

SUMMARY OF MID-TERM REVIEW ONLINE DEBATE

Topic 1: HFA's role in informing decision making and priority setting at the national and regional level

Dates: 28 June - 2 July

Question:

How has the HFA informed decision making or priority setting in country X/region Y?

Sub-question:

How are HFA reporting mechanisms supporting its implementation?

Rationale

Disaster risk continues to increase due to, amongst others, inappropriate socio-economic development practices and inadequate investments in disaster risk reduction. This question aims at exploring whether there is a perception that the HFA has been instrumental in achieving its intended outcome, and to what degree factors, such as development policies, national priorities and multilateral assistance, amongst others, can derail, delay or prevent HFA implementation.

Key ideas expressed in the course of the debate covered several areas. Participants stressed the importance of establishing institutional arrangements to improve DRR performance at multiple levels of government. One comment in particular provided a detailed analysis of India's National Disaster Management Authority functions as constituted by the 2005 Disaster Management Act. The participant reported that such arrangements upheld the basic institutional and coordinative mechanisms to promote effective disaster management in the country and, most importantly, stated that the HFA had "de facto served as a trigger" to their creation. On the other hand a later comment highlighted the problems faced by NGOs working in countries lacking DRR-specific institutional arrangements. The participant - writing from Haiti - reported that the lack of a national platform posed a major barrier to effective DRR, and stressed that the HFA had not promoted enough its creation.

A few participants questioned the usefulness of "compartmentalized" levels of decision-making. One comment in particular stressed that effective action had to be taken in a comprehensive and cooperative manner, so to link regional, national, sub-national and local levels. In contrast to what said above on the usefulness of institutional arrangements, the participant reminded the group that a nation could in fact adopt "marvelous laws, national platforms, plans and all the things that the HFA recommended" without truly affecting the grassroots in both urban and rural areas. Another participant, reporting from South Africa, similarly stressed that the impact of the HFA had not filtered down from the national to the provincial or municipal level. He stated that actions were not being taken in "a nationally coordinated manner" and highlighted that bureaucratic restraints limited the Framework's success. Moreover, he suggested that top-down guidance had to be tailored to the needs of individual communities, as national HFA-based guidelines were in most cases too general to be implemented by local DRR functionaries.

Some comments zeroed in on the importance of reporting and monitoring mechanisms, highlighting how these increased awareness and supported the Framework's implementation. One participant from

Nigeria for example stated that the Views from the Frontline project - a survey of DRR practices conducted in collaboration with the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction - raised advocacy on DRR and resulted in increased commitments of local, state and national institutions. Moreover, another participant writing from Tanzania reported that the HFA had a strong impact on monitoring and training institutions such as the Disaster Management Training Centre at Ardhi University; in this context, he stressed that increasing awareness in such establishments was to be considered a positive and encouraging sign.

Some participants moreover stressed the importance of improving the accountability of resources-management mechanisms within existing institutional arrangements. In this connection, participants writing from India stated that the government had to make sure resources were honestly allocated so to empower communities in a fair and equal way. As for above, it was stressed that national institutional arrangements were not enough to promote effective DRR, as resources often did not reach local communities. It was therefore suggested to create “fool-proof audit mechanisms” to scrutinize the allocation and use of funds. Participants moreover noted the lack of adequate and objective prioritizing mechanisms in the allocation of resources. As such, it was suggested that HFA-informed decisions at the national level had to be taken in partnership with accountable and transparent NGOs.

Lastly, a few comments zeroed in on the need to broaden the DRR agenda through the promotion of cross-sectoral approaches. One participant stressed the importance of promoting resilience against “everyday disasters” such as road accidents and epidemics; he in fact highlighted that these “cumulatively claimed more lives than major headline-grabbing events” and therefore stated that it was necessary to reconsider the allocation of resources at the national level. Other participants more generally reported that it was fundamental to safeguard specific social groups - such as children, women, disabled and poor people - through the development of DRR plans explicitly tailored to their needs.

Transcript

Topic 1: HFA's role in informing decision making and priority setting at the national and regional level

Dear all

As you know, we are conducting the midterm review of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA).

For more information on this and all background documentation on the HFA process I would like to refer you to the webpage on www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/hfa-mtr. You also find a useful summary page on the HFA on: www.unisdr.org/eng/hfa/hf-summary.htm

A series of on-line dialogues will help to inform the HFA Midterm-review outcome directly by stakeholders and we would very much welcome as many commentaries as possible, helping us to seek not only opinions and perceptions, but also to point to concrete evidence and examples as much as possible.

