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Palestinian Territory, Occupied

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

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Strategic goals

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:

- Strategic studies have been prepared to indicate disaster types and their consequences.
- Many of the official and semi-official institutions have developed many plans to reduce and mitigate the consequences of disasters - in the field of health, agriculture, civil protection.....
- Encouraging community awareness about the causes of the risks and how to deal with them.
- Disaster management policies and environmental hazards have been also integrated into the development plans.

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:

1. Activating the role of the Higher Council of Civil Defense:
2. Establish a powerful cadre capable of environmental risk management and reduce the causes.
3. Cooperation between all institutions and communities to develop joint plans for disaster management.
4. The presence of a human and a disciplined organization distributed to all provinces.
5. The presence of communication devices and wireless for follow-up and control even though if it was simple and traditional ones.
6. Carrying out training courses in the provinces in the area of first aid, rescue, ambulance and disaster medicine.

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:

1. Start preparing Disaster National Plan.
2. Preparing for the inter-institutional joint strategic plan, mechanisms, strong programs and foundation for the development of institutions.
3. Set up plans for training and scenarios to build capacity to respond to disasters.
4. Prepare law proposals to arrange at the disaster field and the institutional arrangements for all aspects of disaster risk reduction with the knowledge that the only law which defines who is concerned to face the disasters and dangers is the Law of civil defense.

Priority for action 1

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

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:

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

Is DRR included in development plans and strategies?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: National development plan

> National Development Plan (2010)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13361_15821591157715751604157816061605161.pdf [PDF 2.62 MB]

> Summary of the security sector strategy (2010)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13361_SUMMURYOFSTRATEGICPLAN.pdf [PDF 3.13 MB]

* Yes: Sector strategies and plans

> Civil Deffence Strategy (2010) http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13361_updatedstrategy.docx [DOCX 42.33 KB]

* Yes: Climate change policy and strategy

* Yes: Poverty reduction strategy papers

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

Description:

1. Disaster risk reduction was included in the national development plan and it was also integrated in some sectoral plans and strategies such as the Security and Health sectors, which in turn touched on the poverty and social dimension for citizens and their stability.
2. The framework for development assistance of the United Nations devoted part of the aid for capacity development in the area of risk management, particularly relating to training and rehabilitation for Civil Defense centers society and the establishment of new centers.
3. There are also projects for the rehabilitation and replacement of fire fighting and rescue vehicles.
4. It has been also agreed with the relevant authorities such as municipalities, the Ministry of Local Government and the Syndicate of Engineers to license the high-rise buildings and on the application of seismic codes in these buildings, in addition to the application of safety and fire prevention requirements.
5. With regard to the issuance of legislation and laws to reduce the risk of disasters, we do not have a comprehensive legislation in this regard so far, with the exception of Act No. 3 of 1998, under which the Higher Council of Civil Defense has been was formed "as the National Office concerned with the development and application of policies to respond to emergencies and disasters of various kinds," There are laws on the environment and natural resources could be included within the concept of disaster risk reduction, and there are laws concerning the establishment of a compensation fund for farmers affected from natural disasters.

Context & Constraints:

- The Israeli occupation of Palestine is the most important challenge because of its direct and indirect effects on the work of national institutions as well as partner agencies.
- Lack of sufficient resources allocated to carry out activities of disaster risk reduction at all administrative levels.
- National Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction exists but is not being implemented properly, and it is not integrated effectively in sectoral policies and national development plans.

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

* 2.26 % allocated from national budget

* 0 USD allocated from overseas development assistance fund

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

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

* 0 USD allocated to disaster proofing post disaster reconstruction

Description:

- The reality of the Israeli Occupation.
- There is weakness in the resources and potential, the reality of the Israeli occupation and the
- Absence of a framework of comprehensive policies to reduce disaster risk to take risks into account when making investment decisions, it is necessary to allocate resources that promote the daily work of the institutions concerned with disaster risk reduction and to take risks into account when making investment decisions.

Context & Constraints:

- Absence of a comprehensive policy framework for disaster risk reduction.
- Lack of adequate financial allocation.
- The absence of a national plan for disaster response, mitigation and that show the role of society in this area.
- Political conditions and difficult economic conditions.

Recommendations:

- Development of legislation and comprehensive policies to support disaster risk reduction and disaster national plans.
- Allocating funding for the activities of disaster risk reduction and find budgets and the activated emergency funds.

