



THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION IN AFGHANISTAN

MAY 21st May
Queen's Palace
Kabul

***IN PREPERATION FOR THE
2016 WORLD HUMANITARIN SUMMIT
TO BE HELD IN ISTAMBUL***



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ACBAR, the Agency Coordinating Body of Afghan Relief and Development in collaboration with Islamic Relief INGO conveyed the Afghan National consultations on May 21st 2015 in preparation for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul.

The national consultation, in line with the UN Secretary-General's plan to convene a global humanitarian summit will focus on mapping out a new humanitarian approach that is more effective and inclusive, and more representative of the needs and challenges of the rapidly changing world.

Agenda

08.00 – 8.30 **Registration**

8:30 - 08:35 **Opening Prayer**

08.30 – 08.50 **Welcoming** – Formal Opening / Mr. Amanullah Jawad-(ACBAR Chairperson)

08:50- 09:30 **Introduction to WHS** (Aims, Objectives) / Dr.Hanny EL-Albanna (The founder of IR and the president for Humanitarian Forum), Ms. Cathy Howard (Deputy Head of OCHA), Mohammad Musa Mahmoodi (Secretary General of the Independent Human Rights Commission), Mohammad Taib Yousafzai (Operational Director and Resource Manager of the Afghan Red Crescent Society)

09:30 -10:00 **Preamble:** Afghanistan presentation / Mohammad Aslam Sayas (Deputy Director of ANDMA) Mr. Syeed Hashim Basirat (Head of NGOs Department within the Ministry of Economy), Mr. Sediq Sediqqi (Spokesperson and Director of Communication and Public Relations within the Ministry of Interior), Dr. M.Ismail Wardak Chief of the Health Unit within the Ministry of Defense)

10.00 – 10.15 **Coffee / Tea Break**

10.15 – 11.45 **Workshops:** (4 Parallel Working Groups)

Group 1: Humanitarian effectiveness

Group 2: Reducing Vulnerability, Managing Risk

Group 3: Transformation through innovation

Group 4: Serving the needs of people in Conflict

12:30- 1:30 **LUNCH**

1:30-3:30 **Interactive Workshop:**

Action Plan:

Organisation: What, Where, When and How?

3.30 – 4.00 **Conclusion and any other points of discussion on WHS**

Introduction to the Afghanistan National Consultation

“Disasters are striking with increased frequency and severity causing suffering for millions of people... We need new solutions, new ways of responding and new pathways to reliance. This is why I will convene the first ever World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in 2016. Over the next two years we will be organizing events in all regions and hosting online discussions to solicit answers to our humanitarian challenges. Please join us in working to save lives and reduce hardship around the globe.” (UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon).

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) is an initiative of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, managed by UN OCHA. It will be held in Istanbul on 26th and 27th May 2016 and will bring together governments, humanitarian organizations, people affected by humanitarian crises and new partners including the private sector to propose solutions keep humanitarian aid fit for purpose. During the two year process leading up to the WHS, various channels of consultations, will offer a platform for humanitarian actors to highlight what they consider crucial to better address the needs of affected populations .



Special guest speakers

In the lead-up to the WHS, eight regional consultations with a wide range of stakeholders (national governments, humanitarian organizations, community responders / affected populations, private sector and other partners) are being held. Afghanistan will be represented in the South and Central Asia Regional consultation to be held in Dushanbe Tajikistan, July 2015 .

On the 21st May 2015, ACBAR, the Agency Coordinating Body of Afghan Relief and Development and Islamic Relief co-hosted the Afghanistan National Consultation to represent the widest range of perspectives and experiences of humanitarian organizations in the country, including, government bodies, UN agencies, international and national NGOs, the donor community, and Embassies in Kabul to set an agenda to more effectively meet the needs of millions of people.

In line with the themes of the WHS, the Afghanistan National Consultation focused on:

- 1. HUMANITARIAN EFFECTIVENESS** – The humanitarian community will need to work more efficiently and effectively to meet growing and more complex needs with limited resources and by working better together with the diverse actors involved in humanitarian action.
- 2. REDUCING VULNERABILITY AND MANAGING RISK** – Humanitarian action is not optimally set up to help people and governments reduce their vulnerability to humanitarian crises. Governments, humanitarians and development actors need to work together to better anticipate humanitarian crises, act before they become catastrophes and prevent their recurrence.
- 3. TRANSFORMATION THROUGH INNOVATION** – The humanitarian system needs to be better at adapting and improving to respond to more complex humanitarian needs. This will require looking beyond the current systems and processes, and exploring new technologies and partners to identify new tools, products and services.
- 4. SERVING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN CONFLICT** - The scale, intensity and duration of armed conflicts continue to displace millions of people and generate immense humanitarian needs. The humanitarian community needs to examine how to strengthen its capacity and work better with partners to provide principled humanitarian action in these contexts.

