Post-Disaster Recovery: Learning from the Past

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Two Major Studies to Learn From

✓ ProVention Consortium - 2002-2003
  ✓ Interagency review of 5 cases

✓ World Bank Operations Evaluation Department (OED) - ongoing
  ✓ World Bank experience of entire portfolio
ProVention Consortium: Learning Lessons from Recovery

1. Bangladesh (‘98 floods)
2. Honduras (Mitch 1998)
3. India (Gujarat 2001 earthquake)
5. Turkey (1999 earthquake)

✓ Policies
✓ Systems
✓ Resources
✓ Impact
World Bank Operations Evaluation Department

- Review of WB experience from 1984 to 2004
- Reconstruction and Prevention/Mitigation Portfolio
- Field cases, issues papers
- Currently underway, to be finished by end 2005
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
Framework for Recovery: Timing

3. Recovery projects are often too short to address the projected length of recovery.

4. Set realistic goals for the short and longer-terms.
   – Keep emergency projects simple and flexible.
Framework: Assessing damage and needs

5. A comprehensive damage and needs assessment undertaken following a disaster plays a key role in securing international support for recovery efforts and providing a framework for 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.

9. Participation, participation, participation!
Challenge/Opportunity: Social Equity and Change

10. Assess and act upon opportunities for social equity and change.
   - Relocation is a major issue
   - Much can be done to promote gender equity