Concept Note

Learning Lab: Post Disaster Needs Assessments

Type of Event	☐ Plenary ☐ Thematic Session ☐ Working Session ☒ Learning Lab ☐ Other
Title of the Event	Post Disaster Needs Assessments
Relevant Conference Plenary	☐ Plenary 1: ☐ Plenary 2: ☒ Plenary 3 ☐ Cross-Cutting Issue
Background and Rationale	The frequency and intensity of climate hazards have led to a surge in disasters worldwide, with severe impacts on vulnerable populations and significant economic losses. Between 2000 and 2023, Africa alone faced 1,436 disasters, predominantly floods, storms, and droughts. While progress has been made in disaster recovery assessments and establishing disaster loss databases, many countries still struggle with the capacity to collect, analyze, and utilize data effectively. Gaps in collecting detailed and disaggregated data hinder informed decision-making and planning for disaster recovery, risk reduction, and climate change adaptation. Recent frameworks, including the Sendai Framework Midterm Review and climate loss and damage negotiations, stress the need to strengthen national capacities for assessing disaster losses and recovery needs. This session will focus on enhancing stakeholders' understanding and knowledge of how accurate disaster and climate impact data can reduce future losses, build back better (BBB) during the recovery process, protect future development gains, and promote risk-informed planning and recovery efforts. At the global level, in the past two decades, crisis recovery has become a specialized field, with tools evolving to aid the process. In 2008, the **UNDG, EU, and WB** signed a joint declaration committing to collaborate on post-crisis frameworks. The 3 organizations developed a Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (RPBA) and a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) procedural and technical guideline and the Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) guide, officially launched in 2015. These guides aim to harmonize government-led efforts in estimating recovery needs and implementing strategies after crisis. A comprehensive training package in multiple languages is available for the RPBA and the PDNA, including presentations, case studies, and role-plays. Also, online training for PDNA in four languages, offered by World Bank and the UN, is free and self-paced, enabling government officials and practitioners to learn and apply the methodology in the different sectors.
Session Objectives	The session aims to: • Raise stakeholders' awareness and understanding on the PDNA methodology as a tool to assess and generate disaster losses and damages data and identify recovery needs for specific sectors.

	• Provide rationale for undertaking a PDNA in a post disaster situation, including conducting detailed damage and loss assessments and clarify roles and responsibilities at each step of the PDNA process! • Provide a forum to discuss the assessment methodology (ies), tools and programmes that exist to strengthen capacities of national institutions in the field of recovery / loss and damage assessments. • Facilitate exchange between stakeholders on good practices in disaster and climate-induced losses and damages assessment and the implementation of recovery programmes and policies at national and sub-national levels.
Expected Outcomes	Participants will be able to: • Gain a better understanding of the PDNA methodology as a tool to assess and generate disaster losses and damages data and identify recovery needs.
Structure	Presentation and interactive dialogue
Moderator of the Session	TBC
List of Panellists	**Panellists:** • Rita Missal, Recovery Advisor, UNDP • TBC
Reference Documents	• UNDP Informational Paper on Post-Disaster Needs Assessments and Loss and Damage Databases for the third meeting of the Transitional Committee on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage • IRP (Website) – Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Guidance • Online Training option 1 • Online Training option 2
Public narrative [For the website]	The increasing frequency and intensity of climate hazards have resulted in a dramatic surge in disasters worldwide, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations and causing significant economic losses. From 2000 to 2023, Africa alone experienced 1,436 disasters, primarily floods, storms, and droughts. Despite advancements in disaster recovery assessments and the establishment of disaster loss databases, many countries continue to face challenges in effectively collecting, analyzing, and utilizing data. These gaps in detailed and disaggregated data collection hinder informed decision-making and planning for disaster recovery, risk reduction, and climate change adaptation. Recent frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework Midterm Review and climate loss and damage negotiations, have emphasized the critical need to strengthen national capacities for assessing disaster losses and recovery needs. In response to this need, our session will focus on enhancing stakeholders' understanding of how accurate disaster and climate impact assessments and data can be leveraged to reduce future losses, facilitate building back better (BBB) during the recovery process, protect future development gains, and promote risk-informed planning and recovery efforts.

	Over the past two decades, crisis recovery has evolved into a specialized field, with the development of tools designed to aid in this process. In 2008, the UNDG, EU, and World Bank signed a joint declaration to collaborate on post-crisis frameworks. This collaboration resulted in the creation of the Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (RPBA) and the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) procedural and technical guidelines, as well as the Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) guide, officially launched in 2015. These guides are designed to harmonize government-led efforts in estimating recovery needs and implementing strategies after a crisis. To support these efforts, a comprehensive training package for PDNA is available in multiple languages. During this learning lab, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the PDNA methodology as a tool for assessing and generating disaster loss and damage data, and for identifying recovery needs in specific sectors. Participants will also be able to discuss assessment methodologies, tools, and programs that exist to strengthen the capacities of national institutions in the field of recovery and loss and damage assessments and exchange good practices in disaster and climate-induced loss and damage assessment, as well as the implementation of recovery programs and policies at national and sub-national levels.