



OXFAM

America

Research Scope of Work

Case studies on effective early recovery for off radar communities in selected countries in Asia and the Pacific

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Research Project Manager: Janice Ian Manlutac, Asia Pacific Regional Program Manager

Researcher(s): Researcher consultants TBD

Client(s): Margaret A. Cargill Foundation. Internally, Humanitarian Response Department

Peer Review and Sign-off Editor: Peer Reviewers and Daniela Giardina

Key Words: Localization, Local humanitarian leadership, early recovery, DRR, capacity-building; Asia Pacific; case studies; good practice on DRR

Purpose

Oxfam seeks to identify elements of 5¹ local projects/interventions as case studies on humanitarian, disaster risk reduction (DRR), preparedness, and/or climate change adaptation (CCA) that facilitated faster and **effective early recovery among off the radar communities with chronic and/or recurrent natural hazards**. We want to look at **elements** that make these projects more likely to sustain, with special emphasis on gender and power, extract **measures of “success”** and identify the kind of resources and timeline needed for these projects to be implemented. These findings will in turn feed into an ongoing project called the *Strengthening Community Preparedness, Rapid Response and Recovery in Asia/Pacific Islands Program* more popularly known as Asia-Pacific Local Innovation for Transformation or short for AP-Lift Lift (meant to sound like UPLIFT) that Oxfam US is implementing.

Background to the Research

Oxfam has been working on issues of disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation (CCA), and resilience for several years and across the world. Oxfam America received a three-year grant from the Margaret A. Cargill (MAC) Philanthropies for the AP-Lift project to support the enhancement of capacities of local communities affected by recurrent natural hazards to be better equipped to co-lead on relief and recovery efforts in collaboration with authorities and protect their assets.

The Program², runs from October 2017 to September 2020 and is implemented by Oxfam and partners **in the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu**. This project contributes to testing Oxfam’s theory that a locally-led or managed response and preparedness is more effective, more accountable, and saves more lives.

For the purpose of this research, off the radar communities are defined as communities that are far from the center of political power and geographically isolated or difficult to access; exposed to

¹ This is the minimum ideal number of projects we hope to investigate. However, depending on the scope of research and methodology agreed with researchers, this number can increase.

² This Program has a twin program in Central America covering El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua and there will be a cross learning mechanism between the two regions.

recurrent natural hazards and have little or no media attention which in turns leads to less international agencies aid funding and government and support in instance of disaster.

In the last five years, the emergence of local humanitarian leadership is changing the way humanitarian responses are being carried out. Through commitments in the Grand Bargain in the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, more and more international groups are directing resources - sometimes voluntarily and sometimes spurred by government regulations- to local organizations on the ground either through long standing partnerships or new agreements. For this research, it is important to be on the lookout for this emerging trend on localization as a backdrop for the case studies.

Audience of the Research

There are several audiences for the research:

- a) Community stakeholders where the case studies will be harvested;
- b) The Margaret A. Cargill Foundation;
- c) The implementing partners in AP-LIFT project, into which the research findings should feed;
- d) Oxfam staff designing resilience, DRR, and preparedness projects; and
- e) The broader humanitarian response community especially those within the Asia-Pacific, including donors and practitioners.

Description of Research Topic

1. Thesis statement

Sustained capacity³ enhancement of local humanitarian actors on disaster risk reduction, mitigation and adaptation help reduce the suffering caused by **low-attention natural disasters** and help **off the radar communities** plan effective early recovery. By enhancing local capacity and reducing vulnerabilities and investing in resources for such, communities are adequately prepared to anticipate, respond to and recover faster and more effectively, from the impact of natural hazards.

Locally led response in the long run is cost efficient, effective and sustainable. The research will specifically focus on the recovery time that communities take to get back to their pre-disaster conditions (or better compared to others with no project interventions) and what were the enabling factors that made them do so. The research will also look on the role of girls and women, boys and men and LGBTQ in their access/lack of power and leadership during humanitarian response and recovery.

2. Relevance

The AP-Lift project provides a unique opportunity to conduct research that runs parallel to the project implementation and retrospectively, from the perspective of completed projects conducted by Oxfam and/or other agencies in similar contexts, using an analytical framework to inform the current program and other programs with similar purpose.

