

Italy

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:

Environmental risk management strategies will be better integrated into sustainable development policies and plans at all levels. This will be made as soon as the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction becomes fully operational, and will involve the redefinition of existing policies and mechanisms. Since the Platform is in course of implementation, the present assessment has been carried out by the National Civil Protection Department on behalf of all members of the National Civil Protection Service. The next review will better involve the stakeholders of the Platform.

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:

Policy and coordination mechanisms are being enhanced at all levels, with particular regard to the need for improving the capacity of local communities to effectively deal with DRR issues and develop resilience policies and programmes. A particular attention is being given to the development of a thorough knowledge of local risks, to the better diffusion of information among the population, to the creation of effective procedures to be employed during emergencies and to the identification of measures aimed at the development of efficient disaster recovery policies.

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:

In the next months, a better incorporation of DRR considerations into strategies and plans concerning emergency forecasting, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery will be performed. The achievement of this goal will be ensured through the identification of a specific DRR strategy and the definition of its relations with other sectoral strategies and policies, and will be made easier by the double role played by the National Civil Protection Department as the Civil Protection coordination body and coordinating actor of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

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:

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

Description:

In Italy Disaster Risk Reduction is a task performed at different levels by a multiplicity of actors. Development policies as well as other sectoral strategies currently foresee DRR requirements to be fulfilled. A new approach to DRR has been introduced at the beginning of 2008 according to the objectives and guidelines set by the Hyogo Framework for Action. The Prime Minister's Decree n. 66 of January 18th, 2008 has provided Disaster Risk Reduction with a new approach based on an improved multi-agency cooperation. This measure has established the National Platform for DRR under the coordination and responsibility of the National Civil Protection Department. As provided by Law n. 225 of February 24th, 1992, the National Civil Protection Department is the coordination body of the National Civil Protection Service, responsible for forecasting, prevention, management and overcoming of both natural and man-made disasters. In particular, the Department is in charge of providing coordination of all activities carried out at the Regional, Provincial and Municipal levels by the relevant authorities together with the national "operative structures", including i.e. the National Firefighting Corps, the National Forest Service, volunteer organizations, all police and military forces and other subjects.

Context & Constraints:

The full accomplishment of the objectives set by the Hyogo Framework for Action will be tied to the improvement of coordination among all actors involved in Disaster Risk Reduction. The National Platform has recently been officially introduced. Its composition, structure and working rules is in course of definition in order to issue a comprehensive and unitary national DRR strategy.

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:

An adequate amount of resources is currently devoted to Disaster Risk Reduction in Italy. These resources are managed by a number of different institutions and actors that, each one in its area of responsibility, provide for structural and non-structural activities aimed at reducing the risk of both natural and man-made disasters. A need for better coordination and resource rationalization is perceived and will be satisfied through the activities carried out in the framework of the Platform.

Context & Constraints:

The introduction of the National Platform has provided a focal point to the community of actors carrying out DRR in Italy. The core members of the Platform have been identified and are currently running the Platform as components of the "Coordination Group". The amount of available resources and capacities will grow as long as other relevant partners will be identified and involved into the operations carried out in the framework of the Platform.

Core indicator 3

Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

The Italian Civil Protection Service is based on the two pillars of decentralization and subsidiarity. Under the framework provided by the Law n. 225 of February 24th, 1992 by the Legislative Decree n. 112 of March 31st, 1998 and by the Constitutional Law n. 3 of October 18th, 2001, forecasting, preventive, emergency and recovery measures for the protection of people, goods and of the environment from the effects of disasters are a primary responsibility of the Mayor. Other authorities participate in the prevision and prevention of disasters and can be involved in emergency and recovery operations. These authorities are the Mayor responsible for coordinating the Mountain Community (if relevant), the President of the Province (assisting the Prefect for the coordination of operative activities) and finally the Governor of the Region. The central authorities are involved in all activities through the provision of guidelines and framework policies as well as of data and services. National-level emergency management and recovery operations are coordinated by the National Civil Protection Department and carried out only in case of major events that have or may have national consequences or that require the use of extraordinary means and resources.

Context & Constraints:

The main challenge in this field is represented by the lack, in some areas of the Country, of effective procedures for responsibility sharing and handover, causing slowdowns and delays in preventive activities. In some cases, this has also caused a rapid upscaling of the emergency when a disaster has occurred.

Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

The National Platform for DRR has been created by means of the Prime Minister's Decree n. 66 of January 18th, 2008. This measure has given the National Civil Protection Department the responsibility to establish and coordinate the Platform, and has identified the main institutional players whose participation in the "Coordination Group" of the Platform is required. Since then, two meetings of the Coordination Group have been hosted in the premises of the National Civil Protection Department to discuss the composition, organization and role of the Platform.

Context & Constraints:

The main issue the Coordination Group will have to face in the immediate future is represented by the need to identify the configuration to be given to the National Platform in order to ensure an adequate representation of all subjects involved and to preserve the balance of responsibility among the leading actors.

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:

Risk assessments concerning all main hazards are conducted at the National, Regional and Local levels. These activities are carried out according to risk maps updated continuously in order to maintain a thorough knowledge of the distribution, over the whole National territory, of risks and vulnerability. The responsibility to ensure that risk maps and risk assessments are up-to-date relies primarily upon the lower level of the system as municipalities have a better knowledge of the territory.

Context & Constraints:

The main future challenge in this sector is represented by the growing magnitude of disasters occurring countrywide. Climate change is modifying the relation between the communities and their territories. This problem is complicated by the presence of human settlements and activities even in remote and/or dangerous areas, as small communities often do not have the necessary skills and assets to carry out effective risk assessments.

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:

Comprehensive risk assessments are carried out at the different levels of the system under the responsibility of municipalities, provinces and regions, with a strong support given by the National level. The National Civil Protection Department has the responsibility to provide the whole system with guidelines and directives concerning how risk assessments have to be conducted, made available and notified from one level to the others. These measures are usually provided through National Forecasting and Prevention Programmes. The Regional Administrations are then responsible for translating the National guidelines into Regional Programmes in which roles and responsibilities of lower-level administrations are defined together with information exchange procedures. Provincial and municipal risk assessments are strongly related, since risks very often fall across the boundaries of two or more municipalities. In these cases, the coordination role played by the Provinces, or by inter-municipal cooperation bodies, is critical.

Context & Constraints:

Experience has shown that, even where standardization and notification procedures have been set, there are still differences in timing and quality of risk assessments made by small towns and middle/large cities due to the difficulty that small municipalities encounter in recruiting skilled personnel and acquiring technical resources. A number of initiatives have been undertaken in order to face this problem. The best results have been achieved through the provision of support by the administrations placed at the upper-levels of the system.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

Early warning is a National and regional commitment. It is ensured through an extensive use of technologies owned by different administration and agencies. A number of remote networks and sensors systems covering all risks affecting the Country is in place. Early Warning has been improved through the creation of a "National warning system" composed by a Central Functional Centre and some Regional Functional Centres, introduced under a Directive issued by the Prime Minister on February 27th, 2004. Each centre has the responsibility to receive, assemble and integrate all data relevant for the main foreseeable risks, to consult with other centres and to make information circulate h24 among decision-makers of all tiers of the National Civil Protection System.

Context & Constraints:

The main challenges concerning the future of early warning can be found in the field of technological systems integration. The national warning system provides an extensive coverage of hydro, hydrogeologic and meteorological risks, but a number of independent systems and networks still exist covering the same risks as well as other ones. While almost all systems owned by National-level institutions and agencies are already linked to the network, there still remain resources managed at the regional and sub-regional level by a wide number of subjects including regional government agencies as well as research networks and private/business companies that still have to be integrated, or to be fully integrated, into the National Civil Protection Service.

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:

Comprehensive risk assessments are carried out primarily under the responsibility and coordination of the regions, provinces and municipalities. Internal trans-boundary issues are taken into consideration according to the directives and guidelines issued by the National Civil Protection Department, which has the role to keep the whole National picture up-to-date and to stimulate and facilitate the regional cooperation. By means of the reform performed through the Constitutional Law n. 3 of October 18th, 2001, the Italian Regions have acquired the power to enter into international agreements concerning Civil Protection in compliance with the relevant National policies and commitments, so the regions with international boundaries can set up cross-border agreements with foreign Civil Protection agencies and actors. Recent examples of this kind of cooperation are the memorandum of understanding signed by the Friuli-Venezia-Giulia Region and the Republic of Slovenia on January 18th, 2006 and the one signed with the Carinthia Region on November 30th, 2006.

