



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction



Afghanistan: National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2011-2013)

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Strategic goals

1. Strategic Goal Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, and preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Strategic Goal Statement 2011-2013

Disaster and environmental risk management policies are being integrated into development plans at the national, sub national and local levels (through existing public policies, mechanisms for coordinating DRR actions at various levels, budgetary assignments or others).

2. Strategic Goal Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Strategic Goal Statement 2011-2013

Strengthened institutions with adequate capacities at national and sub-national level for coordinated and coherent action in reducing risk and building sectoral resilience

2. Strategic Goal Area3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Strategic Goal Statement 2011-2013:

Enhanced capacities at all levels to monitor and respond to potential disaster and environmental risks of national, regional and international concern.

Priority for action 1

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 1

National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Is disaster risk taken into account in public investment and planning decisions?

Yes

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

* Yes: National development plan

> SNAP (2011) http://www.preventionweb.net/files/31182_snapfinalversion.pdf [PDF 1.20 MB]

* Yes: Sector strategies and plans

> National Plan (2010)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/31182_afghanistannationaldisastermanageme.pdf [PDF 1.27 MB]

* Yes: Climate change policy and strategy

> Afghanistan Environmental Law (2007)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/31182_afghanenvironlaw.pdf [PDF 308.02 KB]

* Yes: Poverty reduction strategy papers

* Yes: CCA/ UNDAF (Common Country Assessment/ UN Development Assistance Framework)

* No: Civil defence policy, strategy and contingency planning

Have legislative and/or regulatory provisions been made for managing disaster risk?

Yes

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

Description:

DM law has been passed from both houses of parliament and promulgated by the President of Islamic republic of Afghanistan and it is officially enforced. ANDMA has developed strategic documents with the help of partners which include strategic national action plan (SNAP), national mitigation policy, five years disaster management plan, sectoral DM plan, provincial DM plans, annual and emergency plans and SOPs for the

effective and timely response during emergencies are in place. National Environmental protection Agency (NEPA) is an independent general directorate under the president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has developed climate change policy and strategy. The mechanism of DM in Afghanistan is constituted of a high level national DM committee headed by the second Vice President and all line ministries, UN and NGOs working in DM are the member of the committee. Each ministry has their specific policy and strategy for DM. Likewise there is similar committee at the provincial level headed by the provincial governors. ANDMA acts as secretariat both in the National as well provincial committees.

Context & Constraints:

The biggest challenge is to implement the policies, strategies and plans. There are various reasons for that. Lack of sufficient awareness and knowledge on the parts of high officials related to DRR and its implication on the lives and livelihood of people, lack of sufficient fund for the implementation of the policies and strategies, integration of DRR into developmental policies and strategies across the different sectors and limited human resources in the field of DM.

Supporting document:

> ANDS (2008) /files/31182_afghanistannationaldevelopmentstrat.pdf [PDF 3.44 MB]

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 2

Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

What is the ratio of the budget allocation to risk reduction versus disaster relief and reconstruction?

-- not complete --

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * 30% National budget - Risk reduction / prevention (%)
- * 70% National budget - Relief and reconstruction (%)
- * 15% Decentralised / sub-national budget - Risk reduction / prevention (%)
- * 85% Decentralised / sub-national budget - Relief and reconstruction (%)
- * 0 USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)

Description:

The budget allocated for ANDMA is nominal at the national as well as provincial levels and is mostly utilized for the response purposes. Per article 14 of DM law, all governmental ministries and entities should allocate sufficient amount of fund from their allocated portion to DRR. We understand most of the key ministries involved in DM including the ministry of public health, ministry of urban development, ministry of agriculture, ministry of water and power, ministry of public works, environmental protection agency and Afghan red crescent society have allocated budget for the DRR and response to disasters. Most of the projects which are run by different ministries have either direct or indirect impact on disaster risk reduction. Poverty alleviation programs, road accessibility, construction of essential infrastructure, retaining walls, protection wall, water supply networks, health centres, bandanna and canals, and river embankment are the example of projects reducing the risks of disasters. The United Nations Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has a budgeted plan of action each year through the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) 2012 and Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) along with other clusters.

Context and Constraints:

Despite different DRR projects run by different stakeholders still we understand the funding in the area of DRR is not sufficient for building Afghanistan resilient to catastrophes. Mainstreaming DRR into developmental strategies across the sectors would allow allocation of fund as well as well attraction of donors to invest which still at an initial stage. But still there is limited awareness and knowledge about the vitality and importance of DRR on the parts of high ranking managers.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 3

Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Do local governments have legal responsibility and regular / systematic budget allocations for DRR?

No

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

* Yes: Legislation (Is there a specific legislation for local governments with a mandate for DRR?)

* No: Regular budget allocations for DRR to local government

* 15% Estimated % of local budget allocation assigned to DRR

Description:

According to the article 11 and 12 of the DM law, DM committees with the participation of all relevant actors should be formed at the provincial and district levels and they should take necessary steps for DRR which include budget allocation and fund raising from the donor communities. National DM committee has allocated nominal fund for each province which is mostly utilized for response purposes. UN agencies and NGOs has also dedicated fund for DRR as well as response and implement their projects in coordination with the provincial disaster management committees. The National Solidarity program (NSP) is mega project run by the ministry of rural rehabilitation and development implements various projects in DRR at the district and village levels with the participation of the local communities. Construction of retaining walls, protection wall, water supply networks, health centres, bandanna and canals, and river embankment are the examples of the projects run under the NSP program. MRRD has established 163 Disaster Management Committee to work as an institution for disaster management at local level. The committees have responsibilities for coordinating disaster management activities. MRRD invests in social capital and in physical assets to reduce the vulnerability, support recovery of disaster- affected communities. In support of government disaster management programmes, some NGOs have implemented Community Based Disaster Management (CBDRM) Model which is comprehensive approach for disaster risk reduction at provincial and district levels and have promoted cash for asset creation in response to droughts.

