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Namibia

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:

Namibia has a National Disaster Risk Management (NDRM) policy. The policy goal is “To contribute to the attainment of sustainable development in line with Namibia’s Vision 2030 through strengthening national capacities to significantly reduce disaster risk and build community resilience to disasters”.

NDRM policy strategies are:

- The integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning at all levels.
- The strengthening of disaster risk management structures, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards at national, regional, constituency and community levels.
- The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.
- The building of multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels to contribute to the implementation of total disaster risk management.

A draft disaster risk management bill to enforce the DRM policy has been prepared and is awaiting promulgation.

Various sectors e.g. Agriculture, Health, Marine Services and Environment have legislation, policies, plans and programmes that contribute to DRR:- Drought Policy and Strategy, Green Scheme Policy, Fire policy and various legislations and regulations to control outbreaks of human and animal diseases, Environmental Protection Act among others.

DRR has not yet been integrated into National Development Plans (NDPs) but is implied in some sectors e.g. Meteorology, Agriculture, Environment and Tourism, Health, Housing and Water in NDP 3 (2008-2012). DRR is also an integral component of the overall programme outputs for the Africa climate adaptation, Namibia Country Component. Efforts are underway to develop a strategy to mainstream DRR into national development planning. DRR is included as a component in UNDAF.

A Disaster and Emergency Fund has been established and receives a regular budget allocation. Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs), Civil Society Organizations, UN agencies and Namibia Red Cross Society have budgets for DRR activities.

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:

Namibia established a multi-stakeholder disaster risk management institution with structures at national, regional/sub-national, local authority and constituency levels. The National Disaster Risk Management Committee (NDRMC) functions as the National Platform for DRR.

NDRMC is chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet and the Directorate Disaster Risk Management is placed in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) serves as the secretariat. These placements have made DRR a national priority that enjoys high political commitment.

Various institutions (Namibia Vulnerability and Assessment Committee, Agricultural Early Warning,

Geological Survey of Namibia, Hydrology and Meteorological services) among others have been established to monitor hazards and to advise government on interventions to take to reduce damage and losses.

Capacity development in DRR is an on-going programme at national, regional/sub-national, constituency and local levels to strengthen capacities of DRM structures. The Namibia Red Cross Society, civil society organizations and Faith based organization conduct DRR training at community levels. UN agencies also support training on disaster risk management for national and sub-national staff. With support from the UN/ISDR Regional Office for Africa, the DDRM has developed a training kit on Disaster Risk Reduction targeted at the Regional Council, Local Authority staff and community leaders. Plans are at advanced stages to implement a community based training programme on DRR with financial support from UNDP/BCPR . The focus of the training is to engage communities to establish disaster preparedness and response teams and volunteer teams.

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:

Following major disasters and significant events, lessons learned workshops are conducted to identifying the root causes of the disasters, assess the response mechanisms and to define the recovery processes. Recommendations are compiled for submission to Cabinet for approval and follow-up with the local governments and sectors. Government has plans for rezoning of flood affected towns, designing storm water drainage systems and for construction of road infrastructure that can withstand flood damage. Key recommendations have also been made to relocate the flood affected communities to higher ground, rezoning, enhancement of early warning with focus on strengthening these at Regional Council and local levels, training of communities on evacuation and use of boats and pre-positioning of emergency supplies.

With support SADC Regional Vulnerability, Assessment and Analysis Programme (RVAAP) a Livelihoods zoning exercise was conducted and training on livelihoods assessments was conducted for national and sub-national staff. The livelihoods zones and skills on livelihoods assessment were in turn used to develop national livelihoods baselines upon which vulnerability assessments and annual scenario analysis and forecasting were based. A system has therefore been developed for collecting vulnerability information including information on prevailing food security and tracking indicators to inform (i) early warning for pending disasters; (ii) guiding rural development strategies and ; (iii) to inform poverty reduction and social safety net programming.

Priority for action 1

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

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:

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

Is DRR included in development plans and strategies?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: National development plan

> Guidelines for Preparing the Third National Development Plan (2007)

http://www.google.com.na/#hl=en&biw=1024&bih=580&q=Guidelines+for+Preparing+the+Third+Development+Plan+Namibia&aq=&aqi=&aql=&oq=Guidelines+for+Preparing+the+Third+Development+Plan+Namibia&gs_rfai=&fp=7d80de46f053f3c3

* No: Sector strategies and plans

* Yes: Climate change policy and strategy

> National Climate Change for Namibia (2010)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15582_nationalclimatechangepolicyforamib.pdf [PDF 722.18 KB]

* Yes: Poverty reduction strategy papers

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

Description:

The first Principle of State Policy, Article 95 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, requires the state to actively promote the welfare of its people. In terms of sub-article 1 of Article 26 of Chapter 4 of the constitution; "At a time of national disaster or during a state of national defence or public emergency threatening the life of the nation or the constitutional order, the President may by Proclamation in the Gazette declare that a state of emergency exists in Namibia or part thereof." DRR was considered as a cross cutting issue in preparation of the third National Development Plan 2008-2012. DRR is implied in the Namibia National Poverty Reduction Strategy "Devising a safety net to assist the poor and those at risk from falling further into poverty through the design and use of grant transfer programmes such as pensions and the promotion of labour intensive works". Namibia has a comprehensive DRM policy and institutional structure to implement DRR in the three tiers of government. A draft DRM Bill has been developed evidence of political commitment to DRR. There is an existing structure for disaster risk management at national, regional/sub-national, constituency and local levels. The country has a systematic collection and analysis of risk and vulnerability assessments linked to the livelihoods of the rural communities. A budget allocation is provided for the coordination of DRM activities.

Context & Constraints:

DRR is still viewed as academic and focus is still on disaster response. There is limited integration of risk assessment in key sectors such as planning and development, housing (rural and urban planning) including such social sector as water and sanitation. Invariably investment in DRR is still low and there is an over-reliance on the disaster and emergency fund to address DRR issues. Sectoral activities on DRR are not adequately mainstreamed and there is risk of duplication or parallel programming in some cases.

Decentralization of DRR is progressing slowly and this has resulted in the low level of ownership of the programme at Regional Council and Local Authorities. An inventory on the DRR projects being implemented by various stakeholders is yet to be conducted. The 1998 National Disaster Plan needs to be reviewed to reflect provisions made in the DRM policy and draft DRM Bill.

