**Summary Report
Post HFA Consultation in India
31ˢᵗ January 2013, New Delhi, India**

Summary of key points of the national (regional) consultations on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the opinion of the majority

The participants during the course of the four regional consultations discussed about scope of HFA after 2015 and provided recommendation for the post HFA roadmap. Recommendation provided ranged from converting the HFA in to a global law to continue to pursue the framework with some additions and modifications. The following part of the section summarizes the post HFA roadmap recommendations made by the participation:

Establish Global Law for Bio-diversity, Environment, Climate Change, Sustainability and Development: Some participants strongly recommended for establishing a Global Law related to bio-diversity, environment, climate change, sustainability and development on the lines of HFA. This would provide the necessary legal mandate, promote countries to plan and implement actions to prevent environment degradation & damage and contribute to safety of communities from disasters. Accordingly, the post HFA roadmap needs to evolve an action plan to advocate and formulate such law. As a part of the future roadmap, governments of countries who adopted the HFA should work along with the civil society organizations from their countries to formulate this international law, which should be adopted by the countries who adopted the HFA.

Integrate HFA with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Sustainable Development Agenda (SDA): Some participants strongly advocated for merger of HFA objectives with the MDGs and sustainable development agenda. They felt that this would be prudent because there is a greater acceptance of MDGs & Sustainable Development Agenda among different countries attracting significant financial allocations combined with effective implementation strategies. Integrating HFA with the MDGs and the SDA will not only help in having greater financial allocations but will also help in integration of DRR with various development agendas, which would be a step in appropriate direction.

Integrate HFA into suitable UN Conventions: As a part of the post HFA roadmap, suitable UN conventions need to be identified and the HFA integrated in to these conventions. This will ensure application and sustainability of efforts to realize the HFA objectives.

Formulate Regional and National Framework: The recommendations clarified that the every member country need to formulate a customized national framework based on the vision of the HFA to achieve vulnerability reduction. Similarly there should also be regional plans for a group of countries facing common hazards and vulnerabilities. Such regional frameworks also need to ensure arrangements for cooperation and collaboration among countries which are part of the regional plan. Both the national and regional frameworks need to have quantifiable targets with strong monitoring framework, legal accountability, and ensure strengthening institutional mechanism at different levels for effective implementation, tracking, monitoring and reporting of activities. Based on regular assessments the plans need to undertake required modification to address emerging issues or those issues which were left out.

Focus on promoting governance and political mainstreaming to build resilience: The participants felt that risk & vulnerability reduction requires going beyond managerial actions. The post HFA roadmap needs to focus on mainstreaming philosophy of risk reduction in to governance and political spheres. Comprehensive solutions to issues related to risk reduction could be realized when the governance becomes sensitive, and when risk reduction becomes a part of the country's political agenda. Hence, the post HFA roadmap needs to focus on ways and means to make the risk reduction as a part of the governance and political agenda.

Quality of life indicators: Some participants pointed out that the HFA objectives are designed to ensure appropriate quality of life to communities. In line with this, in the post HFA period, the roadmap need to formulate a framework to present concepts of quality of life, evolve set of indicators that could track its progress, and ensure government actions that enhance quality of life of communities.

Focus on climate change, its effects and other emerging disasters: The participants pointed out that the climate change and its effects are fast becoming reality threatening lives, livelihoods, and assets of many communities. Due to the potential threat the climate change poses to communities, the post HFA roadmap should address issues related to climate change and propose solutions to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation. Urban risk reduction should be an integral part of this approach, as a large number of households living in urban locations are vulnerable to climate change threatening their physical and livelihood security. Similarly, climate change poses significant threat to agriculture sector critical to rural economies and food security. Necessary adaptive solutions need to be evolved to sustain food production and ensure food security. Such issues could become part of the post HFA roadmap.

Apart from climate change, there are a number of emerging issues, such as potential risk from nuclear power plants, displacement of farming communities due to land acquisition, infrastructure development in ecologically sensitive areas etc. These issues could enhance risk to humanity and may result in damaging disasters. As a part of the post HFA roadmap, such emerging issues need to be studied and understood to develop clarity and approaches which could contribute to risk mitigation in these emerging domains.

