

Webinar
Response Planning at Local Level
27th April 2022 - Islamabad, Pakistan



Preparedness and effective planning at local level saves lives and livelihoods. Effective and timely emergency response strategy can prevent or mitigate casualties. Educating communities about the importance of emergency preparedness and effective response planning can encourage people to better prevent or minimize losses during emergencies. Keeping in view the importance of the topic, Pakistan Resilience Partnership organized a webinar on **“Response Planning at Local Level”** on 27th April 2022, at 11:00 hours Pakistan Standard Time (PKT). The webinar was attended by 26 individuals representing government, local NGOs/ civil society organizations, INGOs and community members. The webinar was facilitated by Mr. Rizwan Baig, Deputy Country Director, Helping Hand for Relief and Development.

The moderator Mr. Muhammad Kamran welcomed the participants and gave a brief introduction of the topic by highlighting its importance. Mr. Kamran also introduced the facilitator to the participants before handing over mic to Mr. Rizwan.

Mr. Rizwan started his presentation with brief explanation of the terms emergency and response. He explained that effective response is indispensable to limit casualties during emergency, alleviate hardship and suffering, restore essential life support systems, mitigate further damage and loss, and provide foundation for subsequent recovery. He unfolded that effective response depends fundamentally on two factors i.e. Information, and resources. Moreover, he described the characteristics of emergency and the major activities usually undertaken during emergency response such as search and rescue, evacuation, firefighting, establishment of temporary camps, emergency medical assistance, transportation of victims, damage/need assessment survey, provision of food and non-food items and emergency repair of critical

facilities. Mr. Rizwan emphasized preparedness for effective response including formulation of communication plans, proper maintenance of equipment, training and regular drills, EWS, development emergency shelters and evacuation plans, stockpiling and inventory.

He explained in detail the aim, process and characteristics of response. While explain the response process he described that normal procedures may be inappropriate or inadequate to deal with emergency situations, thus special procedures, systems and mechanisms are needed to ensure that all emergencies can be managed and extraordinary powers may be given to specific people (organizations) for a limited time to cope with the situation. Moreover, he explained that information collection and dissemination should be strictly observed and must be processed correctly according to the proven cycle of acquisition of information, Information assessment, decision making, dissemination of decision & information.

As far as the coordination mechanism during emergencies is concerned, Mr. Rizwan Baig described the roles and responsibilities of disaster management authorities at national, provincial and district level, role of federal and provincial ministries/ divisions, media, donors, UN Agencies and Humanitarian Partners. In case health related emergencies, Mr. Rizwan explained the role of National Health Emergency Preparedness & Response Network (NHEPRN) and National Disaster Management Authority.

Further he explained the two types of appeals; **flash appeal** to full fill emergency needs for the first three to six months and the **Consolidated Appeal** to meet requirement of residual relief and recovery. Moreover, he described steps involved in the process of appeal included need assessment using MIRA methodology, development of appeal document by government (DMAs, EAD, MoFA), launch of appeal by government and UN, Cluster based intervention, relief and recovery need assessment (RNA), sectors based intervention, damage and need assessment.

At the end, the webinar host Mr. Kamran, thanked all the participants and the presenter for taking their time out for the webinar. The recording, brief introduction of the presenter and the presentation of the session is available on NHN digital resource center at the following link.

<http://resourcecenter.nhnpakistan.org/index.php/webinars-records/393-response-planning-in-pakistan-context>