

Disaster Resource Partnership An Engineering & Construction Industry Partnership for Disaster Response

More than 250 million people each year are affected by natural disaster. The annual number of natural disasters has more than doubled since 1980 as a result of climate change, population increase and rapid urbanization. Disasters such as the 2010 earthquake in Haiti demonstrate how pressing the issue of humanitarian assistance is. A new understanding of the crucial role that the private sector can play is now changing the thinking of the traditional humanitarian actors



A unique window of opportunity now exists for developing innovative public-private partnership solutions.

The Disaster Resource Partnership enables the core strengths and existing capacities of the Engineering & Construction (E&C) community to be mobilized during and after crises to reduce suffering and save lives.

A Partnership Built on Successes and Lessons Learned

The **Engineering & Construction Disaster Resource Partnership (DRP)** is a new model for coordinated private sector partnership in response to natural disasters. The DRP builds on the original concept and intent of the Engineering & Construction Disaster Resource Network (DRN), launched by the E&C Governors in response to the Gujarat earthquake in 2001. It has been developed through case studies of past private sector interventions, through numerous workshops and interviews with key humanitarian actors in disasters, and with continuous input and direction provided by the working group executives of the E&C members and partners.



Disaster Resource Partnership “Build Back Better” at All Levels

To best leverage E&C engagement, the following organizational structure is proposed that allows the activities of individual organizations to be facilitated through engagement in **national/regional networks** connected through and supported by a **global partnership** of E&C community members.

The key feature of this model is that it builds on the **core strengths** and **existing capacities** of the companies involved and leverages the contribution that companies already make in times of natural disasters. Mobilization will depend on each company's proximity to the disaster-affected area, their assets and skills, and the needs of the affected communities

An Opportunity to Leverage the Assets, Services and Engagement of the E&C Community

Doers, not just donors

The emphasis has shifted from seeing the private sector as a donor to being a doer with expertise and capacity to reduce suffering and help rebuild communities in the aftermath of a disaster, as well as to mitigate disaster risk through prevention and preparedness.











The added value of the E&C industry in disaster response and mitigation

- In the **immediate aftermath of a disaster**, a construction company already operating in the affected area is well placed to contribute labour, materials and equipment, as well as mobilizing networks and supply chains that can save lives and reduce suffering.
- In the months following a disaster, the E&C industry has specific knowledge and technical expertise that is essential to promoting **early recovery**, particularly the reinstatement of critical infrastructure that is essential to establishing supply chains and making health and education facilities operational. Equally, the industry can provide services such as damage and hazard assessment, hydrological surveys, seismic expertise, design, planning and programme management.
- Early engagement in the relief and recovery phases means that E&C companies are well placed to contribute strategically to longer-term planning of **reconstruction**, playing a critical role in **mitigating the risk of future disasters**.

Key E&C Skills

 Assessment, monitoring + evaluation	 Physical planning
 Strategic planning	 Infrastructure design (shelter, roads, wat-san, power, facilities)
 Technical expertise	 Local knowledge & networks
 Programme/ project management	 Logistics / supply chain management
 Safety management	 Site supervision

Key E&C Assets

 Food + water supplies	 Power
 Shelter materials	 Labour
 Equipment	 Communications equipment
 Equipment	 Space
 Vehicles	 Networks

A Compelling Business Value Proposition

The **humanitarian imperative** is the most significant driver for companies to join DRP. Experience based on a detailed assessment of 14 case studies involving E&C companies demonstrates that **significant internal value** is created within the companies involved. In addition, long-term **business opportunities** in the recovery and reconstruction phases arise as a result of companies' involvement in the initial stages.

The business case

Preparedness	Relief	Recovery	Reconstruction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen local relationships Reinforce brand, reputation, values Staff development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen local relationships Reinforce brand, reputation, values Staff development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen local relationships Reinforce brand, reputation, values Staff development Direct business opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen local relationships Reinforce brand, reputation, values Staff development Direct business opportunities Business development

DRP objectives for 2012 and beyond

- Support existing national networks in **India, Mexico and Indonesia** and catalyse new national networks
- Establish partnerships and framework agreements with humanitarian organizations, donors and governments which:
 - Facilitate the engagement of national networks locally
 - Facilitate the delivery of global E&C expertise at the global and local level (in countries where national networks exist and in countries where no national network exists)
- Capture and share best practice/institutional knowledge between national networks and with humanitarian organizations and academic institutions
- Provide a focal point and voice for the E&C sector in global humanitarian coordination

What level of commitment is required for DRP membership DRP?

- Willingness to support and participate in existing disaster resource networks in India, Mexico and/or Indonesia or to help catalyse new networks in countries in which your company has operations.
- Willingness to support the establishment of a global DRP roster of experts by enabling your engineers to participate in humanitarian training and facilitate their rapid deployment with humanitarian missions to disaster zones.

Contact

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