



# Afghanistan

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## National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2013-2015)

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**Reporting period:** 2013-2015  
**Report Status:** Final  
**Last updated on:** 18 February 2015  
**Print date:** 23 April 2015  
**Reporting language:** English

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A National HFA Monitor update published by PreventionWeb  
<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/progress/reports/>

# Outcomes

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## Strategic Outcome For Goal 1

### Outcomes Statement

Despite some significant progress in this field, ANDMA and its staff have still a long way to fully integrate and mainstream disaster and climate risk reduction tasks for the departments, ministries, agencies, civil society organizations, community based organizations and most vulnerable groups. During the reporting period Afghanistan mobilized some amount of internal and external resources to pilot and implement DRR projects, however there is still a lot needs to be done in order to reduce the underlying risks and vulnerabilities of the at risk communities. The country needs a Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) to pilot joint projects with all concerned stakeholders including line ministries and with a range of other technical institutions to support and facilitate DRR inclusion in sectoral policies, planning and programming at all levels. ANDMA and its international partners have started drafting the National Disaster Management Strategy which would make provisions to mainstream DRR into public-private partnership.

ANDMA entered into an agreement with technical agencies mandated to deal with natural hazards to prepare Hazard Maps for floods, landslides, and other hazards. Methodology for the development of vulnerability maps and risk profiles has been prepared and agreed upon with all stakeholders.

The following tasks would have to be implemented:

- Continue lobbying and advocating for integrating DRR in the national development Plans.
- Establish budgetary allocation and dedicate funds on climate change adaptation (CCA) and integration of DRR in sectoral development programs.
- Number of research, study and pilot programs on DRR & CCA at local level to scaling those up at national level.
- Enhance regional, sub-regional and bi-lateral cooperation for early warning, dissemination.
- Mainstream DRR into public-private partnership and national development program.

## Strategic Outcome For Goal 2

### Outcomes Statement

The new Afghanistan Government has reaffirmed it's commitment to continue effort to enhance the disaster response capacity to a highest level in coming years.

ANDMA and its international partners and in collaboration with line ministries continues strengthening mechanism of ministries and departments and capacity building of the local government and communities to integrate DRR/DM by means of :

- Mainstreaming DRR and CCA in sectoral plans (i.e., agriculture, livestock, water, energy, communication etc.) Incorporate DRR and CCA in National 'allocation of businesses'.
- Institutionalizing DRR in National Human Resource development plan as well as in academic & research institutions.
- Promoting multi-stakeholder coordination through the mechanism of national platform.
- Incorporating DRR/DM into plan and strategy of local government institutions, NGOs, CBOs and humanitarian & development organizations.
- Scaling up of effective DRR and CCA approaches to all vulnerable areas in the country.
- Enhancing the community capacities through awareness, education and training, and defining roles and responsibilities of the local disaster management committees in DRR.

## **Strategic Outcome For Goal 3**

### **Outcomes Statement**

National focus has been set to implement all post disaster recovery and reconstruction programs integrating DRR/DM and emphasize on the approaches, principles and guidelines of 'build back better' based on the experience in responding to various small and large-scale disasters:

- Develop a Joint Need Assessment (JNA) guideline, format and process.
- Update guidelines for standardization of response and recovery of key clusters (shelter, WATSAN, Food security, livelihood, etc.).
- Increase the number of volunteers for earthquake preparedness in the urban areas including all major cities to ensure effective evacuation and response at the community level.
- Reinforce practice of DRR/DM in the planning and implementing process of social safety net programs.
- Strengthen effective community alert system involving mobile phone operators and community radio in existing early warning mechanism including cell broadcast system.
- Allocation of DRR funds to different departments, ministries and NGOs and CBOs to reduce future disaster risks of the vulnerable communities

# Strategic goals

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## Strategic Goal Area 1

*The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.*

### Strategic Goal Statement 2013-2015

Disaster and environmental risk management policies are being integrated into development plans at the national, sub national and local levels (through existing public policies, mechanisms for coordinating DRR actions at various levels, budgetary assignments or others)

## Strategic Goal Area 2

*The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.*

### Strategic Goal Statement 2013-2015

Strengthened institutions with adequate capacities at national and sub-national level for coordinated and coherent action in reducing risk and building sectorial resilience to better manage their activities in a proper manner to deal with disaster.

## Strategic Goal Area 3

*The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.*

### Strategic Goal Statement 2013-2015

Enhanced technical and human resources capacities at all levels ( national , regional and provincial ) to monitor and respond in timely manner to potential disaster and environmental risks of national, regional and international concern related issues.

# Priority for Action 1

*Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.*

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## Core indicator 1

*National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.*

Level of Progress achieved? 3

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is disaster risk taken into account in public investment and planning decisions? Yes

National development plan	Yes
<a href="#">SNAP</a>	
Sector strategies and plans	Yes
<a href="#">Afghanistan National Disaster Management Plan</a>	
Climate change policy and strategy	Yes
<a href="#">Afghanistan Environmental Law</a>	
Poverty reduction strategy papers	Yes
CCA/ UNDAF (Common Country Assessment/ UN Development Assistance Framework)	Yes
Civil defence policy, strategy and contingency planning	Yes

Have legislative and/or regulatory provisions been made for managing disaster risk?  
Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator**

**(not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

DM law , strategic national action plan , national mitigation policy , five years disaster management plan, sectoral disaster management plans and provincial disaster management plans and SOPs are in placed. Howsoever, the above mentioned plans were not properly implemented due to insufficient budgeting , lack of adequate human resources and insecurity in the country.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

The following challenges were faced during the reporting period:

- lack off political well to integrate DRR in to development.
- insufficient budget allocation for DRR.
- inadequate human and technical resources in DM field.
- limited donors interest in funding DRR projects in Afghanistan.
- data and information gaps.
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**Core indicator 2**

*Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels*

Level of Progress achieved? 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment.

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

What is the ratio of the budget allocation to risk reduction versus disaster relief and reconstruction?

