

Background Note
OCHA Pakistan Access Monitoring and Reporting Framework

OCHA's role in humanitarian access consist of supporting the mandates of the Humanitarian Coordinator outlined in his/her Terms of References, and the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) set out in General Assembly Resolution 46/182. Accordingly, access refers to 'actively facilitate, including through negotiation [...], the access by the operational organizations to emergency areas for the rapid provision of emergency assistance by obtaining the consent of all parties concerned'.

Access Monitoring and Reporting Framework (AMRF)

To achieve this overarching objective, the Access Monitoring and Reporting Framework (AMRF) in Pakistan includes four workstreams, an analysis tool – the Access database, and the inter-agency Humanitarian Access Working Group (HAWG).

In this context, OCHA's workstreams in Pakistan are fourfold:

- Identify access constraints, monitor and analyze trends
- Enhance understanding of access constraints and applicable guidelines
- Facilitate resolutions / follow-up to constraints with relevant stakeholders
- Undertake and support adequate advocacy efforts with relevant stakeholders

In December 2010, OCHA Pakistan has launched the **online Access database** tool at the request of the Humanitarian Country Team. The overall objective of the tool is to support above-mentioned workstreams, by identifying relevant access constraints in Pakistan, monitor and analyze trends based on the incidents reported, facilitate follow-up where requested, and undertake informed and evidence-based advocacy. More specifically, the aim of the tool is to monitor specific access constraints that humanitarian partners face, understand where they occur, which agencies and clusters are most affected, and whether access is improving or deteriorating over time. All humanitarian organizations can report an incident, whereas only a limited number of OCHA staff have the possibility to modify the data in the database.

To track progress of the AMRF, OCHA and the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum co-chair the inter-agency **Humanitarian Access Working Group (HAWG)**, which meets on a monthly basis to review incident reporting, identify new challenges, facilitate the resolution of access challenges upon request, and recommend tailored advocacy messages to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC).

Access categories monitored in Pakistan

The HAWG identified nine global access constraints to be present in Pakistan, affecting primarily humanitarian actors, beneficiaries or both. These categories are monitored by three different agencies.

Access constraints concerning humanitarian actors

1. Impediments to entry into country (**monitored by OCHA**)
2. Restriction of movement inside Pakistan (**OCHA**)
3. Interference into humanitarian activities (**OCHA**)
4. Violence against personnel, facilities and assets (**UNDSS**)

Access constraints concerning affected people

5. Denial of need or entitlements (**OCHA**)
6. Restriction and or obstruction of population access (**OCHA**)

Access constraints concerning both affected people and humanitarian actors

7. Active hostilities (**UNDSS**)
8. Presence of mines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) (**UNDSS**)
9. Physical environment (**WFP**)

Access database

These access categories are monitored based on a set of data and indicators to establish the trends over time as well as patterns within trends, including:

- Trends in key indicators affecting access
- The impact of constraints on humanitarian operations

Currently, the primary focus of the database is on increasing the number of incidents reported to establish credible trends reflecting the reality on the ground, and facilitate informed and evidence-based advocacy. The implications of access constraints are currently analyzed and followed up on an ad hoc basis, while humanitarian organizations are encouraged to report back to OCHA when circumstances occur, so as to update the incident in the access database accordingly.

To identify patterns within the constraints, the following information is recorded for each event:

- Date of event

- Geographic location
- Actor responsible
- Type of agency affected
- Sector affected

All humanitarian organizations can report an incident falling under one of the nine categories. As it is an online tool, there is no log-in restriction for the registration of incidents.

Utilization of the data generated from the Access Database

OCHA and PHF will utilise the data generated from the Access Database to support the Humanitarian Coordinator, Humanitarian Country Team and other in their overall humanitarian advocacy efforts. OCHA will generate reports through the access database will only provide information on general trends and analysis. Access commonly requires concerted efforts to achieve and sustain, including through liaison and negotiation with the relevant parties. Given that crises evolve over time, such efforts need to be ongoing. Maintaining compliance with humanitarian principles, as well as promoting understanding and respect for them by others, is essential to achieving and sustaining access.

Background on the roll-out of the Humanitarian Access Database in Pakistan

The Humanitarian Access Working Group (HAWG) meeting was first convened on 9 December 2010; the access database went live on 16 December. An email was sent to the HCT to introduce the database, and the database was presented to the HCT in January 2012.

By the end of December 2011, OCHA published four humanitarian access reports on a quarterly basis; yet in twelve months OCHA received only fifty reports.

Considering the low rate of reporting into the access database, a new strategy was devised consisting of:

- Rolling out the access database in the field in order to enhance the outreach. Accordingly, the OCHA access focal point at the country level started conducting trainings on access and humanitarian principles at the field level for both OCHA and other humanitarian partners, including national NGOs;
- Engaging other humanitarian partners at the strategic level. Accordingly, the NGO coordination forum Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF), consisting of 48 members

and 5 observers, agreed to co-chair the HAWG. PHF proposed few changes into access database to make it more user-friendly and acceptable for other partners.

At the beginning, OCHA monitored two access constraints, i.e. Interference into humanitarian activities and restriction of movement inside Pakistan. At the request of PHF, it was decided to monitor all other categories set out by OCHA at the global level. Subsequently, Users Guidelines were developed to define the nine categories and provide examples falling into these categories. The User Guidelines can be found on the Access Database.

June 2012