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PLANTING THE SEEDS OF LOCALIZATION

Growing with the Asian Preparedness Partnership



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Planting the Seeds of Localization:
Growing with the Asian Preparedness Partnership

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PLANTING
THE SEEDS OF
LOCALIZATION

Growing with
the Asian
Preparedness
Partnership



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ACRONYMS

ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
APP	Asian Preparedness Partnership
APPNSCs	APP National Steering Committees
APPRSC	APP Regional Steering Committee
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CCC	Ceylon Chamber of Commerce
CDP	Center for Disaster Preparedness
CHF	Cambodian Humanitarian Forum
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DDM	Department of Disaster Management
DMC	Disaster Management Center
DMTC	Disaster Management Training Centre
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FASMEC	Federation of Associations for Small and Medium Enterprises of Cambodia
FNCCI	Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries
FPCCI	Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry
GDP	Gross Domestic Product

MPSDMN	Myanmar Private Sector Disaster Management Network	NNGOs	National NGOs
LI-BIRD	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research & Development	NPP	Nepal Preparedness Partnership
LNGOs	Local NGOs	NPP-PSC	Nepal Preparedness Partnership-Project Steering Committee
MNGO CPR Network	Myanmar NGO Consortium for Preparedness and Response Network	NSC	National Steering Committee
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs	OCDF	Office of Civil Defense
MOI	Memorandum of Intent	PaL	Protection against Lightning
MPP	Myanmar Preparedness Partnership	PDRF	Philippines Disaster Resilience Foundation
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	PhilPrep	Philippines Preparedness Partnership
NCDM	National Committee for Disaster Management	PPC	Preparedness Partnership of Cambodia
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority	PRP	Pakistan Resilience Partnership
NDMO	National Disaster Management Organization	RCC	Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management
NDR Net	Nepal Disaster Resilient Network	RWGRs	Regional Working Group Representatives
NDRP	National Disaster Response Plan	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
NDRRMC	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council	SLPP	Sri Lanka Preparedness Partnership
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations	The foundation	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
NHN	National Humanitarian Network	TORs	Terms of Reference
		USAID BHA	United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance



2,317

PEOPLE TRAINED IN

Business continuity management

Business resilience

Emergency assessment

Multi-hazard disaster training

Protection against lightning

Preparedness for emergency response

Youth leadership



81 TRAINING PROGRAMS

Conducted in member countries



6 FOCAL COUNTRIES

Committed to APP's national partnerships



50 OPPORTUNITIES

Including learning events, field visits, and study tours



52 KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Developed for disaster risk reduction and management



15 EVENTS

Organized for South-South knowledge exchange



159 AGENCIES

Engaged in South-South Knowledge Exchange



58 AGENCIES

Participated in knowledge sharing events



7 ACTIVE EMERGENCY COMMITTEES/ FORUMS

Formed with governments, LNGOs, and the private sector



8 AGENCIES

Improved with operational systems, technical capacity, and access to information



8 LOCAL RAPID DEPLOYMENT TEAMS

Established or strengthened with the necessary capacity for effective emergency response



13 REGIONAL MEETINGS

Convened with stakeholders from member countries



10 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Signed to bring stakeholders under national platforms



64 COORDINATION MEETINGS

Organized by national networks and partnerships



8 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND CONTINGENCY PLANS

Developed to incorporate roles of LNGOs and the private sector



2 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP)

Developed and updated for emergency response coordination



13 AGENCIES

Equipped with technical capacity for emergency response



13 BASELINE ASSESSMENT REPORTS

Conducted to better understand national humanitarian ecosystems



3 ONLINE PORTALS

Created for access to knowledge products, e-learning facilities, and expert rosters



8 TRAINING MODULES

Accessed through e-learning platforms



27 EXPERTS AND VOLUNTEERS

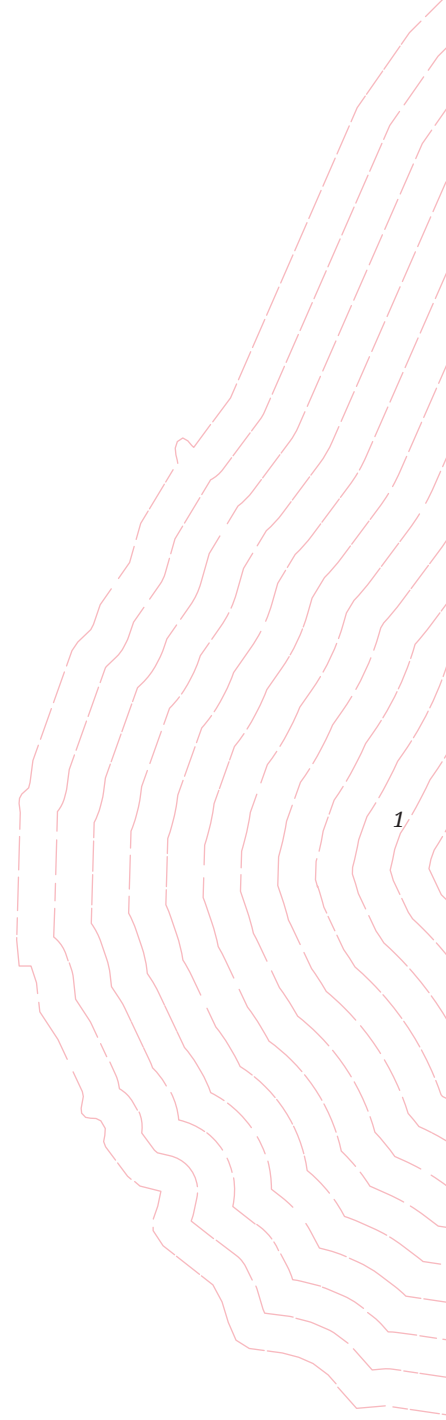
Registered for technical and managerial support




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1

**Research
findings,
forums, and
fellowship that
formed APP**







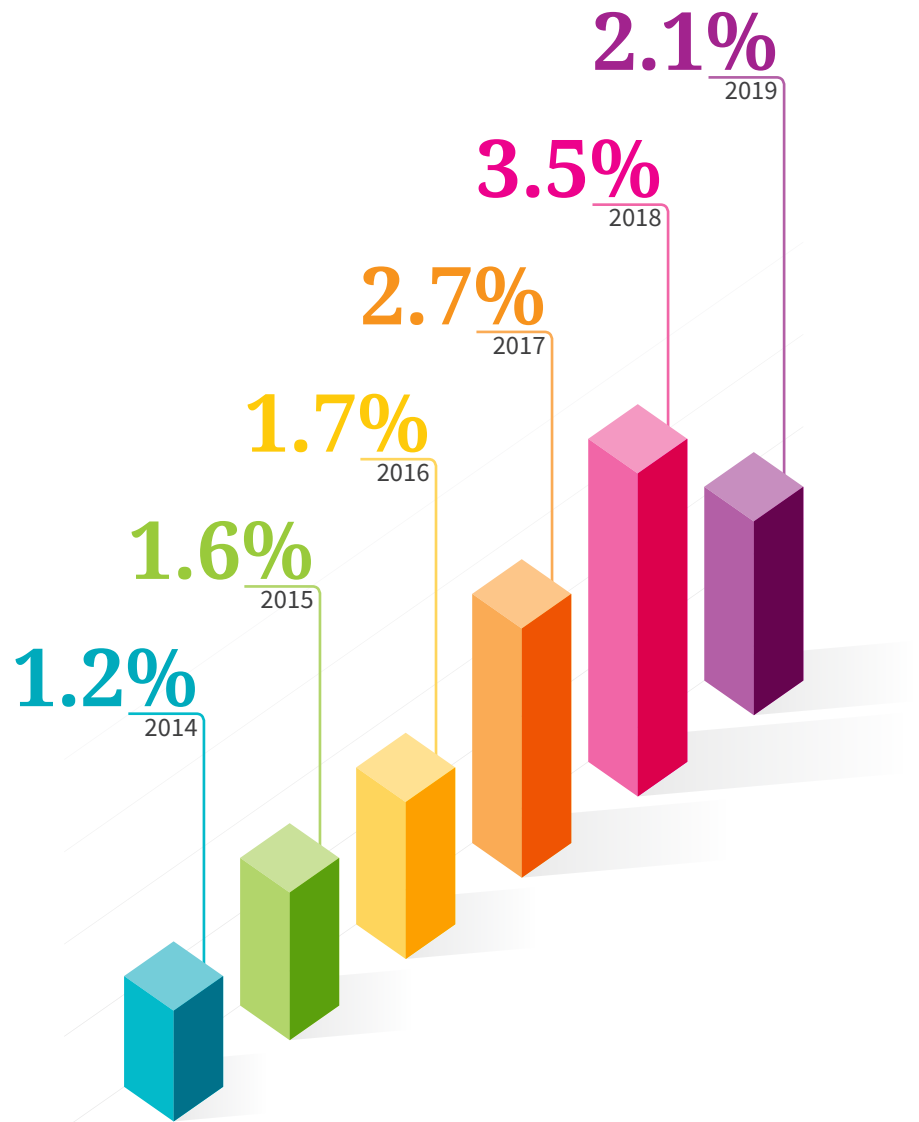
“MAN CAN LIVE ABOUT FORTY DAYS
WITHOUT FOOD, ABOUT THREE DAYS
WITHOUT WATER, ABOUT EIGHT
MINUTES WITHOUT AIR... BUT ONLY
FOR ONE SECOND WITHOUT HOPE.”