	<b>Risk reduction / prevention (%)</b>	<b>Relief and reconstruction (%)</b>
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<b>National budget</b>	20 %	80 %
<b>Decentralised / sub-national budget</b>	25 %	75 %
<b>USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)</b>		

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Since most the of the national and sub national budget was allocated in the area of peace and reintegration, therefore, there was limited budget allocated for risk reduction, relief and reconstruction and recovery.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

the biggest challenges faced during the reporting period is not integrating DRR in to development plans at all levels and there is still limited awareness and knowledge about the importance of DRR on the parts of high ranking managers and decision makers.

**Core indicator 3**

*Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels*

Level of Progress achieved? 3

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial.

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Do local governments have legal responsibility and regular / systematic budget allocations for DRR? Yes

**Legislation (Is there a specific legislation for local governments with a mandate for DRR?)**

Yes

**Regular budget allocations for DRR to local government**

Yes

**Estimated % of local budget allocation assigned to DRR**

25 %

### **Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Based on the information compiled from line ministry like MRR, the number of established district level Disaster Management committees is 143 that are currently engaged and coordinating DM activities at the local level and functioning in 24 provinces. Some of the NGOs have continued implementing community based disaster risk management projects.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Even though, community participation ensured and increased but the main challenge is mainstreaming DRR in to the community development plans at district and local levels as well as public awareness issues among the people in rural areas and communities.

## **Core indicator 4**

*A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.*

Level of Progress achieved? 3

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial.

## Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are civil society organizations, national finance and planning institutions, key economic and development sector organizations represented in the national platform? Yes

<b>civil society members (specify absolute number)</b>	3
<b>national finance and planning institutions (specify absolute number)</b>	2
<b>sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)</b>	20
<b>private sector (specify absolute number)</b>	1
<b>science and academic institutions (specify absolute number)</b>	2
<b>women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)</b>	2
<b>other (please specify)</b>	UNOCHA, UNDP, WFP, IFRC, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, ARCSa and NGOs working in DM

Where is the coordinating lead institution for disaster risk reduction located?

<b>In the Prime Minister's/President's Office</b>	Yes
<b>In a central planning and/or coordinating unit</b>	No
<b>In a civil protection department</b>	No
<b>In an environmental planning ministry</b>	No
<b>In the Ministry of Finance</b>	No
<b>Other (Please specify)</b>	

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

The National Disaster Management Commission has the Apex body was chaired by the second vice president and the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority ( ANDMA ) is the principle executing body at national level acting as the secretariat for NDMC.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Since Afghanistan is one of the most vulnerable country of the region and it still has limited resources both human and technical main focus of the NDMC has remained on response. More consideration should be given to preparedness, prevention and mitigation aspects of DRR.

# Priority for Action 2

*Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning*

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## Core indicator 1

*National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.*

Level of Progress achieved? 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment with a common methodology available to inform planning and development decisions? No

<b>Multi-hazard risk assessment</b>	No
<b>% of schools and hospitals assessed</b>	
<b>schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)</b>	
<b>Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments</b>	No
<b>Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments</b>	No
<b>Risk assessment held by a central repository (lead institution)</b>	No
<b>Common format for risk assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Risk assessment format customised by user</b>	Yes
<b>Is future/probable risk assessed?</b>	Yes
<b>Please list the sectors that have already used disaster risk assessment as a precondition for sectoral development planning and programming.</b>	MRRD,MoE,MoPH, UN,NGOs

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

No multi hazard assessment has been conducted so far at the country level. There is dire need for a comprehensive assessment at the national as well as lower level specially community level with the involvement of local population as they are aware of the hot spots. However some multi hazard risk assessment has been conducted in some parts of the country by some NGOs and UN agencies like UNDP started comprehensive early recovery need assessment in 2 provinces ( Badakhshan and Jowzjan ) of the country.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

- During the reporting period, the following challenges were faced :
- there is inadequate capacity in conducting risk and vulnerability assessment.
  - Inadequate coordination and information sharing.
  - Inadequate capacity for the meteorological research for flood forecasting and monitoring. drought and other climate related hazards.
  - Insufficient budget and technical know how.

**Core indicator 2**

*Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities*

Level of Progress achieved? 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment.

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Are disaster losses and hazards systematically reported, monitored and analyzed?  
No

<b>Disaster loss databases exist and are regularly updated</b>	No
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**Reports generated and used in planning by finance, planning and sectoral line ministries (from the disaster databases/ information systems)** No

**Hazards are consistently monitored across localities and territorial boundaries** No

### **Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

There is no central repository for collecting , collating , analyzing , disseminating and archiving the data related to disaster. Although, NGOs , UN agencies , line ministries are using their own data bases as per their mandates but still not in a systematic manner.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Due to financial constraints, technical capacities, lack of coordination, security and access, ANDMA could not establish a centralized data base for the aforementioned purposes.

## **Core indicator 3**

*Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.*

Level of Progress achieved? 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment.

### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events? No

<b>Early warnings acted on effectively</b>	No
<b>Local level preparedness</b>	Yes
<b>Communication systems and protocols used and applied</b>	No
<b>Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination</b>	No

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

No systematic early warning system is in place countrywide. A few localized single hazard-oriented Early Warning Systems (EWS) managed by the Department of Meteorology and some International NGOs (I/NGOs) are in existence in a few places. FAO has set up an Early Warning Working Group and with the assistance of the Famine Early Warning System (FEWS), provides periodic early warning updates. The Government of Afghanistan has also established a seismic monitoring system within the Department of Mines and Geology.

FAO, WFP, FSAC members, and donors routinely perform some of the vital early warning system functions, as well as risk information management on issues of mass people interest such as food security. Relevant activities include the annual Food Security and Livelihood Assessments, rapid or area specific assessments conducted by INGO/NGOs, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Famine early warning system (FEWSNET) is providing information on impending drought and potential famine. Furthermore, FSAC hosts the early warning information working group (MAIL, Agromet, WFP, IMMAP, FAO, INGOs) that meets on a monthly basis and produce early warning updates.

