



Gambia

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:	24 February 2015
Print date:	23 April 2015
Reporting language:	English

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

Outcomes

Strategic Outcome For Goal 1

Outcomes Statement

1. Government of The Gambia has established a policy framework for disaster management with a focus on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development planning and programmes. The present focus is to strengthen the implementation of various provisions of Disaster Management Act 2008 which will include;

- The National Contingency Plan (NCP) is updated and identified five major hazards such as; disease outbreak, flood, drought, fire and pest invasion.
- The NCP is prepared; finalized/approval is under way.
- The updated plan indicates stakeholders responsible for smooth implementation of each activity outlined in the NCP. The activities are multi-sectoral nature for effective disaster response and preparedness. The preparedness/risk reduction activities are mainly aimed at strengthening the capacity of partners at regional, district and community levels.
- Mainstreaming Adaption Disaster Reduction into Development (MADRID)

Strategic Outcome For Goal 2

Outcomes Statement

Strategies have been adopted for strengthening the Regional Disaster Management Committees, District Disaster Management Committees and Village Disaster Management Committees to fulfill the responsibilities stipulated in the Disaster Management Act 2008. Emphasis laid on urban risk reduction by addressing planning and development issues through suitable legislative and regulatory mechanisms. Comprehensive Human Resource Development Plan is being prepared for the entire country with adequate financial assistance for Training and capacity building on Disaster Management. Efforts to be made to strengthen partnerships and coordination with corporate sector, civil society organizations and various ministries and departments at national and regional level. .

Strategic Outcome For Goal 3

Outcomes Statement

Building back better has been the main principle adopted by Government of The

Gambia for post disaster reconstruction and recovery. There will be an increasing focus to set-up recovery framework which will enable the people affected by disasters to access resources for rebuilding their lives and to revive their livelihoods. The key focus areas will be;

1. Regional Contingency Plan is being prepared in 5 regions and 2 municipalities
2. The District and village level contingency planning is in the process.
3. The National and Regional Disaster Management Committees have taken the initiative to communicate elected representatives and district officials to discuss Preparedness Plans before every monsoon.
4. Preparation of Village Disaster Management Plan are in the process
5. Choice of appropriate of hazard resistant technology and effective land use planning to prevent loss of physical assets in future is in process.
6. Project impact assessment to ensure that the reconstruction projects contemplated do not create any negative effects on the physical, socio-cultural or economic environment of the affected communities
7. Provision for health care facilities.
8. Livelihood restoration and economic redevelopment in the affected area.

Strategic goals

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

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- The National Contingency Plan (NCP) is updated and identified five major hazards such as; disease outbreak, flood, drought, fire and pest invasion.
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- The updated plan indicates stakeholders responsible for smooth implementation of each activity outlined in the NCP. The activities are multi-sectoral nature for effective disaster response and preparedness. The preparedness/risk reduction activities are mainly aimed at strengthening the capacity of partners at regional, district and community levels.
- Mainstreaming Adaption Disaster Reduction into Development (MADRiD)

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

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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

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Priority for Action 1

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

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? 5

Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels.

Key Questions and Means of Verification

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

National development plan	Yes
Sector strategies and plans	No
Climate change policy and strategy	No
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.

National Institutional and legal framework exists: The following achievement has

been made by the Government of The Gambia since establishment of National Disaster Management Agency

- National Disaster Management Policy 2007
- National Disaster Management Act 2008
- National Disaster Management Agency was established 17th September 2008
- National Disaster Management Strategic Plan – 2009
- National Disaster Management Council is established under the Chairmanship of His Excellency President of The Gambia
- Structures extended from National to Village level; Regional Disaster Management Committee, District Disaster Management Committee, Village Disaster Management Committee
- Disaster Management Act incorporates prevention, preparedness and response
- Disaster Risk Reduction is integrated with NDMA Annual Work Plan at the National and Regional level
- Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaption is integrated by the programme called Mainstreaming Adaption Disaster Reduction into Development (MADRID)

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.

Vulnerability to disasters in The Gambia is well identified by un-regulated urban and rural planning. The impact of floods (especially flash floods) on local populations is aggravated by improper land-use planning and unmaintained drainage and sewage systems. Interviewees have pointed out that in most cases, it is the stagnant water in failing drainage systems that cause damage, and not necessarily the quantity of precipitation.

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? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

Key Questions and Means of Verification

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

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

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.

Dedicated funding from the national budget is secured annually and parts of these resources are also decentralized to the regions to undertake Disaster Management activities at the local level.