-Hal Lindsey

Of the US\$29.6 billion in humanitarian funds allocated to disaster-affected areas, only 2.1% of direct funding reached frontline responders in 2019.¹ In exploring the reasons behind why national non-governmental organizations (NNGOs) and local NGOs (LNGOs) are not receiving funding, numerous reasons were identified. These included lack of capacity of small NGOs to handle funds and complete donor requirements, the restricted administrative capacity of donors to provide small funds, and a general lack of transparency with a fear that the funds may end up in the wrong hands.

The nearly 98% of remaining funds is being received by international organizations. Notably, many barriers are also being placed on international organizations that limit their access to the ground. These barriers result in an overall lack of funds reaching and benefitting affected communities. Simultaneously, there are limited resources among local actors that often result in a humanitarian vacuum. However, LNGOs have maintained their role in humanitarian response as first responders regardless of their lack of funding and capacity. In order to do so, these organizations pool their own resources and capacities necessary to mitigate and respond to the accumulating impact of disasters that results from the changing climate of the region.

Humanitarian funds to LNGOs:



1 Global Humanitarian Assistance (2020). global humanitarian assistance report 2020. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-humanitarian-assistance-report-2020#:~:text=In%202019%20global%20humanitarian%20aid,5%25%20drop%20on%202018%20levels.&text=United%20Nations%20appeals%20hit%20%2430.4%20billion%20in%202019.>

Considering these challenges, and in preparation for the World Humanitarian Summit, there was a need to assess the effectiveness and sustainability of the overall humanitarian system in the Asia Pacific region. To this end, a 2015 study by Crescendo International, commissioned by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the foundation), focused on uncovering the state of humanitarian systems. The study revealed the following:

The Crescendo International Research Findings 2015- 2016

- Despite the potential of local and national organizations in effectively responding to disasters and their desire to play a bigger role in the overall humanitarian response decision-making, they were largely marginalized from the process.
- The disconnect between LNGOs and the established modalities for receiving humanitarian funding further trickled down to the local levels. The majority of NGOs felt the lack of a platform for voicing their concerns.
- There were disagreements regarding the inequalities in the funding system. LNGOs felt their frustrations could not be voiced because they feared that doing so would lead to the development of a negative environment for potential funders.

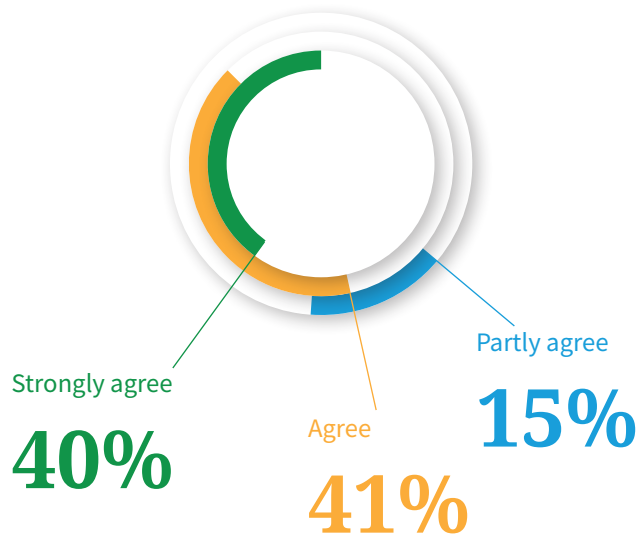
These results highlighted the need for actions to support LNGOs and provide a platform to empower them with skills and capacity to be actively involved in the decision-making processes of humanitarian response. Going forward, LNGOs expressed interest in the establishment

of a national or regional forum where ideas can be exchanged, lessons can be shared, and the benefits of peer-to-peer learning can be explored. These forums would advance the agenda towards strengthening a locally-led humanitarian response.

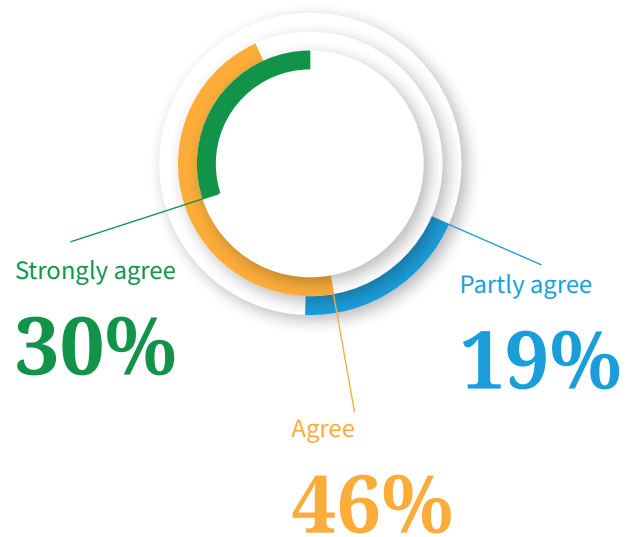
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- 2 Hamza, M. (2019). World Disasters Report 2015: Focus on local actors, the key to humanitarian effectiveness. [ebook] Lyon, France: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, p.105. Available at: http://ifrc-media.org/interactive/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/1293600-World-Disasters-Report-2015_en.pdf [Accessed 24 Jun. 2019].
 - 3 Clarke, P. (2019). The State of the Humanitarian System. [ebook] London: ALNAP, p.19. Available at: <https://sohs.alnap.org/system/files/content/resource/files/main/SOHS%20Online%20Book%201%20updated.pdf> [Accessed 24 Jun. 2019].

The research has demonstrated that international organizations were viewed as an important source for organizational strengthening and development. Many respondents also felt that international organizations are integral to support the technical quality of their areas of work.

International partners are important to us because they support organizational strengthening and development.



International partners are important to us because they support the technical quality of our work.



During this period, ADPC was collaborating with the United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA) in Cambodia to establish a forum focused on bringing together local humanitarian organizations to strengthen their capacities, and exchange ideas and best practices under one platform. USAID BHA provided funding to ADPC for the Cambodian Humanitarian Forum (CHF) from 2012 to 2018 under the program - Strengthening Emergency Response Capacity of Humanitarian NGOs in Cambodia. The project is known as the CHF and it quickly became a space of unity and a pillar of support for a 121-LNGO network in Cambodia. The forum covers 12 provinces with the vision to uplift and build upon each other's disaster risk management initiatives to improve response coordination in Cambodia.

The ADPC also supported the Disaster Resilience Leadership fellowship with Tulane University and George Washington University of the USA. The project brought together various stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society organizations, and the government, to discuss leadership needs for promoting disaster resilience.

The project brought together various stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society organizations, and the government, to discuss leadership needs for promoting disaster resilience in their countries. The fellowship provided a space for the participants to regroup and discuss their progress, challenges, and lessons learned. The fellowship program was an effective initiative, but participants expressed that a formal structure was required for the continuation of dialogue beyond the fellowship period.

Thus, the forum was established to respond to the findings from the project and in recognition of the gaps in the research findings. The forum demonstrates the effectiveness of bringing stakeholders together onto a unified platform and the fellowship program that demonstrates the success in encouraging collaboration among diverse stakeholder groups. Building upon this success, ADPC took the initiative to establish a multi-stakeholder platform, the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP) that addressed the above gaps in disaster-affected countries of the Asian region more broadly.

THE APP IS AN INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIP THAT ENHANCES THE CAPACITY OF LNGOs IN CAMBODIA ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION. THIS PARTNERSHIP STARTED AS A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT (NCDM), LNGOs, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.



-Sovann Sam
Executive Director of
Northeastern Rural
Development (NRD)
and Chairman of CHF



Training course on Emergency Assessment for NCDM (from national and provincial levels) and CHF members from 22-26 October 2018, in the Pursat province, Cambodia.



