

## SUMMARY REPORT

### Central Asia and South Caucasus Regional Consultations on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

*14 March, 2013, Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan*



## I. SUMMARY

A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) consultation for Central Asia and South Caucasus region was held in Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan on 14 March 2013. The event was attended by 60 representatives of the eight countries of the region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and representatives of regional/sub-regional organizations supporting disaster risk reduction activities namely: Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), OSCE, UNDP Country Offices of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, ESCAP, OCHA, UNICEF, World Bank, GTZ, USAID/CAR, JICA, UNEP, Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan, Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia.

The consultations identified significant progress in implementation of the current *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* including: national legislation, establishment of national platforms, integration of disaster risk reduction in education curricula, more realization of the high exposure and vulnerability of the region to natural hazards.

For the priorities in HFA2, the consultations identified: risk assessments at country level; the need for additional resources to undertake risk reduction activities and to continue to raise awareness of disasters through education campaigns and more scientific evidence. The consultations confirmed the need to exchange information on best practices between the countries in the region, and the importance of wider cooperation and coordination at regional level. The collection, analysis, and sharing of data on losses from disaster at national and regional levels was also identified as a priority for the Central Asia and South Caucasus region to implement.

The consultations recognized the links in the international discussions between the post-2015 development agenda (post-MDGs) and sustainable development goals and requested disaster risk reduction and resilience to be incorporated into these discussions supported by a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).

## **HFA2 CONSULTATION SESSION**

To guide the consultations a number of questions were distributed to participants prior to the consultations for reflection in working groups during the consultation. The following are main points captured in the working group discussions.

### ***1. What are the key achievements and major challenges in disaster risk reduction since implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015?***

#### **International level**

- Greater cooperation between governments and UN Agencies and International organisations (World Bank, UNDP, UNOCHA, UNICEF, GIZ, UNISDR, JICA, etc.) in the areas of technical support and capacity development for disaster risk reduction and resilience.
- Greater engagement of Central Asian and South Caucasus countries in international monitoring systems and exchanging of information and best practice.

#### **Regional level**

- The Centre for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction in Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan to become operational from April 2013, with joint funding by governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of Kyrgyzstan.
- Recognition of importance and active promotion of regional platform for disaster risk reduction.
- National Platforms of Armenia and Kyrgyzstan concluded an Agreement on Partnership.
- Hiring more professional staff for disaster risk reduction executive and management level posts and introduction and application of new management and leadership styles.

#### **National level**

- Recognition of the importance of disaster risk reduction at all levels; adoption of national strategies and relevant legislation in Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan,
- Establishment of National Platforms in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
- Introduction of new systems of monitoring and education.
- Georgia produced National Atlas of Risks (available on the website).
- Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan is working on establishing the Fund for Preparedness and Response in partnership with and engagement of private sector.
- Risk assessments conducted in schools hospitals and housing stock in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- Upgrading of Monitoring and Early Warning systems in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
- Integration of disaster risk reduction in schools, universities and professional training service curricula in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Armenia.

## **2. What are the three top priorities that should be addressed by HFA2?**

### **Regional level**

- Establishment of a single global source to provide funds for disaster risk reduction.
- Greater regional and sub-regional coordination, information and experience sharing.
- Establishment of regional disaster risk reduction training centres.
- Expanding the mandates of regional disaster risk reduction organizations.
- Harmonization of legislation and standards within regions and sub regions, adoption of regional disaster risk reduction strategy, unified classification of hazards and emergencies.
- Data and information collection, storage and sharing; and early warning systems.
- Greater cooperation between countries of the region in forecasting of disasters and establishment of regional centres for operative response.

### **National level**

- Increase awareness of disaster risk reduction.
- Integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
- Increased application of ICT (e.g. in early warning remote sensing).
- Improvement of risk assessments and assessment of social and economic losses from disasters.
- Promotion of risk-informed planning and programming; use of risk assessment data in development of building codes.
- Increasing and strengthening the role and accountability of governments in leading and prioritizing disaster risk reduction.
- Establishment of financial mechanisms to support disaster risk reduction.
- Wider stakeholders' involvement in DRR and greater promotion of public-private partnerships.
- Increasing national financing and co-financing of DRR programs and initiatives.
- Establishment of systems of data and information collection and sharing, early warning systems in all countries of the region.
- Integrated approach in inter-agency planning.
- Education, capacity development and dissemination of knowledge and best practices.

## **3. How can your government/organization contribute to implementation of DRR and building resilience?**

### **Regional level**

- Improving regional DRR coordination and unification of monitoring and early warning systems.
- Using capacities of the Academy of Emergency Situations and Crisis Management of Armenia for capacity building at national and regional level.
- Unification and harmonization of legislation, customs and border related regulations for rapid delivery of humanitarian aid during emergency situations.

### **National level**

- Uzbekistan is introducing an innovative awareness-raising disaster risk reduction program.
- Greater inclusion of disaster risk reduction in school and pre-school curricula (on-going process in Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan).

- Greater inclusion of DRR training modules, courses and programs at universities and National professional training service providing institutions in Armenia, Georgia and Uzbekistan.
- More focus is needed on development of legislative basis and sources of funding.
- Regular risk assessments.
- Improvement of access to DRR information, materials and resources.
- Inclusion of local population in decision making process, greater use of available local technical, human, and financial resource.

***4. What mechanisms in the Central Asia and South Caucasus region need to be set up to implement the chosen priorities?***

- Building capacity of the Centre for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- Strengthening the existing national disaster risk reduction training service providers.
- Establishment of a Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Creation of regional information exchange system including a Regional Web Portal.
- Creation of a harmonized set of criteria for risk assessment at regional level.
- Development of risk transfer schemes and mechanisms.
- Using capacities of the Academy of Emergency Situations and Crisis Management of Armenia for capacity building at regional level.

***5. What progress has been made in integrating disaster risk reduction and building resilience with the post-2015 development agenda including sustainable development (Rio+20 outcomes) and climate change adaptation?***

- Adoption of strategy for climate risk adaptation.
- Introduction of “green economy” in development programs.
- Reduction of losses – lives, social, economic.
- Establishment of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Inclusion of disaster risk reduction in national and local development plans.
- Inclusion of the phase of early recovery in the process of disaster risk reduction as an integral part of disaster risk management cycle.