

# Timor-Leste

## National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011) - interim

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## Strategic goals

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### 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.*

#### **Strategic Goal Statement:**

The 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami was a turning point for Timor-Leste to start realizing its vulnerability to potential earthquakes and tsunamis. In response to the community's concern and to guarantee the security and safety of its citizens, the government acknowledges the need for a proactive approach to manage negative impacts of disasters.

The IV Constitutional Government of Timor-Leste realizes that Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is fundamental to the socio-economic development of Timor-Leste and takes the responsibility to develop and integrate disaster prevention system in the country's planning.

To materialize the constitutional mandate, the National Disaster Management Directorate (NDMD) under the Secretary of State for Social Assistance and Natural Disasters of the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) was established to take responsibility to perform day-to-day operations and coordination in order to elevate the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) agenda in Timor-Leste.

In March 2008, the NDMD established a National Disaster Risk Management Policy for the next five years (2007-2012) to guide in the identification of government's development priorities, objectives and strategies. The policy includes risk analyses, vulnerability monitoring, early warning, emergency management, post-disaster research and review, recovery and knowledge development, awareness raising and human resource development. The policy outlines plans to develop DRM programs and recognizes the need for institutional capacity building, organizational and decentralized administration of disaster risk management as well as the need for community participation, including the vulnerable groups.

Although the Government of Timor-Leste considers DRM as a priority and supports the dissemination of DRM policy to the district levels, the current Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 of Timor-Leste has not explicitly reflected nor integrated DRM as one of its development priorities. Disaster Management is included in the Strategic Plan Document of MSS 2009-2012.

### 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:**

To develop and strengthen its institution and mechanisms, 13 decentralized District Disaster Management Committee (DDMCs), namely Dili, Liquica, Ermera, Aileu, Ainaro, Baucau, Manatuto, Manufahi, Bobonaro, Covalima, Oecusse, Viqueque, and Lautem, were established. DDMC are responsible for disaster mitigation, preparedness, prevention, response and recovery and serve the functions of data collection, public awareness campaign, public information dissemination, food security, early warning dissemination and communication, rescue health, logistics and transportation, evacuation, reconstruction and rehabilitation.

The United Nations Transitional Administration East Timor (UNTAET), the East Timor Transitional Authority (ETTA) and UNDP conducted an overall analysis of the disaster risks and vulnerabilities in Timor-Leste. The findings suggest there is a need for the NDMD to also establish Disaster Operations Center (DOC) in every district to receive and to send disaster-related data/information to and from the community. Due to budget constraint, NDMD currently only manages to establish three DOCs in three districts: in Dili, Lautem and Bobonaro. NDMD is expecting to receive more funding this year to set up more DOCs in the rest of the country.

Timor-Leste intends to improve profile and performance in order to reach internationally accepted standards and principles of DRM. With this regard, Timor-Leste will focus on promoting DRM as a multi-sectoral responsibility, assigning accountability for disaster losses and impacts, allocating necessary resources for DRR, enforcing implementation of DRM, and facilitating participation from civil society and private sector.

### **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.*

#### **Strategic Goal Statement:**

Timor-Leste is highly interested to develop and to strengthen its capacities, especially the investment in disaster preparedness. Currently, contingency planning is included in several key sectoral planning of civil protection and health. With a collaboration of CBDRM Working Group, substantial capacity buildings and trainings for NDMD at the national level, and DDMC and DOC staff at the district level have been ongoing. The trainings include Disaster Management Orientation, Emergency Management Training, and Training of Trainers. The trainers have also given trainings to the community at the local level.

To further support the NDMD's agenda and disaster response and recovery coordination mechanism, NDMD Timor-Leste also conducts regular meetings with DDMC and local partners on the ground to facilitate discussions about DRR-related programmes in each district. NDMD provides financial and in-kind assistance (food, non-food, and construction materials) for DDMC to be able to provide immediate disaster response at district level. In addition, NDMD also organizes regular meetings for Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) working group to review the implementation of the activities of partners in the districts. This working group consists of local and international NGOs, civil societies, government agencies, etc.

DDMC provides relief assistance and construction materials to the communities who are affected by disasters. However, due to personnel and funding shortage, DDMC could not monitor on how the beneficiaries use the assistance, esp. the construction materials based on DRR measures when rebuilding their damaged houses.

### **Priority for action 1**

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

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#### **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 DRR included in development plans and strategies?**

Yes

**Means of verification:**

\* Yes: National development plan

> Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 Republica de Timor-Leste (2010)  
[http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15500\\_sdpchap1\[4\].pdf](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15500_sdpchap1[4].pdf) [PDF 3.65 MB]

\* Yes: Sector strategies and plans

\* Yes: Climate change policy and strategy

\* No: Poverty reduction strategy papers

\* No: Common Country Assessments (CCA)/ UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

**Description:**

Timor-Leste has recognized its vulnerability to natural disasters and has reflected it in its long-term national development strategy, although not prominently. Given the fact Timor-Leste is the newest country in Asia, it is perhaps understandable if the new government still has many competing development agenda to prioritize.

However, a National Disaster Risk Management Policy is already in place and was approved in March, 2008 but still has some operational limitations. For instance, Timor-Leste still has not yet established a law to translate the DRM policy into actions and to specify the responsibility of each line ministry in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) efforts.

With regard to Climate Change adaptation agenda, the NDMD is an active player in the proposed National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) on Climate Change. The document is still under preparation and there is a strong indication that DRM will be prominently included in NAPA.

**Context & Constraints:**

**Challenges**

Due to lack of awareness on DRR, there is a tendency from sectoral ministries that disaster is solely NDMD's task and therefore irrelevant to their work. Often when invited to meetings, many local authorities do not show-up. Or when they occasionally do, they only stay until the opening ceremony and then leave. On the other hand, the MSS, as the responsible ministry, is felt to have not put enough efforts to promote and to raise awareness among the line ministries on the importance of mainstreaming DRR agenda in their sectoral strategies and the national development plan. Moreover, NDMD fails to provide substantive disaster-related data that can be used for decision making.

