



REGIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT

STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION AGAINST CLIMATE FRAGILITIES AND DISASTERS

NOVEMBER 30th TO 02nd DECEMBER 2021



Resilient India : Disaster free India

National Institute of Disaster Management
(Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)



Regional Conference Report

Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition Against Climate Fragilities and Disasters

November 30th to 02nd December 2021

Regional Conference Report

Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition Against Climate Fragilities and Disasters

Copyright © 2022, National Institute of Disaster Management, Delhi

Edition : 2021

Editors

- Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal, VSM
- Dr. Sushma Guleria, NIDM
- Ms. Pradnya Paithankar, WFP
- Mr. Animesh Prakash, WFP
- Ms. Kavya Mohan, NIDM

Published by

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Delhi - 110042.

Disclaimer:

This document may be freely reviewed, reproduced or translated, in part or whole, purely on non-profit basis for humanitarian, social and environmental wellbeing with permission from the Institute and with due credits to the author. Receiving information and suggestions on its adaptation or use in actual training situations are welcome.

The document can be downloaded from <http://www.nidm.gov.in>

Overall Supervision, Directions and Guidance

Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal, VSM, Executive Director, NIDM

Collaborating Agencies

U-Inspire Alliance

Global Network of Civil Society Organization for Disaster Reduction

Conference Chair-members and Facilitators

Mr. Hari Krishna, Mentor MIT Climate Colab, UNSSDN	Dr. Sushma Guleria, Assistant Professor, NIDM
Dr. Janki Andhariya, Dean of the School of Disaster Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences	Dr. Nuraini Rahma Hanifa, Secretary General, U – Inspire Alliance
Mr. Shailendra Yashwant, Sr. Advisor, CANSA	Mr. Eric Kenefick, Deputy Country Director WFP India
Ms. Shivangi Chavda Sr. Regional Lead – Asia and Europe GNDR	Mr. Nicolas Bidault, Sr. Regional Advisor, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, WFP

IT Support

Mr. Shobhit Sharma, Young Professional, NIDM Balaji Ariputhiran, GIS Analyst, NIDM

Lead Rapporteurs

Ms. Arusha Anand, Ms. Vivien How, Ms. Aradhna Moktan



INTRODUCTION

A three-day regional conference on the theme of improving humanitarian response and strengthening food systems in climate fragilities and disasters was organised from 30 November to 2 December by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) with the thematic session partners, Global network of civil society organisations for disaster reduction (GNDR) and U-Inspire Alliance.

Coming in the backdrop of the 6th Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the recently concluded 26th United Nations Climate Change conference that have put a strong focus on the ongoing climate crisis, the regional conference featured speakers and participants from the Asia region. Government officials, institutions, non-governmental organisations, policy experts, and practitioners joined virtually with the event being streamed live.

The perilous impacts of climate change are felt across sectors. Disasters are more frequent and severe. According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2021, between 2000 and 2019, 475000 people were reported to have lost their lives as a direct result of more than 11,000 extreme weather events globally. UNHCR estimates that in the past decade, the weather-related events have triggered an average of 21.5 million new displacements each year¹. The 6th assessment report of the IPCC comes with a code red warning for humanity as it presents irrefutable evidence of global temperatures likely to rise 1.5⁰ c in the next 20 years.

These impacts have led to the rapidly escalating humanitarian needs. In 2020, as estimated 243.8 million people living in 75 countries were assessed to be in need of humanitarian assistance. This is an additional 19 million people as compared to 2019². With these adverse trends, the capacities of humanitarian agencies are often dwarfed by the escalating humanitarian needs. On top of it, resources for humanitarian aid are also shrinking in comparison to the rising humanitarian needs. In 2020, international humanitarian assistance plateaued at US\$30.9 billion similar to the 2019 levels, inspite of a rapid increase in the Humanitarian needs posed by the Covid Pandemic. The appeals funding gap has grown faster than ever in 2020³. Within the limited resources globally, the challenge is to meet all the critical needs from the immediate relief to long term recovery.

1. Displaced on the frontlines of the climate emergency (arcgis.com)
2. The Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2021 - Development Initiatives (devinit.org)
3. Ibid

The challenges posed by increased frequency of disasters and the shrinking resources, calls for an improved effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response. It is important to integrate climate action in the emergency preparedness as a more sustainable approach and also strive to innovate existing programmes and approaches to match with rising humanitarian needs. It is also imperative to ensure that the critical sectors in humanitarian programming receive deserved attention. Both, climate change and humanitarian emergencies have a direct impact on the Food and Nutrition insecurities. Worldwide 80% of the people displaced by climate emergencies live in areas affected by malnutrition and acute food insecurity⁴. Hunger and food insecurity are one of the major impacts of disasters as it creates impediments including economic and physical access to food, its availability and stability of supplies. With the significantly rising climate fragilities and on top of it the projected impact of pandemics such as Covid-19 on food security and nutrition, it will be difficult to chase the 2030 goal of zero hunger sans aid of disruptive innovations and approaches.

The effectiveness of the humanitarian systems should be routed through inclusive policies affirming their commitment to leave no one behind. Systems efficacy should be built on collective action fostering support to strengthen platforms for learning, knowledge exchange and cooperation for improved emergency preparedness and response.

With an overarching theme of “Strengthening resilience of food systems in climate fragilities and disasters,” the conference sessions saw deliberations on making food Security and nutrition an integral part of emergency preparedness and response, supporting innovation around food and nutrition security from Asia, ways of building capacities on food and nutrition security during emergencies, strengthening regional cooperation in Asia on food and nutrition response during emergencies. The forum deliberated on the need for improving humanitarian effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and the need to strengthen resilience of food systems in climate fragilities and disasters. Overall themes and objectives of the Regional Conference is outlined below: -

Overarching Theme:

Strengthening resilience of food systems in climate fragilities and disasters

Key Objectives:

1. Mainstreaming Food Security and Nutrition in Emergency Preparedness and Response
2. Fostering support to innovation and good practices in food and nutrition security from Asia
3. Stocktaking on Capacity building frameworks on FNS in emergencies.
4. Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Asia for improved effectiveness and efficiency of food and nutrition response in emergencies

4. Displaced on the frontlines of the climate emergency (arcgis.com)

Sessions: Thematic session

1. Thematic Session – I: Food and Nutrition Security in Emergency Preparedness and Response
2. Thematic Session – II: Building Climate Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security
3. Thematic Session – III: Innovations in adaptive food systems in Asia
4. Plenary Session: Capacity Building Framework and Roadmap in Asia for Food and Nutrition Security in Emergencies

Key deliberations from the Inaugural Session

The inaugural session saw participation from the senior management and heads of different Government and Inter-governmental organisations. Dr. Sushma Guleria Asst. Professor NIDM set up the tone for the conference, by elaborating the context of the disaster induced food insecurity which calls for greater sectoral emphasis and mainstreaming the agenda of food security and nutrition in the emergency preparedness plan. 'The resources required to provide humanitarian assistance are limited and shrinking and hence need to be utilised efficiently and effectively. As climate change and humanitarian emergencies have a direct impact on food and nutrition insecurities, a majority of displaced population are affected by both malnutrition and acute food insecurity worldwide,' stated Dr. Guleria. She highlighted the initiatives taken collectively by NIDM and WFP in pursuit of mainstreaming food and nutrition security in the emergency preparedness and response. Outcomes of the regional conference are critical for these objectives.

