
**DEMAC TOOLKIT
POCKET GUIDE**
AWARENESS RAISING
MATERIALS ON DIASPORAS'
ROLE IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

DEMAC TOOLKIT POCKET GUIDE

The DEMAC Toolkit is a compilation of ten short, hands-on pocket guides on diaspora humanitarianism. Out of the ten, five guides are tailored to humanitarian practitioners, covering the following topics:

1. Definition and typologies of diasporas
- 2. Awareness raising materials on diasporas' role in emergency response**
3. Guidance on integration of diaspora in stakeholder analysis
4. Methodology to map & assess the engagement of diaspora in humanitarian crises
5. Guidance for collaborative advocacy with diaspora

This pocket guide is focusing on awareness raising materials on diaspora's role in emergency response. Interested in the other four booklets? Find the complete DEMAC Toolkit with all ten pocket guides on our website www.demac.org

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Why this DEMAC toolkit?

The DEMAC toolkit intends to offer practical guidance to humanitarian practitioners to enhance engagement and coordination with diaspora organizations involved in humanitarian response.

The toolkit is inspired by DEMAC lessons learned and good practices on diaspora humanitarianism. It provides guidance and definitions for humanitarian actors and sets the framework for increasing understanding, knowledge and engagement with diaspora organizations in humanitarian settings.

The toolkit does not intend to provide a binding, predetermined list of interventions or types of activities that may or may not be implemented, as this is dependent on the specific context and would appear overly prescriptive. Therefore, DEMAC encourages adaptation of this resource to the respective local situation.

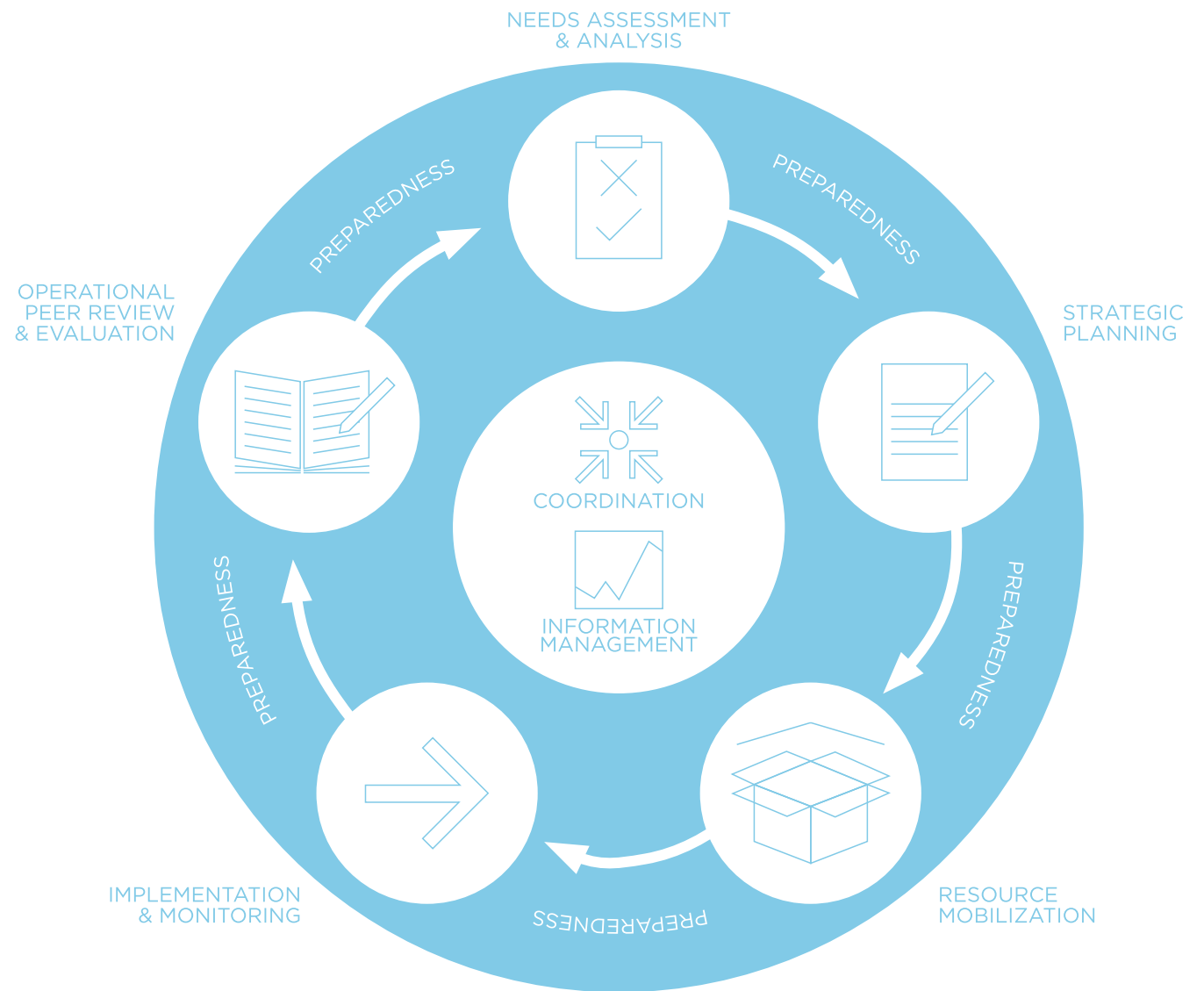
AWARENESS RAISING MATERIALS ON DIASPORAS' ROLE IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Diaspora Organizations and their humanitarian interventions remain largely unknown, unreported and undocumented. Institutional humanitarian actors providing assistance in countries in crisis are often unaware of diaspora organization's existence and of their humanitarian interventions in these same countries. This is explained, in part, by the unique transnational nature of diaspora organizations, operating from abroad and providing humanitarian assistance through various agile and innovative means.

