




NATURAL DISASTERS

Theme: Rebuilding for Prevention of Future Disasters

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- 1- Introduction
 - 2- What is "Rebuilding for Prevention of Future Disasters«
 - 3- How does Resilience work in Humanitarian way?
 - 4- Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

Climate change is causing increasingly frequent and increasingly violent disasters, endangering the populations of the areas concerned, without sparing children.

Indeed, the frequency of natural disasters has increased considerably in recent years. Thus, in many countries with weak economies in Africa, South America and Asia, destructive natural events threaten the lives of populations. Unpredictable disasters like floods or earthquakes have devastating consequences. These are violent natural events resulting in destructive effects for affected living beings (animals and humans). To qualify as a natural disaster, the event must occur in an inhabited or exploited area. These phenomena, often uncontrollable, can be particularly devastating without allowing time to put in place preventive measures. Resilience therefore remains the appropriate response. We risk seeing the number of occurrences climb to 560 per year in 2030 (compared to 400 in 2015), warns the UN (United Nations). The resilience is the way to reduce these disasters.

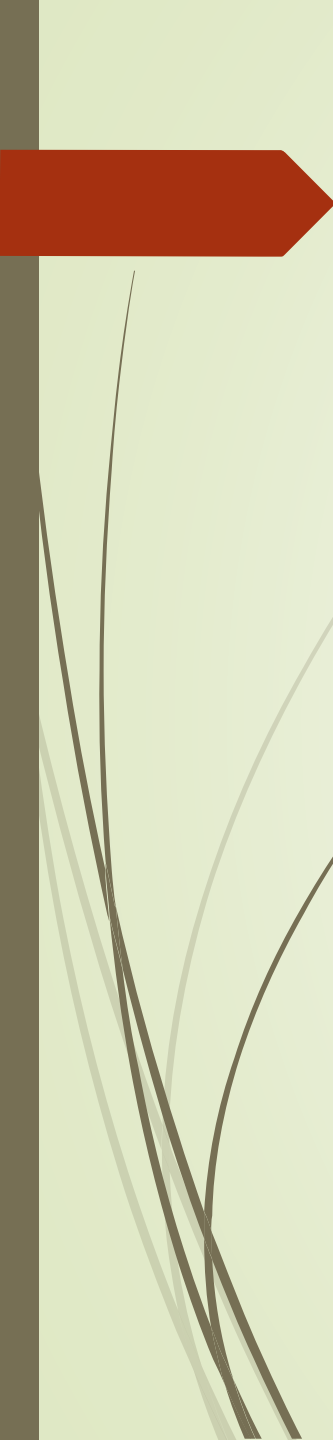
What is "Rebuilding for Prevention of Future Disasters"

The « Rebuilding for Prevention of Future Disasters is the Resilience after disasters for Prevention of Future Disasters. The Key word is **Rebuilding** that is **Resilience**.


Resilience is part of prevention and disaster reduction, in particular by focusing on making the population active in both risk reduction actions and the future of the territories where she lives, works, and develops different individual and collective activities.

How does Resilience work in Humanitarian way?

In Humanitarian activities, actors are often NGOs, Civil Societies in local level and international level. They provide support and assistance, by solidarity, to the victims population of disasters.

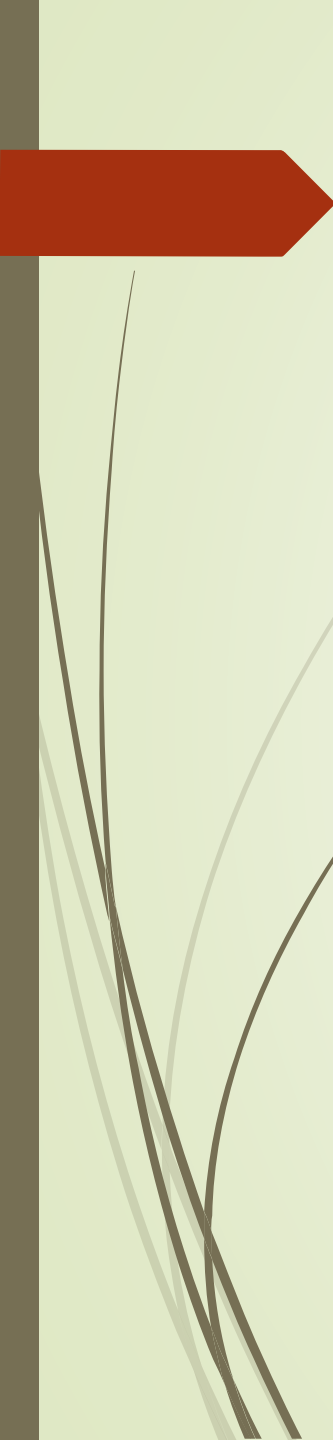


When a disaster strikes a country, the communities of the affected locality lose their source of drinking water, their source of food, their homes, hospitals, roads and electricity among others. These difficulties, these sorrows, of the communities which already weigh too heavily on them, risk getting even worse if the relief system and solidarity support are not put in place immediately. NGOs are often involved in humanitarian work. Among the urgent needs of the communities are: food of sufficient quality and quantity, clothing, drinking water, shelter, medical care for the communities and this must be done quickly to avoid worsening of the loss of human life. To achieve this, international NGOs, which often have the means and bases or affiliations in the affected countries, often quickly support the affected populations. Those who do not have their bases in the affected countries send relief teams who will complete formalities with the authorities first before going to the field. This last case of support system for affected populations could be less effective due to the sometimes slowness of administrations. The longer the formalization of relief with the authorities lasts, the greater the damage and loss of life.




