

# **Compilation of Principles and Recommendations on Preparedness from a series of Workshops and Meetings**

## **Disaster prone countries**

### **Advocacy and Awareness**

Make disaster risk reduction for resilience, including preparedness, both a humanitarian and development priority, with appropriate tasks allocated and coordinated accordingly.

Create awareness of the importance of preparedness among society and media and thereby political will to engage in preparedness. Engage parliamentarians, civil society and the (new) media. Include public education in Disaster Risk Reduction knowledge in advocacy and public awareness.

Create incentives for investing in preparedness.

Advocate donor countries focusing on development assistance to mainstream disaster risk reduction support into their envelopes both in terms of financial and technical support.

### **Institutional and Legal Preparedness**

Adopt and update legal and institutional frameworks for disaster risk reduction and response.

Ensure that relevant law or policy clearly and authoritatively assigns roles and responsibilities for disaster response among relevant agencies and levels of government.

Ensure that disaster legislation and institutional arrangements provide a role for civil society (including National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) and affected communities in planning and decision-making.

Ensure that relevant laws or policies comprise periodic updating of contingency plans and regular drills and exercises.

Ensure that relevant law and policy facilitates adequate funding for preparedness activities, including at the local level.

### **Contextualization and Coordination**

Integrate preparedness and DRR in national, regional and local planning schemes.

Coordinate preparedness activities across ministries, including development, foreign, financing and planning ministries. Establish standard operating procedures across the government.

Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of allocations and operations. Improve sustainability at local level.

Use existing frameworks, tools, mechanisms and institutions to apply good practices and benefit from existing expertise (e.g. HFA, Global Platform Chairman's Summaries, G20 / OECD Methodological Framework for Disaster Risk Assessment and Risk financing, Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI), ISDR publications).

Look for high quality technical assistance and advice and work in a knowledge-driven and innovative environment.

Use cost sharing principles (between the Government and donors) for the implementation of joint Disaster Risk Management projects.

Subject to the upcoming finalization, cooperate within the Common Framework for National Capacity Development for Emergency Preparedness: provide leadership and coordination; request technical support and extra coordination capacity, where needed, via the UN RC/HC or otherwise; ensure that all actors – national and international – coordinate their planning and activities; factor in international humanitarian response capacity as part of preparedness, where needed.

Establish close dialogue with international organizations, other disaster prone countries and donors in fora and groups at subregional, regional and international level, including GHD Share / ISDR Support Group / Global Platform / GHD workstream PDR4.

Cooperate closely with the civil society including Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies which has an important role to play in support of preparedness initiatives. By doing so, improve planning and reduce duplication of efforts. Make plans more realistic and increase the overall effectiveness of the preparedness and response efforts.

### **Ownership and Outreach**

Ensure national, regional and local ownership before engaging in preparedness activities. Community involvement for preparedness programs is essential. Own and drive the preparedness agenda at the national and local level.

Encourage partnerships for preparedness and resilience between humanitarian and development actors.

Use opportunities to expand partnership to the private sector and to explore national solidarity.

Identify country priorities and monitor impacts of Disaster Risk Management projects to ensure sustainability of Disaster Risk Management development at local level.

### **Decision Making and Funding**

Ensure long-term and predictable funding. Make funds available for and accessible by communities.

Improve funding mechanisms at country level for enabling more timely/early action to respond to risks and enhance local and national capacity.

Attract more funding and support from the private sector.

## **International and non-governmental organizations**

### **Advocacy and Awareness**

Include donor mobilization strategies as a core element of the response to early warnings. Elements could include targeted advocacy towards key political decision-makers beyond development ministries (e.g. in foreign ministries or in press offices).

IASC to make its early warning reports publicly accessible.

To minimize potential for conflicting early warning, ensure systems are evidence-based and, as far as possible, calibrated against agreed standards.

### **Institutional and Legal Preparedness:**

Ensure knowledge and readiness to abide by applicable domestic law and respect domestic institutional arrangements for disaster coordination.

Offer support to build the institutional capacity of relevant agencies and civil society actors.

Encourage governments to strengthen their legal preparedness for disaster response and to disseminate information about existing law and policy.

### **Contextualization and Coordination**

Subject to the upcoming finalization, cooperate within the Common Framework for National Capacity Development for Emergency Preparedness: agree to support and follow government leadership (whenever possible); agree to coordinate the capacity development programming; pool information to create joint needs and preparedness capacity assessments; adopt and participate in a joint plan for capacity development; incorporate capacity development for preparedness into wider DRR capacity development plans; adapt own plans as necessary to fulfill joint plan; bring own comparative advantage to the joint effort; agree on the respective contributions to preparedness of humanitarian and development departments within agencies.

