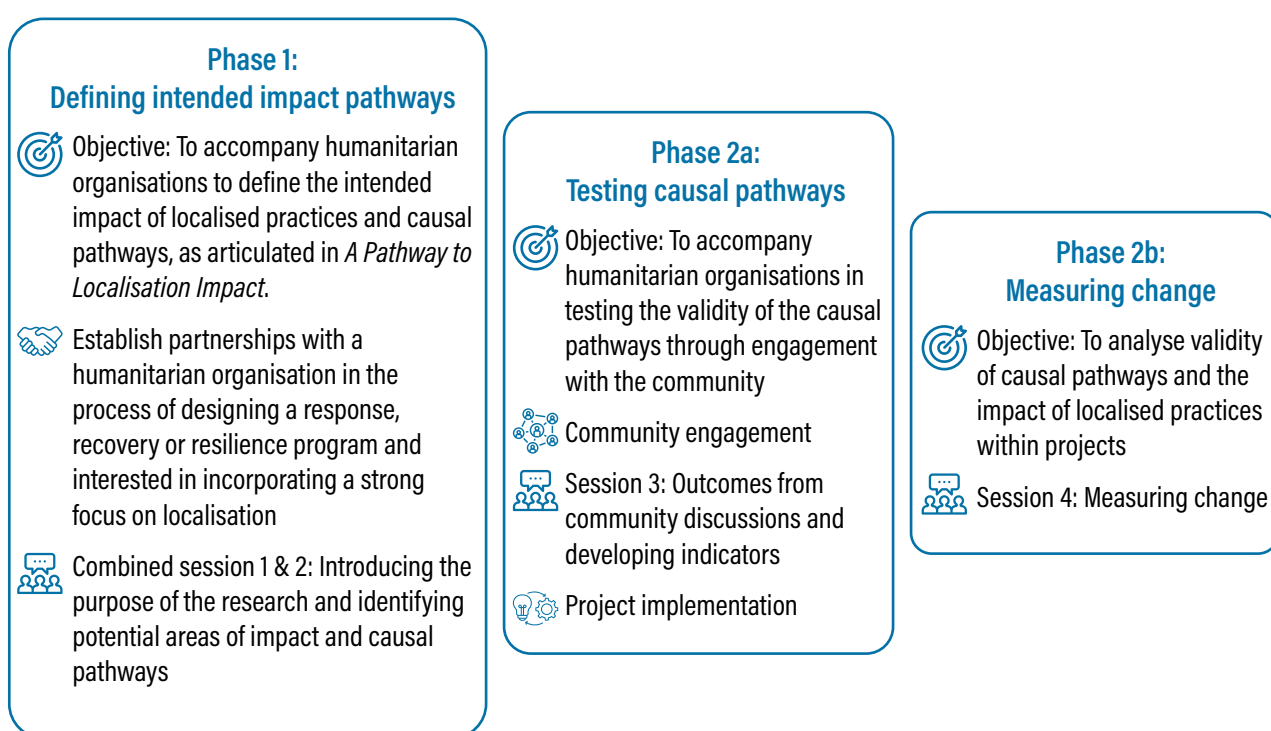


ABOUT THIS PAPER

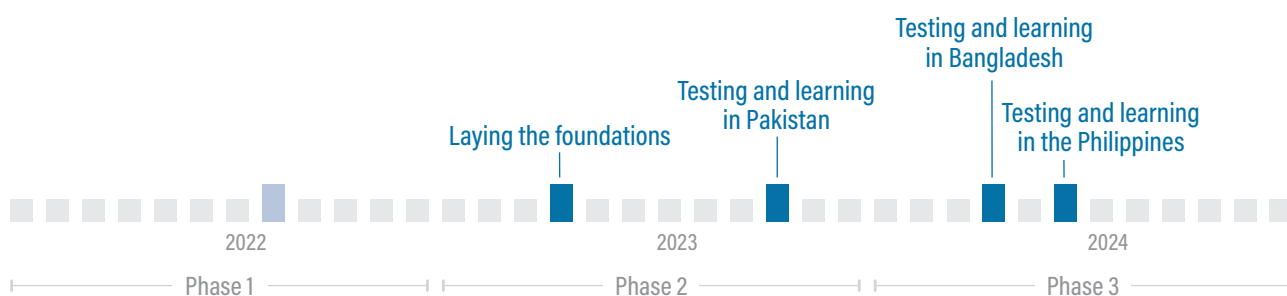
Purpose: The purpose of this paper is to share learning from a case study involving a test of the proposed model and approach for measuring localisation impact in the Philippines. This paper is the first in a series of three case studies, which will be analysed collectively to inform the development of a final framework to support localisation impact measurement at the community level.

