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NATIONAL REPORT

NORWAY

Prepared for the UN International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) Mid-Term Review and the 1994 World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction.

I. Executive Summary.

IDNDR-activities in Norway are being coordinated by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is also the focal point for the IDNDR. At the same time, the responsibility for national Norwegian disaster reduction activities rests with the Directorate of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning under the the Ministry of Justice and Police.

No formalised National Committee has been established up till now. Norway is a medium risk area and IDNDR-activities are implemented within the regular disaster preventive activities and carried out by governmental agencies and institutions in Norway. An informal network, under the 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.

Norway fully recognizes the importance of the IDNDR in promoting an increased awareness of disaster reduction in developing countries, which are often vulnerable to disasters. Seen from the Norwegian point of view one of the key objectives for the second half of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction is to make it possible also for the most vulnerable developing countries to improve their readiness and increase the degree of alertness, as well as to facilitate the exchange of results and practices about how to cope with disasters.

II. Risk Assessment.

Norway is a medium risk area. Natural hazards are seldom causing serious damage to people but quite frequently to property. In recent years there have been quite a few natural disasters and some have been man made. We have had oil pollution from wrecked tankers at the coastline in West-Norway, hurricanes in combination with tidal waves at the North-West and Mid-Norway coastline, extensive forest fires in East- and South West-Norway and snow avalanches in West- and North-Norway. Special

hazard zones have been identified and local preparedness plans exist for risk areas at the coast line, chemical industries, airports, oil operations, radiation fallout etc.

III. Mitigation Activities.

The Directorate of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning has carried out a risk- and vulnerability analysis both for peace and war time situations on the municipal level. The intention is to give substance to emergency planning in municipalities. Guidelines have been worked out to assist municipalities.

A Nordic agreement related to co-operation in peace time across borders to prevent or mitigate harms to people, property or the environment caused by disasters was concluded in 1989.

In the period 1992-1993 The Civil Defence has established 102 Search and Rescue - SAR-units, comprising 2 000 men and women. The units have been located in municipalities with scarce resources in this field.

IV. Warning.

The Norwegian systems for observing, forecasting and warning consist primarily of the following elements:

- * The Norwegian Search and Rescue Service.
- * Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA).
- * The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK).
- * The Norwegian Meteorological Institute (DNMI).
- * The Civil Defence National Warning System.
- * Coast Radio Stations of Norwegian Telecom (Storm warnings etc. for mariners).
- * The Norwegian Water and Energy Administration (NVE).
- * In 1989 a Nordic warning system was established between Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway.

The Civil Defence National Warning System includes about 2 000 electronic and backup-powered sirens with associated command and control systems. It is estimated that both in peace and war time situations, in the event of accidents or disasters, this siren system will be able to alert approx. 60% of the Norwegian population. The remaining 40% will be alerted by supplementary warning systems.

V. International Cooperation.

In accordance with obligations undertaken in a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements, Norway is ready to offer assistance to relief units in other countries.

Furthermore, Norway is party to a number of international conventions and agreements, primarily with our neighbouring countries.

Norway has organized and participated in several conferences concerning disaster reduction, including a conference in Oslo January 1990, at Storlien, Sweden, January 1992 and a DHA-conference in Oslo January 1994 on the "Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief - (MCDA)". The Civil Defence Department/DCDEP is working on a project under the MCDA-concept with the Royal Ministry of Defence in order to develop a SAR-unit for international disaster reduction. The unit is planned to be operational during 1995.

Recent disasters and conflicts have demonstrated that effective international assistance can save innumerable lives if it reaches vulnerable communities in time. The Norwegian Emergency Preparedness Systems (NOREPS) are a contribution to the efforts of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to reach disaster areas without delay and with the right kind of personnel and relief supplies. The NOREPS includes Permanent Emergency Preparedness Stores (PEPS), established in several African countries, where various items for emergency assistance are available at short notice to NGOs and the UN system at fixed prices.

Norway has extended assistance in different areas of prevention and preparedness to various developing countries (flood mitigation, combat of locusts and disaster management training).

VI. Overall evaluation and future programme of IDNDR activities.

Norway is a country with a well developed preparedness in the area of disaster reduction and mitigation. Therefore, no specific IDNDR-activities have been arranged or are planned at the national level.

IDNDR has to a certain degree increased the consciousness of the need and usefulness of disaster reduction activities. Improvements related to national disaster mitigation programmes should primarily be the responsibility of the affected nations themselves. The IDNDR-efforts could, however, keep disaster-prone countries alert and facilitate interchange of results and practices about how to cope with disasters. A world wide exchange of such information should help communities of nations reduce disaster losses for the years to come.