Promulgate and exercise the new Emergency Response Preparedness approach, including Contingency Response Planning, which underpins the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (part of the Interagency Transformative Agenda).

Finalise guidance on how clusters can more effectively integrate preparedness, early action and early recovery approaches that contribute to resilience into humanitarian responses. This should take into account experience from countries supported by the IASC Sub Working Group on Preparedness, as well as recent and on-going emergencies. IASC

Establish dual mandate teams made up by Disaster Risk Reduction and emergency staff working together.

### **Ownership and Outreach**

Engage with national governments and civil society at country level to ensure country ownership.

Support national and local capacity building.

Promote and support people centered approaches, for instance community based disaster preparedness and volunteer led disaster preparedness activities.

Identify and encourage dissemination of good practices and lessons learned in disaster prone countries.

### **Decision Making and Funding**

Ensure that decision-making processes link between the national, regional and global levels, and have clear accountability structures and precise triggers for how and when decisions should be initiated and escalated. This should include adequate processes for justifying and recording decisions, whether these are to respond or not.

Recognise the value-add role that UN Resident Coordinators can provide at both the national and regional levels , drawing on existing strong relationships with Government and non-government stakeholders, especially in regard to resource information sharing and coordination.

Empower the Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator and make his/her preparedness tasks as well as other individuals' responsibilities for taking and precipitating decisions as appropriate more explicit in the job description.

Structure joint decision-making and make joint agency appeals more responsive by developing a more flexible CAP process, untied from internal funding timelines and anchored instead to relevant local factors such as rainy seasons or a crisis timeline.

Develop pooled funding mechanisms for early action and preparedness. Create multi-year CAPs to ensure more flexibility in the funding cycles. Reflect the preparedness/resilience agenda in the CAPs, i.e. through including a budget line on preparedness.

Develop phased response plans for donors to fund, starting with no regret and least regret options, specifying triggers and future decision-points, and demonstrating how interventions can reduce risks, mitigate impacts and build preparedness.

Empower Country Directors to respond early. Devolution of funding could allow national offices autonomy to respond up to a certain deviation from budget, for example. Corporate contingency funds and risk-financing mechanisms could enable local decision-making without fear of budgetary ramifications.

Make existing development funds more flexible for relief activities.

Finance preparedness for response of multilateral actors out of the core funding – the intention of ‘core funding’ is to ensure that the agencies are fit and prepared for purpose.

Establish a common understanding on which projects and interventions are considered preparedness measures in order to allow implementing agencies to target the relevant funds.

## **Donors**

### **Advocacy and Awareness**

Create awareness of the importance of preparedness among society and media and thereby political will to engage in preparedness. Engage parliamentarians, civil society and the (new) media.

Reward best practices and promote regional examples. Highlight preparedness in high level events such as Asia-Europe meetings, APEC and others such as the Global Platform or the International Day for Disaster Reduction.

Provide common messaging with other donors to UN agencies to achieve coherence between humanitarian and development programming. Ask UN agencies and NGOs to advocate for increased national leadership.

### **Institutional and Legal Preparedness**

Support governments and civil society to build institutional capacity for response.

Encourage and support governments to strengthen their legal frameworks for disaster preparedness, where needed.

### **Contextualization and Coordination**

Situate preparedness in the broader DRR / resilience agenda: Pursue a broader disaster risk management approach. Link up risk assessments made at the technical level with the political and decision-making level. Aim at strategic coherence between development and humanitarian programming.

Improve coordination among donors. Adopt a risk management instead of a response-based approach, so that early interventions follow from strategies to reduce risks, mitigate impacts and prepare for response.

Subject to the upcoming finalization, co-operate within the Common Framework for National Capacity Development for Emergency Preparedness: support the joint plan at national level and national coordination.

Contribute to improving conceptual clarity. Further explore the potential usefulness of applying preparedness or Disaster Risk Reduction markers to clearly identify which projects contain a preparedness component.

Improve, together with agencies, data collection for early action and emergency response to build the economic and humanitarian case for earlier interventions.

Accept taking risks when investing in resilience in unstable institutional environments.

Closely cooperate with the own national platforms for DRR. Apply domestic (civil protection) expertise. Establish stand-by rosters and stand-by civil protection teams.

Donors with country offices: ensure to have preparedness expertise on the ground.

### **Ownership and Outreach**

Ensure national and local ownership before engaging in preparedness activities. Create incentives for preparedness through mechanisms such as co-financing.

Make national and local capacity building the focus of the preparedness approach. Concentrate more on the local level (e.g. cities), where mayors may be directly held accountable for their DRR efforts, including preparedness.

