

LINKING PREPAREDNESS, RESILIENCE AND RESPONSE EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO LEAD HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

“ It represents a paradigm shift. Previously aid delivery has been top down to the community but now if they have a pool of resources they are able to survive any disaster and respond better.”

Dub Guyo, PACIDA Programme Manager; Marsabit County, Kenya. LPRR participant

The DFID DEPP funded LPRR consortium is led by Christian Aid and includes Action Aid, Concern Worldwide, Help Age, King's College London, Muslim Aid, Oxfam, Saferworld and World Vision. It aims to increase preparedness and resilience capacity in conflict and response settings.

As part of the project, King's College London University designed and implemented a study in Bangladesh, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Kenya, Pakistan and the Philippines. It was one of the rare approaches which specifically asked 327 crises survivors and first responders from past humanitarian emergencies to draw upon their own experience and expertise to guide improved humanitarian response programming for long term resilience.

WHAT IS NEW? WHAT IS THE LPRR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEBATE?

The LPRR project identified and aims to address two gaps in existing research:

- 1.** A lack of emphasis on asking crises survivors and first responders for their own recommendations
- 2.** A lack of systematic implementation and evaluation of practical recommendations

WHAT DOES RESILIENCE MEAN?

Crisis survivors felt that resilience means having the skills and capacity to look after yourself whilst knowing how and where to ask for support when needed. Good governance and a strong local and national government capacity have been highlighted as two aspects that respondents saw as key for this.



HOW CAN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE BE BUILT (AND NOT UNDERMINED) IN A HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE?

Evidence from crises survivors and first responders identified six core principles for strengthening community resilience and better linking humanitarian response to longer term development.

- 1.** Allow and enable the community to co-run the response
- 2.** Coordinate interventions and work with the government
- 3.** Support community cohesion and establish effective two-way communication
- 4.** Address underlying causes of vulnerability: protect and prepare
- 5.** Include psycho-social support and
- 6.** Invest in livelihoods and savings.

These are not new components to the sector but the combination of the six represent an important innovation in how to move from policy to practice.

THE LPRR PROCESS

The project contributes to the localisation agenda by offering a demand-led practical approach to shift power to local actors and disaster survivors. As such we defined a minimum set of requirements for any agencies wishing to implement the six principles as part of their programming. These include:

- Acknowledgement that crisis-affected communities are always “first responders”, and that their response is often extremely significant
- Recognition of the benefits of supporting crisis-affected community groups to take a leading role in managing their own crisis-response interventions – including the management of humanitarian funds
- A readiness to listen to communities’ request for a more holistic aid system that can transcend the current “siloes” division of relief, protection, rights, psycho-social healing, livelihoods and development
- A readiness to reconsider the nature of “partnerships” between international and national NGOs that allows a real transfer of power to local NGOs and so to communities.

Intensive co-design workshops were held with nine local NGOs in Kenya and Myanmar. The six core principles were transformed by participants into a common agreed narrative, which they then developed into a set of practical steps centred in community wellbeing, as cohesive, organised and resilient.

Seed funds of \$10 000 were provided to local partners to fund pilots in the two test countries. We are awaiting the final evaluations in March 2018 but sector response to the LPRR has been very favourable and it has had good exposure:

- Christian Aid and CAFOD have committed to pilot the process as part of their East Africa appeals
- The project:
 - presented at the annual BOND conference in March 2016
 - was invited to present by Irish Aid at their Grand Bargain events in October 2017
 - showcased at the UNISDR Sendai meeting in Cancun May 2017
 - was invited to present at a high-level Oxfam resilience conference in June 2017
 - and at the Future of Humanitarian Resilience START event in November 2017.
 - And in February 2018 we will be showcasing LPRR at the UK Parliament
- Project outputs have been re-posted by ReliefWeb; PreventionWeb and the UNISDR site.

“ LPRR allows the community to develop their capacity. So even after the crisis has happened the communities will still have the project management and other necessary skills.”

Myat Thandar Aung, Paung Ka (NGO); Hpa An, Myanmar. LPRR participant

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