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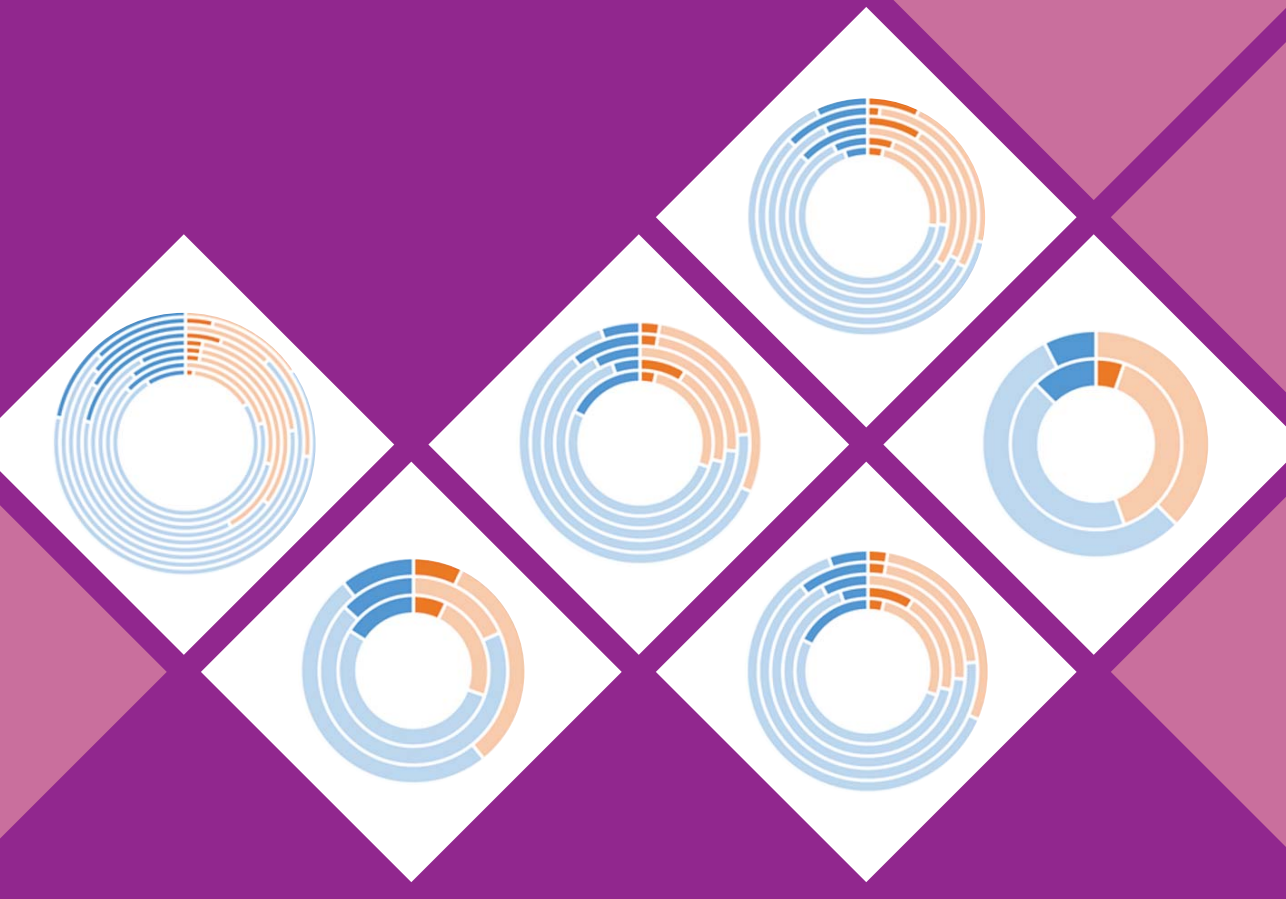
MAINSTREAMING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

CAPACITY AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT



National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)
(Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)

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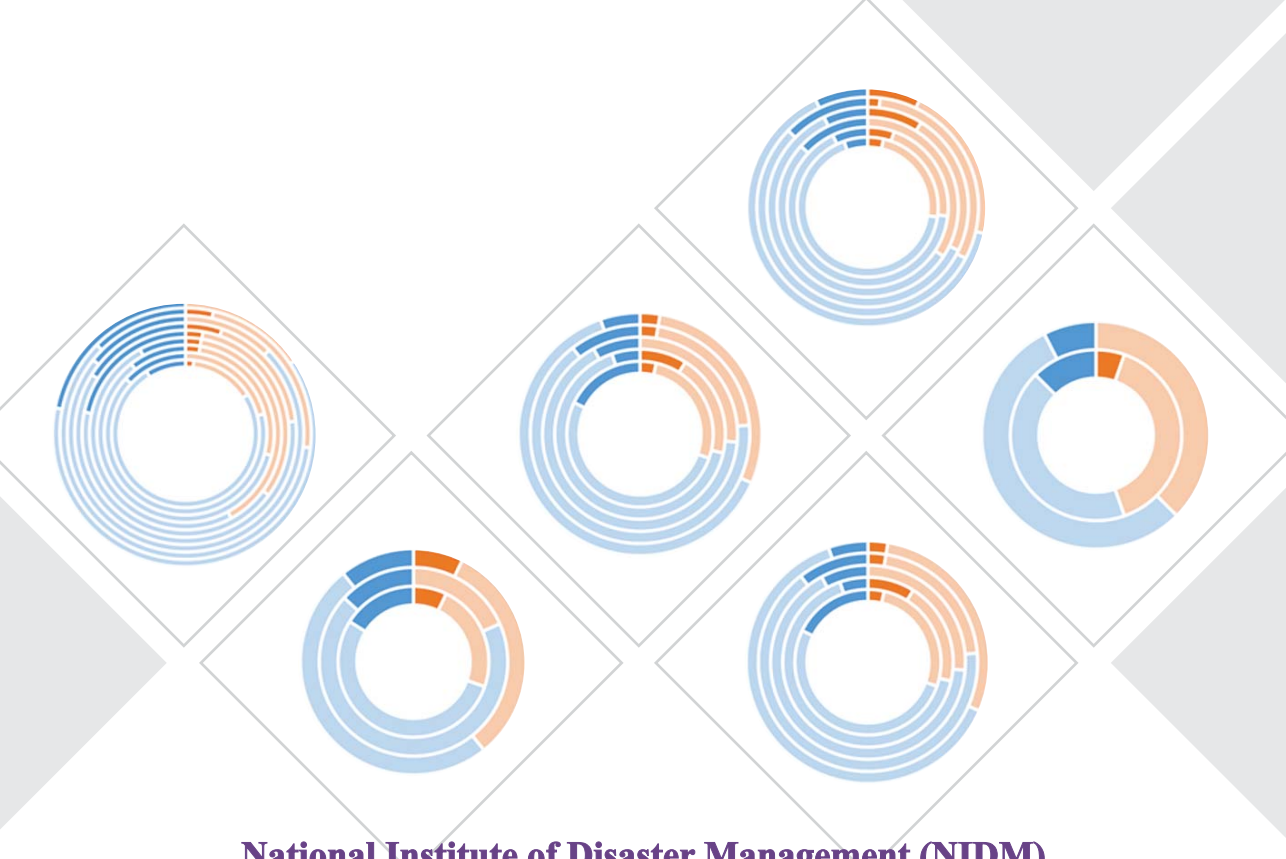

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)

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Mainstreaming Food Security and Nutrition in Emergency Preparedness and Response: Capacity and Needs Assessment Report

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INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction

Increase in the frequency and severity of disasters and extreme weather events is testimony of the fact that, Climate change is severely altering disaster risk landscape across the globe. Due to its geophysical and climatic conditions, India is exposed to multiple hazards and is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. According to Global Climate Risk Index it has remained in the top 10 worst affected countries by disasters for three straight years since 2018. Between 1987-88 and 2008-09, India has spent nearly 10572 million US$ on relief for people affected by natural calamities[1]. Its average annual relief expenditure is 481 million US$. According the 2015 Global Assessment Report on DRR, India's average annual loss from floods is estimated to be 7.4 billion US$. Over 97 million people in India are currently exposed to extreme floods[2]. Around 68% of the country is drought prone in varying degrees. According to the Em-Dat database, in terms of number of people affected by drought since 1900, India ranks first globally. Since 1999 Odisha cyclone, country has witnessed multiple disasters including, tsunami, cyclones, storm surges, flash floods and earthquakes.

