



United Nations Development Programme -UNDP-

“National and Local Capacity Building for Early Recovery Programme in Dominican Republic”

Proyecto No. 00062831

On 28 October 2007, Tropical storm Noel hit the Dominican Republic causing flooding and land slides in 80% of its territory. Noel caused the displacement of 79,246 people; it registered 87 deaths and 48 missing people. 90% of the people directly affected (loss of homes, livelihoods, etc) live below the poverty line in the provinces of the country with the lowest human development index. On December 11th 2007, the Dominican Republic was impacted by a second tropical storm, Olga, affecting mainly the North and Northeast. Olga caused 33 deaths and the temporary displacement of 61,000 people.

The purpose of the Early Recovery Programme (ERP) in the Dominican Republic is to support the recovery of populations affected by tropical storm Noel and Olga and to strengthen national capacities and inter-agency coordination in early recovery, with mainstreamed risk reduction initiatives for building a more sustainable future.

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ACRONYMS

AECID	Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional al Desarrollo
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CWGER	Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery
EC	European Commission
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America And The Caribbean
ERP	Early Recovery Project
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GIS	Geographic Information System
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
ILO	International Labor Organization
IM	Information Management
IMS	Information Management System
INGOs	International Non Governmental Organizations
MUDE	Mujeres en Desarrollo Dominicana
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
PPS (SGP)	Programa de Pequeños Subsidios – Small Grants Programme
SEEPYD	Secretaría de Estado de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo
SEMARENA	Secretaría de Estado de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
STCI (SCI)	SubSecretaría de Estado de Cooperación Internacional
UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDAF	United Nations Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNV	United Nation Volunteer
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization

PROJECT SUMMARY

The purpose of the Early Recovery Programme (ERP) in the Dominican Republic is to support the recovery of populations affected by tropical storm Noel and Olga and to strengthen national capacities and inter-agency coordination in early recovery, with mainstreamed risk reduction initiatives for building a more sustainable future. Its specific objectives include:

- 1) Support national capacity development in early recovery planning, implementation and monitoring;
- 2) Strengthen local governance for early recovery in the most affected municipalities of Duarte and Barahona;
- 3) Support the recovery of livelihoods among the women and men affected in the most affected municipalities of Duarte and Barahona;
- 4) Support the recovery of environmental & natural resources affected by the storms & contribute to risk reduction associated with disasters and climate change.

The global ERP strategy has a two-pronged approach that includes national as well as local level recovery initiatives. At the national level the ERP will support national capacities and work with the government and donors to mobilize resources and projects to support provincial recovery plans. At the local level, the ERP will focus its efforts on the recovery of the most affected municipalities of Duarte and Barahona.

At the national level UNDP will support early recovery in three ways:

- 1) Strengthen the national government and its recovery efforts through capacity building technical and financial assistance;
- 2) Build inter-institutional and interagency partnerships to strengthen coordination and collaboration in national recovery efforts;
- 3) Foster the investment of available government and donor funding in the recovery of affected areas.

At the local level, in Barahona and Duarte, the ERP will focus on the following:

- 1) Support local governance and build the capacity of local authorities to plan and implement an effective provincial recovery programme.
- 2) Support the recovery of livelihoods in both provinces
- 3) Support environmental recovery in both provinces
- 4) Harness inter-institutional and interagency support for provincial level recovery in other sectors
- 5) Foster the allocation of government and donor financial and technical resources for the province's recovery efforts.

The ERP will indirectly benefit the population affected by tropical storm Noel and Olga in the country, which is estimated at 79,246. More directly, the ERP will benefit the populations directly affected in Barahona and Duarte, which is estimated at 2,802 and 5,610 respectively.

1. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Tropical Storms Noel and Olga

On 28 October 2008, Tropical storm Noel hit the Dominican Republic causing flooding and land slides in 80% of its territory. The Report by ECLAC, "*Evolución del Impacto de la Tormenta Noel en República Dominicana*" (January 2008), estimates that the general damage caused by Noel is more than USD 439 million and that it affected directly and indirectly more than 70% of the country's population. Noel caused the displacement of 79,246 people, it registered 87 deaths and 48 missing people. 90% of the people directly affected (loss of homes, livelihoods, etc) live below the poverty line in the provinces of the country with the lowest human development index. The most affected provinces are Duarte, Bahoruco, Barahona, Azua, San José de Ocoa, Monseñor Nouel, San Cristóbal and Peravia. The population of these territories is about 1,696,112 according to the 2002 census.

The most affected sector was rural agriculture, with 33,128 hectares of crop losses, primarily of beans, banana and plantain. In the housing sector, 22,488 homes were partially or totally destroyed. In addition, 186 educational centers and 36 health centers were partially or totally destroyed. Among all the damages, the ECLAC report highlights the significant number of micro enterprises affected, mainly female entrepreneurs, informal entrepreneurs and ambulant merchants who lost their small capital, business and income along with their homes.

On December 11th 2007, the Dominican Republic was impacted by a second tropical storm, Olga, affecting mainly the North and Northeast. Olga caused 33 deaths and the temporary displacement of 61,000 people. There was extensive damage to standing crops – for consumption and especially export – including bananas, tomatoes, yuca and rice. Public services were damaged or rendered inoperable, including local water supply systems and electricity lines.

The most serious problems caused by Olga were felt in the city of Santiago, the country's second largest city, where the emergency release of water from the Tavera Dam caused unprecedented flooding and damage in areas adjoining the River Yaque that runs through the city and which rose by some 15 feet at one stage. The areas affected included both poor, vulnerable areas and some middle class neighborhoods of the city, as well as surrounding agricultural areas. Other badly affected areas include La Vega south of Santiago, the Nagua area in the northeast, and pockets in the east of the Country such as Miches, Samaná and Hato Mayor. Parts of the Bajo Yuna basin (Duarte Province) were flooded for a second time and some initial recovery efforts that had been undertaken (e.g. bridge & road repairs, planting of quick growing crops) were washed away.

Before tropical storms Noel and Olga hit the Dominican Republic, 20% of all households received around 4.6% of the overall national income while 51% of the households living below the poverty line are headed by women and 32% of these are headed by men. The poorest households are often disproportionately affected by natural disasters and considering that many of these households are headed by women it is particularly important to consider gender in the design of the early recovery process. Also of relevance for designing a proper response is the fact that women tend to have a higher education level than men (53% of employed women have a secondary or university level whereas only 43% of men tend to have a similar level). At the same time however, 28.8% of women remain unemployed compared to 17.9% for men. For young adults the gap is even bigger (37.6% of women are unemployed compared to 17.9% of men). Domestic violence figures in the Dominican Republic are high with a total of around 170 women who die every year by the hands of their partners or ex-partners. Considering the impact that natural disasters tend to have on family dynamics, masculinities and possible reversal of role models has to be considered carefully. Politically, 6.25% of all senators are female, 19.6% of all representatives in congress and 11.9% of all union representatives. A recovery process often provides opportunities to foster gender equality in the participation of women in governance processes. Sex- and age-disaggregated data on how the tropical storms have impacted livelihoods in general and livelihoods of men and women in

particular, has been very difficult to come by during the design phase of this project document. This is one of the main reasons why a (gender-specific) livelihood impact assessment has been proposed under output 3 of this project.

See Annex No. 4 for a more detailed breakdown of data on the impact of storms by province.

The Dominican Government Response

After Noel Storm, the Dominican Government sent, on 31st October, Decree No. 697-07 which declared an emergency state within the whole country for 30 days. Besides, the President requested to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARENA) and the Urban Affairs National Council (CONAU) the design of an action plan for the implementation of article 109 of the Environment Law (64-00), which forbids the establishment of human settlements in vulnerable sites, such as river beds, areas susceptible to sea intrusions, flooding, swamps, rubbish dumps, industrial areas, military bases, places vulnerable to landslides and any other condition that can threaten human lives and properties. According to the President's words, he considers that "the compliment of that disposition will be fundamental to mitigate in the future the effects that atmospheric phenomena could have in our country and planet; as a consequence of global warming and climate change these phenomena will be each day more frequent and intense.

The government of the Dominican Republic played a direct role during the initial humanitarian response, particularly search and rescue operations, the provision of first aid and distribution of immediate relief items through Civil Defense, the Office of the First Lady and various ministries with sectoral responsibilities.

With the 707-07 Decree of 23rd December 2007, the government included the population affected in its national programme "Tarjeta Solidaridad", which distributes cash resources to enable its beneficiaries to purchase items in the basic food basket from pre-established shops.

The government has also invested in the cleaning and repair of access roads, the rehabilitation of agriculture and water systems. The government has also focused its attention on macroeconomic concerns, to stabilize the country's economy and rebuild and modernize the country with new infrastructure, particularly new roads, electricity and irrigation schemes. This includes the National Plan for the Pavement of streets and highways with an estimated cost of US\$10million, and the Plan for the Recovery of the Electric Sector.

As part of the Government Social Cabinet efforts, information of affected Municipalities in each province was collected, including data of families, housing conditions and livelihood situation of affected people, among other. These data are being processed and soon they will be available to support focused social policies.

The main difficulties that arose during and after the humanitarian response efforts were concentrated in the impossibility to gather and manage on time all the information of affected sectors; fact that affected aid prioritization and coordination. Another factor which affected the response and afterwards the recovery efforts was the lack of a leading governmental institution.

Upon analysis of the response of various stakeholders at the national as well as the local level in the period immediately following tropical storms Noel and Olga, some of the critical aspects that could be distinguished and that are important to guarantee an effective response to any natural disaster are the following:

1. Lack of a national recovery strategy: there is no known national strategy or plan for early recovery from the national government. Some recovery efforts have been underway but they appear to be ad-hoc without responding either to a national nor local to a national strategy.

2. Lack of governmental focal point: under the law as well as in practice there is no governmental institution that is clearly responsible for national recovery following natural disasters, creating a gap in the country's recovery response.
3. Weak inter-institutional coordination: as mentioned, some recovery efforts have been underway but these appear to be ad-hoc and are implemented by various government ministries and international organizations with limited information sharing and coordination. UN agencies also have some recovery projects underway but the Early Recovery Cluster has been the first platform for facilitating coordination and collaboration.
4. Presidential elections: since the start of 2008 the country has been engaged in a national electoral process to elect the next President. The process engages the attention of the media and the public, and is high on the government's agenda.
5. Availability of financial resources: some bilateral donors (European Commission, AECID) have approved funding for national recovery and have placed their resources in the national budget. However, it is not clear how or where these funds will be spent. Also, the IADB and the World Bank have both approved reimbursable funds but these have yet to be ratified by Congress.
6. Interest of SCI to provide a monitoring of financial resources from international cooperation and its contribution and coordination to the recovery efforts in DR.

From the above it becomes clear that there is considerable room for strengthening national capacities in early recovery planning, implementation and monitoring and as such this will be addressed in the ERP under its first output.

United Nations and UNDP Response

From early on in the emergency response the UN system organized itself into a cluster-like arrangement that more or less matched existing Government sectoral coordination arrangements for emergencies. At the operational level, under the leadership of the Government and with the support and involvement of UN agencies and other partners, structures (Coordination Tables or Working Groups) were set up that worked on identifying the needs and coordinating the responses in the following areas:

- **Health**, under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and with PAHO/WHO acting as the UN's focal point/lead and involving all other UN (UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS) and external partners;
- **Water and Sanitation**, including distribution of drinking water and initial effort to repair damaged water systems - here, based on the existing emergency coordination mechanisms, the Ministry of Health (but working closely with the National Institute for Water resources) took the lead supported by PAHO/WHO and with the participation of relevant UN and other partners;
- **Provision of food and nutrition** interventions where WFP took the lead in collaboration with UNICEF and others. The Dominican Red Cross was a key partner in planning as well as implementation.
- **Management of temporary shelters** (and coordination of inputs from other "sectors") where the Civil Defence coordinated in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Dominican Red Cross and where several UN and other partners, including IOM, were involved.
- **Early agricultural and agricultural livelihood recovery**, led by the Ministry of Agriculture where from the UN side FAO acted as the focal point;

- **Psycho-social support** to affected populations especially children where the Ministries of Health and Basic Education played the leading role with UNICEF as the lead agency from the UN side.
- Subsequently an **Early Recovery** working group was established, with UNDP taking the lead.

Some of the Government-led structures did not function as effectively as would have been hoped for: sometimes sectors would not send representatives with decision making authority or participation would be inconsistent. Support for the population in shelters that had been set up by Civil Defence authorities was somewhat problematic as it involved multiple sectors without any real overall control from the centre, beyond making available basic data on people accommodated in them. For the UNCT uncertainty over the mandate of IOM in such situations created some difficulties, with a CERF proposal for its involvement in coordination of shelters being rejected. Similarly, issues of mandate created uncertainties as regards the roles of the Dominican Red Cross compared to the IFRC in the response.

Later, following strong recommendations from OCHA, the UN Country Team adopted the Cluster approach in the Dominican Republic and activated the following clusters: water, sanitation and hygiene under the leadership of the WHO, food and nutrition under the leadership of WFP, and Early Recovery under the leadership of the UNDP. Actions that had previously started in the context already detailed were incorporated within this UN Cluster framework.

Early Recovery Cluster and its role in the ERP.

The Early Recovery Cluster (ERC) has been activated to guarantee the coordination of all the recovery interventions from the government, NGOs and UN System. Under this cluster the ERP was designed and it is expected to implement all the present and future recovery actions. Since the beginning, the ERC has allowed a fluent communication between all the agencies that formed the cluster (FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, WHO/PAHO, ILO) giving to the project an inter – agency dimension.

Basically, the Cluster has collaborated in all the project design phases and particularly in the beginning the cluster supported the ERP by:

- Deciding strategically in which provinces the ERP should intervene
- Interconnecting the different activities of the different agencies
- Mobilizing its members for the realizations of the workshops
- Collecting all the data available for the formulation of the project
- Promoting the project in all its phases

One of the most important and strategic decisions was deciding the areas where to intervene and how to identify the needs of the affected population.

The areas have been chosen according the following criteria:

- 1) To identify the most affected areas of the country according to the collected data and;
- 2) To verify in which areas the UN agencies had already projects or where they could intervene with new emergency and recovery projects.

Moreover, different missions and field visits carried out by the ERC of all sectors, identified needs in almost all sectors: the rehabilitation of damaged water and sanitation systems, housing reconstruction, agriculture, and the repair of roads, health units and schools, among others.

Of all sectors, however, most identified as a priority the following needs:

1. Livelihoods: the re-activation of the local economy and restoration of employment and income, micro-enterprises, agriculture and patio economy;

2. Housing: the re-construction of permanent housing in secure areas;
3. Environment: particularly the cleaning of access roads and agricultural lands;
4. Food security: continuation of food distribution to populations affected, extending until the next harvest and/or the recovery of income.

According to these needs, several projects have been designed and started implementation (see Annex 6).

Considering the importance of the ERC in the ERP and the fundamental roles of the UN agencies in Barahona and Duarte, it was necessary to create a system to guarantee a good coordination of the current and future interventions in Barahona and Duarte. This system is represented by a field office in each area, composed by a field officer and a UNV.(see page 37) The field offices have the responsibility to guarantee that all the recovery interventions and projects are coordinated. At the same time, the field officers will cooperate with the UN agencies, government and NGOs in order to propose and provide follow up of new initiatives and projects in the framework of Outputs 3 and 4 of the ERP that are going to be implemented in Barahona and Duarte, (see logical framework) magnifying the impact of initial interventions.

Recovery Needs

Several multi-sectoral assessments were carried out which, although they were not comprehensive, they did serve to substantiate the picture that had emerged through other sources of the damage and needs and provided a solid basis on which to complete emergency appeals and resources requests.

Some of the key findings from these initial assessments were the following:

1. Priorities of the population affected: livelihood recovery was identified as one of the principal gaps and needs during the field visits conducted by UNDP missions to the areas affected in the country. The need for income-generation was among the priority needs expressed during 2 field visits and the informal interviews conducted with communities affected, local authorities and organizations.
2. The impact on livelihoods: according to the ECLAC report, micro enterprises were seriously affected by the storms. The provinces of Barahona, Duarte and San Cristobal were the three most affected provinces in the country. Micro-enterprises affected include those in the commercial and service sectors, as well as in production, with the first two sectors being the worst affected.
3. The gender-differentiated impact: the ECLAC report estimates that female micro-entrepreneurs were more affected than male micro-entrepreneurs. In Barahona and Duarte, CEPAL estimates that losses among female micro-enterprises range from at \$2,456,084 to \$6,742,781 Dominican Pesos (USD 82,278,814 and 225,883,163), as compared with \$935,687 to \$2,569,302 Dominican Pesos (USD \$31,345,514 to \$86,071,617) among male micro-enterprises.
4. The sectoral gaps identified in the national response: with respect to livelihoods the main response to needs has been in the agricultural sector, primarily by the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO. However, there are no reports of projects supporting other livelihoods, including support to micro-entrepreneurs in spite of the considerable impact on this sub-sector.

The Early Recovery Programme takes the above identified needs into consideration by incorporating a fund for livelihood recovery of nearly USD 800,000 (see output 3 of the programme. These funds will be allocated to small projects, ensuring that their allocation is done in a gender sensitive way or fosters gender equality in the recovery process.

One of the areas, that has received relatively little attention but that is indeed important to consider in relation to (local livelihood) recovery is the recovery of environmental and natural resources. Some of the most salient issues that the ERP intends to address in its output 4 are the following:

1) Lack of impact assessment: to date no assessment has been conducted in the country to evaluate the impact of the storms on the country's environmental resources. ECLAC's multi-sectoral assessment made some reference to the potential environmental impact based on the common typology but the actual and full extent of damage on natural resources country-wide is still unknown, including the potential increase of environmental and disaster risks.

2) The general impact of disasters on the environment: natural disasters caused by storms, hurricanes and floods typically wash away and destroy (partially or totally) coastal and terrestrial ecosystems, forests and forestry nurseries and biodiversity resources. They also contribute to soil erosion, land degradation, deforestation, contamination of fresh water sources, sedimentation of rivers, damage to soil conservation projects and to the infrastructure of protected areas. Such environmental damages are magnified when, as in the case of Dominican Republic, ecosystems are affected by unsustainable practices produced by human activity. In the Dominican Republic there is neither experience nor practice for assessing environmental damages.

3) Minimal environmental recovery efforts: while government authorities have made efforts to clean the debris left by the storms and to clear access roads and agricultural land, there are no reports of significant projects supporting other environmental recovery efforts, by government or other institutions.

4) The need for a National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change that includes a risk management focus: Dominican Republic is preparing its mitigation and adaptation National Strategies under the Second National Communication Project (UNDP-GEF-SEMARENA). In preparation for the CCAD Summit on Climate Change, held in May 2008, the government requested technical support to develop a Guidance Report to develop a Climate Change National Plan and incorporate a perspective of risk management in the Adaptation National Plan which is going to be prepared. As a consequence of climate change, extreme climatic events are predicted to be more frequent and intense. Dominican Republic, being a Small Insular Development State situated within the Caribbean hurricane road will have to deal with the impacts of these phenomena since the present, promoting adaptation measures to climate change which tend to reduce vulnerability of population in risk from a perspective of risk management.

