

Executive summary

Linking emergency relief, rehabilitation and development is one of the most complex challenges confronting the international community in most of its commitment to bring about sustainable peace as well as equitable and viable development in war torn societies and countries. Afghanistan is since 2001 one of the striking situation where all international efforts are put into question. Linking relief, rehabilitation and development in Afghanistan implies both an appropriate strategy based in a refined analysis of the situation and a capacity to draw lessons, improve practices and avoid duplicating the same mistakes made in other similar contexts. A thorough lesson learning effort is also necessary to ensure that the mistakes made in Afghanistan would not be repeated in the next contexts where a complex international operation will try to help sustaining a fragile peace and to get out of a crisis and to heal the scars of a conflict

Dealing with the “contiguuum” in a diversified environment

Reducing vulnerability, responding to food insecurity and supporting the Afghan population as a whole with a view to strengthening livelihoods should be at the core of the agenda for the coming years. Strategies and approaches should be fine-tuned or even redesigned for the more vulnerable areas and vulnerable groups of people. In order to ensure a sustainable and inclusive development, stakeholders taking part to the reconstruction process must base **programme design on a comprehensive understanding of specific local characteristics and constraints**.

Towards a shared and inclusive recovery process

The worsening situation in the south of the country calls into question the **relevance of the chosen strategies up to now**. How should aid operations be run today? Does the remote control strategy put in place by many stakeholders ensure quality service delivery? Is the militarised option (PRTs) the only alternative? **Development efforts and long-term strategies should be more fairly balanced across the country** and not skewed towards areas with high productive potentials, significant poppy production or insecurity problems.

Dealing with vulnerability and risks within a recovery and developmental process

An emergency preparedness plan should be included in the overall development framework, otherwise there is a risk that emergency situations will be treated on a case-by-case basis and this may hamper development strategies. Preventive measures should be taken to reduce risks and vulnerabilities (better management of water resources for flood control or drought mitigation etc...). Developing a dual capacity to work in crisis situations and support development efforts is the key for the future of Afghanistan's aid sector. It should be based on clear understanding of mandates and roles, and anchored in humanitarian principles.

Building partnerships for development and emergency response

Just as nobody can seriously challenge the legitimacy of the Afghan authorities in taking the prominent role, there remains a need for a multiple and diversified aid community, with different approaches and operating modalities. To foster a more effective development, which encompasses the need to preserve an emergency humanitarian response capacity, there is a **need for partnership** among the different stakeholders. Government, donors, UN agencies, NGOs, private sector and communities are all key stakeholders in the transition between relief and development.

Public sector, private sector and civil society: from antagonism to synergies:

While the development of the Afghan private sector is of great importance, care should be taken to ensure that remote and less competitive areas are not overlooked. Each actor has their own role and responsibilities, scope of activities and comparative advantage. In the Afghan LRRD period, huge amount of funds available for the reconstruction and overall need for aid and development led to a non-separation, overlapping and also undermining of roles and duties of the stakeholders. With the overlapping of agendas (rebuilding the state, addressing vulnerability, democracy and peace building, development of the private sector), the key is ensuring that actors are not pitted against each other but that their different mandates and scope of activities are clearly defined and understood and that the different levels and type of activities are well coordinated.

Structure of the present document:

This report contains 5 papers on the main findings in the following sector: urban, water/irrigation, agriculture, nutrition, health and education. The last part of the report is dedicated to a multi-sector paper with the main issues at stake.