



Armenia

National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2011-2013)

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Section 1: Outcomes 2011-2013

Strategic Outcome For Goal 1

Outcome Statement:

a/ RA Government Decree dated March 7, 2012 “On approving DRR National Strategy and Implementation Action Plan”

b/RA Government Decree dated December 2, 2010 “On Establishing National DRR Platform” (valid from January 2011)

Currently, activities on establishment of emergency insurance and investment are being continued.

Strategic Outcome For Goal 2

Outcome Statement:

In 2011, the CAM of RA MES, in cooperation with the UNICEF, implemented a programme within which books on disaster risk reduction for pre-school, elementary and middle schools and manuals for teachers were published and distributed in 3 regional educational institutions.

CMSA conducts trainings for 2000 participants annually, from which 300 are specialists and fire-fighter-rescuers of the RA MES system and the other 1700 are heads and specialists of other Ministries, Regional administrations, local self-government bodies, as well as other organizations. The Academy also has students.

In cooperation with the MES, an observatory was formed aimed at collection, analysis and distribution of information to all interested parties.

The distribution of information is designed to be implemented in 3 directions:

- Open information available to everyone at www.mes.am website
- Information that is only given to specialists who can access it by a special coded system
- Confidential information.

Implementation of disaster management educational project on local level together with UNDP Armenia.

Following UNICEF project, implementation of DRR education project at schools.

Strategic Outcome For Goal 3

Outcome Statement:

20 Government decrees, 10 technical regulations as well as decisions on “Establishing Commissions and Regulations on Loss Estimation due to Emergency for natural and juridical persons” have been adopted on regional and community levels.

Together with SDC, a project is being implemented aimed at formation of rescue teams based on INSARAG standards.

"Seismic Risk Reduction Plan of Yerevan" was developed together with the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Many office and field exercises have taken place.

Section 2: Strategic goals

Strategic Goal Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Strategic Goal Statement:

Disaster risk reduction plans include the following considerations in sustainable development programmes:

1. The following requirements are included based on the National Security Strategy: - To increase life security and standards of living

- Preservation of Agricultural Lands
- To inhibit migration of border communities

2. The 5 main priority actions of the Hyogo framework.

Taking the above-mentioned into consideration, several legal acts have been discussed, in particular:

- RA Government decree dated February 9, 2012 “On Approving a Programme and Action Plan for Seismic Vulnerability Assessment of Critical Facilities in Yerevan City”.
- RA Government decree dated June 10, 2012 “On Approving the Plan for Population Protection in Case of Major Earthquake” and RA Government decree dated August 18, 2011 “Regulations on Population Evacuation from Hazardous Areas” have been adopted.
- RA Government Decree dated August 11, 2011 “On Approving a Programme on Compiling a new 1:500,000 Scale Seismic Hazard Map with Probabilistic Estimate for the Territory of the RA” has been adopted.

Strategic Goal Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Strategic Goal Statement:

The following mechanisms are being developed to build capacities to withstand disasters:

- In October 2012, the DRR National Platform initiated the formation of DRR regional teams in all the marzes of the RA which would ensure HFA and DRR strategy implementation on the local level.

- Development educational programmes.
- Ensure the implementation of earthquake engineering.

Taking into consideration the above-mentioned, several legal acts have been discussed, in particular:

a/ Making amendments in the RA Government decree N383 – N dated 10.03.2005 by the decree N1183 – N dated 28.07.2011 were namely technical safety arrangements were put upon TS inspectorate of the MES of the RA.

b/ RA Government Decree dated May 5, 2011 “On Construction of Crisis Management Centre and MES Rescue Service Administrative Building”

c/ RA Government decree dated June 10, 2010 “On Approving the Programme for Modernization of Seismic Observation Network”

d/ RA Government Decree dated November 10, 2011 “On Approving Regulations on Loss Estimation Due to Emergency for Natural and Juridical Persons”.

