

WORKSHOP BRIEF ON LUCKNOW

State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS): Focus on Early Warning Systems

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF THE WORKSHOP

Workshop Overview	A state level workshop on the State of Humanitarian the System (SOHS) was organized on September 12, 2019 at the Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Systems (UPSDMA) in Lucknow, India. This workshop was also saw the launch of the fourth edition of the State of the Humanitarian System report covering three years from 2015-2017. Mr. Paul Knox Clarke, lead author of this report was present to elaborate upon the findings of this report to the participants of the workshop. This workshop was part of a series of 30 such events to be held across the world in an effort to raise awareness on the global humanitarian system and its performance.
What is the Global Humanitarian System?	The global humanitarian system is composed of all entities that provide humanitarian assistance to people who need it. They include UN agencies, the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Humanitarian Coalition member agencies, military institutions, local government institutions and donor agencies. The actions of these organizations are guided by key humanitarian principles: humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality.
What is the State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS) report?	The State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS) is an independent study that compiles the latest statistics on the size, shape and scope of the humanitarian system and assesses overall performance and progress. Published every three years, it provides a unique sector-level mapping and assessment of international humanitarian assistance. Following from a successful pilot in 2010, the SOHS study has been repeated in 2012, 2015 and 2018. The 2018 SOHS report was the fourth edition covering the developments in the global humanitarian system for a period of three years (2015-2018).
Participant Profile of the Workshop	This workshop was attended by 28 participants from humanitarian agencies, government departments, academia, media and corporate entities. A meaningful and profound discussion on the state of the humanitarian system in India ensued.
Focus on Early Warning Systems	This workshop also focussed on the theme of early warning systems in India. This was because riverine flooding has been identified as one of the most prevalent hazard in India. Especially, in the state of Uttar Pradesh, rivers flowing in from Nepal routinely wreak havoc on communities living close to rivers like Ghaghra, Saryu and Rapti. The focus on community based early warning systems was also meant to highlight the good work done by organizations like PGVS to empower such at-risk communities with community based early warning systems in 95 villages in the state.

KEY PROCEEDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Session 1	<p>Introductions and brief overview</p> <p>The proceedings of the day were started by Dr. Bhanu from Poorvanchal Gram Vikas Sansthan (PGVS) who warmly welcomed all the participants to the workshop. After a brief round of introductions Mr. Kshitij Gupta from All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) gave a brief overview of the workshop.</p>
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	<p>He also touched upon the relevance of the workshop for the participants by reminding them that they all work in the larger humanitarian system and the findings of the SOHS report would have implications on all of their work.</p>
Session 2	<p>Presentation on the State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS) and Panel Discussion</p> <p>The second session of the workshop consisted of a presentation by Mr. Paul Knox Clarke, from ALNAP (Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance) who elaborated upon the summary findings of the SOHS report. Mr. Clarke reported on the humanitarian needs, resources and trends in the past three years.</p> <p>In terms of the humanitarian needs, he elaborated on how the gap between humanitarian requirements and funding is still about 40-50%. Moreover, humanitarian funding has plateaued over the past 5 years while it has concentrated in the Middle East. He also informed that the architecture of the humanitarian system remains the same. In terms of the performance of the humanitarian system, three areas viz. accountability & participation; localization; humanitarian/development nexus remain quite important.</p> <p>After this presentation, the floor was opened for discussion and questions. Dr. Kriti Narian, a historian and former principal of Jai Hind College, Mumbai along with Prof. Sheela Mishra (Lucknow University), Mr. Farrukh Khan (Water Aid) and Ms. Shivani Rana (Christian Aid) moderated the discussion.</p> <p>Some important themes raised in the discussion included the role of academics in the humanitarian system. Dr. Narain spoke at length on how academics can influence and steer young people towards the humanitarian system by increasing awareness and empathy. The role of media was also deliberated upon. It was agreed the media can do more to highlight the plight of people in humanitarian crises. It was also argued by one of the participants to move away from humanitarian assistance to humanitarian governance.</p>
Session 3	<p>SOHS and Early Warning Systems (EWS)</p> <p>The third session of the workshop focused on the theme of early warning systems at the sub-national level. A presentation on the same was made by Mr. Raghvendra Singh from Poorvanchal Gramin Vikas Sansthan (PGVS) and Mr. Kshitij Gupta from All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI). This presentation highlighted the work of PGVS on trans-boundary community based early warning systems in 95 villages from eastern Uttar Pradesh.</p> <p>Mr. Singh explained all the aspects of this initiative to the audience while Mr. Gupta spoke at length about the impact and sustainability of this project. The highlights of this initiative included large scale participation of at-risk communities, the potential for replication along with scalability. The impact of this initiative could be seen in the improvement of knowledge, awareness and skills of the at-risk communities that have been empowered to manage their own risk profile.</p>
WAY AHEAD: KEY THEMES EMERGING FROM THE WORKSHOP	
	<p>The final session of the workshop consisted of overall comments made by all the participants on the nature of the global humanitarian system. Mr. Mihir R. Bhatt, Director, AIDMI observed that it is important to assess the state of the humanitarian system at the sub-national level in India by examining the role and performance of IAG Uttar Pradesh. He also remarked that the humanitarian system is projectized which leads to a piecemeal approach to solving big humanitarian problems and that it is imperative that we change this. Another important observation made by Mr. Bhatt was the role of risk transfer and social protection in the humanitarian system and how governments can be the underwriters of such risk transfer mechanisms for at-risk communities.</p> <p>Mr. Farrukh Khan from Water Aid India observed that the next report on the humanitarian system should have special focus on South Asia. It should have an in-depth analysis of the humanitarian needs in India and the resources needed to fulfil that need. He suggested that</p>

