

# Humanitarian Networking Workshop

12-13 November 2014 at YWCA Conference Hall, 10 Parliament Street, New Delhi.

## Background of the Workshop:

**The Humanitarian Networking Workshop** (12 and 13 November 2014) is a continuation of the larger event – **The Humanitarian Networks for Quality and Accountability held on 11th Nov, 2014** at Hotel the Park, New Delhi. The workshops were attended by networks representatives from various South and East Asian countries, Sphere Focal Points, Humanitarian Agencies, representatives from Inter Agency Group (IAG), media, corporate representatives etc. The Asian networks representatives included ACBAR from Afghanistan, CHA from Sri Lanka, Nirapad from Bangladesh, DPNet from Nepal, MPBI from Indonesia and CHF from Cambodia. The network representatives shared their in-country, regional experiences and discussed role of different stakeholders and local networks in strengthening the quality and accountability in humanitarian action. The main highlights of this 11th event were an in-depth and detailed discussion on fostering the thematic/sectoral networks in the member countries and to develop and strengthen regional network as a platform for information and knowledge sharing.



## The objectives of this workshop are:

- To acquire an informed and comprehensive view on the key developments in regional humanitarian landscape.
- To have options to develop a common humanitarian vision for Asia and to initiate the process of networking of humanitarian networks in Asia.
- To chart out possible collaborative actions and to carry forward the process in respective networks.

Supported by:



## Participants at the workshop:

The workshop was attended by representatives from Asian/South Asian networks, State and district level networks/ IAGs (Inter Agency Groups) and Sphere India members.

Sphere India works on 5 life saving sectors: Food & Nutrition, WASH, Shelter, Education & Protection and Health and each sector consists of a committee.. The larger aim is to converge and collaborate with existing networks in India to develop Community of Practitioners (CoP) for each sector- Other country networks will also collaborate with their respective sectoral networks to build CoPs at different levels: state, national and regional level.



The session began with **experience sharing by thematic/sector networks in India and region.**



**Wash**

### WES-Net India

#### Description and Discussions

WES –Net India a learning alliance of stakeholders in the Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES) sector including NGOs, UN agencies, private sector, consultants, government departments and donors. WES-Net's objective is to improve knowledge sharing and co-ordination within the water and sanitation sector - focused on achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

**Discussion:** How to ensure sustainability of Networks?

#### Way Forward

WASH thematic sector of Sphere India can be linked with WES – Net and other WASH organizations and institutes for future collaboration to bring all key stakeholders on a common platform.

**Food & Nutrition**



### Food and Nutrition: Nutrition Coalition

#### Description and Discussions

Nutrition Coalition is a platform for raising awareness, fostering collaboration, and advocating for improved programmes to achieve food and nutrition security in India. Coalition objective is to achieve the vision of sustainable food and nutrition security for all through consensus building, collective and collaborative efforts to influence policy and programs, evidence generation and synthesis, developing standards and protocols and provides a platform for political voice to partners

**Discussion:** Whether partners are implementing program based on coalition indicators?? Coalition linkages with MDGs???

#### Way Forward

- Cross Membership with Nutrition Coalition.
- Taking the agenda of **Nutrition in Emergencies** forward in coordination and collaboration with the existing Nutrition Coalition.







## Shelter

### Shelter Committee:

#### Description and Discussions

Shelter Subcommittee is one of the Sphere India sectoral committee. The objectives of subcommittee are to develop a shelter strategy based on the nature and impact of disasters, to develop approach for common understanding on the intervention and determining the non negotiable for shelter intervention, to conduct shelter assessment and the needs, to develop designs and models and share with the members, to engage with multi lateral and bi lateral agencies on the shelter interventions and to advocate with the national, state and local government on the basis of shelter strategy

**Discussion:** How to ensure community participation in shelter response and is there any guidelines to advice on do's and don'ts??

#### Way Forward

Sphere India shelter committee shall closely work with Shelter Forum to find a space and scope for future collaboration.



