

Czech Republic

National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

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Reporting period : 2007-2009

Last updated on : 19 August 2008

Print date : 08 Jun 2009

Reporting language : English

An HFA Monitor update published by PreventionWeb

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/europe/cze/>

Strategic goals 1

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:

Disaster risk reduction and prevention have been integrated into state, regional and community policies. Early warning for floods is a standard part of the state emergency system.

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:

Emergency system is fully institutionalized in a law system. Building standards for higher resilience are under the process of revision.

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:

Cities and villages have plans to increase resilience especially toward floods (building of dikes, polders, dams etc.) and these plans have been realized step by step. As an example - a new anti-flood system in Prague has been almost finished.

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:

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

Description:

Early warning system incorporated into the state emergency system exists on state, regional and community level defined by the crisis law package from the year 2000.

Context & Constraints:

Financial resources are the main constraints.

Supporting document:

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/3372_LAW240.doc [DOC 86.00 KB]

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/3372_LAW239.doc [DOC 86.50 KB]

Related links:

flood warning pages <http://hydro.chmi.cz>

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

Description:

Disaster reduction plans exist at all levels especially for the case of floods (the most frequent kind of disaster).

Context & Constraints:

financial constraints

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

Delegation of authority and resources has been defined by law.

Context & Constraints:

However, financial resources are not adequate in some cases.

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

Description:

Multisectoral approach has been defined in the emergency law package. At the same time, multisectoral approach has been promoted also by the cCzech National Committee for Disaster Reduction (Czech

natiopnal DRR plarform).

Context & Constraints:

Sometimes coordination and capacities problems might occur.

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:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

Databases are available especially for floods and hydrometeorological type of hazards. Problem is with building of databases for all types of risks including man-made disasters.

Context & Constraints:

Coordination and financial constraints.

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

Description:

Such systems are being build - step by step. IT WILL NEED MORE TIME.

Context & Constraints:

Financial constraints.

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

Description:

Early warning systems are well build for all kinds of Hydrometeorological hazards and also for nuclear hazards. All levels have been included in the system. Early warning has been provided for all hydrometeorological hazards by the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute and dissesminated via the Fire and rescue Service, via media and also by means of an Internet and SMS messages.

Context & Constraints:

Financial constraints occur in some cases and levels.

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:

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

Description:

Regional and trans boundary cooperation is relatively well established with neighboring countries- Austria, Germany, Poland and Slovakia. Also cooperation with EU in general has been improving. As an example - the Czech Republic participates in an International warnings web pages within EU for hydrometeorological hazards coordinated by Austria.

Context & Constraints:

More coordination and exercises might be beneficial.

Related links:

meteoalarm <http://www.meteoalarm.eu>

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:

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

Description:

Relevant information is available through a special emergency dissemination system, media, Internet and also via SMS messages.

Context & Constraints:

Financial constraints occur. media are relatively experience how to disseminate warnings and information. Single voice principle for warnings is recognized even though is not precisely defined in the law system.

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

Description:

Disasters, hazards etc., are included in materials for schools. However, education is not systematic enough. Very popular are various videos and movies shown on TV with disaster and response tematics.

Context & Constraints:

Coordination is not on an adequate level as well as financial support. usually, during and after disaster situation people and institutions are more willing to educate themselves.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

Research is devoted to improvement of forecasting and warning systems, modern types of dissemination as well as to imptovement of flood protection. Simiularly has been solved problems with other types of disasters. Cost benefit analysis has been used in some cases.

Context & Constraints:

Development and application of risk assessment and cost benefit analysis needs strengthening and better financing and capacities.

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

Description:

Strategy has been continuously introduced through all parts of the state emergency system at state, regional and community levels. Exercises are organized each year. Sirens are checked once a month in the whole country. Projects for improvement of flood protection have been often submitted for cofinancing by EU.

Context & Constraints:

Lack of money and capacities.

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:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

Disaster risk reduction is covered especially by the ministry of environment, agriculture and health and relevant departments in regional and community administration and usually has got high priority. Climate change and its connection with disasters has been more and more recognized. Therefore, adequate protection for new features has been developed.

