

Recovery Network

"A Newsletter from International Recovery Platform"



IRP Partners: UNDP, UN/ISDR, Cabinet Office of Japan, Hyogo Prefectural Govt., ADRG, ILO, Govt. of Italy, Govt. of Switzerland, UN/OCHA, IFRC, World Bank, UN-HABITAT

November 2009 Edition

-Introduction-

IRP Activities in Asia

This edition will showcase our recent activities in Asia.

IRP is organizing the Regional Workshop on Recovery in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, held from 3rd to 5th of November 2009.

To study the recovery from the Gujarat Earthquake of 2001, IRP and our partner organizations visited the epicenter area

of Gujarat state of India in August, 2009. The findings and expert report are part of this newsletter.

IRP developed unique easy to use knowledge products for the recovery from the Philippines Typhoons 2009. These products are available on our website.

<http://www.recoveryplatform.org/>

-IRP Event-

IRP Regional Workshop in Indonesia: 3rd-5th, November 2009

Recovery from the May 27, 2006 earthquake, at Yogyakarta and Central Java is considered a successful case within Southeast Asia. For three years, the recovery process has proceeded smoothly due to well-coordinated efforts of various actors, including national and local governments, local communities, and international organizations and donors. Local Resource Institutions (LRIs) from government, NGOs, and academe in Indonesia have compiled several lessons on recovery from this experience. Specifically, the Gadjah Mada University (UGM), with experience as a hub for resource mobilization and fostering partnerships amongst stakeholders for recovery processes, has documented several lessons that are relevant to the international community. Sharing these lessons amongst countries of Southeast Asia offers added value to recovery operations in the region. In addition, lessons from recent recovery operations in the region are to be shared, to draw common lessons for a regional strategy on recovery.

IRP coordinates International and Regional Workshops on Recovery to ensure disaster reduction approaches are systematically incorporated in the design of preparedness, response, and recovery programs. This regional workshop provides opportunity for policymakers, practitioners, and academe to share experiences and learn from recovery operations as well as agree on priorities in addressing gaps in recovery operations, unique to the region.

The workshop facilitates collaborative relationships among policymakers, practitioners, academe, and wider community of practice in the region and provide thematic base material for recovery policy in the region, with learning's from the Yogyakarta Earthquake study, and other regional experiences. The specific objectives of the workshop are:

- To draw out knowledge from actual cases while identifying indigenous knowledge that fits in the specific context of the region

- To provide base material for a prospective "ASEAN Post-Disaster Recovery Strategy"

Live streaming of the Regional workshop for the parallel thematic sessions can be viewed via internet under the website of the Tokyo Development Learning Center of the World Bank.

<http://streaming.jointokyo.org>



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IRP provides the knowledge products for the Philippines Typhoon recovery

Upcoming IRP events :

16th of January 2010
IRP International recovery Forum in Kobe.

17th –19th of January 2010
Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction

For more details, visit our website
<http://www.recoveryplatform.org/>

In August 2009, as part of IRP activities in India, Dr.Narafu of Building Administration Research Institute visited Kachchh district of Gujarat State, India, one of the most severely impacted areas . As a building expert, Dr.Narafu examined the reconstruction of houses in relocation areas in Kachchh district:

Reconstruction of houses and communities after the disastrous seismic event in 2001 in India seems to be going well. Many relocation sites are constructed by the endeavors of relevant people and contribution of various organizations. Following is a brief report of my field survey in Kachchh District in October 2009 focusing on several technical issues.

1. A simple seismic design could save houses from collapsing

Many buildings and houses including those with modern industrialized materials like reinforced concrete members collapsed in the earthquake. On the other hand, houses with traditional materials with a simple seismic design could survive. We found an adobe (sun-dried brick) house which survived the seismic event without any damage as shown in Picture 1. It is a single

story house with a rectangular plan. The thick adobe walls of 40 cm and rigid reinforced concrete slab seem to be the key elements which contribute to the high seismic performance of the house.



Picture 1. An adobe house which survived the earthquake of 2001

2. Technical guidance on expansion of houses is necessary

Most reconstructed houses are small which meet the urgent needs immediately after disasters and usually need to be expanded over time. Many of the reconstructed houses had been expanded in Kachchh district when I visited. The original reconstructed houses employ seismic design but the expansion parts are usually constructed by dwellers in the conventional manner, which may be

vulnerable in the same way as those that were damaged by the earthquake. Technical guidance on expansion is necessary to be safe against future earthquakes.



