

Localization in Action: Preparedness for Effective Response

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies through the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) common approach, supports National Societies to fulfil their auxiliary role, in line with the RCRC Fundamental Principles, by strengthening local preparedness capacities to ensure timely and effective humanitarian assistance to prevent and alleviate human suffering. The localization agenda intends to enhance local and national responders' capacities, accessing finances, enhancing partnerships, and increasing local coordination and leadership. As such PER is proving to be an effective approach to advance localization. Examples of this are highlighted below.

 **Enhancing and reinforcing skills and knowledge of responders through a cyclical, structured but flexible process across the DRM continuum. Capacity Strengthening**

This has been accomplished through investment in response procedures, training of community and branch responders, development of competency frameworks and refinement of assessment and response planning expertise. Noted impacts have been: improved prioritization of vulnerable groups for distribution of relief items by first responders; increased engagement of women in community response management and decreased response time from >5 days to 72 hours.

 **Strengthening strategic, coordinated, long-term planning and increasing investment and complementarity of resources at the local/national level. Finance**

This has been accomplished through a variety of means, including: participatory engagement of NS and partners in PER process, alongside in-country mapping of local resources, donor investment review, alignment of multiple projects/donor for complementarity. Noted impacts have been:

- Development of an organization-wide evidence-based strategic plan and respective departmental plans and an organizational reporting system to enhance organizational visioning and resourcing.
- Increased branch level resource mobilization initiatives, and strategic investment in most at risk.
- Decreased time in accessing DREF due to increased knowledge of requirements and expertise in response planning.
- Establishment of a NS emergency fund enabling access to funds for immediate actions within 72 hours.

 **Creating an organizational culture of partnership and learning to increase trust and effectiveness of RCM within response. Partnership**

This was undertaken by a regional training approach and integration of PER into planning processes to develop regional roadmaps. In some regions (Americas and Europe) this was done alongside regional NS readiness mapping of resources to increase collaboration among NS and with Movement partners. Based on quotes from NS' feedback - this is contributing to a cultural shift to more open sharing, ongoing learning, peer-to-peer collaboration, and overall improved understanding of what makes an effective response. PER at the national level is in many cases creating one coherent plan for the NS, which multiple partners can support.

 **Supporting engagement of local and national actors to increase NS leadership and coordination within response. Coordination**

This was undertaken by decentralization of response through establishment and equipping of regional Emergency Operations Centres, reinforcement of responders' capacities and development of response scales and related decision-making responsibilities. This has led to improved NS internal coordination, greater capacity at the local level and decreased response time. Other impacts have been seen through investment in enhancing resource mobilization which has resulted in increased agreements with in-country non-Movement actors (UNICEF, WFP, etc.). Investment in enhanced coordination with authorities has led to development of RCRC laws, development of protocols for civil military coordination, and agreed procedures and plans with municipalities and schools. Improved understanding of Principles & Rules for Humanitarian Assistance has also increased coordination.