Context & Constraints:

Uncertainties in climate change subject are causing hesitations with application of mitigation measures where a global commitment is highly desirable while adaptation to climate change has become more and more important and recognized.

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

Description:

Food, fuel and energy security has been cared about by the state and regional administration with limited endangerment of poor people etc. and other population at risk.

Context & Constraints:

The state has a system to secure food and all other supplies for disaster and emergency situations as well as for sending help to the countries hit by disasters.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

Such policies have been implemented and coordinated at the state, regional and community levels. recently especially energetic independence and low vulnerability has been introduced and adequate precautions either taken or planned.

Context & Constraints:

Some measures need more time and better financing.

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

Description:

Planning and management has been incorporated. However, sometimes appropriate building codes are not fully obeyed.

Context & Constraints:

Sometimes economic aspects overrule safety and security parameters and it is not quite watched by a state administration and local and regional governments.

Core indicator 5

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

This aspects is well understood. However, sometimes recovery forced by time does not lead to higher resilience than before disaster. On the other hand, increase of resilience by recovery and rehabilitation has been more and more introduced.

Context & Constraints:

Concstraints are in funding and capacities.

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

Description:

Risk impacts are taken into account especially flood risk. Infrastructure building is oblided to asses and care about disaster risk.

Context & Constraints:

Financial and capacity constraints occur in some cases.

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

Description:

Strong policy has been introduced and supported by emergency laws, air protection and water acts etc. Special programs and projects for improvement of flood protection have been carried out at various levels.

Context & Constraints:

Financial resources and sometimes also capacities may become a problem.

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

Description:

Disaster preparedness plans are mostly constructed around flood plans and adjusted to other types of disasters when needed. Such plans and their fulfillment are compulsory. Trainings and exercises are organized and evaluated at all levels.

Context & Constraints:

financial and capacity problems still exist.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

Such reserves are organized at the state level and can be used for areas and communities hit by a disaster. Mechanism has been well developed and tested during several disasters last couple years. All such activities are coordinated by Ministry of interior and Fire and rescue Service in accordance with a law.

Context & Constraints:

System of so-called state reserves has been applied.

Core indicator 4

Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

Procedures to exchange information during hazard events are gathered into unified system and all parts and agencies involved have specified roles. Post-event reviews and evaluations are done after each more significant event. The catastrophic floods in 1997, 2002 and 2006 year have been evaluated by a special state funded programs.

Context & Constraints:

Sometimes problems in capacities of telecommunication lines might occur and better financing can be needed.

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?:

No

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

Multihazard approach is well developed for hydrometeorological hazards of all kinds together with some man-made disasters (nuclear, chemical, biological /in much smaller extent/).

Supporting document:

The Role of NMHSs in Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Emergency Systems (2008)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/3372_ObrusnikMoldova08.ppt [PPT 337.00 KB]

Multi hazard warning systems and crisis management for disasters (2006)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/3372_ObrusnikTIEMSNewsletter.doc [DOC 463.50 KB]

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

Levels of Reliance:

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

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

Gender perspectives on risk reduction are treated within a standard system.

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.

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

Capacities are relatively well adjusted but further improvements are foreseen.

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.

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

Such equity approaches are included in all activities.

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.

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

NGOs are involved - the Czech National Committee for DRR (national platform) has a NGO statute. This platform includes all stakeholders - state administration, private sector, NGOs, civil society etc.

f) 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):

More effort in forthcoming years should be directed towards adaptation to climate change and its impacts especially with respect to potential increase of frequency of natural disasters and growing strengths of hazards. potential growth of periods of droughts and heat waves should be expected.

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:

More efficient integration, higher involvement of man-made disaster preparedness, use of more advanced technologies including telecommunications, computer databases etc.

Future Outlook Statement:

Climate change issue and consequent potential increase of number and intensity of disaster should be seriously taken into account.

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:

Funding problems still exist - a state emergency system and agencies involved should be financed in a stable manner and not being hit by budget cuts of various kinds.

Future Outlook Statement:

International cooperation at least within EU countries should be strengthened. Meteoalarm system and cooperation on flood warnings among countries are good examples of such approach.

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:

Risk assessment at multi-hazard level should be strengthened.

Future Outlook Statement:

Idea of building resilience by means of recovery activities should also be strengthened.