Strategic Goal Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Strategic Goal Statement:

1. With the support of DRR regional teams, integrate DRR actions into four-year community development plans.
2. In cooperation with the DRR National Platform, the second stage of the regional disaster preparedness project (DIPECHO-2) is being implemented by the UNICEF, Armenian Red Cross organization, Oxfam organization of GB and the Armenian office of “Save the Children” organization.
3. RA Government decree dated February 16, 2012 “On Approval of the Pilot Programme to Conduct a Pilot Training on Actions and Behaviour in Schools, Hospitals and Other Medical Institutions, State and Local Government Bodies During a Strong Earthquake.
4. To implement disaster risk management training programme on local level.
5. To include DRR training programme in schools by the UNICEF.
6. Within the framework of the EU “Man-made and natural disasters prevention, preparedness and response in the eastern territory” (PPRD East) project, experts discussed possible methods of risk assessment, issues on creating a regional risk map, exchange of experts that would allow having the most efficient risk management process

Section 3: Priority for action 1

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 1

National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is disaster risk taken into account in public investment and planning decisions?

Yes

National development plan	Yes
Sector strategies and plans	Yes
Climate change policy and strategy	Yes
Poverty reduction strategy papers	Yes
CCA/ UNDAF (Common Country Assessment/ UN Development Assistance Framework)	Yes
Civil defence policy, strategy and contingency planning	Yes

Have legislative and/or regulatory provisions been made for managing disaster risk? Yes

Description:

DRR strategy is the basis for integration of DRR processes into development programmes and plans on national, regional and local levels.

Led by the HFA regional focal points, 10 regional DRR teams have been established to ensure the effective implementation of the DRR strategy. Local level risk management modules for the implementation of the DRR strategy were piloted in 40 communities that will

serve as basis for integration of DRR processes into local level development plans.
 - RA Government decree dated March 7, 2012, "On Approving the DRR National Strategy and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the DRR National Strategy."". DRR National Strategy is the basis for integration of DRR in development programmes and plans at all levels (national, regional, local).

Ten DRR regional teams have been formed led by the HFA focal points to ensure effective implementation of the DRR strategy.

- RA Government decree dated March 7, 2012, "On Integration of Seismic Risk Reduction Measures in Regional Development Programmes" which will include long-term development plans, seismic vulnerability mitigation measures ranging from educational programmes, public awareness to the seismic construction.

- RA Government decree dated August 18, 2011, "On Monitoring in Man-made Contaminated Lands".

Context & Constraints:

Unfortunately, resources are mainly directed to the elimination of the consequences of disasters. The fact, that disaster risk reduction and management costs will be less if risk areas and infrastructure development projects are considered, is not taken into account. These positions determine the level of progress.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 2

Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

What is the ratio of the budget allocation to risk reduction versus disaster relief and reconstruction?

	Risk reduction / prevention (%)	Relief and reconstruction (%)
National budget	80	20
Decentralised / sub-national budget	80	20

USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)	
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Description:

Arrangements made with the Ministry of Economy to include DRR into any plan provided to the MoE for final approval. The latter implies amendments in the legal framework. There is no specific allocation for DRR in the state budget; thus, given the availability of the DRR strategy, integration of DRR into sectoral development is being discussed with the Government that would enable making DRR an indispensable and essential part of development without amendments in the legal framework and additional expenses.

Context & Constraints:

In assessing the level of risk assessment, we should take into account the fact that to some extent progress in institutional commitments has been achieved; however, these achievements are not complete due to lack of resources and potential limitations.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 3

Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do local governments have legal responsibility and regular / systematic budget allocations for DRR? Yes

Legislation (Is there a specific legislation for local governments with a mandate for DRR?)	Yes
Regular budget allocations for DRR to local government	No
Estimated % of local budget allocation assigned to DRR	0.45

Description:

Local, municipal and community bodies bear the responsibility for DRR; however, specific budgetary funds are not allocated. Communities have reserve funds in their budgets that may be used for DRR in case of need. Taking into consideration the insufficiency of financial resources, regional large-scale tasks, as a rule, are planned for stage by stage implementation. In case of acute necessity for the elimination of the consequences of hazardous processes, funds are allocated from the reserve fund based on a Government decision.

