

Ghana

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

Name of focal point : Mr. KOFI PORTUPHY

Organization : National Disaster Management Organization

Title/Position : NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF NADMO

E-mail address : nadmo@live.com

Telephone : +233 208154396; +233 21781941

Fax : +233 21781941

Reporting period : 2009-2011

Last updated on : 30 Sep 2010

Print date : 15 Aug 2011

Reporting language : English

An HFA Monitor update published by PreventionWeb

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/africa/gha/>

Outcomes for 2007-2009

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.

Outcomes:

Disaster risk and environment management concerns are being integrated into development plans through new policy formulation and review of existing policies, such as land use planning, urban management, and building regulation.

In addition the mechanism for coordination is being strengthened at all levels through legislative enactment and the establishment of disaster fund. Local Governments are being mandated and sensitized to provide and spearhead disaster risk reduction issues at the local and factor such concern through budgetary provisions.

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.

Outcomes:

Capacities of Government institutions are being built through human resource development and provision of critical equipment. Local governments are being made responsible for spearheading disaster management activities. Disaster Volunteer Corps and other community based organizations are being strengthened and given local ownership to facilitate disaster and environmental management within the communities. Traditional authorities are also being used as advocates for environmental management and as agents of change in disaster risk reduction agenda.

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.

Outcomes:

Legislation, regulation and implementation capacity for disaster management programmes are being strengthened in order to reduce the impact of disasters on communities.

Established, strengthened and operationalized DRM Platforms at all levels (national, regional, districts).

Mechanisms for activation of Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs), task forces and post disaster and other programmes are being strengthened for effective disaster management operations.

Hazard mapping, vulnerability and risk assessment are ongoing throughout the country as input for effective mitigation strategies. Increased and sustained awareness, education, and capacity building of the communities through the design and implementation of sensitization/outreach programmes with focus on gender issues.

Improved communication and information management systems especially for emergency preparedness and response.

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 2011-2013:

The National Platform has been inaugurated and functional, and advocating, among other things, for the establishment of DRR desk in all organizations. Seven (7) Regional platforms established in seven regions are spearheading DRR activities within the regions.

The proposed amendment bill is currently lodged with the sector Ministry pending submission for cabinet approval.

The Journalist Club for Disaster Prevention continues to champion public awareness in DRR in the print and electronic media. Formation of School Disaster Prevention Clubs have been extended to many second cycle institution and tertiary institutions.

Since the last report to date, training has continued to be given to Disaster Prevention Clubs in educational institutions such as, University of Ghana and University of Cape Coast. Training Schools for security Agencies such as Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Ghana Immigration Service School and Ghana Police College have incorporated DRR into their training programmes. A consultant is being engaged to assess the extent to which DRR issues are addressed in school curricula and the report will be used as a tool for future interventions.

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 2011-2013:

District staff, Regional Co-ordinators, Operations Officers, and Rapid Response Teams have been trained in general disaster management and specialized courses.

Community based Disaster Volunteer Groups have been expanded country-wide and capacity built in basic fire fighting and control, identification and monitoring of hazards and reporting to the appropriate responders.

Teachers, Proprietors and Managers of public and private schools (Basic and Secondary) in Greater Accra Region have been given training on disease epidemics eg. H1N1 Pandemic Influenza.

Members of the DRR Platforms have been given training in Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation.

ABANTU for Development, a gender based NGO, has sensitized and brought women into the mainstream of Disaster Prevention throughout the country in the year 2009.

TV/Radio programmes on various disaster types are undertaken throughout the year (Private and Public Media Houses).

Workshops on DRR were organized for all Regional co-ordinators and District co-ordinators of the southern sector of NADMO and facilitated by our stakeholders.

Brochures on various disaster types have been produced and distributed to regional and district secretariats as well as our stakeholders (Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Private Sector and NGOs).

The NADMO news which was re-introduced in 2008 serves as a vital tool for information sharing and public education.

The NADMO website which has been in operation over the past years has been an effective tool for information sharing on NADMO and its stakeholders on DRR in general.

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 2011-2013:

NADMO was assisted by OCHA to prepare Disaster Management Plans in the three Northern Regions. Similarly, UNDP is assisting NADMO to prepare Disaster Management Plans for all the districts in the Greater Accra Region.

