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Humanitarian assistance and rural development: responding to new challenges
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Linking emergency response, recovery and development
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Executive Summary

The RC/RC engage its emergency response tools: Disaster Management Information System, National and Regional Disaster Response Teams (NDRT/RDRT), Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT), Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), Emergency Response Units (ERU) for the realization of effective and timely response to address the immediate and short term needs of communities affected by disasters and safe life and livelihoods. The RC/RC has been able to assist millions of disaster affected people in different parts of the globe through food aid, cash provision, shelter & NFI, agricultural tools and seed support for primary production, emergency health & care including WASH, psychological support, local capacity building etc.

The Red Cross Red Crescent has also been implementing programmes that could link response to recovery and development in view of building community safety and resilience. Policy and strategic approaches include: Changing attitudes that treat response and development as isolated activities, close consultation with the people affected at the community level and other service providers, ensure that response doesn't inadvertently reinforce tension or conflict, incorporate appropriate indicators into response operations, recognize the needs for inclusive disaster planning of the National Societies, use disaster preparedness and DRR as essential link, building NS and local capacity, contribute towards more systematic coordination, underline the importance of humanitarian advocacy to promote solutions to root causes and ensure better linkages.

The 5 years 2004-2009 Tsunami Operation and African National Societies drought response, recovery and long-term food security and livelihoods practices could be mentioned as good examples of Red Cross Red Crescent approach to link emergency response to recovery and development and enhance resilience.

In the past five years 2004-2009, the IFRC has channelled resources in support of the recovery needs of almost 5 million people across the four worst affected countries - Indonesia, the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Under this programme 57,000 houses were built, 650,000 people got clean water to drink, 94,000 households were provided with boats, fishing nets, agricultural tools or cash grants and recovered their livelihoods.

Following the African National Societies commitment to take forward food security as a priority agenda for the decade 2000-2010 (5th Pan African Conference in Ouagadougou), since 2007, 38 food security/livelihoods programmes and projects with medium to longer-term (2-5 years) approach have been implemented in 18 countries. Among others, Niger's cash distribution following the 2005 Sahel drought and the ongoing Zinder livelihoods and capacity project, Lesotho and Swaziland food security and HIV/AIDS integrated programmes, Mali Red Cross experience in improving access to water and establishment of grain banks, Rwandan Red Cross rotating micro-credit scheme, Ethiopia, Sudan & Kenya Red Cross Red Crescent drought and floods response and recovery operations could be mentioned as good practices of the linkages building of safety and resilience.

The International Federation Strategy 2020 is reinforcing these linkages under its 3 aims: save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises, enable healthy and safe living and promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

For additional information please visit <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/index.asp>