

# Egypt

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

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## Outcomes for 2007-2009

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### 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:**

- Issuing the Decree of the Prime Minister no.1537 of the year 2009 on formation of a National Committee for Crisis/ Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction which acts as a National Platform for DRR.
- Developing/ upgrading the existing DRR departments at different ministries, governorates and concerned authorities.

### 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:**

- The National Strategy for Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR has been approved.
- At the level of governorates and executive entities, strengths of the existing institutions is undertaking.

### 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:**

- Post disaster reviews are undertaking to explore the lessons learned for further planning in different types of disasters like pandemics and flash floods.

## Strategic goals

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### 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:**

The Prime Minister Decree no.1537/ 2009 on formation of a National Committee for Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR (NCCMDRR) contains 10 articles. This comes from the Egyptian commitment to the various tasks outlined in HFA, to strengthen and develop its national institutions and policies. Indeed, the NCCMDRR was initiated in April 2006 under the guidance of the Prime Minister. The NCCMDRR, a multi sectoral arrangement for DRR and crisis management is functioning as the “National Platform for DRR”, having several mandates corresponding to the goals and priorities of actions outlined in the HFA

2005. Because DRR is a cross-cutting and complex issue, the NCCMDRR is a multi-stakeholder mechanism that provides coordination, develops a culture of prevention and DRR, and facilitates the integration of Disaster Management and Risk Reduction into national policies, planning and programmes. According to the above mentioned Decree, an Advisory Committee for Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR has been constituted. It comprises a group of prominent technical and scientific experts and professionals specialized in multidisciplinary fields relevant to disaster/ crisis Management and DRR to provide the scientific and technical support for the NCCDMDRR in this field. The Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR Sector at the Egyptian Cabinet Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) acts as the technical secretariat for both national and advisory committees. Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR entities were established in all governorates (local level), ministries and concerned agencies and institutions.

## 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:**

The Egyptian government embarked on developing the current national system for Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR. By taking a number of relevant measures and steps, including the preparation of the National Strategy for Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR (NSCDMDRR); Based on the following:

- The international approaches in the area, on top of which is the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), Hyogo Framework (2005 - 2015) and the experience driven from the United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-1999).
- Crises and Disasters are not confined to one particular area, or to developing rather than developed countries. However, losses entailed are larger in developing than developed countries. It sometimes amounts to 20 folds the risk in the latter, according to UNDP reports.
- The successful management of crises and disasters can be summarized in a number of precautionary steps and measures in the pre crisis/ disaster; containment during the crisis/ disaster, and rehabilitation in the post crisis/ disaster stages.

The NSCDMDRR has been prepared in the context of improving the national system of crisis/ disaster management and DRR, coordinating efforts on all levels, institutions and national sectors as well as stressing collective participation and achieving objectives referred to under Chapter One (Objectives and Priorities). The preparation of the NSCDMDRR adopted a methodology of current situation analysis, desired ambitions and describing the relevant achievement roadmap. It contains nine chapters. Chapter one reviews the objectives and priorities of the national action plan on crisis/ disaster management and DRR. Chapter two reviews the current situation analysis: the real and prospective crises and disasters in the country. Chapter three links between the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and risk reduction of crises and disasters. Since the institutional base of crisis/ disaster management and DRR is the cornerstone of a sound and effective management, Chapter four presents the institutional framework for crisis/ disaster management and DRR in the country. Chapter five introduces the existing national laws and legislation in force on crisis and disaster management and the need to develop a legislative system in harmony with the current national and international requirements. Chapter six explains the methodology of raising awareness to build the right culture of crisis/ disaster management and DRR. Chapter seven deals with the executive measures of crisis/ disaster management and DRR. Chapter eight provides the methods of monitoring and evaluation of these measures, and chapter nine reviews the means and frameworks of international and regional cooperation in the field of crisis/ disaster management and DRR. In addition, the strategy includes two annexes: the former contains existing national legislation in force on crisis and disaster management and the latter introduces the proposed implementation indicators of the National Program for crisis/ disaster management and DRR.

## 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:**

Crisis/ disaster management and DRR has partially incorporated in the National strategy and considered in the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation processes. For instance, the National Preparedness Plans have been revised taking into consideration the lessons learned from the 2009/ 2010 H1N1 influenza pandemic and 2010 flash floods disasters. Moreover, Mechanisms and recovery tools have been adopted for efficient implementation. Nowadays, building codes and prevention of constructions in the whole Egyptian territory have been enforced as consequences of 1992 earthquake and 1994 flash floods.