Context & Constraints:

National administrative structures and partner institutional organizations operate on the basis of special contract obligations based on the intentions that join 14 professional organizations, which participate in the process of the solution of DRR issues depending on the origin of the hazardous process.

The DRR National Platform and the UNDP have initiated a discussion aimed at integration of the DRR into 4 year development plans of communities on sectoral basis. This means that sectoral budget allocations may be used for DRR, and risks will be accounted for in the development process.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 4

A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are civil society organizations, national finance and planning institutions, key economic and development sector organizations represented in the national platform? Yes

Civil society members (specify absolute number)	0
National finance and planning institutions (specify absolute number)	13
Sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)	8
Private sector (specify absolute number)	0
Science and academic institutions (specify absolute number)	0
Women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)	1
Other (please specify)	9

Where is the coordinating lead institution for disaster risk reduction located?

In the Prime Minister's/President's Office	No
In a central planning and/or coordinating unit	No
In a civil protection department	Yes
In an environmental planning ministry	No
In the Ministry of Finance	No
Other (Please specify)	MES RA

Description:

The DRR National Strategy, DRR National Disaster Observatory, regional risk certificate, interagency contingency plan, etc. were elaborated within the DRR National Platform on a participatory basis involving all the stakeholders. Relevant thematic working groups were established within the National Platform.

With the initiative of the relevant thematic group, the process on comparison and adjustment of disaster response national standards to the international ones (SPHERE) is underway. The main goal of the DRR regional teams is to assist DRR strategy implementation on regional and local levels

Context & Constraints:

- Lack of financial means.
- Assessment of risk complex mechanisms, need for methodological improvement.

Section 4: Priority for action 2

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 1

National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment with a common methodology available to inform planning and development decisions? Yes

Multi-hazard risk assessment	No
% of schools and hospitals assessed	60
Schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)	15
Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments	No
Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments	No
Risk assessment held by a central repository (lead institution)	No
Common format for risk assessment	No
Risk assessment format customised by user	No
Is future/probable risk assessed?	No
Please list the sectors that have already used disaster risk assessment as a precondition for sectoral development planning and programming.	-- not complete --

Description:

Periodic monitoring and data collection of all regional and local elements that reflect the operative situation of main risks and vulnerability of the environment.

Population early warning system functions in some areas; however but activities on the expansion of the system are being continued. Nevertheless, it should be noted that there is a considerable progress in this area.

National, regional and local risk assessment includes regional cooperation in risk prevention or reduction.

Context & Constraints:

Taking into account the above mentioned "Basic indicators" progress, it is worth noting that the main difficulties in state agencies and other organizations are connected with assessing damages, according to the degree of risk in different areas zoning map scale (1:10,000 M, 1:5000, 1:2500, 1:2000, 1:1000). The level of the progress allows solving the issue of the methodology for assessment of damage caused by natural and man-made disasters.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 2

Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are disaster losses and hazards systematically reported, monitored and analyzed? Yes

Disaster loss databases exist and are regularly updated	Yes
Reports generated and used in planning by finance, planning and sectoral line ministries (from the disaster databases/ information systems)	Yes
Hazards are consistently monitored across localities and territorial boundaries	Yes

Description:

Complex risk assessment allows making more rational planning and development decisions. In this sense, introduction of the "911" service promotes effective monitoring and establishment of database that enables more accurate predictions, analysis and consideration of the latter in future planning.

Context & Constraints:

Complex assessment of inter-related processes and risk management are one of the important tasks of the country.

