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ILLUME

Humanitarian Assistance
JANUARY - JUNE 2011

Q U A R T E R L Y

- Interview with
An Advisor on Risk Management
Mr. Usman Qazi
- Humanitarian Response By NPO's
- Humanitarian Assistance Revisited (Article)



HRD Human Resource
network Development Network



JANUARY - JUNE 2011

ILLUME

QUARTERLY

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EDITORIAL

Humans: an abstract reasoning

Humans evolved as one family by moving through numerous challenges not just as individuals but by working as a community and by creating a sense of responsibility and care for the same race. It is not long that communities started assisting other related communities in times of crisis by offering their lands, crops, medicines and even human resources in order to rescue and rehabilitate and also initiated preventive measures.

Religion as a major institute brought their divine tools and ideas to assist human sufferings from centuries, right from catastrophes to massive wars, from mammoth economic crisis to plagues, religion in its brightest form opposed not just slavery and unjust trade but mobilize movements to rescue humans philosophically but genuinely described a path to allocate resources in time of need and crisis for others or culturally correct as our own race.

We as a family have passed from different epochs of sufferings, from abolition of slave trade campaign in Britain, USA, France and Portugal to Civil and independence wars, from floods in China (1887 Yellow River, costing 900,000 lives) to epidemics like Cholera in India 1904-1909, spreads to southeast Asia and Russia, plague in India 1904-1907 spreads to Burma and eventually Manchuria 1910-11 costed volcanic sufferings.

Coming down to road of 21st century claiming modern tools to predict natural disasters,

machinery and technology to cope with any upcoming natural or social problem yet leaves a huge margin of error where our own technology fails to correspond and add barriers to assistance. The rate of natural disasters hitting us has increased in past few decades, same as the case with civil unrest causing thousands of lives and refugees crossing borders for shelter, food and peace. The humanitarian assistance requires a lion's share to devise a strategy or a system to cope with upcoming issues in order to save precious lives and idea of living together by sharing resources. We as a family have mature background of responding to disasters but lack skills in order to prevent or prepare people living in conflict or disaster active zones.

It is very important to collect research based evidence and facts which can lead to a chain process for several brains working in the similar fields of assisting humanity at all levels, the disaster not just leaves pain and sufferings but unimaginable case studies of living under open sky, sexual harassments, ration politics, land mafia and poor cash handling mechanism.

Humanitarian assistance is not just a name of providing logistical, material, medical or financial aid rather a complete philosophy which roots its actual spirit in care, tolerance and thinking and living out of the box.

Illume in your hand gives a bird eye view on different HRDN's member organization providing assistance in Pakistan, a special interview of Usman Qazi who is a sound professional and an expert on the issues of humanitarian assistance followed by articles on the same topic by young scholars.

Syed Shaheer Ellahi

CONTENTS

“Disasters shaping lives” - Interview with Mr. Usman Qazi	05
Post Flood Humanitarian Assistance:	
Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) and Pakistan Humanitarian Alliance (PHA)	07
Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP)	09
National Rural Support Programme (NRSP)	11
Sungi Development Organization	13
Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)	15
Humanitarian Assistance Revisited – Ms. Anjum Gull Mughal	17
Media in Action – Ms. Sameeha Khaliq	19
Snapshot of HRDN Activities	21
Potpourri	24

INTERVIEW WITH MR. USMAN QAZI ON DISASTER RESPONSE

1. How would you define the disaster and your role in its response?

Disaster is a natural occurrence that causes massive damage to the infrastructure of the society and mankind. We humans are related to the cause and effects of the disaster. Some causes of disasters are natural while other are unnatural, For example last year flood came due to climatic change and it is proven that we humans have a major role in climatic change and In this way, we are also taking part in producing disasters.

2. What is a disaster response in context of Pakistani scenario?

We are a very rich nation in terms of resources but we lack foresightedness. When earthquake in 2005 stroked the country, we did an outstanding relief for the affected but what we did was in reaction of the disaster and nothing was done to avoid the disaster itself. Even after the earthquake, during the rehabilitation activities, very little work was done for the “risk reduction” and “preparedness” for any disaster.

3. What challenges do we face in case of responding to a disaster?

In my opinion, there are three major challenges that we face in disaster response:

- i. The first major challenge is **management**. In response of the disaster, every person, government and non government organizations work for the rescue and rehabilitation. In such situation a huge responsibility lies on government institutions to manage the efforts of the people as if these efforts are improperly managed, they can be less productive or even detrimental.
- ii. The second major challenge is the **assessment of requirement** and rescue activities.



Mr. Usman Qazi is a community development, human rights and humanitarian relief worker from Pakistan. He has more than nineteen years of experience in sustainable community development, capacity building and humanitarian response with a special focus on water resource management.