During the second half of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, Norway will follow closely the progress of the implementation of the IDNDR and also continue its assistance to developing countries in the field of natural disaster reduction.

Øyv. Chr. Danbolt

N O R W A Y
NATIONAL SUMMARY REPORT
IDNDR

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SECTION A: PROFILE

1. *Composition of National Committee (Focal Point):*

Focal Point

Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
Disaster Relief Division,
Mr. Ove Chr. Danbolt, Head of Division
Box 8114 Dep.
N-0032 Oslo - Norway

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2. *Internal organization of the National Committee*

MFA is the focal point for the IDNDR.

National disaster reduction activities are however the responsibility of the Directorate of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning, supported by the following ministries and other government agencies:

Ministry of Justice and Police,
Ministry of Defence,

Ministry of Transport and Communications,
 Civil Aviation Administration,
 Norwegian Telecom,
 Ministry of Commerce,
 Norwegian Maritime Directorate,
 Ministry of Fisheries,
 Coast Directorate,
 Ministry of Health and Social Affairs,
 Norwegian Board of Health.

Other institutions and organisations relevant for the IDNDR:

University of Oslo,
 University of Bergen,
 University of Trondheim,
 University of Tromsø,
 Agricultural University of Norway,
 Norwegian Center for International Agricultural Development,
 (NORAGRIC),
 The Research Council of Norway,
 Norwegian Seismic Array (NORSAR),
 Norwegian Water and Energy Administration,
 Norwegian Geotechnical Institute,
 Norwegian Meteorological Institute,
 Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

Norwegian NGOs:

Norwegian Church Aid,
 Norwegian Red Cross,
 Norwegian Save the Children,
 Norwegian People's Aid.

3. *Prevailing hazards*

<i>Type</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Affected Population</i>
Hurricanes	West, Mid- and North-Norway - Coastline	
Snow avalanches	West-Norway and Troms County	
Land slides	Sør-Trøndelag County	
Forest fires	East- and South Norway	
Floods	Coastline and rivers	

4. *Recent natural disasters*

<i>Type</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Affected Population</i>	<i>Losses</i>
Hurricane (1992)	North-West, Mid- and North Norway		Material damages only
Snow avalanche (1993)	West-Norway		Forests, wooden houses, boats
Forest fires (1992)	East- and South Norway		

5. *National socio-economic conditions*

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- * Population: 4.249.838 (1992)
 - * Gross-National Product (GNP): NOK 679.398 mill.
 - * Per-Capita Income: NOK 158.516,-.

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

I. *Structures available on call (paid by user):*

Norwegian Emergency Preparedness Systems (NOREPS).

Administered by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The Norwegian Trade Council.

Key factors:

- * Immediately available for international humanitarian operations.
- * A system of carefully selected relief goods.

Recent disasters and conflicts have demonstrated that effective international assistance can save innumerable lives *if it reaches vulnerable communities in time*. The Norwegian Emergency Preparedness Systems (NOREPS) are a

contribution to the efforts of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to reach disaster areas without delay and with the right kind of personnel and relief supplies.

Permanent Emergency Preparedness Stores (PEPS) have been established in cooperation with the Norwegian Church Aid in Nairobi, Addis Abeba and Khartoum. These regularly replenished stores consist of emergency food rations and redeployable shelters. The emergency food and shelters are available at short notice to other NGOs and the UN system at fixed prices. Emergency stocks are also being planned for other African and some Asian countries. (Enclosure: Brochure on NOREPS).

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A Civil Defence Search and Rescue (CD- SAR)-unit is intended to be made operative in 1995 for international assistance, comprising 50 personnel and 9 vehicles, designed to be air-lifted.

The SAR-unit will also have a surgical element, being self-supported. Furthermore in cooperation with a military element and a (local) hospital work on the site of a disaster.

Responsible for planning: Directorate of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning, Norway. (More details in Sector B, 4a).

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II. Projects with Norwegian funding in developing countries:

Project: Sahel - Locust and Grasshopper Control programme

Participating institutions: UNDP, Agricultural University of Norway.

Sources of funding: UNDP - Norway

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Project: Operational spraying and research activities with emphasis on reduction of pesticide doses, to limit damages caused by locusts and grasshoppers in Mali, (Sudan and Afghanistan).

Participating institutions: Stromme's Memorial Foundation, Norway.
Agricultural University of Norway, Norwegian
Center for International Agricultural
Development (NORAGRIC).

Source of funding: Norway.

Cost: Approx. NOK 50.000.000,- (1986--).