02

Paving the path to humanitarian system transformation





“EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS IS
A TEAM SPORT.”

-Eric Whitaker

The CHF forum presented a successful partnership model for scale-up in the Asian region. **Six countries** were chosen for the partnership, which all fall within the top 16 high-risk countries in the Asia-Pacific region and in the top 20 for economic damage as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The following hazard snapshot of the six countries reflects the degree of disaster risk according to the **Inform Risk Index-2019**⁴.



6.6 MYANMAR

Floods have the highest indication at 9.9. They are followed by earthquakes (9.4) and tsunamis (8.9).



6.2 PAKISTAN

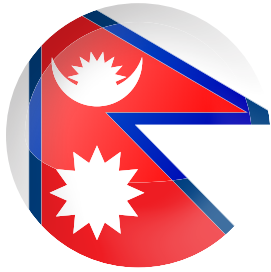
Earthquakes have the highest indication at 9.1. They are followed by floods (8.9) and tsunami (6.7).



5.5 PHILIPPINES

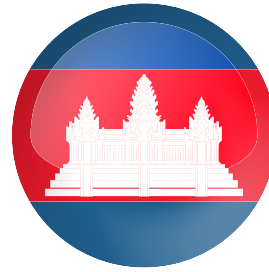
Tropical cyclones have the highest indication at 9.6. They are followed by earthquakes (9.5) and tsunamis (9.3).

4 Index for Risk Management 2019 (2020) pp. 17-21. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Inform%202019%20WEB%20spreads.pdf>.



5.0 NEPAL

Earthquakes have the highest indication at 9.9. They are followed by floods (6.8) and drought (2.9).



4.8 CAMBODIA

Floods have the highest indication at 9.5. They are followed by tsunamis (5.2) and drought (4.7).



3.6 SRI LANKA

Tsunamis have the highest indication at 8.5. They are followed by floods (6.1), tropical cyclones (3.6), and droughts (3.6).

All APP countries are located within the Asia-Pacific region, where ADPC's efforts to strengthen disaster and climate risk management systems are focused.

After identifying the six partner countries, key stakeholders were identified. Government institutions play an integral role in initiating and institutionalizing change and are mandated to implement and maintain disaster management mechanisms. LNGOs are ground-level actors and have the closest ties to the communities that concentrate their efforts on building community resilience. They are often the first responders during emergencies. The private sector has increased their involvement in disaster risk reduction, and the focus on corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts to support communities in disaster response has increased. The private sector also emphasizes building their own businesses' resilience. Bringing together these key stakeholders on one platform would strengthen coordination between actors who currently play an integral role in disaster preparedness and response.

Following the recognition of focus countries and key stakeholders, a framework was developed with the overall objective to enhance the emergency response capacity of local actors within the six countries. It is imperative that the efforts of this framework focus on enhancing technical skills and the knowledge of local actors. It must reduce the current gap in funding at the local level. It is also important that the core outcomes of the framework align with the eight Point Charter for Change⁴.

The Charter for Change: Localisation of Humanitarian Aid is an initiative that was launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016. It aims to transform the way the humanitarian system operates and enables local and national actors to play an increased and more prominent role in humanitarian response.



— A unique multi-sectoral regional partnership established by ADPC with support from the foundation and USAID BHA. The partnership was established between governments, LNGOs, and the private sector to strengthen preparedness for emergency response in South and Southeast Asia and to improve inter-organizational coordination and dialogue between these entities.

4 Charter for Change: Localisation of Humanitarian Aid. (2019). [ebook] [charter4change.org](https://charter4change.files.wordpress.com/2016/02/charter-for-change-july-20152.pdf), pp.1-2. Available at: <https://charter4change.files.wordpress.com/2016/02/charter-for-change-july-20152.pdf> [Accessed 24 Jun. 2019].

The Charter for Change

8 Commitments



DIRECT FUNDING

Commit to delivering 25% of humanitarian funding to NNGOs



PARTNERSHIP

Reaffirm principles of partnership



TRANSPARENCY

Publish the amount or percentage of funding that is passed to NNGOs



RECRUITMENT

Address and prevent the negative impact of recruiting NNGO staff during emergencies



ADVOCACY

Emphasize the importance of national actors to humanitarian donors



EQUALITY

Address subcontracting and ensure equality in decision-making



SUPPORT

Provide robust organisational support and capacity building



PROMOTION

Promote the role of local actors to media and public

The APP dedicates its efforts to increasing funding provided to local actors, reaffirming the principles of partnership, and providing robust organizational support and capacity building that align with the Charter for Change.

The APP promotes and supports “localization” as locally-led actions to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.



The APP defines **localization** as a process by which local, sub-national and national humanitarian actors, namely governments, civil society and nongovernment organizations, the private sector, media, academia, etc., take a **leading and collaborative role in humanitarian response**. They collectively plan and implement priority actions in disaster preparedness, humanitarian response, and recovery through mobilizing internal resources and external humanitarian funding.

The above framework led to the establishment of the APP, which was developed under ADPC’s “Strengthening Capacity of Government, Local Humanitarian Organizations and the Private Sector on Preparedness for Response in Asia” program.

APDC has been effective in utilizing over 34 years of experience in capacity building and providing technical assistance to create a well-established network in the region. These networks are ideal for supporting the APP's progress.

ADPC's Strategic Guidance

ADPC is an international organization that works to build the resilience of people and institutions to disasters and climate change impacts in the Asia Pacific region. With over three decades of experience, ADPC provides support to countries and communities to build their DRR systems, institutional mechanisms, and capacity to become resilient to numerous hazards.

ADPC brings together governments, LNGOs, and the private sector, and has established close ties with National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) within the six countries by hosting the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC). The organization has worked alongside national and local level actors through various projects and capacity building initiatives.

The Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC)

The RCC was established by ADPC in 2000. It is represented by NDMOs from over 20 countries. The RCC promotes peer advocacy and exchange of expertise in reducing disaster risk management (DRM). It serves as a regional non-binding mechanism to develop action strategies for disaster risk reduction, promote cooperative programs at regional and sub-regional levels, and provide guidance to ADPC on its future work and strategies in the Asia-Pacific. The RCC also provides a platform for member countries and observers to exchange lessons and share best practices across various DRM disciplines. The RCC has played an integral role in supporting the shaping and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in Asia from 2005 to 2015 and is continuing in this role for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

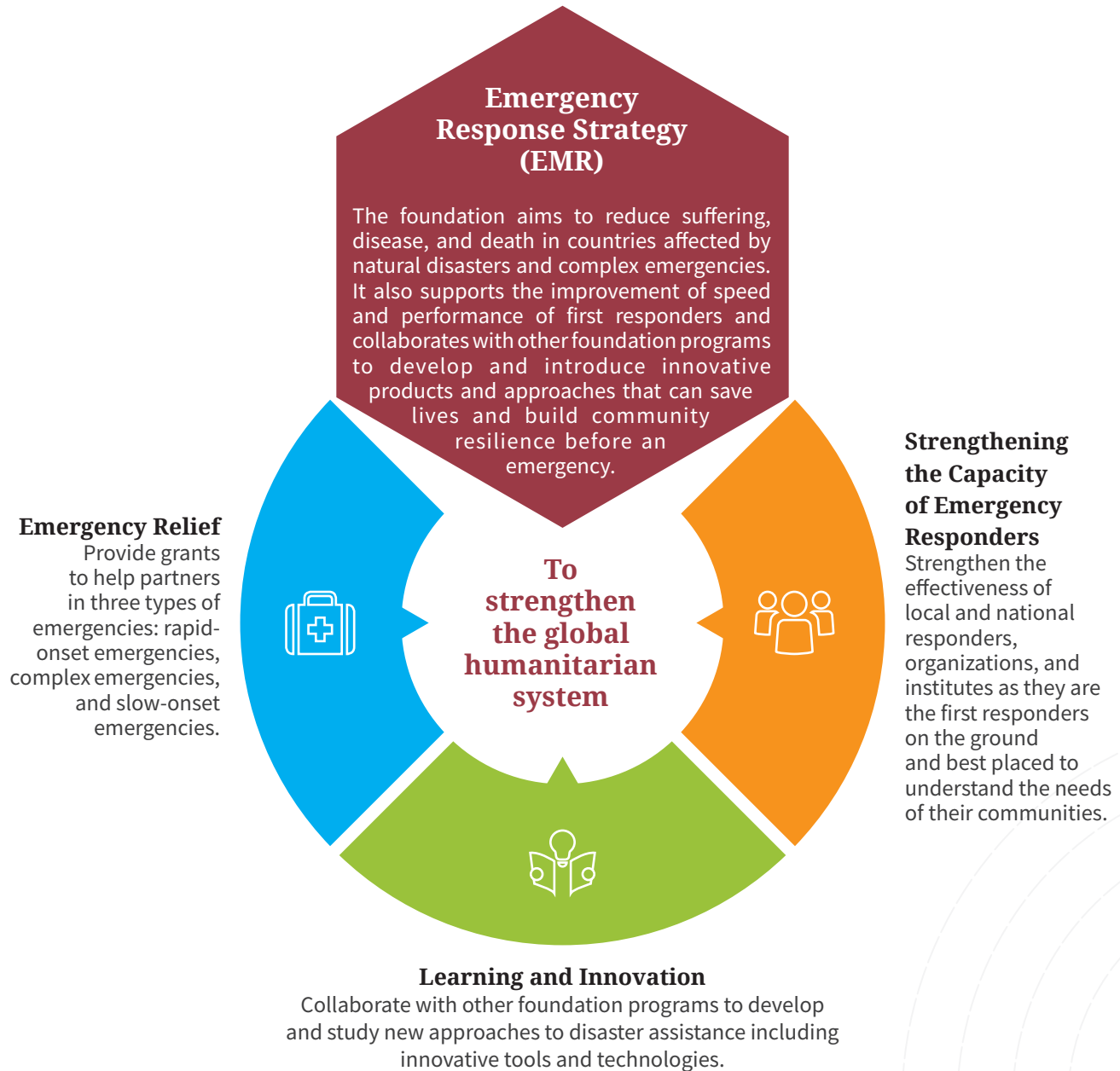
"I'M PARTICULARLY EXCITED BY THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THIS PARTNERSHIP FOR SHARING EXPERIENCES, FINDING A NEW WAY OF COOPERATING AND LEVERAGING KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS TO ENHANCE THE ABILITY TO DEAL WITH DISASTERS THE WAY THEY OCCUR, WHICH IS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL."



