



## Policy Dialogues held on “Effectiveness of Disaster Risk Management: Engaging Parliamentarians”

In order to creating a vibrant and sustained interface with policymakers and other key stakeholders on Disaster Risk Management (DRM), National disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with respective Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) of all provinces, organized a series of policy dialogues. The main objectives of these policy dialogues were to:

1. Discuss the challenges in DRM in Pakistan to emphasize the need of strengthening the institutional capacity and improving budgetary allocations for DRM;
2. Generate an informed debate on various issues hindering the proper functioning of PDMAs in order to ensure that PDMAs are fully operational and are contributing to effective DRM in Pakistan;
3. Provide a forum for interaction amongst the parliamentarians and technical experts to map and discuss challenges and opportunities in DRM; and
4. Provide an agenda for parliamentarians and offer an opportunity to develop consensus among various actors and relevant stakeholders on different policy options to improve DRM in Pakistan.

The first policy dialogue of the series was held on “Effectiveness of Disaster Risk Management: Engaging Parliamentarians”. It was organized by NDMA in Islamabad, on October 13, 2009. The speakers of the dialogue were Chairman NDMA, General<sup>®</sup> Farooq Ahmad Khan, and Policy Expert, Dr. Salman Humayun. The participants of the dialogue included parliamentarians, media, civil society and other key stakeholders. Senators Haji Mir Lashkari Raisani, Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi, and Prof. Ibrahim participated in the dialogue. The Members of National Assembly included Anjum Aqeel Khan, Naeem Hussain, Nasir Ali Shah, Kishwar Zohra, Balikh-ur-Rehman, Marvi Memon, Nisar Tanveer, Justice Fakhar-un-Nisa Khokhar, Shireen Mir, and Dr. Nelson Azeem.

This was followed by a series of policy dialogues at provincial level, so as to engage all the stakeholders, especially the parliamentarians, in a process of informed debate relevant to respective areas.

NDMA and PDMA Punjab held the second policy dialogue in Lahore. Rana Sana Ullah Khan, Provincial Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, chaired the dialogue. It was attended by 30 members of Provincial Assembly of the Punjab belonging to various political parties across the political arena like PML (N), PPP, PML and others. The Chairman NDMA General<sup>®</sup> Farooq Ahmad Khan and Dr. Salman Humayun, a policy Expert gave presentations on the situation of DRM regime in Pakistan and highlighted the need for an improved and reformed approach towards this important issue directly affecting the wellbeing of the citizens.



The third policy dialogue of the series was organized by NDMA and PDMA Sindh in Karachi. The dialogue was chaired by Syeda Shehla Raza, Deputy Speaker, Provincial Assembly, Sindh. Senior Member NDMA Shaukat Nawaz Tahir and Policy Expert Dr. Ahmed Salman Humayun delivered presentations. The participants of the dialogue included members Provincial Assembly Sindh, media, civil society and other key stakeholders. MPAs from MQM Moin Amir Pirzada, Rehan Zafar, Heer Soho, Dr. Nadeem Maqbool, Husna Aftab, Salma Khatoon, Nahid begum, Syed Khalid Ahmed, Muhammad Adil Khan, Muzzamil Qureshi and MPAs belonging to PPP-P Pitanber Sewani, Dr. Ahmed Ali Shah and Najma Saeed Chawla participated in the Policy dialogue. Member Provincial Assembly Arif Mustafa Jatoui of National Peoples Party also represented his party at the policy dialogue.

After that, NDMA and PDMA Balochistan organized the fourth policy dialogue of the series on March 10, 2010, in Quetta. The speakers of the dialogue were the Chairman NDMA, General<sup>®</sup> Farooq Ahmad Khan, and Director General, PDMA Balochistan, Mushtaq Ahmed. Engineer Zamrak Khan, Minister for Revenue Balochistan, chaired the dialogue, and Shahbaz Khan Mandokhel, Senior Member, Board of Revenue, Balochistan, presented vote of thanks. The dialogue was attended by Members of Provincial Assembly of Balochistan belonging to various political parties across the political arena, Civil Society Organizations, media representatives and Bar Associations from across the province.

Subsequently, NDMA and PDMA NWFP organized the last policy dialogue of the series in Peshawar, on March 24, 2010. General<sup>®</sup> Farooq Ahmad Khan, Chairman NDMA, and Adnan Zafar, Director Relief and Operations, PDMA, NWFP, delivered presentations. The dialogue was chaired by Kiramatullah Khan, Speaker, Provincial Assembly, NWFP. It was attended by the members of Provincial Assembly NWFP belonging to various political parties across the political arena, heads of various government departments, and Civil Society Organizations, media representatives and Bar Associations from across the province.

Overall, these were successful events and generated a comprehensive discussion on the topic. In order to conduct all these events, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided support to NDMA and PDMA under One UN DRM Programme. At the end of these dialogues, recommendations were presented to bring the DRM high on the government agenda and to sensitize civil society, media, and public about DRM in Pakistan. The parliamentarians, who participated in large number in these policy dialogues, showing their keen interest in the subject of DRM expressed that it was their long-standing desire and will to have fully operational PDMA and DDMA that would work for the provision of relief to the people anywhere in Pakistan in the wake of disasters.

**For further information**

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