



国際復興フォーラム

～災害復興におけるBuild Back Betterと健康で強じんなコミュニティを目指して～

2017

International Recovery Forum

～Build Back Better Towards Resilient and Healthy Communities～



SUMMARY

主催 / Organizers



国際復興支援プラットフォーム (IRP)
内閣府、兵庫県、アジア防災センター(ADRC)
国連国際防災戦略事務局 (UNISDR)

International Recovery Platform (IRP)
Cabinet Office, the Government of Japan
Hyogo Prefectural Government
Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

24 January 2017 (Tuesday)

2017年1月24日(火)



International Recovery Forum 2017

Summary

March 2017

Background

Health is recognized in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in many other landmark international frameworks and agreements – indicating the urgency of addressing the complex challenges and gaps along this area.

Mandated to act as an international mechanism for sharing of experiences and learning on build back better among countries and all relevant stakeholders, IRP adopted “Build Back Better Towards Resilient and Healthy Communities” as the overarching theme of the International Recovery Forum 2017.

Objectives

The main objectives of the Forum are:

- Explore how “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction can be addressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and
- Explore knowledge and understanding of “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction through sharing of country experiences; and
- Explore strategies and actions on health in the context of “Build Back Better” through sharing experiences on integration health agenda into disaster recovery, including consulting on the updated edition of Guidance Note on Recovery for Health.

Summary

The Forum was commenced by three opening remarks. Mr. Stefan Kohler, Chair of the IRP Steering Committee, noted the significance of the topics covered in the Forum by referring to one of the Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 3 “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”. Mr. Shigeki Habuka, Vice Minister for Policy Coordination of Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, shared his reflection on recovery experiences in Japan. The last remark was delivered by Mr. Toshizo Ido, the Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, who emphasized the importance of passing on the knowledge and lessons from the recovery process to next generations and how Hyogo sought to achieve a ‘creative recovery’ from the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake in 1995.

The Forum 2017 comprised of keynote speeches, panel discussions, and a presentation of IRP knowledge product. Two keynote speeches were delivered to highlight recovery challenges from recent disasters, specifically the case of Southern Thailand Floods in January 2017 and the case of Kumamoto Earthquake in April 2016.

To understand what it takes to promote resilient and healthy communities in the context of recovery, two panel discussions were organized, namely “Build Back Better for Resilient Community” and “Integrating Health in Recovery”.

The Forum was also an opportunity to present the consultative edition of the *Updated Guidance Notes on Recovery for Health* (coordinated by the IRP Secretariat) to elicit further inputs and feedback.

Keynote speeches highlighted challenges from recent disasters

In his keynote speech, Police Lt. Gen. Nadhapat Sanidvong (who spoke on behalf of the Minister of the Interior, Kingdom of Thailand) highlighted three key challenges brought by the floods, namely: restoring livelihoods, rebuilding infrastructures, and managing the overall recovery plan. Actions to address these challenges included land use readjustments, strict enforcement of King’s guidelines for flood prevention (e.g. monkey cheek and spillway), and allocation of budget for DRR anchored to the concept of build back better.

In the second keynote speech, Prof. Yoshiaki Kawata (DRI, Japan) pointed out a unique challenge for recovery in Kumamoto due to persistent earthquake aftershocks – where over 4,000 aftershocks higher than magnitude 1 had so far been recorded. Restoring livelihoods and facilitating immediate logistical support to impacted communities were the challenges faced. Actions to address these challenges included the creation of a “Working Group on Emergency Response and Livelihood Support Measures” to facilitate deeper investigation and recommend solutions. One of the recommendations mentioned was to adopt a “push mode” approach, where the national government is expected to immediately send emergency support to impacted communities without waiting for a formal request from the local governments.

Panel 1 on “Build Back Better for Resilient Communities”

This panel discussion focused on how to prepare to build back better in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction as recognized in landmark agreements like the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The panelists included Prof. Yoshiaki Kawata (DRI, Japan), Mr. Jack Radisch (OECD, France), and Ms. Gerilee Bennett (FEMA, USA). This session was moderated by Stefan Kohler (UNOPS).

Some of the insights that emerged from the discussions were the following:

- *Need to pay attention to logistical details.* As demonstrated in the case of Kumamoto, the aspiration to build back better should look into logistical details such as transportation of goods and materials, day-to-day operations and management of temporary housing, and addressing issues like sanitation and water to maintain cleanliness of toilets.
- *Good Governance as the key to good recovery and promoting transparency in implementing recovery programs.* Corruption or even political and business interests can compromise build back better. OECD pointed out the need of regular monitoring of recovery process and funds. OECD also cited the case of an Italian City, where hazard maps were not made available to the public to protect business interests. Promoting transparency through a resource tracking mechanism, as the case in Chile, can help address this issue. Importance of good governance and transparency in recovery is also critical for the Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- *Understand the socio-cultural dynamics and adapt to the situation.* While existing policies and legal frameworks facilitate local decision-making, social dynamics and cultural conditions will come into play posing some challenges in recovery process. FEMA presented the case of community-based disaster recovery in the United States by introducing how the flood-affected communities in the U.S. have recovered through community empowerment, emphasizing the importance of community inclusiveness and planning in advance. FEMA shared a local initiative “Houses on Wheels”, where flood impacted families decided to go back to their original locations with smaller houses on wheels that can be quickly moved following a flood warning to avoid damage and loss.
- *Explore viable financing option with the private sector.* Among the commonly mentioned challenges for recovery is financing, and one of the suggestions from the audience is to further explore mechanisms for private sector collaboration in recovery programs.
- *Adopt a policy of social inclusion.* Another prevailing point from the audience is the critical importance of social inclusiveness (ensuring that “no one is left behind”) in all recovery and reconstruction efforts with the view to build back better.

Panel 2 “Integrating Health in Recovery”

This panel discussion put emphasis on whether and how health considerations were taken into account in the recovery process. The panelists included Mr. James Newman (GFDRR, The World Bank), Dr. Hari Parajuli (Nepal Reconstruction Authority, Nepal), Mr. Shuichi Kasai (Japan Pharmaceutical Association) and Dr. Ryoma Kayano (WHO Kobe Center). This session was moderated by Ms. Setsuko Saya (Cabinet Office, Government of Japan), who raised two key questions to the panel: Why is it difficult for the health sector to recover? How can the health sector contribute to the entire recovery outcome?

Some of guiding points that were mentioned in the discussions were the following:

- *Integrating health into disaster recovery programs for countries.* It was highlighted by WB, including by using tools such as PDNA.

- *Formally engage the private sector in recovery.* It was discussed that following the recovery from earthquake in 1995, Kobe has been branded as a “medical city” due to the presence of leading pharmaceutical industries. It contributed to the reconstruction of the Kansai region’s economy as part of the national government’s initiative. Importance of engaging private sector in investing in recovery was emphasized.
- *Seize the support from professionals.* In the case of Japan, JPA presented the roles of pharmacists during disaster, such as the utility of “okusuritecho” (documented records of prescribed medicines), and mobile pharmacy which is a vehicle based pharmaceutical service that delivers medicines to remote areas with a difficulty to access large health facilities. For the “mobile pharmacy”, it was observed that there were lots of individuals, institutions, and groups showing goodwill to contribute towards recovery of the health sector. In view of this, it was suggested that a mechanism of promoting and managing volunteerism for health sector recovery needs to be further explored, including preparing for such professional volunteer initiative in advance before disaster happens.
- *Enhance communication systems.* As described by Nepal, during disasters communication systems by using ICT such as mobile phones, SNS and other digital technologies can be overwhelmed due to absence of WiFi or power outage. It was recommended that alternative communication systems need to be put in place, which can operate under disaster conditions, reach wider coverage and be inclusive considering digitally-impaired members of the community.
- *Encourage wider community participation and collaboration.* As shown in the examples from Nepal, the urgency and the demands for immediate progress during recovery can at some point leave other groups behind, especially vulnerable groups and people with disabilities. Wider community participation and collaboration in recovery planning and implementation can help address this challenge.
- *Prepare to build back better.* It might be too late to think about build back better in recovery after the disaster. Since many of the recovery issues are common, e.g. policies and operations, these can already be addressed pre-disaster through actions like pre-agreements and pre-contracts, including with private sector.
- *Need for more research on long term recovery phases.* Including long term psychosocial effect on disaster survivors, the need for more research on long term perspective on recovery is pointed out by WHO.
- *Measure the progress of build back better.* The question, “How do we know we are building back better?” was raised in this session. In view of this, it was suggested that the Report of the *Open-ended Inter-Governmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology relating to Disaster Risk Reduction* adopted by the UN Assembly on December 1, 2016 can be used as reference.
- *Expansion of collaboration between private and public sectors.* Considering many of the above examples shared in this panel, a lot of potential for expanding collaboration between private and public sector was emphasized.

Closing

In closing, Ms. Setsuko Saya (Cabinet Office of Japan) shared her impression of the Forum. Firstly, she recognized IRP as a unique community, where people of different backgrounds and expertise come together to discuss and explore knowledge on recovery. Secondly, she affirmed the Forum is an avenue where knowledge and expertise on recovery can be drawn, shared, and applied. Finally, she observed that most of participants of the Forum were middle level practitioners that play critical roles in recovery efforts, who also learned about policies and political dynamics shared by top officials like ministers and governors. She encouraged wider participation in the upcoming Forums.

About the Forum 2017

The Forum was organized on 24 January 2017 at Hotel Okura in Kobe, Japan. It gathered over 140 participants from 33 countries, including government officials, practitioners, experts, policymakers, and students.