

Switzerland

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

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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:

The Federal Office for Environment (FOEN) as the leading authority at Federal level has rearranged its subvention policy within the New Financial Equalization framework. The federal spending on protection against natural hazards is now based on effect- and risk-oriented principles. Cost effectiveness assessments of protection measures have to be carried out at an early stage. Additional resources are allocated if criteria like sustainability, integrated risk management or participative planning are accomplished.

In 2008 and 2009, the Swiss Parliament approved substantial increases of the annual budget of FOEN for protection measures.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) also contributes to the global efforts to reduce disaster losses by systematically integrating DRR in development cooperation and humanitarian aid projects abroad. The "SDC Guidelines on Disaster Risk Reduction", approved in 2007, have been implemented in 8 pilot countries. Since many years, SDC supports its partners to implement the HFA. To achieve the goal of integral risk management, many outputs have been generated since the last reporting period like studies, best practices, guidelines, tools and instruments, among others:

- PLANAT, 2008: "Guidelines risk concept - Riko"

(www.planat.ch/ressources/planat_product_de_1110.pdf, German only)

- PLANAT, 2008: "Evaluation of the effectiveness of protection measures – Protect"

(www.planat.ch/ressources/planat_product_de_1103.pdf, German only)

- FOEN: EconoMe. Tool for assessing the risk reduction and cost efficiency of protection measures

(www.econome.admin.ch, German, French, Italian, restricted access)

- SDC, 2010: Effectiveness of SDC's Commitments in Disaster Risk Reduction. (Internal technical report)

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 assignments of tasks and respective responsibility have been undertaken vertically (between Federal and Cantonal entities) and horizontally (between technical entities and intervention bodies). At the Federal level, the "Steering Committee Intervention against Natural Hazards" is operational since 2008, which links the specialist departments working in the realm of forecasting, early warning and intervention.

Regarding a broad risk dialogue, a situational analysis and conceptual work has been undertaken. However, implementation gaps are still remaining.

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:

The legal basis for response activities has been improved. The Federal Council approved an Act

("ABCN-Einsatzverordnung"), which comes into force on 1st of January 2011. The Act regulates responsibilities and procedures regarding nuclear, biological, chemical and natural disasters; for the first time, risks from different sources are looked at in comprehensive way. Furthermore, a national task force for the management of nation-wide disasters has been built up. A further Act ("Alarmierungsverordnung") empowers the responsible national institutions to warn the population about major disasters in a coordinated manner. At Federal level, interdepartmental cooperation has been improved through the "Steering Committee Intervention against Natural Hazards". In May 2010, as part of the implementation of the project "Optimisation of Early Warning and Alerting", the Federal Council assigned financial resources and personnel to improve the meteorological network, the flood warning system and the information of the population.

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 main strategic goal is a paradigm shift from pure protection against hazards to the management of risks. Disaster risk reduction measures are implemented according to standardised protection goals and by considering sustainability. All levels from municipal to national give priority to land-use planning over technical protection measures.

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:

A broad risk dialogue takes place, which includes key actors from national, cantonal and municipal level and from the civil society. Responsibilities, roles and tasks are clarified. Furthermore, Switzerland contributes to international capacity building, especially by supporting its partner countries.

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:

Civil protection and specialist departments of all levels work in a coordinated manner in the frame of preparedness and early warning. Intervention of national entities in case of nationwide emergency is functioning. Forecasting, alerting and early warning is – especially for floods – improved. Roles and responsibilities between national and Cantonal authorities are clarified and self-responsibility of local actors is strengthened.

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Means of verification:

- * Is DRR included in development plans and strategies? Yes
- * 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 protection of the population, the promotion of the common welfare and sustainable development is anchored in the Swiss Constitution. A comprehensive legal framework is in place on national and Cantonal level in the fields of civil protection, protection of natural environment, sustainable use and management of natural resources (e.g. Federal Law on River Training, 21.6.1991; Federal Law on Forests, 4.10.1991) and land use planning (Federal Law on Land Use Planning, 22.6.1979). A national strategy "protection against natural hazards" is being implemented; a national strategy regarding climate change adaptation is being elaborated.

Context & Constraints:

A specific constitutional reference for dealing with natural hazards could provide additional guidance. Legal frameworks at Cantonal level that respond to the respective Federal laws are still in process of being implemented.

