Ensuring Inclusion of Displaced Persons in Recovery
World Reconstruction Conference, Geneva, 13 May 2019
Remarks by Amanda Entrikin, Director of Global Affairs & Advocacy

Habitat for Humanity®

Session Objectives & Expected Outcome:
Existing effective practices and lessons learned of participatory approaches, methods and practices will be presented and discussed. Concrete recommendations to the WRC will be made based on the presentations and discussion. The objective of the session is to 1) share experiences, good practices and collaboration of communities, humanitarian, disaster recovery and actors in socio- economic recovery and resilience for displaced communities; and 2) to identify key bottlenecks and durable solutions in disaster preparedness, response and recovery for displaced persons. The expected outcomes of the session are to reach i) a shared understanding of the key issues and impediments to inclusive recovery; ii) clarity on what joint initiatives and steps can be taken to strengthen participation of people, especially those in vulnerable groups, in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Remarks:
Habitat for Humanity is an international non-profit focused on creating a place where everyone has a decent place to live. Established in 1976, Habitat works in 70 countries focused on affordable and adequate housing. Notably, our federal model means that in some respect we are a collective of local NGOs, under a global brand. Since it was created, Habitat has helped more than 13.2 million people obtain a safer place to call home.

Programmatically, Habitat is working with displaced populations, or working with communities to prepare for disaster in Jamaica, Bangladesh, Philippines, Haiti, Malawi, Ethiopia, India, Lebanon and Nepal to name a few.

Habitat for Humanity's Solid Ground Campaign, a global advocacy campaign focused on strengthening policies for land for shelter, is also changing policies and systems in 40 countries to improve access to tenure of vulnerable populations to achieve disaster resilience.

Habitat for Humanity makes a concerted effort to be integrative and holistic in its programing. We uniquely approach adequate and affordable housing through its many components:
- addressing access to basic services;
- working with communities to address risk through a participatory approach for safe shelter awareness (PASSA);
- creating markets for pro-poor housing finance products and services;
- insuring policy environments are enhanced to support affordable housing, increasing security of tenure and enabling accessibility to land along the continuum of land rights;
- making homes and communities disaster ready and resilient to shocks; responding in humanitarian contexts and preparing communities to build back better;

Housing is at the center of creating stability for families across all cultures and socio-economic classes.

Habitat for Humanity have identified that a core impediment to securing families for disaster lies in their claim to the land on which their home is built.
- People will not invest in their homes to prepare for disaster if they don't have some form of secure tenure;

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- people will not vacate their homes threatened by disaster for fear that they can't return;
- families aren't eligible in some contexts for disaster assistance and recovery without proof of title, or specifically women headed households can't in some places;
- and so families from already vulnerable communities are left out of the systems that facilitate recovery and create stability.

In Jamaica, Habitat is conducting a housing improvement program that is focused on addressing resilience of homes in advance of disasters by creating new water and sanitation micro-infrastructures, improving housing structures, and training masons in disaster resilient building practices. However, it was identified that the underlying issue preventing success was that families do not have clear claim over their land or shelter. In an effort to address the pervasive fear of eviction, Habitat for Humanity is working with communities, local government and coalitions to educate individuals on their land rights, to map and survey plots to identify and mitigate potential land conflicts and created resource hubs to ensure more members of the community can benefit from the expertise developed beyond this time-bound program.

Policy recommendations for ensuring inclusion in recovery:
Through the work of the global Solid Ground Campaign we have identified core principles that drive Habitat's global advocacy and policy work in achieving disaster resilient communities globally.
  - Inclusion must be considered from the outset. Needs of vulnerable peoples and communities must be addressed when considering preparedness for disaster especially when considering their land rights.
  - Community input must be prioritized in addressing resilience and also in conducting rebuilding. Community input and community-led mapping – or enumeration – should be used to identify existing land tenure arrangements and conflicts along the continuum of land rights, as a first step to protect residents from eviction.
  - Laws and regulations that protect security of land tenure across the continuum of land rights should be reinforced to provide protection from eviction. There are some great laws out there, but they are not implemented at the local level because of lack of awareness, capacity, or funds.
  - Policies must encourage building back better and safer after disasters and reflect international standards for disaster response.
  - Disaster reconstruction efforts must prioritize onsite reconstruction over relocation where feasible.
  - Disaster reconstruction efforts must reflect a holistic approach regarding land rights in each unique context and recognize various forms of tenure to inform recovery programs design, in an effort to increase a family's land security over time.