**Recommendations**

MSS though NDMD should increase efforts to raise awareness on the importance of DRR agenda through high level forums/workshops, etc. To also make the national government, particularly the sectoral ministries, realize that disaster risk can put the long-term development plan in jeopardy if not proactively measured.

NDMD also needs to collect more sectoral data to provide more disaster-related data/information to key sectoral ministries on the damages caused by disasters to their respective sectors. Relevant ministries need to realize that disaster impacts could also hurt their sectors and affect their sectoral planning. Only when they see the statistics they will then understand the interconnectedness of their work to the DRR. To do this, the MSS should add more required facilities to ensure better information feedbacks.

Reference document:

> National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2008)

[http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15500\\_nationaldisasterrisksmanagementpoli.doc](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15500_nationaldisasterrisksmanagementpoli.doc) [DOC 1.58 MB]

## **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:**

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

### **Is there a specific allocation of budget for DRR in the national budget?**

-- not complete --

### **Means of verification:**

\* Less than 1 % allocated from national budget

\* 3.000.000 USD allocated from overseas development assistance fund

\* 37.500 USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)

\* 1.392.000 USD allocated to stand alone DRR investments (e.g. DRR institutions, risk assessments, early warning systems)

\* 2.860.300 USD allocated to disaster proofing post disaster reconstruction

### **Description:**

Please note that all numbers indicated here are only subject to funding that NDMD received from the national allocation.

At this stage, Timor-Leste cannot report the percentage of DRR allocation from the national budget as the total annual budget of Timor-Leste this year is still under discussion/preparation at the ministerial level. Timor-Leste has also allocated funding for disaster relief/response, not DRR, to other sectoral ministries, namely environment, health, education and public works, and the amount is not reflected here. There is already some allocation (\$ 4.119.000 in 2 years) allocated from the national budget to NDMD through MSS. Most of these allocation goes to disaster response, and the rest is for mitigation and public awareness on DRR.

However, there is quite a significant increase (30,4%) from the national budget allocated to NDMD from MSS within just one year - from \$929.000 in 2009 to \$3.180.000 in 2010. From a total budget of \$178.046.000 (\$74.523.000 in 2009 and \$103.747.000 in 2010), MSS is allocating around 2.3%

(\$4.119.000) to NDMD.

As an effort to trigger DRR mainstreaming into key sectoral strategy, NDMD has provided funds of \$30.000 for Public Works in 2009. And NDMD has pledged to give \$7.500 to Public Works for 2010.

In post disaster situation, NDMD has provided a yearly flat fund of \$10.000 to DDMC at the districts to be used for DRR activities including disaster response. In the past 2 years, a total of \$ 2.860.300 (\$550.000 in 2009 + \$2.310.300 in 2010) has been given to the community in a form of construction materials.

### **Context & Constraints:**

#### Challenges

Human resource remains a challenge to implement effective DRR measures, qualitatively and quantitatively. There is not enough people working in the district level. In fact, currently only one focal point who is responsible to do all activities in each DDMC. Their tasks are ranging from disaster response to DRR awareness campaigns. A similar challenge makes it impossible for any program or assistance to be properly monitored. For instance, DDMC cannot track the usage of all the construction materials given to the community, to check whether they properly use the materials to build based on DRR measures. A few cases found where people actually resell the given materials for some cash instead of rebuilding their houses. Part of the reason is because they do not know how to build themselves, while at the same time DDMC also does not have a capacity to train the community in building reconstruction.

Although some allocation does exist, the amount is not significant to fully implement substantive DRR work. There is not enough attention from the national government towards disaster resilience.

#### Recommendations

There are a few minimum strategic steps that can significantly improve the situation.

First and foremost is to add more human personnel at DDMC level to assist on the ground activities, especially since DDMC is also responsible for disaster response. By having more staff working in the field, DDMC will have more capacity to monitor and track the usage of post-disaster assistance, and to advise the community how to implement the minimum level of DRR measures.

In order to get more buy-in on DRM agenda from the national government, more academic studies or impact analysis or assessment on disaster risks should be available to provide evidence to the decision makers about the impacts of disasters to country's development process.

### **Core indicator 3**

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

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

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

#### **Do local governments have legal responsibility and budget allocations for DRR?**

No

#### **Means of verification:**

\* No: Legislation

\* No: Budget allocations for DRR to local government

**Description:**

The national DRM policy promotes decentralization to the local level, however other than a Terms of Reference (ToR), DDMC does not have any legal framework or a specific law to specify its DRR mandate in the field. Similarly, there is neither legislation nor other legal agreement specifying roles and responsibilities for local governments, particularly from sectoral authorities on DRR's implementation.

NDMD provides annual budget for DDMC in every district \$25.000 to perform disaster related responsibilities, including disaster response and prevention. DDMCs have absolute freedom to use the funds for disaster related activities without having to ask NDMD's approval for every activities or purchases. No budget allocations for DRR to local government of other sectoral ministries. However, as per request, NDMD through DDMC sometimes provide funds to sectoral work, for instance, to public works to finance some of their post-disaster projects at the local level. There are some local and international NGOs who work on DRR who assist the work of DDMC in most districts.

**Context & Constraints:****Challenges**

Although there is 'Lei Organica' at the national level, there is still no specific legislation for DRR at the local level. Only \$10.000 allocation and Terms of Reference which has no legal validity to ensure decentralization. In addition, there is also no government's law/decreed that can hold other ministries accountable to also implement DRR agenda. Moreover, community participation in DRR is still poor.