Dr. Guleria, invited **Maj Gen Manoj Kumar Bindal**, Executive Director NIDM for his inaugural comments.

Among the various implications of climate change and disasters, one of the worst affected processes is the one that underpins food security. Therefore, keeping in view the urgency to address this issue, deliberations in the regional conference are crucial in identifying the key recommendations forward to explore the ways and means to mainstream the food and nutrition security agenda in India's disaster management response. "Climate change is affecting one and all, but more severely vulnerable and marginalised groups, including women, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly. Food security is one of the most important aspects that gets impacted by climate fragility and disasters. This regional conference is part of a wide-ranging partnership between WFP and NIDM to create a regional platform for discussion, learning, and support around these issues that impacts millions," said Maj Gen Bindal, Executive Director NIDM.

"Droughts, floods, cyclones, and other extreme events will continue to make vulnerable people food and nutrition insecure. With a massive population living with malnutrition, the Asia region is particularly vulnerable to this crisis. This event marks a milestone in terms of taking concrete measures towards building capacities through regional cooperation," said Mr. Bishow Parajuli, Country Director and Representative, World Food Programme in India. He brought the attention towards the significant capacity of India's food safety nets, such as the public distribution system, mid-day meal and the integrated child development scheme. With adaptive approaches in the social protection schemes, these can effectively address humanitarian challenges in emergency, particularly for nutrition sensitive response. He also drew attention on the needs for investing in the climate resilient crop and enhanced value chain. "We must focus on the most vulnerable, listen to their voices and concerns in creating solutions for climate-resilient food security. India has shown leadership in creating the world's largest food safety net and can offer game-changing ideas for creating resilient food systems regionally, and globally," he added. He further, called

for a stronger regional cooperation to save lives and reduce sufferings. Disasters are not bound by administrative boundaries. There are great learnings across countries on climate issues and therefore, it is important for stakeholders across countries to share learnings and strengthen regional cooperation.

Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, IAS Secretary, Dept. of Food & Public Distribution Government of India, cited learnings from Government of India's response on food aid and assistance during the Covid pandemic. Government's provision of additional food grains to different sections of the society such as migrant workers, farmers, urban & rural poor and women through PM- GKY (Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Yojana Scheme) contributed significantly in ensuring the food and nutrition security in the nation during pandemic. This increased the government spending by 2 lakh crore rupees per annum and accounted for a massive spending by any developing country. It reflects the country's capacities on food relief in a catastrophic event like the ongoing pandemic. India's food production storage and distribution systems operated seamless during these challenging times. India has immensely contributed by way of natural exports as well as food aid in the neighbouring region and world. Last year, India exported highest ever quantity of sugar to meet demand of countries facing challenges in local production due to drought conditions

"Climate change is affecting the poor and vulnerable the most as we have seen across the world and particularly in the region. During disasters, the systems for production, storage, and distribution are adversely impacted, hence one needs to take these into account when we talk about food security and climate vulnerabilities," said Mr. Sudhanshu Pandey, Secretary, Dept. of Food Public Distribution, Government of India.

"An example of adapting to weather-related failures is India's efforts at harmonising production as per the agroclimatic zones and promoting crop diversity suitable to the local conditions. We are also promoting varieties that are resistant to droughts and salinity. Bio-fortified crops are also a part of these efforts," he added. In addition to this, he emphasised on the need to develop a credible, stable, consistent and dependable food production systems, harmonising crop production with the local agro-climatic zone and to promote and incentivise crop diversity in the context of varied climatic conditions in the country. He also cited examples of innovations in the govt. welfare schemes, such as "one nation one ration card (ONROC)," Annapurta – Grain ATMs which can be useful to address complexities in meeting the humanitarian needs of the moving, and displaced population in emergencies.

"We have a lot to learn from each other as the region is vulnerable. Lessons learned are a very important part of the discourse on disasters. However, each disaster is unique, in terms of impact and its signature even though the categories might be the same. Therefore, the conference, and the platform it seeks to create, are important. We must continuously learn and make disasters everyone's concern," said Mr. Anil Kumar Sinha, IAS (Retd.), Former ED-NIDM and VC-BSDMA. Mr. Sinha brought attention to the need for developing a collaborative approach, encouraging inclusion of educational institutions and civil society at policy planning

stage. Developing initiatives based on local ideas and inspiration by improvising and creating localised version of it to ensure applicability. And need for greater application of technology to ensure last mile connectivity and to reach out and encourage communities to come up with its own initiatives.

“Food security and nutrition are among the neglected areas of disaster management as they are not apparent or easily visible during disasters as the immediate focus is on saving lives. The food security innovation challenge that was undertaken as part of this initiative provides an opportunity to tap into community-driven robust solutions,” said Mr. Hari Krishna Mentor at MIT Climate Colab and UNSSDN. Mr. Krishna stated that, In spite of rapid progress in food production and distribution, we find 53% of women still malnourished especially during their reproductive age. There is a need to ensure nutrition during emergencies as well as address the situation of nutrition as emergency. We should strengthen food security and nutrition initiatives within the development discourse as well as in disaster management and must strive to build international coalition by governments, humanitarian organisations and civil societies targeting to address food security and nutrition during complex emergencies. He also urged on the need for more policy-based innovations.

Ms. Pradnya Paithankar, gave the backdrop of the NIDM-WFP the Mapping, and Exchange of Good Practices (MEGP) Initiative. Winners of the MEGP initiative, to recognise the best practices and solutions on food security and nutrition related to climate change resilience from the Asia region, were also announced at the conference. The two winning solutions from Bangladesh, sack gardening, and Indonesia, mangrove food bar, were selected from 31 entries by an eminent jury. A compendium that brings together all the entries or solutions shortlisted was also released.

The session included a thematic presentation from NIDM on the capacity building framework for effective FNS response in the country followed by the technical presentations by the two winners of the MEGP Juries Award.

Dr. Sushma Guleria presented in the detail the capacity building framework. In a humanitarian context it is extremely important to make provisions for the short term and immediate needs of food, yet at the same time, the preparedness structures and programme designs should include food and nutrition security, as a long-term outcome. It should be supported with the direct and deliberate action contributing to the long-term outcomes. Dr. Guleria, presented a training module structure which emphasised on institutional capacity strengthening, surge capacity, repositioning strategies, assessment and direct food assistance. The presentation also touched upon the adaptive social safety nets, cash-based assistance and need for robust evaluation and accountability systems.