The research will be opportunity to analyze how early recovery constitutes an entry point to shift power dynamics or power structures on DRR and CCA efforts. These shifts could bring opportunities for specific groups and hinder access to resources and rights for others, especially for women and sexual/gender minorities. An important aspect to be included is to understand how incidence of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) change during this stage.

3. Existing knowledge base

³ There was transfer of power, institutional capacity, funding so that when projects end, communities will be able to deliver on the same level the interventions and even scale them up.

AP-LIFT project builds on the Central America -Melanesia (CA-MEL) Program where Oxfam conducted 3 case studies of completed resilience, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation projects in Bolivia, Colombia, and Fiji. A synthesis report was presented and will be shared with the researchers. Overall, the literature from CA-MEL was more focused on a broader “resilience” outcome based on the Oxfam Resilient Development Framework. Building on the knowledge generated from these, critical gaps in our understanding of the communities’ capacities and vulnerabilities were identified that could be answered through this new research, can be translated into practical actions to enhance early recovery.

The Asia Resilience Hub, which is a knowledge management hub and a community of practice of resilience, DRR, humanitarian and CCA practitioners have also done mapping of ongoing resilience, DRR and CCA programs in the region and should be included in the knowledge base. The Harvard Humanitarian Initiative has ongoing multi-country research on characteristics of resilient communities in Asia Pacific and could also be a potential source of useful literature.

This research will be guided by Oxfam’ disaster risk reduction and management framework that defines **early recovery** as actions that happen post disasters from 0-12 months within a community (a group of households comprising the lowest administrative political unit in a country) as a unit of measure.



Figure 1: Oxfam DRM Framework Source: OI DRR Global strategy

We will provide the consultant with our reference frameworks that were considered during AP-Lift design and other relevant documents that will help to better define the set of questions to be used for the literature review, the interviews and the field work.

Research Outline

1. Research Objectives

To identify 5 completed humanitarian, DRR, preparedness projects that are thought to have facilitated **early recovery** to natural hazards for **off the radar communities in Asia Pacific**. The main objective of the research is to **identify the elements** that made the chosen case studies, successful and transfer these findings to the AP-Lift Project. We seek to understand the **process of funding allocation** as well as identifying whether Women’s Rights Organizations (WROs) were part of this or absent, and why. Moreover, through this research we would like to find out **how much time** and

what were the **approaches** that provided space for local leaders to emerge and led to successful humanitarian responses and in turn to effective early recovery of these off the radar communities.

2. *Research Questions*

The overarching research questions are:

- a) What **elements** of these projects help off the radar communities do early recovery effectively to natural hazards? ⁴
- b) In these completed projects, how much resources (time, money and people) were invested to see significant change and success in the early recovery actions? Who received the allocated funds? (formal/informal actors).
- c) During a crisis what were the enabling policies that support local communities, men and women in emerge and making their recovery faster and effective?
- d) Were gender and power considered in the interventions? To what extent the responses were gender blind, gender aware or gender transformative? Were power dynamics challenged by the interventions and how did that impact change and the sustainability of interventions?

3. *Analytical framework & Research Lens*

The first phase of the research will be for the hired researcher to develop **an analytical framework**, to go to a deeper assessment of why communities recover faster or slower after a disaster event and what role men and women play in this recovery process. The development of this framework will be guided by three lenses: Gender Justice, rights based and localization by which to assess the capacities and vulnerabilities of the communities, which are described below.

Rights-based lens: Oxfam adopts a rights-based approach that understands “poverty” not simply in terms of absolute wealth, but in terms of human dignity, opportunity, and empowerment. Oxfam is therefore concerned with the responsibilities of various actors in enabling, protecting and exercising rights which include political, economic, social, and cultural rights.

Gender justice lens: We need to understand both the existing capacities of women and men as well as their specific vulnerabilities. The separate section on gender analysis will explore, among others, power dynamics, the involvement of girls and women, boys and men, and sexual minorities in the capacity strengthening training, the role of women’s organizations and women’s leadership, and the differential impacts of natural hazards.

