ASSESSMENTS OF NEEDS
EVALUATION OF IMPACTS

ISSUES ARISING FROM THE TSUNAMI RESPONSE
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WHO Conference on
Health Aspects of Tsunami Disaster in Asia

Phuket, Thailand
4–6 May 2005
FROM INITIAL DIAGNOSIS AND RESPONSE DESIGN TO EX-POST IMPACT EVALUATION

WHAT PARAMETERS CAN HAMPER THE QUALITY OF DIAGNOSIS, IMPACT EVALUATION AND INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING?
FROM THE DIAGNOSIS TO THE DESIGN OF THE TSUNAMI RESPONSE:

KEY ISSUES

3 complementary components

→ Situation analysis

→ Needs assessments

→ Capacity appraisal
A VERY LARGE AFFECTED AREA

A VERY IMPORTANT LEVEL OF DESTRUCTION

World Health Organization
THE SPEED FACTOR

• THE SPEED OF THE PHENOMENON
• IMMEDIATE TV BROADCAST
• DEBATE ON THE RELEVANCE OF RESCUE OPERATIONS
• GOVERNMENTS’ AND AGENCIES’ NEED FOR VISIBILITY
• THE RAPIDLY EMERGING DEBATE ON EARLY WARNING
EMOTIONS AT THEIR HEIGHT

STRONG MEDIA PRESSURE

USE OF NEW IT AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

STRONG EMPATHY ACROSS THE WORLD

EASY IDENTIFICATION WITH THE AREA

THE FEAR OF POST DISASTER EPIDEMIC SYNDROME

JUST AFTER CHRISTMAS
LOGISTICAL CONSTRAINTS AFFECTING ACCESS & ASSESSMENT

• ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND ACCESS TO AREAS

• THE DIFFICULTIES TO SEND APRAISAL TEAMS (importance of the UNDAC system)
THE CHANGING ESTIMATE OF THE DISASTER’S IMPACT

- CHANGING AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION
- THE INFORMATION WAR FOR VISIBILITY AND FUND RAISING
- THE POLITICAL AGENDAS
NEEDS ARISING FROM SOCIO-NATURAL DISASTERS AND THE TIME FACTOR

Degree of urgency

Challenge: what does responding to emergency means?

T0 +48h + One week

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QUICK MOBILISATION VERSUS PROPER DIAGNOSIS

• STRONG TENSION BETWEEN RAPID ACTION AND RELEVANT ACTION;

• STRONG TENSION BETWEEN INTER-AGENCY COMPETITION AND PROPER DIAGNOSIS

• STRONG COMPETITION BETWEEN BEING SEEN QUICKLY IN THE FIELD AND DOING THINGS WHICH MAKE SENSE;

• STRONG TENSION BETWEEN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS (kit approach) AND POST DISASTER DIAGNOSIS
EVALUATION AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE TUSNAMI RESPONSE:

KEY ISSUES
EVALUATION OF THE TSUNAMI RESPONSE:

- How
  - COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS:
    - With or without interventions
    - Before or after the intervention

- What
  - COMPLIANCE ANALYSIS:
    - With Objectives and activities from the Logframe
    - With national and local references and norms
    - With international standards

Impact and results

Processes and Structures

Impact and results

Processes and Structures
GLOBAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT DIVERSITY

In terms of:

→ the situation prior to the disaster;
→ the magnitude of the disaster’s impact;
→ Host governments’ response policies;
→ the level of mobilized resources.
IMPACT ANALYSIS FOR DIFFERENT ACTIONS IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS

Local policies

Local impacts

Local capacities
ANALYSING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE MACRO, MESO, AND MICRO LEVELS
TAKING STOCK OF THE EVOLUTION OF IMPACTS OVER TIME

Positive effects

Negative effects

T1

T2

T3

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Photo: Tsunami aftermath, April 2005
VERIFYING THE QUALITY OF INTERVENTIONS

• THE DAC CRITERIA (donor oriented)

• THE SPHERE STANDARDS (compliance)

• THE QUALITY COMPAS (quality assurance base on a 12 quality criteria reference system)
The project aims to ensure that there are positive impacts beyond project implementation

The project is consistent with the organisation's mandate and principles

The agency has the necessary resources and expertise

The project respects the populations

The agency has the appropriate management capacities

The project responds to a demonstrated need

The project achieves its objectives

The project is flexible

The agency makes optimal use of resources

The project is integrated in its environment in an optimal manner

The agency uses lessons drawn from experience

The project avoids or alleviates negative impacts
To assess quality, you need
- Quality criteria;
- Indicators (variables)
- References/norms/standards
INDICATORS SHOULD BE:

- Meaningful
- Specific
- Accurate
- Measurable
- Appropriate
- Replicable
- Sensitive/Reactive
- Objective
- Credible
- Efficient
ACCURACY

➔ IN DATA GATHERING

➔ IN DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

NUMBER OF AFFECTED PEOPLE

RATIO : -----------------------------------------------

TOTAL POPULATION

Warning
MEANINGFUL

HOW CAN WE ANALYSE VARIATION? (means, average, standard deviation)

DO VARIABLES FOLLOW A NORMAL DISTRIBUTION?
frequency

Dissymmetric curves

Multimodal curves

Flat curves

variable
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→ THE « CONSULTANT AND THE SHEEP HERDER »
From evaluation to institutional learning:
Evaluation results (impact/results/processes/structure) should ideally be four-fold:

At the project/programme level:
- possible modification in the course of events
- downwards and upwards accountability;

At the institutional level:
- improved project cycle management and disaster cycle management (including improved diagnosis, better preparedness, etc.);
- creation of institutional memory;
HOW CAN WE ENSURE THAT LESSONS LEARNT WILL BE LESSONS USED IN THE DISASTER RESPONSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM?
ENTERING THE CRISIS

CRISIS INCEPTION
DIAGNOSIS

PREPAREDNESS
(INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT
OF A RESPONSE CAPACITY)

INTEGRATION OF THE
CRISIS IN THE
DEVELOPMENT
PARADIGM
FOR LONG TERM
PREVENTION

LEARNING
PROCESS AND
INSTITUTIONAL
CHANGES

EARLY WARNING

DIFFUSING STAGE

DIAGNOSIS

MOBILISATION
OF RESPONSE
CAPACITIES

EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

RESPONSE
THROUGH
SUPPORT TO
LOCAL
CAPACITIES

REHABILITATION

RECONSTRUCTION

TOWARDS THE
END OF THE CRISIS

CRISIS RESPONSE
MANAGEMENT CYCLE

EVALUATION
OF THE RESPONSE

CRISIS - DISASTER
IN MOST INSTANCES, CRISSES ARE LONG
LASTING

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Tsunami Health
Conference

Panama, April 2005