Thematic Session -1:

Food and Nutrition Security in Emergency Preparedness and Response

Session Chair	Mr. Hari Krishna, UNSSDN
Session Moderator	Dr. Nuraini Rahma Hanifa, <i>Secretary-General,</i> U-Inspire Alliance Dr. Vivien How, <i>Member,</i> U-Inspire Alliance
Speakers	Mr. Ajay kumar VB, <i>Executive Director</i> RIGHTS Madam Rashmi Mohanty, <i>Secretary,</i> Unnayan Madam Kiki Kartikasari, <i>Member of</i> U-Inspire Alliance Madam Anusara Sing Kumar Wong Regional Nutritionist WFP RBB Asia and Pacific

The session focused on the discussion and demonstration of the good practices and innovative solutions for sustainable food systems that cater the food and nutrition security in emergency preparedness and response. With growing food demand and future food supply uncertainties, multilateral organizations shall look into sustainable and innovative solutions in managing both short-term and long-term imbalances among the vulnerable community, especially the farming community. This requires multilateral policy coordination.

Several good practices have been shared among technical speakers, which have provided sustainable solutions for food and nutrition security from different perspectives. First, empowering women and rural communities with local resources and technology by creating an inclusive environment to contribute to global food security. Second, safeguarding farming community with insurance to cover abrupt losses on your livestock and produce during extreme weather conditions, random temperature drops while ensuring their job performance in tackling global food security. Third, discuss the opportunities for nutrition-sensitive programs for effective humanitarian action. Four, discussions elaborated on the challenges and opportunities facing the food system in contributing to food and nutrition security in face of emergency and crisis.

Technical Presentations

Mr. Ajaykumar VB, Executive Director – *RIGHTS [Evidence-based Advocacy and Campaign for Inclusive Humanitarian Response by the Government ensures Food Security, Nutrition and Survival of the Most Marginalized Communities in Kerala]*

Mr. Ajaykumar presented the key activity on his work of providing evidence-based advocacy and campaign for inclusive humanitarian response by ensuring food security, nutrition, and survival of the most marginalized communities in Kerala. This work was initiated due to the pre-existing inequalities (socio-economic or locational disadvantageous) that exist in the society that often or aggravate during and post-disaster period. His work includes using technology to conduct vulnerability mapping of communities in disaster-prone areas and geo-tagging “excluded” communities in government response. By doing so, he provides empirical data while working closely with the government with evidence-based supportive data to provide an inclusive disaster response and awareness generation.

His works have bought immediate impact when the government considers this internalized inclusion as the guiding principle in disaster events after 2018 when 78% of appeals for entitlements by the affected communities have settled. This solution has the potential for replication and scaling, with three main approaches, 1) innovative program approach (it puts participation from all the stakeholders of humanitarian intervention, 2) capacity building of the community member, 3) use technology for undisputed evidence (The geotagging process brought out solid evidence for the exclusion). This innovative solution is process-driven and result-driven, the same could be adopted in different contexts also.

Ms. Rashmi Mohanty, Secretary, *Unnayan [Hatching Hope Initiative]*

Madam Rashmi Mohanty reminded the attendees that women are sustainable changemakers while we empower them with an innovative solution. She shared her solution by making poultry a viable option for poorer farmers and to increase the quality and quantity of egg and meat production through food practices, that include 1) poultry production, 2) Awareness and Education, 3) Access to resources. She makes use of citizen science (local knowledge) to further intervene in food and nutrition by using local feeds and linking smallholder farmers to the chicken value chain. With the advantages of being easy to handle and less space required, this innovative solution is process-driven and result-driven, and is upscaling and replicable to another context.

Ms Kiki Kartikasari, Member of U-Inspire Alliance [*Weather index-based Insurance for Agriculture*]

Ms. Kiki first highlighted the common challenges faced by Asian farmers’ insurance coverage, 1) indemnity value (max coverage is based on generalized input cost, 2) Disproportion (Claims

are payable limited to approved/verified cases, 3) Verification (claimable pay-outs are subject for evaluation by the insurer, 4) Administration (Current mechanism involves a wide range of intermediaries and costly). Considering farmers are the high-risk community who are facing extreme temperature amid pandemic or climate change while working in the field for production crop, innovation solutions were suggested by Madam Kiki to look into the possibility of providing weather index-based insurance for the agriculture industry. The farmers should be engaged in the early process of insurance design, not only for protection but also to unlock opportunities for farmers, farm's families as well as the crop yield amidst extreme temperature and unprecedented disaster.

Ms. Anusara Sing Kumar Wong – Regional Nutritionist WFP RBB Asia and Pacific [*Nutrition in Emergency Preparedness and Response*]

Ms. Anusara presented the inclusive nutrition intervention program during emergency preparedness and response. She highlighted the trending issues of child stunting, child wasting, child overweight, adult overweight, and anaemia in WRA and discussed the possibility of non-communicable diseases to exacerbate during a disaster, this includes the high prevalence of unaffordability of a healthy diet. While Asia carries a high burden of global malnutrition, and inclusive nutrition intervention program shall not be negligible at any cost. She further discussed the nutrition actions/intervention during an emergency by including education, water, and sanitation (WASH), health sector, food security, social protection, and agriculture. Unlike what has been discussed by other technical speakers who put the farmer at the center of the system, Madam Anusara suggests otherwise, she stated that nutrition issues shall be in the center of the agriculture to promote multisectoral involvement in promoting nutrition intake during an emergency.

She further provided nutritional sensitive response during an emergency with the example from Afghanistan and Myanmar, and advocated that proper planning of nutritional intervention programs in the emergency preparedness are the foundations of effective humanitarian action. In their concluding remarks, the session chair noted that the importance of food security and food safety (including food nutrition) has been highlighted by a stakeholder from different levels, ranging from local to regional. The concern ranges from food availability, food supply, food access that determine the sustainability of our food system, for instance, the availability of food choices would ultimately determine the quality and quantity of the food nutritional intake.

While a robust preparation is urgently needed in the face of emergency/disaster/pandemic situations, there is a need for stakeholders from different organizations to solve the problem by phases by providing an enabling environment, demonstrating good practices while contextualizing the food-related solution and enhancing its relevancy. It is important to identify, document mapping, and promote any localized and regional solutions. He urged that innovative technology shall be replicated and exchanged with flexible policy. These steps would increase the prospects for achieving global food security with more efficient resource use, though serious regulatory gaps would remain regional support and collaboration. Increasing innovative

collaboration and support (and appropriate policies thereon) are keys to many of the problems addressed in the discussion.

Dr. Nuraini, the moderator, summarized the session in six conclusions: (1) addressing the marginalized group, inclusive and engaging with women, young people, and disabled person, (2) supporting data-based advocacy, (3) maximizing citizen science with the use of existing knowledge and leverage capacity building, (4) safeguard farmers' health, and wealth with insurance aids, (5) look into the role of nutritional supply to reduce the non-communicable diseases among farmers and consumer, (6) in need of a platform and coordinating agency to engage multisector and strengthening partnership.

