



The World Federation of KSIMC

Registered Charity in UK No. 282303

Disaster Relief: The Ultimate Emergency By Relief & Economic Development of the Secretariat

Introduction

- 1.0 This Paper has been created by The World Federation Secretariat to form a policy guideline on when The World Federation will intervene in Emergencies and Disasters and what factors will be considered before intervention.¹
- 1.1 The need to consider the factors prior to intervention of The World Federation is more critical at present now that The World Federation has gained Special Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations².
- 1.2 This Paper is for the 5th Executive Council Meeting of The World Federation in the Hujjat Islamic Centre, London on the 2nd of March 2008. Discussion and Feedback from the Meeting will be used to finalise this policy paper.
- 1.3 Our Community has suffered from a number of disasters in recent times. Amongst an array of examples, many include: Gujarat Earthquake³, Bam Earthquake⁴, Tsunami and more recently the Kenyan Political Crisis⁵.
- 1.4 Despite the efforts to mitigate natural and man made disasters, such emergencies can only be expected to increase, and disproportionately affect those in developing countries. The World Federation intervention policy must meet the needs of the community, the needs of the Shia Community, wider Muslim community and must also seek to serve Humanity.

The Role of the Jamaat

- 2.0 The Jamaats throughout the world, especially where disasters strike, play an unprecedented role. Jamaats must be urged, if they have not already taken action, to prepare for local disasters. This will include strengthening current disaster preparedness, building swift response mechanisms, raising local community awareness and in the long term focussing on disaster mitigation. Not all of these tasks may be relevant to all Jamaats as many may either have already taken action or the above may not necessarily apply.
- 2.1 In addition, the Jamaats in partnership with the Regional Federations should inform The World Federation of localised disaster, where the support of the worldwide community is required. This will allow for an increase in awareness; and the possibility of further assistance.
- 2.2 The presence of Jamaats will often provide a much more systematic approach when the rebuilding and reconstruction phase begins.

The Role of Regional Federations

¹ This paper is an adaptation to the one presented by previous volunteers on 1st Feb 2003.

² Many NGOs have a Intervention Policy. It is recommended The World Federation does the same, based on its Vision, Mission and Core Values.

³ 2001

⁴ 2003

⁵ 2008



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- 3.0 The Role of the Regional Federations must continue to provide support and assistance to the Jamaats. The Regional Federations in addition will provide The World Federation with information for the worldwide community where necessary.
- 3.1 The Regional Federations may want to encourage Jamaats to prepare for disasters in advance; and create action plans in emergency situations.

The Role of The World Federation

- 4.0 The World Federation, upon deciding to intervene, should play the role of enabler and facilitator where possible. Not only should it, via receiving a needs assessment, mobilise funding; it should, in addition, provide awareness.
- 4.1 The World Federation must continue to be in contact with the Regional Federations during the disaster.
- 4.2 The World Federation should, where necessary, create fundraising drives internationally – in partnership with other non-affected Regional Federations.
- 4.3 The World Federation should, where the community is affected, play a role in information sharing and coordination with other NGOs, Red Cross / Red Crescent, UK Government, DFID and the Foreign Office, the media; mobilising such institutions for the benefit of the community. The Role of advocacy as an NGO must not be underestimated.
- 4.4 The World Federation should focus in addition on the later stages of Disaster Relief.

When Should The World Federation Intervene?

The World Federation should intervene in the following circumstances based on severity. The list below is in priority order:

- 1. Events that negatively affect any Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Community, anywhere in the world.
- 2. Events that negatively affect any persons subscribing to the Shia Ithna-Asheri faith, anywhere in the world.
- 3. Events that negatively affect any persons subscribing to the Islamic faith – regardless of race, nationality of sectarian belief.
- 4. Events that negatively affect persons of any faith, nationality or race: a humanitarian disaster. ⁶

When assessing the above, it is important that The World Federation pays heed to the Vision and Mission Statement developed by Triennial Conference 2006. In addition in localised disasters The World Federation should intervene at the request of the Regional Federations and/or partner aid agencies where applicable.

⁶ The World Federation's Vision Statement:

'The World Federation exists to achieve the pleasure of Allah SWT by developing spiritual and vibrant communities serving humanity.'

The World Federation's Mission Statement:

'The World Federation enables its member institutions to promote the values and practices of the Islamic Shia Ithna Asheri Faith for the spiritual and material well being of humanity at large.'



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When Should The World Federation not Intervene?

The World Federation should not intervene in the following circumstances:

1. When there is a danger to Jamaats, Regional Federations and/or partner agencies where applicable
2. When The World Federation has not received a needs assessment from the Regional Federations and/or partner agencies where applicable.
3. Where Jamaats, Regional Federation and/or partner aid agencies are not equipped to intervene

At What Stage of the Disaster Relief Response should The World Federation intervene?

There are 4 stages of Disaster Relief:⁷

1. **Prevention:** prior to the onset of an emergency, also called the planning stage.
2. **Immediate Relief** (0-6 months): at the onset of the disaster. Projects would include food parcels, blankets, and cash gifts.
3. **Rehabilitation** (6 – 24 months): temporary shelter, temporary mosques, water & sanitation projects.
4. **Recovery** (long term.) Projects would include restoration of housing, economic upliftment and education programmes.

It is well documented by many NGO networks as well academics⁸ that many NGOs focus on immediate relief and often fail to continue their work into the long run, leaving locals unable to fully recover. The example of Hurricane Katrina is evidence of the poor allocation of funds globally⁹. It is for these reasons and because many NGOs and charities focus on the early stages of a disaster; that The World Federation focus its efforts when possible on the rehabilitation and recovery stage.

Recommendations:

1. The World Federation work with Regional Federations to encourage all Jamaats to create a framework of Disaster Planning Procedures, in the event of an emergency.
2. The World Federation to use its NGO Network¹⁰ to create relationships with UK Government Departments (including DFID and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office), MPs, other NGOs which may prove useful during an emergency.
3. The World Federation to finalise a framework policy on intervention.
4. The World Federation to increase the awareness of local and regional disaster and to co-ordinate the response from non-affected Regional Federations.
5. The World Federation, where possible, focus on the later stages of Disaster Relief.

⁷ According to Dr John Serafini and many other academics

⁸ Zaid Ashai suggests that far too many NGOs focus on immediate relief

⁹ Professor Chu sites that around 70% of those going to Katrina went to the Red Cross who had not conducted long term projects. Rather than a criticism of the Red Cross, Professor Chu suggests that NGOs focus on Rehabilitation and Recovery.

¹⁰ Including the British Overseas NGOs for Development (BOND)