Related links:

- > Press release: National Strategy Climate Change Adaptation (German only)
<http://www.news.admin.ch/message/index.html?lang=de&msg-id=35378>
- > Protection against Natural Hazards in Switzerland - Vision and Strategy
http://www.planat.ch/ressources/planat_product_en_501.pdf

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:

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

Description:

At Federal and Cantonal level, the specialist authorities dispose of dedicated resources. In particular, the Federal Office of Environment as the leading authority for natural hazards prevention has enjoyed a substantial increase of the annual budget for protection measures. However, there are still shortfalls at the municipal level.

Context & Constraints:

The Swiss political organisation, based on federalism with strong decentralisation of responsibilities, makes differences in the level of commitment unavoidable. This is often true for the local level.

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Means of verification:

- * Do local governments have legal responsibility and budget allocations for DRR? Yes
- * Yes: Legislation
- * Yes: Budget allocations for DRR to local government

Description:

As a result of the decentralised system in Switzerland, operational responsibility for dealing with natural hazards and for civil protection lies by law first and foremost with the Cantons and municipalities. The

Federal authorities define the strategy and principles, advise the Cantons on sustainable protection measures, provide subsidies and adopt an overall control function. In case of major events with a national impact, the Federal authorities coordinate the intervention and take the responsibility for managing the situation according to the subsidiary principle.

Context & Constraints:

There is no need or significant potential for improvement to be identified.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

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 Swiss National Platform for Natural Hazards (PLANAT) was created in 1997 by the Swiss Federal Council and made responsible for coordinating concepts in the field of prevention against natural hazards. The main missions of the extra-parliamentary commission are strategic work, awareness building and coordination efforts for disaster risk reduction.

PLANAT consists of twenty specialists coming from all regions of Switzerland. The Federal Council appoints them for periods of four years. The Confederation, the Cantons, research, professional associations, the economy and insurances are represented in PLANAT.

The platform is fully operational and can be considered an example for the implementation of national platforms.

Context & Constraints:

The platform shows the importance of coordination and co-operation between different actors, the bridging of gaps, use of synergies and addressing strategic questions. The good results and recent disasters have made the need for the continuation of the process self-evident.

Related links:

> How to create a platform? 1997%u20132007: Ten years of experience.

http://www.planat.ch/ressources/planat_product_en_835.pdf

> The National Platform for Natural Hazards

<http://www.planat.ch/index.php?userhash=133721054&l=e&navID=154>

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

* N/A % of schools and hospitals assessed

* N/A schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)

* No: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments

* Yes: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments

Description:

Cantons and municipalities are legally obliged to dispose of hazard maps considering floods, avalanches, rock falls and mass movements. As of April 2010, two third of the national territory is covered with hazard maps with avalanche maps having the highest percentage. Furthermore, comprehensive hazard index maps and a nationwide overview for potential floods are available, which help to determine cumulative risks and relevant damage potentials. Risk analyses for transport infrastructure are underway. Zonation of earthquake-prone areas is also available.

Context & Constraints:

Specialised companies carry out risk assessments according to national principles and standards. FOEN, the responsible authority at national level, claimed the elaboration of hazard maps for whole Switzerland until the end of 2011; however, major efforts still have to be made to achieve this goal. A further challenge is the application of hazard maps in land use planning.

Related links:

> FOEN, ShowMe - Hazard Mapping (German, French, Italian)

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/naturgefahren/01922/01926/01930/index.html?lang=de>

> FOEN, Aquaprotect <http://www.bafu.admin.ch/naturgefahren/01916/06598/index.html?lang=en>

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:

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

Means of verification:

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

Description:

Cantons are legally obliged to maintain event cadastres, i.e. records of past disasters. These databases, established by the Federal and Cantonal authorities, provide important information for the elaboration of hazard maps. Hazard and risk assessments are carried out according to systematic procedures, technical guidelines, tools and methods.

A Swiss flood and landslide damage database exists since 1972 with annual publications. Also insurance companies record disaster losses. After major disasters, the Federal authorities usually carry out in-depth event analysis, which are available for the broad public.

Context & Constraints:

Some Cantons provide internet-based access to the hazard maps in their territory. At Federal level, a system, which allows a nation-wide overview on hazard maps, is being established.

