

**Concept Note**

28 March 2013

**Information and Knowledge Management for Disaster Risk Reduction (IKM4DRR) Workshop at Global Platform 2013 and Development of an IKM4DRR network**

**1. Background**

Over the past five years, the domain of disaster risk reduction (DRR) has evolved significantly and has emerged as a topic of global interest and importance. The global dialogues around climate change adaptation (CCA) are also closely linked to DRR.

As a result, there has been a corresponding development and evolution of information and knowledge management systems in the DRR and CCA domains at the global, regional and national levels.

A 2012 workshop in Bangkok entitled “Enhancing linkages between DRR Project Portal and DRR related knowledge management/information management systems in Asia and the Pacific Region” showed that many countries and regional organizations are now beginning to develop national DRR information portals as well as CCA information portals, and that there is a clear need to improve the coordination and efficiency and effectiveness of information and knowledge management in the DRR and CCA domains.

The proceedings of the third session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (2011) reference 28 calls and commitments to enhanced access to information, exchange of information, and improved coherence among information management systems from Regional and National Platforms, Mayors and Private Sector to statements from children and vulnerable groups, to actors in preparedness, health, and climate change.

The PreventionWeb site was launched by the UNISDR in 2007 and has become the recognized go-to place for global information on DRR. A recent independent evaluation of the project recommended however that PreventionWeb should evolve from being an information aggregator to becoming an active knowledge broker. As the development of value added knowledge products relies on a solid knowledge base, it follows that detailed DRR information and data are best organized and maintained at the national and regional levels.

In 2002 the humanitarian sector organized the first Symposium on Information Management for Humanitarian Response. This meeting was very successful at improving the coordination and capacity for information management among humanitarian response actors, and the development of corresponding standards.

It is now clear that the time is right to develop a similar mechanism for disaster risk reduction in order to strengthen national and regional DRR coordination mechanisms and improve the connections with similar initiatives on climate change adaptation.

## **Workshop: 20 May 2013 at the Global Platform 2013, Geneva**

### **2. Workshop Aim**

The overall aim of this workshop is to:

- Strengthen the information and knowledge management capacity of National and Regional Platforms for DRR;
- Facilitate knowledge sharing among information management professionals and increase collaboration between DRR and CCA portals;
- Launch a global IKM4DRR network and confirm its roles and responsibilities in support of information and knowledge management for DRR and CCA.

### **3. Workshop Objectives**

Specifically, the workshop will:

1. Identify the IKM needs and requirements for National and Regional Platforms and national coordinating mechanisms as well as measures for implementation;
2. Improve the understanding of knowledge brokering in the DRR and CCA domains;
3. Share knowledge of best IKM practices;
4. Discuss and brainstorm how to address common issues and challenges.
5. Develop information and knowledge management principles for DRR and an IKM4DRR framework towards 2015 and beyond to support national and regional DRR coordination.

### **4. Expected Workshop Output**

The intended output is an agreed upon guideline for information and knowledge management to support national and regional DRR coordination, a stocktaking of current activities, and improved exchange between existing projects. These outputs will guide activities of the IKM4DRR network towards 2015 and beyond.

### **5. Key Workshop Questions**

- What has been accomplished in information and knowledge management in the DRR and CCA domain and what challenges remain?
- Where does DRR and CCA information and knowledge management integrate and where not?
- How can information and knowledge management for DRR and CCA be improved at the sub-national, national, regional and global levels?
- How can information standards improve progress in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation?
- How can information and knowledge be best used to support funding decisions and policy making?
- What are recommendations for improved coordination of DRR and CCA efforts?
- How can information managers be proactive, keeping on top of ICT developments and planning for future user needs?

## **6. Workshop Facilitation Approach**

The one-day workshop will be facilitated as a “Knowledge Share Fair” to exchange experience, take stock of existing information management projects and develop a framework to support national and regional DRR coordination. – Activities will include interactive knowledge management methods such as Open Space, World Cafe and Fish Bowl. to maximize learning, capture experience and convergence on a set of framework principles. Specific workshop design issues will be discussed in the IKM4DRR advisory group.

### **6.1 IKM4DRR Discussion Forum**

The IKM4DRR online forum will discuss the following topics and serving as a pre-meeting planning tool and ongoing peer support mechanism for the exchange of good practices.

