



# Common Operating Picture *for* Disaster Management [COPDM]



## PROJECT FINAL REPORT

**Apr. 16, 2011 – Jan. 31, 2015**

*Submitted by*

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## Executive Summary

Pakistan is going through a transition, from a predominantly agrarian economy to a services and industrial based economy. However, the economic development of the country is under threat from natural as well as man-made disasters. The recent disasters in Pakistan exposed the weaknesses of the Disaster Risk Management system in the country. As an aftermath of these recent catastrophes, all stakeholders have realized the urgency to establish an effective and operational Disaster Risk Management system.

Like all developing countries worldwide, Pakistan finds itself on a new and rapidly changing 'playing field'. The information and knowledge revolution continues to accelerate. This trend presents new demands, opportunities and risks to the community. Effective humanitarian information management, especially in times of distress and disaster, is the bedrock of good governance. The quality and efficacy of all the policies and decisions of the government is determined by how wisely and appropriately information is collected, stored, managed, utilized and disseminated. The information that underpins government administration must be accurate, concise, complete, accessible and useable.

The catastrophic 2010 floods and the major damages it caused in all the four provinces of Pakistan: KPK, Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan highlighted the need for a Common Operating Information Management System in emergencies and disastrous situations. iMMAP, after the 2010 floods, at the request of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) commenced its operations in Pakistan to address information management (IM) issues confronted by different humanitarian partners and government authorities. This led to the development of a platform for emergency and non-emergency institutions working in Pakistan to adapt uniform standards, clear determination of mandates, mutual cooperation and responsibility allocation. Project was funded by OFDA from Sep. 2010 upto Apr. 15, 2011.

At the request of NDMA project funding continued from Apr. 16, 2011 to Jan. 15, 2012 through USAID the support and capacity building of NDMA, its sub-national DMAs and other humanitarian partners in humanitarian reporting and development of Single Reporting Format. However, with the change in the management at NDMA, the National Disaster Management Authority decided to discard SRF and stop all together all COPDM interventions on Jan. 15, 2012.

At the request of sub-national DMAs, USAID continued funding COPDM Project which carried focus on only sub-national DMAs and Relief providers from Jan. 16, 2012 onward.

On Jan. 12, 2015; the Ministry of Interior asked iMMAP to windup its operations in Pakistan without specifying any reason. Following which USAID after consultantation with the US Embassy in Pakistan and US State Department asked iMMAP to windup all COPDM project activities immediately. iMMAP application still remains pending at the EAD with status “under process”.

## **Introduction**

iMMAP was the only organization in Pakistan to initiate a broad range of products for its humanitarian partners, addressing the most pressing needs of disaster information management in the country, such as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Portal, Single Reporting Format (SRF), GEO Pakistan – a metadata portal, No Objection Certificate - NOC Pakistan DRR Capacity Building Initiative Pakistan, District Profiling, Daily Emergency Response reporting, Balochistan NGO Registering, and Reporting tool, and OASIS Web GIS. These products strive to strengthen emergency situation analysis and decision-support-processes and allow different stakeholders to utilize uniform IM standards and tools under a framework that seeks cooperation from both public and private stakeholders and partners for bringing neutrality, transparency and accountability for effective donor aid utilization and indigenous resources.

The prime motive behind developing the COPDM project was to provide the government and humanitarian partners with an effective mechanism to utilize the available resources and expertise in a coordinated and transparent manner and help avoid duplication of efforts and resources. In order to make the COPDM Project successful, the approach followed was to have a direct focus on the National, Provincial and District Disaster management Authorities, in coordination with the humanitarian partners, which included the UN Agencies, NGOs and INGOs. It was realized at the onset of the project that the concerned Government authorities and their humanitarian partners lacked the required capacity to capture and effectively manage the available information during disaster situations. Therefore, in order to develop their capacity in the area of Information Management, iMMAP embarked upon an extensive capacity development program.

The project aimed to enable all the stakeholders to tackle the ongoing and future crisis situations. The following section in this report further particularize the working of COPDM tools for greater

understanding and discuss the achievements of the individual tools of COPDM and their importance for Pakistan as follow.

## **Project Implementation Strategy**

Natural and man-made disasters that affect great numbers of people and inflict significant damage call for seemly attention. The disaster management sector in Pakistan needs drastic improvements and development in order to save lives of citizens and reduce damage in the face of all kinds of disasters. Some of the lessons learned in the last few years clearly indicate that availability, management and presentation of information play a vital part in disaster management. The key issue in disaster management is not the dearth of information or technology but its appropriate management. Effective information management in disasters is a critical element for providing relief, and carrying out rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. It is grounded on the principle that availability and management of information before, during, and after disasters leads to timely response and optimum utilization of available resources. Disaster information is, therefore, a significant resource that necessitates appropriate management so that it can effortlessly be retrieved, by those who need it, at the right time and in a meaningful way.

The goal of the Common Operating Picture for Disaster Management project was to work towards affecting a sustainable Common Operating Picture for Disaster Management by the disaster management authorities in Pakistan with a direct focus on provincial and regional information management capacity building. It aimed to reinforce the disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management mechanisms of regional and provincial disaster management authorities by enabling them to effectively manage Information for operative disaster contingency planning and preparedness.

## **Project Beneficiaries**

The direct, primary beneficiaries of this project are the Pakistani Authorities - the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), all the four Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA), the three Regional Disaster Management Authorities – FDMA (Fata Disaster Management Authority), SDMA (State disaster Management Authority), GBDMA (Gilgit Baltistan Disaster Management Authority), 250 Primary Beneficiaries (Cluster member

organizations) and more than 100 member organizations of the Clusters in Pakistan, and their identified national and international staff.

The Secondary or the ultimate beneficiaries include approximately 20,000,000 Pakistani Nationals impacted by flood and natural disasters.

