

National Report of Denmark

Prepared for the IDNDR Mid-Term Review and
the 1994 World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction

I. Executive Summary

IDNDR-activities in Denmark are being coordinated by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is also the focal point for the IDNDR. At the same time, the responsibility for national Danish disaster reduction activities rests with the Emergency Management Agency located within the Ministry of the Interior.

Up till now no formalised National Committee has been established. Denmark is a low risk area and IDNDR-activities are carried out within the regular disaster preventive activities, carried out by governmental agencies and institutions in Denmark. An informal network, under overall coordination by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and comprising both governmental and non-governmental agencies, has been formed in order to strengthen the level of activity during the decade.

Denmark fully recognizes the importance of the IDNDR in promoting an increased awareness of disaster reduction in developing countries, which are often very vulnerable to disasters. Seen from a Danish point of view the key objective for the second half of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction is to improve the readiness and increase the degree of alertness in the most vulnerable developing countries and to facilitate the exchange of results and practices about how to cope with disasters.

II. Risk Assessment

Denmark is a low risk area. Natural hazards are seldom causing serious damage neither to people nor to property. In recent years there has been no natural disasters. However, floods do occur at the south western part of Jutland close to the Danish-German boarder.

No special hazard zones have been identified, but local preparedness plans exist for risk areas such as the western coast line, chemical industries, airports etc.

III. Mitigation activities

The Emergency Management Agency has carried out a risk- and vulnerability analysis both for peace and war time situations on national and municipal level. The intention is to give substance to emergency planning in municipalities. A guidance will be made available for the municipalities during 1994.

At the national level, the Danish Preparedness Act was introduced and enacted in December 1992. A Nordic agreement related to co-operation in peace time across the borders to prevent or mitigate harms on people, property or the environment caused by disasters was concluded in 1989. Finally an agreement has been made between Denmark and the Federal Republic of Germany on mutual assistance in case of disasters or serious accidents (1988).

The Danish Emergency Planning Organization is expected to reach its goals for the nationwide integrated disaster mitigation within the next few years, due to the implementation of the new Preparedness Act of December 1992.

IV. Warning

Denmark's systems for observing, forecasting and warning consist primarily of the following elements:

- The Danish Broadcasting System (DR)
- The Danish Meteorological Institute. Weather forecasts, warning of floods.
- The Coastal Inspectorate. Warning of floods.
- In 1989 a Nordic warning system was established between Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway.
- The Emergency Management Agency has in 1993 established a new warning system which is operated by the local police districts. The system includes about 1,100 new electronic and backup-powered sirens with associated command and control systems. It is estimated that with this siren system it is in peace and war time possible to alert upwards of 80% of the Danish population in the event of accidents or disasters. The

remaining 20% will be alerted by supplementary warning media. A computerized system enables the Emergency Management Agency to monitor the warning system around the clock.

V. International Cooperation

In accordance with obligations undertaken in a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements, Denmark is ready to offer assistance to relief units in other countries. Furthermore, Denmark is party to a number of international conventions and agreements, primarily with our neighbouring countries.

Denmark has participated in several conferences concerning disaster reduction, including a conference in Oslo in January 1990, a conference at Storlien, Sweden, in January 1992 and a DHA conference in Oslo January 1994 on the "Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief".

VI. Overall evaluation and future programme of IDNDR activities

As underlined above, Denmark is a low risk area and a country with a well developed preparedness in the area of disaster reduction and mitigation. Therefore, no specific IDNDR-activities have been arranged at the national level.

Denmark regards the IDNDR to be a very valuable instrument in creating increased awareness of the need and usefulness of disaster reduction activities in developing countries. In the Danish view, an important objective for the IDNDR is to promote the readiness and increase the degree of alertness in developing countries, e.u. to facilitate the exchange of results and practices about how to cope with disasters.

During the second half of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, Denmark will continue to follow closely the progress of the implementation of the IDNDR.

Natural disasters can occur almost everywhere in the world, but they are particularly severe for developing countries. These countries are prone to disasters and vulnerable to their effects, as they often lack the necessary resources to establish the monitoring and warning systems necessary to reduce losses from natural disasters.

Therefore Denmark, for the second half of the decade, is planning a strengthening of the support and assistance given to developing countries in the field of natural disaster reduction. This will be done partly by supporting international efforts taken in this field, partly by trying to integrate disaster reduction and mitigation as an incorporated element of Danish bilateral development programmes

D E N M A R K

NATIONAL SUMMARY REPORT

I D N D R

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SECTION A: PROFILE

1. Composition of National Committee (Focal Point)

Focal Point

Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Department of Humanitarian Aid (S.3.)
Mr Johs. Dahl-Hansen, Head of Department
Asiatisk Plads 2
1448 Copenhagen K
Denmark

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2. Internal organization of the National Committee

IDNDR-activities in Denmark are being coordinated by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is also the focal point for the IDNDR. At the same time, the responsibility for national Danish disaster reduction activities rests with the Emergency Management Agency located within the Ministry of the Interior.

