Access to the document is not possible due to the lack of visual representation.

Reference: Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG)-Bangladesh

*Working Report: Evaluation of the NAWG Reports for Monsoon Flood 2019 Coordination, Situation Updates and JNA Report*

**Background**

SUBARNA is a national project, aiming to develop the assessment capacity in emergency situations. This project works closely with the humanitarian architecture of Bangladesh to conduct needs assessments to directly contribute to improved evidence-based decision-making and better responses for disaster-affected populations. SUBARNA is also aiming to create and update tools and methodologies of assessments and building capacity of the GoB and agencies for better assessment through training. The SUBARNA (Supporting Bangladesh Rapid Needs Assessment) project hosts a national working group for joint needs assessment after disaster named as the “Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG)” which is chaired by the Department of Disaster Management, GoB and CARE Bangladesh. NAWG formalized and coordinates the preparedness, quality improvement and appropriateness of joint needs assessment for ensuring Joint Needs Assessments are carried out in a timely and appropriate manner using the most up-to-date methodologies and technology as well as capacity of all humanitarian stakeholders enhanced to participate in and contribute to assessment activities.

The overall objective of the NAWG is to harmonize and promote cross-sector needs assessment initiatives for consistent, reliable and timely sex, age and diversity disaggregated data including gender and diversity analysis on humanitarian needs in complex emergencies and natural disasters to strengthen informed decision making and improve humanitarian response that complement GoB response. The specific objective of NAWG: strengthen cross-sector needs assessment coordination and leadership, improve technical support to inter-cluster/sector needs assessment initiatives; increase advocacy, awareness raising and resource mobilization in the area of needs assessment; augment needs assessment capacity building efforts of GoB and humanitarian community and support information management working group and mechanisms in the area of needs assessment.

**Introduction**

The 2019 was an active and fruitful year for NAWG as there are active participation of different organizations toward Needs Assessment Working Group. Though there was some major natural disaster happened in 2019, thus we have the opportunity to work for conducting better preparedness and emergency needs assessment. NAWG secretariat CARE Bangladesh plan to took the opinion and recommendations of the members for better and effective joint efforts for Joint Needs Assessment under umbrella of NAWG. These recommendations will be incorporated into the NAWG plan for 2020.

Heavy monsoon rain in July 2019 caused intense flooding across Northern Bangladesh. Nearly 3 million people are struggling with the impacts of the floods, the worst in two years since the 2017 monsoon flood. The Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) identified the nine most severely affected districts as: Kurigram, Jamalpur, Gaibandha, Sylhet, Sirajganj, Tangail, Sunamganj, Bogra and Bandarban. The Government and humanitarian stakeholders supported affected communities and mobilized resources to provide food and non-food items to people in the affected areas. However, even though, compared to the 2017 monsoon flood, the 2019 flood is not that widespread, it has impacted many districts, and the distress to the people and disruption created is severe and impact may last for a longer period. This is notably since the affected population is largely vulnerable due to geographical location, poverty, prolonged impact of flood 2017 and lack of resilience.
The rapid response implementing agency monitoring and post distribution monitoring reveal that there are still persisting needs at the community level. To have an overview on the effects and impact of the disaster responding agency decided to go for a ‘Post Emergency Response Inter-Agency Joint Needs Assessment’ for modalities of further intervention. The worst affected six districts (Bandarban, Bogra, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Kurigram and Sirajganj) were selected as assessment area. The objective of this assessment is to present the full extent of the monsoon flood 2019 impact, define the current needs, and, in so doing, serve as the basis for designing strategy and guide to prioritized interventions.

Since flood starts from July 11, 2019, NAWG team able to prepare and shared 05 flood situation updates and completed JNA phase 01 light which leading to develop Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). This review is to evaluate the feedbacks on NAWG works related to “Situation Update’ and “JNA phase-01 light”. The team is confident that with these continuous support and contributory feedbacks; we would be able to provide more quality “Situation Update” and “JNA report” effectively and timely. We have incorporated this evaluation report with adequate genuine feedbacks and suggestions for further improvement of NAWG works in the future.

**A. Accessibility**

Responsibilities of the co-chairs includes validating agendas and minutes produced by the NAWG, dealing with substantive matters arising between meetings, monitoring and encouraging progress on focus areas of the NAWG, and representing the NAWG in other relevant fora. Moreover, the co-chairs will ensure synergies with other relevant groups and inform the NAWG of activities in these other fora.

The NAWG regularly updated the progresses on the pre-disaster, during disaster and post-disaster needs of cyclone Bulbul for advanced joint needs assessment and further responses for ensuring minimum loss of life, assets, infrastructures, NFI, food security, protection etc. focusing the vulnerable coastal community prioritizing the women, children, aged persons and people with disabilities. Further consultations have been done with the clusters and stakeholders to decide on the possible communications between different working groups for insuring latest validated information and widespread effective assessment and response.

The participation of different stakeholders was not only good in number but also great with the spirit of engagement in for the evaluation of monsoon flood updates and JNA reports by NAWG in 2019. The prominent National NGOs, INGOS, UN Organizations actively participated in different meetings and events of the NAWG in all around the years. The percentages of participates International NGOs were highest (52.8%) following the National NGOs and UN organizations (16.7% each). The snapshots of participatory organizations and their contribution are –

**A.1. Type of member Organizations and the organization participated/ Contributed in the evaluation**
CARE Bangladesh though SUBARNA (Supporting Bangladesh Rapid Needs Assessment) have provided the secretariat functions, including convening regular meetings, providing venue arrangements, drafting and distributing the agenda and minutes, monitoring progress of the implementation of the work plan and action points from the meetings, and facilitating the flow of communications for the successful information management and needs assessment of monsoon flood for better response.