regional platforms like SAARC should also focus on humanitarian crises and attune their agenda to address them. Most importantly, he said that the focus of such a report should be equally divided between the rural and urban. He went onto state that urban India is undergoing a massive natural resource crisis as it is expected that most Indian cities will run out of water in the coming 5 years. The humanitarian system must be prepared to handle a crisis of this proportion.

Dr. Kriti Narain spoke at length about the role of various academic and medical entities in effectively responding to the needs of the people affected by humanitarian crises. However, she also said that the role of the academia in the larger humanitarian system needs to be explored in greater detail. Clear guidelines on how academics can contribute to the system should also be provided. She also stressed on the indispensable role of medical agencies that respond to the needs of the victims of humanitarian crises, emphasizing that not only should their diverse roles be well defined, but also effectively executed and enforced.

Migration has great implications for the larger humanitarian system. Issues of migration, both within cities and inter-state are extremely crucial. Historically, causes of migration have been very complicated. There are stages of migration of particular communities, groups, etc., that are deeply intertwined with societal norms, conflicts, disasters, socio-political-economic considerations, or even perceived benefits. Historically, particular communities, socio-economic groups, etc., have been involved in various stages of migration that could even span across several decades.

The link between the geography of human settlements and chronic poverty also needs to be properly explored. Settlements in a particular area could be based on various considerations, like fertility of soil, climate, etc. However, caution has to be exercised that ease of life that results in prosperity does not lead to societal and economic divisions and inertia – ultimate outcome being backwardness and poverty. The main danger is the lack of concern for environment, water, proper use of natural resources. For example, western UP is more prosperous and advanced in every sphere than east UP and historically it is because of the ease of life in the East that has resulted in this.

Mr. Probir Bose, Grameen Development Services opined that a greater focus on the state of humanitarian system in the Indian sub-continent is needed. Perhaps a study of the humanitarian relief and rehabilitation scenario in the Indian Sub-Continent, including the role the Government, could be a good next step, through mapping of the most vulnerable zones and how they are being handled. What measures have worked and what has not, spending on disaster prevention, human contribution and availability of relief material and shelters etc. may be good to document to work on and used as a tool for advocacy both within and outside the country. It is important for the humanitarian actors to be seen to be "pulling their weight".

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Vote of thanks

The workshop's proceedings came to a close when Mr. Paul Knox Clarke gave the vote of thanks to the participants. He spoke about what lay ahead of the global humanitarian system. He opined that the system's acceptance and implementation needs to improve. He also said that the system is on the first stage of development and that further influx of resources and innovation will help in helping it mature into further stages of development. He also said that while technical capacities in the system have improved considerably, the impact of the system has improved incrementally.

