Stakeholders Consultation Workshop on Disaster Recovery Planning

Jointly Organized by: International Recovery Platform (IRP), Japan
Institute of Strategic Recovery Studies for Disaster Resilience and Research (ISRSDRR) &
Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief (MoDMR), Govt. of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Supported by: UNDP-ERF, DeSHARI, NARRI

Venue: CIRDAP Auditorium

Date: 09-10 December 2014

Note of Introduction

“Resilient Recovery as an imperative to Sustainable Development”
- World Reconstruction Conference 2, 10-12 September 2014, Washington D.C., USA.

Rationale

On building coherence between the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and the concurrent processes on the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change arrangements: Make disaster and climate risk management important in the elaboration of post-2015 sustainable development agenda at the national and regional levels; encourage disaster risk assessment in development policies and programs; promote, as appropriate, sustainable development strategies that enhance our ability to manage natural resources sustainably and reduce disaster risk; consider the integration of disaster risk reduction in all development sectors through legal, institutional and resource allocation frameworks with enhanced accountability; express hope that the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development address sufficiently the building of resilience to disasters as a priority area in the post-2015 development agenda. Enhancing preparedness for effective response, and building back better in recovery and reconstruction, is one of the four priority action identified in the post HFA Framework for DRR. Encourage all stakeholders including national and local governments, communities, international organizations and the private sector to address disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development in a coherent manner.[1]

Considering that “disasters are inevitable in countries with high vulnerability index” such as Bangladesh, more options to further reduce the impacts of disaster are important. “Building back better” after a disaster is one of those options – seizing the opportunity to correct the limitations and failures of previous practices, policies, and programs during the recovery phase. In particular, recovery offers opportunity to make infrastructures, communities, and livelihoods resilient. In recognition of the critical role of recovery, the Second World Reconstruction Conference (WRC2) indicated that “recovery must be viewed as part of a continuum, inseparable from preparedness, response, mitigation, and sustainable development”. Additionally, the conference advocated for the “institutionalization of recovery as a means to risk reduction and sustainable development, and better define and measure outcomes”.

This initiative is expected to address the limitations in the current plans and programs on disaster management. For instance, the National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) 2010-15 does not specify in details the definitions and actions for early recovery, rehabilitation, or reconstruction. In fact, there is no mention of “building back better” or integration of risk reduction into recovery processes. To help facilitate effective recovery, a whole of government approach – where risk management and risk sensitive recovery is required – must be advocated by the GoB. In this context, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) proactively explores mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in recovery planning processes and operations.

Anticipating that the GoB will need some technical assistance in the areas of the recovery, the International Recovery Platform (IRP) can facilitate a Workshop on Disaster Recovery Planning in collaboration with Institute of Strategic Recovery Studies for Disaster Resilience and Research (ISRSDDR) and Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief (MoDMR), Govt. of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. According to the lessons shared at the Second World Reconstruction Conference, (Washington DC, 10-12 September 2014), opportunities for mainstreaming longer term resilience are ripest in the aftermath of a big disaster, countries have not always been able to capitalize fully on these opportunities. This Disaster Recovery Planning workshop aims at creating the foundation for promoting resilient recovery and paving the way for sustainable development in Bangladesh.

Objectives

The overall objective of the workshop is to reinforce the capabilities of national governments in disaster recovery planning through the IRP local partners (e.g. UNDP and OCHA) so that Bangladesh could have a seamless access to such expertise and plan for better integration of risk reduction concerns in all phases of the recovery process, building on the existing assessment of risks.

Indicator: Bangladesh steps forward in establishing a disaster recovery framework at the national level

Workshop Objective 01 – Introduce recovery agenda in Bangladesh

Introduce basic concept of recovery, global level policies, guidelines and tools. IRP support to countries.

Workshop Objective 2 – Prepare ground for establishing National Recovery Platform and Institutionalize Recovery.

Representatives of government agencies, UN, NGO and CSOs, development partners introduced to the recovery agenda and prepare ground for establishing national Recovery Platform.

Workshop Objective 3 – Finalize and endorse the Bangladesh Disaster Recovery Action Plan for implementation.
Draft Bangladesh Recovery Action Plan developed following the World Reconstruction Conference Statement (September 2014) to be shared with stakeholders and feedback incorporated. This is expected to promote broader ownership and commitment from stakeholders for implementation.

**Participants**

Recovery planning is a process that requires involvement of different organizational and sectoral partners. With the central and/or local government in the lead (subject to the scale of the process), it enlists the engagement of regional inter-governmental organizations, UN Country team, national platforms members (as available), and the multi-lateral development banks. Moreover, the expertise required from different development sectors like health, education, infrastructure, and shelter, expects the involvement of different government ministries, departments, and sectoral leads from UN and the donor community.

The primary target group includes functionaries from government and regional organizations which would create a standby capacity at the regional level available to any high risk country desiring recovery planning support. The primary participants would be government officials who will be engaged in recovery planning - from the national platform, as well as from supporting Ministries, such as public works, health, and education. In addition, staff from local and city government as well as international and national agencies will be involved. National Platform members and donor community are also potential participants. Key civil society organizations will also be engaged in the training, as engaging them will also enhance their capacities. The generic workshop agenda will be organized for a two-day event. The workshop can engage up to 40 participants.

**Bibliography**


GFDRR. WRC2 Conference Statement for Recovery for HFA2