ActionAid also started a project in March 2013 named as “Amu River Early Warning System” in northern Afghanistan, which is funded by European Commission Directorate- General Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection under Its DIPECHO Seventh Action Plan for South Asia. The main objective of this project is to contribute to national risk reduction mechanism in Afghanistan by piloting a community based river basin early warning system and the journey of ActionAid to achieve this aim will last for 18 months.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Community level early warning systems (EWS) are not present in most disaster prone areas of Afghanistan. There is no EWS in place for major hazards without outreach to disaster prone communities. When disasters strike communities do not have enough capacity to cope with disaster to reduce or mitigate the impacts of disaster. In Afghanistan there is a fundamental absence of a commonly accepted EWS for any natural disaster.

**Core indicator 4**

*National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.*

**Level of Progress achieved? 2**

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment.

**Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional actions to reduce disaster risk? Yes

<b>Establishing and maintaining regional hazard monitoring</b>	No
<b>Regional or sub-regional risk assessment</b>	No
<b>Regional or sub-regional early warning</b>	No
<b>Establishing and implementing protocols for transboundary information sharing</b>	No
<b>Establishing and resourcing regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks</b>	No

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

There has been rather slow progress in utilizing existing forums and implementation of already signed MOUs at regional, sub regional and nation levels.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the

country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

The following challenges were faced during the reporting period:

- Lack of capacity and technical know how
- Political instability in Afghanistan.
- Slow implementation of commitment made by different stakeholders
- Regional diversities and geopolitical interests
- Poor level of information sharing and coordination at regional, sub regional and national levels.

# Priority for Action 3

*Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels*

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## Core indicator 1

*Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)*

Level of Progress achieved? 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there a national disaster information system publicly available? No

<b>Information is proactively disseminated</b>	No
<b>Established mechanisms for access / dissemination (internet, public information broadcasts - radio, TV, )</b>	Yes
<b>Information is provided with proactive guidance to manage disaster risk</b>	No

### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

The current disaster management information system is still fragmented and each organization is still having their own data bases and information system made per their mandate. ANDMA information system still remains mostly response oriented and the information is utilized for monitoring the progress of response and early recovery in the affected communities.

ANDMA partners continue providing information related to threats of different hazards, risky sites, forecasting in a non-systematic fashion, which is intended for use in the planning stages and to some extent in the early warnings.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the

country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

The following challenges were faced during the reporting period:

- Overall insecurity
- Often inaccurate and fragmented information received
- Inadequate coordination among concerned stakeholders
- Slow implementation of commitments made by stakeholders
- limited number of experienced and technically sound personal to establish, maintain and run such a system

## Core indicator 2

*School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.*

Level of Progress achieved? 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum? No

<b>primary school curriculum</b>	No
<b>secondary school curriculum</b>	No
<b>university curriculum</b>	No
<b>professional DRR education programmes</b>	Yes

### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

27 graduates with Bachelor Degree in DM came out of Kabul University in 2014. ANDMA continued delivering trainings for government officials, faculty members of academic institutions and NGO representatives on different DRR subjects. Some of

ANDMA partners continued organizing workshops and training sessions for raising the awareness of women and children in emergencies. Sharq Institute of Higher Education continues its education program in the Field of Disaster Management and Environmental Protection and Some ANDMA partners have continued negotiating with ministry of education for integrating DRR in to their curriculum.

ANDMA De-mining department jointly with ministry of education developed a guide on mine risk education which is included in to primary and secondary education curriculum.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

- Due to inadequate budget of ANDMA, 27 above mentioned graduates were not absorbed in to the system.
- Due to security concerns , many of the for seen and planned trainings had to be cancelled and or postponed
- there is still a need for better cooperation among concerned partners for integrating DRR in to curriculum

### Core indicator 3

*Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.*

Level of Progress achieved? 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment.

#### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget? No

<b>Research programmes and projects</b>	No
<b>Research outputs, products or studies are applied / used by public and private institutions</b>	No
<b>Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR</b>	No

## **Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Research products for planing and projects implementation are still not widely used. ANDMA is still trying to promote research and discussions with universities and research institutes are on going.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

The following challenges were still encountered for this matter during the reporting period :

- There is no single research institute for that purpose in Afghanistan.
- Lack of political commitment for promoting DRR related research
- Lack of expertise and experienced staff
- lack of specific funding for this type of activities.
- volatile security situation

There is hope that the new Afghan administration would see DRR research center as an important part of the development plan. There is also a need for the International community in Afghanistan to provide assistance for establishing research institutes , training of staff, provision of technical expertise and support,

## **Core indicator 4**

*Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.*

Level of Progress achieved? 3

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial.

### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Do public education campaigns for risk-prone communities and local authorities include disaster risk? Yes

<b>Public education campaigns for enhanced awareness of risk.</b>	Yes
<b>Training of local government</b>	Yes
<b>Disaster management (preparedness and emergency response)</b>	Yes
<b>Preventative risk management (risk and vulnerability)</b>	Yes
<b>Guidance for risk reduction</b>	Yes
<b>Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level</b>	Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

ANDMA and partners continued conducting public awareness campaign across the country on natural and man made disaster, DRR and climate change adaptation. ANDMA's initiative for integrating DRR in to developmental strategies across the sectors in underway. There is still a need for a comprehensive policy and strategy to be developed for public awareness in Afghanistan.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

The following challenges were face during the reporting period :

- lack of coordination among the partners,
- lack of expertise in designing a comprehensive policy and strategies
- limited use and application of people indigenous knowledge and coping strategies

In the next phase, ANDMA and line ministries with its partner organizations should develop a comprehensive policy and strategy documents for public awareness to be endorsed and implemented.

In the meantime , ANDMA should coordinate all public awareness campaigns on DRR with all concerned stakeholders in an attempt to standardize the public awareness materials and approaches.



