

BUILD BACK BETTER ANALYSIS

Location: Kerala

Country: India

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What is Build Back Better?

Building Back Better (BBB) as a holistic concept using post-disaster reconstruction and recovery as an opportunity to improve a community's physical, social, environmental and economic conditions to create a more resilient community effectively and efficiently. A framework (Figure 1) developed by Mannakkara and Wilkinson (2014) presents a holistic approach to reconstruction and recovery identifying it as a three-pronged approach including Disaster Risk Reduction, Community Recovery, and Effective Implementation.



Figure 1: Build Back Better Framework © Mannakkara and Wilkinson, 2014,2016

Purpose of the study:

This study helps the researcher to determine the recovery status of Kerala using recently developed Build Back Better tool. Also, this study aims at identifying the areas that need improvement and suggesting the best practices to enhance the recovery process.

Data Collection:

A tool developed by Neeraj, Mannakkara and Wilkinson (2018) based on the above BBB framework (Figure 1) was used to collect data on the recovery process. The BBB tool was presented to experts to rate the indicators based on the current recovery status of Kerala after 2018 Kerala Floods. Along with BBB tool ratings, the researcher conducted interviews and reviewed official documents on recovery to have a better view of the recovery process.

Is Kerala Building Back Better after the 2018 Kerala Floods?

Yes!

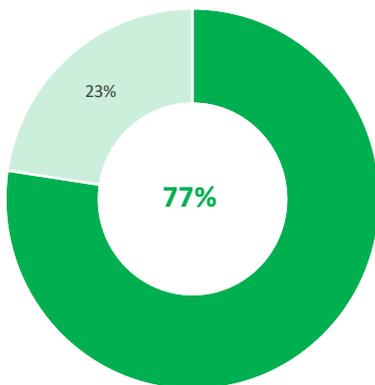
This was concluded after reviewing the official articles on recovery, transcribing the interviews and the BBB tool ratings provided by the experts.

Survey Results:

The analysis below will help you understand how Kerala is performing under the three dimensions of BBB framework. Performance ratings are calculated using the actual recovery to the ideal recovery.

Disaster Risk Reduction

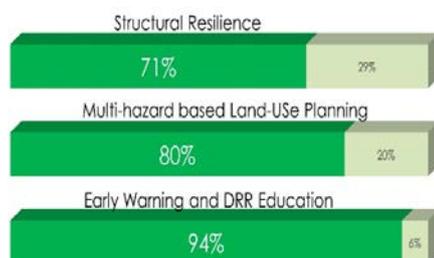
Though Disaster Risk Reduction scored low in overall performance ratings than other dimensions of the BBB framework, the principle Early warning and DRR education(EW) under this dimensions achieved more than 90% of performance ratings. Structural Resilience (SR) stood last amongst all other principles with a performance rating of less than 75% and Multi-hazard based Land-use planning (MH) scored just 80%. Please find the below recommendations to improve the recovery process:



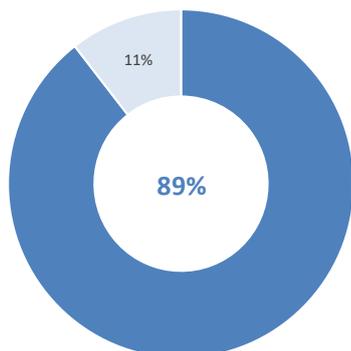
Disaster Risk Reduction

Recommendations:

- **SR2- Structural codes and guidelines** –Modify and adopt legislated structural codes or building regulations based on up-to-dated multi-hazard assessments and risk zone maps with design and construction specifications aligned with local resource availability and affordability.
- **SR5-Extra funding to Improve structures** – Arrange long-term funding mechanisms to fund extra rebuilding costs incurred for structural improvements
- **SR6- Incentives to promote structural improvements** – Plan and provide incentives (e.g. funding, resources, low-interest loans, tax discounts etc.) to promote adoption of structural improvements in homes, buildings and infrastructure
- **SR8-Improve redundancy and transitional arrangements** – Plan and put in place redundancies and transitional arrangements prior to disasters to relieve pressures on fast and reactive rebuilding activities (e.g. transitional accommodation, alternative travel routes etc.)
- **LP2- Revised land-use plans with updated building regulations** – Adopt and enforce revised land-use plans reflecting appropriate land-uses determined from the latest risk zone maps and relevant updated building regulations



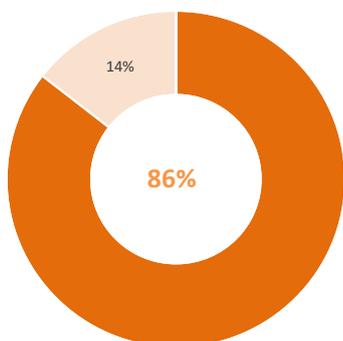
Community Recovery



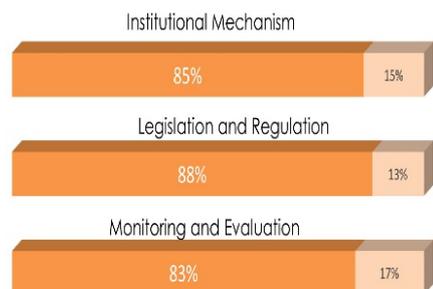
Community Recovery



Effective Implementation



Effective Implementation



Community Recovery dimension of the BBB framework was ranked one amongst others. Psychological and social recovery (PR) has a performance rating closer to 95%, and Economic recovery (ER) scored 85%. Please find the below recommendations to improve the recovery process:

Recommendations:

- **PR7 - Community input** – Empower the community by incorporating grass-roots methods for recovery. E.g. Creating/utilising community groups to get community input for planning, decision-making and various aspects of the implementation of rebuild and recovery
- **ER3 - Alternative livelihood options** - Introduce new livelihood options utilising local resources if possible, and provide opportunities for upskilling to cater to skills shortages.
- **ER5 - Alternative business options** – Consider alternative options if economic recovery progress is poor. E.g. introducing a big business (such as a conference centre, shopping mall, sports stadium) to boost the economy, create new jobs and attract residents and tourists

Effective Implementation scored an overall performance rating of 86%. Principles such as Institutional Mechanism (IM) and Legislation and Regulation (LR) received performance ratings of 85% and 88%. But, Monitoring and Evaluation (ME) scored just more than 80%. Recommendations are provided below to improve the institutional mechanism, thereby improving the overall recovery process.

Recommendations:

- **IM8- Partnerships** – Create formal partnerships (e.g. alliance, public-private partnerships etc.) for stakeholder cooperation and coordination
- **IM11- Transition strategy planning** – Plan and implement an effective and appropriate exit strategy to transition smoothly from rebuilding and recovery operations to business as usual.
- **LR1- BBB based recovery decisions** – Adopt appropriate legislation and regulations to enforce and comply with BBB-based recovery. E.g. institutional mechanism for post-disaster reconstruction and recovery; updated building codes and land-use plans; risk management and retrofitting programmes for on-going hazard risk management; mandate community-inclusive and participatory recovery planning and implementation;

quality control; standardised post-disaster building contracts for residential building; long-term monitoring of recovery

- **ME1- Comprehensive data collection** – Adopt and put in place an easy mechanism to collect comprehensive data about the on-going recovery effort to track progress, monitor quality and ensure compliance with Build Back Better concepts

-Thank You-