

Seychelles

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

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Strategic goals

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Strategic Goal Statement:

DRR is presently being considered or mainstreamed into national sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels. DRR has an input into development planning and development control nationally through representation on the Seychelles Planning Authority. Now that DRR falls under the mandate of the Department of Environment DRR issues can have a stronger voice in all processes.

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 Divisions of Risk and Disaster Management has always and will always work very closely with local communities through their district representatives or administration offices. More awareness building and raising is planned in the future to strengthen the resilience of the local community.

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:

DRR is strongly incorporated into existing emergency preparedness, response and recovery programme in the reconstruction of affected communities. There exists a very good relationship and also with the Seychelles Red Cross Society.

Priority for action 1

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

Core indicator 1

National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Is DRR included in development plans and strategies?

Yes

Means of verification:

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

Description:

The National Disaster Management will soon be presented to Cabinet for endorsement

Context & Constraints:

The process for policy and regulations drafting can be a lengthy process

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:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

- * 0 % allocated from national budget
- * 900,000.00 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 Divisions of Risk and Disaster Management has two financial vote under the national budget that is used in DRR activities, there is capital project vote which is used for large mitigation projects and minor disaster vote which is used for smaller remedial emergency risk reduction, recovery and reconstruction works

Context & Constraints:

Provision of budget are fairly satisfactory however there is always the need for a bigger provision of funds for DRR

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?

No

Means of verification:

* Yes: Legislation

* Yes: Budget allocations for DRR to local government

Description:

Local governments does not have substantial funds for DRR however they get assistance from central government ministries and organisations whenever the need arises

Context & Constraints:

Constraints are perhaps heavy reliance of local communities on government assistance, this puts a strain on the resource allocated

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:

* 1 civil society members (specify absolute number)

* 9 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)

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

Description:

The Red Cross Society of Seychelles is one of the most active civil society partners in Seychelles, for the time being there are no local Disaster-related NGOs established in the Seychelles

Context & Constraints:

Lack of DRR Focussed NGOs nationally

Priority for action 2

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

Core indicator 1

National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Multi-hazard risk assessment

* 90 % 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:

Seychelles is undergoing rapid national development, so risk assessments needs to be updated and repeated regularly across all sectors.

Context & Constraints:

Seychelles is in need of more human resources capable of carrying out effective risk assessments within all sectors. Capacity also is needed in the private sector.

Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Are disaster losses systematically reported, monitored and analysed?

Yes

Means of verification:

* No: Disaster loss database

* Yes: Reports generated and used in planning

Description:

The Department has an ongoing project that will seek to harmonise all national environment-related data and information in one location, this will include disaster management data also. All relevant partners in disaster management and emergencies have substantial amount of data based on their own issues and matters.

Context & Constraints:

There is a need for a coordinated effort to ensure that all this data that is available nationally is gathered and organised in a structured and efficient and useful manner.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

* 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:

Seychelles now have a fully established early warning system for tsunami, floods and cyclones.

Context & Constraints:

Partners needs to be constantly refreshed on the procedures and their respective responsibilities to ensure that they carry out their responsibility effectively.

Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

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

Description:

Seychelles is actively involved in an Indian Ocean Commission Oil Spill Management Programme and the National Meteorological Services have very good relationship with counterparts in the region.

Context & Constraints:

There is a need to have a more coordinated effort regionally especially in the area of oil spill contingency planning, However through the mentioned project such gaps and weaknesses will be addressed

Priority for action 3

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

Core indicator 1

Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Is there a national disaster information system publicly available?

No

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Web page of national disaster information system
- * Yes: Established mechanisms for accessing DRR information

Description:

Relevant information on DRR are more less available at the Divisions of Risk and Disaster Management offices and to a certain extent at the Red Cross Society offices

Context & Constraints:

There is a need for better wider and better dissemination of information on disasters at all levels. There is a need for a proper document centre or resource centre that will be easily accessible to members of the public

Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum?

No

Means of verification:

* Yes: Primary school curriculum

* Yes: Secondary school curriculum

* Yes: University curriculum

* Yes: Professional DRR education programmes

Description:

Some sensitisation activities have been implemented with school children and training to educators. DRR issues have not yet been incorporated in the school curricula though.

Context & Constraints:

There is always a need for even more combined effort in educating school children on DRR matters and conducting focussed training sessions.

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?

