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Shifting the Stabilization Mindset

When disaster strikes, many different types of organizations — government agencies, the military, corporations, NGOs, and international organizations — play a vital role in the stabilization effort. Yet too often it isn't until stability operations are underway that these entities begin to coordinate and communicate with one another. With trust not yet established, misperceptions and biases negatively impact the relief effort.

CHALLENGE

To improve outcomes for logistics efforts associated with stabilization and reconstruction, the Joint Staff Directorate of Logistics needed a way to establish effective communication and build trust among the different organizations involved in relief efforts.

SOLUTION

Led by IDB's Center for Stabilization and Economic Reconstruction Executive Director, Ambassador (retired) David Litt, the IDB developed the Logistics Cooperation for Stabilization and Reconstruction seminar to address challenges in building trust and cooperation across the functional, cultural, and temporal dimensions of stabilization efforts.

This seminar was tailored specifically to logistics leaders and featured a variety of simulations and breakout exercises where participants stepped into the roles of their counterparts in different organizations to truly understand the relief effort from new perspectives.

Over time, based on interest from leaders who were not directly involved in logistics, the curriculum was revised and enrollment was expanded to include all leaders involved in stabilization and reconstruction efforts. As a result, the seminar was renamed Cooperation in Stability Operations.

RESULTS

- Increased collective awareness and understanding of strengths and contributions different organizations bring to the relief effort
- Established a forum for stability operations professionals to plan and discuss roles and responsibilities prior to a disaster situation