## **Project Progress**

### **IM Units Establishment**

1. Established IM Unit at NDMA & capacity building of 3000+ humanitarian and public sector organizations staff in the use of Single Reporting Format from Sep. 2010 to Jan. 15, 2012. The unit was shutdown by NDMA without seeking any sustainability. Equipment was not returned despite multiple attempts initially by iMMAP and later by USAID;
2. Established of IM Unit at Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa PDMAs and capacity building of sub-national DMAs partners from 2010 up till Jan. 2013. All provincial IM units were shutdown by all provincial Director General's DMA following advise from NDMA Chairman Mr. Zafar Iqbal Qadir. No equipment was returned except by FDMA and Balochistan DMA;
3. Established of IM Unit at AJK SDMA, GBDMA, and FATA DMA and capacity building of their regional partners from 2010 up till Jan. 2013. All 3 units were shutdown by all provincial Director General's of the regional DMA following advise from NDMA Chairman Mr. Zafar Iqbal Qadir;
4. Establishment of IM Unit at Sindh Relief Department from 2013 to Apr. 2014. iMMAP support was discontinued with the change in the government. All equipment was handed over to SRD upon conclusion of activity at SRD.

### **IM & DRR Capacity Building**

1. IM Capacity building of 3000+ humanitarian and public sector organizations' staff members;
2. DRR Capacity Building of 1500+ humanitarian and public sector organizations staff members;

3. IM support for Sindh Irrigation & Drainage Authority from 2014 up till the end of Project in Jan. 2015. Activities remained pending as project was abruptly brought to an end;
4. Support of NED University of Engineering & Technology during 2014. Two high-end servers, multiple laptops, and a number of training sessions were arranged at NED University for its faculty to sustain the IM tools. A very cordial happened between NED University, iMMAP and USAID representatives in October 2014. However, NED University stopped all kind of communications with iMMAP following a police raid on iMMAP office on November 11, 2014. All handed over portals were brought down by NED University;
5. IM Capacity Building of Directorate General of Social Welfare & Special Education Balochistan. Activities remained pending as the project was abruptly brought to end. Directorate General of Social Welfare and Special Education Balochistan remain a steadfast partner of iMMAP and USAID up till the every end of the project. iMMAP recommended that all project equipment should have been handed over to Balochistan Directorate General of Social Welfare and Special;
6. All project portals were brought down to ensure that iMMAP activities are brought to end in Pakistan,
7. As per USAID recommendation all project equipment was handed over to Mehran University Engineering & Technology Jamshoro Sindh.
8. Throughout the life of the iMMAP continued building its own staff capacity in humanitarian reporting through multiple UNDP, UNDSS, and other iNGOs organized capacity building initiatives.

## **Strategic Partnerships**

1. During the life of the project iMMAP signed multiple cost-free MOUs with multiple local NGOs to strengthen its disaster reporting mechanics.
2. In early 2012, PDMA Punjab signed an MOU with iMMAP to implement COPDM project with a de-centralized focus, including DRR IM Capacity Building.
3. In 2013 iMMAP signed an MOU with Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority for Datasharing.

4. In 2013 iMMAP signed an MOU with private sector organization Alhasan Systems a private sector organization to strengthen open access to vital data for humanitarian reporting.

## Technical Assistance

1. iMMAP continuously provided short-term technical assistance to dozens of humanitarian responders, government agencies, and USAID implementing partners throughout project at no cost. This included Pakistan Humanitarian Forum [PHF], DMAs, HEC, Care International, DRR Forum, and many other NGOs and iNGOs;
2. Pakistan Air Force Peshawar office requested iMMAP to provide technical assistance in flood plan development for Air Headquarters Colony Peshawar. The task was successfully completed by iMMAP and was highly appreciated and acknowledged by the Air Commodore (Officer Commanding) Ghulam Qadir Lodhi. In a letter of appreciation he acknowledged that “they are looking forward for future collaboration and technical assistance from iMMAP.”
3. In carrying out the COPDM project, iMMAP facilitated the NDMA and the Clusters with more detailed analysis and information requirements at the district level and beyond.
4. iMMAP deliberations with various stakeholders in Pakistan had indicated that there was a flow of information from the Clusters into UNOCHA and NDMA, but there was no Feedback mechanism to the Clusters and/or agencies participating in the Clusters.
5. iMMAP fixated upon improving this feedback loop through its public portals. Turnaround time for updated information was reduced to minutes instead of days, and therefore heightened the willingness, and capability of cluster participants to feed information to NDMA and UNOCHA.

## Project Tools

### 1. SINGLE REPORTING FORMAT

#### *Introduction*

To make use of Information technology for reporting and dissemination of information to all members of the humanitarian community and to achieve uniformity and cohesiveness in data

sharing on emergencies and other non-emergency situations, iMMAP developed a Single Reporting format (SRF) with the aim to provide a single platform for reporting across the country. This system not only helps the response communities in finding gaps at the community level but also provides a resource base for project managers, implementing partners and the government counterparts to have sound judgment and make decisions on emergencies and other development related realms.

The Single Reporting Format synchronizes and standardizes reporting activities for humanitarian responders who are implementing projects in response to the Pakistan floods of 2010, 2011, 2012. In addition to that,

The Single Reporting Format was a web-based database originally managed by iMMAP as NDMA IM Unit at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). This database was made available to all the humanitarian actors and coordinating bodies, both governmental (NDMA,PDMA,FDMA) and non-governmental, to assist in the monitoring of DRR interventions, relief deliveries and disaster reponse projects for the beneficiaries to ensure transparency, accountability and aid effectiveness. The Single Reporting Format was later on abandoned by NDMA all together with the change of top management at NDMA.



## *SRF History*

A proposal was submitted by iMMAP to the USAID which highlighted the need of a Common Operating Information System in disaster situations. After the floods of 2010, which caused an enormous calamity in the country and affected almost one-tenth of Pakistan's population, it was apprehended that the excel version of SRF would fall short of managing the high volume of data and coordination among the humanitarian actors.

iMMAP launched SRF was a web-based database was then launched by the NDMA with its technical partners, iMMAP and UNOCHA in September 2010. As it progressed, a flexible online database was developed with augmented functionality, meeting the reporting needs of the 2010 Floods response and becoming the only standardized Information Management (IM) tool for all future disaster and emergency responses.

In September 2010, the proposal was revised with new provisions which aimed to provide an effective Common Operating Picture for disaster management concerning humanitarian coordination in Pakistan. In order to address the situation, iMMAP proposed that along with the use of its existing tools, software and qualified information management technical advisors, an organic system was required where agencies can provide information from their own independent locations, and updates are shared immediately. The agencies that need information about a particular cluster should be able to obtain a picture of the situation at any given time.

