Iran, Islamic Rep of

Interim national progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

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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:
In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the President's Deputy Strategic Planning Control Office is responsible for defining policies, guidelines and vision plans, which have a 20 year perspective. However, the integration of disaster risk reduction into these plans is mandatory for each sector specified in the plans. Any sectoral activities related to disaster risk reduction are subject to review of above mentioned office as supreme approving body for all public sector's development plans, programs and projects. The national platform is also gradually enhancing its role in supporting and mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in the national plans and programs.

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:
The National Disaster Task force of the Ministry of Interior has been now transformed into the new National Disaster Management Organization. This organization paves the way for implementing national disaster risk reduction activities in even more coordinated manner and involves most key players in national disaster risk reduction under the overall supervision of the Ministry of Interior and its provincial representatives. It has a high level council chaired by the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The National Platform will serve as the think-tank of this new organization.

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:
Tow pilot projects have been developed by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in cooperation with UNDP in two cities of Kerman and Gorgan on Earthquake scenario and Emergency Response Program. In the reconstruction phase of disaster stricken areas, the incorporation of risk reduction approaches related to lifeline, transportation, emergency warehouses, roads, communication and the like have to be followed according to regulations and guidelines developed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Housing Foundation, Disaster Management Organization of Iran, municipalities etc. supported a plan in which the country was divided into 8 centers of excellence for relief and rescue operations. The Red Crescent Society of Iran was the implementing agency for this plan. The National Platform of Iran in its expert meetings has developed plans in this regard. These plans have to be implemented on a biennial basis in line with implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action.

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

**Description:**

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in line with implementation of the Hyogo framework for action, has undertaken a wide range of activities in order to reduce the effects of disasters and implementation of disaster risk reduction programs and projects at national, prevention and local levels. The main topics of these activities include legislation introduced and enacted in relation with disaster risk reduction such as: Act on the formation of disaster management organization of Iran and development of 50 related executive bylaws for this Act to be approved by the cabinet. The national structure of the above mentioned low is mirrored at provincial and local level the aim of these organization is to pave the way for implementing disaster the risk reduction activities in a more coordinated and compressive manner and involves the most key players of disaster risk reduction in the country. It has a high level council chaired by the president of the Islamic republic of Iran. The organization is headed by deputy interior minister for this purpose. The organization has its own annual budget line to be approved by the Islamic Consultative assemble of Iran. A large number of guidelines, bylaws, standards, instructions, criteria’s, regulations, have been developed regarding disaster DRR. We estimate the level of progress in regard with implementation of Hyogo framework for action to be number 4 in ranking

**Context & Constraints:**

One of the most important requirements for achieving the DRR is "good governance" this has many facets including greater transparency and accountability related to functions in disaster risk reduction and the risk management activities. The establishment of rule of law and the thoughtful, pragmatic and careful selection and monitoring of policy choices is very important. There also needs to be special attention to the participatory role of women, private sector, NGOs, and the poor, to ensure that important disaster risk reduction opportunities are not missed, and that the benefits of DRR and sustainable development are shared. Without doubt, the performance of disaster risk reduction managers and the satisfaction of citizens and their participation in activities of DRR will be higher if a culture of teamwork, cooperation and participation is encouraged at all levels. The lack of teamwork between different stakeholders gives rise to delays, misunderstanding and inefficiencies in implementing national plans. Adequate and sufficient consideration to these concerns by the decision makers can go a long way toward meeting the challenges of accountable public participation.

**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:**

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

**Description:**

The National Disaster Management organization of Iran has started its activities at present, the organization has a dedicated budget line for disaster risk reduction and management. According to the
annual budget Act, each year, Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Risk Management have a budget line that must be approved by the Islamic consultative assembly of Iran. The forecast and estimation of annual budget is made by the organization based on the plans and project that are proposed by national and provincial authorities. Distribution of funds is also made by NDMO. Being approved by the Parliament of Iran, NDMO distributes budget among the entire provinces of the country for implementation of plans and projects proposed by various sectors and also for compensation of damages resulted from disasters. For the current Iranian year started from 21 March 2008 a total of 600,000,000 US$ has been allocated for disaster reduction plans out of which about 2% is dedicated for research and studies on disaster risk reduction. In addition, due to an extreme drought that occurred this year in the country, the Parliament of Iran approved a budget of 2,500,000,000 US$ for compensation of damages incurred by this unprecedented phenomena. The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran allocates 1% public budget of the country to disaster reduction and disaster management activities each year.

**Context & Constraints:**

Iran is especially prone to major natural disasters. Earthquakes, floods, droughts and the like. Some disasters, floods and droughts for example, have become more frequent and destructive partly because of global climate change, partly because of local environmental damage. And others, particularly earthquakes, pose great threats owing to the high population concentration in major cities, three quarters of which are in potential major earthquakes zones. Each more powerful than 7 on the Richter scale have occurred in Iran in the last century. While the probability of earthquakes is always high, the probability of floods has increased during recent decades and has affected more people than earthquakes. While Iran has no control over increasingly intense rains caused, perhaps global warming, it can and must give attention to flood management and measures of flood avoidance, most importantly those which stop the deterioration of the water retention properties of the land and vegetation through deforestation and the degrading of rangeland. Draught represents another global warming danger and has affected large parts of the country this year. The draught has caused direct damage alone estimated at over 1200 billion US$.

The challenges of improving disaster preparedness and reduction has many elements:
- Minimizing overlap of responsibilities between different administrative bodies.
- Enforcing more efficiently the urban building codes designed to make building more earthquake-resistant and extending controls to the smaller towns and the countryside.
- Campaigning through schools, the media and local authorities for great public awareness of the danger of disaster and of how ordinary citizen can participate in prevention and relief.
- Developing a national drought mitigation strategy.
- Developing the great amount if work which has already been don on earthquake micro-zoning and extending this to the mapping of flood risk.
- Encouraging regional collaboration with other government.