Mr. Hans Guttman
Executive Director
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Impatient for Change: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Approach

The foundation works across five program areas to tackle global issues, including Emergency Response under its Global Development Division. It has maintained an active and integral role in providing financial support and technical guidance throughout the process of bringing the partnership to life. The approach is guided by its Emergency Response Strategy:



The 'impatient for change' approach of the foundation has been a catalyst in supporting the partnership's overall motive to transform the humanitarian ecosystem by strengthening local humanitarian efforts. It has pushed for the partnership's success while maintaining a flexible approach for it to develop organically and with fluidity at the national level. The foundation has remained an active partner in providing creative guidance and encouragement through the regional platform as these six countries developed their strategies and action plans.




“ONE OF THE THINGS THAT IS IMPORTANT AS WE LOOK AT STRENGTHENING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE PARTNERSHIP, AND SOUTH-SOUTH LEARNING, IS THAT THERE IS SO MUCH TO GAIN, THERE’S SO MUCH TO EXCHANGE. EACH OF THE COUNTRIES WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HERE HAS THINGS TO OFFER [AND] HAS STRENGTHS THAT WE CAN LEARN FROM.”

Dr. Valerie Nkamgang Bemo
Deputy Director
Emergency Response
Global Development
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

03



Bringing partnerships to life



“SOME PEOPLE
DON'T LIKE CHANGE,
BUT YOU NEED TO
EMBRACE CHANGE IF
THE ALTERNATIVE IS
DISASTER.”

- Elon Musk



The launch of the APP marked a unique collaboration between governments, local NGOs, and the private sector as key players within the six countries. It symbolized the efforts of these countries to strengthen the role of local actors and establish a regional platform that advocates for localizing humanitarian response and is guided by the following objectives:

- Improve humanitarian leadership and coordination through systematically strengthening local institutions
- Attain better coordination of humanitarian actions by enhancing humanitarian information management and knowledge exchange
- Establish more effective partnerships among national and local humanitarian actors
- Enhance the regional cooperation, South-South learning, and knowledge exchange in the region and beyond

The partnership further signifies a joint planning mechanism to identify priority areas. This approach ensures targeted efforts and minimizes duplication of efforts, while also considering the limited resources. It has enabled partners to mobilize and pool together funds for sharing experiences and lessons learned.

The six-member countries have high-risk profiles and varying degrees of experience in disaster management. There was an initial need to ensure that each player understood the unique role at the country level as well as contribution they brought to the broader partnership under one shared platform. The regional platform has been the catalyst to initiate collaboration, and has also held the partnership together. Through this regional mechanism, the partnerships' progress has accelerated.



National Preparedness Partnerships and Members



APP Milestones

The following timeline marks key milestones and the official launch of each national partnership. The partnership strives towards the localization of humanitarian systems throughout the three-year period of formalizing the partnership.

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) provided a pivotal moment for the global humanitarian agenda and promoted the motivation for stakeholders and actors in the humanitarian sector to focus on localization and locally-led actions.



2012



CHF formed under the “Strengthening Emergency Response Capacity of Humanitarian NGOs in Cambodia” project, funded by USAID BHA.

2013

2014

2015



Let Your Voice Be Heard – Crescendo International Research

2015 – 2016 Crescendo International conducted a 7-month research study using surveys and face-to-face dialogues with national and local humanitarian organizations.

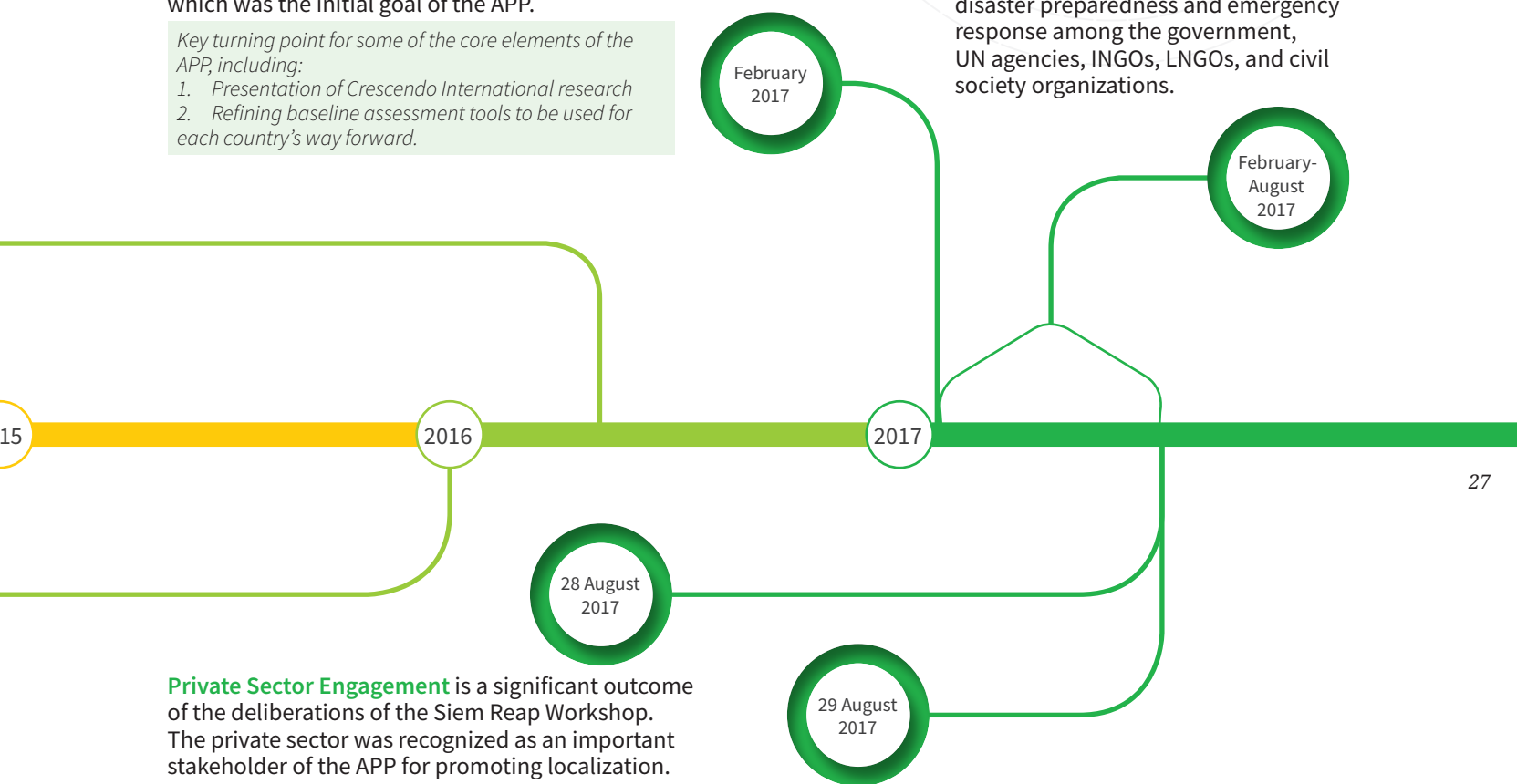
These discussions provided organizations with an opportunity to reflect on their role in the overall humanitarian system and how their role can be strengthened.

