



**The Post-Disaster
“Window of Opportunity” for DRR:
Myth or Reality?**

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Learning from Recovery: Activities

- ProVention 5 case studies 2002-05:
 - Bangladesh (1998 floods), Honduras (Mitch '98), Mozambique (2000 and 2001 floods), India (Gujarat 2001), Turkey (Marmara '99)
- ProVention/ALNAP 2005 South Asia Earthquake lessons learned from relief and recovery operations
 - Lessons learned from slow-onset disasters
- Recovery lessons with Red Cross/Red Crescent
 - TEC follow-up
- Social Impact Analysis

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Continuum? What continuum?

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.

“Recovery” from disasters is an artificial term
Merges with relief and development processes.
Many poor live in a constant state of “recovery”, where “temporary” relief is a permanent coping strategy

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

- “real-time recovery”: 5-10 years?
- donors: 1-3 years, varies

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DRR is not a luxury item to save for later

Choices made immediately following a disaster—re: shelter, resettlement, debris clearance, relief distribution, etc.—affect the later choices for longer-term solutions and can have severe consequences for the ability of the poor to recover.

There is a critical need to avoid the exacerbation of existing or the creation of new risks in humanitarian response.

BUT, set realistic goals for the short and longer-terms.
Disaster risk reduction is a long-term process that requires long-term planning and system-wide support

There *is* time for community participation!

People want to participate fully in the response even if it means slower implementation.

High failure rates for programs that do not explicitly incorporate concerns of affected population

Benefits: capacity building, improved governance, increased social capital, ownership, sustainability, addresses psychological trauma

Assess and act upon opportunities for social equity and change

Much can be done to promote gender equity

Marginalized groups – understand **power relations** - 'communities' are made up of different interest groups, and include marginalised groups who may well have difficulty getting their views represented; cultural 'norms' may work against them

Conflict resolution

Challenges and opportunities

- Enabling mechanisms and governance in recovery
- Analysis of how lessons and learning are used
- Need for recovery preparedness
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of **recovery** on the poor
- Develop recovery standards and indicators related to disaster risk reduction (TRIAMS)



Thank you!

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Working in partnership to build safer communities and reduce the impacts of disasters in developing countries

