

Recovery Network

IRP International Recovery Platform

“A Newsletter from International Recovery Platform”

IRP Members:

UNDP, UN/ISDR, Cabinet Office of Japan, Hyogo Prefectural Govt., ADRC, ILO, Govt. Of Italy, Govt. Of Switzerland, UN/OCHA, IFRC, World Bank

A ground breaking initiative of IRP

**“LEARNING FROM DISASTER RECOVERY”
Guidance for Decision Makers**

Recovery Network

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The book “Learning from Disaster Recovery” is the first major product of the International Recovery Platform (IRP) that was launched during the *World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR)* in 2005. The IRP has been designed to promote collective learning, and is supported by a consortium of United Nations Agencies including UNDP, ADRC, UN/ISDR, and the Government of Japan.

This initiative of IRP is the first ‘evidence-based’ examination of international experiences to determine the nature of successful disaster recovery. The publication of the book coincides with ongoing recovery operations following three epic-scale disaster events: the Indian Ocean Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and the South Asia earthquake, and these operations have yielded vital data that have been described and analysed in the book.

The broad aim of the study is to assist decision makers in their efforts to create resilient societies, a complex and all embracing task that includes the ability to resist disasters, to bounce back rapidly and adapt and change during the recovery process. It is anticipated that the study will result in significant progress in the following areas:

- Improved global recovery management



- Better integration of psycho-social, economic, physical, environmental and administrative recovery actions into holistic policies and programmes.
- Improvements in the assessment of damage, needs and capacities
- Advice on ways to incorporate risk reduction into recovery.
- Value for money invested in recovery through an ‘evidence based approach’ concerning what works and what is likely to fail.
- The development of a framework for future reporting on disaster recovery.

The study is structured under various key themes:

- The scope of learning from disaster recovery.
- The overarching concept of resilient communities
- The organization and implementation of recovery
- Reducing risks in recovery
- Damage, needs and capacity assessment
- Dilemmas in recovery
- The continuum from emergency to long-term phase

Since disaster recovery concerns the rebuilding of people and society as well as their livelihoods and the buildings and towns they inhabit it requires the acceptance of shared values by decision makers. Therefore, to aid this process a series of underlying recovery principles: ethical, strategic and tactical are proposed with summaries of policy guidance in relation to each topic.

Two aspects of knowledge are addressed in this book: first to inform its readers to help them gain knowledge and understanding of disaster recovery, but also to indicate some routes to further knowledge through published material, hyperlinks to Internet sources etc.

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IRP Events

IRP Retreat on November 20-22, 2006 at Turin, Italy

3rd Steering Committee Meeting on November 22, 2006 at Turin, Italy

International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake to be held on January 15-16, 2006 at Kobe, Japan



“LEARNING FROM DISASTER RECOVERY” . . .



To achieve these twin objectives the book has been designed to be accessible, relevant, strategic, and evidence based.

A set of conclusions as well as recommendations drawn from these themes is brought together in the final Chapter. The four conclusions selected from the initial chapters are set out below as a sample of the key findings:

1. Learning

While there are important variables in societies recovering from disasters there are patterns that frequently recur. Therefore it is possible to learn and apply vital lessons drawn from the experience of others.

2. Resilience

The primary aim of recovery management is to use the opportunity to build or strengthen resilience in all directions: to society, to its citizens, its assets, its buildings, its critical facilities, its livelihoods, its government administration and its natural environment.

3. Organization

Effective recovery requires a single point of over-

all responsibility in government. This may be best achieved by having a dedicated organization established at the apex of political power and decision making with a clear mandate supported by appropriate legislation, adequate resources, direct links to all line ministries and knowledge of the dynamics of the disaster recovery process.

4. Risk Reduction

Despite the difficulties risks must be reduced in the recovery process to avoid a repeat of the disaster. The recovery provides the physical opportunity as well as a collective mindset to introduce changes in structural and non-

structural risk reduction elements, and these need to be coordinated in an integrated manner. Risk reduction also needs to be mainstreamed into the central flow of government policies and planning, and disaster recovery may provide the catalyst or such changes.