The first key question which will be debated during this week's dialogue is the following:

How has the HFA informed decision making or priority setting in any particular regional, country or sub-national level of government?

Background:

Disaster risk continues to increase due to, amongst others, inappropriate socio-economic development practices and inadequate investments in disaster risk reduction. This question aims at exploring whether there is a perception – or evidence- that the HFA has been instrumental in achieving its intended outcome, and to what degree factors outside the realm of the HFA, such as development policies, national priorities and multilateral assistance, amongst others, can derail, delay or prevent HFA implementation.

Sub-questions to help the discussion during the week are::

- How are HFA reporting mechanisms supporting its implementation?
- How is any other activity in relation to ISDR helping- or not? (Global and regional platform meetings, Ministerial meetings and action plans, thematic platforms or partnership projects, other agencies and partners programs in support of HFA implementation).

I would welcome reflections based on your own analysis and perception of the above issues. If possible (but not necessarily) it would be welcome you it back up with any examples and specific evidence where HFA has de facto served as trigger and/or guide for decision making on:

- Institutional arrangement to improve performance in reducing disaster risk (national, provincial, local). These may include organizational aspects; legislation, bills or decrees;
- Sector specific actions and/or decisions (can be referred to as mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into specific sector, with respective development plan, and resource allocation)
- Budget allocations from nation la budget, sector budget, project budgets, special allocations, special funds or other arrangements that have increased availability of financial resources for implementation of risk reduction activities

- Decentralization of decision making, responsibilities, and/or budget allocations in dealing with any sector to reduce disaster risk- or at local government level
- Examples of the contrary are also encouraged.

It would also be great that you circulate the information to your own networks and other colleagues who might want to sign-up through: www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/hfa-mtr/debates.

The other topics that follow are:

5 - 9 July: Less effective elements of the HFA

12 - 23 July: Integration of climate change in HFA implementation

26 - 30 July: What kind of instruments post-HFA?

Looking forward to your comments and contributions! If you have any questions on how to technically sign-up or how to participate, please contact Luca Corredig, email: corredig@un.org

Best regards,

Helena Molin Valdés - Moderator

Deputy Director

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat

Dear Helena,

Good day! Thanks for the Welcome to the on-line dialogues on HFA Midterm-review.

Well I do think that HFA has de facto served as trigger for decision making on institutional arrangement to improve performance in reducing disaster risk in many countries. I am providing the brief account of the institutional arrangement in India to improve performance in reducing disaster risk separately for initiating discussion on this aspect.

With warm regards,

Pradip Dey

Dear Helena and my fellow participants,

Good day! I would like to share briefly the institutional arrangement in India to improve performance in reducing disaster risk below:

The Disaster Management Act, 2005 of India lays down institutional and coordination mechanisms for effective disaster management at the national, state, and district levels. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) lays the India's institutional mechanism for effective disaster management. The National Policy framework has been prepared after due deliberations and keeping in view the National Vision 'to build a safe and disaster-resilient India by developing a holistic, proactive, multi-disaster and technology-driven strategy for DM. This will be achieved through a culture of prevention, mitigation and preparedness to generate a prompt and efficient response at the time of disasters. The entire process will centre-stage the community and will be provided momentum and sustenance through the collective efforts of all government agencies and Non-Governmental

Organizations'. In order to translate this Vision into policy and plans, the NDMA has adopted a mission-mode approach involving a number of initiatives with the help of various institutions operating at national, state and local levels. The central ministries, states and other stakeholders have been involved in the participatory and consultative process of evolving policies and guidelines.

Various Indian states like Gujarat, Orissa, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttranchal have enacted State laws. GSDMA has formulated the Gujarat State Disaster Management Policy ('GSDMP') which provides guidelines to various entities involved in disaster management in the state to discharge their responsibilities more effectively.

Besides these, India has set up various institutions such as National Center for Disaster Management, New Delhi, National Civil Defence College, Nagpur, Maharashtra, Disaster Mitigation Institute, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Disaster Management Institute, Bhopal, M.P. have also been constituted to help in disaster management. International agencies like UNDP, WHO and World Bank are also active in India for pre-disaster preparedness and post disaster rehabilitation.

Thanks and regards,
Pradip Dey

Dear Helena,

Many thanks for including us in this discussion. I will speak for Nigeria and the Global Network of Organizations for Disaster Risk Reduction [GNDR] headed by Marcus Oxley and which we anchor in Nigeria. Permit me to use GN intermittently in this fora to represent the GNDR.