The results of the National Consultation be key inputs for the South and Central Asia Regional Consultation in July 2015 and ensure the voice of the Afghanistan humanitarian community is well heard in the WHS 2016.

Afghanistan National Consultation (Aims and Objectives)

Welcoming and Formal Opening by ACBAR's Chairperson

The Afghanistan National Consultation started with the recitation of verses of the Holy Quran. After welcoming participants, ACBAR's Chairperson presented the Afghan National Consultation as a starting point of dialogue to enable the mapping of a new humanitarian approach which is more effective, inclusive and representative to the needs and challenges of Afghanistan. In order to be more proactive, there is a need for humanitarian agencies in Afghanistan to solve issues and find opportunities for efficiency towards effective service delivery and to saving lives of affected populations. The Afghanistan National Consultation creates this opportunity by providing a platform for humanitarian actors to share their knowledge, experiences, successes, and lessons learned in order to strengthen the country's humanitarian action.



Islamic Relief and the Humanitarian Forum

The founder of Islamic Relief and the president of Humanitarian Forum introduced the Afghanistan National Consultation. Since May, 2014, the Humanitarian Forum have organized 35 national consultations globally. The Afghanistan National Consultation will assemble the views, visions, and innovative ideas of varying humanitarian actors within the country. It is a starting point to inform future debates and ensure that the energy, dedication and commitment to a renewed vision of humanitarian action in Afghanistan is recognized during the WHS Central and South Asian Regional Consultation in July 2015, and ultimately the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit 2016.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

UNOCHA outlined the challenges and key needs of affected communities in Afghanistan which link with the key themes of the WHS. The country is now going through a period of transition; politically, militarily and economically. Humanitarian action must understand and where necessary adapt to these transitions and ensure those affected by conflict or disasters are not left behind.

In 2015, conflict continues to increase in the south, north-east, and northwest of the country, causing more displacement, destruction and civilian casualties. Military operations in North Waziristan Agency, Pakistan, saw the arrival of more than 250,000 refugees in Afghanistan (with now some 205,000 refugees remaining). Acute malnutrition affects approximately half a million Afghan children today. In a context of continued conflict, propensity to natural disasters, protracted displacement, and insufficient access to basic needs, the humanitarian community, must be prepared for a sustained humanitarian effort for the coming years.

Humanitarian financing for Afghanistan continues to be a major struggle and currently represents only a small proportion of total international assistance, excluding the security sector. The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2015 asks for US\$405 million from international communities. Although this appeal is realistic, evidence-based and needs-based, and although more humanitarian activities are undertaken with less money compared to previous years, it is still going to be difficult to obtain.

Looking towards the WHS, there are number of themes that focus on keeping affected people at the center of the discourse, and ensuring duty bearers (both state and non-state armed actors) that are responsible for the protection wellbeing of their people are held accountable.

Humanitarian action in Afghanistan is insufficient and increased development and state action must take place to address some of the underlying drivers of humanitarian needs. Humanitarian action cannot continue to be the band-aid year on year.

For example, there should be a more robust water management program to cope with drought and river erosions; there needs to be a primary healthcare system that can effectively reach acutely malnourished children; and there needs to be a more robust disaster risk reduction strategy inclusive of an early warning system.

This will ultimately create a more sustainable and dignified life for affected communities. (UNOCHA)

The humanitarian system is being stretched to its maximum across the globe, with crisis's in South Sudan, Syria, Iraq, and the Central African Republic and the Ebola crisis, the humanitarian community must ensure that Afghanistan stays firmly on the map and is not forgotten about.

Independent and needs-based humanitarian aid flow to Afghanistan is paramount to ensuring, impartial and neutral access to affected communities. The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) are therefore framed outside the national Aid Management Policy (AMP) and the Tokyo Commitments which ask for 80% alignment with National Stability Program 50% of aid to be on-budget. Humanitarian action is globally accepted to be ring-fenced from these mechanisms to ensure the impartiality. It is an absolute imperative that this continues.

