

Research and development project conducted in 2006 to 2008

Recovery Guidelines for Local Government and Community Staff



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GOAL

Develop recovery guidelines for communities threatened by natural hazards

BACKGROUND

- Various natural calamities in Iceland
- Experience in recovery
- Recovery not part of the national disaster response laws
- Long-term perspective lacking
- Local communities have been identified as the backbone of recovery work in past events

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the impact of a natural phenomenon on society, consequences and needs
- To identify the problems facing local government and community staff
- To understand their roles in the context of other responders



FUNDING

- The Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS)
- The Icelandic Catastrophe Fund (Viðlagatrygging Íslands)
- The Ministry of Justice
- The Ministry of Social Affairs (Bjargráðasjóður)



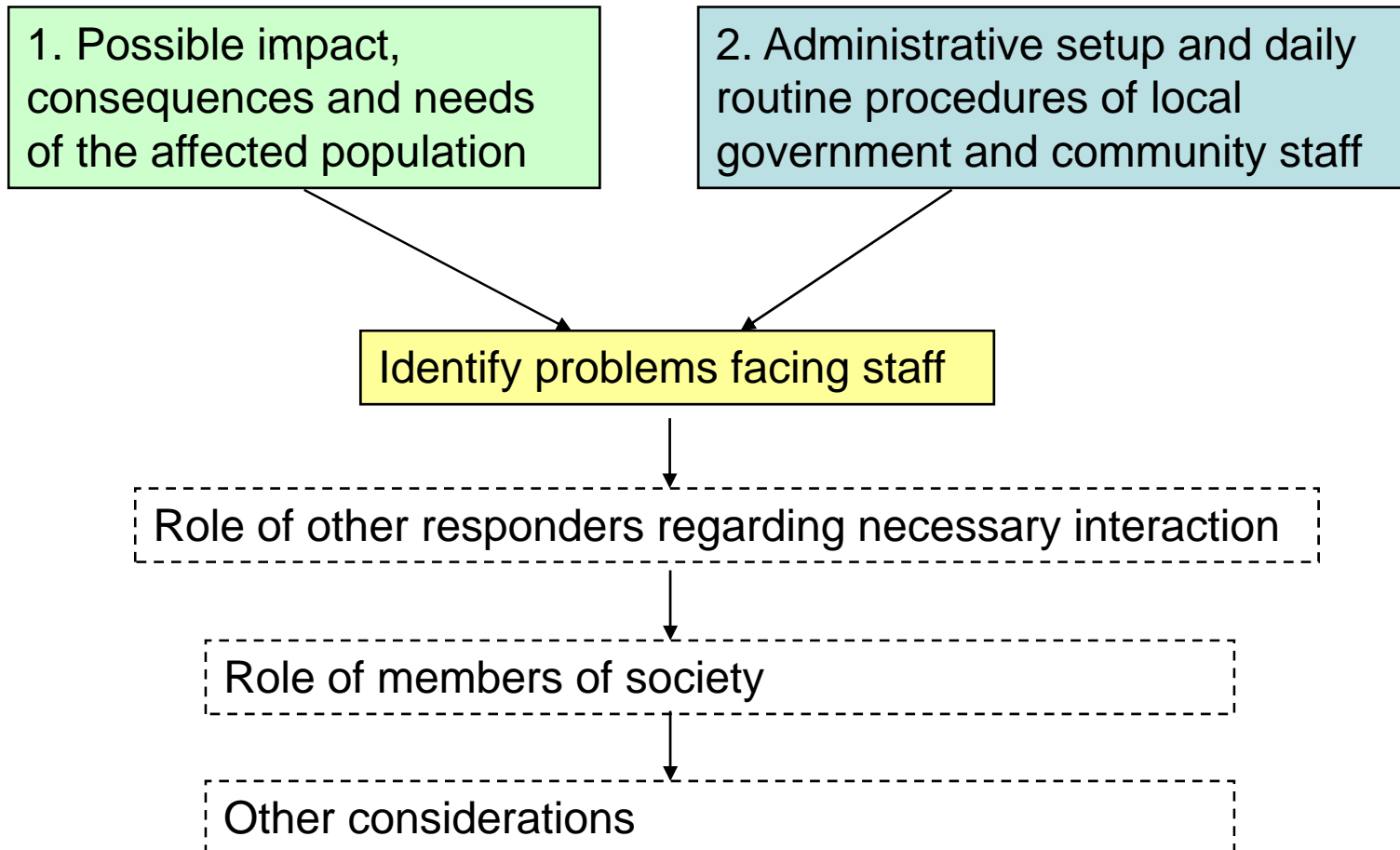
OUTCOME

1. Set of guidelines for specific positions
 1. Mayor – condition of administration
 2. Mayor – leader of recovery process
 3. Cluster leads – social, environmental, economic (Cross cluster: Housing, welfare and finances)
 4. Local government – policy making
 2. General Checklist (from Incident Command System)
 1. Management
 2. Planning
 3. Logistics
 4. Operations
 3. Guide to implement the recovery process
 - Flowchart on how to use the guidelines
 4. Methodology on developing guidelines
 - Assumptions
 - Guidelines principles
- Guidelines and report made available to all communities in Iceland (www.rainrace.com, www.hi.ssf.is)



Methodology Highlights

Two Anchor-Points



2 KEY ASSUMPTIONS

Researching impact, consequences and needs of the affected population

- Use more than 1 event
- 2 e/qs and 2 urban avalanches



- Use a timeline
- 6 periods
 - Day
 - Week
 - Month
 - 1 Year
 - 5 Years
 - 10 years



RECOVERY PROCESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

TEMPORARY

- Clear start – Immediately
- Clear end – Closure
- 5 years

EVOLVING

- First use,
 - disaster response principles
 - *Assessments, coordination, information management, plans*
- Gradually move to,
 - office principles
 - *Meetings, minutes*
- Finally,
 - Monitor when recovery activities begin to be similar to normal development activities in the community
 - *Maintenance, employment issues, etc.*



CONCLUSIONS

1. Timeline and “more-than-one-event” important
2. Local staff are likely to make changes to general guidelines
 - which is good
3. The process can be used to evaluate laws and regulations
 - was used to change civil defense law
4. These guidelines are valid, as they have already been tested and been found useful
 - May 29th 2008
 - Adapted and adopted by Árborg and Hveragerði
 - More useful if given adapted and staff trained before the disaster
 - How to gain the interest of communities before a disaster?



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Over 130 people were interviewed

- Experts in the field of crisis management,
- Community employees with experience from previous events
- Members of the affected population
- Response personnel (government and NGO)
- Members of national and local government institutions
- Members of the local government and community staff of Isafjardarbaer