Siem Reap Workshop Highlights the concept of bringing LNGOs and government from the six countries together onto one regional platform, which was the initial goal of the APP.

Key turning point for some of the core elements of the APP, including:

1. Presentation of Crescendo International research
2. Refining baseline assessment tools to be used for each country's way forward.

Countries conducted Country Specific Baseline Assessments to understand the context and engagement in disaster preparedness and emergency response among the government, UN agencies, INGOs, LNGOs, and civil society organizations.



Private Sector Engagement is a significant outcome of the deliberations of the Siem Reap Workshop. The private sector was recognized as an important stakeholder of the APP for promoting localization.

First Annual General Meeting of the APP focused on establishing the APP Regional Steering Committee.

The APP Governance Structure was finalized. The hybrid model of the governing structure is steered by the APPRSC.

The main decision-making/consensus governance structure will be at the national and sub-national levels. At the regional level, a Steering Committee with 18 members representing the six countries (one from the government, the local NGO, and the private sector), will be nominated to represent each country.



APP Website Launch

The One-Stop Knowledge Hub serves as a platform to connect all the national partnerships as well as to engage with a wider audience to promote and advocate for localization efforts. <https://app.adpc.net/>

Presentation by the six countries on their Country Specific Baseline Assessments

All countries are vulnerable to climate change at varying degrees with limited risk transfer instruments. Despite this, countries are taking actions to implement legal policies and institutional frameworks for disaster risk management. Capacity building activities for the government and LNGOs were also limited and indicated a need for additional capacity building support to strengthen their skills and awareness.

Further recommendations were set for each country to conduct an in-depth analysis of the opportunities available and ways the APP could assist in creating more opportunities.

An analysis of the effectiveness of coordination between the government and LNGOs found a generally positive perception of the coordination during emergency response.

- SLPP formally launched with the signing of a memorandum of intent (MOI) in Sri Lanka
- NPP launch with the first official NPP-PSC meeting in Nepal

Countries develop Action Plans based on findings of the Country Specific Baseline Assessments

31 August
2017

18-20
December
2017

2018

Private Sector Engagement Planning

Private sector networks were invited to meet with the government and local NGOs in the six countries and officially join as a key pillar of the APP.

The three pillars identified ways for private sector engagement in national and regional level activities of the APP.

Private sector inputs and recommendations were incorporated in the country-specific strategic roadmaps.

- PPC launched through a strategic meeting to formalize the partnership in Cambodia.

Asia Leadership Forum

A two-day workshop was held to increase understanding and knowledge of business resilience with 70 participants from the APP.

The participants explored how to support business resilience by involving the public and private sectors. Senior executive leaders from ASEAN and SAARC regions brainstormed on climate and disaster risks faced by the private sector and governments.

Formal launch of the MPP in Myanmar

Innovations Forum for Safer Asia

Hosted by ADPC to strengthen South-South learning and cooperation by sharing innovative practices or approaches for localization and explore facilitation of innovations among the APP member countries.

3rd Regional Steering Committee Meeting, Nepal

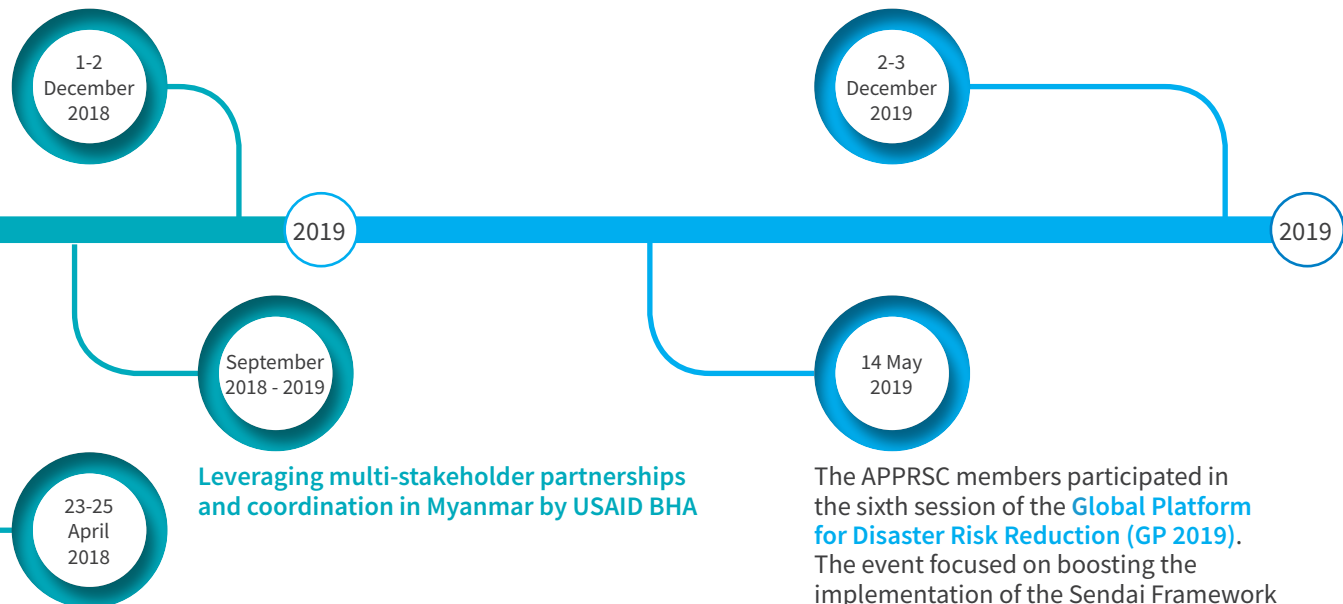
The national partnerships reflect on the achievements, challenges, and vision for 2030. The meeting focused on promoting localization, aligning with global frameworks, and the APP's 2030 priority areas.

MPP takes over the role of Co-Chairs of the APPRSC for the year 2019

5th Regional Steering Committee Meeting, Myanmar

The MPP co-hosted by serving as the Co-chair, for scaling up and scaling out the APP's strategies for localization.

NPP takes on the role of Co-Chairs for 2020, steering APP into the next phase of promoting the agenda of localization.



Leveraging multi-stakeholder partnerships and coordination in Myanmar by USAID BHA

Gender-inclusive and rights-based approaches in APP workshop

A step forward to help the six countries benefit from ADPC's gender-focused approach. The participants highlighted ways to integrate gender-inclusive agendas into national roadmaps.

Official launch of PhilPrep with the signing of documents in the Philippines. Signing of TORs and the formal launch of PRP in Pakistan.

The APPRSC members participated in the sixth session of the **Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP 2019)**. The event focused on boosting the implementation of the Sendai Framework and especially Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda with a particular focus on setting a deadline for the achievement of Target E⁵.

2nd Regional Steering Committee Meeting, Thailand

The members finalized the APP Governance Structure and discussed ways to enhance South-South learning. They also shared progress on their roadmaps and action plans.

5 Global target E: Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.

4th Meeting of the Asian Preparedness Partnership Regional Steering Committee (APPRSC)

Regional Steering Committee

Enhancing Localization to Prepare for, Respond to and Recover from Disasters

14th May 2019 | Geneva, Switzerland

The Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP), established in 2017 by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), serves as a non-binding multi-stakeholder regional platform comprised of governments, the private sector, and local NGO networks in Cambodia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. It aims to promote the implementation of actions and strategies at regional, national, and local levels to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, and to provide guidance to the Member States and its secretariat (ADPC) on future programs.

As a follow-up on the commitments made at the previous steering committee meetings of the APP and the 14th Regional Consultative Committee on DRR (RCC) held in Kathmandu, Nepal (December 2018) to translate the localization agenda and priorities of global frameworks into policy and practice, we the delegates of Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka, along with development partners and participants from other countries and organizations, reaffirm that:

The APP recognizes the value to enhance localization across systems, organizations, and individuals with appropriate policies, institutions, and capacities in implementing the global frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, the Agenda for Humanity, and the New Urban Agenda.