**Recommendations**

As a follow up of the national DRM policy, Timor-Leste has to prepare a law defining DRR mandate for local governments from different sectors for an immediate establishment of an integrated plan at the local level. NDMD should also encourage more inclusive coordination meetings with multi-stakeholders including community members for better DRR awareness.

**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 organisations , national planning institutions, key economic and development sector organisations represented in the national platform?**

Yes

**Means of verification:**

\* 0 civil society members (specify absolute number)

\* 5-7 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)

\* 0 women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)

**Description:**

Timor-Leste has set up a national inter-ministrial DRR meeting led by the Vice Prime Minister where every line ministries at the national level are expected to actively participate. This meeting is exclusive designed for government authorities and not intended for other stakeholders. However, due to lack of awareness on the interconnectedness of DRR with other development sectors, other ministries rarely

attend this meeting.

To facilitate DRR discussion with other stakeholders such as NGOs, civil societies, donors, and other interested partners, NDMD initiated a Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) working group to discuss on the ground issues which are related to DRR. This working group conducts its meetings monthly, at the local level.

Another DRR related-platform of which NDMD on behalf of the government is currently involved in is the new initiative of NAPA on climate change.

### **Context & Constraints:**

#### Challenges

It is very difficult to persuade or to convince the sectoral ministries at the national level to attend any DRR-related meetings. While the objective of this kind of platform is to actually raise awareness on the importance of mainstreaming DRR agenda to the sectoral strategies. The sectoral ministries still cannot see the linkage between DRR work and their sectoral work. While, the DRR platform at the local level, though quite effective, their DRR work at the local level cannot really progress if the sectoral authorities at the national level are still not on board for an integrated sectoral local work program. Their work at the local level will be depended on the approval from the authorities at the national level.

#### Recommendations

NDMD to constantly put efforts to find a more effective way to increase awareness of DRR mainstreaming at the national level and by making it more inclusive to other partners, and not only for the government ministries. MSS to initiate a high level multi-sectoral workshop targeting decision makers at the national level, namely ministry of finance, ministry of agriculture, ministry of health, ministry of education and ministry of infrastructure.

## **Priority for action 2**

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

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### **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:**

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

#### **Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment available to inform planning and development decisions?**

Yes

#### **Means of verification:**

\* Yes: Multi-hazard risk assessment

> Hazard and Map Risk Analysis (2008)

[http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15500\\_hazardandriskmapanalysisfortimorjan\[1\].doc](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15500_hazardandriskmapanalysisfortimorjan[1].doc) [DOC 1.01 MB]

\* 0 % of schools and hospitals assessed

\* 0 schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)

\* No: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments

\* No: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments

### **Description:**

Timor-Leste has had multi-hazard risk map for the purpose of planning and development decision since 2001. The map is down to the district level. Although it is not disaggregated by gender, the awareness to do so is there. The map also does not assess the level of people's vulnerability and capacity towards the hazards.

With regard to schools and hospitals, there is no information available whether or not all schools and hospitals in Timor-Leste have been assessed and whether are safe from disasters. However there are a few numbers of schools built by the Japanese in Ainaro and Lautem districts which are built using building code standard.

NDMD has ever proposed a plan to conduct multi-hazard assessment for all public infrastructures to the national government but the proposed plan was neither prioritized nor funded due to low understanding on DRR.

### **Context & Constraints:**

#### Challenges

The existing multi-hazard map is often used as a reference for a number of projects but never used in development planning or as decision making tool. The map itself is not widely disseminated to all levels. NDMD still does not maintain an inventory list of all hazard data/information analyses which are available for Timor-Leste.

NDMD finds it difficult to plan an assessment due to bad data/information sharing among departments. Many sectoral ministries collect data but never share it with other departments. It is impossible to have an integrated plan there is no transparency in their planning. For example, recently Agriculture ministry collected rainfall data but did not share it with the meteorology department for an unspecified reason.

NDMD also does not have enough human and financial resources dedicated for DOCs to conduct any assessment. Since DOCs established in 2008 as a follow up of the national DRM policy, the three DOCs in Dili, Lautem and Bobonaro have been depending from UNDP support for their operations. Although the government is aware on the importance of having DOCs, the set up of DOCs are not sustainable because no funds allocated to DOCs from the national budget. Currently, there are only 3 people working in DOC in Dili office for 24/7, while only 2 people in Lautem and Bobonaro, including DDMC focal point.

#### Recommendations

NDMD should lead a joint effort to update the existing multi-hazard map to make it cross-sectoral and to include vulnerability and capacity assessment which is disaggregated by gender. The government should take a lead to promote the importance of data sharing for an integrated sectoral planning to prevent overlapping activities on the ground. The national government needs to put more attention on the sustainability of DOCs as donor funding is temporary.

### **Core indicator 2**

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

**Level of Progress achieved:**

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

**Are disaster losses systematically reported, monitored and analysed?**

Yes

**Means of verification:**

\* No: Disaster loss database

\* No: Reports generated and used in planning

**Description:**

Timor-Leste keeps record on disaster events. There is currently no database but a report from excel sheet since 2000-date. It is constantly updated and covers the total number of fatalities, damaged properties, etc. However, it lacks info on economic losses or disaster impacts to key sectors, therefore, the collected data and generated reports are not used in planning.

**Context & Constraints:****Challenges**

DDMC has no capacity, e.g sectoral experts to conduct assessment to estimate economics damage on post-disaster events, even at the national level. Moreover, the limited number of human personnel with too many priorities at the district level is a recognized challenge.

**Recommendations**

The government should add more personnel to assist the disaster operations in the field and provide capacity buildings for not only NDMD/DDMC/DOC and government staff, but also to every relevant cross-sectoral partners. DDMC staff should convert the collected data and analyzed them to make it more substantive for decision making purposes.