The WHS is the opportunity to critically look at the humanitarian system globally, and how to make it relevant to meet the enormous demands being placed upon it. Is improving and reforming enough? Or are bolder changes needed? The WHS provides an opportunity for recreating the vision of humanitarian assistance.

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)

AIHRC is a constitutionally established body which works for the promotion and protection of Afghan citizens. They are responsible for monitoring Afghanistan's economic, social, and cultural situations and have the power to investigate human rights abuses. Each year, AIHRC conducts over 700 monitoring missions related to Afghan citizen's humanitarian needs. This includes, access to health, education, food, and water.

The huge influx of internal displacements due to ongoing conflicts and natural disasters should bring the humanitarian community closer together to discuss a more effective humanitarian response. There is need for more synergies, coordination, and close cooperation among the humanitarian groups including government, UN agencies, donor bodies and experts.

AIHRC is also concerned about the increasing level of risk for aid workers. Insecurity for aid workers causes a barrier which prevents people from accessing their basic and humanitarian needs. The core humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence must be adhered to by all stakeholders to facilitate adequate and needs based assistance. The Afghanistan National Consultation should reflect the urgent need to ensure the protection of aid workers and adherence to the core fundamental humanitarian principles in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS)

ARCS is a national, independent, and humanitarian body with over 80 years humanitarian experience in Afghanistan. ARCS is also a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Society.

ARCS primarily aims to provide assistance to those affected by natural disasters and conflict situations.

As with other humanitarian organizations, ARCS face difficulties in terms of limited resources, coordination of timely responses to help affected communities, and access to affected communities due to geographical challenges and ongoing conflict within the country.



Welcoming to the Afghanistan National Consultation by ACBAR's Chairperson

The Afghanistan Preamble

Mohammad Aslam Sayas -Deputy Director of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)

Afghanistan is prone to natural disasters, including flooding, earthquakes, storms, avalanches, drought and extreme snowfall. Decades of conflict, in addition to environmental degradation, have all contributed to increasing vulnerability of the Afghan people to natural disasters. Humanitarian action must therefore include effective mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and response.

As of March 2015, OCHA recorded that snowfall, avalanches or landslides affected 2,223 families in 16 provinces of Afghanistan; 307 people were killed or injured and 1,933 houses were damaged or destroyed. Heavy rainfall and floods affected 5,943 families in 13 provinces of Afghanistan. This resulted in the death or injury of 55 people and the damage or destruction of 5,853 houses.

ANDMA called for the Afghanistan National Consultation to reflect the urgent need of the humanitarian community to work together and strengthen strategies which would both mitigate the impacts of natural disasters and restore the facilities, livelihoods and living conditions of disaster-affected communities.

Mr. Syeed Hashim Basirat -Head of NGOs Department within the Ministry of Economy

For well over a decade, NGOs and aid agencies in Afghanistan have made tremendous progress in improving the lives of Afghans whilst facing significant humanitarian challenges. Humanitarian action and the realization of human rights are inter-related; without a proper humanitarian response, Afghanistan cannot claim obedience of human rights. The humanitarian community must ensure the progress gained over previous years is not lost. Methods of making humanitarian action more cost-effective and efficient with the resources available should be found. More is needed in terms of coordinating timely responses and finding sustainable solutions.

Mr. Sediq Sediqqi -Spokesperson and Director of Communication and Public Relations within the Ministry of Interior

The Ministry of Interior aim to increase security for civilians and aid workers who face serious threats in their line of work on-going conflicts, natural disasters and increased criminal activities are all major challenges facing the Government of Afghanistan during the 'decade of transition'. Therefore there is a need for increased partnership and dialogue to improve national policy. The Afghanistan National Consultation is an opportunity for all humanitarian stakeholders to see dialogue turned into action, and change for a better future for all.

