

## In this Presentation

# The IASC and Clusters – the Pakistan Earthquake Experience.

1. THE IASC
2. The Clusters
3. How it all worked in Pakistan.

## IASC

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance. It is a unique forum involving the key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners.

The IASC was established in June 1992 in response to United Nations General Assembly Resolution [46/182](#) on the strengthening of humanitarian assistance.

It is made up of:

- UN Agencies
- The Red Cross/Crescent Movement
- Major international NGOs.

## The History of the 'Clusters'

- The IASC initiated a review of Humanitarian Assistance after fragmented delivery in past emergencies.
- The review made several recommendations for reform including the division of response into 'clusters' with clear leadership for each.

The problem:

- The recommendations made in August 2005 for approval in December 2005....

BUT

- In between time the October 2005 earthquake hit.

## **UN Country Team Experience in Pakistan Flash Appeal and Cluster System**

**Ten clusters were formed under prioritized themes immediately after the arrival of UNDAC:**

Cluster Coordinator

OCHA

### **Cluster**

Nutrition

Water /Sanitation

Health

Emergency Shelter

IT/Communication

Logistics

Camp Management

Protection

Education

Early Recovery

### **Chaired by:**

WFP

UNICEF

WHO

IOM

WFP

WFP

UNHCR

UNICEF

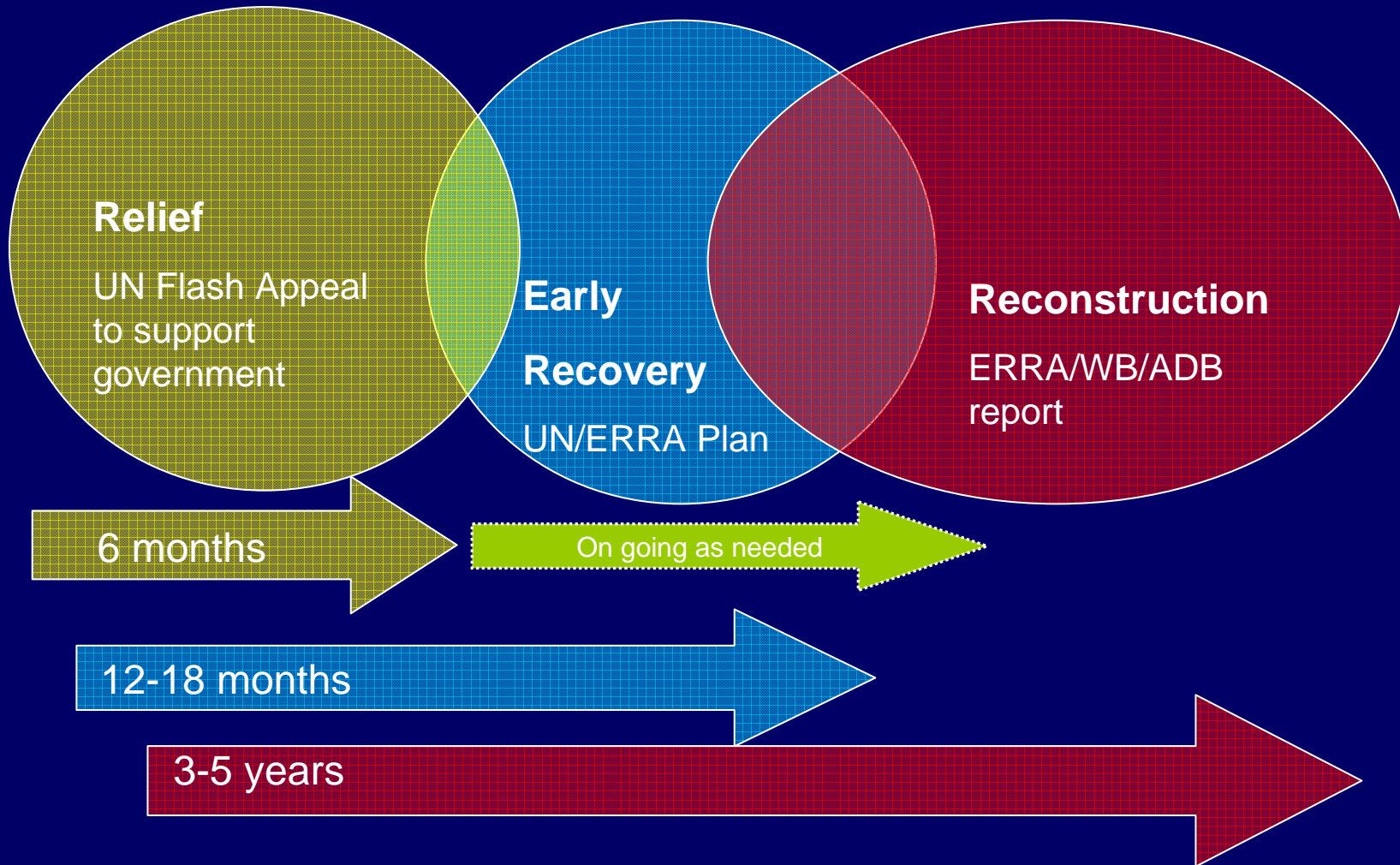
UNICEF

UNDP

**Also led by Federal Relief Commission and co-chaired by government counterparts thus allowing key personal relationships to form.**

## Transition: From Relief to Development

### Concept: Relief, Early Recovery and Reconstruction



## Transition: From Relief to Development

### Transition of Focus, Institutions, Roles and Information Systems

Transition of Focus: From Saving Lives to Restoring Livelihoods

Transition of Institutions: From FRC to ERRA; New Clusters

Relief

UN Flash Appeal

Early

Recovery

Reconstruction

Transition of Roles: Stronger government lead in Clusters, etc.

