

**PROVENTION**  
CONSORTIUM

# Learning from the Past, Improving Disaster Recovery

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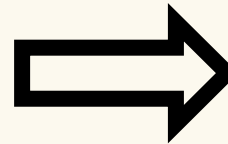
# Learning Lessons from Recovery: Inter-agency review of 5 cases, 2002-2003

## Case studies

1. Bangladesh (1998 floods)
2. Honduras (Mitch 1998 hurricane)
3. Mozambique (2000, 2001 floods)

## Supporting studies

1. India (Gujarat 2001 earthquake)
2. Turkey (1999 earthquake)



- ✓ Policies
- ✓ Systems
- ✓ Resources
- ✓ Impact

# Methodology

## 3 key activities

- Desk reviews
- Key stakeholder interviews
- Community surveys

Varied combinations of these activities in each of the studies to provide complementary approach

# General Lessons

- 1. Lessons have not always been learned from disaster to disaster, even within the same country, leading to repetition of mistakes where they could have been avoided.**
- 2. “Recovery” from disasters is an artificial term**
  - Merges into the development process
  - Many poor communities live in a constant state of “recovery”, where “temporary” relief is a permanent coping strategy

# Timing of Recovery

3. **Recovery projects are often too short to address the projected length of recovery.**
  - Two timelines:
    - “real-time recovery”: 5-10 years
    - donors: 1-3 years, varies
  
4. **Set realistic goals for the short and longer-terms.**
  - Keep emergency projects simple and flexible
  - Disaster risk management is long-term goal

# Framework: Assessing damage and needs

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5. **A comprehensive damage and needs assessment plays a key role in securing international support for recovery efforts and providing a framework for recovery.**
    - Requires the participation from affected communities
    - Should be updated to adjust to emerging needs

# Institutions: integrating risk reduction into recovery

- 6. Government policies have been marked by a shift towards dealing with disasters as part of the development process, however, the implementation is mixed.**
- 7. Effective institutions for recovery are not being set up, or supported, in a systematic fashion.**

# Gaps: Participation and Livelihoods

## 8. Insufficient attention is paid to impact of recovery interventions on livelihoods, a crucial aspect of recovery.

- However, there was significant support on infrastructure and housing, which can be key instruments for economic and social recovery, in terms of providing shelter, supporting livelihoods, and restoring productive capacity.

# Challenge/Opportunity: Social Equity and Change

9. **Participation, participation, participation!**
  - High failure rates for programs that do not explicitly incorporate concerns of affected population
  - Benefits: capacity building, improved governance, increased social capital, ownership, sustainability, addresses psychological trauma
  
10. **Assess and act upon opportunities for social equity and change.**
  - Relocation is a major issue
  - Much can be done to promote gender equity

# Thank you

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