Focus on social vulnerability: Some participants felt that the HFA in the current form has neglected addressing issues related to social vulnerability. Serious efforts related to addressing social vulnerability are yet to take off and this remains as an area of weakness. Therefore as a part of the post HFA roadmap, issues related to social vulnerability should be brought to center stage. In line with this, strategies and actions to address social vulnerability need to be pursued as a part of the roadmap.

Focus on urban risk reduction: Damage to urban areas could be very dangerous as they could cause large extent of life, physical and economic losses. To mitigate such losses, the post HFA roadmap needs to focus on understanding urban risk and evolve appropriate strategies. In line with this the participants recommended for formulation of framework that could clarify urban risk reduction strategies & approaches and promote them among various stakeholders.

Developing skills for formulation of appropriate development plans: The participants said that, ill designed and ineffectively implemented development plans contribute to enhancing risk. Development plans that prevent such risk enhancement are a current need. Therefore the post HFA roadmap need to focus on strengthening capacities that could help in designing appropriate development plans which could also reduce disaster risk.

Continue to follow current approach with modifications: The participants felt that the current HFA approach is an effective tool and it provides sound directions and hence the framework should be followed beyond 2015. The recommendation for continuity was also based on the observation that the objectives detailed under the HFA are yet to be achieved, and it is difficult to achieve them comprehensively by 2015. While recommending continuity of the HFA beyond 2015, the participants recommended certain additions & modifications which are discussed below:

- The post HFA approach needs to accept the caste based vulnerabilities as a risk factor contributing enhancing disaster vulnerability. Participants said that such caste based vulnerabilities are preventing certain communities from accessing benefits from government social protection programmes and disaster preparedness initiatives. In order to address this issue comprehensively, there is a need to recognize caste based vulnerabilities as a risk factor and including its references in the preamble or reflect it as a separate priority.
- The participants recommended that priority 'I' should be reworded as, "Institutionalization of DRR at national and local level with policies, institutional mechanism and plans for implementation". By doing this the priority one will also emphasize on having adequate plans at national level along with institutional mechanism. The priority 'I' should also provide clarification about roles and responsibilities of officials at different levels, especially at local level for ensuring implementation of DRR approach.
- The participants also felt that the priority II be reworded as, "Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning systems for safe evacuation and response management". With this change the priority II will be able to emphasize on effective safe evacuation.
- Current approach does not focus on small and medium scale disasters which affect communities though in smaller numbers but as harshly as larger disasters. Hence the post HFA Roadmap needs to incorporate action plan to address smaller and medium scale disasters.
- The approach need to incorporate a strong monitoring mechanism at all levels to track progress of various actions which are required to achieve comprehensive DRR and the post HFA road map needs to include such a monitoring mechanism.
- The approach need to focus on mainstreaming DRR education in to all streams of higher education, emphasize on knowledge & network platforms, and issue guidelines for multi stakeholder participation in coordination mechanism.
- Post HFA roadmap need to include strategies for replication, adaptation, and recognize indigenous & traditional knowledge, skills & practices. These elements need to be included to the framework and its application and scope needs to be clarified.
- Post HFA roadmap need to include specific strategies to enhance skills for creating and maintaining necessary data which could be used to formulate disaster risk reduction efforts.

Introduction of the national consultation, including meeting title, venue, and date in addition to objectives, participation and consultation methods

The Government of India had earlier proposed to organize the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) in February, 2013 in New Delhi. It was proposed to organize a pre-event to deliberate on post Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) roadmap. It is in this context that UNDP organized four consultations covering different regions of India, to interact and understand the opinion of non-governmental actors including Academia, NGOs, civil society and community-based organizations. The 'Consultation on Roadmap for DRR beyond HFA' was held in four different locations;

- Northern India regional stakeholders' workshop on 30th October, 2012 at Chandigarh, covering participants from the states of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Rajasthan.
- Southern and Western India stakeholders' workshop on 2nd November at Pune covering participants from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.
- North-eastern India stakeholders' workshop on 27th November at Guwahati covering participants from the states of Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.
- Eastern India stakeholders' workshop on 29 November at Kolkota covering participants from the states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, UP, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa.

Objectives of the regional consultations

The consultations were specifically expected to achieve the following objectives:
- To undertake a critical analysis of the progress achieved so far in implementing various priority areas of HFA by the nongovernmental actors. (specifically, NGOs, CSOs and Academia)
- To stimulate a focused discussion on post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework with select stakeholders including NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and Academia.
- To identify a set of concrete suggestions for developing the post HFA roadmap for India which will be subsequently shared with the National Government for appropriate policy level actions.