**Core indicator 3**

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

**Level of Progress achieved:**

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

**Description:**

Disaster risk reduction activities through the country in the 4 disaster management cycles are over all responsibility of disaster management organization of Iran. If a disaster is classified as being of national significance, the DMO takes control. If necessary, It can call upon other Government authorities to provide with any required support for disaster risk management. The national structure of the DMO is
mirrored at provincial level. The Governor General and his heads of department comprise the provincial DMO, which coordinate disaster response from within the province. The main activities of the post-disaster reconstruction programs as well as the funding for them are also controlled at this level. If the magnitude if a disaster is sufficiently large, there is formal arrangement for neighboring provinces to respond to assist an affected area. As soon as a disaster is notified, the neighboring areas are obliged to respond. Each city in Iran is headed by a governor, who reports to the Governor General of the province and has a number if district – governors. The district level DMO have a key role in managing the immediate search and rescue operation and the relief phase which follows. The governors play a key motivating role, mobilizing resources both within and from outside respective districts, as required.

Context & Constraints:
The disaster management mechanism has been judged by neutral observers, including a number of international NGOs who participated in the relief operation of Bam earthquake of 26 December 2003 to be fairly effective in providing immediate relief to the victims of disasters. Credit for this satisfactory performance should go to the government's elaborate assistance system enriched by many of years of practical experience as well as to the cultural and Islamic norms that encourage assistant to the others as a religious duty.

People participation in disaster management can usually not be considered as "organized". People provide generous donations to the immediate relief phase and are keen to provide logistic support to the operation. Nevertheless they lack the required training and their presence at the disaster field at times adds to the difficulties facing the professionals. The need to provide disaster response training to a larger number of people to assist others is obvious.

A related need is to train people to assist themselves when faced with a sudden disaster.

Core indicator 4
A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.

Level of Progress achieved:
5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:
The Islamic Republic of Iran was among the first countries to establish an executive secretariat to follow the implementation of the HFA at a national level. Iran has also been one of the first countries to create its national platform (DRNP) on disaster risk reduction. IR/DRNP was established in Feb 2005, shortly after the WCDDR II in order to implement the HFA at the national, provincial and local levels. This mechanism works under the supervision of the National Disaster management organization (NDMO) of the Ministry of Interior. It is considered a multi – sectoral National Platform, with designated responsibilities at the national and local level to facilitate coordination between different stakeholders. The NP meets at 2 levels: 1- High- level meetings which are convened every 3 months by the Ministry of Interior.2- Expert level meetings which are held by the Secretariat in case needed. The NP has developed its first biennial working plan for 2008 and 2009. These plans have been approved in the high level meeting of national platform on 2 September 2008.

Context & Constraints:
1. To make the decision on establishment of National Platform in a higher appropriate level in order to ensure stronger participation of all actors,
   Establishment of national platforms should be based on available experiences, Expertise, resources and priorities at national level, and to avoid duplications.
_ 3. National platforms should follow a multi-hazard, multi-stakeholder, multicultural
and people-centered approach and represent strongly the national
Decision making bodies.

4. National platform should contribute to codification of research and training
as well as operational procedures within the national systems.

5. Based on the experience we have gained, We suggest that in order to
encourage the members of National Platforms to work on DRR and to be more
familiar with the DRR concept and activities, ISDR secretariat and other
international experts attend the meetings of National Platforms in the countries
on occasional basis.

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

Description:
• 2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

Preparing Maps of Hazard and Active Faults of Iran

Detailed Seismic and Active Fault Maps prepared for Tehran

Estimation of Human Casualty and Building Damage

• Development of relevant city geo-databases and generating 2D & 3D Risk Maps for a district of Tehran

• Structural and Vulnerability Functions and Structural Fragility Curve developed for Tehran.
• Development of the guidelines and standards for strengthening and retrofitting of existing buildings.
• Supporting national and local governments for implementation of the necessary activities for risk reduction

Context & Constraints:
Insufficient information discrimination results in lack of awareness among in the community for observing standards for construction of safe buildings against disasters and lack of risk transfer schemes that burdens additional responsibility on the government for compensating disaster damagenes. The roll of media is not satisfactory in provision of attractive programs for the audience. There is a need for capacity building and coordination among members of the stakeholders at national, prevention and local level for making easements of disaster risk in the frame work of teamwork.

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:
Over the last few decades, the importance of effective management of information has been recognized in the disaster management sector. The Islamic Republic of Iran is establishing disaster management information system for effective management of disaster. Applications of these systems range from emergency response planning in short range early warning to long range mitigation and prevention planning.

It is evident that accurate and relevant information could significantly reduce the loss of life and financial costs of the disaster risks. Effective disaster risk management depends upon a series of related actions and the means to engage the informed participation of all stakeholders. The exchange of information and communication practices plays a key role in the realization of these activities. Data availability is crucial for ongoing research, to monitor hazards and for assessing risks. Information describes working conditions, provides reference material and allows access to resources. Rapid and widespread developments in modern communications record and disseminate the value of experience, convey professional knowledge, and contribute to decision-making processes. Integrating new developments in information management with established and more traditional methods help to create a much better understanding about hazards and risk at all levels of responsibility through public awareness programmes. Effective information management and communication about disaster risk reduction is conveyed through:
- An awareness of current issues of information management;
- An appreciation of initiatives around the world;
Selected national information programmes;

Technical information, experience about different hazards;

Using cyberspace to discuss disaster risk reduction.

Critical analysis and assessment of the implications of the occurrence of natural or man-made hazards need information comprising both spatial and non-spatial related to factors influencing the hazards. If such information is available, it would be immensely useful in:

1. Identification of the processes responsible for the hazards and the natural resources and socio-economic parameters associated with the process;

2. Planning appropriate preventive measures/preparedness

3. Assessing damage caused by hazards and planning appropriate mitigation measures.

With the advent of Satellite Remote Sensing and GIS technology, the information generation related to earth surface has become easier in terms of database generation, storage, retrieval and data analysis. Further, creation of computerized database with Net-working facilities has added a new dimension to the dissemination of information, free flow of data and information exchange for speedy implementation of action plans and their monitoring.

The computerized data constitutes a comprehensive digital database. The database contains information about various resources fields such as land, water, vegetation and socio-economic situation, which can be potentially tapped as per needs to create information system such as Land Information System (LIS), Water Information System (WIS), Forest Information System (FIS) and Disaster Management Information System (DMIS)... Thus a digital base generated under GIS environment can find applications in various fields related to natural resources viz. land, water, vegetation / forest, minerals, urban and rural development and specific area necessitating management of natural / anthropogenic hazards, development and management of facilities, transport, etc.

