

ILO BRIEFING *on* PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HFA



Briefing Note No. 7- ILO Contribution to the HFA and Recommendation for Further Action
ILO/CRISIS, July 2007

Priority 1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority

- Training Course on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Framework of Local Development -

While many achievements have been obtained at the regional and national level, the local dimension of disaster risk reduction requires further efforts and attention.

During 2005 and 2006 the ILO International Training Centre (ITC) was addressed many requests for training support on how to manage DRR at the local level coming from Central American partners and constituents. In response to such requests, the ITC Delnet Programme and the ILO Programme on Crisis Response and Reconstruction, have developed a course on DRR for the promotion of sustainable local development. The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) has welcomed and supported this training initiative, which concretely contributes to the much needed resilience of communities to disasters. The training package has been carried out in consultation with IFRC and other member institutions of the International Recovery Platform (IRP). It consists of four modules covering the whole cycle of disaster management, from prevention and mitigation, to preparedness, post-disaster response and reconstruction. The 200 learning hours are delivered through a blended methodology, with long-distance and face-to-face sessions coordinated by a team of

Delnet tutors. The first edition has started in November 2006 and will be concluded by November 2007. By the end of the course the participants will deliver a final project, elaborated on the basis of a problem situation that they are facing as decision makers in their respective institution.

Priority 2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

- More efforts are recommended in defining and monitoring socio-economic vulnerabilities -

With respect to the progress made in identifying, assessing and monitoring disaster risk, ILO's major observation is that not only tracking natural hazard hotspot is important, but also mapping the social and economic vulnerabilities of the exposed populations. If maps of hazard exposure are extensively available and documented, and to some extent also human vulnerability is, on the other side we observe that socio-economic vulnerabilities are still weakly tracked.

More consistent and meaningful baseline data are to be produced in order to capture such vulnerabilities; this would allow for a better targeted prioritization of pre- and post-disaster interventions in those countries that are empirically classified as vulnerable to disaster risk. It has to be noted indeed that disaster produce both direct and indirect negative consequences. Destruction, displacement and human victims are in general immediately and easily reported, but there is a significant amount of "indirectly" affected people who tend to remain invisible both before and after a disaster. Even though these people have not been displaced, they might have lost their job, they might have experienced a reduction of their working hours and income, they might have lost their productive assets and face difficulties in paying back loans. The fact that most of vulnerable people are also in general informal workers makes them even more invisible to statistics.



Considered the above, a better monitoring of disaster risk could be performed by overlapping hazard hotspot maps, human vulnerability maps and socio-economic vulnerability maps. The latter could be built upon the ILO's definition of *working poor* as a statistic and solid indicator, which embeds both poverty and employment-related measures. Poverty can result when individuals are unable to generate sufficient income from their labour to maintain a minimum standard of living. These workers have to face an every-day struggle to protect themselves from the socio-economic impact of a disaster.

Lack of Decent Work leads to socio-economic vulnerability which, in turn, leads to higher exposure to disaster risk and impact and to the capability to recover. The working poor indicator helps detecting situations of lack of decent work conditions since it is an outcome of labour market functioning; in addition to that it may also allow for the empiric identification of where the socio-economically vulnerable people are.

ILO has gathered enough data to produce estimates at the country level; where country-specific numbers are not available, ILO disposes of regional data that are consistent and easily comparable. A further effort will be to pilot the production of sub-national baseline data.

This is planned to be undertaken within the framework of the joint ILO-FAO development of baseline for livelihood assessment in post-disaster situations. The ILO-FAO toolkit for livelihood assessment will contribute to both pre-and post-disaster monitoring and stock-taking of vulnerabilities and strenght within the livelihood system of prone communities.

Priority 5. Strengthen Disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

- Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning Initiative -

The PreDRP is a joint ILO-UNDP initiative and is conducted in close collaboration with FAO. Further extension of the partnership framework for this initiative is currently under consultation with UNEP and UNHABITAT.



Pre disaster recovery planning is a systematic approach that aims to identify recovery planning issues and potential strategies through a participatory process, with a view to putting in place appropriate measures prior to the occurrence of a disaster.

In contrast to preparedness for relief response, **pre disaster recovery planning seeks to address preparedness and prevention aspects specifically for ensuring a more effective and enhanced recovery process.** This stems from the past experiences, which have shown that “better” relief operations don't necessarily, automatically lead/ result in more effective and efficient recovery processes. Pre disaster recovery planning measures include predetermined lines of authority among government agencies and the ability to put in place special laws, mechanisms, practices and skills. In the aftermath of a crisis, confusion over responsibilities between new and existing institutions can create major bottlenecks, delays, and uncertainty among international partners that must deal with national and local officials.

On one hand the Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning Initiative seeks to enhance planning for recovery through the development of planning methodologies and capacity building tools which incorporate disaster risk reduction measures, and can be used to assist high-risk countries in their policy decisions and actions. This would in turn support countries in furthering their progress in the area of disaster risk reduction with respect to their commitments with the HFA. On the other hand, the initiative deals with the implementation/roll out of this methodologies and tools at the country level, and association with advocacy campaigns.

The initial focus countries for implementation of pre disaster recovery planning activities will be selected from the Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery roll out countries, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery/ ISDR focus countries (86 hotspot countries). This would ensure maximum coherence among UN and non UN recovery actors.

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