Turning Disasters into Opportunities for Development



Disaster Reduction Unit

United Nations Development Programme
Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

UNDP Experience in post-disaster recovery

Response to major natural disasters:

• Hurricane Mitch and George, 1998; Venezuela landslides and floods 1999; Orissa cyclone 1999; Mozambique floods 2000; El Salvador, Gujarat and Peru earthquakes 2001; Goma volcanic eruption 2002; Sri Lanka floods and landslides 2002; Southern Africa food crisis 2002-2003; Cuba hurricanes 2001 – 2002; Bolivia landslides 2002; Argentina floods, 2003; Algeria and Bam, Iran earthquakes 2003; Hispaniola floods 2004; Bangladesh floods 2004



The Challenge

- Dominance of emergency assistance
- Gap between emergency and reconstruction
- Reconstruction as rebuilding risk
- Spontaneous rebuilding as coping strategy
- Ad-hoc legislative/ institutional frameworks
- Uncoordinated and fragmented actions



A New Approach to Recovery

- Building on Local and National Capacities
- Decentralised planning and programming
- Risk management and reduction
- Demonstration effect
- Enhanced co-ordination



Key Issues to be Addressed at the International Level

- Awareness
- Resources
- Partnerships
- Capacities
- Approaches and methodologies

