

Summary

Consultation on post-HFA with the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) 11 April 2012, Bali, Indonesia

Introduction

The first regional consultation meeting on post-HFA was held on the 11th April, 2012 in Bali, Indonesia, on the third day of the first ISDR Asian Partnership (IAP) meeting in 2012. The main objectives of the session were to: a) introduce the consultation process towards development of the post-2015 framework for disaster Risk reduction, and b) obtain initial feedback from national governments and regional organizations responsible for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action since its adoption in 2005. The meeting was attended by 21 government officials from Asian countries and 32 participants from regional organizations as well as regional offices from international organizations (*Annex 1*).

The meeting started off with a presentation from UNISDR in two parts: 1) the consultation process and its initial progress, and 2) the focus and expectations from national and regional consultations towards development of the post-HFA framework, followed by a question-answer session. Participants commented on the needs for: **setting targets against goals, reinforcing accountability, better linkages between national and local actions, updated DRR terminology, and greater participation of parliamentarians and the private sector in disaster risk reduction.** The need for linking the preparation of the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction and the on-going process for the preparation of Rio+ 20 and the post-2015 framework for development was also highlighted.

Group discussions followed on two sets of questions given to participants (*Annex 2*), to obtain initial information required for better organization of the coming consultations on a post-2015 framework. Group one were the representatives of governments from Asia. Group two were representatives of regional organizations and of Asia regional offices of UN agencies.

Summary of Group Discussions

Governments pointed out the necessity of reinforcing accountability against clear goals, tangible targets and good indicators, based on the implementation of the current HFA. Governments also underlined the necessity of providing guidance to fill the gaps between local and national government for implementation of the HFA, and for developing the capacity of sector-specific groups.

As to expectations for the post-2015 consultation process, government officials emphasized the need for more interaction with ISDR regional officials (*meeting government in person and dealing with people who are important. One to one interaction helps significantly to deliver faster*), as well as for more internal consultation within ministries and departments, more information on the next steps as well as evidence based results, lessons and challenges. To influence the design of the next framework on disaster risk reduction, government officials highlighted the importance of actively participating in sub-national, national and regional consultations, providing support to strengthen local voices on DRR, helping to increase the priority level of DRR on national agendas, and of bringing the DRR topic to the summit of the Heads of State in the region.

Similar to the views expressed by government officials, participants from regional organizations and regional offices of UN agencies also highlighted that accountability and targets were missing, and should be emphasized in the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction. In addition, they have highlighted the needs for more inclusion of local government, communities and vulnerable groups, clarity and focus on basics and main concepts, and scientific evidence as the foundation for interventions such as data collection, analysis and interpretation, helping to reduce some bias against disaster risk reduction.

The regional participants decided to discuss questions given together. As a result, they highlighted the needs for revisiting the HFA Priorities, through a multi-stakeholder approach, broadening the involvement of civil society and other stakeholders in the process. They also recommended consolidating thematic discussion on the five HFA Priorities into wider national consultation, perhaps further consolidated at the regional level in a type of IAP, or to extend the IAP into other regional or sub-regional forums such as ASEAN or SAARC. The group also looked at the additional capacity and support needed for full implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, which can be identified through mapping of existing capacity. The group also underlined that vulnerable groups should be consulted in the process and national consultation guidelines be provided.

The regional participants listed eight areas where progress has been made in the implementation of the current HFA at regional level such as recognition of disaster risk reduction as a part of development, clarity of terminology on hazards and disasters and better collaboration between governments and stakeholders. The top three successes in their view were good progress at national and local level for HFA priority areas one; raising awareness of HFA priority areas three, and increased national resources for effective response in line with HFA priority areas five.

Concerning challenges in the current HFA implementation, the regional group identified six points. The top three challenges were that: 1) HFA priority areas four to address underlying risks to development due to lack of buy-in from development sectors, 2) lack of donor action to integrate DRR into their own programs, and lack of active action of development sector (*disaster risk reduction DRR was previously driven by response and not by development*). In addition, they pointed out that disaster risk reduction has not yet been linked to the MDG's and sustainability goals. Disaster risk reduction should become part of the development goal in the Rio+20.