To summarize, this book attempts to give practical advice to key decision makers in government to think and prepare and plan and decide to enable their society, stricken by the trauma of disaster to 'build back better'.

The book was edited by Prof. Ian Davis, Visiting Professor, Cranfield University, UK

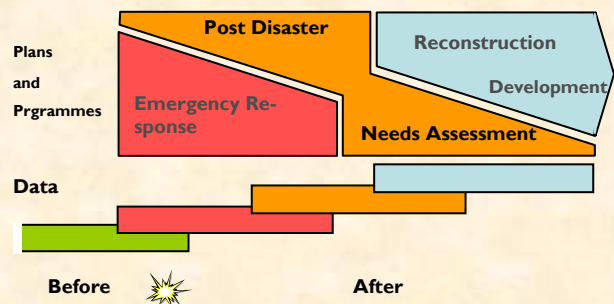
Post Disaster Recovery Needs Assessment

International Recovery Platform (IRP) has identified a need to develop a technical sound common methodology to assess damages and post disaster recovery needs in a way that can provide a framework for the planning of coordinated recovery efforts across different sectors (shelter, livelihoods, governance, environment, etc.) with a risk reduction focus.

The PDNA will comprise two different but closely inter-related products that will attempt to fill the gap as described above: a) A set of methodologies and guidelines accurately and reliably assessing disaster-related physical damages and economic losses, identifying and defining early recovery needs and for planning early recovery activities on the basis of the needs identified. b) A set of tools to underpin the methodologies and guidelines described above, capable of analyzing and displaying data on physical damages and economic losses with a national level of observation and local level of resolution in the temporal, spatial and semantic domains.

The primary purpose of the PDNA is to provide all actors in the recovery process, including national and local authorities, international agencies and local communities, with a multi-sectoral, technical overview of the damage and loss patterns and the principal rehabilitation and reconstruction needs and priorities to be addressed during post disaster recovery. Thus, the PDNA will:

- serve as a planning and coordination framework for a multi-stakeholder, mutually agreed recovery strategy, owned by the government and supported by the international community;
- identify prioritized benchmarks, outcomes and desired results as early efforts are made to repair and restore social, physical, institutional and economic systems;



PDNA, connecting emergency response with longer-term reconstruction and development

- inform and guide the decision-making process within the donor community with regard to commitments and pledges for recovery
- provide the foundation for the formulation of early recovery programmes in each sector and geographic area, identifying opportunities for risk reduction.

UNDP, as part of its commitment to the International Recovery Platform and in its capacity as Cluster Lead for Early Recovery, will provide overall project supervision and coordination of a broad and inclusive process in the development of the PDNA. An agreement has been entered into with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) as the implementing agency for this work. The PDNA development will take place in two phases: (i) a six month pilot phase, starting November 2006, and, (ii) a two years implementation phase.

Delnet Journal: @local.glob – Disaster risk reduction: a call to action

A special issue of the Delnet Journal, prepared and produced by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in conjunction with the **United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)** and the **International Recovery Platform (IRP)**, was presented at the UN Economic and Social Council Humanitarian Affairs Segment event dedicated to the ISDR System and the Hyogo Framework for Action Implementation, which took place in the *Palais des Nations*, Geneva, Switzerland, on 19 July 2006.

The publication “Disaster risk reduction: a call to action” aims

to contribute to the efforts and concrete involvement in the global debate on how to accelerate a common process of collaboration and coordination at local, national, regional and international level on implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The document is available in **English, French, Portuguese** and **Spanish** at the following link:

<http://www.delnetitcilo.net/localglob>

IRP Capacity Building Database

ILO, the capacity building partner of the International Recovery Platform (IRP), has recently launched an on-line database of capacity building available resources worldwide. This site provides a list of institutions working in the field of disaster management with a specific focus on training and capacity building for disaster risk reduction.

