Seamless Transition from Response to Recovery: Lessons from Leyte Landslide UNDAC Operation Presentation at the IRP Public Symposium, June 2006 by Dr. Puji Pujiono Head of OCHA Kobe Regional Disaster Response Adviser
The Leyte Landslide
17 February 2006

- Leyte is a hilly area traversed by fault lines
- Guinsaugon village is in a valley
- La Nina episode showed continuous two week rainfall almost three times than previous year
- Rainfall-triggered landslide at 10:00 AM
- Earthquake of 2.6 RS occurred at 10:36
- Some 3 Km² of mudslide at 4 to 9 M deep
- With sheared and weathered rocks as deadweight
Casualties

- Recovered dead bodies: 140
- Missing/presumed dead: 980
- Total death: 1,120
- Recovered Body parts: 15
- Injured: 30
- Evacuated: 650
- Houses: 3,250
- Industrial: 3,750
- School: 18,860

 damages ($M)

- Infra: 1.78
- Agri: 0.5
## Responses

### SEARCH & RESCUE
- More 1,500 military and civilian rescuers
  - 1,250 local responders
  - 250 (6 countries)
- Assets
  - 4 war-ships
  - 20 helicopters
  - 50 vehicles
  - 15 heavy equipments

### RELIEF
- Local relief efforts
- More 15 countries bilaterally donated or pledged
- Multilateral (Red cross, the UN, OPEC)
Challenges

1. Bad weather and difficult access
2. Nature of disaster leaves narrow survival
3. Prolonging and expanding operational boundaries
4. Possible impending similar disasters nearby
5. Government welcomed but did not specify the needed aid
6. Local governments are overwhelmed by international aids
7. Coup d’etat attempt
Intro: OCHA Kobe

• UN mandate: *to alleviate suffering and to advocate peoples rights in time of disaster*

• Mission:
  – To coordinate international responses to humanitarian and disaster events
  – To strengthen disaster response and response preparedness of national governments and UN country teams

• Additional roles as OCHA’s focal point for:
  – ASEAN
  – Hyogo Framework For Action
  – International Recovery Platform
  – The RELIEFWEB Kobe
What is UNDAC System?
UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination System

- A pool of 250 disaster response specialists from and in different parts of the world
- To support the UN in the field and governments
- Inducted through training and kept updated through yearly refresher courses
- Ready for short notice deployment
- To go on UN short time missions
- Managed by OCHA Geneva
Immediate
Info and Mobilization

• GENEVA: response system alerted in 120 mins
• OCHA Kobe: immediately linked field, Geneva, and Japan until national channel in Manila was established
• RELIEFWEB KOBE
  – Pre-landslide monitoring started on 14 Feb
  – Information and communication coverage:
    • 1st posting of document: 3 hours after the landslide
    • No. of posted documents: 172
    • No. of posted maps: 3
    • No. of posting on Internet-based coordination facility: 137
UNDAC Mission: Led by OCHA Kobe

A team of 9 persons from 7 countries landed Manila in 36 hours, staying 2 weeks

Manila:
1. Assisted UN coordinator manage situations
2. Helped Govt consolidate assessment & coordination
3. Helped UN country team strategise its response
4. Give guidance to international responses
5. Recommended emergency & medium-term actions

St Bernard
1. Monitor & coordinate multinational rescue ops
2. Coordinate interagency assessment
3. Establish and operate Operation Center
4. Establish and maintain relief sectoral coordination
5. Provide facility for national and global telecom
6. Transitions to local and to recovery/rehab phases

TACLOBAN: Assessing and overseeing logistical hub connecting Tacloban, Mactan Airbase (Cebu), Villamor Airbase (Manila) and the Airbridge to St. Bernard
Recovery Steps
Before UNDAC deployment

- Reviewed UNDAC Handbook re: TRANSITION
- Included recovery / rehab in UNDAC Plan of Action
- Offered IRP’s supports to UNRC/UNDMT
Recovery Steps
During UNDADAC Deployment

1. Working with UNRC/UNDMT on recovery / rehab issues
2. Negotiated the deployment of IRP Secretariat’s Kobe-Hub
3. Reviewed existing projects with medium and long terms implications (Eastern Seabord, EPRC, etc.)
4. Negotiated immediate solutions to recovery (evacuation centers, embankment, reconstruction)
5. Support UNRC conference with government and embassies and donor / monetary institutions
6. Putting in place coordination mechanisms for transitions to recovery and rehabilitation
7. Handover procedures and notes to locals and UNDMT
Recovery steps
After UNDAC deployment

1. Pushing IRP Kobe Secretariat field mission
2. Press conference with recovery / rehab emphasis
3. Facilitating sustainability of resources and coordination mechanisms beyond emergency
4. Drawing implications from relief/response phase in Post-mission handover notes
Lessons Learned

1. OCHA’s Relief and response operations have strong TRANSITION component
2. Recovery and rehabilitation are taken early on in the UNDAC deployment operation
3. More need to be done to ascertain the seamless link between relief/response to recovery
4. OCHA Kobe remains committed to comprehensive disaster reduction including linking response to recovery