

# ACCOUNTABILITY LEARNING AND WORKING GROUP (ALWG)

## Pakistan Flood Response

### I. Background

The humanitarian response in Pakistan that started following the floods in July-August 2010 faces enormous challenges to respond to the needs of the flood affected population. Taking into account the need for more coordination and with the expressed interest by various aid agencies during three meetings held in Islamabad<sup>1</sup> and over 10 workshops held all around Pakistan since August 2010, this document is an attempt to establish purpose and scope of a Learning and Working Group for the aid agencies working in this humanitarian response.

Lessons from emergencies like Earthquake in Pakistan in 2005 and other emergencies since then in Myanmar, Haiti and Kenya have shown the advantage of agencies working together and learning from each other on how to make the humanitarian interventions more accountable to those they are trying to assist. The HAP and Sphere Secretariat in Geneva are interested to support and collaborate with this working group to raise awareness about the essence and practicalities of the globally accepted standards in humanitarian accountability and quality management.

### II. Purpose of the ALWG

The overall aim of the forum is to be a resource to strengthen the quality and accountability in Flood response. The focus for the first four months of the ALWG will be, but not limited to, the promotion of the information provision, participation and setting up complaint mechanisms.

The Accountability Learning Working Group intends to achieve the following key objectives in collaboration with agencies operational in the flood affected areas and committed to promote quality and accountability.

- To promote and support the institutionalization process of HAP, Sphere and any other Standards at organizational levels for participating agencies.
- To collect case studies on good practices and challenges in adhering to HAP, Sphere and any other Standards during emergency response programs by the participating agencies.
- To enable learning and sharing information on key strategies and policies affecting the flood response vis-à-vis quality and accountability.

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<sup>1</sup> Held on August 12<sup>th</sup> and September 17<sup>th</sup> at CWS-P/A Office, Round Table Conference in Serena Hotel on September 24<sup>th</sup>

### **III. Structure and Role**

The ALWG is a forum for all aid agencies committed to promote quality and accountability in the flood response in Pakistan. The representatives from four interested agencies would be pioneering members of the steering committee of this Learning and Working Group. The four members will form the steering committee and will provide their services on voluntary basis for a period of four months. Every four months, the ALWG members will review the need for continuity, define/update the objectives of the Group and select a new steering committee.

The four core member of ALWG will be responsible for the following key activities:

- To hold monthly round-table meetings by inviting participants from humanitarian community at large either at Islamabad or at field level.
- To share the minutes of each meeting to the participating agencies and HAP member agencies within one week after holding a monthly meeting.
- To develop and get agreement for any tools and case studies for collective use to institutionalize quality and accountability in the given context.
- To establish and update an internet based resource centre for collective use.
- To encourage local institutions/agencies to join the forum and to promote a high level of accountability and transparency in the flood response.
- Each member would take concurrent responsibility for a specific provincial level UN Cluster system.
- Coordinate efforts in clusters to highlight quality and accountability on the Humanitarian agenda

### **IV. Working Group participants/members**

The Accountability Learning and Working Group will be open to all international, national and local organizations, as well as other entities – including donors, Government and local authorities committed to the promotion of quality and accountability in Pakistan. There will not be restriction to any agency interested in joining. Efforts will be made to invite all agencies interested to join. No membership will be required.

### **V. Frequency of meetings:**

The ALWG will meet at least once a month (the first Wednesday of every month at 11:00 AM preferably) with clear agenda for discussion and information sharing. Whenever members of the ALWG find appropriate to organize extra meetings, this will be considered and provision made to happen.