It is worth mentioning that negative risk assessment is conducted almost everywhere in the country for both natural and man-made hazards.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 3

Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events? Yes

Early warnings acted on effectively	No
Local level preparedness	No
Communication systems and protocols used and applied	No
Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination	Yes

Description:

Public awareness is mainly reached by the mass media- TV and radio. www.mes.am website of the Ministry of Emergency Situations is always online and is accessible to everyone. A new project is underway as a result of which a system will be established that will inform the population about earthquakes by a partly automatic regime through short messages. In some areas of the country, a centralized early warning system is functioning.

Context & Constraints:

Unfortunately, there is no centralized system for public awareness. Public awareness is raised through the mass media.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 4

National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional actions to reduce disaster risk? Yes

Establishing and maintaining regional hazard monitoring	No
Regional or sub-regional risk assessment	No
Regional or sub-regional early warning	No
Establishing and implementing protocols for transboundary information sharing	Yes
Establishing and resourcing regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks	No

Description:

Cooperation among CSTO member countries and within the PPRD East programme is in place. Within the CSTO member countries, activities on introduction of disaster information sharing system are underway.

Context & Constraints:

At present, regional and transboundary joint solutions for disaster risk mitigation problems are impossible due to the absence of diplomatic relations with Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Section 5: Priority for action 3

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 1

Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there a national disaster information system publicly available? Yes

Information is proactively disseminated	No
Established mechanisms for access / dissemination (internet, public information broadcasts - radio, TV,)	Yes
Information is provided with proactive guidance to manage disaster risk	No

Description:

Public is being informed about implemented activities by “Emergency newspaper”, “9-11” programme and by other projects implemented by international organizations. In 2011, the Crisis Management State Academy (CMSA) of RA MES, in cooperation with the UNICEF, implemented a programme within which books on disaster risk reduction for pre-school, elementary and middle schools and manuals for teachers were published and distributed in 3 regional educational institutions. CMSA conducts trainings for 2000 participants annually, from which 300 are specialists and fire-fighter-rescuers of the RA MES system and the other 1700 are leaders and specialists of other Ministries, Regional administrations, local self-government bodies, as well as other organizations. The Academy also has students. In cooperation with the MES, the national observatory was established aimed at collection, analysis and distribution of information to all stakeholders. The distribution of information is designed to be implemented in 3 directions:

- Open information available to everyone at www.mes.am website
- Information for specialists who can access is by a special coded system
- Confidential information.

In connection with observatory, a database has been established that also includes historical disasters and geo-information maps (GIS) of hazards.

Context & Constraints:

Completed work is not enough.

Investments are made not in all age groups in school system yet; training on structural risks of schools and continuity of education in emergency situations, as well as other issues are not taken into account in disaster risk reduction curricula.

The training base of RA MES system is in a serious need of repair and reconstruction. The difficulties and challenges are mainly related to financial, economic and other material resource restrictions.

Taking into consideration ongoing developments and reforms the RA MES, the observatory doesn't work at this moment, despite the fact, that with the order of the MES Minister, it is a part of the CMC. The main issue is that risk maps are being developed based on the hazard maps by the completion of which the observatory will provide information according to established procedures.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 2

School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum? Yes

Primary school curriculum	Yes
Secondary school curriculum	Yes
University curriculum	Yes
Professional DRR education programmes	Yes

Description:

Within the Platform, in cooperation with of the CMSA of the RA MES and the UN children's fund, a number of training manuals and methodological materials were developed and published which were included in educational programmes. Details are provided in the CMSA report.

Context & Constraints:

Lack of funds to organize and conduct field studies and to provide necessary quantity of manuals.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 3

Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget? -- not complete --

Research programmes and projects	No
Research outputs, products or studies are applied / used by public and private institutions	No
Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR	No

Description:

Within the DRR National Platform, the adapted LLRM methodology and “Community risk certificate” were shared among all stakeholders. These materials are the complete documents of rural communities, which give an opportunity to identify the risks that threaten the community and include the management of the latter into community development plans. “Community risk certificate” were submitted to the MES and the Ministry of Territorial Administration to integrate into community development planning formats.