Localization: In the ongoing Central Sulawesi tsunami relief in Indonesia, “Indonesian government restrictions on foreign aid workers in disaster-hit Sulawesi are forcing some humanitarian groups to rethink their response plans – and spurring a larger debate about how the aid sector prepares for crises around the world”, an IRIN⁵ report published in October 2018 said. We want to look at these case studies with a localization lens.

This framework would include:

1. criteria for analysis of how communities will be selected and compared (within and across geographies),
2. how “what counts” for successful early recovery will be identified (including ascertaining project’s contribution), and how a causal or correlative relationship will be established.

⁴ Speed of recovery from disasters disaster will be culled out from baselines and will be agreed by Oxfam and research team in consultation with other humanitarian response actors.

⁵ <https://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2018/10/16/why-indonesia-s-rules-foreign-tsunami-relief-are-rattling-aid-sector>

3. identification of good practices through selecting a set of indicators and assigning values to them to reach an early recovery index. These indicators will then be a basis for comparative analysis between communities with effective interventions with those that did not have any.

4. Gender Analysis

Oxfam will use this research to explore whether the conditions during early recovery enable gender justice. We would look at what hinder women's rights and leadership and to understand better the characteristics of that leadership. Similarly, we would look at the types of leadership that men exercise during disaster and early recovery context. Throughout the research, we will pay special attention to shifts on power dynamics and power relations that are part of the enabling conditions for "success".

We would inquire to what extent the responses that were labeled successful were gender blind, gender aware or gender transformative and what could have been done differently. Gender justice and women empowerment perspective will be a key area of inquiry. We would look at how building agency of women, empowering women economically and organizing them as a force of influence during early recovery (noting that there are many cash grants and EFSVL interventions targeting women) have an impact on early recovery and even beyond, if any. Role of women rights organizations beyond their usual Violence Against Women (VAW) works could also be seen in this regard.

Research Design

1. Research Sites

We will use the literature review and scoping interviews to identify potential case studies, and those will include grey literature. Once we have gathered more information about the projects through existing documentation (e.g., preliminary surveys, call for case studies external evaluations, internal evaluations, final reports to funders), we will select the case studies projects based on the following initial criteria:

- a. Projects that were carried out within Asia Pacific (potential countries include Philippines, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Bangladesh and Indonesia/Vietnam);
- b. Projects framed as humanitarian, DRR, or CCA and had specifically contributed to early recovery. These projects would have been completed, ideally in the last 5 years;
- c. Projects that supported off the radar communities that suffered from disasters and have had done interventions on early recovery.
- d. Had been documented (including grey literature) and there is actual evidence to compare "before" and "after" status of communities as far as early recovery is concerned, and the interventions are still live and active or have evolved; and,
- e. There were local actors actively involved in the delivery of the project.

More criteria can be added as we co develop the methodology with the research consultant.

2. Research Methods

Literature Review The literature review will be conducted and will be aimed at defining the methodology for data collection and analysis; by:

1. identifying a short-listing of the case studies to be further analyzed based on the criteria;
2. define the analytical framework the indicators and the factors that will be investigated as contributing to early recovery and how a causal or correlative relationship will be established;
3. and help to frame the questions for focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews.

Case study approach. Case studies will be conducted simultaneously by local researchers ⁶and managed by a regional international team leader (preferably based in the Asia Pacific region), who will conduct preliminary desk research on each geographic entity, identify relevant stakeholders, make logistical arrangements, and carry out the field research. Detailed methodology to analyze the case studies and extract the key factors, including the number of anticipated observations in each case and the limits of the research, will be developed with the researchers (it can include focus group discussions, semi-structured interviews and/or surveys). Data gathered within this project will be disaggregated by sex, age and analyzed accordingly. The specifics of the method for gender analysis will be worked out with the researchers

The methodology to compare case studies should include:

1. Whether consistent forms of capacity strengthening were conducted;
2. Identification of outliers;
3. Key informant interview questions/ focus group discussion;
4. Outline of case studies;
5. A gantt chart timeline indicating where activities might overlap, the dependencies between and among them.

