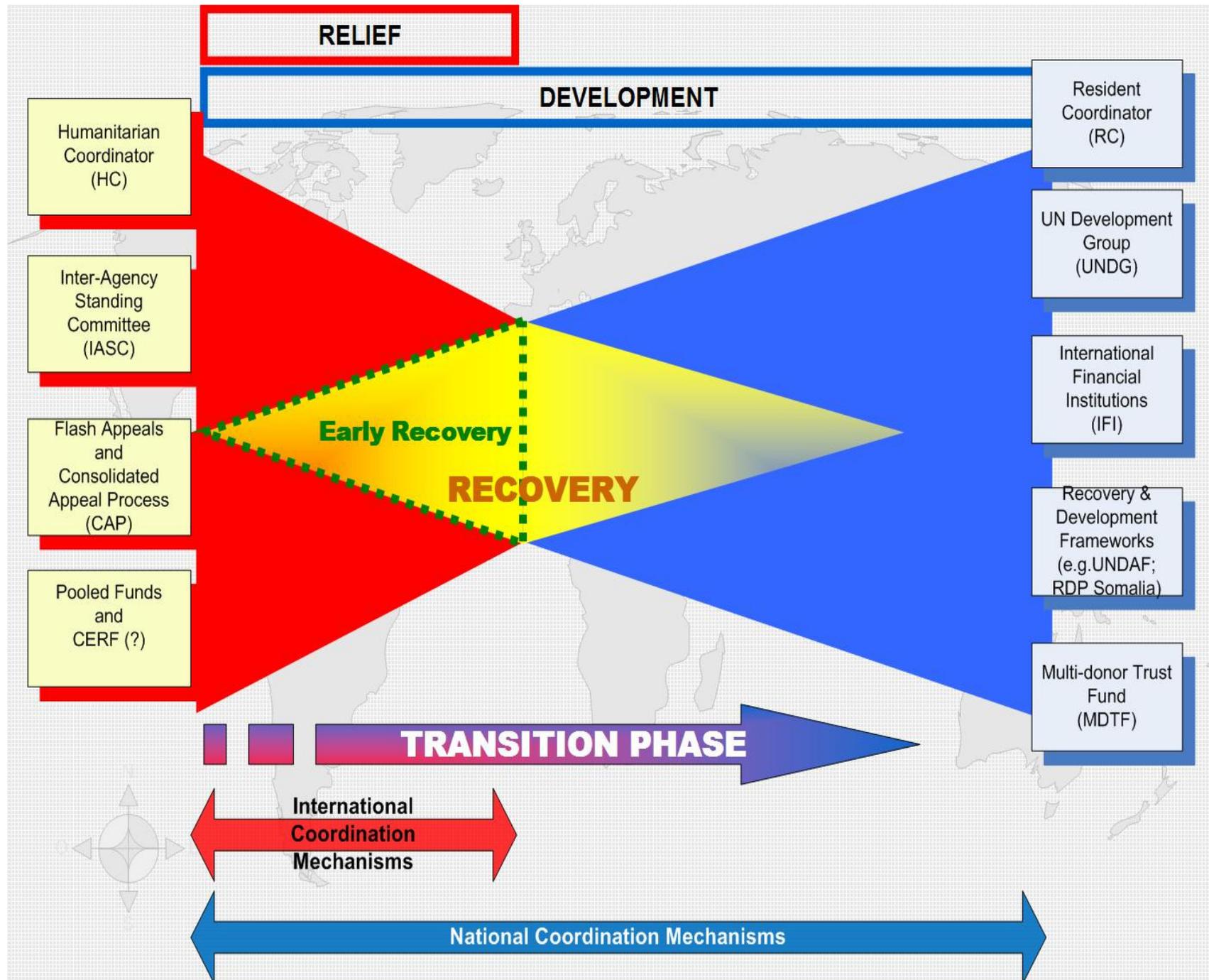


What happens when the emergency is over and development has not yet started?

Not much

Investing in Transitions



Transitions

‘Transition’ refers to the post-crisis period of time when a country begins a recovery and reconstruction process.

- It implies a shift away from a strictly humanitarian response to an approach now led by national actors that includes planning and implementation of recovery initiatives, reconciliation and peace consolidation.
- Post-crisis transition normally takes place in a highly complex environment characterized by a weak or weakened institutional and governance setting; threats to peace and stability; co-existing humanitarian and long term needs; and the presence of a wide range of international and national actors working in a challenging coordination environment.
- The term should be understood to encompass objectives variously referred to as early/recovery, reconstruction, peace-building, peace consolidation, etc.

Key factors

- Transitions are rarely linear, with a clear progression from conflict or natural disaster towards recovery and development. Over half of all post conflict countries relapse into conflict within a decade. In many countries natural disasters are cyclical and can only be mitigated, not prevented
- Rather than continuous, transitions are frequently contiguous, with various stages of relief, early recovery, reconstruction and development work ongoing simultaneously in different areas of the same country

Role of the UN

- The aim of the UN System in transition should be to assist national authorities to initiate immediate, priority crisis resolution and recovery actions, and to lay the ground work, including the capacity, systems and relationships needed to embark on a longer term development path.
- The UN Transition Strategy helps to situate the UN’s comparative advantage and response within the broader national and international efforts for crisis recovery.

Constraints

At present humanitarian and development activities are supported by the international community through largely separate operational, coordination and funding entities

- Coordination via IASC/Cluster System versus UNDG

- UN efforts coordinated by Humanitarian Coordinator versus Resident Coordinator
- Most donor countries have separate funding arms for humanitarian and development activities, in some cases reporting to different line ministries
- Joint programming is carried out under the Consolidated Appeal Process and Flash Appeals versus UNDAF and Recovery & Development frameworks
- Career paths for professionals working in relief and development are often separate, with different incentive structures, leading to a cultural gap that can be difficult to bridge
- To date most work on transitions has focused on post conflict and fragile states, with limited work on post natural disaster transitions, and little or no focus on food security and agriculture
- While there is a gap between humanitarian and development program funding in transitions, IFI support to development is one step further removed, as most UN agencies and NGOs have limited engagement with them
- The World Bank has been increasing its role in transition and recovery through management of Multi Donor Trust Funds (MDTFs) and appears eager to continue in this direction, but needs to improve the strategies and instruments to allow earlier and more flexible engagement
- IFAD has recently formulated comprehensive Disaster Early Recovery Guidelines in order to better engage in early recovery, recovery and transition programming

TCI can play a key role in supporting national Governments to achieve improved transition programming and resource mobilization through support to other parts of FAO, UN partner agencies and IFIs

OECD/DAC recommendations for improving transition financing

Adapt a long term, non-linear approach to transition > focus more on objectives, less on instruments and approaches > matrix funding

Clarify responsibility, encourage cross-sector cooperation and risk taking

Improve measurement of transition financing (gap between CAP/FTS and ODA)

Identify realistic priorities > needs assessments should be realistic and holistic

Build better linkages between financing instruments and national ownership > selection of instruments based on clear understanding of national processes

Improve operation of pooled funding > realistic assumptions on operationalization of funds, avoid proliferation of funds