



Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Fourth Session - Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow

Geneva, Switzerland, 19-23 May 2013

Name and Type of Event	Arab Region Consultation Meeting
Date	19.5.2013 15:00 – 19:30
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Number of Participants	Approximately 90 persons

1) What were the key messages, outcomes and recommendations from your event?

- Importance of improved **governance, accountability and monitoring of DRR** implementation. Clear definition of roles
- Need for greater role for League of Arab States in advancing DRR (LAS is seen often as a political IGO)
- Need to **revise indicators for HFA progress** to address gaps in analysis and measuring stakeholders' engagement. **Ensure that HFA2 will have targets** and indicators embedded from the start.
- Need to pay attention for countries in conflict zones or post war to address fragility, capacities and resources limitation.
- Accelerating capacity building actions in 2013-2015 for countries lacking progress in HFA implementation with tailored training packages per country.
- Risk profiling specific to the Arab Region to cover hazards like heat waves, climate change related risks, sand storms, etc.
- Improve linkages between **academia** and policy makers and support joint Arab applied research to address multi hazard and region-specific risks.
- Accounting for **disaster losses** should consider longer historical periods of coverage to account for Earthquake long return cycle (need to go beyond 30 years of accounting)
- Stronger engagement of **civil society** in raising awareness and community resilience.
- Move from theoretical analysis to realistic engagement of communities and realistic application of disaster risk reduction measures. Re-consideration of resources and plans for disaster risk reduction to be directed at most vulnerable areas and localities.

- Importance of **women to be recognized as agents for change** and to be actively engaged in disaster risk reduction as opposed to being seen as victims and vulnerable groups.

2) Based on the Synthesis Report of the HFA2 consultation process up to the GP13, what are specific recommendations and concrete examples for the main topics, themes and issues to be addressed in the HFA2?

Arab region called for disaster risk reduction initiatives to be viewed as an investment and not as a cost. Participants re-affirmed their commitment to reducing disaster risks and to accelerating progress on HFA implementation and disaster risk reduction. They underlined importance of undertaking concerted actions on disaster risk reduction, including by carrying out a thorough assessment of progress and gaps in the implementation of the current HFA in order to inform and scale up DRR efforts as part of HFA2. Important to continue implementation of HFA 2013-2015 recognizing that it still offers a comprehensive platform for action. Enhance support and capacity building to countries lacking progress.

Dry lands cover 41% of the earth's surface, and are home to over 2.0 billion people – and the majority of the world's poor. About 16% of the population lives in chronic poverty, particularly in marginal rain-fed areas. With climate change, these areas will become dryer; droughts will become more intense, frequent and prolonged. They will exacerbate desertification and poverty. More support should be directed to enhance the capacities of dry land countries to develop and implement strategies and policies to address drought and contribute to water and food security. These strategies and policies need to be integrated at the national, regional and global levels.

Risks from climate change and extreme weathers do not only increase exposure and vulnerability, but also affect people beyond the places where they occur (Raise commodity prices, cause shortages and disrupt supply chains and export markets). Need more focus on **slow onset disasters** that does not make headline news, however they cause long-term damages and affect livelihoods, economies, public services and private sector.

Consider **disaster induced migration and impact** on resources, policies and decision makers. Migration will increase in the region due to drought risk, water insecurity, and food insecurity.