



Provincial Conference on Strengthening Humanitarian Coordination Mechanism in KP-FATA; striving for effective & accountable humanitarian mechanism

National Humanitarian Network (NHN) Pakistan

National Humanitarian Network (NHN) is a volunteer network, founded in 2010 to ensure an efficient and effective humanitarian system led by responsible, accountable humanitarian and disaster management institutions for the development of safer and disaster resilient communities.

NHN from its inception level is acting as an independent and vibrant voice to engage with stakeholders in Pakistan and at regional level for promotion of humanitarian values by influencing policies and building capacities of humanitarian organizations as member of NHN to ensure right based humanitarian governance system. NHN consider its member as the strength of a network and is dedicatedly raising collective voice of Pakistan Civil Society to inform and influence through strategic advocacy, lobbying and strengthening NHN's position as a leading voice at local, provincial, national and regional level.

Background

NHN conducted a Provincial Conference under the theme: ***Strengthening Humanitarian Coordination Mechanism in KP-FATA*** to discuss and exchange humanitarian coordination experiences, learnings and challenges. The objective was to anchor the good practices followed by humanitarian stakeholders at KP-FATA in the diverse geographical, social and economic context of the province/region. Pakistan Civil Society needs to understand the country humanitarian challenges which will help them to train highly skilled cadre of humanitarian leaders as well as technical experts to play an effective role in prevailing humanitarian coordination challenges. This will also support the development of an effective, inclusive and accountable humanitarian architecture by having an appropriate space for civil society as the representative to the voices of the affected community.

Proceedings

The day long activity started with recitation of Holy Quran by Mr. Israr Ali from HOPE'87 followed by a quick round of introduction by all participants. After introduction Ms. Sana Zulfiqar shared agenda of the day.

Welcome Remarks

Mr. Azmat Khan - Provincial Chair NHN KP-FATA welcomed guests with the desire to collectively contribute for the improvement in effective coordination mechanism. He shared the objectives of the conference by highlighting NHN member's continuous efforts in terms of compliance with the regulations and policies of Government and humanitarian standards for providing timely relief to the communities affected by

various disasters. He assured meaningful contribution of NHN for improved coordination keeping at KP and FATA in view the transition of clusters in the region. He asked the participants to be open about the analysis of the existing coordination mechanisms and provide candid and honest feedback on the existing as well as in the proposed coordination structure. Provincial Chair reiterated the vision of NHN for improvement in humanitarian coordination and expressed gratitude for the signing of MoU between NHN and PDMA. He termed it as one step towards joint efforts of NHN and PDMA for improvement in humanitarian coordination.



Session 01: KP-FATA Humanitarian Coordination Overview: Cluster Transition & Expected Challenges

Panelists: Mr. Abdul Basit – Director Relief Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) KP,
Mr. Waheed Anwar – UN OCHA
Ms. Laila Shah Nawaz – NHN KP-FATA

Mr. Abdul Basit thanked NHN and other humanitarian partners for inviting PDMA to this dialogue. He indicated that this is the right time to sit together to deliberate on how to improve the current coordination mechanism between government and all humanitarian actors especially who are working in all three phases of disaster that is pre, during and post. He pointed out that the cluster system is effective during the emergency. The coordination shifts to working group during peace time.

The day to day challenges faced by humanitarian actors is issuance of NOCs. He identified three aspects of this challenge. First: most of the projects nowadays are focusing on Temporary Displaced Persons (TDP) but as per the government of Pakistan there are very few TDPs left in the camps. Thus when projects are designed conflicting the government's stand then the issuance of NOC becomes complicated. Second: PDMA has developed road map for 2014 to 2019 which clearly identifies thematic areas of importance for a resilient KP. The projects shall be designed in line to the road map which will facilitate government to strengthen preparedness element by achieving the road map targets. Which will not only help them to smoothly obtain all the necessary approvals but will also enable the PDMA to achieve its objective of developing a resilient community in the province. Third: organizations should involve PDMA during the early design phase of all DRR related projects. If PDMA is involved in during the project design, then PDMA would positively work for successful completion of the project. PDMA will facilitate them in consulting the relevant government department to achieve the project objectives.