Moving forward to the WHS, the Afghanistan National Consultation should consider the following recommendations:

- The creation of a unified database accessible to all governmental and non-governmental organizations to identify the risks and hazards affected vulnerable communities.
- Long term, sustainable solutions for humanitarian action should include provisions to train staff members and volunteers. In addition to the Community District Councils currently active in Afghanistan, a mechanism should be developed to enable volunteers to facilitate, support and share information with the Government, UN agencies, donor bodies NGOs and CSOs to improve humanitarian response efforts at a grassroots level.
- A unified financial mechanism should be developed for Government, NGOs, UN agencies and donor bodies to contribute to emergency preparedness. This mechanism could act as a reserve fund to aid future emergencies.
- To improve timely response mechanisms, coordination between different stakeholders to stockpile emergency kits is needed.
- The humanitarian community should communicate more with informal CSOs including religious institutions to help gain access to contested areas (*NGO Department within the MoE*)

Mr. Sediq Sediqqi-Spokesperson and Director of Communication and Public Relations within the Ministry of Interior

Besides being responsible for the territorial integrity of the country, the Ministry of Defense is also operates to respond to emergencies. The Ministry of Defense aims to provide humanitarian support where it is needed. For example, they have a number of military hospitals around the country that also serve to treat injured civilians. Further to this, the Ministry of Defense in cooperation with Ministry of Public Health have initiated a trauma response committee, consisting of representatives the Police Health Department, National Department of Security and representatives from the international community. Once launched, this program will improve assistance to civilians affected by conflict by extending activities to target and cover the most vulnerable of communities.



58 participants

Afghanistan National Consultation Working Group Sessions

Group 1- Group.1: Humanitarian effectiveness

1) How can humanitarian actors better empower and strengthen the coordination role of national and local government?

- Exposure visits to other countries should be considered as a method of gaining insight into best practices relating to strengthening of coordination between national and local governments.
- Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) coordination with OCHA and other humanitarian actors, including coordination bodies should be intensified with OCHA . This should include the provisions for specific focal points for timely responses to disasters.
- Humanitarian actors should provide capacity building support to ANDMA with the long term objective of ensuring they are fully able to manage Afghanistan's disaster 's preparedness response needs.

2) How can local government/ authorities' be best supported to address community needs?

- Robust needs assessments should be conducted to find gaps, identify challenges and provide help to local government authorities to support their communities. Focal points within the local governments authorities should be identified and have specific responsibilities pertaining to humanitarian needs.
- Humanitarian actors should support local governments in terms of capacity building, and providing tools which will enable them to collect data on community needs.

3) What is the best way to empower regional bodies to fulfil the above role?

- Communication and coordination among the regional humanitarian agencies and the local government should be strengthen and improved.
- Ensuring adequate resources for regional bodies is a must. Funding should be allocated by the government as it currently is for the National Priority Programs or by donors themselves in collaboration with the Government.
- An increase of physical donor presence at a regional level to allow for improved communication and support of regional bodies.

4) Which type/s of consultation tool or platform is best suited to improve communication and collaboration with local communities, (including diaspora communities) to be involved in the humanitarian response?

- The humanitarian community should build upon and utilize relationships with traditional leaders, community centres and respected people within communities who can represent community needs and help aid agencies implement their programs.
- ANDMA's communication with local communities should be strengthened to help facilitate faster mobilization of resources, and disaster preparedness .
- Building grassroots community networks and monitoring system to represent and help address community needs.

5) How can the humanitarian community better involve and empower local business, traders and small, medium enterprises (SMEs) as key players to help people cope during and recover after a crisis?

- Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) should be considered key players to help people cope during and recover after a crisis.
- The establishment of an independent body to communicate and coordinate activities with investors who are interested in aiding socio-economic recovery.
- The Government, with the support of humanitarian agencies should launch an appeal to get the support of SMEs, traders, and local business. An accountable management system should be developed to oversee voluntary payments made to help businesses affected by disaster.



Group 1 discussion on humanitarian effectiveness during the Afghanistan National Consultation

6) What changes can be made to humanitarian financing mechanisms in order to directly strengthen community support mechanisms and networks?

- The development of a central management financial system at government level.
- Strengthened mechanisms to improve monitoring of finances, and anti-corruption should be devised.
- The establishment of voucher systems or conditional cash systems for affected beneficiaries.

7) What changes are needed to improve the current humanitarian coordination structure, i.e. the Inter-Agency Standing Committee structure, so that it is more inclusive of governments, the private sector and local NGOs?

- Registration for NGOs is currently centralized through the Ministry of Economy. A way to decentralize the registration structure should be found.
- Coordination bodies should focus more on their coordination role and less on implementing projects themselves.

Group.2 Reducing Vulnerability, Managing Risk

1) What do you consider to be the major threats and challenge that will be faced in the future (by communities/ your country/ the region) – example: natural disasters, drought, floods, conflict. What will this mean for humanitarian preparedness and response?

