

## **National Report of the Republic of Tajikistan on the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015**

### **I. National platform for responding to disasters and cataclysms.**

Cataclysms and disasters caused by the natural phenomena threaten not only the lives of population but also the resources and basis of their existence. This may lead to regress in the recent economic and social achievements and termination of the social economic progress. Moreover, the need in the humanitarian assistance and prevention of disasters require allocation of significant resources that could be used for poverty reduction and social and economic development of the country.

In the period of 2000-2006 natural disasters caused damage to Tajikistan in the amount of \$227.5 million. During this period, natural disasters destroyed 47,685 houses, out of which 6,377 were completely destroyed, affected 339,119 persons, and killed 186 persons.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan considers disaster preparedness one of the priority tasks. In this context, the Government develops multilateral cooperation and joint actions on disaster preparedness and reduction, broadly uses legislative and other relevant measures on disaster mitigation, and includes measures on reducing disaster risk in the country development cooperation plans with regional and international organizations.

Disaster preparedness, risk management and preventive measures are the key priorities for the Government of Tajikistan. At the moment, there are available strategic, reliably located reserves of food and non-food items, and measures of improving the capacity of the national and regional reserves on disaster management are being undertaken.

The first legislative act in the area of protection of population and territories against natural and technological disasters in Tajikistan was the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan #400 “On the establishment of the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense” dated August 17, 1994.

In November 1995, the “Law On civil defense” was adopted, aimed at solving the security issues during period of armed conflict, which has been further revised in 2004. The peculiarity of this law is that it regulates the issues on ensuring various spheres of security during the peace period as well.

The law regulating activities in the industrial safety in the country is the Law “On fire safety” adopted in 1994.

The existence of significant amount of radioactive waste in the Republic has significantly influenced formation of special legislation on radioactive safety, and thus the “Law On radiation security” was adopted.

In 2004 the Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan adopted the “Law on the population and territory protection against natural and technological disasters”, determining the organizational legal norms on the population protection, and the measures aimed at the protection of the territory, mineral resources, water, air, flora and fauna and other natural resources in Tajikistan, industrial and social objects, and environment.

The fundamental regulatory act that determines general organizational legal and ecological conditions for the creation and application of disaster prevention and mitigation means and resources is the “Law on search and rescue services and the status of rescuers”. This law determines relations between the authorities, organizations, citizens, and establishes rescuers’ rights and obligations.

An important step in the improvement of disaster management system was the establishment of the State Commission for Emergencies under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in accordance with the special Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan # 323 dated August 3, 2002. This Commission gained the status of the Republican coordinating agency during various emergencies. It is established at all the levels of the state administration. The Chairman of the State Commission for Emergencies is the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, and at the other levels –heads of local authorities (regions, districts, cities and Jamoats).

Other decrees and orders of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan are of significant importance as well. They are as follows:

“On measures aimed at the rehabilitation, development and improvement of the warning and communication systems of civil defense of the Republic of Tajikistan” # 296 dated July 5, 2002,

“On classification of emergencies” # 367 dated August 1, 2006,

“On the approval of rules aimed at the creation and usage of material resources and reserves for mitigation of natural and technological disasters” # 778 dated December 29, 2006.

In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On the fund for disaster consequences mitigation” adopted on December 27, 1993, an extra-budgetary fund was established in the country for disaster mitigation aimed at funding rehabilitation activities in case of disasters.

## **II. Issues on disaster risks identification, assessment and monitoring and introduction of early warning system**

Within the framework of disaster preparedness, another important problem for our country is the issue of disaster risk identification, assessment and monitoring and the introduction of early warning systems, which is an important factor of disaster risk reduction.

In accordance with the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan # 346 dated September 1, 2005 an Information-Analytical Center was established at the Committee for Emergencies and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CoES), with the support of the Swiss Development and Cooperation Office in Tajikistan and the UN Disaster Risk Management Project. At the moment, the network of the Information-Analytical Center at the national and local levels is being established. This network will promote reliable collection, analysis and storage of the information on natural and technological disasters all over the country and will provide an opportunity for research in vulnerable areas, development of hazard, vulnerability and risk maps of dangerous processes, and forecasting the possibility of their origin and the consequences as well.

The Information-Analytical Center is developing the relevant information basis, testing the innovational scientific and technical methods for risk assessment, monitoring and early warning, introduces up-to-date space technologies and distance observation, geographical information systems, etc.

In 2004 within the framework of “Lake Sarez Risk Mitigation project”, a monitoring and early warning system was installed in the Bartang River Valley, GBAO. The monitoring system components are used to activate an alarm system and are integrated into the early warning system.

Thanks to implementation of this project, an opportunity appeared to reduce to some degree the risk of an outburst of Lake Sarez. The monitoring system installed at Sarez Lake allows collecting hydrological, meteorological and seismological data and observing the status of the right-bank landslide and the condition of the lake in the operational mode. The system has been installed at the SKADA station of the “Usoy” Department of CoES.

Information on emergency situation on Sarez Lake can be received both by local population and the CoES, and therefore by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

At the end of 2004, after completing the installation of the monitoring and early warning system, the latter was further approved by the “Usoy” Department of CoES. After two years of approbation and examination, the complete testing of the installed and approved system was implemented in April 2007 with participation of the commission, including representatives of the World Bank, executing agencies and the government..