The APP is committed to promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships at the regional, national, and local levels and to assist countries in Asia in harnessing their preparedness, response, and recovery capacities, as well as financing the implementation of related programs. The APP recognizes and aims to build a strong role and contribution of women community leaders, persons with disabilities, special needs, and others who are vulnerable in DRR, resilience agenda both at national and regional levels.

The APP will further assist countries to enhance capacities for better monitoring and reporting of the localization process and progress with appropriate tools and performance measurement frameworks at national and regional levels.

Building on established partnerships through the APP Secretariat, roadmaps of the APP National Partnerships (Chapters), and the views expressed at the 4th APP Regional Steering Committee Meeting, the delegates, therefore:

- I. Call for acceleration in the development and implementation of relevant strategies, policies, plans, and practices of localization at the regional, national, and local levels with an inclusive and rights-based approach;
- II. Encourage National Disaster Management Organizations (NDMOs), the private sector, local NGOs, the media, academia, and local governments to make appropriate investments to improve disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, building on evidence-based approaches and good practices;
- III. Support multi-stakeholders in the planning and implementation of priority programs to enhance resilience from disasters through better preparedness, response, and recovery at the regional, national, sub-national, and local levels;
- IV. Promote regional cooperation for localization and inclusiveness in achieving the harmonized targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, the Agenda for Humanity, and the New Urban Agenda at national, sub-national, and local levels;
- V. Call upon the UN, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the international NGOs to support and provide technical assistance in implementing priority programs of the APP and its National Chapters;
- VI. Request development partners, donor agencies, and private philanthropic foundations to establish and harness partnerships with APP in promoting and implementing localization agendas and priority programs;
- VII. Request ADPC, as the APP Secretariat, to support the implementation of priority programs of the Member States through its programs and long-term investment strategies; and
- VIII. Express appreciation to the excellent arrangements and leadership extended by the Government of Myanmar, Local NGO Network, and MPD Network of Myanmar represented by APP Co-chairs for the year 2019, for this 4th APP Regional Steering Committee Meeting.




04



Partnership progress at the national level





“WE CANNOT STOP NATURAL
DISASTERS, BUT WE CAN ARM
OURSELVES WITH KNOWLEDGE:
SO MANY LIVES WOULDN'T
HAVE TO BE LOST IF THERE
WAS ENOUGH DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS.”

-Petra Nemcova

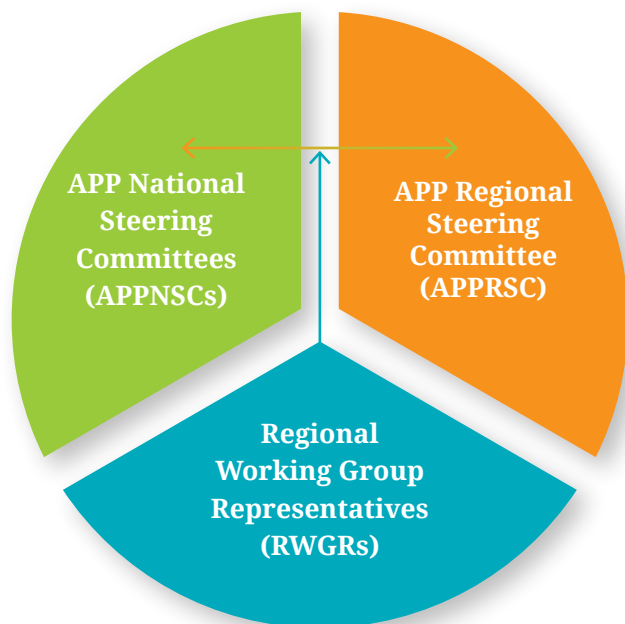
The national partnerships have confirmed each country's commitment to enhance collaboration, minimize duplication of efforts, and ensure partners work together to realize their country's vision. Ultimately, these partnerships ensure systemic improvements in coordination for response and preparedness in the region on an integrated and cross-cutting platform.

The platform was the first of its kind in many of these countries. The "One Size Fits All" approach was identified as unsuitable during the early stage of the partnerships. Each country stands at a unique starting point in terms of the level of collaboration among the key players. This approach brought forth the idea of having country-level partnerships with their unique governance mechanisms and joining of interested partners.



The 5th Regional Steering Committee Meeting of the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP) was held in Yangon, Myanmar on 2-3 December 2019.

Unique Hybrid Governance Structure of the APP



The working groups at the regional level and steering committees that are in place at the national levels ensure that all key players are working towards overcoming barriers, including institutional mandates and organizational culture, which are common issues that often arise when bringing together new partners. They also ensure that each stakeholder, within the context of the six countries, is able to maintain their individual role in the partnership while working collaboratively towards the common goal of localizing the humanitarian systems. At the regional level, the co-chairs from each national steering committee form the APPRSC, which seeks to improve the interface and partnership between the six member countries.

In the partnership structure, the leadership role is taken by the government, while LNGOs continue to support improving essential capacities for response and recovery. The private sector has brought forth its unique role in contributing to disaster preparedness through CSR efforts while investing in their own resilience during this process.



4.1 Preparedness Partnership of Cambodia (PPC)

Humanitarian response coordination is led by the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM).
Local humanitarian organizations were coordinated by the CHF.

Baseline Assessment Results:
The CHF committed to collaborating with the private sector for involvement in planning inputs. NCDM and CHF would jointly develop the PPC roadmap.

Process:
Invite the private sector to participate in meetings and establish an understanding of their role in the PPC.

The private sector represented by Federation of Associations for Small and Medium Enterprises of Cambodia (FASMEC) is now actively involved and led a Business Resilience Forum in June 2018 for the first time in the country.

The CHF that inspired the APP laid a strong foundation for the PPC. With an existing well-connected LNGO platform, the next step was focused on incorporating the government and private sector. The APP advanced by sharing its concepts and values with the governmental agency, NCDM. It created mechanisms that brought the government, LNGOs, and the private sector together to form the PPC.

There were initial roadblocks in convincing the private sector to join hands with the other partners. The CHF had to overcome substantial hurdles and misperceptions to be fully accepted by the Royal Government of Cambodia as a formidable frontline preparedness and response platform. There was skepticism that ranged from the APP's objectives as to whether a clear role of the private sector was felt, with a general perception that there needs to be greater 'engagement for partnership funding.'

This often resulted in the absence of private sector representatives in the meetings with an overall lack of interest in advancing the partnership in Cambodia.

However, much deliberation and exposure over time led to their active participation with a better understanding of their role in due course.

To move the partnership forward, a large portion of Cambodia's short-term action plan was focused on establishing a strong relationship between the three partners. Further emphasis was placed on building emergency response capacities as highlighted by the baseline assessment results in the country. It led to the creation of a working group to regularly coordinate meetings between the NCDM, FASMEC, and CHF, as well as conceptualize training courses from the baseline assessment.

4.2 Myanmar Preparedness Partnership (MPP)

Disaster response is coordinated by the Department of Disaster Management, under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Local NGOs and civil society groups are part of humanitarian response group networks but their voices are not institutionalized within the UN led humanitarian response framework.

Baseline Assessment Results:
The MPP will engage with disaster management training center (DMTC) for capacity building initiatives.

Create a local APP platform with its own steering committee.

Working groups have been developed for implementation, fund management and monitoring and evaluation for smooth implementation of its work plan.

The MPP is guided by the vision to improve disaster response coordination. The Myanmar Private Sector Disaster Management (MPD) Network was in place prior to the establishment of the partnership. Its network included national and foreign private companies, business associations, and chambers of commerce in Myanmar. However, it worked solely to enhance collaboration among private sector organizations. This led to an eight-month process to bring the private sector on board due to the initial reservations in joining forces.