**Core indicator 3**

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

**Level of Progress achieved:**

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

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

Yes

**Means of verification:**

\* No: Early warnings acted on effectively

\* No: Local level preparedness

\* No: Communication systems and protocols

\* No: Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination

**Description:**

In every district in Timor-Leste early warnings are already in place, but to village levels yet. As soon as DDMC receives warning about disaster from DOC, the focal point will immediately use all available networks to inform the community about the incoming danger. The focal will also go to villages directly since there is no access for local community to receive info about the incoming danger. Other basic communication tools such as telephone and mobile phones are still not yet available or if any, still very limited. DDMC relies on the national police radio and existing networks to spread the news. Bobonaro and Lautem are pilot project places in setting up communication systems. Timor-Leste receives alert from BOM Australia for climatology and cyclone, Japan Meteorology Agency for earthquake, USGS for all type of hazards, and Indonesian Meteorology Geophysics and Climatology. Timor-Leste receives alerts manually – through focal points. There is no automated alert system yet in place.

With regards to local system preparedness, Lautem is the only district where the community has established their own evacuation plan, map, and the sign for emergency alert. DDMC in Lautem is active and work closely with on the ground NGO working on DRR, especially Concern. Lautem sets a good example for other districts that DRR works better through a participatory approach. As a result, many other districts are competing to perform better, for example, Manufahi district is currently also working on its participatory preparedness system.

Police National Timor-Leste (PNTL) and Television of Timor-Leste (TVTL) are active partners in helping NDMD to disseminate early warning. NDMD is also trying to approach different telecommunication provider, such as Timor-Telecom but not yet successful.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

##### Challenges

Timor-Leste is still facing communication service limitations to really excel in early warning dissemination. Lack of communication facilities to and from districts or villages to allow news beings transferred is one of the main issues in Timor-Leste. Not all districts have good community participation which makes it a challenge to plan preparedness system that really works. (For instance, many early warning sometimes issued via satellite phone but Timor-Leste still does not have such equipments to receive warnings. UNISDR ever sent one satellite phone but had to be returned as it was broken but until now, there is no news if the phone will be returned to Timor-Leste again once it's fixed.)

##### Recommendations

The government of Timor-Leste should significantly improve facility for communication at all levels. More importantly the government should invest in capacity building for more skilled human resources. Timor-Leste needs people that have basic skills and knowledge to use these facilities and to analyze data received.

#### **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:**

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

#### **Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional DRR programmes or projects?**

Yes

#### **Means of verification:**

\* No: Programmes and projects addressing trans-boundary issues

\* No: Regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks

\* No: Regional or sub-regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms

\* No: Action plans addressing trans-boundary issues

**Description:**

Although Timor-Leste is a young nation, but it has active memberships in many regional and international disaster-related forum. Some of these are in emergency response programmes but Timor-Leste has also participated in regional DRR programmes.

Timor-Leste is one of the members of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in which one of its areas of cooperation is disaster relief. However, during the 8th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting in Banda Aceh, Indonesia in 2008, ARF agreed to move its work plan to also encompass relevant aspects of disaster risk reduction. ARF also supports the implementation of ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) 2010-2015. Timor-Leste reports its work progress to the forum in yearly basis. Timor-Leste is also one the members of Regional Consultative Committee (RCC), UNISDR – Tsunami early warning system.

Moreover, to show its solidarity and commitment towards reducing disaster risks, Timor-Leste assisted Haiti, China, and Cuba following devastation happened in those countries.

**Context & Constraints:**

Challenges

Timor-Leste has no local people who have the capacity or expertise on disaster risk management who could contribute in the regional forum.

Recommendations

Timor-Leste needs to invest in capacity building (not only in training) for Timorese to increase their capacity through scholarship, internship, etc. International partners should assist Timorese in a more sustainable way beyond a three-day training or alike.

## Priority for action 3

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

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### 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:**

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

**Is there a national disaster information system publicly available?**

No

**Means of verification:**

\* No: Web page of national disaster information system

\* No: Established mechanisms for accessing DRR information

**Description:**

All DDMCs collect some basic disaster data in an excel format but the information is not publicly available on the webpage. The information is accessible to the national level but not to the community level. Timor-Leste still does not have a webpage dedicated to disaster.

A mechanism to access DRR is not yet fully established. At the moment, information can only be obtained from NDMD office at the national level or DDMC at the district level. NDMD also shares its disaster information in the inter-ministrial meeting monthly.

**Context & Constraints:**

Challenges

Timor-Leste still does not have capacity, financially and technically to develop and maintain an online system for its disaster information. The country is still experiencing serious problem with electricity. The power shortage makes connectivity remains unstable. DOC staff does not have capacity in web design and there is currently no budget allocated for web-based system for disaster information.

Recommendations

Since the community in general does not access information electronically, having a webpage for disaster information will neither affect nor improve access of disaster information for the community in Timor-Leste. If the community is the target audience, a web-based information system is perhaps not the best solution at the moment. The country should however make its disaster information available online for global access. In order to do that, the Timor-Leste should invest in technical and financial capacity.

**Core indicator 2**

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

**Level of Progress achieved:**

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

**Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum?**

Yes

**Means of verification:**

\* Yes: Primary school curriculum

\* No: Secondary school curriculum

\* No: University curriculum

\* No: Professional DRR education programmes

**Description:**

The national school curriculum of 5th and 6th graders includes introduction to natural disasters under its science subject although there is no comprehensive reference on DRR actions yet. DRR is not yet included in the overall national education curriculum. However, the education ministry is planning to include DRR in the education curriculum, supported by UNICEF, Plan International, Save the Children

and Child Fund.

### **Context & Constraints:**

#### Challenges

The education ministry is said to be still investigating the right model to include DRR in the education curriculum, in which level of education, method, etc.