- Dedicated fund is allocated for Disaster Management activities in the PAGE
- NDMA is mobilizing fund from donors for DRR/DRM
- US \$ 5 million Japanese grant under the Kanpro project for natural disasters for the Gambia in the provision of equipment to deal with natural disasters posed by climate change.
- US \$ 200,000 Government of Republic of China on Taiwan grant for institutional strengthening of NDMA in the form of capacity building support, completion of the National Contingency Plan, Risk Assessment and the establishment of a GIS system Unit within NDMA etc.
- A proposal in response to the 2010 floods for immediate, short term to medium term assistance and funding pledge was made and approved to materialize from the EU – B Envelope for drainage systems.

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 remain the main challenge; more advocacy to be done

Related Attachments:

- Disaster strategic plan (2008)- attached

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved? 5

Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels.

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?)

No

Regular budget allocations for DRR to local government

Yes

Estimated % of local budget allocation assigned to DRR

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 Governing Council is chaired by the President of The Gambia and comprises various sector ministries (interior, defence, finance, health, climate change environment, local government, agriculture, water resources, justice, chamber of commerce), the executive director of NDMA and one representative of NGOs in Gambia.

The secretariat to the Council is embodied by the National Disaster Management Agency. The NDMA is managed by an Executive Director and is located in the Office of the President. The Agency is assisted by the National Technical Advisory Group, which comprises technical experts from within and outside the civil service. The NDMA is the coordinating body for all disaster management and risk reduction activities in The Gambia.

· Decentralization of Disaster Management structures is established at District and

Village level

- National Disaster Management Governing Council comprises of Ministries and representatives from NGOs
- Regional/Municipal Disaster Management Committee is under NDMA chaired by Governor and Mayor at Municipality level
- Regional Disaster Management Committee is supported by Regional Disaster Management Coordinators
- District Disaster Management Committee exist at the District level, chaired by the District chiefs

In addition to the specific disaster management structures, several national institutions have a role to play in disaster management and risk reduction efforts in The Gambia such as;

- National Disaster Management Agency
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Department of Physical Planning and Housing
- Ministry of Climate Change, Environment, Water Resources parks and wild life
- National Environment Agency
- Ministry of Fisheries
- National Assembly Matters
- Department of Forestry
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
- Women's Bureau
- Gambia Bureau of Statistics
- National Roads Authority
- Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
- The University of The Gambia
- Gambia National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

Adaptation

- Gambia Fire and Rescue Services
- Gambia Armed Force
- Gambia Police Force

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 resources available with the local authorities are very small, with inadequate resources most of the time it is difficult for them to support certain activities.

Related Attachments:

- Disaster Management Policy (2008) – Attached

Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

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

civil society members (specify absolute number)	8
national finance and planning institutions (specify absolute number)	3
sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)	12
private sector (specify absolute number)	1
science and academic institutions (specify absolute number)	1
women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)	1
other (please specify)	6

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

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

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 Gambia established National Platform for DRR & CCA in June 2011 with support from ECOWAS through UNISDR

- Platform is chaired by the Honourable Minister for environment climate change, water resources, parks and wild life and Vice-Chaired by Vice-chair, the University of the Gambia

- The National Platform has 5 thematic working groups, including on DRR and climate change adaptation. The functions of the National Platform are;

- (i) advocate for DRR and its mainstreaming into development policies, planning and programmes and humanitarian assistance;

- (ii) coordinate efforts among its members;

- (iii) serve as a catalyst for national consultations and consensus building for the implementation and monitoring of DRR programmes and response activities;

- (iv) provide opportunities for NGOs and CBOs to support DRR efforts in the context of local development;

- (v) facilitate information sharing, knowledge sharing and technology transfer.

The activities of the National Platform are increasingly being re-focused on disaster prevention and building resilience, as well as climate change adaptation. However, the National Platform lacks the financial resources required to implement DRR activities. In addition, there is a need to continue to sensitize its members on DRR and climate change adaptation concepts and good practices.

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.

Capacities of the grass root structures. Capacity building of all structures envisaged
Related Attachments:

Platform (2011) – Attach the document

Priority for Action 2

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

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? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

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

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

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.

National Risk Assessment was planned to be conducted by May 2011 but due to inadequate resources and capacities it could not be possible. Currently, with the support of World Bank, the work is in progress.

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 key constraints for conducting a national multi hazard risk assessment were mainly resources and capacity.

Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Are disaster losses and hazards systematically reported, monitored and analyzed?
Yes

Disaster loss databases exist and are regularly updated

Yes

Reports generated and used in planning by finance, planning and sectoral line ministries (from the disaster databases/ information systems)

Yes

Hazards are consistently monitored across

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.

