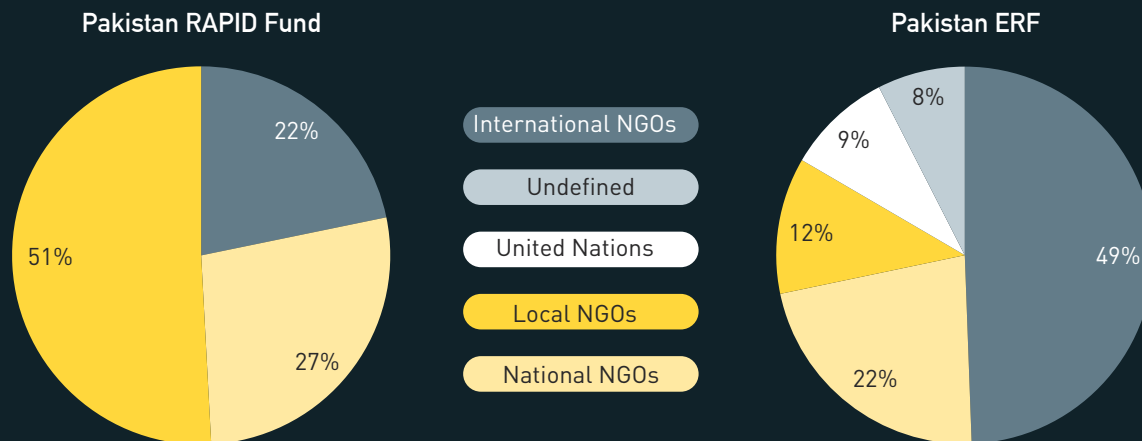


In focus: NGO-led pooled funds

FIGURE 5.12

Breakdown of allocations from Pakistan ERF⁵ and RAPID fund by recipient organisation type, 2013



Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS and RAPID Fund data

NGO-led pooled funds are smaller in number and financial volume than those led by multilaterals but provide complementarity and innovation in terms of focus, agility and balance of recipients.

In South Sudan, the Small Grants Mechanism within the South Sudan Recovery Fund (SSRF), managed by United National Development Programme (UNDP) and coordinated by BRAC South Sudan, awarded US\$2.7million in grants to national and local NGOs and community-based organisations between 2009 and 2012. In Sudan, the Small Grants Scheme within the larger Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund, aims to engage and build capacity of local NGOs and community-based organisations in peace-building and is implemented by Catholic Relief Services, World Vision and the Sudanese Community Development Association.

Also operating at a country level, the RAPID Fund in Pakistan is managed

by Concern Worldwide, with funding from USAID. Between 2009 and 2013, the RAPID Fund provided over US\$29 million to local, national and international NGOs. The fund is small in comparison to the Pakistan ERF, which disbursed US\$52 million in the same period, but fills a gap in terms of the speed and flexibility of disbursements. It has no fixed funding windows and takes an average of 9 or 10 days from proposal to disbursement, compared to the 75 days reported by the ERF in its 2013 annual report.³ It also puts an emphasis on supporting local and national NGOs that otherwise may not be able to secure international funding. In 2013, 78% of grants went to local and national NGOs, compared to 34% from the ERF.

Operating at a global level, the Start Fund is described as a “multi-donor pooled fund managed by NGOs, for NGOs”.⁴ It launched in April 2014 for an initial six-month trial period with a budget of US\$3 million from the UK government’s Department for

International Development (DFID) and Irish Aid. Grants are available to the 19 international NGO members of the START Network (formerly the Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies (CBHA)) and their implementing partners.

The Start Fund is set up to fill identified gaps in emergency funding. It particularly focuses on small-to-medium-scale ‘under-the-radar’ emergencies, providing early response to slow-onset crises and rapid response to spikes in chronic emergencies. On receiving an alert from a member agency, the allocation committee must meet within 24 hours, funding must be disbursed within 72 hours and spent within 45 days. In the four months following its launch, the Start Fund disbursed over US\$2 million for crises in South Sudan, Myanmar, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Yemen and Cameroon, targeting around 1.3 million people.