Thematic Session -II

“Building Climate Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security”

Session Chair	Dr. Janki Andharia, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
Session Moderator	Ms. Pradnya Paithankar, <i>SDG Manager</i> WFP
Speakers	Dr. Fatema Lestari Disaster Risk Reduction Centre Universitas Indonesia Ms. Aishwarya Mallavaram Public Affairs Centre Mr. Sanjay Vashisht Climate Action Network South Asia

Session Chair Prof Janki Andharia set the tone for the session by elaborating on the problem context food security and nutrition in emergencies. She stated that, it is important to contextualise the issue of food security and identify the nature of the problem. There is no ‘one solution fits all’ approach. Despite three decades of economic growth and reduction in absolute poverty, expanding urbanisation, industrialisation, and a significant rise in middle class, we find about more than half of the population in the Asian Pacific region face hunger.

Global systems have failed to predict the current situation of food security will persist, despite global exchanges, liberalisation, globalisation. There are distortions in global food market in terms of equitable food distributions particularly to food deficit countries and regions. Since providing safe and nutritious food remains a challenge, this session is looking at possible strategies and capacity building based on experiences of grassroots organisations and people working in the domain.

The relationship between poverty, nutrition and access to food has a strong interaction and should be taken into considered along with pressures on land, water and energy resources. Focus on how things work and why they worked. While working at the last mile, it is equally important to work at level of policy and global decision makers. Competing demands for available resources at the local and government levels and pushing hard for food security does remain a challenge. We must negotiate through these challenge, roles and responsibilities.

The supply and demand disruptions caused by lockdowns has compromised food security in many countries. It is harder to figure it, due to absence of recorded data. We need to look at food security from a more holistic perspective and not in a 'project' mode. Food security needs to be embedded within cultural practices of a community. It is true that we are depended by funding imperative, where we have to show outcomes and results through reporting, we tend to ignore the notions of self-help self-sufficiency and communitarian approach.

Dr. Fatema Lestari Disaster Risk Reduction Centre Universitas Indonesia; *Farming and technology development to support sorghum (Sorghum bicolor L.) as an alternative drought tolerant staple to strengthen poor people resilience toward global warming disasters in eastern Indonesia*

Dr. Fatema presented a solution to provide alternative staples to rice to vulnerable populations in dry eastern Indonesia by using sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* L.). Several agricultural technology-based solutions that have currently been applied to expand the farming and accessibility of sorghum relate to modelling area suitability for sorghum farming with a view to increase the success of sorghum production. This is done by determining the area that has a suitable climate and soil for large-scale sorghum farming. Their solution included a multipronged effort towards developing a customised sorghum grading machine, ensuring nutrition enrichment and entering into a partnership involving local farmers and food companies.

She presented the evidence of the uses of sorghum as alternative staples which were implemented in three different stages, including the scientific and practical. Based on scientific data, sorghum has nutrition values comparable to rice. The nutrition values of sorghum were reviewed during the pilot.

Solution also worked on the agricultural technology for processing and storing sorghum which is different from rice since sorghum has husks that are quite difficult to open. This included developing, a special sorghum grading machine which is customized to increase the selling price of sorghum and generate a profit for the farmers. The development of customized sorghum grading machine resulted in machine good performance and effectiveness.

Ms. Aishwarya Mallavaram - Public Affairs Centre; *Women Champions as organic change-makers in PDS*

Ms. Aishwarya presented PAC's efforts of empowering communities including women leaders to undertake effective monitoring and redress of grievances through consultation and advocacy with stakeholders is a proven solution to address legacy issues in democratic institutions like the PDS. The Public Affairs Centre (PAC) worked to create and utilise champions from the community for a sustainable citizen monitoring process. This initiative was implemented in 30 districts of Karnataka and it brought in a community-led citizen monitoring approach empowering a community which had the ability to participate as equal stakeholders and not as mere beneficiaries.

She presented the project's systematic approach of adopting a "3 A Framework of Awareness-Advocacy-Action" which included a comprehensive consultative process with all stakeholders in the service delivery spectrum to ensure interventions that were designed were duly backed by support. She presented findings from the models of citizen monitoring across Karnataka.

Community-led monitoring processes were designed to improve awareness among beneficiaries about their entitlements, increased adherence to standard protocols by FPS owners and an active engagement with government officials. The intervention implemented by PAC was driven by an innovative process that entailed beneficiaries driving change through systematic monitoring of community engagement and advocacy. The project identified more than 716 community champions of which 600 were women. The women monitors ensured FPS were shifted to safer places and made accessible for women. Ensuring involvement of concerned stakeholders led to a belief in the project's scalability and sustainability

Mr. Sanjay Vashisht - Climate Action Network South Asia; *Policy reforms to mainstream FNS in climate action plans.*

Mr. Sanjay Vasishst presented a global overview of the policy discourses on climate change and food security and nutrition. He commenced by discussing the related ongoing challenges and the existing solutions that may turn as a hindrance to ensuring food and nutrition security in future and mentioned few recommendations to combat these challenges based on his personal experience. He emphasised on the need to prioritize food and nutrition security as well as inequity that may emerge as a by-product of solutions for Climate Change proposed by the government. He elaborated on the need to focus efforts on the adaptation initiatives to ensure local participation in the overall efforts of combating climate change. He also emphasised on the need to hold authorities of people's representative, accountable for irregularities in policy execution. He brought examples of last mile initiatives such as promoting cultivation of local crop varieties of short duration, drought resistant crops and crop diversification etc which can help in attaining climate goals while also addressing food and nutrition security of the marginalised. Lastly, he urged on the need for the civil society organisations, policy makers and academics to network well, in order to achieve the collective goal of minimizing malnutrition and hunger.

Thematic Session -III

“Innovations in adaptive food systems in Asia”

Session Chair	Mr. Shailendra Yashwant , Sr. Advisor CANSA
Session Moderator	Ms. Shivangi Chavda , Sr. Regional Lead Asia and Europe GNDR
Speakers	Ms. Chandrika Kularathna Janathakshan (GTE) Ltd Sri Lanka Raju Narzary NERSWN Ms. Katarina Kohutova WFP Nepal

Session Chair Mr. Shailendra Yashwant, in his opening remarks underscored the urgency for collective action to combat climate crisis. He stated that the current and projected mitigation efforts as they are going to be, are far less than needed to avert the worst of the climate crisis - the inevitable fallouts in form of extreme weather events like cyclone to droughts. Our prior efforts will fall out to ensure food and water security and other sustainable development goals. Now we have to prepare for the worst-case scenario- adaptation and DRR through collective action which is the only way we are going to survive the impending disasters. Climate Finance for adaptation has been increased to 50% from earlier allocation of 25% i.e. doubled in last few years, is recognition of the fact that we have to ‘learn to adapt’. We need to identify, amplify, broadcast and replicate the best practices. We need to be more comprehensive, inclusive and coherent in our approach towards climate change. Things are surely moving in forward direction. Collective actions and wisdom need to be put together to address this situation and help most vulnerable communities to be more resilient

Ms. Chandrika Kularathna; Janathakshan (GTE) Ltd Sri Lanka; Tank Cascade System to increase paddy production in Sri Lanka

Ms. Chandrika presented learnings from a participatory and inclusive, environment friendly integrated land use model which Jantakshan adopted to redevelop the cascade systems by renovation of abandoned tanks and restoration of sensitive catchment areas through construction

of soil bunds to prevent erosion and introduction of climate smart agriculture practices like - micro irrigation system, use of bio-fertilizers, new cropping system etc.