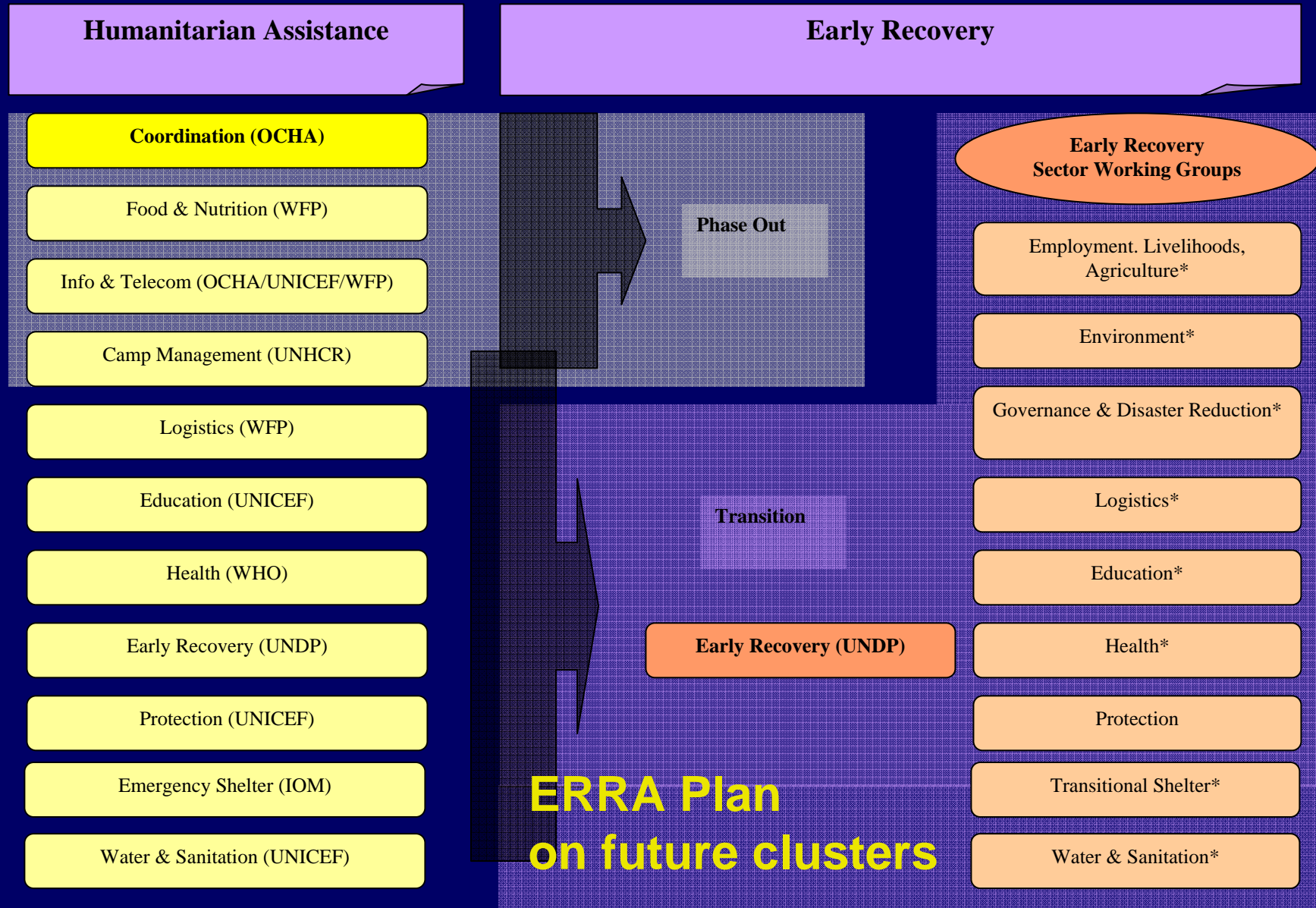
6 months

Transition of Information Systems: Moving toward DAD & M&E

3-5 years

# Transition: From Relief to Development

## What Transition: IASC Recommendation and ERRA Plan



## **UN Country Team Experience in Pakistan: Early Recovery Cluster and Early Recovery Plan**

### **Early Recovery**

- Do not lose momentum
- Augmenting ongoing humanitarian assistance
- Supporting spontaneous recovery efforts
- Preparing the ground for sustainable long-term reconstruction
- Reducing future disaster risks

### **Early Recovery Cluster**

- Inter-agency Standing Committee in Geneva
- Regular Early Recovery Cluster meetings in Islamabad
- Pilot Early Recovery Cluster meetings at field level

**Start planning for early recovery as soon as possible.**



## **UN Country Team Experience in Pakistan: Lessons Learnt: Coordination**

- **Government's leadership has been key: the cluster effectiveness improved significantly after the national counterparts took ownership**
- **The structures were replicated in the forward areas as well as Islamabad**
- **The Clusters became the effective interface between all the organisations and the Government - the one window.**
- **Regular communication between the Government, civil society and UN Agencies is crucial, but focused on decision making with clusters as the instrument**
- **Efficient information management at sectoral, cluster and macro level goes a long way to ensuring optimal resource planning**

## **UN Country Team Experience in Pakistan: Lessons Learnt: Coordination**

- **Key single focus bodies were created:**
  - **Air Operations Cell**
  - **JLC base in Air Base Chaklala**
  - **Strategic Leaders forum (non - interfering coordination)**
- **One can not in any meaningful way separate the strategy of the government and the strategy of the international support. The Clusters allowed the strategic response to be one.**

## **UN Country Team Experience in Pakistan: Lessons Learnt: Early Recovery as a Transition Strategy**

- **Focus on early recovery can be an effective strategy for transition from relief to development**
- **Addressing early recovery issues in the Flash Appeal allows early focus on early recovery**
- **As in relief, UN Agencies need to mobilize resources and capacities early on to be able to provide effective assistance for early recovery**

## **UN Country Team Experience in Pakistan: Lessons Learnt: Country Office Capacity**

- **Pooling of resources from within UN system and networking with other partners provides a good level of capacity in a reasonably rapid time frame**
- **Agencies need to have the capacity to turn the initial surge capacity into sustained human resource capacity for the country offices**
- **UN Agencies are challenged to have adequate stand-by capacities for emergency response, both financially and in human resource terms**

**The case of Pakistan demonstrates UN reform in action at the field level. The role of Pakistan as a 'Pilot' for the One UN Reforms can integrate learning from the cluster system into ongoing improvements at the Global level.**