

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

The global humanitarian landscape has evolved with increasing demands for inclusivity, transparency, and coordination in response to crises. The 2016 World Humanitarian Summit introduced the Grand Bargain, emphasizing localization, accountability, and effective public-private partnerships (PPPs). Korea, as a signatory since 2020, has aimed to align its humanitarian aid efforts with these principles. Despite growing official development assistance (ODA) for humanitarian support, Korea's PPPs remain limited in scope and engagement, with minimal private sector involvement.

The 2023 Türkiye-Syria earthquake response highlighted the potential of collaborative disaster relief when KOICA partnered with NGOs to establish the Korea-Türkiye Friendship Village. This initiative showcased the benefits of joint disaster relief efforts, setting a precedent for expanding Korea's humanitarian PPPs through the Responsive Action and Partnership Initiative for Disaster (RAPID)—a KOICA-led platform designed to foster coordinated disaster responses. However, RAPID's success requires addressing key barriers, such as rigid funding mechanisms, limited stakeholder alignment, and insufficient visibility.

This study aims to enhance RAPID by identifying enabling mechanisms, addressing operational challenges, and proposing strategies for inclusive humanitarian partnerships. The study's key objectives are:

- To analyze global best practices in humanitarian partnerships from Japan, the UK, Australia, and Canada to identify enablers relevant to Korea.
- To assess domestic stakeholder roles, capacities, and challenges to inform an improved partnership framework.

- To propose policy recommendations for strengthening stakeholder engagement, resource mobilization, and operational efficiency through RAPID.

The research adopted a mixed-methods approach, including document analysis, field research in four donor countries, and participatory workshops with government agencies, NGOs, and private sector representatives to ensure comprehensive, stakeholder-driven insights.

2. Humanitarian Partnership and National Joint Appeal Platforms

As global humanitarian responses increasingly emphasize localization, flexible funding, and coordinated emergency action, partnership platforms play a crucial role in mobilizing resources efficiently and protecting crisis-affected populations. Strengthening partnerships across sectors fosters inclusive governance, agile operations, and shared decision-making, making humanitarian responses more effective and accountable.

The study examined national joint appeal mechanisms in the form of humanitarian partnership platforms in four donor countries: the UK, Japan, Canada, and Australia. These platforms demonstrate diverse models shaped by their national contexts, with varying governance structures, government involvement, public engagement strategies, and funding mechanisms. By analyzing these platforms, Korea's RAPID initiative can identify key elements to strengthen its structure, governance, and operational effectiveness.

1) Japan (Japan Platform, JPF)

- Japan's Japan Platform (JPF) takes a contrasting approach, with a strong reliance on government funding—approximately 76% of its total budget comes from the government. JPF operates as a joint platform for the Government of Japan, NGOs, and corporate partners, ensuring predictability in funding, stakeholder engagement,

and rapid disaster responses. The platform's unique corporate membership model includes over 100 companies, fostering cross-sector partnerships. JPF's governance structure involves direct government participation, particularly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which plays a significant role in decision-making and project approvals. While government support ensures stable funding, it also poses challenges to the platform's autonomy and independence.

2) United Kingdom (Disasters Emergency Committee, DEC & Start Network)

- The UK's Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) stands out for its strong media partnerships and public fundraising model. It is highly independent from government influence, with less than 5% of its funding coming from public funds. DEC's close collaboration with major media outlets like the BBC enables rapid, large-scale fundraising for major disasters, raising public awareness and increasing trust in overseas disaster appeals. The DEC Accountability Framework ensures transparent reporting and program evaluations, further enhancing public confidence in the platform's operations.
- Another significant UK initiative is the Start Network, which focuses on innovative and localized funding approaches for small and medium-scale crises. The Start Network promotes locally-led responses, emphasizing the importance of timely funding for underfunded emergencies.

3) Canada (Humanitarian Coalition, HC)

- Canada's Humanitarian Coalition (HC) operates as a key government partner, with over 75% of its funding coming from government grants. The HC plays a critical role in managing the Canadian government's humanitarian funding, responding to both large-scale and small-scale crises. The platform's governance system integrates localization principles by requiring member NGOs to engage local partners in their response efforts.

- Multi-year agreements between the HC and the Government of Canada provide predictability in funding and improve the operational efficiency of member NGOs. Additionally, the HC's performance-based funding mechanism ensures transparency and accountability in resource allocation, fostering trust among stakeholders.

