

Towards Developing a National Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Plan for State of Qatar

Draft Report

7-10 March 2016, Doha Qatar



Senior representatives of the Permanent Emergency Committee discussing with UNISDR on the methodology for developing the national disaster risk reduction and recovery plan.

**“The State of Qatar would deliver the
National Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Plan as one”**
Ambassador Tariq Ali Al-Ansari, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Main Outcomes

The Permanent Emergency Committee of the Ministry of Interior is working towards the development of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Plan.

- The inter-ministerial council is tasked to develop the national disaster risk reduction and recovery plan, which will support the country’s development efforts and commitment on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. UNISDR is providing technical support.
- UNISDR briefed the council on the Sendai Framework, the global instrument that guides governments’ actions at national and local levels in disaster risk management for the next 15 years.
- In a series of meetings with UNISDR, representatives from different ministries received practical tools to undertake sectorial assessment. In particular, global good practices – applied in different countries and contexts to reduce disaster risk, and to prevent new risk while making new investments for development – were provided to the government officials.
- With these tools, the committee members obtained greater understanding of the methodology and the key areas that each ministry will assess to contribute to the overall plan.
- Although many ministries have crisis management plans in place – with provisions and systems to respond to natural or technological situations – more scenarios are needed to tackle future potential risks such as sea level rise and surge storms.
- Whether investing in resilient infrastructure, inclusion of DRR into school curriculum, new water drainage, securing new schools in safe locations, implementing scenarios and drills, each sector of the committee can contribute to the overall resilience of the State of Qatar as one.

Strong commitment to develop the Plan by end of 2016

- The Secretary of the Permanent Emergency Committee, Brigadier Hamad Othman N. Al-Dehaimi, confirmed the committee’s willingness to lead the development of an effective and efficient Plan for Qatar.
- The Chair for developing the plan, Brigadier Hassan Al-Emadi, reaffirmed its commitment to coordinate follow-up actions with the committee members to get their inputs and assessments.
- Ambassador Tariq Ali Al-Ansari, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, expressed interest to support this process, so that the plan will be delivered by the entire government as one.
- The State of Qatar has requested UNISDR to continue its technical support in order to advance the formulation of National Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Plan, including support to facilitate field trip to learn how another country is developing its national action plan as articulated in the Sendai Framework.
- Key milestones and timeline were shared with all committee members to ensure that a draft plan will be ready by end of 2016.

Way Forward

- Members of the Permanent Emergency Committee will complete the self-assessment questionnaire and submit it to the Chair of the committee.
- A total of 23 government officials attended the meetings with UNISDR.

Background

Qatar has been working on strengthening their capacities to face disasters whether triggered natural hazards, accidents, or man-made causes. As a part of these efforts to control the impact of disaster and reduce its human and economic losses, Qatar has established in 1998 a Permanent Emergency Committee (PEC), which is responsible for crisis and disaster management. PEC comprises representatives of ministries and public and private organizations.

The Committee has prepared a National Plan for Emergency that serves as general framework and was adopted in 2005. The Plan includes a set of detailed contingency plans in line with the events expected to occur in the State of Qatar. Periodic and continuous drills for these plans are conducted to ensure efficiency and readiness of the State. Under the General Authority of Civil Aviation Administration, Qatar also established a regional observatory in terms of monitoring earthquakes and various other emergencies and natural disasters.



Mr. Mohamed Jassim Al-Hamar, Qatar Armed Forces Head Quarters, explained the national plan for emergency that has been implemented in Qatar since 2005.

Furthermore, the Government of Qatar reported the progress against the indicators of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), reporting cycle of (2011-2013) in which the state recognize the need to raise the priority of disaster risk reduction and start action to respond to the expectations and directions of the HFA.

The series of meetings was called by the Permanent Emergency Committee to provide a space to

respond to questions from different line ministries for the development of the plan. These meetings were built on two previous workshops organized by UNISDR in collaboration with the International Recovery Platform in 2014 aiming to elevate the State of Qatar's recovery capacity and readiness for any emergency. Following the Third UN WCDRR and the adoption of the Sendai Framework, a delegation from the Permanent Emergency Committee visited UNISDR ONEA-GETI in Incheon and received orientation on the implementation of the global instrument.