**Topic idea:** What are the elements of an effective DRR/CCA portal?

- Legislation and Policy
- National Coordination mechanisms and institutions
- DRR/CCA projects or programmes
- Disaster loss and risk data and information
- Risk assessment
- Indigenous and traditional knowledge

### **6.2 Proposed Topics for Discussion Prior to and During Workshop Methodologies and tools for IKM**

- Information management and standards for data and information exchange
- GIS and visualization for DRR
- Mobile applications for DRR
- National DRR and CCA portals - progress and challenges
- Usability and user-centered design for DRR and CCA portals
- Disaster loss databases and risk models

#### **Strategic use of information and knowledge**

- Knowledge brokering for DRR and CCA
- How do we collect knowledge now to influence 2015 discussions and deliberations?
- Financial and resource tracking systems for DRR and CCA
- Indigenous knowledge capture and transfer for DRR and CCA
- Capacity building – awareness, needs and opportunities
- Information as power: how neutral can and should DRR information managers be?
- What measurement tools do you or would like to use as part of IKM4DRR?
- Role of networks and regional portals / initiatives
- Social media for DRR and CCA
- DRR and CCA project mapping

## **7. Proposed Working Areas of IKM for DRR and CCA**

The following topics can be explored and developed as discussions and activities within the IKM4DRR network.

- Exchange of best practices in developing portals for national DRR and CCA coordination -- what works, as well as what hasn't
- Development of information management and knowledge management capacities

- Development of regional knowledge hubs by theme, hazard, sector and geographical location
- Development of information exchange standards, common terminology and glossaries for DRR, CCA to enhance and facilitate interlinking, automated feeds and comparative analysis
- Improvement in the collection, sharing and accessibility of disaster loss data and the development of risk profiles
- Effective mapping and display of DRR and CCA projects and initiatives (stocktaking and inventories)
- Use and accessibility of social media for DRR and CCA
- Development of effective knowledge products to facilitate decision and policy making
- Development and interlinking DRR and CCA organization and focal point directories
- Using GIS and visualization techniques to facilitate understanding and analysis
- Financial tracking systems for DRR
- IM and KM monitoring and evaluation frameworks and trend analysis as well as links to DRR
- Development of information management principles for DRR and an IKM4DRR framework looking at 2015 and beyond to support national DRR coordination
- Documentation of DRR and CCA information management standards  
Improve the use of social media by the information managers for outreach and networking

## **8. Participants**

Information managers from National and Regional Platforms for disaster risk reduction and national coordinating mechanisms, regional organizations, partners and donors will participate in both the workshop and preceding and following networking activities.

## **9. Potential Partners**

While many bilateral partnerships have already been formed, a collective approach to IM and KM issues can be much more effective. Current discussion partners include:

- ASEAN
- Asia Pacific Adaptation Network
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)
- Natural Hazard Centre, University of Colorado at Boulder (USA)
- Caribbean Development Bank
- CCCCC
- CDKN – The Climate and Development Knowledge Portal
- CDEMA
- CRED Belgium
- CRID Costa Rica
- Duryog Nivaran and Practical Action
- ESCAP
- ESRI
- FAO (DisasterRiskReduction.net)

- FAO (FEWS NET)
- GFDRR (World Bank)
- Global Risk Forum
- GNDR – The Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction
- ICT 4 Peace
- IFRC
- Institute for Development Studies (including Eldis)
- Kyoto University
- OCHA
- Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
- Pacific Disaster Net (SPC SOPAC)
- Penn State University
- RiskRed
- SAARC DMC
- SIDSNet
- SPREP
- UN-SPIDER
- UNDP - GRIPWeb (Global Risk Information Platform)
- UNEP GRID
- World Bank (Climate Change group and Knowledge Services)
- World Food Programme

## **10. Actions and Next Steps**

1. Circulation of an IKM4DRR concept paper for comment (January 2013)
2. Formation of an IKM4DRR workshop advisory committee (February 2013)
3. Invitation circulated to National Platform and HFA focal points (February 2013)
4. Launch IKM4DRR discussion forum (March 2013)
5. One-day workshop and knowledge share fair (20 May 2013 at Global Platform 2013)
6. Regional IKM4DRR meetings in Europe, Asia, Africa and Americas (2013, 2014)
7. IKM4DRR declaration and side events at the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015)

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