The initiative benefitted 1703 small scale farmers and contributed directly towards the food security of these households. The project is a holistic adaptation solution for dry zone paddy farming implemented so far and has high potential to replicate the model due to thousands of abandoned cascade ecosystem existing in Sri Lanka. It is an example of blending of traditional knowledge with science and how use of traditional knowledge has contributed towards sustainability of the intervention.

The project with proven results has a great potential of replicability and scalability because of many abandoned tank cascade systems all over Sri Lanka. It can be expanded using system approach as the cascade system is very much integrated and holistic. The new technologies can be pilot tested by downscaling with the advisory system and introducing combination of traditional and modern practices, new governing structures and efficient management, distribution and utilization of water.

Raju Narzary NERSWN; *Food and Nutrition Security in an Extreme Climate Fragile Conditions*

NERSWN presented a case study on the people-to-people cooperation between India and Bhutan on a transboundary river basin – Saralbhanga to protect and safeguard the traditional jamphwi system. This is a gravity-based diversion irrigation system traditionally practised by the indigenous communities for generations. The traditional practices were threatened due to some planned construction in the upstream river basin which led to the community engagement at transboundary level to mitigate the problem.

This multipronged strategy not only ensured food sufficiency in extreme climatic condition with annual routine floods but also improved the nutritional status as well as income from farm produce. More than 5000 Indian farmers are now accessing the water from the transboundary diversion-based irrigation system in Saralpara area of Indo-Bhutan Border.

The initiative was demand driven. The relief response work exposed the NERSWN team to multiple climate and geopolitical concerns which it took up seriously and managed to create a space for all stakeholders to participate. A major factor that contributed to the success of the initiative was the participation of all stakeholders at the level of the community, CSO, local government and media as they shared the common goal of securing lives and livelihoods of a vulnerable community facing multiple disasters all their life. Mr. Raju Narzary stated that, the transboundary cooperation that started on the issue of water management, cascaded to other areas also. Efforts were taken to institutionalise the cooperation framework through the signing up of Kokrajhar Call for Action in 2018, which is developed as a guiding principle for CSO partners in this region.

Ms. Katarina Kohutova WFP Nepal; *Nepal experiences with Anticipatory Approach to address the flood risk.*

Ms. Katarina Kohutova from WFP shared learnings from Nepal on the anticipatory approach to address the flood risk. Anticipatory approach is based on the core principles of risk-based programming and providing assistance to targeted households before a disaster occurs. Similarly, WFP provided a package of anticipatory assistance in Jhapa which consisted of dissemination of early warnings to the affected communities and one-off cash support with help of partnership with local governments and local DRR stakeholders. About 1665 households were selected based on a two-stage targeting criteria - flood risk and food insecurity, socioeconomic vulnerability (most vulnerable municipalities and most vulnerable houses within those municipalities). On combine criteria of poverty levels, building type, proximity to river basin, and experiences with flooding etc. Within 72 hours of the flood forecast 80 of these households received their entitlement. Since 2015, WFP has been working in this area, with a view to test and set up a system that is sustainable and is institutionalized in the government systems and the regular procedures for disaster response and preparedness.

On discussions around margins of error, Ms. Kohutova further stated that, the approach works on a probabilistic forecast, which considers at the highest probability (70%) of occurring of any event. At this stage, the trigger system used is combination of several conditions from different sources. There may be situations where disasters don't happen, WFP follows the core principles of 'no regrets' as the selected communities are repeatedly affected by floods. Therefore, any assistance provided will help build their resilience and ability to cope with the recurring shocks. The aim is to develop science that continues to be improving this approach in terms of probabilistic forecasting bringing close to localizing forecast and to have better confidence in predicting events.

Plenary Session

Capacity Strengthening Framework and Roadmap in Asia for Food and Nutrition Security in Emergencies

Session facilitator	Mr. Nicolas Bidault , <i>Sr. Regional Advisor, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, WFP</i>
Panellists	<p>Dr. Sushma Guleria, <i>Asst. Professor NIDM</i></p> <p>Ms. Shivangi Chavda, <i>Sr. Regional Lead Asia and Europe GNDR</i></p> <p>Dr. Yvonne Serrano Duque, <i>Senior Public Health Specialist ADPC</i></p> <p>Dr. Animesh Kumar, <i>Head UNDRR Office in Bonn UNDRR</i></p> <p>Kirsi Junilla, <i>Head, Supply Chain Management WFP Asia Pacific</i></p>

The concluding plenary session on Capacity Strengthening Framework and Roadmap in Asia for Food and Nutrition security in emergencies was moderated by Mr. Nicolas Bidault Sr. Regional Advisor, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, WFP. Mr. Bidault thanked previous speakers, for their useful contribution through the rich presentations which extensively included critical information and recommendations that will also inform this plenary session significantly. The session took brief stocktaking on capacity strengthening framework on food and nutrition emergency in the region and deliberated on the challenges but also the opportunities this region has to offer. The session explored on how the regional cooperation can be strengthened in the region for the sectoral reforms in FNS and what should be the roadmap in Asia for Food and Nutrition security in emergencies.

Mr. Bidault, brought key highlights from the three-day deliberation which extensively elaborated on some of the great work that is happening in the region and it throws a spotlight on the capacities which already exist, and the opportunities of learning which are already out there. Hon. Secretary Dept of Food and Public Distribution Mr. Sudhanshu Pandey in the Inaugural session brought examples on how Governments have quickly adapted their social safety net programmes for an effective Covid Response, which has a great focus on food and nutrition security. In addition to the 55 million tonnes of food grains distribution per annum, Indian Government did an additional food distribution of 76 million metric tonnes of food specifically

in response to the Covid pandemic which led to an additional spending of about 18 billion dollars in addition to the normal programme. This not only demonstrates the commitment in terms of financial allocation towards food and nutrition security but also indicates that the massive expansion could not have been possible had there not been pre-existing capacities and structures in the place. We heard from Mr. Pandey, the strategic steps that the Government has taken in supply chain that has made the disaster response more timely. “One Nation, One Ration Card” is a milestone in public distribution system, which has particularly proven to be extremely useful for people displaced by disasters in accessing the food irrespective of their location. Most recently the migrant workers in the pandemic have benefitted significantly. The Dept of Food and Public Distribution did also mention about the innovation such as the Grain ATM (or Anna’poorti) with WFP and IIT which can potentially ease the supply chain challenges in disasters and normal times through decentralisation.

