

What do we mean by recovery (and how can we measure it)?

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How does the shelter assistance provided affect the short-term recovery and long-term resilience of communities affected by disasters?

(see presentation at SM12b)

Recovery definitions

(Humanitarian) Early recovery...

“begins early in a humanitarian setting. It is a multi-dimensional process, guided by development principles. It aims to generate self-sustaining nationally owned and resilient processes for post-crisis recovery. Early recovery encompasses the restoration of basic services, livelihoods, shelter, governance, security and the rule of law, environment and social dimensions, including the reintegration of displaced populations. It stabilizes human security and addresses underlying risks that contributed to the crisis.”

Early recovery definition of recovery:
<http://er.humanitarianresponse.info>

(Academic):

“no consensus definition exists on what ‘recovery’ means, how it should be measured, or what constitutes ‘successful’ recovery”

(Olshansky and Chang, 2009)

Recovery ≠ Reconstruction

Recovery “concerns the rebuilding of people’s lives and livelihoods more than the rebuilding of buildings and infrastructure”

(Chang, 2010)

“Reconstruction and the social recovery of affected populations are of course linked... In effect, physical reconstruction and social recovery processes must be mutually reinforcing”

(Tierney and Oliver-Smith, 2012)

Recovery ≠ a phase

Recovery is “processes through which those affected by disasters achieve desired levels of social well-being, quality of life, sense of place and belonging, and civic engagement”

(Tierney & Oliver-Smith, 2012)

Thus recovery is a **process** which leads to an **outcome**...

Recovery (as a process) is...

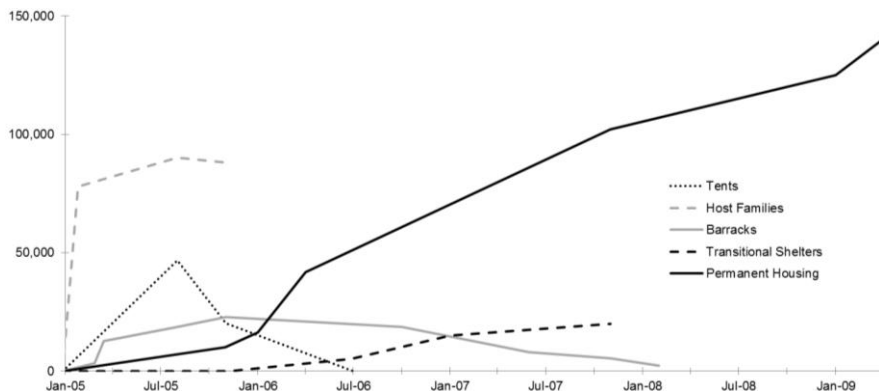
“uncertain [and] conflict-laden... [it is] strongly influenced by decision making, and conditioned on institutional capacities”
(Chang, 2010)

“non-linear and often iterative... For example, recovery can be interrupted or stalled for periods of time, as is now happening in Haiti”
(Tierney and Oliver-Smith, 2012)

Dependent on the social, political, economic and environmental context.

“recovery is just real life, in all its complexities, on fast forward”
(Olshansky, Hopkins and Johnson, 2012)

Mapping decisions against physical recovery over time (Maynard, 2013)



- Jan 2005 The government announce that 100,000 displaced people will be housed in ‘barracks’
- Jan 2005 Gol announce that the reconstruction of Aceh will be a ‘people-centred and participative process’
- Jan 2005 Around 260,000 people decided to live with friends or relatives – ‘host families’
- June 2005 BRR announced that each affected household would be eligible for a house of 36m²
- Aug 2005 The Reconstruction of Land Administration System (RALAS) is established
- Sept 2005 Transitional Shelter Plan of Action launched to provide transitional shelter for people living in tents
- June 2006 BRR regulation No. 21/2006: Renters and squatters to receive cash assistance rather than housing
- Sept 2006 BRR announced a joint land titling policy enabling women to have the same rights as men to own land
- Feb 2007 BRR regulation No. 5/2007: pre-tsunami renters and squatters will be given land by BRR (between 60-100m²). If BRR builds the houses they will be 21m². If an NGO builds the houses they will be 36m²

Recovery goals & the “new normal”

“Is it enough to bring back the past, or is something new or different necessary?”

