

PROMOTING LOCALIZATION

Through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

APP Breakout Session, 29 April 2021, Thursday 01:30 PM – 3:00 PM Bangkok Time

at the

2021 Humanitarian Leadership Conference 28 -29 April 2021









APP Session: Promoting Localization through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships 29 April 2021

The session on 'Promoting Localization through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships' was organized by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) as the secretariat of the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP). It showcased how innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships in the Asian region promote locally led actions to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. The session illustrated the ways by which the enabling environment for 'localization' supports and aligns to the key global frameworks as well as to the transformation of the humanitarian ecosystem. It also discussed the important role that multi-stakeholder partnerships play in supporting COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts in Asian countries.

The APP session was one of panel discussions of the **2021 Humanitarian Leadership Conference (HLC)**¹ that was held virtually from 28 to 29 April 2021. The conference sought to create a venue for humanitarian stakeholders to work together in determining where change is needed and what a reshaping of the humanitarian ecosystem might look like. It covered the themes of: (a) decolonizing the humanitarian ecosystem; (b) leadership in the world of upheaval and crisis; (c) transformative ways of working; and (d) the political economy of aid and solidarity. It was organized by the Center for Humanitarian Leadership (CHL), which is a partnership between Deakin University (Australia) and Save the Children, with support from the IKEA Foundation.

The 2021 HLC aligned well with the strengthening of enabling environment for humanitarian system transformation through regional cooperation and global outreach, which is one of the primary outcomes of APP. As a 'knowledge partner' of the conference, APP shared and exchanged good practices and lessons learned on locally led disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation actions. Moreover, APP facilitated the participation to the conference of more than 40 representatives from the government, civil society organizations, and the private sector from Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka, as well as Bangladesh and Lao PDR. This enabled the south-south learning among the participants on various aspects of localization and humanitarian ecosystem.

Session Background

Local actors play a crucial role before, during, and after a disaster. They are the first responders because of access to the affected communities, understanding of the cultural context, and cost-effectiveness. They also play a key role in both recovery and longer-term sustainable development.

The <u>Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2020</u> states that only 2.1% (USD 444 million) of direct funding for humanitarian assistance was received by local and national responders in 2019, decreasing from 3.5% (USD 782 million) in 2018. The volume of funding received by local and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) was USD 110 million, decreasing from USD 134 million in 2018.

Local and national organizations have maintained their efficacy in responding to disasters and they seek to play a bigger role in the overall humanitarian response decision-making process. Unfortunately, they are largely marginalized from the process and lack the platform to voice their concerns. Therefore, the local actors need to work in a coalition and build multi-stakeholder partnerships at regional, national, and sub-national levels to strengthen their capacities.

¹ https://hlc2021.delegateconnect.co/

Session Details:

Date: 29 April 2021, Thursday

Time: 01:30 PM – 3:00 PM Bangkok Time (4:30 PM – 6:00 PM AEST)

Duration: 90 minutes (1.5 hours)

Language: English

Moderator:

Mr. Edwin Salonga Program Manager, ADPC

Panelists:

1. Ms. Pilar Pacheco

Senior Program Officer, Emergency Response – Global Development Division, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

2. Mr. Irfan Mufti

Member, Central Executive Committee, National Humanitarian Network (NHN); Deputy Director, South Asia Partnership Pakistan (SAP-PK)

3. Ms. Veronica Gabaldon

Executive Director, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), Philippines

4. Mr. Md. Mohsin

Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), Government of Bangladesh; Chairman of the Board of Trustees, ADPC

5. Mr. Sisira Madurapperuma

Director, Preparedness for Response and Resilient Recovery (PRR), ADPC



Panelists for the APP breakout session

Invest in Localization

Ms. Pilar Pacheco who serves as a Senior Program Officer in Emergency Response at the Gates Foundation focused on the importance of investing in localization. She provided an overview of the landscape of donor work. While 'localization' seems to be a catchphrase nowadays, much of the attention afforded is limited to aspirational language. There needs to be real action so that substantive systems change can happen.

She presented key information from the Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2020. The report indicated that international humanitarian assistance sent directly to local and national actors as a proportion of all international humanitarian assistance decreased in 2019, with 2.1% (USD 444 million) directed, through at least one intermediary, to local and national actors. This percentage was less than the 3.5% (USD 782 million) allocated in 2018. The volume of funding received by local and national NGOs specifically decreased from USD 134 million in 2018 to USD 110 million in 2019.