Context & Constraints:

The total budget used for DRR and response is not sufficient to make the local communities resilient to disasters. Mainstreaming DRR into developmental policies is still a challenge and we feel that there is little awareness regarding the importance of DRR among the policy makers and high ranking managers. The involvement of the communities in decision making and planning for DRR is imperative and need to be improved.

Supporting document:

> DM Law Persian version (2012) /files/31182_lawondisastermanagementiroa.pdf [PDF 275.65 KB]

Priority for action1: Core indicator 4

A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Are civil society organizations, national finance and planning institutions, key economic and development sector organizations represented in the national platform?

Yes

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * 1 civil society members (specify absolute number)
- * 2 national finance and planning institutions (specify absolute number)
- * 19 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)
- * 1 private sector (specify absolute number)
- * 1 science and academic institutions (specify absolute number)
- * 1 women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)
- * UN OCHA, Afghan Red Crescent Society, NGOs working in DM other (please specify)

Where is the coordinating lead institution for disaster risk reduction located?

-- not complete --

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * Yes: In the Prime Minister's/President's Office
- * No: In a central planning and/or coordinating unit
- * No: In a civil protection department
- * No: In an environmental planning ministry
- * No: In the Ministry of Finance
- * 0 Other (Please specify)

Description:

The institutional framework of Disaster Management for Afghanistan comprises a National Disaster Management Commission as the Apex body, chaired by the Second Vice President with participation of relevant ministries (Article 7, DM Law). The National Commission is the principal body for setting out national policy direction towards reducing risk of disasters through vulnerability reduction, and responding to emergency situations. Members of the National Commission represent key sectors that have a critical role in managing disasters. The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) is the principal executing body at national level acting as the Secretariat for the National Commission. International Organizations involved in disaster response, relief, rehabilitation and mitigation engage directly with the respective

executing agencies of the Government of Afghanistan, based on the overall direction set by the National Commission and pro-actively coordinated by the ANDMA. At province level, the Province level Disaster Management Committees /Commissions (PDMCs) (Article 11, DM Law) acts as the counterpart to the National Commission. The PDMCs are the vital link between National disaster Management process and sub-national process at Province, District and local level. The National committee and provincial committee acts as DRR platform at the national and sub national levels.

Context & Constraints:

The National DRR platform has been formed in February 2010 but is not functional since then. Instead the national disaster management committee which is highest platform acts as DRR as well as response forum. Likewise the provincial disaster management committee has the same responsibility at provincial level. Per article 12 of the DM Law, district disaster management committees may be established for managing the DM affairs at the local and grass root level but till date ANDMA has not been able to establish the committees at the lower levels. Although some NGOs and the ministry of rural rehabilitation has began some sort of committees in some parts of the country for DRR. Since Afghanistan is continuously facing multi hazards with limited resources both human as well physical therefore most of the activities are focused on response leaving little energy for DRR.

Priority for action 2

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 1

National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment with a common methodology available to inform planning and development decisions?

Yes

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * Yes: Multi-hazard risk assessment
- * 0 % of schools and hospitals assessed
- * 0 schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)

- * No: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments
- * Yes: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments
- * No: Risk assessment held by a central repository (lead institution)
- * Yes: Common format for risk assessment
- * Yes: Risk assessment format customised by user
- * Yes: Is future/probable risk assessed?

Description:

Multi hazards risk assessments have been conducted by some NGOs and UN agencies in some parts of Afghanistan especially in risky areas. The information is used by UN agencies and NGOs for implementing various DRR projects. According to the assessment, North-eastern part of Afghanistan is vulnerable to medium and large earthquakes, as well as landslides, as the country lies along an active tectonic boundary called Indo - Eurasian boundary. 21 out of 34 provinces in the country are vulnerable to floods. The South west part of Afghanistan is highly drought prone, and the Western and central belt is highly flood affected. However the South West and few northern provinces of Afghanistan (Herat, Ghor, Urozhan, Jozjan, Balkh and Faryab) are severely affected by both, flood and drought.

Context & Constraints:

No systemic multi hazards assessment has been conducted so far at the national and sub national level covering 100% of Afghanistan under the government auspices based on the hazards and vulnerability data. There is dire need for a comprehensive assessment at the national as well lower level especially community level with the involvement of local population as they are aware of the hot spots. There is inadequate capacity in conducting risk and vulnerability assessment, a situation compounded by inadequate coordination and information sharing. There is need to improve data management, processing, reporting and dissemination. There is need to develop capacity for the meteorological research centre for forecasting flood, drought and other climate related hazards.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 2

Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Are disaster losses and hazards systematically reported, monitored and analyzed?

No

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * Yes: Disaster loss databases exist and are regularly updated
- * Yes: Reports generated and used in planning by finance, planning and sectoral line ministries (from the disaster databases/ information systems)
- * No: Hazards are consistently monitored across localities and territorial boundaries

Description:

Disaster management information system is the backbone of the DM. At a moment the information system is very fragmented and there is no single official site for collecting, collating, analyzing, disseminating and archiving the data related to disasters. NGOs, UN agencies, line ministries are having their data bases per their mandate. For example MRRD liaises with some agencies to provide information for strengthening of EWS at community level and piloted 1 flash flood early warning system; plan to install & pilot further systems this year. ANDMA has begun to develop DMIS with an advanced data base which would be a single official source of complete information. Currently the data base in ANDMA is more response oriented. Despite the limitations ANDMA has been able to generate regular reports based on the information received from provinces, UN agencies and NGOs.