Context & Constraints:

Regional cooperation can be further improved, particularly when international boundaries are concerned. Specialized agencies have been set up in order to deal with risks typically involving more than one region, such as the hydrological risk tied to rivers and to major basins. With regard to trans-national

issues, while some regions have already developed their own networks involving both national and foreign partners, others still remain strongly dependent on the National tier.

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:

Information concerning disasters is gathered, treated and disseminated by the competent institutions and agencies as well as by the National Civil Protection Department which has the responsibility to assess the performance of the whole system and of its different tiers, to identify mistakes made and lessons learnt and to translate them into guidelines addressed to the various actors of the National Civil Protection Service or concerning specific aspects. Internet news, monographs, DVDs, press releases and technical reports are then prepared and circulated both to the public and to the Civil Protection community in order to make information to flow countrywide and abroad.

Context & Constraints:

An intensive effort has been made in the last years to improve information-sharing capabilities among all the tiers of the National Civil Protection Service. All natural and man-made disasters requiring a National support have been managed according to a policy aiming at the maximum transparency and availability of information. Information availability is lower in relation to smaller events managed by municipalities, provinces and/or regions. While some regions have issued strong information policies, developed the necessary capabilities and effectively involved the lower-level administrations, some others still experience some difficulties related to information gathering, treatment and/or dissemination.

Core indicator 2

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

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 Risk reduction matters are currently not included into school curricula. However, a number of university courses and postgraduate specializations in Civil Protection, covering DRR as well as recovery and other related topics, have been introduced during the last years. This has been one of the outcomes of an intensive campaign set up at in order to raise the disaster awareness. All mentioned topics are also integrated into a number of training courses provided to a wide range of subjects including DRR professionals as well as practitioners of other subjects, volunteers, mayors, etc.

Context & Constraints:

In the past, school curricula have never directly foreseen elements of disaster reduction or other topics related to Disaster Risk Reduction, even if elements of self-protection were included into civics. Civics is going to be reintroduced into school curricula in the context of a general school reform, but its contents still need to be defined.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

Both the regional and the National authorities are in charge to identify, develop/acquire and pool resources, capabilities and methods that allow the identification and knowledge of risks. In this framework a particular attention is given to the development of multi-risk assessment tools and capabilities. While different subjects carry out sectoral risk assessment, a structure of multi-risk “functional centres” has been set up in the last years, composed by a Central Functional Centre hosted by the National Civil Protection Department and Regional Functional Centres that are being arranged by regions, in order to improve multi-risk assessment and research capacities. Each centre has to be organized in order to allow risk prevention and early warning by pooling, analyzing, synthesizing and disseminating data and information produced by its own technologies (such as, i.e., remote sensors, etc.) and by systems managed by other subjects. Cost-benefit analysis is an integral part of the procedures of identification, evaluation and acquisition of technologies and tools.

Context & Constraints:

The main limitations to the operative effectiveness of the National system of functional centres are due to delays that some regions have experienced in setting up their centres. According to the principle of subsidiarity, in these cases it is a responsibility of the National authorities to support and to improve the regional capabilities. This goal is accomplished through the Central Functional Centre.

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:

Disaster awareness has been improved among the population during the last years. Extensive campaigns have been set up and carried out by using all available and relevant communication means and tools in order to make the population aware of risks that people may have to face in the whole Country, such as heat waves or severe storms. Besides, tailored communication and information have been brought to communities living in territories affected by specific risks such as earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis etc.

Public information concerning disasters is a task performed by the Civil Protection Department at the National level, by Regional Administrations at the regional level and by Mayors at the local level. Other actors such as volunteers’ associations promote disaster awareness as well, in close coordination with

the institutional partners mentioned above.

Context & Constraints:

The main challenge to be faced in the field of risk awareness is that, even if important goals have been reached, difficulties are still experienced in reaching some of the several small communities settled in remote and isolated areas. In some cases this problem can affect the performance of the whole Civil Protection system, since small municipalities often do not have sufficient technical means and capabilities to adequately carry out the activities needed.