**Priority for action 1**

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

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**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:**

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

**Description:**

The National Strategy for Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR in the Arab Republic of Egypt contains the breadlines of a number of measures, arrangements and preparations, previously agreed upon to deal with the pre, during and post crises and disasters. These preparations can be generally applied at the national level, either in ministries, governorates, institutions, authorities, etc.

The Strategy aims at the following:

1. Contributing to the achievement of sustainable development through incorporating the concept of crisis/ disaster management and DRR into sustainable development policies and planning.
2. Building capacities of the Egyptian society for facing crises and disasters at all phases, levels and

sectors. This can be done through developing and promoting a national mechanism of crisis/ disaster management and DRR and preparing a legal and legislative review aiming to strengthen development and application of the crisis/ disaster management and crisis/ disaster plans.

3. Promoting national partnership in the field of voluntary work and social partnership in managing crises/ disasters and DRR, by building dialogue with the civil society, particularly NGOs and social associations and allow them to contribute in pushing forward the different operations of crisis/ disaster management and DRR.

4. Developing mechanisms for exchanging data, and information as well as technology transfer on crisis/ disaster management and DRR, among stakeholders of crisis/ disaster management and DRR.

5. Promoting the existing early warning systems and creating the required ones to enhance the forecast of crisis/ disaster management and DRR at the national, regional and international levels.

6. Identifying and detecting the required indicators of follow up, assessment and progress of the activities in facing crisis/ disaster management and DRR. This can be done by setting out the required matrixes for the executive measures of plans and measures in place for crisis/ disaster management and DRR.

The NSCDMDRR sets out five national priorities for the executive work on crisis/ disaster management and DRR, including the working priorities of the Hyogo Framework 2005 - 2015.

### **Context & Constraints:**

The National Strategy for Crisis/ Disaster Management And

DRR mainly considers preparedness concept, it also emphasizes on the challenges of coordination and insufficient resources on executive level. Chapter 5 of the strategy describes the current status of legislation and suggests the requirements for Disaster management and DRR and to strength of the integration between stakeholders.

Reference document:

> The National Strategy for Crisis/ Disaster Management And Disaster Risk Reduction (2010)

[http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13353\\_nationlstrategyforcrisisdisasterman.pdf](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13353_nationlstrategyforcrisisdisasterman.pdf) [PDF 790.28 KB]

### **Core indicator 2**

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

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

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

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

Yes

### **Means of verification:**

\* 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:**

- The National Committee for crisis/ disaster management and DRR has an annual budget for the implementation of DRR plans and activities on both central and local levels.
- All Ministries and Governorates (Local Administration) have in their budget lines specific items for DRR measures.
- Reasonable budgets have been allocated for developing Informal Settlements in order to reduce their vulnerability to risks.
- The institutional structure for establishing crisis/ disaster management and DRR departments in all governorates and ministries is being finalized. This will be followed by allocation for required budgets.
- Other examples on sectoral and local levels include the Environment Protection Fund (EPF) assigned for the Egyptian EEAA, to enhance, among several activities, strategies for environmental disaster risk reduction.
- The Ministry of Health has an annual budget for disaster management.
- The Social Fund for Development (SFD) has several success stories in alleviating the impacts of natural disasters.
- Also the ministry of social solidarity has special funds in its budget for humanitarian affairs, such as compensation of affected communities and relief operations in case of major disasters.

### **Context & Constraints:**

Resources are not adequate at national or local levels; nor is it dedicated to the preparedness level. Therefore, resources either financial or human are to be further strengthened. Adequate funds are to be earmarked in dedicated budget lines and reflected in the budgets.

Human resources although available at all levels, yet they are not well trained to cope with the needs of the disaster management and risk reduction, and capacity building is to be further strengthened in all sectors and levels. Endorsing the National Strategy for Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR shall consequently result into:

- Incorporating the strategy in sustainable development policies, and identifying it as a national priority based on an effective institutional and legislative foundation.
- Providing and allocating financial resources hand in hand with supporting human resources and institutional capacity. This is intended for implementing the programs and activities outlined in the strategy in accordance with the proposed implementation stages and indicators.
- Defining the financial requirements by the concerned ministries, agencies, institutions and state sectors. This will involve incorporating such requirements in their respective annual budgets. In collaboration with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, it is also possible to raise part of the required fund through donor agencies.

