



12th IATF, November 2005

Development of Guidelines for Efficient Response System, linking Risk Reduction/ Early Recovery Activities

-Project Proposal for the International Recovery Platform-

(Draft)

1. Background

The International Recovery Platform is a mechanism, which will function as an international repository of knowledge and a clearing-house for recovery activities with common approach and strategies among its initial members, ISDR, UNDP, OCHA, ILO, ADRC, World Bank IFRC and the Government of Japan. The Early Recovery Working Group (ERWG) of the IASC describes the IRP as ‘an inter-agency technical group with defined focal points, an action plan and assigned resources’, and the ERWG will utilize the IRP as a platform of recovery activities in case of natural disasters. However key instruments for post-disaster recovery, such as practical knowledge on recovery activities based on lessons learned, post-disaster assessment methodology, and common training tool for recovery experts, do not exist and need to be established as common policies and methodologies among recovery activity managers.

The goals of the IRP activities are as follows:

- To provide a coordination framework and network for post-disaster recovery, in support of the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) system and disaster-prone countries,
- To facilitate the dissemination of lessons learned and development of common tools and mechanisms relevant for recovery needs assessment, strategy development and programming,
- To provide advice and support on the formulation of post-disaster recovery planning and programming, including how to incorporate risk reduction into recovery, and integrate recovery into response and preparedness measures,
- To strengthen national capacities for post-disaster recovery, ensuring links with longer term development programming,
- To facilitate South-South co-operation between disaster-prone countries and to utilize accumulated know-how of these countries in post-disaster recovery.

Three priority objectives during the initial phase are as follows:

- a) Advocacy and Knowledge Management** to focus on identifying, capturing and disseminating lessons and good practices, sharing accumulated knowledge from global experiences, developing common tools and mechanisms and promoting post-disaster recovery as a practice area.
- b) Training and Capacity Building** to focus on activities to build the capacities for post-disaster recovery with an emphasis on human resource development within UN Country Teams (UNCTs) as well as national and international counterparts linking with the DMTP, and
- c) Enhanced Recovery Operations** to support post disaster recovery operations through the provision of common tools and mechanisms for operational activities, including a surge capacity facility based on South-South cooperation amongst disaster prone countries that have world-class capacities in this area.

2. Outline of OCHA's project for the IRP

a) Objectives

OCHA's overall mandate with regard to natural disasters include 1) a focus on the coordination of disaster relief and response preparedness, 2) advocacy, 3) policy development and 4) information management. In order to improve response capabilities at national and regional level, **OCHA will develop policies and methodologies to link the enhanced response system with risk reduction and early recovery activities.** Enhanced response capabilities can promote risk reduction activities, for example, by identifying hazards and vulnerability at damage assessment stage, by training disaster relief/reduction experts, or by establishing good networking among disaster management organizations. Quick and efficient response operations also contributes to early recovery activities, for example, by repairing small infrastructure and removing debris to expedite supplying relief goods and other relief activities, by supporting local initiatives, especially at community level, to prioritise needs of both relief and recovery activities or by creating job opportunities through utilizing local human resources and materials. OCHA strives to ensure that humanitarian actors do not rebuild risk back into communities during the emergency response phase.

In this context, **OCHA will compile guidelines aiming to provide a practical knowledge for an efficient response system in support of relief program managers within UNCTs and governments.** The goal of this project is to enhance response capabilities, clearly linked to risk reduction/early recovery activities, of UNCTs and governments in selected priority countries utilizing the above guidelines.

b) Implementation

The scope and modalities of the project including roles of OCHA headquarters and RDRAs/Field offices will be determined after further discussions. OCHA will systematically work with IFRC, UNDP ISDR as well as regional organizations tasked with relief operations and disaster risk reduction as appropriate in implementing this project.

To enhance response capabilities in support of the UNRCs and UNCTs, OCHA is exploring the possibility of establishing National Disaster Response Advisors in several selected countries during 2006, in close collaboration with UNDP. These national advisors will work in close collaboration with OCHA and UNDP Regional Advisors.

3. Activities and Timelines

a) The First Phase: Draw lessons learned and good practices from past response activities that incorporated disaster reduction/early recovery activities

As a first step, the Project will propose a strategy for an efficient response system by identifying and gathering common knowledge on good practices from global response and response preparedness experiences. OCHA's core competency in response, response preparedness and its global network of OCHA RDRAs and its field offices will contribute to gathering data and analysing these to draw lessons learned from past response activities, which were linked to disaster reduction/early recovery activities

Specific activities and timetable are as follows:

November - December 2005

- Complete the scope and modalities of the Project and establish a team including consultant(s) in OCHA.
- Develop a format of the initial documents on lessons learned from the viewpoint of the above objectives in collaboration with partner organizations.

January - February 2006

- Collate existing case studies, good practices from response and response preparedness activities, linking risk reduction and early recovery activities through OCHA RDRAs/Field offices and the IRP network.

March - May 2006

- Draw lessons learned from above case studies/good practices and propose a strategy for the enhancement of response capabilities
- Present a progress report and discuss with partner organizations at the IRP meeting.

b) The Second Phase: Establish guidelines on good response system

As a second step, the Project will set up guidelines for establishing good response system in support of UNCTs and governments. The guidelines will provide several tools to enhance response capacities and certify with the whole process of making “disaster prepared” organization so that each organization can identify their gaps and required measures to be taken. Several national and regional level workshops will be organized to develop these guidelines as a tool for enhancing response capabilities.

Specific activities and timetable are as follows:

June – July 2006

- Draft guidelines for further discussions

August – October 2006

- Organize workshops to develop and review the guidelines through discussions with partner organizations, governments, NGOs and other end-users.
- Present a final report at the IRP meeting

Project profiles

Project title: Development of guidelines for efficient response system, linking to risk reduction/ early recovery activities		
Objective: to enhance response capabilities, clearly linked to risk reduction/early recovery activities, of UNCTs and governments in selected priority countries through newly developed guidelines based on the lessons learned and good practices from past response activities		Cost: USD 150,000 for Consultants, Travel, Workshops, and Printing *Not including OCHA HQ staff and National Disaster Response Advisors
Expected outcome: a) Lessons learned and good practices on efficient response system that incorporated risk reduction / early recovery activities b) Guidelines for efficient response system, closely linked to risk reduction / early recovery activities for UNCTs and governments		
Beneficiaries: -UNRCs/UNCTs in disaster prone countries -National Governments and International organizations tasked with emergency response operations and disaster risk reduction/early recovery activities	Possible Partners: IFRC, UNDP, Provention Consortium, ISDR, IRP Hyogo office and other relevant regional organizations	