Context & Constraints:

Lack of a coordinating body for disaster risk reduction planning, analysis and coordination of activities.

Insufficient level of cooperation in information

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 4

Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do public education campaigns for risk-prone communities and local authorities include disaster risk? Yes

Public education campaigns for enhanced awareness of risk.	Yes
Training of local government	Yes
Disaster management (preparedness and emergency response)	Yes
Preventative risk management (risk and vulnerability)	Yes
Guidance for risk reduction	Yes
Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level	Yes

Description:

According to the list approved by the Head of the Regional Administration, the local self-government employees are trained in the CMSA of the Rescue Service on annual basis. Within of the DRR national platform and in cooperation with all DRR stakeholders, a special training package for integration of risk management on local level was developed, discussed and approved. The package was published in 1000 copies and shared among 915 communities, 10 DRR regional teams and other DRR stakeholders. The training package will be available not only for the community leaders but also for the population. On October 13, in honour of the International Day for Disaster Prevention, the idea of a month's campaign was presented and approved to be implemented by all DRR stakeholders and DRR regional teams within which various activities were conducted (various educational competitions, exhibitions, meetings, etc.). The main aim of the campaign was to raise the public awareness on DRR. . In this regard, the DRR Project Coordinator together with the DRR Advisor gave an interview on ARMNEWS TV channel introducing DRR achievements, UNDP role in this field, successful cooperation between UNDP, the Armenian Government and other DRR players as well as presenting further possible developments.

Context & Constraints:

Due to lack of funds, it is impossible to organize such measures on a more frequent basis.

Section 6: Priority for action 4

Reduce the underlying risk factors

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 1

Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc) Yes

Protected areas legislation	Yes
Payment for ecosystem services (PES)	Yes
Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)	Yes
Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)	Yes
Climate change adaptation projects and programmes	Yes

Description:

There is an appropriate legislation in place and various projects are being implemented by local and international organizations aimed at risk reduction and adaptation of climate change. In particular:

- The seismic risk assessment plan of Yerevan city was developed with JICA;
- A landslide disaster management planning programme has been developed by the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the RA in anticipation of a long-term cooperation with JICA; in cooperation with OSCE, the “Forest Fires Management in South Caucasus” project is being implemented. The “Forest Fire Monitoring and Forecasting” national standards have been developed.
- Together with SDC, a “Creation of Regional Search and Rescue Teams” project is being implemented, as a result of which 3 average rescue teams will be established based on INSARAG standards.
- Within the PPRD East programme, regional risk atlas will be developed.
- A significant part of the territory of Armenia is on a high-risk hail zone. In 2012, with the

initiative of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the RA, in three regions modern 35 anti-hail stations of domestic production were installed of which 9 are portable.

In 2012 compared to 2011, about 3500 hectares of protected areas have increased with 29% economic growth.

Based on hydro-meteorological forecasts and results of analysis of height of snow fall, drastic increase in air temperature, rain regimes and other data, regimes of river floods are forecasted and mitigation measures are taken up in flood-prone areas.

- By the Government recommendation, the Ministry of Emergency Situations has developed a landslide disaster management concept where landslide disasters are being coordinated by the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the RA. A significant role in the mentioned area will also have the Ministries of Territorial Administration, Urban Development, Transport and Communication, Energy and Natural Resources, and Nature Protection.

Context & Constraints:

The legislation exists though the realization mechanisms are not sufficiently developed. There is a need of education and training of appropriate specialists. In connection with the DRR strategy implementation, there is a need of legislative review in the appropriate field.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 2

Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities? Yes

Crop and property insurance	No
Temporary employment guarantee schemes	Yes
Conditional and unconditional cash transfers	No
Micro finance (savings, loans, etc.)	Yes
Micro insurance	No

Description:

Integration of disaster risk reduction in poverty reduction and welfare increasing plans and strategies.

