



COMMITTED TO WATER FOR THE WORLD.



URD Group - Somalia

Consideration of the development aspect must not however be detrimental to dealing with the emergency. The emergency response players have a legitimate role to play in dealing with an acute crisis as they have developed professional tools specific to this particular phase.

In long-lasting or recurring emergencies, humanitarian and development teams must work together as of the initial emergency outbreaks. Parallel action is a particular means of relieving the classic tension between reinforcing the sovereign role of the State on the one hand and rapidly bringing services to the population on the other.

Taking a new look at rural hydraulic mechanisms, the case of Chad

In a complicated hydro-geological context, and faced with a long-lasting emergency, the humanitarian response was to a large extent inappropriate:

- the technical systems provided are too heavy to be transferred to the population;
- the refugee camps for the Sudanese and displaced populations from Chad are over-sized, depleting the groundwater;
- hundreds of litres of chlorinated water are used every day for watering donkeys or manufacturing bricks;
- the populations living in the areas where the camps are located benefit from no services. This intervention imbalance is a cause of tension.

(source: Strategic evaluation report - Groupe URD for Direction General ECHO of the European Commission)

In emergency situations, the players must:

- refer to national sectorial strategies;
- limit the standard emergency technical responses, adapt to existing spare parts markets and set up networks of local repair craftsmen;
- give priority to programme approaches.

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FROM HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY TO DEVELOPMENT, WATER AND SANITATION ARE A PRIORITY FOR THE POPULATIONS

Three objectives:

- To reinforce coordination between emergency and development stakeholders
- To develop more responsive and better organised financial mechanisms
- To share and build on knowledge of vulnerable situations and experience from the field

Between a humanitarian emergency situation and the return to a period of stable development, many scenarios are possible. The notion of the continuum which was for a long time considered to be the norm, is in fact only the case in certain situations.

Emergencies are often complex, resulting from long-standing conflicts deeply rooted in socio-economic relations. The implications are sometimes regional and the political situations often blocked.

Consequently, the responses are numerous, from the provision of drinking water (flexible tanks filled from tanker lorries) and emergency latrines, to the construction of infrastructures which will last after the crisis is over.

In countries suffering from conflict or natural disaster, unsafe water is a more deadly killer than the emergency itself. However this silent drama is poorly understood. Armed conflicts kill an average of 500,000 people per year. It is estimated that 8 million people, half of them children, die of water-borne diseases every year

(source: L'Eau, Robert Laffont, 2004. Michel Camdessus, Bertrand Badré, Ivan Chéret, Pierre-Frédéric Ténière-Buchot).



Solidarités - Kabul

Emergency response, comprehending reconstruction and including development

Identifying and analysing risks, an individual duty

Emergency and reconstruction programmes require good knowledge of the situations, the needs, the capabilities and the constraints and must:

- **share and manage knowledge of the context:** studies of the physical context (geological, hydro-geological, rainfall) and analyses of the social, cultural, economic, political and even historical realities, on which the local partners and development agencies must maintain their investments and efforts and which must be used by the humanitarian organisations as best they can in a time of crisis;
- **diagnose the causes of vulnerability:** (technical, institutional, socio-economic or external) which fuel crises, with the competent partners (United Nations, local stakeholders and NGOs);
- **analyse potential negative impacts** of the interventions, in order to anticipate the palliative measures to be put into place.

These three exercises must be constantly enhanced, updated and incorporated into a process of supervision and improvement. Their results must be shared by the international, national and local players and the population, whether or not organised.

This understanding is the responsibility of the parties involved and it alone will allow the definition of pertinent objectives, particularly during the reconstruction phase. What vulnerability factors does the action address, what risk factors does it exacerbate?

When, in particular, the crisis and post-crisis context is fertile ground for conflicting political aims, being aware of the tensions caused is essential in avoiding perpetuating conflict hot-spots or creating a phenomenon of dependence.

Coordination between the aid players is critical and vital

To ensure the pertinence, effectiveness and sustainability of the interventions, coordination is recognised by all as being essential.

The experience of the Tsunami at the end of 2004 raised many questions among the humanitarian players, public opinion and the populations. Creating efficient coordination units between the various stakeholders (State, local authorities, private companies, NGOs, etc.) is a key issue, on the one hand for the beneficiaries, and on the other in the donor countries.

At a local level, coordination is now well-organised, through the United Nations clusters. An assessment of the system should improve efficiency and governance: the questions of integration into the existing national cooperation mechanisms and compliance with the humanitarian principles of impartiality, independence and diversity of the parties must however be addressed.

Under the coordination of the Congo's Ministry for Public Health, a pact of public and private partners is contributing to an ambitious strategic plan to eliminate cholera.

The partners include the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, UNICEF, the Veolia Environmental Trust, Congolese and French universities and specialised institutes. This plan is based on an innovative scientific approach combining epidemiological surveillance, prevention in a target zone, access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. It is being deployed via a programme implemented since 2006 by the French NGO Solidarités à Kalémie (Katanga).

Developing new and appropriate financial mechanisms must be a priority for the funding institutions

In the post-emergency context, financial resources are rarely a constraint. However, the procedures for access to this financing, the political priorities and the absence of funding continuity between the emergency, reconstruction and development phases, are prejudicial to the effectiveness and efficiency of intervention.

Humanitarian budgets can only be mobilised for the duration of the emergency and development funding implies review and assessment lead-times and durability guarantees that are incompatible with an emergency relief context.

To ensure the transition between emergency and development, more responsive and better organised financial mechanisms have to be proposed.

Including the development concept as of the emergency phase

How does one run a project designed for the medium-term in an unstable situation? As of the emergency phase, the State, civil society and private players must be considered fully-fledged partners in order to:

- define the most appropriate technical choices for the context and promote the emergence of innovations;
- reflect on the organisational and social choices: emergencies are a combination of both disaster and opportunity and are situations in which the populations, with the support of new players, can acquire know-how such as hygienic practices;
- take economic choices in favour of a sustainable service, supported by the populations;
- make themselves known and accepted in a context of potential instability: participative approaches are vital, particularly when civil/military interventions in favour of the sector are conducted in parallel by international armed forces. The issues of humanitarian personnel safety and transparency of the action taken then arise.