When there is a disaster, we rush to aid the affected people with everything without taking into the account their requirements by that way a lot of aid goes unused or wasted at the end of the day.

- iii. The third major challenge is the *information* management system of foreigner rescuers and organizations. To utilize their abilities and resources to the fullest, a proper organized mechanism is required.
- ### 4. How do you perceive the disaster management capacity of the state?

I think that at present, the disaster management capacity of the nation is not much appreciable which we need to seriously think of.

Disaster management is as successful as its results. We saw two major disasters in last six years and I would say again that we did quite well but all that was a reactive action. For example, Army does a lot in rescue and relief activities. Nonetheless, key role of the army is to secure the borders. Army is not for rescuing people in disasters and for this purpose there are civil organizations like Hilal-e-Ahmer and Civil Defense which have been dissolved. So we need to think on these patterns. Should we call army in every natural disaster? Its a million dollar question. I would say that we have the

capacity for dealing with disasters but this capacity is actually not for this purpose. After 2005, the government of Pakistan formed an institute named **National Disaster Management Authority** with which I am working right now and it has been assigned to deal with all the natural disasters and in every aspect of them like *search and rescue, relief, restructure, risk reduction and preparedness* etc. It has a very large mandate but unfortunately due to several reasons there hasn't been much investment in this department. That's why we are unable to perform at times what is being expected from us.

5. What capacity building is required to cope with future emergencies and how coordination is ensured among different stakeholders in a complex situation of relief phase?

First of all, I would say that we are in a much better state than two decades ago. With the revolution in information technology we have much more information these days. Now it can be accurately forecasted that what the chances of floods are in the next few weeks. Likewise, areas that are in danger of flood or earthquake can be identified with 100 percent accuracy. The first step is to use that information in devising proper solutions. The second step is to devise some laws using this information and the third step is to implement these laws.

What is required is the development of a cooperative procedure between provincial and federal government to define the code of conduct and procedures to deal with the disasters.

6. What role local organizations can play in the call of emergency?

I think that local organizations can be a very useful platform for disaster management and response management. They can create a sense of voluntary compliance among the

people. For this they still need to be properly managed and trained. Local organizations can play a sound role for sensitizing and creating awareness for coping with disaster situations and can effectively teach risk reduction and preparedness.

7. What most effective strategy and cash transfer mechanism can be adopted to revitalize the communities after any calamity?

The most resilient institution in the world is market, and cash is vital ingredient of market. Cash is advantageous as it can be used anywhere to buy whatever is needed but the distribution of hard cash is problematic because the decision to use this money is on money holder and they sometime spend that money on things that come under luxury items. So for this, conditional cash transfer system is used in which commodity is placed in market and vouchers are distributed among the affected. Another most appropriate method is to issue visa cards using NADRA's Database. In this method, visa cards are distributed among the people and they can withdraw cash from any ATM using those cards, In my view that is the most efficient and transparent method of cash transfer.

8. How the Federal and Provincial Government and all stakeholders can mutually work for Effective Disaster Management and preparedness?

I think the preparedness and training should be at grass root level. If the disaster is beyond the capacity of provincial government, then response should be on national level. Response is still reactive, so what is required is the development of a cooperative procedure between provincial and federal government to define the code of conduct and procedures to cope with the disasters. They should also define **gears** on which the federal government will take over the response management.

FLOOD RESPONSE BY HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (HRDN) AND PAKISTAN HUMANITARIAN ALLIANCE (PHA) “TOGETHER WE CAN”

Introduction

Floods are not new phenomena in Pakistan. There have been 50 floods in the last 28 years. The recent floods in Pakistan has been worst incident which have killed over 1,600 people, left two million homeless, washed away crops and farm animals.

Pakistan Humanitarian Alliance (PHA)



HRDN is leading the Pakistan Humanitarian Alliance (PHA), a coordination body of eleven civil society organizations to respond the disasters in different parts of Pakistan. The organizations included in PHA are:

- » Human Resources Development Network (HRDN), Islamabad, Pakistan
- » DevCon Development Consultants (DevCon), Islamabad, Pakistan
- » Association for Human Development (AHD), Islamabad, Pakistan
- » Complete Human Resource Solutions (CHRS), Islamabad, Pakistan

- » Pakistani Hoslamand Khawateen Network (PHKN), Haripur, KP
- » Women Association Struggle for Development (WASDF), Swabi, KPK
- » ROHI Development Foundation Rajanpur, South Punjab
- » Rawadari Development Organization (RDO), Multan, South Punjab
- » Research and Development Foundation (RDF), Nawabshah, Thattha, Sindh
- » Marvi Rural Development Organization (MRDO), Khairpur, Sukkur, Sindh
- » Alpa Foundation, Islamabad, Pakistan



Activities Conducted by PHA:

1. PHA conducted a meeting of its members to rectify the flood flash. Therefore, PHA (Pakistan Humanitarian Alliance) started to contact their other alliance members which were mainly working in all major areas affected by flood.