Right to left: Eng. Fahad Yousuf Tolefat, Director of Water Networks Affairs, sharing views with Ministry of Transport and Communications on how each ministry can make its own assessment based on the questionnaire.

Why Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Plan for Qatar?

Qatar is less exposed to natural hazards than its neighbors increased sea levels, fewer cyclones but of greater intensity, and increased ocean acidification. Although hazards are natural in origin, there is nothing natural about how disaster risk has become embedded in the country landscape. This is the result of man-made decisions.

At the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015, the State of Qatar shared their commitment to advance planning and preparedness as an essential element in the resilience and disaster risk reduction capacity building. The State of Qatar underscored the importance of disaster risk management to be consistent with climate change agenda and an integral part of the process of sustainable development to meet the challenges that countries face. "Policies and procedures go beyond the idea of reducing the current risks to prevent the accumulation of new risks and build the capacity of countries" said H.E. Major General Saad Jassim Al-Khulaifi Director General of Public Security at the Plenary Meeting in Japan.¹ As follow-up, there is a need to develop a more comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Plan for Qatar.

¹ <http://www.preventionweb.net/files/globalplatform/qataren.pdf>



Mr. Fadi Jannan, UNISDR ROAS sharing the results of the key areas and action identified by participants during the workshop held in 2014.



Sharing information on the way forward. From right to left: Brigadier Hassan Al-Emadi, Chair of the Permanent Emergency Committee for developing the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Plan and Mr. Subhi Fahid Ejeh, Head of Disaster Preparedness of Qatar Red Crescent.

UNISDR – The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNISDR – the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – supports the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted at the recent World Conference in Japan. UNISDR is also the focal point for the coordination of disaster risk reduction in the UN system.

UNISDR - Regional Office for the Arab States

UNISDR Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) was established in 2007 to support Arab States and communities build their resilience to disasters and to implement Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA) and its successor the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. UNISDR regional efforts focus on raising the profile of DRR in the region and promoting the integration of risk reduction in regional and national policies and plans such as on climate change adaptation, sustainable development, urban development and city planning.

UNISDR - Global Education and Training Institute (GETI)

UNISDR's Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), is based in Incheon, Republic of Korea. Its mandate is to develop a new cadre of professionals in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation for disaster resilient societies. GETI works with governments, cities and the private sector.

Organizers

Permanent Emergency Committee, Ministry of Interior

UNISDR Regional Office for Arab States

UNISDR ONEA-GETI

Resource Team

Mr. Sanjaya Bhatia, Head UNISDR ONEA-GETI bhatia1@un.org

Mr. Fadi Jannan, Programme Officer, UNISDR Office for Arab States, jannan@un.org

Ms. Ana Cristina Thorlund, Programme Officer, UNISDR ONEA-GETI thorlund@un.org

Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Plan for Qatar Agenda

Day 1: Monday 7 March 2016 (Group 1)	
08:00 – 08:30	Opening
08:30 – 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governance - Finance
10:15 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education (Safe schools) - Media / Communication
11:30 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environment - Early warning systems
Day 2: Tuesday 8 March 2016 (Group 2)	
08:00 – 09:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure - Housing
10:00 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health - Psychosocial
11:30 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information / Media - Early warning system - Any other sector
Day 3: Wednesday 9 March 2016 (Group 1)	
08:00 – 09:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governance - Finance
09:45 – 10:00	Coffee Break
10:00 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education (Safe schools) - Media / Communication
11:30 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environment - Early warning systems
12:30 – 13:00	Closing and next steps
Day 4: Thursday 10 March 2016 (Group 2)	
08:00 – 09:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure - Housing
09:45 – 10:00	Coffee Break
10:00 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health - Psychosocial
11:30 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information / Media - Early warning system - Any other sector
12:30 – 13:00	Closing and next steps