## Health

### Health Committee:

#### Description and Discussions

Health subcommittee of Sphere India act as an advisory body for overall strategic direction, oversight and guidance for technical support on all health issues and related areas for preparedness, relief, response, recovery and DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction). The objectives are to develop the Health strategic Plan for Sphere India Health Committee, to develop Annual Action Plan (AAP) and provide an advisory role in the progress on plan implementation and advice program committees from time to time and to provide guidance and support in areas related to various thematic health sub-components

**Discussion:** Study what kind of emergency health plan exists in pilot states and adopt it in Health Sub Committee

#### Way Forward

Sphere India Health committee shall strengthen the coordination and collaboration and coordination with South Asian Cochrane and other Public Health networks.



### Livestock in Disaster:

#### Description and Discussions

World Animal Protection(WAP)is a World's largest animal welfare organization having consultative status at the United

#### Way Forward

Sphere India is working in coordination with WAP to promote LEGS (Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards).

Nations and the Council of Europe working with a vision to see “**A world where animal welfare matters and animal cruelty has ended**”.

**Discussion:** Sharing of contingency plan for animal protection post disaster with government???

Further, collaboration can be strengthened with other animal welfare associations to promote LEGS at various levels.



## Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis:

### Description and Discussions

Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis Toolkit (EMMA) is a manual of tools and guidance notes, designed to assist front-line humanitarian staff in sudden-onset emergencies to better understand and make use of market-systems. It is suitable for use in early stages of response.

Discussion: How to address duplication in efforts by two agencies together???

### Way Forward

Sphere India in partnership with its members will build capacity of stakeholders on EMMA for its wider implementation during post disaster response.



### Community of Practitioners:

Each country network will develop/strengthen country specific communities of practitioners on key sectors (WASH, Shelter, Health, Food and Nutrition, Protection, Education, Protection, LEGS, SEEP, MERS) and there is a processes for regional knowledge sharing and capacity building.



Group Work:  
Develop and Strengthen  
Community of Practitioners



## State Level

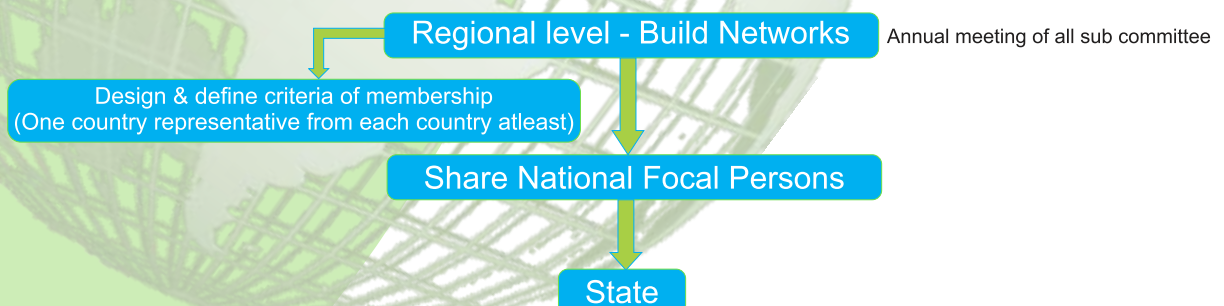
- Identify focal point for each sector who have a good rapport with government and to ensure their involvement.
- Regular meetings of sectoral experts to identify key issues in respective sector and to prepare detailed Annual plan of Action and TOR/guideline in agreement with the government.
- Sharing information with key stakeholders to ensure transparency.
- Regular coordination and liaison with stakeholders to access information.
- Cluster based directory of resources for each cluster approved by inter agency & government.
- Capacity building for all phases of disaster management cycle:
  - Prevention and Preparedness
  - Rescue and relief
  - Rehabilitation and Recovery
- Research on disaster prone areas and dissemination among the key stakeholders.

