

Concept Note

National Consultation in Uganda on disaster induced displacement in the context of Post HFA

Hotel Metropole in Kampala, 16 April, 2013

Context:

Disasters are rampant in Uganda. These disasters have caused a great deal of suffering and loss of property and productive capacity for the peoples of Uganda. In so doing, disasters have contributed to the retardation of social development. Uganda has experienced a wide range of disasters directly affecting most of the country. The following have been frequent: displacement of persons as a result of civil strife; famine as a result of drought; earthquakes; disease epidemics, livestock and crop disease; flooding and landslides as a result of heavy rains and injudicious environmental management. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of these disasters. The trend are that more people are getting displaced together with increased financial loss. And the poor and already displaced are in particular most vulnerable to the hazards and disasters. The disaster induced displacement is costly to the National production line and is a set back to development gains already achieved

Uganda already has important Policies in place for both disaster risk and displacement concerns. In May 2011, Uganda adopted a National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management with the aim of streamlining disaster management (Government of Uganda, 26 December 2011). The Office of the Prime Minister and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have assisted Acholi and Karamoja districts to develop district-based contingency plans at a local level.

Furthermore, the Uganda displacement policy framework is geared towards responding to internal displacement which makes it the first one of the first Countries to develop a formal policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs 2004 policy). This guarantees the right of IDPs to freely choose between return, local integration or settlement elsewhere in the country. Subsequent government policies and practices have focused on return. In January 2010, Uganda became the first state to ratify the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa (also known as the Kampala Convention). Uganda has also ratified the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region (the Great Lakes Pact), including the Pact's IDP Protocol and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons.

Uganda is one of the few countries that have inter linkages between disaster reduction and displacement issues. The post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA 2) should offer the opportunity to further scale-up disaster risk reduction efforts for all those who have been forced out of their homes. Rural communities in Uganda have some people who have been internally displaced from their homes because of disasters. Therefore there is a great need to analyze relevant data on displacement situations (e.g., the number and location of homes damaged and destroyed, the number of people displaced, the frequency of repeated displacement, the duration of displacement, patterns of movement), especially at the local level.

There is therefore need for accurate Country specific risk assessment which would support implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Once this information has been collected and analysed, Governments can develop and adapt DRR Policy programming, by mainstreaming it in Policies and programs.

Overall Objectives:

The consultation aims to inform the key stakeholders on the global and regional consultation process towards the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. This process provides a platform for different stakeholders to discuss issues on national policies on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and their implications on people affected by displacement.

Specific objectives:

- Identify challenges and opportunities for creating the synergy of the policy implementation related to disaster risk reduction and internally displaced people in order to reduce their vulnerabilities to the impact of natural hazards
- Inform the participants on the tools and indicators for IDPs assessment
- Prepare key messages and national inputs to the formulation of the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Expected Results:

1. The participants are well informed of the global and regional consultation process towards the formulation of HFA2
2. The participants are aware of the national DRR and IDP policies and their implementations.
3. Challenges and opportunities identified for integrated actions as implementation of the policies related to DRR and IDPs
4. Recommendations made to the post-2015 Framework for DRR/HFA2

Agenda

8:30–9:00 Opening session

Chair: Hon. Alex Byarugaba, Member of the Parliament of Uganda, Chair of the Parliamentarian Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction

- Introduction
- Opening remarks by Hon. Alex Byarugaba, Ugandan Parliamentary Forum on DR
- Opening remarks by Mr Pascal Okello, UNISDR
- Opening remarks by Ms Tine Ramstad, Norwegian Refugee Council
- Opening remarks by the UN Resident Coordinator
- Opening speech by Hon. Henry Banyenzaki Minister of State for Economic Monitoring, Office of the President.

9:00–11:00 Presentations on disaster risk reduction and internally displaced People

Global and Regional consultations towards post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction by Ms Ana Cristina Thorlund and Mr Pascal Okello, UNISDR

- HFA implementation: tools and indicators to address vulnerabilities of IDPs to disasters by Ms Tine Ramstad, NRC
- National policy and implementation on DRR: progress and challenges, by Mr Vincent Woboya, OPM, Uganda
- National policy and implementation on IDPs: progress and challenges ; Mr. Bihangire Akiki, UNHCR

Questions and Answers

11:00–11:30 Coffee Break

11:30–13:00 Plenary discussions

Chair: Pascal Okello, UNISDR

- Presentation on Civil Society Perspective of DRR and displacement; Anne Grace Akwangu Elotu; DENIVA
 - Presentation on Community perspective on displacement: Pamella Nyamutoka Katooro, IIRR
1. What is the impact of the global and regional consultation process on disaster risk reduction at national and local levels? How?
 2. How will the tools and indicators presented better enable governments to quantify displacement, which in turn will contribute to more informed policy-making for effective disaster risk reduction and response to disaster-related displacement and migration?
 3. How could the National Policies and practices contribute to measuring and reducing the risk of disaster-induced displacement and migration?
 4. How migration and displacement can be factored in the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2)?
 5. What would be the National priorities for disaster risk reduction in HFA2?

13:00–14:00 Lunch break

14:00–15:30 Working Groups on creating a synergy between DRR and IDP policy and implementation (three groups)

Facilitator: Mr Emad Adly, NRC

1. What are the challenges and opportunities for bridging implementation of Policies (DRM and IDP) to build risk resilience among IDPs? What other areas should be considered for the next HFA?
2. How did disaster risks contribute to the increase of population migration and IDPs in Uganda? What other factors contribute to population displacements in Uganda?
3. In which areas could a more in-depth analysis take place, followed by development of tailored policy tools/recommendations?

15:30–16:00 Coffee Break

16:00–17:00 Working Group Presentations on the results of discussions, Questions and Answers

17:00–17:30 Recommendations and Conclusion by Hon. Alex Byarugaba, MP of Uganda
Closing remarks