

Themes in Recovery

Introduction of the Cluster Approach

In September 2005 the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) agreed to designate global “cluster leads” – specifically for humanitarian emergencies– in eleven sectors or areas of activity.



The IASC agreed that the “Cluster Approach” should be applied, with some flexibility, at the country level. The Cluster Approach is a new international initiative, having been first introduced following the earthquake in Pakistan in 2005. Clusters are part of the ongoing humanitarian reform process started through the Humanitarian Response Review. A cluster is a group of organizations with a designated lead, and includes traditional relief and assistance sectors, such as water and sanitation, food and nutrition, health, emergency shelter and education, together with service provision elements including emergency telecommunications and logistics. “Cross-cutting” themes, such as early recovery and protection, have also been identified by the IASC. The most important differences from the previous ‘lead agency’ approach are that assistance strategy is developed jointly based upon the majority view of the cluster membership and that the cluster Lead is accountable to the cluster as a whole.

IRP Themes

The IRP themes are generally anchored on the IASC Cluster Approach. IRP will collect, organize, and analyze information on recovery practices and capacities along these themes.