Related links:

> FOEN, StorMe - Event Cadastre (German, French, Italian)

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/naturgefahren/01922/01926/01927/index.html?lang=de>

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:

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

Means of verification:

- * Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events?
Yes
- * No: Early warnings acted on effectively
- * No: Local level preparedness
- * Yes: Communication systems and protocols

* Yes: Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination

Description:

Weather forecasting and warning systems for avalanches are well established and functional. There exists also a monitoring system of the seismic activity in Switzerland and neighbouring areas. There is also a flood warning system in place, however, some shortfalls are identified.

The Federal Council initiated in 2007 the project "Optimisation of Early Warning and Alerting" and mandated the responsible departments at national level with its implementation. Among others, a Joint Information Platform for Natural Hazards (GIN), which contains data and early warning products, has been established. Furthermore, a website with information on emergency behaviour directed to the broad public has been developed.

The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) is the Federal centre of expertise for exceptional events. It can be contacted around the clock, 365 days of the year, and can be mobilised within hours. One of its tasks is the management of technological incidents and natural disasters. It serves also as contact for the Cantons on all civil protection issues.

Context & Constraints:

In May 2010, the Federal Council assigned financial resources and personnel to improve the meteorological network and the flood warning system (forecasts for all rivers in Switzerland and around the clock service). In addition, the responsible departments at Federal level developed an emergency task force.

In future, the Federal authorities will inform and warn the population about potential major disasters via radio and TV in coordinated manner ("single official voice").

Efforts are still to be made a local level where information and warnings have to be translated into concrete action to reduce losses.

Related links:

> Joint Information Platform for Natural Hazards (GIN) (restricted access) http://www.gin-info.ch/gin_index_en.html

> National Emergency Operations Centre https://www.naz.ch/index_en.html

> Hazards Portal <http://www.ch.ch/gefahren>

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Means of verification:

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

* No: Programmes and projects addressing trans-boundary issues

* Yes: Regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks

* No: Regional or sub-regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms

* No: Action plans addressing trans-boundary issues

Description:

Regional and trans-boundary risks are especially taken into account at the regional scale, e.g. at river basins level basins, where the problems of upstream vs. downstream interests have to be addressed. For example, an early warning and alert chain exists along the Rhine river up to the Netherlands, coordinated by the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (www.iksr.org). Other regional and trans boundary cooperation involve other reaches of the Rhine (e.g. the upper Rhine, common to Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland) or the Alpine region. There are treaties with all neighbouring countries on mutual assistance in emergencies.

Context & Constraints:

Because of its cultural diversity and adverse environment, regional and trans boundary cooperation has always been important to Switzerland.

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? -- not complete --
- * No: Web page of national disaster information system
- * No: Established mechanisms for accessing DRR information

Description:

A large amount of information is provided by specialist departments at Federal level (MeteoSwiss, FOEN, SLF, PLANAT) and is publicly available through websites and publications. The information reaches from professional know-how to practical advices for the population (e.g. www.ch.ch/gefahren). Also private companies, specialised in meteorological forecasting, insurance and reinsurance companies or Cantons have developed websites, flyers, handbooks or electronic tools. Major events are usually analysed and the findings published and disseminated broadly.

Context & Constraints:

Although many efforts have been made in relation with information dissemination, the provided information is disperse and sometimes too technical. For the next years, PLANAT puts emphasis on a broad risk dialogue by clarifying responsibilities, compiling the existing material and providing practical tools.

Related links:

> Hazards Portal <http://www.ch.ch/gefahren/index.html?lang=en>

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:

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 the national educational curriculum? Yes

* No: Primary school curriculum

* No: Secondary school curriculum

* Yes: University curriculum

* Yes: Professional DRR education programmes

Description:

At university and university of applied science level, there is a broad offer of professional education related to natural hazards and DRR (bachelor, master and postgraduate studies). Training courses and know-how exchange events for professional take place at regular basis.

Regarding civil protection and response to disasters, there are various offers for continuing vocational education and training courses directed to fire brigades, the protection and support service, the local and Cantonal emergency management authority. The Federal administration, especially the Federal Office for Civil Protection (FOCP) offers training units, which can be visited by Cantonal or local representatives. The intervention forces include specific training in their curricula.

With projects like "Seismo at School" or the earthquake simulator, efforts have been made to introduce DRR into primary and secondary school curricula.

Context & Constraints:

A more intense promotion of DRR related themes is still necessary at the school education level. PLANAT has started a project, which aims at the integration of DRR into school curricula of all levels.