3. Data Collection Activities

Special emphasis will be given to look at the involvement of women in the capacity strengthening training, the role of women’s organizations and women’s leadership, in humanitarian responses and this should be factored into the data collection activities. Research methods may include women-only FGDs, use female researchers and/or interpreters when interviewing women, etc.

To be true to local humanitarian leadership, data collection must be locally sensitive and should not have any language barriers hence translation of questionnaire into local dialects if needed or through local researchers.

	Description
	Literature review (draft complete) that contains Analytical framework, methodology and indicators
	Semi-structured interviews with multiple stakeholders (in the countries identified)
	Focus groups Discussions and/or other primary data collection methods

Products and Timeframe

	Outputs/Milestones	Duration	Date
	Research methodology finalized	2 weeks	
	Review of Related Literature submitted	4 weeks	
	Field data collection (FGDs, semi-structured interviews etc.)	2 weeks	
	Draft case study report submitted by researchers	2 weeks	
	Research report reviewed and signed off	2 weeks	

⁶ This is a suggested approach but can be changed based on what would be more effective after discussion with researchers.

	Publication of report	2 weeks	
	Dissemination & Promotion	2 weeks	

Deliverables

- Literature review
- Research report with indicative outline to be agreed with Oxfam
- A simple-easy to understand research 10-page report accompanied by a powerpoint that will be presented to communities who participated in the case studies as part of the “report back”. Similarly, a powerpoint will also be used for webinars with Oxfam staff for wider research dissemination, uptake of research results and recommendations.

Ethical Concerns and Risks

The project will abide by Oxfam’s Responsible Program Data Policy, which includes human subjects protection. The policy will be shared with the researchers. Potential risks we anticipate include:

- To counter research fatigue and being extractive to communities where case studies will be collected, we will ensure that results will be shared with them in a friendly and understandable format.
- Since the project will be reviewing interventions that had a timeline of 5 years or more, there might be a recall bias. We will manage this risk with triangulation of data, use of grey literature and more story telling methodologies to surface memories of respondents.
- Excluding undocumented written off radar communities’ good practice- we recognise that some good practices are not written but passed on orally or through other methods. We will ensure to be more vigilant and enable space for such good practices to be part of our data gathering.
- In areas where Oxfam delivered intervention, respondents might have recipient bias, and this will be addressed by having independent researchers leading the process and Oxfam being clear that results are meant to improve our own practice.
- Managing expectations-our researchers will be upfront that there will be no programs/projects to be downloaded to communities guaranteed by the research
- Women not being able to speak out in normal settings—we will mitigate these risks by designing methodologies and approaches that allow women to participate—data gathering close to their home or where ever it is convenient for them, having female only interviews of FGDs and having female interviewers where possible

Contact Information

Janice Ian Manlutac
(+63) 9088828705
Janice.manlutac@oxfam.org

Application Process

Oxfam is looking for high qualified research consultants that will successfully conduct the research on “**Case studies on effective early recovery for off radar communities in selected countries in Asia and the Pacific**” with the following terms of reference (see link). Applications should be submitted no later than 15th January 2019 Interested applicants should send their application to Janice.manlutac@oxfam.org with cc to Daniela.giardina@oxfam.org. In their application consultants should present:

- Cover letter, CVs (including references) and work station;
- A proposed methodology and work plan in line with ToR’s Objectives and deliverables;
- Quotation for their services: i.e. daily fees plus any other foreseen cost and a separate budget for logistics – i.e. transport, accommodations, per diem etc. – as this will be covered through a separate fund / arrangement. This includes management of country level researchers;
- Copies of relevant previous work done. If beyond 5 MB, please send a link.

Timing & Schedule

The consultancy is expected to take place between February 2019 and April 2019 and will cover 3-5 countries in Asia Pacific.

The consultants should propose a tentative agenda and chronogram (gant chart) in line with the objectives and deliverables proposed in this ToR (see Application process). The lead international researcher (preferably based in Asia), should identify local national counterpart researchers from countries where case studies will be harvested although Oxfam’s country offices can provide support on this.

Management Arrangements:

The consultants should report to the Asia-Pacific Program Coordinator and the DRR Adviser from Oxfam Boston office for all preparation work and reporting;