Employment Center Post Tsunami Aceh, 2004

The process of rebuilding, particularly after a large-scale disaster, can create a wealth of employment opportunities. Yet governments, private sector, and international actors struggle to find qualified individuals to meet their human resource needs. Quite often, the problem is not a lack of appropriately skilled individuals but rather the challenge of identifying them and linking them to the appropriate employment opportunities. One measure taken by the International Labour Organization (ILO) was to align job-seekers with employers through the establishment of employment centers in Aceh, Indonesia, post tsunami in 2004.

Before the tsunami, unemployment stood at 250,000 people (population 4.2 million). After the tsunami, the number reached 600,000. According to the ILO report, 38% of the population in Aceh and North Sumatra are in danger of falling into poverty.

The Employment Service for the People of Aceh was jointly set up by ILO and the Government of Indonesia. It is located at the local government’s Vocational Training Center. Funded by UNDP along with donor countries Australia and the Netherlands, the Employment Centre is led by 10 job seekers with a big pool of prospective employers that include international organizations and local companies. It has developed a database of skilled Acehnese people to meet the needs of reconstruction efforts across the province.

According to ILO report, almost 400 people in Banda Aceh have received either temporary or fixed term employment in the first few weeks the Centre was opened. By the end of March 2005, more than 10,000 job seekers, including around 2,000 women, had registered in the Centre’s database. They come with variety of skills and are looking for a variety of jobs.

Lessons Learned
- The employment center database can be a powerful tool for job matching and labor analysis, but it requires sufficient technical capacity to maintain it in the long run and strong public outreach to ensure its use.
- Employment centers have also provided counseling on job searching and self-employment, conducted rapid assessments of local labor markets, and referred interested persons to training programmes, social services and other employment support.
- Where sufficient data is collected, it can serve to inform recovery-related labor policies. However the data would need to be collected on a regular basis and perhaps more frequently to capture changes brought on by relief and recovery interventions.
- Employment centers have also made arrangements to provide appropriate skills training for the job seekers, to prepare individuals for the job at hand as well as to develop skills for future work.

Guidance Notes on Recovery

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Upcoming Events 2011

January
11: Orientation on Recovery, Kobe, Japan
11: Steering Committee Meeting
12: International Recovery Forum 2011

February
8-9: Training on Recovery through Video Conference for Sri Lanka and Pakistan
23: Orientation on Recovery, Aceh, Indonesia
24: National Consultation on Aceh Tsunami Recovery Report, Indonesia

May
8-12: World Conference on Reconstruction, Geneva, Switzerland

IRP has piloted a training, with support from the Government of Japan and the World Bank (GFDRR) that will enhance the capacity of government officials in "post-disaster resilient recovery". The countries, Vietnam and the Philippines, connected with video conference with Indonesia, and were identified by the World Bank’s East Asia and the Pacific DRM team as pilot areas. In the back to back training, a total of one hundred government officials were given an orientation on resilient recovery. It also facilitated sharing of expert and practical inputs on general concepts, principles, and guidance for recovery. Group discussions drew reflections from participants on how to develop pre-disaster recovery plans based on certain scenarios. Related tools to facilitate the development of the Recovery Action Plan, which was primarily focused more on the strategies and approaches for recovery, were the outputs from the group work. The pilot training was evaluated by the participants, and their recommendations and suggestions were reflected in the revised training module on resilient recovery.

For more information please see:
http://www.recoveryplatform.org/assets/tools_guidelines/Training%20on%20Recovery%20through%20Video%20Conference.pdf
http://www.recoveryplatform.org/assets/tools_guidelines/IRP%20Training%20module%20for%20recovery.pdf
http://www.recoveryplatform.org/assets/tools_guidelines/IRP%20Training%20module%20for%20Ach%20Recovery.pdf
http://www.recoveryplatform.org/assets/tools_guidelines/IRP%20Training%20module%20for%20Ach%20Recovery.pdf

For more information visit our website:
http://www.recoveryplatform.org

IRP Recovery Network Newsletter

Volume 3 January 2011
Case Study:
Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning: The City of Los Angeles

In the aftermath of a disaster, there is pressure to recover soon. As a result, the quality of the reconstruction and rehabilitation work may be wanting, and pre-existing vulnerabilities may remain unaddressed. In this context, pre-disaster planning is recommended to ensure that vulnerability to future hazard events is reduced. Governments can increase the efficiency of recovery if activities including debris removal, utility restoration, management of funds, and coordination amongst stakeholders are pre-planned. To this end, planning for recovery is best initiated before a disaster occurs.

In Los Angeles City, United States a pre-disaster reconstruction and recovery plan was developed in 1984. On a wider scale, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHSS/FEMA) has initiated development of the National Disaster Recovery Framework. This planning was made as a follow up of scientific studies regarding the high probability of moderate and large magnitude earthquakes shaking the Los Angeles region over the next 20-30 years.

Recovery Status Reports

Cyclone Nargis 2008

The Recovery Status Report of Cyclone Nargis, Myanmar, evaluated the impact of the 2008 earthquake and tsunami in Sichuan, China, that reviewed the lessons, good practices, and new approaches to recovery can be downloaded at:

Recovery Status Report Cyclone Nargis, Myanmar

Recovery Status Report Sichuan Earthquake, China:

In the two years since the catastrophic Wenchuan Earthquake of 12 May 2008 devastated Sichuan Province in China, tremendous changes have taken place throughout the severely damaged region. Under the leadership of the Chinese Government, people from the affected areas and from all over the country have contributed to build hundreds of new villages and towns resistant to seismic shocks, and thousands of institutions have participated in increasing social and economic development. Shifang is the recipient city of recovery with Beijing Municipality. There are 35 primary and middle schools of Shifang that have signed cooperation agreements with 35 primary and middle schools from Beijing to become partners in disaster risk reduction. The Beijing – Shifang Distance Education Training Network was opened for Shifang teachers to gain access to about 20 courses over an e-Learning system established by the Beijing Educational Science Institute. Through the system more than one hundred education specialists will provide on-line lectures and coaching. In addition, Shifang students can join their classes together with their twin schools through the system. As planned, outstanding teachers from Beijing will come to Shifang to provide training to over 3,000 teachers and administrative staff. It is expected that students from Sichuan will go to Beijing for training in 2010.

National Consultation on Landslide Recovery Report

On 10 December 2010, IRP representatives participated in a "National Consultation on the Recovery Status of the 2006 Guisauogun Landslide in S. Bernard, Southern Leyte, Philippines." The consultation was jointly organized by the Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), and IRP. About 40 participants from government and non-government organizations involved in recovery process attended the event. Local officials from the municipality of S. Bernard, including the Mayor and village leaders were also present. The consultation resulted in discussion on issues and gaps in recovery process, sharing of experiences, good practices, and lessons, and delivering the key messages drawn from unique recovery experiences from the landslide in 2006. The final report will be presented in the upcoming International Recovery Forum on 12 January 2011 at Kobe, Japan.

A bridge in Tumen, Manchoufu County is repaired thanks to donations from Changchun City in Jiangxi Province, though in this case the workers were hired locally.

Image Source: Andrea Hu/NPR

For more information please see:
http://www.recoveryplatform.org/assets/recoverycases_reports/china/CHINA_030010.pdf

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http://www.recoveryplatform.org/assets/recoverycases_reports/china/CHINA_030010.pdf