According to the disaster risk reduction agenda set up by the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, Capacity Building (CB) is a cross-cutting issue: expertise and resources are available worldwide, however due to information overload and lack of effective harmonization amongst actors, the use of these resources is not optimized.

In the technical field of disaster risk management, **according to the definition provided by UN/ISDR, capacity building** involves those “*efforts aimed to develop human skills or societal infrastructures within a community or organization needed to reduce the level of risk. In extended understanding, capacity building also includes development of institutional, financial, political and other resources, such as technology at different levels and sectors of the society*”.

The main objective of this database is to provide an open, clear and user-friendly inventory of available resources worldwide, with a special emphasis on training offerings and knowledge tools at international, regional, national and local level. For more information visit the following site:

<http://irp-capacitybuilding.delnetitcilo.net>

ILO Training: Specialization in Disaster Risk Reduction within the framework of Sustainable Local Development

The Delnet Programme in conjunction with the programme on Crisis Response and Reconstruction of ILO (ILO/CRISIS) has initiated a training programme on “Disaster Risk Reduction” within the framework of the UN/ISDR. The course is also part of the capacity-building component of the International Recovery Platform. Thus, it also looks at post-disaster reconstruction, and identifies recovery as one of the key opportunities for reducing disaster risks. The training course aims to strengthen the local capacity to achieve more sustainable reconstruction and to integrate risk reduction practices fully into development processes.

It is expected that around 25 local actors and practitioners from Central America and the Caribbean region would participate in the training programme over the six months period the training will be conducted in three phases, e.g. distance learning preparatory phase, face to face training at the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin, and distance learning follow-up.

The training programme will start on November 28, 2006. For more information, please visit the Delnet website:

<http://learning.itcilo.org/delnet>

Recovery News From Field

Training and Technical Assistance in Northern Pakistan

The earthquake on 8 October 2005 had killed an estimated 80,000 people and rendered more than 3 million people homeless. The massive scale earthquake destroyed 203,579 housing units and damaged another 196,575 units. Some 84 percent of the total housing stock was damaged or destroyed in Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK), while in North West Frontier Province (NWFP), 36 percent of the

total housing stock was damaged or destroyed.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (GoP) established the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) to coordinate the reconstruction of the affected areas. ERRA has requested UN-HABITAT assistance to provide technical and training support to help ensure that the rebuilt houses are earthquake resistant and to help instil a “culture of prevention” against potential future disasters.

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(Continued from p.3)



The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and UN-HABITAT signed a Grant Arrangement on 13 February 2006. Through this two years grant, UN-HABITAT is implementing a programme of capacity-building support for earthquake resistant housing reconstruction. Under the project UN-HABITAT established six Housing Reconstruction Centers (HRC) in the most heavily-affected Districts. HRCs are the nerve centre for providing supports to the Partner Organizations (POs) in technical guidelines for earthquake-resistant reconstruction technology using locally available construction materials. A technical training materials for earthquake resistant reconstruction has been developed and in

the process of distribution through training workshops for local authorities, army, POs and builders to produce large number of Master Trainers. The Master Trainer will then organize village-level training for artisans and households.



UN-HABITAT is in the process of developing a decentralized comprehensive Management Information System (MIS) that will enable to monitor the training progress and report to ERRA on a regular basis. MIS will be integrated with a functional GIS system for production of maps for progress monitoring and coordination.

Contributor: : G. M. Kamal, UN-HABITAT, Pakistan

Recovery in Ecuador

The government of Ecuador is in the midst of designing a recovery strategy following the eruption of the Tungurahua Volcano in May 2006. Following the volcanic eruptions, the consequences for livelihoods were severe as a large percentage of the affected population are farmers that live and cultivate land on the outskirts of the volcano. In response, the Ecuadorian

government - with the help of the interagency group UNETE technical assistance from UNDP, and in cooperation with local actors - is formulating a recovery strategy for the areas affected by the volcano. The recovery plan involves six ministries and various national entities, as well UN agencies who have come together to propose strategies and programs for early and longer-term recovery.

