

Co-Chairs' Summary Report

ARF Training on Developing a Common Framework for Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, Recovery and Reconstruction in Asia Bangkok, 25-26 November 2010

Introduction

Pursuant to the decision of the 17th ASEAN Regional Forum in Hanoi on 23 July 2010, the ARF Training on Developing a Common Framework for Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), Recovery and Reconstruction in Asia was held in Bangkok during 25-26 November 2010. The Meeting was co-chaired by Thailand and the European Union with the financial support of the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (WB-GFDRR) with technical support and expertise provided by WB-GFDRR and UNDP.

The training was attended by 32 representatives from 15 ARF Participants as well as the ASEAN Secretariat. The training was also attended by Ms. Katalin Demeter and Ms. Sophie Hermann from WB-GFDRR. Dr. Sue Lautze, Dr. Michael J. Ernst (both from UNDP) and Mr. J. Roberto Jovel (from WB-GFDRR) acted as trainers.

The Concept of PDNA

The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) is a **government-led** exercise to provide a platform for recovery and reconstruction. At the global level, the PDNA is governed by the Joint Declaration on Post-Crisis Assessments and Recovery Planning signed in 2008 by the European Commission, World Bank and United Nations. The aim of the agreements is to improve the coherence and overall quality of post crisis assessments. For major disasters, the international community stands ready to assist governments with PDNAs. PDNAs can be a valuable mechanism to mobilize resources, e.g., as a key document to inform donor pledging conferences for recovery and reconstruction.

A PDNA brings together two assessment approaches (the **damage and loss** assessment, and **human development recovery needs** assessment) into a single **recovery** framework of costed and prioritized recovery strategies. The Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) methodology was developed by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) and other UN agencies in the 1970s and was subsequently improved to include risk reduction measures and financing plans in order to create a systematic link to sustainable development. The Human Development Recovery Needs Assessment (HRNA) methodologies are being developed by UN agencies, the World Bank, the EU and a number of countries.

Key Points from the Training

The trainers led sessions that addressed the following topics:

- Introduction to PDNA and Recovery Framework
- Assessing Socio-Economic Impacts of Disasters
- Assessing the Financing Needs for Recovery and Reconstruction
- Assessing Human Development Recovery Needs
- Developing a Recovery Framework

These sessions emphasized the importance of:

- Preparing for PDNAs before disasters, including adapting available guidance and methodologies to suit national and local contexts, and learning from each PDNA experience
- Balancing priorities for physical reconstruction and economic growth with the recovery of human development to reflect the priorities of those most affected by the disaster
- Improving and maintaining rigor and credibility of statistics, sampling and data collection in PDNA processes.
- ‘Building back better,’ at reasonable cost, to reduce the risks reduce the effects of possible future disasters
- Seeking and considering the perspectives of key stakeholders, including the private sector and disaster-affected communities, in addition to valuing the opinions of economists and sectoral specialists in government, academia and civil society.
- Incorporating measures to monitor recovery from the outset, including periodic consultation with disaster-affected communities
- The role of governance structures, including ASEAN and the ARF, in helping to promote opportunities for learning and capacity building

Resources and Guidance

Key resources were provided to the participants in the information packets prepared. Additional resources were identified, including those available on the International Recovery Platform (www.recoveryplatform.org). Participants were informed that two volumes of PDNA guidance are being developed and will be available on the International Recovery Platform by early 2011. These volumes are:

- Volume A: Preparation and Conduct of a PDNA with PDNA Toolkits
- Volume B: Sectoral and Thematic Methodologies for PDNA Assessments

Guidance on DaLA (the “UN ECLAC Handbook on Socio-Economic and Environmental Effects of Disasters”) can also be downloaded at www.recoveryplatform.org.
