

other teams submitted inception reports in September. These reports were discussed at a coordination meeting held in Stockholm. The majority of fieldwork and telephone interviews were conducted during October. The quantitative studies in Aceh and Sri Lanka were completed during November and full drafts of the three reports were submitted in December. This synthesis is based on these draft reports.

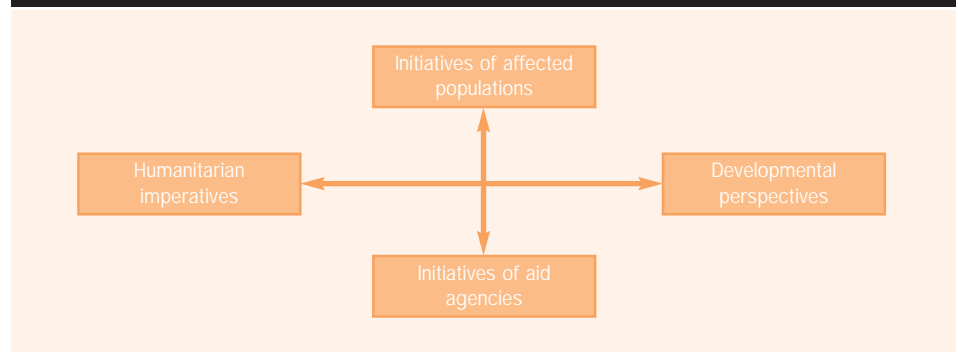
## 1.3 Evaluation methods and constraints

This report has been prepared by the senior adviser to the TEC LRRD thematic review. He was contracted by Sida to advise and consult with the other evaluators and to draft a synthesis of findings. The overall approach applied throughout this report has been to contrast the differing perspectives of humanitarian and development actors. This has involved drawing attention to the different principles, conceptual frameworks and vocabularies used in humanitarian assistance and in development cooperation. In some cases, similar terms – livelihoods, communities, participation – are applied in very different ways by humanitarian and by development actors. In order to ensure that this report is useful for readers ‘on both sides’, it has been important to tease out these implicit differences and analyse them, as opposed to evaluating aid interventions against one set of principles or the other. This approach has carried with it an unavoidable emphasis on the complexity of these different conceptual frameworks. It is hoped that readers will accept these attempts to introduce a more ‘bilingual’ discussion of the challenges of LRRD.

Furthermore, the synthesis contrasts the efforts of affected populations to survive and rebuild their lives with those of the aid community in supporting them. An underlying assumption of the study is that affected populations have their own ‘LRRD projects’ that inevitably differ from those designed on their behalf by the aid community. Participatory planning methods can serve to create a closer dialogue between affected populations and outsiders, but the two perspectives on LRRD will never be entirely congruent. It is therefore important to evaluate how the efforts of affected populations, as elicited in the interviews of the two country studies and other research, are supported or hindered by the initiatives of the aid community.

The analytical approach used in the report can thus be summarised as looking at LRRD from two axes; one axis between humanitarian action and development efforts and another between the efforts of affected populations and the efforts of the aid community. This approach is illustrated in Figure 1.1.

The synthesis has been primarily based on findings from the four preceding TEC LRRD reports. Unless otherwise stated, references to interviews and respondents refer to the qualitative and quantitative data from these reports and also the interviews undertaken in the course of the synthesis evaluator’s own mission in Sri Lanka. It has also included many findings from other studies and evaluations

**Figure 1.1 LRRD analytical framework**

that have looked at aspects of LRRD in Sri Lanka and Aceh. The breadth of the topic of LRRD has required analysis of these other sources to complement the data and analysis of the four TEC LRRD studies. This synthesis has triangulated data from the TEC LRRD reviews with these other sources and drawn conclusions that expand considerably upon the data collected as part of the TEC LRRD studies. The ultimate analysis and conclusions in this report thus reflect the author's own judgements and do not necessarily reflect the findings of the four preceding TEC LRRD studies.

### 1.3.1 Limitations and constraints

The approaches used in the three empirical TEC LRRD reviews varied, and indeed the very meaning of LRRD differs between Aceh and Sri Lanka given the differences in development, conflict and sociocultural factors in the two countries. This has meant that much of the data collected are not fully comparable. Although this synthesis identifies clear overall trends in LRRD across the two countries, this non-comparability has meant that the synthesis has avoided specific quantitative comparisons between the two cases. In addition, the relevance of aid for LRRD to affected populations is a largely qualitative issue. It would therefore be misleading to apply quantitative measures to most of the issues analysed in this report.