2. PHA organized free medical camps and flood relief camps for provision of medi-

cines and dry ration along with other necessities.



had received humanitarian aid and assistance from their alliance members and also gets support of local community. PHA target was to provide basic survival necessities.

If we don't do it, we will be spending far, far more than that to clean up the mess of this humanitarian tragedy. . . . This needs to be done and done now."
Bill Clinton

1. For hygiene promotion and awareness Hygiene Kit was introduced. The hygiene kit contained the basic sanitation items.
2. In response to country-wide flooding, PHA

Human Resource Development Network pays gratitude to all of its alliance members that worked tirelessly to provide supplies and support to those that were and are in need.



FERO FLOOD EMERGENCY RELIEF OPERATION (2010-2011) BALOCHASTAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (BRSP)



“BRSP has contributed significantly in disaster mitigation and response during Drought, Cyclone Yemyin of 2007, earthquake of 2008 and Flood that hit Balochistan

in 2010. BRSP has served nearly one million populations in floods 2010 and in overall emergencies more than 2.3 million affected population by providing food, NFIs, Emergency WASH Response, Health services, Camp Coordination and Management, construction of 10200 shelters and early recovery interventions. I am proud to see BRSP as a leading organization in Balochistan that continues to thrive in the most challenging terrain in the country”.

Nadir Gul Barech
Chief Executive BRSP

BACKGROUND

Several districts of Baluchistan faced the wrath of tropical cyclone followed by devastating flood which caused torrential rains and flash floods in more than 13 districts in the province in July resulting widespread destruction affecting thousands of household. In this context there was a dire need for proper management & coordination of the camps and IDPs in different districts of Baluchistan. BRSP realized the need for proper & systematic management of IDP camps and the information flow to humanitarian community for better provision of relief packages to people living in miserable conditions.

We cannot build our own future without helping others to build theirs.”

Bill Clinton

The process of relief and rehabilitation took place in two steps. In the first step, relief operations were conducted and in the second, the projects regarding early recovery were implemented.

Relief operation

First of all, teams were formed and assignments were given to the teams as well as individual members. BRSP teams, with the help of Pak Army and other local organizations, carried a door to door survey to make assessment of the most vulnerable. Tokens were allotted to the affected families which contained time and date of their food packages. Computerized record was maintained at regional and head office of BRSP and daily briefing was held to discuss the progress.

Food distribution was held at distribution points and each family head was provided with the food basket contained wheat flour, edible oil, sugar, pulses, biscuit, salt, dates, rice, mineral water etc. same procedure was carried out for non-food items.

Teams at regional and head office monitored the whole supply and distribution process and acted to cover any possible gaps in the system.

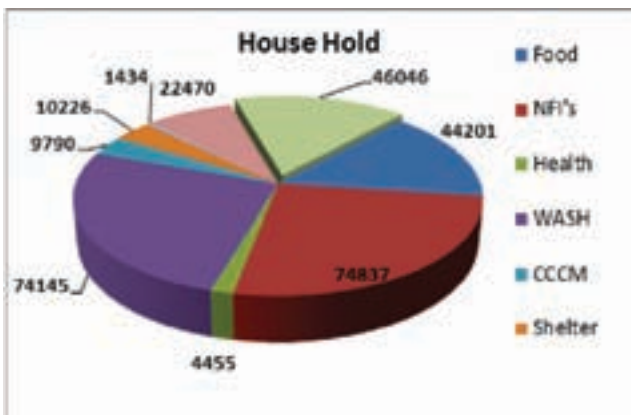
Early Recovery

BRSP deployed their human resources for identification of shelter beneficiaries, carried out complete assessment, hired warehouses, signed MOUs with beneficiary households, engaged in the taking GPS coordinates, formed village level shelter committees, distributed tokens for shelter and then ensured transparent delivery of the shelter material after verification

of physical work. In addition, the technical guidance was provided by the engineers within the jurisdiction of field units.

The social mobilization teams and engineers collected data on regular basis, Data entry operators feed the data into computer which was consolidated at BRSP head office.

