

## PROJECT WORKING TITLE: INVESTIGATING CIVIL MILITARY INTERFACE IN RESPONSE MANAGEMENT

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### ABSTRACT:

Disasters are huge phenomena which require diverse and dynamic response. They are situations of humanitarian crises. Disaster response has to be organized efficiently which takes into consideration the socio economic cultural and political conditions of the affected community. This in fact would be the backbone of an institutional mechanism for disaster response or so to say an effective response management. It is the purview of the State or civic administration to look into organizing an effective disaster response which would include relief, rehabilitation reconstruction. Disaster response if organized efficiently can build roads to development and can help the communities to build back better.

Due to the growing complexity of modern day disasters, its variety, occurrence and interplay of causal factors, stakeholders involved in disaster response have been numerous. Recent disasters like Hurricane Katrina, Indian Ocean tsunami, foot and mouth outbreaks have seen civilian agencies and military working together closely. However coordination between them was identified as one of the major issues. Extreme pressure of the situation, the complex conditions, severe shortage of resources, mass casualties, breakdown of infrastructure and uncertain turn of events, large scale damage and its impact necessitate coordination among the multiple agencies involved in disaster response. It has been suggested that the main challenges for civil military cooperation are related not only to different goals and objectives but also to security concerns and diverging work procedures lack of knowledge about organizational identities of one another as this would bring stereotyping and prejudices which are root obstacles to civil military cooperation and coordination. Although perception related challenges are likely to be real and general in civil military cooperation they might be equally relevant for interaction within or amongst civil-civil interface or military-military interface.

The purpose of this project is to study civil-military interactions in disaster situations with a specific focus on the type of challenges described above. Ultimately, it is the study's aim to contribute to our understanding of such interactions and to explore ways to enhance the collective effectiveness of civil-military disaster response operations. The purpose of this study is to map the underlying perception and feelings behind experiences of civil agencies and military involved in disaster response management. It tries to capture some of these essential aspects of complexity which often is based on perception of the professionals involved on field.