In sustainable development programmes and plans, disaster risk reduction is included based on the following considerations:

1. The following requirements based on the National Security Strategy:

To increase life security and standards of living

- Preservation of Agricultural Lands
- To inhibit migration of border communities

2. 5 priority actions of the Hyogo framework:

Based on the above, a number of legal acts have been developed, in particular:

- RA Government Decree dated February 9, 2012 “On Approving a Programme and Implementation Timetable for Seismic Vulnerability Assessment of Critical Facilities in Yerevan-city” based on which seismic reinforcement priorities of the mentioned facilities have been developed. RA Government Decree dated June 10, 2012 “On Approving the Plan for Population Protection in Case of Major Earthquake” where tasks of all players – ministries, state bodies, as well as the Committee of the MES-are reflected.

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- -RA Government Decree dated August 18, 2011 “On Approving the Regulation on Population Evacuation From Hazardous Areas” was adopted (amended) which clarifies functions of the local self-government bodies and evacuation committees, and issues related to population evacuation, relocation and living conditions.

- RA Government Decree dated August 11, 2011 “On Approving a Programme on Compiling a new 1:500,000 Scale Seismic Hazard Map with Probabilistic Estimate for the Territory of RA” was adopted.

Context & Constraints:

Lack of a disaster risk state insurance institute. Mechanisms for obligatory disaster insurance are not developed.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 3

Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment? Yes

National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.

Yes

Please provide specific examples: e.g. public infrastructure, transport and communication, economic and productive assets

As risk mitigation investment projects, the Government funds development of regional socio-economic medium-term development plans that reflect long-term developments of communities and regions, community risks, and preventive measures taken up by government

Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

Yes

Description:

Regional infrastructure reconstruction investments include schools and hospitals, as well as apartment buildings, roads, irrigation and drinking water systems. Disaster risk reduction also includes the strategy for poverty reduction and increasing the level of well-being.

Context & Constraints:

Due to financial shortage, it is impossible to fully include all these areas; thus, the process is carried out in phases.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 4

Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements? Yes

Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas

Yes

Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas

No

Training of masons on safe construction technology

Yes

Provision of safe land and housing for low income households and communities No

Risk sensitive regulation in land zoning and private real estate development Yes

Regulated provision of land titling No

Description:

Community newsletters provide all the information on community risks mitigation measures of which are step-by-step included in development, short-term and medium-term plans.

Context & Constraints:

In case of loss of apartments, compensation calculation methods only include residential areas without the values of residential lands and adjacent constructions.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 5

Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do post-disaster programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR for resilient recovery? Yes

% of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR 20

DRR capacities of local authorities for response and recovery strengthened No

Risk assessment undertaken in pre- and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction planning Yes

Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery Yes

Description:

Each year funds are allocated in the state budget for taking up measures for seismic resilience of buildings and protection of shores of Araks River.

Context & Constraints:

Planned financial contributions are often delayed.
“Marmarik” reservoir reconstruction is delayed.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 6

Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are the impacts of disaster risk that are created by major development projects assessed? Yes

Are cost/benefits of disaster risk taken into account in the design and operation of major development projects? Yes

Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)	Yes
By national and sub-national authorities and institutions	Yes
By international development actors	Yes

Description:

Yes, assessment of disaster risk impact on major development projects is carried out, but with varying completeness and potential and resource limitations.

The practice of disaster risk impact assessment of the last decade shows that large-scale projects are connected with the most dangerous and frequent natural and man-made disasters.

Context & Constraints:

The disaster risk assessment complex programme is missing, as well as common approaches for prioritization of development of plans and programmes.