Funding and technical support for the emergency

Based on initial assessments and consultations with Government and other partners an emergency Flash Appeal was prepared by UN system and submitted on 5 November amounting to US\$13.8 million. To cover the most urgent needs, CERF Funding was requested from OCHA on 8 November and obtained to the tune of U\$3.1 million to cover needs in food, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, protection and early recovery.

CERF funding was crucial in allowing a timely, coherent and coordinated UN response, in collaboration with key partners, in a situation where needs were difficult to assess and the national response capacity was strained by the scale of the disaster.

The UN system revised the Flash Appeal to include additional needs and the response to Olga became integrated into the support for relief and recovery from Noel which was still ongoing and in some cases continued into January 2008. Additional CERF funding was requested for the areas of food, water supply, hygiene and sanitation, and early recovery.

UNDP mobilized US\$550,000 CERF funds to support the spontaneous return of inhabitants to several communities affected by tropical storms Noel and Olga, financing brigades of those affected to work on clean-up and rehabilitation activities, ultimately allowing better access to for humanitarian aid and other support. UNDP focused on providing a fast and sustainable response in order to reduce risk and vulnerability in their efforts to return to their affected communities. Actions were concentrated in Villa Altagracia Municipality (San Cristóbal province), Arenoso and Villa Riva Municipalities (Duarte province), Padre Las Casas and Guayabal Municipalities (Azua province); as well as La Vega and Jarabacoa Municipalities (La Vega province) and Santiago and Jánico Municipalities (Santiago province). Moreover, these actions contributed to reduce vector diseases outbreak produced by the accumulation of rubbish dead animals and stagnant contaminated water.

The UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), provided technical and financial support to the Dominican Republic UNDP CO, starting while Noel Storm was still ongoing. Technical Experts were sent to the CO, to provide support in the ER needs assessment and identification of key areas that could be considered in an early recovery process in the country. Technical assistance was developed throughout three missions:

- Assistance to UNDP-CO during Flash Appeal and CERF projects formulation, so as to incorporate an early recovery vision starting in the humanitarian response.
- Later, work was concentrated in the identification of sectoral priorities, as well as an assessment of existing national conditions to provide an effective approach of the recovery process.
- Support during activation of the Cluster approach by UNDMT, where UNDP was assigned to be in charge of the Early Recovery Cluster.

Technical assistance includes the recruiting of three UNV who are, at present, supporting the coordination field offices situated in the provinces where early recovery interagency activities are being concentrated (Duarte and Barahona), and where UNDP activities are planned to be focalized through this project.

BCPR also provided US\$ 200,000 from TRAC 3.2 resources to support UNDP CO in the strengthening of national capacities to plan and carry out a recovery process after Noel (00058921) and Olga (00059794), under a risk reduction approach, which could settle an operative and methodological basis for future interventions. Ireland government contributed with € 50,000 for coordination activities.

Actions within TRAC 3.2 projects are already ongoing, and at present two interagency-interinstitutional workshops have already been held in Duarte and Barahona. A Declaration of interest and commitment to plan and carry out a recovery process was adopted in each site and two field offices have been installed. Recovery plans are in the process of being developed for each site, with UNDP support, and under the leadership of national and local governments, institutions, NGOs. However, these plans require additional assessments in the sectors identified in the ERP, as there is not information available, while, at the same time, there is a need and opportunity to support local communities in the implementation of ER initiatives with a risk management perspective.

The Legal Framework

There are five national laws which are of particular relevance to the present Early Recovery Programme.

Law No. 64-00 General Environment Law.

The above mentioned law creates the SEMARENA (Secretaría de Estado de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales) as an organism responsible for the environment, ecosystems and natural resources management. With the aim of reaching sustainable development, this body will take charge of the tasks that environment law assigns to the State.

This law re-formed the legal, institutional and environmental framework in the Dominican Republic. The same law imputes to the SEMARENA, among others, the function of evaluating, following, and overseeing the control of the environmental risks' factors and those that can weigh upon a natural disasters occurrence. At the same time the law imputes to the SEMARENA to execute, directly or in coordination with other pertinent institutions, the actions direct to prevent the emergency or to impede the extension of its effect. Moreover, according to this law the SEMARENA can promote, along with other competent organizations the realization of programmes and projects for the disasters prevention that can affect the environment and natural resources, as well as the mitigation of the damages caused by a natural disasters. (art. 18) Law No. 147-02 on Risk Management.

Law No. 147-02 on Risk Management

Emergency response to disasters in the Dominican Republic is governed by Law No. 147-02 on Risk Management. This law establishes the fundamental regulations and national policy on risk management; it defines the institutional and organizational framework for emergency response and creates the National System for Prevention, Mitigation and Response to Disasters in the Dominican Republic.

In the same law, Rehabilitation is defined as the process for the re-establishment or recovery of normal life conditions through the repair of vital indispensable services interrupted o deteriorated by the disaster.

The Law also contains the general principles that guide the country's risk management policy and practice, which includes the principles of protection, prevention, competency, coordination, participation and decentralization.

In spite of the regulations and principles, the law remains unclear with respect to the institutional and organizational arrangements for recovery. It is not explicit with regards to recovery and applies the term "response" without distinguishing humanitarian response from recovery response. In practice the institutions responsible for "response" under the law, such as Civil Defense, have traditionally focused their operations on the immediate crisis response phase and do not engage in recovery actions. As a result, there is no governmental institution that assumes la responsibility for recovery in the country.

Law No. 496-06 which creates the Secretaría de Estado de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo (SEEPYD).

This law, which entered into force on January 1, 2007 creates the Secretaría de Estado de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo (SEEPYD), replacing the former Secretariado Técnico de la Presidencia and establishing the new governing body of the national system of planning and public investment. SEEPYD has the mission to conduct and coordinate the formulation, management, following up and evaluation process of the macroeconomic and sustainable development policies, in order to achieve the country's economic, social, territorial and institutional cohesion.

The SEEPYD is composed by the Subsecretaría de Estado de Planificación, Subsecretaría de Estado de Cooperación Internacional and Subsecretaría de Estado Técnico-Administrativa (Article 9). SCI has the responsibility to define rules and procedures for the request, receipt, management and evaluation of non-reimbursable technical cooperation, within the framework of

priority programmes and projects of the National Multiyear Plan of the public Sector. Besides, SCI must monitor all projects and programme implemented under the cooperation Framework. It must negotiate agreements with International cooperation and carry out relationships with non reimbursable International cooperation agencies.

Law No. 498-06 on Planning and Public Investment

Since the ERP will support planning for early recovery, the programme will be implemented within the framework of Law No. 498-06 on Planning and Public Investment, which states that the Development Councils, both provincial and municipal, are responsible for proposing development strategies, promoting the participation of citizens through local organizations, promoting the implementation of projects with direct impact on its territory, and the formulation of plans and projects for territorial organization, among others. The proposals developed by the Development Councils are taken into consideration in the Multi-annual National Plan of the Public Sector.

The Provincial Development Councils are entities for the participation of economic and social agents within its territory and functions to articulate and channel demands from local citizens to the central and municipal governments. It participates in the formulation of Strategic Plans for Territorial Development.

The Provincial Development Councils are made up of the Provincial Governor, the Senator, Congressmen representing the province, the municipal mayors of the province, one representative of the Chamber of Commerce or commercial association, a representative of the institutions for higher education in the province, of a trade association, from an agricultural association, neighborhood committees, and from a non-governmental organization. At the municipal level, the Development Councils have a similar composition.

At the country level, the National System for Planning and Public Investment consists of the sum of norms, principles and processes through which policies, objectives and priorities are set for economic and social development. It is made up of the Government Council, the Technical Delegated Commission, the Secretariat for Planning and Development, the Regional Development Council, and the Provincial and Municipal Development Councils¹.

Law 176-07 on the National District and Municipalities

The ERP will focus recovery efforts in two sites, Duarte and Barahona, where it will support local authorities to develop and implement an inter-institutional recovery plan for these affected places. As such the ERP will work within the framework of Law 176-07 on the National District and Municipalities, which states that the *ayuntamiento* (municipal council) in the Dominican Republic constitutes the basic administrative political entity in the country, being a decentralized legal entity which enjoys political, fiscal, administrative and functional autonomy.

The same law states that the *Consejo Económico y Social Municipal* is responsible for the development and follow-up of the municipal plans for development. These are approved by the municipal government to 1) ensure the adequate use and investment of municipal resources for sustainable and equitable development; 2) to attend efficiently to the basic needs of communities, and 3) to achieve a rational and integrative territorial organization of municipalities. It further contemplates the co-investment with the central government of relevant initiatives, which once approved, are integrated into the annual and multi-annual public investment plans. Municipalities are in charge of creating an office for planning and programming.

¹ Translation to English from Spanish: Consejo de Gobierno, the Comisión Técnica Delegada, the Secretaría de Estado de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo, the Consejo de Desarrollo Regional, the Consejo de Desarrollo Provincial and the Consejo de Desarrollo Municipal.

The law is framed around a set of principles, which include decentralization, coordination, efficiency in the assignation and use of public resources, gender and social equity, transparency and community participation.

These two last Reforms represent an opportunity for the development of an Early Recovery Plan inserted within a local development plan; however, it will depend on the empowerment of participating actors and their institutional capacity.

2. THE STRATEGY OF THE EARLY RECOVERY PROGRAMME (ERP)

The Principles of the ERP

The Early Recovery Programme was designed to be implemented in line with the following principles, as per the Guidance Note on Early Recovery published by the CWGER in Feb 2008.

Promoting national capacities: the project has been designed to build national and local governmental capacities to plan, monitor and implement early recovery, and the budget includes financial resources for technical assistance and other capacity-building efforts that may be necessary to support government authorities.

Participation & Coordination: the ERP is the result of an extensive consultation process with government partners and at the inter-agency level with UN agencies, as well as with some civil society organizations and donors. Communities affected, local government officials and organizations and UN agencies all participated in the preliminary recovery needs assessments and the first recovery planning meetings at the local level. The implementation of the ERP is expected to build on this participatory approach.

