



2017 United Nations Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord) Course for the Asia Region

Colombo, Sri Lanka
29 October- 3 November 2017

I. Rationale

1. When an emergency or natural disaster creates humanitarian needs, many countries will deploy their militaries or paramilitary organizations to respond. When local and international humanitarian organizations are also involved in that response, it is essential that they can operate in the same space. It is for this reason that United Nations Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord) facilitates dialogue and interaction between civilian and military actors, essential to protect and promote humanitarian principles, avoid competition, minimize inconsistency and, when appropriate, pursue common goals. UN-CMCoord is a framework that enhances a broad understanding of humanitarian action and guides political and military actors on how best to support that action. It helps to develop context-specific policy based on internationally agreed guidelines, and it establishes humanitarian civil-military coordination structures, ensuring staff members are trained to make that coordination work. UN-CMCoord is essential in complex emergencies or highly insecure environments in order to facilitate humanitarian access, the protection of civilians, and the security of humanitarian aid workers



2. A multi-stakeholder Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific was formed in 2014 to act as a regional forum that brings together the humanitarian, civilian and military actors involved in disaster response preparedness planning and disaster response in the region. The RCG was formed to: a) discuss response preparedness planning, with a focus on coordination of operational planning

between civilian and military actors; b) facilitate exchange of information and innovative ideas to enable well-coordinated and needs-based effective disaster response to a broad range of humanitarian emergency operations; c) strengthen linkages with other relevant platforms with an emphasis on the relationship with Regional Organizations and the Global Consultative Group on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination.

3. The Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific First (2015) and Second Session (2016) resulted in key UN-CMCoord outcomes:
 - Member States expressed the need to improve understanding of how military to military, as well as civil-military coordination mechanisms could be tailored and operationalized in the specific context of Asian countries;
 - Member States highlighted the importance of enhancing regional dialogue and understanding on UN-CMCoord issues especially in the context of SAARC countries;
 - Under the leadership of WFP, an RCG Logistic Working Group (RCG LWG) was created to assess logistics needs and identifying gaps in capacity at regional and national level; discuss and make recommendations on the use of Foreign Military Assets (FMA) to augment humanitarian logistic capabilities

II. UN-CMCoord Course Aim and Expected Outcomes

4. The 2017 United Nations Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord) Course for Asia aims to promote appropriate and effective humanitarian civil-military interaction in humanitarian emergencies through strengthened knowledge and understanding of UN-CMCoord standards and principles, and adherence to them. By the end of this training event, humanitarian, civilian and military emergency responders will perform their task(s) more confidently by:
 - a) Assuming responsibilities in support of UN-CMCoord preparedness and response;
 - b) Taking an active part in timely decision-making and action in pursuit of effective UN-CMCoord;
 - c) Engaging in a dialogue with other civil-military coordination actors to support the activities of the humanitarian community in upholding humanitarian principles and facilitating the provision of the right assistance, to the right people, at the right time, in the most appropriate way.
5. The 2017 UN-CMCoord Regional Course for Asia will also contribute to the following specific regional strategic objectives:
 - a) Follow up to the outcomes of the Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific;
 - b) Enhance regional dialogue and understanding of UN-CMCoord issues especially in the context of SAARC countries;
 - c) Strengthen the regional roster of UN-CMCoord graduates who can be deployed at short notice in the Asia region to support disaster response operations.

III. UN-CMCoord Course Objectives

- A. **Reaction and Planned Action:** After participation in the UN-CMCoord course, graduates will:
 - a) React positively to the overall training and buy-in to the UN-CMCoord philosophy in humanitarian response.