He pointed out that preparedness and mitigation aspect of DRM is neglected in the entire country including KP. PDMA is focused on developing project addressing preparedness and mitigation. He said

that though different donors have their own priorities and areas of work but we should collectively work together to divert the donors' priorities towards resilience based projects especially the infrastructural development and with a key focus towards the vulnerable areas.

Mr. Waheed Anwar said that maximum number of TDPs have returned to their areas of origins however there are approximately 29,000 as per UNHCR fact sheet and approximately 5,000 from Upper Orakzai that had returned but moved back to areas of displacement due to lack of services families in KP are still displaced. The focus of funding is diverting from the areas of displacement to areas of return. The current coordination system in place is the cluster system containing of eight clusters and two sub clusters that are active at the moment. Alongside there are two working groups that are active in FATA. At Provincial level an Inter Cluster Coordination Mechanism (ICCM), Humanitarian Regional Team (HRT) and to analyze access matters a forum named as Humanitarian Access Working Group is functional. All forums are attended by all cluster leads and representatives from NHN/PHF. At country level a Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) operates which includes heads of UN agencies, representatives from NHN, PHF, and ICRC. All these forums and clusters make up the current coordination mechanism operational with focus specifically on KP & FATA.

He informed the audience that the ground situation in the areas of TDPs' return is not very good. The basic services in the areas are not available especially in the recent returnee areas. Therefore, a lot of work needs to be done in those areas that are why majority of projects are designed towards this objective. He added that every donor has their own focus area of funding. Some are funding relief and recovery projects while others are funding for rehabilitation and development. A documents is also being prepared with the help of a detailed survey which cover relief, recovery and development requirements of the area. This report will identify gray areas where the funding should be focused. This will help humanitarian organizations to develop relevant projects proposal and discuss with donors for funding, according to their mandate. He assured that he will request the Resident Coordinator of UN to create linkages between donors and local stakeholders including FDMA, PDMA, DDMA's and local civil society organizations.

He informed that the discussion on cluster transition has been started in order to effectively transfer the responsibility to the relevant stakeholder. By the end of 2018 some of the clusters will face out while some will do it by mid of 2019 and the remaining will close by the end of 2019. The transition will involve capacity enhancement of expected forum members and leads. He anticipated that during the conference it is expected to get dynamic suggestions for the transition so that an effective and smooth transition can take place which will help to ensure the concerns and voice of all stakeholders to be incorporated in the plan.

Ms. Laila Shah Nawaz highlighted the importance of coordination among different stakeholders for an effective implementation of humanitarian activities. She conveyed her concern that when the clusters are not functional then there is no alternative mechanism in place for coordination as is the case in Sindh and Punjab, this creates a lot of issues. She said that NHN member's organizations are involved in multiple sectors like emergency, relief, recovery and development in KP - FATA so this forum can easily sustain the coordination role in future with the support of the government and UN.

Participants shared a lot of suggestions and raised points at the audience voice section. A suggestion was made by the participant that a donor conference should be organized by PDMA with the inclusion of private sector. This will help to sensitize the donors on preparedness and mitigation. Moreover, it will also help different stakeholders to build linkages and enhance coordination.

Another added that there are two types of funds that come into the country. One is the relief fund and the other is development fund. The percentage of relief fund is very less than that of development fund. The relief fund is provided to the NGOs and it is utilized to the maximum. On the other hand, the development fund is provided to the government and major portion of that fund stays unspent and is returned to the donor. Mr. Basit explained that there is a steering committee at the PND level and PDMA is a member of that committee, that has all the donors as its members and they meet regularly with the government hence all members are aware of the funding that is being provided. Using this platform, PDMA has tried multiple times to convince the donors to support road map but they are not interested and are only willing to work on their priorities without having any flexibility in this regard.



