Empowering the poor and vulnerable in recovery

2nd International Symposium on Recovery after Mega-Disasters: People, Community and Planning

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Margaret Arnold
Senior Social Development Specialist
World Bank
Key messages

• Disasters are not neutral; nor are relief, recovery, and reconstruction
  • Relief and recovery efforts need to ensure protection of human rights (do no harm)
  • Recovery efforts can also reinforce pre-existing inequities and leave poor/marginalized worse off than before the disaster

• Sustainable, resilient recovery is not possible without meaningful community engagement and leadership
  • Communities are not “clients” or “beneficiaries”
  • Risk of undermining local capacities

• Need for inclusive approaches
  • Everyone has a role to play
  • Women are often the designers of community resilience
Community-Driven Development

CDD = is an *approach* to local development that gives control over planning decisions and investment resources to community groups (including local governments)

- Not a “project” but set of principles based on philosophy that:
  - sustainable development comes from involving people in making their own decisions,
  - building capacity from the ground up, and
  - making decision makers accountable to the people they serve.

- Began in late 80s/early 90s in response to crisis situations (political, economic, natural).

- Applied in >100 countries to address range of development challenges (e.g. local governance, social protection, livelihoods, etc.)
Examples

• **Madagascar Community Development Fund**
  • Supports communal development plans, community investments and capacity development of community associations
  • When 2004 cyclones hit, already established local participatory platform served as vehicle for emergency response
  • More recently, Madagascar social funds are promoting climate resilience norms in social and productive infrastructure

• **Indonesia Urban Poverty Project (now PNPM)**
  • Phase III under preparation when 2004 tsunami hit Aceh
  • Community grants for reconstruction and rehabilitation of community infrastructure

• **Philippines National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP)**
  • Prioritizing communities hit by Typhoon Haiyan
Going forward

• World Bank is screening its projects for disaster and climate risk
• All projects now need to report on citizen engagement in investment projects
• Inclusive Community Resilience program - focus on leveraging investments that put resources directly in the hands of poor households and poor communities
  • CDD operations
  • Social Protection Systems
Thank you!
marnold@worldbank.org