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?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * TBA % allocated from national budget
- * TBA USD allocated from overseas development assistance fund
- * TBA USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)
- * TBA USD allocated to stand alone DRR investments (e.g. DRR institutions, risk assessments, early warning systems)
- * TBA USD allocated to disaster proofing post disaster reconstruction

Description:

The DDRM receives a regular budget for coordinating DRR programmes. Allocation for responding to disasters varies depending on the extent of disaster impacts. For example US\$15 m was allocated for 2009 flood disaster that affected 6 of the 13 regions. Various sectors budget for DRR but there are no mechanisms yet to disaggregate specific sectoral budgetary allocations for DRR. The DDRM budget has provision to access financial advances in the event there are insufficient funds to meet actual and estimated liabilities to the national disaster fund. Some Local Authorities have a funding system for DRR activities but the amount varies from Local Authority to Local Authority depending on the revenue basis of these administrative levels. Some of the Regional Councils have established a local fund for DRR activities. The Disaster Emergency Fund also receives donations in cash and in kind from well wishers especially during emergency situations. The UN agencies and Namibia Red Cross Society, civil society organizations have budgets for DRR activities.

There are inadequate DRR trained staff at both national and sub-national levels. Training in DRR is not adequately structured at both national and sub-national levels. DRR is staffed by personnel with other duties and responsibilities at sub-national levels a situation that compromises implementation of DRR programmes at this level. Some regions/sub-national level have appointed disaster risk management coordinators a situation that has seen an improvement in service delivery in these regions.

Context & Constraints:

No specific assessment has been conducted to determine the level of investment in DRR by various stakeholders. The existence of a national disaster fund has been perceived as the source of funding for any DRR activity by government agencies and the fund is regarded as the provider of last resort for recovery and rehabilitation of damaged public infrastructure.

Staffing of DRR seriously requires attention at both national and sub-national levels. Structured DRR training needs to be developed after a comprehensive training needs assessment.

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?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Legislation

> National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2009)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15582_drmpolicyaug09.doc [DOC 986.00 KB]

* No: Budget allocations for DRR to local government

Description:

There is no direct budget allocation for local governments for DRR activities from the consolidated revenue. The NDRM Policy (Section 6 page 39 and sub-section 6.6 page 42-43) however has provision for Local governments to financially contribute disaster preparedness, response and recovery through establishment of regional and Local Authority disaster funds. The Local governments can access the national disaster fund through requests to national level if there is need. According to the NDRM Policy, the granting of financial assistance to Local governments will be based on the extent to which the different levels of government have implemented disaster risk reduction efforts. When granting additional financial support, national level shall also consider the extent of financial assistance from community, public or other non-governmental support programmes and the magnitude and severity of the disaster, the financial capacity of those affected by the disaster and their accessibility to commercial insurance.

Context & Constraints:

There is still limited financial allocation for DRR activities at local governments levels due to competing needs. Although the regional councils and local governments are encouraged to include a budget allocation for DRR activities in their annual budgets, budgets for sectors at regional levels are controlled at national level . Implementation of the NDRM Policy on budgeting for DRR for local governments activities is yet to be universally applied.

Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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)

* 26 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)

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

Description:

A national multi-stakeholder committee - National Disaster Risk Management Committee (NDRMC) established in 1994 as a National Emergency Committee serves as the National Platform for DRR. The National Platform for DRR was launched in February 2010 with support from UN/ISDR. It has a total membership of 31 inclusive of Permanent Secretaries or senior officers for government ministries, the Resident Coordinator, Secretary General of the Namibia Red Cross Society, representatives from tertiary institutions, the NGO umbrella body, Trade Unions, research institute and association of Regional Councils and Local Authorities. The NDRMC is chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet in the Office of the President while the DDRM is the secretariat and the committee is responsible to Cabinet. The committee has the overall responsibility for the institutional arrangements, policy making, planning and making submissions on DRR issues to Cabinet. The inter-governmental/agency technical committee (National Focal Point Forum) coordinates the day today inter-governmental/agency DRR activities on behalf of the NDRMC and meets more regularly.

Context & Constraints:

The participation of civil society organizations and other non-state actors has however been passive within the committee while the government representatives are more active in the committee. Committee meetings are however not scheduled and thus adhoc. There has not been adequate advocacy on DRR for members of the committee.

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:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Multi-hazard risk assessment

> Introduction to Household Economy Approach Framework (2007)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15582_2practitionersguidehea2007.pdf [PDF 790.49 KB]

> Household Economy Approach (2007)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15582_1practitionersguidehea2007.pdf [PDF 439.64 KB]

> Practitioners Guidelines for Household Economy Approach (2007)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15582_5practitionersguidehea2007.pdf [PDF 750.39 KB]

* TBA % of schools and hospitals assessed

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

* No: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments

* Yes: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments

Description:

The Namibia National Vulnerability Assessment Committee NamVac (a multi-stakeholder committee) is functional and provides information on community risk and vulnerability to external shocks. NamVac uses the Household Economy Approach (HEA) to conduct multi-hazard assessments. The reports generated by NamVac are used by decision makers to improve the livelihood of disaster affected communities for the short, medium and long term planning. Namibia also has a National Early Warning Unit based in the Ministry of Agriculture. The system is responsible for collecting and analyzing data on crop assessment which it conducts three times annually. The information on risk and vulnerability to food insecurity assists government in decision making for interventions whenever there is risk of food insecurity affecting sections of the Namibia society. The National Planning Commission through the Central Bureau of Statistics conducts household income surveys and poverty assessments information that is useful for decision-making and planning purposes and tracing vulnerability. The Central Bureau of Statistics is responsible for archiving and disseminating all assessment and survey reports while individual institutions also maintain their own data bases

Environmental assessments and researches are conducted periodically that help to show environmental risks inherent in Namibia. Such assessments include assessments on water resources, land degradation, deforestation, biodiversity loss, climate change and natural disasters. Coupled with these assessments are economic assessments.

Reports on disaster damage and losses are compiled following disasters or significant events and are widely shared with the Regional Councils and local authorities impacted on by disaster events. A comprehensive disaster damage and loss assessment (Post Disaster Needs Assessment) was conducted by government and the international community following the 2009 flood disaster.