Overall Achievements



BRSP played a vital role in Flood Emergency Relief Operation 2010-2011 and helped flood affected in terms of food provision, NFI's, Health and WASH facilities, CCCM, provision of Shelters, construction of infrastructure, and provision of agriculture and livestock inputs, diagram shows overall families benefited:

SUCCESS STORY



Mashuk Ali faced the horrible heavy flood in district Jaffarabad. Mashuk Ali is already paralyzed from both legs and have three children. BRSP social mobilization team visited Got-Nazamuddin where and visited his ragged house. In one week period the complete concrete shelter was constructed (size 14X20) by BRSP contractor. Now Mashuk Ali, his children and wife are extremely delighted and consider this one room shelter as a guardian angel.



NRSP's WORK ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



“NRSP always responded to the disasters in its programme area, it came in a big way in response to the 2005 earthquake. Post 2010 floods, NRSP mobilized the COs/VOs/LSOs and coordinated with the district governments to ensure proper needs identification and efficient implementation of rescue, relief, recovery and rehabilitation projects. NRSP is thankful to district government agencies, UN agencies (FAO, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR), USAID local and international donors”.

Malik Fateh Khan,
PC NRSP

Local Support Organizations (LSOs)

NRSP has a network of grass root level Community Organizations and a cadre of trained activists. As in the earthquake 2005, NRSP responded to the floods by initiating emergency rescue operations in the worst hit areas. NRSP established Emergency Relief operations in all affected districts setting up an Emergency Response Cell at its Head Office. Disaster response units were also set up at regional level in Nowshehra (KPK), Dera Ghazi Khan, Mianwali, Rahim Yar Khan (Punjab), Muzaffarabad (AJK) and Sukkur (Sindh).

NRSP allocated more than Rs. 16 million for immediate relief goods including food, water, shelter and medical aid with women and children as a first priority. NRSP conducted a Rapid Assessment of the flood damages through its network of community based organizations' activists and shared the information with INGOs/NGOs, Government and other stakeholders. A campaign was also initiated by NRSP to

mobilize resources networking with UN, US-AID, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, International Humanitarian Aid agencies, particularly Shelter Box, Rotary International and Diakonie and a number of other local stakeholders.

NRSP's Flood Relief Operation	
Particulars	Households
Food	517,973
NFI	80,557
Shelter	77,860
WASH	100,519
Agriculture Support (Seeds+DAP+Fertiliser etc)	12,486
	Individuals
Cooked Food	48,082
Medical Aid	185,386
Livestock care	45,522

NRSP provided relief goods to over 1,134,772 households during this period. Table-1 shows the details of the NRSP flood relief operation.

NRSP provided food, shelter and hygiene facilities as the most pressing need of affected households. For this NRSP prepared a Food Item Package/Food Hamper to cover household requirements for a two-week period. Hygiene kits were also developed, particularly to cater the needs of women and children.

Contribution of NRSP Fostered Local Support Organizations (LSOs)

The NRSP's countrywide network of LSOs has been highly proactive in emergency relief efforts. With strong social networks at local level, LSOs proved to be the most efficient and effective tool for emergency relief. They not only were able to quickly access to tens of thousands of affected households but also pooled local level resources and strengthened NRSP's relief operations by volunteering their services.

98 LSOs across Pakistan participated in the relief operations reaching 354,214 households with a variety of relief activities. They provided food, medical assistance, clothing, livestock care, non-food items and emergency support for sustaining livelihoods. LSOs generously responded to NRSP's appeal for cash donations which was placed in accounts set up specifically for Flood Relief operations. Cumulatively, LSOs collected and donated Rs.853, 000 in cash to strengthen NRSP's emergency relief operations.

NRSP's Emergency Relief through National and International Humanitarian Aid Agencies

NRSP worked with a number of national and international stakeholders to respond to the floods. These organizations include Diakonie, USAID, different UN agencies, RSPN, PPAF, Concern World Wide, Rotary, and embassies from different countries and local/ national government in Pakistan.



SUNGI's HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN FLOODS 2010



“With the belief that response at the local level is crucial for effective relief to the disaster survivors, Sungi has accepted the responsibility of helping in building a coordination mechanism between the local organizations working for relief and rehabilitation at district level and state institutions with the mandate of Disaster Management.”

Samina Khan
CEO Sungi

Sungi initiated a quick flood response by mobilizing existing human, financial and material resource available with Sungi and its partners. Sungi helped thousands of people to move to safe places, provided rescue and relief assistance through community based disaster response mechanism developed during the past many years in its working area of Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa (KPK) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Sungi together with other humanitarian actors, including district government invested in Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) and developed local humanitarian response capacity in the working areas.