- b) Join a robust pool of knowledgeable graduates willing to keep abreast of latest developments and pursue professional growth on UN-CMCoord and, in the process, contribute to the learning of others.
 - c) Express confidence in working with a variety of other responders in highly challenging and rapidly evolving operating environments.
 - d) Score an 80 percent relevance rate of each individual session/topic of the training.
- B. Learning and Confidence:** After completion of the UN-CMCoord course, graduates will:
- a) Define the concept of humanitarian civil-military coordination and outline its key principles.
 - b) Describe in their own words the purpose and key messages of the four global civil-military coordination guidelines.
 - c) Describe the role and responsibilities of OCHA in the context of UN-CMCoord preparedness and response.
 - d) Assess the UN-CMCoord environment in their operational context: mapping the actors, identifying the main coordination/liaison structures, and determining the scope of humanitarian civil-military relations in natural disasters and complex emergencies.
 - e) Describe key civil-military coordination issues and explain possible approaches to address them (e.g. military support to humanitarian response, protection of civilians, use of foreign military assets (FMA) and/or military and civil defence assets (MCDA), security and use of armed escorts)
- C. Application and Implementation:** When graduates assume their function in a humanitarian emergency, they will:
- a) Exercise a key role in support of humanitarian civil-military coordination.
 - b) Advise their respective organization on civil-military coordination structures and principles for liaison with other actors.
 - c) Uphold humanitarian civil-military coordination principles and advocate for the people in need of humanitarian assistance.
 - d) Gain trust and confidence from all actors of civil-military coordination through demonstration of professionalism, dedication and organizational integrity.
 - e) Perform their coordination role confidently with a clear focus on the support of the mandated beneficiaries.

IV. UN-CMCoord Course Methodology

- 6. The methodology for the 2017 UN-CMCoord Course for Asia will include:
 - a) Web-based preparatory sessions (i.e. webinar using WebEx)
 - b) Written assignments (i.e. preparatory phase).
 - c) Participatory approaches using facilitated discussions
 - d) Group work and desk exercises to allow for practical application of information and concepts presented.
 - e) Presentations in plenary.

In addition, to prepare for the training course, selected participants will be asked to attend two web-based (webinar) preparatory sessions and have reviewed the following background documents:

- ✚ Guidelines on the use of foreign military and civil defence assets in disaster relief, “Oslo Guidelines”;
- ✚ Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines For The Use Of Foreign Military Assets In Natural Disaster Response Operations (APC Madro);
- ✚ Civil-Military Guidelines and References for Complex Emergencies;
- ✚ UN-CMCoord Field Handbook.

V. Measuring Reaction & Planned Action and Learning & Confidence

7. During the UN-CMCoord course, participants acquire new information, skills, or knowledge needed to better perform in humanitarian emergencies. This should lead to an improved, strengthened and sustainable humanitarian civil-military coordination mechanism guided by standards and principles in responding to a humanitarian crisis.
8. To know if the chain of impact has occurred during the training event, OCHA will collect data along the first two levels mentioned above. To collect data at the first level, Reaction and Planned Action, is the beginning of measuring the impact of the training and will be done immediately after the face-to-face training. Reaction will focus on content and the learning environment and to a lesser extent on the performance of the course management team.
9. One of the biggest determinants of the success of the training is to measure how much learning has occurred. The training will apply a mix of formal and informal techniques to measure learning, individually and collectively after each key step of the programme. The methodology will aim to reinforce and confirm learning. One of the tools will focus on capturing the perception of the facilitator and course management team on the strengths of the participant. Set questions will guide the evaluation which will focus on professionalism, task orientation, relationship orientation and self-orientation. An average measure will be obtained from the ratings of the facilitator and course management team to balance the necessary subjectivity of this technique. Participants will receive continuous and final feedback from the course management team.
10. It is expected that participants will use what they learned during their day-to-day work. While the two previous measures, reaction (level 1) and learning (level 2) occur mainly during the training event itself, measuring application and implementation occurs later and captures the participants’ use of knowledge and skills on the job. Essentially, measures at this level reflect the degree of post-training course success. Although this level is not formally assessed at the moment, it is expected that participants remain in contact with the course management team after the event for advice and support.