

Session Title:

**From Local Government to Civil Society, from Urban to Rural Settings:
Making Recovery Inclusive**

Tuesday, May 14th , 2019

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Room 4

Context	<p>Recovery happens at the local level in specific places and communities, each with their own character, culture, and context. Yet, ensuring inclusion in recovery remains a challenge. Those often left struggling to influence the recovery process include local government officials, which are overwhelmed by the loss of facilities, infrastructure, equipment, and records, as well as the inability of personnel to report to work. The loss in capacity and assets is often dramatic.</p> <p>Recovery is in many ways a top-down process, and national and prefectural (provincial) governments control a great deal of early recovery planning processes, resources, and decision-making. We must quickly build back and support local government capacity if we are to be successful in recovery. As recovery efforts are structured and organized, they should focus on restoring local government capacity, authority, resources and expertise.</p> <p>While international frameworks recognize and encourage inclusion at every level in society, this seldom translates into programs that promote bottom-up, participatory processes and include the populations that have been directly impacted. Disaster survivors are citizens, constituents, and residents of impacted cities, districts and small rural towns that have been affected, and want to be supported in their efforts to shape their own destinies and dreams when it comes to recovery. Unfortunately, more than any other group, they often find it difficult to insert their voice in the process and be considered partners in their own recovery. Local knowledge, different cultural groups, and marginalized populations are often excluded, and do not have the power to affect change in their communities and realize their own recovery goals in a top-down process.</p> <p>CSOs are involved in processes that can change this dynamic and empower local populations through advocacy, activism, community-level support and intervention. They can elevate the concerns, goals and aspirations of different ethnic or indigenous groups, vulnerable populations, women and children, the disabled and elderly, who otherwise find themselves excluded from decision-making about recovery priorities. But, CSOs need support to be effective and the importance of their role needs more recognition. Beyond this, they must have a place at the table with government partners, donors, IOs, and other key stakeholders from the outset and should not be included in recovery processes as an afterthought. Being recognized as a key stakeholders in recovery is critical for CSOs if they are to lay the groundwork for inclusive processes and work with partners that recognize their value, facilitate and empower their efforts.</p>
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	<p>We face a situation in which we are moving from knowing what we should do, to figuring out <i>how</i> to do it. In order to achieve our highest ideals, we must act on them. Knowing the right thing to do is not enough. We must make real progress if we are to realize truly inclusive recovery processes.</p>		
Speakers / Panelists	Chair(s)	Title	Representing
	Dr. Laura Olson	Associate Faculty	Royal Roads University School of Humanitarian Studies, Emergency & Disaster Management Program
	Speakers	Title	Representing
	Mr. Shinichi Takahashi	Vice Mayor	Sendai City, Japan
	Mr. Kiyoshi Murakami	Special Representative of Mayor & Senior Executive Advisor <i>Special Advisor to President and Visiting Professor</i>	City of Rikuzentakata Iwate, Japan <i>Iwate University, Japan</i>
	Mr. Bijay Kumar	Executive Director	Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
	Ms. Mino Harivelo Ramaroson	Africa Regional Coordinator	HUAIROU COMMISSION