This database under the GIS environment has the following advantages with reference to hazards/calamities:

1. Assessment of the situation through integrated analysis;

2. Implication of hazards in terms of risks and planning;

3. Spatial modeling, querying and map creation for efficient and effective implementation of Response Action System (RAS);

4. Simulation of models and visualization of varying scenarios of hazards.

Disaster Management Information System (DMIS)

Having a digital database under GIS environment is oriented towards providing information for decision makers and encompasses information on natural resources. The integration of these data sets would aid in decision making process for systematic planning and management of resources as well as disaster situations.

A wide variety of maps are required in the study of hazards. The maps generated would furnish
information on political boundaries, transport network, settlements and natural resources set up on which the spatial aspects of hazards can be represented. These maps furnish basic location information concerning hazards with thematic support maps such as tectonic features, geological features, landforms, drainage, land use / land cover and soils. The information provided by the thematic maps are as follows:

1. Geological maps help to identify the earth materials, geological hazards (e.g. seismic landslides,..) and river courses;

2. Geomorphology maps are helpful in creating an integrated picture of the natural land surfaces and its hazards (erosion, floods, landslides, subsidence and so on). Those maps form a part of a wider Endeavour to understand the sensitiveness of geomorphologic processes to human interferences and the risks associated with development and settlements of hazardous sites.

3. Soil maps depict the variation and changes in soil characteristics. Specialized pedagogical maps with collateral data enable area specific prediction such as landslides and mass washing, epidemic surveillance of soil borne diseases etc. They also help in providing information on drainage, water logging and erosion susceptibility.

4. Land use / land cover maps depict the land use pattern such as animal, forest, scrub land, etc. These maps can be used for assessing the extent of damage as a consequence of hazards / disasters and valuation and also identifies the areas prone to hazards like floods, forest and fires.

5. In addition to the above, many other types of thematic maps that have direct or indirect bearing to hazards would also form a part of the RIS.

The socio-economic and infrastructure data that reside in the database would be useful in the analyses of growth trends, demographic situations, the consequences of hazards depending on the demographic pattern, economic profiles, infrastructure status, communication networks, and linkages and so on. Recognizing the utility of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) in data collection, formatting storage, manipulation, transmission, updating analysis and query development and network/communication linkages, in the Islamic Republic of Iran, IRIMO, developed a comprehensive Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) to meet the following objectives:

1. To create digital database comprising of both spatial and non-spatial data for identifying disaster prone areas;

2. To assess disaster situation through integrated analysis;

3. To organize response emergency operation through better information flow;

4. To utilize the GIS data base for designing and implementing the mitigation and preparedness measure;

5. To derive additional benefits of utilizing the resources data base for developing planning at the district/region and state level.

The primary objective is to carry out integrated analysis of spatial and non-spatial data and generation of hazard maps relevant to the districts in Iran such as drought, floods epidemics, earthquakes, accidents, industrial hazards, fire, and cyclones. The created data base will be immensely useful in the development of Vulnerability Analysis System (VAS) and Response / Action Plan System (RAS). Disaster information user needs very greatly. The number of interested people, educational institutions, organizations and local community users are growing, as are relevant websites, networks, and
multidisciplinary and professional exchanges. Some users require highly processed data, while for others raw data is more useful. In any case, the importance of adequate training, and an appreciation of the quality of the data, for any user of disaster information is clear. This information is disseminated in two methods; such as; public and special. Main users of this information are the Ministry of Power, Ministry of Agriculture and the Meteorological Organization. A particularly valuable role of private organizations is the dissemination of disaster information, especially the delivery of such information to the general public to minimize losses.

**Context & Constraints:**
1. To create digital database comprising of both spatial and non-spatial data for identifying disaster prone areas;
2. To assess disaster situation through integrated analysis;
3. To organize response emergency operation through better information flow;
4. To utilize the GIS data base for designing and implementing the mitigation and preparedness measure;
5. To derive additional benefits of utilizing the resources data base for developing planning at the district/region and state level

**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:**
There are early warning systems for some disaster such as droughts, floods and frost.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, disasters are increasingly affecting societies worldwide, draining resources that could be better used for development and poverty reduction initiatives. There is an urgent need for the implementation of effective early warning systems.

The importance of early warning is recognized in Agenda 21 and the current follow-up processes. In addition, a particular focus is given by the international community to early warning in the structure and programs of the international strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). The 1998 Potsdam international conference on early warning systems for Reduction of Natural Disasters (EWC’98) confirmed early warning as a core component of national and international prevention strategies for the 21st century.

In the country the National Disaster Early Warning system (NDEWS) has been designed and is operated by IRIMO in cooperation of CRI., the following chart shows the general features of the NDEWS.

The NDEWS has been applied mostly for drought and flood disasters, and this system covers all parts of the country.

In the regards of lessons-learnt from the use of NDEWS, the early warning systems successfully do help to public for disaster risk reduction.
Also, in the case of some natural disasters such as dust storms and heavy rainfall, IRIMO has carried out some researches to forecast and timely early warning. Recently the natural disaster research institute of Iran has developed a system of instrumentally prediction of earthquakes which has proved to be effective in providing necessary information to the authorities for preparedness purposes. This system is installed in more than seventeen process of the country.

Context & Constraints:
When the warnings are issued the people must be provided with necessary training how to react for protecting the lives and properties. And the people must also be familiar with the implication that the warnings present they must easy manner and by using easy understanding sigh's and tools.