Picture 2. Expansion of a reconstructed House using conventional construction methods (left part).



Picture 3. Expansion of a reconstructed house using conventional construction methods (left part)

3. Technical verification is preferable for steel frame structures.

Integrity of the total structure is a critical issue for earthquake-resistant strength. Separation of structural members like columns, beams and walls will result in serious damage such as total collapse. We learned that the connection of the steel frame (columns and beams) and masonry walls is rather difficult as it needs welding to fix the anchor steel bars to the steel frames as we learned from examples in Iran. I found an example of this type of structure in Kachchh. I hear that vertical and horizontal reinforcement steel bars are placed in the walls but it is not clear how they are attached to the steel frame. Another concern is free ends of walls as shown in Picture 5, which

are usually exposed to large displacement which often leads to failure. Our lessons in other countries suggest that we should assure the safety of this type of structure.



Picture 4. A reconstructed house with a steel frame and concrete blocks.



Picture 5. The top of the block wall is not attached to the structural members

Source: Tatsuo Narafu is the Director of Research Department -1, at Building Administration Research Institute
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Commissioned by the IRP, the Global Forum for Disaster Reduction (GFDR), in collaboration with the Department of Anthropology at Delhi University and the Centre for Integrated Development CfID, did a survey of areas affected by the Gujarat earthquake in 2001. Following the Gujarat earthquake, several measures were undertaken for sustainable recovery. These efforts aimed at rebuilding the capacity of the affected community. This report focuses on the lessons learned, gaps and challenges, and best practices.

1. Cooperation amongst NGOs can enhance relief and speed recovery

Kutch Nav Nirman Abhiyan (better known as 'Abhiyan') started as a network of fourteen grassroots NGOs. It was founded in response to the cyclone that hit Kutch in May 1998. Through its 14 grassroots NGO members, Abhiyan works in 400 villages of the Kutch district. The approach adopted by Abhiyan is based on a fundamental belief in self-help, confidence-building and local ownership. This meant that local villagers meet, organize and carry out their own needs assessment. The relief operations were based on community-based participation- involving the "beneficiaries" with minimum supervision by the Abhiyan network. Empowered by this approach, the affected community became more confident and was able to take control of its needs.

2. Policy Interventions and Institutional Strengthening are essential for providing a larger recovery framework under which sustainable recovery work may be undertaken.

Following the devastating disaster of Gujarat, the state government undertook various short and long term measures as policy interventions. The State Government felt the need to institutionalize and develop guidelines and policies to handle such situations. Some of the measures taken by the Government of Gujarat include:

- Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA)
The Government of Gujarat established GSDMA, in response to the earthquake, to manage and coordinate the implementation of the reconstruction programme. The Authority was created by the Government of Gujarat, by the GAD's Resolution dated 8th February 2001 and later on became a society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. The mandate of GSDMA included issues of long-term disaster risk reduction for all hazards facing the State. The responsibility of GSDMA was to: (a) coordinate with all relevant line agencies and stakeholders involved in reconstruction; (b) provide financial management of the Gujarat Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Fund, also newly established, and (c) monitor progress of the overall program.
- Gujarat State Disaster Management Policy
Recognizing the need for a proactive, comprehensive and sustained approach to disaster management, the Government of Gujarat declared its policy towards disaster management in 2002. The Policy aimed at establishing necessary systems, structures, programs, resources, capabilities and guiding principles for

reducing disaster risks. It also addressed issues relating to preparedness and disaster response so as to save lives and property and mitigate the impact of the disasters on economic, social, and environmental sectors. This aimed at ensuring the continuity and sustainability of development.

- Gujarat State Disaster Management Act, 2003
In the post disaster period, the State government enacted a State Disaster management Act in order to provide a legal and regulatory framework for disaster management. Based on the devastation of the earthquake this was a move towards providing effective mitigation and management of disasters. It addresses pertinent issues of administration; facilitation, coordination and the monitoring of emergency relief work in the post-disaster period. It also addresses implementation, monitoring and coordinating measures for reconstruction and rehabilitation in the aftermath of disasters by establishing the role of the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority. The state assembly passed the bill on March 28, 2003 and the Act came into effect on May 13, 2003.

3. Cash for work programs and micro finance initiatives encourage self dependency and have long-term economic implications

In the aftermath of the earthquake, the State government, through GSDMA, introduced financial packages related to livelihoods of the affected population. These compensation packages involved both cash transfers and asset replacement and pertained to the dominant occupations in the region - salt mining, industry, handicrafts and artistry, animal husbandry and tourism. The package provided rebates on loans, subsidies, and created revolving funds and interest free credit for assisting livelihood recovery.

