

WORKING WITH DIASPORA

Opportunities for Collaboration - Coordination Groups and Diaspora

Against the background of numerous protracted humanitarian crises, diaspora communities in the northern hemisphere are increasingly recognized for their access, cultural and language skills, local knowledge, trust and networks with affected communities. This opens up potential spaces for engagement, cross-fertilization and better coordination between diaspora and ‘conventional’ relief and aid providers in an extended humanitarian system.

Diaspora organisations can play a central role in localization. Many can be considered frontline responders themselves, making direct and concrete contributions to emergency responses in their home countries. Many others work closely with local authorities, local organisations and community groups, providing technical and financial support, playing a role in advocacy and linking local actors with additional sources of support. They are heterogeneous – they have different capacities, values and approaches – and as part of a broader humanitarian community, can play a valuable role in the humanitarian responses.

Because of this diversity, coordination groups will engage with each diaspora organization differently. This note provides a list of options, intended to support coordinators and diaspora groups to identify potential ways in which they can collaborate. Additional resources are available at: <http://www.demac.org/>

Advocacy and Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including diaspora organisations on the coordination group mailing list
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing advocacy notes and having bilateral discussions with diaspora organisations on how this information can be used for advocacy to donors and national authorities • Drawing on diaspora organisation’s local networks and influence in local advocacy (e.g. prevention of child recruitment, promoting girls education etc)
Technical Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting diaspora organisations with local partners who are seeking capacity strengthening support (including secondments for technical advice and developing institutional systems, coaching and mentoring etc)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging local actors to join the DEMAC coaching and mentoring community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging cluster members to take the online training
Financial Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing approved project sheets, particularly for local partners, and encouraging direct financial support from the diaspora to local partners; and connecting diaspora to possible funding opportunities for themselves • Encouraging diaspora to report funding to OPS
Coordination – Strategic Direction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of diaspora organisations in meetings (e.g. dialing in option) and governance structures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including diaspora organisations in efforts to develop and validate needs assessments, HNOs and response strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting diaspora to include their service delivery results in cluster/sector IM systems

For more information:

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