

Lessons Learned Consolidating Strategies and Goals to Outline a New Implementation Model: Harvesting Insights From the Experiences of Honduras, Turkey, Jamaica, and India

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Accomplishments of a Community and Women Centered Approach are Substantial

- Capacities Grow
- Levels of Organization Grow
- Housing, Infrastructure, and Local Decision-Making Includes the Priorities of Women and the Poor
- New Relationships/Dialogues Emerge and Continue
- Increases the Efficiency of Recovery Investment and Expands Social Capital
- Greater Public and Familial Acceptance of Women's Participation
- Creates a Community Culture of Participation
- Women's Groups Can Engage in Long Term Development and Poverty Reduction Initiatives
- Community Resilience Is Strengthened and Vulnerabilities Lessen

Implementation Choices are Framed by Challenges and Opportunities

- Recovery Programs are Partial and Incomplete and Affected Communities (Especially Women) Must Create Survival Strategies to **Bridge the Gap** and Maintain Their Families.
- Disaster Response can Empower and Support the **Priorities and Initiatives of Women** (and Underwrite Longer-Term Social Change and Development).

3 New Operating Principles for Recovery and Practices are Required

1. A Human Settlements Approach is Crucial To Including Affected Communities, Organized Groups of Women, and Addressing Housing, Infrastructure, Livelihoods and Secure Tenure.
2. Community Expertise, Priorities, and Implementation Capacity Must be Given Equal Value and Resources Must Be Allocated for Community Planning, Programming, and Management.
3. Recovery and Risk Reduction Require a Long-Term Development Response and Sustained Investments in Community Based, Women-Led Development Programs.

Some of the Immediate Strategies That Can be Applied:

- Create Public Spaces that Women's Groups Control and Operate
- Resource and Support Grassroots Women's Groups to Self-Organize Around Basic Needs
- Engage Community Women in Housing Repair, Reconstruction, Applying Safety Standards, and in the Technical Training of Communities
- Create Government Protocols to Recognize and Sustain Women's Involvement
- Restructure Roles of Communities, Governments, Technical Experts, and Funders to Foster Participation, Collaborative Decision-Making, and Equitable Resource Flows

■ *How Can You Apply These Ways of Fostering Community and Women's Involvement to Your Work?*

■ *What Opportunities and Challenges Do You Face in Implementing Them?*