

Early Recovery Cluster

Pakistan Earthquake Update

- The field-based ER Cluster met on Saturday, 29 October, to share the preliminary findings from the needs assessment mission, which was carried out from 24-27 October in Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Rawlakot and the NWFP respectively. The meeting was addressed by Hafiz Pasha, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP and Jan Vandemoortele, UN Resident Coordinator. A wide range of agency and NGO representatives were present. The majority of reports was rich in contents and pointed at a range of interesting challenges which are emerging for the post-earthquake recovery operation.
- The following time plan was agreed for finalizing the report in time for the upcoming donor conference in ISL on 19th November:
 - *31 Oct: Early recovery sector teams submit sector inputs by COB
 - *3 Nov: Zero draft prepared and disseminated to internal UNDP review team for comments
 - *4 Nov: 1st draft report ready to be shared with ER Cluster
 - *5 Nov: Draft report to be shared with GoP
 - *7 Nov: WB presents its report to the GoP; UNDP is considering to have consultations with GoP on the ER framework on the same day (to be confirmed)
 - *10 Nov: Final report ready for language editing
- Amongst the challenges identified in the needs-assessment process:
 - (1) Meeting the balance between facilitating civil society participation & being able to get quickly operational on the ground.
 - (2) Coordinating overlaps with other sectors and linking relief, recovery and reconstruction and development
 - (3) Transparent and coherent beneficiary identification among UN, government and NGOs
 - (4) Mobilizing sufficient financial resources to start implementation without further delay
 - (5) Implementation and delivery challenges, i.e. the need to restore local government capacities and the fact that civil society is not well developed
 - (6) Transforming the needs assessment into a solid, bankable proposal for early recovery, with realistic targets and viable implementation arrangements, ready to begin immediately.
- The situation on the ground indicates that affected populations are already commencing with spontaneous recovery activities in an attempt to get their livelihoods back on track. Immense opportunities for a sustainable redevelopment process and for building back better may be missed, if support for immediate recovery interventions is delayed given a lack of resources.
- The heads of ADB, UNDP and WB have agreed to ensure consistency of estimates and messages of the two-volume needs assessment envisaged –one on early recovery and one on medium-term reconstructions, as well as on other cooperative efforts such as a common set of guiding principles for early recovery and reconstruction for Government, UN and WB interventions. The recovery framework in preparation will adjust to the form finally agreed upon for the donor conference on the 19th of November.
- Resource mobilisation: all cluster members concur that the funding levels mobilised to date through the Flash Appeal mechanisms and others are not nearly enough to meet even minimum early recovery interventions. Taking advantage of the ERC's intention to bring this severe funding gap to the attention of Member States, the field team identified priority unmet needs for the Cluster, amounting to US\$2,300,000, for transitional shelter, labour-intensive public works activities to provide small-scale emergency employment and livelihood restoration through cash for work.

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