

Post-Disaster Needs Assessment: Roll-out in Disaster Prone Countries

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IFS-RRM/2012/303-264

Complementary Report

Prepared in response to the detailed comments provided by the EU to the final project report submitted on 12 July 2016.

PDNA e-learning module

EU's comment (pages 8-9 of the report): From the description it is clear that the e-learning module is not finalised, although there was a commitment when requesting the latest 6 month extension that this module would be finalised. Please explain the reasons for the delay. Please also indicate when the module is planned to be finalised. Please also confirm that the module will be made available to the EU and the World Bank.

UNDP's response: As the e-learning module would be based on the PDNA training package, it was decided that the development of the module would be undertaken only after the PDNA training package is finalized and tested. It took some time to develop the package, but as soon as the training package was finalized and tested, UNDP had a series of consultations with relevant partners during February and March 2016 on the development of e-learning module. A ToR prepared for this purpose formed the basis for these consultations.

One of the issues that came up for discussion was finding a partner who could deliver together the contents of the training programme as well as designing the web platform needed for the modules. UNDP has received a number of suggestions from the World Bank and ILO, who have considerable experience in designing and delivering e-learning programmes.

On the basis of the ToR, UNDP has received a proposal from the International Training Centre (ITC), the training arm of the ILO, which has extensive experience in training and capacity-building. The proposal is under discussion. A final decision on how the e-learning module will be implemented will be taken towards the end of August. UNDP aims to complete the content and design of the e-learning module by the end of 2016.

Once the e-learning module is completed, it will be made available to three partners - the EU, the WB and the UN Agencies - through a mechanism that would be jointly discussed and agreed.

PDNA rollout support in Ecuador

EU's comment (pages 16-17 - "Countries that developed baselines and systems for PDNAs"): A country indicated is Ecuador. Please indicate in detail the preparatory work carried out in Ecuador. In particular, in the light of the country opting for a DaLA assessment (not a PDNA) after the Earthquake in April this year.

UNDP's response:

Under this project, a PDNA training was conducted in Ecuador for the national government in October 2015. This contributed to the government's efforts in preparing for recovery in view of the reactivation of the Cotopaxi volcano and the possibility of a severe El Niño in the region. Additionally, UNDP has been supporting the government in adapting the PDNA methodology under the leadership of the National Secretary of Planning and Development (SENPLADES). This activity was part of the support that the project was providing to selected countries in developing information systems and baselines for use in PDNAs. Ecuador was mid-way completing a catalogue and the guidelines to consolidate baseline information for all the sectors of the PDNA when the 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck the country on 16 April 2016. As a consequence of the crisis, these activities were put on hold.

Following the earthquake, the Government of Ecuador (GoE) requested international assistance for the conduct of a PDNA. UNDP immediately started to support SENPLADES, as the lead government agency in this exercise, to prepare necessary templates and other materials to launch the PDNA (please see attached the infographics distributed to the media to present the PDNA process). The request to conduct a PDNA certainly reflected the acceptance by the government of the PDNA as an assessment methodology.

The Government, however, also solicited assistance of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in the PDNA since ECLAC is a long-standing partner of the governments in the region. ECLAC offered the use of DaLA, without explaining the differences or complementarity between two methodologies to the Government of Ecuador. This has led to a perception within the government that the two methodologies are distinct and separate, though the PDNA builds on the DaLA and the differences between the two can be reconciled towards a more harmonized application. It is along these lines that, the UN System worked persistently and put together an assessment team consisting of UN agencies and the World Bank, which included ECLAC as well. Independent sector reports were prepared by the teams and SENPLADES produced consolidated assessment results that the government officially presented to the press on 16 May (please refer to the attached news report for more details). The GoE is currently finalizing the consolidated report, which will be printed and also distributed in digital version.

The experience in Ecuador signals that the PDNA Roll Out is having a positive impact in countries by increasing the level of recognition and understanding of the benefits of the PDNA as assessment methodology among governments. However, it is also a lesson learnt for the UN System as it shows the need within the UN System itself to further raise awareness and understanding on the PDNA as the officially accepted assessment methodology as well as to increase capacity to use this methodology on a more consistent basis. UNDP has already initiated discussions towards this end within the UN system, particularly with ECLAC as a major actor in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

Annex I Financial report

EU's comment: in Output 2, Action 4 we assume the indication "7 workshops only 3 completed" is erroneous.

UNDP's response: as rightly noted, there was an overview from the UNDP team in reporting under Output 2, Action 4. This has been addressed to correctly report, which is that all planned activities under this Action are completed. Please see revised Annex I.