This tool aims to show the various stages of the humanitarian programme cycle and outline at each stage:

- the added value of diaspora responders
- and how they can be engaged

HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME CYCLE



NEEDS ASSESSMENT & ANALYSIS

Diasporas have unique access to local communities and given their long-term engagement, they often have earned special trust by the communities. This allows different information to be shared and taken into account, which can support the needs assessments and analysis.

Increasing engagement during the early warning and needs assessment phase would include defining systematic approaches to:

- Including an analysis of existing diaspora projects and programs in needs assessments to capitalize on their expertise and know-how.
- Explore possibilities to integrate diaspora feedback into national alert mechanisms, such as early warning systems and forecasting analysis.
- Including diaspora organizations and their partners in needs assessments and ongoing monitoring coordinated by the authorities, inter-agency (humanitarian actors) and joint efforts.
- Building capacity of diaspora organizations and their partners through their participation in monitoring and needs assessments exercises.



STRATEGIC PLANNING

Diaspora organizations integrated within the humanitarian system can be involved in joint planning, ensuring coherence and synergies.

Increasing involvement of diaspora organizations into institutional humanitarian planning processes can include:

- Recognizing the distinct advantages of diaspora organizations, especially in early stages of emergencies (in terms of rapidity, securing funding, providing potential long-term support for recovery) in comparison to the authorities and humanitarian system when it comes to strategic planning.
- Systematically engaging with diasporas and integrating diaspora knowledge and insights into the strategy development of national and provincial disaster response planning, the HRP and cluster strategies.
- Inviting diaspora organizations, groups and partners proactively to participate in capacity-strengthening activities, particularly in relation to humanitarian principles, standards and ways of working.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The majority of funding for diaspora organizations comes from diaspora supporters and to a lesser extent private companies, foundations and institutional donors. While providing flexibility, these sources do not provide a secure and continuous financial base for humanitarian operations. There are several areas where institutional humanitarian actors could further engage with diaspora organizations to strengthen their access to more sustainable forms of financing:

- Governments and donors in diasporas countries of residence could provide humanitarian response funding for diaspora organizations and/or provide a funding stream within existing mechanisms, such as national emergency funding pools. One example could be matching funds, where institutional donors match funds raised directly by diaspora organizations from their supporters.
- Allow diaspora organizations and their local partners to access CBPF to ensure continuity of activities in the emergency response phase.
- Strengthen knowledge of diaspora organizations, groups and their partners of the humanitarian funding landscape and of the funding opportunities available.
- Engage diaspora organizations, groups and their partners to consider joining funding mechanisms such as the [Start Network](#), that provide access to sudden-onset emergency funds.
- Governments of diasporas residence countries could advocate for adapting financial transaction regulations to facilitate the transfer of funds for humanitarian action between diaspora organizations and their counterparts.
- Support diaspora organizations to integrate data on their responses in UN-OCHA's Financial Tracking System.

IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING

The operating models of diaspora organizations differ depending on the type of organization, their ongoing activities and experience. Yet, there could be several areas where synergies could be increased during implementation, which include:

- Institutional humanitarian actors should consider diaspora organizations and their partners as potential partners in implementation, favoring joint partnerships rather than sub-granting. Reporting procedures and requirements should be eased and streamlined.
- Institutional humanitarian actors should liaise with diaspora organizations and their partners during the implementation of their humanitarian response to determine how both their larger and smaller-scale responses can be integrated into operations.
- Proactive and systematic invitations to diaspora organizations and their partners to cluster coordination meetings and other national and provincial fora to facilitate two-way information sharing and potential coordination.
- Encourage exchanges between diaspora organizations on implementation modes for scale-up, response and recovery approaches.
- Offer support and learning opportunities to diaspora organizations and their partners to strengthen their accountability approaches and systems.

OPERATIONAL PEER REVIEW & EVALUATION

While some more formally organized diaspora organizations and their partners conduct reviews and evaluations of their own responses, limited links or synergies exist with the broader institutional humanitarian system. Some improvements in this area could be:

- Encourage exchanges between diaspora organizations and humanitarian actors on feedback and accountability mechanisms and create learning opportunities for diaspora organizations and their partners on these topics.
- Initiate involvement of diaspora organizations and their partners in any inter-agency accountability mechanism and government-led initiatives such as joint evaluations and reviews.
- Encourage an exchange between diaspora organizations and their partners with humanitarian actors on good practices in monitoring, evaluation and learning.

COORDINATION

Some diaspora organizations are participating in coordination fora either directly or through their partners, while smaller organizations tend not to participate in any coordination mechanisms, as this often exceeds their capacities. Nevertheless, greater coordination from the side of diaspora organizations and more recognition and visibility for their role in humanitarian response by institutional humanitarian actors is needed. Some areas to improve could be:

- Involve diaspora organizations and their partners in relevant coordination fora within the regions where they are active. This includes national and international NGO fora, regional and national cluster meetings, working groups and – where relevant – coordination with authorities.
- Encourage membership of diaspora organizations and their local partners in NGO fora.
- Establish diaspora focal points or a liaison officer structure for diaspora coordination in clusters, NGO fora, and other relevant coordination bodies.
- Invite diaspora organizations as full members or observers into decision making bodies, such as the Advisory Board of Humanitarian Funds.
- Involve diaspora organizations in discussions on advocacy messaging, recognizing their unique angle and network.
- Support coalition-building between diaspora organizations.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

While information sharing among diaspora organizations and their partners takes place on a regular basis, the same is limited between diasporas and the humanitarian sector. This could be further enhanced by:

- Establishing mechanisms to ensure systematic information sharing and data integration of diaspora response into humanitarian updates, bulletins and dashboards of humanitarian actors and authorities.
- Creating opportunities for specialized diaspora organizations, such as in health or education, to engage with humanitarian agencies involved in the same field.
- Establishing an information mechanism by donor governments and institutional donors where diaspora organizations can feed their information into their humanitarian analysis and priorities.



ABOUT DEMAC

The mission of DEMAC is two-fold:

- 1) to enable inclusive coordination and collaboration among diaspora organizations providing humanitarian assistance, and across diaspora organizations and institutional humanitarian actors, and
- 2) to facilitate higher levels of engagement and visibility for diaspora organizations in the humanitarian system.

The objective is to contribute to transforming the humanitarian eco-system by laying the groundwork for a deeper understanding of diasporas as humanitarian actor groups with different modus operandi for the implementation of aid in practice, identifying and opening potential spaces for engagement and cross-fertilization, and improving coordination between diaspora and institutional relief providers.

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Responsible for content:

DEMAC – Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination
At Danish Refugee Council
Borgergade 10
1300 Copenhagen
Denmark

Email: info@demac.org
demac.org

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