Ref: CWGER info. note

Rebuilding the Earthquake –Affected Areas in Yogyakarta and Central Java

Following the devastating earthquake in Yogyakarta and central Java, the ILO has supported the government of Indonesia and its social partners to assess the damage to employment and livelihoods. Over 120,000 jobs were affected by the quake, which killed close to 6,000 people and destroyed 400,000 houses. Most people who lost their livelihoods were traders and vendors in the informal economy.



ILO is currently supporting the recovery work, providing crash courses on concrete mixing and masonry, drawing from the experience with response to Tsunami disaster in Ache. Such skills will allow people to build back stronger house.

Training of Trainers on basic Concrete and masonry work :

To support the use of labour-based technology and to promote capacity building of construction craftsmen, the ILO conducted a training of trainers on basic concrete and masonry work.

The training was jointly organized with support from provincial manpower office of DIY Yogyakarta located at Vocational Training Centre (BLK).

The objective was to equip and upgrade skills of master trainers on basic concrete and masonry work for selected government officials.

A total of selected 14 master trainers participated in the training. As a result of the training, they are expected to present similar course at local communities in affected areas, particularly at two most affected areas Bantul and Sleman Regency- targeting construction workers, construction foremen /supervisors, community leaders, community-based Youth Organizations, and other related NGOs. Follow-up trainings were conducted in July at Jetis, Piyungan and Pandak sub-districts of Bantul Regency and at Kalasan and Prambanan.

These master trainers, in close consultation with Provincial Manpower Office and the ILO, will be responsible for providing technical arrangements, including in providing tools and materials. Meanwhile, the Manpower Office will be responsible for the tools for rollout training. To date, there are two sets of tools available for the training.

Contributor: ILO Jakarta

IRP's Support to On-going Recovery Operations in Yogyakarta

Following the earthquake, IRP Kobe sent an official together with ADRC team to Yogyakarta from 30 May to 4 July to conduct damage and needs assessment. The team visited affected areas and reviewed the damage and need of the population along with recommendations for quick recovery support. In order to follow-up on the recovery activities, IRP Kobe team in coordination with RDRA OCHA Kobe, who also served as the Coordinator for Yogyakarta operation, established regular video-conferences with the Yogyakarta UN team. The objectives of the video conferencing were: a) to support smooth transition from humanitarian phase to recovery phase, b) on-going recovery operations by way of sharing of good practices and experiences from various sources, including the Knowledge Repository of IRP, c) learn lessons from actual recovery operations in terms of identification of actual issues, problems and needs.

To date, IRP Kobe in collaboration with UNOCHA Kobe, ADRC and UNCRD arranged three Internet-based video-conferencing with Yogyakarta UN Country Team. The Conference participants reviewed the current situation in relation to recovery approach and strategies, shelter technical issues, Livelihood issues, Disaster risk reduction, Public education and awareness, etc.

Provincial recovery authority has made provision of reconstructing 350,000 houses in three months period following *one Step policy* (no transitional housing) proposed by Central Government. UN Country team perceived this decision



very challenging considering their experience on lengthy administrative process, lack of appropriate technical persons, facilities, construction materials, etc.. Based on the discussion with Yogyakarta team, IRP provided following knowledge materials to support the recovery process:

- 1) Building codes guideline (Indonesian and Indian context)
- 2) Executive summary of IRP knowledge kit "Learning from Recovery"
- 3) building design posters used in Pakistan by UN-HABITAT
- 4) Recovery lessons learnt from Bam earthquake

The participants proposed to continue with this process on a regular basis. It would facilitate mutual learning and sharing of experiences on the recovery process and strengthening of service-oriented approach of IRP.

3rd Public Symposium on Post Disaster Recovery

On the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the establishment of IRP, a Public Symposium on Post Disaster Recovery was organised by IRP secretariat in Kobe on May 30, 2006 in collaboration with ADRC, UN/ISDR, UNOCHA, Cabinet Office of Japan and Hyogo Prefectural Government. The Objectives of the Symposium was to highlight IRP activities for the last one year and discuss IRP roles towards the implementation of HFA.

