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Establishing Collaborative Action for Disaster Risk Reduction

Action Area

4.1: Establishing an 'All-of-Society' Inclusive Approach

4.2: Integration of DRR at Local Government Level

4.3: DRR at Community Level

Action Area 4.1: Establishing an 'All-of-Society' Inclusive Approach

Among its thirteen guiding principles, the Sendai Framework calls for the engagement of all of society, in addition to related calls for shared responsibility between central government and national authorities, sectors and stakeholders as appropriate to national circumstances, and the empowerment of local authorities and communities through resources, incentives and decision-making responsibilities as appropriate. Paragraph 7 of the Framework calls for a "broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk," and states that "[d]isaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multi-sectoral, inclusive, and accessible to be efficient and effective." Moreover, it calls for the engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, poor people, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, the community of practitioners and older persons. This is critical to avoid creation of inequalities. The public and private sectors, civil society organizations, academic, scientific, and research institutions are each called upon to work more closely and to create opportunities for collaboration.

- Actions**
- Ensure that project staff appreciate the value of contributions by all stakeholders in the community and use this as a basis to promote and incentivize the active participation and engagement of a broad range of relevant stakeholders drawn from government, civil society, academia, the private sector, as well as from vulnerable, marginalized, and special interest groups, and individual citizens.
 - Incorporate the provision of or encouragement of partnership building guidance, lessons, policies, and other supportive actions and resources into disaster risk reduction capacity development interventions.
 - Apply innovative methods and approaches, including gender considerations, when mapping stakeholders, drafting and implementing inclusive DRR policies that encourage involvement of less traditional stakeholders and partners in the capacity development effort.
 - Support capacity development programming staff in their efforts to incorporate National and Local Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction, and other multi-stakeholder mechanisms, to engage all of society.
 - Institute approaches, procedures, and mechanisms that together help decisionmakers to assess, understand, and support the 'collective memory' of disaster risk reduction, which in turn supports and expands growth in the culture of prevention and sustainable disaster risk management.
 - Ensure that programmes are set up to identify and provide support to individuals from groups that are or have been marginalized given that these same individuals and groups are often more significantly-exposed to risk.

Action Area 4.2: Integration of DRR at Local Government Level

Like the impacts of disasters, DRR gains are felt most significantly at the local level. However, there are many factors that together contribute to a predominance of weak local government DRR capacity. The Sendai Framework Target E, in conjunction with indicators of SDGs 1, 11 and 13, seeks to address local DRR capacity by calling for a substantial increase in the number of countries with local DRR strategies by 2020. Additionally, the Sendai Framework's four priorities for action stress the importance of action at both the national and local levels. The Guiding Principles further highlight that disaster risk reduction and management depends on coordination mechanisms within and across sectors and with relevant stakeholders at all levels, requiring the full engagement of all public institutions of an executive and legislative nature at national and local levels, and a clear articulation of responsibilities across public and private stakeholders, to ensure mutual outreach, partnership, complementarity in roles and accountability and follow-up.

Actions • Identify CD interventions that help to better utilize a community's in-house staff to reduce or eliminate reliance on 'substitution' capacities provided by external experts to fulfil DRR responsibilities and tasks.

- Push CD efforts down to the local and sub-national levels in a manner that increases understanding and implementation of DRR and promotes integration of DRR and SDG pursuits.
- Utilize CD interventions that support local stakeholder creation and management of, and participation in, and use of locally-based DRR platforms.
- Expand access to locally- and contextually-relevant, culturally-sensitive, and language-appropriate land use and building code training and education, including among key elected and appointed officials with decision-making authority
- Include locally-relevant information on DRR investment, budgeting and resource mobilization in interventions targeting local leaders and decision-makers and stakeholders in the urban and economic development communities.
- Ensure that locally-based stakeholders, including society and local community, appreciate the value of data collection and reporting efforts on data localization, and that they are motivated to contribute to and utilize local risk data products.
- Develop governance tools and incentivization techniques that motivate and enable intergovernmental teams to address local DRR needs in a strategic, locally-relevant manner.
- Ensure that CD ownership exists at the most local level relevant to the project or program.
- Reduce the impact of institutional memory loss through attrition.
- Reduce parallel processes or efforts to address capacity needs.

- Decentralize training so that areas outside of urban centres are reached.
- Increase CD prioritization at the local level and ensure that a wide range of people are exposed to CD efforts rather than those in the offices and agencies most closely-linked to DRR.

Action Area 4.3: DRR at Community Level

The role of community level engagement is well articulated throughout the Sendai Framework and within the role of stakeholders, including civil society, volunteers, organized voluntary work organizations and community-based organizations to participate, in collaboration with public institutions, to, inter alia, provide specific knowledge and pragmatic guidance in the context of the development and implementation of normative frameworks, standards and plans for DRR; engage in the implementation of local, national, regional and global plans and strategies; contribute to and support public awareness, a culture of prevention and education on disaster risk; and advocate for resilient communities and an inclusive and all-of-society disaster risk management that strengthen synergies across groups, as appropriate. The role of women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples and migrants are noted.

- Actions**
- Support the establishment of culture norms that dictate DRR as the responsibility of everyone, not just that of government
 - Gather and validate information that informs the local context within which interventions are to be planned.
 - Incorporate information and methodologies into CD interventions that are systematic and sustainable in their ability to increase the appreciation for and understanding of DRR at and throughout the community level.
 - Ensure that nongovernmental organizations, civic and other community-based associations and voluntary organizations, faith-based groups, individual citizens, and other local stakeholders are engaged in the entire lifecycle of CD processes to the extent that is feasible and appropriate, whether such projects are locally- or nationally-based.
 - Tailor interventions so that they are not only useful and relevant, but also engaging to and perceived to be value added by local level stakeholders and partners.
 - Ensure long-term local engagement by empowering locally-based partners with management and implementation responsibility, targeting capacity needs at the organizational and enabling environment levels, and institutionalizing CD methods in local policy and practice.
 - To the extent that is possible, ensure that program planners understand and link to local routines, livelihoods, cultures, and other key factors that affect a sense of relevance, trust, and motivation to engage.
 - Provide rotational training that goes deeper into the staff pool than leadership.
 - Involve all community stakeholders in awareness-raising events including disaster exercises.
 - Support the enabling environment by providing support to increase local-level access to technology and other CD resources that are not widely available.
 - Incentivize community-wide action using community awards, certifications, or prizes.