### **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

### **Do local governments have legal responsibility and budget allocations for DRR?**

Yes

### **Means of verification:**

\* No: Legislation

\* Yes: Budget allocations for DRR to local government

**Description:**

In the time being all national existing legislations are being revised within the activities of the ongoing project of capacity building in the field of crisis/ disaster management and DRR funded by UNDP towards a new integrated legislation for DRR in Egypt.

Wider participation of private sector, civil society and NGOs as permanent members of the NCCMDRR. Established crisis and disaster management entities at different governorates, ministries and agencies. Starting to activate the bottom – up approach in stead of top- down approach for more decentralization in the field of crisis/ disaster management and DRR.

**Context & Constraints:**

Financial resources are still centralized since the authorities at local levels are dependent upon the Government (central).

**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:**

\* 3 civil society members (specify absolute number)

\* 0 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)

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

**Description:**

Responding to its commitment to the various tasks outlined in HFA, Egypt has strengthened and developed its national institutions and policies to meet these tasks. The National Committee for Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR (NCCMDRR) was initiated in April 2006. The NCCMDRR is functioning as the “National Platform for DRR” and having several mandates corresponding to the goals and priorities of actions outlined in the HFA 2005.

Based on experience and lessons learned since April 2006, A new Prime Minister Decree No. 1537 (dated 27th May) establishing a National Committee for Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR. The following articles and items in the Prime Minister Decree identify clearly that the committee acts as the Egyptian National Platform for DRR:

1. Article no. I - Preamble: "A National Committee for Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR shall be formed within the Egyptian Council of Ministers". The committee has Representatives for Civil Society, the Egyptian Red Crescent and representative of the Private Sector in its membership. The Egyptian Red Crescent has a very wide representation on the local level. Also the Egyptian Federation for Civil Associations and Organizations comprises of more than 22 thousands of civil associations and

organizations including those who are interested in maximizing the role and participation of women in all different public activities.

2. Article no. III – Preamble: "The committee shall put the national institutional framework into action in a compatible manner with the requirements of the ISDR".

3. Article III – Item no. 12: "Assuming the roles and responsibilities of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction set out in the UNISDR and the priorities of Hyogo Framework for Action".

Further to the establishment and functioning of the NCCMDRR, some sectoral plans and policies relevant to disaster management and risk reduction have recently been developed. A "National Strategy on Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR" has been approved. This strategy incorporates a well-designed and mutually-reinforcing set of plans by the government to reduce the risk of disasters, including revision of existing legislation and resources allocation.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

Resources are to be made available in sustainable manner and more efficient role is to be considered further a national commitment.

Reference document:

> Prime Minister Decree on formation the National Platform for DRR (2009)

[http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13353\\_primeministerdecreeonformationthena.pdf](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13353_primeministerdecreeonformationthena.pdf) [PDF 33.36 KB]

## **Priority for action 2**

*Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning*

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### **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?**

No

#### **Means of verification:**

\* Yes: Multi-hazard risk assessment

\* 0 % of schools and hospitals assessed

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

\* No: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments

\* No: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments

**Description:**

A current project funded by UNDP (Capacity Building for Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management in Egypt) including risk assessment for 3 governorates as pilot. A number of specific contingency and preparedness plans for crisis/ disaster management and DRR, inter alia:

- The procedure manual for evacuation & DRR in big Malls.
- Final draft of the National Plan for addressing drought and its risk reduction in Egypt.
- Final draft of the National strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change and its risk reduction.

The Informal Settlements Development Facility (ISDF) was established by the Presidential Decree No.305 in 2008. Its main goal is to contribute to ensuring safe housing in Egypt and to improve the quality of life of the residents in unsafe/ vulnerable areas. ISDF prepares studies and action plans for the development of unsafe/ vulnerable areas in governorates in cooperation with different stakeholders, academic institutions, and research centers. These studies provide the decision maker with required data and information for monitoring and assessment of risks of these areas supported with a geographical information database system of unsafe/ vulnerable areas.

The newly Egyptian approach developed by ISDF, has been replaced the formerly called "slums" or "informal settlements" with the two distinctive terms of "unplanned areas" and "unsafe areas" and classify the later according to the degree of risk to life and property. The ISDF approach is very useful in identifying priorities for intervention; based on the distinction between unsafe areas and unplanned areas, the former requires immediate action, while the later requires either a medium or long term strategy. The national map of unsafe/ vulnerable areas had identified the unsafe/ vulnerable areas in all urban centers of Egypt which include 401 unsafe urban areas with approximately 850 thousands inhabitants.