Assessment and survey reports are available on internet on various sector websites.

During the 2008, 2009 and 2010 floods, there have been extensive efforts to collect satellite flood mapping. Initiatives for flood risk mapping, combining hazard and exposure mapping, are starting implementation.

Context & Constraints:

The disaster risk management institution has not established a one-stop database to access assessment reports and surveys by all stakeholders. There is inadequate synergy and utilization of the GIS units at regional and national levels to develop hazard maps. Due to multiplicity of assessments and surveys, communities always complain of lack of feedback on the findings of assessments and surveys and do not see the use of information collected to their direct benefit. Main constraints for hazard mapping include inadequate topographic terrain data; there has been no systematic collection of ground verification data; drainage systems in areas at flood risk are intricate; for exposure mapping component, much information is not having geo-referenced detail.

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

* Yes: Reports generated and used in planning

Description:

There are systems to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities for various sectors such as health, agriculture, socio-economic and environmental management. The Central Bureau of Statistics conducts surveys such as Household Income and Expenditure and Poverty Assessments that inform decision makers and stakeholders. The surveys reports are readily available on the National Planning commission website and at government publications. The Ministry of Agriculture also monitors food security through regular crop assessments, animal disease through disease surveillance system and river water levels that is shared widely with stakeholders. The Ministry of Agriculture has a website where the above reports are readily accessed and also disseminates information through its network of extension staff. The Namibia Meteorological Services (NMS) collects and disseminates information on weather and rainfall forecasts which it distributes to stakeholders and various users. Information from NMS is useful to farmers to guide them in preparation for the next agricultural season and such issues as starting fires especially in the dry season. The Namibia Vulnerability and Assessment Committee (NamVac) has also developed a system to monitor, archive and disseminate data on livelihoods and impacts of external shocks on the livelihoods. The reports generated are used for decision making and planning. DDRM with support from SADC Regional Vulnerability, Assessment and Analysis developed a preliminary all hazard map.

Context & Constraints:

There is no specific one-stop database for disaster risk reduction related information. Such information is available in different institutions thus making it difficult for users to easily obtain such data. There is need to increase advocacy and training on vulnerability assessments and to build a dedicated strong inter-agency core team for vulnerability assessment and to raise the profile of hazard and vulnerability assessment. There is inadequate coordination in emergency needs assessment resulting in duplication and conflicting assessment reports.

Information dissemination for results of vulnerability assessments should also target the communities and thus the need to publish it in local languages where possible. Alternatively a feedback mechanism should be designed for vulnerability assessment findings for communities. There is need for capacity development in conducting disaster loss and damage analysis for national staff.

Core indicator 3

Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to 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 risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events?

Yes

Means of verification:

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

Description:

The Namibia Meteorological Services (NMS) participates in the annual Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) where the regional rainfall forecasts are developed. The NMS customizes the regional forecast to national level and disseminates the information to various users. The information is used to predict possible droughts and floods and thus facilitates preparedness activities in the event of extremes of climate events. The Department of Water Affairs (DWF) in the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for monitoring river flow, maintaining hydrological database, and publishing and disseminating hydrological information. The DWF also links with river basin authorities in the neighbouring countries of Angola, Botswana and Zambia to exchange and share information on monitoring river water levels. River water readings both in country and in the neighbouring countries assist in predicting possible flooding and to alert vulnerable communities to take appropriate preventive actions. The Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS) on the other hand maintains a disease surveillance system for infectious diseases in its health facilities in the country. The MOHSS also receives regular updates on disease outbreaks on bilateral basis with neighbouring countries, sub-regionally and globally through the World Health Organization disease notification system. The surveillance information and disease notification systems assist the country to prepare the country for possible disease outbreaks and to inform the citizens of disease occurrence outside the Namibia borders. Sharing of early warning information is conducted by various sectors and departments to their constituencies including communities. The Regional Governors and local government officials, extension staff and councilors assist in the dissemination of some of the early warning and risk information to communities through local radio stations and public meetings. The print and electronic media also facilitate dissemination of early warning information including in local languages.

Context & Constraints:

Early warning information presents problems of ease access by some communities due to language barriers, technical language. Interpretation of early warning information at various levels is a major problem especially at sub-national and community levels. There are no local structures to receive and process early warning information and for activating communities to take appropriate action on receipt of early warning information. There is not adequate integration and utilization of indigenous early warning systems into the conventional early warning systems. There is no national policy for integrating early warning systems at all levels to facilitate receipt and processing of early warning system at all levels. Due to inadequate integration of indigenous early warning systems, communities have mistrust for conventional early warning information resulting in delays in taking appropriate action at community levels. With the advent of climate change and its unpredictable impacts, climate variation has altered rainfall seasons resulting in failure to adequately advise farmers on rainfall patterns. Cross border sharing of information with some of the neighbouring countries needs a lot of improvements. Early warning and surveillance systems in some of the neighbouring countries are still rudimentary. There is no specified responsibility or mandate for flood forecasting and early warning, though it is assumedly carried out between the National Meteorological Service and National Hydrological Service.

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:

* Yes: Programmes and projects addressing trans-boundary issues

> REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETING ON ZAMBEZI RIVER BASIN FLOOD FORECASTING AND EARLY WARNING STRATEGY & WMO INFORMATION SYSTEM (WIS) AND WIGOS PILOT PROJECT (2009)

http://www.google.com.na/#hl=en&biw=1024&bih=580&q=Namibia+Transboundary+sharing+of+early+of+early+warning+information&aq=f&aqi=&aql=&oq=&gs_rfai=&fp=7d80de46f053f3c3

* Yes: Regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks

* Yes: Regional or sub-regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms

* Yes: Action plans addressing trans-boundary issues

> Integrated Management, Sustainable Development and Protection of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) (1999)

http://www.google.com.na/#hl=en&biw=1024&bih=580&q=Action+plans+addressing+transboundary+issues+in+Namibia&aq=f&aqi=&aql=&oq=&gs_rfai=&fp=7d80de46f053f3c3

> Balancing overuse and conflicting uses of water resources in transboundary surface and groundwater basins (2007)

http://www.google.com.na/#hl=en&biw=1024&bih=580&q=Action+plans+addressing+transboundary+issues+in+Namibia&aq=f&aqi=&aql=&oq=&gs_rfai=&fp=7d80de46f053f3c3

Description:

Namibia holds joint commissions of cooperation with neighbouring countries that shares common information on security, exchange of information on disease (human and animal) outbreaks, exchange of information on river water levels. There is also working agreements between bordering regional/provincial administrative levels to share information on security, disease surveillance and river water levels. Namibia also cooperates with neighbouring coastal states in sharing maritime information including the legal framework issues on oil spill risks, management of oil spills, the mapping of sensitive areas.

