



SUDAN

Capacity Building for Disaster Management

Disaster Context

Sudan is considered to be in a special development situation. The current socio-economic status characterized by low standards of living, widespread poverty, and prolonged civil conflict of almost 40 years have contributed to the current fragile state of affairs in the country.

Since 1985, frequent droughts in certain parts of Sudan have caused severe shortages of food, social disruption and widespread health and nutritional problems. Heavy rains provoke flooding along the Nile and its tributaries, causing large-scale displacement of communities, loss of crops, and damage to infrastructure. Outbreaks of disease often accompany flooding, and armed conflict further exacerbates the situation. In addition, all indicators suggest the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Sudan is worsening. Livestock has also been besieged by diseases such as rinderpest, septicaemia, anthrax, and black quarter.

The capacity of national institutions charged with managing disasters is low. An inability to retain trained, qualified personnel is one major setback. Another is the absence of an effective early warning system and effective coordination among relevant agencies.

Project Title

Capacity-Building for Disaster Management in the Sudan (SUD/99/003)

Sectors

- Capacity-building
- Risk and vulnerability assessment
- Development of training materials
- Support to mitigation programmes
- Coordination

Funding

UNDP contributed \$550,000 from TRAC 1.1.3 funds. The Sudanese Government provided contributions in-kind.

Partnerships

- Humanitarian Aid Commission
- Civil Defence Organisation
- National Programme Unit (government bodies, academic institutions, NGOs, etc.) for the Disaster Management Training Programme
- Higher Council for Civil Defence
- United Nations Disaster Management Team

Programme Activities

The objective of this project is to enhance national capacity in the development and implementation of a national framework for a disaster management system in the country.

For the past few years, the UNDP country office has been paying special attention to reducing the impact of disasters. Two projects, strengthening the Ministry of Health and support to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, are designed around capacity-building. There are also various environmental projects and programmes.

The Disaster Management Programme was initiated in 1998 with the following objectives:

- To build national capacity in terms of both human resources and governance structures and mechanisms for disaster and emergency management
- To strengthen the link between effectively managing the promotion and the implementation of sustainable human development

The guiding philosophy of this programme is to instil national ownership. The National Programme Unit

for the Disaster Management Programme was therefore established with focal points from various national institutions involved in disaster management. In July 1998, a workshop targeting senior officials of line ministries was held. The aim of the workshop was to increase policy commitment to the preparation of a framework for the design of a disaster management strategy.

The programme also aims to assist national institutions in developing contingency disaster mitigation plans both at the national and local levels. The programme also aims to enhance the effectiveness of the early warning system. In achieving these aims, the programme pays special attention to facilitating the establishment of an effective coordination mechanism between the relevant institutions, as well as linking disaster management policy to the overall development plans of the country.