



CONSOLIDATE REPORT PROVINCIAL COORDINATION MEETINGS

FLOODS 2022



Provincial Coordination Meetings

Consolidated Report of Meetings in All Four Provinces

Locally-Led Emergency and Recovery Action in Pakistan (LEAP) aimed at improving evidence based decision making for effective emergency response. It was an important objective of LEAP – Pakistan Resilience Partnership was to carry out regular coordination and review meeting at the provincial level to bring together all humanitarian actors and stakeholders and share updates and information. To achieve this objective, provincial coordination meetings were organised in all four provinces; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

First meeting of this series held in Peshawar, provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on March 20, 2023 and attended by local humanitarian organisations including members of National Humanitarian Network (NHN), representative of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), UN OCHA, PHF, academia and media.

Second provincial coordination meeting in KP was organised on May 23, 2023 and attended by the representative of same organisations which were part of the previous coordination meeting. A significant highlight of this meeting was the participation of Secretary Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department, KP, Mr. Abdul Basit. The Relief Rehabilitation and Settlement Department (RRSD) is mandated to formulate Policies, Strategies and Guidelines for Relief, Rehabilitation and Emergency activities in the Province. Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Rescue 1122 and Directorate of Civil Defence serve as implementation agencies of RRSD to effect these instruments.

Key Points:

There was a detailed discussion around the recent disasters and lessons learnt for the provinces, the challenges and the gaps in coordination and information sharing by all stakeholders. Both meetings were concluded with similar key points for guidance and further follow ups.

- There is need for Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction policy for the KP province and Disaster Management Plans for the districts, most vulnerable.
- There is a serious information and knowledge exchange gap because of no focal coordination point within the province during emergency or peace time. Humanitarian actors need to create a robust and efficient mechanism for that. This mechanism will strengthen effective policy decisions at provincial and national level. Most of the participants in both meeting agreed and suggested a regular and quarterly meeting mechanism to continue and setup a swift coordination.
- It was also proposed and agreed by the participants in both meetings that PDMA and DDMUs should work on training of volunteers on disaster response and form trained volunteers network at district level.

- It was also agreed by the participants that Madadgar application is a wonderful example of how technology can play a significant role in coordination and disaster response efforts. Humanitarian actors and government need to invest more in advance technology to mitigate disasters, improve preparedness and exchange & process disaster related information.
- Participants strongly urged the authorities to facilitate non-government humanitarian organisations by expedite and simplify the process to acquire NOC/multiple NOCs and MOU with Economic Affairs Division for effective and speedy floods 2022 recovery efforts.

Punjab:

First Coordination Meeting of Punjab province was organised on January 27, 2023 in Multan. Multan is the Secretariat of South Punjab, which is the region most affected during floods 2022. Second and follow up of previous Coordination Meeting held in Lahore, the provincial capital of Punjab, on May 4, 2023.

Both coordination meetings were attended by representatives of PDMA, Social Welfare Department, Rescue 1122, and humanitarian organisations including members of NHN Pakistan and PHF.

Key Points:

Meetings in Punjab province were concluded with few similar key points:

- Need to strengthen existing coordination mechanism at provincial level and establish a joint and more efficient coordination forum, especially for the vulnerable districts of Punjab province. All participants in both meetings agreed and recommended that there is dire need for a dedicated coordination mechanism at district and provincial level to serve as a single point of contact between local humanitarian actors, UN agencies, INGOs and the government.
- Participants agreed that a major lesson learnt of the recent floods in 2022 was the deep gap of information management of disaster related activities at all level. That gap can be bridged by a responsive and effective coordination mechanism.
- Role of Rescue 1122 needs to be enhanced and aligned and harmonized with the efforts of other government departments during emergencies.
- Capacity building of DDMA's for better disaster mitigation, preparedness and response was strongly recommended.
- All non-government humanitarian organisation urged the provincial government to consider the timely provision of NOC to NGOs for effective and uninterrupted disaster response. Participants shared the difficulties faced by NGOs and concerns regarding restricted movement issues in flood affected districts.

- It was emphasized by the local non-government humanitarian organisations for the inclusion of the most marginalized and ostracized groups especially transgender community in disaster response and recovery programmes was emphasized.

Sindh:

So far Sindh province has organised one provincial coordination meeting. The meeting held on June 1, 2023 in Sukkur, the 3rd largest city of Sindh province. Sukkur is among Pakistan's most populous districts and was affected by the devastating floods in 2022 and floods in 2010.

The provincial coordination meeting was attended by representatives of UN OCHA, PHF, members of NHN, UNHCR, Rescue 1122, and PDMA Sindh and academia.

Key Points:

Participants of the meeting discussed and agreed on few key points which are as under:

- There is need for an efficient coordination mechanism, not just for coordinated emergency response efforts and exchange of information but to avoid duplication and proliferation of disaster response and recovery efforts by different stakeholders in disaster affected areas.
- Non-government organisations urged that it is important to activate clusters at district level to establish a structured and coherent coordination at all level.
- It was also recommended and agreed by the partners to strengthen the capacities of DDMA's for early warning of disaster, preparedness and response and management of information in times of emergency.
- It was also agreed that it's important to continue regular meetings at provincial and district level to maintain the momentum and discuss the progress and reflection.

Balochistan

Balochistan has also conducted only one coordination meeting at provincial level. The Coordination Meeting was organised in Quetta, provincial capital on June 8, 2023.

This meeting was attended by the representatives of Balochistan PDMA, Livestock department, Agriculture department, FAO, Care International, ACF International, Mercy Corps, SIF, CRS International, members of NHN and disaster management studies department of local universities.

Balochistan was one of the most affected province in recent floods in 2022. Representatives of PDMA, government departments and non-government organisations shared their experiences of disaster response, challenges and lessons learnt. Participants appreciated the efforts of PRP for bringing all stakeholder together to discuss and strategize future actions.

Key Points:

- Participants agreed and emphasized for a robust and synchronized coordination mechanism. All participants of the meeting strongly urged that a workable and strong coordination is prerequisite for an effective and efficient disaster response.
- A valuable lesson and success of the volunteering during recent floods was shared by the representatives of INGOs. That precious human lives were saved with the help of volunteers in most affected areas. That commends the need to train youth volunteers at district level and use these volunteers during any emergency to reduce the loss of lives and damages.
- Participants suggested that government needs to conduct an in-depth risk assessment and mapping exercise to consider factors contributing in changing climate patterns, increased vulnerability of population and disasters in the province to identify high risk zones and prioritize mitigation and preparedness efforts.
- It was suggested that disaster preparedness and response capacities of local government officials, especially at district level, volunteer emergency responders on disaster response, rescue operations and post disaster recovery programmes.
- Data collection and management during emergency is the most important factor to improve the forecasting accuracy, and for a well-structured and timely response. All humanitarian actors need to enhance data management capacities for not just effective emergency response but to track the changing disaster patterns and develop proactive measures towards preparedness.
- A sustained, steady and constant coordination mechanism is crucial to continue shared reflection by all stakeholders, and foster synergies to pool resources, expertise and best practices in disaster management system at Balochistan level.
- Balochistan university representative suggested to engage academic institution and research centers to conduct research studies on disaster dynamics and impacts.