

## Recovery Policy: Good Practices and Lessons

### 1. What are the Good Practices in Recovery Policymaking?

- Good Practice 1.** Policy has to demonstrate government leadership and commitment to disaster risk reduction
- Good Practice 2.** Policy has to provide a clear definition of the disaster risk and recovery and an understanding among policymakers and the general public, and conveys the often severe and potentially far-reaching economic consequences of natural disasters
- Good Practice 3.** Policy has to define disaster management coordination structures at national, local and community levels
- Good Practice 4.** Policy has to serve as a basis for sound organization and clear allocation of roles and responsibilities of various structures as well as accountability channels;
- Good Practice 5.** Policy has to provide mechanism for the participation of local communities;
- Good Practice 6.** Policy has to provide overall direction for ensuring optimum utilization of resources;
- Good Practice 7.** Policy has to ensure that disaster risk management issues are integrated within overall national development planning
- Good Practice 8.** Policy has to promote awareness to ensure that these issues are applied across sectoral, ministerial and jurisdictional lines of interest or responsibility;
- Good Practice 9.** Policymaking has to be multi-disciplinary in nature and ensures that disaster risk elements are properly included in the design of major development projects across sectors
- Good Practice 10.** Policy has to provide a foundation for legislation and related regulations (UNISDR 2004).

### 2. Lessons in Recovery Policymaking?

#### 2.1 MOZAMBIQUE

The National Policy for Disaster Management was approved by the Council of Ministers in September 1999. The policy defines general and specific objectives, strategies and action plans. The policy establishes a legal and institutional framework for a Disaster Management Action Plan for Mozambique. The policy represents a departure from the reactive approach which characterized the urgency of emergence assistance and response in the first two decades of Mozambique's independence. The move towards a more holistic approach is premised on the adoption and enforcement of new regulations, action plans, the integration of disaster management into the education system, and the maintenance of a strong institutional framework



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for coordination, as the main aspirations of the Government. The overall objectives of Mozambique's National Policy on Disaster Management are to:

- spread the cost of disaster management and encourage a more varied approach and greater integration into long-term development;
- reduce loss of life and damage to natural resources and property and protect vulnerable communities from natural and man-made disasters;
- ensure environmental conservation;
- create an effective system of integrated development and disaster management at national, provincial and district levels and the active involvement of communities in these processes to reduce vulnerability;
- ensure effective cooperation and coordination of the private sector, non-governmental organizations, the UN System and multilateral and bilateral donor agencies; and
- initiate and promote, through SADC (Southern African Development Community), regional cooperation in disaster management in relation to threats which either originate outside Mozambique's borders but which affect the country substantially (e.g. floods), or which occur on a wide regional basis (e.g. drought)

## 2.2 UGANDA

Uganda's Disaster Management and Preparedness Policy and Institutional Framework was drafted in 1999 and revised in June 2003. The Policy and Institutional Framework sets out as its overall goal to "promote disaster management to be implemented in such a manner that integrates disaster management with development planning and programming." As a broad policy framework for harmonization of sectoral and cross-sectoral policy objectives, the Policy outlines a number of principles, namely land-use planning, conservation of the environment, gender integration, education, training and public awareness and public participation in disaster management. The policy advances a comprehensive set of policy objectives, including:

- Reducing Uganda's vulnerability to likely disasters;
- Promoting proactive disaster management through risk reduction programmes;
- Establishing national planning, coordinating and monitoring institutions;
- Ensuring that adequate financial arrangements are in place for disaster management;
- Promoting public knowledge and awareness of disasters through training and awareness;
- Promoting integrated and coordinated disaster management through partnerships;
- Promoting the conservation of the environment with a view to mitigating the occurrence and effects of disasters; and
- Integrating disaster management into central, district and local development planning and programming.



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## Box 1 Top Ten Policies for Post-Disaster Recovery

### Top Ten Policies that States Need to Recover from Disaster

1. Reduce exposure to extreme events
2. Reduce vulnerability to extreme events
3. Build resistance and resiliency into the community
4. Create and maintain capable, effective emergency response systems
5. Establish systems to protect people in harm's way
6. Ensure the availability of adequate capital for rebuilding and recovery
7. Develop disaster recovery strategies and plans in concert with local governments and the private sector
8. Provide for the continuity of local government operations following a disaster
9. Repair or rebuild infrastructure and accelerate programmed infrastructure projects in affected areas
10. Work with local government and the private sector to facilitate economic recovery

**Source:** [www.uschamber.com/bcl/programs/disaster/statepolicyclusters.htm](http://www.uschamber.com/bcl/programs/disaster/statepolicyclusters.htm)



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