### *SRF – The Higher Level*

The NDMA with its technical partners, iMMAP and UNOCHA started the transformation of the excel spread sheet version of the SRF to an online database in 2010. SRF was a reflection of the basic aim of the NDMA to formulate a monitoring tool and establish an Information Management Unit which would monitor what the agencies are doing in order to avoid duplication of efforts and waste of resources; and also work with all the four PDMA's (Provincial Disaster Management Authority), three regional Disaster Management Authorities and the larger humanitarian community. As per the directive of the NDMA, on 15th September 2010, IMMAP established an IM support unit, at the NDMA head office, located at PM secretariat, Islamabad with the goal to provide a common operating picture for the humanitarian community.

Following the needs and requirements of NDMA, it was expected that the NDMA would play an effective role via IMMAP's SRF tool in the implementation of policies, strategies and programs for Disaster Risk Management.

### *Needs Assessment*

In order to make the SRF tool successful and widely used, the approach followed by IMMAP was to have a direct focus on the National, Regional and Provincial Disaster management Authorities in coordination with the humanitarian partners which included the UN Agencies, the NGOs and the INGOs. The above mentioned coordinating authorities lacked key approaches to capture and manage effective information during disaster situations. Therefore, in order to develop Information Management capacity building, IMMAP's role was to establish an IM support Unit at the National and the Subnational level.

### *iMMAP's Role*

Before iMMAP's contribution, a local software engineering firm called "Intelligentsia" was responsible for the tool development. A key factor to remember here is that all the business analysis and user requirements were carried out by the NDMA's advisors and UNOCHA IMOs before iMMAP's involvement. The key contributions made by iMMAP was as following:

- It was iMMAP's focus to build capacity at the national (NDMA), Provincial (PDMAs) and Regional (FDMA, SDMA, GBDMA) level.
- National staff was recruited and trained as per the needs and requirement of a standard IM unit in disaster management.
- Established an office at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan, located at the Prime Minister's Secretariat.
- Co-developed the Single Reporting Format (SRF) for the NDMA and the broader humanitarian community that serves as a common web platform for all the Implementing Partners (IPs) to report on their humanitarian activities and enables better coordination of humanitarian assistance in Pakistan.
- Provided on-going trainings in SRF to personnel from the UN, NGOs, Government – Line Ministries, Military, PDMAs and DDMA's.
- In collaboration with the NDMA, successfully requested the UN Agencies to comply with SRF and encouraged their POs and their respective IPs to start using SRF.
- Took all the four PDMAs in confidence regarding the reporting application procedures and established IM units in all the four provinces of Pakistan.
- Created SRF V2, in parallel, once it was clear that the SRF V1 did not have the architect and database to support the National Level Reporting System in Pakistan.

### *Challenges*

In the expansion period of an IM Unit, iMMAP faced a lot of hardships at the regional as well as the provincial level due to the following reasons:

- None of the PDMAs were willing to take ownership of SRF or contribute to it.
- PDMAs found the whole reporting procedure a cumbersome task and were not coming under one umbrella
- Most of the PDMAs had issues and reservations with the NDMA Management
- Most PDMAs were not of the view to report to the NDMA.

### *Media Reports*

The following are some of the media reports on SRF, which were published after the launch of the portal.

ABC CERTIFIED MEMBER APNS/CPNE

ہیو آزاوی سے... نکھو آزاوی سے

Daily AZADI Swat

سوات

روزنامہ

چیف ایڈیٹر

ممتاز احمد صادق

سوات اور اسلام آباد سے ہیک وقت شائع ہونے والا واحد روزنامہ

جلد نمبر 19

بدھ 12 جون 2013ء، شہان 1434ھ، 31 جیو 2070 ب صوات 8 قیمت 9 روپے

شمارہ نمبر 162

انٹرنیٹ کی آواز کی این جی او اور ریگولیٹری اتھارٹی کے قیام کی تجویز

شفافیت یعنی ہونے والی اور نیکو بنیادوں پر پاکستان کی امداد بڑھانے کے لیے آواز کی این جی او اور ریگولیٹری اتھارٹی کے قیام کی تجویز

اسلام آباد (آزاوی نیوز) پاکستان کی این جی او اور ریگولیٹری اتھارٹی کے قیام کی تجویز

سوداگر اور کاروباریوں کے لیے ایک ایسی ایجنسی کی ضرورت ہے جس کے ذریعے ان کی این جی او اور ریگولیٹری اتھارٹی کے قیام کی تجویز

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(17)

تمام ڈیٹا اور این جی او کے متعلق چیک کرنا اور اس کی تصدیق کرنا اور اس کے لیے ایک ایسی ایجنسی کی ضرورت ہے جس کے ذریعے ان کی این جی او اور ریگولیٹری اتھارٹی کے قیام کی تجویز

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BUSINESS RECORDER

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore & Karachi

Islamabad, Wednesday 12 June 2013, 2 Shaban 1434

http://www.brecorder.com

NATIONAL NEWS

PEW proposes NGOs Regulatory Authority

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Tuesday proposed establishing a powerful NGOs Regulatory Authority to monitor and streamline the activities, funding and expenses by non-profits, says a press release.

At present no one is fully aware of what is happening in the development sector paving way to suspicions at home and abroad.

Lack of proper reporting and scrutiny procedure by governmental has been raising concerns about overlapping of activities, wastage of efforts, misuse of resources, and improper aid distribution, said Dr Murtaza Mughal, President PEW.

The government should rationalize the process of registration of NGOs as it has no record of the exact number of civic groups while different NGOs are getting registered at different federal and provincial departments, he said.

Dr Murtaza said that the process of registration should be entrusted to a single federal department because different departments registering civil society groups do not share data.

He further said that there must be a dependable website where all the local and international donors and non-profits can upload all the particulars of the projects, grants and expenses.

Single Reporting Format (SRF Pakistan) is available on the web since 2010 which was initially supported by the National Disaster Management Authority making it obligatory for donors and NGOs to report all the details on it but later abandoned it due to obvious reasons.

He said that newly-elected government should utilize IT for reporting and spreading information to achieve uniformity and coherence in data sharing during emergencies and other non-emergency situations. He appreciated the efforts of the SECP in developing better regulatory environment by addressing issues of the NGOs sector.

