



GULF STATES POLICY INSTITUTE

A study by RAND Health

THE ARTS
CHILD POLICY
CIVIL JUSTICE
EDUCATION
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
NATIONAL SECURITY
POPULATION AND AGING
PUBLIC SAFETY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBSTANCE ABUSE
TERRORISM AND
HOMELAND SECURITY
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
WORKFORCE AND WORKPLACE

This PDF document was made available from www.rand.org as a public service of the RAND Corporation.

[Jump down to document](#) ▼

The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit research organization providing objective analysis and effective solutions that address the challenges facing the public and private sectors around the world.

Support RAND

[Purchase this document](#)

[Browse Books & Publications](#)

[Make a charitable contribution](#)

For More Information

Visit RAND at www.rand.org

Explore the [RAND Gulf States Policy Institute](#)

View [document details](#)

Limited Electronic Distribution Rights

This document and trademark(s) contained herein are protected by law as indicated in a notice appearing later in this work. This electronic representation of RAND intellectual property is provided for non-commercial use only. Unauthorized posting of RAND PDFs to a non-RAND Web site is prohibited. RAND PDFs are protected under copyright law. Permission is required from RAND to reproduce, or reuse in another form, any of our research documents for commercial use. For information on reprint and linking permissions, please see [RAND Permissions](#).

This product is part of the RAND Corporation occasional paper series. RAND occasional papers may include an informed perspective on a timely policy issue, a discussion of new research methodologies, essays, a paper presented at a conference, a conference summary, or a summary of work in progress. All RAND occasional papers undergo rigorous peer review to ensure that they meet high standards for research quality and objectivity.

OCCASIONAL PAPER

The Role of Nongovernmental Organizations in Long-Term Human Recovery After Disaster

Reflections From Louisiana Four Years After Hurricane Katrina

Anita Chandra • Joie Acosta



GULF STATES POLICY INSTITUTE

A study by RAND Health

This paper results from the RAND Corporation's continuing program of self-initiated research. Support for such research is provided, in part, by the generosity of RAND's donors and by the fees earned on client-funded research. The research was conducted within RAND Health under the auspices of the RAND Gulf States Policy Institute (RGSPI) in partnership with the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations, the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps, and the Louisiana Association of United Ways.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Chandra, Anita.

The role of nongovernmental organizations in long-term human recovery after disaster : reflections from Louisiana four years after Hurricane Katrina / Anita Chandra, Joie Acosta.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-0-8330-4882-0 (pbk. : alk. paper)

1. Disaster relief—Louisiana. 2. Non-governmental organizations. 3. Hurricane Katrina, 2005. I. Acosta, Joie. II. Title.

[DNLM: 1. Disaster Planning—organization & administration—Louisiana. 2. Cyclones—Louisiana. 3. Government Agencies—organization & administration—Louisiana. 4. Private Sector—organization & administration—Louisiana. 5. Time Factors—Louisiana. 6. Voluntary Health Agencies—organization & administration—Louisiana. WA 295 C456r 2009]

HV555.U62L55 2009

363.34'8—dc22

2009038299

The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit research organization providing objective analysis and effective solutions that address the challenges facing the public and private sectors around the world. RAND's publications do not necessarily reflect the opinions of its research clients and sponsors.

RAND® is a registered trademark.

© Copyright 2009 RAND Corporation

Permission is given to duplicate this document for personal use only, as long as it is unaltered and complete. Copies may not be duplicated for commercial purposes. Unauthorized posting of RAND documents to a non-RAND Web site is prohibited. RAND documents are protected under copyright law. For information on reprint and linking permissions, please visit the RAND permissions page (<http://www.rand.org/publications/permissions.html>).

Published 2009 by the RAND Corporation
1776 Main Street, P.O. Box 2138, Santa Monica, CA 90407-2138
1200 South Hayes Street, Arlington, VA 22202-5050
4570 Fifth Avenue, Suite 600, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2665
RAND URL: <http://www.rand.org>
To order RAND documents or to obtain additional information, contact
Distribution Services: Telephone: (310) 451-7002;
Fax: (310) 451-6915; Email: order@rand.org

Summary

Human recovery is the process of rebuilding social and daily routines and support networks that foster physical and mental health and well-being. The four-year aftermath of Hurricane Katrina has provided a case study of the lengthy and complex process of human recovery, the instrumental contributions of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the policy and resource challenges that affect NGOs' ability to support human recovery. To capture lessons learned, RAND researchers conducted a facilitated discussion with NGO leaders in Louisiana. In that discussion, NGO leaders were asked about difficulties they faced in supporting human recovery and about potential actions needed to address these challenges. This occasional paper describes these issues, including the lack of understanding about which models of long-term human recovery should be used and how they should be financed, inadequate NGO-government coordination, and the lack of clarity about how to formalize and operationalize NGO roles and responsibilities. Development of a formal federal and state system to support human recovery and changes to long-term recovery policies are addressed in the discussion of potential actions. This paper also outlines future directions for research to build the evidence base on what works in long-term human recovery.