Unsafe/ vulnerable areas are classified into four groups (A, B, C and D) according to their degree of vulnerability (the degree of risk to life and property) as following:

A: Very Highly at Risk (34 areas).

B: Highly at Risk (281 areas).

C: Medium Risk (66 areas).

D: Low Risk (20 areas).

Currently there are some ongoing activities for collecting data for risk assessment purposes for schools and hospitals. The Egyptian Ministry of Health is participating in the international campaign for Safe Hospitals entitled "Hospitals Safe from Disasters" which aims to direct the attention of all concerned governments, donors, international agencies, community-based organizations, engineers, and technicians towards hospitals. All new hospitals should be built according to measures and standards that ensure the structural resilience of health facilities, and which ensure that health facilities and hospitals are able to function in the aftermath of an emergency or disaster, especially those which provide primary health care services. Accordingly a number of considered measures and steps have been taken by the ministry of health in this regard.

**Context & Constraints:**

Multi – hazard maps are still under construction at different levels. Establishing database for different kinds of crises and disasters is still in progress.

**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:**

Starting to establish a national database for Crises & disasters which took place during the last 3 decades by collecting data from different stakeholders and multi media as well. Three workshops and training courses including hands on training for data entry to the DesINVENTAR software, analysis and results interpretation have been held.

**Context & Constraints:**

Databases at local levels to be installed and linked to the main server on national level as a subject of available resources.

**Core indicator 3**

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

**Level of Progress achieved:**

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

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

Yes

**Means of verification:**

- \* 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:**

Early warning system for both natural (earthquakes and flashfloods) and man- made disasters (Air and Radio active Pollution) are in place. These systems are mostly linked to the media. The Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation has developed in cooperation with the Belgian consultancy company SORESMA and the Free University of Brussels an Early Warning System for Flash Floods in Egypt's Red Sea coast and desert areas which are prone to devastating flash flood incidents. This system allows forecasting the amount, timing and location of rainfall. Based on this simulation, the risk for flash floods is calculated and if needed, a warning is sent to the competent Crisis and Disaster Management Centre. In addition the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation is implementing a project to extend the Early Warning System to all flash flood prone areas in Egypt. Currently a central operational room is being established and well equipped with required systems for linking with local operational rooms in different governorates for an effective disaster management and DRR procedures.

**Context & Constraints:**

The existing Early Warning Systems are working independently and a unique national system still an essential need.

#### **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
- \* 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:**

The same commitment as a member of the Arab League and bilateral cooperation with Arab states and overlooking the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region. Throughout the Mediterranean region as previously stated in 2007 – 2009 report as well.

##### **Context & Constraints:**

The validation of the regional and trans boundary cooperation is highly required especially in Marine environmental disasters. Data and information exchange for early warning systems purposes to be developed.

#### **Priority for action 3**

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

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#### **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

> Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR (2008) <http://crisismanagement.idsc.gov.eg>

\* Yes: Established mechanisms for accessing DRR information

**Description:**

So far more than half million visitors have accessed the National Information Management System website ([www.crisismanagement.idsc.gov.eg](http://www.crisismanagement.idsc.gov.eg)). This website enables the accessibility to relevant information on different types of crises and disasters at all levels.

**Context & Constraints:**

Developing and visibility of the content to be easier for different stakeholders with different backgrounds and publics. Feedback from end users is highly required.

**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?**

Yes

**Means of verification:**

\* Yes: Primary school curriculum

\* Yes: Secondary school curriculum

\* No: University curriculum

\* No: Professional DRR education programmes

**Description:**

The ministry of Education has developed and incorporated DRR in the school curriculum. Indeed almost schools are regularly implementing evacuation simulation exercises for different types of disasters at least 3 times per academic year.

**Context & Constraints:**

Reviewing and updating information of the existing school curriculum on DRR is required. From higher educational point of view, a post graduate inclusion of DRR concept is highly recommended. For undergraduate DRR courses are still lacking.