- Natural disaster – floods, drought, landslides, avalanches, -these disasters occur year on year and are therefore easily predicable.
- Climate change—creates less predictability in ecological patterns which have an impact on the county's natural resources.
- Land water management
- Armed conflict
- Large scale return of Afghans returnees from Pakistan
- Access to poor and vulnerable communities due to security concerns. Additionally, Geographical constraints prevent access to locations prone to natural disasters.
- Gender issues— ways must be found to incorporate the broader participation of women and other vulnerable groups to ensure they have an input into strategies for disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response.
- Lack of sufficient information for reducing vulnerability and managing risks.

2) What can humanitarian actors do at various levels (local, national and regional levels) to help communities reduce the likelihood of losses caused by disasters?

- At National level – Engagement with the National Disaster Management Commission in terms of capacity building, analysis and planning; Advocate for a national disaster management policy which considers disaster risk reduction to be implemented in all the regions of the country. Strengthen coordination between humanitarian actors., including the government.
- Regional level – Engagement with Provincial Disaster Management Committee to map hazards, these hazards can then be anticipated and planned for in humanitarian and development programs.
- Local level – Engagement with District Disaster Management Committee; raise awareness of the risk reduction concepts and methodologies.
- Encouragement and efforts to strengthen coordination and efficiency between the national, provincial and district management committees (NDMC, PDMC, and DDMC.)



Group 2 discussions on reducing vulnerability and managing risk

3) What is needed to help communities translate their local knowledge and experience into better emergency preparedness and action, and the building of resilience?

- At the community level and district level, it is necessary to incorporate local knowledge and experience into community action plans. This can be done by creating a supportive structure, creating an enabling environment and ensuring that women are included in this input. It was pointed out that natural disasters usually have a disproportionately high effect on women (men are disproportionality affected by conflict) and therefore it is important to understand their input and knowledge
- Having the national and international media coverage to highlight successes and stories and highlight situations where community knowledge and experience were the key to emergency preparedness and resilience building..

4) How do we ensure that humanitarians action better reflect community priorities and needs?

- Ensuring that there is broad participation and input from all community members including the most vulnerable, such as women children, disabled and elderly people. A broader participation can include: traditional structures and Community Development Councils, but also include engagement with schools, health facilities, etc.
- Strengthen communication as a foundation for broader participation.
- Integrating disaster risk reduction processes into community programs.
- Supporting implementation of community action plans



Group 2 discussions on reducing vulnerability and managing risk

5) What changes are needed to ensure that financing structures provide more predictable, multi-year funding to help local communities reduce their exposure to threats, and also builds their resilience to cope with disasters?

- Existing financing and funding structures should include disaster risk reduction, disaster management as well as disaster response.
- The government needs to be encouraged to build a fund for responding to disasters and reducing disaster risk. This includes giving resources to disaster risk reduction planning.
- Humanitarian financing structures should be made transparent to avoid duplication
- Advocating as a community for a multi-year pooled fund for building resilience and disaster risk reduction
- Simplifying due diligence processes to access funds for Afghan NGOs.
- Building the capacity of Afghan NGOs to access funds like the CHF

Group 3-Transformation through Innovation

Group 3 participants identified the innovators in Afghanistan as private sector, government, NGO, CSO stakeholders, in addition to educational and religious institutions. These are the bodies that the humanitarian community should engage with more to improve humanitarian response with particular regards to speed effectiveness and building resilience.

Transformation and innovation to improve speed effectiveness

In most countries worldwide, when disaster strikes, the humanitarian response can happen within 24 hours; in Afghanistan it can take weeks or months.

Possible solutions:

