

CUS file
(also R Hoog)
NB

ASSESSMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE DECADE

Information on Provider

Name: German IDNDR-Committee
 Position:
 Organization:
 Address: Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 53113 Bonn
 c/o Deutsches Rotes Kreuz
 State/Province:
 Zip/Post Code:
 Country: Germany
 Phone-Number: 0228/5411257
 Email: IDNDR@aol.com
 webpage:

19 FEB 1999

Action: CUS

INDEXED: *un*

FILE: Germany

Experience and Recent Disasters

1. Please provide a list of major disasters your country has experienced during the past five (5) years.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1) Rhine-flood Dec. 1993 | 2.000 Million US-\$ |
| 2) Rhine flood Jan. 1995 | 500 Million US-\$ |
| 3) Oder-flood July - August 1998 | 400 Million US-\$ |
| 4) ICE-Train-Accident June 1998 in Eschede | 99 casualties |

2. What was the impact of the above listed disasters?

as a.m.

3. Which measures were taken to reduce the impact of the disaster?

- 1) Adoption of the Flood Action Plan for the Rhine-Valley (22.01.1998) by the riparian countries.
- 2) Starting of the activities of the international Commission for the protection of the Oder.
- 3) Different programmes and projects on regional and local level.

4. Do you believe there can be improvements in preparing for natural hazards in your country and in preventing negative impacts of such hazards? What sort of improvements?

- 1) Risk assessment adapted to the risks of a modern industrial society.
- 2) Coordination of civil protection activities on national and intern level.
- 3) Interdisciplinary approach on scientific and operational level (see comments on page 4).
- 4) Better training programmes.

5. Do you believe the IDNDR helped your country to give greater attention to disaster reduction?

Yes No Explain

6. *Please provide an example(s) an achievement(s) incorporating successful preventive approaches which you consider a „success story“*

- 1) Initiating the creation of a coordination committee of organisations for humanitarian assistance's operating abroad, 1991.
- 2) Initiatives concerning the Rhine-floods
- 3) Interdisciplinary study concerning the Oder-Flood (July/August 1997)
- 4) Interdisciplinary Study about the indicator „disaster vulnerability - disaster mitigation in the context of the UN-Work-Programm on indicators at sustainable development“

Progress made, since the inception of IDNDR, in the field of disaster reduction as a component of development planning and risk management

1. *Please provide a brief statement of national accomplishment and/or describe current activities related to the achievement of the IDNDR Programme Targets:*

(a) Comprehensive national assessment of risks. If an assessment exists, is it published or codified?

There is no comprehensive national assessment of risks covering the whole country and the whole range of disasters, but there are a number of activities contributing single aspects. An example is the „Probabilistic map of seismic hazards of Germany“ (compiled by Grünthal & Bosse, GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam) as planning tool for construction codes.

Concerning flood risk assessment there are currently two parallel activities. The federal states are obliged to establish maps showing flooded areas for all German rivers. In some states, e.g. Bavaria, large efforts have been made to achieve these maps. The insurance industry is currently compiling maps with flooded areas on a rougher scale.

Furthermore, the scientific advisory board of the Germany IDNDR committee intends to initiate a project in order to compile an „Atlas of natural hazards and protection measures in Germany“.

(b) Structured mitigation plans. Do documented comprehensive national disaster management plans exist?

Only for some technological risks. For natural disasters exist, disaster preparedness- and sectoral mitigation plans only on regional and local level (for example Flood Action Plan for the Rhine-Valley).

(c) Ready access to global, regional, national and local early warning systems. Can you provide examples of early warning practices and demonstrated successes?

Early warning systems work partially, but there are still a lot of problems to be solved. Floods play a key role among natural disasters in Germany. For most large rivers in Germany early warning systems and/or flood forecast systems are in operation. Because the federal states are responsible for flood warning these systems are not uniformly organized. An example of a system which has been shown to work very well in the „Hochwasservorherzentrale (HVZ)“ (Flood-Forecast-Center) of the federal state Baden-Württemberg. This warning system uses online information from 140 discharge gages, 170 rainfall gages and the rainfall forecast of the German Weather Service. The flood forecasts for 30 locations in Baden-Württemberg are provided to authorities and the population via different media (e.g. Internat, telephone, radio).

2. (a) *What obstacles do you face which prevent the accomplishment of the Decade targets?*
(b) *What are your recommendations to best overcome these obstacles?*

- ad a) An obstacle represents the notion of „disaster“. An international and national discussion will be necessary to describe the political consequences.
ad b) The German Committee should go on with its activities beyond 1999

3. *To what extent have you established and implemented educational and information programmes aimed at generating public awareness? What methods of information dissemination have been utilized?*

The secretariat employs a press and information officer, who is responsible for raising public awareness and generating information within the disaster mitigation community.

Methods (among others):

- Publications in the German IDNDR-Series,
- Publication of a periodical information bulletin,
- Seminars, press conferences and workshops
- Annual publication of a handbook on disaster-management for journalists,
- public lectures and
- films and radio spots at home and abroad.