The humanitarian sector reached a tipping point in 2020. It was a year highlighted by a global pandemic that continues to impact the world in different ways, protracted nature of conflict, and an ever-increasing impact from cyclones, hurricanes, floods, and drought due to climate change. The year 2020 put individuals, organizations, and the humanitarian sector to the test; no one was exempt from undergoing or having to deal with change.

Local actors are there before, during, and after a disaster. They play a vital role in building back better. We can only have stronger systems and communities if we invest in local actors through a multi-stakeholder approach. The Foundation works on supporting the sustainability of results, partnerships, and resources. Humanitarian action must be grounded on local knowledge, context, and trust in order to generate, accelerate, and improve the ownership of processes.

Strengthen Local Capacities for Sustainable Solutions

Mr. Irfan Mufti is a member of the Central Executive Committee of the NHN, which was formed in 2010 with more than 180 members from community to national level groups and humanitarian activists. NHN is a mix of local, sub-national, and national level actors that work closely with government and non-government stakeholders. He is also the Deputy Director of the South Asia Partnership – Pakistan.

Natural disasters threaten Pakistan's sustained economic growth like many countries around the world. For example, the earthquake of 2005 highlighted the nation's vulnerability to disaster risks. The staggering loss amounted to USD 5.2 billion. Moreover, the economic and social devastation suffered from floods of 2010 and 2011 were estimated at USD 10.056 billion and USD 3.73 billion respectively.

NHN has shifted from response to resilience to better address the impacts of disasters. It is now focused on evolving preparedness agenda and capacities. NHN transfers capacities in order to work on localizing solutions through interactive spaces of sharing knowledge, skills, and opportunities for joint actions and learning by actions. It builds on practitioners' approach and on broadening partnerships through institutionalization of collective actions. NHN believes in visibility and knowledge dissemination.

Through the Pakistan Resilience Partnership (PRP), Pakistan is now concerned about growing partnerships with expanded scope and effective implementation. The partnership works on further building the ownership of resilience agenda by it partners. As a multi-stakeholder platform, PRP works closely with the private sector in adopting a business resilient agenda. The academic and media sectors are brought together to enact their vital roles in resilience building at local and national levels.

Local capacities can be strengthened by prioritizing the localization agenda. This means there must be adequate funding to people-based solutions. Humanitarian financing must ensure improved functioning of local actors and community structures.

Work Together on Resilience Building

Ms. Veronica Gabaldon is the Executive Director of PDRF, which is the country's major private sector coordinator for disaster risk reduction and management. As a network of businesses with a unifying vision of building the resilience of local communities and businesses, PDRF works with relevant stakeholders in the country in all phases of disaster risk reduction and management – from mitigation and preparedness to response and recovery.

She stressed the importance of joint efforts by complementing and supplementing individual members' resources and strengths. PDRF organizes its member companies according to their core competencies to build an ecosystem of resilience that no single organization can create on its own. To this end, she emphasized the need to be part of a network of people, organizations, and government agencies working together towards disaster resilience. PDRF's cluster system allows for seamless interoperability. Their partnership is not limited to response efforts as they work on capacity building activities.

PDRF also operates an emergency operations center (EOC). It is recognized as the first private sector-led in the Asia-Pacific region. It uses an advanced communication software and technology to monitor climate-related and natural hazards. The EOC also provides alerts and updates to the PDRF network, thereby coordinating its relief and response efforts.

PDRF works on a public-private partnership in the implementation of the national vaccination program as a response to the needs of the current times. It also plays an active role together with the government and other development partners in the Task Force T3 (Test, Trace, and Treat). Among its other notable programs are its disaster response efforts in times of typhoons and volcanic eruptions, its rehabilitation efforts in Marawi, and its publication of guidebooks and other knowledge products.

PDRF is a proud member of the Philippine Preparedness Partnership (PHILPREP), which is the national chapter in the Philippines of APP. PDRF recognized the vulnerability of the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) when the COVID-19 pandemic started in 2020. With the support of APP and PHILPREP, it led the conduct of webinars for local businesses, the production of knowledge products such as infographics and infomercials, and the development of a MSME guidebook which is complemented by training and mentorship. These initiatives prove the private sector plays a crucial role in humanitarian action. PDRF will continue to work together with other local actors in the country in building resilience among businesses and communities.