On a question Mr. Basit emphasized that a systematic coordination mechanism is must during emergency or even in the peace time. He was of the opinion that PDMA, OCHA and NHN can jointly work in this regards. Mr. Muhamad Amad suggested that we should nationalize the coordination system. We should start with informal meetings with all the national actors. PDMA should take lead in this regard and start a pilot system at KP level. Mr. Waheed agreed with the suggestion of Mr. Amad that PDMA should start having informal meetings where all relevant stakeholders including NHN, PHF and UN should be invited. This will help to develop and effective transition. He put forward his support that he would request the relevant UN agencies who are working on development including UNDP, WFP and UNICEF; to be part of these meetings.

MOU Signing among PDMA KP & NHN KP-FATA Chapter

During the event a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed among PDMA KP and NHN KP-FATA on increasing collaboration and coordination in order to achieve the goal of safer and resilient Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and further strengthen Provincial DRM System to achieve the objective of resilience.



Session 02: Inclusive approach & Humanitarian Coordination Mechanism

Panelists: Mr. Anwar Sadat - Help Age International
Mr. Syed Wajid from UNWOMEN
Mr. Rafi Ullah Khalil – International Red Cross

Mr. Anwar Sadat presented a detail presentation on inclusive approach covering the aspects of the implementers and that of the targeted community. He explained that for inclusive approach firstly we should acknowledge that the community is diverse; it includes women, children, old age people and people with disability, therefore we must address the needs of all these groups in our programs and projects. The basic requirement to for and inclusive approach is the data. We should have information about the number of people belonging to each of these groups even only then we can carter for their needs. However, in Pakistan this data is not available. Even in the recent survey the data about the most vulnerable groups of the society has not been provided. The inclusive approach aims to obtain equality on the basis of equity. He emphasized that inclusiveness also requires the capabilities of people should also be taken into account along with their vulnerabilities.

He educated that while sensitizing the community about inclusion we must be careful not to over sensitize them to the level that they feel excluded. Sometimes when people are focused on the technicalities they overlook the easy solutions and intern end up excluding the groups.

Three barriers in performing an inclusive approach were identified by him. 01: the organizational barrier where different organizations have different priorities and in order to follow their objectives they inevitably exclude some segments of the society. 02: the attitude of the community because of the attitudes people systematically exclude some segments of the society. While sometimes these groups voluntarily exclude themselves. Then there



are technical barriers where there are no mechanisms for identifying the vulnerable.

He highlighted that different organizations are working for all these groups in their own capacity and in their own domain but due to lack of coordination we do not know each other's' interventions. He was happy that FDMA and PDMA have started developing their manuals for inclusiveness in DRR and it is a very good sign for the vulnerable.

Mr. Syed Wajid pointed that we are all coordinating at different levels but we should identify the gaps in coordination and should also discuss how to ensure inclusiveness through coordination. He regretted that most of the projects are developed without getting the ground information of intervention areas. This in turn does not fulfill the needs of the community.

He thanked the PDMA for their stand that no project will be awarded an NOC if it does not incorporate the gender marker in it. However, he was concerned that on paper the projects look gender sensitive but when it comes to implementation then it does not achieve these objectives. The reason is that the implementers are gender blind. Thus we need to develop the capacity of implementers first in order to ensure the effectiveness of the projects. He suggested that we should have a roster of certified people who would be used to implement the projects. This will ensure that the projects are implemented as they are designed on the paper.

