

The New Deal and Ebola - A framework for effective recovery

An International Dialogue Brainstorming Workshop

27 February 2015, 8:30 – 17:30

OECD Headquarters, 2, rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris, France

STATEMENT OF OUTCOMES

During the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Steering Group (IDPS) meeting, which was held in Washington on 10th October 2014, the co-chairs of the International Dialogue mandated the IDPS to work on the linkages between the New Deal and the Ebola crisis and to facilitate discussions on this topic.

On 27 February 2015, International Dialogue national focal points and experts from multilateral institutions, government and civil society, working on the Ebola recovery process and the New Deal, at country and global levels came together at the OECD Headquarters in Paris, for a brainstorming workshop: 'The New Deal and Ebola - A framework for effective recovery'.

Participants shared key findings from the various studies, consultations and in-country experiences that have taken place over the past few months and discussed the emerging national recovery strategies from a New Deal perspective.

Specific recommendations for how the New Deal can support the post-Ebola recovery responses were discussed, as well as the scope for using the FOCUS and TRUST principles of the New Deal.

At the end of the meeting, the following general principles and recommendations were endorsed by participants. These messages will be circulated in preparation for the Ebola Recovery Conference in Brussels on 3 March 2015.

During the workshop participants exchanged ideas on how the New Deal principles could be used in the Ebola recovery efforts and discussed support options for national governments and international actors.

General Principles

1. **Recovery must build on the principles of the New Deal** in order to open up space for New Deal implementation when the time is ripe for development. This means focusing on rebuilding institutions in ways that reinforce the five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding goals, which are all interrelated. It also means focusing on systems, not sectors (strengthening the system that makes health service delivery possible).
2. International partners and affected countries must **act now to ensure that states overcome the crisis and build up their resilience to future shocks**. The Ebola shock revealed fragilities but also the resilience of the affected states, which were able to gain compliance from citizens but not without huge costs and with pockets of insecurity. Trust cannot be taken for granted and must be rebuilt within

society (overcoming stigmatization) and between states and citizens. This makes the New Deal, whose focus is on rebuilding state-society relations, highly relevant.

3. **National ownership means putting governments in the driving seat and fostering inclusive participation of citizens.** The Ebola crisis revealed the importance of **decentralisation** – bringing government closer to the people. This costs more, yet it would cost much more not to invest in it.

Recommendations

1. **Stick to One Revised Plan** –which incorporates recovery needs and the development plans, revised to take account of the impact of Ebola and the weaknesses in systems that Ebola revealed. It is also important to recognise the underlying political economy questions and the inevitable competition between ministries over funding. Donors need to support governments in their efforts in this direction. Governments can help by doing **dedicated periodic reviews**, monitoring progress on plans. Sequencing between national development plans and recovery strategies needs to be overlapped rather than linear.
2. **Use Country systems:** Good practice examples should help to instil more confidence and appropriate benchmarks should be identified. For instance, Sierra Leone’s ‘real time audit strengthens the case for the use of country systems. Donors must recognise and reward this by channelling more aid towards these systems. This means moving gradually away from project support towards programme and budget support.
3. **Revise the existing Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF)** in Sierra Leone to incorporate new benchmarks in the light of the Ebola outbreak, and introduce new MAF in Liberia and Guinea, where they do not exist. The New Deal community of international partners can provide the necessary technical and financial resources. MAFs create platforms for effective dialogue, and should be the platform for regular and continued dialogue between donors and governments.
4. **Build upon and reinforce the community networks that developed during the Ebola response.** These should become vehicles for state-citizen dialogue. Donors who support civil society should explore with governments how to reinforce these new spaces and help to rebuild trust between states and citizens.

The participants also agreed on the importance of putting in place effective communication mechanisms to promote New Deal principles and recommendations as part of the recovery process in the Ebola affected countries. They also agreed to ensure dedicated capacities to support continued networking on these issues.