## National Level

- Map of existing expertise and their involvement in the respective sector group.
- Regular meetings of sector experts to identify key issues in respective sector and to prepare detail Annual Plan of Action and TOR/guideline in agreement with government.
- Establish functional executive body with necessary guidelines/ policies:
  - a) Where it wants to go and how?
- Define the sources of funding for the functioning of sector committees.
- Develop Communication protocol for the following stakeholders:
  - Government
  - State
  - International
  - Impeding offers
- Avoid legal status/registration as suggested by group

## Regional Level

- Structure: Subcommittees/Sectoral committees to be formed (ensure inclusion of women, Persons with Disability(PWD), minorities and other vulnerable groups)
- Select common thematic areas for South Asian level such as DRR, Climate Change and Environment.
- Common tool for assessment.
- Capacity building on tools and other identified areas.
- Knowledge management and sharing of Good practices, cross border research by promoting common digital platform and regional newsletters.
- Cross regional study visits.
- Promote technological updates for cost effective applications.



- Mandate of specialized organization (member of the subcommittee) should take the responsibility for capacity building of the peers and for resource mobilization to work in that particular sector. This will help in penetration of standards.
- Certification of sector specific humanitarian standards by the sub committee.
- Develop stronger association with SAARC Disaster Management Centre.
- Coordination with government and stakeholders.
- Technical support to government and other humanitarian agencies (experience sharing, knowledge and technology transefers)
- Mobilization of local resources.
- Media partnership/ liaison for information sharing.
- SDMP including sector wise plan/ SOP prepared by views from line department (Contingency state level plan).
- Secondary information available to the Resource centre. Relief work should be channelized at state level.
- Knowledge management.
- Documentation of local coping mechanisms community.
- Advocacy to government and other stakeholders on sector specific issues.







Experience sharing by state/field networks facilitated by Mr. Binoy Acharya, Unnati

Inter-Agency Groups (IAGs) are multi stakeholder coordination platforms at state and district levels in India. They seek to promote and facilitate collaboration and coordination among the various actors and agencies working with communities before, during and after emergencies. Varying from state to state, they also engage and collaborate with government, corporates, academia, media and other key stakeholders.



**The presentations were made by the following states and district IAGs:**

Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand(State IAGs) and Madhubani (district IAG).

### Regional Network:

After the series of consultations in the past, a need was felt and proposed by the country specific national network to discuss framework of action for developing and strengthening regional networks. Group exercise was done to find out the modalities/rationale and actions of the regional networks in this workshop. The discussion resulted in the proposition of formation of a Core Working Group till the formation of the regional network.

# Group work: Framework of Action for Developing and Strengthening South Asian Networks



## Regional Network

### For (what are the factors that will aid this process)

- Each country focal point should coordinate with their respective country networks
  - Humanitarian Coordination for Afghanistan is UN OCHA
  - DP-Net is a focal point –National Network of CBDM committee, DM Journalist Association
  - ICIMOD is a member of DP-Net Nepal
  - CHA is a focal point for Asia Pacific Alliance for DM - Srilanka (APADM)
  - Observers from beyond SAARC countries
  - OXFAM is a knowledge partner to ALNAP, SI linkages with ALNAP
- Information sharing at regional level
- Good governance practices at national level should be shared at regional level
- A regional network should be accredited/MoU with SAARC

### Against (risk perception)

- Focal Point/Contact person (regional/national) for future communication
- Fund Management
- Co-operate/ Engage with other established networks

## Roles and Actions from National Networks

### Within Country

- Each country focal point should coordinate with their respective country networks
- Capacity Building
- Support for necessary in country approvals
- Reference point for future collaborations
- Facilitating cross border collaboration
- Information sharing and feedback mechanism (inter/intra country)

### To Regional Network

- Knowledge sharing/information flow
- Advocacy
- Secretariat Actions/hosting



# Engagements with IGO's SDMC, SARC, ICIMOD, ADPC ....

## Issues to focus on

- Modalities for engaging with all intergovernmental agencies/networks
- Collaborating for cross border actions (EWS, Information Sharing, best practices)
- Mainstreaming common issues (gender, caste, inclusion, livestock, disability, vulnerable groups)
- Public Health concerns (Cross border, epidemics, chronic)

## Concerns

- Acknowledging common issues/discrimination
- Extent of information sharing (timeliness and details)
- Advocacy on sensitive issues