National and local linkages: the ERP has national and local level project components involving partners at both levels. At the national level UNDP will work together with the SEEPYD, particularly the Subsecretaría de Estado de Cooperación Internacional (SCI) and the Environment Ministry (SEMARENA) in close coordination with other UN agencies. At the same time, the ERP has prioritized 2 regions: Duarte and Barahona for focusing its early recovery efforts, working closely with provincial and municipal level authorities, as well as with local civil society organizations and UN partners. The ERP will seek to build linkages between national and local authorities as well as between national and local project components. For example it will support local authorities to plan recovery efforts while also supporting them to secure resources at the central level to implement the plan.

Risk reduction & sustainable recovery: the reduction of future risks has been built into the ERP in two ways: first, by promoting the integration and mainstreaming of risk reduction into the early recovery plans to be developed in Duarte and Barahona, ensuring that new projects do not rebuild vulnerabilities in affected communities; second, there is an environmental output in the ERP designed to prioritize the recovery of environmental and natural resources, including financial resources for risk reduction initiatives in the flood-prone lower river basins where the provinces are located.

Gender: the ERP integrates a gender perspective by proposing to mainstream gender into early recovery planning in Barahona and Duarte, as well as by ensuring that women's networks and organizations form part of the implementation process. This programme strengthens women leadership and their autonomy, giving them an opportunity to participate in the different projects, improving their capacities and skills as a way to reduce their risk toward natural disasters. In this sense women will:

1. Participate in the different groups during the planning, implementation and evaluation of the recovery activities.
2. Have a visible participation in the making decision process.
3. Have the possibility to create their own enterprises in order to extend their subsistence options.

Targets have also been integrated, including that at least 50% of new project staff be qualified female professionals and that 50% of livelihood recovery projects benefit directly women and female-headed households, particularly women micro-entrepreneurs which are considered to be among the population affected (ECLAC).

In the process of participation and coordination of activities, different institutions will work together in order to create strategic synergies to promote the interdependence between risk reduction and gender equality in the different policies and their implementation.

Monitor, evaluate and learn: a monitoring mechanism has been built into the ERP, including the technical expertise and equipment necessary for an information management system to support monitoring. Provision has also been made for a final evaluation and lessons-learned exercise to identify strengths and limitations as well as good practices that may be replicable elsewhere or in the future.

Purpose

The purpose of the ERP is to support the recovery of populations affected by tropical storm Noel and Olga and strengthen national capacities and inter-agency coordination and collaboration in early recovery, with mainstreamed risk reduction initiatives for building a more sustainable future.

Beneficiaries

The ERP will indirectly benefit the population affected by tropical storm Noel and Olga in the country, which is estimated at 79,246 at the national level.

More directly, the ERP will benefit the populations directly affected in:

1. The most affected area of Yuna river lower basin: Municipalities of Arenoso, Villa Rivas, Hostos, Las Guaranas, Pimentel, Castillo and San Francisco (Duarte province), with estimated 2,802 beneficiaries.

2. The most affected area of Yaque del Sur lower basin: Municipalities of Barahona, El Peñón, Jaquimeyes, Fundación, Paraíso, La Ciénaga, Las Salinas, Cabral, Polo, Enriquillo, Vicente Noble (Barahona province); Tamayo, El Palmar de Neyba (Bahoruco province), and Cristóbal (Independencia province). This area includes an estimate of 5,619 beneficiaries.

Socio-demographic information about these two regions is presented in Annex 8.

Women will be included as priority beneficiaries: unemployed by the storms, micro-entrepreneurs, female-headed households, elderly and youth and affected population which is HIV +. At least 50% of project beneficiaries will be part of this target group.

The Geographic Focus

The national ERP strategy has a two-pronged approach that includes national as well as local level recovery initiatives. At the national level the ERP will support national capacities and work with the government and donors to mobilize resources and projects to support local recovery plans.

In addition, the ERP will focus its efforts on the recovery of Duarte and Barahona, following consultations at the Subsecretaría de Estado de Cooperación Internacional (SCI), SEMARENA, other Ministries and their local offices in the selected areas, and also the UNCT. This geographic focus would enable a more integrated programme capable of achieving greater impact at the local level and was more in keeping with the financial resources available within UNDP and other UN agencies.

The strategic selection of these two regions was made based on the following criteria

- The level of impact and need in affected areas
- Government requests

- Poverty indicators
- The level of institutional response
- The geographic presence of UN agencies

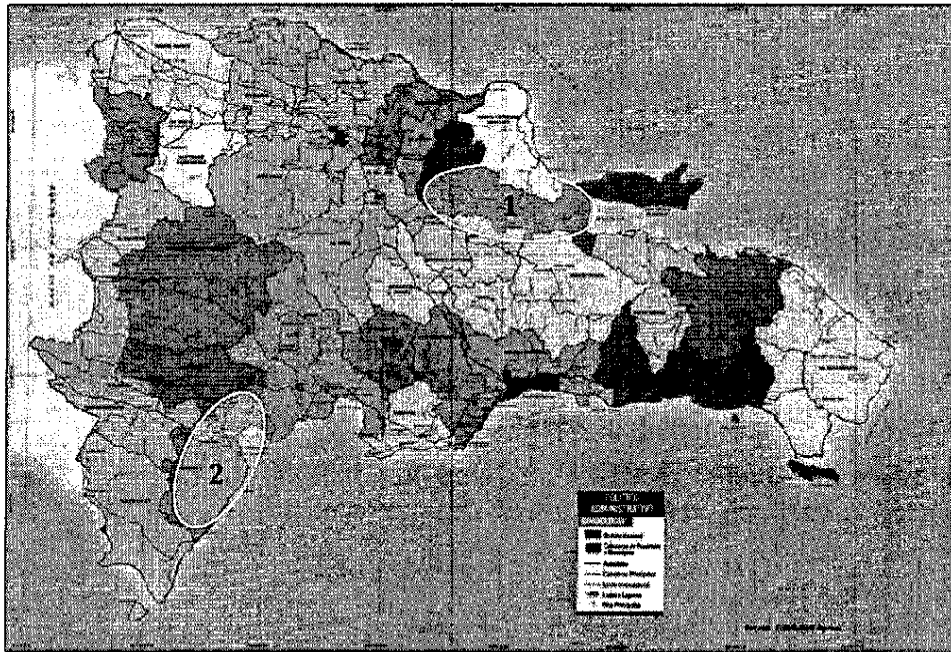


Figure 1: Geographic focus. 1: Duarte – Yuna lower basin. 2: Barahona – Yaque del Sur lower basin.

With regard to the level of impact and need, Duarte and Barahona are located in two of the 3 most affected regions in the country, especially in terms of the destruction of housing, primary health care facilities and schools. See Annex 8 for more specific data.

The Inter-institutional and Inter-agency Dimension

As mentioned earlier, the UN Country Team adopted the Cluster approach. Since its early preparatory phase, the early recovery cluster has been part of a close inter-agency consultation process, both at the technical and management levels. The ERP has grown and developed with inputs from all UN agencies resulting in its adoption as a joint inter-agency initiative by the Resident Coordinator a.i. and the UNCT.

The ERP will be implemented in close collaboration with FAO, UNICEF, WFP, ILO, WHO, UNFPA, and UNAIDS, and will include specific activities with UNEP. These agencies have raised funds to implement different activities in ER, which are in the process of execution. The collaboration will be concentrated in coordination, evaluation and systematization. In Annex 6 there is detailed information of projects from different agencies.

The national-local link in the ERP strategy

As mentioned in the previous section, the ERP seeks to promote and support recovery efforts with initiatives to be implemented at the national level with central governmental, with local governments and non-governmental partners, as well as with initiatives to be implemented at the local levels in Barahona and Duarte to directly support local recovery. The national and local level components of the overall ERP strategy are briefly outlined below:

The national component

At the national level UNDP will support early recovery in three ways:

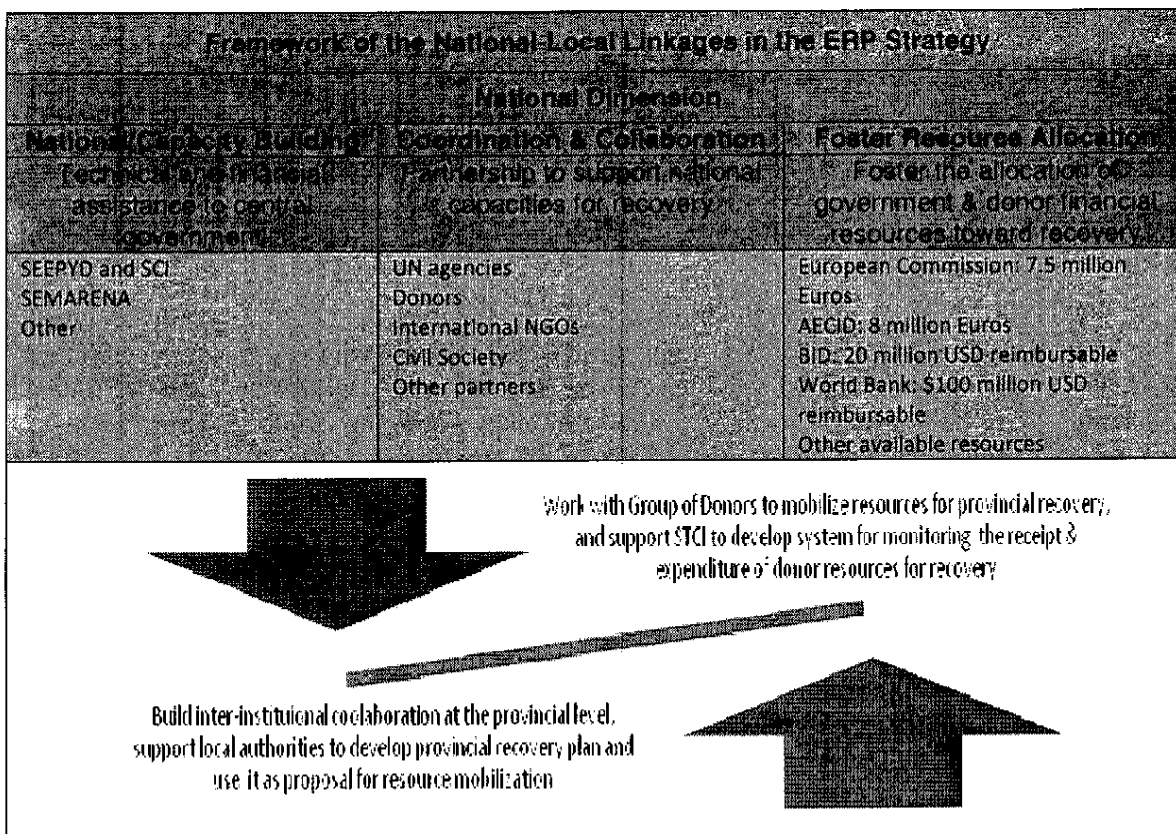
- 1) Strengthen the national government and its recovery efforts through capacity building technical and financial assistance;
- 2) Build inter-institutional and interagency partnerships to strengthen coordination and collaboration in national recovery efforts;
- 3) Foster the investment of available government and donor funding in the recovery of affected areas.