It has made simultaneous and significant progress to strengthen its capacities in disaster management. It has put in place very exhaustive instruments in form of acts, policies, plans and guidelines to manage disasters better. It is well supported by an equally efficient institutional systems and a strong political will which is reflected well through its commitments to the Sendai framework, COP and the PM's 10-point agenda. Its journey from 1999 Odisha cyclone to 2014 cyclone Phailin is well acclaimed globally for preventing human casualties.

However, with the increased frequency and severity of disasters, it is important to continue to invest in emergency preparedness and response strategies for a more rapid, predictable and effective response at the onset of, or in anticipation to, an

[1]Reserve Bank of India, A Handbook of Statistics on State Finances 2003, A Study of State Budgets 2003 -04, 2007-08. Values are converted into USD at the rate of 01 INR = 65 USD.
[2]Mohanty, Abinash. 2020. Preparing India for Extreme Climate Events: Mapping Hotspots and Response Mechanisms. New Delhi: Council on Energy, Environment and Water.

emergency. Institutional capacities would need constant adaptation to the changing risk landscape and socio-economic vulnerabilities.

Capacities in thematic sectors including food and nutrition, shelter, water sanitation and hygiene, health etc. are crucial as it caters to the most essential lifesaving needs post emergency. Food assistance generally emerges as the most essential lifesaving need that requires immediate attention after every disaster, as disaster disrupts all crucial dimensions of food security including food availability, access, utilisation, and stability. Post emergency, food security and nutrition are more complex than merely provisioning for the immediate and short-term food aid. Nutrition sensitive response includes layers of technical aspects in food aid and assistance which cuts across sectors including WASH, Health, shelter etc. Food and nutritional requirement vary significantly among different group. Humanitarian assistance for people with special needs such as, pregnant and lactating women, infant, elderly, patients including malnourished and those diagnosed with HIV and AIDs etc, will have to be designed and implemented differently.

The sector, therefore, requires a holistic and scientific approach to design the food relief and assistance programme so that it addresses the short-term lifesaving needs through immediate relief and safeguards long term outcomes of food and nutrition security.

2. Objectives

With the changing risk landscape, it is nothing but imperative that the capacity strengthening efforts are evolved to be a continuous and dynamic process so that the humanitarian structures are constantly updated and strengthened to meet any sudden or emerging humanitarian need. It is therefore, that National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) with technical support from United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has conducted the capacity needs assessment with the objective to identify the current and latent capacities alongwith the capacity gaps so that, the capacity strengthening framework are designed to be more strategic to strengthen the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) programmes. The study in itself is a starting point, expected to improve the understanding on current capacities and gaps, but at a more strategic level, in the long term, it is expected to contribute towards the following result areas: -

1. Improved institutional capacities for F&NS response in emergencies in India
2. Government Policies and programs are more inclusive and adaptive to meet F&NS needs of all marginalized community in emergency.

3. Improved learning platforms enable cooperation for learning exchange, replication and scale-up.

Findings from the capacity needs assessment study will contribute to the capacity intervention strategies and will contribute to the institutional learning and empowerment. It will inform the capacity and information gaps along with potential structural and policy reforms in the sector aimed at mainstreaming Food Security and Nutrition in the EPR in India.

3. Methodology

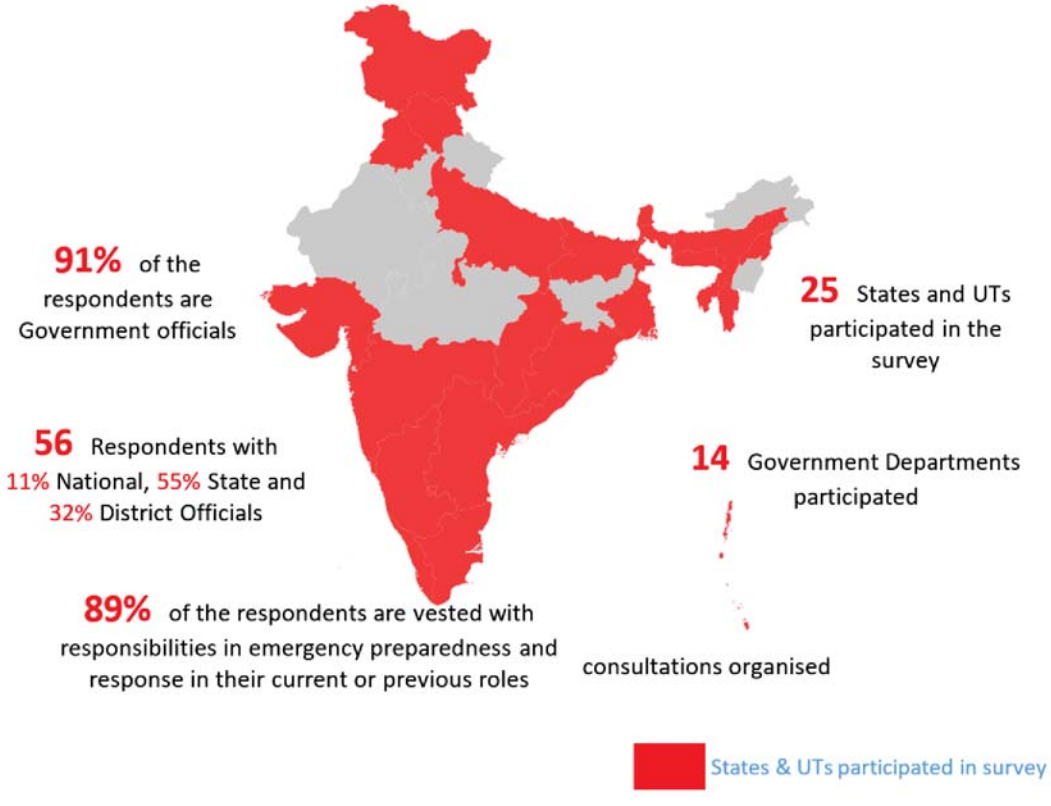
Humanitarian capacity strengthening is a dynamic and a continuous process, involving individuals, institutions, and departments. The study involved participation of a wide range of humanitarian workers engaged in response at various levels. This includes Government officials who are employed/deployed/attached with Government departments working at different verticals from national, state, district or the frontline. During data collection efforts were made to reach out to specific line departments with related work in disaster management and food security and nutrition. This included Disaster Management Authorities at National, State and District levels, Revenue and Disaster Management, National/State/District EOCs, Agriculture, Education, Food and Civil Supplies, Health, Water and Sanitation, Women and Child Development, Response Forces including NDRF, Armed forces who are at the frontline of emergency services, including food relief and last mile Government officials who are deployed in emergency response programmes.

Respondents could have had any assigned responsibilities in their current or previous roles with the Government in any of the fields related to emergency preparedness and response even if not directly related to FS&N. This includes disaster management planning, preposition, search and rescue, relief distribution, recovery rehabilitation etc. Efforts during data collection, were made to reach participants from diverse backgrounds, levels and range of departments, as food security and nutrition in disaster response has inter-sectoral connectedness.