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:

The relevant authority for the definition of environment related policies and plans is the Ministry of Environment, Land Protection and Sea, together with some authorities (such as, i.e., the Basin Authorities) set up in order to face particular problems. These National policies establish the framework for all environment-related issues and include guidelines for land use and natural resource management. The National rules are then translated into regional measures and implemented at the provincial and local level. Due to their inter-disciplinary nature, climate change issues are instead faced through a multiplicity of initiatives undertaken at all levels by a variety of institutional, research and private subjects, including volunteer's associations and actors belonging to the Core Group of the National Platform.

Context & Constraints:

Since the introduction of the National Platform for DRR on January 2008, a strong effort is being made in order to develop a comprehensive National Disaster Risk Reduction policy and to define its relations with the strategies and plans concerning the related subjects. The immediate goal is to identify as soon as possible the definitive composition and working rules of the National platform. This will allow to officially start cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction among all actors involved.

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:

The main authority relevant for the definition of social development policies and plans is the Ministry of Work, Health and Social Policies. During the last years the Ministry has undertaken a number of initiatives and projects together with other public and private subjects in order to reduce the vulnerability of the population. Special arrangements are in place in order to assist the populations most at risk or already affected by emergencies. Those arrangements can assume a number of different forms. The

best results have usually been achieved through the provision of fiscal and/or financial measures and by means of the furniture of special services.

Context & Constraints:

Since the introduction of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on January 2008, a strong effort is being made in order to develop a comprehensive National Disaster Risk Reduction policy and to define its relations with the strategies and plans concerning the related subjects. The immediate goal is to identify as soon as possible the definitive composition and working rules of the National platform. This will allow to officially start cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction among all actors involved.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

The main authority relevant for the definition of economic and productive sectorial policies and plans is the Ministry of Economic Development. A number of initiatives have been undertaken by the Ministry together with other subjects including actors directly involved in Disaster Risk Reduction as well as other public and private ones, chambers of commerce and professional associations in order to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities and to promote business continuity management. A comprehensive National policy in this field is currently being developed, and will benefit from the introduction of the National Platform for DRR

Context & Constraints:

Since the introduction of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on January 2008, a strong effort is being made in order to develop a comprehensive National Disaster Risk Reduction policy and to define its relations with the strategies and plans concerning the related subjects. The immediate goal is to identify as soon as possible the definitive composition and working rules of the National platform. This will allow to officially start cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction among all actors involved.

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 of human settlements are carried out by the Regional and the Municipal Administrations according to the National law and to the framework policies provided by the relevant ministries (Ministry of Environment, Land Protection and Sea, Ministry of Infrastructures etc.). Disaster Risk Reduction elements and considerations are already included by law into the planning of human settlements. A number of initiatives have also been undertaken during the last years in order to improve the overall planning, implementation and control capabilities, especially those of municipalities.

Context & Constraints:

Since the introduction of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on January 2008, a strong

effort is being made in order to develop a comprehensive National Disaster Risk Reduction policy and to define its relations with the strategies and plans concerning the related subjects. The immediate goal is to identify as soon as possible the definitive composition and working rules of the National platform. This will allow to officially start cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction among all actors involved.

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:

Disaster Risk Reduction elements are taken into consideration in all phases of the emergency management cycle. According to the role played by the National Civil Protection Service, this includes forecasting and preventive measures as well as emergency and recovery ones. Civil Protection, however, includes only those measures that are carried out in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. Long-term recovery and rehabilitation is a responsibility that relies both on local/regional administrations and on the competent institutions and agencies.

Context & Constraints:

Since the introduction of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on January 2008, a strong effort is being made to develop a comprehensive National Disaster Risk Reduction policy and to define its relations with the strategies and plans concerning the related subjects. The immediate goal is to identify as soon as possible the definitive composition and working rules of the National platform. This will allow to officially start cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction among all actors involved.

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:

The main authority relevant for the assessment of the disaster risk impact of major development projects is the Ministry for Infrastructure and Transport. The Ministry is also responsible for developing standards and procedures concerning the design and implementation of infrastructures. It works in close cooperation with the territorial authorities competent at different levels (regions, municipalities). In the last years, the Ministry has also undertaken a number projects involving other ministries as well as public and private subjects in order to improve the capability to assess the impact on disaster risk of development and infrastructural projects.