Create an Enabling Environment

Mr. Md. Mohsin is the Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) in Bangladesh. He is also serving as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ADPC. Mr. Mohsin provided an overview of the risk landscape of Bangladesh. Based on the Climate Risk Ranking from 1998 to 2018, Bangladesh is among the countries most affected by extreme weather events.

Bangladesh implements a number of policies for effective disaster risk management, including the following: Disaster Management Act of 2012; Disaster Management Plan 2015; Standing Order on Disaster (SOD) 2019; Bangladesh National Building Code 2020; National Plan for Disaster Management 2021-2025; and Delta Plan 2100. Mr. Mohsin stressed the importance of the SOD 2019, which specifies the responsibilities of each stakeholder in all levels of governance in the country.

The SOD 2019 provides detailed instructions on the roles and functions of relevant stakeholders in all phases of the disaster risk management (DRM) cycle. It encompasses 55 ministries with relevant departments, United Nations (UN) agencies, development partners, private sector networks, and non-government organizations. The SOD 19 also promotes a 'whole-of-society approach' to DRM and resilience building. Mr. Mohsin emphasized that the SOD 2019 is supported by 5 million volunteers, half of which are women.

When a country implements policies toward effective DRM, it results in good impact for locally led actions as evidenced from the experience of Bangladesh. The SOD 2019 supported the national ability to achieve: a risk-informed DRM plan; early warning and evacuation; enhanced early action in local communities; effective humanitarian response; social cohesion; inclusive DRM with special focus on gender and disability concerns; enhanced recovery efforts characterized by 'build back better' philosophy; and reduced loss and damage. To this end, Mr. Mohsin reported that in 2019, former UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon praised Bangladesh as "the best teacher to learn from about adaptation and disaster management".

<u>Promote Localization through Regional Cooperation</u>

Mr. Sisira Madurapperuma, the Director of the Preparedness for Response and Resilient Recovery (PRR) Department at the ADPC, stressed the need to promote localization through regional cooperation and global outreach. This is particularly relevant in the current time given the backdrop of decreasing humanitarian funding to local actors.

He shared the journey of APP as an example of a successful platform that brings together key stakeholders such as governments, local NGOs, and private sector networks. APP defines localization as a process of which local, sub-national and national humanitarian actors, namely governments, civil society and NGOs, the private sector, media, academia etc., taking a lead role, in a collaborative manner to plan and implement priority actions in disaster preparedness, humanitarian response and recovery through mobilizing internal resources and external humanitarian funding.

APP is an alliance of the Global South from Asia. It includes Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Cambodia. Among APP Plus partners are Lao PDR and Bangladesh. Its key outcomes are the following: increased locally led actions to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters in selected high-risk countries of Asia; institutionalized efficient and cost-effective innovative approaches for locally led DRM actions; and strengthened enabling environment for humanitarian system transformation through regional cooperation and global outreach. It uses advanced channels of knowledge creation, sharing and regional cooperation through South-South cooperation and knowledge exchange.

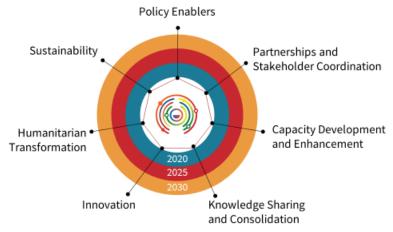
In order to strengthen locally led actions, APP² was founded in 2017 by ADPC³ with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development – Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID-BHA). APP is a unique regional platform which fosters strategic multi-sectoral partnerships for improving disaster preparedness and emergency response in South and Southeast Asia and strives to improve the interface and partnerships between governments, local non-governmental and civil society organizations, and the private sector.

APP is a catalyst for moving local agendas and response actions forward, as advocated at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). It also supports the implementation of priority disaster preparedness actions at local levels in line with key global frameworks, namely, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR

² https://app.adpc.net/

³ https://www.adpc.net/igo/?

2015-2030), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other related protocols and frameworks. As a regional cooperation model, APP adheres to the seven (7) dimensions of change for localization. Such dimensions include: policy enablers; partnerships and stakeholder coordination; capacity development and enhancement; knowledge sharing and consolidation; innovation; humanitarian transformation; and sustainability. In addition, APP promotes the use of advanced channels of knowledge creation and regional cooperation through South-South cooperation and knowledge exchange. Its website contains relevant publications, local stories of resilience, an e-learning platform, resources about COVId-19, and information on upcoming events.