**Core indicator 3**

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

**Level of Progress achieved:**

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

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

Yes

- \* Yes: Research outputs, products or studies
- \* Yes: Research programmes and projects
- \* Yes: Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR

### Description:

The main objectives of the Advisory Committee for Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR, inter alia;

- Proposing and providing the means to promote the technical and scientific capacities to update and apply the methods and studies to assess the vulnerability to, and the impact of geological, weather, water and climate related hazards on it.
- Working on promoting cooperation among research institutes and the scientific institutions concerned with crises and disasters and the executive bodies in the field of crisis/ disaster management and DRR. Making the best possible application of the scientific research in this field.

### Context & Constraints:

Appropriate funding mechanism is to be mobilized and dedicated in sustainable manner. Capacity building for national specialists and experts, mutual cooperation in regional and international bases are to be considered

## Core indicator 4

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

### Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

Yes

### Means of verification:

- \* No: Public education campaigns.
- \* Yes: Training of local government
- \* Yes: Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level

### Description:

The National Communication Strategy for Raising Societal Awareness in the Area of Risk Reduction and Crisis Management addresses the communicative component relevant to societal awareness raising towards risk reduction, however, message themes focus on three types of disasters namely; earthquakes-as primary potential natural disaster, fires and diseases and pandemics-as two examples of Disasters/ crises classified as manmade. It is worth mentioning that the strategy, from the communicative perspective, is applicable for all types of crises/ disasters that the country may be vulnerable to. The main objectives of the strategy are as following:

1. Raise awareness level of disaster counter and preparedness among Egyptian society's different

strata on a scale of (10%: 90%) in nine months period.

2. Change attitudes towards disasters preparedness, from the negative attitude to the neutral then to the positive.
3. Cause a change in masses' behaviors pre and during the disaster with 60%. This will be conducted by showing wrong behaviors and the right behavior.
4. Build and coordinate relationships with media platforms before, during and after the crisis/ disaster.
5. Change attitudes of civil society's organizations and private sector towards coordinating and participating in participatory programs for disasters preparedness and rescue during crises/ disasters.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

A mechanism for strategy implementation supported by trained personnel is highly required. Action plan for rising public awareness be recommended to be in place. Enlarge the role of NGOs in this context is in progress.

Reference document:

> National Communication Strategy for Raising Societal Awareness in the Area of Risk Reduction & Crisis Management: Executive Summary (2010)

[http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13353\\_nationalcommunicationstrategyforrai.pdf](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13353_nationalcommunicationstrategyforrai.pdf) [PDF 2.32 MB]

## **Priority for action 4**

*Reduce the underlying risk factors*

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### **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

\* Yes: Payment for ecosystem services (PES)

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

\* Yes: Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)

\* Yes: Climate change adaptation projects and programmes

#### **Description:**

- Implementing Environmental Impact Assessment for new projects.

- Establishing the National Center for planning State Land Use.
- Construction of multi-hazard maps for future planning of the projects and new establishments.
- Preparing the final draft of National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change and its risk reduction which is expected to be implemented by the end of 2010.
- Implementing of several projects for integrated Coastal Zones Management.

**Context & Constraints:**

More coordination is needed to integrate environment related policies and plans including land use natural resources management and adaptation to climate change to ensure fully integration and harmony. More efforts are needed for raising the environmental public awareness especially to climate change and land use issues.

**Core indicator 2**

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

**Level of Progress achieved:**

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

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

Yes

**Means of verification:**

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

**Description:**

Currently, a new legislation for obligatory insurance for the all buildings and constructions are in preparing to serve as a milestone of social safety network based on the previous successful stories and international experiences in this regard.

**Context & Constraints:**

Strengthening the social safety networks by financial and human resources is needed to ensure the implementation of reliable social programmes.

**Core indicator 3**

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

**Level of Progress achieved:**

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

**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.

\* Yes: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

**Description:**

A new version of building codes has been issued by end of 2009 in order to reduce the vulnerability to hazards. In addition to the environmental impact assessment for new establishments, seismic retrofits for almost vital constructions (schools and hospitals) are continued.

**Context & Constraints:**

The role of the private sector still needs more efforts to integrate the activity of the protection of economic and productive sectors.

**Core indicator 4**

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

**Level of Progress achieved:**

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

**Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements?**

Yes

**Means of verification:**

\* Yes: Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas

\* Yes: Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas

\* No: Training of masons on safe construction technology

\* Yes: Provision of safe land for low income households and communities

**Description:**

Planning and management of human settlements incorporate risk reduction elements. Moreover, new building codes have been introduced to the all structure designs. The National Center for planning State Land Use has plans for land-use management including regulatory disaster prevention measures at the national and local levels.