#### Recommendations

Timor-Leste should immediately learn from different DRR model in school curriculum in other countries. The selected model should then be customized in order to suit the country context, culture, etc.

#### Reference document:

> 6th Grade School Curriculum (Portugese) (2007)

[http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15500\\_6thgradeportugese.pdf](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15500_6thgradeportugese.pdf) [PDF 445.55 KB]

> 5th Grade School Curriculum (2007) [http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15500\\_5thgradeportugese.pdf](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15500_5thgradeportugese.pdf) [PDF 571.67 KB]

### **Core indicator 3**

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

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

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

No

\* No: Research outputs, products or studies

\* No: Research programmes and projects

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

#### **Description:**

Timor-Leste does not have a national research agency. The University of Timor Leste has one research institution that is frequently utilized for national purposes. However, DRR still cannot be included in any of its research agenda.

With the support from UNDP, NDMD has developed a format for data collection for post-disaster assessment but not for research.

### **Context & Constraints:**

#### Challenges

Given the government does not have its separate research institution, DRR agenda

#### Recommendation

DRR should be mainstreamed in all otherfuture sectoral research in Timor-Leste.

### **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:**

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

**Do public education campaigns on DRR reach risk-prone communities?**

Yes

**Means of verification:**

\* No: Public education campaigns.

\* No: Training of local government

\* No: Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level

**Description:**

NDMD, DDMC and partners from CBDRM working group are very active in providing public campaigns on DRR in all districts. They have trained local governments on ToT at the district level as well as the national level. The trainers provide more training on DRR down to the community level. Up to now, there are around 86 government staff from relevant directorate, including DDMC and NDMD staff, have been trained in DRR, though many of them are still not active.

**Context & Constraints:**

Challenges

At the local level

A multi-media approach, particularly film, is the most common tool used in DRR campaigns. Film is considered to be the easiest way to tell stories and examples, to transfer knowledge from different countries to raise awareness about the impacts of disaster. Since most of the films are normally from many different countries, the films need to have subtitles. The challenge is most population in Timor-Leste, especially in rural areas is illiterate. The people simply cannot always understand the message from the films as they cannot read the text even when it has been translated in the local language. Another problem related to electronic media is the electricity itself. At the rural areas, electricity is sometimes not available. Even at the capital city in Timor-Leste, electricity is still not reliable. Another challenge is access to some isolated areas in the country. Disaster risk-prone communities mostly live in difficult to reach areas due to very bad infrastructure (sometimes no roads or bridges available). Situation is worsened, especially during rainy seasons.

At the district and national levels

Many participants are bored with the similar campaign materials or films, especially since participants are always the same people.

Recommendations

Film is a great communication tool but when faced with a structural problem, such as illiteracy and electricity, more offline and long-term integrated solutions with other sectors are urgently needed. Such problems can neither be solved by NDMD or MSS alone. NDMD however can find alternative, offline, and innovative solutions for public campaigns, such as local play or drama, songs, etc. At the national level, NDMD should seek to diversify its campaign materials to make it less boring, to change its delivery methods, etc.

## Priority for action 4

*Reduce the underlying risk factors*

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### 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

#### Means of verification:

- \* Yes: Protected areas legislation
- \* No: Payment for ecosystem services (PES)
- \* No: Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)
- \* Yes: Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)
- \* No: Climate change adaptation projects and programmes

#### Description:

In 2008, the government has approved legislation on a national park in Timor-Leste as protected areas but without considering DRR perspective.

The government is currently preparing a National Plan of Action on Climate Change. Given NDMD is actively participated in this plan, DRR measures are expected to be included in the proposed plan.

#### Context & Constraints:

##### Challenges

The approved legislation does not look at this issue from DRR perspective. Unfortunately the environment sector has not seen the interconnectedness between activities of DRR and environment.

##### Recommendations

Given the environment sector is active in the environment awareness campaign, DRR work can benefit from its campaign. Without realizing its relation, many of the activities actively promoted are in fact DRR measures/activities. Likewise, NDMD's budget allocation to promote DRR can also be automatically utilized to advance environment activities. Sectoral planning is often overlapped due to lack of understanding of the interconnectedness. If integrated, the objectives of both can be both achieved more effectively and efficiently. The government to raise awareness to strengthen coordination among sectors for an integrated sectoral plan.

A joint awareness campaign exercise of three most related sectors, namely DRR, environment and forestry have been done at the district level. However, similar campaigns have not yet scaled up to happen at the national level. A joint awareness campaign will create a more comprehensive program and the fund which are saved from an integrated plan of each sector can be used to implement other

activities in their agenda that otherwise cannot be funded. Budget can be used more effectively. Three small budget allocations if integrated can achieve substantial results/achievements when combined.

## **Core indicator 2**

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

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

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

No

### **Means of verification:**

\* No: Crop and property insurance

\* No: Employment guarantee schemes

\* No: Conditional cash transfers

\* No: DRR aligned poverty reduction, welfare policy and programmes

\* No: Microfinance

\* No: Micro insurance

### **Description:**

There has been no safety net mechanism on DRR yet in place to protect people/livelihoods from the negative impacts of disaster. In Timor-Leste, the culture is still very much on disaster relief/response. Disaster prevention is new and not yet mainstreamed in all sectors and levels.

### **Context & Constraints:**

Challenges

Given this is a new government. There are many other welfare issues that require more immediate attentions.

Recommendations

To mitigate the disaster impacts, the government should also look into other affected productive sector such as crops and livelihoods beyond fatalities or physical damages. The government should start thinking for a mechanism to protect losses in productive sectors.

## **Core indicator 3**

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

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

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

No

**Means of verification:**

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

\* No: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

**Description:**

There are still many missed opportunity projects, especially projects handled by Public Works. Public Works has potential to incorporate DRR in almost of its public investments but due to lack of awareness, DRR is not yet factored in any of potential projects. Some new public infrastructures have better construction standard but no retrofitting has been done in Timor-Leste.