Up till now no formalised National Committee has been established. Denmark is a low risk area and IDNDR-activities are carried out within the regular disaster preventive activities, carried out by governmental agencies and institutions in Denmark. An informal network, under overall coordination by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and comprising both governmental and non-governmental agencies, has been formed in order to strengthen the level of activity during the decade.

The network consists of:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Overall coordination)
Ministry of the Interior, Emergency Management Agency
Ministry of Environment
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Transport
Ministry of Research and Technology

Danish Meteorological Institute
National Survey and Cadastre

Danish Red Cross
Danish Refugee Council

3. Prevailing Hazards

Denmark is defined as a "low risk area". However, floods do occur at the south western part of Jutland

4. Recent natural disasters

None

5. National socio-economic conditions

- * Population: 5.177.770 (1992)
- * Gross-National Product (GNP): DKR 859.800 mil (1992)
- * Per-Capita Income: DKR 166.056 (1992)

6. Availability and assistance to other countries in the field of natural disaster reduction

I. Structures available on call

- a. The UNDAC Stand-by Team.
- b. The Danish Mobile Disaster Relief Unit (MDRU) under preparation

The unit will be administrated by the Emergency Management Agency.

Decisions on mobilising the unit for action outside Denmark will be taken in consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Emergency Management Agency.

The unit will, when established, be able to assist in relief operations in man-made or nature caused disaster areas with personnel and carefully selected and specified relief goods. The unit is to be used in situations where urgent international assistance is requested to support a country's government or humanitarian organizations.

A Danish Relief Unit was for the first time in action in 1992 when Denmark, on request from the Turkish government, assisted in relief operations after an earthquake in Turkey.

- c. Disaster delegates

A number of trained delegates (commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the Emergency Preparedness Corps) is made available by the Emergency Management Agency for the NGO's: Danish Red Cross and Danish Refugee Council.

II Projects with Danish funding in developing countries

Since 1989 Denmark has donated DKR 8.975 mil. for natural disaster reduction activities. The following contributions have been financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs out of its annual allocations for official development assistance.

- India:** DKR 2.000.000, 1989
Project: Casa/Danish Church Aid, Improving disaster preparedness
- Algeria:** DKR 365.000, 1989
Project: IDNDR/UNDRO, Improving national and local response to earthquake risk.
- Philippines:** DKR: 6.275.000, 1989 and 1991
Project: Danish Red Cross/Philippines Red Cross, Improvement of the disaster management and response capability of PRC.

Finally Denmark has made a contribution of USD 50.000 to the IDNDR Trust Fund in 1993.

7. **International assistance required for natural disaster reduction**

So far national efforts have been considered sufficient to take care of natural disaster reduction needs in Denmark.

SECTION B: STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Steps towards achieving the 3 main Decade targets

- (a) Comprehensive national assessments of risks from natural hazards, with these assessments taken into account in development plans

Denmark is defined as a "low risk area".

- (b) Mitigation plans at national and/or local levels, involving long-term prevention and preparedness and community awareness

Emergency Management Agency located within the Ministry of the Interior.

A risk- and vulnerability analysis both for peace- and wartime has been made on national and municipality level. The intention is to give substance to emergency planning in municipalities. Guidelines will be made available for the municipalities during 1994.

- (c) Ready access to global, regional, national and local warning systems and broad dissemination of warnings

- (1) 80% of the population is covered by the Emergency Management Agencies brand new nationwide warning system. The new system was fully implemented by December 1993.
- (2) The Danish Broadcasting System (DR)
- (3) The Danish Meteorological Institute. Weather forecasts, warning of floods.
- (4) The Coastal Inspectorate. Warning of floods.
- (5) Since 1989 a Nordic warning system has been established between Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway.

2. Present national plan for natural disaster reduction

- (1) Floods preparedness. The preparedness plan is covering the south western part of Jutland close to the Danish-German boarder.

3. Legislation introduced and enacted in relation to natural disaster reduction

- (1) The Danish Preparedness Act of 23 December 1992.
- (2) Agreement between the Scandinavian countries related to co-operation in peacetime across the borders to prevent or mitigate harms on people, property or the environment caused by disasters (1989).
- (3) Agreement between Denmark and the Federal Republic of Germany on mutual assistance in case of disasters or serious accidents (1988).

4. Disaster mitigation activities completed or under way

a) Identification of hazard zones: Hazard assessment

No special hazard zones have been identified. Local preparedness plans exist for risk areas such as chemical industries, airports etc.

Implementing agency:

The Emergency Management Agency, located within the Ministry of the Interior

Address of the agency in charge:

Beredskabsstyrelsen
Ministry of the Interior, Emergency Management Agency
16, Datavej
DK-3460 Birkerød, Denmark
Tel. +45 45 82 54 00. Telefax +45 45 82 65 65
Telex 27410

b) Monitoring, prediction and warning

The Emergency Management Agency has in 1993 established a new warning system which is operated by the local police districts.