# Priority for Action 4

*Reduce the underlying risk factors*

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## Core indicator 1

*Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.*

Level of Progress achieved? 3

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc) Yes

Protected areas legislation	Yes
Payment for ecosystem services (PES)	No
Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)	Yes
Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)	Yes
Climate change adaptation projects and programmes	Yes

### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

despite the fact, that there are comprehensive state level strategies , policies and regulatory framework for environmental protection the actual enforcement and implementation of these have been challenging during the reporting period to achieve the intended results. There is still inefficient coordination among government agencies and institutions, concern International partners on this matter. Public

awareness level is still very low with regards to environmental issues and lack of financial and technical resources remain an issue.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

The following challenges were faced during the reporting period:

- volatile Security
- insufficient budget to implement strategies and policies
- Lack of expertise to implement the policies
- weak monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Proper implementation of the environmental law will very much depend on improve political environmental and security situation. It is hoped that the new government would consider it as on of their priority and allocate adequate financial allocation for these purposes. It is recommended that both national and International concerned stakeholders would enhance their cooperation and coordination.

## Core indicator 2

*Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.*

Level of Progress achieved? 3

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities? Yes

<b>Crop and property insurance</b>	No
<b>Temporary employment guarantee schemes</b>	No
<b>Conditional and unconditional cash transfers</b>	Yes
<b>Micro finance (savings, loans, etc.)</b>	Yes
<b>Micro insurance</b>	No

## **Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Social protection still being provided through humanitarian response to recurrent emergencies and through cash for work programs, saving groups projects with focus on women and helping families to save money and access capital. Through its national solidarity program MRRD jointly with UNDP are building , strengthening and maintaining the community development councils as effective institutions for local governance and social economic development. CDCs prioritize the communities' priority needs and make decisions about how tackle them. The communities led by the CDCs are now in control of their destinies and through identification of hurdles, they move their communities towards well being and development. In addition to having achievements in various spheres, the NSP managed to enhance the capacities of women, improve their living standards and ensure there role at the community level. In the past, women were considered incapable and valueless creatures and their opinions were seldom heard.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

The following challenges were faced during reporting period :

- High level of poverty
- problems related to gender equality
- Security concerns
- Lack of political will to address the issues
- Limited financial resources
- Low capacity in the government
- Social economic constraints

More robust mechanisms should be put in place to install and promote crop and property insurance, temporary employment guarantee schemes, Micro insurance, further involvement of women in decision making process

## **Core indicator 3**

*Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities*

## Level of Progress achieved? 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment? No

<b>National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.</b>	No
<b>Please provide specific examples: e.g. public infrastructure, transport and communication, economic and productive assets</b>	
<b>Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals</b>	Yes

### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Despite a number of schemes and modalities which address the economic and productive development both public and private institutions lack the physical infrastructure, necessary regulatory framework and the skilled staff to build contemporary and competitive agricultural sector. Still, most of the development programs in Afghanistan are being implemented in areas that are accessible and more secure. There is still weak institutional capacity for creating effective economic and productive sector. There are however successful program addressing change management, public sector development and program support, natural resource management, agriculture production and productivity, economic regeneration etc.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

The following challenges were face during the reporting period:

- Dilapidated infrastructure
- Climate change and natural disaster

- Ongoing conflict and access issues
- inappropriate land and water management
- Poor natural resource management

There is a need for advocacy and lobbying for national and sectoral public investment system to integrate DRR. Development programs in Afghanistan should consider piloting their programs in other areas as well that are less accessible and less secure. More funds should be allocated for retrofitting of public structures. Micro finance institutions should be made available across the country.

## Core indicator 4

*Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.*

Level of Progress achieved? 3

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements? Yes

<b>Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas</b>	Yes
<b>Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas</b>	Yes
<b>Training of masons on safe construction technology</b>	Yes
<b>Provision of safe land and housing for low income households and communities</b>	No
<b>Risk sensitive regulation in land zoning and private real estate development</b>	No
<b>Regulated provision of land titling</b>	Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's

ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Afghanistan still dealing with a growing urban population, particularly in informal settlement with low coverage of basic services and inadequate public resources. There is still limited skill of private sector investment in urban enterprises facilities and or services. The government is still facing difficulties in controlling the construction of houses at risky and hazard prone areas. Houses and building constructed in most cases do not consider the building codes and people use sub standard materials due to poverty.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

- Afghanistan still dealing with problem of returning refugees, IDPs and rural urban migrants.
- There is still limited developmental funding due to low interest of donors in the urban sector.
- Building codes and guidelines for earthquake resistance design exist but hardly implemented.
- There is still low public awareness about existing laws and building codes.

The concerned national authorities should further integrate environment in to development policy and planning. Programs and projects addressing issues of land and water management should be expanded and implemented. Law enforcement forces and other concern authorities must ensure that the existing laws and regulation accordingly implemented.

## **Core indicator 5**

*Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes*

Level of Progress achieved? 3

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial.

### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Do post-disaster programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR for resilient recovery? No

<b>% of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR</b>	0
<b>DRR capacities of local authorities for response and recovery strengthened</b>	Yes
<b>Risk assessment undertaken in pre- and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction planning</b>	Yes
<b>Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery</b>	Yes

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

In accordance with the national disaster response and recovery plan in the recovery phase the government provide the people affected by disaster with land in a non risky sites and some fund to build new houses. During the reporting period, Afghanistan still had to deal with integrating national efforts to reduce the impacts of disasters. Conflict , poverty and unemployment continued to increase peoples vulnerability and erode the coping capacities ti be resilient to disaster.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

- There is strong need for advocating among concerned authorities allocating recovery and reconstruction funds specifically dedicated to DRR.
- Even though there are capacities of local authorities with regards to response and recovery have been slightly improved but there is still a lot needs to be done in this field.
- Even though there has been some progress in terms of gender based issues and recovery but still a lot needs to be done.

**Core indicator 6**

*Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.*

### Level of Progress achieved? 3

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial.

#### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are the impacts of disaster risk that are created by major development projects assessed? Yes

Are cost/benefits of disaster risk taken into account in the design and operation of major development projects? No

<b>Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)</b>	Yes
<b>By national and sub-national authorities and institutions</b>	Yes
<b>By international development actors</b>	Yes

#### Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

The government recognizes the importance of disaster risk impacts by endorsing rules and regulations for not allowing projects in risky and hazard prone areas. However, there are many cases where developmental projects had to be implemented in such locations due to over sight and negligence as well as administrative problems.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

- Integrating DRR in to development plans and projects still remains a big challenges.