As indicated in the diagram below, all of the above three initiatives will also link directly to the local levels, by also building the capacity of local governmental authorities, harnessing inter-institutional and interagency support for local level recovery, and fostering the allocation of financial and technical resources for the local's recovery efforts.

The local component

The following diagram summarizes UNDPs strategy for recovery in Duarte and Barahona. In essence, at the local level UNDP will focus its ERP strategy on the following:

- Support local governance and build the capacity of local authorities to plan and implement an effective local recovery programme.
- Support the recovery of livelihoods in both provinces
- Support environmental recovery in both provinces
- Harness inter-institutional and interagency support for local level recovery in other sectors
- Foster the allocation of government and donor financial and technical resources for the province's recovery efforts.



Local Recovery Plan 19/12/10		
Participation & Capacity Building	Sectoral & Economic	Other & Example
Municipal authorities	Livelihoods (UNDP)	Government national budget
Provincial Governor Development Councils	Agriculture (FAO)	AECID
Community leaders	Health (UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS)	UNDP
Civil Society organizations	Water & Sanitation (WHO, UNICEF)	Other UN Agencies
United Nations	Protection (UNICEF, ILO)	European Commission
Donors	Education (UNICEF)	World Bank
International NGOs	Infrastructure (WB, IABD, EC)	IABD
	Environment (UNDP)	International NGOs

The twofold approach, local and national, generates and strengthens conditions and complementarities starting from the recovery efforts of different local and national institutions such as the SEEPYD, local government and civil society.

Once the project is over, the obtained results will generate a complementarities framework and a greater and more coordinate vision for new initiatives under a reduction risk and gender equality approach.

Duration

The duration of the ERP will be 18 months for BCPR funded outputs based on UNDP procedures but will extend for 24 months with AECID funding.

All the proposed interventions have been designed under a sustainability approach. SCI and SEMARENA will execute directly some of the ERP components. Local recovery plans are going to be designed under the local government's leadership and they will be the key motors in the process of implementation and future fund raising. Community based projects will be designed with this approach and different sustainable strategies will be considered in their formulation (especially in livelihood projects).

Emergency projects Noel and Olga (TRAC 3.II funds) have included a high level mainstreaming component of the proposed actions within ERP, and there is, at present, a strong commitment from Senators and provincial governors to incorporate local recovery plans in provincial development plans with a risk management approach.

In the extreme case that ERP must finish before the end of community projects, it has been considered that UNDP/GEF/SGP and its network will provide the M&E required.

Linkages to CCA, UNDAF and the UNDP CPAP.

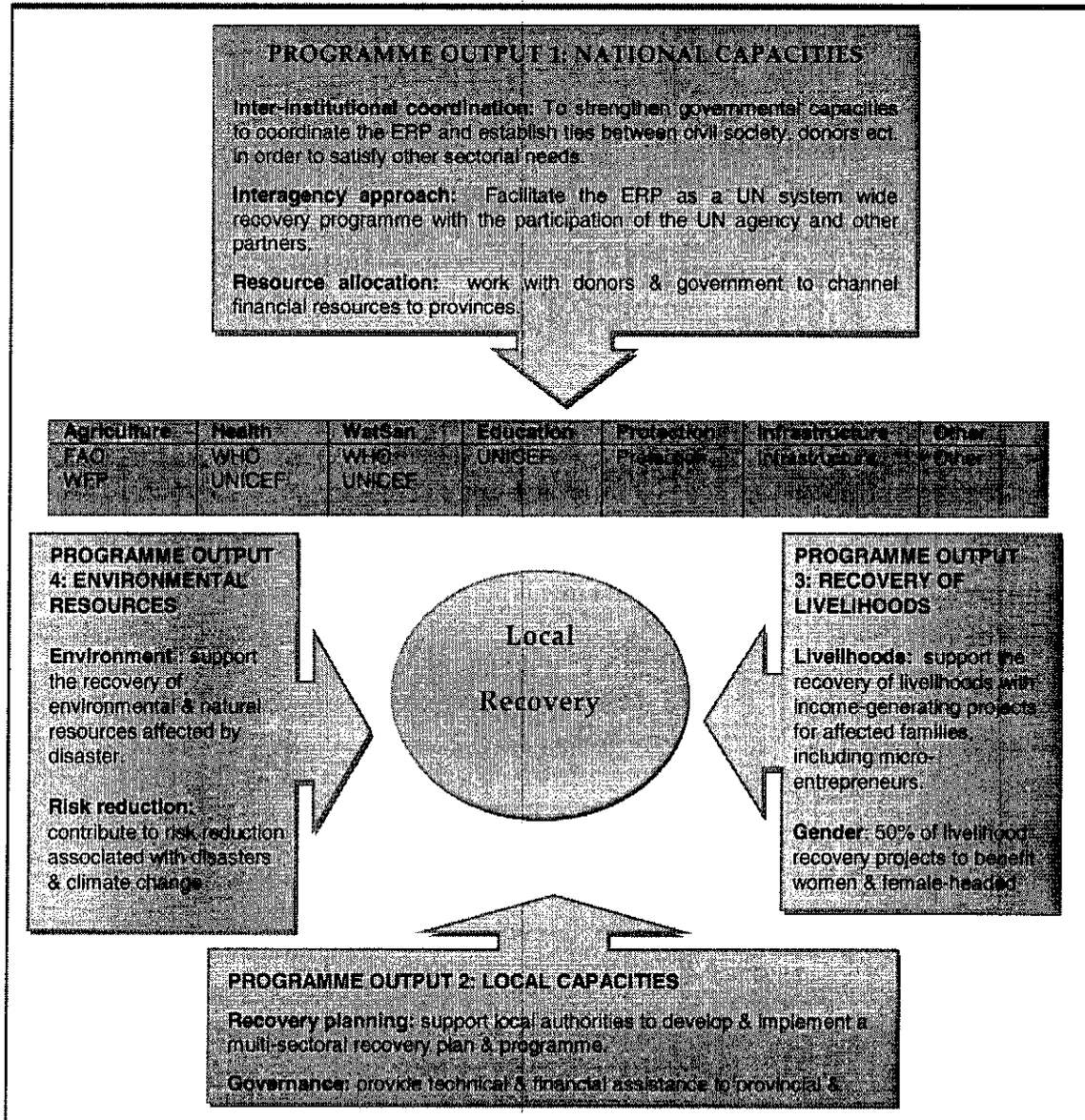
Sustainable environment management and risk management in emergencies and disasters constitutes one of the Strategic Areas identified in the Common Country Assessment. One of the overall outcomes as mentioned in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) for 2007-2011 is, "by 2011, have in place national and local policies and capacities for the protection and sustainable management of the environment, including the management of environmental risks and response to emergencies and disasters." Within this framework, the Early Recovery Programme will contribute towards the achievement of Country Programme outcome 1, "Strengthened Risk Management National System, including a prevention and preparation strategy, and a Response National Plan to emergencies and

disasters". The project will contribute specifically to realizing output 1.3, which reads: "Prevention measures for vulnerability reduction to natural disasters developed and implemented: integration of disaster prevention in national and local planning processes".

It is expected that the ERP will develop a coordination process and provide continuity to the activities of different ongoing projects within the Environment (Climate Change Second National Communication 00047173, Sustainable Land Management in Sabana Yegua Watershed 00047680) and Disasters Unit (Emergency projects Noel 00058921 and Olga 00059794 - TRAC III.2). *Resources from TRAC 3.II projects are being used in the emergency response. However, several of the activities developed by them are going to be the platform for ERP, and thus it is considered important to show this connection.*

3. ERP STRATEGY

The figure below provides a schematic presentation of the strategy for early recovery, outlining the various actors involved, the main programme outputs, their interrelationship and the activities envisaged to achieve the programme's overall goal: ***"to support the recovery of populations affected by tropical storm Noel and Olga and to strengthen national capacities and inter-agency coordination in early recovery, with mainstreamed risk reduction initiatives for building a more sustainable future."***



The logical framework of this Programme is presented in Annex 1. A detailed explanation of this strategic framework, by outputs, is below.

OUTPUT no. 1:

National capacity in early recovery planning, implementation and monitoring strengthened.

