Lessons on Recovery from Mega-Disasters for Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction

~ Employment and Livelihoods ~

International Recovery Forum
and
The Fourth Expert Group Meeting on the Great East Japan Earthquake

21-22 January 2013, Kobe

ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand

An evacuee with his vendor shop opened in an evacuation centre, Cagayan de Oro, December 2011

Sign indicating a direction to a temporary vendor shop selling fuel and reconstruction materials, Minami-sanriku, May, 2011

Temporary information desk for job seeker
Minami-sanriku Town, 29 May 2011
Great East Japan Earthquake
11 March 2011

**Damages**
- 841,000 jobs affected (in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures)
- Job losses in a wide range of sectors
  - Agriculture and fishery (Iwate)
  - Retail and services (Miyagi)
  - Manufacturing (Fukushima)

**Response (Government)**
- “Japan as One” Work Project (April 2011 - )
  - Public work creation
  - Job counselling
  - Subsidies for companies
  - Extended employment insurance benefits
  - Financial support for SMEs

**Lessons from Japan**

- Asia and Pacific Regional Meeting “Special Session on Natural Disaster Response with a Central Focus on Employment Policy”
  - Lessons on employment and labour policies, based on the GEJE experience
  - http://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/2r9852000001yhlw.html

- The 10th ASEAN & Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies: “Caring Societies for the Socially Vulnerable People Suffering After Natural Disasters”
  - Lessons from Japan and the Asia and Pacific region
Lessons from Japan

- ILO Japan Earthquake Project: Collecting and Disseminating Lessons on Employment and Labour Policies

**Post-disaster Employment and Labour Policy Measures in Japan**

- Conducting research on employment-focused disaster recovery efforts both by the public and private sectors in Japan
- Generating lessons learned and good practices
- Disseminating and sharing findings as international knowledge resources

➡ Relevance, Preparedness, Inclusiveness

Relevance

- Ensure employment issues are addressed during the time of natural disasters.
  - Incorporate the labour sector in the national disaster management systems to focus on preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction phases following natural or man-made disasters.
  - Allocate budget for employment and livelihoods programmes.
  - Build capacities to assess employment and livelihoods damages and loses (National assessment, Post-disaster Needs Assessment, Joint UN Assessment).
Preparedness

- Prepare employment measures in advance.
  - Collect and stock know-hows on employment policies (e.g. employment services, job creation, vocational training).
  - Develop emergency employment policies in advance.
  - Develop/strengthen social protection mechanisms (e.g. unemployment insurance, health insurance) as they provide a safe guard in time of natural hazards.

Inclusiveness

- Make a recovery process inclusive to attend needs of women, the elders, the disabled and the informal sector workers.
  - The vulnerable social group with greater needs
    - Disaster-related death – 90% are those of 70 y.o above
    - “Mismatch” in the labour market – disadvantaged women
    - Livelihoods and employment a major challenge
    - More severe damages in the informal sector
  - Hard to find and reach the group
    - Few data on the vulnerable populations (e.g. the disabled, elders, migrant workers, as well as those in the informal sector) available
    - Silent populations: “Our need is not a priority”, Survivors’ guilt
      Shinsai Shogaisha (“Disaster PwD”), Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, 1995 – The issue surfaced 16 years later.
    - Few agencies dedicated to the elders
    - Very few assistance efforts on their employment and livelihoods
Thank you

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