

WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

Jointly Observed by Local National International NGOs and UN Organizations in Dhaka

CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka

19 August, 2016



All local national and international non-government organizations (NGO) along with UN organizations have observed the 19th August World Humanitarian Day as declared by United Nation, through a seminar held in CIRDAP auditorium, Dhaka. Speakers in the seminar emphasized the capacity development of first humanitarian response i.e. capacity of the local NGOs and community organizations should be considered as priority and urgent.

The seminar title “WHS (World Humanitarian Summit) Outcomes : Experiences of Recent Disaster Response in Bangladesh” was jointly organized by Action Aid, BRAC, Christian Aid, COAST, Concern Worldwide, Concern Universal, Dun Church Aid, Disaster Forum, DSK, International Federation of Red Crescent, Islamic Relief, Muslim Aid, Oxfam, Plan International, Practical Action, NIRAPAD, Save the Children, SKS Foundation, Tear Fund, International Organization of Migration (IoM), United Nation Resident Coordinator (UNRC), Wave Foundation and World Vision.

The seminar was moderated by Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of COAST. Chief Guest was Md. Shah Kamal, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, and special guests are Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen from Dhaka University, Mr. Badi Akhter from Oxfam, Mr. Nayeem Warha from BRAC, Mr. Asif Munir from IoM, Kazi Sahidur Rahman from UNRC, Mr. Shakeb Nabi from Christian Aid, Ms. Hasina Inam from DCA, Ms. Hasin Jahan from Practical Action and Mr. Rafiqul Alam from Dwip Unnayan Sangsta Hatiya and Mr. Adit Saah durjoy of Red Crescent. Mr Shawkat Ali Tutul of COAST has presented the key note paper in the seminar.



Background of the Seminar

Every year on 19 August, World Humanitarian Day (WHD) recognizes the aid workers who risk their lives to provide humanitarian assistance to people around the world. The campaign has begun since 2008. Each year, WHD is celebrated with a fresh, thought-provoking angle aimed at galvanizing the public around a catchy social media campaign. This year's World Humanitarian Day is a part of the ongoing communications around the World Humanitarian Summit, under the overarching theme of 'One Humanity'. All assets including logos, posters, media kit, and social media graphics will be available on the WHD trello board. <http://bit.ly/WHDcomms>

In line with the ongoing communication around WHS in Bangladesh we have planned to observe this day by organising a seminar with following the outcomes of WHS and uphold our experience of response to recent disaster in the country. Through the seminar especially we will have chance to assess humanitarian response in light with WHS outcomes. The local, National and International NGOs who are working in recent disaster have been invited.

CHS support group is an informal group mainly represented by Humanitarian agencies/ individuals in Bangladesh, especially representation from (alphabetically) Action Aid, ACF, BRAC, CARE, Caritas, Christian Aid, COAST, Concern World Wide, Dan Church Aid, Disaster Forum, DSK, IFRC, IOM, Islamic Relief, Muslim Aid, NIRAPAD, Oxfam, Plan International, Practical Action, Save the Children, Tear Fund, World Vision, and Aminul Kawser Dipu & Shasanka Sadi as independent experts. In 2007 this group started its journey as HAP peer support group and contributed; HAP standard translation in Bengali, CHS consultation process and feedback, CHS translation in Bengali and organized different events in National and local level and so on. COAST (www.coastbd.net) is facilitating the group.

Objectives of the Seminar:

The main objectives of the seminar were: To know what and why of World Humanitarian Day; To recognize the direct and indirect outcomes of WHS; To evaluate/assess our experience in light with WHS on recent disaster (cyclone Roanu, Bandarban food crisis, and ongoing flood response.)

Key messages and Discussion:

Mr. Shawkat Ali Tutul of COAST in his key note

presentation highlighted major outcomes of the WHS which are charter for change i.e. commitment to increase funding to local NGOs

by international NGOs, launching of NEAR (Network for Empowering Aid Response) an alliance of southern NGOs, Platform of Disaster Displacement i.e. a state led initiative to recognize the climate induced displacement where Germany is the chair and Bangladesh is the vice-chair.

He also said this is a movement of local organizations with a bold ambition – to reshape the top-down humanitarian and development system to one that is locally driven and owned built around equitable, dignified and accountable



partnerships. This campaign facilitated by International Council for Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) also launching during WHS, he added.

He also said, grand bargain is about the need to work together efficiently, transparently and harmoniously with new and existing partners, including the private sector, individuals and non traditional sources of funding. They demand commitment from donor and aid agencies: (Some are as below)

- *Publish all humanitarian fund data*
- *Support the capacity of all partners to access and publish data.*
- *A global target of at least 25% of humanitarian funding to local and national responders as directly as possible by 2020*
- *Improve joint and impartial needs assessments*
- *Harmonies and simplify reporting requirements*

Mr. Amal Majumder of MJSKS said local NGOs have potential to manage fund as well as rapid disaster response. If they get chance to work together with govt.'s disaster management initiatives that would be more effective as they have good knowledge of disaster preparedness, taking rapid action, local volunteer and mobilization. Government therefore rethinks to involve local community with any disaster related activities.