**Context & Constraints:**

Challenges

Timor-Leste is aware of its vulnerabilities to disasters but an understanding of reducing disaster risk in an integrated manner is not there yet. Therefore, there is no sectoral integrated plan which enables DRR measures to be incorporated in all public investment in Timor-Leste.

Recommendations

The government should be made aware of the importance of making all public investment, particularly schools and hospitals to be disaster resilient. A high level workshop to bring this issue to all sectoral ministries' attention is urgently needed and should be organized immediately.

**Core indicator 4**

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

**Level of Progress achieved:**

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

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

Yes

**Means of verification:**

\* Yes: Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas

\* Yes: Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas

\* No: Training of masons on safe construction technology

\* No: Provision of safe land for low income households and communities

**Description:**

Challenges

Timor-Leste is aware of its vulnerabilities to disasters but an understanding of reducing disaster risk in an integrated manner is not there yet. Therefore, there is no sectoral integrated plan which enables DRR measures to be incorporated in all public investment in Timor-Leste.

## Recommendations

The government should be made aware of the importance of making all public investment, particularly schools and hospitals to be disaster resilient. A high level workshop to bring this issue to all sectoral ministries' attention is urgently needed and should be organized immediately.

### **Context & Constraints:**

#### Challenges

The multi-hazard analysis which can potentially assist the government to do better urban planning is not being utilized for planning. Lack of human capacity in urban planning is also one of the factors.

#### Recommendations

All relevant sectoral ministries, especially Secretary of State for electricity, water and urbanization under Ministry of Infrastructure have to use disaster hazard map as a basis of implementation in their strategic plan. NDMD should not be used as the implementer of community's housing. NDMD should act as DRR advisory services to other ministries for better DRR sectoral mainstreaming.

## **Core indicator 5**

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

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

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

No

### **Means of verification:**

\* >1 % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR

\* No: Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery

### **Description:**

MSS through NDMD provides substantial post-disaster assistance and programs to every district. Although DDMC is an active player in promoting DRR in districts, many of its post-disaster assistance and programs have not explicitly incorporate DRR. Its assistance is still relief type and has not taken gender based measures. After the recent floods, DDMC has given construction materials to the community to rebuild their houses without monitoring whether or not the houses are built in flood safe areas or whether or not disaster resilient.

### **Context & Constraints:**

#### Challenges

DDMC does not have enough human personnel to assist its wide range activities in the field. The budget allocated to DDMC includes funds for DRR but not enough for disaster safe construction. The fund is only enough to conduct DRR awareness campaigns in the community but not for implementation of other DRR measures. With regards to gender issues, some gender groups are still not aware of the benefit of their active participation in disaster-related discussion.

#### Recommendations

The government should initiate the development of standard building code to guide the community to rebuild with safe infrastructure construction and provide safe construction training for community. NDMD needs to ensure more women involvement in all post-disaster discussions, including their active participation and representation in CBDRM working group.

## Core indicator 6

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

### Level of Progress achieved:

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

### Are the impacts of major development projects on disaster risk assessed?

No

### Means of verification:

\* No: Assessments of impact of projects such as dams, irrigation schemes, highways, mining, tourist developments etc on disaster risk

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

### Description:

DRR has been agreed upon, politically but practically, its implementation in development sectors has not been institutionalized. Many of relevant sectoral ministries still do not understand about DRR mainstreaming.

### Context & Constraints:

Challenges

Lack of awareness from the authorities on the importance of mainstreaming, including members in CBDRM working groups. There is no specific DRR allocation in every relevant sector.

Recommendations

The first step is to raise awareness and participation from relevant sectors about DRR and its impact to development process. Next, all relevant sectoral ministries should coordinate to make an integrated planning together for DRR to be mainstreamed. All impacts from major development projects should be assessed for inputs in sectoral planning. The government should also invest to increased capacity building and financial allocation on DRR in every relevant sector, particularly infrastructure, education, health and environment. Finally, the government should strengthen the political buy-in on DRR.

## Priority for action 5

*Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels*

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## 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 to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies?

No

**Means of verification:**

\* No: Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety

\* No: Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness

**Description:**

The current DRM plan in Timor-Leste does not focus only on schools and hospitals safety but to all public facilities in general. NDMD has organized several CBDRM trainings in order to disseminate information on DRR. Messages such as the danger of cutting down trees, how to make disaster map and how to take care natural resources have been given to community as well as teachers and students. There have been no emergency preparedness training and mock drills given in schools and hospitals.

**Context & Constraints:****Challenges**

Due to lack of awareness and coordination between NDMD and relevant ministries. Information sharing among ministries is not horizontal. NDMD does not have information whether health and education ministries have policy regarding to schools and hospitals safety. NDMD often invites both ministries: health and education to several coordination meetings and workshops but the relevant sectors often did not come. When they did come, they only stated for the opening ceremony and then left. In addition, the fact there is no law for each relevant ministry specifying role and responsibility for DRR implementation; ministries are reluctant to invest their time in DRR work related program.

**Recommendations**

The government should immediately establish law for relevant ministries on DRR to assist in the coordination process among ministries. NDMD and health and education sectors, particularly should develop an integrated emergency preparedness plan. Coordination and information sharing with all relevant partners, such as local governments and NGOs are crucial to create effective procedures to response to disasters in all levels.