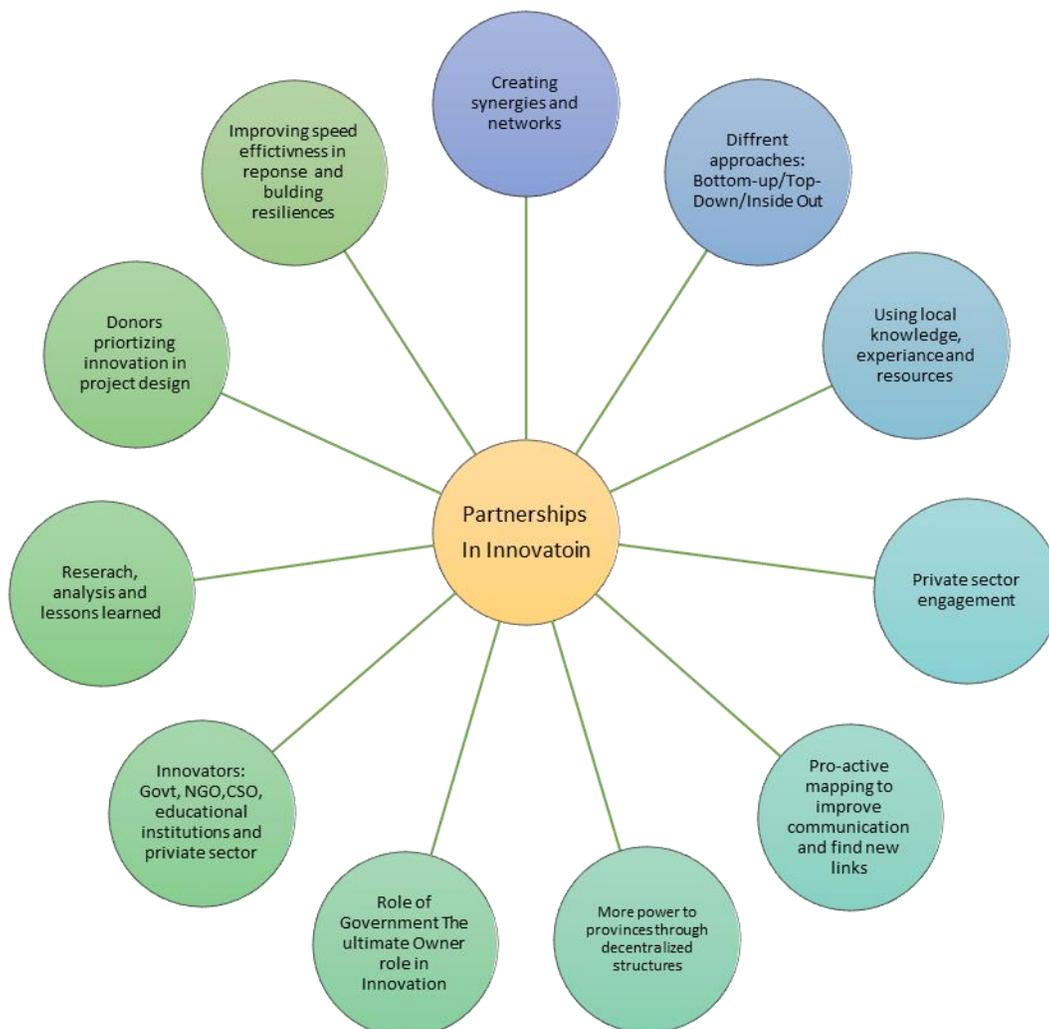
- Incorporating local strategies, knowledge and experience into national response plans.
- Generally, the Government, CSOs and NGOs in Afghanistan operate under a very centralized structure; action to respond to disasters is slower if all decisions have to be made in Kabul first. In terms of strengthening effective and timely responses to emergencies, more decentralization, in terms of decision making and mobilization of resources is required to give more power to the provinces that have quicker access to communities.
- Powerful tools of communication, including radio and phone coverage, should be utilized to disseminate messages related to emergencies. This also includes more communication through Community Development Councils (CDCs), schools, mosques, and clinics etc. Mapping these different communication modes will enable faster, up to date information relating to emergencies to be shared with the humanitarian community.
- Strengthened mechanisms of coordination between the Government and other humanitarian actors for a quicker a quicker response to disasters.
- Using local markets, supplies and resources to speed the process of getting Non-Food Item (NFI) and other resources to affected communities. For example, local materials should be used to build shelters for affected communities. Methods of providing emergency relief should be designed around the particular needs of an affected community, not one size fits all.



Group 3 discussions on transformation through innovation

Transformation and innovation to build resilience

- More research and analysis is needed to help the humanitarian community respond to disasters and manage risks. To enable progress, the humanitarian community needs to ensure they are learning from the natural disasters and humanitarian communities which occur year on year. Donors need to put more money into this type of research. It was also suggested that it should be undertaken by NGOs who have a deep understanding of the areas and communities they work with.
- Better early warning systems, inclusive of media messages, SMS, radio etc. to communicate threats and hazards.
- Educate communities in how to respond to emergencies themselves through radio, drama, brochures etc. This could also be achieved through incorporating messages related to disaster response and disaster risk reduction into school curriculums or other educational institutions.
- Donors should encourage and give a strong weight to the inclusion of innovative designs in NGO project proposals.
- The humanitarian community should find new ways to engage with the private sector who are sometimes the best innovators in terms of having their business stay ahead of socio-economic challenges.



