



KOBE REPORT draft
Report of Session 5.3, Thematic Cluster 5

Effective response through coordination, partnership and integrated assessment
Joint OCHA-CARE Presentation

Participants: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environmental Emergencies Section and Field Coordination Support Sections CARE International

Session Title: Effective response through coordination, partnership & integrated assessments.

Objective: Provide overview of innovative tools and approaches for disaster response and response preparedness and through discussion, identify opportunities for and barriers to, greater implementation of risk reduction activities.

Brief Overview and Agenda

1. Introduction and Overview of the International Disaster Response System

- Overview of the mandated coordination role of the United Nations and the responsibilities of the United Nations' Emergency Relief Coordinator in international disaster response and disaster response preparedness, including relevant General Assembly resolutions.
- Describe how this translates into tools and services that can be made available by the UN in the context of disaster response. Highlight partnerships in this respect (UNEP/OCHA in the context of UNDAC, the international humanitarian partnership and on-the-ground partnerships with Governments and non-Governmental organizations).
- Clarify the role of the on-site operations coordination centre in sudden onset disasters.
- Provide examples of partnership development through information management tools and systems in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.
- Provide a chronology of some of the main lessons learned in the last 10 years.
- Provide points for debate and discussion surrounding (a) the effectiveness of UN system support, (b) issues related to member states' understanding of and willingness to make use of the international system in times of disaster, (c) steps member states can take to improve capacity to make use of the international disaster response system.

2. Presentation on partnership approaches

- OCHA and UNEP launched the Environmental Emergencies Partnership (EEP) in 2002 to reduce risks from environmental emergencies - including natural disasters with major environmental aspects and technological disasters - through greater collaboration and information flow between national, international and regional emergencies stakeholders.
- EEP is an innovative response to well-recognized issues within the disaster community including fragmentation along disciplinary and institutional boundaries, and a need for more understanding and dialogue between different disaster stakeholders and disciplines.
- Discussion will highlight practical EEP initiatives to date that engage a range of different stakeholders to deliver better response and preparation for response.
- Discussion will also highlight institutional arrangements / collaboration between OCHA and UNEP that ensure environment is a core, integrated aspect of response and response preparedness.
- Points for discussion: Numerous institutions and countries supported EEP establishment, and its progress to date has been solid. Given the magnitude of issues to be tackled, however, implementation must be substantially increased. Discussion/debate should focus on ways to achieve this.

3. Integrated approaches to disaster assessment

- There are many methodologies for assessing disaster impact. Many focus only on specific sectors (e.g., water, health) that can pose challenge when assessments of different sectors need to be consolidated into a single comprehensive disaster impact assessment. In addition, sector-specific assessments do not usually give full consideration to cross-cutting issues such as those identified in

the Sphere Standards: Children, Older people, Disabled people, Gender, Protection, HIV/AIDS and the Environment. While a livelihood-based assessment can be comprehensive and cover both topical and cross-cutting issues, this type of assessment is often too long and difficult for use in disaster response.

- The discussion will focus on integrating cross-cutting issues into sector specific assessments, and how this integration process can contribute to producing consolidated assessments, with a specific discussion of different aspects of disaster impact assessment. It will also highlight the utility of partnership approaches in this integration process. The discussion will also focus on how to develop a consolidated assessment out of sector-specific results.

4. Questions/Discussion session