Calling for a major review of the situation, he said that Pakistan will not attract foreign donors unless it ensures proper transparency, accountability and good governance in the civil society organizations to gain credibility. —PR



## 2. NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE – NOC TRACKING PORTAL

### Introduction

The No Objection Certificate (NOC) Tracking Portal was an online tracking system developed at the request of FDMA; provided a professional framework for the activities of institutions working under any NOC notification by the Government of Pakistan. In line with the National Policy for Emergency and Relief operations, the Government of Pakistan has enforced the regulation of obtaining the No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the concerned PDMA or NDMA to work within the administrative boundaries of provinces and regions.



## FATA

FATA Disaster Management Authority University Town, Peshawar

Read More



USAID  
United States Agency for  
International  
Development



IMMAP Pakistan  
Implementing Common  
Operating Picture for  
Disaster Response

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### Objective

Rapid formulation and dispensation of documents in an emergency and relief operation is a prerequisite for effective and proficient response. Previously, documentation for obtaining the NOC for humanitarian organizations was supported manually throughout all the four provinces and the regions in Pakistan. This collection and unifying process of the documents and information about NOC applications was a painstaking task in itself. To support the DMAs in prompt dispensation of NOC applications, iMMAP introduced an online No Objection Certificate (NOC) system for all the humanitarian partners working in the country to acquiesce and provide the required documentation to the concerned establishments online. The main objective of this system was to supplement the Government of Pakistan's initiatives to make emergency response and relief mechanism more vigorous and ingenious by providing an online platform to humanitarian practitioners to obtain NOCs in an organized, faster and easier way.

### Needs Assessment

In close collaboration with FDMA; iMMAP established that with the use of the previous non-automated system, organizations faced a monotonous process of filling large application forms and there was no easy way to find the status of their NOC application. For the FDMA it was equally hard to keep track of all the applications since it lacked any mechanism to identify expired

NOCs. There was no systematic approach to keep track of the issue, expiry dates and status of all NOC applications simultaneously.

Hence this system was designed to perform the following functions and help to fill the following gaps:

- Allow organizations to submit NOC applications electronically.
- Allow them to view the status of their NOC application at all times.
- Allow the FDMA to keep track of all the applications in one place.
- Automatically trigger emails when NOC is issued or is about to expire.
- Perform security checks of the concerned organizations.
- Avoid duplication of assistance.
- Maintain a record of all organizations currently working in the country.

### *SRF and NOC*

It was decided that the NOC process would be interlinked with the SRF. The idea behind this was that if the organization is applying for an NOC, it would be obligatory for the organization to report first on the SRF as per the NDMA and FDMA policies and procedures.

After a humanitarian organization report is submitted on the SRF, all details of the project was automatically be brought into NOC application without a partner replicating such information manually. The NOC application were on hold until before entering the required information on the SRF. In a nutshell, SRF and NOC were directly linked and the procedure for issuing NOC was dependent on reporting on the SRF.

### *Challenges Faced*

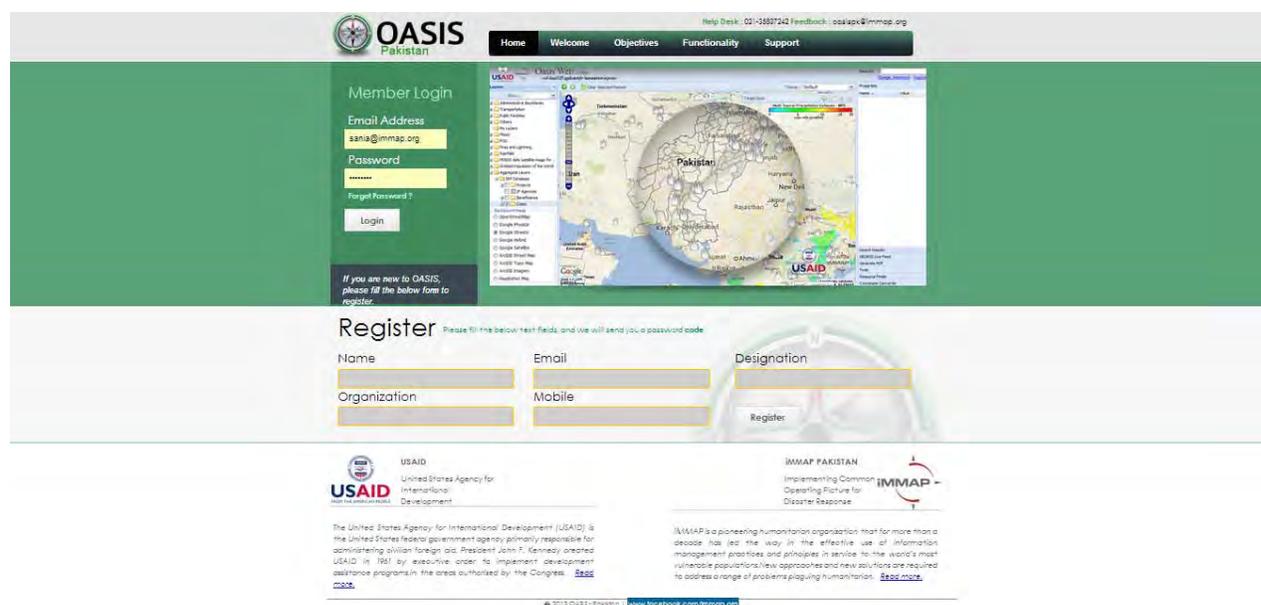
As explained above, the NOC application is further processed by 11 corps through strict internal security checks and hard copies of the NOC applications are submitted for such check. This creates a time lag in the overall process of the NOC tracking system.

## **3. OASIS WEB**

### *Introduction*

iMMAP propriety portal OASIS Web was launched to brings together live open source information feeds for earthquakes, fires, precipitation, wind speed, temperature, lightning and

cloud cover etc. In addition to that, the portal provides iMMAP maintained historical datasets for floods. OASIS Web also contains tools to conduct scenario planning analysis with affected infrastructure and potential affected population estimates provided on-the-fly via the resource finder tool. In a nutshell, it was an IM tool that captures, stores, analyzes, manages and presents data with reference to geographic location. This information results in mobilizing the humanitarian community by providing detailed information and clear messages about specific areas.