It is highly recommended that more efforts and advocacy should be made at policy and decision making levels to mainstream DRR in to development process. Along

term approach would be essential among all concern parties to build in disaster resilience and enhancing mitigation capacities as better progress in reducing disaster risk is essential for the sustainability of development investments and outcomes. Policy makers should ensure that integration of DRR leads in to a strategy for making better progress in addressing under line risk factors.

# Priority for Action 5

*Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels*

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## Core indicator 1

*Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.*

Level of Progress achieved? 3

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are there national programmes or policies for disaster preparedness, contingency planning and response? Yes

**DRR incorporated in these programmes and policies**

No

**The institutional mechanisms exist for the rapid mobilisation of resources in a disaster, utilising civil society and the private sector; in addition to public sector support.**

Yes

Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies? Yes

**Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety**

Yes

**Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness**

Yes

Are future disaster risks anticipated through scenario development and aligned preparedness planning? No

**Potential risk scenarios are developed taking into account climate change projections**

No

**Preparedness plans are regularly updated**

Yes

**based on future risk scenarios**

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Disaster preparedness remains a key component in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the Afghanistan National Strategy for Disaster Management.

Afghanistan Government has the comprehensive linkage for DRR co-actions with the in-country development partners through the framework of Inter-Agency Contingency Plan (IACP). Through a few year experience of implementation, it showed that the plan itself has a problem with integral implementation, since there is a lack of detail consistence and testing/piloting. Contingency plan implementation has also undertaken in an ad-hoc basis.

There are only few projects implemented to make schools and health facilities safer in emergencies, but like most projects in the country, these cover only limited areas.

Level of public acceptance and understanding regarding DRR response planning is still considered as partial and more work needs to be done in this regard.

Emergency response preparedness SOPs have been developed to provide guidance on decision making, prioritization of humanitarian needs and to rapid response to an emergency within the first seven days after a disaster happened. SOPs describe the role and relationship of government through ANDMA, NGOs, Humanitarian organization (IOM and Red Cross Movement) and UN agencies operating in Afghanistan.

These Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) apply to all events which have a humanitarian impact in Afghanistan, including: i.) sudden-onset natural, technological and environmental disasters; population movement/displacement ii.) new complex emergencies; and iii.) slow-onset crises.

The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), namely the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior are a part of the National High Commission for Disaster Management and members of the Provincial Disaster Management Committees. School and hospital safety needs still to be prioritized highlighting the seismic safety of schools and hospitals in earthquake prone areas to address seismic vulnerability in all public school buildings. A wider Master Strategy for School Safety has also needs to be developed to support long term planning for school safety in Afghanistan. The Government and its international partners need to engage in schools retrofitting projects. Some sporadic school safety work is occurring outside of this programme, but tracking of such remains difficult.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the

country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

It has been estimated that there are about 12,740 school buildings in Afghanistan. With more students moving towards private education, it is important for Afghanistan to address safety in these institutions and public buildings.

Due to a large number of constructions involved and also because of the urgency with which these schools are being built, the new constructions do not meet required level of seismic safety. Enforcement of building code for new constructions can be instrumental in minimizing the risk.

Good practices are to be promoted across the country in terms of capacity building and creation of working and conducive legal and policy environment in local, regional and central level. Implementation is still lacking at CDC level to national level.

Safe School Policy should be endorsed from across the stakeholders with primary focus on reducing the multi-hazard risk in the area and construction should be provided with a manual Building codes to be made mandatory with regard to newer constructions or even for existing structures as well.

Assess multi-hazard risk and vulnerability of school buildings throughout the country, rank the schools for actions to be taken (either to replace, retrofit or safe enough to continue operation) and prioritize the intervention with allocation of resources according to the level of hazard.

Vulnerability assessment of schools and hospitals throughout the country and recommendation should be provided for either retrofitting or dismantling and reconstruction.

Develop policy and mandatory regulations for structural and non-structural safety in case of major earthquake for all hospitals throughout the country.

## **Core indicator 2**

*Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.*

Level of Progress achieved? 3

Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial.

### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster? Yes

<b>Plans and programmes are developed with gender sensitivities</b>	No
<b>Risk management/contingency plans for continued basic service delivery</b>	Yes
<b>Operations and communications centre</b>	Yes
<b>Search and rescue teams</b>	Yes
<b>Stockpiles of relief supplies</b>	Yes
<b>Shelters</b>	Yes
<b>Secure medical facilities</b>	Yes
<b>Dedicated provision for disabled and elderly in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities</b>	Yes
<b>Businesses are a proactive partner in planning and delivery of response</b>	No

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

The Government and the UN Humanitarian Country Team have created a joint coordination structure that has been instrumental in disaster preparedness and response. UN OCHA on behalf of UN agencies coordinates the humanitarian assistance including stockpiles of relief supplies, shelters and medical kits.

Emergency operation centres have been established at the national and sub national levels for monitoring the disastrous incidences. Simulation exercises have been conducted for earthquakes and floods but we need to repeat it on regular bases for all hazards. Ministry of Public health has emergency kits and pills during emergencies.

In addition, the Government and international and national partners have coordinated efforts in the development of national cluster contingency plans since 2013. Based on these contingency plans, clusters have been coordinating efforts to stockpile essential items for response. In support of the cluster coordination mechanism, ANDMA has been practicing nationwide disaster preparedness and response planning workshops at national, regional and district levels. As a result of these efforts, all districts have prepared DDRPs and DRR focal points have received DRR

orientations.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Due to lack of proper coordination, capacity building and resource development, the planning and policies are not effectively implemented and monitored in Afghanistan. Adequacy and sufficiency of emergency response and preparedness are still felt hence regular drills and simulations should be prioritized. Some of the challenges faced by different organizations are listed below:

- Length of programs leaves much to be desired for project based activities and this constraint often results in one-time activity. Sustainability is key challenge to these activities.
- No enough time required for simulation
- Insufficient dissemination of information in the prescribed formats.
- Lack of per-positioning provisions of agencies.