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:
In line with this the government has taken significant measures in hosting the Asian Seismic Risk Reduction Centre with the following objectives, expected results and functions,
1- Enhancing capacities in the field of seismic risk reduction and vulnerability assessment
2- Reducing human losses and economic damages caused by seismic risks and disasters
3- Facilitating exchange of information, knowledge and expertise on seismic risk reduction among governments and institutions and enhancing public awareness
4- Promoting regional and inter-regional networking and partnerships on disaster risk reduction
5 - Assisting governments in implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.
1- Building a culture of safety and resilience and enhancement of public awareness and knowledge on seismic risks
2- Training and research at academic level on seismic risk reduction
3 - Training and enhancing awareness of authorities, managers and experts dealing with disasters in countries of the region and seeking the attention and support of policy-makers
4- Assessment and analysis of seismic risk reduction
5- Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the countries’ development programs.
6- Facilitating access to necessary information and data by specialists working on disaster in the countries of the region.
1- To develop existing methods or establish appropriate ones for exchange of information, knowledge and expertise on seismic risk reduction and support related scientific programs and public awareness raising activities in the region
2- To mobilize and coordinate adequate resources and make necessary arrangements to conduct and support policy oriented research on seismic risk reduction
3- To hold specialized trainings courses, workshops and seminars on seismic risk reduction
4-To contribute towards implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, including support for the establishment of national platforms on risk reduction and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into developmental programs as well as providing technical assistance

Context & Constraints:
Since this centre has started is activities just recently, naturally there are some challenges to be faced in the phase of operation. There are some challenges that must be tackled at national, regional and international level.
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

Description:
• Application of space-based Remote Sensing Technologies for city monitoring

• Development of models to assess seismic vulnerabilities (Human, Structural and Road Networks) for one part of Tehran

• Development of user-friendly local and national inventories and easy-to-use disaster risk reduction technologies

Ø School Safety: Development and implementation of a comprehensive program addressing all groups of the society for School Safety.

Ø Increasing public awareness and preparedness using all types of media.

Ø Educating children and youngsters about earthquake preparedness at all school levels by including materials in textbooks, films, conducting drills, exhibitions, drawing and writing competitions, posters, etc.

Ø Organizing annual art, painting and training exhibition.

Ø Conducting annual national drill in schools on November 8th.

Ø Strengthening the key role of women in hazard mitigation programs and promotion of seismic safety culture.

Ø Posting street posters teaching a-seismic construction.

Ø In this regard attention has been paid to 7 IT skills at community level.

Establishment of disaster national portal and knowledge network.
ØOrganizing seminars and training workshops on the above topic.

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
• Application of space-based Remote Sensing Technologies for city monitoring
• Development of models to assess seismic vulnerabilities (Human, Structural and Road Networks) for one part of Tehran
• Development of user-friendly local and national inventories and easy-to-use disaster risk reduction technologies

Public Education Achievements
• School Safety: Development and implementation of a comprehensive program addressing all groups of society for School Safety.
  • Increasing public awareness and preparedness using all types of media.
  • Educating children and youngsters about earthquake preparedness at all school levels by including materials in textbooks, films, conducting drills, exhibitions, drawing and writing competitions, posters, etc.
• Organizing annual art, painting and training exhibitions
• Conducting annual national drills in schools on November 8th.
• Strengthening the key role of women in hazard mitigation programs and promotion of a culture of seismic safety
• Posting street posters teaching a-seismic construction

Context & Constraints:
- Non-existence of suitable infrastructures for provision of the existing knowledge to the public.

- The Culture of utilizing knowledge networks has not been promoted.

- Insufficient in holistic participation of national media improvising existing knowledge.

- Existing poor culture of studding among the people.

Core indicator 2
School curricula, education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.

Level of Progress achieved:
5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels
Description:
Ø School Safety: Development and implementation of a comprehensive program addressing all groups of the society for School Safety.
Ø Increasing public awareness and preparedness using all types of media.
Ø Educating children and youngsters about earthquake preparedness at all school levels by including materials in textbooks, films, conducting drills, exhibitions, drawing and writing competitions, posters, etc.
Ø Organizing annual art, painting and training exhibition.
Ø Conducting annual national drill in schools on November 8th.
Ø Strengthening the key role of women in hazard mitigation programs and promotion of seismic safety culture.
Ø Posting street posters teaching a-seismic construction.

1. Increasing public awareness of earthquake hazards and preparedness by communicating with the general public through all types of media;

2. Educating children and youngsters about earthquake preparedness at both elementary and high school levels by including materials in textbooks, showing films, conducting drill, painting and writing competitions and exhibitions;

3. Organizing the annual national “Earthquake and Safety” drill in more than 110,000 primary, secondary and high schools with participation of more than 16 million students on 28th November since 1998;

4. Organizing bi-annual Asian painting as well as annual arts and craft exhibition on seismic safety in second week of October;

5. Strengthening the key role of women in hazard mitigation program and promotion of seismic safety culture;

6. Designing and posting street posters that teaches the basic point of seismically safe buildings;


Context & Constraints:
- Limitation in amendment of training school books in short term
- Frequent structural and management changes in the training and education system in recent years
- Inadequate comprehensive research on identification of shortcomings and finding solutions for this problems
- Non satisfactory intersect oral commitment for implementing HFA

Core indicator 3
Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.

Level of Progress achieved:
5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels
Description:
Hazards are an unavoidable part of The hazards we face are very diverse. They arise from our society (for example, conflict, terrorism, civil strife) and technology (industrial and transport accidents), as well as natural hazards and threats to public health. Risk, and how we manage it, has become a subject of increasing research and debate in recent years. At the close of the twentieth century, natural hazards and consequence disasters are one of the most common forms of disasters around the world. They continue to be destructive and, if anything, they are more prevalent and harmful than centuries ago, despite some outstanding achievements. The application of science and technology has undoubtedly improved humankind’s ability to predict, alleviate and survive disasters, but over time population growth and social, economic and political processes have massively increased human exposure and vulnerability to these hazards.

At the dawn of the third millennium a world without hazards and disasters is, unfortunately, unthinkable and unachievable, but it is possible to reduce them. Much has been achieved, and there is no excuse for not pursuing the ultimate causes of these problems and finding imaginative ways of containing and lessening their impacts. Many successful ways of reducing hazards and disasters are regularly being found and implemented. There is no rationale for not seeking to avoid the death and destruction that is likely to occur during the next centuries, and to alleviate the suffering of those in many regions of the world. Careful hazard assessment and planning, and a range of social, economic and political measures, can significantly contain these threats. Our hopes for containing and lessening the death and destruction that disasters cause are most likely to be achieved through a more balanced understanding of their nature. Such an understanding is likely to emphasize the importance of societal conditions in producing hazards and disasters, while not ignoring the environmental processes which generate and the effects of human actions upon these processes.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, is a highly disaster-prone country, suffering from droughts, floods, earthquakes, rising sea level, landslides, as well as man-made and technological disasters. The hazards in the country can be classified into three major types as follows:

**Type 1: NATURAL HAZARDS**

Natural processes or phenomena occurring in the biosphere that may constitute a damaging event. Natural hazards can be classified by origin in: Climatic and Weather, Geological and Biological.