A participatory and consultative approach was adopted right from the planning phase of the assessment process. Outreach process included organising regional consultations, with invitation to all relevant line departments across all states and Union territories. 04 regional consultations were organised were States and UTs from their respective zones participated. Participants were given a detailed orientation about the assessment and its overall objectives. This included a detailed session on the questionnaire, where each question was discussed at length and following the inputs from the regional consultation, tools were revised and translated

into vernacular hindi for some of the participating states. State departments were requested to organise a group discussion within their departments and submit individual responses. Some states and departments chose to submit one organisational/departmental response, instead of multiple individual responses.

Outreach and profile of the respondents are illustrated below:-

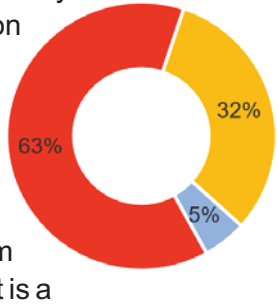


INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

UNDRR defines capacity as “a combination of all the strengths and resources available within a community, society or organization that can reduce the level of risk, or the effects of a disaster. Capacity may include physical, institutional, social or economic means as well as skilled personal or collective attributes such as leadership and management. Capacity may also be described as capability. (UN/ISDR, Terminology: Basic Terms of Disaster Risk Reduction, 2004, p. 1). Section is designed to assess how food security and nutrition is integrated in plans and policies across the spectrum of humanitarian response, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. It assesses, if plans and policies have special focus on areas with poor socio-economic vulnerabilities and severely prone to multiple hazards. The regular updation of the sectoral plans, SoPs and awareness levels on these aspects at different layers of the disaster management structure is critical to the successful implementation of the plans.

An important element to assess is that, at strategic levels how food security and nutrition is included? While in a humanitarian context it is extremely important to make provisions for the short term and immediate needs of food, it is equally important to understand if, food and nutrition security, is also included as a long-term outcome and backed adequately through direct and deliberate action in pursuit of these outcomes.

63% of the respondents stated that ‘the current emergency relief efforts incorporate Food relief and assistance as a short-term relief measure as a key lifesaving approach,’ and 05% respondents were of the opinion that the current structures of Emergency Preparedness and Response does not include food security and nutrition as a significant component or outcome. This indicates a potential area of exploration, were efforts can be taken to look at the plans and policies at various levels from an approach which looks at food security and nutrition as an explicit long-term outcome alongwith the lifesaving short term relief measures. It is a

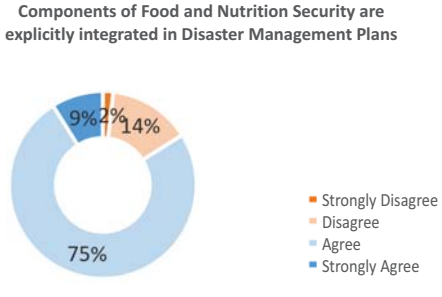


key pre-requisite for the agenda of mainstreaming food security and nutrition in the emergency preparedness and plans. Although, largely the current institutional capacities are fairly highlighted as a positive, there are few areas of opportunities which may further strengthen the existing capacities. In comparison to the disaster management plans, respondents identified a larger scope to bring focus of food security and nutrition in plans and policies on climate change adaptation and mitigation. Considering the current context of climate change and it may be an extremely important element to factor and mitigate the risk and fragilities induced by climate change.

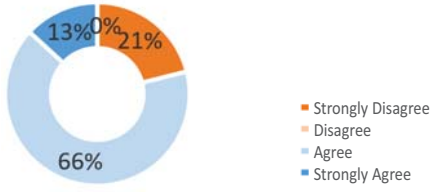
Nearly 42% of respondents have expressed need for bringing more consultative and participatory processes in formulation of plans and policies. Nearly 1/4th of the respondents, highlighted the need for regular trainings and refresher trainings on specialised themes under Food security and nutrition in emergencies are not conducted. 16% responses highlights need for a stronger inter-departmental coordination for food relief and assistance programme in emergencies.

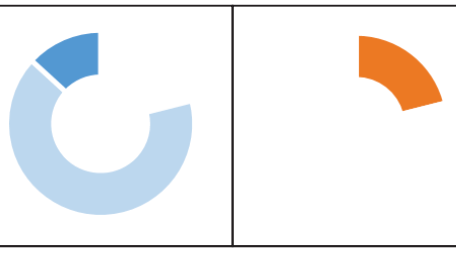
Key findings, including current capacities and capacity strengthening areas are illustrated below: -

Summary of Findings

Findings	Capacity	Needs
		
	16% respondents stated that components of Foods and Nutrition Security is not integrated in Disaster	

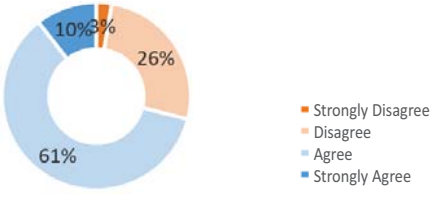
Government Plans and Policies on Disaster Risk Reduction, Mitigation etc, explicitly includes component on Food Security and Nutrition

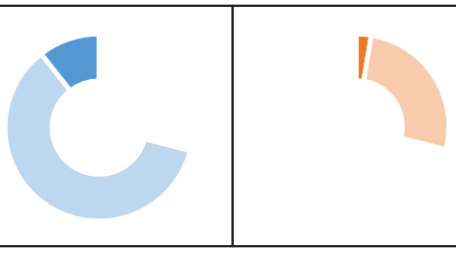




21% respondents stated that Government Plans and Policies on Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation does not explicitly include component on FNS

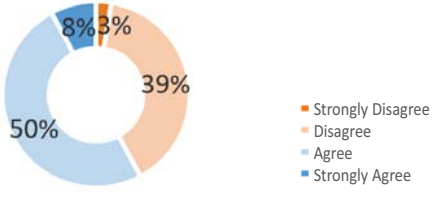
Government Plans and Policies on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation etc, explicitly includes component on Food Security and Nutrition

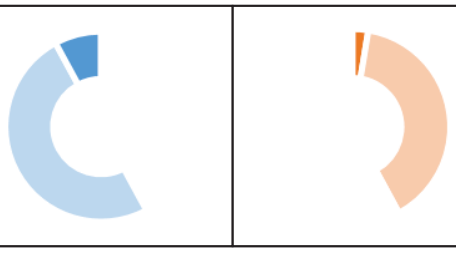




29% respondents believe that Climate Change Plans do not explicitly include components on Food and Nutrition Security in India

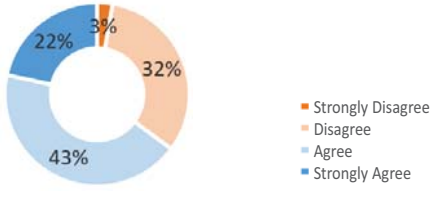
Disaster Management Plans with sections on Food Security and Nutrition are regularly updated through consultative and participatory processes

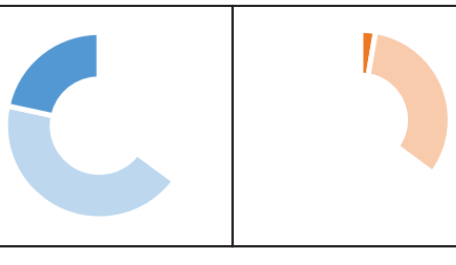




42% respondents state that sections on Food and Nutrition Security in Disaster Management Plans are not Regularly updated

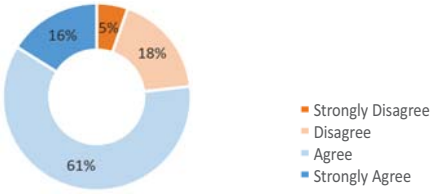
DM plans also focusses on Food Security & Nutrition of backward districts severely exposed to disasters, such as the aspirational districts