Group 4– Serving the needs of those in Conflict

What, if any, is the role of the humanitarians to address the ‘underlying causes’ of conflict in order to prevent the conflict from occurring?

- The humanitarian community should strengthen local capacity to better understand humanitarian needs and causes of conflict.
- Humanitarian actors should have an input in transitional justice and peace building at a local level in order to diffuse fear, hatred, misunderstanding and other negative emotions that make a conflict intractable.
- Humanitarian actors should address the substantive issues that give rise to conflict in the first place, such as unbalanced distributions of wealth and power. More engagement in activities relating to security, belonging, participation, and economic well-being. Working to improve livelihoods would negate against people wanting to join criminal groups or non-state armed groups.
- Humanitarian organizations should maintain their neutrality and independence in times of conflict.

What can the humanitarian community do to maintain and protect its reputation of neutrality, impartiality and inclusivity when working with different national and international organizations, including in some cases foreign military forces, peacekeeping missions and armed groups?

- An increased effort to raise awareness and understanding of the core humanitarian principles to all relevant stakeholders- Government, donors, affected communities etc.
- Humanitarian actors should not merely pay lip service to the humanitarian principles but actively seek to incorporate them into their strategies and activities to prove they adhere to them.
- The humanitarian community should steer away from funding sources which may be perceived as having political motivations or agendas behind them.

Conflicts across the region are diverse; they encompass heavy fighting in urban areas, warfare in rural areas, clashes between tribal militias, armed forces and insurgents. What internal organizational changes need to occur in order to better respond to these and other conflict settings?

- Organizations should look into lessons learned from both their own experiences and those of other organizations to inform and plan their future strategies related to responding to conflict situations.
- In Afghanistan, working through Community Development Councils, local shuras and other informal CSOs has been identified as a good way of maintaining access to communities affected by conflict.
- Employing locals from the district where organizations undertake activities makes gaining access a lot easier because they have the credibility to gain the access. They also have knowledge of the dynamics in the communities and surrounding districts. Additionally, Madrasah graduates are completely unrepresented in humanitarian organizations. This creates an unbalanced perception of impartiality. NRC are teaching a module on humanitarian principles and practices to graduates of Islamic Madrasahs for the purpose of enabling more Madrasahs to become humanitarian aid workers. More projects like this should be encouraged.

Many conflicts in the region have been going on for years. Humanitarian and development actors are working in the same context. How should they work together and use their strengths to ensure complementarity of effort when transiting from humanitarian to early recovery and then to development programmes in conflict settings

- There is a need for development and humanitarian actors to move towards framing shared concepts and goals. Humanitarian action in Afghanistan tends to respond to recurrent, predictable development needs. This is not sustainable or cost-effective. Long-term solutions are needed to ensure the dignity of beneficiaries. Afghanistan needs more forums to bring together development and humanitarian actors for the purpose to devise new ways of achieving transiting from humanitarian to early recovery and then to development programs in conflict settings. Mapping organizational capacity of organizations to ascertain how to better design, develop and implement projects will help to facilitate this process.

Next steps towards the WHS

As a country, Afghanistan faces a difficult time ahead. In a world of ongoing crisis, Afghanistan must ensure that its own efforts and challenges are not forgotten by the international community. It is also important for the humanitarian community to reflect on successes, challenges, gaps and need for improvement. The Afghanistan National Consultation is only a first step to igniting change which keeps humanitarian action fit for purpose.

WHS Preparatory Stakeholder Consultations -Focus Group Discussions with Affected Communities

It is important to ensure that the experiences of those affected by crises are reflected in the WHS. Capturing the perspectives of affected populations' perspectives is therefore a critical aspect of preparing for the WHS.

ACBAR has organized focus group discussions and surveys with people from communities affected by natural disasters and/or conflict induced crises emergencies at a provincial level. The analysis of affected people's inputs will appear in the stakeholder report for the Central and South Asian Regional Consultation in the last week of July 2015.