With these observations, the workshop came to a close. Dr. Bhanu thanked all the participants of the workshop and hoped that this workshop will help in steering the humanitarian efforts in the state of UP to more effective, efficient and sustainable humanitarian outcomes.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No.	Title	Name and Designation	Organisation
1.	Mr.	Bibhas Chatterjee, Programme Director	GNK
2.	Mr.	Robin Jaisval	
3.	Mr.	Kshitij Gupta	AIDMI
4.	Dr.	Kirti Narain, Professor	PGVS
5.	Mr.	Pramil Dwivedi, CEO	Pragya International Trust
6.	Mr.	Ashish Kumar	
7.	Mr.	Rajnikant Varistha, Media	Media4 Citizen
8.	Prof	Sheela Misra, Professor	Lucknow University
9.	Mr.	Aditya Ranjan, Freelance	Independent
10.	Mr.	Paul Knox Clarke	ALNAP
11.	Mr.	Mihir R. Bhatt	All India Disaster Mitigation Institute
12.	Ms.	Durga, Project Head	PHIA Foundation
13.	Mr.	Mayank Misra, Asst. Program Coordinator	CASA
14.	Er.	Nikhil, P.E. Civil	UPSDMA
15.	Mr.	Abhay Pandey	PGVS
16.	Dr.	Bhanu	PGVS
17.	Mr.	Mukunda Upadhyay, Project Officer - DRR	Oxfam India
18.	Mr.	Probir Bose	Grameen Development Services
19.	Mr.	Farrukh Khan	Wateraid
20.	Mr.	Dhruva Kumar, Director	Panchshil Development Trust
21.	Ms.	Sasmita Jena, Associate Director	World Vision India
22.	Ms.	Shivani Rana, EPO	Change Alliance
23.	Mr.	Sudhakar, Proj. Coordinator	HCL Foundation
24.	Mr.	Nitin Rawat	PGVS
25.	Ms.	Sristi Thakur, Asst. Manager	AWOKE
26.	Mr.	Raghavendra Singh	PGVS
27.	Ms.	Seema Pandey, Proj. Coordinator	DRR - GKP
28.	Mr.	Sheel Kumar Raghav, Executive IT	PGVS

WORKSHOP AGENDA (September 12, 2019 at 10.30 am to 4.00 pm)

10.30 – 10.40	Welcome, Registration and Tea
10.40 – 10.45	Inauguration with Lighting the Lamp: Facilitation: PGVS
10.45 – 11.00	Introduction of Participants: PGVS
11.00 – 11.15	Overview of the Workshop: Mr. Kshitij Gupta, AIDMI
11.15 – 13.00	Session 1: State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS)
	Chair: Dr. Kriti Narain, Historian, Former Principal Jai Hind College
11.15 – 11.40	Presentation 1: SOHS Results by Mr. Paul Knox-Clarke, ALNAP
11.40 – 12.00	Response from Session: Prof. Sheela Misra (Lucknow University); Mr. Farrukh Khan (Water Aid), Dr. Kriti Narian
12.00 – 12.20	Questions and comments from participants
12.20 – 12.40	Rapporteur 1: Ms. Seema, PGVS
12.40 – 13.00	Rapporteur 2: Mr. Abhay Pandey, PGVS
13.00 – 14.00	Group Photo and Lunch Break
14.00 – 15.30	Session 2: SOHS and Early Warning System (EWS)
	Chair: Mr. Farrukh Khan, Water Aid
14.00 – 14.30	Presentation 2: Mr. Raghvendra Singh, PGVS and Mr. Kshiti Gupta, AIDMI
14.30 – 15.20	Questions and comments from participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Results • Potential for Community Leadership • Experience across boundaries • Challenges of coordinations • Learning for way ahead
15.20 – 15.30	Rapporteur: Prof. Sheela Misra and Ms. Sristi Thakur, AWOKE
15.30 – 15.50	Way Ahead: Paul Knox-Clarke, ALNAP; Mr. Mihir R. Bhatt, AIDMI; Dr. Bhanu, PGVS
15.50 – 16.00	Vote of Thanks and Tea: PGVS



State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS): Focus on Early Warning System, UPSDMA, Lucknow, September 12, 2019.