We have seen tremendous impact, commitment and awareness created on Disaster Risk Reduction[DRR] and by extension the HFA 2015 since we got involved with the GN through the Views from the Frontline [VFL] project. The survey we conducted raised advocacy on DRR to a new level and resulted in commitment and partnership from Local, State and National Institutions across the Country, not withstanding the limitations of financial resources.

Through the VFL, we were able to identify certain local livelihood risk faced by the riverine community of Ntan Ide in Onna Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, where as you will see in the attachments, two neighbouring communities were cut off for decades by a collapsed bridge linking these communities and with no access road. When the GN Project Manager- Terry Gibson visited Nigeria in March 2009, he was taken to see this risk by the Chairman and Members of Onna Local Government Area.

With sustained awareness internationally, the Federal Government of Nigeria early this year, awarded contract for the construction of access road and repairs of the bridge. Last week, I visited the area and confirmed that repair work was ongoing on the road with the bridge repairs effective in the 2nd quarter when according to the contractor, funds will be released for the bridge component.

On that trip I spoke with community representatives who were elated at seeing the road repaired after well over twenty years and they were overjoyed not minding the fact that the bridge work is yet to fully commence.

The message I got was that, yes, GN, VFL and HFA have been catalyst for helping an unheard of rural community to have a road and hope of a repaired bridge. It would not have come this soon but for the intervention of GN.

Financial resources have been committed by the Federal Government, the Local Government had shown interest and adopted the VFL Project as much as joining the GN Nigeria team to the GN workshop in London in January 2010.

What more can I say? This is practical HFA at work.

VFL 2010 we hope will highlight stronger partnerships between Government, Community Representatives and Civil Society Organizations across Nigeria to ensure effective HFA Awareness and Delivery.

Thank you.

Otu, Uwem Robert
President
African Youth Movement [AYM]

Fellow participants,

Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) have already had an impact in Tanzania, in education sector, where the nationally supported Disaster Management Training Centre (DMTC) continues to research, train and do public service. Now, in addition to continuing education courses, there is a graduate degree course in disaster reduction at Ardhi University where DMTC is located.

This show the level of awareness to Disaster Risk Reduction has permeated different levels of management, and this is an encouraging sign. Still there is more to do to reach the 2015 targets, particularly general institutional strengthening for such a vast country as Tanzania, to deal with "everyday disasters" like road accidents that cumulatively claim more lives than headline-grabbing singular "big" events, and prioritization of the allocation of resources in Tanzania to deal with "everyday" problems, and epidemics like pneumonia that cumulatively are of disastrous proportion, yet they are still flying under radar.

Personally, I am engaged in an in-depth study about pneumonia epidemic in Tanzania, and that is a humble contribution to the implementation of HFA, particularly HFA Priority for Action # 2: "Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning".

Regards,
Mlengi Fanuel

Dear all

After one day of launching we have so far had contributions from three participants on the first topic of the on-line dialogue:

1- One from Tanzania, linking "every day disasters" such as epidemics to the landscape of risk assessment addressed in HFA. Has the HFA helped to look at underlying risk factors, beyond natural hazards and their impact? "Personally, I am engaged in an in-depth study about pneumonia epidemic in Tanzania, and that is a humble contribution to the implementation of HFA, particularly HFA Priority for Action # 2: "Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning".

2- One from India and the National Disaster Management Authority, outlining how the institutional setting in India has improved (how much can be attributed to HFA, commitments and reporting, in decision making leading to current Indian set-up?). "Well I do think that HFA has de facto served as trigger for decision making on institutional arrangement to improve performance in reducing disaster risk in many countries. I am providing the brief account of the institutional arrangement in India to improve performance in reducing disaster risk separately for initiating discussion on this aspect."

3- One from a grass root perspective from Nigeria and the African Youth Movement, illustrating how the HFA has taken root at local level thanks to the NGO engagement in monitoring progress through their network and the Views from the Frontline process. This is a reporting mechanism born from the NGO community but inspired and motivated by the national HFA monitor, which in the case cited led to decisions for investment at local level- with national resources. Accountability. "We have seen tremendous impact, commitment and awareness created on Disaster Risk Reduction[DRR] and by extension the HFA 2015 since we got involved with the GN through the Views from the Frontline [VFL] project. The survey we conducted raised advocacy on DRR to a new level and resulted in commitment and partnership from Local, State and National Institutions across the Country, notwithstanding the limitations of financial resources."