- Consideration of disaster risk reduction as a national demand and include it when setting up the plans and when making investment decisions and strategic planning.
- Achieve the institutional commitment and begin to build capacity to reduce disaster risk by following the methods of scientific methodology and personnel preparation and training.
- Preparation of plans for the implementation of disaster risk reduction plans and mechanisms to recovery of the consequences of these disasters.

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:

Although there is no allocation for disaster risk reduction, the Civil Defense, worked constantly to:

- Find common ground with local government bodies and national institutions, joined in all the relevant committees of disaster risk reduction and public safety.
- Find supported systems by laws and legislation to take part in control of the constructions and service facilities.
- Set up of future plans for the development of information technology.
- Hold training courses and scientific conferences to spread awareness among people.

Context & Constraints:

- Absence of a comprehensive policy framework for disaster risk reduction.
- Lack of sufficient funds for disaster risk reduction.
- The absence of a national plan for disaster response, mitigation and that show the role of society in this area.

Recommendations:

- Development of legislation and laws that contribute to disaster risk reduction in order to reach the overall policy framework for disaster risk reduction.
- The allocation of budgets and emergency funds.
- The formations of specialized committees of the local bodies and train them.
- Support for scientific research and awareness.
- Exchange of experiences and do the professional studies.
- Training and Rehabilitation of volunteers.
- Completion of a national plan for disaster response, mitigation and include it in the National Development Plan.

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:

* 5 civil society members (specify absolute number)

* 15 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)

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

Description:

Because there is a national multi-sectoral system represented by the Higher Council of Civil Defense, formed by the Minister of Interior as Chairman ,and Director General of Civil Defense, Director General of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Director General of the Ministry of Public Works, Director General of the Ministry of Health, Director General of the Ministry of Local Government, General Manager of Ministry of Education, Director General of the Ministry of Finance, Director General of the Ministry of Communications, Director general of the Ministry of Planning, Commander of the National Security Forces ,Director General of Police, Director General of the Ministry of Industry, Director General of the Ministry of Labour , Director General of Ministry of Transportation, Director General of Police, General Manager of the General Authority for Petroleum , General Manager of the Palestinians Red Crescent Association, General Manager of the Engineers Association , General Manager of Jawwal Company for Communications and the President of the contractors Union as members in this Council. We mention that here is a systematic commitment to facilitate the interaction of key representatives on the work agenda of disaster risk reduction, but there is failure to adopt the measures to reduce disaster risk at all levels.

Context & Constraints:

The establishment of the Higher Council for the Civil Defense on the basis of laws, legislators sanctioned in 1998 and it includes in its context all the agencies including civil society organizations, national institutions, trade unions, where it works to facilitate the interaction of key actors on the work agenda of disaster risk reduction, and adopt the measures for disaster risk reduction at all levels, but it is not an real and effective actor in the true sense because of its non-allocation of budgets and the lack of achievement required of it.

Recommendations:

1. The integration of gender in the program of civil protection.
2. There Should be an obligation for all institutions so that it involves in all the matters relating to policies for disaster reduction and its risk because the participation and cooperation give better positive results and this limits the potential risks in the future.
3. Allocating funding for the activities of disaster risk reduction and find an adequate budgets and emergency funds.

Priority for action 2

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

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

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Multi-hazard risk assessment

> DRR Assment Report (2010)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13361_DRRAssessmentReport.rar [RAR 9.76 MB]

* 0 % of schools and hospitals assessed

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

* Yes: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments

* Yes: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments

Description:

- There are studies to assess the risks and threats in Palestine in general.
- Identification for the percentage of impairment in buildings ,financial vulnerability and statistics of the percentage of the affected citizens according to their sex but there is also a considerable lack of resources and possibilities for the preparation of monographs based on field surveys of all buildings in Palestine.
- Sensitive buildings such as hospitals and schools are built according to the recommendations of the seismic engineering.

Context & Constraints:

- There are deficiencies in resources and capacity.
- Lack of standardization of efforts between the competent authorities such as universities, the Central Bureau of Statistics, research centers and the Higher Council of the Civil Defense to agree on national standards for risk assessment and notification.
- The absence of a formal support of such studies.

Recommendations:

- Allocation of a specific part of the state budget for disaster risk reduction and to do the needed studies.
- Raise the level of coordination and synergy of the national efforts and build on the legislation and laws binding on all.
- Preparation of national standards agreed upon for risk and multi-hazard assessment.

Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Are disaster losses systematically reported, monitored and analysed?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Disaster loss database
- * Yes: Reports generated and used in planning

Description:

- All the information for the losses resulting from the disaster of the occupation and the physical, social, economic, and environmental impairment has been documented of and referred to the decision-makers
- As for the natural disasters all the information is documented such as the seismic record, landslides, epidemics and diseases, water scarcity, but there is not a systematic and comprehensive analysis of data on disasters and climate change.

Context & Constraints:

- Obstacles of the occupation in terms of policies imposed by impeding the preparation of studies on the major risks and vulnerability.
- Palestinian economy is weak, which led to the weakness of the resources and capabilities.
- The absence of laws and legislations related to disaster risk reduction.
- The absence of an information bank of consolidated disaster databases throughout the country.
- Poor coordination and exchange of information between the competent authorities and development sectors

Recommendations:

- Work to find a supporting legislation and laws to reduce the risk of disasters.
- Activate dialogue and coordination between the competent authorities and the existence of wisdom and collective efforts of both national policy and decision makers from various governmental sectors and representatives of civil society, including academic Institutions, the private sector and the media in order to create a common framework for disaster reduction.
- Promote scientific and technological research.
- Activating the partnership between the public and private sector.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

No

Means of verification:

- * No: Early warnings acted on effectively
- * Yes: Local level preparedness
- * No: Communication systems and protocols

* Yes: Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination

Description:

The assessment of capacity for the four factors of early warning showed that there is a weakness of the follow-up services, warning, information dissemination and communication and there is also a weakness in the disaster response capacity where it is not at the required high level of preparedness.

Context & Constraints:

- Occupation constraints in terms of its policies not to allow control on the ground and space, so there is no ability to use satellite technology, Palestinian Seismic monitoring networks.
- The absence of intensifying the efforts of officials on the development and support of studies and air research centers
- The lack of equipment.
- Non-existence of the scenarios and the regular and periodic exercise for of all kinds of disasters.

Recommendations:

Work to prepare a follow up team to pursue the technological progress and methods for the detection of the alarm systems in order to avoid disasters and this is achieved through scientific research and information gathering and dissemination.

Intensify the official's efforts to develop and support research centers and spatial researches

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:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Programmes and projects addressing trans-boundary issues
- * Yes: Regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks
- * Yes: Regional or sub-regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms
- * Yes: Action plans addressing trans-boundary issues

Description:

- There was a participation in the sub-regional cooperation frame among Arab countries to mitigate risk of disasters.
- Participation in the program PPRD-SOUTH.
- Participation in the International Organization of Civil Protection

Context & Constraints:

Challenges:

- The risk of nuclear contamination due to the presence of the Dimona reactor.
- The lack of airports and of control over crossing borders.

Recommendations:

- Work on opening the Gaza airport and Kalandia considering them as part of the territory of the Palestinian National Authority.
- Strengthening international cooperation and information exchange.
- Intensify workshops between the Palestinians and the experts the region's countries.

Priority for action 3

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

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:

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

Is there a national disaster information system publicly available?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Web page of national disaster information system
 - > The Government Media Office (2010) <http://www.gmo.ps>
 - > Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2010) <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps>
 - > Palestinian Civil Defence (2010) <http://www.pcd.ps>
- * No: Established mechanisms for accessing DRR information

Description:

All information about the risks of disasters was gathered sparse institutionalized but till now there is still no national information system for disaster because of lack of uniformity in disaster information management system at the national level.

Context & Constraints:

- Lack of government direction for the establishment of a central information bank for disaster.
- Weakness of information exchange between relevant institutions.
- Lack of resources and possibilities.
- Limitation of information exchange between official bodies and companies operating in this area.

Recommendations:

- The establishment of an information central bank that is available to all parties.
- Raise the level of coordination among official or private stakeholders.
- Increase the financial, technological and informational resources.

Core indicator 2

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

concepts and practices.

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Primary school curriculum
- * Yes: Secondary school curriculum
- * Yes: University curriculum
- * Yes: Professional DRR education programmes

Description:

- All the issues and the concepts related to disaster risk has been integrated in the university curricula and within the educational programs for the curricula of primary and secondary schools, where they will be reviewed, studied and continuously updated with the developments and the five-year plan of the Ministry of Education addressed clearly to the school environment and the interest of the disaster risk reduction and put them on the top of their priorities, and the ministry emphasis on training students on the evacuation by the crews of the civil defense, the existence of Environmental Club and a committee of students who are trained by professionals at the beginning of each year and the inclusion of the concept of disaster risk reduction, and the climatic and environmental change through the school Broadcasting.
- In addition to all, the Civil Defense and in cooperation with the Engineers Association are applying the seismic code and coordinating with local government bodies regarding land-use policy.
 - The application of preventive measures for buildings, high-risk facilities and industrial facilities in addition to raising public awareness.