Seven Dimensions of Change for Localization under APP

Complement Words with Action

The panelists reflected on the main barriers to localization. They identified several systemic challenges, including the complexity of processes in securing valuable resources from funding organizations that limits the ability of local humanitarian actors to access the support needed for institutional development and program reach. Another gap is the tendency of development institutions to work in silos, which prevents synergy from happening. Hence, simplification of processes and collaboration among relevant stakeholders were among the recommended courses of action. Resources, political power, and opportunities for change should shift towards local actors.

When implementing development interventions especially at the local level, the panelists discussed ways of doing humanitarian work wherein no one is left behind. They shared insights and experiences in ensuring that the vulnerable and marginalized populations are prioritized in humanitarian action. Practical examples included focusing on the needs of women, children, elderly, and persons with disabilities before, during, and after disaster events happen. As most of the engagement nowadays has become online, local communities and first responders may have access to virtual dialogue platforms. To address this, the panelists stressed the need to give special attention on "leaving no one behind" during the COVID-19 pandemic. Aside from putting in place inclusive policies that support an enabling environment toward effective disaster risk reduction and management, local actors must also invest in strengthening their own capacity to understand and meet the needs of their constituents. Engagement and empowerment of local communities should be at the heart of development interventions to fulfill the common aspiration of achieving resilience.

With climate change posing a great threat to our way of living, the panelists highlighted that locally led actions have the great potential to address it and its impact. Local communities must be assisted in reviewing their existing coping capacities. Aside from mitigation efforts, multi-sectoral partnerships can also play an active role in

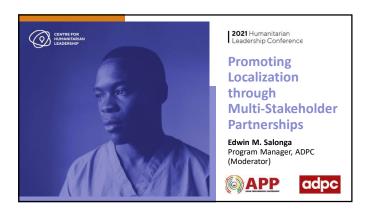
designing and implementing climate change adaptation. Local actors are more relevant than ever before. There is a wealth of indigenous and innovative approaches in the 'Global South' that can be shared with other countries.

In summing up the APP session, the panelists stressed the importance of taking action to affect change in the humanitarian landscape. They provided guidance on how localization could be further promoted and realized. Found below are several concrete ways forward raised in the APP session:

- Donors need to take risks, simplify processes, and diversify the pool of partners.
- Local actors must take their place at the table and be an active part of the conversation.
- Develop local leadership for sustainable action.
- Focus on building the resilience of local communities.
- Humanitarian action should be innovative, comprehensive, and scientific in nature.
- Practice 'whole-of-society approach' in disaster risk management and resilience building.
- Local actors must be optimistic yet realistic as they continue to promote the localization agenda.

^{*}For information and future reference, the presentations by the panelists are attached to this report as Annex 1.

ANNEX 1 Presentations for the APP Breakout Session



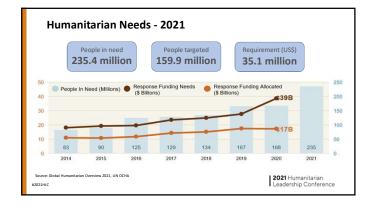


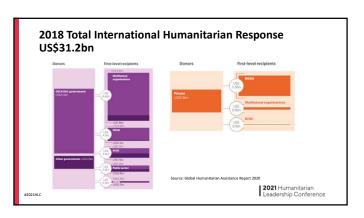


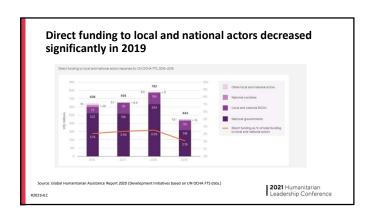




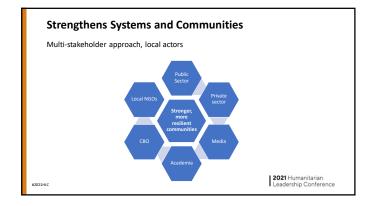




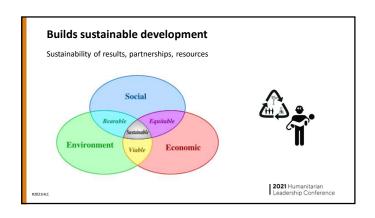


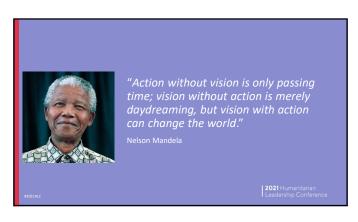




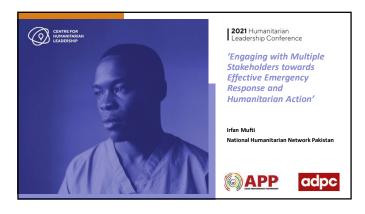












Local Capacities and Actions are the Sustainable Solutions to Humanitarian Crises NHN Pakistan - 2010

