

# Towards a post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES TO DISASTERS



## Summary and Closing Remarks of the Second Round

The second round of the online dialogue on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, entitled “Taking stock and looking ahead” ran from 24 September to 5 October 2012. It was aimed at linking these consultations on the new framework with the acceleration of HFA implementation in the last 3 years of the decade; while learning lessons from the progress made, and challenges faced in the last 8 years since January 2005. The round had 89 comments across the four threads of discussion. There are now 402 participants registered overall, with 138 of them participating in such dialogues for the first time.

### Key achievements in building resilience since the adoption of the HFA in 2005

- A rich and balanced tapestry of experiences in 33 comments by 30 participants from 17 countries spread across 4 continents recognize that HFA created a ‘buzz’ around disaster resilience and the emergence of political will and ownership of DRR at highest levels in developing countries as ‘natural’ disaster setback achievements of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- Development actors and communities have shifted from business as usual to DRR as a way forward. Catastrophic events served as turning points, and with the HFA, created landmark new laws, agencies, and partnerships representing a ‘360 degree shift from purely disaster response regime’.
- Mainstreaming of DRR in national and line ministry development plans has begun. National DRR Forums/platforms provide an enabling environment for bring together Government agencies, institutions, UN Agencies and CSOs; shaping national DRR action plans and promoting shared responsibility.
- Officials from provincial (West Bengal, India) and city (Macaé city, Rio de Janeiro state, Brazil) governments report on their programs and role in the UNISDR City campaign. Innovations in resourcing DRR come from allowing unused calamity funds (5% of total local government budget) in the Philippines to be created as trust fund locked for 5 years to implement DRR and preparedness and response, and mobilizing private sector funding through CSR and long term public-private partnerships.
- Progress is reported on monitoring and observing disaster events, archiving disasters and creating disaster databases, effective early assessment of hazards, vulnerability, and dissemination of early warning and risk information, but there is greater need for education, use of new technology and innovation.
- A substantial impact of HFA in academic circles is reported from Nigeria, recognizing DRR dimensions which must be incorporated in many areas of academic specialty: Medicine (Human or otherwise), Management, Engineering, Sociology, Military, Public Administration, Accounting, Economics, Business Administration etc.
- Development NGOs in Africa and Asia report a growing recognition that DRR is relevant for community development issues of livelihood, water, sanitation and hygiene, health, education and ecosystem protection. Organizations of youth, farmers, pastoralists, fisher-folk, local church networks, religious groups, volunteers, and humanitarians are beginning to do work on DRR, build their expertise, and mobilize resources. CSO networks grew significantly and are contributing to HFA implementation; at sub-national and national level - Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines and regional level.

## **Accelerating HFA implementation in the remaining three years and three months till 2015**

Some key gaps and barriers to implementation were identified as slow progress in PfA 2-5, insufficient levels of technical and financial support, and the risk that a new global challenge will preoccupy government and the media and public, and cause them to lose interest in DRR. It was also recognized that if scientific knowledge is confined to only academic community, then the public may not have the right information on risk to motivate them to take action.

Participants also recognized certain key development challenges related to corruption, injustice, political instability, poverty and poor structure of governance institution as main hurdles to making progress.

Actions to focus on:

- A much greater effort to link DRR with action on climate change and more fully integrated into both development and recovery. Recognizing that we know which areas around the globe are most vulnerable, special support should be provided to these areas as per their needs.
- New DRR legislation creates new decentralized arrangement at sub-national level, and devolves authority for this subject of DRR to local authorities. It is necessary to eliminate barriers and apply incentives that have been identified to accelerate DRR implementation and effective enforcement of legislation and building codes.
- DRR must become a priority for those who hold the purse strings. Sharpen the economic case for DRR. Let developers know that 'no DRR, no deal' is the way of the future. Showing the economic benefits of risk reduction, or better yet, Embed DRR into any and all development projects Legislation with teeth to bite is necessary, one whose time has come.
- Funding to risk reduction seems to any planner and decision makers as speculative investment. If the return is not a clearly visible product that can be showcased, no decision maker is interested in risky investment.
- Significant capacity should be developed among the people who work for DRR in state and non-state agencies to communicate, educate and convince the people who prepare the budget or policy strategy to put money for DRR in the budget.
- Resources means and facilities should be made for the CSOs that have been working with governments to reduce the risks at all levels from mitigation to rehabilitation stages.
- Adopt and promote good practices more appropriate for specific countries that display similar characteristics such as climate, human development index and population. Strengthen the initiatives to establish a national building code and to apply building codes and upgrade the critical infrastructures. Keep up advocacy both national and international levels.

## **Tackling major challenges to building resilience and reducing disaster risk**

There was an interesting mix of statements of broad principle to specific and actionable proposals for implementation. Targets were suggested for risk assessment, early warning systems etc. The proposal is to develop a scheme called "targets for community DRR". Each country should have a sheet to list up all high risk communities and to show achievement in the past and plan in the future for each community. Based on this country sheet, a regional sheet should be prepared by regional organization and a global sheet, which should be shown on the website of respective organizations so as to be accessible by any in the world. This monitoring will be helpful for government in implementation/budgeting in a more planned manner, and will make communities eager to accelerate DRR in competition with other communities in the country.

Warmly,

LOY REGO

Facilitator,

Online Dialogue on Post 2015 Framework for DRR