I would like to quote one of the members of the advisory board for the HFA midterm review, Dr. Ben Wisner, scholar and co-founder of the RADIX network in relation to the review and challenges ahead- for decision making and priority setting: "These [questions] include the superficial interpretation usually given to the HFA's 4th priority area called "underlying risk factors." I myself have argued that in future those implementing the HFA at various levels should be encouraged to interpret "underlying risk factor" to include the factors that trap many people in poverty, isolation, and marginality. These include access to land and to natural resources, land grabs by the elite seeking profit from biofuels, mineral mining, and the REDD initiative to limit climate change. The advisory panel has also discussed the importance of civil society and women in the HFA process, as well as meaningful and not merely formal decentralization. Local governments need resources that often are captured by an elite connected to national government if partnerships at local level will yield DRR."

I would welcome many others to chip in with views on how HFA has- or not- led to decisions on national priorities. In which cases has action.

May I suggest that every contributor starts with one short sentence introducing themselves (name, institution, country, city... other info that you want to share). This will make it more interesting as we cannot meet in person, but we get a feeling for who is on-line. And I also suggest you tailor your Subject line in line with the point you want to make.

Best regards,

Helena Molin Valdes - Moderator
Deputy Director
United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat

Dear all,

Hyogo Frame Work of Action has sensitized National Government of India to envision a safer India from disasters by enactment of the Disaster Management Act 2005 .It has facilitated the creation of National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India at National level as well State Disaster

Management Authorities in all states. These organizations are headed by the Prime Minister of India and state chief ministers at state as well as at district level by the district collectors.

The Standard Operating Procedures developed and issued up to district level by NDMA are specific for effective disaster management. Also, two major disasters in India : Earthquake of Gujarat in year 2001 and Tsunami of 2004 had also been a link for evolving and effecting plans and strategies.

Most of the states of India have response mechanisms in the form of :

- State Disaster Management Authority
- Independent Regional Disaster Management Centers
- Disaster Management Control Rooms
- Action Plan for each district
- Rescue Teams of Fire Brigade, Home Guards, Civil Defense and Police,
- Provision to liaison with teams of Indian Army.

In the above mentioned achievements so far, UNISDR has effectively engaged national government, state governments, experts, national and international civil society organizations through seminars, conferences workshops, inputs of information and publications with missionary zeal.

What has not been achieved at the required level as defined by Hyogo Framework of Action so far ?

The community element specially in India, which includes millions of children, women, persons with disabilities and the poor & common citizens in rural and Urban India have no access to information and inputs of preparedness. Saritsa Foundation has been campaign in 17 states of India since 10 years and had conceptualized the mission to make community equal partners in the process. Saritsa Foundation has interacted with schools in rural areas, women, disabled and the poor have stated that they have no awareness & education. Some international NGOs and National NGOs have made commendable contribution in spite of scarce resources and little support from people in governance.

Institutional arrangement at national and state level are progressively being put in place. This progress under guidance of national & state governments is supported by allocation and resources by world bank and other international organizations. Very little resources are available at district level wheremost of the vulnerable community lives. The people in national and state governments have full command and control over these resources and priorities which are generally guided by their self as well as political interest.

Most of the states have one or two institutes and academy for education and training for disasters. These institutes are under control of bureaucrats and political leadership, who have no priority to mainstream community in the process of disaster management thinking that, this is their responsibility to respond to disasters & provide relief.

Funds allotted by UNDP and other international organizations are controlled by state governments and representative of UNDP other international organization who work under them have little opinion to influence the bureaucrats who run the show in their own way.

What should be done?

The following suggestion are given:

1. Make a deliberate plans at UNISDR level to guide national & state government to mainstream women, school children, persons with disabilities and vulnerable poor to be part of the priority in the process of disaster risk reduction.

2. Make the people in governance ethically and functionally accountable to allot resources to empower community with equal sensitivity
3. Fool proof audit of the funds allotted by international organizations to people in local governance to be analyzed to ascertain utilization for the given purpose community
4. It is time that NGOs with accountability and transparency are identified at national level who could be partners to achieve the goals defined in Hyogo frame works by UNISDR and international NGOs to minimize the mishandling of the funds for required purpose.
5. Autonomous local institutions / academies be planned at local levels with support of committed community representatives who shall be sensitive community refined. It should be adequately funded.

Saritsa Foundation is one of such organization which has made quantifiable impact in this regards by reaching to 1,72,500 people in rural and urban India. This vision is thought realistic by Saritsa Foundation which will make a paradigm shift in mainstreaming community in the process of disaster management.