There is in place an integrated Dry-Land Development Programme under the Climate Change Adaptation/Africa Adaptation Programme. Twenty-Four (24) districts have been assisted, trained and introduced to the programme in all the three Northern Regions. A pilot programme has taken off in six districts namely: Talensi Nabdum, Bawku West, Garu Tempene, Savelugu-Nanton, West Mamprusi and Lawra. All these were initiated by the EPA with UNDP support.

Beneficiary districts are being assisted to incorporate this Dry-Land Development Programme into their Medium Term Development plan.

NADMO through the support of UNDP has been assisting flood affected communities to enhance their livelihood through employment generation in crop farming and other off-farming alternative livelihood programme in the three Northern Regions. The pilot districts are: West Mamprusi and Zabzugu Tatale in the Northern Region, Builsa in Upper East and Wa West in the Upper West Regions.

Under the Northern Recovery Programme, the three regional offices of NADMO and three districts (in the Northern Region), namely: Gonja East, Yendi and Gonja West have received internet connectivity through the assistance of UNDP to enhance communication and improve upon Early Warning Systems. NADMO has improved upon its coordinating role through networking and information sharing in its operations. In times of emergencies, it coordinates and harnesses all resources both human and material from all its partners for timely and effective response.

Priority for action 1

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

Priority for action 1: 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

Means of verification:

- * Is DRR included in development plans and strategies? Yes
- * No: National development plan
- * Yes: Sector strategies and plans
- * No: Climate change policy and strategy
- * No: Poverty reduction strategy papers
- * No: Common Country Assessments (CCA)/ UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

Description:

Act 517 - 1996 legally established the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) which is responsible for DRR at all levels of Government.

Disaster management in Ghana is decentralised.

This is reinforced by the fact that at the national, regional and district levels disaster management are under political leadership. For example, The

National/ Regional and District Disaster Management Committees are chaired respectively by the Minister for the Interior, the Regional Minister and the District Chief Executive.

The national platform for DRR and climate change adaptation has been established and functioning. Seven regional platforms have also been established out of the ten regions. District platforms are yet to be established.

Context & Constraints:

NADMO's Disaster Risk Reduction activities are constrained by lack of adequate funding.

Lack of enforcement capacity for NADMO to achieve its mandate.

Ineffective enforcement of disaster related bye-laws by the district assemblies.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 2

Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Means of verification:

- * Is there a specific allocation of budget for DRR in the national budget?
- * 0 % allocated from national budget
- * 0 USD allocated from overseas development assistance fund
- * 0 USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)
- * 0 USD allocated to stand alone DRR investments (e.g. DRR institutions, risk assessments, early warning systems)
- * 0 USD allocated to disaster proofing post disaster reconstruction

Description:

Through budgetary allocations, funds are made available annually for disaster management. This includes funds provided for contingencies.

A percentage of the district assembly common fund within the local government system is allocated to disaster related activities.

In addition to this, some specific programmes are funded by multilateral and bilateral agencies.

Context & Constraints:

At the present, Disaster Risk Reduction cannot be considered as a priority since it does not have the Required recognition and implementation level at all levels of government. Institutions implementing Development projects do not still see the immediate benefits in Disaster Risk Reductions. Others are not prepared for the extra cost to be incurred to ensure DRR, Rules/Regulators are strictly enforced for lack of understanding, especially at the local or community level where development projects are sited and where disaster risk reduction is therefore implemented.

Unaware of benefits of the concept and practice of Disaster Risk Reduction, many institutions fail to pay the due attention to it.

Financial resources are not adequate to support DRR activities.

Some agencies do not make adequate budgetary allocations for DRR activities.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Means of verification:

- * Do local governments have legal responsibility and budget allocations for DRR? Yes
- * No: Legislation
- * Yes: Budget allocations for DRR to local government

Description:

There is an appreciable level of participation in Disaster Risk Reduction through the Disaster Volunteer Groups and other community-based organizations.

Volunteers participate in hazard identification and monitoring/assessment and report to the relevant/lead agencies.