- Standardized comprehensive national and regional DM data base have been developed
- National Vulnerability and capacity assessment has been conducted in 4 regions and capacity assessment of NDMA and partners was done by consultancy firm.
- A comprehensive food security and vulnerability assessment was conducted in January 2011 by WFP and partners
- A strategy for monitoring food security in the country was developed in 2010

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.

A Strategy for Monitoring Food Security in The Gambia has been developed in 2010 and subsequently updated. Resources are being mobilized for the continuation of the initiative into the subsequent phase to enable periodic collection of primary information on food insecurity and vulnerability.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events? Yes

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

- Web based EW message dissemination is developed
- Hydro-Metrology services has 10 weather stations across the country, the collaboration with regional Institutions such as; Agrymet and CILSS is undertaken
- Hydro-Metrology services provides information 40 days before the rainy season
- In case of potential flood and drought, TV and Radio is used to broadcast in English (limitation)
- Hydro-Metrology services is working on a new project with GEF on EW, specifically climate related hazards

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.

Resource and capacity constrains as well and integrating scientific and indigenous knowledge pose grate challenges in the setup of a coherent and easy to understand early warning systems. However, strikes have been made considering the two early warning pilot projects in the North Bank Region in collaboration with metrological services and Lower Regions in collaboration with the Gambia Red Cross Society; were scientific and local knowledge are used with the full participation of the grass root people to give them credible signs.

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

Establishing and maintaining regional hazard monitoring	No
Regional or sub-regional risk assessment	No
Regional or sub-regional early warning	Yes
Establishing and implementing protocols for transboundary information sharing	No
Establishing and resourcing regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks	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 Gambia takes part in most sub-regional actions geared towards reducing disaster risks

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 and commitments in international institutions fulfilling their pledges and promises.

For all pledges and commitments be fulfill at all times.

Priority for Action 3

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

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? 5

Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels.

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is there a national disaster information system publicly available? Yes

Information is proactively disseminated	Yes
Established mechanisms for access / dissemination (internet, public information broadcasts - radio, TV,)	Yes
Information is provided with proactive guidance to manage 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.

National DM website was established in 2011

- Development of Information Education Communication on Disaster Risk Reduction is on the way
- Sensitization on DM Act, Policy and strategic action plan is done at the national, regional and other level
- National Disaster Management Agency website www.ndma.gm and a National Disaster Management Database is developed

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 key challenge is capacity and resources update both the database and the website.

Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved? 3

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

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum? Yes

primary school curriculum	No
secondary school curriculum	No
university curriculum	Yes
professional DRR education programmes	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.

- Incorporation of DRR in School curricula is in progress
- Disaster Management is established in the University of The Gambia
- Methods and tools for risk assessment developed
- In collaboration of Metrological Department and UTG, the GoG is planning to

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.

Inadequate Knowledge of DRR by the University, tertiary institutions and research based knowle

Absence of standard training plan and a standard training manual on DRR

Resources constraint

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

Key Questions and Means of Verification

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

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

Scientific and technological development; data sharing; space-based earth observation; climate modelling and forecasting; early warning are all activities are planned and to be implemented in collaboration with metrological services and university of the Gambia.

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.

NDMA has established links with Bournemouth University Disaster Management Centre in UK, National Emergency Management Agency of Nigeria, and The University of Columbia on exchange of best practices, GIS development and Capacity building

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? 5

Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels.

Key Questions and Means of Verification

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

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

Effective national coordination mechanisms exist for information exchange and awareness as follows: Inter- Agency coordination meetings/partnership building, Inter-Agency rapid emergency coordination group established, NDMA/United Nations Country Team joint coordination for information exchange; Regional/Municipal and District Disaster Management Committees in place together with the National platform for DRR/CCA.

Capacity building training for National Assembly members and Senior government officials on DRR friendly laws and the HFA.

Media houses and security personnel are all trained and sensitized on DRR with Radio programmes on DRR every Friday between 5pm to 6pm at Gambia Radio &Television Services and there are other DRR programmes with Community Radio Stations across the Country on DRR.

National Network of Non-State Actors on DRR launched to support DRR advocacy at all levels

There are two important networks specifically on advocacy and information exchange and awareness creation; these are the Young Ambassador for DRR and CCA who work closely with their peers and the school level and also the Network of Journals.

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 and attitudinal change remains to be the major challenge.

- Lack of awareness campaigns on HFA and limited capacities at the local coupled with minimal resource allocation from local and central government on DRR and planning activities.