Mr. Tomio Saito, Vice Governor Hyogo Prefectural Government Japan, Mr. Fumio Takeda, Deputy Director General for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office of Japan and Dr. Salvano Briceño, Director, UN/ISDR made opening remarks for the participants. Mr. Saito and Mr. Takeda highlighted the importance of effective post disaster recovery relating to the experience of Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake and asked for greater level of preparedness for the natural disasters. They expressed their satisfaction for the establishment of IRP in Kobe and re-iterated their willingness to support IRP activities.



seek the feedback from Governments on the type of knowledge supports and recovery planning tools they

Dr Salvano Briceño emphasized the increasing need for IRP to establish a service-oriented approach towards Governments and National Institutions of high risk countries. Further, he stated that IRP should actively

need and focus in developing and disseminating these tools.

In the keynote speech Mr. Andrew Maskrey, Chief, Disaster Reduction Unit, UNDP/BCPR highlighted the factors that accumulate risks in hazard prone countries and importance of understanding the reality of risk.



In his opinion, disaster preparedness and integration of risk reduction into overall development process is crucial. Otherwise, the accumulation of risk before disaster will be reproduced. He suggested that the role of IRP is to find and generate the imperative to transform risks for better recovery.

Following the key note speech, Mr. Sohel Khan, IRP Kobe, Dr. Puji Pujiono, UN/OCHA Kobe, Mr. Masahiko Murata, IRP Kobe, Mr. Alfredo Lazarte Hoyle, ILO, Geneva and Mr. Praveen Pardeshi, UN/ISDR made presentations on IRP activities. A panel discussion was then held among four experts, including Dr. Salvano Briceño, Director, UN/ISDR, Mr. Andrew Maskrey, Chief, BCPR/UNDP, Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness, Cabinet Office of Japan and Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director, ADRC. Mr. Anil K. Sinha, Programme Advisor, IRP Kobe coordinated the discussion. The theme of the panel discussion was: "What initiatives and activities will you like IRP to undertake in its second year?"

IRP Secretariat News

International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake on January 15-16, 2007 in Kobe-Hyogo, Japan

The "International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake - Progress of the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and Recovery from Tsunami and Earthquake –" will be held on 15-16 January 2007 in Kobe-Hyogo, Japan, co-organized by Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), International Recovery Platform (IRP) Kobe, Government of Japan, Hyogo Prefectural Government and UN partners, commemorating the 2nd anniversary of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR), held soon after the Indian Ocean Tsunami and the 12th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995.

The Forum intends to identify the important perspectives for post disaster recovery from devastating impact, to share lessons and experiences of ongoing disaster recovery and to draw out policy feedback for HFA through actual recovery operations. The first day, 15 January, the Symposium will be open to the public. Thematic discussions by the participating experts will take place on the second day, 16 January, along with three thematic sessions (Housing, Livelihood and Organizational/Institutional arrangement).

The registration form for participation is available on IRP website (<http://www.recoveryplatform.org/>). Please send the completed form to e-mail: irp-event@recoveryplatform.org or fax: +81-78-262-6046) by 28 December 2006. For more information, please visit the IRP website.

IRP Retreat

IRP Retreat will take place on 20 to 22 November 2006 at Turin, Italy (in the campus of International Training Center of ILO). The objectives of this meeting is for key IRP partners to take stock of IRP work to date as well as to determine the strategic direction and future actions in the continued development of the IRP network. IRP members, observers and 6 national government representatives will participate in the retreat.

3rd Steering Committee Meeting

In conjunction to retreat, 3rd IRP Steering Committee meeting will also take place on November 22 (afternoon) in ILO /ITC at Turin.

Images of some IRP activities



2nd IRP symposium in Kobe



IRP Meeting with World Bank



1st IRP symposium at Kobe



Book validation mission to Bangladesh



IRP mission at Leyte landslide area



3rd IRP symposium at Kobe



IRP meeting in Geneva during ECOSOC side event

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