In this context, the regional participants believe that they, as IAP regional partners, are crucial in resolving disaster issues that arise beyond national borders. The regional participants feel that they can support post-HFA consultations at national and international levels by creating continuity in programmes and policies, consolidating national views and issues, and sharing information across countries and promoting south-south capacity building. The regional participants emphasized the added-value of regional entities such as IAP in the consultation process, in bringing in the broader community and broader experience, various thematic issues and cross-border issues. In addition, the IAP is a regional platform that can help to consolidate issues where there are regional concerns.

As to the top three significant elements that they wish to be addressed in the post-2015 framework, regional participants touched on broad topics as well as clearer measurable goals and indicators. They agreed on six points in which the top three elements were listed as strengthening local capacity, resources and leadership. The regional participants also underlined the needs for further improving the

incorporation of science and early warning systems (*accurate information, communicated to people*). In addition, they also emphasized further needs for comprehensive risk and hazard mapping (global standard – trickle down – integration of risk and vulnerability and exposure – land-use).

Government officials from the region agreed that the national consultation process should start with the identification of shortcomings in the implementation of the current HFA and determine the causes and how to improve. For example, capacity building and training were mentioned, as was education – by identifying target groups and then conducting needs assessments. The national focus in the consultation process should be on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development, enhancing the linkage between DRR and poverty reduction and the integration of disaster risk reduction into higher education. To do this, government officials also pointed out the importance of having information and good practice from local government shared at national level. Enhancing governance, partnership and coordination issues in DRR was yet another issue that required more attention in the post-HFA framework.

Government officials discussed successes and challenges actively based on their experiences, including sensitization on the HFA and DRR at national level; creation of policy, planning and a regulatory framework; and compliance in reporting and submission of HFA reports. Good partnership between government and development partners was also considered as a success in different countries. As to the challenges, they agreed that trickling down disaster risk reduction to the local level is a top challenge, followed by making the implementation of the current HFA a process owned and led by national governments. In addition, financing DRR and integrating DRR were also considered to be major challenges in the current HFA's implementation.

To address the existing challenges, government's officials at national level want to see the post-HFA framework make disaster risk reduction an add-on issue in all development sectors, integrating disaster risk reduction into other sector bodies' plans, putting mechanisms in place to foster effective regional and national partnership and networking, and building a strong link between disaster risk reduction and poverty reduction. At local level, officials would like to see more effort devoted to developing capacities; decentralizing financial provisions so that local level can develop DRR programmes / effective response; and developing a local-level vulnerability index for allocation of future funding. Also, government officials emphasized the importance of documentation and promotion of indigenous knowledge in disaster risk reduction.

Comments

1. The need for a post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction was accepted by all.
2. Accountability against setting goals, targets and indicators was strongly recommended, based on the implementation of the current HFA.
3. More time is required to disseminate more information and knowledge for in-depth discussion on integration of disaster risk reduction into development sector planning and programmes at national and local levels.
4. There is a need to guide national consultations on the post-2015 framework to ensure balanced participation of those who are implementing HFA and those who are the actual owners of the challenges, but have not yet engaged in the disaster risk reduction process.

5. There is a need for high-level communication to governments for the post HFA-process and government self-reflection on the success and challenges of the implementation of HFA 2005-2015.

Annex 1: List of Participants (as of 30 Mar 2012)					
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Annex 2: Questions discussed at the IAP meeting

The first set of the questions discussed was:

1. What key elements do you think are missing based on the presentation given? Why?
2. What are the expectations of IAP members from the post-2015 consultation process?
3. How can regional and national entities influence the design of the post-2015 Framework on DRR?
4. How each stakeholder group in the region will participate and provide their input in the consultations?

The second set of questions discussed among the regional participants was:

1. What are the top three successes and three challenges in implementation of the current HFA at regional level? Why?
2. What are the key inputs and contributions that IAP regional partners can make to support post-HFA consultations at the national and international levels? How?
3. What are the added values of regional entities such as IAP in the consultation process towards a post-2015 framework on DRR, based on the reflection of the added values of regional entities in the implementation of the current HFA?
4. What are the top three significant DRR elements that you wish to see addressed in the post-2015 Framework on DRR?

The second set of questions for governments was slightly different as below:

1. What are the key areas that national entities should focus on in the consultation process to support and contribute to the development of the post-2015 framework on DRR? How?
2. What are the top three successes and three challenges in the implementation of the current HFA at national level? Why?
3. What are the top three significant DRR elements that you wish to see addressed in the post-2015 Framework on DRR at national and local levels?