Early Warning, Rescue, Relief and Emergency Health

Sungi's Emergency Response Team (SERT) comprising trained and experienced staff was, prepared to move within an hour to respond disasters, and a small emergency reserve fund and stock piles of Non Food Items (NFIs) was available. Sungi arranged emergency health

camps and provided clean drinking water, sanitation and food assistance to the flood survivors in affected areas of KPK, AJK, South Punjab and Baluchistan.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



Sungi was able to support over 227,000 people to meet their needs in this sector by providing safe drinking water through repairing and installing water pumps, gravity drinking water supply schemes, and water filtration and purification units. Sungi also provided health and hygiene kits and health and hygiene awareness program.

Shelter and household NFIs

Shelter was an acute need and Sungi supported flood victims by providing them with winteriza-

tion kits and household non-food items during the emergency phase. Reconstruction of damaged houses was supported through providing construction materials and technical support.

Cash Grants – Cash for Choice

To provide quick financial assistance, Sungi initiated cash grants programme with financial assistance of Oxfam Novib in Disrtricts of Nowshera and Charsada of KPK. Through this programme 5,312 households were provided cash for choice grant of Rs. 25,000 each.

Livelihoods improvement and Early Recovery

Sungi’s emergency response and early recovery had inbuilt livelihoods rehabilitation components. Assets enhancement to restocks the lost assets, and to build peoples capacities to enable them to cope with the effects of future

shocks and to rehabilitate their livelihoods had been taken care of in all project designs.

Humanitarian Advocacy and Networking

Sungi represented NHN in strategic working group of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and in similar other forums and used this opportunity to provide perspective of the communities and national humanitarian organizations to UN, Donors and the government.

Quality and Accountability

Sungi follows humanitarian standards in its work and promotes these to be followed by other humanitarian actors. Sphere standards were followed in all Sungi’s programme interventions.



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE BY SPO

By: Atif Sandhu

The concluding days of July 2010 brought unprecedented disaster for the state of Pakistan and her people. The scale and intensity of the disaster was way beyond the handling capacity of entire humanitarian workforce available within the country. Federal and provincial governments were almost confused and paralyzed; humanitarian organizations were running around for curtailing the effects of disasters. Global community quickly moved, pulled the socks and landed for facing the challenges presented by super floods. The inundation affected most of the flat areas of Punjab and Sindh provinces and ruined around 62,000 square miles, displacing more than 23 million people and destroying around 1 million houses. Over 5000 miles of roads, and about 400 hospitals and 7,000 schools were swept under the uncontrollable waters. The floods rendered millions of people in urgent need of respite and relief.



“Floods of 2010 left deep scars of disaster on poor communities of Pakistan. Whereas the disaster was unprecedented, the response and resilience was also tremendous. Pakistan has braced a series of disasters in recent years

with towering courage. Climate change is likely to trigger more frequent and intense disasters in the coming years. Pakistan needs a comprehensive planning for disaster preparedness and response.”

CEO SPO,
Naseer Memon

National organizations and local communities however did not wait for donor money to respond this emergency. SPO and its local partner organizations were among those who not only

highlighted the miseries of affected population and appealed for urgent help but also launched relief activities with their own meager resources right after the onset of catastrophe. SPO was soon able to mobilize resources to extend its relief operations all over the country.

The humanitarian thing is to try to do all we can for these people,
~ Tim Horton

SPO took no time in taking the decision of responding the emergency situation. Organization decided to engage its more than 250 regular staff members and thousands of volunteers into the early days of disasters for rapid assessment so a candid picture and information pack could be obtained directly from the field. All this stuff ultimately was used in accurate planning and designing of emergency response.

Special project department was primarily responsible for disseminating flood alerts through its websites, emails and fax to various stakeholders on daily basis. Simultaneously, the response team started attending cluster meetings and sharing the data with other member organizations. Moreover, team members were constantly in touch with donors, INGOs and UN agencies for finalizing the details of various emergency projects.

A number of new donor organizations developed partnerships with SPO during the emergency relief phase. SPO was proficient to respond to the needs of flood affected communities, which were displaced as there was no system in place to warn people well in advance of the impending catastrophe. Due to the credibility of SPO, the partner organizations that were working with them in the other sectors started working in relief activities as well, like Oxfam GB soon started two mega projects in Charsadda and Newshehra districts of KPK.

The main reasons of SPO's successful relief de-

livery during this catastrophe: First of all, SPO conveniently started its relief work soon after the floods hit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) as the organization is based in various districts of Pakistan in each province; hence its response during the crises of floods was quite timely and speedy and to the point. At the maximum, SPO successfully managed to provide relief assistance to the most vulnerable and affected population across the country.

