Title: Effectiveness of faith based organization in disaster response - A comparative study of Sri Lanka and Pakistan

1. Name, affiliation, & contact info of all applicants (CVs in Annex 1)

Dr. Yasir Javed
International Research Fellow,
Humanitarian Innovation Initiative (HI2),
Brown University, USA.
Assistant Professor,
Department of Management Sciences,
COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Abbottabad,
Pakistan
Email: yasir969@gmail.com
Mobile: +92-314-9112244

Aslam Saja,
Professional / Trainer in Humanitarian and Development sector,
PhD Scholar,
Queensland University of Technology,
Brisbane, Australia.
Lecturer / Researcher,
Faculty of Engineering,
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka,
Sri Lanka
Email: saja.aslam@gmail.com
Mobile: +94 773 958 387

Omar A. Awan
MPA Student Coordinator,
Humanitarian Innovation Initiative (HI2),
Brown University, USA.
Ph: 312-515-8366
Email: omarawan7@gmail.com

2. Summary of proposed research

Faith-based organizations (FBOs) play a key role in disaster response all over the world and their involvement has been rising in the recent past. Different faith-based agencies respond differently to a particular disaster, while disaster response mechanisms differ greatly between faith-based and secular organizations. Faith-based organizations have strong roots in the community, and have a good understanding of the priorities of the communities, making them an effective stakeholder in disaster response. This research is focused on a large-scale study of FBOs in Sri Lanka and Pakistan that provided relief and recovery services after the annual (monsoon) floods. The purpose of the study is to document the resources, networks, and collaborations used to provide relief and recovery services after the floods, and to assess the experiences, successes, and challenges that these organizations have in providing assistance. Two stage data collection and analysis will be used. In first stage data from around 100 FBOs from both countries will collected using survey questionnaires. On second stage in depth interviews for case studies will done from selected FBOs to achieve the research objectives.

3) Full description of proposed research protocol

3.1 Rationale:

Faith-based organizations (FBOs) play a key role in disaster response all over the world and their involvement has been rising in the recent past. Different faith-based agencies respond differently to a particular disaster, while disaster response mechanisms differ greatly between faith-based and secular organizations (Thaut, 2009). Faith-based organizations have strong roots in the community, and have a good understanding of the priorities of the communities, making them an effective stakeholder in disaster response (Quebedeaux, 2013).

Communities need to build its own capacities as disasters have become unmanageable by local authorities alone, as a duty bearer, due to the scale, frequency and severity of disasters. All faiths have moral values and traditions to extend helping hand for the people at difficult times, which has become the flexibility and capacity to shift focus to provide for the needs of a community after a disaster, and often the physical space or financial strength to provide key resources for their local communities (Goldberg, 2015). "FBOs are important players in disaster relief, and as disaster relief fatigue pushes the burden onto local communities, FBOs will be able to bear a significant portion of the responsibility" (Goldberg, 2015, p. 4)

National and local governments recognize the importance of faith-based organizations in disaster response, however they have not been fully part of the disaster planning mechanisms of the local government (Quebedeaux, 2013). The lack of integration of faith-based organizations in the disaster planning process is one of the reasons that they lack effectiveness during the disaster response phase. However, the disaster response structure of local government and other national / sub-national agencies have been seen to be insufficient, making the role of grass-root institutions such as faith-based organizations necessary. Hence, it is important to study the effectiveness of FBs in disaster response, so that their capacity could be improved identifying the gaps and needs for capacity building (Rivera & Nickels, 2014).

3.2 Goals and objectives:

This research is focused on a large-scale study of FBOs in Sri Lanka and Pakistan that provided relief and recovery services after the annual (monsoon) floods. The purpose of the study is to document the resources, networks, and collaborations used to provide relief and recovery services after the floods, and to assess the experiences, successes, and challenges that these organizations have in providing assistance. The study is particularly interested in FBOs that are not characteristically considered traditional emergency responders. It will address the kinds of services given in the immediate and long-term aftermath of the disasters, the extent of coordination and collaboration among charitable service systems, and how such services were or can be integrated with governmental responses to help the nation's disaster preparedness agencies better prepare for the next emergency whether from natural or other causes.

Research Questions:

The study will address five research questions:

1. What are the characteristics of FBOs that provided disaster-related human services?
2. What services were provided, and to whom?
3. What resources (monetary, material, and human) were used to deliver services?

4. What networks facilitated the ability of FBOs to deliver services?

5. What lessons can be learned from these relief efforts?

3.3 Study design, Methodology:

To understand both the depth and breadth of response, the study will use two research approaches to collect data:

(1) A survey of FBOs in Sri Lanka and Pakistan that provided relief and recovery services, and

(2) In-depth, field-based case studies of eight organizations (four in each country) that provided disaster-related services. Each method is described briefly below.

