



Concept Note

International Recovery Forum 2010

~ From Resilient Recovery to Sustainable Development ~

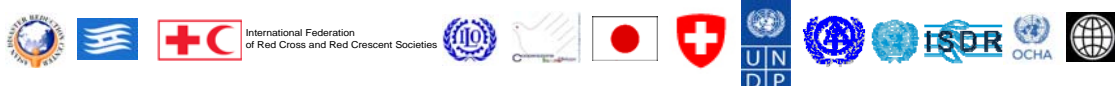
16 January 2010
Kobe, Japan

Background

The International Recovery Forum is designed to help ensure that disaster risk reduction approaches are systematically incorporated into the design of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery programs in accordance with the strategic goal of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). The International Recovery Forum 2010 aims to examine the progress of linking recovery processes to sustainable development.

Lessons from recovery operations resulting in long term livelihood security will be discussed and disseminated. In particular, recovery processes that (i) ensure access to adequate food and finances to meet basic needs, and (ii) secure ownership of, or access to, resources and income-earning activities, including reserves to offset risk, ease shocks, and meet contingencies will be highlighted. Themes, such as governance, gender, and environment, which are closely linked to livelihood recovery, shall also be discussed under the overarching title, “From resilient recovery to sustainable development”.

For example in Mexico, following the earthquake in 1985, an innovative housing reconstruction programme provided almost 50,000 housing units in a way that directly involved neighborhood associations, tenement groups, and church organizations in decision-making. This strengthened the social capacity for mitigating, coping with and recovering from any future disaster. Furthermore, the programme, called “Renovación Habitacional Popular” (RHP) created 115,000 new jobs in the construction industry that were filled almost exclusively by locally recruited workers. This strengthened the community’s economic base and helped local people to rebuild their livelihoods. The reconstruction plans included space for workshops, commercial spaces and houses, and laid the foundation for sustainable livelihoods. RHP also strengthened the alliance between the public and private sectors. The RHP task force included experts seconded from private sector organizations, as well as experts from the public sector. The public sector provided institutional support, a timely flow of information and funds, and shortcuts in bureaucratic procedures. The private sector contributed practical experience in finance, design, construction and management. This example presents some basic elements how resilient recovery can contribute to sustainable development.



The key question to be explored in the International Recovery Forum 2010 is: **How can current recovery processes assure sustainability for future generations while reducing risks the community faces today?** Subsequent questions include how to bridge recovery processes and sustainable development as well as how to embed long-term perspectives (sustainable development policies) in the recovery process, for the realization of resilient and sustainable community.

Objective

The main objective of the Forum is to review recent recovery experiences against the backdrop of sustainable development.

The focus will be on the following issues:

1. How to bridge recovery processes and sustainable development
2. How to embed long-term perspectives (sustainable development policies) in the recovery process toward the realization of resilient and sustainable community
3. How to promote policy mix of prevention, mitigation, and adaptation measures in the recovery process in pursuing sustainability
4. How to verify causal relationship between well-balanced holistic recovery and sustainable development
5. How can IRP activities help bridge recovery processes and sustainable development

To complement the Forum, exhibits of products and services offered by IRP member organizations as well as ADRC partner organizations will be displayed at the venue from 16th to 22nd January 2010.

Outputs

The Forum 2010 will provide:

1. A review of recent disaster recovery operations and its link to sustainable development
2. Key propositions on how IRP activities help bridge recovery processes and sustainable development (livelihood)
3. A presentation of recovery status reports and lessons on recovery



Organizers

International Recovery Platform (IRP) Secretariat, Cabinet Office of Japan, Hyogo Prefectural Government, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organization (ILO), The World Bank (WB), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

In Cooperation with

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan, Disaster Reduction Alliance (DRA), NHK

Participants

Approximately 120 delegates from IRP community of practice including professionals, national and local governments, and academia

Format

The half-day Forum includes special report presentations, technical session, and panel discussion. The panel discussion will focus on two specific topics:

1. The connection of recovery, livelihood, and sustainable development (including themes such as collaborative governance, community cohesion and social capital for sustainable development)
2. The role of IRP in bridging recovery and sustainable development