Moderator cited other speakers, emphasising that almost unanimously it was stated by speakers that food and nutrition security is one of the most neglected aspects in disaster management. In spite of increased food production, the concerns related to malnutrition and hunger are prevalent in the region. This may largely be due to the lack of attention by society in general because Government cannot guarantee food and nutrition security to each and everyone without adequate support from different stakeholders. It is also linked with the way society progresses culturally and socially. If adequate attention is not given to the multi-dimensional aspects of food and nutrition security, it can lead to a nutrition emergency. The NIDM’s presentation on day one on the capacity strengthening framework explained the existing capacities and gaps at great length and did elaborate on critical aspects of the capacity strengthening frame, including aspects on preposition, surge capacity, assessments, designing the nutrition sensitive response, adaptive social protection etc.

The moderator cited key outcomes from the thematic sessions focussed on issues including on anticipatory action, policy reforms and nutrition sensitive response. With reference to the presentations from the MEGP initiative, he brought attention to the great potential and learning from the existing last mile innovation. He re-emphasised that adequate platform of learning and knowledge exchange is needed to expedite the sectoral reforms. Talking about Co-learning and knowledge sharing, different inter-governmental and regional cooperation platform has a lot to offer in the capacity strengthening framework. He brought reference to existing instruments from which the regional roadmap, can draw inspiration from. These included: -

- The joint ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action of Disaster Management (JSPADM) references FSN as an area for future technical support.
- ASEAN has an ‘Integrated FS Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on FS (2021-2025)’ that may provide some inspiration for the interested stakeholders. It moves beyond the initial stages of integrating FSN into NDMOs/DRM and focuses more on broader sustainable food production and systems (i.e. its Strategic Thrust 3: Strengthen integrated

food security information systems to effectively forecast, plan and monitor supplies and utilization for basic food commodities).

- WFP's Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index (EPCI) and its inter-linked variables includes food security and nutrition in emergency preparedness and response.

He further introduced the panel which represents agencies including NIDM, GNDR, ADPC, UNDRR and WFP who has been spearheading the agenda of capacity strengthening in disaster management in the region.

NIDM has promoted many well thought-through initiatives to strengthen policies and institutions' capacities to respond to hazard risk and disasters. Preserving Food and Nutrition security during emergencies is extremely important- especially in Asia given its vulnerability to both natural hazards, the increase of occurrence and severity of those hazards and underlying malnutrition levels. Dr. Sushma as the first panellist, was requested to share insights on how well the food and nutrition security is integrated in the emergency response and also on the strengths and challenges in the sectoral response.

Dr. Sushma Guleria elaborated on the robust mechanism for relief distribution India has in place. The state revenue departments have established SOPs across different line departments for the purpose. India being a culturally and demographically vast country with multi-hazard profile, the covid pandemic crisis was one of the classic examples of its dynamics. She brought attention to the challenges of the country's exposure to multiple hazards as she stated that, "on one hand India was dealing with pandemic at the global and national level, on the other we had localized events impacting different states and zones internally." She further added that, In spite of a functional PDS and relief distribution system, the challenge is to maintain the nutritional aspect or the food value aspect during providing relief packages. According to the minimum standards, the state is in the crucial point for relief distribution. However, in case of events with larger magnitude and impact, catering to local needs in terms of food values is challenge in itself." Attaining the SDG Goal 2 or Global goal 2 of Zero Hunger after the pandemic has become even more challenging and has provided additional stress on the food safety nets including the ICDS systems and the PDS. She also emphasised on the need of the capacity building of the last mile stakeholders including the Aanganwadi workers who can play a pivotal role in implementation of the last mile sectoral action.

On the regional framework for capacity strengthening, Dr. Sushma highlighted the complexities which posed to the country as vast as India, which has diverse geography, ethnicity, caste and other social challenges. She said that, India can learn from other neighbouring countries in the region facing similar concerns. Developing regional cooperation in sharing of research knowledge especially in food and nutrition safety is lacking in emergencies. Such co-operations should be promoted as they foster a lot of information sharing.

Mr. Bidault referred the UNDRR that has recently launched global assessment report on DRR - GAR Special Report on Drought 2021, which has come as an eye opener on the long term and cascading impact that droughts can create on food and nutrition security. The report also advocates for an adaptive risk management and governance as a sustainable solution. He requested Dr. Animesh Kumar from UNDRR to share his views on how well the agenda of food and nutrition security integrated in regional and national DRR policies in countries in the region and the plans for long term DRR investment, in particular to build an adaptive approach in the region.

Dr. Animesh Kumar, UNDRR stated that, “the nature of risk is constantly changing which makes it difficult to be looked through isolated lenses. Risk is becoming more and more systemic and cascading in nature. The simultaneous occurrence of food price rise and worsening of health labour system and the negative impact on education, the food-water energy nexus spilling over into social vulnerability stability and conflict nexus. Hence there is needed to look at food security as a system rather than as a sector.

GAR Report highlights treating of drought as a symptom of risk creation from many sectors adopting governance transitions that prioritize sustainability, inclusive approaches and adaptive risk management in governance that is willing to change to meet the challenge of scale institutions and financing.

He further shared that, agriculture and food security is mentioned as a priority sector in almost every DRR strategy in the Asia-Pacific region. A lot of countries such as Philippines, Bangladesh, and Vietnam have prioritized food security and nutrition in their national adaptation plans.

However, Food security is still seen as an outcome of DRR. There is a need to look food as a system requiring multi-sectoral resilience rather than viewing it with a sectoral specific point of view.

One of the key vehicles of food security is social protection, in order for social protection to be effective:

- First, it needs to be ex ante. The systems and mechanisms for recovery should be in place before the disaster strikes. The social protection mechanisms are less effective when they are designed after a disaster has already struck.
- Second, it needs to be shock responsive, agile, and scalable during recovery. Investments in shock responsive and adaptive social protection systems before a disaster can strongly influence the level of resilience and speed of recovery. Application of social protection in covid recovery in many countries has seemed to be a good practice.
- Third, for social protection to be successful it needs to be universal. The ‘missing middle’ vulnerable households who do not qualify to be extremely poor and are mostly employed

in the informal sector are often missed out when the social prediction mechanisms are employed.

Resilience building can be a lot more effective with investments in social protection mechanisms, scaled up and targeted rightfully. The ASEAN guideline on disaster responsive social protection is a good practice that needs to be replicated in many countries including the Asia-Pacific.”

On inter-department and inter-agency coordination, he stated that, “ASEAN’s JSPDM is a good example of a common framework that can be used by different organisation for regional coordination. The interagency mechanisms of UN coming together at regional/national level to common cooperation framework are some of the good practices. The HUGO framework in 2005 emphasized the role of national platforms in ensuring interdepartmental coordination across different sectors. Post which, 37 states in Africa set up national platform for different departments to meet, discuss challenges, common issues and look towards common solutions. This needs to be replicated.

In case of India, the national platforms have become too voluminous to manage; here the focal ministry for disaster risk reduction can play a better role. Similarly, in many countries the SDG platforms have a good role to play in terms of ensuring that SDGs become a common basis for coordination across different departments and ministries.

