UN-Habitat’s Approach to Disaster Recovery

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

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Key questions to sustainable recovery

• How to avoid long term impacts of short term gains?
• How to leverage immediate measures following crisis?
• How to link short term inputs to longer term objectives?
• How to build resilience in urban context?
UN-Habitat’s Strategy on Recovery: Sustainable Relief and Reconstruction Framework

- Creating appropriate human settlement conditions for facilitating the transition from relief to sustainable development.
- Understanding long-term impacts of short-term interventions, linking recovery process with long-term development strategy.
- Revisiting past practices and changing mitigation strategies for vulnerability/risk reduction; and building future resilience.
- Building and engaging capacities at all levels, in all sectors and of all actors.
- Strengthening local capacity to accelerate transition & sustain it in the long run.

The case of Corail, Haiti

Port-au-Prince

Corail

January 12, 2010
Comparison between Conventional and UN-Habitat’s Approach: Haiti Case

Conventional relief and reconstruction:
- Camp
- Transitional Shelter
- Repair / Reconstruction

UN-Habitat’s Approach:
- Earlier initiation of recovery
- Transition to development
- Housing Damage Assessment
- Safe Return to Original Home
- Repair / Reconstruction
- Safer construction and risk mitigation

Comparison between Conventional and UN-Habitat’s Approach: Haiti Case

- Conventional Relief and Reconstruction:
  - Building new camps and transitional shelters
  - Linear process: camp – transitional shelter – repair/reconstruction
  - New camps – lack of integration with surrounding physical / social environment
  - International procurement of materials and high agency logistics expense
  - Agency-driven

- UN-Habitat’s Relief and Reconstruction:
  - Optimizing existing building stock where feasible
  - Multiple options utilizing existing building stock, infrastructure, economy
  - Safe return home – faster (re)integration with surrounding physical / social environment
  - Local manpower to build capacity on repair / risk mitigation techniques; utilizing local economy where possible
  - People-driven; avoids dependency to external assistance
Missing Link between Humanitarian and Development Assistance: Need for Systematic Framework to Ensure Better Resilience

- Linkage? Synergy? Long-term resilience building?

Where is the inventory of humanitarian assistance outputs to be linked to long-term reconstruction and development efforts?

UN-Habitat’s Initiative: City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP)

- OVERALL GOAL: Cities are safer places to live and work as urban managers are able to implement strategic development planning and programmes that target specific indicators of resilience to multi-hazard catastrophic events.

- EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
  - An operational framework to analyze various function of cities suitable for all human settlements;
  - City resilience profiles with indicators for calibrating ability of functions of cities to withstand and recover from crisis;
  - Software systems that produce city resilience profiles;
  - Global standards set for city resilience;
  - A new normative framework for monitoring cities globally.
City Resilience Profile: Inventory of All Elements of City Resilience – Urban Systems Approach

- Multi-hazard Risks and Exposure
  - Infrastructure
  - Economy
  - Environment
  - Land
  - Location and surrounding env.
  - Durability against hazards (e.g. fire, seismic)
  - Building codes
  - Construction skills/technology
  - Financial resource

City Resilience Profile Applicable to Assess Both Humanitarian and Development Assistance

- The CRP is a baseline analysis of the ability of the city, town or village to withstand and recover quickly from disasters. It is also the starting point for planning development programmes with a view to measurably increasing resilience to all plausible hazards.
City Resilience Profile as Inventory to Link Humanitarian and Development Assistance

City Resilience Profiles to be used as a common inventory/framework to link the two types of assistance

Humanitarian Assistance
- Activity A → Output A
- Activity B → Output B
- Activity C → Output C

Development Assistance
- Activity X → Output X
- Activity Y → Output Y
- Activity Z → Output Z

City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP): Key Features

- **Pilot Cities**: Up to 10 pilot cities selected from the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient (MCR) Campaign partners;
- **Key partnerships**: UNISDR and other int’l organizations, City networks, industry, professional networks, academia, and agencies;
- **Linkages to Existing Campaigns**: UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign, MCR Campaign;
- **Target Post Hyogo Framework for Action**: CRP to be utilized for post-2015 planning and monitoring;
- **Targeting Habitat III conference 2016**: For launching Urban Resilience Monitoring Programme and dissemination of results/outputs
Key questions to sustainable recovery

• How to avoid long term impacts of short term gains? - *Inventory both*
• How to leverage immediate measures following crisis? - *Integrate*
• How to link short term inputs to longer term objectives? - *Coordinate*
• How to build resilience in urban context? - *Urban systems approach*

Key References

• City Resilience Profiling Programme Brochure
  http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=11638&catid=5&typeid=6&AllContent=1
• Sustainable Relief and Reconstruction Policy of UN-Habitat
  http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2610
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THANK YOU!!

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