National Humanitarian Network (NHN) Pakistan

Network of community practitioners and humanitarian Stakeholders

- 1. Formed in 2010 as a platform of community groups, national humanitarian actors and development agencies
- 2. 180+ members from community to national level groups and Humanitarian Activists
- 3. With a purpose for timely and accountable humanitarian response
- The platform is a mix of local, sub-national and national level actors which work closely with government and non-government stakeholders

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Pakistan: a case for perpetual humanitarian situation

- 1. Natural disasters threaten sustained economic growth by causing shocks.
- The earthquake of 2005 highlighted Pakistan's vulnerability to disaster risks. Caused a staggering loss of 5.2 billion USD
- the economic and social devastation suffered from Floods of 2010 & 2011, have been estimated as USD 10.056 billion and USD 3.730 billion respectively.
- The drought of 1998-2001 demonstrated serious political, economic and social repercussions.
- Sustainable development in agriculture, livestock, water resources, food security and environment sectors is seriously threatened by droughts, particularly in Balochistan, Southern Punjab and Sindh and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

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Humanitarian Strategy

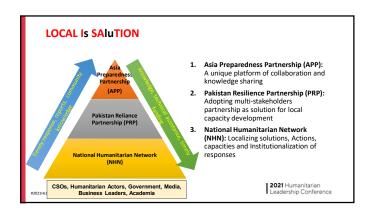
Preparedness and Response

- 1. From Response to resilience
- 2. Evolving **Preparedness** agenda and capacities
- 3. Transferring Capacities: Localizing solutions through interactive spaces of sharing knowledge, skills, opps for joint actions and learning by actions.
- 4. Praxis of practitioners approach
- 5. Broadening Partnerships through institutionalization of collective actions
- 6. Visibility and Knowledge dissemination

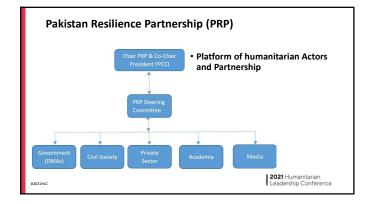
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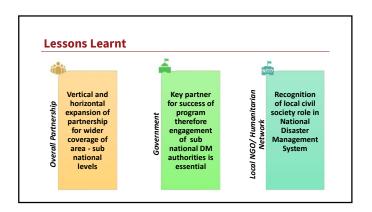
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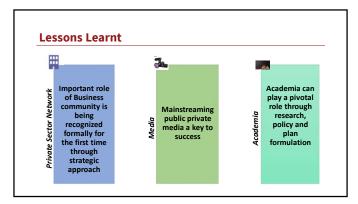






Localization: Lessons Learnt 1. Localization provides timely 3. Ownership of local and accountable response stakeholders produces better preparedness actions and 2. Local Stakeholders take a lead strategies role and work collaboratively: 4. Local actions reduce activity plan and implement priority actions in disaster and operational costs preparedness, humanitarian Trust building in NGOs/INGOs response, and recovery and other key stakeholders through mobilizing internal yields better engagements and resources and external collaborative actions. humanitarian funding 2021 Humanitarian Leadership Conference





Localization Best Way Forward

Pakistan Strategy – APP model

- 1. Cultivating the mutually supporting actions
- 2. Fostering spaces for local solutions and local humanitarian actors
- 3. Prioritizing local agenda
- 4. Funding people-based solutions
- 5. Putting Partnership b/w Local and INGOs in the centre to Localize HA

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Localization Best Way Forward

Pakistan Strategy – APP model

- 6. Integrate Commitments on International Humanitarian Law and Humanitarian Aid effectiveness in national processes and platforms
- 7. Clarify on the role of NNGOs in Preparedness and Response $\,$
- 8. Humanitarian financing ensuring improved functioning of local governments incl community structures are the centre stage

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