Concept Note

Development of Sendai Framework "Words into Action" Implementation Guide for DRR GOVERNANCE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Topic	Words into Action Implementation Guide for DRR Governance at the Local Level
Proposed Target stakeholder	Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points, Local Government Chief Executives, Mayors, Civil Defence and Protection
Proposed Priority Focus	To answer this call by the Sendai Framework and to serve the needs of countries and stakeholders more directly, in supporting implementation of the Sendai Framework's Priorities for Action 2, and support a better understanding of the priorities for improving the effectiveness of DRR at local level, this guide will focus on the following: 1. A better understanding of the role of governance in a local government context in contributing to the Sendai Framework for DRR. 2. To elaborate on some of the complex and challenging issues of risk governance at local level in addressing the need for and how to improve understanding of risk governance at the local level to facilitate the DRR agenda. 3. To understand how local governments can be empowered, and governance can be reformed to ensure successful implementation of DRR initiatives at the local level. 4. To explore experiences, best practices and real actions addressing the challenge of the implementation and achievement of those targets for local authorities with a focus on governance
Reason for priority	The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030[1] outlines seven clear targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks, one of them being strengthening disaster

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[1] UNISDR (2015), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

risk governance to manage disaster risk. It also emphasizes the need for strengthening disaster risk governance at the local level for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation. Good governance has to be at the very heart of DRR means and outcomes. A shift towards governing risks with a proactive and forward looking perspective will be the key. This requires decentralised structures with strong frameworks to support policy implementation, with a clear understanding of responsibilities, and clear incentives towards action, as well as mechanisms to monitor progress, facilitate implementation and promote accountability. Accordingly, disaster risk management at the local level has to be a key element in any viable national DRR strategy.

It is the local government that is the first responder and the one responsible for community development and sustainable DRR. The empowerment of local governments should be a key priority in order to encourage democratic decision-making that involves the citizens and all key stakeholders at the local level. There is a need to identify mechanisms of implementation for the key elements of disaster risk reduction governance at the local level. It is also important to share examples and good practice, in particular related to multi-stakeholder participation, compliance and enforcement of DRR policies, transparency and accountability, responsiveness to stakeholders, consensus orientation, equity, effectiveness and efficiency, accountability, and strategic vision for reducing disaster risks.

Achieving local ownership for disaster risk governance depends on many factors, including interactions between communities and local actors in charge of implementing DRR policies. There are strong indications that many failings exist in attempts to practice decentralised disaster risk management at local government and community levels[2]. Accordingly, there needs to be context specific risk governance arrangements in place to promote DRR at the local level. It is important to identify the challenges faced by local governments in implementing DRR

The empowerment of local governments should be a key priority in order to encourage democratic decision-

[2] Aysan, Y & Lavell, A (2015), DISASTER RISK GOVERNANCE DURING THE HFA IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD, GAR 2015 Background Paper, UNISDR

	making in DRR that involves the citizens and all key stakeholders at the local level. A full understanding of disaster risk governance at the local level will need a thorough knowledge of the role of the various actors, and how they operate and invest in governance. In this context, this session will focus on the need and how to improve our understanding of risk governance at the local level.
Proposed schedule and deadline	• End of July 2017 : finalisation of the outline (table of content) • End of September 2017: 1st draft of the Guideline • Mid November 2017: Improved and advanced draft of the Guideline • End of December 2017: Final draft of the Guideline
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