**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:**

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

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

Yes

**Means of verification:**

\* Yes: Contingency plans with gender sensitivities

\* Yes: Operations and communications centre

\* Yes: Search and rescue teams

\* Yes: Stockpiles of relief supplies

\* Yes: Shelters

\* Yes: Secure medical facilities

\* Yes: Dedicated provision for women in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities

**Description:**

Timor-Leste has developed a contingency plan for floods and droughts with gender sensitivities. Other sectors have also developed their own sectoral contingency plans and using DRM policy as reference. Stockpiles of relief supplies are currently available in the warehouses for every household in Timor-Leste. One package for one family in every district. And this also applied for shelters. Timor-Leste confirm that their relief packages have dedicated provision for women, however a bit unsure if shelter and other emergency medical facilities have taken women need into consideration.

NDMD practices decentralization towards DDMC. DDMC has absolute freedom to act and decide what needs to be done in the local level. DDMC also serves as rescue team in the district when a disaster strikes and provides relief supplies to the beneficiaries and receives help from the national fire brigade (Bomberos), the national police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) and the national military force (FFDTL), including assistance from international forces and NGOs. Mock drill on rescue has been tested in Atauro island involving Bomberos.

**Context & Constraints:**

Challenges

Limited funding and human personnel to maintain the preparedness efforts. Contingency plan is only available for two hazards, namely droughts and floods.

Recommendations

The government needs to allocate more funding and add and train more personnel on the ground to perform all the intended work to assist the community, especially during post-disaster situations. The government needs more drills on emergency preparedness, especially for school teachers and students to test the national readiness for future disasters. Timor-Leste is prone to multiple hazards; contingency plan should be made for multi-hazards, not only for droughts and floods.

**Core indicator 3**

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

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster?**

Yes

**Means of verification:**

\* Yes: National contingency funds

\* No: Catastrophe insurance facilities

\* No: Catastrophe bonds

**Description:**

NDMD has reserves for contingency funds for future disasters in addition to its annual budget allocation. Although the amount is still limited, Timor-Leste has proactively allocated some contingency fund from its national budget to every district. NDMD provides \$10,000 for DDMC that can be used for disaster response.

**Context & Constraints:**

## Challenges

Contingency fund for post-disaster response has not yet factored prevention measures. Besides, there is no monitoring and planning in place to track how the funds being used by the beneficiaries.

## Recommendations

Timor-Leste should create a national financial tracking mechanism to see whether the money allocated for disaster response contributes to disaster resilience efforts. The government needs to monitor how the money is used or whether the people rebuild their houses or other public facilities in safe areas and not in disaster risk areas. With this regard, NDMD needs to allocate more human resources and to increase their capacity to do monitoring in the district level. Timor-Leste needs to establish catastrophe insurance facilities and to maximize more community participation, especially the vulnerable groups.

**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:**

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

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

Yes

**Means of verification:**

\* Yes: Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available

\* No: Post disaster need assessment methodologies

\* No: Post disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects

\* Yes: Identified and trained human resources

**Description:**

DOC and DDMC visit the affected areas directly when a disaster strikes an area within their district territory. There has been a standard assessment form developed to collect post-disaster data (fatalities, damaged infrastructure, etc) but not on losses. The data is collected based on self assessment with the help of on the ground NGOs. Since there are only 3 DOCs set up at the moment, for the remaining districts that have no DOC presentation, the data collection is done by DDMC focal point in the district.

**Context & Constraints:**

## Challenges

DDMC has no reliable transport and other communication difficulties to perform assessment in

effectively. It's difficult for them to reach isolated areas without proper transportation because sometimes the affected villages have no communication networks while for decision making, NDMD always relies on DDMC to report its findings. Disaster risk reduction actions is not yet included in the design and implementation of all types of planning, including in the data collection or assessment.

#### Recommendations

NDMD realizes the mentioned constraints and is planning to provide transport and communication tools such as telephone, etc for each DDMC to perform their work well within this year. NDMD should consider hiring more staff and set up DOC in every district as soon as possible. NDMD should train more staff to conduct proper post-disaster assessment, especially when there are no on the ground NGOs working on DRR. NDMD should utilize CBDRM networks to promote better coordination and information sharing among relevant partners to create effective procedures to response to disasters in all levels.

## Drivers of Progress

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### **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?:**

Yes

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

No

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

In 2008, Timor-Leste has developed a multi-hazard risk map analysis to provide an indication of the level of disaster risk at various levels (national, district, sub-district or suco level). However, the analysis was not comprehensive as it did not include assessment on capacity and vulnerability of the people, especially women and children who live in disaster prone areas. Another reason why the current national development plan does not include DRR agenda is because there is no academic evidence on the disaster impacts to country's development agenda. Timor-Leste realizes the need of more analytical studies on multi-hazard assessment that includes capacity and exposure of the community to be used as inputs for the preparation of national development planning. Currently, Timor-Leste has no human resources (technical and financial capacities) to do such analysis or assessment.

Reference document:

> Multi-Hazard Analysis (2008)

[http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15500\\_hazardandriskmapanalysisfortimorjan.doc](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15500_hazardandriskmapanalysisfortimorjan.doc) [DOC 1.01 MB]

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

#### **Levels of Reliance:**

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

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

Gender disaggregated disaster-related data is not yet available in Timor-Leste even though there are enough studies and evidences that women are generally more affected in every disaster. Therefore, their needs should be accommodated. In the context of Timor-Leste, gender is an area where the capacity is still weak. Women have very little knowledge and capacity about disaster compare to men. The women groups in Timor-Leste are active partners but their focus is still on other issues, not on DRR because they still cannot see the clear linkages between disaster and women.

NDMD through CBDRM networks should constantly raise awareness among women groups in the country to explain the importance of women's participation in DRR planning. CBDMR group does not have any representation from the women group. Sometimes, when they invite them, the women groups never come. CBDRM should put women in its radar and more serious efforts and strategies to engage the women groups.