Mr. Rafi Ullah said that internationally there are numerous frameworks that have been developed that ensure inclusion in the projects. Then there are gender markers and age and disability guidelines that each donor has designed for their programs but the issue is that there is no awareness to the people that work in the field. He insisted that we should start with our own organizations and at home to ensure inclusion. He also emphasized that we need to overcome the social and physical barriers in our daily life in order to ensure the inclusion of neglected and vulnerable. He stressed that we should work towards incorporating the disabled and vulnerable people into our offices. He informed the audience that disability is not disability itself but it is the environment that makes some one disable. He reemphasized that we need to sensitize ourselves, our family members and our colleagues on inclusiveness. In this regards he said that being the cluster lead I can extend our support in term of awareness raising, in terms of capacity building, and in terms of ensuring that an inclusion related person is present in all clusters. He stressed that inclusion should be centrality of every intervention, policy and strategy that we develop.

Forum was open for discussion and one participant said that we do not spread our learning that we get from trainings moreover whatever we learn from the trainings we do not implement them in our offices. Mr. Wajid informed the audience that US has a rule that an abled body person can only act as a catalyst only a physically challenged person or someone who has a disabled person in his immediate family should work on inclusion related positions. Only such persons fully understand the needs and challenges of disabled people. Therefore, we should also look into the matter from this perspective. We should ask ourselves the questions, have we included the physically challenged and excluded people in our organizations and projects?

Mr. Amad briefed the audience that NHN is in the process of developing an expert roster. He requested the organizations that are experts in their field such as Help Age, IRC and UN women to plan training

sessions for the roster members on volunteer basis in order to enhance their understanding. We should work together to train our people on international standards.

Mr. Rafi Ullah informed the audience that global protection cluster is planning a localization initiative in which they have planned to orient local organizations and people on the workings of clusters. It will also incorporate trainings of local people on different areas of DRM cycle.

Session 03: Brainstorming on:

- i. ***Recommendations for Action Plan/SOPs for Coordination Mechanism at KP***
- ii. ***Recommendations for Action Plan/SOPs for Coordination Mechanism at KP***

Moderator: Mr. Waheed Anwar – UN OCHA

Participants pointed that in past various forums and taskforces were formed but due to lack of interest of members either they collapsed or are non-active. NHN can act as a key coordination forum in future under government umbrella if capacitated by OCHA. Government should take the lead in current situation and NHN should facilitate.

Mr. Azmat Khan said that the coordination mechanism should be an efficient one and we should avoid doing over coordination. The coordination should be aimed at efficient utilization of resource, to get maximum value for money, to avoid duplication, to ensure that the affected deserving community gets the assistance that they need. Moreover, it should also help in advocating resolution of issues that may arise.

Mr. Israr Ali recommended that we should try to build on the existing forums that had been established in past. This would help to reduce time, effort and money in initial setup of the mechanism. NHN, PHF and OCHA should first do a mapping of previously developed forums in the province. The learning’s from this mapping should be used to develop coordination mechanism. Suggestion was made that scope of future mechanism shall be defined first. Government should take lead especially for FATA but local organizations should help government in capacity development. Resources are very necessary for sustainability.

Objectives	Recommendations for Action Plan/SOPs for Coordination Mechanism at KP	Recommendations for Action Plan/SOPs for Coordination Mechanism at FATA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid duplication • Synergy • Image building 	PDMA – Lead Coordination Mechanism for developmental and preparedness projects	One Window Operation (FDMA – TDP Secretariat – DOP)
	NHN – Co Lead	NHN / PHF voices ensured in FATA
	OCHA & PHF – Facilitate	Transition Task Force

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge management • Advocacy • Information sharing • Resource mobilization 	Private sector, Academia, Media – Members along with humanitarian partners	
	Decentralized Mechanism – Provincial & District level	
	Quarterly Meetings	

