



POSITION PAPER

National Humanitarian Network

The National Humanitarian Network (NHN) is a decentralized network of National NGOs (NNGOs) in Pakistan, led by an elected Chair and Central Executive Committee nationally, with six provincial/regional chapters i.e. Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa/FATA, Azad Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. Founded in 2010 to act as an independent and vibrant voice to engage with stakeholders throughout Pakistan for promotion of humanitarian values by influencing policies and building capacities to ensure right based humanitarian response.

The network has since decentralized and established provincial chapters and has taken up a formal representational role for the NNGO community in Pakistan at high-level coordination meetings. As of 09 March 2015 NHN has 176 members across Pakistan and membership is open for all national and local organizations engaged in humanitarian assistance or disaster management advocacy. NHN is continually improving its capacity to act as an effective institution for raising voice of national civil society in Pakistan.

World Humanitarian Summit- Localizing Response to Better Benefit the Affected

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Turkey in May 2016 aims at major reforms to adapt the humanitarian system for future crises, as well as to better assist and protect people today. Pakistan National Humanitarian Network believes that if the WHS is serious about a transformative agenda and if they have placed the needs and interest of the affected population at the Centre of all this change, then a very strong transformation in localizing preparedness and response should be factored into the summit outcomes. NHN recommends:

1. Put partnership between local and international humanitarian agencies at the heart of WHS initiatives to 'localize' humanitarian action

At local level, empower local actors including national CSOs, CBOs and women groups to meaningfully participate in efforts to localize humanitarian action and partner with humanitarian agencies. Local specialists' knowledge must inform emergency preparedness and humanitarian assessments, programme design, quality and accountability efforts. Social accountability processes can be used to bring women's voices into the design, monitoring and accountability of resilience and preparedness efforts in dialogue between government authorities and local communities¹.

¹Potential indicators include: By 2018, post-Sendai DRR national strategies have identified steps to consult women and women's organizations at national, regional and local levels; and partnerships have been established between multi-mandate NGOs and local women's organizations to facilitate women and girls participation in DRR design, monitoring and accountability

National DRM framework for CSOs should be created with consultation from both INGOs and National NGOs to ensure that partnership between the two actors is realized.

Emphasis on creation of innovative ways of working with and involving private sector in preparedness and response to humanitarian situations, while working closely with CSOs and community groups and the affected population.

2. Integrate commitments on international Humanitarian Law and Human Rights framework and humanitarian aid effectiveness with national processes and frameworks

Governments commit to international instruments by ratifying them but do not follow up to their full implementation. At the national level, ensure that the legal frameworks are localized to fit in the country context and ensure the humanitarian principles are respected even where government and military are one and the same.

CSOs should commit to drafting and ensuring that localized legal versions of international instruments as well as the secondary legislation for the national and provincial laws are in place to overcome the current existing ambiguities.

3. Clarify on the role of National CSOs in humanitarian preparedness and response


Use the outcomes of the WHS to ensure that the role of CSOs is strengthened further with National CSO Less dependent on INGO and the UN for funding that makes them primarily like private contractors only viewed for service delivery. More open and transparent processes as well as equal opportunities for both national and international actors put in place to ensure indigenous knowledge and practices are fully implemented to meet the needs of the affected population.



INGOs should fully commit to building the capacity of national NGOs in Program design, working with very clear and inclusive TOR's and mutual planning. Prioritize the Education of line department how to incorporate DRR in their Planning Commission 1. Formation of response and coordination units in line with government structures in place so as to increase close coordination and interaction between national, international and community based actors.

4. Humanitarian financing to ensure improving the functions of the local government structures including community structures are put at the Centre

Use the outcomes of the WHS to ensure the establishment of long term humanitarian financing which take care of DRR and resilience intervention. Focus should also be put on strengthening local, government and community based structures to better prepare them in cases of reoccurrence and to reduce the one time off scale responses. Governments to commit resources to minimize risks, this should be by allocating a certain percentage of budget for DRR and having very specific budget lines for DRR in all departments as well as ensuring humanitarian and Development agencies also prioritize DRR in their programming. DRR must be linked with SDGs as well.

NHN NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

 House # 46, Street # 15, F-11/2, Islamabad - Pakistan.

 +92 51 2111651-3  +92 51 8433771

 www.nhnpakistan.org