35% respondents state that Food Security and Nutrition needs of aspirational districts severely exposed to disasters, does not get specific focus in the Disaster management plans

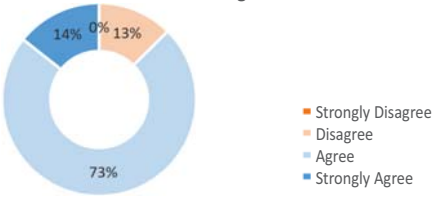
Food and Nutrition Objectives are outlined and reflected as direct and deliberate nutrition action in the emergency response

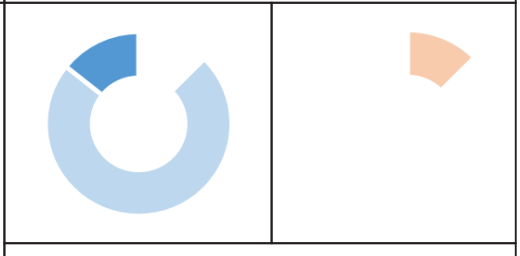




23% respondents state that Food Security and Nutrition objectives are not outlined as deliberate actions in the emergency response

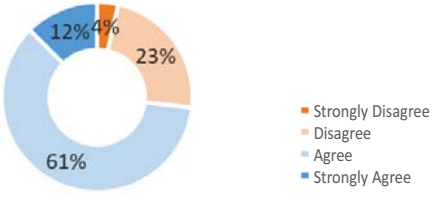
Well defined Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are in place and clearly define Roles and Responsibilities of all concerned departments for effective Food relief and assistance in emergencies





87% respondents state the well defined SOPs are in place and departmental Roles and Responsibilities are clearly defined for food relief and assistance in emergencies

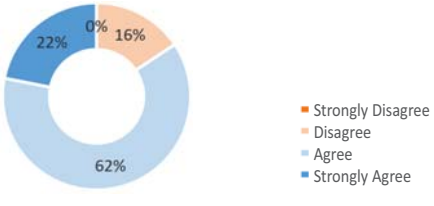
Regular trainings and refresher trainings are organised on specialised theme under Food and Nutrition Security in Emergencies involving participation of all relevant stakeholders





27% respondents state that regular trainings and refresher trainings on specialised themes under FNS in emergencies are not conducted.

Inter-Departmental Coordination mechanisms are set up and functional for effective food relief and assistance programme during emergencies





16% respondents affirm need to set-up inter-departmental coordination for food relief and assistance programme in emergencies.



SURGE CAPACITY

Lee Wassenhove (2006) has stated that, “the exclusion of logistics in planning leads to fire fighting mentality which makes the logistics management during disaster- a complex and challenging task.” This may aggravate disaster impacts. In humanitarian relief chain, approximately zero lead time is desired and required. Emergency preparedness is critical element in ensuring a prompt humanitarian response through a timely flow of aid and assistance. Elements including surge capacity, prepositioning, are therefore critical in determining the effectiveness of any humanitarian response.

Surge capacity is the ability to scale up operations swiftly, smoothly and productively for fulfilling the humanitarian mandate and ensuring effective resource utilization with maximum outreach and impact. Surge capacity is not just an organization’s ability to mobilize an emergency response or rapidly deploy staff. Rather, it is the result of a continual process, from preparedness planning through to response, and on to transition/recovery programming[3].

We tend to consider surge capacity as steps or measures by an institution during emergency response stage, but in actual it should be considered a vital activity that must be carried out at every stage of the emergency cycle. The functions, roles and responsibilities must be developed in hand with regular updation to avoid last minute rush. This section assesses aspects including staff deployments, surge plan and resource pool, staff capacities and orientation and also looks into the structure of India disaster resource network (IDRN) and its role in effective and timely humanitarian response.

30% of the respondents do not agree that core staff are officially assigned duties to manage food and nutrition security in emergencies. Nearly same number of respondents state that departments do not have surge plan and roster of skilled human resource for quick deployments for food relief and assistance during

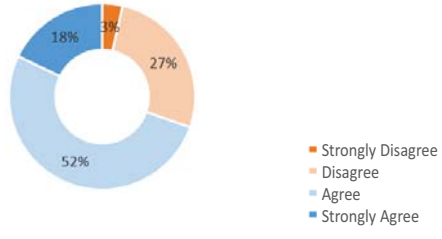
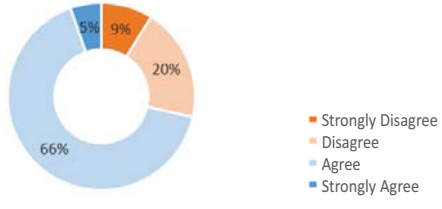
[3]https://odihpn.org/magazine/understanding-surge-capacity-within-international-agencies/

emergencies. Maintaining a surge plan or a roster of skilled human resource deployed during emergencies to manage direct food assistance and provide support in subsequent phases is a necessary measure as it can save response time in resource mobilisation and can also significantly aid the capacity strengthening strategy for the roster members.

Nearly 26% of the respondents highlights need for staff orientation on guidelines for nutrition sensitive food procurement in emergencies. And 24% respondents brings attention to the need for humanitarian logistics plan for quick transportation and distribution of direct food relief.

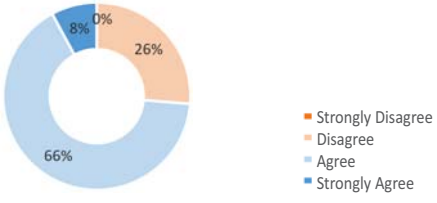
India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) is a web based platform, for managing the inventory of equipment, skilled human resources and critical supplies for emergency response[4]. 32% of the participants stated that the IDRN has potential to more effectively contribute to the surge plan during emergency.

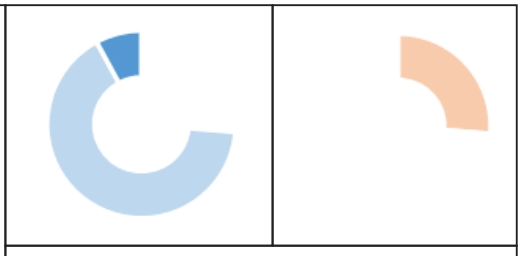
Summary of Findings

Findings	Capacity	Needs
Core Staff in department are officially designated to manage Food and Nutrition Security in Emergencies 		
	30% respondents do not agree that core staff are officially designated to manage Food and Nutrition Security in emergencies.	
Departments have a surge plan and maintain a roster of skilled human resource who can be deployed during emergencies to manage direct food assistance and provide support in subsequent phases 		
	29% respondents state that departments do not have surge plan and roster of skilled human resource for quick deployments for food relief and assistance during emergencies.	

[4]https://nidm.gov.in/idrn.asp

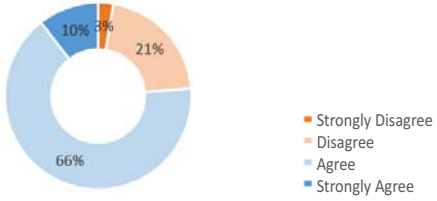
Exhaustive Guidelines for Food Procurement during emergencies are nutrition sensitive and concerned staff are adequately oriented

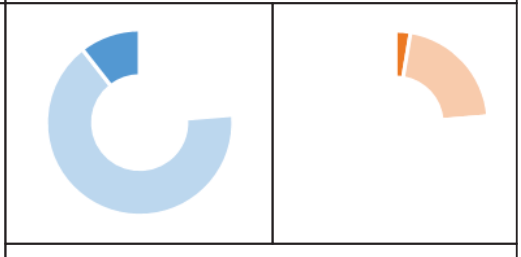




26% respondents do not agree that there are guidelines for nutrition sensitive food procurement in emergencies and concerned staff lack orientation.

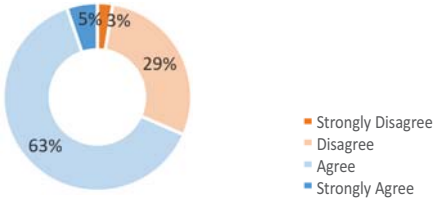
Humanitarian Logistics Plan for transportation and distribution of direct food relief is in place and concerned staff are adequately oriented

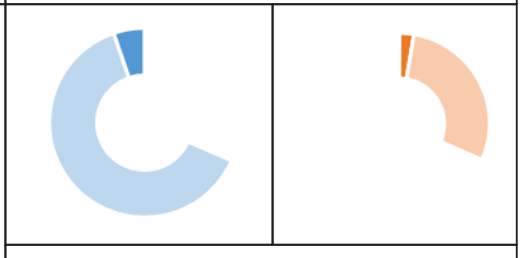




24% respondents state that staff are not aware and oriented about humanitarian logistic plan for transportation and distribution of direct food relief.

India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) have adequate systems for data management on Food Security and Nutrition and it effectively contributes to the surge plan during emergency





32% respondents do not agree that IDRN have adequate systems for data management on food security and nutrition and does not effectively contribute to the surge plan during emergency.



PROPOSITIONING

Prepositioning of the contingency stock is tried and tested mechanism for effective and timely response. However, with the food aid and assistance, the prepositioning comes with the numerous complexities. Perishability of the food commodities is an obvious challenge that needs a specific strategy. The varied nutritional requirement of different population groups, the diet diversity, the diversity in the cultural and traditional eating habits of the people are just to name few of the prepositioning challenges associated with food aid. Yet at the same time, India is known for its capacity of managing world's largest food safety net programme which is built on a very robust supply chain systems. The Food Corporation of India has exceeded the limits for foodgrain stocks. The targeted public distribution system also has widest coverage, reaching out to the remotest of the settlements. In the Covid pandemic, the food safety nets have proven to be an effective platform o which humanitarian aid and assistance is delivered. However, how adaptable and effective these structures would still be in a disaster affected region with serious disruption of services, is a matter of review.

29% of the respondents' supports the statement that adoption of multi-hazard risk assessment techniques while formulating the prepositioning strategies of food relief supplies are needed. India being a multi-hazard prone nation with vast geographical boundaries, the prepositioning strategies must be framed multi-hazard risk approach

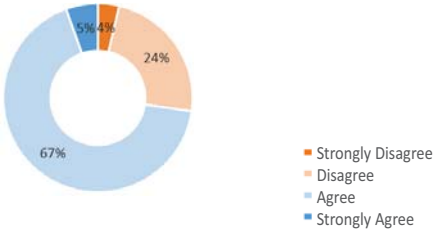
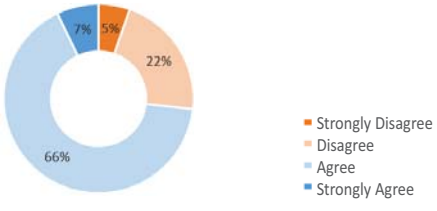
Emergency food supplies must not only be located at accessible distance but also need to be free from the exposure of hazards. Around 27% respondents agree that the prepositioning of food relief contingency stock are not always done in places which are safe and accessible in disasters. This may potentially impact disaster response and could be minimised through a risk informed prepositioning strategy.

One of the key composite indicators by NITI Aayog which will have an impact on human development index of aspirational districts is health and nutrition. Health & Nutrition counts for 30% of the weightage under 'Transformation of Aspirational

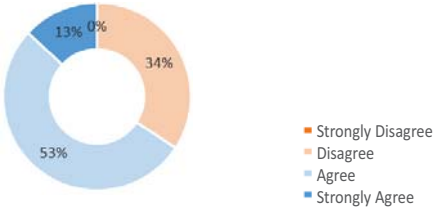
Districts' - National Health Mission as inequalities in health outcomes continue persists across these districts till date. In-spite of such efforts by the state, 34% respondents state that specific provisions are not included to meet dietary and nutritional requirement of backward tribal population, particularly from aspirational districts vulnerable to disaster risks.

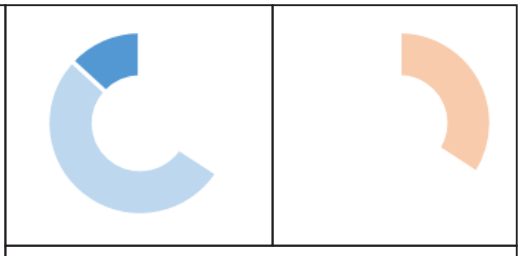
32% of the respondents agreed that quantity and quality of food relief contingency stock could be improved and nearly same number of respondents opined that composition of stock could be determined based on nutritional requirement of vulnerable group and people with special dietary needs. Around 29% of the respondents emphasised on the need of minimum standards guidelines and training of humanitarian on these guidelines.

Summary of Findings

Findings	Capacity	Needs
Multi-hazard risk assessment techniques are adopted to prepare prepositioning strategies of food relief supplies 		
	29% respondents believe that Multi-hazard risk assessment techniques are not adopted to prepare prepositioning strategies of food relief supplies.	
Prepositioning of food relief contingency stock are done in places which are largely safe and accessible in disasters and yet close enough to reach all population at risk 		
	27% respondents do not agree that the prepositioning of food relief contingency stock are always done in places which are safe and accessible in disasters and yet allows to reach all people at risk with timely relief	

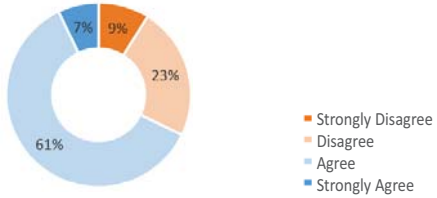
Specific provisions are included to meet the dietary and nutrition requirements of backward tribal population in specifically in the regions such as the aspirational districts exposed to disasters

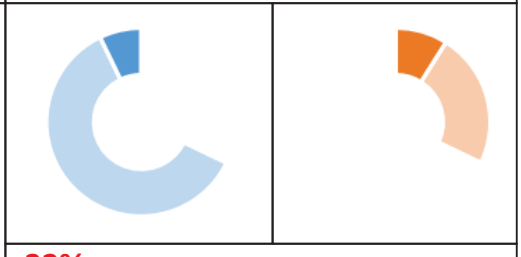




34% respondents state that specific provisions are not included to meet dietary and nutritional requirement of backward tribal population, particularly from aspirational districts vulnerable to disaster risks.

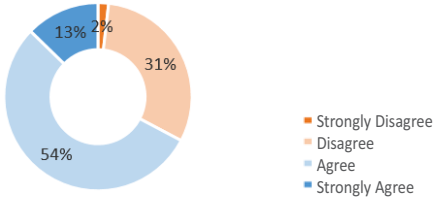
Quantity and quality of food relief contingency stock is adequate

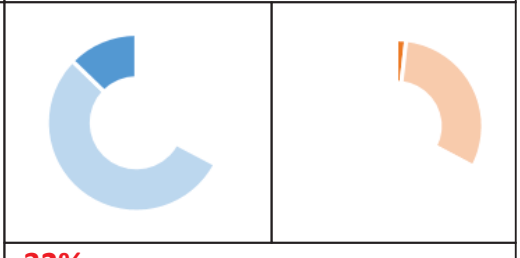




32% respondents state that quantity and quality of food relief contingency stock are not adequate

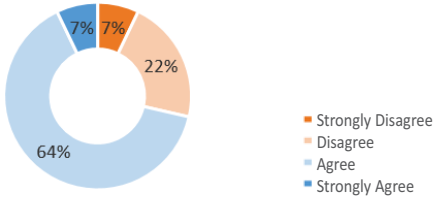
Composition of stock is determined based on nutritional requirement of vulnerable group and people with special dietary needs