Priority for Action 4

Reduce the underlying risk factors

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? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

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

· [Enhancing Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Areas and Communities to Climate Change](#)

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.

Provisions to regulate the management of environment disasters are included in the National Emergency Management Act 1994 by NEA

· Land use planning and building codes banking system has been introduced for

proper land use

- The NEA is mandated to implement the Gambia Environmental Action plan
- There is a national policy on environmental sustainability that contributes to DRR
- The Environmental Inter-Agency working group meets regularly
- The Gambia Environment Assessment report has published in 2010
- At the national level and community level, the Government has developed seed banks across 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 review, enforcement and monitoring of land-use planning regulations (residential and agricultural), infrastructure planning regulations and building codes is seen as a critical requirement for disaster management and risk reduction.

- Constructions are initiated without building permits and there seems to be no systematic penalty mechanism in place to reduce noncompliance.

- Lack of understanding on disaster management issues of the technicians working in urban planning to address systematically.

- An updated country-wide disaster risk profile is missing, and so is an assessment of the current state of housing, including documentation of house collapse (generally due to high levels of moisture).

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The development of a proper early warning system for floods, awareness and outreach on disaster-proof construction methods and tools, and programmes for voluntary relocation of vulnerable communities have also been highlighted as a priority by the government.

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Capacity development is clearly needed on disaster risk reduction and its implications for land-use planning, especially in the urban areas.

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Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved? 2

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

Key Questions and Means of Verification

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

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

- Vulnerability reduction is underway through diversified income options; Concern Universal and Oxfam America is working on this.
- PPP have been created to cater the private risk pools
- NDMA is working with WFP to produce the Gambia food security and vulnerability report
- National Disaster fund has been established
- Financial risk sharing mechanism scheme is still in process

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.

Inadequate knowledge of insurers on the use of micro-insurance to deal with risks and uncertainties and resources.

- Technical person needed to sensitize them.

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

National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.

No

Please provide specific examples: e.g. public infrastructure, transport and communication, economic and productive assets

Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

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.

A master plan for urban and land use planning exists and the Department of Physical Planning and Housing has a key role on this

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.

Capacity building needed in this area coupled with experts

Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved? 1

Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy.

Key Questions and Means of Verification

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

Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas	Yes
Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas	Yes
Training of masons on safe construction technology	No
Provision of safe land and housing for low income households and communities	No
Risk sensitive regulation in land zoning and private real estate development	Yes
Regulated provision of land titling	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 Land banking scheme is being introduced in The Gambia to ensure proper land use planning

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 and technical knowledge.

Investing in the construction of good drainage systems and discouraging people not to settle on waterways

Core indicator 5

Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Do post-disaster programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR for resilient recovery? Yes

% of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR	
DRR capacities of local authorities for response and recovery strengthened	No
Risk assessment undertaken in pre- and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction planning	Yes
Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery	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 has been able to secure a project on drainage and sanitation, which may help to mitigate future adverse impact of flooding in Gambia

Community pit latrines have been constructed in partnership with UNICEF and IFRC

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 key challenges encountered by authorities are resources, proper landuse planning and waste management.

Core indicator 6

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

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

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? Yes

Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)	Yes
By national and sub-national authorities and institutions	No
By international development actors	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.

All major projects in the Gambia most undergo an EIA before implementation, this not only look at the Environment bid which ultimately looks at DRR but also the Disaster Risk side.

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.

No particular mention of Risk impact assessment to be conducted for project before

implementation, however, efforts are on the way for NDMA to be fully involve in the through assessment of projects from the planning, implementation and evaluation stakes to have the DRR bid taken care.

Priority for Action 5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

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? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

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

Yes

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

No

Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness

No

Are future disaster risks anticipated through scenario development and aligned preparedness planning? Yes

Potential risk scenarios are developed taking into account climate change projections

Yes

· [Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment \(PAGE\) 2012-2015](#)

**Preparedness plans are regularly updated
based on future risk scenarios**

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 terms of school infrastructure, the Committee for Standards in School Building is collaborating with the Department of Physical Planning and Housing in ensuring that school safety mechanisms are in place.

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Schools in disaster-prone areas benefited from school refitting programmes. There is a need to continue to work with the Ministry of Education on the safety of all schools as more and more storms are reported due to climate variability. In addition, there is a need to ensure that the schools are adequately built to also serve as community safety places in times of disasters such as floods. At the moment, there is an ongoing assessment of the school infrastructure conducted by WFP and UNICEF

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With support from UNICEF staff of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education capacities were built to plan, implement, monitor and report on disaster risk reduction and response in Education.

