

Post-Crisis Displacement: Environmental Recovery as a Strategy for Enhancing Protection and Facilitating Durable Solutions

The Wilson Center - June 25, 2014



Conflicts, Natural Disasters and Human Displacement

- ***Conflict, persecution & disasters (natural & man-made) result in significant population displacement***
 - 16.4 million refugees
 - 33.3 million internally displaced by armed conflict, generalized violence, and human rights abuses
 - 32.4 million internally displaced by sudden-onset natural hazards (primarily weather-related)

- ***New trends in displacement: camp settings no longer the norm***
 - Most refugees and IDPs live outside of traditional refugee camps
 - Most refugees and IDPs live in urban areas

- ***Non-camp, urban character of displacement today requires new approaches to environmental recovery***

Conflicts, Natural Disasters and Human Displacement

- ***Environmental destruction resulting from conflicts and disasters creates protection risks and undermines the ability of displaced people to recover***
- ☐ Refugees and IDPs often lack sufficient access to essential environmental services that support their immediate means of survival, health and wellbeing (e.g., food, clean water, fuel for cooking, and sanitation).
- ☐ Lack of access to natural resources can impede the ability of displaced people to earn a livelihood, recover, and become self-sufficient following a crisis.
- ☐ Also affects their decisions regarding return and resettlement.
- ***In post-crisis settings, important to consider not only how degraded environments create unique protection risks for displaced populations, but also how environmental recovery can contribute to durable solutions to displacement.***

Environmental Damage & Unique Protection Risks to Displaced People

- *Risk of gender-based violence (GBV)*
- *Loss of natural resource-dependent livelihoods*
- *Risk of tension or conflict among displaced populations or with communities hosting them*
- *Risk of recurrent displacement for those living in degraded and hazard-prone areas*

Environmental Recovery as a Strategy for Enhancing Protection and Achieving Durable Solutions for Displaced Populations

Environmental Conditions in and around Displacement Camps

- UNHCR's Global Strategy for Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) – 2014-2018
 - ❑ Enables refugees to meet energy needs in a safe and sustainable way
 - ❑ Includes provision of lighting, expanded use of renewable energy, and reforestation projects for fuel provision and environmental protection

Integrating Environmental Restoration into Early Recovery, Livelihoods and Disaster Risk Reduction Programming

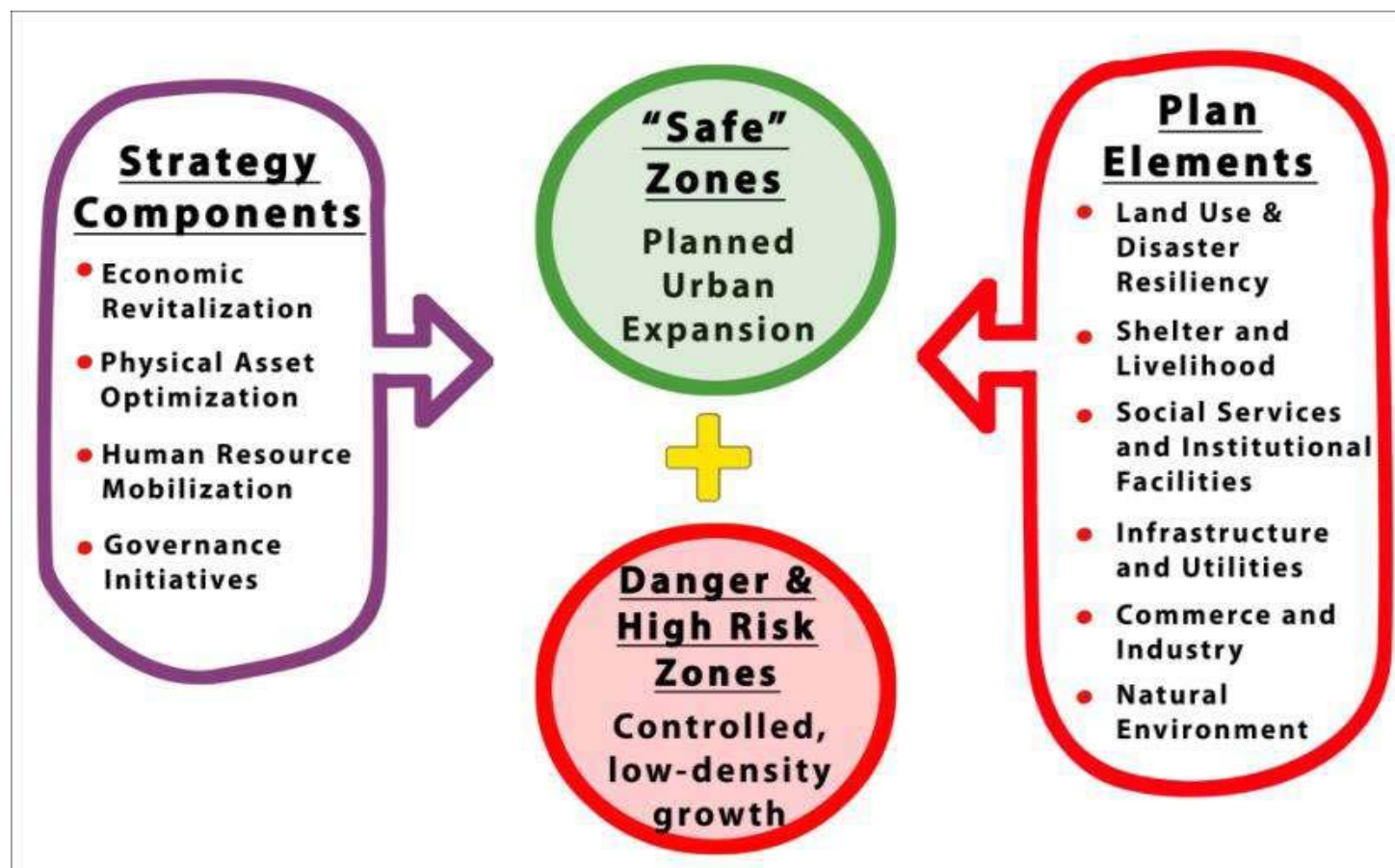
➤ Challenges:

- ☐ Lack of funding
- ☐ Lack of coordination between humanitarian and development actors

➤ Opportunities:

- ☐ Self-reliance approach
- ☐ New focus on resilience
- ☐ New approaches to humanitarian response in urban areas

Tacloban City Recovery & Rehabilitation Plan



Thank you!