Sectorial Self-assessment based on the 10 essentials

Sectors	Responsible Organization	10 Essentials
Governance	Permanent Emergency Committee Internal Security Ministry of Interior Ministry of Defense Ministry of Foreign Affairs Security services Ministry of Finance Ministry of Municipality & Environment Ministry of Justice	<p><u>Essential # 1:</u> Put in place Organization and coordination to understand and reduce disaster risk. Build local alliances. Ensure that all departments understand their roles in DRR and preparedness</p> <p><u>Essential # 10:</u> <i>After any disaster, ensure that the needs of the affected population are placed at the center of reconstruction</i> with support for them and their community organizations to help implement responses, including rebuilding homes/ livelihoods</p> <p><u>Essential # 7 (question 2 and 4)</u> To what extent does the local government provide training in risk reduction for local officials and community leaders?</p> <p>How aware are citizens of evacuation plans or drills for evacuations when necessary?</p>
Finance	Ministry of Finance Audit Bureau	<u>Essential # 2:</u> Assign a budget for disaster risk reduction and provide incentives
Education (Safe Schools)	Ministry of Education & Higher Education	<u>Essential # 5:</u> Assess the safety of all schools
Information (Communication)	Ministry of Interior Ministry of Education & Higher Education	<u>Essential # 7:</u> Ensure that education programmes and training on disaster risk reduction are in place in schools and local communities
Environment	Ministry of Energy & Industry Ministry of Municipality & Environment	<u>Essential # 8:</u> Protect ecosystems and natural buffers to mitigate floods, storm surges and other hazards

Early warning System	Permanent Emergency Committee Ministry of Interior Ministry of Defence Ministry of Energy & Industry Ministry of Municipality & Environment	<u>Essential # 3:</u> Maintain up-to-date data on hazards and vulnerabilities, prepare risk assessments and use these as the basis for plans and decisions. <u>Essential # 9:</u> <i>Install early warning systems</i>
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Sectors	Responsible Organization	10 Essentials
Infrastructure	Ministry of Transport and Communications Ministry of Economics & Trade Ministry of Culture & Sports Public Works Authority Qatar General Company for Electricity and Water	<u>Essential # 4:</u> Invest in and maintain critical infrastructure that reduces risk
Housing	Ministry of Administrative Development & Labor & Social Affairs	<u>Essential # 6:</u> Apply and enforce realistic, risk-compliant building regulations and land use planning principles
Health & Psychosocial	Ministry of Public Health Hamad Medical Corporation The high council of health Qatar Red Crescent	<u>Essential # 5:</u> Assess the safety of all health facilities

Key milestones for developing the Plan

Procedures of work	Time period
Submit all disaster recovery guidelines to all related organizations	January 2016
Submit self-assessment tools and the 10 essentials to all related organizations	February 2016
Hold meetings for each sector separately with the UNISDR to answer any queries regarding the previous items	March 2016
Fill out the self-assessment tool and the essentials plan of action by all stakeholders	April 2016
Review the filled self-assessment tool and the essentials plan of action by UNISDR	May 2016
Collate all information into the disaster risk reduction and recovery plan template with support by UNISDR	June 2016
Field trip to a country that have developed disaster risk reduction and recovery plan	July 2016
Additional information to update the report	August 2016
Final review of the Plan by UNISDR – Visit Qatar to present final plan	September 2016
Introduce the plan to the Permanent Emergency Committee	October 2016
Approve plan by prime ministry	December 2016

List of Participants

Organization
Internal Security
Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Defense
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Security services
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Municipality & Environment
Public Works Authority
Ministry of Education & Higher Education
Ministry of Energy & Industry
Ministry of Transport and Communications
Ministry of Economics & Trade
Ministry of Culture & Sports
Qatar General Company for Electricity and Water
Ministry of Administrative Development & Labor & Social Affairs
Ministry of Public Health
Hamad Medical Corporation
The high council of health
Qatar Red Crescent
UNISDR – Regional Office for the Arab States
UNISDR Global Education and Training Institute (ONEA-GETI)