

Linking relief, rehabilitation, development

Disasters represent a major threat to sustainable development but a joined up approach can reduce disaster risk.

Linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD) seeks to mitigate the risk of humanitarian programming undermining development work and enables development programming to build on humanitarian knowledge and take disaster risk reduction measures into account.

How is relief and development activity linked?

The Disaster Cycle is a process that moves from immediate life-saving activities, often led by local responders, through to response and rehabilitation activities which may involve substantial support from international agencies in helping to restore basic services and 'Build Back Better'. Once the levels of need and vulnerability are reduced, longer-term development can follow or resume. However, this staged approach does not reflect reality and can leave gaps between relief and development activities because:

- These interventions are designed differently in terms of mandates, goals, funding, timeframes, approaches, and procedures, etc.
- They require different skills sets and responses which may be managed by different agencies or parts of an organisation
- Donor funding may be restricted to specific timeframes or activities
- Government requirements may differ with greater bureaucratic hurdles or demands on development programming

Also for those affected, their situation is an on-going cycle of risks and uncertainties, often starting long before the disaster impact.

Key issues in LRRD

- **Put disaster-affected people first.** Recognise and appreciate local capacities (skills, knowledge and resources) and involve beneficiaries, host communities and local authorities in decision-making at all stages.
- **Facilitate local ownership** through building on existing national and local development plans, policies, priorities, projects and capacities in project design and planning at all stages.
- **Take a long-term view.** Even in the immediate 'life-saving' phase, take account of and seek opportunities to support longer term sustainable development e.g. community managed water or sanitation provision. Plan for phasing out or handover over responsibilities from the start.
- **Coordinate and collaborate across all sectors** with government, humanitarian and development actors in all aspects of assessment, planning and implementation to fully understand and adjust to the changing context and differing vulnerabilities.
- **Seek opportunities to strengthen resilience and reduce disaster risk** e.g. through community based disaster risk management, effective land use and water resource management, safer construction, and efforts to foster social cohesion and reconciliation between conflicting groups.

Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CDBRM)

Involves:

- Hazard, risk, vulnerability and capacity assessments
- Identifying and developing local capacities e.g. for search and rescue, medical care, construction, community leaders
- Setting up disaster committees and decision-making structures
- Undertaking scenario planning and community level disaster plans
- Mitigating potential disaster impacts e.g. designated shelters or protected areas, stockpiles, water storage
- Developing early warning and community level public awareness, information sharing and communication
- Supporting diversification of livelihoods e.g. access to land, resources, training.

Additional resources on All In Diary website

Preparing for disaster: a community based approach © DRC 2005
The Road to Resilience © IFRC 2012
Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response © UNOCHA 2008
Remaking the case for LRRD © ODI 2014

Web links for further information

LRRD research and case studies
<http://www.urd.org/The-Linking-relief-rehabilitation>
LRRD – Remaking the case
<https://www.alnap.org/remaking-the-case-lrrd>