



**Joint Statement  
Amid COVID-19 outbreak.**

We as Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) and National Humanitarian Network (NHN) re-affirm our resolve to support efforts and initiatives of the Government of Pakistan in challenging times and offer full support for its relief assistance operations to sustain its efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic to protect communities and citizens in desperate times.

**WE fully APPRECIATE the clear commitment and resolve shown by Federal and Provincial governments' in ensuring quality and timely medical care being provided to those affected by corona virus pandemic.**

We also greatly appreciate the timely decision of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) allowing National and International NGO's to step-up their efforts for supporting NDMA and PDMAs and all other local, provincial and national authorities fighting against COVID-19 outbreak. The decision indicates confidence of the government on the role and contribution of I/NGOs in the past in tackling such national catastrophes and will galvanize the humanitarian resources and efforts through humanitarian organizations working across the length and breadth of the country. This decision will also boost avenues of cooperation, joint-action and complementarity of efforts. However, streamlining formal coordination mechanisms can fetch positive outcomes efficiently and effectively in such difficult situations.

We also greatly appreciate the commitment and voluntary spirit of frontline healthcare facilitators, paramedics, law enforcement, army personnel and, their families helping out citizens by risking their lives. Their commitment and sacrifices are and will be deeply appreciated.

We note with pleasure the announcement the financial assistance announced by HE, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, to strengthen the response by institutions, organizations, volunteers and authorities to this pandemic. This will definitely augment the national agenda for humanitarian assistance and national integration.

#### **OUR SUPPORT:**

Both PHF and NHN as platforms of active and credible International and National NGOs and humanitarian workers from across Pakistan are offering support in humanitarian situation mainly focusing on critical areas of food security and nutrition programmes, Livelihood uplift and economic empowerment. Members of these forums are well experienced in dealing with emergencies across the globe and within the country. These platforms can assist the government of Pakistan especially the NDMA and PDMAs in the field operations.

These platforms can offer sizeable outreach support to government efforts, especially to reach difficult/remote areas, accessing communities, identifying people in need and raising awareness on safe practices and preventive measures through nationwide campaigns.

The organizations who are part of both networks have started their health facilities to support the government in dealing with the pandemic and will make all out efforts to arrange all required medical kits and equipment without any cost, efficiently.

**WE THEREFORE REQUEST THE FOLLOWING:**

1. All medical equipment, kits, machinery etc. brought in to fight COVID19 should be dealt as most urgent at port of entry and procedures be made efficient to save on critical time.
2. All duties, taxes for NGOs be waived off to ensure the delivery of required items at affordable costs.
3. Define a clear humanitarian response plan inculcating and formalizing role and contribution of both all stakeholders including PHF & NHN. Both entities can support NDMA in developing strategic frameworks for the response with all essential requirements for ensuring efficiency both in operations and information dissemination.