When this evaluation was being conducted, many agencies were in the process of revising their estimates of needs and losses and revising their programmes. This has meant that even these secondary quantitative data were neither clear nor commensurate. Further and more definitive data will be reviewed in the next phase of analysis.

No attempt has been made to draw conclusions beyond Sri Lanka and Aceh. Although many of the issues raised in this evaluation are certainly of relevance to other tsunami-affected countries, the nature of LRRD has been strongly affected by the political and economic context of these two countries and therefore generalisation should be treated with caution.

Many of the findings in this report are indicative rather than conclusive. This is for two reasons. First, the assessment of LRRD processes requires longitudinal data, which are not yet available. Second, the agencies involved in the tsunami response beyond the emergency phase are in the process of learning. Many of the deficiencies noted in this evaluation may be addressed as organisations find new solutions and as staff members with more development experience take on greater responsibilities.

### **1.3.2 Policy study**

The LRRD Policy Study was prepared by the International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC). Efforts focused on interviewing staff involved in formulating or implementing policies in relation to LRRD. Semi-structured interviews were conducted using three lists of questions for donors, operational agencies and governmental departments. An introduction to LRRD was shared with the team's respondents in advance in order to stimulate their reflection and to focus subsequent interviews on issues of strategic interest.

An inception report was prepared in early October 2005 and shared with Sida, the other two field teams and the senior adviser. The research was carried out during the following five weeks. The headquarters sample included nine multilateral agencies, four bilateral donors, ten international NGOs, three government agencies, six national NGOs and two Sri Lankan research organisations. In Sri Lanka and Indonesia the teams faced the constraint of 'mission-fatigue', as three other TEC missions had contacted some of the same offices, and asked to see the same people, in the previous three weeks. There were also difficulties in identifying who to interview. LRRD is a broad concept and some felt discomfort in discussing both official agency positions and also their individual views and experiences. The research team was able to collect relatively more information from agencies in the United Kingdom, Canada and Sweden, with whom it was possible to arrange direct meetings. It proved far more difficult to collect the same quality of data from telephone interviews.

Finally, there was a bias in the sample in that it did not include the perspectives of the many hundreds of smaller agencies, both international and local, which offered humanitarian assistance to survivors in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami.

### **1.3.3 Indonesia**

The Indonesia Country Study consisted of a qualitative review followed by a quantitative survey. The primary emphasis was on understanding the perspectives of the affected populations in Aceh. People interviewed included heads of household (male and female), recipients and non-recipients of humanitarian aid, village heads (keuchik), district heads (bupatis), traders in markets, owners of small stores and roadside kiosks, representatives of two large international industries (Lafarge and Exxon Mobil) and other members of the general population. Some people were interviewed individually and others in groups. The team also interviewed people in several conflict-affected communities in order to gain a

comparative perspective, although government restrictions precluded visits to inland areas. Meetings were also held with national and international bodies, UN agencies and NGOs in the districts, in Banda Aceh and in Jakarta.

The quantitative survey was conducted in the tsunami-affected areas using a structured questionnaire based on the questions in the terms of reference (Annex 1 below). The questionnaire was designed when the qualitative research was well advanced, and reflects the issues emerging at the time. The total number of respondents was 1,227.

### **1.3.4 Sri Lanka**

The Sri Lanka evaluation team interviewed tsunami-affected people living in three heavily affected districts: Ampara (on the east coast with an ethnically mixed population), Galle (on the southwestern coast with a mainly Sinhalese population) and Jaffna (in the north with a mainly Tamil population). People interviewed were: from all three ethnic groups, including those highly affected and those slightly affected; old, middle-aged and young (children were not interviewed, but their situation was discussed with parents, grandparents and teachers); those who were well-off, middle-class and destitute; those affected by conflict; males and females; people residing in various kinds of shelter; and people with multiple backgrounds in terms of how they earned their livelihoods. Minority groups, such as Muslims in the south, and Christians in the north, were also interviewed.

Findings from the interviews were triangulated with responses from local authorities and with mainly local representatives of NGOs and other agencies. Some follow-up visits and telephone interviews were made.

The evaluation also made use of a quantitative survey conducted in nine districts<sup>6</sup> and with 915 respondents. The results of the survey provided a means to assess some of the findings derived from the qualitative interviews. The quantitative survey focused on the following issues:

- impact of the tsunami
- livelihoods, shelter and use of natural resources
- to whom people turned to address their needs
- what people received, and the degree of consultation in design of relief interventions
- people's perceptions, particularly regarding the equity of distributions and on the impact, if any, of the events on the conflict.

<sup>6</sup> The nine districts covered were: Puttalam, Hambantota, Kalutara, Colombo, Gampaha, Galle, Ampara, Matara and Jaffna.