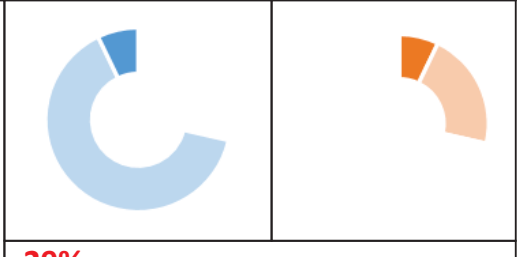




32% respondents state that composition of stock in not based on nutritional requirement of vulnerable group and people with special dietary needs

Minimum Standards Guidelines are in place and staff are adequately trained to follow these guidelines at all stages of food relief and assistance



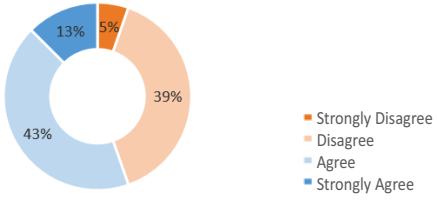
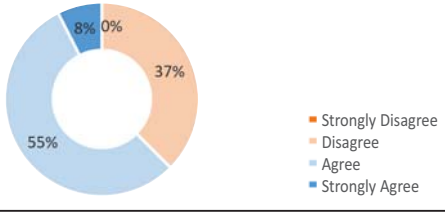


29% respondents state that Minimum Standards Guidelines are not in place and staff are not adequately trained to follow these guidelines at various stages of food relief and assistance



ASSESSMENT

Assessment capacities are critical in ensuring that the humanitarian programmes well informed and actions are timely and appropriate. Use of pre-existing data sources are useful in taking informed decisions in the immediate aftermath of the disaster and can add significant value to the rapid needs assessment in determining appropriate humanitarian actions. Similarly, the technical capacities of conducting nutritional surveys is critical in taking decisions on food aid, supplementary feeding and therapeutic feeding as the per the context and the need. The section looks into the capacity to utilise pre-existing data sources in assessments and decision making and at the same time the assessment capacities in different phases. 43% of the respondents state that there are areas of opportunity for improvement under these segment. Key findings are illustrated below:-

Findings	Capacity	Needs
Adequate systems of pre-existing data sources are in place on food and nutrition security for areas historically exposed to natural shocks. These data are accessible for decision making during emergencies 		
	43% respondents state that systems for pre-existing data sources are not in place for food and nutrition security for disaster prone geographies and thus not available for decision making during emergencies	
Adequate systems and tools are in place for food and nutrition security assessments in different phases of disaster response and informs the planning of Food Security & Nutrition in immediate relief, recovery and rehabilitation programmes 		
	43% respondents state that adequate systems and tools for FNS assessment for different phases of disaster management are not in place.	



DIRECT FOOD ASSISTANCE

This section attempts to look into, how institutions and departments approach direct food aid and assistance in humanitarian emergency. Direct food assistance can be planned to support people nutritionally or economically. Food as an economic support, comes from the approach, where the food assistance is targeted to prevent adverse coping mechanisms of the affected community such as the disposition of productive assets. Similarly, Cash assistance is targeted to improve the economic access of the food. Dry food distribution, cooked food support, infant feeding mechanisms, food for work, conditional and unconditional cash transfer, voucher support, school feeding programme etc are different mechanisms through which food security can be ensured in a humanitarian context. Similarly, supplementary feeding and therapeutic feeding programmes are planned to reach the most vulnerable target groups. This section tries to assess these aspects of direct food assistance. Inclusion has a major focus in the section where we try to assess how the aspects related to targeting, needs of special groups, gender and age etc is incorporated in the current humanitarian structures.

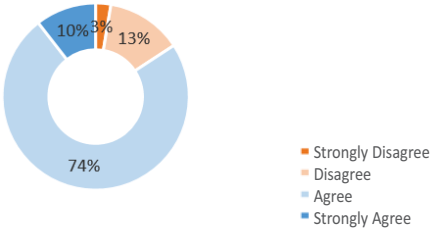
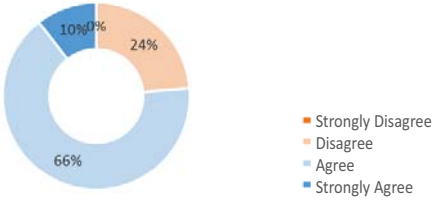
84% of the respondents extended trust in Government's capacity to provide timely cooked food to all people in the immediate phase of an emergency. However, 26% of the respondents believed that composition of dry rations provided by Government could be improved to meet the household needs of dietary requirement and nutrition. Quantity and quality of food assistance could also be improved. India's extensive system of food safety nets are through PDS meets most of the cereal requirements. Other dietary and nutritional components, including pulses, edible oil etc. can be determined through region specific food baskets and provisions can be made through direct distribution, cash assistance and livelihood support.

About 29% respondents' think that food relief is not always adequately supported with non-food items. As we witness areas of debate around how food assistance is assessed, targeted and delivered and with the SPHERE Minimum Standards being revised, we observe that there are challenges in implementing food relief due to inadequate and untimely support of household and community level water,

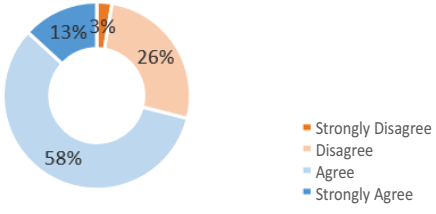
sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes based on existing minimum standards. 26% respondents agree upon in having a converging approach.

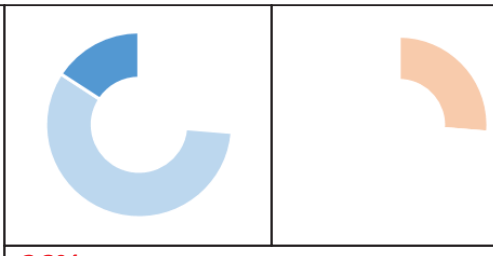
Some of the key findings, highlight need for improved capacities in few technical areas, including infant child feeding, supplementary and therapeutic feeding etc. 31% respondents highlighted the need for inclusive targeting, including capacity strengthening to reach people with special dietary needs. Issues including protection and safety of women and children were raised by 20% of the respondents. Summary of findings on direct food assistance is illustrated below:-

Summary of Findings

Findings	Capacity	Needs
Govt Emergency Preparedness & Response (EPR) can provide timely cooked food to all people in need in the immediate phase of an emergency 		
	16% respondents were doubtful about Government's capacity to provide timely cooked food to all people in the immediate phase of an emergency	
Composition of dry rations provided by Government meets household needs in terms of quantity, dietary requirement and nutrition 		
	24% respondents does not believe that composition of dry rations provided by Government meets household needs in terms of quantity, dietary requirement and nutrition.	

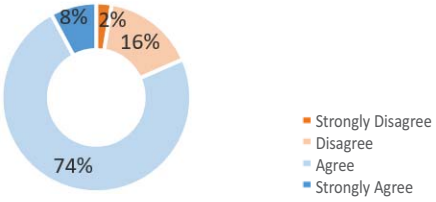
Food relief is adequately supported with necessary non-food items (NFI) such as cooking utensils, fuel for safe water storage and handling

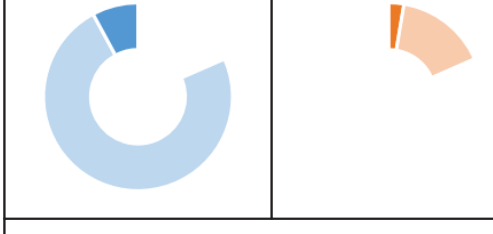




26% respondents state food relief is not always adequately support with timely provision of household and community level water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes based on minimum standards set-up by Govt.