The Ministry of Agriculture networks with sub-regional, regional and international organizations on the prevention and control of Foot and Mouth Disease and other transboundary animal diseases. Namibia is participating in the Zambezi River Basin initiative

Professional staff on 24/7 alert during rainy season. Teams dispatched to flood-affected areas

International early warning systems for heavy weather and high rainfalls received and processed.

International satellite-based systems for real-time satellite monitoring of weather systems and high rainfalls. Real-time monitoring of river levels (telemetric transmission) – 25 stations in Namibia. Some near-real-time monitoring of rainfalls in Namibia.

Near-real time information from upstream catchment in neighbouring countries. Zambezi (Zambia) – good – 2 weeks warning received and processed however limited information from other neighbouring countries.

International assistance for satellite monitoring of floods in upstream catchments in neighbouring countries. Country also receives forecasting of timing and magnitudes of flood waves (satellite based)

International assistance for satellite monitoring of floods in Namibia – near-real-time flood mapping
Main achievements for communications and warning: Daily flood bulletin distributed via e-mail and website. Daily sms messages to national and regional disaster management authorities
Involvement of decentralized Basin Management Committees.

Context & Constraints:

There is still a large gap in development of regional cooperation on risk reduction. Risk assessment information sharing with some neighbouring countries is limited by lack of risk assessment systems especially for the the most remote areas. There is inadequate information and experiences sharing on regional risk assessments especially so among the national disaster risk management authorities.

Limited available flood mapping. Adequate communication to stakeholders at ground level
No integrated flood forecasting models. False flood alarms. Limited human resources during flood disasters. Inadequate monitoring, warning and communication systems in upstream catchments in neighbouring countries. Constraining role of institutions insisting on communication protocols.
Cost-recovery policy for hydrological data in neighbouring countries. Constraints by Treasury regulations and MoF procedures for payments for abroad information and services

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
> Disaster Risk Management (2010) <http://www.ddrm.gov.na/>

* Yes: Established mechanisms for accessing DRR information

Description:

DDRM has website www.ddrm.gov.na on which key DRR documents are posted for ease access by stakeholders. The website is however still under development as new information is being collected. Other sectors e.g. Ministry of Agriculture, National Planning Commission, Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare among others maintain websites that have DRR related information such as river water level readings, programmes and strategies for poverty alleviation and vulnerable groups, fire scar maps. The Ministry of Information Communication Technology published extracts of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy in its information magazine and periodically publishes articles on disaster risk. An inaugural workshop on disaster risk reduction was conducted for the media in 2008. The workshop facilitated the increased reporting on disaster risk management issues in the daily newspapers. The Ministry of Information Communication and Technology also produced a documentary

on the 2009 flood disaster that has been used to increase awareness on flood disaster in Namibia. Various government departments have websites where disaster related information is posted. DDRM has established links with a national information system (NamInfo) an internet based information system on which development and socio-economic information is uploaded and made available to stakeholders.

Context & Constraints:

The DDRM website needs to further developed and to include a variety of disaster risk management reports, surveys, hazard maps, good practices and documentaries already existing. There also a need to facilitate information exchange among stakeholders and to establish web links for ease of access or relevant DRR information. Information management in DDRM needs strengthening through provision of skilled personnel, computer hardware and software to store and process disaster related information. There also need to establish a disaster risk management cell within the National Focal Point Persons Forum to facilitate information management and exchange of DRR related data.

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?

No

Means of verification:

- * No: Primary school curriculum
- * No: Secondary school curriculum
- * No: University curriculum
- * No: Professional DRR education programmes

Description:

Namibia still relies on external institutions for training in disaster risk management. The Namibia Polytechnic has plans to integrate disaster risk reduction as a course for one of the disciplines while plans are at advanced stages to integrate DRR into the Namibia Institute of Public Management (NIPAM). Discussions are underway to incorporate DRR in the national education curriculum with National Institute for Educational Development (NIED). Through the national education in emergencies (EiE) committee, a school manual on emergencies response and preparedness is being piloted in Caprivi Region as lessons learned with direct support from UNICEF. Regional Education systems will also be strengthened on monitoring and reporting to enhance the flow of information during emergencies. Trainings were conducted in flood affected regions with education officials and relevant stakeholders on emergency response and preparedness to streamline contingency planning in the education sector with a particular emphasis on special protection needs. A DRR training kit was developed with support from UNISDR and will be used as a tool for training sub-national staff and community leaders.

Context & Constraints:

There is need to fast track the integration of DRR into the school curriculum and to institutionalize DRR

training. There is also a need to systematically take forward the initial capacity generated on EiE to ensure safeguarding the lives of children and learners for continued quality education. Efforts should continue to be made to develop additional training modules on various topics on disaster risk management to complement the DRR Training Kit. National campaigns on disaster risk should be scheduled to highlight seasonal risks and additional IEC/awareness materials should be developed and distributed to at risk communities. There is also need to translate awareness materials into local languages for risk communication to be effective.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

Yes

* Yes: Research outputs, products or studies

> Supporting Local Decision Making with Inter-Community Platform and Local-Level Monitoring: Desert Research (2007) http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15582_buildingresilienceinsids2005.pdf [PDF 1.74 MB]

* Yes: Research programmes and projects

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

Description:

The Namibia Economic Policy Research (NEPRU) a research institute established in 1990 conducts research with the aims to support economic policy making through applied research, provision of information and training. Its research on poverty reduction is linked to DRR.

The NamVac has since 2008 been involved in conducting training of national and regional staff in developing livelihood baselines, vulnerability assessments and analysis using the household economy approach (HEA). The Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN) a national NGO has been involved in disaster related research work. The NGO conducted research titled Community Organization: The Essential Basis for Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management that was documented as one of the best practices and lessons learned in a UN/ISDR publication in 2007 (page 40).