We wish all success to the team of UNISDR

Colonel N M Verma & Prof. Smita Kadam
Saritsa Foundation
India

Dear All,

Good day! First of all, let me have the pleasure of introducing myself with you. I am working as Principal Scientist at Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal, India and my current research revolves around carbon sequestration and soil sustainability (for other details, you may refer <http://pradipdey/webs.com>). I have keen interest in disaster management and here I am participating as an individual and my comments do not necessarily reflect those of my organization.

I think the following points are important:

1. Delineation of responsibility to existing authorities or establishment of authority for development of infrastructure at macro level for residential & commercial land as per the Master Plan, development plan and further execution of projects on PPP model is essential.
2. Incorporating Disaster mitigation measures within the Infrastructure planning process. Infrastructure services should be improved and enhanced to meet the requirements of the growing population and their needs.
3. Further, specialized infrastructure services should be developed in order to cater at the time of emergencies. Specifically, transportation infrastructure should be given special focus, as during disasters, they act as the lifeline of rescue and mitigation efforts.
4. Awareness generation and capacity building towards preparedness and Response Plans at the administrative and community levels.
5. Structural measures such as the construction of protective works or alterations designed to diminish the vulnerability of the elements at risk, and non-structural measures, such as regulating land use and building codes, and equipping line departments for damage reduction.
6. Gender issue need to be kept in mind while preparation of city plan and representation of women bodies and individuals should also be ensured in future.

Thanks and regards,
Pradip Dey

I read the excellent report from India from a very small town in Africa. I would like to share a perspective on how and why national and regional policy priorities and decision making should focus on local government (urban wards in big conurbations, small towns, rural local administration), civil society, and communities.

First, let me repeat the excellent summary recommendations provided by Colonel N M Verma & Prof. Smita Kadam:

1. Make a deliberate plans at UNISDR level to guide national & state government to mainstream women, school children, persons with disabilities and vulnerable poor to be part of the priority in the process of disaster risk reduction.
2. Make the people in governance ethically and functionally accountable to allot resources to empower community with equal sensitivity
3. Fool proof audit of the funds allotted by international organizations to people in local governance to be analyzed to ascertain utilization for the given purpose community
4. It is time that NGOs with accountability and transparency are identified at national level who could be partners to achieve the goals defined in Hyogo frame works by UNISDR and international NGOs to minimize the mishandling of the funds for required purpose.
5. Autonomous local institutions / academies be planned at local levels with support of committed community representatives who shall be sensitive community refined. It should be adequately funded.

I cannot think of a better and more realistic set of recommendations. These are very similar to the recommendations of the study "Clouds but Little Rain" produced on the basis of interviews with local people in 48 countries conducted by partners in the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction.

Does this seem to readers to be an odd response to a question concerning decision making at national and regional level? After all, these recommendations have to do with the realities of life at the local level. The point is that it is strategic mistake to compartmentalize "levels" such as "regional", "national", "sub-national" and "local." Effective action must be taken in a comprehensive and cooperative manner.

Yet the reality here in this small African town is that very few resources are provided from the central government. There is a master plan in this town of 14,000 people, and it is the hub of a economic-geographic system that extends up into the mountains another 1000 m and down to a river in the lowlands. The market here is a place where products, goods and ideas are exchanged, rural surplus is invested in shops and small industries, people find work. Yet the roads, storm drainage, sanitation, water supply, and open space management are all very poor. Flooding is frequent in the rainy season.

In other words, a nation can have marvelous laws, national platforms, plans and all the things that the HFA recommends, but unless there is attention paid to planned development and DRR in the small downs, informal settlements of large cities, and rural areas, very little will happen, and the lofty goals of the HFA will remain unfulfilled.

Dr. Ben Wisner

I have read with interest the comments made by previous writers.

I am of the opinion that we in South Africa are doing much to further the objectives of the HFA. However, much of what is being done is not being done in a nationally coordinated manner. Much of the benefits of those activities which are being carried out is being reaped by bureaucrats.

The objectives of the HFA have not truly been passed on from the National environment to the Provincial and or Municipal as it is not truly a priority. One sees the expansion of reality in the reports which are generated and which one then later reads after it has been submitted to national and international bodies. This way of doing things is, according to some of my students from other African countries, widely practised.

Government agencies / departments need to provide clear guidance to provinces and municipal entities in order to ensure that the desired result is achieved. Governments, through their national structures must ensure that the agreements which they have signed in respect of the HFA are supported by speaking about this in the public media - on a regular basis - in order to raise the priority of the HFA. However, the guidance MUST be relevant to particular communities and not be so general that the inexperienced disaster management functionary is unable to either understand the concepts or even implement the ideas.