## **III. Introduction of risk reduction methods into the system of official and informal education, use of knowledge and experience for forming the culture of safety and communities’ capability to disaster resilience at all levels**

The important aspect of disaster risk reduction is the introduction of risk reduction methods into the system of official and informal education, use of knowledge and experience for forming the culture of safety, as well as communities’ and population capability to disaster resilience at all levels.

In this context, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Ministry for Emergencies and Civil Defense and international organizations working in this field develop and introduce the system of measures providing population with comprehensive information regarding disasters and the means to prevent and mitigate them.

The governmental administration system develops local, national, regional information systems, reference books for sharing information on good practices, economical and accessible technologies of

disaster risk reduction and lessons learned regarding policies, plans, and measures aimed at damage reduction.

Within the framework of one of the components, in cooperation with CoES and UN DRMP and with the support of the Swiss Development and Cooperation Office in Tajikistan, a special Commission was created for the revision and updating the training system and educational programs on disaster management for decision-making officials, local self-governing structures, CoES subdivisions, economy objects and the population, developed by the Headquarters and the Training Methodical Center of CoES.

At the moment, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan considers the issue of including special disciplines on disaster preparedness in the general education curriculum. Also, amendments are being made to the relevant sections of school curricula of pre-school, school and higher education.

#### **IV. Strengthening disaster preparedness to ensure effective response as the important element of disaster management, prevention and mitigation**

In this connection, a plan on natural and technological disaster preparedness has to be developed and periodically updated. This will allow establishing a legal basis for the activities in emergency situations, regulate obligatory and recommended actions of the authorities, local self-governing structures, state institutions, enterprises and organizations irrespective their forms of property, public associations and the population of the republic on the acting legislative basis, and ensure general disaster preparedness and response.

Development of such a plan should become an initial stage in solving the general problem – development of a mechanism of the state management of actions on the prevention and mitigation of natural and technological disasters.

It is encouraging that since March 1, 2007 within the framework of the project “Disasters management improvement in Tajikistan,” implementation of development of the National Plan on natural and technological disaster preparedness was launched that provides a possibility to form and improve the system of natural and technological disaster preparedness, forecasting, prevention, risk reduction and mitigation.

**V. In the field of disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response, and coordination,** an active system of coordination, interaction and cooperation between the Government, UN agencies, donors, international and non-governmental humanitarian organizations has been formed in the country. Thanks to joint actions of these organizations, the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team was established - the so called REACT group - that implements and ensures response to disasters. This group actively functions since 2001.

The group includes about 60 key international and local governmental and non-governmental organizations implementing projects in various sectors of disaster management. Members of this group have the opportunity to implement immediate needs assessment in case of disasters and organize effective response.

This group has its By-laws; it has also developed the inter-agency preparedness plan. This plan describes the group members' responsibilities and information of the storehouses, their contents, etc.

To ensure more reliable disaster management in Tajikistan the project is being implemented “Disasters management improvement in Tajikistan” by UN Disaster Risk Management Project within the framework of DIPECHO – IV program since March 1, 2007. This Project consists of the following components:

- Supporting the development of the national strategy in disaster management 2008-2015;
- Supporting the development of the national plan on disaster preparedness and response;
- National partnership in disaster management (REACT) at all levels;
- Standardization of GIS technologies usage for disaster management.

It is important to point that within the framework of DIPECHO – IV project, in 2007-2008 in the field of disaster management in Tajikistan various international organizations will implement over 30 projects.

**Currently, the problem of ensuring safety in case of disasters** became one of the most important socio-political, economic, socio-demographic and environmental problems. The world

experience shows that natural and technological disasters and cataclysms really have no limits and are of regional and international significance. None of the countries irrespective of its political and economic development level can reach significant reduction of natural and technological disaster risk reduction without joint international efforts.

In this context, we have to aspire to reach such a situation when scientific, technical, economic and legal bases of actions in case of disasters become unified and integral for the whole world. This activity should contribute significantly to solving the existing problem.

The final documents of conferences, workshops and meetings at various levels regularly speak of the importance of establishing close strategic coordination on the issues of disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction, strengthening capacity of regional subdivisions, development, etc.

This plan contains a unique experience of CIS states in implementing a coordinated policy regarding disaster prevention and mitigation within the framework of the Inter-State Council on natural and technological disasters formed on September 24, 1993, by the decision of the heads of governments of CIS states.

The Inter-state Council is supposed to solve such issues as development of agreements on cooperation in disaster prevention and mitigation.

All this will promote the development of effective mechanisms of inter-state and inter-regional cooperation, introduction of efficient and coordinated measures at the national and international levels, exchange of information and sharing new technologies in disaster prevention and mitigation. It will also stress the priority of norms of international rights on safety in disasters and will confirm commitment of our countries to the principles of interaction and cooperation.

We should understand that the implementation of the final documents of the Hyogo Framework for Action will mostly depend upon our constant and diligent joint efforts being the practical embodiment of our collective responsibility for protection of our states and future generations from disasters.