

Grant from 2007 Special Opportunities & Investment Fund

PA005 – From Chaos to Coordination: Harnessing the Potential of Volunteerism in Disaster Response

Mid Term Report

LEAD Pakistan was granted US 40, 000 from the Special Opportunities Fund on 24th April 2007. Funding was sought to meet two key objectives; first one was to build capacities of local volunteers and organizations in Balakot Tehsil of Mansehra District on disaster response and management (preparedness, mitigation and prevention) and second one was to develop a local resource network of professionally well-trained volunteers and organizations aiming to work jointly on the issues of preparedness, mitigation and prevention.

Under-mentioned is the summary of progress made in almost four months since the project was approved:

- After wide-range consultative meetings with key project stakeholders that included local community, leadership, organizations and representatives from relevant government departments, 6 local partner organizations were selected.
- With the help and support of local partner organizations, 150 volunteers from all over Balakot Tehsil have been identified. At the moment these candidates are undergoing a screening process. LEAD Project team is administering the screening process with the help of a project advisor. Objective of administering the screening on candidates is to identify and select those candidates that will exhibit their commitment to offer their volunteer services as and when need so will arise.
- Nowadays, profiles of candidates selected so far are being developed. These profiles will be completed after trainings will be over. The profiles shall include personal information (contact, location and willingness to volunteer) and background information of specific skills on disaster response and management.
- At present, we are at the planning phase of Database and Web Portal development. These two will be in place next month. Individual profiles of all volunteers will be maintained in the Database which will be placed on Web Portal.
- A disaster response training specialist organizations called Focus has been approached. An MoU will soon be signed with Focus. A subject specialist from Focus has also been contracted. He will develop us three capacity building modules on preparedness, mitigation and prevention. Besides this, he will also be involved with delivering trainings on these modules.
- A state managed volunteer network on disaster response and management called National Voluntary Moment (NVM) has also been approached. NVM has expressed its desire to carryout its future activities in Balakot Tehsil with the help and support of our local resource network.