Mr. Masud Rana of Concern Universal shared their working experience with local people where local investment was 80% and rest of form Concern in the development of Dumuria in Khulna. It is important to mention that local NGOs need more capacity to mobilize resources so that they can tackle any type of natural disaster, he said.



Mr. Nayeem Gowhar Warha emphasized the localization and accountability as major outcome of the WHS; he



mentioned that food security of some of some remotest district like Bandarban and Sunamganj should get priority. He also said if NGOs could repair dam and embankment in right time to avert huge damage of flood of this year. Water Development Board should involve local community to protect local infrastructure to protect people from flood otherwise it never be ended.

Ms. Shukla Tagore of Save the Children said local NGOs have increased their capacities to face disaster in comparison to the situation of 1998. At present, the NGOs are not implementing any project at grass root level as donor. "Here we are as observers or facilitators to facilitate local partners to implement project as they have obtained lot of capacities where INGOs do ensure the accountability and responsibility of local partners," he said.



Ms. Hasina Akhter Rita of NIRAPAD proposed for analyzing actual situation of disaster affected people across the country and the govt. should take data collection by following standard method so that NGOs can identify the genuine vulnerable groups to work for their rehabilitation.

Mr. Shakeb Nabi of Christian Aid mentioned said the NGOs should have good collaboration and cooperation between INGO-NGO-Local NGOs and also need to increase the capacity of locals NGOs through training, orientation etc. He also said there should not be any discrimination among INGOs-NGOs-Local NGOs.



Mr. Aminul Kawser Dipu of ESC said they have overcome food crisis in the meantime but still they are facing the scarcity of drinking water. Many people are suffering more due to lack of drinking water after the disaster that damaged sources of drinking water. He suggested that Bangladesh Metrological Department should be run under the direction of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief.

Mr. Md. Nasir Uddin of Action Aid said it is recognized that the NGOs have enough capacity to face or recover natural disaster but in terms of humanitarian aspect they are in back ward situation still. It is because there is no humanitarian standard focused initiative to rehabilitate disaster affected or disaster risk



groups. On the other hand climate change is the main cause of disaster so we should claim compensation from them who creates this, he said.

Ms. Shamnaz Ahmed of Dan Church Aid said World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is being observed since 2003 and everyone also talked about the outcomes of World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). She sought to know what kinds of inactivate the govt. has taken by following the outcomes so that it will easy to us to do localization at community.



Mr. Nazrul Islam of Wave Foundation said women and children are always ignored in any strategic plan taken by govt or other sector but they are suffered most during and after disaster. Govt. should have initiative to enhance coordination and cooperation between Go-NGOs.



Mr. Asif Munier of IoM urged for integration of migration, refugee issues and displacement in humanitarian responses. He also said there are differences between immediate response and protected response so we



should think about this in humanitarian ground. This time Roanu and flood did not damage much as because local people were much aware and got capacity than before. "Good practice should be our example and

should promote them; it should not be only 2/3 NGOs dependent activities.

We should involve more local people as they know their situation better than us,” he added.

Ms. Hasin Jahan of Practical Action said the NGOs should enhance and mobilize their local resources and it also needs to implement appropriate technology so that the damage during flood can be reduced.

The local people needs to know the health and hygiene facilities provided by govt. or other sectors and seeds also should be disseminated to poor farmers after flood or any kinds of natural disaster, he said.

Dr. Jahangir Alam an Agricultural Economist said they should realize the huge devastation during flood. It washed away everything and farmer becomes poorer. “If we facilitate them to recover then that should be cash instead of materials. So that they can buy whatever need,” he added.

Mr. Md. Adith Shah Durjoy of IFRC questioned as humanitarian actor what would be their role and responsibilities and how would they utilize their resources properly. They also collect information of vulnerabilities using mobile application, he added.

Ms. Hasina Inam of Dan Church Aid said the outcomes of chapter 4 of WHS they are talking about the localization and enhances their capacity. It is important to share information time to time during and before disaster so that they get time to protect them from disaster. “We should recognize their local capacity and intervention as well,” she added.

Mr. Badi Akhter of Oxfam has given emphasize on integration of climate adaptation in humanitarian response and he urged for involvement of women right organizations in this regard. “We should keep in mind that relief means not only money or food supply it should be recognized as humanitarian ground providing water and sanitation facilities, building capacity as they are required.”

Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen of Dhaka University said the country has now more resources to invest in humanitarianism and the priority should be to develop capacity of the community and local NGOs in this regard. The main words of WHS are ‘No One Behind’ and we work for it. “Our priority should be building knowledge of community people so that investment should be more for the locality.”

Mr. Md. Shah Kamal Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster and Relief said INGOs should involve in monitoring while they should fund for implementation by local NGOs. Now Go-NGOs work together in effective way. “Now we are not only providing food and water but also repairing dam and other infrastructure immediately after disaster and our coverage is 100% at present, no one is left. We also think about livestock during and after disaster and taking required preparation in this regard.” He requested donor NGOs to provide the roadmap of their work as long run basis. Then the govt. will give them leading position in their working area and govt. needs coordination from donors, he added.



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