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) announced a refinancing scheme on concessional terms. The Government facilitated financing for small-scale industrial units through this concessional loan window.

Apart from the state initiatives, NGO collectives also provided incentives for revival and restoration of livelihoods: Best practices - cash grants to match cash for work.

This was seen in the case of the handicrafts industry. The income of the artisan from the work done during the recovery period (embroidery, leather work, patch work etc) was matched by an equal cash grant from the NGO. This meant the artisan earned a double income; increasing disposable cash in hand and providing the artisans with an incentive to work. In the long run this was beneficial for the revival of the crafts as well as the psychosocial recovery of the affected artisans. This unique approach also aided in the distribution of donor funding in a more organized and efficient manner.

Source:
Global Forum for Disaster Reduction

-Cover Story-

Status of Recovery in Gujarat, India 2009

Summary

International Recovery Platform (IRP) has been monitoring the status of recovery from the Gujarat Earthquake 26th of January 2001, with assistance from Global Forum for Disaster Reduction (GFDR) and Delhi University. The joint research group visited the epicenter of the earthquake in India this summer. The main objective of the project is to promote IRP activities in India and in other SAARC countries. The activities are:

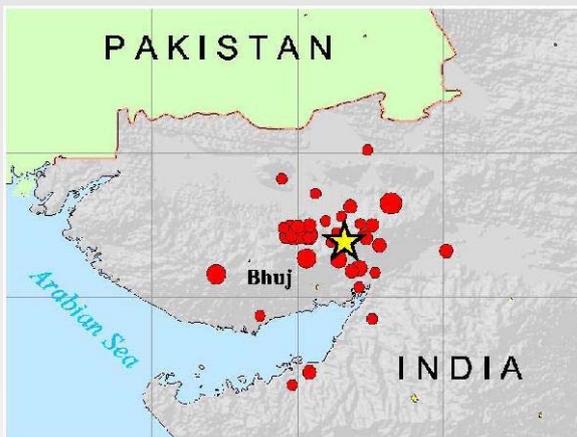
- Liaising with stakeholders, senior government officials, local experts, and other partners in India
- Extending support in the organization of the Joint ERRP IRP Regional Conference in India, 29-31 July 2009 by providing global experts/resource persons
- Production of a documentary film highlighting important recovery lessons drawn from the Gujarat Earthquake of 2001



Overall, the recovery in Gujarat has been vastly successful in integrating sustainable development. As can be seen, the earthquake response brought about innovative ideas of recovery in a variety of sectors that aim to build back the capacity of the affected populations in a sustainable manner. Many of these new practices were unprecedented and have now given a unique approach to

recovery in India. By documenting these innovative methods of recovery and the lessons learnt, there is great potential to utilize this information in the long-run for disaster risk reduction measures and response in future disasters.

The Gujarat Earthquake, India 2001



Referenced from the U.S. Geological Survey Earthquake Hazards Program
http://neic.usgs.gov/neis/eq_depot/2001/eq_010126/aftershocks.html

Date: 26th January 2001

Magnitude: 6.9

Areas affected: Gujarat, India / Sindh, Pakistan

Deaths: 20,005 (12,220 in Kachchh area)

Injured: 165,000

Shelters Destroyed : 400,000

Shelters Damaged : 1,000,000

Number of people affected: 6,321,821

Estimated damage : USD 2623 million

(Referenced from EMDAT)

Complete field survey report on IRP Website:
<http://www.recoveryplatform.org/>

-From the Editor-

IRP develops knowledge products for the Philippines Typhoon recovery

IRP Supports Recovery in the Philippines

Building Back Better

The IRP Secretariat, supported by UNISDR, is providing knowledge management support to recovery following typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng. 'Knowledge and Information for Recovery' are key contributions to longer-term recovery efforts. The focus is on assisting Local Governments with relevant information to ensure build back better. The knowledge offered includes: lessons learned, best practices and checklists. More products are under development and will be added. These will be of use in this and future recovery efforts.

These knowledge products for recovery are on the IRP website now categorized under thematic heads:

- Debris Management
- Environment
- Gender
- Governance
- Livelihood

IRP Website on the Philippines Typhoon recovery
http://irp.onlinesolutionsltd.net/countries_and_disasters/disaster/40/philippine_typhoons_2009