Methodology: The methodology for this paper was grounded in an accompaniment process (Figure 2), in which members of the research team worked alongside humanitarian partners from the outset of a new program. Over the course of several formal sessions and informal engagements, partners collectively defined and tested intended outcomes, causal pathways and indicators of localisation impact.

Figure 2: Accompaniment process



Structure: This paper has three sections. This first section introduces the case study and the accompaniment approach, the second section provides an overview of the partners, program and process, and the third section highlights key learning that has emerged from the process to date.



Partner, Program and Process

From November 2023 to May 2024, Las Pinas Persons with Disability Federation, Inc. (LPPWDFI), the Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation (CDP) (see Box 2) and researcher Pamela Cajilig worked together in an accompaniment process. The phases of the process and the outcomes/key actions from each phase are outlined in Figure 3.

Box 2: About the partners and project

Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation has evolved from being a disaster resource training centre into a regional resource centre based in the Philippines. In order to fulfill its vision of safe, resilient and developed communities, CDP aims to upskill duty-bearers and service providers to engage in and promote inclusive community-based disaster risk reduction and management (CBDRRM) and coordinate multiple sectors' engagement. CDP has vast experience and expertise in the field of CBDRRM, including advocacy on climate change adaptation and mitigation. For over 25 years, the organisation has worked with communities and vulnerable groups to co-create plans, programs, and policies.

Las Piñas Persons with Disability Federation, Inc. is based in Las Piñas (part of metropolitan Manila), a flood-prone city, especially during monsoonal months. LPPWDFI seeks to be a federation of empowered persons with disability working towards promoting an all-inclusive nation. The organisation's activities are diverse and include policy advocacy, outreach, and innovation for inclusive mobility.

Together, CDP and LPPWDFI are implementing the Accessible Transport Mobile Service (ATRAMS) project as part of a wider CDP project, the Pinnovation Academy. ATRAMS uses design thinking techniques to pilot an innovation for disability-inclusive and disaster-resilient urban transport. The project aims to show local governments that the scaling up of inclusive, safe, comfortable, and disaster-responsive innovation for persons of disability is feasible and affordable.

The Pinnovation Academy project is part of the Community Led Innovation Partnership program, supported by the Humanitarian Innovation Fund, Asia Disaster Reduction and Response Network, Tokyo Innovation Hub and the Start Network.

