



National Alliance of Humanitarian Actors, Bangladesh (NAHAB) Divisional Workshop Report

Introduction:

The most densely populated country in the world besides city states, Bangladesh graduated to lower-middle-income country status in 2015. Over recent years, it has experienced sustained economic growth and achieved significant development gains, especially on universal primary education, gender parity in basic education and child and maternal mortality. Poverty and extreme poverty have been declining sharply, sitting in 2010 at 31.5 and 17.6 percent respectively, with further reductions until today.

However, despite progress and the improved availability of food due to increased production, 40 million people – one quarter of the population – remain food insecure, and 11 million suffer from acute hunger. Stunting – a condition induced by poor nutrition, with negative effects on a child’s physical growth and cognitive development – affects 36 percent of children under 5, with peaks of 50 percent among the poorest and those living in slums. In total, 5.5 million children under 5 are chronically malnourished.

Because of its geography – featuring low elevation and vast watercourses – Bangladesh is greatly susceptible to natural disasters and the effects of climate change. Between 30 and 50 percent of the country suffers severe climate shocks every year, with detrimental impacts on the lives and livelihoods of the still predominantly rural population. The frequency and intensity of natural disasters is predicted to increase in coming years. Bangladesh’s vulnerability to earthquakes, coupled with the increasing proportion of population living in cities, also raises concerns regarding urban readiness for such disasters.

National Alliance of Humanitarian Actors, Bangladesh – NAHAB is an alliance to promote localization and facilitate working together by all humanitarian actors in Bangladesh. NAHAB has been formed on 26 January, 2017 to encourage and support national/local non-governmental humanitarian organisations and other relevant humanitarian actors to uphold their voice, representation and commitment to invest for faster, needful and effective humanitarian actions in Bangladesh. Therefore, information and knowledge management, strengthening capacity for humanitarian actions and fostering coordination are some of thematic focus of NAHAB. Being local in nature, NAHAB planned to spread the issues of localisation and relevant humanitarian actions at administrative divisional level of Bangladesh. NAHAB is outcome of the number of international initiative to make the humanitarian program in Bangladesh more effective and efficient.

International Initiatives:

Grand Bargain:

The Grand Bargain was first proposed by the former UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing in its report "Too Important to Fail: addressing the humanitarian financing gap" as one of the solutions to address the widening gap between humanitarian needs and available resources.

The High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2015. Its recommendations - issued in January 2016 - included measures to reduce the need for humanitarian action through investments in preparedness and risk reduction and mitigation; avenues to deepen and broaden the resource base for humanitarian action and "a Grand Bargain on efficiency" between the largest donors and the main humanitarian organisations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action, with the following main objectives:

For aid organisations and donors to work more closely together towards:

- More financial transparency.
- More support and funding tools to national first responders.
- Scale up use of cash-based programming and more coordination in its delivery.

For aid organisations to commit to:

- Reduce duplication and management costs.
- Periodic functional expenditure reviews.
- More joint and impartial needs assessments.
- A "Participation Revolution": listen more to and include beneficiaries in decisions that affect them.

For donors to commit to:

- More multi-year humanitarian funding.
- Less earmarks to humanitarian aid organisations.
- More harmonized and simplified reporting requirements.

World Humanitarian Summit (WHS):

The United Nations World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) was held in Istanbul, Turkey, on May 23 and 24, 2016. The Summit is an initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon and was organized by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA).

Ban Ki-moon, in his Five-Year Action Agenda, released in January 2012, set out his vision to develop a humanitarian system that was more global, accountable, and robust. A key aspect of his agenda was "convening a World Humanitarian Summit to help share knowledge and establish common best practices among the wide spectrum of organizations involved in humanitarian action.

The Summit's goal was to fundamentally reform the humanitarian aid industry to react more effectively to today's many crises. World leaders were expected to come to the summit and announce the actions they will take to end the suffering of millions of women, men and children affected by armed conflicts and disasters.

The Summit convened 9000 participants from 173 countries, including 55 Heads of State and Government, hundreds of private sector representatives, and thousands of people from civil society and nongovernmental organizations.

The World Humanitarian Summit was one step toward joint endeavour to reduce human suffering. It is critical that we maintain this momentum to advance the Agenda for Humanity and deliver better results for people in the coming years.

The World Humanitarian Summit process agreed to humanitarian actors to make good on some of the excellent recommendations arising through the WHS process by committing themselves to deliver change within their own organisational ways of working so that southern-based national actors can play an increased and more prominent role in humanitarian response. In the case of international NGO, 21 INGO signed to commit their organisations to implement the 8 point Charter for Change by May 2018.