Context & Constraints:

- Lack of budget for such curricula.

Recommendations

- Provision of financial allocations and qualified staff to prepare such curriculum
- The integration of disaster risk reduction into school curricula, education and health sector.

Core indicator 3

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

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:

•The absence of specific national budget for the applied scientific research.

Context & Constraints:

•The absence of specific national budget for the applied scientific research.

Recommendations:

•To promote scientific research.

• Preparation of newsletters and reports on disasters that have occurred, their causes and how to reduce them.

• The need of cooperation and support from the authorities at the national and regional levels.

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:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Public education campaigns.

* Yes: Training of local government

* Yes: Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level

Description:

There are some active awareness processes through awareness brochures and campaigns aimed at all segments of society at the institutional and private level on the culture of disaster response

Context & Constraints:

The absence of a national system to adopt a common systematic dissemination and consolidation of this culture.

Recommendations:

Work for a national system to adopt a common systematic dissemination and consolidation of the awareness culture.

Priority for action 4

Reduce the underlying risk factors

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:

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

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)

* Yes: Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)

* Yes: Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)

* Yes: Climate change adaptation projects and programmes

Description:

The integration of disaster risk reduction as an integrated component in the policies, environment protection plans and programs and natural resources management as well as the existing mechanisms such as environmental impact assessments have a good attention as there are many projects such as greening of Palestine, and the General Administration of marine sanctuary. The prime minister has ratified on the agricultural insurance fund and the prevention of risks and disasters

Context & Constraints:

Lack of control by the authorities on pollution cause as a result of the Israeli occupation since it is difficult to develop environmental plans that take into account disaster risk reduction is an essential complement to them

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 are no social development plans to reduce the community vulnerability that is due to lack of resources and possibilities, and non-allocation of special budgets for this work...

Context & Constraints:

Lack of resources and the deterioration of the economical situation adversely affect the implementation of social development plans.

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?

Yes

Means of verification:

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

* Yes: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

Description:

Due to the importance of protecting the economic activities and productive sectors most susceptible to damage at the sectoral level, it is emphasized on by the Ministry of National Economy and it consider planning for this sector as one of its priorities. However, the specificity of the Palestinian situation "under occupation" hinders the work of the involved institutions in this area.

Context & Constraints:

- Lack of a national plan to highlight the implementation of social development plans to reduce the vulnerability of the communities the most susceptible to damage.
- Lack of resources.

Recommendations:

- The integration of disaster risk reduction into development and sustainable plans where possible.

Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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:

- Application of the Seismic code on high-rise buildings, schools, public institutions and hazardous installations.
- Application of land-use policy with regard to examining the soil and the suitability of the site.

Context & Constraints:

Challenges:

Lack of planning for disaster risk reduction due to restrictions and legislation of the Israeli occupation

Recommendations:

Raise efficiency in the planning and management of housing and put it in the priorities of the plans.

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:

- * 0 % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR
- * No: Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery

Description:

- There are no government programs for post-disaster recovery that has a budget for disaster risk reduction.
- There are a number of institutions that have a limited number of studies and programs.

Context & Constraints:

Lack of resources and the deterioration of the economic situation.

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?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: 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:

The presence of procedures to assess the impact of disaster risk for big development projects particularly infrastructure projects will require financial allocations and a specialized training staff.

Context & Constraints:

The lack of financial allocations and specialized training staff.

Priority for action 5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

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:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety

* Yes: Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness

Description:

The progress in this area is slow and limited because of the consideration of disaster risk reduction an important priority among the priorities of the country's development and this in turn has been reflected on all the institutions of the country despite the existence of initiatives in this aspect.

Context & Constraints:

The failure to realize the true importance of the availability of mechanisms, institutional capabilities and strong policies for disaster management and risk reduction has led to dispersion of efforts to reduce and confrontation disaster risk at the level of formal institutions and partner agencies.

Recommendations:

- The availability of strong policies for disaster management with a trend to reduce the risks.
- The work to form a national plan for disaster response.
- Activating the Higher Council of Civil Defense.
- Raise the level of coordination and information exchange between institutions.