Photo: Rene Padillo on Unsplash

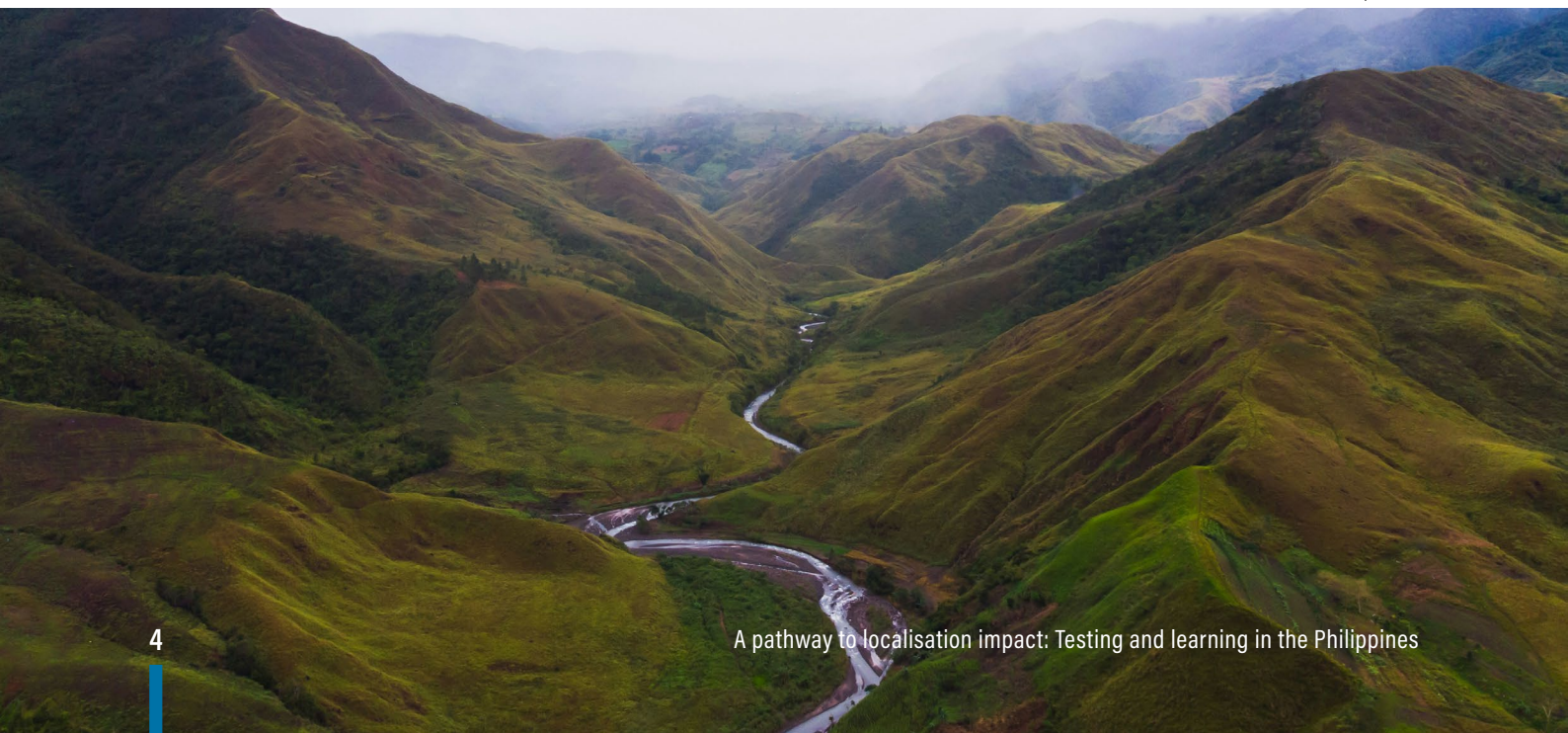