## Principles

### Key Concerns at Regional Level

- Non– Negotiable principles (IFRC)
- Adherence to Sphere and PIA
- Positions (Agency, Network (inter/intra country))
- Mapping of above activities
- Coordinating/engaging with regional networks on common issues

### Issues to Focus / Common themes

- Disaster Management (Natural and human induced)
- Health issues (Epidemic/Public Health and Nutrition)
- Right based approach (entitlements, dignity)
- Inclusion/identity (ethnic minority, caste, political affiliation, immigrants/religious minority, refugees/IDPs, children, senior citizens, PWD/differently abled)

Note: All operations to be guided by established and agreed humanitarian principles

## Community of Practice

### Key Suggestions

- Online discussion forum
- Knowledge based
  - Sectoral directory of resources (technical experts, equipment's, IEC, SOPs, best practices, standard modules, lesson learnt)
  - Logistics (vendors, supply chain, specifications, transport)
  - Periodic information sharing (Newsletter, leaflets, events)
- Mobilization of Resources
  - Human resources, skills
  - Logistics

### Focus thematic

- Immediate provision for HR sharing
- Advocacy on specific issues (disaster and development)
- Ethics in disaster time

# Proposed Structure

## Needs

- **Internal Actions**
  - Letter of Commitment and Cooperation from National Networks
  - Nomination of Focal Points
  - Draft charter of actions and principles
  - Each national networks to inform respective govt.
  - Secretariat actions
  - Action Plan/Work Plan
- **External Actions**
  - Letter from SDMC for accreditation
  - Liaising with inter governmental agencies, other regional/global networks (ADPC, ASEAN, UNAP, Sphere Geneva etc)

## Concerns

- **Office setup and operations**
  - Funding to sustain regional actions and operations
  - HR
  - Mutual Co- operation
- **Ensuring Quality and Accountability (community/sectors/stakeholders)**

# The Road Ahead

- **Timeline (by when are we looking to start)**
  - Information sharing with member countries–20<sup>th</sup> Nov (workshop report and key agreements)
  - Nomination for working group from member countries–1<sup>st</sup> Dec
  - Finalization of working group–10<sup>th</sup> Dec
  - First status report from working group–31<sup>st</sup> Jan
  - Next regional Workshop in Nepal–Feb 2015
  - Regional Networks get formalized by WCDRR– March 2015
- **3 Core thematic areas for South Asia (pan SA approach inclusive and humanitarian principles based)**
  - Minimum standard for Disaster Relief across SA (Agreed with SDMC)
  - TBC
  - TBC
- **In country actions (from here what do we do at the national level to support this intent)**

# Core working Group core action till formation of the network

## Who should be in Working Group (WG)?

1. Humanitarian & DRR agency-INGOs
2. National NGOs
3. UN
4. IFRC
5. Academic Institution
6. Association of Network

## Nomination and Role of Working Group

- Role of the WG: Prepare the Charter.
- How many?- 4-8 Members as nominated by the Member Country (MC)
- How are the members nominated by the MC?-Willingness, motivation, experience.
- If large no. of organisations of the MC come forward- MC nominates 1 representative



## Regional network - Core Group country level participation

1. Network
  - Recognized by the Govt. (not referring to registration)
  - Membership of NGOs and INGOs
  - Coordinating with local networks
2. UN agencies
3. Donor Agencies
4. Humanitarian agencies– National agencies
5. Academic institutions

### Who should be nominated by the Member Country?

- MC to decide (from member organisations, research institute, NGO, INGO, experts) in coordination with other MC's

## Regional Network - Core Group

1. Country teams / participants (max of 5 / nation) =  $5 \times 8 = 40$
2. Regional level institutions = 3

### Who should be in Regional Network?

- How many? – 8 MC's + 2 Other Country Invitees
- How many representatives of each MC in the Regional Network?
  - Option 1: (4-5 representatives as nominated by the MC)
  - Option 2: (2 representatives as nominated by the MG1 Primary Member/2 Secondary Member)
- Leadership of MC: On rotation basis amongst members in the member country which have a regional footprint (presently SI)
- Leadership tenure of MC: 1 year
- Criteria for membership:
  - Based on each country network membership
  - Decided by respective executive committee