The access to NAWG situation reports and JNA report of monsoon flood has been assured by the majority participant organizations as 91.7% through e-mails and 27.8% by NAWG websites. On the contrary, only 2 organizations denied having the direct access to reports for communications gap; which will be solved with guidance and sharing the links of information. The most positive evaluation sign is- there were no organizations disagreed that they did not received any information or updates about the activity of NAWG for monsoon flood in 2019.

A.2 Access to all NAWG situation updates and JNA report on monsoon flood 2019

B. Perception of situation updates

While initially focusing its work on Phase 0 (the Preparedness Phase), Phase I (first 72 hours) and Phase II (first two weeks) in sudden onset emergencies of cyclone Bulbul, the NAWG has a later stage support work on Phase III (second two weeks) onwards, including early recovery, and address slow onset emergencies in accordance with progress made on the first phases.

B.1. Perception on the monsoon flood 2019 Situation Updates produced by NAWG

The situation reports provided by NAWG found satisfactory in almost each parameters of frequency (18 organizations), information (22 organizations), understandable (20 organizations), effectiveness (19 organizations), timeliness (18 organizations) and overall content (17 organizations).
C. Usability and effectiveness

SUBARNA and NAWG strongly committed to enhance resilience of communities, affected by and vulnerable to disasters, through evidence-based response with the major objectives are increased access to timely and appropriate multi-sectoral baseline and humanitarian information to assist disaster affected people in first phase response and resilience building. With the goal in mind SUBARNA project provided the support to humanitarian stakeholder by needs assessment tools development, rapid needs assessment of monsoon flood 2019 and also its situation overview.

As the member organizations are the major contributors and life of the NAWG, we seek to about their perception and satisfaction level regarding the services and products of the NAWG secretariat. When we ask about the usability of the Situation Reports and joint Rapid Needs Assessment, majority responded positively. However, even having one negative response assures us that we either could not target the audience accurately, or our materials and delivery needs more improvement.

From the survey 41.7% said that the situation updates of monsoon flood 2019 found very useful and almost 55.6% agreed on usefulness for further response. The NAWG team have found no organizations stated not much useful or not useful at all.

C.1. Usefulness of situation updates produced by NAWG

C.2. Usefulness of the joint rapid needs assessment report produced by NAWG

Almost 41.7% organizations confirmed the situation updates of monsoon flood 2019 as very useful and more than 50% agreed on usefulness of it for further response. There were no organizations disagreed with its usefulness.
Regarding the use of NAWG JNA report for monsoon flood 2019 we received different types of responses. About 47.7% of organizations have used this JNA report for raising alert, and fund mobilization for emergency response each. The next level use is in development humanitarian response plan (44.4%).

**C.3. Purpose of the use of the Monsoon Flood 2019 Joint Needs Assessment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raising alert (normal or external)</td>
<td>8 (22.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)</td>
<td>15 (41.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design early recovery / rehabilitation plan</td>
<td>10 (27.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund mobilization for emergency response</td>
<td>2 (5.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General information to inform our plan</td>
<td>1 (2.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Areas to be considered regarding the evaluation of Monsoon Flood 2019:**

- Quality of Monsoon Flood Situation Reports (Jul, 2019) and Joint Needs Assessment of Monsoon Flood (May, 2019)
- Quarterly meeting with District Focal Point.
- Refreshers on NAWG activities.
- Linkage between all sectors
- Representation from government technical ministries
- Share the meeting minutes to all members.

**D. Fund mobilization**

The work of the NAWG is driven by the necessity to assess as accurately as possible the needs of affected populations to ensure the best response possible by humanitarian stakeholders, including through mobilization of adequate funding. All activities undertaken by the NAWG will consider the needs of vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, the chronically sick and persons with disabilities, and address cross-cutting issues such as gender, disability and age. Synergies will be established with relevant needs assessment groups and activities that complement GoB needs assessment. The NAWG will also ensure proper phasing of its activities with relevant appeals and new funding mechanisms.

**C.5. Estimated amount of fund mobilized by organizations for Monsoon Flood response through using situation updates or JNA report. (Amount in USD)**
From this evaluation survey of Situation Reports and Joint Rapid Needs Assessment Reports; the team have found 8.3% organizations having the willingness for fund mobilization for monsoon flood 2019 response through the situation updates and Joint Needs Assessment on each parameters of USD 200000, 100000 and 1000000.

E. Overall Feedback

This review of the NAWG operational and service aspects for Monsoon Flood was conducted for improving the quality and collaboration for effective needs assessment for it in Bangladesh. The SUBARAN team will take the recommendation and consider the learning for planning the activities in 2020 which will be reviewed again at the end of this year.

Since there is nothing like absolute perfection, there should always be room for improvement. Female participation was a consistent problem we've been suffering big time for long. Beyond these areas of improvements, we received recommendations where we can improve the quality of products for further effective collaboration. We have received mostly positive feedbacks and few recommendations. For the better collaboration and effectiveness, the major recommendations/areas of improvement are listed below-

- Including more community voices / perceptions in the situation reports.
- More advocacy need to use this information by the government office.
- More engagement of local organization can help to improve products/services.
- NAWG can coordinate more with partner agencies to receive regular information on plan and response.
- Require to develop sub-district level JNA group with a focal person from earlier stage.
- Keeping updated list of district focal persons and providing them training.
- Taking initiative for the capacity development of the partners.
- Infographic design/approach can be introduced in relevant sections to keep information concise and present it in an appealing way.

N: B-

1. A total 36 organizations took participation in the survey on the NAWG review. Questionnaire was focused on the activities of NAWG focusing Monsoon Flood in 2019.
2. Survey conducted in July 2019.
3. This is an internal report of SUBARNA team, will be used for future planning and improving the services of NAWG.