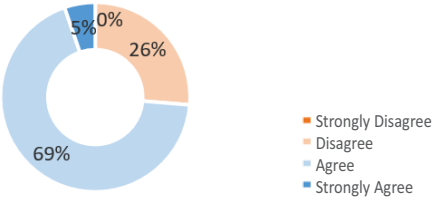
Disease surveillance systems are in place, and adequate provisions are made to prevent disease outbreaks due to food and water contamination

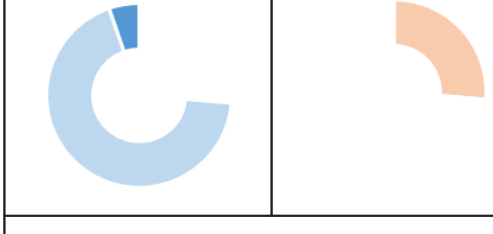




18% respondents do not agree that disease surveillance systems are in place and adequate provisions are made to prevent disease outbreaks due to food and water contamination.

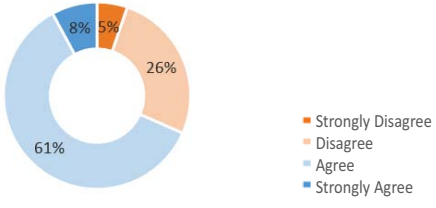
Emergency Preparedness & Response (EPR) structures incorporates guidelines and provisions for Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies

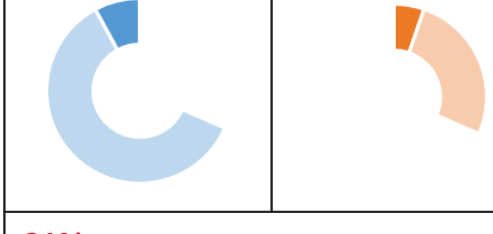




26% respondents do not agree that the emergency preparedness and response structures incorporate guidelines and provision for infant and young child feeding in emergencies.

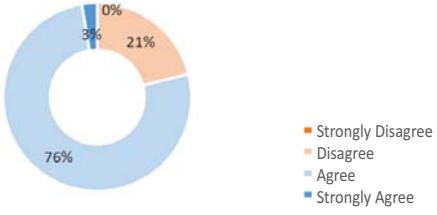
Adequate provision and methods to identify and target people from vulnerable groups who are disproportionately affected in disasters keeping gender and inclusion aspects in mind

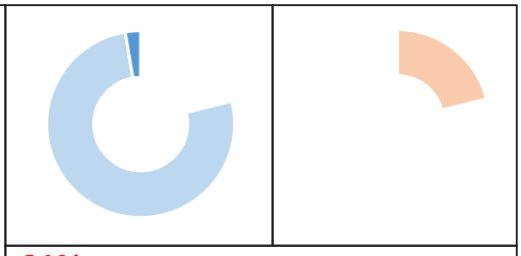




31% respondents state that provisions and methods are inadequate to identify and target people from vulnerable groups who are disproportionately affected in disasters.

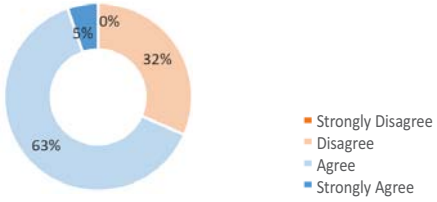
There are systems to ensure equitable distribution of food relief in relief camps vis a vis, spontaneous settlements

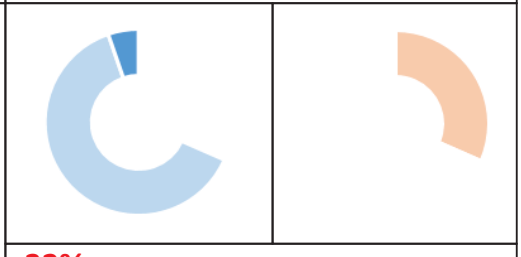




21% respondents do not agree that there are systems to ensure equitable distribution of food relief in relief camps vis a vis spontaneous settlement.

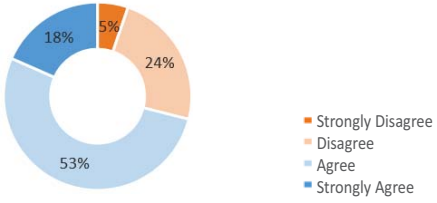
Provisions to meet nutrition requirements of specific vulnerable groups in emergencies, including supplementary feeding and other indicators including targeting, tailored relief and assistance during the food distribution, ease of delivery mechanisms etc

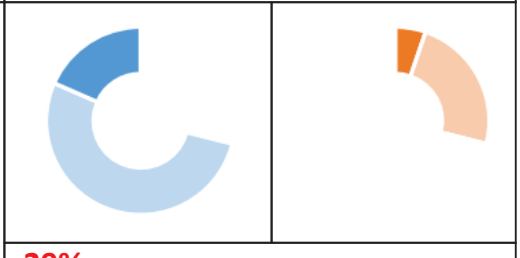




32% respondents do not agree that there are adequate provisions to meet the nutrition requirements of specific vulnerable groups in emergencies, including supplementary feeding.

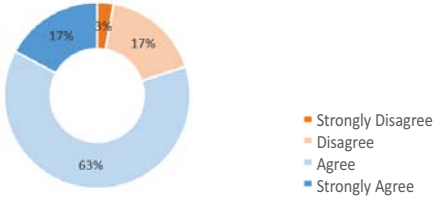
Facilities responsive to the needs of specific vulnerable groups are incorporated– that includes special facilities at distribution site for women, children, persons with disabilities, pregnant & lactating women, elderly etc.

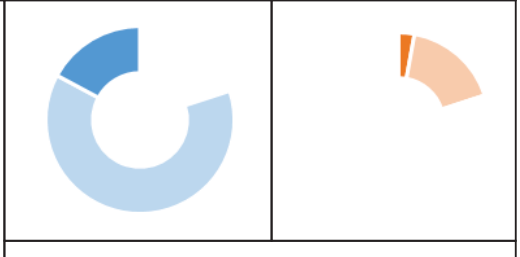




29% respondents do not agree that the facilities are always responsive to the needs of specific vulnerable groups, including women, children, people with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, elderly etc.

Protection protocols for safety of beneficiaries including women and children are in place



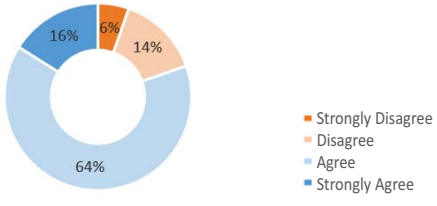


20% respondents state that protection protocols for safety of beneficiaries including women and children are not in place.

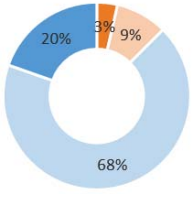


SAFETY NETS

India's social safety net is extensive. India's Public Distribution System is the world's largest food-based social program. During the Covid pandemic, India has also based it's humanitarian assistance on the extensive platform of the social safety nets. The PDS initially provided 5 kg of either rice or wheat and 1 kg of preferred pulses per month free, offered in two instalments. Post lockdown, an additional 5kg of wheat/rice per month was provided through PDS as food relief for targeted groups such as migrant workers, through Atma Nirbhar Bharat relief packages. This section looks at the safety net schemes from the perspective of how effectively it can be adapted to extend support to disaster affected communities during humanitarian relief, recovery and rehabilitation. Could these provide a platform for ex-ante approaches and anticipatory action? Inter-sectoral coordination, targeting and inclusion are important aspects in the section. Key findings are illustrated below:-

Findings	Capacity	Needs
Adequate provisions are in place to adapt the Targeted Public Distribution System to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable in an emergency 		
	80% respondents agree that adequate provisions are in place to adapt the Targeted PDS system to respond to the needs of affected communities in disasters. **20%** of the respondents did not agree with the statement.	