Specifically, fire Volunteers monitor bush burning, construct fire belts and also sensitize the communities for bush fire prevention.

Context & Constraints:

Communities/Volunteers are not educated /trained adequately to identify hazards. Communication between the communities and the District Assemblies, NADMO and lead agencies are not effective. Telephone facilities for reporting on hazards are also almost non-existent in most vulnerable rural communities.

Officials also find it difficult to trek their assigned communities due to lack of mobility and poor accessibility.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Means of verification:

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

* 0 civil society members (specify absolute number)

* 0 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)

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

Description:

The National Platform for DRR and CCA is functional, and this has been replicated in seven other regions. (Upper east, Upper west, Northern, Brong Ahafo, Ashanti, Western and Central).

Context & Constraints:

Lack of adequate resources to prepare and implement plans and programmes.

Capacity building required for Platform members.

Networking and information sharing needs to be strengthened.

Priority for action 2

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

Priority for action 2: 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

Means of verification:

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

* Yes: Multi-hazard risk assessment

* 0 % of schools and hospitals assessed

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

* Yes: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments

* No: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments

Description:

There is adequate identification of hazards, constant monitoring and assessment by the Technical Advisory Committees, (key stake holders) . The identified hazards include: Geological, Hydrometeorological, Fires, Pests & Insects Infestations, Diseases & Epidemics, Nuclear & Radiological, Man-Made (Conflicts, vehicular/boat accidents etc). In 2007 Hazards Maps were prepared for four hazard types namely: Hydrometeorological, Fires, Pests and Insects Infestation and Geological . Adequate expertise and equipment exist at the national level.

Context & Constraints:

While adequate expertise and equipment for monitoring and early warning exist at the national level, the same cannot be said for the regional, district and community levels.

Additionally, capacity to process, analyse and utilise data collected are not very strong at the regional, district and community level.

Negative cultural practices, beliefs and attitudes serve as additional constraints.

Priority for action 2: 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

Means of verification:

- * Are disaster losses systematically reported, monitored and analysed? Yes
- * Yes: Disaster loss database
- * Yes: Reports generated and used in planning

Description:

There are lead sectors or agencies to monitor, collect, collate and store data or information on relevant risks. Data especially on hydrometeorological and hydrological, etc risks and vulnerabilities are released on request.

Available information or data are posted on the NADMO website: www.nadmo.org

Some hazards have been mapped to enhance monitoring and assessment of risk and vulnerability reduction.

Context & Constraints:

There is a great challenge in the area of data collection, processing, storage and retrieval.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Means of verification:

- * Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events?
Yes
- * Yes: Early warnings acted on effectively
- * Yes: Local level preparedness
- * Yes: Communication systems and protocols
- * Yes: Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination

Description:

There are some seismographs for the monitoring of earth tremors/quakes. The Agricultural sector also has systems for the monitoring and early warnings on pest and insect infestation.

Some major rivers have hydrological gauges for monitoring floods. The Meteorological Agency accesses the World Meteo-satellite system and forecast weather conditions country wide. Vulnerable communities are given prior information on dam spillage of local, national and international origin as early warning.

The media play an important role in the dissemination of early warning information country wide.

Context & Constraints:

The early warning systems are not widespread. For example, rivers in flood prone areas are not gauged.

Many people rarely listen to the broadcast of weather warnings, especially in the poor and vulnerable communities.

There are no seismographs in the mining and quarrying communities. Only three (3) analogue seismographs are currently functioning in the entire country.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 4

National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Means of verification:

- * Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional DRR programmes or projects? Yes
- * Yes: Programmes and projects addressing trans-boundary issues
- * Yes: Regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks
- * Yes: Regional or sub-regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms
- * Yes: Action plans addressing trans-boundary issues

Description:

Ghana is a member of the African Union (AU) and the sub-regional grouping, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and abides by the AU and ECOWAS conventions on disaster risk reduction, especially in the area of trans-boundary collaboration.

Ghana shares information with neighbouring countries such as Burkina Faso, Cote d'ivoire on hazards such as Cerebro-spinal meningitis, Anthrax, locust invasion, algal bloom and flooding. Specifically Ghana receives early warning from the operators of the Bagre Dam in Burkina Faso before spilling. Ghana also exchanges information on other Pest and Insect infestation hazards such as African Swine Fever, Avian Influenza with neighbouring countries.