Context & Constraints:

We understand quality data is vital in disaster Management. We need data for evidence based decision making and planning in all stages of DM. Fragmented information system sometimes is troublesome and may create confusion for timely decisions as often information received from different sources are different. That is why ANDMA has began to develop a system of collecting, filtering, collating, editing and analysing data received from different sources and making it friendly use for all end users.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 3

Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events?

No

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * No: Early warnings acted on effectively
- * Yes: Local level preparedness
- * No: Communication systems and protocols used and applied
- * No: Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination

Description:

Early warning system is a complex issue in multi hazards situations. It needs the involvement of different specialist fields. For instance, for earthquakes we need information from the geological department, likewise it is the Hydro metrological departments to provide information about the floods, forecasting, extreme weather, and avalanches and similarly it is the agriculture department that have to provide information about droughts. Warning related to threats of different hazards must reach to communities under threats on time so that they take necessary precautionary steps but it is not the case. Early warning system is weak in Afghanistan and usually the communities under the threats do not receive information on time, nor do the local authorities usually take action for early warnings. Some NGOs in some parts of the country have started early warning with the involvement of the local residents but it does not usually cover most of the risky sites. Disease early warning system (DEWS) is well established system in the ministry of public health with more than 300 sentinel sites for detecting outbreaks of epidemics. The system is equipped with modern technology plus well trained staffs supported by WHO.

Context & Constraints:

There are many reasons for the weak early warning system. Lack of modern equipments including seismic detection, hydro metrological instruments, communication system, limited number of specialist staffs and insufficient fund for improving the early warning system are main reasons for weak early warning. We understand awareness and knowledge of people related to different threats is imperative which is at a moment quite low. Little work has been carried out to integrate the traditional early warning signals with the advanced EWS.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 4

National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional actions to reduce disaster risk?

Yes

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * Yes: Establishing and maintaining regional hazard monitoring
- * Yes: Regional or sub-regional risk assessment
- * No: Regional or sub-regional early warning
- * No: Establishing and implementing protocols for transboundary information sharing
- * No: Establishing and resourcing regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks

Description:

ANDMA has signed MOUs with the countries of the region (Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan Pakistan and Iran), national and international NGOs. Through such MOUs ANDMA have been able to attract DM experts, holding national and international conferences, seminars and scientific gatherings in order to utilize and learn successful practices and methods. It is also used for promoting regional hazards monitoring and early warning system. Moreover, ANDMA is an active member of ECO and SAARC disaster management centers. In an effort to disseminate timely information for stakeholders and interested parties ANDMA is linked with SAARC through South Asian Knowledge Development Network (SADKN). A trilateral MOU has been signed with Pakistan and Turkey in an effort to promote cooperation in the field of disaster management.

Context & Constraints:

Despite the activities mentioned above the capacity across the region is of different scale. Some countries are well advanced in DM while some left behind. There is need for harmonized cooperation among the countries of region for transferring expertise and technology to those in need. Early warning system can be boosted up in countries with low capacity by those countries having well established and strong system. MOUs have not been yet adequately implemented.

Priority for action 3

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 1

Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is there a national disaster information system publicly available?

No

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

* No: Information is proactively disseminated

* Yes: Established mechanisms for access / dissemination (internet, public information broadcasts - radio, TV)

* No: Information is provided with proactive guidance to manage disaster risk

Description:

As mentioned above the disaster management information system is fragmented and each organization is having their own data bases and information system made per their mandate. The information generated is utilized in the area of their jurisdiction and target population. ANDMA information system is mostly response oriented and the information is utilised for monitoring the progress of response and early recovery in the affected communities. However, UN partners provide information related to threats of different hazards, risky sites, forecasting which is used in the planning stages and to some extent in the early warnings. ANDMA has signed MOU with IMMAP for making an advanced data base which would be used in all stages of disasters and would be the final official site for the dissemination of timely and reliable information for end users. ANDMA has a website which is used for the dissemination of disaster information. Above that we are linked with SAARC countries through SADKN where Afghanistan has a portal for uploading information for those end users who are interested. We have also used media TV and Radio for increasing the awareness of people with the help of our partners but we need to expand it to all risky sites.

Context & Constraints:

Information is the backbone of disaster management. Timely and reliable information is not only essential for decision makers but also for people at risk of hazards so that they take precautionary measures on time. UN agencies, NGOs and line ministries provide information at the sites where they have access and projects but we understand that is not sufficient and we need to have a systematic information approach for timely planning, decision making and early warning. ANDMA's information system would be the single official source of filtered and reliable data for end users and would be used for early warnings in the probable affected sites. In order to implement the project we need resources both physical as well as human resources.

Priority for action3: Core indicator 2

School curricula, education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum?

No

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * No: primary school curriculum
- * No: secondary school curriculum
- * No: university curriculum
- * Yes: professional DRR education programmes

Description:

School safety project was implemented in some schools in few provinces where the students were trained about the hazards, risks and first aid. With the support of partners, Kabul University has established the Department of Environmental protection and Disaster Management and run undergraduate courses for the last 3 years. More than 1,200 government officials, faculty members of academic institutions and NGO representatives were trained on different DRR subjects. Partners have held workshops and training sessions for raising the awareness of women and children in emergencies. The private sector has started bachelor degree in disaster management recently. Sharq Institute of Higher Education has established a 4 year s education program in the Field of Disaster Management, a one year education program in disaster management; Short courses in DRR and research. Focus (NGO) in collaboration with BOKU University, Austria will be conducting research - study on impact of climate change on geo-hazard and environmental sustainability. Government in collaboration with partners has developed a field manual which can be used by field practitioners to help them develop more effective Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) initiatives.