Related links:

> Study guide: Education and Training in Switzerland, Protection against Natural Hazards http://www.riskandsafetynet.ch/en/Disaster_Risk_Reduction/Training/document.php?itemID=2658&langID=1

> Earthquake simulator http://www.seismo.ethz.ch/edu/simulator/index_EN

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Means of verification:

* 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:

DRR strategies of Federal and Cantonal authorities in Switzerland strongly base upon scientific findings. Earlier methods and tools for multi-risk assessments have been revised and further developed because the results of the risk analyses following the guidelines were not comparable to each other. The guideline "RIKO" provides a documentation of the theoretical background and a manual for the practical application of the risk concept.

"EconoMe" is a tool provided by FOEN to assess the cost-efficiency of protection measures. It supports the Federal administration to prioritise among mitigation projects in the frame of limited financial resources.

FOCP and FOEN developed an e-learning platform and a calculation tool that allows for a simplified risk analysis (LearnRisk and RiskPlan).

In 2010, SDC assessed the effectiveness of DRR in their projects abroad by applying – among others – cost-benefit analyses.

Context & Constraints:

Tools exist and can still be improved.

Related links:

> PLANAT, Catalogue of actual research studies (German only)

<http://www.planat.ch/shop.php?navID=25&view=detail&shopProductID=1351&userhash=133528669&I=d>

> PLANAT, 2008: Guidelines risk concept - Riko

http://www.planat.ch/ressources/planat_product_de_1110.pdf

> RiskPlan Online - an Educational and Planning Tool (registration needed)

<http://www.riskplan.admin.ch/>

> FOEN, EconoMe -Tool for assessing the risk reduction and cost efficiency of protection measures (German, French, Italian, restricted access) <http://www.econome.admin.ch>

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? -- not complete --
- * No: Public education campaigns.
- * No: Training of local government
- * No: Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level

Description:

Severe flood, storm and avalanche events of the past years served as "windows of opportunity" for the specialist departments to inform the public about natural hazards, mainly through the media. The flood

event of 2005 received unprecedented media coverage. A fair public awareness therefore has been achieved regarding hydro-meteorological hazards. Although a campaign has taken place to raise awareness for earthquakes, deficits remain.

In 2008, a "prevention portal" has been established in all national languages and English. It is directed to the population and covers information on natural hazards in Switzerland, gives advices on how to prevent damage and how to respond in emergencies.

Context & Constraints:

Several specialist departments at national and Cantonal level inform about natural hazards, thus there is not just one countrywide public awareness strategy.

Further efforts are made to raise public awareness: FOEN develops an internet-based platform with information on earthquake prevention; PLANAT has adopted an action-plan for a broad risk dialogue.

Related links:

> Hazards Portal <http://www.ch.ch/gefahren/index.html?lang=en>

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Means of verification:

- * Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc) -- not complete --
- * 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:

The Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) is responsible for the sustainable use of natural resources, including soil, water, air and forests. Use and protection of natural resources and protection from natural hazards are among FOEN's tasks. Furthermore, disaster risk reduction and environmental protection are both anchored in Swiss Federal Laws (e.g. Federal Law on River Training, 21.6.1991; Federal Law on Forests, 4.10.1991). They claim environmentally compatible maintenance of watercourses, (protection) forests and protection measures.

Climate Change Adaptation is considered a topic for many years. In 2009, the Federal Council asked for the elaboration of national strategy. This strategy will include 9 sectoral strategies (water management, agriculture, forest management, energy production, tourism, dealing with natural hazards, biodiversity, health and land use), the most relevant risks will be identified and goals set.

Context & Constraints:

A sustainable management of natural resources is mandated by the constitution, which means that any protection measure must also take into account the protection of the natural resources and their social and economical benefits. Still a major challenge is to give priority to land use planning over technical protection measures.

Related links:

- > Press release: Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
<http://www.news.admin.ch/message/index.html?lang=de&msg-id=35378>
- > Advisory Body on Climate Change (Occc) http://www.occch.ch/index_e.html

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Means of verification:

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

This indicator is of secondary importance for Switzerland as there is no need for additional social development policies and plans that would specifically target the reduction of vulnerability.

Context & Constraints:

As a highly developed industrial nation, Switzerland has achieved high levels of social development. There is also a very well functioning insurance system in place. Both contribute to reduce the vulnerability of populations at risk.