PART I: Survey:

A survey will be designed to provide quantitative information on the FBOs that participated in the relief and recovery efforts, the services provided, individuals served, monetary and human resources used to deliver services, the networks and collaborations used to provide relief and recovery services, and the lessons learned from their experience that can inform responses to future disasters. Information will be collected through an online or paper based survey. The study will use a stratified random sample of FBOs in Sri Lank and Pakistan.

Sample Size: Total of 100 FBOs will be reached in total (75 in Pakistan and 25 in Sri Lanka) assuming since around 250 FBOs in Pakistan and 50 in Sri Lanka focus on Charitable and Social Services.

The survey methodology will have four main tasks:

(1) To prepare an interview protocol to address the research questions,

(2) To develop a sampling design,

(3) To calculate response rates, and

(4) To identify faith-based organizations.

Each task is discussed briefly below.

Questionnaire and Research Questions

The survey of FBOs in Sri Lanka and Pakistan will be designed to assess the scope and complexity of relief and recovery efforts undertaken by FBOs after the flood disasters in both countries. The study's five main research questions will help in guiding the formulation of specific survey questions.

Sample Design

The goal of the sampling design will be to select sufficient numbers of organizations to complete around 100 questionnaires, while maximizing the response rate. A sample of this size is large enough to investigate what services were delivered after the floods and the collaborations used. The survey will be conducted in different geographic areas especially where many evacuees from the affected areas were sheltered. Because there are no existing lists of FBOs in the region or nationally, we will use two independent sources to identify organizations of interest and create a master list from which to draw the sample. Two considerations will shape the sample design. First, it will assume that the intensity of the floods' impact affected the ability of FBOs to provide relief and recovery services. FBOs closest to the heavily damaged areas might be less able to respond than those farther away. To adjust for this likelihood, the sample will be divided into three strata:

(1) Areas directly impacted by the floods,

(2) Those partially impacted or adjacent to directly impacted areas, and

(3) The remainder of the state.

Proportional random samples of congregations and nonprofits, stratified by cities and impact area, will be drawn from the master list. This selection process will produce a list of around 200 organizations. This pool of potential respondents will contain both large and small FBOs.

Identifying Faith-Based Organizations

The term "faith-based organization" is a term that emerged in the public lexicon during the welfare reform debates of the mid-1990s, but there is no consensus on what constitutes a faith-based organization. It can include organizations with historic ties to a religious entity but minimal or no current connections, organizations with extant religious ties that deliver secular services, such as Catholic Charities; small community-based organizations with links to a religious body whose services may or may not have religious content; local houses of worship; or any combination of the above characteristics. The term "faith-based organization" has no consistent or predictive meaning about the organization's connection to religion, and some organizations with religious roots or religious ties do not self-identify as faith based. In conducting research on faith-based organizations, a major challenge is determining how to define the term "faith based." As is common in many studies involving organizations with origins or current connections to religion, we will asked survey respondents to self-identify as faith based. By allowing respondents to self-identify as faith based, the analysis reflects the broadest definition of the term. The survey, however, will not measure the extent to which faith or religion plays a role in the delivery of services.

PART II: Case Studies

The case studies will be designed to provide qualitative information using in-depth, field based exploration to understand what motivated the responses of the organizations under study, how they related to the larger web of disaster response, and whether the efforts of these generally smaller or nontraditional responders will be sustainable over time or replicated in future disasters. Two large and two medium size FBOs will selected who have participated in recent flood disasters in both countries. The cases will be selected for their variation in location and organizational type and the types of assistance provided, and because they might have important stories to tell about collaborations crafted, the uniqueness of the response, or the relationships developed to larger disaster relief networks. As such, the findings may raise important issues about what types of responses are likely, under what conditions, from smaller and nontraditional responders, and when and how to connect these organizations with the larger system of disaster response and human service delivery in planning for future disasters.

The findings from the survey, discussed in the previous section, will provide a profile of the faith-based organizations' response to the floods in Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The case studies will focus on an individual organization as a means to better understand what took place in a single community affected by floods and to map connections and disconnections that suggest how FBOs might be used effectively in future disasters.

