Inter Agency Coordination

Communication for better Coordination

Vikrant Mahajan, CEO – Sphere India

About Sphere India

- **Sphere Project:**
  - Global Inter Agency Initiative for Quality and Accountability
  - Minimum Standards for Disaster Response
- **Sphere India:**
  - Inter Agency Institution
  - National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India
  - Facilitates Inter Agency Coordination of Humanitarian Agencies before and during disasters
  - Other Inter Agency Initiatives:
    - Training and Capacity Building
    - Collaborative Advocacy
    - Knowledge Management
  - Coordinated agencies at National, state and field level for
  - Tsunami (2004) ...... Assam Floods (2012)

Inter Agency Coordination

- Who are these agencies
  - Government
    -
    -
    -
  - Non Government
    -
    -

Inter Agency Coordination

- Aids and Barriers to coordination
- Need for Common Vocabulary
- Humanitarian Perspective
- International Practice
- India Experience
- Barriers to Coordination
- Facilitating Coordination
- Coordinated Assessments

Barriers to Coordination

- Perceptions about Agencies and People
- Closed Systems and Communications
- Desire for Visibility…
- Expanding Mandate… for roles and space
- Overlaps and Gaps
- Lack of Clarity on roles and responsibilities
- Absence of common vocabulary
- Lack of common Goals and Objectives
- Absence of Standards, Systems and practices
- Absence of Documentation and Learning Practices

Aids for Inter Agency Coordination

- Organisation Culture
- Respecting organisations and their mandates
- Functional leadership and Team building
- Skill and Capacity Building
- Policies and SOPs
- Open and transparent communications
- Defining Goals and Objectives
- Practice

Common Understanding and Vocabulary

- Disaster
- Emergency
- Disaster / Emergency Management for Whom?
- Humanitarian Perspective

International Humanitarian Community

- UN System
- UN OCHA
  - INSARAG, UNDAC, UN CMCOORD, OSOCC
- UNDMT
- IASC: Inter Agency Standing Committee
- Humanitarian Coordinator
- Humanitarian Reforms: Cluster Coordinator
- Transformative Agenda

India Experience

- Early Experiences
  - ODMM, TNTRC, NCRC,
- Sphere India URS
- Inter Agency Groups
- Reforms

Inter Agency Coordination Process

- Prepraredness
- Early Warning
- Disaster Event
- Sitreps
- Coordination Meeting
- Activation of Emergency / Unified Response
- Initial Rapid Assessment
- Detailed Multi Sector Assessment
- In-depth Sector Assessment
- Sectoral Coordination or ESF Coordination
- Continues assessments as tool for Monitoring and Decision making
- Deactivation of Emergency / Unified Response
- Assessment for Recovery Processes
- Evaluation for Lessons learnt

Assessment Questions ?

- Why
- What
- Who
- When
- How
- Where

Assessment Guidelines

- IASC Operating Guidelines
- Common Assessment Format
  - Initial Assessment
  - Detailed Assessment
- Formats for Slow Disasters
- Formats for Silent Disasters
- Revision of formats
- National Guidelines

Thank You