Indicators:

Success indicators for this output are the following:

- 1) An inter-institutional and interagency mechanism in place for facilitating coordination and collaboration in early recovery efforts.

- 2) An established national information management (IM) system for the SCI for monitoring donor funding for early recovery in the country.
- 3) A regional workshop on information management systems for monitoring donor funding for early recovery.

Additional financial resources have been made available for the recovery of Duarte and Barahona by the government and/or bilateral donors (1:2, at least two dollars for each dollar invested in this project).

Activities:

Indicative activities associated to output 1 are the following:

1) Facilitate Inter-institutional coordination: UNDP will facilitate the establishment of an inter-institutional collaboration platform to support integrated and coordinated recovery efforts at the national level. It will support the central government (through SEEPYD) to play a leading role by providing some technical and financial support where needed, and by facilitating regular inter-institutional coordination and monitoring meetings. SEEPYD will be the leading government institution at the central level, facilitating inter-institutional coordination according to its role of managing international cooperation. The ERP aims to create a strong connection and foster constant dialogue between the SEEPYD - SCI and the United Nations System in order to canalize all the activities of early recovery towards one unique framework.

Within the UN, UNDP has already established the ERP as a joint inter-agency recovery strategy in which all UN agencies present in the country have participated. The ERP will continue to build on this collaboration through the implementation phase, harnessing the support and lobbying capacity of the UN to promote recovery efforts, as well as its resources and projects.

Other UN agencies will provide support as per their mandates and resources available, potentially including the following activities:

- UNICEF: Psycho-affective recovery (Return to Happiness)
- WHO: Health, water and sanitation projects (Buscando la Sostenibilidad).
- FAO: Agricultural rehabilitation
- WFP: Food for work projects
- ILO: Vocational training, youth employment, protection
- UNAIDS: Support to disaster victims also affected by HIV-AIDS
- UNFPA: Redirecting regular projects towards recovery efforts
- UNDP: Livelihood recovery, environmental recovery, recovery planning and governance

2) Information System for Monitoring Donor Funding for Recovery: UNDP will help build the capacity of the Subsecretaría de Estado de Cooperación Internacional (SCI) to monitor the receipt and expenditure of donor funding for early recovery in the country. Through the ERP, UNDP will provide technical assistance and equipment for STI to develop an information management system to facilitate the monitoring of donor funding. UNDP will promote the exchange of already developed experiences that can be used as a model for the monitoring SCI system.

The monitoring system will have national coverage and will serve to track the expenditure of donor funds on recovery efforts through the next 18 months, including the sectoral projects financed by geographic location. At the same time, this initiative will form the basis for a more permanent structural information framework within the SCI for monitoring future recovery efforts in the country.

In Duarte and Barahona, the information system will serve as a pilot initiative for tracking in greater detail the donor funds and projects implemented in specific recovery projects at the local municipal and community levels.

3) Regional Information Management Workshop: in order to build on the experiences and capacities of other countries within Latin America, UNDP will support SCI to organize a regional workshop on information systems used for tracking donor funding and projects.

The workshop will aim to:

- Facilitate information sharing, particularly on the application of technology and software
- Promote south-south collaboration with governments and other UNDP Country Offices
- Identify good practices that can be promoted and replicated.

For the regional workshop UNDP and STCI will work closely with other partners such as AECID and the World Bank given their interest in similar information management initiatives.

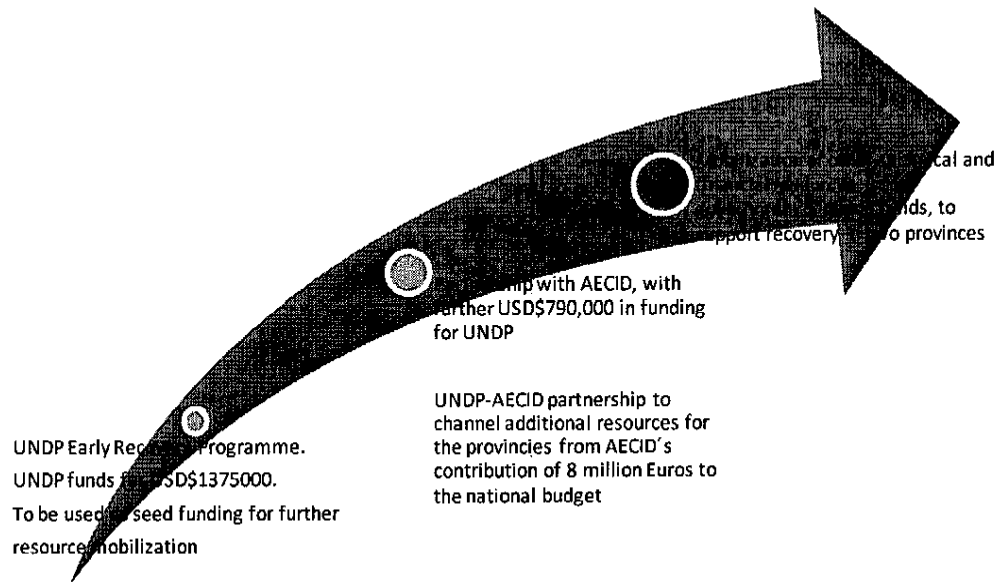
4) Fostering resource allocation: UNDP will work together with the government and donors to help channel financial resources towards the early recovery of Duarte and Barahona. The following financial resources from bilateral donors have been made available to the central government, and the goal is to secure part of these funds for both sites.

- 7.5 million Euros from the European Commission, placed in national budget
- 10 million Euros from the European Commission for infrastructure
- 8.0 million Euros from AECID, placed in national budget
- 20 million USD from IABD (reimbursable, pending ratification by Congress)
- 100 million USD from the World Bank (reimbursable, pending ratification by Congress)

UNDP will work with the Donors Group (Mesa de Donantes) to present the ERP and later the Recovery Plans developed in the two sites in order to facilitate the collaboration of bilateral donors in funding components of the plans presented, and particularly to gain their support to secure funds already invested by them in the national budget.

AECID has already agreed to channel part of its 8 million Euros in the national budget to support recovery efforts in Barahona and Duarte.

In this sense, UNDPs ERP represents a platform for mobilizing additional financial and technical support from other international organizations, as well as that of government authorities. As presented in the following diagram, UNDPs budget for the ERP represents seed funding for mobilizing further funding and for developing a wider inter-institutional recovery programme in the Dominican Republic.



Implementing Partners:

SEEPYD - SCI –Subsecretaría de Estado de Cooperación Internacional

Associated Partners:

Associated partners include other United Nations agencies, AECID, European Commission, IABD, and the World Bank.

Target Beneficiaries:

People affected by both tropical storms at the national level, and particularly in Duarte and Barahona.

OUTPUT no.2

Local capacity for early recovery in the most affected municipalities of Duarte and Barahona strengthened.

Indicators:

Success indicators for this output are the following:

1. Two local inter-institutional mechanisms established, lead by local authorities, established
2. Two recovery plans prepared by above mentioned local coordination mechanisms, for Barahona & Duarte

Resources mobilized for the local recovery plans (1:2, at least two dollars for each dollar invested in this project).

Activities:

Indicative activities associated to output 2 are the following:

1) Consultations and First Local Level Workshop: during the initial preparatory phase, UNDP consulted with governmental authorities and civil society organizations present in the two provinces to identify priorities and collect recommendations for future actions.

As a result, UNDP in coordination with the UNCT organized an inter-institutional recovery workshop at the local levels as a first step in bringing together all institutions within the selected

areas as well as from central levels in Santo Domingo, including national government representatives, some donors and UN agencies. The workshop served as a platform for joint dialogue and for developing a preliminary general proposal for working together on a local recovery plan. A Declaration of Intention was signed by all participating institutions, in which the commitment to the recovery of affected Municipalities was expressed, under a basis of participative and coordinated work among beneficiaries, civil society, national provincial and municipal authorities, public institutions and international organisms. The pledge to work from a regional development focus, integrating provincial and municipal aspects, and with a risk prevention perspective was assumed. The Declaration also included the priority to strengthen local and government capacities for a sustainable development.

UNDP's role was to organize and facilitate the process and to mobilize the participation of other UN agencies, donors and central government representatives in order to support local authorities and give greater visibility to the recovery needs of the provinces.

2) Establishment of a Local Committee: following the recovery workshops and the recommendations made, UNDP together with other UN agencies have the responsibility to support the establishment of a Local Committee led by local authorities and represented by all relevant institutions present in each site.

The Committees may form part of the Local Development Councils where appropriate in order to support the governmental organizational structures that exist and which are backed by the law (see previous section on Laws relevant to ERP). The principal objective of the Committees or Councils will be to develop and implement a recovery plan and programme in the respective region.

3) Local Recovery Planning: UNDP and other UN agencies will support local authorities to develop a multi-sectoral recovery plan, which will be designed in response to the sectoral needs identified by municipalities and communities, based on quantitative data on damages caused by the storms. The plans will mainstream risk reduction to ensure sustainable local recovery and development and will include an specific gender approach, in order to guarantee gender equity. Besides, the planning process will include the establishment of guidelines and criteria for the community based projects in sustainable livelihoods and environment, as well as councils risk reduction initiatives..

4) Implementation & Funding: The ERP will also accompany local authorities in the successful implementation of the recovery plan and support their efforts to mobilize resources from the national budget. See next section for more details.

5) Capacity building and governance: UNDP will provide technical and financial resources in order to strengthen the capacity of local governmental authorities. The ERP will work with municipal mayors, the governor's office and the Provincial & Municipal Development Councils.

Capacity building will be particularly important in view of limited decentralization in the country and of the scarce financial and technical resources available to local authorities from the central government. UNDPs support will seek to empower local authorities to lead the planning and implementation process and to have the necessary inputs to facilitate the inter-institutional efforts, starting from the ER planning process.