### Objective

The most severe risks of a disaster can be tackled at the local or national levels by methodical approaches followed by large scale implementation, with sustained actions and commitment. The OasisWeb tool was created by iMMAP keeping this goal in mind. The tool aimed to assist information managers, field staff, project and program managers as well as decision makers to find live information and assist with scenario planning. The portal addresses the most pressing needs of disaster related IM capacity in the country. In addition to the humanitarian community, the portal was available to the masses as well. Some of the main objectives of the portal were:

- To bring together publically available data from all over Pakistan
- To provide tools to perform on-the-fly detailed map creation
- To bring together live weather, satellite and disaster feeds to provide an early warning tool for the next monsoon season

- To provide tools for scenario planning and calculation of potentially affected infrastructure and population
- Encourage data sharing among the user community

#### *Data Sources*

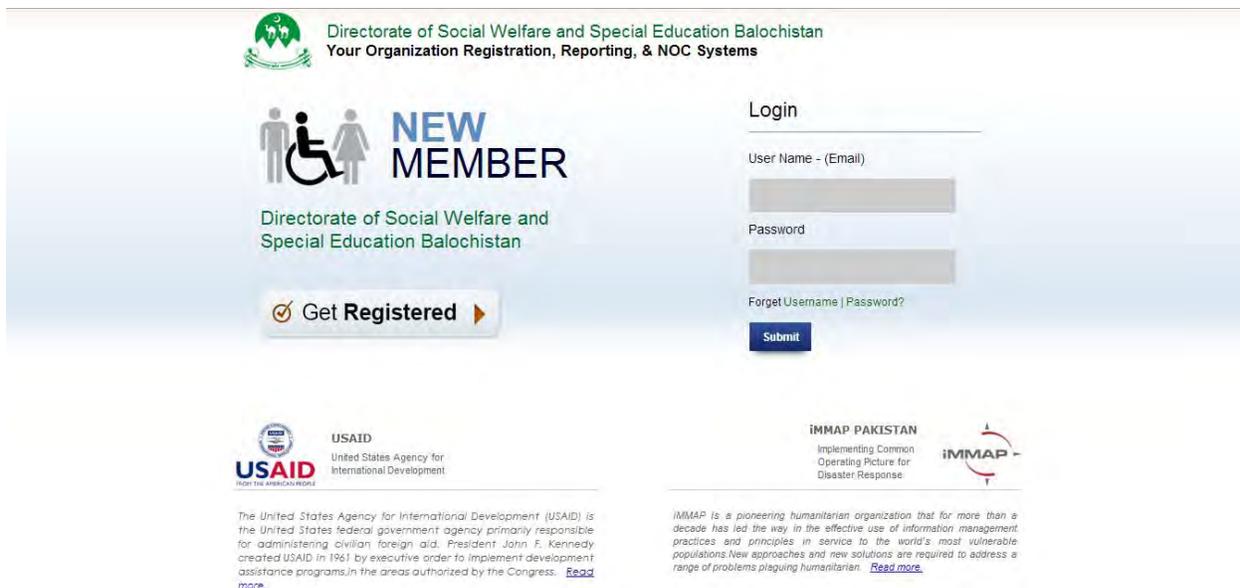
Data generated on the OASIS Web portal was obtained from various different sources including:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • The Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA) | • MODIS                                    |
| • Population Census Organization (PCO)               | • FIRMS                                    |
| • Logistic Cluster (SDI-T)                           | • EUMETSAT                                 |
| • World Food Program                                 | • Gridded Population of the World (GPW v3) |
| • WHO  | • OpenWeather                              |
| • University of Georgia                              | • ECMWF                                    |
| • SRTM   | • SEDAC                                    |
| • WPDA 2010  | • USGS                                     |
| • UNOSAT   | • NOAA                                     |

#### **4. BALOCHISTAN NGO REGISTRATION AND REPORTING TOOL**

##### *Introduction*

There are a number of humanitarian organizations and NGOs working in the province of Balochistan. The Balochistan NGO Registration and Reporting portal was an online tool which was created by iMMAP for the registration and reporting of these NGOs to the Directorate of Social Welfare and Special Education, Balochistan. In the first phase, the organizations register themselves by filling in the required information. When the registration gets approved from the Directorate of Social Welfare and Special Education Balochistan, the organization can then enter their projects and submit their progress reports. The data entered by the registered organizations is not accessible by the public and is considered highly confidential. Only the respective Government department were able to have access to this information.



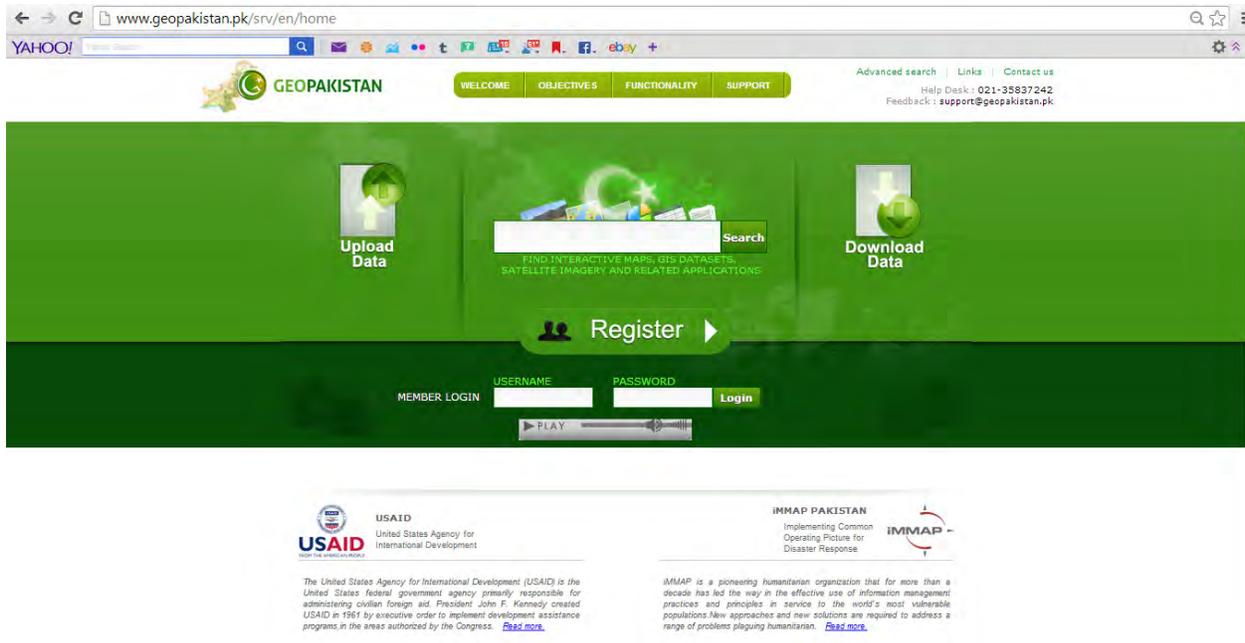
### Objective

The main aim of the tool was to create an online platform through which the Directorate of Social Welfare and Special Education Balochistan could track and monitor the activities of different NGOs working in the province. The Social Welfare and Special Education department of the Government of Balochistan is mandated to provide a better environment to the disadvantaged people of the province by providing them with better social and economic facilities. The department also works towards enhancing the status of women. Through the Balochistan NGO Registration and Reporting Tool the department wanted to have an easy access to all the humanitarian bodies working in different sectors. This tracking system serves as a professional structure to track the activities of different agencies working in Balochistan through a reliable online system.