(Quarantelli, 1999)

“Does recovery mean:

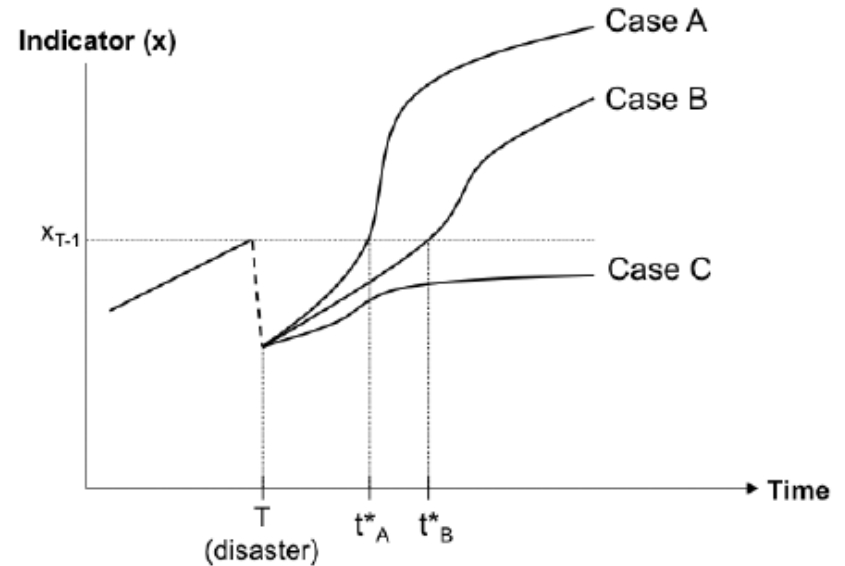
- a) returning to ‘pre-disaster’ conditions,
- b) attaining what would have occurred ‘without’ the disaster, or
- c) reaching a new stable state that may be different from either of these?”

(Chang, 2010)

Conceptualising recovery “as achieving a **“new normal”** is appropriate, both because major disasters inevitably result in changes of one kind or another within affected areas and because disasters themselves occur in the context of on-going social changes at various scales.”

(Tierney and Oliver-Smith, 2012)

Measuring return to pre-disaster conditions (Chang, 2010)



Recovery occurs at different scales

Recovery can be considered at different scales

- (individual, household, community, society)
or with regard to organisations, businesses or systems.

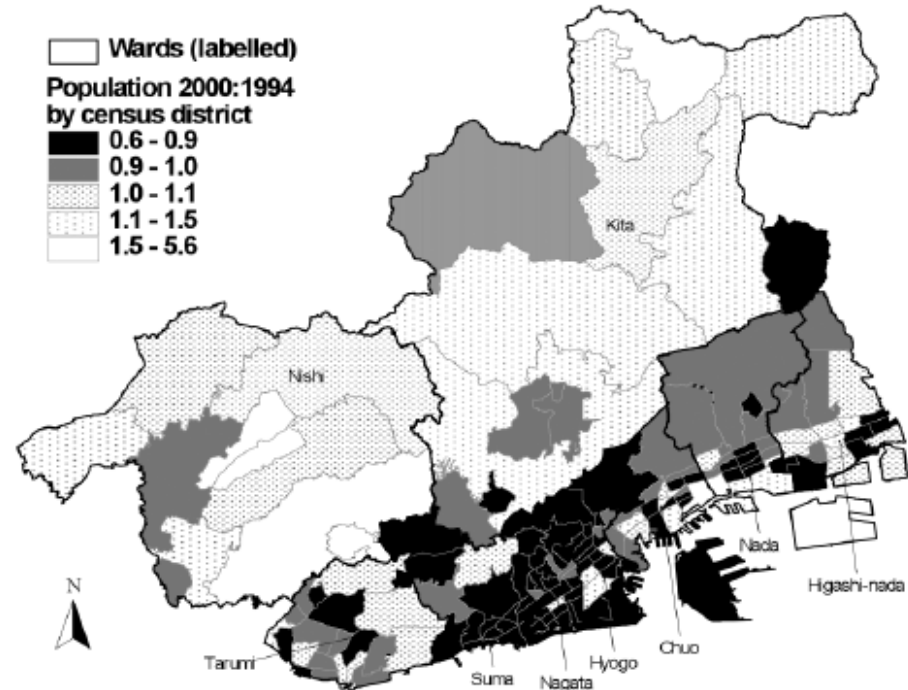
“the larger the social unit involved, the more likely there will be post impact recovery”

(Quarantelli, 1999)

“Recovery indicators seen as positive and optimistic at one level of analysis, such as the community, may appear very different when assessed at another analytic level, such as a displaced household or business.”

(Tierney and Oliver-Smith, 2012)

Population recovery by Kobe census district (Chang, 2010)



Recovery perspectives

“recovery is not just a matter of what actually occurs, but also prior experiences that affect perceptions of the process”

“Higher level will have relatively many experiences of disasters, while for most given communities, it is the experience of a lifetime”

(Quarantelli, 1999)

“victims’ judgments concerning the adequacy of post-disaster recovery can be expected to differ from those of both service providers and experts”

(Tierney and Oliver-Smith, 2012)

Whose reality counts? Everyone’s perspectives will vary over time...



How to measure recovery?

- Holistically
- Over time
- As a process and an outcome
- Using a variety of methods
- At a particular scale
- Taking into account:
 - the pre- and post-disaster social, political, physical, economic, environmental conditions
 - that it will actually occur differently for different groups
 - that the same thing will be perceived differently by different groups

[Watch this space]

And keep in touch:

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See you at Shelter Meeting 13b...