1.1 Climate and Weather hazards

Natural processes or phenomena of atmospheric, hydrological or oceanographic nature are as follows:

- Floods, debris and mud flows;
- Tropical cyclones, storm surges, thunder/hailstorms, rain and wind storms, blizzards and other severe storms; localized strong wind, frost, heavy, rainfall;
- Drought, desertification, wildland fires, heat waves, sand or dust storms;
- Permafrost, snow avalanches.

1.2. Geological hazards

Natural earth processes or phenomena in the biosphere, which include geological, geotectonic, geophysical, geomorphologic, geotechnical and hydro geological nature are as follows:

- Earthquakes;
- Emissions;
- Landslides, Rockslides, Rock falls, liquefaction, Submarine slides;
Subsidence, Surface Collapse, Geological fault activity.

1.3. Biological hazards

Processes of organic origin or those conveyed by biological vectors, including exposure to pathogenic micro-organisms, toxins and bioactive substances.

Outbreaks of epidemic diseases, plant or animal contagion, and extensive infestations.

Type 2: TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Danger originating from technological or industrial accidents, dangerous procedures, infrastructure failures or certain human activities, which may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. These are sometimes referred to as anthropogenic hazards. Some examples: industrial pollution, nuclear activities and radioactivity, toxic wastes, dam failures; transport, industrial or technological accidents (explosions, fires, spills).

Type 3: ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Processes induced by human behavior and activities (sometimes combined with natural hazards), that damage the natural resource base or adversely alter natural processes or ecosystems. Potential effects are varied and may contribute to an increase in vulnerability and the frequency and intensity of natural hazards.

Some examples are: land degradation, deforestation, desertification, wild land fires, loss of biodiversity, land, water and air pollution, climate change, sea level rise, ozone depletion.

Context & Constraints:
Varies organizations and institutions have been motivated by HFA secretariat to developed plans and projects against challenges posed by disasters therefore:
Based on the initiative and support of ISDR office in Tehran, the HFA Executive Secretariat and the National Platform of Iran on Disaster Risk Reduction, have prepared this biennial working plan for implementation of HFA at national level for 2008 and 2009.

The objective of this working plan is to support HFA Secretariat of Iran in implementation of five HFA priorities which are as follows:

1. Governance: ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with strong institutional basis for implementation
2. Risk identification: identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning
3. Knowledge: use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
4. Reducing the underlying risk factors
5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response

3- Biennial working plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>HFA priority</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Time frame (Year- Month)</th>
<th>Estimated budget (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Developing a module for evaluating existing national capacity at different levels on disaster risk reduction</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>50.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Developing a national strategy on disaster risk reduction</td>
<td>14 months</td>
<td>96.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Task Description</td>
<td>Duration</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Developing a master plan for NP on the situation of disaster risk reduction in the country</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Defining urban development system considering seismic risks</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Developing criteria for re-construction of the earthquake affected areas in line with social-economic and cultural characteristics</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Supporting Iran-UNDP project on developing national capacity on disaster risk management</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Developing a national data bank for disaster management including a bank of experts, academic specialist related to DRR, managers and etc (Building on the existing initiatives)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Developing/defining standards disaster risk management system</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Developing/defining standards for disaster management system (with emphasis on post-disaster phase)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Developing methods for evaluation of capacity of the national agencies, ministries and institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Developing a matrix for follow-up and monitoring of working plan during the two years</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>28,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Publishing a newsletter for NP on a seasonal basis (12000 volumes)</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>28,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Preparing annual report for the Occurred Natural Disaster</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Promoting Secretariat for HFA and NP in Iran</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Establishing a working group to prepare necessary materials for reporting to ISDR and the global risk assessment, 2009-2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Developing a plan for enhancing disaster national early warning system</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Developing early warning indicators at different levels</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Developing comprehensive disaster risk assessment models</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Incorporating and integrating disaster risk maps of the country</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Physical vulnerability analysis into earthquake hazard in old urban texture (Case Study: BABOL City)</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>55,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Supporting Asian Seismic Risk Reduction Center (ASRC) and APIDM</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Developing/defining a new training modules for teaching trainers on Disaster Risk Management in all provinces (30 course)</td>
<td>18 months</td>
<td>150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Development and dissemination of innovative training, awareness raising and cultural building texts</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Inclusion of DRR elements in school curriculums, universities and professional curriculums</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Development and dissemination of community based disaster management manual</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Establishing a national community-based disaster risk reduction NGO portal</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Developing new training and awareness methods for most vulnerable groups, women and children</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Documentation of good practices and lessons learnt from recent disaster in Iran</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Developing a module for disaster documentation</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Holding 2 national workshops on legal frameworks of disaster risk reduction</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Organizing training workshops for disaster managers</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Developing a national strategy plan for safety promotion of important buildings in rural and urban areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Developing a national plan for school safety building on existing initiatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Developing national plan for hospital safety including designing a plan for evaluation of non-structural risk elements in hospitals, defining a suitable national module and defining standards for a safe hospital, building on existing initiatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Defining national standards for non-structural element</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Defining national criteria for assisting vulnerable people during a disaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Developing a comprehensive plan for developing the capacity of relevant disaster management</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
bodies, NGOs and research institutions, 200950.000
384 Support applied researches using new methods in retrofitting the buildings, 2009100.000
394 Holding 2 workshops on training retrofitting the buildings, 2008-2009100.000
404 Developing a strategy for flood early warning in flood prone rivers, 200850.000
414 Developing a strategy for local flood early warning system in flood high risk areas, building on existing initiatives, 200850.000
424 Developing/defining a national integrated flood management system, 2008100.000
434 Developing/defining a flood management system for rivers passing through big cities, 200850.000
444 Developing module for rapid assessment of earthquake damages utilizing seismometer network and satellite images, 24 months, 320.000
454 Developing mechanisms for promotion of insurance and culture of insurance against disasters throughout the country, 200965.000
464 Establishing a national early warning network for responding to vegetation infestation, vegetation diseases, and cold, 2008430.000
475 Developing plans for safety promotion against climate related hazards, 200976.000
485 Enabling local communities for disaster resilience, 200864.000
495 Establishing a national disaster management room for coordinating national response activities at the time of disaster, 200930.000
505 Establishing roads relief and rescue centers, 200857.000
515 Developing local comprehensive relief and rescue plans, 2008100.000
525 Natural Disaster Cartoon Competition & exhibition (subject: Identification and risk reduction), 12 months, 35.000
535 Natural Disaster Mobile exhibition (Implementing a pilot), 9 months, 100.000
545 Site section for temporary housing sites for damaged population from earthquake hazard in urban areas (a case study of zone 6 in Tehran city), 12 months, 60.000
Total 4641000