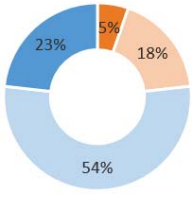
Mid Day Meal programme can be easily adapted to provide entitlements to children in emergencies





88% of the respondents believe that MDM can be easily adapted to provide entitlements to children in emergencies.

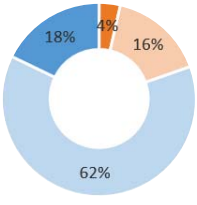
Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme can be easily adapted to provide entitlements to children and pregnant and lactating mothers in emergencies

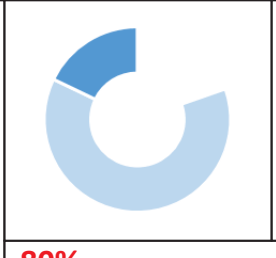




For ICDS **88%** of the respondents agreed that the scheme can be easily adapted to provide entitlements to children and pregnant and lactating mothers in emergencies.

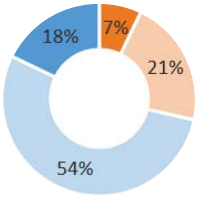
Platforms of Livelihood based programmes including MGNREGA and NRLM are structurally used in all phases of humanitarian response, from relief to rehabilitation to ensure improved economic access of food

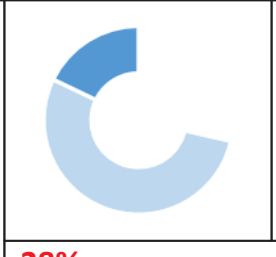




80% of the respondents agreed that the platforms of livelihood based programs including MGNREGS and NRLM are used in all phases of humanitarian response, from relief to rehabilitation to ensure improved economic access of food

There are adequate provisions and guidelines to link humanitarian response with development programmes and line departments for long term recovery



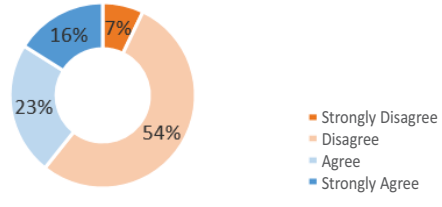


28% of the respondents stated that adequate provisions and guidelines to link humanitarian response with development programmes and line departments for long term recovery are not available

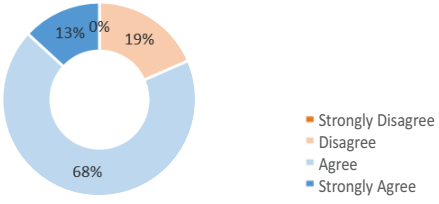


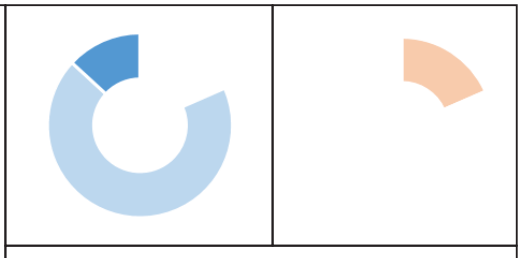
CASH BASED ASSISTANCE

Cash based assistance are extensively used in humanitarian responses globally to benefit disaster affected communities in many ways. Conditional and unconditional cash transfer are useful to meet the basic essential needs of the family. Improvements in capacity of families to purchase food also useful in averting negative coping mechanisms and have a more sustainable and long-term result. Models of cash-based programmes can also be useful in the building back better, through creation of resilient infrastructure and assets. It can also be a useful tool in restoring market functions disrupted by disasters, thus paving a way for economic recovery. However, the Cash based approach cannot be applied in every context and has to be carefully reviewed if situations are conducive and enabling to adopt such approaches. Issues related to protection, market functioning etc are critical while designing these programmes. India has set great precedent in the Covid pandemic through direct beneficiary transfer (DBT), which is a testimony of the existing capacities in this domain. This section looks into the aspects of inclusion, targeting, adaptability of schemes etc for humanitarian assistance. Key findings are illustrated below:-

Findings	Capacity	Needs
Adequate provisions and capacity for implementing direct beneficiary transfers (DBT) assistance are in place for emergency response 		
	61% of the respondents disagree with the statement that there are adequate provisions and capacity for implementing direct beneficiary transfers (DBT) assistance are in place for emergency response	

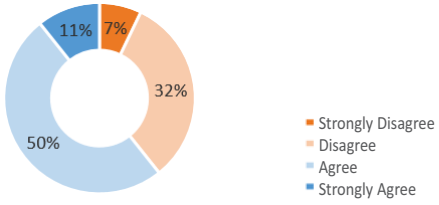
Direct Beneficiary Transfer for Cash based programmes do assess factors leading to the access and use of cash in emergencies

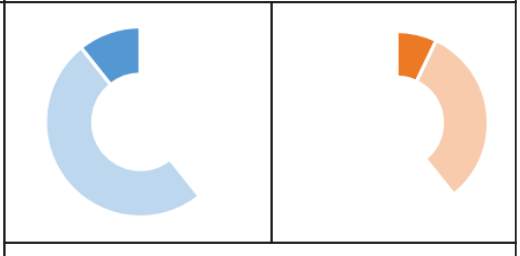




19% of the respondents stated that Direct Beneficiary Transfer for Cash based programmes do not assess factors leading to the access and use of cash in emergencies

Detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for emergency cash based assistance are in place, incorporating 'do no harm' principles

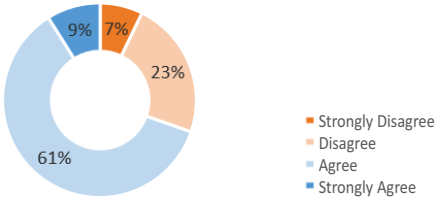




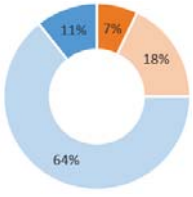
39% of the respondents stated that Detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for emergency cash based assistance are in not place, incorporating 'do no harm' principles

EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Humanitarian actions should be driven by "the do no harm principle." There could be unintended adverse impacts of a humanitarian action as well. It is imperative to have adequate provisions and systems in place to monitor and evaluate humanitarian actions to ensure that these actions are not resulting into any intended or unintended adverse results. There are well evolved and tested tools in the humanitarian sector to measure the impacts of the intervention. Post distribution monitoring, food consumption patterns, dietary diversity, income expenditure survey, nutritional survey etc are popularly used to assess the impacts of the humanitarian programme. This section briefly covers areas on the community feedback mechanisms, and other monitoring mechanisms. The findings are illustrated below:-

Findings	Capacity	Needs
There are adequate monitoring and evaluation systems in place for assessing the impact of Government responses on food security and nutrition in emergencies 		
	30% of the respondents believe that there are inadequate monitoring and evaluation systems in place for assessing the impact of Government responses on food security and nutrition in emergencies	

Community feedback mechanism are well integrated in monitoring and evaluation systems



- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree





25% of the respondents stated that Community feedback mechanism are not integrated well in the monitoring and evaluation systems

There are adequate systems in place to track potential areas of unintended negative impacts and place mitigating measures (Do No Harm approach)



- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree





36% of the respondents stated that systems are inadequate to track potential areas of unintended negative impacts and to take mitigating measures (Do No Harm approach)

Systems are in place to support, monitor and regulate the humanitarian action of Civil Society, NGOs, Diaspora to ensure that the minimum standards are met by them and do no harm principles are followed



- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree





79% of the respondents agree that systems are in place to support, monitor and regulate the humanitarian action of Civil Society, NGOs, Diaspora to ensure that the minimum standards are met by them and do no harm principles are followed

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