The district level Development Committees should be provided with financial and technical resources to ensure local resilience, and Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans (DPRPs) should be developed community level. Provision should be made to spend at least 5% of annual budget at local level and separate local budgets should be allocated for DRR and environmental management initiatives.

The district and local level DPRPs should be timely revised integrating annual drills, simulations, awareness campaigns.

The cluster approach should be continued and strengthened by allocating clear roles and responsibilities and sharing good practices. Indigenous knowledge systems should be promoted in local communities for reliability, clear understanding and good endorsement from local institutions.

### **Core indicator 3**

*Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.*

Level of Progress achieved? 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment.

#### **Key Questions and Means of Verification**

Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster? Yes

<b>National contingency and calamity funds</b>	Yes
<b>The reduction of future risk is considered in the use of calamity funds</b>	Yes
<b>Insurance and reinsurance facilities</b>	No
<b>Catastrophe bonds and other capital market mechanisms</b>	No

**Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

The government of Afghanistan has in place a few strong mechanisms for disaster response and recovery initiatives: Emergency fund which is used during response operations. The ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) maintains strategic reserves of wheat which can be used under the direction of National DM committee. MRRD has the contingency plans for restoration of strategic infrastructure during emergencies. Moreover, the municipalities have reserves for restoration of important infrastructures during disasters.

During disaster events some public, private, institutional and foreign aid agencies allocate budget so that governmental response is becoming easier, which was seen during 2014 landslide and floods in Afghanistan.

Additionally, Regional Administration Offices, Afghan Red Cross Society (ARCS) have separate relief fund and stocks and the UN also has a central emergency and relief fund administered by OCHA to fund response measures in an expedited way. In addition to government agencies, I/NGOs and community based organizations are Putting their efforts together in collecting funds to carry out emergency relief operations with the government.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

Resources are not enough for massive disasters. There are no insurance and reinsurance systems in place for assisting the affected population. The emergency fund is not used for Integrating DRR into recovery projects.

The emergency food reserve in the country is currently not adequate to address acute food shortages in the country, forcing the country to resort to food imports. The government needs to prepare a comprehensive plan to raise the reserve to higher levels in near future.

Budget allocation and implementation is not effective in Afghanistan context due to financial and technical capacity of government as well as the stakeholders.

Budgetary allocation is not sufficient and institutional commitments are yet to be rendered with emergency support and response.

Geographical asperities, annual torrential precipitation, lack of preparedness and simulations are key challenges to implement rapid response and relief activities.

Beside this, trained human resources are still being lagged. Additional challenges include; the management of warehouses and limited stockpiling, communication equipment and infrastructures, implementation of National Building Codes, management of evacuation sites, high risk seismic zone and haphazard construction practices.

Comprehensive earthquake response and recovery plans has to be developed for every urban centers, and vulnerable urban areas should be prioritized more due to concentration of population, critical facilities and infrastructures.

Policy tools are necessary to ensure disaster resilient public facilities such as schools and hospitals, and critical infrastructure such as communications.

Purposeful open spaces supplied with WASH facilities are to be installed and maintained in regular interval in urban centers and other disaster prone areas.

Trained human resources like Firefighters, Search and Rescue, First Responders, volunteers are to be developed for immediate intervention at community level.

### Core indicator 4

*Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews.*

Level of Progress achieved? 2

Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment.

### Key Questions and Means of Verification

Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur? No

<b>Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available</b>	Yes
<b>Post-disaster need assessment methodologies</b>	No

**Post-disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects**

No

**Identified and trained human resources**

Yes

### **Provide description and constraints for the overall core indicator (not only the means of verification).**

Please describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking/ assessment for the indicated level of progress.

Comprehensive risk management has been raised as an urgent issue among the stakeholders in Afghanistan overcoming the traditional response and relief frameworks. Integrated disaster risk management is the ultimate solution of DRR/M with sustainable development strategy. Though, due to political transition and focus on infrastructure development, this concept has been seldom talked among the stakeholders in Afghanistan.

Budgetary allocation receives little attention with regard to DRR/M despite the policies in place. There is still limited capacity to collect disaster related data to adequately inform decision making for risk reduction and emergency preparedness. Sharing knowledge among the stakeholders at all levels has not been sufficient and hence the resource allocation, mobilization and proper response are not properly ensured yet. Knowledge management and formulation of decentralized policies focusing on participation and inclusive motto might overturn the present DRR/M scenario, though proper attention is still lagging in Afghanistan.

Provide an explanation of some of the key contextual reasons for the country's ranking assessment at the indicated level. In particular, highlight key challenges encountered by the country/ national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/ will be overcome in the future.

There is still a need to develop more and reliable EWS for major hazards and disseminate information from various sources in a regular manner. For this, EWS are to be disseminated through mass media, mobile phones with the approval and verification of concerned government agencies.

Available database should be managed properly and strengthened for instant data access and use.

There is a need to develop infrastructure for Emergency Operations Centers in all districts and ensure proper collaboration among the stakeholders and agencies for collection, analysis and dissemination of data to the communities.

Integration of advanced technology with indigenous knowledge, community practices and local initiatives should be prioritized for sustainability.

Research on disaster affected communities, particularly on vulnerable groups such

as children and adolescents should be strengthened.

# Drivers of Progress

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## **a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development**

### Levels of Reliance

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?: Yes

If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who)

Scattered studies and reports on hazards exist but comprehensive atlases and database have not been developed. There is a need to have an up-to-date comprehensive Risks and Vulnerabilities Assessment, Modelling and Impact Projection Report. This is important in order to understand the history, trend and project the future impact of various hazards in the country. Also the information will be useful for policy, strategy and planning guidance in various aspects by different disaster management stakeholders.

Despite attempts to expand the multi hazards approach down to the grass root level and have data on all hot spots and sites for a multi hazards approach planning this exercise could not be implemented due to access and security constraints. It is also imperative to integrate DRR of multi hazards into developmental strategies and planning across the relevant sectors.

