



Regional Planning Meeting Summary Developing Surge Capacity for Early Recovery

Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand: March 30-31, 2006

On March 30 and 31, the Regional Programme for Capacity Building will conduct a two-day planning meeting in Bangkok on developing surge capacity for early recovery. UNDP recovery specialists from country offices throughout the region will be joined by experts from the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. The purpose of the meeting is to examine existing concepts of surge capacity in the context of recent disaster recovery processes in Asia; to map existing and needed recovery capacities in light of possible future disaster scenarios; and to plan the first steps in developing a group of trained recovery specialists available to provide surge capacity to the UN system. The meeting will proceed according to the following agenda.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30: SITUATION ANALYSIS	FRIDAY, MARCH 31: PLANNING A WAY FORWARD
Session 1: Introduction	Session 5: Mapping Surge Capacities and Competencies Needed
Session 2: Post-Disaster Recovery and Concepts on Regional Surge Capacity	Session 6: Learning and Training Concepts for Developing Surge Capacity
Session 3: Presentation of participants' experiences and discussion of UNDP involvement in early recovery in recent major disasters	Session 7: Conclusions and Immediate Next Steps
Session 4: Asia: Future Disaster Scenarios and Needs for Recovery	

UNDP's work on the ground in 166 countries and full time presence before, during and after crisis provide a unique position to support disaster recovery responses; however, management of the recovery process remains a persistent challenge to development and gaps have repeatedly emerged between emergency relief and long-term development efforts. Among the major current gaps in how the UN system deals with recovery is the lack of predictable surge capacity, both in quantitative terms as well as in knowledge of recovery tools and approaches. While individual agencies are often able to mobilize expertise to the field, there remains no system-wide approach that can effectively support to the Resident Coordinator and UN Country Team.

Accordingly, the Regional Programme is hosting this planning meeting as part of its overall objective to help increase the capacity of countries affected by the Indian Ocean Tsunami to undertake post-disaster recovery, and to help mitigate the risk that would ensue from any future natural disaster events. Specifically, it will lead toward the creation of a surge capacity programme concept that includes rapid deployment mechanisms, training and refresher training and consultant rosters. Those to be trained will include UN personnel, UN Volunteers, consultants and host country nationals. This programme will be launched through a regional training activity, with the intent that it will become a standing activity to ensure that the surge talent pool is continuously available.

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