He emphasised on the need to scale up DRR as an issue of coordination rather than only implementation. The approach needs to be preventive centric and not just emergency centric. Further, there is a need to develop a common basic for coordination - a common system of information in a disaster situation which provides automated platform to countries and departments for better coordination.

About 153 countries in the world are currently using the SENDAI framework to monitor and assess their progress in DRR. Similarly, 110 countries are using some or the other disaster loss database to record their data. This data can be further used to feed into climate losses and damage discussion. When such practices become more common, it streamlines information, which in turn makes coordination in implementation automated.

Coherent planning is essential for interdepartmental coordination. The task of comprehensive risk management programs is to ensure integration of risk centred approaches into national adaptation plans and climate projections, climate futures, climate adaptations or DRR plans. Implementation can be coordinated with help of coherent planning. We must ensure the comprehensive risk management becomes extended into the food system and agro-food sector as well.

Strengthen our information basis by updating disaster and changing risk profiles of the country. The proximity between the humanitarian community and the development is also very important. There is an urgent need to align the forces between the triple nexus of ‘humanitarian-development-peace’. He went on to emphasise on the need to look at disasters as not only as

an event to respond to but as a process that takes place over time so that we can take more ex-ante efforts for the process to turn into an event.

On financing, the financing mechanisms need to be innovative and should reach the right people at the right time. Risk financing mechanisms and insurance tools work the best when linked with social protection programme. There are public financing mechanisms that are geared towards better resilience funding, the more we try to isolate financing mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, the less we fund for disaster resurrection. Mainstreaming risk reduction efforts across sectors is important for investing risk management. If not, we will keep funding emergencies and hence keep waiting for the next disaster to happen. "

Dr. Yvonne Serrano Duque; ADPC shared ADPC's experience on investing in capacity strengthening initiatives in the region with recommendations on further strengthening the sectoral capacities. ADPC has been in the region for almost 35 years providing capacity building; and have more than 8000 alumni regionally and globally. Some of their initiatives included working with partners like government, top level officers, leader of agencies They institutionalise their learnings and implement it in their own countries.

A lot of good practices have emerged from these experiences. With involvement of different organisations like government, universities, institutionalising concept for students from early age can make them resilient for upcoming events.

Because of high volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous nature of the region, ADPC has been providing for the last 9 years, capacity strengthening inputs on nutrition in emergencies. During pandemic, the people showed interest in attending online seminars throughout the world and were keen on knowing how to integrate food security and nutrition and how to link malnutrition and mental health & psychosocial support, how to connect climate change to food security, etc. ADPC relies on WHO's Health Emergency Disaster Risk Management Framework called 'Health EDRM'. The focus is gradually shifting from events based to risk-based information, from being active to proactive, single hazard to multi-hazard, hazard focused to vulnerability and capacity focused, single agency to whole society, separate responsibility to shared responsibility of health systems, from response focused to risk management focused, program managers and leaders planning 'for' communities to planning 'with' communities, digitalization, etc.

On strengthening structural capacities, she extended following recommendations: -

1. A lot of different departments in government are still working in silos. We must learn to connect and share the knowledge together.
2. Consider mental health and psychosocial recovery, nutrition and inclusive groups
3. 'Nutrition now is a silent emergency' that needs to be focused on. Integrati needs to be worked on, just like investing on capacity development to cover disasters, diseases as well as complex emergencies.

Kirsi Junilla – Head, Supply Chain Management, *WFP Asia Pacific*

Institutional capacities in disaster management also rely largely on its EPR structures. Humanitarian supply chain operates in a very challenging environment and its measure of success largely depend on the investment in preparedness for an efficient sector response on food and nutrition security a robust supply chain is critical. On critical areas where Asia can improve its collective capacity in sectoral response, Kirsi suggested three immediate areas, including, (1) developing a common understanding regarding the objectives of capacity strengthening, (2) importance of regional cooperation and (3) anticipatory action.

The concept of capacity strengthening differs from point of view of an individual and organisation. It is usually associated with training, purchasing equipment or infrastructural investment. This might not be sustainable in long run as we might exhaust the resources to maintain or operate the equipment. In other case, an individual may benefit from the raining but will take away the knowledge if he leaves. This can be considered as a capacity augmentation.

While capacity strengthening in WFP's view is more complex and takes place in the long term. It is important to invest in other dimensions of what constitutes an institutional capacity. Capacity strengthening is about enabling our partners to respond to emergencies and by enabling we will focus on strengthening 3 dimensions - the institutions, the policy environment, as well as the individual level.

It is important to prepare a capacity outcome statement that answers the critical questions of whose capacities you want to support, which capacities are you looking at supporting and why, what are these capacities aiming to achieve. These questions are not easy to answer to partners, for eg. WFP can contribute in the thinking process because the capacity strengthening outcome should be established by government or the entity whose capacities you are seeking to strengthen and it should not be an expression of what the partner can offer.

It may be difficult to convince the decision makers to invest in capacity strengthening and preparedness, when there are other eminent needs such as health and education that are national priorities. Therefore, the regional cooperation is an opportunity that allows investing in preparedness possibly creating some economies of scale.

In supply chain, agencies should decide upon their clear definition on their roles and responsibility to avoid parallel investments, support by stakeholders and type or level of an emergency. The countries can learn that from each other as often the local or the regional solutions are the best suited, therefore I encourage sharing best practices from different countries and sharing what has worked in which type of a situation

It could also entail discussion on the capacity outcome statements in such a way that it will enable the development partners or humanitarian partners that are investing in EPR to be aligned with national requirements that may be similar across the regions. The knowledge for regions and countries prone for natural disasters presents the opportunity to refine the approach

to a food and emergency response an early dialogue can be held with partners based on this knowledge and forecast. One can say that proactive planning allows applying a development lens to humanitarian response. Effective anticipatory action requires pre agreed financing and pre agreed protocols for different types of emergencies. Various studies show that 70-80% of emergency response costs lie within supply chain. We also know that anticipatory action yields savings in such costs and reduces the response time. Therefore, it's meaningful to invest in preparedness as the financial savings.

Supply chain operates in context that is highly volatile on a global level. Other disruptions may be caused by natural hazards or impacts on markets such as currently the visa, lack of shipping containers which is driving their shipping costs up and extending their delivery times. So, investing in nationally led humanitarian supply chains allows to cut costs and response time and increase the quality of targeted response and reduces the need of international involvement and this is also where the private sector comes in. We rely on private sector operators' assets services and networks.

On preparedness, we should be engaging with the private sector on a continuous basis, well before the disaster happens. This could include monitoring markets; information sharing and forward contracting that will speed up collaboration during the emergency response.

Ms. Shivangi Chavda – Sr. Regional Lead, *Asia and Europe GNDR*

GNDR is one of the largest networks of civil society organisations in disaster management. Moderator requested Ms. Chavada to share her insights, that in the context when humanitarian agencies are advocating for a localisation of humanitarian response, what is the major challenge in terms of capacities at the grassroots level particularly for areas such as food and nutrition security and how government and inter-government agencies and networks like GNDR can play a role in strengthening capacities in the last mile?

