

Annex 3: Some International Organisations and Agencies Involved in Disaster Management in Pakistan

Some of the principal international donor agencies engaged in disaster management in Pakistan are listed below, together with a brief summary of their activities.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Crisis Prevention and Recovery Unit (CPRU) of the United Nations Development Programme has been undertaking quite a number of activities pertaining to disaster relief and management. The Unit liaises between UN Agencies as well as NGOs and INGOS and the relevant authorities in the Government of Pakistan. It also acts as the Secretariat of the UN Disaster Management Team under the Chairmanship of the UN Resident Coordinator. Additionally, the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Unit has the responsibility of monitoring disasters and emergencies and providing up-to-date information on the situation.

Proposed National Disaster Management Agency

The UNDP has proposed a five-year programme to the federal government to be nationally executed by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) within the structure of the Emergency Relief Cell. The proposal was submitted after reviewing the existing capacity of the government sector and civil society for disaster preparedness and management. The programme is designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of mechanisms at the federal, provincial, and district levels by management of both the risk and consequence of a disaster episode.

Vision – The vision of the programme proposed is to create a culture of prevention and preparedness to address everyday hazards and to meet the consequences of disasters by managing both the risk and impact of natural and human-induced catastrophes effectively.

Goal – To build disaster resilient urban and rural communities, by creating a culture of prevention to address everyday hazards and by managing the risk from natural and human-induced disasters.

The programme has been designed to achieve the following outcomes.

- Improved institutional capacity development of federal, provincial, and district government and civil society stakeholders with contemporary approaches, methods, and techniques in disaster-risk reduction

- National policy, legislation, and plans aimed at adopting an all-risk approach to disaster management
- Effective multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral, and inter-governmental disaster response and mitigation systems for all-risk disaster risk reduction formulated and applied

The institutional arrangements proposed for achieving the above-mentioned outcomes are as follows.

- The strengthening of the Emergency Relief Cell in the Cabinet Division with an expanded role and renaming it the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA). The NDMA will serve as the secretariat to the National Disaster Management Commission (NDMC). The Agency shall undertake the following tasks.
 - i. To ensure the establishment and maintenance of incident command structures that enable efficient operational coordination for all disasters at all levels and promote awareness and capacity building at all levels
 - ii. To collect, analyse, process, and disseminate the intersectoral information required in all hazard management approaches
 - iii. To mobilise the financial and material resources required
 - iv. To carry out hazard mapping and vulnerability analyses
 - v. To establish emergency services
 - vi. To establish Disaster Management Committees incrementally at all levels
 - vii. To coordinate monitoring and reviews to assess the validity of the national disaster policy to see whether amendments are necessary
 - viii. To serve as the lead agency for international non-government agencies to ensure their performance matches accepted international standards
 - ix. To serve as the lead agency for the GoP in regional and international disaster management cooperation
 - x. To establish a National Disaster Prevention Day, the activities of which will be public awareness, exhibitions on disaster management, and fund raising for a National Disaster Emergency Fund
- To establish Disaster Management Committees at Provincial and District level
- To establish Disaster Management at Tehsil level
- To engage NGOs, other stakeholders, the media, and UN agencies in the process
- The new mechanism will be linked to a Regional Initiative for Disaster Risk Management by the UNDP. This initiative covers a network of eleven countries in Southwest and Central Asia and its objective is knowledge networking for disaster risk management in drought, earthquake, and floods and for cross-cutting themes.

The total estimated cost for the programme is US\$ 15.5 million, of which the UNDP has agreed to allocate US\$ 2.5 million. A modified version of this proposal has been recently implemented in Pakistan (December 2006).

INGO Forum for Disaster Preparedness and Response

A humanitarian forum for emergency response and preparedness was established in June 2003 with the following objectives.

- Regular information sharing
- Enhanced coordination with the government and other key players in the humanitarian sector
- Building linkages and collective representation before government and institutional donors
- Continual monitoring of all humanitarian responses in the country
- Standardisation and ensuring quality in emergency responses
- Capacity building and research and documentation

Currently, the Church World Service is acting as the forum secretariat. The founding members (organisations) include Islamic Relief (UK), Oxfam GB, Church World Service, Catholic Relief Service, Save the Children (UK, USA, and Sweden), Concern, Plan International, Mercy Corps International, and Relief International.

Emergency Resource Centre (ERC)

The Church World Service established the ERC in May 2004 with a mission to enhance the capacity of various stakeholders in civil society to combat natural and man-made disasters proactively and reactively. The ERC has the following objectives.

- To develop a comprehensive database on various aspects of emergencies
- To undertake academic research for the generation and synthesis of knowledge
- To acquire and extract knowledge from ground experiences
- To construct dialogue on the basis of knowledge generated with relevant stakeholders
- To encourage meaningful engagement and dialogue between all stakeholders on emergency-related issues

FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance

FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance is an international group of agencies established in Europe, North America, and South Asia to complement the provision of emergency relief, principally in the developing world. It is affiliated with the Aga Khan Development Network, a group of institutions. Unlike most of the NGOs active in rescue, relief, and rehabilitation, FOCUS also functions in mitigation areas. Some of the contributions of FOCUS in Pakistan include the following.

- Development of an inventory of landslides in three major districts (Chitral, Gilgit, and Ghizer) in the northern areas and initiation of engineering work on some selected landslides

- Development of an inventory of Debris Flow Hazards in Chitral, Ghizer, and Gilgit districts
- Training of over 30,000 volunteers in different areas of Pakistan, but more specifically in the Northern Areas and Chitral, in emergency preparedness, rescue, and relief
- Awareness programmes about safety measures and about natural hazards and disasters
- Trained and equipped Search and Rescue Teams capable of undertaking light-medium search and rescue
- One hundred members of the Disaster Assessment Response Team were trained to assess the immediate needs of the communities in case of a disaster.

