

Turning the tide

Livelihood Rehabilitation—Key Issues




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Is each disaster different?

- Many major disasters in the recent past—Latur EQ, Orissa Cyclone, Bhuj EQ, South Indian Tsunami and Kashmir EQ
- Rich experience in Govt and Civil Society circles
- Yet, we struggle to apply learning from one disaster to the other—why?
- While there are surely common principles, the context seems to be equally important
- Context: social, political, cultural and economic

- Govt: Unable to transfer learning across time and space, unless it can be reduced to manuals and rules
- Civil society agencies with disaster experience seem to:
 - struggle to transfer learning from one disaster to the other
 - apply learning mechanically without understanding context
- Disaster experience and learning is more with individuals than institutions at the moment
- Still an art rather than a science



Asking right questions is more
important than proposing standard
solutions

Rehabilitation of Livelihoods

Key issues

- Technical issues
- Social Issues
- Policy Issues
- Management Issues
- Ethics and Principles

Technical Issues—Fisheries

- To repair or replace boats and motors?
- To replace what was lost/damaged or to upgrade?
- Is this an opportunity to increase asset base of community?
- How to ensure quality of new boats/motors/nets?

Technical Issues—Agriculture

- What to do with the sea mud deposits?
- What package of measures required to reclaim affected land?
- Use Gypsum or not?
- Is it a long term process or is it possible to do it in one season?
- Is it possible to work on individual farms without working on common irrigation and drainage channels?
- Whom to listen to: Agri Dept, Research Institutes?

Social Issues

Fisheries

- Replace only for those who lost equipment or give to all fishermen?
- Individual ownership vs. Group ownership
- Boats for the old, women, children, etc?

Agriculture

- Should we work only on fields of small farmers or work on all affected lands?
- Is this an opportunity to help specific target groups?

Policy Issues

- What are the respective roles of State, Civil Society and Communities in rehab?
- Should the state regulate actions of private actors for larger good?
- What sort of support system needed for implementing agencies?—technical support, coordination services, procurement, quality control
- Role of donors, national, local NGOs

Management/Implementation Issues

- Beneficiary selection
- Community participation
- Grant vs. loans/revolving funds
- Collaboration and cooperation between implementing agencies
- Handling competition
- Human resources—local recruitment, consultants
- Administrative systems

Ethics/Principles

- Right to give vs. right to receive
- Who decides what is appropriate? Who makes choices?
- Social Engineering at times of disasters?
- Short term players vs. long term players
- Does the community itself have no say in what is due to it?
- How to create conditions for informed choice rather than respond to wish lists?