During last one year, SPO mobilized funds of 622 million PKRs from a long list of multiple donors, INGOs and UN agencies. Primarily, SPO delivered in Livelihood, Shelter/NFI, Health Coordination and WASH sectors in 20 districts of all the provinces in Pakistan.

**Medical camp for females in flood affected vil-
lage of Rajanpur**



To design and undertake national level humanitarian response was not an easy thing to do. SPO faced many challenges during the course of response including working with inadequate and inexperienced human resource as far as emergency work is concerned. High turnover among project staff was another problem which hampered the pace of project activities on many occasions. To ensure project procurement and timely supplies of relief goods was another area which really caused serious delays in a couple of projects. Lack of communication and infrastructure facilities in flood hit areas was also a serious concern and this factor caused unnecessary

friction among project Cooked food for flood affected community in DI Khan, KPK team and recipients sometimes. Poor law and order situation also contributed in delayed delivery of relief services in some districts of KPK. Local political and interest groups also tried to hijack the project activities and put hurdles in the way of smooth operations. They always wanted to influence the process of assessment, recipients' identification and distribution of relief goods. In some districts, some officials of local governments also become hostile and posed serious threats to staff and organization. So it was really an uphill challenge to deliver the relief assistance to the victims in best possible and transparent manner. SPO met all the challenges on their merit just because of its transparent and resilient systems, structures and commitment of its staff to the organizational cause.

Bedding/NFI Kits distributed in District



The flexibility and patience shown by organizational management and partner organizations; was the cornerstone of this successful response. Humanitarian response demands atypical mindset and work pace from the planners to implementers, and by virtue of luck, SPO managed to seek such a mix of expertise and temperaments which ultimately delivered to the grassroots.

Participation from SPO (Strengthening Participatory Organization)

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE REVISITED

By: Anjum Gul Mughal



MPhil - International Relations, Research Work: Implications of Af Pak Policy for Domestic Politics of Pakistan (2011) Conflict Resolution in Sri Lanka: Role of International Community (2008)

Humanitarian Assistance is the provision of financial and logistical support to the people affected by natural disasters and/or humanitarian catastrophe. Global Humanitarian Assistance organization defines humanitarian assistance as “aid and action designed to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain and protect human dignity during and in the aftermath of emergencies”. Emergencies mentioned in this definition refer to natural disasters and humanitarian catastrophes. Natural disasters can be explained as floods, earthquakes, droughts, famine, and storms. Humanitarian catastrophes are the unrest, wars and other human violations. Mankind has been facing the challenges of natural disasters since the very start of the history. They have been increasing with the passage of time. According to the report of Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), two million people were killed and five billion were affected by 7000 natural disasters during the period of 1980 to 2004. There are several reasons of the increment in the number of occurrences of natural disasters such as climate change and global warming. Since the causes of natural disasters are global so are their consequences. Hence, these global catastrophes cannot be coping up by the capacity of the state where they occur. This is the time when other states get involved and offer their logistics, money

and services called ‘humanitarian assistance’ to meet the challenges.

Humanitarian assistance differs from the other kinds of foreign assistance. It is based on the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence. It is provided on short-term basis immediately after the disaster. Humanitarian assistance can be provided by governments, United Nations, ICRC, foreign and local NGOs, multilateral organizations, private companies and individuals. International humanitarian assistance programs are coordinated by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). It came into existence after the resolution 46/182 passed by General Assembly, to strengthen the humanitarian assistance operations all over the world. In more practical terms humanitarian assistance is one of the foreign policy instruments. Governments of the developed states use it more frequently to achieve their several national objectives. Recipient countries are usually low-income countries, unable to meet the challenges of natural disasters due to having capital deficit. Recipient countries get the direct benefit of humanitarian assistance. Donor countries also have some covert advantages of this foreign policy instrument. Donor countries actively participate to provide money, logistics, and services to the recipient country to show a diplomatic gesture. Objective behind this is to improve its image among the people of the recipient country.

What we need to envision the future, ... stop thinking about the present and saying, ‘Let’s put a Band-Aid here.’
David Clark

United States is one of the good examples of a donor country. U.S. has always been very enthusiastic to give such assistance to all the developing countries of its interests. U.S. and

United Nations' several donor agencies are busy in providing humanitarian assistance to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Libya, Pakistan etc. According to the report of Global Humanitarian Assistance organization, United States has been the highest humanitarian donor to Pakistan during last 10 years. United States does this to get the public opinion in favor of its policies. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan reported that 18 million people effected by flooding during July and August 2010. 75 percent of the affected people were living in the Sindh and Punjab provinces. More than 12 million people needed humanitarian assistance. United States and international humanitarian organizations provided emergency food assistance, nutrition and health facilities to the people. During last six years Pakistan has been suffering from disasters of three major disasters occurring in 2005, 2010, and 2011. U.S. provided millions of dollars for emergency health care, shelter, relief commodities, water and sanitation facilities, reconstruction and rehabilitation.