Context & Constraints:

Still we need to include DRR in the curricula of the primary as well secondary education. We have already started negotiation with ministry of education for accommodating DRR in their curricula. School safety projects need to be extended to all provinces and especially those risky areas.

Priority for action3: Core indicator 3

Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget?

No

* No: Research programmes and projects

* No: Research outputs, products or studies are applied / used by public and private institutions

* No: Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR

Description:

Overall there is limited use of research products for planning and projects implementation. The culture of research and evidence use is very low even at the university and academic levels. Perceiving the importance of research and innovation ANDMA has taken certain initiatives for promoting research. ANDMA has initiated serious discussion with universities and research institutes in the region and internationally to make use of their expertise and promote research in the field of disaster management. ANDMA has held international and regional conferences for sharing knowledge and research products in order to improve DM in Afghanistan. A MOU is underway with the university of Cranfield England for cooperation in the field of DM research. Through Civilian technical assistance program ministry of finance, a research advisor has been recruited to train staffs on research methodologies and use of research products.

Context & Constraints:

Lack of research institutes, experts and insufficient funds for the promotion of research are the main reasons for having being left behind in the research field. We understand political commitment on the parts of leaders for promoting research is imperative.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 4

Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Do public education campaigns for risk-prone communities and local authorities include disaster risk?

No

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * No: Public education campaigns for enhanced awareness of risk.
- * Yes: Training of local government
- * Yes: Disaster management (preparedness and emergency response)
- * Yes: Preventative risk management (risk and vulnerability)
- * No: Guidance for risk reduction
- * No: Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level

Description:

ANDMA and partners have implemented several programs and projects for raising the awareness of people and government officials on disasters and DRR. DRR trainings for masons, farmers, village leaders, women groups, teachers, government and non government employees have been conducted. National Solidarity Program run by the ministry of rural rehabilitation and development is a mega projects at the community level for raising the awareness and involving local communities for DRR. ANDMA has started initiatives for mainstreaming DRR into developmental strategies across the sectors and we need to raise the awareness and knowledge of policy makers and high ranking managers.

Context & Constraints:

A specific and comprehensive policy and strategy does not exist for raising the awareness and knowledge of common people and governmental officials. However, with the help of some NGOs ANDMA had began to develop communication strategy for integrating DRR into developmental planning and strategies of other sectors.

Priority for action 4

Reduce the underlying risk factors

Priority for action4: Core indicator 1

Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc)

Yes

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * Yes: Protected areas legislation
- * No: Payment for ecosystem services (PES)
- * Yes: Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)
- * Yes: Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)
- * Yes: Climate change adaptation projects and programmes
> NAPA (2009)
<http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/nca-afghanistan-fr-ap.pdf>

Description:

National Environmental Agency is an independent Directorate working under the President Office and is the nodal authority with a clear mandate of dealing with environmental affairs. The Environmental act which has been passed from the parliament and promulgated, spells out frameworks for managing natural resource conservation and biodiversity, drinking water, pollution control, and environmental education. Species management is an integral part of land use planning and natural resource management planning, and of management plans for protected areas and habitats. The Environment Act also enforces environmental impact assessment in order to evaluate the likely adverse or positive environmental and social impacts of proposed projects, plans, policies or activities. Government and its partners has initiated some projects in some parts of country by building the capacity of communities in order to be able to manage their natural resources and implement projects based on sustainable use. Afghanistan has a National Adaptation Programme for Climate Change to increase awareness amongst all stakeholders of the effects of climate change and climate variability on their lives and to develop specific activities that build capacity to respond to current and future climate change threats. <http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/nca-afghanistan-fr-ap.pdf>. As a member of Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management, Afghanistan has adopted the regional strategy for Promoting Use of Disaster Risk Information in Land-use Planning http://www.preventionweb.net/files/24664_24664rccguideline3.2landuseplanning.pdf. Recently Kabul University has started a graduate course on environment in the faculty of Environment and Disaster Management.

Context & Constraints:

- Lack of required coordination among government agencies
- Public awareness is very low on environmental issues
- Lack of financial and technical resources
- Although there are strategies, policies and regulatory frameworks for environmental protection, enforcement and implementation of these fall far too short to achieve intended goals.

Supporting document:

> Environment Law (2007) /files/31182_afghanenvironlaw[1].pdf [PDF 308.02 KB]

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 2

Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities?

No

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * No: Crop and property insurance
- * No: Temporary employment guarantee schemes
- * No: Conditional and unconditional cash transfers
- * Yes: Micro finance (savings, loans, etc.)
- * No: Micro insurance

Description:

Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) recognizes the high level of vulnerability among special groups: children, female headed households, the disabled, internally displaced persons, pastoral nomads (Kuchis), rural and urban poor. Government is committed to reduce poverty through promoting strong equitable and broad based private sector led growth that create sustainable employment and market opportunities and through fiscally affordable social protection safety nets targeting the poor. The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) through National Solidarity Programme (NSP) and National Area-Based Development Programme (NADBP) contribute to poverty alleviation and intend to reduce vulnerability in rural communities. Government with the help of partners has initiated a microfinance schemes (loans) for

IDPs and returning refugees. <http://www.misfa.org.af/?page=features>. Social protection is also being provided through donor-funded safety nets, often in the form of humanitarian responses to recurrent emergencies and through cash for work programmes. Saving groups projects, that focus on women and helping families to save money and access capital are also being promoted across the country. The Government of Afghanistan has also shown commitment to gender equity through the development of the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan

Context & Constraints:

The real needs to address poverty reduction are so enormous that substantial interventions are required to provide real assistance to the vulnerable particularly women who are burdened with child care responsibilities, social constraints, and the disabled who are not provided enough opportunity for full participation in society in order to take advantage of improved employment and market advantages. The social and cultural limitations on women still exist in some regions, ethnicity, class, age and status denying women access to development programmes that are key to vulnerability reduction. The real dilemma is the implementation of strategies and policies with the limited financial resources and low capacity in the governmental machinery.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 3

Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment?