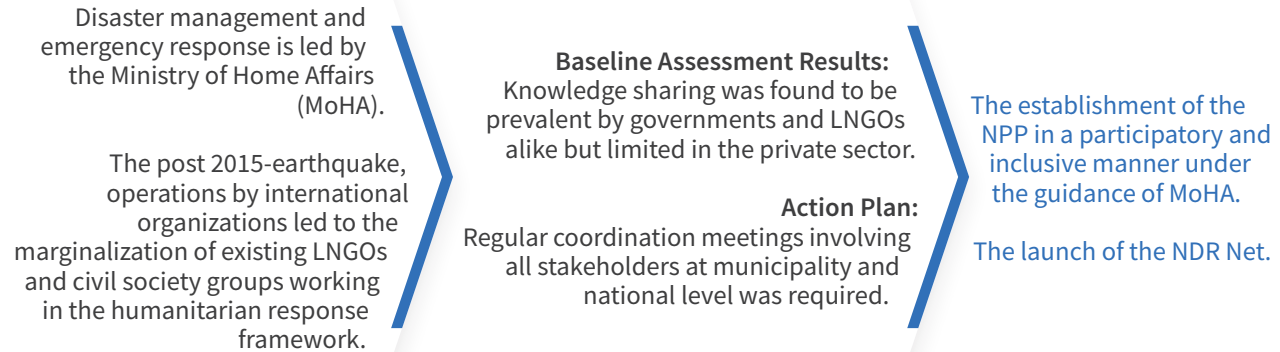
Following a steering committee meeting at the regional level, members were able to witness the value addition brought forth by the sector. This event with the Business Resilience Forum had 100 participants in attendance. It advanced the process of forming the MPP with the recognition of the private sector's contribution to enriching the partnership.

The forum was the first-of-its-kind in the country. It elaborated on the role played by private sector enterprises for disaster risk reduction. It further demonstrated the importance of the private sector

to invest in their own business resilience - an area of business continuity that is often overlooked, particularly among smaller businesses. With further support from USAID BHA, under the program 'Strengthening Preparedness for Emergency Response through Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation' between September 2018- 2019, MPP was able to enhance the multi-stakeholder coordination and partnership by further consolidating and scaling up their platform through amplification of information management, joint contingency planning, training curriculum development, and technical support to SMEs.

The success of MPP was spearheaded with the establishment of working groups for implementation, fund management, and monitoring and evaluation. These groups were crucial in ensuring smooth and effective implementation of the MPP work plan. Their good governance and organizational structure reflect strong collaboration in their planning process. Each institute is leveraging its strengths to build resilience in Myanmar because of strong relations and a sense of ownership among key players.

4.3 Nepal Preparedness Partnership (NPP)



40

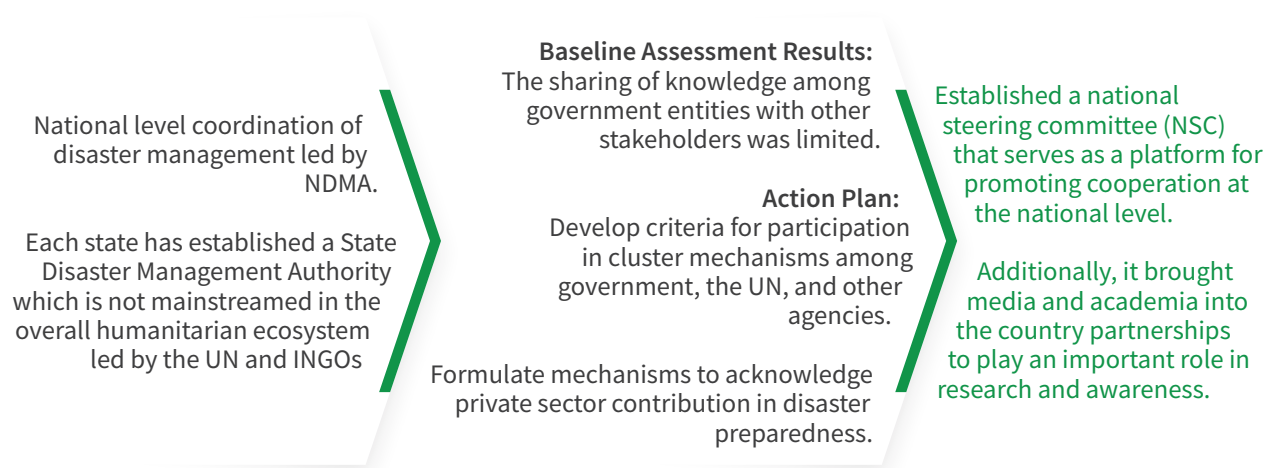
The NPP was formed to enhance networking and develop capacity among existing disaster preparedness institutions within the country. The government has taken a leading role in the decision-making process and maintaining strong coordination with other partners as active collaborators.

The NPP is the first-of-its-kind to bring together all major players, including the private sector, academia, local government and media, demonstrating the considerable progress in mobilizing additional sectors. Under the leadership of the MoHA, the partnership is managed in a participatory and inclusive manner, in which decisions are taken with support from all partners involved.

The formulation of the Nepal Disaster Resilient Network (NDR Net) also marks progress in strengthening local level knowledge building and management. The network will continue to increase local, provincial, and national level cooperation as well as ensure the sustainability of the partnership through enhanced commitment, ownership, and investment by the stakeholders.

The NPP has also strengthened relationships between the MoHA and ADPC during the 14th RCC in Kathmandu 2018. It placed ADPC as one of MoHA's trusted partners in the region.

4.4 Pakistan Resilience Partnership (PRP)



Historically, Pakistan's key stakeholders have been individually pursuing and implementing preparedness measures. Thus, the NHN mechanism – a network of 147 NNGOs– was established following the 2005 earthquake in the wake of concerns about limited support and information exchange during emergencies. Though the government and NNGOs have since been working together, the next step was to determine how to bring the private sector on board.

One of the key challenges in collaborating with the private sector in Pakistan was to balance the CSR efforts and national priorities identified by the government. This required integrating the private sector into the partnership and familiarizing the disaster preparedness work taken up by the government and LNGOs. The approach was effective in defining the role of the private sector establishing a central fund to strengthen the

partnership and its initiatives, becoming a member of the steering committee mechanism, and working alongside the government to assess and plan national preparedness and risk reduction initiatives.

Beyond this, the PRP has been successful in mobilizing the media and academia. They have contributed to the integral role of research as well as advocacy and awareness in the field of disaster management.

The PRP has also contributed to the drafting of an updated National Disaster Response Plan (NDRP) which was launched in 2019. The document offers recognition of the changing environment and disaster management mechanism in Pakistan and will be a strong point of reference for other countries in the APP's network.

4.5 Philippines Preparedness Partnership (PhilPrep)

Disaster response and humanitarian coordination are led by the Office of Civil Defense, Department of National Defense.

There are highly active civil society networks and LNGOs for emergency response across disaster preparedness, response, rehabilitation, and recovery operations.

Baseline Assessment Results:
Planned consultations among the key players to ensure inclusivity in PhilPrep.

Develop curriculum focused on strengthening partnerships at the community level.

It was successful in mobilizing member agencies to provide training and knowledge dissemination at the local level. Member agencies have contributed invaluable for advocacy and strengthening of local capabilities as a result of PhilPrep's recognition.

The national preparedness partnership was formed by identifying the engagement of existing networks, including utilization of the Relief Committee model in initiating the APP's activities. A key factor of the PhilPrep partnership's success has been the transfer of knowledge learned from the private sector to other countries through exchange visits.

The PhilPrep has been instrumental in capturing and bringing together notable contributions from member agencies to advocate for local leaders' capacity. The partnership was able to bring a diverse range of people and organizations together to share experiences and also reduce duplication in efforts and resources.

Disaster response has been led by local organizations at the sub-national level in the country. The PhilPrep core group provides training and learning opportunities geared towards strengthening leadership in preparedness and response to ensure better coordination at the ground level.

The private sector has also taken up numerous initiatives at the national and regional levels with support from the PDRF. The PDRF is a longstanding partner of ADPC. The organization has played a pivotal role in supporting the APP's business resilience workshops, as well as capacity-building activities for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

4.6 Sri Lanka Preparedness Partnership (SLPP)

Disaster response is coordinated by the Ministry of Disaster Management.

Most INGOs terminated their operations after the end of the civil war in 2009.

Traditionally, LNGOS and civil society organizations have never played a large role in humanitarian response, which has led to low coping capacity.

Baseline Assessment Results:
Plans to reactivate a system that would promote LNGO participation from the national level to ground level through the SLPP roadmap.

A participatory approach has been adopted to ensure all relevant stakeholders actively participate in monthly SLPP meetings.

Implementation districts of SLPP have demonstrated a more energetic and collaborative approach to DRR.

The private sector has collaborated with the government to discuss response approaches and ways to contribute following disasters in Sri Lanka. However, there was an absence of a proper coordination platform before APP. Monthly SLPP steering committee meetings ensured smooth coordination and implementation of planned activities.

A key lesson learned in the context of Sri Lanka was the importance of establishing an LNGO platform for local actors to come forward and share their ideas. Initially, unifying the LNGOs to join the partnership was challenging because they required a platform to voice their efforts at the district level. Connecting LNGOs to a mechanism at the national level has provided them with a platform to utilize resources effectively, mobilize trained personnel and share challenges.

