

Summary Report
Viet Nam Launch of the Consultation Process for the Post-2015
Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Initial Consultation
07 September 2012, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

1. Summary of key points of the initial national consultation on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

- The consultation process provides a good opportunity for Viet Nam to reflect on how it has been engaged in HFA implementation regionally and globally and how the Government should think about post 2015, drawing on experience to date.
- The HFA and its success arrangement is a high level framework that requires strong leadership by the Government to bring relevant agencies and stakeholders together.
- There is the need for linkage to avoid many too many frameworks, especially at national level. Legally binding framework such as MDGs benefits from coherent implementation. However, the new DRR framework should still be a separate strong framework to keep momentum and continue promoting commitments and actions in this important area.
- There is a good understanding in Viet Nam of what the country has achieved in implementing the HFA and remaining challenges. Looking to the future, the most significant issues, initially identified include: *the capacity of the current system to cope with mega disasters and emerging/new hazards; the need to understand and address economic drivers of disaster risk and the need for a much stronger ecosystem approach in DRR.*
- There is the lack of data on impacts of disasters on development sectors and cost-benefit analysis of Available data on economic loss is still uncertain and no clear understanding of how Government decisions on investment are made as the data on economic loss is
- Next steps:
 - Establish a small Working Group (WG) to develop a realistic plan for consultation in Viet Nam with key milestones. The role of existing WGs such as CBDRM Technical WG is important
 - Develop a simple package of guidance for discussion by 1) Government line agencies and stakeholders at national level and 2) local governments and communities
 - There is the need to prepare background information i.e. disaster statistics, evidence of benefits of DRR, etc to support engagement and facilitate discussion

2. Introduction

- The launch of consultation process for Post-2015 Framework on DRR took place on 7th September 2012 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam as back to back with the national HFA progress review.
- The objectives were to 1) to introduce the consultation process for Post-2015 Framework for DRR with key milestones at regional and global levels; 2) to generate interest and facilitate a discussion of Government and other stakeholders on how the process should take place in Viet Nam, how Viet Nam would like to determine its role in this process and 3) to

- Participants were from Government/CCFSC, UN agencies, development partners, INGO, local NGOs and universities.
- The discussion used the 5 sets of questions provided in the Guidance note for national consultation with some adjustments to the national context.

3. Summary of group discussions of each question given

The Process

- How should DRR practitioners help define the process? How should the existing mechanisms and materials be best utilized i.e.:
 - JANI and DMWG promote consultations in a number of provinces and/or using the tool/questions as fit for their projects and provide feedback
 - Utilize the rich information gathered through Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) and other local assessments which were done through participatory processes at community level
 - Leverage agencies' work to engage a wide range of sectors such as UNICEF engages MOET
 - The wide consultation process for the Disaster Risk Management Law addressed similar issues, whose outcomes should be used for the Post-2015 Framework
- Language is a main barrier as reflected through the HFA progress review. There is the need to ensure available of documents in national language and to create platforms for agencies and people to discuss in national language.
- Global agreement is always very difficult to digest. There is the need for simple tool to build a good understanding and engagement in consultation. There should also be resources to facilitate the process even not large i.e. for travels to facilitate consultations and for consolidation of inputs
- Consultation at different levels is good and requires different approaches with simplified tool.
 - *National level:* Government should lead the process, using this to raise the profile of DRR and engage ministries and different stakeholder groups i.e. vulnerable people, children and others
 - *Local/Community level:* The issues need to be framed rightly if there is genuine concern about local level. Experience shows that the way to collect information is more important than the subject. Use VCA outcomes to identify issues to scope the consultation. Ensure coordination and consistency with activities by Voice from Frontline in Viet Nam.
 - *Voice of people:* The National Assembly provides many opportunities for the voice of people to be heard but it is complex and not always constructive. Clear understanding of objectives and facilitation for constructive inputs are key.
- Link consultations with different processes on climate change in the country, emphasizing the common concept of risk management.