Also, no project can be sustainable if there are no resources attached to it. These resources are not necessarily only financial – although this is critical – but human. One needs people, dedicated people who are concerned sufficiently with the ideal of the project and who will make a difference.

At the Municipal level, politicians can and should play a critical role in disaster risk reduction and in advancing the supporting activities identified to give effect to the HFA.

All the above supports the views in the report from India.

Anthony R. Kesten
Comments provided in Private Capacity

Dear Helena,

Thank you so much to let discuss in this mid-term review. Let me introduce my self. I'm Mathieu Getro working for the organization Action Secours Ambulance (ASA) from Haiti and we link to the unisdr by the Global Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (GNDR). This is an important part to examine the mechanisms of implementation. From lower and high level as Global, Regional, national level and also as National and local level HFA implementation mechanism should be more active to influence political, social and environmental cases.

I can realize from the reports submit and actions been taken that in the mid-term actions as influence as Global level and also at national level. Considering our cases in HAITI we have to act more and push the government in national level with assistance and guide to introduce more factors and assistance for (local gov, National NGOs) to mobilize actions for DRR. Actually our country is facing a particularly step becos of governance situations. We are happy to that the international community said and sustain for governance; the first point on HFA. I'm also happy that the GN also is taking his review for VFL 2011 on Local Governance.

We (Action Secours Ambulance-ASA) pledge for HFA/DRR actions particularly to motivate the all sectors to establish a National plate-forme for disaster risk reduction in Haiti. But this motivation

cannot reach with more attractions because we do it by our own resources. But Actions has been taken with local authorities and grassroots organizations to which are always in front line of disaster to act and implement programs for resilience and risk disaster reduction. With the organizations and Gressier, Tabarre, Ganthier and leogane we are trying to implement DRR actions for HFA establishment.

We have also produce and publish a document presents a list of key elements and deliverables in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in the development process in Haiti for the period 2010-2015. It provides a detailed analysis of resources used, based on the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and a series of preliminary results in terms of responsibilities, financing and partnerships, to reduce casualties and damage to the country on social, economic and environmental disaster. This document is another of our participation to sustain action for DRR and implementing HFA.

The seventh point of the Millennium Development Goal is for all country of the World, means that effort should accompany the countries which are and weakness situation regarding economics, governance, environmental. Are we going to appreciate a review for a continent, region or for the world? And what can be done to correct actions that haven't been taken and the ones to consolidate and duplicate rapidly?. We know the extreme fragility of our country left by the earthquake of January 12th and the hurricane season that arrives with great fanfare. In view of the situation the consequences will be disastrous, but we should even do the right thing.

An honor to be a part of this challenge and congratulations to you all because we know the challenge of interest that we should all give a second place to act for the whole world, for each continent, for each region, for each country and for each people.

Getro Mathieu
Executive Director
Action Secours Ambulance (ASA)

Dear all

We have had many very thoughtful and interesting interventions, from different perspectives and regions. We have 82 participants subscribed to the dialogue, coming from all regions and corners of the world. The distribution of affiliation is more or less the following (deducted from email addresses):

33 NGO or in personal capacity
5 IFRC or Red Cross
19 academic or technical institutions
10 Government or National Platform representatives
15 UN or international organization

We have had 11 interventions so far and I encourage many more of you to share your thoughts and experience. I will provide a summary of the discussion on Monday the 5 July, when next topic will start, with the topic: Less effective elements of the HFA (to be moderated by Bina Desai, UNISDR)

The emerging ideas so far include the following (quoting participants):

1. Putting in place institutional arrangements to improve performance to reduce disaster risk, from national to state to local government levels- improved ability to enact and resource: The Disaster Management Act, 2005 of India lays down institutional and coordination mechanisms for effective

disaster management at the national, state, and district levels. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) lays the India's institutional mechanism for effective disaster management. The National Policy framework has been prepared after due deliberations and keeping in view the National Vision ?to build a safe and disaster-resilient India by developing a holistic, proactive, multi-disaster and technology-driven strategy for DM. This will be achieved through a culture of prevention, mitigation and preparedness to generate a prompt and efficient response at the time of disasters. The entire process will centre-stage the community and will be provided momentum and sustenance through the collective efforts of all government agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations. (Pradip Dey, India)