It is therefore necessary for non-governmental organizations from developing countries and those with transition economies to network with NGOs from developed countries in order to quickly have the necessary means and to quickly deal effectively with the vital needs of the populations of the affected areas in order to minimize the loss of time often due to the slowness of administrations.

. NGOs that often intervene in the event of disasters include: the Red Cross; Doctors Without Borders; Caritas; ...etc. After ensuring the safety of communities and a proper assessment of the damage, the infrastructure should be rebuilt in a resilient manner.



Dwellings made of clay, bamboo or wood, made of precarious materials, which are often less resistant to disasters, must be replaced by constructions made of very resistant materials (cements, iron...) on resistant land (land that is not on a mine resource in use, that was used or close to these lands; wetlands...). Communities must change some of their housing construction habits by opting to build resistant housing on well-studied resistant land before construction. This will help us minimize the impacts of natural disasters. Road reconstruction must meet the required standards. Our agriculture must be resilient agriculture during the dry season while avoiding forest fires as much as possible. The grasses we destroy with fire that often cause forest fires can be used as organic fertilizer for our seeds. Resilient agriculture is an agriculture which uses artificial seeds irrigation system that permits farmers to irrigate their seeds in dry season.

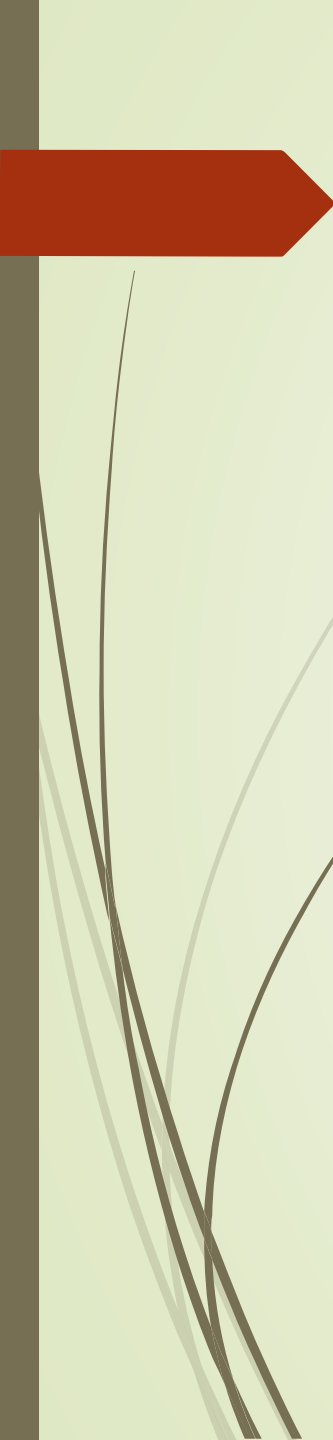
As part of the flood caused by the 2010 flood in Benin which affected 55 communes of the 77 communes of our country, causing 45 deaths, affecting more than 680,000 people including 60,000 children, our NGO mobilized **DFID (Department for International Development of UK)** which assisted 50,000 people from the South and Center of our country through **UKaid** through Care International.



In addition to this, we have made proposals to our Government for the reconstruction of resilient roads and dirty water drainage channels and the maintenance of these channels.

Many children and families often find themselves homeless as houses are damaged or destroyed, schools may be deteriorated or serve as emergency shelter. Strong winds and damage to infrastructure increase the risk of running water being contaminated. And without a place to seek refuge, children can suffer from hypothermia or pneumonia. The resilience plan takes all these parameters into account in order to bring the area concerned back to life.

Well-organized resilience should help the resumption of normal life gradually in regions affected by natural disasters. Children, pregnant women and the elderly are the most vulnerable to the risks of natural disasters.



Once the danger has passed, the teams in charge of intervening for resilience on the ground assess the extent of the damage and determine as best as possible what the children and their families need so that the response provided truly corresponds to what is really needed. This is done by the central government in concert with local authorities, international organizations, NGOs, goodwill in the population will result from following the resilience plan put in place by the central government responding to the realities of the affected area.

Not all countries are in the position to care for affected populations after such events, manage the damage and better prepare for future disasters. In many countries, especially in economically weak states, prevention and protection measures in the event of natural disasters are lacking.

Disaster preparedness is particularly important to prepare populations for threatening natural events and thus limit damage and suffering.

Countries with weak economies need training and the installation of warning systems and the means to prepare for and protect themselves against natural disasters before, during and after these disasters.



CONCLUSION

Natural disasters are very dangerous with disastrous consequences for the lives of affected populations. These populations often do not have real means of prevention, protection or well-organized resilience, especially in developing countries and those with economies in transition. Countries with weak economies need support for prevention, protection and resilience to natural disasters. The real reduction of greenhouse gases emissions would be the best long term way to reduce the frequency of disasters. It is important for developing countries to work on resilience in agriculture, transportation, construction, and mobilize the capacity of local people together with central governments to be able to meet disasters when they occur.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION