CDAC NETWORK

communicating with disaster-affected communities

Our vision: a world where disaster-affected communities have the information and resources they need to determine their own solutions; where communities are central stakeholders in humanitarian and development decision-making.

CDAC Network is the global alliance of many of the world's biggest humanitarian and media development organisations prioritising communication, community engagement and accountability to people affected by crisis.

Our members include media development, UN agencies, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, NGOs and specialist communications entities. Together, we are committed to putting the power in humanitarian and development action back in the hands of communities.

What we do

National Platforms for CCEA

Emergency tools

Bringing people together for better communication, community engagement and accountability

Capacity bridging

Technology & innovation

Advocacy & evidence

We support countries to be disaster-ready

Building capacity in communication, community engagement and accountability (CCEA) once a disaster strikes can be too little, too late. It is not unusual to have multiple agency-level CCEA initiatives that scramble to set up in an emergency and end when the response concludes; each requiring a high-cost start-up injection with no sustainable components that demand the same level of 'foundational' funding time after time.

Communities require critical information in languages they understand and channels they are familiar with at the outset; they need to be involved in programme design from the get-go.

CDAC National Platforms for communication and engagement

Learning from a decade of evidence, this is why we have increased efforts at the systems level, working where possible with national governments and civil society. We have facilitated a global network of national and sub-national CCEA platforms in disaster-prone countries – from Syria to Bangladesh, South Sudan to the South Pacific. When a disaster happens, relationships have already been established, roles and responsibilities assigned, translation services have been prepositioned and feedback channels are already operational and embedded in National Disaster Management Agencies, or relevant authorities during times of conflict. We seek to deploy inclusive technology to connect responders and people affected by disaster.

We bridge local and international capacity

National and local responders have inherent CCEA capacity and CDAC is determined to turn the tables on traditional, top-down capacity-building efforts. We view capacity bridging as the equitable, two-way sharing of knowledge and skills across individuals and institutions to enable optimal CCEA competence and capabilities at scale throughout the humanitarian system. It is a shift away from concepts like 'capacity development' towards a more inclusive and less hierarchal concept that recognises and values the existing capacities of local and national response actors and their related national humanitarian architecture.

CDAC works to bridge capacities between those in-country and international actors to fill critical gaps in CCEA knowledge and skills, and supports this process through providing training and coordination. We prioritise five areas of action:

1. **CCEA coordination systems strengthening**
2. **CCEA technical training**
3. **Technology and innovation for learning**
4. **Surge capacity support**
5. **Mentoring and accompaniment to deepen expertise**

CDAC's training offer

- CCEA Coordinator Training (advanced)
- Technical Training for CCEA Practitioners (intermediate)
- Bespoke training on CCEA (needs-based)
- Communication is Aid (introductory)

Find out more: cdacnetwork.org/capacity-bridging

Surge capacity

In a sudden-onset emergency or rising crisis, CDAC can help with surge CCEA capacity:

- We bridge the gaps that surge teams may have in CCEA skills and knowledge. Our experts are available to advise and, if needed, help develop CCEA systems.
- We provide rapid pre-deployment training in CCEA, as well as remote mentoring.
- We produce rapid snapshot reports on CCEA to assist the start-up of a response.

We build the evidence base and influence national and global policy

CDAC and its members systematically advocate for the inclusion of communication and engagement as a predictable, consistent and properly funded aspect of preparedness, response and recovery.

At the national level, we work with governments to ensure that CCEA is at the heart of national disaster management policies and plans, in line with commitments in the Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Grand Bargain.

At the international level, we advocate for the centrality of communication and community engagement to global humanitarian policymaking through our engagement with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Results Groups and as an official partner of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster.

Key to advocacy and improving practice is building the evidence base to show that embedding CCEA in humanitarian programming makes aid more sustainable, equitable, inclusive and effective.

Recent CDAC publications

CDAC Network's core advocacy statements

- People and communities should be driving decisions in a crisis. They act first, they act fast and are best placed to support the most vulnerable.
- Communication saves lives, protects resilience and accelerates recovery. It is as fundamental for survival as cash, food, water, shelter and medicine.
- Currently, engagement is notional. Effective engagement recognises and intentionally includes the broad range of actors in a response.
- Accountability to people affected by crises is everyone's business. It should be at the forefront of all humanitarian and development discussions and decision-making.

We provide tools for emergency response

The CDAC Network, with our members and partners, has spent more than a decade developing tools and resources for use by those responding to crises to ensure communication, community engagement and accountability are embedded in the disaster response plan. We also curate resource portals for specific active crises.

CDAC's key tools for emergencies

- Assessing information and communication needs: a quick and easy guide for those working in humanitarian response
- Communicating with communities during the first six weeks of an emergency response
- How to guide: collective communication and community engagement in humanitarian action
- Rumour has it: a practice guide to working with rumours
- Media Landscape Guides – by country

We innovate to support local leadership

CDAC Network's approach to innovation is centred on building a more inclusive future that involves crisis-affected people in the design and delivery of supportive services and systems that enable them to gain greater control over their lives.

We seek to tip the balance of power in the aid sector and create supportive environments for disaster-affected people to access and participate in technology and innovation funds and programmes.

We advocate for the responsible leveraging of digital technologies for better CCEA. This includes shifting the emphasis from technology driving humanitarian innovation to a bottom-up approach, where the needs, ideas and preferences of communities trigger technological solutions.

However, innovation doesn't necessarily mean technology: we have pioneered and supported broader innovative models for systems change and promoting locally led humanitarian action, such as our network of National Platforms.

Join the CDAC Network

By becoming a member of CDAC Network, you are joining a collective that has driven successful collaboration models, contributed significantly to making the case for communication, community engagement and accountability in preparedness and response, and strengthened systems and capacity for implementation.

Member organisations have access to:

· A network of global organisations working towards the same goals
· Community of practice meetings
· Member Advisory Group meetings
· CDAC's Annual General Assembly and Public Forum
· Regular updates on CCEA news and opportunities from across the Network

For more information, visit cdacnetwork.org/members

The Expert Pool

Formed in 2018, our pool of external experts complements the work of the CDAC Secretariat and supports delivery of our Strategic Plan. It enables CDAC to have outsourced technical or surge capacity support at short notice from individuals or companies who are fully conversant with our strategy and whose expertise is proven to be of high quality.

We issue calls for Experts every 2–3 years. To find out if there's an active call, visit cdacnetwork.org/work-with-us

Contact us

Visit cdacnetwork.org to learn about our Governance and Secretariat

CDAC members

Full members

· ActionAid International
· Amplifying Voices
· Anthrologica
· BBC Media Action
· Community World Service Asia
· DAHLIA
· Deutsche Welle Akademie
· FilmAid
· First Response Radio
· Fondation Hirondelle
· Goonj
· Ground Truth Solutions
· InsightShare
· The International Committee of the Red Cross
· International Media Support
· International Organization for Migration
· International Rescue Committee
· Internews
· NORCAP
· The Peace and Conflict Journalism Network Asia
· Plan International
· Smile Again Africa Development Organization
· Save the Children
· Thomson Reuters Foundation
· Translators without Borders/ CLEAR Global
· United Nations Population Fund
· United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
· United Nations Children's Fund
· United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
· World Association for Christian Communication
· World Vision International
· World Food Programme
· World Health Organization

Affiliate members

· EarthX
· Lifeline Energy