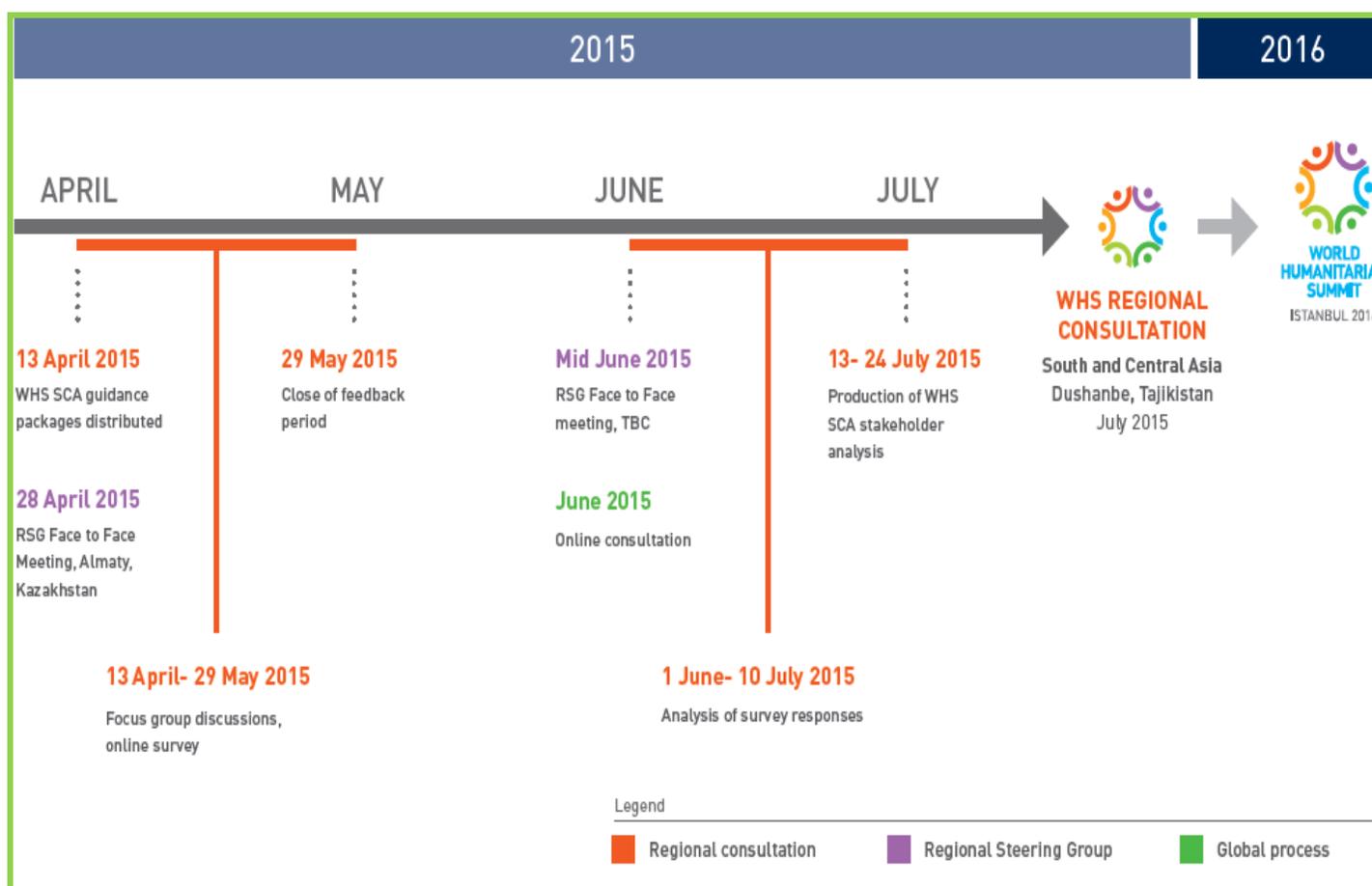
The Development of Position Papers and Statements Focusing on the Themes of the WHS

ACBAR and ACBAR members will produce materials including a position paper and a statement/open letter, signed by varying humanitarian actors to Ban-Ki Moon regarding the Afghanistan situation.

World Humanitarian Summit Online Consultations

The online consultation for Central and South Asia will begin in June 2015. The online consultations seeking views on how to overcome humanitarian needs in our fast-changing world. Participation in these online discussions is open to all. For more information please visit: https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_sca

Timeline of Preparatory Stakeholder Consultations for the WHS Regional Consultation for South and Central Asia (SCA) (Derived from SCA Scoping Paper)



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