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Project: Central America - CEPREDENAC - Norwegian/Swedish project for "Reduction of Natural Disasters in Central America. Earthquake and Hazard Mitigation" involving six countries in Central America.

Participating institutions: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NORAD, University of Bergen, The Research Council of Norway, Norwegian Seismic Array (NORSAR), SIDA, Sweden.

Cost: Norwegian contribution NOK 10.500.000,- (1991-1994).

A proposal for a follow-up for the rest of the 1990'ies on the same level as the existing programme, is now under consideration.

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Project: Support to World Meteorological Organization "Flood Forecasting and Warning System for Lower Shire Valley in Malawi".

Participating institutions: WMO, OCEANOR, Norway.

Cost: Norwegian contribution: NOK 2.300.000,- (1991-92).

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Projects: Flood hazard projects in Nepal and Vietnam (1990--).

Participating institutions: UN and OCEANOR, Norway.

Cost: Approx. NOK 550.000,- (aggregated).

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Project: UNDP Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP). (The DMTP seeks to enable disaster prone countries to cater to their own disaster training needs and consequently improve their ability to prepare for a respond to disasters).

Participating institutions: UNDP.

Cost: Norwegian contribution NOK 1.900.000 (1993).

Project: Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Group for Ethiopia (EPPG).

Participating institutions: UNDP - DHA.

Cost: Norwegian contribution NOK 1.450.300,- (1993).

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

National efforts will normally take care of natural disaster reduction needs. For international cooperation, see additional information Section C, 3.

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;*

- * Hurricanes
- * Forest fires (wild fires)
- * Snow avalanches
- * Land slides
- * Floods

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

- * The Directorate of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning:

A risk- and vulnerability analysis both for peace and war has been made on municipality level. The intention is to give substance to emergency planning in municipalities. A guidance will be made available for the municipalities primo 1994. More details in Section B, 4d. (An English Summary will be forwarded as soon as possible).

- * The Governmental Crisis Information Service.
- * A possible information service on County Governors' level is recommended.

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

- (1) A national warning system in Norway
The warning responsibility of 2 main rescue centers and 53 subordinate local rescue centers.
- (2) A Nordic warning system is established between Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway since 1989.
- (3) The Norwegian Meteorological Institute. Weather forecasts, warning of floods, threats of avalanches and forest fires.
- (4) The Civil Defence country-wide warning system.
- (5) The Norwegian Broadcasting System (NRK).

2. Present national plan for natural disaster reduction

a) Time span covered: Permanent.

- (1) A fire-fighting contingency in connection with forest fires within the Civil Defence System in the summer time.
(In cooperation with the local fire-brigades).
- (2) A CD alert system of 100 SAR-units, also covering natural disasters.
Cf. 4 (a) below.

b) Agencies, institutions and organizations involved:

The Ministry of Justice and Police which is the executive branch in charge of the Police which is responsible for the administrative co-ordination of the rescue service in Norway. For this purpose The Ministry is assisted by other government agencies in charge of institutions which have facilities that can be utilized for rescue purposes. These other agencies are primarily The Ministry of Defence, The Ministry of Transport and Communications (with the subordinate agencies Civil Aviation Administration and Norwegian Telecom), The Ministry of Commerce (with its subordinate Norwegian Maritime Directorate), The Ministry of Fisheries (with its subordinate of Coast Directorate) and The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (with its subordinate Norwegian Board of Health).

The organizational plan of 1973 determines that the maritime, aeronautical and land rescue activities shall be regarded as one entity under the common term: "the Rescue Service".

c) Implementing agencies:

Counties (Coordination).

Municipalities (Coordination, fire-fighting and health services).

Local police force (Coordination and on-site command).

Resources: The Civil Defence (SAR-units, fire-fighting, first aid etc.)

Military forces (HomeGuard: personnel, Air Force: helicopters, transport etc., NGOs: Personnel.

d) Funds available for implementation:

Governmental funds.

In some cases: Municipal funds.

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

- (1) The Civil Defence Act of 17 June 1953.
- (2) Royal Decree of 4 July 1980 (Rescue).
- (3) Proposition to the Storting # 33 (1970-71). (Rescue).
- (4) Law of 5 June 1987 §§20-21. (Fire-fighting).
- (5) Law enforcement instructions, § 12-2. (Police).
- (6) Law of 13 March 1981 (Contamination).
- (7) 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).

4. ***Disaster mitigation activities completed or underway:***

a) Identification of hazard zones: hazard assessment.

Title of project:

A CD-SAR-unit for international assistance. Cf. Section A, 6 I.

