

## NAHAB 3<sup>rd</sup> Ad-hoc Committee Emergency Meeting Minutes

**April 30<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Venue: Board Meeting Room (5<sup>th</sup> Floor), Dhaka Ahsania Mission.**

### **Members Present:**

1. Francis Atul Sarker, Executive Director, Caritas
2. Shamina Akhtar, PM, STP Project, Cristian Aid
3. Mr. Md. Mojibur Rahman, Director, POPI
4. Aznabi Nahid, Programme Officer, YPSA
5. Md. Al Amin Sikder, DD(Monitoring), UDPS
6. Hasina Akter Mita, Programme Manager, NIRAPAD
7. Md. Jahangir Alam, Team Leader, DRR & Climate Change Sector, DAM
8. Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman, Executive Director, DAM
9. Dr. Khawja Shamsul Huda, Director Programmes (DP), DAM

Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman, Convener of NAHAB welcome to all participants for joining in the meeting within very short notice. The following agenda's were discussed in the meeting:

### **Key discussions and decisions:**

#### **Update on Haor flash flood:**

Md. Jahangir Alam, Team Leader, CC & DRR Sector of DAM informed that the concern Ready Response Team (RRT) of STP Partner's have been completed the needs assessment process on 24<sup>th</sup> April'17 in Khaliajuri Upazilla of Netrokona District and Dharmapasha Upazilla of Sunamgonj District. The flash flood is causing serious damages to crops, specially the Boro paddy. People are facing extreme food-crisis as they have lost their crops, fishes, ducks and other necessities, sufferings of haor people continues with great intensity as they have no means of livelihood to earn. Some flood-affected people said government's relief materials are not reaching every area and that the relief is too inadequate to meet the demand. The rural poor households have to depend upon fisheries and off-farm labour. The poor communication network also limits the access to markets, off-farm employment opportunities and access to existing social services particularly health and education. Many farmers have already sold their cattle and other valuable assets and left their homes in search of manual work in big city/ towns, but such migration in the harvest season is abnormal and alarming. The lactating mother, pregnant woman, elderly people and children are in most vulnerable situation. He also mentioned the government initiatives and ongoing activities in the affected areas.

#### **Engagement of NAHAB in Haor flash flood and JNA process:**

- HCTT suggested naming the assessment as "Coordinated Needs Assessment (CNA)" as the context is very different and no existing formal JNA phase's fits with it and the assessment officially triggered by the request from government.
- NAHAB has been given responsibility to lead the process of CNA in Netrokona District, BRAC for Kishorgong, IR for Sylhet and CWW for Sunamgonj. But BRAC has withdrawn from the responsibility and that was taken over by Oxfam. Two most affected Upazilas have been identified to be assessed are; Khaliajhuri & Mohongonj. In Khaliajhuri DAM is the Upazila lead, and in Mohongonj POPI is the Upazila lead, Christian Aid and all other involved organizations of NAHAB are supporting them. It is also discussed in the meeting that the JNA trained staff of different organizations were very much necessary for this assessment as a whole, while other district lead (for example BRAC) also was asking for staff trained on JNA. It is to mention here that with the support of Shifting the Power, Led by Christian Aid a number of batches of JNA training as well as roll over at organizational level took place.
- Dr. M. Ehsan convener of NAHAB opined that this is an ample opportunity of NAHAB to explore and contribute in the assessment process. NAHAB secretariat need to be focused in data compilation with high quality, build ownership among the partners, make sure the acknowledgement of NAHAB. The ad-hoc committee has agreed to go forward with a contextualized multi-sectoral assessment, which will be started from 3<sup>rd</sup> May'2017 just after 2 days orientation.

### **Explore the options for emergency response:**

- The present situation of Haor areas has created the necessity of humanitarian actors mapping in these areas and will allow us to visualize existing collaboration and connection opportunities to work together for effective emergency response. Mr. Md. Mojibur Rahman, Director, POPI proposed that it's required to give orientation/training to the concerned staffs for humanitarian response, explore for funding source, create a resource pool for response.
- Mr. Francis Atul Sarker, Ed, Caritas opined that an online tool can be used in assessment process including GIS mapping. The compliance issues should be taken carefully and well documentation is required in all aspects. Sometimes, good objectives may not bring the good results. For the mapping exercise, we will use an online tool.
- Ms. Hasina Akter Mita, Programme Manager, NIRAPAD mentioned that CHS should be a focused issue to incorporate and conceptualize at all levels, which will help us to operate an effective emergency response. The organizational mandate and commitment is crucial point in this aspect. Dr. Ehsan added, customization of CHS is hugely required in Bangladeshi context.
- It is agreed that a consortium needs to be formed through NGO's mapping and a proposal will be submitted with a clear focus for lactating mother and pregnant woman. Caritas may be the consortium lead for submitting the proposal to the START network. Ms. Shamina Akhtar, PM, STP project mentioned that STP project can contribute the operating cost of STP partners in emergency response.

### **National alliance building in HA sector:**

- Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman, Convenor of NAHAB opined that NAHAB can facilitate to map out the level and intensity of collaboration and networking with other stakeholders like NIRAPAD and SHONJOG for exploring or mobilizing different collaborative opportunities in humanitarian sector and how to strategically improve the partnership mechanism. JNA is a good example.
- Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman shared a concept paper and proposed that at first NAHAB will work with ELNHA project to organize the workshop for humanitarian partners/network mapping at central level (Dhaka) and simultaneously, eight divisional workshops will be organized. Finally, the consolidation workshop will be held at central level again. Caritas, NIRAPAD, DAM, POPI and YPSA have shown keen interest to provide volunteer service to accelerate the process. This will be a good initiative to work with other stakeholders for maximizing collaborative advantage for humanitarian context. Francis Atul Sarker, Executive Director, Caritas enthusiastically supported this proposal. Shamina Akhtar PM STP, also agreed to this very good proposal.

### **Action Points:**

- An email to be circulated from NAHAB secretariat to collect information related to the working experience and interest to go for response in Flash Flood, based on NAHAB's agreed population to be supported; e.g. Pregnant and lactating mothers.
- Based on the collected information a consortium will be formed and with the leadership of Caritas a proposal can be submitted to the START fund, and simultaneously other sources will be searched and would be tried for fund mobilization.
- In the meantime if the NAHAB members go for a quick response with their own funding then, the operational cost can go from STP.

### **AoB:**

- It is observed that there are some conflict points remain in SOD with the Disaster Management Act. SOD revision process is going on. So, the advocacy issues are updating the SOD in line with the Act and preparing the Rules. NAHAB and ELNHA project can arrange the workshop to explore these advocacy issues.

***The meeting ended with thanks by Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman, Convenor of NAHAB***