

Towards a Sustainable approach

Reducing Transaction cost, Ensure Accountability to Local Authority and Partnering with Local Organization

10 Recommendations to be integrated into the FDMN interventions

Analysing different studies and reactions of the distinguished participants from two events (in Cox's Bazar on 28 Feb and in Dhaka on 3 March 2018), we are proposing the following 10-point recommendations to be integrated into the interventions for the relief work for FDMN (Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals) in future.

- (i) JRP should be considered as a live document, so that in the course of time new issues could be integrated. Especially, it should be revisited in view of the GB commitments, which has indeed a little reflection in it.
- (ii) Responsibility of ISCG should go fully with the government agencies led by RRRC (Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner) including the involvement of local governments for the effective coordination on ground level. In fact, it should lead to avoiding duplication of resources and maintaining quality standard of services.
- (iii) For effective communication and coordination, all the involved expatriates should have orientation on local language and culture. All correspondences in field level should be in Bangla as most of the UN agencies and INGO have Bangladeshi staff. All meetings in Cox's Bazar should be held in a designated day and the culture of random meeting calling should be stopped. In fact, these will facilitate the easy access and communication of local NGOs and local government staff in ISCG and planning level.
- (vi) All agencies including INGOs and UN bodies should publish their aid data in view of IATA principles in local languages in their websites. There are huge public questions on transaction costs, especially overhead and management cost.
- (v) There should be participation mechanism from host community and FDMN and a complaint response mechanism with all involved actors, which should be open and transparent, especially in the camp level.
- (vi) All agencies should maintain one single logistical hub e.g. one single car pool for movement and transportation for all. INGOs can also participate there. The coordination in this logistics level can be offered to LNGOs and govt. officials too, which can minimize a huge amount of management cost and improve the image of aid agencies.
- (vii) UN and INGOs should be withdrawn from direct field operations, while it should be in partnering with local organizations and local government, tailored to facilitate local commitments, low cost operation, and accountability that leads towards sustainability of the approach.
- (viii) INGOs and UN agencies should immediately go for common framework of employment, compensation and pricing policies in following principles.
 - Students and teachers should not be employed.
 - There should be one job for one family.
 - Without clearance certificate from previous employer there should not be any employment.
 - If a minimum 2 years experienced staff of LNGO is selected for a post in INGOs and UN agencies, there must be a compensation package for the Local NGO who invested to train up the staff.
 - All UN agencies and INGOs must do security check of all employment whether the staff has any police case.
- (ix) All agencies must have a common wage framework in respect of employing labor from host communities and FDMN; there should not be any disparity in this regard.
- (x) Until last quarter of 2017, there were around 1,200 expatriates involved in the FDMN response operation. This has to be demand-driven and need-based. It also caused huge security tensions for the government agencies.

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