A Study

Coordination of Disaster Response:

Potential and Challenges from Indian Experiences

unicef

UNDP

Objectives of the Study

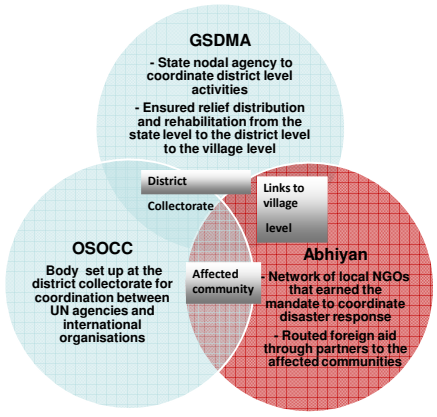
- To understand the role and need for coordination among humanitarian actors in disaster response
- To analyze the workings and best practices of coordination mechanisms that emerged during responses to key natural disasters in India
- To propose a conceptual model of the structure, components, and functions of an effective disaster response coordination mechanism
- To recommend how coordination mechanisms can be institutionalized within the disaster management sector

Case Study Disaster Focus

Key learnings were drawn from the responses to the following disasters:

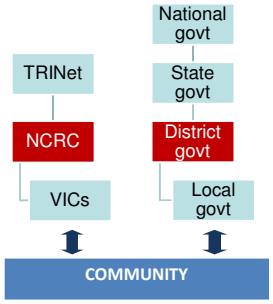
29th October, 1999	Orissa	Cyclone
26th January, 2001	Gujarat	Earthquake
26th December, 2004	Tamil Nadu	Tsunami
18th August, 2008	Bihar	Floods

Gujarat Earthquake: Coordination Mechanism



Tamil Nadu Tsunami

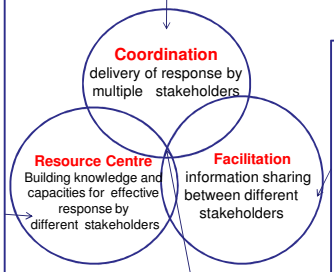
Tamil Nadu Coordination Organogram



The three roles of a coordination mechanism

- Logistics Coordination
- Stakeholder Coordination
- Assessing Sectoral priorities
- Volunteer management and placement
- Needs assessment

- Serve as a bridge between policy provisions and ground reality (Sectoral)
- Technical guidance for response activities
- Link disaster response with risk reduction – risk and resource mapping
- Advocacy based on research and community feedback



- Reporting of missing Access to relief entitlements
- Single window access to governance and administration structures
- Needs assessment
- Linkage building for effective response.
- Increasing transparency and accountability in relief

· Search & Rescue · Relief distribution · Prevention of secondary disasters · Ensuring equitable spread of assistance ·Information management between stakeholders	· Damage & Needs assessment · Access to entitlement · Communication - upstream & down stream	· Policy influence · Sectoral guidance / Technical guidance · Technical supervision · Capacity building of stakeholders •Resources & Risk awareness
		RESOURCE CENTRE
	FACILITATION	
COORDINATION		
Relief	**Early Response**	**Recovery**

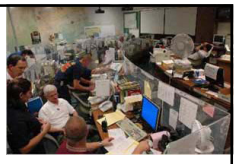
Thoughts for the way forward

Coordination – Resource – Facilitation entity/system necessary on a permanent basis to:

- **Address vulnerabilities and disaster risks through development programmes; DRR**
- **Work on disaster preparedness**
- **Build ground for emergency response coordination**
- **Regular meetings at the EOC level involving all the ESFs**
- **Regular Mock drills**
- **Identify and understand various coordination platforms available at different levels as part of preparedness**
- **Facilitative but agency neutral – willingness and wherewithal to challenge actions in both policy and practice arenas.**

….need to root this in the DM Act may be right down to the block level

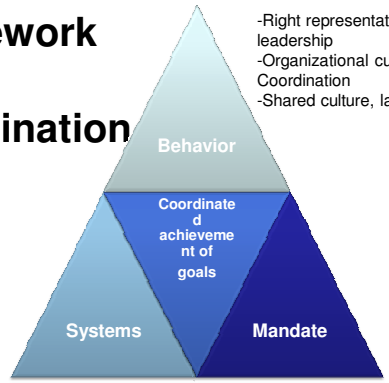
An Emergency Operation Centre is:



- ***"An unfamiliar place where uncomfortable officials gather to make unpopular decisions based on incomplete information allocating inadequate resources for unanticipated requirements in too little time."***

-Unknown

Framework for Coordination



-Right representation skills & team leadership
-Organizational culture that support Coordination
-Shared culture, language & values

-Appropriate & documented governance (info management, mapping)
-Sufficient & appropriate resources for operations and communication with sub-systems

-Leadership Commitment to…
-Chiefs/stakeholder buy-in (ESF is system is notified)
-Defined and agreed outcomes
-Communicate with…..

A System . . . Not a Facility

Dispatch

On-Scene Command

Coordination Resource Centers

Thank You

Coordination Entities/ Groups

Emergency Operations Centers