



## *“Lessons Learned on Relief and Reconstruction”*

ACVFA Public Meeting  
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### **1. Innovative Partnerships: Together We Can Do More**

Expanding the opportunities for public-private partnerships should be central to expanding the diversity of the humanitarian community. Outcomes include not only financial resources but also technical expertise and training. Private capacities can add significant value to NGO operational work in emergency settings, as evidenced during the tsunami response.

### **2. Coordination among Humanitarian Workers Is Key**

Within both the relief and recovery phase, it is critical to effectively meet the needs of communities, addressing gaps in service delivery and avoiding duplication of efforts and wasted resources. NGOs must view coordination as a duty, not an option, making it a functional responsibility within their organization and devote staff and resources to coordinate both before and during a response to a disaster.

### **3. The Private Sector is a Crucial Partner in Disaster Relief Efforts**

Partnerships between the private sector working alongside relief organizations, local government, the U.S. government, and international organizations should be expanded in future disaster efforts. The private sector has skilled personnel and relationships in regions where their employees live and work to provide human resources skills and share technology and knowledge.

### **4. Enhancing the Professionalism of Humanitarian Workers Benefits Everyone**

Adhering to commonly agreed upon standards helps ensure humanitarian aid workers are more accountable to the communities affected by crises. The unprofessional practice demonstrated by less experienced NGOs can put populations at risk and lead to a response that fails to meet the needs of affected communities.

### **5. Coordination and Collaboration: The Synchronization of Teamwork**

Emergency Capacity Building (ECB), funded by the Gates Foundation, is a good model for collaboration between agencies on critical quality and systems – working better together with existing partners.

## **6. Building the Capacity of Local Actors is Critical to Sustainability**

The impact of human resource development and training by NGOs and the private sector, such as the International Medical Corps and Pfizer, is shown in the number of Afghan health professionals currently engaged in the reconstruction process through their work with UN agencies, NGOs and the Ministry of Public Health.

## **7. Know Your Beneficiary: Context Sensitive Programming**

Moving beyond needs assessment to understand the contexts in which one mounts a response and recovery work is vital to assure quality. We need to understand community dynamics, coping strategies, livelihood trends and build on those. Building local capacity and working through local entities where appropriate, should be a consistent and central strategy of reconstruction work.

## **8. Address Urgent Problems by Employing “Brainpower & Relevant Skills”**

In disasters, crisis problems can be unusually complex, but effective partnership of teams of workers can be resolute and flexible in meeting the needs of survivors. After the South Asian tsunami, bureaucratic hurdles were cleared so staff could be deployed to offer logistics and supply-chain management, water sanitation and engineering, and medical and public-health services.

## **9. In-Kind Donations: Do's & Don'ts**

In-kind donations should be based on expressed need only and not allowed to clog fragile logistics systems in the onset of an emergency. Pharmaceutical companies follow the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines when it comes to donating medicines and drugs for relevant situations. The best practices for in-kind donations needs to be more universally communicated to the general public at every opportunity of an emergency.

## **10. The Importance of Acquiring Medicines and Products to Meet Immediate Health & Relief Needs**

The strengthening of systems by medical and public-health experts is of the essence to prevent outbreaks of communicable diseases, improve laboratory capacity and help public and private pharmaceutical-supply sectors rebuild what was lost and destroyed. For example, Pfizer logistics built databases of distribution points and systems to move a chain of medicine to tsunami victims.