

Minutes from New Emergencies Policy Meeting - Baluchistan Response 2008

7th November, 2008

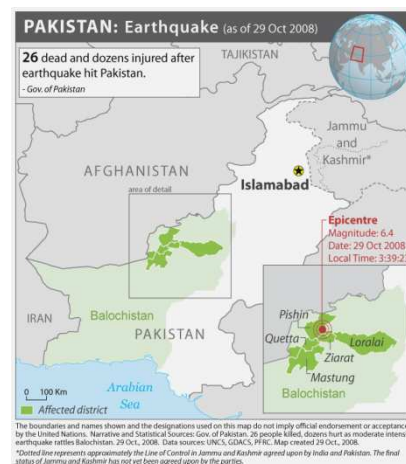
Islamabad, Pakistan

1) Background:

An earthquake of 6.4 magnitude on Richter scale shook south-western areas of Balochistan province in Pakistan in the early hours of 29 October 2008. The tremor was followed by a number of violent aftershocks, severely affecting the districts of Ziarat, Pishin and Harnai, destroying houses and sending tens of thousands of people fleeing their homes and taking shelter under the open sky in sub-zero temperatures. The earthquake also destroyed or damaged water schemes, schools and health facilities. Preliminary assessments give at least 175 people killed and 500 injured and around 45,000 households displaced.

Currently there are 9 members of HAP operational in Pakistan through (partners of directly) are ACTED; CARE International; CPDI; Concern Worldwide; CWS Pakistan/Afghanistan; Muslim Aid; Oxfam GB; Sungi and World Vision International.

The New Emergencies Policy was invoked by HAP and Members in Pakistan were invited to discuss how they are ensuring delivery of quality services through accountable practices which lead to the empowerment and dignity of the disaster survivors. The humanitarian response to the earthquake in Baluchistan, which comes in the wake of a string of natural disasters in Pakistan, is an opportunity for all humanitarian agencies to prove how far they've come in addressing past challenges and delivering better quality and more accountable programmes.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Narrative and Statistical Sources: Gov of Pakistan. 26 people killed, dozens hurt as moderate intensity earthquake rattles Balochistan. 29 Oct. 2008. Data sources: UNICEF, USGS, PHC. Map created 29 Oct. 2008. *Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

© Relief Web International

2) Proceedings

- a) Introductions of the participants and NEP background
- b) Update on response (salient points noted in table below)

	Name	Participating Agency	Response (current & planned)
1.	Rubina Mazhar	Muslim Aid	Distribution of non-food items. Planning for distribution of transitional shelters. Working on a model shelter suitable for climate and geography of Baluchistan. Once it is finalized it will be shared with other agencies as well. Child focused programmes planned.
2.	Asad Mehdi	Muslim Aid	
3.	Kamran Naeem	Concern Worldwide	Distribution of Non food items. Concern Worldwide will be undertaking WATSAN projects and for this it has applied for early recovery appeal of the UN cluster
4.	Shane Brady	Concern Worldwide	
5.	Ahmad Usman	Care International	Distribution of tents and food items. Working through five local partners. Following Sphere Standards
6.	Mehvish Hussain	CWS-P/A	Rapid response distribution of blankets and winterized tents. Working with partners. Following Sphere Standards
7.	Safeer Khan	Bedari (non-member)	No operational response – looking to establish a complaint cell in Balochistan
8.	Zahid Abdullah	CPDI	(No operational response) – Increase learning of Natural Disaster response advocacy.
9.	Prasen Khati	Oxfam Novib (non-member)	Working through partners such as Sungi etc
10.	Saad Yousaf	Sungi	Mobile Medical Camps. Will work on advocacy and awareness raising programmes. Is planning to address long-term issues like human trafficking, smuggling and other illegal activities which lead to moral hazards. An accountability team has of senior management has been sent to Baluchistan to review how well Sungi has responded according to HAP Principles of Accountability
Regretted:		HAP Staff:	
World Vision International, Oxfam GB, ACTED, Save the Children UK		Naveedul Haq, Shaukat Awan and Maria Kiani	

2 c) Challenges and Opportunities

The participants outlined the following challenges and opportunities for their respective agencies for increasing accountability and quality in the current humanitarian response. Following is the summary of the points that were highlighted:

Agency	Review Of Response, Gaps, Strategy and Quality and Accountability Goals	Corresponding HAP Principles
Sungi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Looking at the disaster and its response through rights perspective 2) Develop an accountability team for oversight and review 3) Use the previous experience of the earthquake and building programs based on the learnings and capacities 	Principle 1: Commitment to humanitarian standards and rights Principle 2: Setting Standards and building Capacity
Concern	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Complaints Mechanism: a) Prepare formal guidelines b) Roll out with partners 2) Have a lessons learned workshop for all interventions 3) HAP Focal person- HAP training for partner and potential partners for emergency response 4) Follow Sphere standards in distribution 5) Ensure that emergency response partners are pre-trained on relevant issues 6) Ensure the Concern programme participation protection policy is included in all agreements with partners and they are trained accordingly, have a 3 day workshop with partners 7) Have accountability and quality as part of agreement with partners 8) Involving beneficiaries in distribution and evaluation 9) Have gender balanced assessment teams 	Principle 1: Commitment to humanitarian standards and rights Principle 2: Setting Standards and building Capacity Principle 6: Addressing Complaints Principle 7: Implementing Partners
CARE International	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local partners were selected and teams provided one day orientation on Care Policies, Code of Conduct, Sphere and HAP principles; 2. The project cycle was sphere compliant; 3. GAPS include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local partners have little or no knowledge on quality and accountability issues; • A simple yet practical complaint system 	Principle 1: Commitment to humanitarian standards and rights Principle 2: Setting Standards and building Capacity Principle 6: Addressing Complaints Principle 7: Implementing Partners
CWS – P/A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ensure Sphere standards are maintained and partners receive training on partners on HAP, Sphere standards and disaster management 2) Adopting ISO standard formats for each activity of project cycle 3) Planning for complaint cell in our project area to ensure Q&A 	Principle 1: Commitment to humanitarian standards and rights Principle 2: Setting Standards and building Capacity Principle 6: Addressing Complaints Principle 7: Implementing Partners
CPDI	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ensure reaching out to marginalized people and those ‘ who have no voice’ 2) Ensure developing linkages with the disabled with disability organization and other institutions 3) Increase advocacy opportunities and learnings on natural disasters in Pakistan 	Principle 3 Communication
Muslim Aid	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Plan long for long term interventions like shelter and ensure efficient humanitarian response 2) Ensure that supplies are as per Sphere Standards 3) Activities on the basis of accurate and timely assessment of beneficiary needs based on their participation 4) Evaluation: some independent forum should conduct this exercise 5) Internal policy and procedures should be observed through incorporating in reporting formats 6) as a pre requisite emergency response staff be required to go through relevant trainings 7) Have a peer review on quality with other NGOs(this was done during CERF funding on shelter in Sind in 2008) 	Principle 1: Commitment to humanitarian standards and rights Principle 2: Setting Standards and building Capacity Principle 3: Participation Principle 6: Addressing Complaints
Bedari	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Intends to establish an independent complaints cell based on its previous experience in Manshera 	Principle 6: Addressing Complaints

2d) Salient points of group discussion:

This process helped to identify areas in which the member agencies would require HAP support in this specific that would focus agency specific and joint activities in the given situation:

- On site/ field support in Baluchistan should be provided in which:
 - Assessment of agency work should be reviewed in light of the HAP Principles
 - Gaps, if any should be identified and supported given to overcome them.
- Partners, emergency and newly inducted staff should be oriented to HAP Principles.
- A complaints mechanism workshop should be held in Islamabad for HAP Members in order to enable them to create agency specific complaints system.
- Tools for monitoring and evaluation and continual learning should be developed and shared by HAP Members in Pakistan

The group felt it that the meeting was a good opportunity to have shared learning and that a peer support group for Pakistan should be re- initiated.

Muslim Aid and CARE have offered to facilitate HAP staff in Baluchistan (details will be finalized- the facilitation does not include financial support)

3) Actions

- ✓ HAP Staff will create a plan for proposed support and dates no later than 12th November, 2008
 - ✓ Agencies will comment on this plan and identify activities they would like to undertake and when.
 - ✓ HAP Staff will hold an interagency orientation in Baluchistan for partners, emergency and new staff during its NEP visit to Baluchistan on a date agreed within the plan.
-