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:

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

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
- * No: Shelters
- * Yes: Secure medical facilities
- * Yes: Dedicated provision for women in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities

Description:

There are no plans for emergency preparedness at all administrative levels although the exercises were done regularly on fake warnings to test the readiness and quick response to the relevant agencies dealing with disasters and these are considering initiatives and bilateral understandings between the services.

Context & Constraints:

The most important challenges facing us is the ability to coordinate among ourselves to come out with a common perception in planning for disaster management, joint exercises and customize their own budgets in the face of disaster, increase the preparedness with limited and irregular exercises about fake warnings to test and develop plans to deal with disasters on a limited level.

Obstacles:

- Occupation and control of the areas and military checkpoints.

- The lack of a national plan for disaster response so far.
- Non-inclusion of the concept of disaster management into development plans
- Non-activation of all official institutions and also private partners to the process of training, joint action and the distribution of competences during the event Time.
- Failure to allocate the necessary financial resources for this work.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: National contingency funds

* Yes: Catastrophe insurance facilities

* No: Catastrophe bonds

Description:

There is a national emergency fund assigned to it from the state a budget amounted to 2.26% and there is a Presidential decree to create a contingency fund to cope with disasters, but it is not activated and it does not have the financial reserves and emergency precautionary mechanisms to support the response and recover from disasters when needed and because we are a dependent country on foreign financial assistance and the disaster plans is not included within the development plans that we have.

Context & Constraints:

One of the main challenges that we face is the Israeli occupation and building a national economy that has a high productivity and acceptable growth which offers up a reasonable reserve and this in turn has been reflected in the budgets, which may be allocated for disaster response

Constraints:

- Occupation.
- Weakness of GDP.

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:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

- * No: 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:

There are bilateral understandings to coordinate the information exchange, but it still humble, inadequate and this is due to the lack of systematic policy of the concerned institutions to give effect to the information exchange that is stemming from the lack of legislation and institutional guidance, binding in this regard.

Context & Constraints:

The process of information exchange during the event needs several things the most important is the availability of modern communication technology provides for information exchange as well as to the availability of operating room equipped with modern that is activated through the scenarios Simulate to the reality and the event

Constraints:

- 1- The absence of an equipped central operations room.
- 2- The absence of a disaster national plan.
- 3- Lack of the scenarios intensification for joint operations and to standardize the terminology.
- 4- The lack of serious Communications network, especially for the joint work

Drivers of Progress

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

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):

- The need to focus on capacity building (human and physical), community awareness.
- Raise the level of readiness and activation of land-use policies and seismic codes within the general legislation in the country and all of this requires the necessary financial capabilities to implement these programs.
- The need to invest in agricultural, industrial sectors, housing and rebuilding the revised infrastructure and public services according to the needs study and this will be affected by the occupation which is the biggest obstacle to any progress we hope.

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):

One of the most important areas to be worked on is public awareness and to clarify the roles of both sexes at different ages and above all the concept of disaster should be included in the emergency plans for official institutions and multilateral agencies and the work should continue to complete the Disaster National Plan that is built on a scientific and realistic foundations that is a true simulation to the community culture and traditions.

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

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):

Capacity development is the fundamental work of disaster risk reduction and the preservation of the individuals ,organizations and communities ability, to manage risk successfully, thus we have developed a strategy at the level of civil defense one of its main objectives include capacity building and specialized technical training, in addition to a program to raise community awareness to enhance the capacities of communities and individuals to identify and reduce risks in their communities and we seek to insert the technology, information exchange, network development, management skills and other resources, but this effort lacks the necessary funding to be applied comprehensively.

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):

Based on the nature of the political system in Palestine, the Declaration of Independence and the Palestinian Basic System "constitution" include the major items to ensure a social safety net for social groups susceptible to damage. However, translating these trends into programs is still limited due to many reasons including:

- 1-The reliance of the Palestinian National Authority Institutions on external assistance to meet their needs, weakness, and limited resources.
 - 2-Increasing the size of these groups in Palestinian society "refugee camps" - policies of racial discrimination, the separation wall.
 - 3-Decline in the standard of living for a large number of Palestinian families due to unemployment and the policies of occupation.
- . All that burdened the national and international institutions concerned with this matter

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

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):

Partnerships between the public and private sectors is an important tool in disaster risk reduction and these voluntary partnerships include public bodies such as government agencies or academic institutions, educational or non-governmental organizations with unions, private institutions. These partnerships provide opportunities to integrate the resources and expertise to work together to reduce risks and potential losses which in turn leads to strengthen the capacity of societies to confrontation, but these partnerships are still in their beginning and need more effort and time.

