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Title of the Session: Transitional relocation options as a measure to progressive post-disaster risk reduction

Date: 20/04/2015 to 26/04/2015

Summary

A comprehensive DRR intervention requires measures both “soft” (training, drills, etc.) and “hard” (mitigation infrastructure, rehabilitation of facilities, etc.). Transitional relocation is one of the “hard” measures. It provides a solution for vulnerable households, and links communities, governments and international organizations towards long-term development. Hence the importance of having a menu of options.

This discussion should focus on the different options, the challenges and solutions that arise during implementation.

Context

Consider this scenario: A family of seven has been exposed to stronger typhoons in the last 5 years. They live less than 40m of the coast, in a small-sized city in an Asian country. They are given 5 options to safely move out, near their location, with the possibility of this move to be permanent.

At first, this might seem as a scam, but considering it better, shouldn't it be like that all the time?

Transitional relocation is not always welcome. However, recent experiences show that giving options for that relocation is rather successful with the most vulnerable families coming out of big disasters. They become ideal for all stakeholders, particularly for the people in need as they can act strongly as a group.

Clearly, commitments are needed from the top stakeholders: government, donors, private sector, broader community, local and international organizations, etc. Thus, this generates challenges and continuous a search for:

- Active participation from community
- Engaged stakeholders at top level of decision-making
- Improved coordination between actors in the field
- Sound technical personnel to guarantee safe options
- Balanced market strategy
- A series of complimentary activities to increase capacities

Some common transitional relocation options sponsored by international organizations are:

- Transitional relocation sites
- Temporary apartment rentals

- Temporary land rental, and others

Relevant questions in this framework are:

1. How do we define the adequate transitional relocation options in emergency programs?
2. What is the role of the international organizations if there is a gap by another stakeholder in time to get the permanent housing?
3. What are the best practices to manage legal issues that may arise?