A Toolbox for Conducting Policy Oriented Post-Disaster Needs Assessments

Submitted by: Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies
POPNA

A toolbox for conducting

Policy Oriented Post-disaster Needs Assessments

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WHY?
Disaster, Post-Disaster Assessments

• Types of Disasters
  – Chronic slow onset disasters
  – Acute Rapid onset disasters

• Type of Assessment
  – Damage-based
  – Needs-based
  – Right-based
Types of Post-Disaster Need Assessments

• Rapid versus Long-term Need Assessments
  – Immediate humanitarian assistance
  – Long-term reconstruction

• Single-topic versus Comprehensive Need Assessments
  – Specific concern
  – Certain group of people
  – Comprehensive need assessment
  – Multi-cluster need assessment (McRAM)
Disaster Phases and Assessment Timeline

- Post-Disaster Need Assessment Phases
  - Immediate initial/ Emergency Phase
  - On-going initial/ Rehabilitation Phase
  - In-depth/ Reconstruction Phase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 0 Onset</th>
<th>Phase 1: First days</th>
<th>Phase 2: First 2 weeks</th>
<th>Phase 3: Second 2 weeks</th>
<th>Phase 4: Second month</th>
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The POPNA Tool

• POPNA is not …
  – to determine immediate humanitarian needs
  – to explore macro economic effects
  – a normal living condition survey

• Specific Objective
  – Policy oriented
  – Long-term
  – Comprehensive
    ○ Scope
    ○ Content
    ○ Methodology
POPNA in the Assessment Timeline

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Need Assessments Methodology

• Qualitative method
  – Reviews of existing literature
  – Field observation
  – Focus group discussions
  – Key informant interviews

• Quantitative surveys
  – Community
  – Households

• Remote sensing, GIS techniques and PDA technology
WHAT?
The Framework

- Taking the living condition frame work as a point of departure
- Adding the focus on need for information in developing policies and measures
POPNA
Comprehensive assessment of situation before and after disaster

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<th>Objective needs</th>
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For policymakers (Governments and stakeholders) needs taken as input

Outputs/Aims:
Comprehensive understanding of post disaster needs

For policy:
- Overview
- Priorities
- Direction
- Opportunity / Space
- Evaluation
- Timeliness

For knowledge:
- New understandings
- Coping strategies
- Preparedness

Community survey
Household and individual surveys
Governments
Policy makers
Organizations
Advocacy groups
Communities
Civil society
Academics
Content and scope

- **Comprehensive content**
  - Based on the population situation with focus on providing information that inform policy
  - Questionnaires
    - Household
    - Community
    - Optional additional modules
  - Related to International indicators
    - Existing guidelines/tools/indicators (Sphere, MDGs, WASH, etc.)

- **Broad scope**
  - Large geographic area
  - All affected population of the disaster
  - Specific sub groups

**POPNA**

Comprehensive assessment of situation before and after disaster

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Policymakers (Governments and stakeholders) needs taken as input

Community survey

Household and individual surveys
Output

• Wide range of outputs for different end users
  – Short term policy development, evaluation and reformulation
  – Long term disaster preparedness and disaster reduction policies
  – Monitoring tool
  – Information for organizations and advocacy groups
  – Public knowledge and awareness
  – Academic contributions

Outputs/Aims:
Comprehensive understanding of post disaster needs

For policy:
• Overview
• Priorities
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• New understandings
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HOW?
Procedure

• Procedure of a POPNA Survey
  – Preparation
  – Contacting national/ local authorities
  – Qualitative pilot surveys
  – Questionnaire design
  – Recruit partners, samplers and interviewers
  – Fieldwork design
  – Sampler and interviewer training
  – Sampling
  – Surveying
  – Data analysis and reporting
Coordinate with Local Authorities

• Benefit
  – Identify policymakers’ needs and preferences
  – Official permissions
  – Practical help
    o Sampling frame
    o Locate sampled respondent
    o Legitimacy and trust problem

• Cost
Samplers and Interviewers

• **Specific Qualifications**
  – Local knowledge
  – Good health
  – Social and communication skills

• **Specific Trainings**
  – ‘Safety first’, keep away from secondary disasters
  – Avoid to get involved in social conflicts
  – Psychological preparation and debriefing
Sampling

• General Sampling Design Considerations in Disaster Situations
  – Representative sample
  – Geographic clustering of disaster impact
  – Imperfect sampling frame in emergencies
  – Reporting on Sub-groups

• Sampling Methods for the POPNA Surveys
  – Systematic geographic/spatial sampling
  – Clustering sampling with PPS selection
  – EPI method
  – Modified clustering sampling with conventional PPS selection
Data collection

- Ways of Data Collection
  - Paper questionnaire interviews
  - Computer assisted personal interviews (CAPI)
    - Advantage
    - Challenge

- Tools of CAPI Method
  - Laptop and netbook
  - PDA
  - Smartphone
  - Tablet computer

- Equipment Maintenance and Data Management
Field Organization, Reporting and Monitoring

• How to Organize Fieldwork
  – Information and data transmission
  – Interviewer organization
  – Quality control

• How to Analyze Data and Write Report
  – Start as soon as possible
  – Clear and easy to understand
  – Focus on policy makers’ interested questions, but not limited by that

• Monitoring Tool of Post-Disaster Reconstruction
  – Good baseline data for longitudinal monitoring surveys
  – Record the HH information for possible following up survey
汶川地震灾区居民重建恢复情况调查
研究设计与主要发现

AN EXAMPLE
Policy-oriented Post-disaster Needs Assessment after Sichuan Earthquake in 2008

- Conducted in the end of June-July 2008, one and half month after the Wenchuan earthquake
- Aimed at providing needs information for the making of National Post-Wenchuan Reconstruction Plan
- A two-stage sample covered 24 affected-counties, 174 clusters, and 5,000 households
- 80 interviewers, each equipped with an Asus ee-PC, interviewed 4,526 households in 15 days
- The report was finished in July 15th, and was handed in to the state council leading group of Reconstruction Planning and other government agencies
- The report have influenced the reconstruction plan, in areas like ...
  - The level of subsides for rebuilding of houses
  - Migration policies
  - Employment policies
  - Emphasis on the participation and self-organization of local people in reconstruction
Rapid response in Wenchuan earthquake

- Started pilot studies in Sichuan earthquake areas
- Started questionnaire design

May-12

May-18

List of internal reports, including the suggestion on starting a rapid needs assessment

June-5

June-20

- Leading group of Planning asked for representative information on specific topics and ordered us to start the survey

July-5

July-15

-- Started field work
-- Handed in the internal report to the state council and the leading group of planning, based on the 3000 questionnaires finished then

July-19

-- Finished field work, collected information of 4526 households in 24 affected counties

May-12

May-18

June-5

June-20

July-5

July-15
Thanks

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