

Workshop
on
Building Resilient Communities:
Risk Management and Responses
to Natural Disasters

Samantha de Silva
Sr. Social Protection Specialist, World Bank
Bangkok, Thailand
June 2008

Background

- Social Funds/CDD increasingly used as a tool for disaster risk management (DRM).
- This workshop is both a result and a need of this more prominent role.
- Focus of the workshop is:
 - What have we learned so far?
 - How do we disseminate these lessons?
 - How do we make social funds/CDD operations even more effective?
 - How do we incorporate lessons from DRM work into the operational portfolio?

Social Funds/CDD have already responded across the Globe

- Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (Earthquake)
- Sri Lanka North East Agriculture and Irrigation Project (Tsunami)
- Honduras Social Fund (Hurricane Mitch)
- Nicaragua Social Fund (Hurricane)
- Malawi Social Action Fund (Drought/Floods)
- Madagascar Social Fund (Cyclones)
- Indonesia Kecamatan Development Project (Tsunami)
- Philippines Kalahi (Cyclones)
- Vietnam CDD Program 135 (Floods)

Why are Social Funds Effective for Disaster Management?

- Already established and working in-country;
- Presence in poor, often difficult to reach communities across the country;
- Primarily engaged in construction/civil works – so expertise readily available;
- Flexible procedures including for procurement and disbursement;

Why are Social Funds Proving to be Effective for Disaster Management?

- Proven, efficient management practices;
- Effective public awareness campaigns already in place;
- Sound M&E systems (baseline data/costs, participatory monitoring, etc.);
- Able to coordinate across several partners: donors, govt. agencies, private sector, NGOs;
- Has been able to incorporate lessons into long-term development strategies;

Why are Social Funds Proving to be Effective for Disaster Management?

- Most Bank-funded projects operate at national level - SF/CDD works at national and local levels;
- SF/CDD focuses on building community capacity in both preparing for and responding to disasters;
- IEG study on Hazard Risk Management specifically identifies social funds contribution to Disaster Risk Reduction and Response.

Going Forward

- Disaster management still a new area of work for SF/CDD;
- Important to ensure that SFs do not work on disasters in isolation – re-inventing the wheel each time.
- SFs need to become more proactive/strategic rather than reactive.
- Global lessons need to be systematically absorbed and disseminated.

What have we done so far?

- Program of work to better equip social funds and CDD operations by introducing improved practices and methodologies for DRM.
- Key deliverables:
 - Toolkit on “Community-based Disaster Risk Management” has been prepared incorporating lessons from 12 case studies;
 - Global workshop bringing together - for the first time - key stakeholders (e.g., Bank staff, clients, and humanitarian orgs from across the globe);
 - Promoting dissemination across regions.

Expected Workshop Outcomes

- We need to identify where further work is needed.
- We need to begin to develop a framework for knowledge sharing across the Bank as well as with key partners.
- We need to mainstream this work more systematically into the Bank's operational portfolio.
- Given scarcity of resources (both dollars and staff), we need to liaise with key partners and organize ourselves better to maximize impact.
- Finally, we need to be strategic about seeking funding for work on disaster management.