Context & Constraints:

There is still no systematic approach to research methods driven by the national disaster risk management authority. Research in disaster risk management is fragmented in various institutions and sometimes conducted without the involvement on the national DRM authority. Feedback on research is not systematically conducted. Although the NamVac has made an effort to introduce a multi-risk assessment, there has not been adequate buy in from stakeholders and adoption of assessment tool as standard. There is also inadequate linkages and networking on DRR research.

Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

* No: Public education campaigns.

* Yes: Training of local government

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

Description:

There are sectoral awareness campaigns such as health awareness for outbreaks of human diseases, control and prevention of animal diseases and road safety awareness programmes during festive season and public holidays. Awareness on flood risk is also conducted targeting communities in flood prone areas. Awareness raising on disaster risk is an ongoing activity targeting the high risk communities by various stakeholders. Community awareness on flood risks, human and animal diseases, climate change, natural resource management has been conducted. Information education and communication (IEC) materials on disaster risk reduction, flood emergencies, control of veldt and forest fires among others have been developed and distributed in high risk areas. For the first time Namibia will be commemorating the International Day of Disaster on the second Wednesday of October 2010. DDRM commissioned a website where information on disaster risk management is posted.

Context & Constraints:

The lack of systematic awareness and risk communication strategy is partly due to lack of a communication strategy. Awareness campaigns are usually conducted during the emergencies phases. There is limited coordination in conducting awareness on disasters.

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:

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

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

> Building the foundation for a national approach to CCA in Namibia. (2009)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/15582_annex5aapepacprodoc.doc [DOC 812.50 KB]

Description:

Article 95 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia (1990) states: The State shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting, inter alia, policies aimed at the following (I) maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future; in particular, the Government shall provide measures against the dumping or recycling of foreign nuclear and toxic waste on Namibian territory. Sustainable utilization of natural capital is one of the objectives for Namibia's Vision 2030. The government is addressing major concerns through policies and strategies (Environmental Assessment Policy, 1994, Environmental Management Act, 1998) driven by the need for devolution of ownership and rights of indigenous communities in environmental and natural resources management.

DRR has been integrated in the objectives of environment related policies and plans. DRR is a component of the draft Climate Change Policy as well as in the Climate Change Adaptations Plans being implemented in Namibia. Namibia is following an approach of integrated land management/integrated ecosystem management using the guidance for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) to tackle climate change. The integrated land and ecosystem management has a bearing both direct and indirect to disaster risk reduction as it seeks to protect the environment that provide resources for livelihoods.

Context & Constraints:

Problems of land tenure, increasing population pressure and common property has contributed to increased environmental degradation. Enforcement of provisions of the Environmental Act pertaining to environmental protection is inadequate. Due to limited access to electricity rural communities rely on forest products for energy and there is over-exploitation forest products for livelihoods and construction. Bush encroachment is becoming a major challenge that needs concerted efforts by all stakeholders.

Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

- * No: Crop and property insurance
- * No: Employment guarantee schemes
- * No: Conditional cash transfers
- * Yes: DRR aligned poverty reduction, welfare policy and programmes
- * Yes: Microfinance
- * No: Micro insurance

Description:

The government has formulated a number of policies and programmes to address poverty, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) formulated in 1998, rural and pro-agriculture development policies and strategies in NDP 3, the Green Schemes and land reform, among others. The Government of Namibia has adopted a conscious policy to promote the welfare of women which culminated in, among other things, the formulation of a National Gender Policy in 1997. Government developed a National Drought Policy and Strategy in 1997 aimed at, among other things, encouraging and supporting farmers to adopt self-reliant approaches to the risk of drought. The government established a Child Welfare Grants (CWG) a social safety net grants designed to help protect orphans and other vulnerable children. The Government also has an old age pension scheme that targets every individual that attains an age of 60 years. The grant apart from providing income against livelihood shocks such as drought, also stimulates local trading enhances the status of elderly persons and contributes to the costs of education. There are also grants that target people living with disability and for the blind.

Context & Constraints:

Despite the important achievements of OVC support in catalyzing the expansion of CWG coverage and mitigating the impact of hunger for many OVC, there remains a significant challenge to find longer term solutions for the many children who still remain at serious risk due to their ongoing exposure to poverty and chronic hunger. The future role of food assistance needs to be defined in the context of a comprehensive review of national safety nets, a possible multi-sectoral approach, and appropriate funding models considered. Roll out of major agricultural projects are constrained by inadequate funds. Namibia as a higher middle income country has no access to concessionary loans and thus forced to borrow at high interest rates.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.
- * No: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

Description:

Health and safety legislation and policies exist and are enforced to reduce vulnerability of economic activities in industry and commerce. Environmental protection laws and policies are used to protect the environmental base upon which the economic and productive sectors depend. Namibia's fishing industry is regulated to ensure sustainable fishing. Marine regulations also ensure protection of marine environment from pollution. Measures are in place to monitor oil spills and an oil spill contingency plan exists to control the risk of oil spills in the Namibian coastal area. There are also laws and regulations for the transport industry pertaining to safety and the transportation of hazardous materials by road, rail and water. New investments are regulated to ensure they are located in safe areas and not create new vulnerabilities. DRR has been integrated in the National Climate Change Policy. Mining operations are also regulated prevent and control environmental pollution.

Context & Constraints:

The enforcement of laws and regulations are limited due to inadequate trained staff to monitor and enforce economic and productive sectoral policies. Construction of public infrastructure especially in remote locations have not adhered to regulations resulting in damages and losses. Environmental conditions such as flat terrain pose a challenge on mitigation costs that are sometimes prohibitive. Long periods between disasters and significant events have resulted in economic and productive activities developing in high risk areas. Due to increase in population and increases in value of land, developments have taken place in marginal land and high risk zones.