Context & Constraints:

Elaborate policy agreements do not exist between Ghana and the neighbouring countries. Language is a serious problem for collaboration in view of the fact that Ghana, an anglophone country is surrounded by francophone countries. Some times there are delays in early warning information getting to actual users.

Priority for action 3

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

Priority for action 3: 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:

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

Means of verification:

- * Is there a national disaster information system publicly available? Yes
- * Yes: Web page of national disaster information system
- * Yes: Established mechanisms for accessing DRR information

Description:

There are educational materials (handbills, brochures, pamphlets, newsletters etc) on disaster risk reduction. These are distributed countrywide. The NADMO news letter serves as a vital tool for information sharing and public education.

The NADMO website, www.nadmo.org also provides data/ information on disaster risk reduction in Ghana. UNDP has assisted NADMO to improve sharing of information through ICT. The mass media is also extensively used for information dissemination.

Workshops, seminars, outreach programmes, durbars etc are often organized to disseminate information on DRR and CCA.

Context & Constraints:

Inadequate funding makes it difficult to carry out information dissemination programmes.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Means of verification:

- * Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum? No
- * No: Primary school curriculum
- * No: Secondary school curriculum

* No: University curriculum

* No: Professional DRR education programmes

Description:

The schools' curricula, educational materials contain some aspects of disaster management. However, disaster risk reduction and especially mitigation has not been included in the school curricula. In view of this no syllabi have been prepared for DRR study at the various levels (primary, secondary, university, professional).

Context & Constraints:

Lack of national policy on mainstreaming DRR into the school curricula.
Lack of institutional commitment.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Means of verification:

* Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget? No

* No: Research outputs, products or studies

* No: Research programmes and projects

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

Description:

Research has been going on at the institutional level. Based on the type of hazards they deal with. However methods and tools for multi risk assessment and cost benefits are as yet to be developed.

Context & Constraints:

Lack of coordination and commitment.
Lack of adequate resources for DRR research.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Means of verification:

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

* Yes: Public education campaigns.

* Yes: Training of local government

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

Description:

Countrywide public awareness strategy exist at the national, regional, district and community levels. Public awareness strategy involves the use of both public and private electronic and print media, publication including books, handouts, brochures and newsletters on various disaster types. Outreach programmes and durbars to vulnerable communities. The medium of communication is in both English and local Languages .

The celebration of World Disaster Risk Reduction Day and International Civil Defence Day under various themes are used to heighten awareness.

Context & Constraints:

Messages do not sufficiently get to targeted audience due to numerous programmes on different radio and television stations.

The Public does not show the desired interest in public education because of the perception that Ghana rarely experiences major disasters.

Most media houses do not place much premium on disaster related information.

Priority for action 4

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

Priority for action 4: 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

Means of verification:

- * Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc) Yes
- * No: Protected areas legislation
- * No: Payment for ecosystem services (PES)
- * No: Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)
- * Yes: Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)
- * No: Climate change adaptation projects and programmes

Description:

NDPC, NADMO and EPA are currently mainstreaming DRR, CCA into development plans and projects of metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies.
Environmental impact assessment are being seriously enforced by EPA in collaboration with other agencies.

Context & Constraints:

Inadequate enforcement of regulations and bye- laws.
Inadequate capacity to achieve the objective.
Low level public awareness on climate change.

Priority for action 4: 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

Means of verification:

- * Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities? No

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

Description:

The affected District authorities along the Volta Lake have taken concrete steps to register and license lake boats. Task forces made up of Ghana Navy, ZOIL, DVGs have been policing the entire Volta River to ensure that safety standards are adhered to. Communities around the ongoing Bui Dam construction have been resettled to reduce vulnerability to flooding.

Meetings, durbars or community and institutional outreaches are being undertaken ,in the most vulnerable communities to enhance vulnerability/risk reduction

There are mechanisms to ensure food security, public health, some risk sharing and protection of public infrastructure.

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture has introduced early maturing and drought resistance seeds to ensure food security.