No

* Yes: Research outputs, products or studies

* Yes: Research programmes and projects

* Yes: Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR

Description:

Some research activities have been carried out in the past in reference to risks assessments and impacts by several international consultants

Context & Constraints:

There is a need for even more focussed research methods and tools to be transferred nationally

Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Public education campaigns.

* Yes: Training of local government

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

Description:

Public awareness efforts have been far reaching and effective over the years and there is the necessary mechanisms in place to ensure proper dissemination of information. The Department of Environment has now restructured its public education programme to more towards a community outreach strategy.

Context & Constraints:

Constraints can be in reference to human resources to carry out those activities nationally

Priority for action 4

Reduce the underlying risk factors

Core indicator 1

Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc)

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Protected areas legislation

* No: Payment for ecosystem services (PES)

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

* Yes: Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)

* Yes: Climate change adaptation projects and programmes

Description:

Gradually DRR is gaining more prominence in such plans and policies and subject areas

Context & Constraints:

As always sometimes communication and coordination between partners can be a challenge

Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

No

Means of verification:

* No: Crop and property insurance

* No: Employment guarantee schemes

* No: Conditional cash transfers

* No: DRR aligned poverty reduction, welfare policy and programmes

* No: Microfinance

* No: Micro insurance

Description:

There is a social development plan for the country and social well-being of the people is one of the core guiding principle of the government. An insurance scheme for the agricultural sector has been drafted but is yet to be endorsed by government

Context & Constraints:

Constraints are in terms of human resources and capacity in some instances

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.
- * Yes: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

Description:

Contingency plans are being drafted for the vital sectors of the economy to ensure their preparedness

Context & Constraints:

There is still a lot of effort that needs to be put in educating stakeholders in these sectors

Core indicator 4

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

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 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:

The Seychelles Planning Authority is the main institution responsible for development control and building codes together with other partner ministries and agencies such as risk and disaster management

Context & Constraints:

There is a need for updating of certain laws and also human resources to ensure effective monitoring and control

Core indicator 5

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

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

Description:

Government does provide the necessary funding required for DRR, recovery and rehabilitation.
Government has a National Disaster Contingency Fund.

Context & Constraints:

Seychelles is a small island state country with a small economy , so obviously is has its limitations when it come to funds

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

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:

There is a planning application and EIA process firmly established with DRR issues are fed into.

Context & Constraints:

Developers not respecting recommendations from such processes.

Priority for action 5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

Core indicator 1

Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

* No: Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety

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

Description:

The Seychelles does have its institutional arrangement i.e the Divisions of Risk and Disaster Management that oversees all DM and DRR issues nationally. The national policy has been drafted and will be presented to the cabinet of ministers in the very near future

Context & Constraints:

Capacity is still lacking in some aspects of DRR nationally however efforts are being made to build those gradually by all players

Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

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

Yes

Means of verification:

* No: Contingency plans with gender sensitivities

* 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:

Efforts have been made in this area, however efforts need to be intensified and efforts should be combined to ensure a sustained effort

Context & Constraints:

It is a challenge to ensure that all partners and players are constantly motivated

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: National contingency funds
- * No: Catastrophe insurance facilities
- * No: Catastrophe bonds

Description:

Government has a National Disaster Contingency Fund that caters for this.

Context & Constraints:

There are no major constraints in reference to contingency funding, the government is fully committed to the cause

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

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:

Some efforts have been made in the past but there needs to be a more systematic agreed approach

Context & Constraints:

Lack of an agreed nationally endorsed approach

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 has been risk and hazard mapping carried out for flooding areas, tsunami risk areas and geologically risky areas, these are considered by the Plannign Authority

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 are no gender issues when it comes to DRR in Seychelles

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

Levels of Reliance:

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

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

There are still some efforts that needs to be further strengthened with some of the major players

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):

Strogn engagement

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):

Very active NGO and civil society actors, though not many of such organisations in Seychelles

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):

Government has the strongest commitment in this domain

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:

As a small country, with limited resources both financial and human it is a big challenge to sustain the efforts however with external financial assistance and technical assistance from international organisations, Seychelles will eventually achieve all its objectives.

Future Outlook Statement:

Same as above

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:

Community outreach will always be a challenge, so sustained efforts is required in the future and commitment also at community level

Future Outlook Statement:

Same as above

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:

There is a need for a bigger and stronger involvement by local communities and an even stronger and active involvement by NGOs

Future Outlook Statement:

Same as above