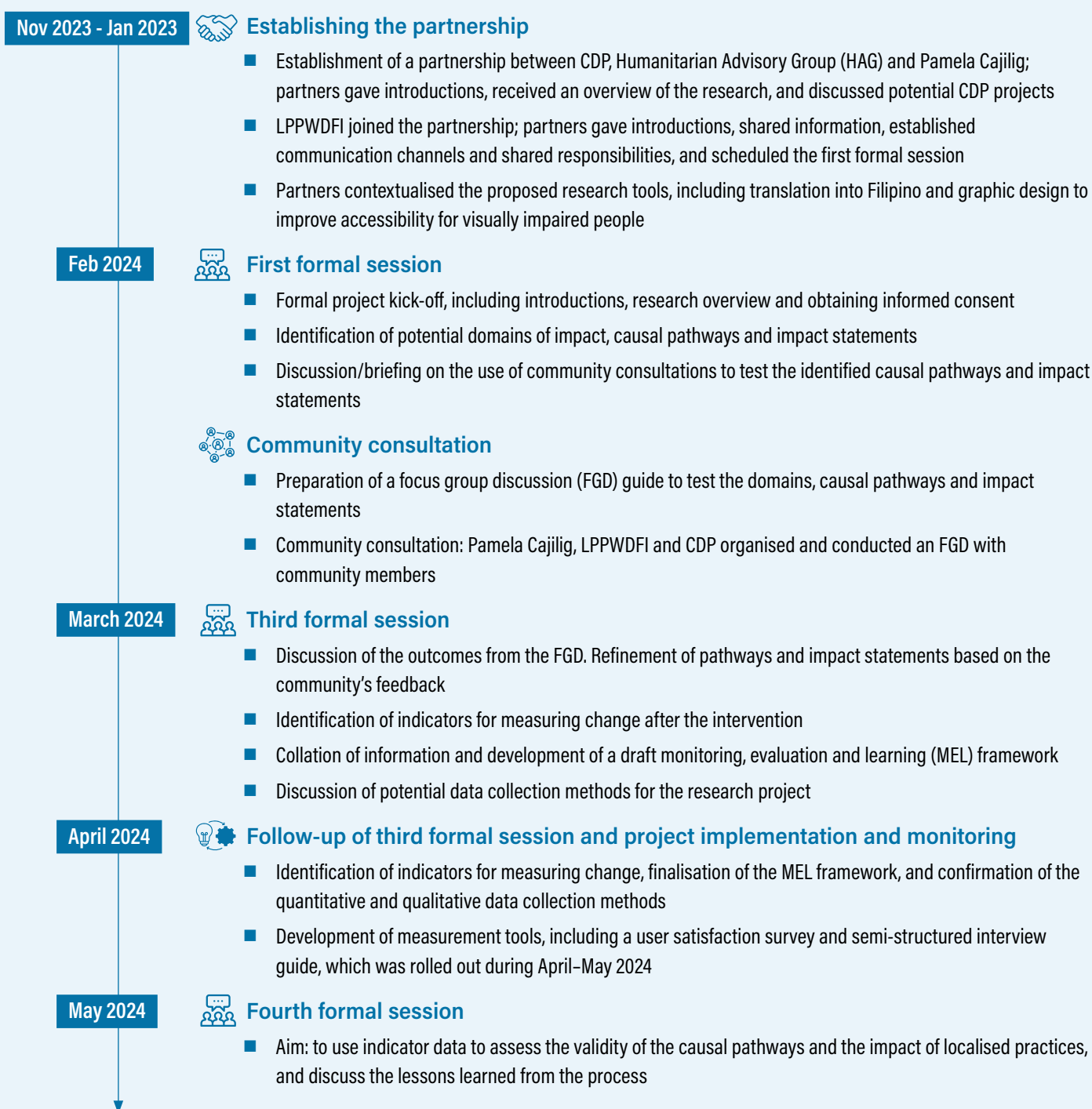