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

Description:
Development guidelines and standards for sustainable development in earthquake prone areas considering land-use planning and proper allocation of facilities and infrastructures.
- Evaluation of the seismic resistance of critical public facilities and physical infrastructure, such as fire fighting stations, hospitals and water networks.
- Strengthening some of the hospitals and schools in Tehran and other cities.

Ministry of Education & IIEES

n 2002: Strengthening of 150 Schools was begun in 2002.

n 2006: School Safety Act passed by Iran’s Parliament for reconstruction and strengthening of 257,945 vulnerable classrooms

n (39% of total) within next 4 years, with budget of $4 Billion
- Development criteria for land readjustment in old urban areas at the earthquake prone zones.

- Planning for allocation of disaster risk management infrastructure (such as evacuation sites, emergency response centers, etc.)

Earthquake Preparedness Planning in Schools

**Context & Constraints:**
We have recently started to developed strategy for public awareness from national to local levels.

In the past there have been some activities for public awareness

1. Preparing television and radio programmes during the second week of October every year as the Iranian National Day for Natural Disaster Reduction in order to introduce IDNDR initiative and 9 sub-committees of NDR Committee of Iran on central and local television channels. These programmes include interviews with related ministers and their deputies, the national authorities, provincial authorities, scientists, scholars, specialists, policy-makers, disaster management directors and general governors;

2. Producing various materials about the theme of each year’s campaign;

3. Presentation of television and radio programmes on various types of disasters in the country and providing necessary information to the public on ways of disaster reduction;

4. Presentation of short messages about NDR by television and radio as well as newspapers and magazines for public use;

5. Contribution of the country’s media and press in reflecting the different aspects of NDs during the second week of October each year as Iranian National Day for NDR to enhance Public Awareness.

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

**Description:**
Environmental and Natural Resource Management

- Developing guidelines and standards for sustainable development in earthquake prone areas considering land-use planning and proper allocation of facilities and infrastructures.
• Evaluation of the seismic resistance of critical public facilities and physical infrastructure, such as fire fighting stations, hospitals and water networks.
• Strengthening some of the hospitals and schools in Tehran and other cities.

(ii) Land-use planning and other technical measures
• Developing criteria for land readjustment in old urban areas in the earthquake prone zones.
• Planning for allocation of disaster risk management infrastructure (such as evacuation sites, emergency response centers, etc.)
• Studying reconstruction process in earthquake damaged areas to develop sound guidelines for disaster rehabilitation and recovery in Iran.
• Studying the process of housing construction in earthquake damaged areas to find the missing connections and developing helpful guidelines on housing dispersion and production policies in mega-cities of Iran.

Context & Constraints:
The environmental consequences of human activity tend to be hidden until it is too late. Consequently, the global order of priorities has focused on economic development, human development and finally on sustainable development. It is now known that a lack of attention to sustainability can threaten both economic and human development and that benefits are cancelled out by growing environmental costs. But the fact that these costs are sometimes hidden means that they may not be taken account of, unless there is maximum public awareness and public commitment to dealing with them.
1. Lack of inter-agency coordination on subjects like deforestation, desertification that is not within the jurisdiction of environmental protection organization.
2. Lack of an integrated program for follow-up on natural disasters related to climate change.

Core indicator 2
Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.
Level of Progress achieved:
4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/or operational capacities

Description:
Food security is considered as one of the basic priorities in the constitution of the Islamic republic of Iran. The constitution also refers to many of key prerequisites for food security including agricultural development, environmental protection, and poverty eradication. The past three decades have seen a threefold increase in the country's overall agricultural output. This growth has exceeded that of population, enabling significant gains in domestic consumption per capita and, in general, meeting the objectives of the national plans. As a result of greater educational equality, women in Iran are becoming as educated and skilled as men. The status of health of Iranians has improved markedly over the last two decades. Iran has been able to extend public health preventive services through the establishment of community-based primary healthcare network in the country. Similarly, progress has been made in the reduction of the child mortality rates and the maternal mortality rate.

Context & Constraints:
Success in health, education and economy are constantly threatened by environmental deterioration. Excessive consumption and wastage of water has become a critical problem, while long-term drought and the growing number of flooding incidence are creating new environmental planning needs and require further development of the country’s already large and experienced disaster mitigation institutions and programs. Raising environmental consciousness and adapting stronger policies may enable Iran to reduce or reverse the damage already done and ensure environmental sustainability.

Core indicator 3
Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities

Level of Progress achieved:
5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:
At present the people of Iran have an average quality of life which when quantified by human development index is near the top of middle development category. Iran appears to be within the reach of the level of high human developed countries. Yet, during the last quarter century there have been two major demographic changes in Iran. A large increase in fertility rates during the 1980s was followed by an equal decrease during the 1990s. Population growth has since fallen to 1.6% a year but a bulge in the population aged 15-25 now dominates the age pattern of the population. This new demographic bonus could bring benefits to the country in terms of economic growth and prosperity. But such prosperity is reliant on job and investment opportunities; Training and long term financial commitment to human capital development.

Context & Constraints:
Despite the relative wealth enjoyed by Iran through its oil and gas reserves, improving economic performance remains a significant challenge. Firstly, recent growth has been insufficient, either to create employment on the scale needed or to provide the tax base to finance necessary state efforts in health, education, welfare, infrastructure and environmental protection. Secondly, imbalances between government income and revenue tend to prove uncertainty which discourages productive investment and often encourages un-productive rent seeking.
**Core indicator 4**

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

**Level of Progress achieved:**
5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

**Description:**
Describe some of the key contextual reasons for the country’s ranking/assessment at the indicated level

Highlight key contextual challenges encountered by the country/national authorities and partner agencies; and recommendations on how these can/will be overcome in the future.