## Work to do !

1. Rationale - why
2. Need
3. Actions of the Regional network



**Dipankar Patnaik**  
Regional Emergency Manager-South Asia  
Christian Aid UK & Ireland

“A regional partnership to enable cross learning opportunities, sharing of best practices and integrated knowledge management for South Asia”



**Eilia Jafar**  
Head, Disaster Management Unit,  
CARE India

A great beginning of regional collaboration towards upholding the rights and dignity of the women, men, boys and girls affected by disasters and conflicts. Such a network will provide opportunity to share existing good practices and lessons on quality and accountability in humanitarian action within the region.



**Vijay Rai**  
Program Manager,  
Wealtheungerhilfe

The network will definitely build its strength from the diverse experience of the practitioners in the region by establishing standards and models that can be followed during Humanitarian emergencies. The network will help sharing of best practices at regional as well as intra country level



**Manoj Dash**  
Senior Program Manager,  
Sphere India

Network of Networks will help to strengthen standards, accountability practices and ultimately strengthening resilient community who are the first responders, through exchange of best practices, Cross learning, capacity building program and Collaborative advocacy. As the Disasters don't recognize any boundaries, It is important to look at collaborative mechanism to withstand disasters by enhancing capacity in coordination with neighboring countries. Disaster have same characteristics but preparedness matter's to categories it.



**Najibullah Tajali**  
Deputy Director,  
ACBAR- Afghanistan

Within the context of proneness of countries to various disasters, the success and gaps of humanitarian action and urgency to fulfill the basic rights of the affected people in the region, we, the participant of the Humanitarian Quality and Accountability Networking Workshop, agreed to establish a Humanitarian Quality and Accountability in South Asian Region. The network aimed to provide the opportunities for information, good/best practices, capacities exchanges and regional co-operation on capacity building and advocacy



**Bishal Nath Upreti**  
Chairperson  
DPNet- Nepal

Disasters do not respect political boundaries. South Asian countries are not only culturally and economically bound (intertwined) together but they also share common geographic and climatic environment. Therefore, need for a common platform to share DRR issues is widely felt by national networks of this region. A regional network to bring closer together of national networks could be the best platform for an effective DRR initiatives in the region.



## Testimonials



**S. Jayanthi**  
Project Coordinator  
CHA, Sri Lanka

Learning the current status and strengthening the existing humanitarian networks in the region and collaborating more effectively through initiating the need for a regional level network for an effective DM process in the region



**Kannaro Kep**  
Chairperson  
CHF, Cambodia

Building strong network of humanitarian NGOs in South Asian, promoting solidarity of NGOs around quality and accountability and sphere standard.



**H. Iskandar Leman**  
Professional Development  
Coordinator/Founder  
Indonesia Society for Disaster  
Management

The workshop brought the opportunities for the participants from countries, especially South Asian Countries except Bangladesh and Pakistan to come together and share their experiences and concerns on humanitarian quality and accountability actions in emergencies. Special attention have been given to issues of Water, Sanitation, Hygiene Promotion, Food, Nutrition, Shelter, Health Services, Education and Protection, Livestock's, Gender, Minorities, HIV/AIDS, elderly and children. All the issue founded its similarity on the right based approach.

Within the context of proneness of countries to various disaster, the success and gaps of humanitarian action and urgency to fulfill the basic rights of the affected people in the region, we, the participant of the Humanitarian Quality and Accountability Networking Workshop, agreed to establish a Humanitarian Quality and Accountability in South Asian Region, which consisted of representatives of India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, Bhutan from UNs, INGO, NNGO, Universities and Association Network. The network aimed to provide the opportunities for information, good/best practices, capacities exchanges and regional co-operation on capacity building, advocacy, early warning.

**We, the participants, urged the Association of Networks, UN, IFRC, Donors, INGOs, NNGOs, LNGOs, CBOs, Media, Private Sector, Universities, and Communities to collaborate in ensuring the quality and accountability of humanitarian action in the region.**



We would like to give special thanks to our organizing/core team for their continuous support and guidance to make this event a success.