Build capacity of those best placed to respond. Identify and encourage dissemination of best practices in disaster prone countries.

Reach out actively to regional groups and sub-regional groupings and seek two-way communication and dialogue. Remove the barrier between “donors” and “recipients” by establishing close dialogue with disaster prone countries in fora and groups such as GHD Share / ISDR Support Group / Global Platform / GHD workstream PDR4.

Improve innovation by donors. Share scientific knowledge and other evidence that is obtained. Develop and exchange donor fact sheets on preparedness, including success factors. Elaborate guidelines including a manual on preparedness.

## **Decision Making and Funding**

Improve collective decision-making about whether to respond. Decentralize decision-making and devolve budgets so that staff closest to the situation has more influence over funding decisions. Develop collective decision-making processes at the global level to build upon existing inter-agency early-warning reporting.

Elaborate and implement plans to overcome legal barriers to funding preparedness. Review relevant legal frameworks with a view to accelerating the decision making process and making it more flexible. Ensure faster access procedures to funding, including for NGOs.

Pursue a principled approach to funding preparedness and move away from current patterns of ad-hoc, unpredictable and siloed preparedness funding. Explore additional funding sources and more flexible, innovative financing mechanisms such as crisis modifiers, risk financing and contingency funds, building on existing recommendations and best practices.

Earmark part of the core funding of agencies for preparedness, if the agencies are not doing this themselves.

Make existing development funds more flexible for relief activities. Use multi-year funding schemes, pre-positioning of funds, pooled funds such as the CERF and (IFRC-) DREF and cash programming, where appropriate.

Provide seed funding for planning and coordination within the Common Framework for National Capacity Development for Emergency Preparedness, coordinate funding in country with other donors; fund activities within the joint plan; make engagement in the framework a condition of funding.

## **All stakeholders**

### **Advocacy and Awareness**

Build strong political leadership and high level buy-in for emergency preparedness.

Improve communication and joint messaging in building political support for preparedness. Present success stories to decision-makers, the media and the public, focusing on concrete results that demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of preparedness and other materials to create this leadership.

Improve data collection for early action and emergency response to better understand vulnerabilities and to build the economic and humanitarian case for earlier and more pertinent response.



Improve sharing of available data.

### **Institutional and Legal Preparedness**

Ensure readiness to comply with applicable domestic and international law in disaster response.

Encourage and support the strengthening of institutional and legal provisions in disaster-prone states.

### **Contextualization and Coordination**

Shift away from the relief to development paradigm. A linear, phased approach to relief, recovery and development has not been successful in preventing recurrent emergencies in regions of chronic vulnerability or in making sustained improvements in protracted emergencies. Pursue an integrated approach instead, which simultaneously and coherently addresses short, medium and long term needs.

Subject to the upcoming finalization, support and co-operate within the Common Framework for National Capacity Development for Emergency Preparedness where donors, UN agencies, NGOs, national governments at country and local level and other actors should work together on implementing preparedness measures. Improve communication and sharing responsibilities between them.

Use existing fora at sub-regional, regional and international levels as mechanisms for further development of preparedness approaches, further exchange of best practices and as platform for synergetic cooperation in regard to specific preparedness programs.

Pursue an institutional and systemic approach to emergency preparedness, which includes building and investing in partnerships with longer-term horizons.

Follow a twin track approach including development and humanitarian aspects where mid- and long-term preparedness programs of local and national authorities go along with better preparedness of international humanitarian agencies at country level.

Create and strengthen linkages between humanitarian and development actors.

Scale up risk reduction and early recovery approaches and fully integrate them into humanitarian and development programming. These approaches should not be the sole responsibility of specific actors or sectors. Clusters (where active) and Humanitarian and Resident Coordinators should be responsible for ensuring programming that strengthens preparedness and developing strategies to

build national capacity, as well as exit strategies. These efforts should be supported by increased expert capacity.

Develop a monitoring system to assess progress in the implementation of preparedness measures.

### **Ownership and Outreach**

Make strengthening preparedness at country level a priority within broader disaster risk management strategies.

Engage with regional institutions and groupings.

Recognizing the principle that 'disaster risk reduction is everyone's business; actively promote partnership with leaders of the private sector and scientific community to draw on cutting-edge expertise and knowledge to develop innovative approaches to preparedness.

Conceptualize pilot projects of simple and cost-effective interventions and scale them up in a systematic manner in countries which have already committed to improving preparedness (such as water harvesting and destocking).

### **Decision Making and Funding**

Attract development actors to allocate development funds for preparedness.