U.S. is continuously supporting, through humanitarian assistance, to the people affected by military operations in war against terrorism. Humanitarian assistance is a non political foreign policy tool but it is based on public diplomacy. U.S. is trying hard to turn the public opinion in favor of its policies in Pakistan through the direct provision of humanitarian assistance to Pakistani people in miseries but this objective is yet to achieve. Sometimes humanitarian assistance programs face problems of humanitarian access. It means difficulties and constraints in providing humanitarian assistance. These constraints are malign political and security environment created by local governments, parties to the

conflict, poor and devastated infrastructure, diseases, and poor communication facilities. More than three million people are suffering from famine and need humanitarian assistance in Somalia. USAID, humanitarian aid agency of United States, with its partners is trying hard to reach the people for delivering their assistance. Anti-Western terrorist groups are trying to stop them.

“Today, no walls can separate humanitarian or human rights crises in one part of the world from national security crises in another. What begins with the failure to uphold the dignity of one life all too often ends with a calamity for entire nations.”

Kofi Annan

Libya is another example where humanitarian access has become a problem for donors. UN recently has reached an agreement with the government of Libya to establish humanitarian assistance setup for the victims of war. As aforementioned definition describes that humanitarian assistance is based on humanity, neutrality, and impartiality so it is very difficult to measure its impact. But this argument is not a sufficient justification to ignore the importance of assessment and accountability of humanitarian operations. Assessment and accountability is very important for the successful fulfillment of objectives behind this public diplomacy. Reason behind this importance is that they are the matter of distribution of valuable resources. Several assessment mechanisms are evolved to meet the need of scrutiny of humanitarian operations. Although, humanitarian assistance provision continues to be a common practice of developed countries towards the developing ones, but still there is much yet to achieve

MEDIA IN ACTION

By: Sameeha Khaliq

Role of media during or after any disaster is extremely crucial, not only to inform about the actual reality but also to aware and educate the survivors about how to deal with ongoing or coming problems. Mushroom growth of TV and radio channels has increased the responsibility of media in recent years. If we throw light in previous years which had two huge natural calamities for the Pakistani nation, we can make a concrete consensus about the role of media. Two major questions arise, what role media is playing and what role media should play?? Both questions are much alike in connotation but different in its respective applications. Later question will be answered when we become familiar with the first one.

The new electronic interdependence recreates the world in the image of a global village.
Marshall McLuhan



How media handle the crises is also relevant to the media role. If we look in the light of earthquake 2005 and flood 2010, we can be in better position to identify the role of media in the context of

disaster. TV channels are now more in position to grab the attention of the audience in case of any calamity. Leading channels have started special marathon transmissions comprising upon various segments which include live coverage from the affected territory, fund-raising activities for relief purpose, think-tanks' standpoint on the current situation and analysis by the senior analyst on the future course of action. PTV's marathon transmission during earthquake 2005, named **"Dard-Ashnaa"**



there special transmission which encompassed various perspective and issues in affected areas.



Primarily media's utmost responsibility is to aware and update the general public about the current happenings which is being fulfilled in quite responsive way whenever unusual blows the nation. Secondly,

media happens to involve in actions after the disaster which entails the dissemination of true information and follows the relief activities that involves fund-raising actions and rehabilitation respectively. Media role in fund raising activities is nonetheless praiseworthy in various aspects. TV/film actors and other significant media personnel gather together at one platform. Since media personnel carry their particular charisma which is nonetheless attractive enough and accelerates the process of fundraising not only within the country but across the borders as well.

In above mentioned course of action News channels are usually at the front lines. Journalists are sent to the affected areas to cover the events, issues and ongoing scenario to convey the actual picture of the affected by establishing one-to-one communication with them. From this point, the answer of second question starts with what media should do and what shouldn't. Media should be provided open and regular access to the information, but the process of disseminating information should



be transparent enough to avoid inconsistencies. Media should be sensitive enough in depicting the reality; it should not be in the dimension to be harmful to ones respect and dignity, it should not damage any opinion or should be sensitive to project any biased information.

In all these concerns ,Media management is imperative in both dimensions, be the feeding of correct information, educating on the latest developments, or participating in interviews and talk shows.

In the real world, nothing happens at the right place at the right time. It is the job of journalists and historians to correct that.
Mark Twain

Media should neither be the PR mouthpiece of the Government nor should be the microscope to exaggerate the reality in a brutal way hence, should play its role in neutral and moderate way. Last but not least, media should retain its independence and objectivity, but at the same time should be sensitive enough to the feelings of disaster survivors and should not undermine the national effort through overtly negative coverage.