Implementing Partners:

The planning and implementation of the early recovery programme in the provinces will be an inter-institutional effort involving affected communities, municipal and provincial government authorities, local civil society organizations, international non-governmental organizations, donors, and UN agencies.

Implementing partners for the achievement of this objective will be selected from the following list based on UNDPs next follow-up consultative meetings with provincial and municipal government authorities in Duarte and Barahona:

- Provincial Governor's Office
- Provincial Development Council
- Municipalities
- Municipal Development Council
- Association of municipalities
- New committee to be established for recovery-specific efforts.

Thus far, in the 1st Recovery Workshop organized by UNDP in Duarte, participants recommended the establishment of a provincial-level and a municipal-level committee to oversee the planning and implementation of recovery efforts. The next step will be to determine the most appropriate institutional mechanism and members.

In general, the mechanism selected should support already established organizational structures in the selected areas, particularly official government bodies supported and enabled by the law to develop and implement development strategies and plans.

Associated Partners:

Associated partners include communities and community leaders, provincial Governors, the provincial Senator, Congressmen, civil society organizations present in the province, private sector companies, other United Nations agencies, NGOs, and donors such as AECID, European Commission, IABD, and the World Bank.

Target Beneficiaries:

People affected by both tropical storms in Duarte and Barahona.

OUTPUT no.3

The recovery of livelihoods among the women and men in the most affected municipalities of Duarte & Barahona supported.

Indicators

- 1) One livelihood assessment in Duarte and Barahona
- 2) Women and men affected by the disaster have their livelihoods recovered through 30 to 35 sustainable and environmentally sound income-generating initiatives, with at least 50% female beneficiaries among the projects.

Activities:

Indicative activities associated to output 3 are the following:

1) Livelihood-specific assessment: UNDP will undertake a livelihood-specific assessment in Duarte and Barahona in consultation with FAO, WFP and ILO, in order to determine the following:

- The impact of the storms on the local economy, including unemployment, micro, small and medium enterprises, the patio economy, markets etc.;
- Economically viable income generation schemes and the most appropriate livelihood recovery projects based on the impact on the local economy and on economic opportunities;
- The most appropriate UNDP governmental and non-governmental partners that can implement the livelihood recovery projects selected.

The above assessment will particularly look into the different impact that the tropical storms have had on the livelihoods of women and men and identify gender specific income generation schemes and livelihood recovery projects.

1) Design of livelihood recovery projects & selection of partners: based on the above livelihood assessment, and following guidelines and criteria established in the Recovery Plans that will be designed under the ERP, aiming in particular to foster gender equality, with the support of FAO and ILO.

Procedures, tools and mechanisms for project approval and fund allocation from the Small Grants Programme (UNDP/GEF) will be used (they will support the ERP during the process of projects formulation and approval). UNDP/SGP/GEF has developed a wide experience in the support of community based projects and is a recognized and leading UNDP structure in both Duarte and Barahona. Detailed information of formats and selection procedures can be seen at the SGP DR webpage www.pnud.org.do/pps.

2) Foster gender equality: Livelihood recovery projects will integrate gender considerations in order to ensure the recovery of women's economic activities and the inclusion of women's organizations and networks in all livelihood recovery efforts. This approach will be included in the plans and project guidelines, in order to provide clear orientations. During the planning processes specific actions will be carried out to ensure gender mainstreaming and capacity building among different partners.

Female-headed households affected by the storms will also be selected among the priority beneficiary groups. Livelihood recovery projects will focus primarily on non-agricultural income generation given that agricultural producers are already benefiting from government and UN projects.

The projects may include a combination of the following depending on the results of the assessment:

- Off-farm and on-farm income-generating projects
- Employment-generating initiatives
- Recovery of the patio economy
- Vocational and skills training
- Cash-for-work projects
- Priority on the recovery of micro-enterprises in the commercial and service sectors
- Other

Livelihood recovery projects will also seek to be economically viable by promoting income and employment generation in economic activities that are not vulnerable to natural disasters and that offer present and future opportunities. Similarly, projects will be environmental sound by promoting alternative sources of income and employment that do not contribute further to deforestation or other land degradation practices.

Depending on the type of livelihood recovery project that will be implemented, UNDP will select the most appropriate implementing partners, which may include governmental or non-governmental partners. UNDP will also consider working together with the UNDP/SGP/GEF (Programa de Pequeños Subsidios) in the launching of a call for community-level proposals. As it was stated previously, UNDP/GEF/SGP procedures for call of proposals, formats and project selection will be used.

Likewise, partnerships may be established with other organizations, including those of UN agencies, in order to maximize impact through joint inter-institutional efforts. This may include food-for-work schemes or employment and income generation in housing reconstruction or road rehabilitation projects, among others.

3) Implementation of livelihood recovery projects: based on the above livelihood assessment, UNDP will support its partners to implement economically-viable livelihood recovery projects for women and men whose economic activities were disrupted or destroyed by the storms.

Implementing Partners:

Implementing partners for the achievement of this output will be selected from the list below based on the results of the livelihood assessment to be conducted in both provinces. The assessments will determine the most appropriate livelihood recovery projects and based on this the most appropriate partners to implement them.

- Fundación Sur Futuro
- MUDE –Mujeres en Desarrollo Dominicana
- Promipyme
- Fundación Río Jaya
- Fundación Padre Rogelio
- Fundación para el Desarrollo del Sureste (FUNDASUR)
- FUNDEPROCUNIPA
- Centro Lemba
- Sociedad Ecológica de Barahona (SOEBA)
- Other women’s organizations and networks
- Cáritas
- World Vision
- Plan International
- Oxfam-Intermon

Collaborative arrangements with ILO and FAO will be considered, as well as their government partners. Also, there is a strong opportunity to incorporate for potential cash-for-work projects.

Associated Partners:

Associated partners include communities and community leaders, provincial Governors, civil society organizations present in the province, private sector companies, other United Nations agencies, NGOs, and donors such as AECID, European Commission, IABD, and the World Bank.

Target Beneficiaries:

Women and men, whose livelihoods were destroyed or partially affected by the tropical storms in Duarte and Barahona. Vulnerable groups will be included as priority beneficiaries, including:

- People unemployed by the storms
- Micro-entrepreneurs
- Female-headed households²
- Elderly and youth
- Affected population which is HIV +

OUTPUT no. 4

^{2 2} ECLAC estimates that 29% and 30% of households in Barahona and Duarte respectively are headed by women.

The recovery of environmental & natural resources affected by the storms & contribute to risk reduction associated with natural disasters and climate change supported.

Indicators:

- 1) An Environmental Impact Assessment, covering all affected areas and in greater detail the lower basins of the Yaque Sur and Bajo Yuna Rivers.
- 2) 8 to 10 environmental recovery projects to be implemented with SEMARENA and/or local organizations, fostering the recovery of environmental and natural resources in Barahona and Duarte.
- 3) A Guidance Report for the Climate Change National Plan, including an Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change with a risk management approach.

Activities:

Indicative activities associated to output 4 are the following:

- 1) Environmental Impact Assessment: UNDP will support the Environment Ministry (SEMARENA) to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). To do so, it will work with UNEP to bring technical expertise. The EIA will assess the impact of the storms in all areas affected in the country, as well as with greater detail in the lower river basins of the Yaque Sur and Bajo Yuna Rivers where Duarte and Barahona are located.
- 2) Design Environmental Recovery projects and selection of partners: based on the above EIA, UNDP will support SEMARENA and other selected partners to design the most appropriate environmental recovery projects. Given that the lower river basins of the Yaque Sur and Bajo Yuna Rivers were among the most affected and that there are typically flood-prone regions in the country, projects will have a sub-regional dimension where possible to ensure a more integrated and sustainable response.

Similarly, environmental recovery projects will build linkages with UNDP's current land management project in the upper river basin of the Yaque Sur River (Upper Sabana Yegua), which is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This will help to build a more integrative strategy considering that negative land management practices in the upper basin, such as deforestation due to grazing and slash-and-burn agricultural practices, contribute to flooding in the lower basin. Building such a linkage will also benefit from UNDPs internal capacity and projects, including the sharing of information, techniques, tools and expertise.

Environmental recovery projects will seek some of the following objectives:

- Restore natural resources that were partially or totally destroyed by the storms.
- Protect environmental resources from future natural disasters.
- Mitigate the future impact of natural events by implementing risk reduction initiatives.

Projects may include a combination of the following depending on the results of the EIA:

- Risk mapping of the lower river basins and its application to recovery planning
- Reforestation
- Agroforestry
- New or restored seed banks and nurseries
- Conservation of protected areas and their infrastructure
- Biodiversity & habitat protection schemes
- Awareness raising and education on sustainable environmental practices
- Risk reduction initiatives, including mitigation
- Clearing of sediment

- Other

Depending on the type of environmental recovery project that will be implemented, UNDP will select the most appropriate implementing partners, which may include governmental or non-governmental partners. UNDP will also consider working together with the SGP/UNDP/GEF (Programa de Pequeños Subsidios) in the launching of a call for community-level proposals. UNDP/GEF/SGP procedures for call of proposals, formats and project selection will be used.

Likewise, partnerships may be established with other organizations, including those of UN agencies, in order to maximize impact through joint efforts in environmental recovery and risk reduction.

3) Implementation of environmental recovery projects: based on the above EIA, UNDP will support SEMARENA and other selected partners to implement sustainable environmental recovery projects in the lower basin of the Yaque Sur and Bajo Yuna Rivers.

4) Guidance Report: UNDP will support SEMARENA to develop a Guidance Report for developing a National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change, to be presented at the Summit on Climate Change in May 2008. This activity will be linked to the Second National Communication Project, which is being executed by SEMARENA and is producing key basic information for the National Plan for Climate Change and Adaptation.