### **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.

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

NDMD, DDMC and DOC have some capacities to implement DRR but with many recognized limitations. Currently, they still do not have a legal framework or law, other than a draft Terms of Reference to institutionalize their roles and responsibilities. Therefore, DDMC does not have enough leverage to enforce DRR measures at the community level. There have been several DRR trainings/workshops for NDMD, DDMC and DOC staff as well as some budget allocation but everything still requires major improvement. The money allocated is still mainly used for disaster response. Other government agencies at the local level currently do not have any institutionalized mandate, capacities to work in DRM. There are already several local and international NGOs who have better capacities than assigned government agencies on DRR at the local and international level, but they also have limited funding and will not stick around forever to assist the government. Therefore, in the forthcoming years, the national government needs to prioritize and invest more to strengthen its capacity building in awareness raising, disaster response, networking, coordination as well as technical skills for individuals or groups in order to effectively reduce risk in localities. In addition, serious investment should particularly be dedicated for the government officials, particularly sectoral staff, local institutions, villagers, and communities at large who work at the local level to ensure its sustainability.

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

#### **Levels of Reliance:**

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

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

With regards to human security, NDMD has close partnership and coordination with F-FDTL, PNTL and other civil security agencies; particularly in integrate DRR to their existing strategies.

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

Are appropriate social protection measures / safety nets that safeguard against their specific socioeconomic and political vulnerabilities being adequately implemented?

## **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.

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

Significant engagement on DRR has been achieved with NGOs and some participation from civil societies, though still in ad-hoc manner. NDMD has not been successful to engage the private sectors in DRR agenda. There have been almost no efforts at all to raise awareness on DRR to private sectors. Their strategy still exclude DRR component completely, while private sector has potential to expand DRR awareness to a wider audience.

In the coming years, NDMD should look into some possibilities of potential involvement with private sectors in the DRR discussion and should increase more efforts to engage more civil societies in the field. The CBDRM working group has many cross-cutting networks that can be used to escalate engagement with these two groups.

## **f) Contextual Drivers of Progress**

### **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):**

As a new nation and a new government, the government of Timor-Leste has the advantage of not inheriting a legacy of bad government. The openness and the motivation of the new government to adopt good practices available globally are positive and encouraging. In an effort to create the best DRR architecture for the country, these can really make a big difference, if maintained until many years to come.

## **Future outlook**

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### **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:**

Timor-Leste is one of the newest nations in Asia and its new government has many immediate development priorities to address. Due to lack of awareness, Disaster Risk Management (DRM) is a development issue that is not yet well understood among government officials. A clear delegation and coordination in disaster response and DRR in general are still unclear within the ministries. This creates another challenge to have an integrated plan or a comprehensive DRM plan. The DRM policy of Timor-Leste still lacks of legal agreement to specify mandate for each relevant sectoral ministries.

When analyzing government priorities based on national budget allocation, one can say that DRM is not yet a government priority. Although there has been an increase in budget allocation to do DRR activities,

the budget is still not enough to make the agenda fully works. Moreover, Timor-Leste still does not have a comprehensive vulnerability mapping and risk assessment that can be used in planning and in decision making.

In terms of human resources, NDMD and its line coordination units such as DDMC and DOC are fully committed to the DRM agenda. However, serious capacity efforts are still significantly needed in order to perform satisfactorily.

**Future Outlook Statement:**

To fully integrate DRR in the national development plan and sectoral strategies, Timor-Leste will continue to focus on elevating DRM to become a policy priority and generating political commitment to escalate its efforts for the establishment of a legal framework and a decree law on DRM to define responsibility of ministries and coordination arrangement among them. At the same time, capacity building of human resources will continue to be prioritized. Timor-Leste in the future is looking forward to have a comprehensive multi-hazard risk assessment to be used in development planning, especially in sectoral planning.

**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:**

NDMD faces low human, financial and technical resources and capacities to fully implement its mandate. Limited funding from government to fully implement the DRM's mandate is a recognized challenge. The government is still depending on external funding from donors or overseas development fund to elevate DRM agenda.

Limited participation from multi-stakeholders, particularly from the civil societies and communities in all disaster-related meetings. The interministerial coordination is not yet effective in addressing DRR issues. DOCs are not yet represented in all districts, while DDMCs is still experiencing limitations (qualitatively and quantitatively) to function effectively.

**Future Outlook Statement:**

The government aims to provide more trainings (expansion of CBDRM training) to increase staff capacity and skills at national and district levels. NDMD will push for establishment of DOCs in all districts that can improve monitoring and evaluation and socialization of local DRM model in the districts to ensure maximum performance to enhance DRR agenda. The national government needs to have a Decree or Law to appoint one DRR focal point from every minister to be located in each DDMC. Sectoral ministries should have more active engagement in regular DRR meetings. NDMD should participate in more regional and international DRR forum to have access on good practices and lessons learned from other countries.

**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:**

Timor-Leste is still lacking a systematic early warning system in district and sub-district levels. Only a few emergency preparedness drills given throughout the country. DDMC is very active in disaster response and almost all of its allocation goes to post-disaster response, recovery and reconstruction but risk

reduction approaches are not incorporated in post-disaster activities due to lack of understanding as well as limited human personnel to monitor how assistance being used by the beneficiaries. Not many people, including DDMC staff understands about contingency planning and how to make it disaster resilient.

**Future Outlook Statement:**

NDMD should conduct more DRR awareness campaign to increase local knowledge on risk reduction measures and more seminar/socialization on contingency planning. NDMD should serve as DRR advisory agency and provide technical and advice services to other sectors when developing their sectoral contingency planning. The government and its sectoral ministries should ensure an improved system for early warning that is implementable in the rural areas. Every resident in Timor-Leste will practice more emergency drills and expand it and make it as a priority in all public entities, especially schools and hospitals. NDMD should add more personnel and money in district level for better response and to enable more opportunities to get involved in the recovery programmes.