There is a national health insurance scheme, free maternal care of expectant women and the health needs of the people especially the aged and children.

Context & Constraints:

Developers are not yet fully aware of hazard/risk being part of development. Consequently, policies by developers, both public and private, to reduce vulnerability of affected communities are non-existent.

The low level of awareness among the population also makes it more difficult for communities to take effective steps to reduce risk/vulnerability. Besides all these, the harsh climate conditions due to extreme weather changes and high poverty levels make it difficult to reduce vulnerability.

The culture of insuring private property and businesses is not well cultivated.

Priority for action 4: 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

Means of verification:

- * Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment? No
- * No: National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.
- * No: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

Description:

There existed safety plans in many economic/industrial institutions even before the establishment of NADMO.

Through the coordination of NADMO safety plans and policies of strategic institutions including Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) the mines/ quarries and aviation have been updated to incorporate DRR to reduce risk to the public. The National Building regulations is being reviewed to enhance DRR in the building and construction industry.

Context & Constraints:

The updated institutional plans are rarely tested. Most public institutions (Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies) and the private industries are yet to put in place disaster risk management reduction plans and policies.

Priority for action 4: 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

Means of verification:

- * Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements? No
- * No: Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas
- * No: Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas
- * No: Training of masons on safe construction technology
- * No: Provision of safe land for low income households and communities

Description:

The existing building regulations are not strictly adhered to. Estate private developers and individuals also flout the building regulations by putting up buildings without cognisance of the identified and publicised hazards and good engineering practices.

Context & Constraints:

Real Estate developers - both public and governmental have the idea that natural disasters such as earthquakes are not highly probable in the country. Even some modern planned settlements lack designated safe havens, properly managed refuse disposal and therefore poor sanitation. Some private constructions are going on along hill slopes that are susceptible to landslides. High-rise building also do not have risk reduction elements such as helipads on the highest floors and efficient smoke detectors and alarm systems.

Priority for action 4: 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

Means of verification:

- * Do post-disaster recovery programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR? No
- * 0 % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR
- * No: Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery

Description:

Government, communities and private sector are incorporating strategies and other interventions for reconstruction/rehabilitation and post disaster risk assessment to ensure future risk reduction. Communities affected by disasters, especially flood and wind/ rainstorms have been sensitized and oriented for resettlement in safe areas. Storm drains are being constructed and existing ones are being widened by government and communities. Government has constructed sea defense wall in some areas to check coastal flooding and erosion. The building regulations and codes are being reviewed to ensure that constructions / buildings are made hazard resistant. Retrofitting programmes are also ongoing.

Context & Constraints:

Lack of resources to undertake resettlement programmes.
Affected communities, for social, historical, cultural and economic reasons, are unwilling to be resettled elsewhere.
Lack of adequate capacity and skills for rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 6

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Means of verification:

- * Are the impacts of major development projects on disaster risk assessed? Yes
- * Yes: Assessments of impact of projects such as dams, irrigation schemes, highways, mining, tourist developments etc on disaster risk
- * No: Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

Description:

Various agencies exist to conduct impact assessment in different sectors and such organizations include EPA, Standard Board, Food and Drugs Board, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing, Ministry of Roads and Highways, District Assemblies, Department of Sociology in the

Universities etc.

The major procedure is to constitute task forces comprising the relevant organizations for the particular disaster impact assessment.

Context & Constraints:

Ineffective proper coordination of agencies.

Inadequate capacities and skills especially at the local level

Inadequate resources to undertake timely damage / impact assessment.

Priority for action 5

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

Priority for action 5: 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

Means of verification:

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

* No: Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety

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

Description:

A national DM policy is being prepared. However there are some individual organizations such as the Ministry of Health, Tema Oil Refinery that have their own policy guidelines on disaster management and especially on emergency response.

NADMO has prepared a national disaster management plan for disaster management in general. They have also prepared a contingency plan and SOPs for emergency response.

Institutional and technical capacities and mechanisms for disaster management, with disaster risk reduction perspective are in place. All the relevant institutions are part of the Disaster Management Technical Advisory Committees of NADMO.

Regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.