No

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

* No: National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.

* 0 Please provide specific examples: e.g. public infrastructure, transport and communication, economic and productive assets

* Yes: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

Description:

Through its agricultural policy, Afghan Government and its partners is promoting improved water resources and irrigation management, expansion of irrigation infrastructure and active participation of farmers and community organizations are being strengthened. Other priority actions include improving watershed management to increase productivity of rain fed areas, and strengthening the lead ministry to prepare a

coherent water policy, a legislative framework for sustainable water resources management, and a hydro-meteorological database and network to backstop implementation of the water policy. The government is also strengthening marketing systems with a focus on market prospects for horticultural commodities, investments in rural roads to link farms to markets, developing grades and standards, involving both the public and private sector in the process, formulating financially sustainable management processes with government oversight to ensure fair trading practices. To address food insecurity, Afghanistan as a member of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) has contributed to the establishment of a regional food reserve by Member Countries based on the principle of collective self-reliance would improve their food security. The food reserve is to act as a regional food security reserve <http://www.saarc-sec.org/userfiles/FoodBank.doc> for the SAARC Member Countries during food shortages and emergencies. Humanitarian agencies like WFP and the government of Afghanistan ministry of Agriculture has maintained strategic wheat reserves. Some NGOs has started investment in retrofitting of public structures in their target sites but that has to be expanded.

Context & Constraints:

Roads, irrigation, and education infrastructure have deteriorated due to conflict and lack of maintenance. Due to climate change and variability, there is an increase in frequency of droughts that reduce gains in agricultural production. The country's limited forest resources continue to suffer depletion to meet demands from lucrative export markets and for firewood. Severe overgrazing and the recent droughts have contributed to the decline of the livestock population, and reduction in ground cover in hillsides has led to floods, widespread soil erosion, and reduced water retention in aquifers. The country's main challenge is in creating an effective economic and productive sector due to weak institutional capacity. Both public and private institutions lack the physical infrastructure, necessary regulatory framework, and the skilled staff to build a modern and competitive agricultural sector.

Development programmes in Afghanistan are concentrated in areas that are accessible and more secure.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 4

Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements?

No

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * No: Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas
- * Yes: Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas
- * Yes: Training of masons on safe construction technology
- * No: Provision of safe land and housing for low income households and communities
- * Yes: Risk sensitive regulation in land zoning and private real estate development
- * No: Regulated provision of land titling

Description:

In response to rapid urbanization, the Afghan National Development Strategy and goal for urban development sector is to ensure increased access to improved services, and affordable shelter while promoting sustainable economic development. The strategy focuses on improving the urban environment, the supply of urban services - water supply and sanitation, electricity supplies, rehabilitation of public works, town planning policy, processes, laws, standards, guidelines, effective land management. The strategy also considers the provision of land tenure to the inhabitants in informal settlements. The ministry of urban development has developed building codes for construction of infrastructures but there is problem with the implementation and enforcement. NSP is a program run by MRRD at the community level where various projects are implemented for making people resilient. In close collaboration with the UN partners such as UNEP, FAO and WFP, as well as the line ministries such as the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA), Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livelihood (MoAIL) and Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), an Environment and Energy Programme has been developed to implement the following priority areas:

- 1) Mainstreaming environment into national development policy and planning
- 2) Land and water management programme
- 3) Sustainable rural energy

The above-mentioned programmes have been implemented in various parts of country.

Context & Constraints:

Due to rapid pace of urbanization partly due to returning refugees and rural-urban migrants, there is a growing urban population particularly in informal settlements. It is estimated that 5 million people inhabit informal settlements living without security of tenure. There is low coverage of basic services and inadequate public resources to meet growing needs. There is limited scale of private sector investment in urban enterprises, facilities or services. Developmental funding is limited due to low interest of donors in the urban sector. Building codes and guidelines for earthquake resistant designs are hardly implemented and enforced. Housing of the urban poor and IDPs are often made of

inferior materials and such housing is in high risk areas. The government is facing difficulties in controlling the construction of houses at the river coasts and risky sites such as landslides.

Priority for action 4 :Core indicator 5

Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Do post-disaster programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR for resilient recovery?

No

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * 0 % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR
- * Yes: DRR capacities of local authorities for response and recovery strengthened
- * No: Risk assessment undertaken in pre- and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction planning
- * No: Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery

Description:

Through National Solidarity Program (NSP) rehabilitation of 1034 projects including retaining walls, protection wall, water supply networks, health centers, bandanna and canals have taken place. They were destroyed by floods in 20 provinces, 39 districts and 92 villages.