Implementing Partners:

Implementing partners for the achievement of this output will be selected from the list below based on the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment to be conducted in both provinces. The assessments will identify environmental losses and determine the most appropriate recovery projects and partners.

- The Environment Ministry (SEMARENA)
- Fundación Sur Futuro
- MUDE –Mujeres en Desarrollo Dominicana
- Cáritas
- World Vision
- Plan International
- Oxfam-Intermon
- Fundación Río Jaya
- Fundación Padre Rogelio
- FUNDEPROCUNIPA
- Centro Lemba
- FUNDASUR
- SOEBA
- Other

Associated Partners:

Associated partners include communities and community leaders, civil society organizations present in the province, private sector companies, other United Nations agencies, NGOs, and donors such as AECID, European Commission, IABD, and the World Bank.

Target Beneficiaries:

Communities affected by the tropical storms in Duarte and Barahona, as well as within the wider lower river basins of the Yaque Sur and Bajo Yuna Rivers.

OUPUT no. 5

Key lessons learned from the activation of the UNCT Cluster on Early Recovery and the implementation of the ERP in Dominican Republic.

Indicators:

- 1) Evaluation and lessons learned captured in a knowledge product.

Activities:

- 1) Workshop: The logic of the process will be reconstructed considering the different perspectives of the actors involved in the programme. Activities of critical analysis will be developed to understand factors involved, their relationship, and also root causes. From this process, lessons learned will be identified and systematized, in order to provide a knowledge basis for future experiences.
- 2) Knowledge product: Knowledge from the above process will be shared and validated with similar initiatives that BCPR and other agencies are developing in Latin America and the Caribbean through a publication.
- 3) Video: A video documental showing and systematizing the whole planning process, and its development, including small projects implementation. This documental will incorporate the lessons learned.

4. THE BUDGET

The ERP budget proposal for UNDP-BCPR is in the amount of US\$1,375,000 (a detailed budget is presented in Annex 2.).

AECID will make a contribution in the amount of US\$790,000 (500,000 Euros). The budget includes an allocation of 7% for administrative costs as per AECID-UNDP procedures.

Finally, UNDP's Country Office, through its Environment Unit is contributing a further USD \$30,000 for environmental recovery efforts and through TRAC III Resources it's contributing a further USD 269,589 for the planning process and inter-agency and interinstitutional coordination efforts.

Breakdown of Budget Contributions

- USD \$1,375,000 (proposed budget)
- USD \$30,000 Project 00047173 Climate Change National Second Communication)
- USD \$790,000 AECID contribution

The global budget for the ERP will be USD\$ 2,195,000

All interests accrued in relation to the ERP funds will be accredited to UNDP and will be utilized in conformity with UNDP procedures.

5. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The programme structure will be headed by a **Programme Board**. This Board will provide a high level overview and guidance of the ERP progress, ensuring an interagency approach. This board will link to the Project Board.

The programme will be coordinated and receive operational guidance and oversight through a **Project Board**, vested with the responsibility of approving the ERP's annual operational plans, budget and reports and ensuring that activities are in line with those outlined in the approved project documentation. The Project Board will also monitor the coordination of the ERP with relevant and associated projects. The Board will be composed by representatives from SEEPYD - SCI, SEMARENA, a representative of each local committee (Barahona and Duarte) and UNDP. The Project Board will meet quarterly during the year, and on other occasions as needed, to review quarterly progress reports, monitor results, receive other reports or information that they may request.

UNDP will establish an inter-agency **management unit** that will be responsible for overall implementation of the scheduled activities and all the others issues related to the Project.

The management unit will be headed by a Programme Coordinator who will oversee the technical, financial and administrative aspects of the ERP, including its two project offices in Duarte and Barahona. The Programme Coordinator will supervise members of the management unit which will consist of a Project Officer (currently a UNV), an Administrator and a Monitoring & GIS specialist. All other expert consultants will also be supervised by the Coordinator. The management unit will be financed by the ERP budget.

The project manager staff will work in close coordination with national and local key stakeholders. Their main role, to contribute to strengthen national and local capacities will be guaranteed through the ERP principles and participative working methodology. From the beginning of the planning process, UNDP has involved and committed key stakeholders in the formulation of local recovery plans. ERP staff will promote, facilitate and provide appropriate support to key stakeholders, so that they can lead the implementation of their plans, strengthening their capacities and the existing institutional framework and advocating to establish sustainable processes, products and capabilities. The staff will provide technical assistance and will ensure that planning, execution and evaluation of each activity will be developed with the corresponding stakeholders, both at the national and local levels.

The Programme Coordinator represents the UNDP during the development of all the activities of the programme and he/she will serve as the Secretary of the Board and will be responsible for setting up their meetings, circulating documentation for review, taking minutes and preparing their reports. He/she reports directly to the Project Board.

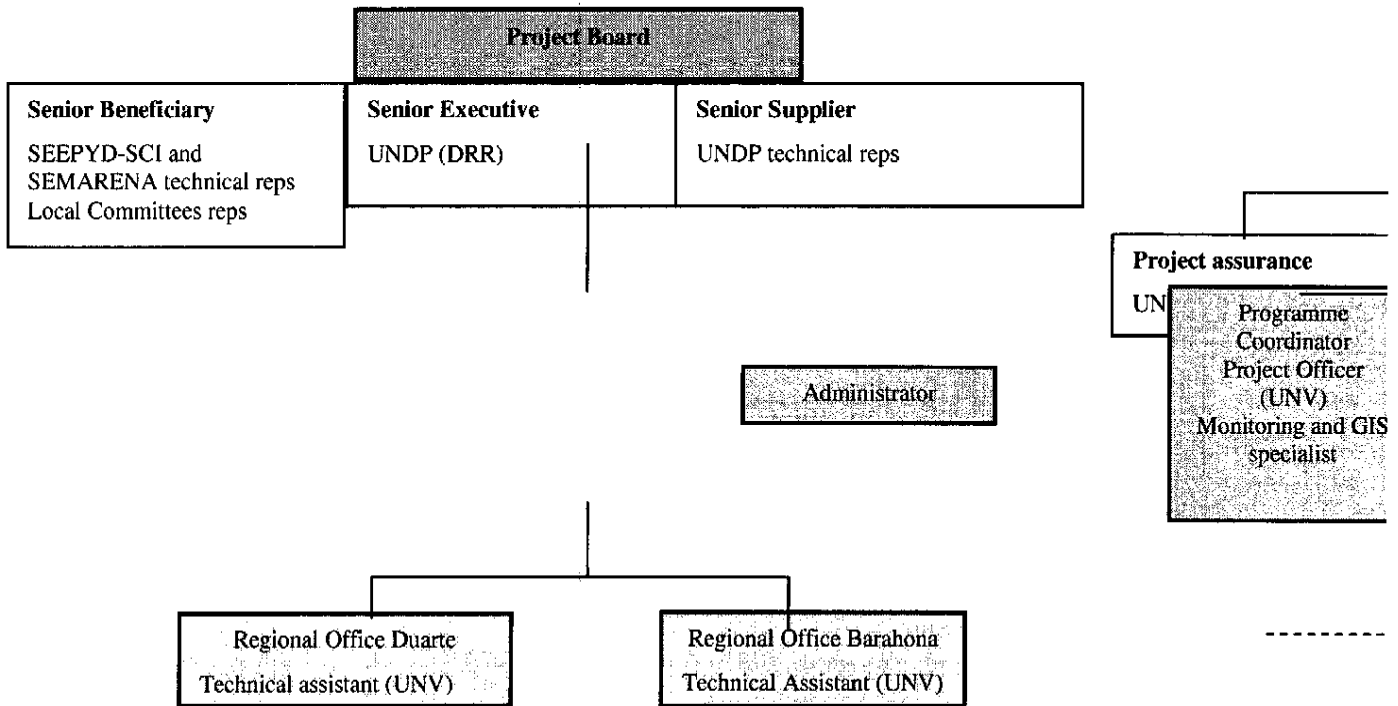
A UNDP programme officer will be assigned to provide **project assurance** and will report directly to the project board. His or her function will be to monitor whether progress of the ERP takes place according to the work plans, timelines and budgets approved by the project board and signal any relevant issues to the project board.

Members of the management unit will be recruited following standard UNDP procedures. Because the ERP is an interagency initiative, the short list and final selection of the Coordinator will be done by UNCT. The management unit and its Coordinator in particular will work in close coordination with all other UN agencies and facilitate the synergies required for all UN recovery efforts.

The management unit and its Coordinator will also ensure close coordination with other UNDP programme areas, including the Environment Unit, the Governance Unit and the Poverty Reduction Unit, and their relevant projects, including ART Gold and the project on Disaster Preparedness and Prevention (PPD).

The proposed management structure is detailed in the following diagram:





6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Management Unit will ensure monitoring for the ERP, in accordance with UNDP's Results Management Guidelines. The person assigned with the project assurance role will provide an additional, neutral perspective on the progress of the programme to the project board and will be facilitated in his/her task by the programme coordinator. The programme coordinator will have the final accountability towards the project board for the delivery of the project results and should thus carefully monitor the progress of the various program outputs, including those that are undertaken by implementing partners. The monitoring will be done through a combination of the following:

- Regular field visits to Duarte and Barahona
- Regular inter-institutional coordination meetings at the central level in Santo Domingo and at the local levels
- Regular interagency coordination meetings (UNCT)
- Regular coordination meetings within UNDP's Environment Unit
- Monthly progress reports

BCPR technical support and monitoring missions are included in the ERP to strengthen coordination and monitoring, as well as to capitalize on potential synergies with other recovery experiences within BCPR and the region.

Knowledge Management

The ERP includes a final evaluation and lessons-learned exercise intended to draw key lessons and good practices in both, the cluster approach on early recovery and the interagency implementation of the ERP. The exercise should count on the participation of UNCT, government partners and