

ASSESSMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE DECADE

Information on Provider

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Experience and Recent Disasters

- 1.1 Please provide a list of major disasters your country has experienced during the past five (5) years. Floods, tidal waves, tsuanamis, earthtremours/earthquakes, Cape St. Pauls wilt Disease of coconut, epidemics of cholera, CSM and Buruli Ulcer, Yellow fever, Measles, Anthrax, Army worm, Bushfires (Wildfires).
- 1.2. What was the impact of the above listed disasters? Displacement of people, mass movemnet of people (migration), destruction of properties and environmental depradation.
- 1.3. Which measures were taken to reduce the impact of the disaster? Public awareness creation, evacuation of the vulnerable from disaster area, training of rescue team, provision of food and water relief and shelter. Development planning of government projects for towns and villages have become sustainable.
- 1.4. 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? The basic element is public awareness creation, how the impact of disasters can be reduced - What the hazards are and nature and type of hazards and managing them. Also the installation of early warning systems, the allocation of government/foreign funds into the installation of mitigative measures.
- 1.5 Do you believe the IDNDR helped your country to give greater attention to disaster reduction?
Yes No Explain It has helped to make a law and help government to state its support for Disaster Management Programme. Also the Organisation that should manage disasters in our country has been set up. It has helped us to write Disaster Management Plans nationally, regionally and at district levels.
- 1.6. Please provide an example(s) an achievement (s) incorporating successful preventive approaches which you consider a "success story" Bushfire disasters have been reduced largely, due to the effective public education. While last year there were so many recorded cases and deaths, of CSM outbreak, there were only a few cases this year due to the prompt action taken by the health sector in collaboration with National Disaster Management Organisation to put in place preventive measures and quick response plans.

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

2.1. 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? Assessment of risk exists and it is published.

(b) Structured mitigation plans. Do documented comprehensive national disaster management plans exist? Yes, there are Disaster Management Plan for Man-Made, Food Security, Epidemic Disasters and Relief and Reconstruction.

(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 exist for man-made disasters such as religious, social or ethnic conflicts and resolution. Also for diseases of epidemic potential eg. cholera, CSM . Also for floods, early warning systems exist.

2.2. What obstacles do you face which prevent the accomplishment of the Decade targets? What are your recommendations to best overcome these obstacles? One of the major obstacles is ignorance of the potential dangers/hazards of some practices. Also lack of funding for various activities is a contributing factor.

2.3. 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? Public education through the Public address systems. At the unit levels etc, there are technical committees that help disseminate information at all levels by the use of leaflets, handbills, T.V. discussions, radio programmes, seminars and workshops.

2.4. Have you liaised with policy makers and major groups, such as local authorities, NGOs, and the media, in order to ensure support for and effectiveness of disaster reduction programmes? Please describe your activities. We have put in place National Technical Sub-Committees on all the disaster types whose members are drawn from local authorities, NGO's, the Media, governmental, and non governmental agencies and the UN agencies, who take active part in our activities. Religious bodies, Chiefs and people are all involved.

2.5. 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)? We have plans in our Disaster Management Plan's to particularly incorporate the insurance companies in disaster reduction activities. Further more, our activities are always covered by the media. To the extent all sectors are being helped to draw up Disaster Management Plans, eg. in the real estate development programme where we insist that their designs are earthquake resistant in the earthquake prone areas.

2.6. 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? In the Sub-Region we have succeeded in signing a treaty to assist each member country manage and contain epidemic diseases. Also efforts are being made to assume a common plan for the management of Bushfires. The Un has also through the Tampere declaration in facilitating partnership in terms of the use of telecommunication expansion for use for the disasters.

Structures in Place

3.1. 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?

Yes, the National Disaster Management Organisation is a designated government authority for disaster reduction activities enacted by Act 517 1996. Yes there is a government budget line and employed staff under salaries.

3.2. Have budget lines for disaster reduction and preventive activities been made available in your government's budget? Yes, National Disaster Management Organisation is one of the subvented agencies of the government and draws their financial support from the government consolidated fund.

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

3.4. 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. We are developing a curriculum for primary and secondary schools with the Ministry of Education and Ghana Education Service. But there exist in the university already a curriculum for Disaster Reduction.

3.5. 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. Yes we have the appropriate structures but we lack the logistic support to see full implementation.

3.6. Who are your principal working partners? Do they represent an interdisciplinary approach to disaster reduction? Bi-lateral, multilateral, governmental and non governmental agencies, private enterprises and the media, UN agencies. Yes, they represent an interdisciplinary approach to disaster reduction.

Future Requirements

4.1. 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

For the future requirement it would be important to improve the government policy and commitment through legislation by amending the present legislation which may not be necessarily adequate. Legislation which may protect disaster managers and community volunteers and also prescribe stiffer punishment for people whose activities creat hazards with disaster legislation that would strenghten an international partnership. It is only when we have these that the local/national ones can be strenghtened. We also need to secure more funds from either bilateral/multilateral sources to supplement government budgetary allocating to National Disaster Management Organisation in order that we should achieve complete success in mapping out hazards, offering training to Disaster Managers and local people and to enable us create a national response capacity. We need also for the future a partnership with development agencies both local and foreign as well as investors whose economic exploitation activities will not degenerate or adversely affect the world.

4.2. What sort of national or international measures would you like to be put in place in the 21st century? Nationals of member committees should be made aware/reoriented to enable them recognise the disaster potentials of hazards.

Early warning mechanisms are necessary and should not only exist in terms of infrustructure but should become part of routine undertaken of nationals/citizens.

Citizens in member countries should be made to recognise risk and vulnerability through training.

Local disaster response committees must be made sustainable. Internationally, the IDNDR sector must be sustained and funded so that the member countries be assisted further to co-ordinate disasters and its effective management.