Within the two 5-year development plan, 3 million residential buildings have to be retrofitted by the support of the government through providing subsidies, construction material and technical assistance to the low income families combined with other facilities including grants and soft loans to the owners. Each year 300,00 houses are planned to be completed by the end of the 2015

1. The buildings, whether rural or urban: A large amount of research has been carried out in this area. It is necessary that the related research leads to administrative procedures;

2. The lifeline infrastructures: No considerable research has been done in this area. It is necessary to do some applicable research concerning the importance of different infrastructures such as telephone, power, gas, water supply, wastewater and roads;

3. Emergency residences;

4. Temporary residences as a part of permanent residences. Special attention must be paid to this issue;

5. Permanent residence;

6. The important and particular structures: structures such as dams, bridges, power stations and public buildings like hospitals, and security centers particularly the crisis room, are the other areas were a fixed procedure is required

7. Providing fast evaluation methods for buildings security after earthquakes and classifying them;

8. Repairing methods: after natural disasters it is necessary to apply proper repairing methods for damaged buildings. It is also important to consider the material used, speed of work and the methods.

**Context & Constraints:**
One of the constraints is that people normally stick to the place they have lived and it is difficult to convince them to change their attitude and move to a newly constructed residential site that has been costly to the government

**Core indicator 5**

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

**Level of Progress achieved:**
5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

**Description:**
The Establishment of IRCS Scientific and Applied Sciences Institute teaching disaster management, relief operations, disaster relief and rescue, etc., in order to train specialized personnel to fight disasters has been warmly received in the country. It has already provided trained staff who are highly instrumental in improving the IRCS’s capacity.

a. Carrying out research on disasters and accidents as well as their effects;
b. Carrying out researches on ways to fight accidents and disasters;
c. Carrying out strategic studies to improve relief & rescue;
d. Developing and implementation of relief & rescue standardization plan;
e. Developing a plan for ways of debris clearing during relief & rescue operations.
f. Turning disasters challenges into new opportunities for integrating relief and rescue approaches into sustainable development in the disaster aftermath reconstruction and rehabilitation phase.

The above-mentioned researches are either finalized or are under way on the basis of their priority. Their results will be taken into consideration for the relief & rescue planning throughout the country.

Context & Constraints:
Need for improvement in mitigation and preparation is evident. This need is perhaps more essential in combining the processed of development planning and disaster management. The causes for heavy financial losses in recent earthquakes and floods in Iran are mostly due to utilization of marginal land prompted by population pressure. While the population pressure may continue for some time it is imperative that the development activities, such as housing projects, road building, industrial and agricultural activities follow norms that would alleviate their vulnerability to earthquakes and floods.

Core indicator 6

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

Level of Progress achieved:
5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:
In the Islamic republic of Iran, the President Deputy Strategic Planning control office is responsible for defining policies, guidelines and vision plans, which have a 20 year perspective. However, the integration of disaster risk reduction into these plans is mandatory for each sector specified by in the plans. Any sectoral activities related to disaster risk reduction are subject to the review of above mentioned office as supreme approving body for all public sector’s development plans, programs and projects. The national platform is also gradually enhancing its role in supporting and mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in the national plans and programs.

Context & Constraints:
Incorporation of concerns for flood, earthquake and other natural disaster in procedures applied to the formulation

and approval of development programmers and project is needed.

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

**Description:**
The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (“IRCS”) as a non-profit, charitable non-government public organization and on the basis of its Statutes’ para.1/2/3/4/5 of Article 3 and article 5 as well as the raison d’être of its establishment and its undertakings as a member of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement has as its mission to plan and be prepared to respond to the disasters and render rescue and relief services to disaster-affected people, fully observing the seven fundamental principles of the Movement.

Therefore, IRCS has done its utmost to achieve the objective of mitigation of disaster effects, especially in the past 10 years, in pre-disaster, disaster and post-disaster phases. A summary of activities is given below under four topics:

In order to optimize the use of IRCS’s resources, equipment and capacity in handling mitigation of natural disasters’ effects, IRCS’s relief & rescue rules of procedure were revised, approved and implemented. Responsibilities of the IRCS’s Relief & Rescue Organization have been defined in the modified rules of procedures at the following levels:

a. Pre-disaster (prevention and preparedness);
b. Disaster (rescue and relief);
c. Post-disaster (normalization and reconstruction)

• Developing regional and local mechanisms in urban areas to prepare regional and local levels to respond to disaster consequences and save resources that’ll lead to sustainable development.

• Developing technical capacities and training through research, courses and periodic workshops.

• Studies on developing sustainable neighborhoods communities towards earthquake disaster risk reduction.

• Developing regional and local mechanisms in urban areas to prepare regional and local levels to respond to disaster consequences and save resources that’ll lead to sustainable development.

• Developing technical capacities and training through research, courses and periodic workshops.

• Studies on developing sustainable neighborhoods communities towards earthquake disaster risk reduction.

**Context & Constraints:**
When there is a disaster the country mobilizes itself well to respond. On the other hand when the initial pressure of a sudden ease up the interest in addressing the causes of the disaster gives way to other pressing issues facing the government.

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:
During the week on disaster reduction in October (Mehr), we hold countrywide drills and also on the national day of earthquake drill in Azar (November), we hold national national earthquake drills in schools for all students, besides in Tehran the municipality and NDMO organize different drills for preparedness, Iranian Red Crescent and NDMO and Municipality of Tehran and other cities, they have developed contingency plans for preparedness.

Context & Constraints:
Inadequate planning skills to draft contingency plans for emergency operations have limited the capacity of planners to develop emergency response and mitigation and preparedness plans. This is a substantive issue that needs to be tackled to allow for the preparation of a national preparedness and mitigation plans.

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:
The National Disaster Management organization, is provided with a special budget line for early recovery programs including quick assessment of damages, needs and capacities, restoration of critical infrastructures and livelihood following major disaster events to support the resilience of affected communities, until long term reconstruction of assets take place. The national, provincial and local authorities have been delegated with adequate authorization to spend the budget at the time of disaster occurrence without being accountable before national auditing officials.