The SLPP demonstrates a collaborative approach to the DRR with additional funds and capacity building support provided by the partnership. It also ensures that lessons learned at the local level are communicated at the regional level through the APP. This method has become a way of facilitating knowledge exchange among member countries.

05

Overcoming barriers to change





“TOUGH TIMES DON’T LAST.
TOUGH AND PREPARED PEOPLE
DO.”

-Robert H. Schuller, American pastor

The APP partnerships have supported humanitarian actors in their respective countries in the long journey of developing effective disaster preparedness and response. Overcoming the barriers of institutional mandates and organizational culture, as well as developing relationships among unfamiliar or untapped partnerships are just a few of the highlights amongst many taken by the national partnerships.

The baseline assessments carried out during the initial stage have laid a strong foundation for a participatory approach towards developing the unique interventions necessary for each country. The lessons learned from the baseline assessment have supported the creation of roadmaps for stakeholders to turn to in the short, medium, and long term, and for addressing key gaps of coordination, capacity, knowledge and information sharing.



A community member in the Udayapur district of Nepal shares the hazard map for the locality which was created to improve preparedness for emergency response.

Flexible Approach for Capacity Building

In addition to the national preparedness partnerships, the APP's training and capacity building support has created a significant impact. The partnerships are flexible to accommodate country-specific needs and approaches, and to develop priority trainings and learnings. The APP has established a pool of experts in each country and at the regional level who support customized training and learning programs in the following areas: Protection against Lightning (PaL), Preparedness for Emergency Response (PER), Camp Management, Business Continuity, and Disaster Risk Management.

The partnerships have enhanced the key stakeholders' willingness to pool additional resources from donor agencies such as the USAID BHA and the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), as well as collaborations from OXFAM. Further partnerships with private sector organizations, such as the Chaudhary Foundation in Nepal and the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI), are important examples of laying a sustainable foundation for the partnerships.

South-South Learning and Knowledge Exchange

The APP also focuses on the promotion of learning and knowledge exchange. The South-South exchange has allowed the APP to facilitate cross-learning between countries by providing opportunities to share their knowledge and experience. These exchanges have been attributed to the One-Stop Knowledge Hub, which aims to create a community of practice exchange within the APP. The portal offers tools to bridge critical gaps of information, skills, and knowledge during emergency response with services such as e-learning and a Practitioners Roster. There are continuous efforts to integrate new ways of thinking about the partnership with dialogues centered around innovation, gender and rights-based approaches, and localization.

One-Stop Knowledge Hub - www.app.adpc.net



Building Partnerships and Coordination Mechanisms

The regional platform has branched out across six countries to date. Success has emerged through the mobilization of the government, national and local humanitarian organizations, and the private sector. This in itself was one of the greatest accomplishments of the partnership. National partnerships continue to advance towards the resilient development of their countries and relevant stakeholders with support from the regional platform.



APP members in Geneva for the fourth Steering Committee Meeting and Global Platform for DRR, May 2019.

Challenges along the Way

Connecting the three pillars- LINGOs, government, and the private sector- among six countries came with unique challenges due to social, economic, and political dynamics. Additionally, turnover among officials who were appointed as focal points for national partnerships resulted in delays.

The participation of non-traditional members in decision-making processes for disaster preparedness and response was not previously a common working modality. However, the APP embraces a participatory approach, and transitioning into this method was difficult for stakeholders as they have been the sole leaders in policy and decision-making processes for disaster response. This shift often led to delays in the implementation of planned activities stemming from a general lack of consensus and incentives.

However, the focused pooling of expertise and development of unique humanitarian response capacities has been a driving force for the APP's success. The national and regional partnerships will undoubtedly require further consolidation going forward. Overall, numerous challenges have been overcome while building relationships based on trust and the spirit of collaboration between different stakeholders.



PhilPrep convenes the 2019 National Summit on Strengthening MSME Disaster Resilience for promoting MSME resilience.



Myanmar Preparedness Partnership takes the role of APPRSC Co-Chairs for 2019.

06



Way forward: Towards 2030





“THE FUTURE BELONGS TO
THOSE WHO PREPARE FOR IT.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson,
American essayist, lecturer, and poet

Moving forward the APP will focus its efforts on reducing the funding imbalance and increasing the level of funding provided to local actors. The necessity to progress the agenda for localization of humanitarian response is more crucial now than ever. Crescendo International's research has highlighted the need to support local and national actors in mobilizing resources and taking a leadership role in making disaster response more effective. The APP recognizes that the regional platform with country partnerships cannot eliminate the inequalities in the funding system by themselves. Yet, the partnerships have recognized alternative means to empower the local actors and give them a voice.

The partnerships are aiming to develop national systems that work towards supporting all key players in disaster preparedness and response by identifying the needs of local actors within the countries.

While addressing the funding balance is critical, APDC has also learned during the first phase of implementing the APP (2016-2019) that solely targeting funds is not sustainable. Thus, the initial phase focused on strengthening coordination mechanisms, capacity building, and South-South learning. The second phase (2019-2022) will expand to incorporate innovation, humanitarian transformation, sustainability.

Pathways to Humanitarian System Transformation

The National Preparedness Partnerships formed under the umbrella of the APP serves as a collaborative working space to promote South-South knowledge exchange, capacity development, regional cooperation, humanitarian coordination.



Institutionalizing the partnership between stakeholders within the six countries is imperative as they move forward because it will ensure the sustainability of the APP mechanism. This will require assessing the national landscape for funding and technical support to ensure ownership and integration within each national context.

The first three years (2016-2019) reflect the challenges as well as milestones in building valuable relationships among the core pillars with a sense of enthusiasm and excitement to grow and learn with one another. The dedication was evident at regional meetings. It demonstrated the emerging desire to be prepared, engaged, and playing a larger role in recovering from disasters.

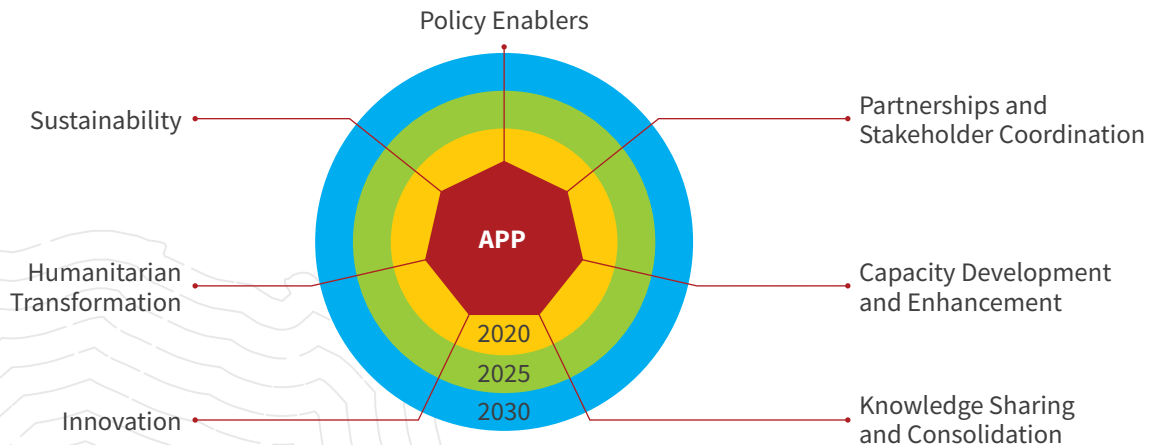
Disaster preparedness, response, and recovery operations are growing in complexity on a global level as a result of changing climate and protracted crises. Renewed technologies, approaches, tools, and more efficient and cost-effective solutions are immediately necessary to tackle these shifts. Offering easy access and adaptability across the spectrum of disaster management is also crucial. The APP will create an

enabling environment to nurture innovative approaches that enhance locally-led disaster risk management actions across the region as it progresses.

The second stage (2019-2022) of the partnership will target actions that promote the localization of humanitarian response in order to transform the humanitarian ecosystem at both the regional and national levels. The program will continue to utilize the ADPC's network and seek advice from the foundation and USAID BHA to enrich the partnership. The successes and lessons learned from the first phase will serve as motivation for the geographical and sectoral expansion of the APP.

The APP 2030 Strategy is aligned with the 2030 frameworks of the SFDRR and the Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It seeks to contribute to the priorities and the targets of these global frameworks. The strategy will also advance and institutionalize the localization agenda into global discourse through the creation of an enabling environment for humanitarian system transformation, in which the key local actors take the lead role for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery actions.

Seven dimensions of change







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