**Context & Constraints:**

More efforts are needed to ensure fully implementation of the existing construction codes and laws.

**Core indicator 5**

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

**Level of Progress achieved:**

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

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

No

**Means of verification:**

\* 0 % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR

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

**Description:**

After specific disasters (earthquake and flash floods) building codes have been introduced to the all new constructions. More over a safe side selection away from drainage systems has been applied in order to apply the principle (build back better).

**Context & Constraints:**

Regulations, codes of practice and legislation are to be revised and updated accordingly.

**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:**

\* Yes: Assessments of impact of projects such as dams, irrigation schemes, highways, mining, tourist developments etc on disaster risk

\* Yes: Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

**Description:**

For all new projects the impact assessment is one of the required documentation for getting the permission and environmental impact assessment as well.

The National Platform for DRR is institutionalizing required procedures to integrate disaster management and risk reduction measures into national sustainable development strategies, plans and programmes. Each Ministry allocates in its budget some specific items for DRR and taking in consideration DRR measures in post-disaster recovery programmes.

**Context & Constraints:**

Training of national experts in international institutions that have recognized experience on related matters turn out to be necessary.

## Priority for action 5

*Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels*

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### 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

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

#### **Description:**

Technical and institutional capacity building with disaster risk reduction perspective is going on with emphasize on three governorates as a pilot in cooperation with UNDP. In addition to that a new organizational structure at governorates level supervised by the secretary general and ministries supervised by the technical office of the minister have been established.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

Adequate resources (both financial and human) will enable the increase in readiness for managing disaster impacts, and improve response measures.

### 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

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

Yes

#### **Means of verification:**

\* Yes: Contingency plans with gender sensitivities

\* Yes: Operations and communications centre

\* Yes: Search and rescue teams

\* Yes: Stockpiles of relief supplies

\* Yes: Shelters

\* Yes: Secure medical facilities

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

**Description:**

At all administrative levels a semi regular training, simulation exercise and mock scenarios are held to test and develop disaster response plans. For instance 5 simulation exercises on Influenza Pandemic response plans were held in different 5 governorates. Other types of simulation exercises on Oil Spill contingency plans, evacuation in schools, universities, factories and governmental institutions and fire fighting plans are held.

**Context & Constraints:**

Such kind of training and mock exercises should be on a regular basis in order to minimize the damages and losses of disasters.

**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

\* Yes: Catastrophe insurance facilities

\* No: Catastrophe bonds

**Description:**

For specific sector (such as tourism sector) it is fully covered by insurance facilities in case of natural and man-made disasters. Regarding the proposed new organizational structure of crisis/ disaster management and DRR in all governorates/ ministries has allocated fund consequently open approved.

**Context & Constraints:**

A culture of fully covered insurance in case of natural and man-made disasters should be negotiated with insurance community for more development.

**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:**

Under the umbrella of UNDP capacity building project in the field of Crisis/ Disaster management and DRR, the government of Egypt has initiated establishing a national Database contains all relevant data and information for all crises and disasters during the last three decades at national and local levels in cooperation with ISDR. This database allows an exchange of relevant information during hazard events and disasters and to undertake post event reviews to extract lessons learned and the requirements to develop the national plans. With regard to the post event reviews a workshop on Damage and Loss Assessment has been held in cooperation with World Bank and Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery.

**Context & Constraints:**

The first phase of database building has already started, however the rest phases are still need to be developed to meet the national requirements.

## Drivers of Progress

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**a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development****Levels of Reliance:**

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged 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?:**

No

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

Currently multi-hazard approach is widely considered by different institutions for specific types of hazards (earthquakes, floods, landslides and droughts). The results of these researches should be taken into account for developing a full risk assessment and maps. Moreover a national early warning system and enhancing the community capabilities will enable linking knowledge to the full range of multi-hazards into risk management strategies and analysis leading to most efficient and cost effectiveness.