There are 1599 embankment projects in other vulnerable areas to a quantity of 482626 M3 using 240,414 thousand gabion to reduce property damage losses of life due to floods and natural disasters. There is now recognition of mainstreaming DRR into developmental strategies and projects. A national workshop has been conducted with participation of most of the actors involved in DM in this regards. In the recovery phase the government provide the people affected by flood and earthquakes with land in non risky sites and some fund to build new houses. Afghanistan has a National Disaster Response and Recovery Plan (2010)

http://www.andma.gov.af/Contents/295/Documents/226/Updated_Afghanistan_NDMP.pdf. The plan provides guidance on disaster preparedness, response and recovery through a cluster approach throughout the administrative structures in Afghanistan

Context & Constraints:

Afghanistan faces the challenge to operate a successful transition from recovery and reconstruction-based growth to a broad-based and sustainable development that is also resilient to the disasters. The need to integrate national efforts to reduce the impacts of disasters needs to be complemented with efforts in nation peace building, ensuring security, human development as well as environmental rehabilitation. The national efforts to disaster recovery efforts in Afghanistan are being hampered by repeated disaster losses due the recurrence of disasters that repeatedly damage people's livelihoods, infrastructure, economic and environmental assets. For example, in the 11 years between 2000 and 2011, Afghanistan has experienced 8 drought episodes and successive floods. Conflict, poverty and unemployment continue to increase people's vulnerability and erode their coping capacities to be resilient to disasters.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 6

Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Are the impacts of disaster risk that are created by major development projects assessed?

Yes

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

Are cost/benefits of disaster risk taken into account in the design and operation of major development projects?

No

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

* Yes: Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

* Yes: By national and sub-national authorities and institutions

* Yes: By international development actors

Description:

On the government site there is high recognition of the importance of disaster risks impacts of developmental projects. There are regulations for banning projects with disaster risk and at risky areas and sites. Environment Act requires environmental impacts assessments to be conducted on all new projects.

Context & Constraints:

Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development plans and projects remains a big challenge despite the advocacy for such at various fora in Afghanistan. Although the environment act requires environment impact assessment to be conducted on all new projects, there is no explicit requirement for disaster risk impact assessment on major developmental projects. Due to administrative problem, major development projects have the risk of being implemented without adhering to national laws.

Priority for action 5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 1

Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Are there national programmes or policies for disaster preparedness, contingency planning and response?

Yes

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * No: DRR incorporated in these programmes and policies
- * Yes: The institutional mechanisms exist for the rapid mobilisation of resources in a disaster, utilising civil society and the private sector; in addition to public sector support.

Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies?

Yes

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * Yes: Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety
- * Yes: Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness

Are future disaster risks anticipated through scenario development and aligned preparedness planning?

No

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * No: Potential risk scenarios are developed taking into account climate change projections

* Yes: Preparedness plans are regularly updated based on future risk scenarios

Description:

Disaster preparedness is a key component in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the Afghanistan National Strategy for Disaster Management. A 5 year national DM plan has been developed. Each province has developed their own provincial DM. Sectoral DM plan have developed by different line ministries involved in DM. Standard operations procedures for emergency funds have been developed to guide access and utilization during emergencies. The UN agencies and NGOs have strategic reserves for food and non food items during disasters with SOPs for quick utilization. Programmes for school and hospital safety are implemented by government with support of partners. Teachers and students were trained on disaster management and rescue in some areas. With support from the Ministry of Defense and WFP, mock exercises were conducted for earthquake and flood hazards. All UN and NGOs working in DM have their contingency plan for disasters. In addition to that annual DM plans are prepared by stakeholders under the supervision of ANDMA. The Afghanistan Disaster Management Authority coordinates all disaster management programmes. The Emergency Operations centre in Kabul has responsibility for collecting, disseminating and archiving disaster related information (early warning and forecasts) to stakeholders. The Disaster Assessment Unit coordinates post disaster assessments. The Social Protection department of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development is mandated to respond to natural, environmental calamities/disasters and to mobilize and facilitate resources for the affected people through NSP and run various DRR projects. Ministry of Public Health has established well advanced Disease Early Warning System

Context & Constraints:

ANDMA has established institutional mechanism for DM with clear strategies and policies. In the light of those policies plans are in place. ANDMA is facing shortage of resources both physical and human. Lack of equipments for search and rescue, seismic detection, hydro metrological instruments, communication and ICT, fire fighting are the main resource constrains. Moreover limited number specialists for different hazards are the challenges which impede smooth implementation of policies and plans.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 2

Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster?

Yes

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * No: Plans and programmes are developed with gender sensitivities
- * Yes: Risk management/contingency plans for continued basic service delivery
- * Yes: Operations and communications centre
- * Yes: Search and rescue teams
- * Yes: Stockpiles of relief supplies
- * Yes: Shelters
- * Yes: Secure medical facilities
- * No: Dedicated provision for disabled and elderly in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities
- * No: Businesses are a proactive partner in planning and delivery of response

Description:

ANDMA has 5 years DM plan with the contingency plans at national as well as sub national levels. Moreover, DM actors line ministries, NGOs, UN agencies have their contingency plans per their mandates. UN OCHA on behalf of UN agencies coordinates the humanitarian assistance including stockpiles of relief supplies, shelters and medical kits. Moreover, ministry of agriculture and WFP has their food item reserves which can be utilized during emergencies. There is also an emergency fund with the National DM committee which is utilized per SOP developed. Emergency operation centers have been established at the national and sub national levels for monitoring the disastrous incidences. Simulation exercises have conducted for earthquakes and floods but we need to repeat it on regular bases for all hazards. Ministry of Public health has emergency kits and pills during emergencies.

Context & Constraints:

Resource constrains are always impeding the smooth execution of contingency plans. The emergency supplies are not enough for massive disasters. There is no regular rehearsal and simulation exercises for multi hazards. The number of volunteers for search and rescue is limited and we need to increase it through involvement and training of local communities.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 3

Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster?