Ms. Chavda, from GNDR's perspective, stated that strengthening the capacities of most risked communities is most important. She further illustrated, "through our interventions we have observed that there is lack of inclusion and participation of these communities. According to our project, 84% of people from these risked communities are not even included in assessment planning implementation or monitoring of these resilience building processes. Therefore, the gaps are not realised or recognised while planning. These communities are excluded from the entire processes of risk informing or localisation. Beside involvement, there is definitely a lack of access to these resources or information, tools and techniques especially about food security or social protection.

There is a need to create this enabling environment for the communities, to start taking decisions which may involve about preventions from disasters. Getting larger accessibility to the food supply chain, nutrition, etc. They need to be represented at local level with their government stakeholders.

It is not only the local capacities but it also comes down to strengthening the capacities of people in the authority. At GNDR, we would understand the role CSOs play as facilitators and capacities and convening the stakeholders to work together with a cohesive approach or the whole society approach. CSOs ensure that the communities are included. Their voices are amplified; local governance is strengthened to ensure accountability and transparency. Recently, we have initiated 'Local Leadership Academy' - to foster and strengthen leadership of local CSOs, who are operating frontline through their facilitation and interaction at the local governance level. Especially the CSO members to know what parts of it are applicable. In Asia Pacific region, we see different scenarios along with different disaster-prone areas including other challenges like political and civil unrest. Here food security becomes one of the major issues. It needs to be looked as a system and not as a sector. Therefore, cross learning and cross sharing is very important for these frontline CSOs to understand the appropriate actions to be taken.

Key Recommendations

Deliberations from the three-day regional conference looked at the problem context in food security and nutrition through intensive and rich discussions. It engaged with sector leaders in Asia representing different organisations leading the agenda of capacity strengthening in disaster management in the region with focus on food security and nutrition. The deliberations also provided platform to grass root innovations in FNS from across Asia and presented learnings from across geographies which has a potential for replication and scale up. Key recommendations on capacity strengthen framework and roadmap in Asia that emerged from the deliberations in the different sessions are:-

1. Relooking at anticipatory action. Currently it is seen as something within the humanitarian domain. Anticipatory action can significantly contribute as a risk management measure. It's seen as a disaster prevention tool rather than a response measure once a disaster strikes.
2. Revisiting the understanding of risk as a concept - the standard process of identifying, assessing, containing risk is based on the assumption. Risk is not an objective entity but a social construct. Everything we do may address risk or may create risk. While behavioural change takes time, it just starts with one person.
3. The right data ecosystem - right risk information basis that has been pointed out by others as well and also enhancing our ability to look into the future and what climate change means for us now and what can be done to bring climate action back on the right trajectory.
4. Governance - in the last decade innovation has become almost synonymous technology, but there is a need of innovations in governance systems in the institutional arrangements in economic systems. These are very important pillars of innovation. The contributory factors to the solutions were not from technology they were from governance measures. And hence the more we strengthen governance measures the more we enhance our capability to address crisis of the future. Hence the need to move from government to governance.
5. Global and regional learning and exchange platforms such as the UNDRR and World Meteorological Organisation's centre of excellence for disaster and climate resilience GPDRR can be useful platforms for policy reforms and culture of learning exchange.
6. Sectoral focus on the FNS lacks proper attention across regions. There is a need to strengthen minimum standards of relief guidelines at country levels.
7. FNS should be integrated in the social behavioural change communication modules and efforts should be taken to ensure the last mile dissemination up to the village level.

8. Develop a core mandate of training and capacity building across various sectors, subjects, develop more trainers in FNS. There is a need to integrate it in some of our core sectors and take forward this agenda of developing training of trainers.
9. Understanding our partners on the drivers of climate change, changes in the ecosystem and creating massive awareness on climate change and weather extremes.
10. Multi-stakeholder regional cooperation to be strengthened in Asia, with platforms for learning and knowledge exchange for innovative solutions for complex emergency situations.
11. As immediate measures for capacity strengthening, in food security and nutrition, the sectors can reinforce food-related preparedness. This may include procurement processes and ensuring standby arrangements that allow for fastened release for food commodities in case of emergencies. Policy legislation for food and nutrition security in emergencies.
12. Robust in country supply chain entails an established sustainable and flexible logistics backbone that can respond to multiple scenarios and thus enables national governments and humanitarian communities to provide timely support.
13. Need to continue working with national stakeholders across the region to strengthen food systems because having resilient and robust food supply chains in place that are able to adapt manage and recover from shocks is also key for mitigation.
14. With involving national actors there is also a need to look at complex purpose involving farmers processing plants, warehouses, shipping retailers to ensure that supply chains keep performing under extremely high pressure in emergencies.
15. Strengthen data regarding the capacity outcomes.
16. Fully understanding the need for sectoral linkages between climate, development disasters, ecosystems, and food and water insecurity.
17. Need to continue finding innovative solutions from the lived-in experiences of the community, some of which are already shared today. Such experiences have more impact when we start designing the capacity strengthening programs as it provides the reference and context.
18. Evolve mechanisms to finance these capacities strengthening objectives such that it can give us room and space for other stakeholders.

The conference concluded with remarks from Ms. Pradnya Paithankar SDG manager WFP. She elaborated on the merits of looking for local solutions, which can save resources and increase

efficiency through learning and knowledge exchange. Further affirming the need to enhance the local capacities through trainings and capacity building, facilitating knowledge exchange and learning. Her remarks reiterated the important areas those were discussed in the deliberations, including adoption of the regional approach, as climate and disasters both impact beyond administrative boundaries and therefore collective action on these fronts is imperative. The conference concluded with vote of thanks by Ms. Paithankar.

About the institute

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) was constituted under an Act of Parliament with a vision to play the role of a premier institute for capacity development in India and the region. The efforts in this direction that began with the formation of the National Centre for Disaster Management (NCDM) in 1995 gained impetus with its redesignation as the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) for training and capacity development. Under the Disaster Management Act 2005, NIDM has been assigned nodal responsibilities for human resource development, capacity building, training, research, documentation and policy advocacy in the field of disaster management.

NIDM is proud to have a multi-disciplinary core team of professionals working in various aspects of disaster management. In its endeavour to facilitate training and capacity development, the Institute has state-of-the-art facilities like class rooms, seminar hall and video-conferencing facilities etc. The Institute has a well-stocked library exclusively on the theme of disaster management and mitigation. The Institute provides training in face-to-face, on-line and self-learning mode as well as satellite based training. In-house and off-campus face-to-face training to the officials of the state governments is provided free of charge including modest boarding and lodging facilities.

NIDM provides Capacity Building support to various National and State level agencies in the field of Disaster Management & Disaster Risk Reduction. The Institute's vision is to create a Disaster Resilient India by building the capacity at all levels for disaster prevention and preparedness.



nidm

Resilient India : Disaster free India

National Institute of Disaster Management

(Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)

Plot No. 15, Block B, Pocket 3

Sector 29, Rohini, Delhi - 110042

Website : www.nidm.gov.in