Context & Constraints:

The lack of a national policy for disaster management is hindering the process of disaster management in the country.

Inability to establish strategically located stock pile depots of logistics throughout the country.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 2

Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Means of verification:

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

- * Yes: Contingency plans with gender sensitivities
- * Yes: Operations and communications centre
- * Yes: Search and rescue teams
- * Yes: Stockpiles of relief supplies
- * Yes: Shelters
- * Yes: Secure medical facilities
- * Yes: Dedicated provision for women in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities

Description:

National Disaster Management Plan and a National Contingency Plan as well as contingency plans for the major stakeholders such as the Fire Service, The Civil Aviation Authority, the Armed Forces, the Police, the Ghana Health Service are in place and operational .

Simulation exercises are held by major disaster response agencies and monitored by NADMO. Regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.

Context & Constraints:

Lack of funding and logistics are hampering the implementation of the district disaster management and contingency plans across the country.

The availability of Disaster Management and contingency plans does not prevail in some districts, communities and institutions, because they do not have the capacity to draw and implement their own plans.

Priority for action 5: 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

Means of verification:

- * Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster? Yes
- * No: National contingency funds
- * No: Catastrophe insurance facilities
- * No: Catastrophe bonds

Description:

Contingency mechanisms by the various stakeholder institutions are in place for timely response or search, rescue and evacuation.

Capacities, resources including financial reserves and contingencies for disaster response exist at all

levels.

By a Presidential fiat in 1999 all districts within the local government system were mandated to set aside some percentage (about 5%) of the district assembly common fund for emergency response.

Context & Constraints:

The percentage of the district assembly common fund for disaster management purposes is at yet to be legalised.

The management of the fund as of now is not explicitly defined.

Some of the districts are as yet to develop their contingency plan.

Financial reserves to support effective response are usually limited.

Mobilizing funds into the reserves has been difficult

Priority for action 5: 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:

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

Means of verification:

- * Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur? No
- * 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 various stakeholder institutions have their own templates/formats for post disaster assessment.

NADMO has developed a template for post disaster assessment, documentation and reporting.

This template has been so structured that it is useful for other stakeholder institutions / agencies.

The NADMO website (www.nadmo.gov.gh) has been established to link global stakeholders. Plans are far advanced to upgrade and expand this website for quality data/ information and quick accessibility.

All regional and some district offices are linked by VHF radio communication equipment, fax machines, security phones for emergencies.

Information sharing among institution exist through coordination meetings, workshops, seminars, media encounters etc.

Context & Constraints:

Not all districts are connected by the VHF communicators and internet connectivity. Sometimes communication by telephone/cell phone is hampered by unreliable networks in many districts/communities.

Some stakeholders are reluctant to share certain key information for effective decision making.

There is some difficulty in using the templates/formats at the district and zonal levels.

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 have been hazard mapping for all the disaster types in the country. The details include the area affected, communities at risk, the frequency of occurrence, the source of the hazard and contingencies . These are put in place to deal with those hazards with the support of the Technical Advisory Committees which serve as advisors to NADMO . The multi-hazard mapping is updated occasionally and incorporated into the National Disaster Management Plan.

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):

There is in place a national policy on Gender. Again, the national policy on environmental provides for gender mainstreaming. Programmes have been drawn and are being implemented to build a gender responsive culture on DRR and recovery. Certain hazards associative with gender (women, children, aged disabled) have been identified in specific cultural set-ups within the society.

Abantu for Development, gender based NGO was tasked by NADMO to embark on a countrywide education of women on their involvement in DRR and also for response providers to put women into perspective.

Women are deeply involved in planning and implementing DRR activities in some districts especially the three northern regions in Ghana for reforestation.

Disaster Volunteer Groups are mainly made of the youth and students who are involved in DRR education and hazard management.

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):

National Disaster Management and Contingency Plans as well as Standard Operating Procedures are in place. Various stakeholder agencies have been identified for implementation, monitoring, evaluation and

review of the plans. There is a multi-sectoral

Platform/Technical Committee responsible for providing relief and reconstruction towards recovery from disasters of all types.

