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Humanitarian assistance and rural development: responding to new challenges
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Linking emergency relief to development, Recent experiences in Post Disaster Needs Assessments
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Executive Summary

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is a partnership of the World Bank, the United Nations and an expanding group of donor governments working to help disaster prone countries enhance their capacity for disaster prevention, emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. The Facility was established in 2006, in response to calls from the international community to accelerate the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

GFDRR has developed a range of financial and advisory services to help disaster prone countries manage the risk and impacts of natural disasters before they strike. GFDRR grant funding is available to priority countries to catalyze longer term engagement via technical assistance which aims to enhance collaboration among governments, research institutions and civil society organizations of Southern countries through Risk Assessments, Catastrophe Risk Financing Products and Services, Support to National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Programs, Knowledge, advisory, and capacity building

Standby Recovery Financing Facility (SRFF)

Towards the end of 2007 GFDRR introduced Track III to enhance Partnership for Sustainable Recovery with the objective to mainstream disaster risk reduction into sustainable development by engaging in recovery and reconstruction in post-disaster situations. Track III manages the Standby Recovery Financing Facility (SRFF) to provide technical assistance and fast-track financing to affected countries for well coordinated recovery and reconstruction planning and recovery activities that bridge the gap between humanitarian relief and development. The most requested support from Track III has been for Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). This brief note outlines the achievements to date and the challenges that lie ahead.

Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)

International support for countries affected by natural disasters is either humanitarian in nature or is focused on longer term development. For a long time there was also a proliferation of assessment and planning activities, leading to a wide range of impact assessments and planning strategies that are not well coordinated or owned by the respective affected countries. To address this GFDRR sought to improve coordination and international capacity amongst the United Nations, the World Bank, the European Union and other interested recovery stakeholders to support needs assessment, recovery planning, strategy formulation, project development and implementation.

Since 2008 Track III has financed twenty-one assessments, most recently in Haiti. The European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank signed in September 2008 a Joint Declaration on Post-Crisis Assessment and Recovery Planning to reinforce the role of the PDNA for coordinated recovery assessment and planning.

PDNA is increasingly recognized as international accepted standard for a Government-led assessment to verify the impact and identify the needs for recovery and reconstruction. Since 2008 there has been a tendency to move away from conducting many separate assessments towards Government-led joint assessments, supported by an increasing number of international organizations. PDNA is an important tool to leverage recovery and reconstruction financing that integrates risk reduction measures.

Efforts will be needed for a sustained dialogue with special focus on the multi-lateral development banks and the private sector, capacity development, expansion and interlinking of existing rosters towards the establishment of a Global Expert Team on and the introduction of a PDNA handbook and cooperation protocols.