



Raising the bar: Enhancing transatlantic governance of disaster relief and preparedness

**Transatlantic Methods for Handling Global Challenges
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Project Set-up

Dialogues

Berlin (June 2008)

Washington (December 2008)

Brussels (June 2009)

Research

EU and U.S. in Humanitarian Assistance

Implementing lessons learned

Linking relief, rehabilitation,
development

Business engagement

Civil-military relations

Action paper

Outputs

Edited volume

3 Policy Papers

Project Background

The “Raising the Bar”-Project aimed to:

- Enquire common ground in and diverging approaches to delivering humanitarian assistance in the EU and the U.S.
- Outline the institutional set-up for humanitarian assistance in the EU and the U.S.
- Foster transatlantic dialogue between decision-makers, experts and practitioners in the humanitarian arena
- Identify good practices and possibilities for mutual learning and develop recommendations to enhance transatlantic governance of humanitarian assistance

The need for transatlantic cooperation in humanitarian assistance

Common Challenges

Growing number of disasters and crises
Growing vulnerabilities
Tensions surrounding the humanitarian principles
Ad hoc-ism

Role of the EU & U.S.

Largest donors (65% of total volume)
Strong influence on multilateral institutions
Strong field presence

Window of opportunity ?

New political leadership
Institutional and policy reforms

Opportunities and risks of enhanced cooperation

Opportunities

- Strengthen transatlantic relationship
- Greater coherence in humanitarian assistance
- Mutual learning
- Impetus for system-wide reform

Risks

- Exacerbate perception of Western bias
- Threat to independence
- Costs of coordination
- Lack of alternatives

Implementing lessons learned

To improve the capacity of humanitarian donors to implement lessons learned:

Increase focus on and capacities for policy making

Enhance conceptual clarity and coherence

Expand / create technical surge capacity for donors

Linking relief, rehabilitation, development

To strengthen the role of humanitarian donors in linking relief, rehabilitation and development:

Improve understanding of LRRD

Decide where linkages are desired

Improve practical methods for LRRD

Business engagement

To maximize business contributions, while minimizing their risks :

Increase investment in preparedness activities

Develop common standards

Enhance transparency

Civil-military relations

To address the normative problems of civil-military cooperation and improve operational approaches:

Minimize conflicts with humanitarian principles

Develop stricter standards on civil-military cooperation

Enhance the effectiveness of civil-military cooperation