The system includes about 1,100 new electronic and backup-powered sirens with associated command and control systems.

With the siren system it is in peace- and wartime possible to alert upwards of 80% of the Danish population in the event of accidents or disasters. The remaining 20% will be alerted by supplementary warning media.

A computerized system enables the Emergency Management Agency to monitor the warning system around the clock.

The sirens will sound one signal to indicate what type of protection to seek in the event of danger, and another signal to indicate when the protection may be abandoned.

5. Plans to fully achieve Decade targets by the end of 1999.

As underlined above, Denmark is a low risk area and a country with a well developed preparedness in the area of disaster reduction and mitigation. Therefore, no specific IDNDR-activities have been arranged at the national level.

No further plans has been made concerning the Danish Emergency Planning Organization. This should be seen, of course, on the background of the fact that Denmark is so fortunate to be spared from natural disasters of any greater extent.

Denmark regards the IDNDR to be a very valuable instrument in creating increased awareness of the need and usefulness of disaster reduction activities in developing countries. In the Danish view, an important objective for the IDNDR is to promote the readiness and increase the degree of alertness in developing countries, e.u. to facilitate the exchange of results and practices about how to cope with disasters.

During the second half of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, Denmark will continue to follow closely the progress of the implementation of the IDNDR.

Natural disasters can occur almost everywhere in the world, but they are particularly severe for developing countries. These countries are prone to disasters and vulnerable to their effects, as they often lack the necessary resources to establish the monitoring and warning systems necessary to reduce losses from natural disasters.

Therefore Denmark, for the second half of the decade, is planning a strengthening of the support and assistance given to developing countries in the field of natural disaster

reduction. This will be done partly by supporting international efforts taken in this field, partly by trying to integrate disaster reduction and mitigation as an incorporated element of Danish development assistance programmes

SECTION C: INTERACTIONS

1. Publications on IDNDR-related subjects

None

2. IDNDR meetings and conferences held or planned

No conferences have been held or planned for in Denmark, but Denmark has participated in:

- 1) A conference in Oslo, 9 - 11 January 1990

Participants: The four Scandinavian countries.
Responsible: The Ministry of Police and Justice, Norway

- 2) A conference at Storlien, Sweden, 21 - 23 January 1992

Participants: The four Scandinavian countries.
Responsible: Rådningverket, Sweden

- 3) A DHA-conference in Oslo 20 - 21 January 1994 on the "Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief (MCDA)".

Participants: Representatives from about 72 Member States, U.N. agencies, International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organisations were invited to attend.
Responsible: DHA, Geneva - Norwegian Ministry of Defence.

3. Current or planned partnerships and co-operation related to IDNDR with other countries

In accordance with obligations undertaken in a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements, Denmark is ready to offer assistance to relief units in other countries. Furthermore, Denmark is party to a number of international conventions and agreements:

- * The Copenhagen Convention. Nordic agreement on co-operation on measures to prevent pollution of the sea (1971).
- * The DANGER Plan. Agreement between Germany and Denmark on co-operation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil (1982).
- * The Helsinki Declaration. Convention between the Baltic Sea States on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea area (1988).
- * Agreement between Denmark and Germany about improvement of the rescue service in border areas (1988).
- * Agreement concerning Information Exchange and Co-operation in the Fields of Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection between Denmark and its neighbouring countries; Sweden (1986), Germany (1987), Finland (1987), Poland (1987), United Kingdom (1987), The Russian Federation as successor of the former Union of Socialist Soviet Republic (1987) and Lithuania (1993).
- * A Nordic agreement between Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway on mutual assistance in case of disasters (1989).
- * The Bonn Agreement (The North Sea Convention). Agreement between the North Sea States on co-operation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil (1969) and other harmful substances (1989).
- * The KOBE (Copenhagen/Berlin) agreement. Agreement between Denmark and Germany on co-operation to combat pollution of the Baltic Sea caused by harmful substances (1990).

SECTION D: EVALUATION

1. Overall evaluation of national disaster mitigation programmes including, but not limited to, those initiated after IDNDR and achievements up to now

The Danish Emergency Planning Organization is expected to reach its goals for the nationwide integrated disaster mitigation within the next few years, due to the implementing of the new Preparedness Act of 23 December 1992.

2. Review of the IDNDR

As underlined above, Denmark is a low risk area and a country with a well developed preparedness in the area of disaster reduction and mitigation. Therefore, no specific IDNDR-activities have been arranged at the national level.

Denmark regards the IDNDR to be a very valuable instrument in creating increased awareness of the need and usefulness of disaster reduction activities in developing countries. In the Danish view, a key objective for the IDNDR is to improve the readiness and increase the degree of alertness in the most vulnerable developing countries, e.u. to facilitate the exchange of results and practices about how to cope with disasters.