Figure 3: Partnership journey



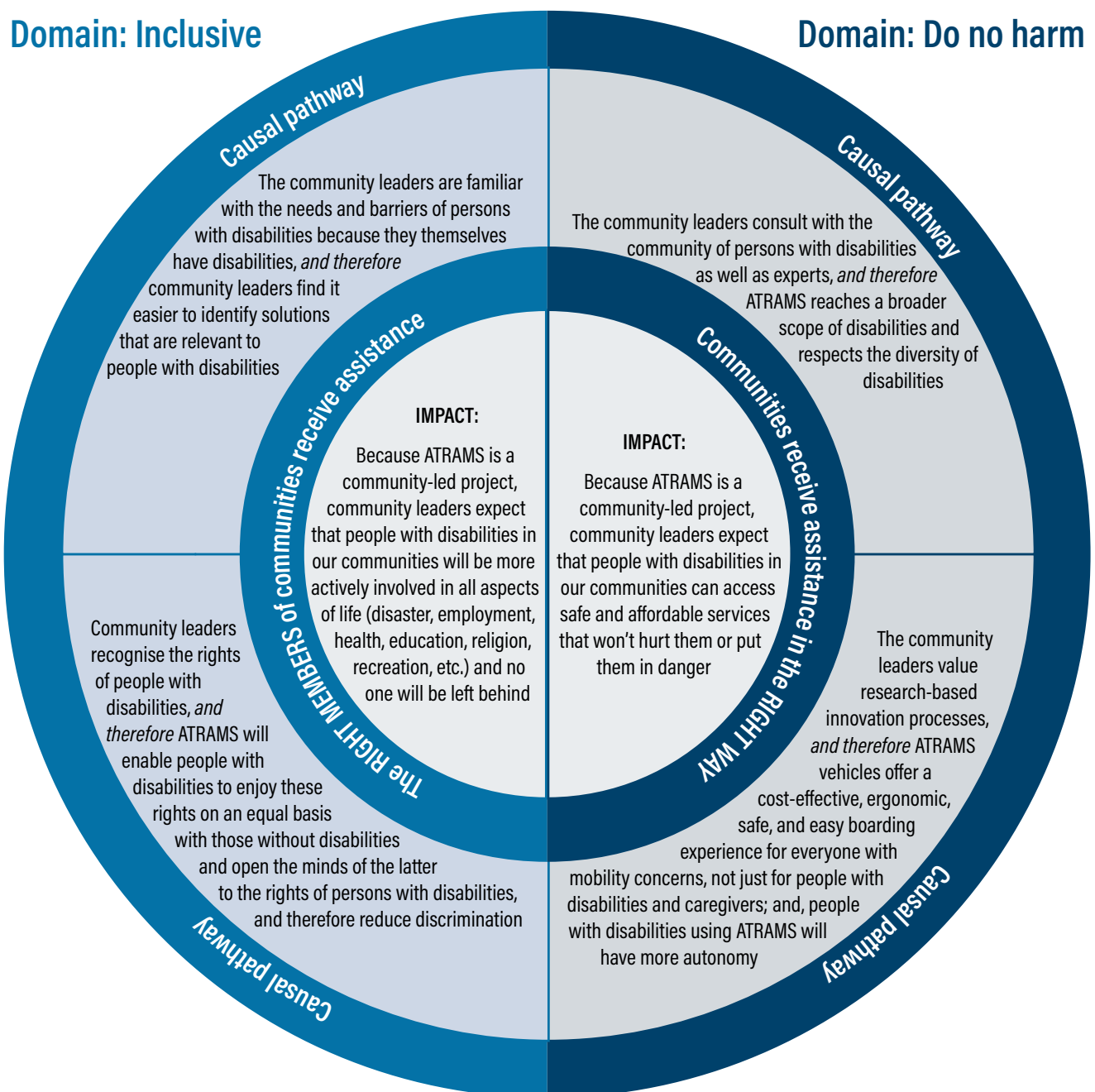
Outcomes

The following domains, causal pathways and impact statements were developed, drawing on the approach outlined in A Pathway to Localisation Impact.

LPPWDFI and CDP selected the domains inclusive and do no harm to test the model and process.

Figure 4 provides an overview of the intended impacts, domain areas and causal pathways that LPPWDFI and CDP developed to test during its program.

Figure 4: Domains of change as a result of localised practices



Indicators:

Inclusive:

Evidence of applied knowledge of persons with disabilities' experiences

% of ATRAMS users report feeling satisfied with services that meet their needs

and frequency of engagements with community leaders to promote awareness of disability rights and laws

and frequency of invitations to forums to discuss persons with disabilities' mobility, improved accessibility to buildings and inclusive spaces

of officials and barangays that adopt ATRAMS

Evidence of change in perception among people without a disability

Do no harm:

% of community members reporting they felt consulted and that their needs were met

% of users reporting feeling safe and secure

Evidence of application of driver safety knowledge

% of users reporting enhanced autonomy

of barangays requesting/accessing ATRAMS

For LPPWDFI, the litmus test for the ATRAMS project would be performance across these indicators during monsoon season (typically July to December), which would pose challenges to mobility given the frequency of urban flooding in their city.

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Learning

This section outlines the lessons that emerged from testing the model and from the accompaniment process.

Learning 1: Contextualisation of the model and tools is an important step at the beginning of the accompaniment process.

Early in the accompaniment process in the Philippines, the research team identified the need for a more intentional way of adapting the terminology used in the model and process to make them appropriate to the context. Whilst the translation of tools and terminology is built into the accompaniment process, it became evident that foundational concepts, including 'localisation', needed to be contextualised so they would resonate. Rather than using the term 'localisation', the term 'community-led disaster response' was used for its resonance with the partners. Further, rather than the domain 'do no harm', the term 'safety' was used.