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Means of verification:

- * Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment? -- not complete --
- * No: National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.
- * No: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

Description:

This indicator is of secondary importance for Switzerland as there is no need for additional economic and productive sector policies and plans that would specifically target the reduction of vulnerability of economic activities.

Context & Constraints:

As highly developed industrial nation, Switzerland has achieved high levels of economic development.

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:

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

Means of verification:

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

Description:

The Federal Law on Land Use Planning (22.6.1979) asks for the identification of hazard-prone areas. The Federal Law on Forests (4.10.1991) and the Federal Law on River Training (21.6.1991) claim the elaboration of hazard maps and their consideration in land-use planning at Cantonal and municipal level. Hazard mapping and respective application in land-use planning is still in process. Building codes exist and are applied. However, due consideration has only been given recently to the seismic hazard, and therefore there are gaps in seismic resilience for buildings built before modern constructions standards came into effect (in 1989).

Context & Constraints:

The completion of the hazard mapping and their full consideration in municipal land-use planning is of foremost priority. Remedying the poor earthquake resistance of many existing buildings will be a major challenge over the next years.

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? Yes
- * N/A % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR
- * No: Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery

Description:

Early recovery measures of lifelines such as roads, telecommunication, water supply, sewage system, and electricity supply consider DRR principles and are carried out with state-of-the-art methods. After flood events, it is intended to give the mostly channelled rivers its space.

Until recently, destroyed building were often reconstructed at the same place, as insures would not accept paying for the higher cost of relocation. However, public aid mechanisms and regulations have been put in place to facilitate relocations. Reconstructions of buildings furthermore follow specific building codes.

Context & Constraints:

The cost of the purchase of safe land and resistance of landowners are often limiting factors when regulation of existing settlements is considered. The feasibility of a supplement to mandatory insurance that would eventually allow a reorganisation of settlements is being evaluated.

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

Description:

Procedures of approval, authorisation and granting concession for planning and building of facilities are in place, which take into account disaster risk reduction. They foresee the participation of various actors (including the civil society and non-governmental organisations), authorities and special departments of all political levels. Major projects such as dams, highway, infrastructure, tourism development, energy etc. receive thorough assessments. An Environment Impact Assessment is been carried out for all major facilities. It asks for, among others, emergency management.

In case of reconstruction or new construction, house owner in disaster prone areas are obliged to apply protection measures for their building. Furthermore, they have to prove that the measures do not harm others.

Context & Constraints:

The fact that disaster risk reduction and environment impact assessments are overseen at the Federal level by FOEN, allows an easy integration of environmental and disaster risk related verifications.

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Means of verification:

- * Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies? -- not complete --
- * No: Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety
- * No: Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness

Description:

With the Civil Protection organisation an integrated system for management, protection, rescue and assistance is in place. It ensures the coordination of the five partner organisations, police, fire brigade, public health, technical works and civil defence. These partner organisations are in charge of their respective areas of responsibility and give each other mutual support. The institutions are well equipped and highly qualified.

Context & Constraints:

No particular challenges to mention.

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:

Contingency plans are required for all shelters and protective facilities for which financial aid is granted by the Federal Government.

Every institution participating in the Civil Protection system has its training program.

Common rehearsals are performed at the local, cantonal and federal level.

Context & Constraints:

There are no particular contextual challenges to mention.

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:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Means of verification:

* Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster? Yes

* No: National contingency funds

* Yes: Catastrophe insurance facilities

* No: Catastrophe bonds

Description:

There are no specific, permanently available funds for response to major disasters. However, special governmental funding lines are opened rapidly in case of emergencies. Private fund raising (e.g. Swiss Solidarity) is also a major source of funding in case of major disasters. Private losses are to large extent covered by insurances.

The Swiss Humanitarian Aid (SDC) contributes with cash, emergency and food supplies and staff in large disasters abroad.

Context & Constraints:

There are no particular contextual challenges to mention.