From lower and high level as Global, Regional, national level and also as National and local level HFA implementation mechanism should be more active to influence political, social and environmental cases. Considering our cases in HAITI we have to act more and push the government. With assistance for (local gov, National NGOs) to mobilize actions for DRR. Actually our country is facing a particularly step because of governance situations. We (Action Secours Ambulance-ASA) pledge for HFA/DRR actions particularly to motivate all sectors to establish a National platform for disaster risk reduction in Haiti. But this motivation cannot reach with more attractions because we do it by our own resources. But Actions has been taken with local authorities and grassroots organizations to which are always in front line of disaster to act and implement programs for resilience and risk disaster reduction.? (Getro Mathieu, Action Secours Ambulance (A.S.A))

2. Questioning the usefulness of compartmentalize levels of decision making and their relevance to implementation. Effective action must be taken in a comprehensive and cooperative manner? In other words, a nation can have marvelous laws, national platforms, plans and all the things that the HFA recommends, but unless there is attention paid to planned development and DRR in the small towns, informal settlements of large cities, and rural areas, very little will happen, and the lofty goals of the HFA will remain unfulfilled. (Ben Wisner)

I am of the opinion that we in South Africa are doing much to further the objectives of the HFA. However, much of what is being done is not being done in a nationally coordinated manner. Much of the benefits of those activities which are being carried out is being reaped by bureaucrats. The objectives of the HFA have not truly been passed on from the National environment to the Provincial and or Municipal as it is not truly a priority. ?.. Government agencies / departments need to provide clear guidance to provinces and municipal entities in order to ensure that the desired result is achieved. Governments, through their national structures must ensure that the agreements which they have signed in respect of the HFA are supported by speaking about this in the public media - on a regular basis - in order to raise the priority of the HFA. However, the guidance MUST be relevant to particular communities and not be so general that the inexperienced disaster management functionary is unable to either understand the concepts or even implement the ideas. ??At the Municipal level, politicians can and should play a critical role in disaster risk reduction and in advancing the supporting activities identified to give effect to the HFA. (Anthony Kesten , South Africa)

3. Improving accountability of resource management and allocations, put community organizations, women's groups, elderly, disabled more in the forefront:
Make the people in governance ethically and functionally accountable to allot resources to empower community with equal sensitivity. Fool proof audit of the funds allotted by international organizations to people in local governance to be analyzed to ascertain utilization for the given purpose. It is time that NGOs with accountability and transparency are identified at national level who could be partners to achieve the goals ? to minimize the mishandling of the funds for required purpose. (Coronel N M Verma & Prof. Smita Kadam, Saritsa Foundation)

4. Increasing awareness levels as a consequence of monitoring implementation of Hyogo Framework at local level (as through the Views from the Frontline):

We have seen tremendous impact, commitment and awareness created on Disaster Risk Reduction[DRR] since we got involved with the Global Network through the Views from the Frontline [VFL] project. The survey we conducted raised advocacy on DRR to a new level and resulted in commitment and partnership from Local, State and National Institutions across the Country, not withstanding the limitations of financial resources? we were able to identify certain local livelihood risk faced by the riverine community of Ntan Ide in Onna Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State (Otu, Uwem Robert, African Youth Movement, Nigeria) Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) have already had an impact in Tanzania, in education sector, where the nationally supported Disaster Management Training Centre (DMTC) continues to research, train and do public service. (Mlengi Fanuel)

5. Lacking cross sectoral and ?everyday risk? Approaches: Still there is more to do to reach the 2015 targets, particularly general institutional strengthening for such a vast country as Tanzania, to deal with "everyday disasters" like road accidents that cumulatively claim more lives than headline-grabbing singular "big" events, and prioritization of the allocation of resources in Tanzania to deal with "everyday" problems, and epidemics like pneumonia that cumulatively are of disastrous proportion, yet they are still flying under radar. (Mlengi Fanuel)

I welcome your thoughtful and thought provocative contributions over the Weekend - this is very useful indeed!

Best regards

Helena Molin Valdes - Moderator
Deputy Director
United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat

Dear Madam,

Prof. M K Sharma Director Saritsa Foundation, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal India.

Hygo Frame Work of Action has guided the national and state governments to make plans to cope with disasters at various levels and implement these. However, it has not touched the lives of vulnerable people who have already faced a chemical disaster of its own kind in the world where thousands of people are suffering even now due to centralization of response methods in the hands of people in governance.