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.

· Coordination, Resources and understanding of some stakeholder.

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· More training, sensitizations, dialogue and fund raising needed.

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? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such

as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

Key Questions and Means of Verification

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

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

Resources and capacities remains to be the main challenge.

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.

National Contingency Plan is developed

An Inter-Agency rapid emergency coordination Group has been established

The committee for standards in School building is collaborating with Department of Physical Planning and Housing to ensure that school safety mechanism are in place.

Simulation exercise are periodically conducted, especially ferry crossing points.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

Key Questions and Means of Verification

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

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

National and Regional Emergency funds have been established and are in operation

- Establishment of National Disaster Fund is in progress
- The Government of The Gambia has established the disaster emergency fund

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 fund is not enough to address creating major Disasters in the country. Appeal from partners and donors to put in more resources in this fund.

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? 4

Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities.

Key Questions and Means of Verification

Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur? Yes

Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available

Yes

Post-disaster need assessment methodologies

Yes

· [Assessment tool](#)

Post-disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects

Yes

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.

Dialogue for the coordination and information exchange between disaster managers is in progress

Developed standardize rapid and detail assessment tools, Situational analysis report

tools.

This tool was used during the just ended 2012 flash floods and windstorm disasters.

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.

More capacity building on rapid assessment and data entry and analysis.

Drivers of Progress

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)

A multi-hazard assessment was conducted in 2006 and this has been an important tool for planning for both NDMA and partners. A multi-hazard risk zoning exercise was conducted in 2014.

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

Levels of Reliance

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

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)

The involvement of women, girls and youths in disaster risk reduction especially

decision making process is something that the Agency will work closely with the Women bureau. However, a Young Ambassador for DRR team is advocating on the issues nation wide.

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

Levels of Reliance

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged 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)

More emphasis is need at the grass root levels where we are presently training the district committees with support from UNDP, other support from UNESCO will be geared more to the grass roots but also the central level will as well benefit together with some schools.

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

Levels of Reliance

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged 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)

More social protection services needed and the empowerment of communities to fully participate in this services

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)

Presently all the early warning pilot projects are experimented with the local people taking their experience, traditional indigenous knowledge in this very important DRR activity. These are basically on floods, we hoping to come up with drought early warnings in which the local people especially the farmers' skills, experiences, and knowledge will be highly utilized.

Contextual Drivers of Progress

Levels of Reliance

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

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

The Gambia has participated in both the 2nd and 3rd Mainstreaming Adaptation and Disaster Reduction into Development (MADRiD) programme in South Korea with the

aim to increase high-level political commitment for integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into overall economic and social planning processes; and to promote the establishment of sustained human resources capacity development to successfully advocate for the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into socioeconomic development planning.

The NDMA has organised 2 rounds of training programme on MADRiD, at the national and regional level. We are looking for resources to further stepdown the training programme at the district level.

Future Outlook

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

Resources and
Technical knowledge
Capacity building

Future Outlook Statement

With the Mainstreaming Adaptation and Disaster Reduction into Development (MADRiD) programme we hope to increase high-level political commitment for integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into overall economic and social planning processes; and to promote the establishment of sustained human resources capacity development to successfully advocate for the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into socio-economic development planning.

This will be carried out in two ways:

First, to conceptually understand the nature, scope and importance of development planning and how to successfully advocate for it; and

Second, to develop coherent national training plans to advance such understanding with key stakeholders responsible for national development planning

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 building resilience to hazards.

Overall Challenges

The government of The Gambia promulgated the National Disaster Management Act in 2008, complemented by the National Disaster Management Policy and Strategic Action Plan.

Through the National Disaster Management Act, the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), the National Disaster Management Council (NDMC) and Regional, District and Village Disaster Management Committees have been established. The National Disaster Management Act provides for an integrated and coordinated disaster management, focused on prevention, preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery from disasters or emergency situations.

Future Outlook Statement

It's the priority of the NDMA to 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.

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

Resource constraint.

Future Outlook Statement

NDMA with all humanitarian partners plus government institution are developing an all inclusive response and recovery plan to enhance coordination and better resource management.

Stakeholders

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

Organization	Organization type	Focal Point
National Environment Agency, Department of Water Resources, Office of the President , Department of Planning, Ministry of Finance, Department of Agriculture, UNDP, WFP, FAO, Concern Universal, Gambia Red Cross Society, Gambia Bureau of Statics, Nati	Governments	Lt. Col. Alhajie Sanneh, Executive Director