Section 7: Priority for action 5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 1

Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are there national programmes or policies for disaster preparedness, contingency planning and response? Yes

DRR incorporated in these programmes and policies	Yes
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The institutional mechanisms exist for the rapid mobilisation of resources in a disaster, utilising civil society and the private sector; in addition to public sector support.	Yes
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Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies? Yes

Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety	Yes
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Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness	Yes
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Are future disaster risks anticipated through scenario development and aligned preparedness planning? Yes

Potential risk scenarios are developed taking into account climate change projections	Yes
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Preparedness plans are regularly updated based on future risk scenarios	Yes
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Description:

Great attention is paid to the provision of information in case of an emergency or threat, as well as the analysis of previously held similar emergency.

Level of disaster preparedness is a basic for a more effective organization of the response process, as well as reduction of the damage caused by disasters.

Context & Constraints:

We should focus on the priority for an obligatory responsibility for all the segments of the society dividing the functions among responsible ministries and agencies.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 2

Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster? Yes

Plans and programmes are developed with gender sensitivities	Yes
Risk management/contingency plans for continued basic service delivery	Yes
Operations and communications centre	Yes
Search and rescue teams	Yes
Stockpiles of relief supplies	Yes
Shelters	Yes
Secure medical facilities	Yes
Dedicated provision for disabled and elderly in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities	Yes
Businesses are a proactive partner in	Yes

Description:

Emergency action plans are functional at different levels. The Ministry of Emergency Situations organizes staff and field simulation exercises on regular basis related to behaviour during emergencies and risk management.

Republican and national plans are approved by government decisions, particularly:

1. Population protection plan in case of a strong earthquake;
2. National plan for population protection in case of nuclear and/or radiological accidents of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant;
3. Population protection plan in case of an accident in chemical facilities in the Republic of Armenia or chemical hazards, and recovery action plan in case of an accident in chemically hazardous facilities.

There are contingency plans at regional levels where population protection measures are presented based on the emergencies threatening the region. These plans are approved by the decisions of Heads of Regional Administrations. All of these plans are agreed with the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

Context & Constraints:

Issues relating to living standards and provision of temporary shelters are not yet developed to a sufficient level.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 3

Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster? Yes

National contingency and calamity funds	Yes
The reduction of future risk is considered in the use of calamity funds	No
Insurance and reinsurance facilities	No
Catastrophe bonds and other capital market mechanisms	No

Description:

Timely allocation of necessary resources for provision of living conditions for the affected protection and recovery from disasters is of a great importance; however, issues related to the accumulation of resources and targeted use are not yet worked out to a sufficient level. There are some mechanisms in place for resource allocation in case of major disasters. .

Context & Constraints:

Lack of institutional insurance organizations in case of disasters.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 4

Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur? Yes

Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available	No
Post-disaster need assessment methodologies	Yes
Post-disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects	Yes
Identified and trained human resources	Yes

Description:

Damage assessment criteria are under development.
. CMSA conducts trainings for 2000 participants annually, from which 300 are specialists and fire-fighter-rescuers of the RA MES system and the other 1700 are heads and specialists of other Ministries, Regional administrations, local self-government bodies, as well as other organizations. The Academy also has students.

Context & Constraints:

It is necessary to continue working towards establishment of a reserve fund.

Section 8: Drivers of Progress

a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?: Yes

If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

It is necessary to take measures towards mitigation of and reduction of the effects of floods and landslides. With the community efforts, some activities are being implemented in this field, but the results are or sufficient yet due to lack of financial means.

b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Is gender disaggregated data available and being applied to decision-making for risk reduction and recovery activities?: Yes

Do gender concerns inform policy and programme conceptualisation and implementation in a meaningful and appropriate way?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Gender information exists; however, it is not always considered in the DRR decisions. Gender issues are considered only partially in strategic and practical sectors. In order to solve the problem, the Government has approved the strategic plan for 2011-2015 and annual action plan of 2011 for gender policy, namely:

1. the annual action plan for the gender policy 2011, and

2. The strategic plan 2011-2015 of the gender policy was approved.

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Do responsible designated agencies, institutions and offices at the local level have capacities for the enforcement of risk reduction regulations?:
Yes

Are local institutions, village committees, communities, volunteers or urban resident welfare associations properly trained for response?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Additional forces will be needed in coming years and special attention to be paid to reconstruction of shelters and protective structures, as well as allocate funds for procurement of personal protection means. Therefore, new financial investments are needed.

d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Do programmes take account of socio-environmental risks to the most vulnerable and marginalised groups?: Yes

Are appropriate social protection measures / safety nets that safeguard against their specific socioeconomic and political vulnerabilities being adequately implemented?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

There is a developed plan/ strategy for solving this kind of problems. No actions are taken in the field of strategy and practice; there is no full-pledged participation by main parties. The regional population protection programme is designed in accordance with existing legislative and normative documents. Permanent Regional Emergency Committee has been set up. Population protection service was established both for regions and communities, based on which comprehensive public protection may be realized. Personnel are sufficient for provision of services; however, for wide protection measures, food, technical resources, equipment and other means are needed.

e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Are there identified means and sources to convey local and community experience or traditional knowledge in disaster risk reduction?: Yes

If so, are they being integrated within local, sub-national and national disaster risk reduction plans and activities in a meaningful way?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

The leading staff communities are aware of the situation and can make justified decisions in difficult situations. However, due to the inactive population, it is very difficult to involve the latter in rescue works. There is a lack of necessary human and technical resources in communities.

There is cooperation among non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the public at all levels. There are results in implementing sufficient and ongoing strategic actions - stakeholders involved in the process.

Contextual Drivers of Progress

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Surveys, implementation of programme activities and monitoring of potential sources of natural and man-made disasters are conducted.

In the coming years, additional efforts will be needed to implement comprehensive measures aimed at reducing natural disaster risks.

Section 9: Future Outlook

Future Outlook Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Overall Challenges:

- More effective integration of DRR processes into sustainable development policies, plans and programmes.
- Based on DRR strategy and common methodology for risk assessment at local level, promote the involvement of these processes in state and community development programmes.
- Further capacity development of the National Platform.

Future Outlook Statement:

- To involve the community, the society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in DRR national platform.
- To strengthen the DRR foundation
- To establish an insurance institution against emergencies
- Attracting foreign investors into insurance system

Future Outlook Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Overall Challenges:

-
- To inform the public on the DRR programmes and projects.
- Formation of an institute for involvement of the population in solving DRR issues.
- To support capacity building of DRR regional teams for capacity building in the context of the DRR national strategy implementation
- To develop decision-making capabilities in communities for the effective management of DRR problems

Future Outlook Statement:

To educate the population on the DRR methods and implementation.

Future Outlook Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Overall Challenges:

Organize emergency monitoring.

Based on the monitoring results, to develop and implement preparedness and response projects. on

Future Outlook Statement:

Raising the level of preparedness of emergency response force.

Planning and implementation of DRR measures.

Improvement of republican emergency monitoring system in the context of DRR.

Improvement of inter-agency cooperation in the context offer.

Future Outlook Area 4

The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/199, requested the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. A first outline will be developed for the next Global Platform in 2013, and a draft should be finalized towards the end of 2014 to be ready for consideration and adoption at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015

Please identify what you would consider to be the single most important element of the post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2025).:

Increase state budget allocations for DRR and adapt to the percentage ratio of accepted in leading countries.

Building a relevant living culture among the population in disaster-prone communities starting from kindergartens.

Section 10: Stakeholders

Organizations, departments, and institutions that have contributed to the report

Organization	Type	Focal Point
Department of organizing public defence and elimination of the consequences of disasters	Gov	Chief, Colonel H. Yemishyan
RA Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Territorial Administration, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Labour	Gov	n/a
Rescue Service (RS) of Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) of RA (Republic of Armenia)	Gov	Director, Major-General S. Azaryan