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:

- * No: Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas
- * No: Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas
- * No: Training of masons on safe construction technology
- * Yes: Provision of safe land for low income households and communities

Description:

In response to rapid urban growth, migrant labour caught up in all-male overcrowded hostels, rural households without physical infrastructure, rapidly rising cost of urban serviced land and sporadic government projects, GRN developed a National Shelter Strategy based on the full participation of the stakeholders. The strategy gave rise to the Build Together National Housing Programme implemented through Community Housing Development Groups (CHDG). The role of the Namibian Government is limited to providing small loans, technical advice, roof sheet grants making housing affordable to the low income groups. Local Authority support is rendered by making affordable serviced land available to beneficiaries, giving technical advise to self builders and setting houses out according to approved

building plans and general consultation and logistical support such as office space, communication and transport. Women's access to land and shelter since 1991 has been improved and 47% of build together (BT) beneficiaries are female-headed households. An organization "Shack dwellers federation of Namibia (SDFN) and a local NGO Namibia housing action group (NHAG)" a community network of saving groups in informal settlements and back yard shacks organized as a federation covering all the regions of Namibia. SDFN and NHAG are involved in securing land for construction of low cost housing using savings made by its members.

Context & Constraints:

The housing strategy is under strain due to increase in demand for low cost housing. As a result there is rapidly growing informal settlement that is underserviced and located in high risk areas. The prices of land continue to increase thereby denying homeless people decent safe homes.

Core indicator 5

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

* TBA % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR

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

Description:

Namibia has conducted lessons learned workshops following 2008 and 2009 flood disasters. The workshops have provided fora to develop strategies to reduce future disaster damage and losses. A study was conducted to rezone the major towns in the northern central regions affected by the 2008 and 2009 flood disasters. Plans for major civil works were developed for storm water drainage and on the design of rural roads to withstand flood damages. There are also plans to relocate settlements especially informal settlements along the water ways. The 2009 PDNA report provided a roadmap for disaster recovery. The budget for post-disaster recovery is held by various government departments and stakeholders. For example The Ministry of Works and Transport allocated US\$6m for rehabilitation of roads damaged by the 2008 flood disaster.

Context & Constraints:

Some of the recommendations made at lessons learned workshops those made in the PDNA have still to be implemented putting to risk assets and livelihoods of vulnerable communities. The follow-up donor conference following the PDNA was not held and thus the country may not access external resources for recovery. Support for recovery and reconstruction does not attract attention and funding as much as humanitarian assistance and emergency response. Due to culture and the traditional land issues, there are problems in resettling vulnerable communities. There is not adequate advocacy for research and investment into flood resistant houses and for harnessing flood water for agricultural purposes.

Core indicator 6

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

infrastructure.

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

Yes

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:

While the socio-economic impacts of disasters are acknowledged by the government, there is still need substantiated this with hard data. Integration of DRR into strategic development strategies has not been systematic since Namibia is rolling out the DRR approach. The national development planning authority considers DRR as one of the cross cutting issues but DRR is yet to be integrated into national development planning. DRR has however been implied in various development strategies including environment impact assessments, infrastructure, natural resource management and housing. Due to the increasing damages and losses by flood disasters, there is serious consideration to improve storm water drainage in urban areas. A study to construct roads, bridges and culverts that can withstand flooding has been conducted. Namibia has adopted the integrated water resource management and developments that have high water usage are encouraged to employ water conservation measures and to limit excessive ground water extraction. Measures are also taken to reduce ground water pollution from mining activities.

Context & Constraints:

There is still need to mainstream DRR into national development strategies. The country has not yet developed a strategy for mainstreaming DRR to provide guidance to key sectors during strategic planning. Capacity for mainstreaming DRR in key sectors is also lacking. Policy makers have not been adequately sensitized on the important link between disaster and development. There is thus need to provide hard evidence of the impact of disaster at both macroeconomic and household levels through hazard and vulnerability mapping, disaster loss analysis and linking disasters and poverty. The country also needs a disaster risk reduction communication strategy to contribute to the positioning of DRR as a national level development priority. Namibia is also needs to develop a national strategy for DRR mainstreaming into the national development plans that will provide guidance to planning clusters as they develop thematic chapters national development plans.

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:

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

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

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

Description:

There is national commitment and institutional capacity for emergency preparedness and response at national and regional/sub-national levels. This is demonstrated in the National Disaster Risk Management Policy which assigns roles and responsibilities of different players in emergency situations. Sectoral policies e.g. Drought Policy and Strategy, provide guidelines for actions to be taken in preparing for and responding to threats of food insecurity. Sectoral plans and policies to prepare for extreme events and emergencies also exist in such key sectors as health, education, marine and agriculture. Regional flood contingency plans were developed for flood prone regions. The National Disaster Emergency Fund exists and provides contingency resources during emergency response operations. Rapid assessments are conducted by interagency committee following disasters or significant events and are followed by lessons learned workshop to review response actions and define strategies to reduce disaster losses and recovery frameworks. Disaster response and lessons learned reports are compiled and distributed to all stakeholders. National and sub-national training in contingency planning was conducted.

Context & Constraints:

Response gaps still exist particularly in terms of predictable assistance from government and partners. The linkages between early warning and response is still not clearly defined due to lack of systematic policy and practices especially at sub-national and community levels. There is no clear definition of level of risk to which response actions are supposed to be activated and this has resulted in unnecessary losses. There is need to establish community based structures for emergency preparedness and response and community teams adequately trained and equipped for emergency preparedness and response. Contingency plans developed are yet to be tested through rehearsals. There is no national and interagency contingency plans and some key sectors do not have contingency plans.

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:

* No: Contingency plans with gender sensitivities

* No: Operations and communications centre

* No: Search and rescue teams

* Yes: Stockpiles of relief supplies

* Yes: Shelters

* No: Secure medical facilities

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

Description:

The education sector has developed a national strategy and contingency plan with support from UNICEF and UNESCO. The Health sector has a National Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan and the Ministry of Works and Transport has a National Oil Spills Contingency Plan. Efforts are being made to encourage other sectors to develop contingency plans for hazards that are likely to occur in their sectors. There has not been any exhaustive exercise to assess the number of institutions that have emergency preparedness and contingency plans. An inventory of existing DRR projects is underway and will help to identify sectors that have emergency preparedness and contingency plans.