## 5. GEOPAKISTAN PORTAL

### Introduction

Pakistan's first and the only dedicated Metadata portal, powered by GeoNetwork open source was launched on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2012. Metadata basically refers to information about information. The portal provides a singular point of access to spatial and non-spatial data, web-services and other related resources such as documents, offline copies of reports etc. and online files published by different users as open source data.



## Background

With the catastrophic 2010 flood disaster in Pakistan, which affected almost one tenth of the population of the country, the lack of an effectual Information Management System was felt enormously. It was observed that the government agencies, NGOs and iNGOS which provided data for such disastrous situations and humanitarian benefit lacked data profiling, suffered from data redundancy and increased access time. Keeping view that time is of great essence in this information millennium and even more so in disaster prevention and mitigation situations, the GeoPakistan Portal was aimed at providing a comprehensive metadata repository. It filled the information gap which exists between the government, NGO's/INGO's and the public at large.

Geospatial data collection can be very costly and time consuming. The purpose here was to provide access to and maximize the use of geographic information and non-spatial data (reports, profiles) which are already available through different public sources in one place.

In Pakistan, a considerable number of organizations and offices are dealing with data acquisition. Vertical hierarchies are foundation of most organizations' structure. This poses a problem towards the development of a generally agreed upon architecture of information management. The higher authority organization and shifts the responsibility to other less authority. The possession approach is used to get control over other organizations or stakeholders. Consequently, there are problems with smooth data flow i.e. sharing/exchanging and enabling an integrated work environment.

GeoPakistan Portal provided a standardized metadata to its users by using a common set of terminology and elements allowing far greater means of data discovery and retrieval. The standardized metadata) enables multiple users to evaluate the data as per their requirement for data archiving, assessment, management, discovery and distribution.

In Pakistan, the small privately owned companies who have created data sets from largely publicly available data or from the UN agencies (UNOCHA) websites or government sectors (PSLM) public surveys attempt to sell the data with a little or no amendments and pass it as their own. This creates problems related to data ownership. Moreover, the buyer needs to pay a data acquirement fee for public open source data. GeoPakistan Portal strives to eliminate this problem.

### *Objectives*

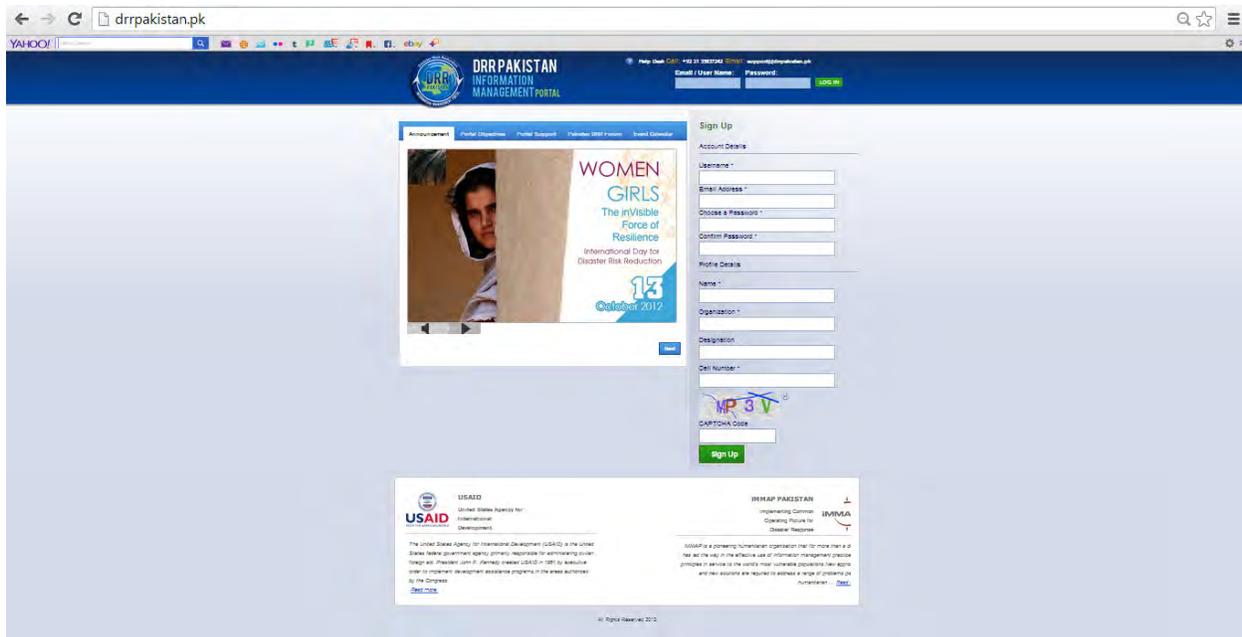
The main objectives of the GeoPakistan Portal were to:

- Provide what information exists where, and who is the actual custodian of that information to eliminate custodianship and ownership issues, especially for spatial and statistical data of national significance;
- Make open source data available through one public portal resulting in enhanced understanding about the availability, updates, and quality of both spatial and non-spatial open source data;
- Improve the perspective of users about each piece of information's use, restrictions and applications;
- Identify unidentifiable or un-sourced data, its quality and its utilization;
- Eliminate misleading and misguided selling and purchasing of both spatial and non-spatial data by unauthorized individuals or organizations.

