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A GUIDANCE NOTE

National Post-Disaster Recovery Planning and Coordination



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The document builds on the experiences of selected countries, which include Bangladesh, Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Indonesia, Maldives, Pakistan, Philippines and Tajikistan. Creation of the document followed a thorough and extensive review process with Country Offices, practitioners and colleagues.

For more information or to participate in further discussions, Country Offices can consult the Guidance Notes section of the UNDP Crisis Response website.

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Overview of the Guidance Note



Overview of the Guidance Note

INTRODUCTION

Nearly half of the countries where UNDP works are prone to conflict, disasters, political instability and economic shocks. UNDP assists countries that are addressing sudden and slow-onset events that destabilize economies and communities by supporting their governments as they move out of the crisis response phase and into the planning and implementation of longer-term recovery activities. As one of the few partners with a mandate and a permanent presence on the ground before, during and after a crisis, UNDP is well positioned to take action at the onset of crises to establish a clear link between humanitarian activities, recovery planning and the transition to sustainable development pathways. Due to its experience in development policy and practice, UNDP can play a strategic role in efforts to integrate development principles into recovery processes, looking beyond the idea of restoring the status quo to a vision of building communities back better, reducing poverty and vulnerability, protecting and quickly restoring development gains and reducing the risk of future events by adopting strategies that transform risk into resilience.

The importance of UNDP's work on recovery is increasing as the number of people affected by disasters around the world continue to rise. Changing temperatures, extreme weather patterns, variations in precipitation and rising sea levels are modifying hazard levels and exacerbating disaster risks. The frequency and intensity of weather-related events are expected to increase, with heat waves, drought, flooding, cyclones and wildfires exacting a heavier toll on human and natural environments. Across the globe, these threats, when combined with poverty, exposure, continued urban migration and the destruction of natural ecosystems, drive risk to dangerous and unpredictable levels.

From 2012 to 2014, 994 disasters impacted more than 326 million people across the globe.¹ The cost of physical damage caused by these events is also rising - from an estimated US\$20 billion on average per year in the 1990s to about \$100 billion per year in the first decade of this century². As climate change and migration accelerate, the cost of recovery will continue on an upward trajectory. Recovery strategies that champion inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable rebuilding and more equitable societies are in short supply and high demand.

Recovering from disasters is a challenging process. Disasters undermine hard won development gains and create greater pressures than are found in 'normal' development settings: heightened urgency; the need for rapid reaction and speedy results; media scrutiny; lack of experience, capacity and expertise; a multiplicity of national, local and international actors whose efforts all require coordination; and resource scarcity and few dedicated funding sources to meet recovery needs. Responding to these demands requires a clear road map, an efficient, well-organized process, knowledge gained from past failures and successes, rapid decision-making and implementation capabilities and skilled coordination.

The main objective of this Guidance Note on National Post-Disaster Recovery Planning and Coordination is to provide practical advice to UNDP Country Offices on how to design and implement recovery initiatives that will strengthen government capacity to lead and manage national recovery efforts in the early, medium and long-term.

¹ Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED). 2014. Annual Disaster Statistical Review 2013: The numbers and trends. Institute of Health and Society (IRSS) Université Catholique de Louvain – Brussels, Belgium.

² IMF. 2012. Natural Disasters: Mitigating Impact, Managing Risks.



This document emphasizes all three phases of disaster recovery and the need to understand that much like in development work, there are no quick fixes in recovery and concerted efforts to rebuild sustainable societies require long-term investments.

This Guidance Note will help Country Offices as they position UNDP's support to host governments in the wake of a major disaster and through the entire recovery process so that sustainable disaster recovery strategies can be delivered effectively at the country level.

The UNDP Mandate in Recovery

UNDP's mandate to conduct operational activities in disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness was laid out by the United Nations General Assembly in 1997 (A/RES/52/12B, paragraph 16, December 1997) and an additional mandate to ensure inter-agency recovery preparedness was added by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator in 2006. Within the scope of these mandates, UNDP has provided sound leadership in the field of disaster recovery for many years, which includes leadership in assessment, planning, programming, coordination and capacity building. UNDP champions the need to credibly address Early Recovery in humanitarian contexts and chairs the Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery.

Overview of the Guidance Note

SUMMARY AND STRUCTURE OF THE GUIDANCE NOTE

This Guidance Note draws on UNDP's extensive experience in supporting governments during post-disaster recovery processes and it capitalizes on particular areas of expertise that have been developed, such as post-disaster needs assessments (PDNAs), design of national recovery strategies and institutional arrangements for recovery, coordination of recovery processes, government capacity development and the restoration of local governance functions. Lessons learned and best practices that inform UNDP's approach to recovery are drawn from countries' experiences in recovery, including those listed below.

Bangladesh – In 2007, Cyclone Sidr took nearly 4,000 lives and left millions homeless. **Bolivia** – Flooding in 2006 caused \$260 million in damage and affected more than 38,800 families.

Chile – An 8.8 magnitude earthquake and tsunami in South Central Chile in 2010 caused damage estimated at more than \$30 billion.³

Dominican Republic – Tropical storms Noel and Olga in 2008 caused more than \$439 million in damage and had both direct and indirect effects on more than 70 percent of the country's population.

Haiti – The 2010 earthquake in Haiti had a devastating impact on the country and particularly on Port au Prince.

Maldives – The 2004 Asian Tsunami caused this country's gross domestic product to drop by more than 60 percent and affected one-third of the population.

Pakistan – Monsoon floods in July through September 2010 affected the lives of over 18 million people and forced millions to flee their homes.⁵

Philippines – In 2013, Typhoon Yolanda – one of the strongest typhoons on record – caused extensive loss of life and damage to housing, livelihoods and infrastructure across nine of the Philippine's poorest provinces, affecting 16.1 million people and displacing 4.1 million.

Tajikistan – 2007-2008 brought a series of economic, environmental and social shocks which became a compound disaster,⁶ affecting two million people and creating massive food insecurity and damage to water and electrical supplies.

This *Guidance Note* draws upon the experience of these UNDP Country Offices as they sought to design and implement recovery programmes in a wide range of areas that span across UNDP's areas of expertise. Their recovery initiatives were reviewed to extract practical insights and critical lessons capable of informing future recovery processes. These experiences differ in terms of context, scale of destruction, national and local capacities and characteristics in each setting, but together they highlight

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