Context & Constraints:

Emergency preparedness and contingency planning have generally been perceived as academic exercises. This misconception may be a result of inadequate sensitization on the importance of these plans and a failure to enforce development of sectoral plans. This situation maybe corrected by the promulgation of the Disaster Risk Management Legislation.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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:

The National Disaster Emergency Fund exists and is used for emergency response and to support key recovery activities following disasters. The recovery component of funding is still not adequately catered for as ideally it is the responsibility of affected sectors. The National Disaster Risk Management Policy has provision for sectors for Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs) to contribute financially for

response efforts, rehabilitation and recovery. The policy also provides for external funding for recovery and rehabilitation. Damage assessments are funded through sectoral budgets. Development partners and the UN agencies also play a key role in providing technical and financial support for response and recovery including damage assessments. A post disaster needs assessment (PDNA) was conducted by government in collaboration with the international community following the 2009 flood disaster. This was the first step towards developing a holistic approach to recovery and reconstruction efforts, and also aimed to provide the Government of Namibia with options for working towards longer term, sustainable Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Initiatives by various civil society organizations and the Namibia Red Cross Society have been conducted to support livelihoods recovery through community projects and agricultural input schemes.

Context & Constraints:

There are limited linkages between emergency response, recovery and long term development. Response periods have normally been adequately funded by government and supported by partners while the recovery and development phases have not received equal attention. This has resulted in reconstruction of vulnerabilities as for example flood vulnerable communities have rebuilt in flood risk areas and have been experiencing recurrent flood losses. Recommendations for example to relocate vulnerable communities have sometimes met with resistance from traditional authorities and communities. Development partners on the other hand have not adequately supported early recovery and linked this to long term development. There also is limited capacity for disaster loss assessments and studies to evaluate the impact of disasters on household livelihoods resulting in failure to institute interventions to reduce vulnerabilities.

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?

No

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
- * No: Identified and trained human resources

Description:

The 2009 post disaster needs assessment provided a framework for procedures to undertake damage and loss assessments. There however is need to support capacity building for relevant sectors to use the recommended international guidelines for post disaster assessments. The lessons learned workshops have provided fora to evaluate the emergency preparedness and response systems and for identifying strengths and weaknesses. These however need to be complemented by commensurate efforts to implement recommendations made and for follow-up activities. Efforts are being made to

develop interagency and sectoral disaster prevention and to review the National Disaster Plan to reflect the provisions of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy.

Context & Constraints:

There is need for an aggressive advocacy to promote emergency preparedness and response and to link emergency response with recovery and long term development. Lessons learned from review of previous emergency response actions should be used to strengthen the national emergency response mechanisms and for systematic follow-up should be made of recommendations made. Capacity development in disaster damage and loss assessment should be initiated with support from relevant partners. Emergency response should also be sensitive to the disaster risk and linked to recovery and long term development. In essence disaster provide an opportunity for development that lead to vulnerability reduction and thus sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Drivers of Progress

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

Levels of Reliance:

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

There are efforts being made to use studies, reports and multi-hazard analyses in development planning. The reports from the Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee and the Agriculture Early Warning provide guidance on targeting such safety net programmes as Food for Work, Emergency drought relief programmes as well as subsidized agricultural inputs and tilling services.

Key sectors such as agriculture, natural resource management, poverty reduction strategies and land use management should consider multi-hazard risk assessment as an integral component in the design and implementation of development policies, strategies and programmes. To increase awareness, there is need to provide hard evidence on the impact of disasters at macro-economic and household levels and to link disasters and poverty. The hard evidence can also be used for comparative analyses of poverty levels as well as the damage and losses in disaster and non-disaster years. The evidence will also be used as part of the communication strategy for promoting DRR as a national priority.

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

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):

Namibia has included "Special measures for Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS and Gender components during relief and recovery operations (Sub-section 8.4.3.1 page 80). The policy makes provision for involvement of women in camp management, distribution of food; training of humanitarian workers,

security and police officers, defence personnel and humanitarian workers on Gender Based Violence (GBV); ensuring the presence of a protection officer on site (for example training a volunteer to raise awareness on the problem and work with the authorities to identify measures to prevent GBV but also to be at the forefront of assistance to survivors; providing psychosocial care to cater for victims of violence as well as to help those affected to cope with the difficulties posed by life in the camp environment; and providing RH kits such as hygiene kits, contraceptive kits, male and female condoms, delivery kits for pregnant women and for the birth attendants.

Recognizing that women and children account for majority of disaster-related fatalities and of displaced persons, there is need to increase women's participation in disaster risk reduction to improve their chances of survival and their resilience to livelihoods risks. Micro-projects, income generating activities targeting women and youths apart from imparting new skills provide opportunities of livelihood security and are a deterrent to negative coping mechanisms such as commercial sex that indirectly contribute to reduced risk of HIV AIDS infection. Issues of protection need to be high on the agenda for emergency response and humanitarian assistance especially where population displacement occur and affected communities are in relocation centres.

As part of capacity development, UNFPA recruited a Gender Coordinator who trains Red Cross Volunteers and camp managers on Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health in disaster affected areas. Hygiene kits, condoms were also procured for displaced persons.

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

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):

Focus on training has mainly been targeting technical staff at national and regional levels. There however is need for more effort required to strengthen capacities for mainstreaming DRR into national development planning in particular through training in multi-hazard risk assessment for all development programmes at all levels. DRR practitioners including development planners, extension staff and community leaders should be targeted for capacity building in multi-hazard risk assessment and DRR mainstreaming. There is also need to develop DRR information and communication mechanisms for national development planning clusters to capacitate them in preparing cluster submissions for national development plans.

There has been limited community DRR training programmes. There is need to intensify training in such areas as early warning, community risk assessments, evacuation, strengthening indigenous coping strategies and community based disaster response teams. Coordination of community training is also critical among stakeholders to ensure there is no duplication and overlaps.

There are long-term plans to institutionalize DRR training in tertiary institutions and in the Institute of Public Management.

The DRR training kit developed with support from UNISDR should be complemented by development of additional modules to cover topics such as protection, HIV AIDS in emergencies, Food Security, Camp Management, Logistics and warehousing among others.

Existing training networks need to be expanded to take advantage of training opportunities at sub-regional, regional and international levels. Due to continuous loss to trained staff due to staff mobility, there is need to structure and schedule training to be a continuous process at all levels.