NAHAB and the divisional workshop:

The Local and National NGOs in Bangladesh considering their own skills and capacity found it is not enough to meet the expectation of changing environment in the humanitarian program. On 26 January 2017 around 45 Local and National NGOS in Bangladesh and decided to established a platform called "National Alliance of Humanitarian Actors, Bangladesh (NAHAB)". This commitment and working together comes from the "Shifting the Power" project implemented by Christian Aid in Bangladesh with the Local and National NGOs. The Government of Bangladesh (Department of Disaster Management) officially acknowledges NAHAB as a national platform of the Humanitarian Actors. The NGOs come together to establish NAHAB as an alliance is to encourage and support national/local non-governmental, national humanitarian organizations, partners and other relevant actors to uphold their voice, representation and commitment to invest for faster, needful and effective humanitarian actions in Bangladesh.

In July 2017, the ad-hoc committee of the "National Alliance of Humanitarian Actors, Bangladesh (NAHAB)" commissioned the development of its Strategic Plan (SP) for the period 2017 – 2021. This SP followed the number of power cafe organized by the Shifting the Power project and NAHAB.

The NAHAB AD-HOC committee find out it is important to share the NAHAB strategic plan to the humanitarian actors of Bangladesh. Considering that eight divisional workshops was organized in eight divisional towns. The objective of the workshop was:

- Informing the NAHAB strategic plan to the national/local NGO
- Understanding national/local NGOs about the NAHAB and their participation in NAHAB
- Find the way how to organize the NAHAB at local level

The day long divisional workshop was designed as below:

Time (9 am – 5 pm)	Session plan	Facilitator/Method
Within the broad given time-frame, specific time distribution for different sessions will be made by the divisional organizing team in consultation with the workshop facilitators.	Registration	
	Welcome address	
	Briefing about NAHAB and sharing NAHAB strategic its future direction	
	Refreshment	
	Mapping and identifying local humanitarian actors	Group exercise
	Alliance building opportunities & recommended strategies	Group exercise
	Lunch	
	Discussion on NAHAB Membership	
	Wrap-up, Way forward and Closing	
	Refreshment	

A detail presentation on NAHAB strategy by the consultant Abdul Latif Khan and NAHAB constitution by Manik Saha from NAHAB secretariat were presented in the workshop. The workshops were facilitated by Abdul latif Khan. Both the presentations are attached with the report. There were number of queries from the national/ local NGO about the strategic plan as well as the constitution of NAHAB. The presenter's addressed the quarries. The very beginning it was cleared to the participants that NAHAB is not funding alliances. It will create the environment for the NGOs to work together and share the common expertise for effective and efficient humanitarian program. A simple mapping exercise of the organization participated in the divisional workshops about their experience in the humanitarian program were also done and the report is also attached.

The major concerns of the divisional workshops are:

- On an average 85% of the invited NGO participated in the workshop.
- Unfortunately the number of Executive Director or Head of the organization was less.
- The major concern is should we reach the all the NGOs in the Division? As designed only one NGO from the district were invited, that limits the number.
- All the participating NGOs agreed that this is a timely and good initiative.
- The participating organizations agreed with the proposed strategy however, they like to see the action. It was informed that a 3 year action plan had been prepared which is now under review of the Ad hoc committee.
- It is important to establish the National Secretariat immediately and organize some activity as suggested, capacity building, information sharing, research and advocacy.
- Every division agreed to establish the divisional secretariat by themselves and organize the meeting and other activities. Importance of using virtual facilities for meeting and information sharing is needed. Think about little funding for the divisional secretariat if possible.

- Organize thematic workshop at district level for example disaster and private sector.
- All the NGOs in every divisional workshop suggested that NAHAB must have a legal entity.
- Question of female headed NGOs, in some division there are less number of female headed NGOs and in that case there should be a system in build to address that scenario and this should not be a compulsion.
- The registration of NGO affairs bureau is must for obtaining the membership of NAHAB. However it is found that a number of local NGOs are working effectively with the registration from Social welfare. They recommended reconsidering that the membership should not compiled with NGO affairs bureau registration.

Recommendations from participants:

- Each Local NGOs can contribution money to NAHAB for per yearly or monthly.
- NAHAB not a donor, NAHAB can find out each NGOs capacity and use it properly
- NAHAB can play active role of in the field of humanitarian advocacy.
- NAHAB can prepare a contingency plan for capacity build up to local NGOs
- At the divisional label NAHAB must meet quarterly
- A Local NGO (who is willing) will host the NAHAB divisional office
- NAHAB should established a detail database of the NGOs, Donors and information on the humanitarian program
- NAHAB can develop the linkage between the National/ Local NGO and donors.
- NAHAB will work on behalf of the NGOs to building cooperation with the government agency.
- NAHAB should disseminate the updated and new humanitarian ideas with the members.
- NAHAB may organize local evidence based research especially on the impact of climate change.

New challenges:

- USAID 50% fund already reduced and transferred to another country
- Resources is very limited
- Private sector is the bigger issues for collection of fund
- Refuges are a burning issues in European country so they are less interested to fund transfer

Conclusion:

The divisional workshops confirm the necessity of NAHAB exist at the field. However, it is important for the participation of all humanitarian actors. It was not possible for involving all the actors during the divisional workshops. A more strategic workshop needs to be organized where the participation of all the head of the executive can confirm.