Some of the terminology was unpacked, nuanced and adapted during the first phase (particularly in relation to the domains), but it became clear that these conversations also occur amongst the research team *before* the first formal session. Early and ongoing discussions about terminology will facilitate clarity and a common understanding amongst participants about what the research is seeking to achieve during the formal sessions.

Learning 2: Relating complex concepts to everyday experiences enables understanding.

One of the common lessons that emerged from the three accompaniment processes to date (in Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Philippines) is that some of the components of the model and process are too complicated. MEL processes and terminology, such as 'causal pathways' (see below), can be overly technical language for some partners. The most challenging across all three countries has been in developing shared understanding around causal pathways.

In the Philippines, the partners took an innovative approach to describing causal pathways. In the first session, the research and the process of developing causal pathways was explained by relating the process to everyday experiences, such as food and eating.



Use of everyday experiences to explain the concept of causal pathways

What's an example of a delicious dish enjoyed by most people?


Kare-kare.

What makes kare-kare delicious? The sauce.

What makes the sauce delicious? Using peanuts ground by hand rather than store bought peanut butter or mixes.

So think of community-led disaster response as kare-kare. And our task today is to find the equivalents of the sauce and ground peanuts in community-led disaster response.

Whilst contextualising terminology was an important first step, relating the process to an everyday experience helped to simplify it further. As a result, participants began mentioning causal pathways when explaining their selection of certain domains of change, and the discussion of ideas flowed more freely. The success of this approach highlights how explaining key concepts in familiar ways can help partners to interrogate the potential impacts of localised practices at the community level.

 **Learning 3: There is scope to improve the process and materials to support a more inclusive and accessible approach.**

The partnership with CDP and LPPWDFI enabled exploration of the inclusion domain of the model, as well as demonstration of how the research process and tools can and should be adapted to be accessible and inclusive. For the accompaniment process, this required adaptations and adjustments to ensure that participants with differing abilities could participate in a meaningful way. For example, PowerPoint slides were developed to be easy to read, and worksheets were used alongside the plenary discussion to capture inputs and feedback from the group, including individuals who hesitated to voice their views in a group setting. Safe transportation to the sessions was available to all participants.

During phase 2 (community consultation), adaptations to improve the accessibility of processes and tools enabled people to share feedback in a group discussion if they wished; those who might feel more comfortable in giving written feedback were encouraged to do so. The community leaders who were invested in the ATRAMS innovation process were also the facilitators of the consultation, so providing a method for attendees to give constructive feedback anonymously stimulated further participation and inclusion.

What's next?

This case study is the third in a series across three contexts in the Asia-Pacific region. Our first case study (in [Pakistan](#)) was launched in November 2023, our second study (in [Bangladesh](#)) in April 2024, and this Philippines study in May 2024. Upon the conclusion of the accompaniment process in each context, the research team will reflect on what has been learned about the model and accompaniment process, and prepare an approach to guide localisation impact measurement across the sector.

If you'd like to learn more about our localisation impact measurement work, or to get involved, please contact Sara Phillips – sphillips@humanitarianadvisorygroup.org, Pamela Combinido – pcombinido@humanitarianadvisorygroup.org, or Jess Lees – jlees@humanitarianadvisorygroup.org

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About Humanitarian Horizons 2021–2024

Humanitarian Horizons 2021–2024 is a three-year research initiative that adds unique value to humanitarian action in the Indo-Pacific by generating evidence and creating conversations for change. It is supported by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The research program for 2021–24 builds on the achievements of the Humanitarian Horizons pilot phase (2017–18), the previous iteration of the program (2018–21) and Humanitarian Advisory Group's experience in supporting the sector for almost 10 years. The research is structured into three interlocking streams: 1) Power, People and Local Leadership, 2) Greening the System, and 3) Real-Time Analysis and Influence. It is underpinned by a fourth stream that considers governance, accountability, and monitoring, evaluation and learning processes.

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About the project team

Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) was founded in 2012 to elevate the profile of humanitarian action in Asia and the Pacific. Set up as a social enterprise, HAG provides a unique space for thinking, research, technical advice and training that contributes to excellence in humanitarian practice.



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