As my colleagues Col. N. M. Verma and Mrs. Smita Kadam have pointed out SARITSA Foundation's objective is to take the message of disaster risk reduction to the first respondent's doorsteps. With this aim in view we trained about 1000 people in the state of Madhya Pradesh in the art and science of protecting themselves against man made and natural disasters in 2008 when our national road rally passed through that state. We followed it up in 2009 by training 1000 more citizens including over 250 visually/mentally/physically challenged persons. The effort is being continued in 2010 when about 500 more persons are scheduled to be trained between July 12, 2010 and July 17 2010 by experts from SARITSA Foundation.

It is recommended that peoples' partnership and their empowerment has to be seriously impacted by UNISDR to transform ideals of Hyogo Frame Work of Action in to action for school children, women, disabled and the poor in remained period of 5years

Mahendra Sharma
Director, Madhya Pradesh, SARITSA Foundation, Mumbai

Dear Helena,

Many of the decisions and actions currently being taken at global, national, regional or local level are highly dependent on the conceptual approach to be taken on the meaning of the risks and disasters. The HFA offers a more comprehensive approach the subject with development. In that sense I think one of the great challenges that the HFA is to convince nations and governments to start implementing this approach, move from a single center in the disaster (preparedness, response and recovery) to a vision that involving also the risk (analysis, reduction, early warning, etc.) as an investment medium and long term.

On the other hand, the HAF is the universal reference framework for governments to incorporate the subject of risk reduction in development planning policies in their territories. It is the guide to streamline and coordinate proposals from the central command (at the country level) taking into account the five priorities of the HAF, which can be incorporated into the State agenda as a national priority for the construction of public policies on reducing risks a comprehensive vision, which must be taken to the local levels possible.

From a regional perspective the HAF, its role is to help create opportunities for dialogue among countries that share regions, territories, natural resources and similar accident over the political and administrative boundaries (borders) to work together with a look regional or subregional situations of shared natural hazards. A sub-regional example to highlight and take as a reference, is the adoption by the Andean Community in September 2009 Master (made by Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia in South America) Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and result five years of hard work PREDECAN Project supported by the European Commission. As a basic strategy for the HAF as a reference design universal and broken down in more detail at each area taking into account not only the particularity of each country, but the natural elements, geographic, material, historical, etc., Shared, viewed beyond the administrative political boundaries.

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Friends,

Greetings!

Although few things have conceptualized and few actions initiated at regional level , still more things need to incorporate to make HFA more community and country resilient.

- Disaster audit
- Linking DRR with local governance
- Focusing DRR from local* *perspective
- DRR must be main streamed as community matter
- Inclusion of disable, minority and other social exclusion
- Linking climate change and human rights

- Inclusion of financial institutions for right investments.

To begin with a small initiative has been undertaken keeping HFA.

Demonstrating Community Capacity to Program and Manage Community Disaster

Resilience Fund (CDRF) In India is being carried out in the 08 State of India reaching to 77 villages. The objective is to reach 2682 villages of 29 districts by December 2009. UDYAMA a Participatory Organisations (POs) facilitated with support from the Partner NGOs to carry out this resilience process at community. This end of pilot Project report is the summary of the project implemented in Orissa.

In efforts to implement the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), substantial funds are being allocated for developing national level institutional capacities to manage disaster risk, prepare for response and to cope with emergencies brought on by natural disasters. A very small proportion of these funds (if any) trickle down to hazard prone communities. Instead, communities are treated as victims and beneficiaries leading to little resilience building.

Demonstrating community capacity to program and manage Community Disaster Resilience Fund (CDRF) in India www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=13473

This report is the summary of a project implemented in Orissa, India which aims to carry out a resilience process at community level in order to bring local priorities and capacities of disaster prone vulnerable communities to disaster risk reduction programming. It reports on activities that link community livelihoods and support at-risk communities' socio-cultural-economical and ecological safety, security and acceleration of sustainability.

www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=13473

Its purpose is to demonstrate community-led initiatives in disaster risk reduction; initiatives that are designed by communities and which enable them to increase their awareness of their vulnerabilities and to address these vulnerabilities through collective risk mapping, identification of priorities, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. It addresses the following challenges: (i) mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in to development; (ii) deepening governance and gender; (iii) inter and intra coordination; (iv) adequate development communication; (v) more citizen action on fixing responsibilities and accountability; (vi) disaster risk reduction must linking to livelihoods resilience of rural and urban poor; (vii) demystification of technology: link to ICT; (viii) climate risk as human rights. It also provides some recommendations to undertake action at: policy level, institutional level (Research institution and Civil Society Organisation), and individual level.

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/8947_8947CDRFReport091.pdf

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Pradeep Mohapatra
