

RESILIENT RECOVERY



UNDP defines recovery as a transformative process through which households and communities rebuild their assets, restore their livelihoods and strengthen their capacities to manage the impacts of future crisis. Resilient Recovery is an inclusive set of interventions which improves the well-being of women, men, children and people with disabilities who are affected by crisis, seeking to build the resilience of communities.

UNDP occupies unique place and leading role in supporting resilient recovery through its mandate, expertise and national presence. As reflected in the current [Strategic Plan for 2022-2025](#), UNDP aims to strengthen the capacity of countries, institutions and people to prevent, mitigate and respond to diverse risks including crisis, conflict, natural disasters, climate and social and economic shocks, thus recognizing the organization's mandate in recovery as conferred by various resolutions of the UN General Assembly.

Disasters and Multi-Faceted Challenges

As disasters inflict human suffering and ever-increasing economic costs, the process of recovery is essential for helping people cope with the impact of disasters, restoring their sense of well-being and resuming their pathway to development. Recovery processes contribute to resilience by helping with rebuilding peoples' assets and livelihoods and reconstructing houses and infrastructure with better standards and specifications. Without recovery, disasters could lead to a decline in the quality of life and drive people into poverty.

Recovery is multifaceted. In Sudan, for example, floods in 2020 has intersected with political crisis and the pandemic in different parts of the country. In parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, droughts induced by El Niño have aggravated conflict. While donors have committed resources for addressing humanitarian needs, support also needs to address long-term recovery requirements. Recovery has emerged as a key development issue, which encompasses policies, governance, and capacities.



Women in Nepal participate in reconstruction post-earthquake. Photo: UNDP/Nepal

UNDP's Offer and Advantage

UNDP's offer on Resilient Recovery Offer is two-fold: what comes before and what comes after a hazardous event, otherwise known as preparedness and post-disaster recovery. The preparedness for recovery process focuses on strengthening governments' and communities' pre-disaster recovery planning capacities which can be mobilized quickly and effectively when a disaster occurs. While recovery is part of the disaster risk management continuum, it goes beyond response and relief interventions, and therefore, it is recognized as having a distinct function which requires a more careful and planned approach.

The post-disaster recovery process starts in the aftermath of a crisis and are usually characterized by a multiplicity of national and international actors, and often by limited capacity, expertise and funding. UNDP has extensive experience in supporting countries during post-disaster recovery processes and capitalizes on particular areas of expertise that have been developed, such as guidance on conducting assessments and design Recovery Frameworks, integrating disaster risk and build back better components into recovery programmes, support on resource

For more information: undp.org/expertise

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mobilization and monitoring mechanisms. UNDP has extensive experience in supporting countries during post-disaster recovery processes and capitalizes on particular areas of expertise that have been developed, such as guidance on conducting assessments and design Recovery Frameworks, integrating disaster risk and build back better components into recovery programmes, support on resource mobilization and monitoring mechanisms. UNDP, in partnership with the World Bank and the EU, has invested considerable technical and financial resources to develop tools and methodologies for recovery, particularly the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and Disaster Recovery Frameworks.

Country Examples

Ecuador: Preparedness for Recovery and Post-Crisis Support

In the wake of an April 2016 earthquake which caused 700 deaths, 16,000 injuries and 80,000 people to be displaced, UNDP worked together with the World Bank and EU conducted a post disaster needs assessment and offered a long-term plan for recovery. In March 2020 as the COVID-19 virus spread, UNDP assisted the government in conducted a [Recovery Needs Assessment](#). The Government used the assessment to identify and extend social protection support to nearly 1.5 million families, and extended credit in the amount of USD 1.65 billion to small and medium enterprises to restore their businesses.

Mozambique: Supporting the recovery of families from cyclones

In mid-2019, Mozambique was struck by two consecutive major cyclones with significant impacts on local population, business, and infrastructure. A Post-Disaster Needs Assessment was conducted by the Government of Mozambique (GoM), in collaboration with the UNDP and others, More than 1.7 million people were affected, with damages and losses amounting to US \$3 billion. UNDP led the overall process, through the quick deployment of technical expertise to [coordinate the efforts](#). UNDP in collaboration with the GoM established a Recovery Facility to fast-track recovery and build resilience.

Laos: Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction through Recovery

The Government of Lao has been actively promoting public awareness of disaster-risk reduction. The last decade has seen an important shift in risk-management strategies, from a reactive approach, focused on post-disaster relief, to a more proactive approach, emphasizing pre-disaster preparedness and prevention. Through a Project Building Capacities for Resilient Recovery (Phase 2), [financed by the Government of Luxembourg](#), the UNDP has helped develop recovery plans and strengthened capacities in recovery planning.

Key Areas of Work

UNDP supports resilient recovery of communities by providing assistance for livelihoods, housing, infrastructure and training on disaster resilient infrastructure. Partnering with national governments and working alongside local governments, NGOs, civil society groups and private sector, UNDP has developed a strong pool of expertise and advanced the practice of recovery.

UNDP's partnerships with the EU, the World Bank and other UN agencies are key for ensuring a multi-sector and comprehensive approach to recovery, such as:

1. Advance Preparation

Preparing countries for recovery processes well before disasters strike. This includes making sure that national governments and communities have the institutions and policy and standby capacities to respond and recover from a disaster. It aims to reduce impact of disaster by promoting resilient infrastructure, guidelines for risk informed recovery, building capacities of government officials to assess disaster impacts and skills in disaster resilient construction technologies.

2. Post-Disaster Needs Assessment

Assessing damage, loss and recovery needs through Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA); developing recovery plans and frameworks and assisting governments to mobilize resources.

3. Risk informing Recovery

Recognizing that effective recovery processes must promote practices that reduce the communities' hazard risks, the team supports integration of risk reduction features that also nature based to avoid rebuilding risks and to enhance safety of communities to impacts of climate change and geophysical hazards.

4. Technical and Financial Support

Extending technical and financial support for medium and long-term recovery programmes, including deploying experts to develop recovery institutions, policies and personnel to assist national and local governments in implementing and monitoring disaster recovery programmes.

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