## **6. DRR PAKISTAN PORTAL**

### *Introduction*

DRR is Pakistan's primary dedicated web portal for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) resource sharing and coordination. This portal provides a platform for sharing all DRR related activities, events, approaches and practices to assist in the systematic identification, assessment and reduction of risks of any disaster. It integrates DRR stakeholders and offers a constructive and useful experience of networking, information sharing, coordination and resource sharing for all the partners involved in DRR efforts.



### *Concept Development*

DRR is an all-embracing concept that incorporates integrated holistic approaches to reduce the impact of disasters on society. Be it any government organization, international agency, disaster planner or civil society member, they are required to make informed decisions that might have serious financial and other implications for the organization they represent. They have to choose as to what aspect of the DRR to address and invest in, when to invest and in what sequence. In light of this, the iMMAP developed the DRR Portal as an integral part of the COPDM project to help donors and other stakeholders to make timely and appropriate decisions.

### *Objectives*

- To provide Information Management assistance to all the community members regardless of the geographical boundaries, area of operation, or any other dimensions within the humanitarian sphere with DRR focus.
- To coordinate with government and other key players in the humanitarian sector by housing internally as well externally developed resources.
- Assist in incessant monitoring of all the humanitarian responses and disaster statistical data across the country.
- To facilitate individual knowledge development on issues such as policy advocacy and mainstreaming DRR within the broader development horizon.

- Standardization and adherence to quality in emergency response.
- Facilitating formation of associations of the humanitarian community and helping with collective representation of the issues and concerns to the Pakistan Government, the UN agencies and institutional Donors.
- Capacity building and research /documentation via the provision of educational material from academia and research groups.
- Joint response and DRR interventions in the disaster affected areas of Pakistan.

### *Features*

Maps & Reports

### *Trainings*

DDR trainings have been carried out all over Pakistan by iMMAP in order to raise awareness about disaster mitigation and response measures among people. The following table shows the number of trainings held in different districts of Pakistan in the year 2012. A total of 1,420 persons participated in the trainings from all over the country.

### *Training Objectives*

These trainings were carried out keeping the following objectives in mind:

- To create a culture of resilience and safety among people through the use of education and knowledge as disaster risk can be significantly reduced if the society is well-informed about disaster prevention measures.
- To make people, living in high-risk areas, aware about their environment and enable them to take action for their safety
- To make disaster planners, managers and experts strengthen their networks across different sectors
- To improve and promote cooperation and dialogue between communities about disaster risk reduction
- To encourage the use of technology for disaster risk reduction
- To make disaster response effective at all levels

## 7. ATLAS OF FLOOD 2013 SINDH

### *Introduction*

As in many other developing countries, humanitarian response to disasters and development activities, in Pakistan, due to multiple factors, remain extremely challenging. Pakistan's exposure to natural hazards and disasters is rated between moderate and severe. Natural hazards, including avalanches, cyclones and storms, droughts, earthquakes, epidemics, floods, glacial lake flooding, landslides, insect infestation, river erosion, and tsunamis all pose risks to Pakistani society and its infrastructure.

The ongoing disaster response to flooding, since 2010, coupled with lack of uniform guidelines for estimating flood related losses; increases the challenges faced by Pakistanis in accessing basic services including health care, education, shelter, food security, livelihoods, and economic opportunities. Humanitarian response, early recovery, reconstruction and development, and access to vulnerable populations are impeded by both flood-induced infrastructure damage and continuing security situation, especially in the most vulnerable parts of the country. One of the key challenges identified in the 2010 Pakistan Revised Floods Relief and Early Recovery Response Plan, Flood 2011 Early Recovery Framework, and iMMAP capacity building interventions since February 2011 throughout Pakistan, relates directly to scaling up IM capacity.

A lack of human resources and skilled staff to carry out coordination and information management functions has hampered the response especially at the sub-national levels. IM capacity varies significantly across districts and provinces. This is further aggravated with the ever-changing mechanisms for response coordination and information management with the change of institutional management and without ever institutionalizing the existing capacity.

Scientists, Researchers and Development Experts, Monitoring and Evaluation Officers, and Disaster Responders need baseline and historic data at a variety of spatial scales to analyze disaster patterns and conduct losses' assessments. In the absence of a central clearinghouse to collect, evaluate, and report disaster losses and damages assessments; today, IMMAP and its collaborating partners from both public and private sector stand alone as a lead example in Pakistan which caters equally for the humanitarian partners and public sector organizations; and have developed an Atlas

of Flood 2013 Sindh in order to provide the humanitarian community detailed information about three different districts of Sindh to make disaster preparedness and response more effective in the province.

### *Objective*

Information is the most significant commodity in emergency situations. It is essential for providing effective and rapid assistance to the disaster-affected people. The main aim of the Atlas of Flood 2013 Sindh is to enable the humanitarian community as well as the international organizations and the Government of Pakistan to be better prepared to respond to natural or manmade disasters. Disaster data integration and dissemination is essential towards developing a better disaster response mechanism and achieving rapid recovery once the emergency is over. Through this document, users can conduct detailed geo-spatial analysis prior to launching rapid needs assessments in disaster situations. This leads to enhanced decision-making, which is the need of the hour in any emergency situation as well as for disaster response preparation to make the society well prepared to withstand and survive any future hazards. In a nutshell, this comprehensive document aims to advance the ability and capacity of the Government of Pakistan as well as different humanitarian organizations working in the country to take decisive action towards disaster preparedness and response in the province of Sindh.

### *Areas Covered*

The following three districts of Sindh have been covered in this document:

- District Sukkur
- District Kashmore
- District Khairpur

### *Atlas Content*

The information provided in the atlas covers several aspects of these districts. A combination of graphs, high quality maps, tables and text has been used to present this information. The following information regarding all districts has been provided in the document:

- Background Information
- Union Council & Taluka Population

- Coordination and Support
- District Reference Map
- Hazard Risk Analysis Map
- Potentially Affected Health Facilities Map
- Potentially Affected Educational Facilities Map
- Potentially Affected Infrastructure Map
- List of Potentially Affected Educational Facilities based on GIS Analysis
- List of Potentially Affected Settlements, Union Councils and Critical Infrastructures based on GIS Analysis
  - List of Potentially Affected Settlements
  - List of Potentially Affected Health Facilities
  - Number of Bridges Affected
  - List of Potentially Affected Union Councils
  - Area Affected Due to Floods 2013
  - List of Mosques Affected
  - List of Potentially Affected Roads
- Field Observation

### *Benefit*

- The document enabled the humanitarian community to be better equipped to respond to and prepare for natural or manmade disasters.
- The information provided in this document allowed the humanitarian community to conduct exceedingly refined geospatial analysis using only their computers
- This atlas can be used prior to carrying out rapid needs assessments in a given emergency response or mitigation situation
- The atlas could result in the creation of several kinds of development programs and response scenarios in advance
- The document promoted public awareness, welfare and safety by providing the humanitarian community access to vital information for enhancing their disaster mitigation and response efforts

- Easily accessible data resulted in prompt data analysis which in turn resulted in enhanced decision-making.

