



Understanding Disaster Response value chain- lessons from ground zero - Kerala

Context:

The Indian state of Kerala has suffered from an unprecedented flooding. According to the report released by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on 25 August, a total of 415 people had died while 36 were missing. Over 5 million people were affected, out of which 725,632 displaced people took shelter in 1,925 relief camps managed by the state. There has been extensive damage to houses, infrastructure and livelihood avenues, and it will take years and significant amount of resources to rebuild Kerala.

Many local, national and international organisations responded with alacrity and are complementing the efforts of the state government in providing immediate relief. From the initial relief phase, the work has moved during recovery and rehabilitation phases. According to the URS Matrix, there are eight Grand Bargain (GB), seven Charter 4 Change (C4C) signatories and at least 5 C4C endorsers engaged in the Kerala response, and that provides a good opportunity to capture the good practices with regard to localisation, and also document areas of improvement to further advocate on improved delivery on the GB and C4C commitments. Sphere India is also deeply engaged in this process.

A separate cluster on Accountability to Affected Population has been rolled out, which will ensure better delivery on Participation Revolution. This is the best time to engage local CSOs as well signatories and endorsers to conduct a self-assessment.

Kerala provides a suitable context for localisation process for the following reasons:

- the recent event still fresh in minds, recollection potential is high and thus our ability to draw lessons on localisation process
- proactive and efficient administration in Kerala with well coordinated relief efforts
- excellent civic participation by a well informed, responsible and politically active community, and
- presence of capable CSOs though limited by humanitarian experience
- good presence of GB and C4C signatories as well as C4C endorsers

It is proposed to conduct a quick lessons learned document from the Kerala floods on the process of localisation practised and applied. This proposal is an outline for conducting this exercise.

Objective:

To draw key lessons on application of localisation process, identify best practises and help inform implementation of localisation in similar contexts in the region.

Process:

We propose to hold this exercise by organising four consultations in different parts of Kerala involving various stakeholders including GB and C4C members, stakeholder interviews, group discussions and workshops through a structured format.

Participants:

- Local CSOs of Kerala either engaged in response or desirous of engaging in the response
- GB and C4C signatories and C4C endorsers engaged in the Kerala response
- Other stakeholders, including corporate houses and key government agencies

Date: Last week of October or second week of November

Deliverable:

- Workshop report for advocacy purpose
- Lessons learned document

Budget: INR 7.30 lakhs (USD 11,000)

Some proposed questions to lead the workshop:

Learning around the warning dissemination
Learning around rescue services
Learning around evacuation
Learning around temporary shelter/camps
Learning around volunteering
Learning around protection
Learning around essential life saving services
Learning around needs assessment
Learning around coordination
Learning around government engagement
Learning around engagement of PRI
Learning around church (and other faith based institutions) engagement
Learning around continuum to immediate recovery efforts
Learning around restoration and recovery
Learning around effectiveness
Learning around efficiency
Learning around access to entitlement
Learning around environment management
Learning around Collectivism in immediate response

Note: all the above discussions will be held keeping role of local actors into the consideration.