Status:

Planning not ended. The intention is to make the unit operative in 1995.

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:
Cooperation is intended with the Armed Forces and/or a non governmental organization.

Cost of project:

Investments, special equipment:	NOK ca.	1,2 mill.
Basic training:	" "	0,4 mill.
Refresher training:	" "	0.4 mill.

Sources of funding:

Investments and training: Own budget.

Implementing agencies:

The Directorate of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning, Civil Defence Department.

Address of the agency in charge:

The Directorate of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning,
Box 8136 - Dep.,
N-0033 Oslo, Norway.
Tel. 47 22 35 10 20 - Fax 47 22 71 57 87.

b) Monitoring, prediction and warning

c) Short-term: Protective measures and preparedness

Title of project:

"Hazard research-project", involving several Norwegian research institutions. Cf. Section B, 1(b).

Status:

To be started in 1994.

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

University of Trondheim / Center for Environment and Development.

Costs of project: NOK 268.090,-.

Sources of funding:

Official funding. (Application under consideration).

Implementing agencies:

University of Trondheim,
The University Administration,
N-7034 Trondheim.
Tel.: 47 73 59 80 00 - Fax: 47 73 59 80 90.

c) Short-term protective measures and preparedness

d) Long-term preventive measures

Title of project:

1. Guidelines for Risk and Vulnerability Analysis.
2. Guidelines for the Planning of Crisis Management in Municipalities.

Status:

Ready for distribution January 1994.

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

The Royal Ministry of Police and Justice.
The Directorate of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning.

Cost of project:

Source of funding:

Official sources.

Implementing agencies:

439 municipalities.

Address of the agency in charge:

The Directorate of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning,
Box 8136, Dep.,
N-0033 Oslo, Norway.
Tel. 47 22 35 10 20. Fax 47 22 38 28 24.

e) Land-use and risk management

f) Public education and information

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

No further plans have been made in Norway in addition to the ones mentioned in 4 above.

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Support for disaster reduction activities *in developing countries*, (with possible financing from Norway) is under constant consideration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

SECTION C: INTERACTIONS

1. Publications on IDNDR-related subjects:

The report of the "Borre"-project. A risk- and vulnerability analysis on municipality level (1993). (Written material only in Norwegian).

Directive for the police force in command of the rescue service (1990). (Written material only in Norwegian).

Enclosures:

1. Summary Survey on the rescue service in Norway.
2. Civil Emergency Preparedness in Norway.
3. The Norwegian Civil Defence Act.
4. Norway. Improvements in the Readiness and Protection of Populations.
5. The Norwegian Search and Rescue Service.
6. Norwegian Emergency Preparedness Systems (NOREPS).

2. IDNDR meetings and conferences held or planned:

A conference in Oslo, 9 - 11 January 1990.

Participants: The four Scandinavian countries. The Embassy of Iceland was also present.

Responsible: The Ministry of Police and Justice.

A conference at Storlien, Sweden, 21 - 23 January 1992.

Participants: The four Scandinavian countries.

Responsible: Räddningsverket, Sweden.

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 cooperation related to IDNDR with other countries.*

Norway is part of i.a. the following conventions/agreements with relevance to this subject:

- * ICAO-conventions related to aeronautical rescue service (Norwegian ratification 1947).
- * IMO - International Convention on maritime search and rescue service (1979).
- * International agreement concerning COSPAS/SARSAT (1984).
- * Agreement between Norway and Sweden concerning improvement of the rescue service in border areas (1974).
- * Agreement between Norway and USSR about improvement of the rescue service in border areas (1974).
- * Agreement concerning rescue service cooperation between Norway and Finland (1986).
- * Agreement between Norway and the Soviet Union concerning search services in the Barents Sea (1988).
- * Agreement between Norway and Great Britain concerning aeronautical rescue service in the northern part of the North Sea (1988).
- * A Nordic agreement between Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway on mutual assistance in case of disasters (1989).

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.

In general the Civil Defence Organization has reached its goals planned at the beginning of the decade.

The CD alert system of 100 SAR-units and their use will be evaluated within the first half of the 1990ies.

2. Review of the IDNDR

The IDNDR has to a certain degree increased the consciousness of the need and usefulness on disaster reduction activities.

Improvements related to national disaster mitigation programmes should primarily be the responsibility of the affected nations themselves. The IDNDR-efforts could, however, keep disaster-prone countries alert and facilitate interchange of results and practices about how to cope with disasters. A world wide exchange of such information should help communities of nations to reduce disaster losses for the years to come.

The IDNDR can also highlight special disaster reduction needs in developing countries in order to attract international funding.

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