Link with HFA implementation

- Main achievements of Viet Nam in implementing the HFA include: legal and policy development, more funding for DRR, improved local capacity such as in preparing plan to get CBDRM fund or to articulate views
- Remaining challenges are: limited human resources, coordination within Government agencies and between Government and international community, despite many coordination mechanisms, Government leadership including to overcome the language barrier and to put coordination of HFA and the National Disaster Mitigation Strategy at the right level in the Government structure. There is also the need to separate budget line for DRR and CCA and distinguished between ODA and Government funding for DRR to measure commitment.
- The following issues have been initially identified as significant to focus on during national consultation:
 - *Does Viet Nam have the capacity to respond to mega disasters and emerging hazards given that the country has been dealing with disasters based on past experiences vs. anticipative approach? Linkage with the on-going process to develop CC scenarios?*
Issues to consider are:
 - Culture and tradition factors: people do not like to talk about something bad and unknown i.e. the cultural factor that prevent risk sensitive thinking
 - Shift from conventional focus on flood and storm to other hazards including new hazards i.e. tsunami as well as nuclear accidents
 - Addressing gaps in current system: lack of knowledge by sector agencies and coordination
 - Strengthen the civil-military engagement for effective preparedness and response.
 - *Addressing the economic drivers of disaster risk:*
 - Risk of reservoir/dam flooding due to insufficient warning of water release. On the other hand, drought is a more serious issue with dam operators not releasing water to help agriculture production. Increasing conflict.
 - Issue of dam safety for downstream areas
 - Migration and the need to focus on disaster risk in peri urban areas and vulnerable people left behind in rural areas (elderly and children)
 - The issue of social equity and capacity of communities to negotiate i.e. with dam operators and local/national government authorities
 - *Ensure ecosystem approach in DRR and recovery/reconstruction given the current strong focus on structural measures*

Disaster and Development

- Most impacted development sector: agriculture (in terms of % of population and livelihood and cumulative impacts of recurrent disasters)
- No figure to confirm which sector has been most affected by disasters because of scattered nature of disasters i.e. drought is not with CCFSC, even the economic loss data is uncertain
- Not sure how Gov makes decision based on this kind of data/information

- Limited cost-benefit analysis of DRR to convince decision makers - find out how WB analyses cost-benefits of disaster reduction infrastructure

Risk Governance and Accountability

- Institutional set up for multi-hazard approach in DRM
- Clear understanding of role/responsibility of different agencies i.e. CCFSC as overall decision, DMC as focal point (coordination, oversight, facilitation), other agencies ... i.e if HFA is not know, whose accountability?
- HFA is a global voluntary framework? How to ensure countries accountabilities for the HFA? For example, Viet Nam has translated HFA into the National Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. HFA also triggered AADMER and many of AADMER actions were based on the HFA. How these other frameworks reporting can contribute to HFA monitoring?
- ASEAN should also discuss what should be Post 2015 Framework in sync with Post 2015 AADMER
- There is the need for simplified and synchronized monitoring and reporting system: regular reporting under the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control (CCFSC), monitoring and reporting on the National Strategy, HFA, AADMER, etc
- It is important that regional and global frameworks provide and reinforce standards. The example of SPHERE has shown that doing good is not enough, we should live up to standards and be with international community

Linkage between DRR and key development sectors

- On safe schools and hospitals, WHO launched the standards for safe hospitals in line with the HFA. Advocacy for safe schools and hospitals with the Government and many agencies should continue and demonstrate how international frameworks could provide specific guidelines and show evidence of possible good practices.
- Education sector: The development of a National Strategy is a step after the HFA, which has been the main reference document for the sector. Addressing DRR in emergency response in the education sector has been a good example to build on for other mainstreaming activities.
- There is certain level of disaster awareness especially in big cities. However, it is not clear how what people should do with the especially when difficult social issues such as relocation involves.

4. Annexes

- Annex1: Final agenda.
- Annex 2: Participants list.
- Annex 3: A set of questions used at the consultation.