PROJECT FACTS – CHINA

Disaster Risk Management Programme (DRM)

Background

With a population of over 1.3 billion, China’s high prevalence of disasters affects the lives of millions of citizens. While the country has made progress over the past several decades in establishing much of the required infrastructure for disaster response, the causes and consequences of disasters continue to evolve. One of the challenges in China is to develop effective response strategies to an increasingly complex set of disasters, including natural hazards such as earthquakes, storms, floods and droughts, emerging social and economic risks from industrial disasters, and potential health risks such as avian influenza. According to government statistics, between 1980 and 2000, on average 5,800 persons were killed by disaster per year. In the 1990s, the annual average economic loss resulting from disasters in China was over USD 20 billion, or 3.8 percent of GDP.

Project Summary

The programme supported improvements in the way risk is identified, assessed, managed, monitored and communicated. A special focus was placed on community-based disaster risk management (DRM) approaches where local disaster management committees were established. These committees help to increase awareness and capacity of communities on how to respond when a disaster strikes. The programme aimed to introduce a DRM framework in 5 cities and 10 local communities in various regions of China. Activities supported mainstreaming of DRM into cross-disciplinary subjects such as urban planning, development planning, and community-level campaigns.

Activities

- Establish a project management office (PMO) in the Ministry of Civil Affairs with staff and facilities to support project activities;
- Conduct assessments to review disaster risks, develop future scenarios of social and economic impacts, and design policy responses for risk reduction, preparedness and response;
- Hold annual DRM summits to review assessment results and implementation status;

Key Objectives

- To develop an integrated, holistic and structured approach to disaster management in China, with a national DRM framework.
- To improve coordination for risks assessment and policy formulation processes.
- To improve capacities in implementation and information management through incorporation of best practices.

Expected Results

- DRM Strategic Assessment in China completed and findings integrated into relevant policies and programmes by CNCDR members, as a means to implement the National Eleventh Five-Year Plan on Disaster Reduction.
- A national DRM capacity development facility established to improve DRM prevention, preparedness and response skills for CNCDR members and partner institutions.
- Local capacity development facilities established in 5 cities and 10 communities to increase awareness and capacity for communities to better prepare for and respond to disasters.
Launch China National Committee for Disaster Reduction (CNCDR) management information systems (MIS) website;

Establish and operate the DRM Capacity Development Facility in the Ministry of Civil Affairs to lead the implementation of assessment findings and policy responses;

Conduct DRM training manuals trainings;

Pilot IT systems to link local capacity development facilities to national management information systems;

Elaborate local assessment responses for risk reduction, preparedness and response approaches;

Establish and operate local capacity development facilities and PMOs in 5 cities and 10 communities to implement assessment findings, preparedness and response actions;

Document DRM trainings in 5 cities and 10 communities for local leaders, communities and lessons learned case studies; and

Develop awareness-raising materials; and hold related events.

Achievements

Awareness-raising

- National TV campaign on disaster reduction knowledge conducted.

Institutional and legal system

- Inputs made to the formulation of the National Comprehensive Strategy on DRR.

Risk assessment and disaster information management

- Development of a drought risk assessment system and indicators supported, and drought disaster information management system launched.
- Setup of the Asian Huge Disaster Distribution Database supported.
- DRM information system in Hebei Province supported.

National and local level capacity development

- Advocacy workshop conducted on the 11th National Five-Year Plan on Comprehensive Disaster Reduction at community level.
- Assessments conducted on the training needs of professional DRM staff. DRM training conducted in 5 cities and 10 communities for local government officials and community representatives.
- UN Disaster Management Team - China Strategic Planning Workshop on DRM conducted.
- Study tour conducted in Australia and New Zealand on international practices in DRM, with a focus on community participation and earthquake response.
- Community DRM workshop held in Xining City in Qinghai Province.

Post-disaster assessments

- Post-Wenchuan Earthquake assessment and surveillance on impact, damages, etc. supported and led to a recovery framework for affected areas.

Contact information:

UNDP Country Office China

For further information:

Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) Progress Monitor
Website: [http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/progress/reports/?pid:222&pil:1](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/progress/reports/?pid:222&pil:1)

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