4) Australia (Emergency Action Alliance, EAA)

- Australia's Emergency Action Alliance (EAA) is the most recently established platform, operating primarily as a private initiative with strategic government support for specific emergencies. The EAA emphasizes the importance of adopting an inclusive approach to emergency rapid response by engaging media, NGOs, and corporate partners in joint appeals and fundraising efforts.
- The platform works closely with national media outlets such as ABC and SBS to raise public awareness and secure donations. EAA's focus on swift and transparent fund distribution ensures timely responses to humanitarian needs, fostering public trust in the platform's operations.

The joint appeal platforms examined highlight the importance of engaging diverse stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, media, and corporations. These platforms promote cross-sector collaboration that leverages collective resources for timely, impactful responses to emergencies. They also build public trust by ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of funds.

3. Korea's Humanitarian Partnership Scheme

This chapter offers a detailed analysis of the legal foundations of South Korea's humanitarian aid system, its public-private partnerships, and the development of the RAPID program. It highlights significant achievements, identifies key challenges, and provides recommendations to enhance the effectiveness and scope of South Korea's humanitarian aid efforts.

- **Legal and Institutional Framework:** South Korea's humanitarian assistance operates under robust laws, including the Basic Act on International Development Cooperation and the Overseas Emergency Relief Act. These laws guide the government's emergency response and international aid efforts. However, the focus on immediate disaster response limits their ability to address chronic crises. The Humanitarian Assistance Strategy, updated in 2017, expanded the scope of government decision-making but lacks binding authority compared to formal legislation.
- **Public-Private Partnerships in Humanitarian Aid:** The evolving role of public-private partnerships is emphasized through the Humanitarian Assistance Public-Private Partnership Program. This initiative has enabled NGOs to contribute to disaster response and risk reduction efforts. However, reliance on large NGOs excludes smaller organizations, hindering broader collaboration. Successful case studies, such as the Türkiye-Syria earthquake response, showcase the potential for coordinated efforts among government, NGOs, and local actors.
- **RAPID Program: Development and Functionality:** Launched in 2024, RAPID serves as a strategic partnership platform for collective humanitarian action. It aims to enhance collaboration among stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, corporations, and media. Pilot projects, such as addressing the acute food crisis in East Africa, demonstrate RAPID's capacity to mobilize resources effectively and deliver measurable outcomes. Standardized performance metrics ensure accountability and transparency.
- **Challenges and Opportunities:** Key challenges for RAPID include limited funding,

a narrow stakeholder base, and the absence of clear operational guidelines. Expanding financial resources, engaging small and medium-sized organizations, and improving stakeholder diversity are highlighted as priorities. Stronger branding and public engagement are also recommended to raise RAPID’s visibility and impact.

○ **Stakeholder Insights and Recommendations:** Stakeholder analysis reveals broad support for RAPID’s objectives but emphasizes the need for better coordination and inclusivity. Government agencies stress the importance of clear governance structures, while NGOs call for expanded participation and capacity building. Corporations and media underscore the value of transparency and alignment with humanitarian principles to sustain their involvement. Stakeholders advocate for tax incentives, independent governance, and a potential transition to a collaborative fundraising platform.

Key Enablers, Barriers, and Incentives for Participation

Level	Key Enabler	Barrier	Incentive
Macro	Legal and policy frameworks	Funding inflexibility	Tax incentives and recognition programs
Meso	Coordination platforms	Limited data-sharing	Access to pooled resources and joint branding
Micro	Capacity-building programs	Administrative burdens	Training, visibility, and simplified processes

This table outlines key mechanisms that influence RAPID’s effectiveness, highlighting strengths to leverage and areas for improvement.

4. Policy Recommendations

The recommendations focus on two phases: the RAPID activation phase and the joint fundraising platform phase.

Drawing upon the policy recommendations for the RAPID activation phase and the Joint Fundraising Platform phase, this study proposes a **results framework** in

the form of a **theory of change**. The framework outlines the **enablers and preconditions** necessary to strengthen public-private partnerships for emergency assistance in Korea, along with **short-term, mid-to-long-term, and impact-level objectives**. For each level, key **performance, output, and outcome indicators** are identified. The study recommends that **KOICA** and relevant stakeholders regularly **collect data, monitor progress, and evaluate outcomes** of Korea's Humanitarian Partnership scheme using these indicators to ensure accountability and continuous improvement.

4.1 RAPID Activation Phase

The overarching goal of the RAPID activation phase is to maximize the effectiveness of Korea's emergency response partnerships. This phase addresses key challenges such as fragmented emergency responses, insufficient visibility of the RAPID brand, low inclusivity, limited expertise, and funding constraints. To achieve this, the framework outlines the following core objectives:

○ **Inclusiveness and Stakeholder Engagement:**

Expand participation to ensure a diverse range of organizations with varying capacities can contribute effectively to the platform. Strengthen engagement with private corporations, media outlets, academic institutions, and specialized organizations with technical expertise. Introduce **RAPID Learning Labs** to promote cross-sector collaboration, enhance stakeholders' operational capacities, and foster innovation in humanitarian fundraising and response.