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):

One of the most important areas to be worked on is:

- Public awareness, the clarification of the roles of both sexes at different ages.
- Inclusion of the disaster concept in the emergency plans for official institutions and multilateral agencies.
- Completing the Disaster National plan that is built on scientific and realistic background that simulates the culture of the community and its prevailing traditions in addition to the.
- Development of the partnership concept upgrading its level.
- The need for more funding and to make further efforts to strengthen the scientific base which this requires a strong element of technical cadres.

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:

If it is impossible for human beings to prevent natural disasters, it is possible to limit their impact, reduce losses and mitigate the consequences. As a result, he needs know the likelihood of disasters, their size, and geographic locations that can be assaulted. We can accomplish all of that through conducting research and studies for the implementation of construction projects, which bear such disasters and their impact, developing plans, taking the necessary measures, coordination between the various research bodies , the executive and the legislative authority to response to disasters and mitigate their effects, not only in one city or one country, but at the regional and international levels.

As for the non-natural disasters (technical or industrial), people must work hard to prevent them, but if they occurred he must know the ways to control and reduce their impact and minimize its losses.

Future Outlook Statement:

Reduction of disaster risk requires the effective participation of community and this participation can build on the effective mechanisms to deal, it is also useful in supporting the knowledge and skills of community. partnerships between public and private sectors is an important tool in reducing disaster

risks, such voluntary partnerships may include public bodies such as government agencies or academic institutions, educational or non-governmental organizations with commercial organizations such as corporations, unions and private enterprises. Those partnerships provide the opportunities to integrate the resources and expertise to work together to reduce the risks and potential losses which in turn leads to strengthen the capacity of societies to confrontation.

In addition to the role of those official responsible, contingency plans, providing shelter for refugees from disaster areas, the supply and nutrition, health care, addressing the physical effects of disasters, addressing the health and psychological consequences, the requirements for care, treatment and management of human behavior, engineering design for new facilities and evaluate the old facilities in terms of resistance of extraordinary powers, such as earthquakes, wind, explosions, modern techniques in studies of earthquakes and predicting its intensity, strength, registration and early warning of some expectations of hurricanes and floods

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:

Challenges:

- Poor coordination between these institutions.
- The lack of stable political climate.
- Non-completion of contingency plans for relevant institutions.
- The lack of shelter for the displaced and homeless.
- The inability to provide care and food requirements.
- Inability to deal with the effects of catastrophes.
- The lack of a comprehensive system of early warning.

Mitigate the effects of disasters and raise the capabilities of the Palestinian community to ensure effective and rapid response we should:

- Completion of necessary legislation and the adoption of appropriate mechanisms to focus the national effort.
- Based on studies of risk analysis we develop confrontation scenarios.
- The optimal planning to invest the available local resources.
- Building databases for disaster to be available for all.
- Existence of systems for follow-up, conservation and dissemination of data on major risks and vulnerability.
- Establish a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of programs and plans at all levels.

Future Outlook Statement:

Mitigate the effects of disasters and raise the capabilities of the Palestinian community to ensure effective and rapid response needs:

- Completion of the necessary legislation to restructure and adopt appropriate mechanisms to focus the national effort to address and mitigate the effects of the total challenges.
- The gender integration in the programs of civil protection is a necessary condition to raise the community's capabilities in the face and reduce the effects of disasters..
- Based on risk analysis in terms of source and levels of danger we must develop possible scenarios to address them.
- Set up plans to invest the maximum available local resources - physical and human ones-
- Develop a system for providing information on disasters at all levels and all those concerned through the networks and the development of information dissemination systems.

Existence of systems for follow-up, conservation and dissemination of data on major risks and vulnerability.

-Develop a follow-up and an evaluation mechanism that provide the possibility of continuous updating of programs and plans at all levels.

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:

Challenges

- Lack of resources.
- Occupation.
- Overlapping of powers between the institutions.
- Completion of the National Plan for Disaster.

Future Outlook Statement:

- The application of specifications and standards for recovery and reconstruction after disasters.
- Develop programs and activities for cooperation between all institutions working in the disaster management.
- Identify the key role of each of these institutions in each stage of the disaster.
- Set up of scenarios to identify the strengths and weaknesses and evaluate all plans for disaster response.
- Adopt a Disaster national plan in Palestine as well as the civil defense strategy based on the basic directives of the international strategy to reduce disaster risks.