Context & Constraints:
Disbursement of the special budget some times because of the scale of disaster may rise larger expectation in the provincial and local authorities. there is sometimes ambiguities in spending this money.

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

Description:
All members of the of the disaster task force and National Disaster task force are called in an announcement to attended the emergency headquarter until the normal situation returns back. the headquarter is provided with the latest information flow through different channels connected to disaster
Context & Constraints:
At the time of disaster various information are announced concerning the number of casualties by different sources , this trend of information causes ambiguities which needs to be seriously avoided through establishment of an integrated channel of releasing news about disaster in order to take proper decisions for disaster management purposes .

Drivers of Progress

a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development
Levels of Reliance:
Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged 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):
Multi – disciplinary nature of disasters have been taken into account by disaster management authorities in recent years. The disaster management leadership has been considerably strengthened for coordination of various concerned activities. disaster related mandates involved organizations have been reviewed in the laws and regulations

b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized
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):
A major shift of perspective has taken place in recent years from specific women’s project and then women in development to gender and development . This shift has had impact on the overall conceptualization , planning , implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development assistance . Hence, Issues of gender need to be factored into all stages of development and disaster risk reduction placing the same emphasis on the roles of men and women in the future programs .

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):
Identifying the key challenges that face the people of Iran. Its leaders and those who wish to assist from
the outside requires, up-to-date and accurate knowledge. The first step, therefore, is to increase and improve the data collected and published. Achieving this will open the way to better understanding and addressing the country’s disaster risk reduction challenges.

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.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):
Poverty is more than just low monitory income. It is also deprivation of those basic needs, that constitute a person, capability to live a full life. For this reason it is important to measure and address the existence of poverty from the standpoint both of income and restriction of capability. The most vulnerable people are the poor. It is planned that poverty eradication must be put into agenda in disaster risk reduction in the future.

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):
In the coming years retrofitting of hospitals throughout the country is going to be emphasized. The National Platform of Iran has approved the biennial working plan on safety of hospitals and health facilities. Negotiations are underway by Ministry of Health and Research Institutes in order to converge different approaches into an integrated national plan for retrofitting hospitals from the structural and non-structural point of view. The driver behind this is the proposal of ISDR secretariat.

f) 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):
Some of the most detailed sources of data in Iran tend to be very sporadic; therefore the emphasis in this section must be directed to a sophisticated tool for analyzing disaster trends. So the office of the technical deputy, strategic planning and office of the President is executing a program in this regard with the cooperation of UNDP. Various line ministries including Ministry of Interior, Housing and Urban Development and the city governors in Kerman and Gorgan are implementing the programs with the technical and programming support of UNDP.

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:
In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the President's Deputy Strategic Planning Control Office is responsible for defining policies, guidelines and vision plans, which have a 20 year perspective. However, the integration of disaster risk reduction into these plans is mandatory for each sector specified in the plans. Any sectoral activities related to disaster risk reduction are subject to review of above mentioned office as supreme approving body for all public sector’s development plans, programs and projects. The national platform is also gradually enhancing its role in supporting and mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in the national plans and programs.

Future Outlook Statement:
In order to strengthen the national capacities towards natural risk management, the government with the cooperation of UNDP has embarked upon a project of initiating a pilot earthquake risk management program in two demonstration cities of Kerman & Gorgan and then replicate it to other cities across Iran. To apply the National Level Plan Strategy document to the intermediate and local levels where result based indicators for the determined outputs will be most visibly achieved and monitored and three successively combine the pilot exercise initiated in the two selected cities with a process of creating minimum requirements of an urban management risk management program.

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:
Creation of the National Disaster management Organization is considered to be a substantive initiative toward strengthening capacities and institutional advancement for better disaster risk reduction and risk management in the country. 400 skilled personnel have been planned to be employed at national, provincial and local level for the purpose of efficient management of disaster risks. The high council presided by the president is an indication of government commitment to strengthen the leadership for control of disaster at the highest level. National platform of Iran will play its role in this newly established organization as its think tank.

Future Outlook Statement:
The future outlook is very encouraging. We are now in the process of organizing a comprehensive conference with participation of relevant NGOs and civil society and private sectors in order to plan the future cooperation with these organizations for achieving the HFA goals and priorities in risk reduction and making the communities more resilient.

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:
In order to improve the capacity in handling disasters and accidents, IRCS has established relief & rescue bases for winter, New Year holidays, on the roads, on sea as well as air relief. With further equipping and stretching this bases- working on temporary or permanent basis, IRCS has also become active in the area of rescue and now with its strong intervention in rescue phase of accidents and
disasters is recognized as one of the most active rescue rendering non-profit organizations in Iran. Currently, there are 89 on-the-road relief bases to be increased to 115 by the end of March 2005. They are around the clock relief & rescue bases active on the main roads throughout the country. Winter as well as New Year holiday's bases render the same services but on a temporary basis.

A plan for National Comprehensive Relief & Rescue Network to render prompt and timely response in numerous natural and other disasters has also been approved and implemented.

3.1 Response preparedness

As instructed by the National Relief & Rescue Comprehensive Plan, internal and external manoeuvres are being conducted throughout the country in the areas of natural and other disasters to maintain and prepare relief forces as well as facilities and equipment. In these manoeuvres, responsibilities and roles of all the organizations involved in relief & rescue are simulated. They are also conducted on different occasions as part of general training, getting the general public acquainted with disasters.

3.2 Meetings and specialized conferences

To increase the knowledge of the staff as well as management of the organizations as members of the National Disaster Headquarters, regular annual meetings are being held in which different subjects, appropriate methods and general policies as regards mitigation of the effects of natural disasters are presented as lectures, etc. This will help such organizations in planning and operations.

Storage and warehousing of relief items

1. Making and equipping over 200 000 square meters for warehousing throughout the country;

2. Preparing typical maps for relief

**Future Outlook Statement:**
During the reconstruction of Bam and other affected areas by hazards, we incorporated risk reduction elements in reconstruction for better preparedness and response in the future. We have learned to change the challenges occur by hazards to opportunities for future risk reduction and resilience.