○ **Capacity Strengthening:**

Offer comprehensive learning programs to enhance the operational capacities of partner organizations across various sectors. These programs should focus on strengthening technical skills, management systems, and compliance with international humanitarian standards.

○ **Funding and Resource Mobilization:**

Increase the ODA budget allocated for the RAPID platform to ensure stable and

flexible funding for emergency responses. Diversify funding sources by engaging private companies, foundations, and the general public to strengthen long-term resource mobilization efforts.

○ **Visibility and Branding:**

Improve the visibility of the RAPID platform through coordinated communications and storytelling. Build a strong RAPID brand by promoting its impact and success stories through media, social media, and partnerships. Raise public awareness to increase trust and engagement with the platform.

○ **Value-Addition and Synergy:**

Expand RAPID's emergency response coverage to support more affected populations. Improve the quality of response by integrating best practices and building partnerships with diverse organizations. Focus on areas where RAPID can make a unique impact, enhancing coordination and filling gaps in humanitarian efforts.

Key Indicators for the RAPID Activation Phase

Objective	Indicator	Description
Ensure Inclusiveness	Number of registered NGOs by type and size	Tracks diversity of participating NGOs.
Enhance Capacity	Number of RAPID Learning Lab sessions conducted	Measures partner engagement in training programs.
Increase ODA budget	Share of KOICA's humanitarian aid budget allocated to RAPID	Assesses budgetary commitment to RAPID.
Strengthen Visibility	Number of media mentions related to RAPID	Evaluates brand awareness and public engagement.
Value-addition and synergy	Number of beneficiaries of the RAPID assistance	Track the annual number of beneficiaries receiving support through RAPID joint interventions

4.2 Joint Fundraising Platform Phase

The transition to a Joint Fundraising Platform aims to position Korea as a global pivotal player in humanitarian funding by fostering a more inclusive and sustainable model. This phase focuses on three key objectives:

○ **Strengthening Global Recognition:**

Enhance the international visibility of Korea's joint fundraising platform by actively sharing best practices, success stories, and innovative approaches. Build connections with global fundraising networks, participate in international forums, and engage in ongoing communication to promote Korea's leadership in humanitarian funding.

○ **Expanding the Humanitarian Ecosystem:**

Broaden the platform's reach by engaging a wider range of stakeholders, including local governments, private companies, media organizations, and academic institutions. Foster collaboration across sectors to create a strong, interconnected ecosystem that supports humanitarian responses both domestically and globally.

○ **Mobilizing Private Funding:**

Encourage increased financial contributions from the private sector by promoting the value of corporate social responsibility and demonstrating the impact of humanitarian funding. Develop tailored engagement strategies for corporations and philanthropic organizations to secure long-term, flexible funding that strengthens the platform's capacity to respond to crises.

By achieving these objectives, the Joint Fundraising Platform phase will ensure that Korea not only meets global humanitarian standards but also establishes itself as a key player in mobilizing resources for timely and effective emergency responses.

Key Indicators for the Joint Fundraising Platform Phase

Objective	Indicator	Description
Strengthen the platform's global recognition	Number of global partnerships and collaborations Media coverage frequency of the joint fundraising platform	Tracks participation in global fundraising platform networks and the sharing of best practices Tracks the media coverage frequency
Expand the Humanitarian Ecosystem	Number of new partnerships with local governments, private companies, and media organizations	Tracks expansion of partnerships across sectors.
Mobilize private funding	Total funds raised from private sector contributions	Monitors financial contributions from private companies to evaluate success in resource mobilization.

This stage underscores the importance of public trust, stakeholder engagement, and regulatory support to ensure successful implementation. Indicators at this stage are designed to capture the platform's growth in visibility, partnerships, and funding impact.

5. Conclusion

The study underscores the importance of a comprehensive approach to strengthening Korea's humanitarian PPPs. By learning from international best practices and addressing domestic challenges, RAPID can become a leading model for coordinated disaster response. Key enablers include robust legal frameworks, adaptive funding mechanisms, and transparent governance structures that foster collaboration and accountability.

The proposed policy recommendations for the RAPID activation and joint fundraising platform phases provide a roadmap for enhancing stakeholder engagement, resource mobilization, and operational efficiency. The transition to a joint fundraising platform offers an opportunity for Korea to establish itself as a global humanitarian leader.

By implementing these recommendations, Korea can reinforce its commitment to global humanitarian principles and enhance its capacity to respond to crises with agility, inclusivity, and resilience, contributing to more effective and sustainable disaster relief efforts.