Yes

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * Yes: National contingency and calamity funds
- * No: The reduction of future risk is considered in the use of calamity funds
- * No: Insurance and reinsurance facilities
- * No: Catastrophe bonds and other capital market mechanisms

Description:

The government of Afghanistan has allocated Emergency fund which is used during calamities. The ministry of agriculture maintains strategic reserves of wheat which can be used under the direction of National DM committee. Likewise humanitarian agencies maintained their strategic reserves of food and non food items. Ministry of rural rehabilitation MRRD has the contingency plans for restoration of strategic infrastructure during calamities. Moreover, the municipalities have reserves for restoration of important infrastructures during disasters.

Context & Constraints:

Resources are not enough for massive disasters. There are no insurance and reinsurance system in place for assisting the affected population. The emergency fund is not used for integrating DRR into recovery projects.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 4

Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur?

Yes

Key Questions and Means of Verification:

- * Yes: Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available
- * Yes: Post-disaster need assessment methodologies
- * No: Post-disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects
- * Yes: Identified and trained human resources

Description:

ANDMA has linked with all provinces through emergency centre and get information on hazards. There are procedures and methods available for damage and loss assessment. However, NGOs and UN agencies are conducting damage, loss and post disaster need assessment per their mandates. UN OCHA has initiated standardizing the formats and methods for damage, loss and need assessments which needs further strengthening.

Context & Constraints:

We need to standardize the procedures, methods, and formats for the damage, loss and needs assessment across the board and every actors use the same in order to get similar information. The rapid assessment team needs to be trained in all provinces with the same standard procedures and methods. The use of technology in damage assessment is very limited due to lack of instruments and human capacity. We need to equip the system with technology as well as trained staffs. The lessons learned from the previous disasters are not documented and is used.

Drivers of Progress

a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

>Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region? Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?: Yes

If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy? : Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Afghanistan is country with multi hazards of geological as well as hydro metrological in nature. For example North-eastern part of Afghanistan is vulnerable to medium and

large earthquakes, as well as landslides, as the country lies along an active tectonic boundary called Indo - Eurasian boundary. 21 out of 34 provinces in the country are vulnerable to floods. The South west part of Afghanistan is highly drought prone, and the Western and central belt is highly flood affected. However the South West and few northern provinces of Afghanistan (Herat, Ghor, Urozhan, Jozjan, Balkh and Faryab) are severely affected by both, flood and drought. UN agencies and NGOs have multi hazards data for some regions which is utilized for strategy making and planning. The National Risk and Vulnerability assessment conducted by Central statistical department (2009) in the areas of poverty alleviation, food security, livelihood and vulnerability serves to assist the government to adapt policy to changing socio-economic conditions, and allow it to monitor the impact of such policies on the more vulnerable groups in the country. However, the multi hazards data is not available for all risky sites across the country. We opt to expand the multi hazards approach down the grass root level and have data on all hot spots and sites for a multi hazards approach planning. It is also imperative to integrate DRR of multi hazards into developmental strategies and planning across the relevant sectors.

Related links:

> NRVA <http://www.cso.gov.af/en/page/1726>

> NRVA http://www.moec.gov.af/Content/files/FSR_v7.pdf

b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Is gender disaggregated data available and being applied to decision-making for risk reduction and recovery activities?: No

Do gender concerns inform policy and programme conceptualisation and implementation in a meaningful and appropriate way?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

The government of Afghanistan acknowledges the fact that all policies, strategies and plans across the sectors be mainstreamed with gender prospective. Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) 2011 has integrated gender through making provisions of social protection for vulnerability reduction including women's and gender based vulnerabilities. In providing humanitarian assistance during disasters, it is standard practice to disaggregate the number of people by age and sex in order to make provisions for the need of women, girls, men and boys. In the last earthquake we had in Baghlan province

2012 (Burka) the earthquake took place during day time where most of males were out of home and the victims were women and children. ANDMA and partners will include gender perspective in all planning and measures for pre, during and post disasters. We need to initiate women village committees in order to involve them in making DM plans and self taking measures.

Supporting document:

> SNAP (2011) /files/31182_snapfinalversion[1].pdf [PDF 1.20 MB]

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Do responsible designated agencies, institutions and offices at the local level have capacities for the enforcement of risk reduction regulations?: Yes

Are local institutions, village committees, communities, volunteers or urban resident welfare associations properly trained for response?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Some NGOs in some parts of Afghanistan are conducting capacity building measures at the community level. Moreover, Afghanistan Red crescent society has rapid response team in some areas ANDMA has also taken some measures to build the capacity of human resources at the national and sub national levels, but there is general lack of capacity to implement and enforce disaster risk regulations. Capacity (trained staff) to implement disaster management programmes is generally low across the governmental departments. This has been compounded by the lack of institutions dedicated to capacity development in Afghanistan. We understand that there should be multi dimensional approach for building the capacity at the national as well as lower levels. We need to improve the capacity of human resources through systematic training and education of both technical staffs dealing with DM and common masses to take suitable measures for protecting them from hazards. DM education must be expanded at the sub national levels and at the school, college and university curricula. Moreover, we need to introduce modern technology for different aspect of disaster management and train the personnel. Information management is extremely necessary for timely decision making and early warning. That has to be improved at the risky sites with quick communication system for analysis and feeding back early warning signals. For all these measure we need dedicated financial resources from the government as well as donors interested in DRR.

d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Do programmes take account of socio-environmental risks to the most vulnerable and marginalised groups?: Yes

