

UNDP's Support to Early Recovery Following Flash Flooding in Solomon Islands

Early Recovery

After a disaster, early recovery is about **shifting the focus from saving lives to restoring livelihoods**. Early recovery interventions seek to stabilize the economy, governance, human security and social equity situation.

Early recovery interventions also seek to **integrate risk reduction** at the very early stages of the response to a specific crisis; and to lay the foundations for longer term reconstruction.

Early Recovery Framework

An Early Recovery Framework is based on a needs assessment by the UN system in partnership with the Government and Non-Government sectors.

It identifies interventions to bridge the gap between immediate relief operations and longer-term reconstruction and development.

January Flash Floods

- Heavy rains between the 29th January-3rd of February caused floods and landslides in four provinces.
- Following the declaration of a natural disaster on 3rd February, emergency assistance was requested from the bilateral and multilateral aid agencies.
- UNDP sourced funds from BCPR to support and contribute to the Government's efforts.

UNDP's Support to Early Recovery

Jointly funded by UNDP (USD 100K) and AusAID (USD 330K)

Four focus areas:

- Multi-sectoral assessment of disaster impact
- Coordination of early recovery
- Re-establishment of livelihoods
- Enhancing resiliency and adaptation

Comparative Experiences in Early Recovery

January 2009 Flash Floods

- Medium impact
- Many affected communities reachable by OBM
- Coordination challenging; many actors
- “Normal” delivery of recovery activities

December 2008 Tidal Surge

- Low impact
- Affected communities extremely remote
- Coordination very simple; few actors
- Delivery of recovery activities very complex

Challenges:

- Finding the right balance between effective coordination and meeting overload.
- For medium sized disasters, engaging with non-resident UN agencies such as WFP or FAO on humanitarian and early recovery is challenging.
- Recovery gaps remain, particularly for Shelter and Agriculture.

Recommendations:

Simplified coordination structure, with greater reliance on electronic sharing of information among ministry/cluster groups.

Advance preparations for early livelihood recovery can be done as part of regular development programmes of line ministries (i.e. seed banks).

Greater advocacy/understanding of the concept of early recovery needed.



Vinaka!