



FORUM: Second Committee to the General Assembly (ECOFIN)

QUESTION OF: Ensuring the livelihood of small farmers after natural catastrophes

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POSITION: Main-Chair

INTRODUCTION:

Earthquakes, landslides, flood, drought, fires, and hailstorms are some of the natural calamities that occur every year, at any point, and anywhere, causing threats to the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and their food security. Disasters can cause loss of human and animal life, field crops, stored seeds, agricultural equipment/materials, and their supply systems (e.g. infrastructure) as well as associated indigenous knowledge, thus disrupting not only the immediate growing season but also future seasons.

In rural areas, farmers strongly rely on natural resources and have no alternative source of income or employment, making them more vulnerable to a crisis. Women and children, those most responsible for on-farm labor in developing countries, are most affected by post-traumatic stress after a disaster. After disasters, intense media focus occurs on the cities where the images are most dramatic, whereas the needs and issues of rural farm families are often neglected. Apart from disasters that occur directly in rural areas, damage to cities also impacts rural families, as urban-to-rural migration causes food shortages and the consumption of planting materials as occurred after the Haitian earthquake in 2010. All these factors may lead to a long-term disaster in rural areas as witnessed in Haiti. Therefore, after a natural disaster, rural areas require emergency interventions to maintain livelihoods and food security, and a longer-term integrated recovery plan to minimize the possibility of a secondary disaster, as inexpensively as possible given limited local financial resources.



SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM:

Recent major natural disasters in developing countries: their impact, actions taken, challenges, and results

	Earthquake in Nepal (2015)	Earthquake in Haiti (2010)	Flooding in Pakistan (2010)
Victims injured	~ 9000 deaths; 21,000 injured	~ 220,000 deaths; 300,000 injured	~ 1700 deaths; 2000 injured
Affected areas	Mid-hill region of the country including Kathmandu, the capital city	Port-au-Prince, the capital city; Jacmel and other settlements in the region	Indus River basin in Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan regions of Pakistan
Impact	2.8 million people displaced, 8 million affected; 473,000 houses destroyed without a single home in a village left standing; terrace farm and cattle were wiped out by subsequent landslides; total economic impact of over USD 6.6 billion	1.5 million people initially displaced, 3.5 million were affected; 250,000 residences and 30,000 commercial buildings collapsed or were severely damaged	20 million people affected; extensive damage to infrastructure (USD 4 billion) and crops (2.2 million ha of crops and 450,000 livestock worth USD 500 million) with an estimated total loss of over USD 10 billion
Actions taken	UN and International humanitarian agencies requested USD 432 million in emergency funds of which over USD 100 million were received; aid/support extended through the Red Cross, I/NGOs, and disaster relief fund of the government	USD 13.34 billion aid allocated by international agencies for 2010–2020; USD 4 billion aid committed by US government of which >3 billion already disbursed	UN asked for USD 460 million for emergency relief; rescue efforts were led by Pakistani armed force while humanitarian aid was provided by Pakistani and foreign governments, NGOs and local charities

KEY TERMS:

-*International Agricultural Development Fund (IAFD)*: Not only the UN-Habitat but also the International Agricultural Development Fund (IAFD) supported all hurricane-affected farmers with \$11 million.

As their mission statement makes clear, they are “investing in the rural people”. This organ of the United Nations is the main sponsor for everything related small farmers, especially post-natural catastrophe.



-*UN Habitat*: To enable a better, more secure livelihood, the UN has created the UN Habitat for a better urban future. It is mandated through the Habitat Agenda to take the lead in disaster, mitigation, and post-crisis rehabilitation capabilities in human settlements. As one of their goals they have set reconstruction, which they showcase in their post-crisis relief aid.

An example of their reconstruction, they are actively contributing to the people of Haiti with their mission “Building Urban Resilience in Haiti”:

It has been three years since the Haiti earthquake of 12th January 2010, which killed over 220,000 people, injured 300,000, and left more than 1 million survivors homeless. UN-Habitat’s Sustainable Relief and Recovery Framework has been put into practice, advocating for recovery solutions from the start, with a development perspective in mind. The strategy prioritized safe returns to the affected neighborhoods rather than prolonging the existence of temporary camps. UN-Habitat also helped the government to come up with a clear Policy on Housing and Urban Development from the beginning in order to guide the reconstruction work.

EXPECTATIONS FOR POSITION PAPER:

You are expected to write a Position Paper that is a minimum of two pages long. The Position Paper should contain general information on the issue in relation to your country and specific policies your country introduced to act upon this issue.

Further questions you could also consider during your research:

-Which efforts have previously been made by your country on the issue?

-What further measures is your country prepared to ratify to promote reconstruction and financial aid to small farmers after natural catastrophes?

-To which extent is your country prepared to give sovereignty on certain aspects of the issue, to United Nations agencies?

USEFUL LINKS/SOURCES:

<https://www.ifad.org>

<https://unhabitat.org>