Context & Constraints:

Since the introduction of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on January 2008, a strong effort is being made to develop a comprehensive National Disaster Risk Reduction policy and to define its relations with the strategies and plans concerning the related subjects. The immediate goal is to identify as soon as possible the definitive composition and working rules of the National platform. This will allow to officially start cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction among all actors involved.

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:

Disaster risk management is one of the core activities carried out by the National Civil Protection Service. This means that it is an integral part of the National Civil Protection policy as well as of the related policies set up at the lower levels of responsibility. Technical and institutional capacities devoted to disaster risk management, including assets as well as know-how of specialized personnel, are owned by the subjects participating to Civil Protection. Inter-agency agreements are in place for pooling and sharing of resources at all stages of the emergency management cycle.

Context & Constraints:

A comprehensive National policy for disaster risk management is already in place and continuously updated. As soon as the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will become fully operational and a comprehensive and specific Disaster Risk Reduction policy will be issued, the compliance of the current strategy with DRR will be improved.

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 programmes are set at the National and regional level. Regional programmes must be compliant with the correspondent National ones. The National preparedness programmes are part of the National Forecasting and Prevention Programmes, while the regional ones are included into the Regional Forecasting and Prevention Programmes. Provinces and municipalities have the responsibility to implement the measures set in these programmes by setting up specific preparedness plans, and to report to the upper level.

Contingency plans are developed at all levels. The National Civil Protection Department has the responsibility to coordinate the development of the National contingency plans and to issue guidelines on how lower-level administrations have to set their plans. These guidelines are then adapted to regional needs by the Regions and translated into directives for the preparation of provincial contingency plans usually carried out under the leadership of the competent Prefecture Offices. Local contingency plans must finally comply with the provincial ones.

Context & Constraints:

The main problem in this field is that in some cases small municipalities located in remote areas do not have a sufficient amount of technical and/or financial resources to develop effective contingency plans

and disaster preparedness plans. For this reason, in some cases the local communities have only a limited knowledge of the risks they have to face or of the behaviours to be adopted in case of emergency. In other cases, emergency procedures set up at the local level are not periodically updated or sufficiently exercised. In all these cases, response capabilities are reduced and an unnecessary workload is given to the emergency services.

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:

A National Civil Protection Fund has been set up in order to provide the National tier a financial reserve to be employed when a major emergency occurs. Regional funds are also in place and can benefit of resources allocated yearly by the relevant Regional Administration and by the National Civil Protection Department. Contingency mechanisms are also in place. The National Civil Protection Department can manage and assign ad-hoc resources directly to the subjects affected or involved into the emergency management/overcoming operations (including i.e. regional or local administrations as well as private companies or persons). This is made through ordinances that, under some conditions, can repeal the ordinary law according to the measures set up into a “declaration of the state of emergency” made by the Council of Ministers under the initiative of its President. Almost all regions have in place similar procedures to employ their regional funds. Municipalities can also set up Civil Protection funds financed with their own resources and with resources provided by the Region.

Context & Constraints:

The mechanism currently in place has shown to be very effective and easy to be employed. A continuous effort is being made to improve financial management controls and audit procedures.

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:

Emergency communication is a primary need of a modern Civil Protection System. Procedures and systems have therefore been set up in the last years to ensure communication sharing, resilience and availability of information among all members of the National Civil Protection Service. To this end, the National Civil Protection Department has entered on October 16th, 2002, into a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Telecommunication in order to ensure the availability of a national emergency frequency. This memorandum, whose aim is to allow the creation of a “national radio network” linking the National Civil Protection Department with the National Firefighting Corp and the regional civil protection authorities, has been renewed and extended on 2007. Regional networks have been then created in cooperation with the regional administrations, together with a satellite backup. Procedures are also in place for emergency public information. In this field, the National Civil Protection Department has entered into agreements with TLC providers as well as with the major TV- and radio-broadcasting companies aimed at the introduction of a “National Public Utility Programme” and of a

“National Circuit for Public Information”. Post-disaster reviews are carried out by the National Civil Protection Department as soon as the immediate response operations are closed and post-disaster operations can start.