There exist capacity building programmes in all DRR institutions for staffs at all levels. There exist joint training programmes for response agencies and DRR related organizations such as conflict and crisis management courses, workshops for Platform and Technical Committee members. Simulation exercises on fire, earthquakes, floods are periodically organized.

There exist establishment of data base of vulnerability location, sectoral resources. Provision of office accommodation, warehouse, transport and logistics.

Bylaws for DRR implementation are being strengthened and enforced.

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):

Under the National Social Protection Programme, there exist among others Health Insurance, Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty, National Youth Employment, Micro Enterprise Credit Support and Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy to enhance human security and social equity among the populace. Also the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit within the Ghana Police Service ensures the safety of the vulnerable.

Ghana has designated three hospitals(the 37 Military Hospital, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital and Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital)as the national emergency centres.

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):

There exist bilateral and multilateral donors, international and local NGOs such as World Vision International, Action Aid, Oxfam GB, Care International, GTZ, JICA, ICRC, ADRA, CRS, AGREDS, ABANTU for Development, etc and the UN system. These NGOs and the World Bank assist the nation in disaster prevention/ response capacity building.

Disaster management works through community based structures and organizations such as Unit Committees, The Traditional Authorities and Voluntary Organizations.

The nations inability to train and sustain the volunteers hinders their performance.

f) Contextual Drivers of Progress

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):

There is political will and commitment at both the executive and legislative levels. At the executive level the presidency supports all DRR initiatives.

Sector ministers are members of National Disaster Management Committee. Regional Ministers and

District Chief Executives are Chairpersons of all DRR Committees at the regional and district levels respectively.

The Parliamentary Select Committee on Defense and Interior strongly advocates DRR issues at Parliament .

Even though there has been advocacy for DRR to be incorporated into structural design and construction of public structures such as school buildings and hospitals, no significant progress has been made, However district assemblies are being sensitized and trained to include DRR considerations in the construction of public infrastructures.

National and seven Regional Platforms on Climate Change Adaptation have been established and are functional in their advocacy role. The National Technical Committees on DRR continue to advise and participate in the implementation of disaster related programmes.

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:

Weak enforcement of and compliance with public regulations on physical development and sanitation regulations. There is no common platform among the various stakeholders for enforcement of regulations.

There is inadequate funding for DRR programmes.

Future Outlook Statement:

NADMO has submitted a draft bill for legislative empowerment to enforce regulations on physical development and sanitation. The National Platform has been established and sub-national platforms are being launched to help define institutional responsibilities and thus enhance co-operation and collaboration.

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:

Lack of collaboration among the stakeholder agencies at the district level makes strengthening of agencies in disaster risk reduction difficult.

Constant interaction with, and monitoring and evaluation with the Disaster Volunteer Groups and Fire Volunteers in the remote communities is difficult due to inadequate communication equipment and transport.

Future Outlook Statement:

NADMO Act is being reviewed to make possible the allocation of more resources and responsibilities to the districts. The GOTA communication system is to be extended to the districts for effective and timely dissemination of information. Efforts have been made to make the District Disaster Management Committees active. Traditional authorities and opinion leaders who wield respect and influence in the communities being sensitised in disaster risk reduction.

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:

The non-compliance of disaster victims within the communities to reinforcing infrastructure such as houses, schools, churches, mosque to withstand the effects of disasters hinders government disaster management cycle programmes. Lack of well defined responsibilities of the agencies involved in the reconstruction process leads to waste and mismanagement of resources.

Future Outlook Statement:

The formation of a national task force, under the auspices of the Ministry of water resources, Works and Housing, with experts from the various sectors will eventually ensure good reconstruction works. The ministry of Food and Agriculture is also involved in sensitizing affected communities on the use of good farming practices to check erosion and flooding. Disaster stricken communities are also being assisted to go into alternative livelihoods.

Stakeholders

Departments/organizations that have contributed to the report

- * Ghana Armed Forces (Gov) - Lt-Col Mohammed Mustapha
- * Ghana National Fire Service (Gov) - Mr. Amponsah Tetteh
- * Environmental Protection Agency (Gov) - Mr. W.K Tamakloe
- * National Catholic Secretariat (NGO) - Mr. Lloyd Sackey