## **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):**

In Egypt there have undoubtedly been improvements in gender parity over the past decade, especially in education. According to the comprehensive 2010 Survey of Young People in Egypt (SYPE), currently, more than half of university enrolment is by women. In addition to the role of Social Fund for Development in gender empowerment context, the National Council for Woman plays a key role in enhancing political, social and economic participation of woman. There are numerous laws protecting and promoting equality between men and women but actual implementation still limits or contradicts this right, even though it may be granted constitutionally

## **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):**

The capacity building and resource assessment and training plan for crisis/ disaster management and DRR are detailed under a project nationally executed by the Government of Egypt with UNDP to develop disaster risk management capacity in Egypt, under the umbrella of the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Concepts are discussed and capacities are assessed in relation to institutional arrangements, leadership, knowledge and accountability, while gaps and needs are identified from the outcomes of a workshop that was held in May 2009 sponsored by UNOCHA. The detailed goals and priority actions of the National Strategy for Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR are outlined and future capacities and requirements analysed under the capacities that already exist, the orientation of current capacity and the need to create capacities from local to national and to integrate disaster risk management into development. Priority products and services for disaster risk management in Egypt are identified with the emphasis on disaster preparedness planning for effective response and the integration of DRR into development policies, plans and programmes.

## **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):**

Appropriate social protection measures and social safety networks that safeguard vulnerable communities are adequately regarded and implemented, depending on the resources availability. Currently the Ministry of Social Solidarity, Social Development Fund and NGOs represent a core element in recovery activities.

## **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):**

Recognizing the vital role of NGOs and private sector not only in recovery phase but also in preparedness and risk reduction, the Prime Minister Decree no. 1537/ 2009 clearly stated the active participation of those partners in the national platform for DRR. Since the huge number of NGOs in Egypt that reaches to 22 thousands working into different fields, the arrangement and integration among them will increase the benefits in DRR. Successful cases in disaster rescue 1992 earthquake, 1994 flashflood and 2009/2010 H1N1 influenza pandemic.

**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):**

The national Platform DRR is in place since 2006 and has regular meetings for monitoring and evaluating the National System for DRR. One of the mandates of this platform is to approve the action plan at different levels from local to national. So far several national action plans (earthquakes, flashfloods, and major fires ....etc) have been approved. Recently the national Strategy for Crisis/ Disaster Management and DRR is approved as well final draft of the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change and its Risk Reduction is expected to be approved and implemented by the end of 2010.

**Future outlook**

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**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:**

Some steps have been taken for more effective integration of DRR considerations in sustainable development policies, plans and programs from local to national level. However, these still needs further revisions and developments. The following may summarize challenges encountered during implementing the national vision:

1. Fully integration of the National Agenda of sustainable development plan and DRR principle of HFA.
2. Both technical and financial supports are highly needed for more strengthening of institutional setting and capacity building especially at local level.
3. Lack of well trained human resources that comprises a key pillar of DRR.

**Future Outlook Statement:**

Institutional arrangements have been put in place at different levels from local to national. The National Strategy for Crisis/ disaster management and DRR is adopted by relevant authority (National Committee for Crisis/ disaster management and DRR). Moreover, the research and technical aspects are fully covered by the Scientific Advisory Committee for Crisis/ disaster management and DRR.

**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:**

In all ministries, governorates (local level), authorities and institutions crisis/ disaster management and DRR focal point/ entities are defined. From organizing point of view the structure is still complicated and still needs more efforts and resources for integrity in a unique national system.

**Future Outlook Statement:**

By approval of the National Strategy for crisis/ disaster management and DRR and with the government commitment, it is expected to develop and strengthen current institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels. More coordination throughout National Committee for Crisis/ disaster management and DRR where all stakeholders are represented.

The Capacity Building for Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management Project in Egypt in cooperation with UNDP aims to mainstream Crisis Prevention and DRR within the development planning in Egypt. The specific goal is to strengthen the capacity of Egypt to address and deal with Crises and Disasters in order to reduce the unacceptable risks, improve response and recovery systems and protect the country's development plan process and the well-being of the people in Egypt by reducing the loss of life, property damage and social and economic disruption caused by different types of disasters.

Establishing a special union for NGOs working in the area of crisis/ disaster management and DRR under the umbrella of the Egyptian Public Union for NGOs will enable for more effective participation of NGOs in this regard.

**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:**

Post-Disasters reviews and evaluation are routinely undertaken to extract the lessons learned in order to revise the national and sectoral plans. So far many lessons are incorporated into response, recover and rehabilitation plans (sectoral).

**Future Outlook Statement:**

The National strategy of crisis/ disaster management and DRR is highly recognized and stresses on incorporation of the risk reduction approaches into design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation programmes. Moreover, the National Committee for Crisis/ disaster management and DRR represents an excellent mechanism for coordination among different stakeholders.