Post-disaster: the role of agencies, NGO's and the UN-Habitat program. - Learning from a decade of sheltering, planning, designing and rebuilding

Background:

Framework:
UE countries signed both the UNISDR and the HFA and have on-going discussions in order to build a new framework for the period 2015-2020. Portugal incorporated this strategy in the governmental policy 2004, and is part of the CPLP, the community of Portuguese speaking countries.

Methods and Goals
Through observation and interviewing, the research matches National and European strategies for disaster risk reduction and gives a specific contribution to strengthen Portuguese cooperation with CPLP members in areas yet not covered by this cooperation such as post-disaster rebuilding, disaster risk prevention and post-recovery assessment.

Research plans to develop a web based platform of sharing, exchange and dissemination of knowledge regarding post disaster rebuilding and disaster risk prevention, diverse tools kits in Portuguese Language, for Education and Training, and a prototype related to architectural housing incorporation of energy efficiency and water management systems. Another outcome will be the creation of a open source collaborative platform that enable the dissemination, sharing, exchange, monitoring and assessment of studies, projects, and field operations addressing extreme situations or emergency scenarios.

Hypothesis:
- The more sustainable and resilient accomplishments occur when architects work as facilitators, assuming a creative but also supporting and educational role, instead of working as merely designers and processes controllers.

Discussion:
Research should contribute to a better understanding of a few crucial points when comes to dealing with severely affected communities:
- How to assist people build to meet their long term physical, psychological, cultural and spiritual needs?
- How to measure the long term impacts of on-field actions?

**Conclusions**

Prioritize local cultures, knowledge and resources; paying attention to minorities and incorporating into humanitarian architecture concepts such as resilience, transition, green design, communities participatory action, social change, well-being and quality of life, are critical matters in post-disaster rebuilding.