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

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):

Namibia upholds the fundamental human rights and freedoms, humanitarian principles and codes of practices for humanitarian assistance. These fundamental principles form the basis for human security and social equity that should be promoted in the business of DRR including humanitarian assistance. Namibia has special programmes that target disadvantaged and minority communities through support in housing, food security, livelihoods security, education and skills transfer. The special programmes receives a regular budget from treasury. The special programme is placed in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister an office that enjoys high priority and authority. There is however need to establish sustainable programmes for reducing vulnerabilities of the minority groups that do not build dependency syndrome. Programmes should also be designed to ensure community ownership.

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):

One of the policy strategies of the NDRM policy is “The building of multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels to contribute to the implementation of total disaster risk management” (Section 4 subsection 4.3 of NDRM Policy). Partnerships have been built with local, national, sub-national, regional and international partners Namibia has since 1994 established a multi-stakeholder National Disaster Risk Management Committee, supported by a focal point persons forum from key sectors. The multi-stakeholder committee provides policy guidelines, strategies and plans for disasters risk reduction. Participation of civil society organizations is however limited. There is however need to pay attention to increasing ownership through popular participation as a principle for sustainable livelihoods security especially at community level. In the same vain there is need for comprehensive devolution of resources and authority to the lower tiers of government. This ensures sustainable implementation of disaster risk reduction programmes and increased ownership.

Networks developed nationally and externally should be maintained through establishment of focal point persons and their alternates to take advantage of the mutual benefits of parties.

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):

A capacity needs assessment for disaster risk management conducted in 2005 provided a framework for development of a multi-stakeholder National Action Plan that is the road map for DRR in Namibia. The national policy and the draft bill are key instruments to will assist in raising the profile of DRR. Current efforts are being made to develop a strategy for mainstreaming DRR into national development plans. This initiative will provide a framework for integration of DRR into the broad development programmes such as poverty reduction strategy and infusion into sectoral plans.

The country has also heeded the call to prioritize building resilient cities driven by growing problems of urban development, increase in population in informal settlements contributing to the increased

community vulnerabilities. Efforts are underway to support upgrading of informal settlements through various programmes led by government, civil society and support from development partners.

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:

Disaster risk reduction, including risk assessment, have not yet been integrated in national development planning frameworks and sectoral development planning. There is inadequate capacity and skills for integrating DRR into development policies, planning and programming. Ownership, accountability and participation in disaster risk reduction at national, regional, local authority and community levels still limited. The national disaster risk management system is still response driven resulting in ad hoc disaster risk management programming rather than long term, and sustainable approaches. Lack of nationally adopted guidelines, formats, procedures in the field of disaster risk reduction is also contributing to problems in delivery for DRR. Trained human resources in the field of disaster risk reduction at all levels are very limited.

The slow uptake of mainstreaming DRR into development policies, plans and programmes by stakeholders. Integration of practices, systems and strategies of disaster risk reduction among sectors e.g. Climate Change Adaptation, Poverty Reduction Strategy and Environmental Management is still limited and requires coordination. Climate change expected to change the disaster scenario as evidenced by the unprecedented flood episodes and frequency of droughts.

The establishment of national disaster risk management institutions has facilitated coordination. There are however problems of inconsistencies of membership of the National Focal Point persons Forum leading to problems of continuity and follow-up of resolution in affected sectors. Participation of some key sectors at national is low.

Coordination of DRR programmes is problematic before, during and after disasters.

Future Outlook Statement:

A strategy to provide guidance for mainstreaming DRR into national development planning and sectoral plans needs to be developed and agreed upon by the National Planning Commission, the National Disaster Risk Management authority. The strategy should be used to sensitize stakeholders particularly national development planning clusters. Advocacy to policy makers and legislators should be conducted to ensure buy in on DRR mainstreaming. To maintain public awareness on DRR, there is need to develop a DRR Communication Strategy to contribute towards the promotion of DRR as a national priority.

Multi-hazard hazard and vulnerability maps should be developed and updated on a regular basis. Training on risk assessment, disaster damage and loss analysis and links between disasters and poverty should be conducted for DRR practitioners, development planners and personnel from non-state agencies and organizations.

The draft DRM legislation has provisions for legal appointment of members of the National Platform for DRR and the Focal Point Persons Forum. This provision ensures mandatory participation of appointed members and for consistency of membership.

A DRR mapping exercise should be conducted to assess who is doing what where.

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:

Ownership of DRR programme at sub-national level remains a challenge. DRR is generally considered an add-on activity given to officers who have other responsibilities. Sectors at sub-national level have limited resources and authority to implement DRR programmes. Personnel at sub-national level also lack skills and knowledge on DRR. The regional/sub-national DRR structures are usually dormant before disasters and come active in disasters and emergency situations. Regional/sub-national levels experience problems of their priorities being met as budgets and resources are generally controlled at national levels. Community disaster risk management structure are generally not active and community involvement is limited to disaster response.

Future Outlook Statement:

There is need to pursue decentralization of DRR authority and resources to the lower tiers of government to ensure increased capacity and ownership of DRR programmes. The regional/sub-national DRR structures should be strengthened through capacity development programmes and simulation exercises.

Awareness campaigns on DRR should be conducted targeting vulnerable people in rural and urban areas. This should be complemented by establishing community based disaster risk management structure such as community disaster preparedness and response committees and volunteer teams.

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:

Preparedness planning has not been adequately structured and coordinated. Some key sectors have not documented their emergency preparedness and response plans although the national disaster risk management policy makes it a requirement. Emergency response, recovery and long term development are not adequately linked leading to continued exposure to external shocks for some communities. There is increased participation of stakeholders during emergency operations especially by external actors. This situation is related to the assertion that external support is only made available when a state of national disaster has been declared. This scenario has resulted in the participation of external actors during emergency response only with limited or no support for preparedness and recovery phases when such external supported is needed most.

Future Outlook Statement:

There is need for improved coordination in emergency response operations particularly in conducting systematic needs assessments and provision of humanitarian assistance. The National Platform for DRR should establish networks for both the risk reduction and emergency response to facilitate dialogues and establishment of mechanisms that link the two.

Lessons learned after disaster response should provide guidance on areas requiring attention or review. Emergency preparedness and contingency plans should be developed, continually reviewed and tested. Emergency response, early recovery frameworks and long term development should be linked to facilitate reduced vulnerability of communities and elements.