



Building Community-based Preparedness for and Responses to Natural Disasters

Managing Risks in Conflict
Contexts

CDD = Preparedness, the base for a quick response!

- CDD = preparedness in that it simplifies the provision of trainings, damage & loss assessments and up-dates, conflict monitoring
- KDP worked in Aceh from 1998 without interruption and in other conflict-affected provinces as well--“flies under the radar”
- Able to operate when other projects stop, with fewer “leaks” due to social controls, citizen oversight based on local knowledge (aware of the risks, the players)
- Modular
- High levels of ownership and participation; victims are actively involved throughout the process

Conflicts = development arrested, in reverse

- ...but not necessarily with CDD!
- In conflict situations govt is often discredited or absent
- Need alternatives that do not further discredit govt and actually start to build trust
- More complex conflicts mean more difficulties but the principles remain the same

CDD provides an alternative.

If CDD programs are in place...

- CDD delivers assistance, to victims of conflict and villagers at large, quickly
- Allows village infrastructure to be rebuilt, efficiently and effectively
- Can provide emergency relief funds and capital
- Provides a channel to get information to villagers
- Provide a mechanism to get information from villagers

If CDD programs are in place...

- Allows for easy organization of local trainings and facilitates the quick mobilization of villagers
- CDD interventions must be designed so they are simple and flexible, allowing for disaster responses without changing manuals, contract amendments, etc.
- Decentralized with few "prior reviews."

How can CDD do this?

- Processes and procedures known
- Channels of communication open
- Large network of local actors, trained and in place
- Trust already established
- Targeting made easier, acceptable
- Process facilitated; trained, experienced facilitators in place
- Transfer of funds mechanisms known, working
- Expectations that this not “hit and run,” but rather a long-term commitment

In summary....

Facilitation => consultations =>
negotiations => agreements.

CDD builds social capital, avoids conflicts, supports the mobilization of villagers for action (for preparedness, for recovery and for long-term development).

Challenges to CDD in Conflict and Disaster Contexts

- Information dissemination & transparency are essential for CDD but more so in difficult situations, in disasters and moreover in conflicts.
- Delays and bureaucracy are unavoidable but “excessive” delays and bureaucracy can kill a CDD program and spark further conflict.
- Targeting issues are the hardest to deal with but can be dealt with better through CDD
- Near “exit,” at major transitions, after a number of years, complaints and dissatisfaction grow. This needs to be anticipated.
- Other actors need to be convinced before disaster strikes.