Consultation methods

The regional consultations started with a welcome note followed by a presentation on background and purpose of the workshop by UNDP. This was followed by a presentation introducing HFA (including the indicators used to report progress under each of the priority areas and details of activities reported by the Government of India towards realizing HFA objectives. In the remaining part of the workshops, the NGOs presented their opinions about actions reported by the government, narrated their efforts, discussed current DRR context in India and provided recommendations for post HFA roadmap.

During the consultations, each priority area was devoted to building an understanding of the HFA priorities, 'What the Civil Society has achieved'; 'What they think could be done & challenges' and 'what could be included in the post HFA Agenda' through open discussions and interactive 'question and answer' exercises followed by writing suggestions on colored cards.

Simultaneously a query on the subject was posted through Solution Exchange (SOLEX) Knowledge Network to further deliberate among a wide range of DM practitioners on various issues raised during these regional consultations.

Summary of group discussions of each question given; the summary should reflect the essence of the group discussions, but not a particular individual opinion.

During the consultations, the participants collectively agreed to the fact that future actions in India need to address DRR issues aggressively and also address challenges of emerging disasters and climate change. The key points that emerged during the discussions from four regional consultations are presented below.

- **Institutional development approach and capacities:** The participants felt that, the current institutional development process is a step in the right direction but has certain gaps. To begin with, it is highly centralized and gradually weakens as it reaches the communities and does not adequately understand & appreciate the context at the community level. Current institutional mechanism also does not engage civil society in a sustained manner to strengthen planning. There is knowledge & skill gap in institutions at district & block level, at local governing bodies (PRIs) level and in the field based NGOs. Lack of coordination within and among various departments further aggravates the situation, and cumulatively these deficiencies are manifested as ineffective institutional approaches and weak capacities for preparing effective micro level plans and integrating such micro plans into larger plans.
- There needs to be a presence of a strong DRR institutional mechanism at the community level in the form of knowledgeable, skilled and empowered local governing bodies (PRIs) with financial authority and with a strong communication link with policy makers at higher level. The 73rd and 74th amendment should be appropriately amended to facilitate this process.
- The participants mentioned that there is no systematic approach to training and capacity building currently. To address challenges in this sphere, and to address capacity building gaps at different levels, the country needs to articulate a comprehensive training and capacity development strategy with emphasis on training people at the community level. The country needs to have a suitable capacity building strategy for all the government officers, civil society actors and community members.
- NGOs recommended the need to promote collaborations through multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platforms and facilitate effective linkages. For effective implementation of actions, collaboration of key stakeholders at all levels of governance is needed. To pursue this, multi-sectoral platforms should be established from local to national level. Similarly, there should be platforms for convergence of different government departments with identified agencies to coordinate sectoral actions.
- **Inadequate database:** Inadequate availability of useful data is another significant challenge. The NGOs felt that comprehensive and disaggregated data on various social, demographic, institutional parameters and gender groups is not available in public domains. Similarly, database on professionals, vendors, volunteers and organizations working on various issues related to DRR are not systematically stored and accessible for decision making purposes.
- **Exclusion:** The participants felt that in the current social context, certain communities are excluded from development processes and continue to get marginalized. Lack of sensitivity by officials aggravates this context and poses a severe challenge in realizing DRR objectives. The participants felt that strong laws need to be enacted and officers should be trained to be unbiased to promote inclusion of marginalized caste groups in the DRR process
- **Community level vulnerability analysis, micro planning, building codes and urban risk:** The participants expressed that there is inadequate focus on community level vulnerability

analysis, micro planning, formulation and enforcement of building codes even in urban locations resulting in large extent of unsafe and unplanned construction

- The participants felt that Urban Disasters are becoming a growing cause of concern due to large population which is exposed to urban risks. Impact of climate change and concerns emerging out of such change especially related to emerging health hazards (which are already being noticed) are another set of concerns in urban areas. Similarly, complexity of governance and multiplicity of agencies leading to lack of coordination are additional causes of worry.