### **Additional related documents and links**

- [NRVA](#)
- [NRV](#)

## **b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized**

### Levels of Reliance

Is gender disaggregated data available and being applied to decision-making for risk reduction and recovery activities?: Yes

Do gender concerns inform policy and programme conceptualisation and implementation in a meaningful and appropriate way?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who)

While Afghanistan has ratified in 2003 the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), there has not been adequate rigorous gender analysis of policies of line ministries to date. This has had a negative impact in the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA).

According to UNDP Since 2002, Afghan women have improved their access to public services and to the public sphere, which had been denied to them during the years of Taliban rule. Some of the most visible signs of progress are the fact that 46 percent of girls are attending primary school and the increasing number of women working in schools, hospitals and government offices.

Despite these achievements, huge challenges remain with respect to women's mobility, participation in public life, decision making, health, and access to economic and educational opportunities. Only 12 percent of Afghan women can read and write. Their position in the labour market is also particularly weak. While 47 percent of women participate in the labour force, almost all (95 percent) are in vulnerable employment. Since women's mobility outside the home is limited for cultural reasons, they work in their houses in activities like carpet weaving, sewing, tailoring and farm duties, especially in rural areas.

Incidents of violence against women still remain largely under-reported due to social norms and taboos, and customary and religious beliefs. According to the 2008 Global Rights' report, more than 87 percent of women have experienced at least one form of physical, sexual or psychological violence, or forced marriage. Victims fear social stigma and exclusion, and face at times threat to life. In some instances, the police and prosecutor's offices, rather than following required legal procedures, refer cases - including serious crimes - to traditional assemblies such as jirgas and shuras for advice or resolution, which often reinforce harmful practices. For example, a court may sentence a rapist to imprisonment but a jirga or shura may decide the rapist should marry the victim.

The role of women in coping with disasters and take preparedness for risk reduction at the household level is still not acknowledged as significant in Afghanistan, even though women play a vital role in different phases of disaster. A gender sensitive risk reduction approach has still to be developed in country at all levels.

There is still a lot remains to be done in this area. Gender disaggregated data is not available yet; several sporadic studies demonstrated that women are worst affected in any disasters. ANDMA and its partners need to develop tools to gather gender disaggregated data. Gender responsive disaster response mechanism has to be devised. Women's participation and leadership in the local and central government institutions have slightly increased but not enough in the field of DRR. Women's role in the CDCs, PDCs and other committees at different levels needs to be up-scaled. Various DRR/DRM training modules of government and NGOs need to incorporate gender and DRR issues, while the curriculum of graduation courses on DRM in concerned Universities in the country need to adequately address this issue.

#### **Additional related documents and links**

- [SNAP](#)

### **c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened**

#### Levels of Reliance

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Do responsible designated agencies, institutions and offices at the local level have capacities for the enforcement of risk reduction regulations?:  
Yes

Are local institutions, village committees, communities, volunteers or urban resident welfare associations properly trained for response?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who)

Disaster management system of Afghanistan still needs a lot of combine efforts by all concerned stakeholders so that it is geared to risk reduction rather than relief distribution. The government need to invest more to risk reduction and disaster mitigation activities annually. Most of the development donors as well as planning and project approving agencies, national and local authorities should pursue mainstreaming DRR measures into their plans and activities.

Even though awareness and training programmes and projects on disaster risk reduction have been conducted for government officials, teachers, school children, and general public with the assistance of stakeholder agencies more work should be carried out in this regard to fortify the achievements and gains attained thus far. They have certainly increased the capacity on disaster risk reduction in every layer in the

society in different scale but sustainability of these achievements remains fragile. Consistent practice will have to be adopted which would ensure effective information exchange, awareness raising, intensive training, and encourage communities to understand the complexity of the problem.

Afghanistan still needs a comprehensive disaster resilience building designing for schools and hospital and disaster resilience building guidelines should be in place for the disasters such as floods, earthquakes, landslides and avalanches and other hazards. Even though two national universities conduct postgraduate level courses on disaster management it is widely recognised that there is a further need for disaster risk reduction & management integration into school and university curriculum.

Development of hazard maps and establishment of a central repository for past disaster records should be pursued and made freely available for the public usage through web pages and other sources.

## **d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities**

### Levels of Reliance

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Do programmes take account of socio-environmental risks to the most vulnerable and marginalised groups?: Yes

Are appropriate social protection measures / safety nets that safeguard against their specific socioeconomic and political vulnerabilities being adequately implemented?: Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who)

Disasters and climate change impacts are increasing in intensity and scope due to the combined effects of large-scale environmental, social, demographic, and technological changes. Climate change and the potential for increased disasters related to extreme events also raise critical concerns for long-term human security and sustain development gains. Also, an effective development strategy will have to be conflict-sensitive and take into account the complex security and social fabric of Afghanistan and the specificities of the dynamics of the armed opposition.

Afghanistan is now engaged in a three-fold transition, in the political, military, and socio-economic spheres. Its strategy for managing this transition is based on the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and National Priority Programmes (NPPs), and described in the July 2012 Tokyo Conference paper “Towards Self-Reliance.” The success of these efforts will have a major bearing on prospects for bringing about a subsequent process of equitable and sustainable human development, often referred to as the ‘Decade of Transformation’.

Frequent natural disasters are a fact of life in Afghanistan. Flooding, landslides, and droughts recur with cycles in the weather; extreme weather conditions and avalanches often isolate rural communities during the winter; and seismically active areas lead to a high frequency of earthquakes, particularly in the East and North. The frequency and severity of flooding and droughts has been exacerbated both by the disruption of water management capacities and by environmental degradation, as well as the effects of global climate change. Relief operations depend to a considerable extent upon international donors and informal, community organizations, owing to the limited budget and logistical capacities of the national disaster risk management agency.

There are large areas where security is still compromised. We still need to involve the local shuras (councils) with the assistance of government authorities and humanitarian organization to make their strategic reserves and needs. Poverty remains a crosscutting issue and every sector need to boost up economic activities so that people will have opportunities to enhance their livelihood.