Are appropriate social protection measures / safety nets that safeguard against their specific socioeconomic and political vulnerabilities being adequately implemented?: No

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

ANDS is strategic developmental and poverty reduction paper which pays due importance to both security and social equity. It instructs all sectors to integrate social equity in their policies and programming. The ministry of Labour, Social affairs, Martyrs and Disabled has initiated a pilot social safety net project with the help of World Bank to provide unconditional cash transfer for poor communities. Likewise National solidarity program (NSP) run by the ministry of rural rehabilitation and development provides social protection programs across the country. However, looking at the huge vulnerabilities, the social protection and poverty alleviation projects do not match with the existing gravity of situation. It is obvious that the most vulnerable group is being affected by disasters the most as their coping capacities are quite low. We examine vulnerability in terms of poverty, security and geographical difficulties. Harsh winter isolate some northern and central parts of Afghanistan from the rest parts making it inaccessible for relief items to reach to the affected areas and for that we need to develop local strategic reserves and essential public services. Moreover, there are certain areas where security is compromised. We need to involve the local shuras (councils) with the assistance of government authorities and humanitarian organization to make their strategic reserves and needs. Poverty is a crosscutting issue and every sector need to boost up economic activities so that people will have opportunities to enhance their livelihood. Micro financing is an area where people are given easy conditional loans for starting small enterprises.

Related links:

> Micro Finance http://www.misfa.org.af/site_files/13613503571.pdf

> NSP <http://www.nspafghanistan.org>

e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels

Levels of Reliance:

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Are there identified means and sources to convey local relevance, community experience or traditional knowledge in disaster risk reduction?: Yes

If so, are they being integrated within local, sub-national and national disaster risk reduction plans and activities in a meaningful way?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Since Afghanistan is a post conflict nation the engagement of UN agencies and NGOs in various developmental projects including disaster Management is prominent. There are strong bond among the public and private partners. Most of the DRR projects are carried out by the UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations. We need to further enhance the private and public partnership in the area of DM at the local levels especially village so that various DRR projects run under the ownership of local communities with the DM actors. The indigenous knowledge, skills and traditions should be integrated with the modern approaches to make local communities resilient to catastrophes culturally acceptable.

Contextual Drivers of Progress**Regional and International Cooperation****Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

We understand disaster does not recognize borders. The calamity can occur and engulf countries of the region. We understand through regional as well as international cooperation we can make the region as a whole resilient to disasters through sharing expertise, technology, best practices and information

Future Outlook

Future Outlook Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Overall Challenges:

The biggest challenge is the knowledge and awareness of policy makers regarding the importance of DRR integration into developmental policies and planning. With a disastrous event, years of development can be ruined in a matter of seconds. Moreover, dedicated fund for DRR and Disaster management across the actors is a challenge and at a moment there is nominal fund allocation.

Future Outlook Statement:

ANDMA and DM partners will strive for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the developmental policies and planning of all DM actors. For that we will focus on: • Building a national consensus on disaster risk reduction among all the stakeholders and increasing their knowledge and awareness regarding essentiality of DRR integration into developmental works. • Ensuring the enforcement of DM Law • Allocation of dedicated fund for DRR • Involvement of communities at the grass root level for making them resilient to disasters • Ensuring social and gender equity in disaster risk reduction • Ensuring the involvement of financing organizations for investment and micro financing in DRR

Future Outlook Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Overall Challenges:

We have not been able so far to extend the DM committees at the district and village level. The capacity to cope disasters at the lower administrative level is limited. Financial backup at the lower levels is quite nominal and does not match with vulnerability and hazards threaten the communities.

Future Outlook Statement:

Enhancing the capacity of the disaster management institutions with following focus: • A comprehensive institutional strengthening mechanism and plan of action at the national and sub national level. • Promoting Community Based Disaster Management Planning and risk reduction with involvement of communities at risk. • Strengthening the vigilant information system with national emergency Communication plan to ensure real time dissemination of early warnings to communities at risk and local authorities. • Empowering the local authorities with financial support to initiate various DRR projects traditionally and culturally acceptable and feasible.

Future Outlook Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Overall Challenges:

So far the DM actors including government, non government and UN agencies more and less concentrated on response with no attentions to DRR. Planning and resource allocation were cantered around response to disasters.

Future Outlook Statement:

- DM Authorities will be supported to develop post disaster recovery and reconstruction framework and mechanism with the incorporation of DRR into response and recovery programs
- New approaches and best practices will be adopted for better response and recovery from other post conflicts countries.

Future Outlook Area 4

The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/199, requested the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. A first outline will be developed for the next Global Platform in 2013, and a draft should be finalized towards the end of 2014 to be ready for consideration and adoption at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015

Please identify what you would consider to be the single most important element of the post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2025):

There are few areas that we need to put it in the post HFA framework Overall capacity of DM actors needs to be build in terms human resources and technology Early warning system is complex issue and we are weak and we need more time to build it up Mainstreaming the DRR into developmental policies, strategies and plans Last but not least the financial resources be diverted towards DRR

Stakeholders

Organizations, departments, and institutions contributed to the report.

- * Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) (Gov)
- * National Environmental Agency (NEPA) (Gov)
- * Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) (Gov)
- * UN OCHA (UN & Intl)
- * IOM (UN & Intl)
- * UNFPA (UN & Intl)
- * IMC (NGO)
- * Care International (NGO)

- * CWS (NGO)
- * FOCUS humanitarian (NGO)
- * Afghan Aid (NGO)
- * Action Aid (NGO)
- * Solidarities (NGO)
- * Save the Children (NGO)