Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination in Pakistan

13 May 2011
Recent humanitarian responses

- 2005 Kashmir earthquake
- 2007 floods and cyclone
- 2008 Balochistan earthquake
- 2008-2010 IDP crisis in KPK/FATA
- 2010 Pakistan floods
An overwhelming majority (95%) see civil-military relations as “important” or a “key priority”
High interaction between military and humanitarians

- Regular and frequent contact, at least once a week: 23.0%
- Regular contact, approximately once a month: 19.5%
- Irregular contact, on specific issues as they arise: 31.0%
- No contact (If you have selected this answer, please move directly on...): 16.1%
- Other (please specify): 10.3%
Key civil-military issues

• Negotiating humanitarian access
• Managing staff security
• Sharing basic information about activities when working in same geographical areas.
• Gaining acceptance of humanitarian principles.
Case study: use of military assets during the Pakistan floods

Policy framework

• IASC Guidelines on the Use of Civil-Military Defence Assets
• IASC Guidelines on the Use of Military and Armed Escorts
• IASC Reference Paper on Civil-Military Relationship in Complex Emergencies
• Oslo Guidelines (endorsed by A/RES 59/141)
• Pakistan Civil-Military Guidelines
HCT criteria for use of military assets

• Solely humanitarian objective
• Only as a last resort (no other means of access and no civilian alternative)
• Urgency of the task demands immediate action
• Use is limited in time and scale
• HCT approval
Policy to practice

• 5 August: Agreement to use air assets to delivery relief food to cut-off parts of Swat, Shangla and Kohistan.

• 20 August: Agreement to use air and marine assets for delivery of relief items to other cut-off areas.

• 20 August: Agreement not to use NATO strategic air bridge because it did not meet the criteria.
Lessons learned

Best practices:
+ Unified HCT position using agreed criteria
+ Effective Joint Aviation Coordination Cell

Challenges
- Communication of nuanced positions
- Re-evaluation of criteria
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