The case studies will look in depth at what was happening on the ground in different communities that motivated the response of these eight organizations; how their different purposes and goals created different responses; who else (both governmental and nongovernmental) was providing relief; and how the larger context may have influenced why and how organizations did what they did and, in some cases, why others may have been unable to respond. Understanding how this complex web of public and private organizations functioned, and how they can work in tandem with FBOs to get individuals and families back on their feet, is critical to making the process work better the next time a disaster occurs. Finally, the massive crisis caused by floods provides an unprecedented outpouring of cash, material donations, and volunteers from domestic and international sources, all of which had to be managed on the ground. How that assistance was managed, and whether it helped or hindered the response of the FBCOs under study, is important to understand for future disasters. The case studies will be a way to understand where organizations fit in the larger web of disaster response, if and how interactions with this web produced an enhanced service response, and whether the efforts of these generally smaller or nontraditional responders will be sustainable over time or replicable in future disasters. The process for selecting case studies will be designed to identify organizations that had important stories to tell, as measured by the variety of collaborations, the uniqueness of the response, or by other experiences that might directly inform issues of interest. The study aims to discover relationships that might help explain the nature, duration, intensity, and success of responses. Relationships might be vertical (e.g., an umbrella organization within a denominational hierarchy or type of affiliation) or horizontal (e.g., pre-existing or new collaborations to coordinate response across organizations with similar or varied functions and expertise). The case studies will also include organizations with narrow missions and those with multipurpose missions, and relief efforts of limited duration, as well as those that evolved or were sustained over time. The selection will also be intended to capture many variations, resulting in cases that differ greatly from each other. While this makes cross-site comparisons difficult and generalizing largely inappropriate, the material will provide a basis for developing hypotheses about what responses under what conditions are likely in the future, what networks might form, and when and how these sorts of organizations could connect with the larger system for disaster response and human service delivery. The analysis will be framed around four research questions to draw out key aspects of the case studies:

1. What was the catalyst for the initial disaster response?
    a) Was it mandated, preplanned, and/or part of a larger emergency response?
    b) Was it driven by organizational or individual mission or competence (in emergency services or other expertise)?
2. How did these FBOs do what they did?
    a. What was their expertise? With whom did they work?
    b. How did they connect, and when did they not?
    c. Where did they fit into larger disaster relief efforts, both governmental and nongovernmental?
    d. To whom were they accountable, and for what services, populations, outcomes, and resource utilization?
3. Why did these FBOs continue, fold, or change course?
    a. How did they define their mission initially?
    b. Was their effort intended to be sustainable over time?
    c. Is their disaster response likely to reemerge in a future disaster?
4. What are reasonable expectations about FBOs' roles in future disasters?
    a. How dependent is their engagement on the magnitude of the disaster?
    b. How can successes be replicated and challenges be overcome?
    c. How can FBO activities be integrated with, or supportive of, other governmental or non-governmental relief functions?

3.4 Collaborations:

This study is based on collaboration between Dr. Javed from **CIIT, Pakistan** who is also International Research Fellow at Humanitarian Innovation Initiative (HI2), Brown University and Engr. Saja from **South Eastern University of Sri Lanka,** Oluvil, Sri Lanka who is currently pursuing his PhD from **Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane,** Australia is also a Professional / Trainer in Humanitarian and Development sector. Moreover, second Co PI, Mr. Awan is MPA Student Coordinator, Humanitarian Innovation Initiative (HI2), **Brown University, USA.**

3.5 Expected outcomes:

The study will result in the following outcomes:

1. The clear characteristics of FBOs that provided disaster-related human services.
2. It would be clear that what services they provided, and to whom.
3. The resources (monetary, material, and human) used to deliver services.
4. The networks which facilitated the ability of FBOs to deliver the services.
5. And most importantly, the lessons learned from these relief efforts to be used by FBOs themselves, Governments, and donors to see what works and what are the hurdles for FBOs to work effectively and efficiently.

3.6 Ethical considerations:

Prior to beginning data collection, research staff will conduct an initial, intensive training workshop for all personnel who will be engaged in data collection and management. Training will focus on the human subject's protection and the focus group discussion guideline, as well as on working with study participants to ensure that sensitivity and confidentiality are employed at all times. During the workshop, we will review the purpose and objectives of the study, quantitative data collection, in-depth interview discussion guides, and ethical issues including confidentiality. The discussion of ethical issues will make use of IRB-approved PowerPoint slides covering Human Subjects Protection in Research. A log will be kept onsite with the names of research staff who have been trained and the date on which they were trained. Role-playing will be done to ensure comfort with the subject matter and a consistent approach to quantitative data collection and in facilitation of the discussion.