Women, children, elderly and disabled remain most vulnerable in many contexts of Afghanistan and their specific needs and priorities have not been well addressed and these will need to be in the focus of attention in coming years through strategic, policy and planning perspectives.

## **e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels**

### Levels of Reliance

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Are there identified means and sources to convey local and community experience or traditional knowledge in disaster risk reduction?: Yes

If so, are they being integrated within local, sub-national and national disaster risk reduction plans and activities in a meaningful way?: Yes

## Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who)

Recognizing the vital role of UN, INGOs/NGO and private sector not only in recovery phase but also in preparedness and risk reduction they have been actively engaged in the national platform for DRR along with concerned line ministries and other stakeholders.

Crucially, communities and families play a key role in disaster risk management everywhere, and Afghanistan is no exception. Afghanistan Red Crescent Society can and should benefit significantly from community-based and local participation. Valuable experiences of community based disaster management in the country can and should be used to develop standardized models and guidelines.

## Contextual Drivers of Progress

### Levels of Reliance

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

## Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who)

Government of Afghanistan and its international allies need to seriously consider allocating adequate financial means to implement effective, timely result-based sustainable activities in each phases of the disaster management cycle and continually provide funds for relief activities as well.

DRR has still to be mainstreamed into the major development projects and mitigation activities should not be neglected during the project implementation stage. Therefore establishing a proper monitoring and evaluation mechanism by approving agencies will be required to address this issue.

Afghanistan's pursuit of sustainable development could be achieved by leading actions to minimize disaster impacts at the development stage. Government and its allies' commitment to support disaster risk reduction activities against relief distribution should be committed in the allocation of funds for DRR activities. It is imperative that long term integrated development plans should be established and implemented without considering the political or personal interests. Local politicians should be encouraged to become engaged in programme such as resilient cities and their interest on disaster resilience should be increased by exposing them to best practices in the region or other parts of the country.

Capacities on disaster risk reduction among the local leaders have to be developed

through regular and extensive training and awareness as they are the leaders and also the first responders who manage the emergency situations.

Increasing effects of climate change also negatively affect the economic development of the country. Developing and adopting the national strategies for mitigation and adaptation of climate change under the concerned ministry in Afghanistan will have direct impacts to overcome these issues.

# Future Outlook

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## Future Outlook Area 1

***The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.***

### Overall Challenges

#### Overall Challenges:

The biggest challenge is the knowledge and awareness of policy makers regarding the importance of DRR integration into developmental policies and planning. With a disastrous event, years of development can be ruined in a matter of seconds. Moreover, dedicated fund for DRR and Disaster management across the actors is a challenge and at a moment there is nominal fund allocation.

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### Future Outlook Statement

ANDMA and DM partners will strive for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the developmental policies and planning of all DM actors. For that we will focus on:

- Building a national consensus on disaster risk reduction among all the stakeholders and increasing their knowledge and awareness regarding essentiality of DRR integration into developmental works.
- Ensuring the enforcement of DM Law
- Allocation of dedicated fund for DRR
- Involvement of communities at the grass root level for making them resilient to disasters
- Ensuring social and gender equity in disaster risk reduction
- Ensuring the involvement of financing organizations for investment and micro financing in DRR

## Future Outlook Area 2

***The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to***

## Overall Challenges

We have not been able so far to extend the DM committees at the district and village level.

The capacity to cope disasters at the lower administrative level is limited. Financial backup at the lower levels is quite nominal and does not match with vulnerability and hazards threaten the communities.

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## Future Outlook Statement

Enhancing the capacity of the disaster management institutions with following focus:

- A comprehensive institutional strengthening mechanism and plan of action at the national and sub national level.
- Promoting Community Based Disaster Management Planning and risk reduction with involvement of communities at risk.
- Strengthening the vigilant information system with national emergency Communication plan to ensure real time dissemination of early warnings to communities at risk and local authorities.
- Empowering the local authorities with financial support to initiate various DRR projects traditionally and culturally acceptable and feasible.

## Future Outlook Area 3

***The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.***

## Overall Challenges

So far the DM actors including government, non government and UN agencies more and less concentrated on response with no attentions to DRR. Planning and resource

allocation  
were centered around response to disasters.

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## Future Outlook Statement

- DM Authorities will be supported to develop post disaster recovery and reconstruction framework and mechanism with the incorporation of DRR into response and recovery programs
- New approaches and best practices will be adopted for better response and recovery from other post conflicts countries.

# Stakeholders

*Organizations, departments, and institutions that have contributed to the report*

Organization	Organization type	Focal Point
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)	Governments	Naseer Ahmar Popal, Director Social Protection
Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)	Governments	Dr. Abdul Hamid Ahmazaid, Emergency Senior Adviser to the minister
National Environmental Agency (NEPA)	Governments	Wali Modaqiq, Deputy Director General
Mission East	Non-Governmental Organizations	Zamarai Ahmadzai, Deputy Country Director Mission East - Afghanistan
Afghan Aid	Non-Governmental Organizations	Eng. Habibullah Habib, DRR Officer
Coordination of Afghanistan Relief (CoAR)	Non-Governmental Organizations	Eng. Halim Halime, Humanitarian and DRR Coordinator, SHARQ & CoAR
Church World Service (CWS)	Non-Governmental Organizations	Nejabat Khan Safi, Director
FOCUS humanitarian	Non-Governmental Organizations	Zabiullah Akbari, Admin officer
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Non-Governmental Organizations	Dr Muhammad Zahir Khan, Program Coordinator
Save the Children	Non-Governmental Organizations	Mohammad Rafi Aziz, Emergency & Humanitarian Associate Director
Halvetas	Non-Governmental Organizations	Khalid Azami, Deputy Country Director
International Organization	UN & International	Gul Mohammad

Migration ( IOM )	Organizations	Ahmadi, Humanitarian Assistance Programme
UN OCHA	UN & International Organizations	Sham Khalili, CMCoord and Liaison Officer
UNFPA	UN & International Organizations	Dr. Abdul Qader Raza, Program Officer Humanitarian Assistance