Context & Constraints:

Emergency communication networks are being rapidly developed and continuously extended in all Italian regions. In addition, a number of other systems are in course of evaluation and testing, such as Tetra and WiMax. A National Emergency Number is also being created according to the European Commission Directive n. 2002/21.

Drivers of Progress

a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?:

Yes

If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy?:

Yes

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

A multi-hazard approach has been developed and is being put into practice through the full implementation and the progressive extension of the National warning system. The network of the Functional Centres (the regional ones and the National one) currently covers almost all major risks. Data produced by other systems flow into the network through links created by means of bi- and multilateral inter-agency agreements. This system will be improved through the enhanced cooperation that will be promoted in the framework of the National Platform.

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):

Gender perspectives are taken into consideration as provided by the relevant laws applicable to public service employment. A comprehensive strategy tailored to Disaster Risk Reduction will be issued as soon as the National Platform for DRR becomes fully operational.

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

Levels of Reliance:

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

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

The identification, evaluation and strengthening of resources and capacities for risk reduction and recovery is a responsibility that in Italy falls in the category of preventive measures carried out at different levels. Each Mayor is in charge to carry out this task at the local level, while the Prefect is the main responsible for providing arrangement and improvement of the capacities available in the province. The regional tier usually operates in close cooperation with both the provincial and the National authorities. It usually provides provinces with assets and capacities to be employed in order to prevent disasters, to face their effects and to re-establish the normal life conditions.

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):

Elements of human security are included in all policies concerning people and communities. Civil Protection policies include considerations for economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security. Ad hoc programmes and measures are i.e. in place to guarantee the economic and financial resilience and business companies as well as the capacity of communities to recover from the economic and social effects of both human and man-made disasters.

e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels

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):

All actors owning assets, performing functions and/or producing data that can be relevant for Civil Protection/DRR activities are part of the National Civil Protection Service. These actors include institutional subjects as well as research centres, public and private companies and volunteers' associations. Partnerships are set up through bi- and multilateral agreements as well as by means of the creation of ad-hoc institutional bodies. At the National level, the main bodies are the National Commission for the Forecasting and Prevention of Major Risks (in charge of providing the whole system with doctrines and long-term policies) and the Civil Protection Operational Committee (the apical operational body of the National Civil Protection Service). Similar bodies have also been set up at the lower levels.

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):

No other drivers have been identified

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:

The main challenge to the effective integration of Disaster Risk Reduction into sustainable development and other sectoral policies is the need of providing as soon as possible the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction with a permanent composition, rules and procedures and a workplan intended to facilitate the adaptation of DRR concepts to the National needs and their translation into a comprehensive strategy.

Future Outlook Statement:

The first task that the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be called to perform will be the development a general strategy whose content must be consistent with the existing policies and plans. The DRR strategy will clearly state the main concepts and principles to be taken into account and will set up guidelines, constraints and restraints for the revising the other related policies. This will allow a better integration of DRR into sectoral policies such as sustainable development ones.

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:

A complex system of roles and responsibilities is in place to ensure that all levels of the system can effectively deal with resilience to hazards. Dedicated bodies have been set up to foster cooperation and coordination, but in some cases local emergency management communities are not sufficiently integrated or cannot invest enough resources to face the risks affecting their territory

Future Outlook Statement:

The main effort will be directed towards the improvement of local resilience capacities, with a particular attention given to the identification and knowledge of the risks affecting local communities and to the identification of inter-sectoral strategies involving all local actors. Several forms of external support from the higher levels have been tested with good results. Further measures will take into account the outcomes of these pilot projects.

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:

The National Civil Protection Service currently provides for Disaster Risk Reduction through the identification of measures to be taken at all levels and in all steps of the emergency management cycle. Forecasting and Preventive measures are included into apposite Programmes set at the National level, tailored by the regions on their territorial needs then translated into provincial and municipal plans. These documents are linked to other sectoral strategies and policies such as for land use, community planning or infrastructures. Emergency and Recovery policies are also in place at the National level Strategies, plans and activities carried out by the lower-level administration must be compliant with the

corresponding national policy.

Future Outlook Statement:

The inclusion of DRR consideration into Civil Protection programmes, plans and operations will be improved as long as the National Platform for DRR will become fully operational.