During data collection process, there will be a field supervisor at each site who will check the questionnaires from each RA at the end of day collect them for safe keeping and plan to send them to research coordinator. They will go through the questionnaires and any errors will be corrected immediately. The supervisors will be available via phone to communicate to the RAs at any time during data collection. Raw de-identified data collected at the field level will be reviewed by field supervisors and the research coordinator. To maintain confidentiality and protect the data, the field research coordinator will be the only one [at field level] with password access to the online data repository. All respondents will be consented and data will be collected in only those instruments that are approved by the Institutional Review Boards (IRB) at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology Board and Queensland University of Technology Brisbane, Australia.

There will be two stage ethical reviews for the proposed study. One review will be done at Queensland University of Technology Brisbane, Australia and the other will be done locally in Nepal and Pakistan.

The *first* ethical review at South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Oluvil, Sri Lanka will involve submission of the research protocol to the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Institutional Review Board (IRB) which comprises a committee of scientists and doctors who oversee the safety and protection of human subjects in research. Since Engr. Saja is the project Co PI, it is expected that ethical review will be done through his support at South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Oluvil, Sri Lanka.

The *second* ethical process in Pakistan will be done through the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT). CIIT has an established Research Committee, Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB reviews research conducted by parties not affiliated with the Institute, but which uses CIIT students, faculty or staff as research subjects. Since Dr. Javed is the project PI, it is expected that ethical review will be done through his support at CIIT.

INFORMED CONSENT

Before starting the data collection process all research staff will undergo training that will include CITI certification. The training will impress on the research team the procedures of data collection i.e. the requirement that the purpose and objectives of the study as well as the interview process explained to the subjects. Moreover, it will be made clear that no personal data like names or other identification will be collected. It will also be clarified to the respondents that they can leave any question unanswered and can also leave the interview or stop filing the questionnaire at any time during the interview process.

Their consent will be recorded in the form of signatures. All the responses will be coded to ensure anonymity of the subjects. Similarly, research staff will also provide consent for their role and responsibilities and they will only be involved in the process if they agreed to provide their services based on the stipulated research process. For this purpose proper agreements mentioning the terms of reference and rates will be signed with research / data collection staff involved in the process. All collected data will be secured by the research Co

Pi in Sri Lanka and by PI in Pakistan and all electronic data secured by passwords.

5. Timeline for proposed research

Sr. No	Major achievements	Activity(ies)	Start Date – Completion date
1	Research Framework	Literature Review: Developing research framework database of Baseline Data	February 1, 2017 – March 1, 2017
2	Questionnaire / Survey tool	Development of Survey tool	March 2, 2017 – March 15, 2017
3	List of identified FBOs (sample)	Identification of ideal FBOs and development of list for sample	March 16, 2017 – March 31, 2017
4	Data	Data collection / field survey and visits	April 1, 2017 – April 30, 2017
5	Database of survey data	Developing Database of collected survey data	May 1, 2017 – May 10, 2017
6	Study Results PART-I	Data Analysis and report of Preliminary findings	May 11, 2017 – May 15, 2017
7	Submission of mid-point report (PART -1) to HI2	Writing a Mid-point report	May 16, 2017 – May 20, 2017
8	Interview tool development and pilot study	Development of Survey tool and pilot study	May 21, 2017 – May 30, 2017
9	List of identified FBOs (sample)	Identification of ideal FBOs and development of list for sample	May 31, 2017 – June 05, 2017
10	Data	Data collection / Interviews and visits	June 06, 2017 –

			June 30, 2017
11	Database of Interviews data	Developing Database of collected interviews data / transcriptions	July 1, 2017 – July 15, 2017
12	Study Results PART II	Data Analysis and Dissemination of Preliminary findings	July 16, 2017 – August 1, 2017
13	Manuscripts and Project Reports	Writing manuscript and Project Reports	August 2, 2017 – August 20, 2017
14	Final Report submission to HI2	Submission of Final Report to HI2. Dissemination of results to participating FBOs. Submission of manuscript to an academic journal.	August 21, 2017 – August 30, 2017

References:

Goldberg, Z. (2015). Faith-Based Organizations in Disaster Relief: Locally-Based Strategies for a Higher Demand Future.

Quebedeaux, L. K. (2013). *Planning for disaster recovery and resilient communities with faith-based and secular nonprofit organizations*: UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE.

Rivera, J. D., & Nickels, A. E. (2014). Social Capital, Community Resilience, and Faith-Based Organizations in Disaster Recovery: A Case Study of Mary Queen of Vietnam Catholic Church. *Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy, 5*(2), 178-211.

Thaut, L. C. (2009). The Role of Faith in Christian Faith-Based Humanitarian Agencies: Constructing the Taxonomy. [journal article]. *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, *20*(4), 319-350. Retrieved from http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11266-009-9098-8. doi:10.1007/s11266-009-9098-8