



National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

Long-Term Recovery Group Committee Points of Consensus

The long-term recovery phase of disaster response is the period of time following a disaster in which the affected community works to establish a “new normal” state of living. Usually, this work is best done through a long-term recovery group (LTRG): “a cooperative body that is made up of representatives from faith-based, non-profit, government, business and other organizations working within a community to assist individuals and families as they recover from disaster.”¹ While there are many components of long-term recovery and many different ways to organize a long-term recovery group, the goal is always the same: “to unite recovery resources with community needs in order to ensure that even the most vulnerable in the community recover from disaster.”² Therefore, the National VOAD Long-Term Recovery Group Committee offers the following points of consensus to communicate what local LTRG leaders can expect from members of the VOAD network.

- 1) Affirming the critical role of LTRGs in whole community recovery, VOAD members support the formation and operation of local LTRGs by modeling the four Cs of the VOAD movement: cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration.
- 2) VOAD members offer services and resources without discrimination, looking to local representatives and the LTRG in order to serve with sensitivity to local cultural diversity and promote equitable recovery.
- 3) VOAD members support the empowerment, resourcing, and development of local leadership, according to the purview of their respective response activities and provide assistance with the development of local LTRG leadership and resource capacity.
- 4) VOAD members offer their experience and expertise for the shaping of goals, policies, and guidelines and honor decisions made by the LTRG.
- 5) VOAD members offer their services and resources through or in coordination with the LTRG, according to the priorities and guidelines established by the LTRG.
- 6) VOAD members honor a system for the fair, unbiased and need-based distribution of resources and services to avoid redundant structures and the duplication of efforts and benefits, coordinating to maximize resources for the good of the affected community. This system reflects other NVOAD Points of Consensus including those of Disaster Case Management, Volunteer Coordination, Rebuilding and Repair and others.

- 7) VOAD members model best practices for financial accountability, responsibility, client confidentiality and transparency in their communications with the LTRG.
- 8) VOAD members work with the leadership of the LTRG to resolve any conflicts and move the recovery forward.
- 9) VOAD members partner to stimulate a timely recovery for the benefit of disaster-affected persons and communities in accomplishing their recovery plans.
- 10) VOAD members work to encourage, support, and model a recovery that endeavors to create a more equitable and resilient community, including mitigation against future impact as a priority.

1. National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, *Long-Term Recovery Guide (2023)*, 9.

2. *Ibid*, 10.

3. For more detailed information, see National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, *Long-Term Recovery Guide (2023)* “Organizing a Long-Term Recovery Group” and “Long-Term Recovery Administration,” *Long-Term Recovery Guide*, 9-23.