Session 04: Opportunities & Challenges for Civil Society in FATA

Moderator: Mr. Israr Ali – PHF

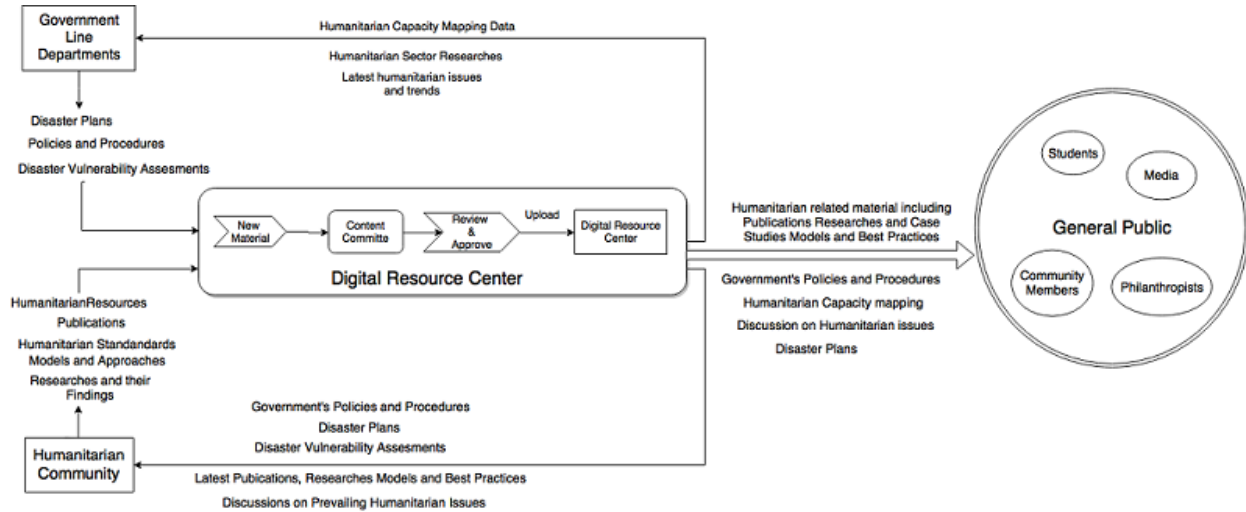
Session was moderated through a group work. Two groups were formed among participants to discuss Opportunities and Challenges for Civil Society in FATA. Following opportunities and challenges were identified by the diverse groups:

Opportunities in FATA for Civil Society	Challenges in FATA for Civil Society
Establishment of infrastructure	Access
Strengthening coordination	Coordination with political administration and line departments
Improvement of health facilities	Local staff capacity (condition to hire local staff)
Employment opportunities	Productivity of local staff
Education facilities and staff capacities	Waiting time at security check posts
Food security and livelihood	Trust deficit
Psycho-social support	Non-availability of reliable data
Micro Hydro power stations establishment	Difficult field areas
Enterprise development	Lack of business opportunities
Utilization of local resources	Non-availability of reliable data
Expected extension of constitution to FATA	Difficult field areas
WASH facilities	Monitoring and feed back
Introduce business opportunities	Communication (mobile network)
	Gender inequality

NHN Digital Resource Center (DRC)

Ms. Sana Zulfiqar – National Humanitarian Coordinator gave a detailed presentation on NHN Digital Resource Center (DRC). She informed that NHN is engaged to leverage access to information through humanitarian platforms/networks for increased coordination and collaboration. NHN has set-up a digital

resource center enabling local organizations, individuals and humanitarian community to retrieve desired information which is more authentic and reliable. This multi-purpose web portal alongside equipped with discussion board features galvanizes two-way communication. Hence, the effort will transform conventional web portal beyond active learning and sharing resource. NHN believes in free access to knowledge and information for every one for a better humanitarian governance and accountability. One of the objectives of DRC is to provide a platform to national/local organizations where they can place their knowledge products and stakeholders can access the information nationally and regionally. DRC targets the knowledge products primarily focused on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) cycle. Briefly DRC business model was explained to the participants.



Each component of DRC was briefly illuminated to the participants. For details kindly visit: www.resourcecenter.nhnpakistan.org

Closing Remarks

NHN Chair – Muhamad Amad expressed that close coordination and collaboration among humanitarian organizations and government is the key element to strengthen the National Disaster Management System. He paid his gratitude and renewed determination that together we can make Pakistan a Resilient Nation.