Related links:

> Swiss Humanitarian Aid http://www.deza.admin.ch/en/Home/Activities/Humanitarian_Aid

> Swiss Solidarity <http://www.swiss-solidarity.org>

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? Yes
- * Yes: Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available
- * Yes: Post disaster need assessment methodologies
- * No: Post disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects
- * Yes: Identified and trained human resources

Description:

Since March 2010, the Joint Information Platform for Natural Hazards is fully operational. Here, the specialist federal authorities, the Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss, the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN and the WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF provide timely and relevant specialised information in a combined and practical. The platform includes current measurement and monitoring data, forecasts, models and bulletins regarding storms, floods and avalanches. It is accessible to federal, cantonal and communal task forces in order to facilitate their response to natural events.

After major disasters, the Federal authorities usually carry out in-depth event analysis. Some lessons learnt of past events have led to new policies regarding disaster risk reduction.

Context & Constraints:

In response to the extensive damage caused by natural events in recent years, in particular the flood of August 2005, the Federal Council commissioned the development of the Joint Information Platform for Natural Hazards GIN in 2007 as part of the OWARNA (Optimisation of Warning and Alerting in the Event of Natural Hazards) project.

Related links:

- > Joint Information Platform for Natural Hazards (GIN) (restricted access) http://www.gin-info.ch/gin_index_en.html
- > WSL-SLF http://www.slf.ch/english_EN
- > FOEN <http://www.bafu.admin.ch/index.html?lang=en>
- > MeteoSwiss <http://www.meteoschweiz.admin.ch/web/en/weather.html>

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):

An integrated approach is a must for a country like Switzerland where there is a considerable potential for mountainous hazards (avalanches, rockfalls, debris flows) and a moderate potential for severe earthquakes. Integrated hazard mapping is being performed at the municipal level considering floods, avalanches, rock falls and mass movements. The application of these hazard maps in land use planning all over the country is still a major challenge.

The effectiveness of investments will be further improved through a new set of criteria that will allow high, unacceptable risks to receive a clear priority, whatever the hazard that produces the risk: the risks from all hazards are in a way made to compete with each other for funding, on an equal basis.

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):

Gender mainstreaming has been actively promoted in Switzerland over the past decades. Progress has been made in empowering women, but a lot has still to be done. This general situation also applies to disaster risk reduction. Experiences from recent disasters have so far not evidenced the need for specific action in order to improve the consideration of gender in disaster risk reduction, but more thorough investigations and/or future disasters may well show that gender specific preparedness has to be improved, in particular in the face of the possibility of major disasters.

Related links:

> Federal Office for Gender Equality FOGE <http://www.ebg.admin.ch/index.html?lang=en>

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):

Capacities for prevention of and response to natural disasters are constantly strengthened through academic research, professional training, analysis of events and lessons learned. This is especially true

for the Federal and Cantonal level and for the professionals from academia and specialised companies. Capacity building of actors at the local level and strengthening of self-responsibility still requires special emphasis.

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):

In Switzerland, the protection of human life has highest priority. This applies to the whole population regardless their socio-economic or geographic status. Furthermore, planning and implementation of protection measures primarily focus on areas with highest risks. The well functioning subsidies system also allows financially weak municipalities to meet the challenges in disaster risk reduction.

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):

In PLANAT, the national platform for natural hazards, non-governmental actors from research, private companies and insurances are represented. This composition is also true for many public-private partnerships. The civil society, for instance landowners or residents, are also involved at various stages. However, participatory approaches and knowledge exchange that consider local actors still can be fostered.

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):

Public funding for disaster risk reduction has substantially increased in the last years. It is based now on effect- and risk-oriented principles. Corresponding tools and instruments have been developed. The assignments of tasks and respective responsibility have led to a better coordination and collaboration both between Federal and Cantonal entities as well as between technical entities and intervention bodies.

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:

There are no particular overall challenges to mention, however, in particular areas improvements can be made.

Future Outlook Statement:

There is no need for a re-assessment of the current priorities in the context of the challenges outlined throughout the previous sections, as the main challenges have already been taken or will be taken into account in the near future.

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:

There are no particular overall challenges to mention, however, in particular areas improvements can be made.

Future Outlook Statement:

There is no need for a re-assessment of the current priorities in the context of the challenges outlined throughout the previous sections, as the main challenges have already been taken or will be taken into account in the near future.

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 are no particular overall challenges to mention, however, in particular areas improvements can be made.

Future Outlook Statement:

There is no need for a re-assessment of the current priorities in the context of the challenges outlined throughout the previous sections, as the main challenges have already been taken or will be taken into account in the near future.

Stakeholders

Departments/organizations that have contributed to the report

-- not complete --