## **8. DAILY EMERGENCY REPORTS**

### *Introduction*

According to aid agencies, the impact of the 2011 floods was worse than the effects of the 2010 floods because many victims were forced to abandon their homes for the second consecutive year. The relief efforts carried out by the government of Pakistan, the UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations had yet to be coordinated, therefore it was essential for the relief groups and individual donors to help generate an immediate emergency and response strategy before the situation deteriorated further. It was realized that after a disaster, the government authorities, donors, humanitarian organizations, businesses, community groups and individuals in Pakistan should all be able to assess whether appropriate actions were taken to save life and property.

### *Data Sources*

The report consolidates authentic data from different online humanitarian sources and key focal persons who provide the data, namely PDMA Punjab/Sindh/KP/Balochistan, FATA, PMD, NDMA and UN Agencies. iMMAP also has a special understanding with the UNDSS to publish their data in these reports.

### *Types of Information Shared*

- Monsoon/ Weather Forecast
- Nation Wide Humanitarian Responses Updates
- Emergency response mapping
- Internally Displaced People - IDP's Statistics
- Special Focus on Sindh Emergency Response

## **9. DISTRICT PROFILING**

### *Introduction*

District profiles of Sindh provided emergency situational data and information of Sindh, as well as its analysis and synopsis. The facts and figures used in district profiles were taken from different assessments, surveys and were shared after verification District profiles gather facts and figures from various sources and present the same in one single report that could help the public understand the current situation of emergencies in Pakistan. The series of district profiles provide concrete analytical and updated information about the disaster struck and/or prone districts of Sindh. By doing so, it truncated time required for rapid needs assessment, disaster response and mitigation.

The following is an up-to-date list of the published District Profiles for Sindh:

<b>S.No</b>	<b>District Profiles</b>	<b>No. of Profiles Published</b>
1.	Badin	1
2.	Dadu	1
3.	Ghotki	1
4.	Ghotki (Updated)	1
5.	Hyderabad	1
6.	Jacobabad	1
7.	Jamshoro	1
8.	Kamber Shahdadkot	1
9.	Karachi	1
10.	Kashmore	1
11.	Khairpur	1
12.	Larkana	1
13.	Matiari	1
14.	Mirpur Khas	1
15.	Naushahro Feroze	1
16.	Sanghar	1

17.	Shaheed Benazirabad	1
18.	Shikarpur	1
19.	Sukkur	1
20.	Tando Allahyar	1
21.	Tando Muhammad Khan	1
22.	Tharparkar	1
23.	Thatta	1
24.	Umerkot	1

### *Sources of Data*

Sindh district profiles compiled from multiple scattered information, numbers and figures, hazard maps of the affected districts from several government and other organizations' reports concerning different sectors i.e. Health Education, Food and Agriculture, Livestock and others. It provides information on the effects and damages caused by the floods at the household level as well as their priority needs with regards to food security (agriculture and livestock), housing, health and education etc. and reports any gaps found in the assistance provided.

The idea was to bring together emergency/disaster information from multiple UN entities, national and international humanitarian organizations and the local government departments to provide system-wide support to rapid needs assessment process, including analytical input.

The main sources of information were secondary and included data obtained from multiple assessments and census conducted at different points of time and weekly bulletins prepared for the flood affected and notified districts and other emergency situation data. Some of these sources are mentioned below:

- Multi Sartorial Needs Assessment (OCHA lead)
- NDMA Losses and Damages Data.
- Maps Produced Using Imagery
- 1998 Population Census
- Weekly Health Bulletin 64 issue by WHO, Pakistan
- Weekly SUPARCO Bulletin

- Summary (CPI+WPI), Federal Bureau of Statistics, GOP

### *Target Audience*

- **Humanitarian Groups:**

These district profiles facilitates a variety of audiences including the government departments/officials NGOs/INGOs and the UN agencies.

- **General Public:**

These profiles are expected to create awareness among the general public to help them understand and grab hold of the data and information without any discrepancies on current emergency situation in Sindh and learn from past experiences.

- **Decision/Policy Makers:**

It also targets and assists the top level management involved in any step of the decision making process for disaster risk reduction and building resilience.

### **Project Conclusion**

COPDM was an extremely important project towards streamlining humanitarian causes, finances, and bringing transparency to Pakistan overall response towards disasters and disaster mitigation. Humanitarian principles of humanity, Neutrality, Impartiality, and Operational Independence were central to COPDM project implementation. Perhaps iMMAP was the only humanitarian organization in Pakistan which made all its IM resources public for serving humanitarian causes which were both directly and in-directly related to disaster mitigation and response.

### **Chief Technical Advisor Observations**

It is unfortunate that not only government agencies politics but also humanitarian partners' political agendas continued to hamper the objectives of this project from the very start of this project. USAID remained iMMAP's steadfast supporter throughout its project tedious implementation, which was to ensure nothing but transparency and accountability to aid work in Pakistan.

US government spends millions of dollars of the American tax payers' money in Pakistan on different humanitarian and development initiatives. A successful continuation of this project was in the strategic interest of USAID and American public for bring transparency and accountability to the humanitarian work in Pakistan. It is unfortunate that the project was closed. A success created through COPDM in Pakistan could have been easily transformed and transferred to other countries and regions.

United National Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon once said *“The moral authority of the United Nations depends on its ability to help people most in need and it must do so with the highest ethical standards and professionalism.”*

Lack of cooperation from UNOCHA throughout COPDM execution raises serious concerned on the ethical standards and professionalism of UNOCHA team and its strategic practices in Pakistan. At multiple times, it was observed through both unfolding of events and formal communications that UNOCHA did not want this project to succeed from its very start at NDMA to the very end of this project. UNOCHA considered a successful implementation of COPDM project through local resource a threat to its existence in Pakistan.

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