SNAPSHOTS OF HRDN

Annual Trainers' Retreat (ATR) April 27th - May 4th, 2011

13th Annual Trainers' Retreat (ATR) of Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) was organized in Malaysia – Singapore. 140 members of HRDN that belonged to various organizations throughout Pakistan enthusiastically participated in this annual event. This year the schema of ATR was “**Building Human Resources for Sustainable Development**”. Conference was arranged on this topic having various learning sessions.



Fun Photographic Picnic Activity April 17th, 2011

HRDN arranged an entreating Fun **Photographic Picnic Activity**, to enjoy the wonderful weather along with participants' family and friends.



Learning forums

Public Forum on “Future of Muslims”

April 12th, 2011

HRDN in collaboration with N-IRM and HRDN organized a Public Forum on “Future of Muslims: Negotiating between Perception and Reality” Mr. Adnan Zulfiqar was a resource person of this forum.



Public Forum on “Social Science Research in Pakistan universities prospects and challenges

May 17th 2011

Human Resource Development Network (HRDN), Akhter Hameed Khan Resource Centre (AHKRC) and N-IRM hosted a wonderful monthly Public Forum lecture on “Social Science Research in Pakistan universities prospects and challenges” A scholarly lecture was delivered by “Dr. Wolfgang-Peter Zingel”



Public Forum on “Islamic Philanthropy”

June 14th, 2011

Akhter Hameed Khan Resource Center (AHKRC) in collaboration with N-IRM and HRDN had organized a Public Forum on “Islamic Philanthropy” on June 14, 2011. A special lecture by “Dr. Christopher Candland” Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Director, South Asia Studies Wellesley College was arranged on occurrence.



Let's Be Trained!

Training on Project Management

January 24th - 28th, 2011 by HRDN Islamabad

HRDN organized the training on **Project Management**. The core objective of the training was to strengthen the capacity of the participants in order to plan and implement projects in the context of Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK) framework.



Training Workshop on Stress Management

February 10th, 2011 by HRDN Islamabad

Stress is becoming an international dilemma in today's world. Keeping this picture in view HRDN secretariat organized the training on the **Stress Management**. The aim of the workshop was to develop the ability to identify the signs of stress and empower the trainees to identify and cope with their stress.



Training Workshop Project cycle management

March 7th to 9th, 2011

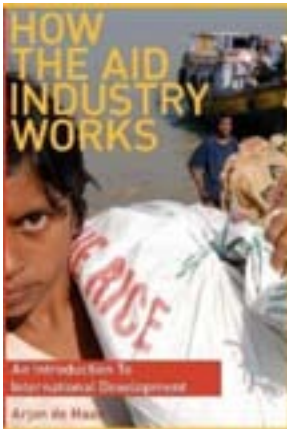
HRDN conducted three days customized training on project cycle management and workplace efficiency enhancement tools for PDMA-PaRRSA staff in Peshawar.



POTPOURRI

Does Humanitarian Assistance really work???????????





BOOK REVIEWS:

How The Aid Industry Works

An Introduction to International Development
Arjan de Haan

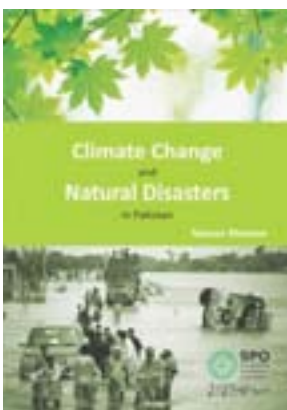
How the Aid Industry Works provides a basic description of what aid practices are and how they evolved. The arguments of both proponents and opponents of aid are presented and analyzed, along with real-life examples of projects and programs in context.



The Sphere Project

Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response The right to life with dignity

The Sphere Project is an initiative to determine and promote standards by which the global community responds to the plight of people affected by disasters. With this Handbook, Sphere is working for world in which the right of all people affected by the disasters to re-establish their lives and livelihoods is recognized and acted upon in ways that respect their voice and promote their dignity and security.



Climate Change and Natural Disasters in Pakistan

By: Naseer Memon

Climate change is an emerging threat for our planet. It has manifested in disasters of unpredictable frequency and intensity in different parts of world. Pakistan is facing multitude of impacts ensuing from climate change phenomenon. The Super Floods of 2010 and the cyclones of 1999 and 2007 are grim reminders of the fact that we are negotiating a serious challenge posed by climate change. In this book Naseer Memon addressed the subsequent issues of climate change and how the civil society can part its play.

<http://www.amazon.com>



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