



Monitoring

The fundamental principle of monitoring is the systematic and continuous collection and analysis of information and data about the progress over time. Under the UN-HABITAT Recovery Programmes, support is given to the beneficiary households and communities to rebuild their houses, rebuild community infrastructures and facilitate the environment to enhance the livelihood opportunities. It is very important to know the strengths and weaknesses of the Programme and provide sufficient information to the decision makers' to take initiatives to improve the quality of the Programme and also it allows measuring the expected objectives and outputs. In other words monitoring ensures that activities are on the right path by checking activities, measuring progress towards objectives, identifying problems as they come up, identifying strengths that can be built up. Monitoring gathers information about beneficiary access to, use of and satisfaction with the operation out puts.

Monitoring takes place at three deferent levels: community level, district level and national level and takes place periodically in regular manner and the time and duration is decided at the time of planning of monitoring at different levels. Beneficiaries, Primary Groups and CDC members, district and national agencies participate in this exercise. Who are the participants is decided at the time of planning of monitoring.

It is very important to monitor the process and progress in the housing reconstruction process and of livelihood initiatives after support provided. As the Programme is desirous to achieve its objectives and goals, associated possible risks need to be monitored and managed to ensure better and meaningful support to the targeted beneficiaries, in other words better service delivery, efficient use of all available resources, effective management of possible changes that take place, developing and managing contingency plans and maintaining the planned activities.

Risk Mitigation

Providing building assistance is not only important in providing durable shelters for people but it has proven to be an effective way to disseminate information on earthquake resistant building techniques and to explain why damage in the earthquake affected area was so severe



Of the 250,000 people who die every year because of natural disasters 95% live in countries that are on the road to development. It is necessary to reduce this number by transferring knowledge and by raising awareness. The recovery process after major earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, floods or other disasters offers the unique chance for settlements to turn their disaster vulnerability into disaster resilience. Therefore risk reduction and mitigation measures should be integral part of the recovery.

Recovery provides the physical opportunity as well as a collective mindset to introduce changes in structural and non-structural risk reduction elements, and these need to be coordinated in an integrated manner.

After a disaster, UN-HABITAT has the following priorities in terms of disaster risk reduction and mitigation: raise public awareness of the risks posed by earthquakes, floods tsunamis and other disasters and introduce the possible measures to manage these risks, help communities identify practical measures to reduce their risks of natural disasters, train NGOs presently working in earthquake, flood, and tsunami prone areas on preparedness and mitigation, train engineers, local builders, social- and community leaders in earthquake preparedness and mitigation and provide a training on village and settlement level for housing beneficiaries.

Working with the communities

The Community Based Risk Assessment (CBRA) starts with the assessment of hazards, their type, nature, frequency and magnitude. It follows the assessment of vulnerability. The community members determine the factors of risk affecting their community, as well as the causes of these factors. During the vulnerability assessment it must take the differences within the community regarding sex, age, social- and material- status into account.

Finally the community must assess its capacities. This is the process of analyzing and defining what local people can do in an emergency situation in order to mitigate the effects of hazards as well as to ensure their sustainable livelihood. Here the community can learn from the experiences of local people and the analysis of available resources.



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Post-disaster Projects in Asia

A large number of countries in Asia and the Pacific region are prone to disasters of various kinds. Impact of disasters on terms of loss of life, assets and impediment to development is colossal.

During the last decade, UN-HABITAT has responded to the calls by Governments and Donors to assist people in reconstruction following conflicts and disasters. This has, on the one hand given UN-HABITAT an opportunity to assist the affected people rebuild their lives rapidly, whilst on the other hand, a position to advocate for progressive policies on reconstruction and recovery.

The challenge for UN-HABITAT to address is how to launch the recovery soon after a disaster or a conflict, involving the affected people?. In all the projects that UN-HABITAT has been implementing, we have advocated an approach, where the affected people were placed at the centre of their own recovery process. It proved to be the most effective method, when people are in control of the process.

UN-HABITAT strongly believes that unleashing the potential of the people is the only way in which all the people in need can recover in a short time. In the post conflict and post disaster scenario, their ingenuity and creativity need to be directed to the rebuilding of their lives and their physical assets.

What are the keys to unlocking this huge potential? Firstly, the confidence to cross the psychological threshold; secondly, empowerment through mobilization; thirdly security; a place to call their own; fourthly some form of financial assistance to get them started; lastly, technical advice to build better housing. These will complete a cycle of support to the people to rebuild their lives and their homes. The feeling of achievement, pride, dignity and security will elevate the families to a level higher than their pre-conflict or pre-disaster existence.

based on the people's process



seamless recovery

Recovery literally means getting people back on their feet and enabling them to rebuild their lives. Seamless recovery has NO transition. Relief and recovery start at the same time on DAY ONE. Housing reconstruction in seamless recovery starts with erecting a room on the land that the family owns or a new land that has been allocated as the case may be. Engagement of the family in the reconstruction process, immediately after a disaster will help the family, get over the trauma of the disaster.

Seamless recovery is an incremental process where families can go on adding to the room that they started with. A cash grant to build a basic house has to be provided as soon as possible. In addition to ensuring building back better, technical advice is necessary for families to build a basic house to an acceptable standard with the resources they have and to certify progress payments. At the time of a massive reconstruction programme, the Government agencies may not be able to provide intensive technical assistance to families with the human resources available. This is an area where external agencies can contribute to implement the recovery programme rapidly.