4. *Have you liaised with policy makers and major groups, such a local authorities, NGO's, and the media, in order to ensure support for and effectiveness of disaster reduction programmes? Please describe your activities.*

Diverse activities have been initiated together with NGO, Media, Insurance-Companies in order to improve disaster mitigation.

5. *To what extent have you worked with other sectors in incorporating disaster reduction activities into their planning (i.e. insurance, banking, private sector and development agencies)?*

There are disaster prevention plans on district level (Kreis).

6. *The decade provides an international arena for information exchange as well as an extensive international network of partners, how have these inputs contributed to achieving the goals of the Decade?*

The international IDNDR-network of partners has been helpful, to get information about different aspects of disaster mitigation, to initiate cooperation projects with different partner-countries and to present the activities of the German Committee to the international community.

Structures in Place

1. *Is there a designated government authority for disaster reduction activities? If yes, is this authority's commitment to prevention embodied in the government structure, priorities, budget and legislation?*

- Conference on disaster prevention (ständige Konferenz für Katastrophenvorsorge) NGO
- Federal ministries and ministries on the level of „Lands“ have advisory boards for disaster reduction (p. ex. Commission for disaster prevention of the federal ministry of the Interior)
- Concrete disaster prevention planning is in the responsibility of districts (Kreise) and towns.

2. *Have budget lines for disaster reduction and preventive activities been made available in your government's budget?*

Only for specific aspects of disaster prevention

3. *Have legislative authorities (national, state or local level) established legal frameworks for the implementations of disaster mitigation measures (ie. land-use planning, water and forest management, building codes)?*

Legal framework has been established for different disaster mitigation measures as water and forest management, building codes, disaster preparedness, industrial risks, but a lot of problems have not been considered sufficiently such as interdependence of regional planning and disaster mitigation.

4. *Have academic institutions and professional schools in disciplines such as engineering, agriculture, architecture, urban planning, business or public administration incorporated in their curricula applicable disaster-reduction concepts and measures? Please provide examples.*

Concerning geophysical processes leading to extreme events there are plenty of activities in academic institutions. There are also courses about risk assessment and structural measures for prevention, but it is difficult to find schools giving classes on disaster preparedness and disaster response. Examples are the PhD course „Natural disasters“ which has recently started at the University of Karlsruhe and the University of Tübingen offers classes about search and rescue and medical care in relief situations. There is also an „Academy for civile protection“ (Akademie für Notfallplanung und Zivilschutz) in Ahrweiler.

5. *Have networks been build in order to aid in the transfer and application of existing knowledge and technology, information dissemination and international collaboration? Please briefly describe.*

The Scientific Advisory Board of the German IDNDR committee has initiated cooperations mainly within the scientific community but also extending to operational organizations, authorities and policy makers. Examples are corporations dealing with mountain hazards and activities within the Worlds Wind Safety Initiative.

Concerning forest and wildland fires the activities of the working group of Dr. Goldammer, Freiburg, has lead to a strong network connecting scientists, public, authorities and policy makers. This network is acting on an international scale (c.g. Global Fire Monitoring Center).

6 *Who are your principal working partners? Do they represent an interdisciplinary approach to disaster reduction?*

Diverse scientific institutions, NGO, Insurance Companies, Media etc. The interdisciplinary approach still remains difficult.

Future Requirements

1. *Given your experience since the inception of the Decade and the new challenges of disasters in the 21st century, please provide comments as to what you believe are the necessary future requirements needed to successfully carry disaster reduction activities into the 21st century. Listed below are some criteria for your consideration:*

- *international mechanism for coordination*
- *budgetary commitments*
- *policy commitment*
- *network building*
- *information dissemination*
- *communication tools*
- *local authorities*
- *links to economic and social development programmes, environmental protection and sustainable development*

- risk assessments covering the whole national territory
- interdisciplinary working methods in the scientific and operational sector
- stronger commitment to the risks resulting from globalization and increasing interdependence
- stronger cooperation between different prevention sectors, for example civil protection organizations, insurance companies and self-help initiative-groups
- stronger cooperation between the countries of the European Union in the different fields of disaster mitigation
- promotion of local disaster preparedness structures under the framework of partnerships on regional and municipal level
- promotion of individual and collective self-protection against disaster, combined with increased public awareness.
- A better international coordination of research activities.
- Interdisciplinary disaster research should be fostered by policy and budgetary commitments.

2. *What sort of national or international measures would you like to be put in place in the 21st century?*

National measures:

- stronger commitment of the Federal Government to the coordination of civil protection activities
- stronger integration of disaster mitigation in regional planning by legislation
- creation of an interdisciplinary scientific research center for disaster mitigation
- international activities
- creation of special funds for the promotion of local disaster preparedness structures in the framework of international partnerships between regions and municipalities
- measures concerning future requirements (see question 1)

The essential question remains, if the interdependence of all occurrences including the political implications will not only be mentioned but postulated as global prevention on international level.