

Assisting Poverty Alleviation through Disaster Risk Reduction

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ADB's Poverty Alleviation Strategy

- 1999 - Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) adopted as overarching goal
- Main purpose of Long-Term Strategic Framework 2001-2015
- 2004 - PRS enhancements incorporated into Medium Term Strategy II 2006-2008
- 2007 – *Forum on Inclusive Growth and Poverty Reduction in the New Asia and Pacific*



ADB's Disaster Risk Management Strategy

- Direct disaster support = \$6 billion since 1987 (235 projects)
- 2004 Disaster and Emergency Assistance Policy
 - Recognizes vulnerability
 - Strengthen support to avoid disaster risk
 - Help prepare for disaster
 - Provide rehabilitation assistance
- Action plan to implement policy and support regional agenda



Damage and Needs Assessments

- Conducted jointly with World Bank and other partners
- Opportunity to encourage Governments to introduce reduction strategies
- Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction critical in reconstruction period
- Poverty alleviation principles guide:
 - Give priority to the most vulnerable when planning early recovery and reconstruction activities
 - Secure development gains and progress in poverty reduction beyond the impact area



Examples: 2001 Gujarat Earthquake

- 2002 Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction project to sustain income and basic needs:
 - Set up community-owned tool centers and equipment libraries – support 9000 families
 - Support for transport to markets – enhance income of 12,000 poor families
 - Enhance skills of rural poor and tribal families by promoting new village-based technologies – help 29,000 families

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Socialist Republic of Viet Nam: 2005 Typhoon Flooding

- Loss of infrastructure essential for rural poor in 10 impoverished provinces
- Temporary repairs by Government did not include improved resistance
- 2006 ADB loan installs risk reduction measures based on risk and vulnerability assessments
- 450,000 remote area residents benefit
- Actions linked to provincial disaster plans

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2007 Solomon Islands Earthquake and Tsunami

- Specific poverty reduction focus in a natural disaster and post-conflict situation
 - Emphasis on participatory mechanisms
 - equitable distribution of resources in a transparent manner
- Access to local and provincial markets and restore income opportunities
- Employment through reconstruction and maintenance
- Improved environmental protection and construction standards to enhance climate change resilience

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2007 Pakistan Cyclone and Floods

- Displaced population from vulnerable groups in low-lying areas
- Joint Damage and Needs Assessment providing options to Government
- Recommend program that raises building standards for multiple hazard resilience.

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General Lessons

- Past recovery planning not always focused on pro-poor and poverty reduction
- Pro-poor economic growth frequently depends on recovery of rural economy
 - Means closing infrastructure deficit
 - Can also increase resilience to future hazards



General Lessons

- Disasters shift gender roles. Need to re-think how to support changed households
 - Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan
- Livelihood support is best if geared to a series of objectives
 - Protect the vulnerable in the short-term
 - Rejuvenating economic activity includes small businesses and replace agricultural assets
 - Include hazard mitigation and risk reduction activities



For More Information

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