- The recommendation to address above challenge came as a need to change from current focus on macro level vulnerability & risk analysis to community level hazard, risk and vulnerability analysis (HRVA). Such analysis should be considered and integrated in to macro plans for reducing vulnerabilities, to implement mitigation- measures to decrease vulnerability at local level.

- **Early Warning Communication and Last Mile Connectivity:** The early warning communications are heavily information-centric but not sufficiently actionable. There are issues involving last mile connectivity as the warning fails to reach many remote geographical locations and communities adequately. To address issues in this domain, early warning system should be seen as end-to-end system starting with collecting information for generating warning and ending with action on ground & providing adequate feedback.

- The participants recommended development of hazard based strategies and regional strategies & solutions to address risks. Such regional & hazard based strategies need to be formulated for various geographies whether they are contiguous or not.

- There is a strong indigenous information and knowledge available among the communities which could be used for effective DRR approaches. There is a need to combine traditional knowledge & skills with technological innovations to create appropriate technological solutions wherever required.

- **Lack of political will and interference:** The NGOs felt that there is lack of political will to engage with issues related to risk reduction, and these issues are far from entering in to domain of political debate. In addition, during the relief and rehabilitation phase there is a lot of political interference even in the activities involving NGOs. In order to address challenges in this area, political leadership should demonstrate abilities to engage with issues related to DRR comprehensively and make it a part of the political agenda.

- **Acute Poverty, fragile livelihoods and lack of risk transfer mechanisms:** Acute poverty is one of the major causes of worry, and the participants felt that it needs to be considered both as a risk and disaster. Acute poverty is due to lack of access to diversified livelihoods, and inability of certain sections of the society to participate in development process. Lack of focus or a dedicated project to identify deficiencies and address process of exclusion adequately aggravates the issue.

- Apart from addressing issues related to poverty comprehensively, the participants recommended that appropriate risk transfer mechanisms should be available to the communities to protect assets and incomes from disasters and climate change.

- **Lack of ownership by business and industry:** The participants flagged significant gaps and challenges such as lack of DRR ownership by the industry and businesses and their lack of interest to undertake or support community level DRR activities.

- **Issues related to climate change:** Climate change and variability are enhancing disaster risks. It is important to integrate disaster risk reduction strategies with climate change adaptation strategies and evolve solutions. In order to address such issues, suitable climate change adaptation interventions, and activities for diversification of livelihoods need to be initiated along with other disaster risk transfer initiatives.

- **Strengthen policies and Legal Framework:** Policies and legal framework for Disaster Management with specific indicators is mandatory. Adequate policies are necessary for

effective implementation, monitoring and enforcing disaster management initiatives. Therefore, result oriented policies with an appropriate institutional structure to implement such policies is required.

- **Disaster Management integrated in to the education system:** Disaster Management needs to be introduced as a separate subject in the curriculum. There should be provision for training of teachers in disaster management.
- **Effective awareness and behaviour change campaigns:** Local community should have access to films and posters and other IEC material on disasters as well as possible damages and impacts to create urgency and communicate importance of preparedness. It will provide much needed impetus to generate local level actions.

Annex one: Final agenda

Regional Consultation
Northern Region,
Post-Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) for Disaster Risk Reduction

09.30 - 10.00 am	Registration	UNDP
10.00 - 10.30 am	Consultation overview, objectives and introduction by participants	UNDP
10.30 - 11.00 am	Overview of HFA achievements at various levels	UNDP/Consultant- HFA
11.00 am-11.30 am	Tea Break	
11.30 am-11.45 am	Overview of HFA achievements at various levels (Cont.…)	
11.45 am -12.15 pm	Emerging Post HFA 2015 Priorities	UNDP
12.15- 1.30 pm	Views and Comments from Participants	Participants/UNDP
1.30pm-2.30 pm	Lunch	
02.30pm – 3.30 pm	Views and Comments from Participants (Cont)	NGOs and Other Stakeholders
03.00– 3.30 pm	Wrap up and Key Priorities Issues to be addressed & Post-HFA Road Map	UNDP/Consultant- HFA

Annex two: Participants list. (Attached separately)

Annex three: A set of questions used at the consultation

During the consultations, recommendations/suggestions/challenges under each priority area were brought forth through a set of questions posed to the participants:

- What the Civil Society has achieved;
- What they think could be done & challenges; and
- What could be included in the post HFA Agenda