Background

In 2007, two months of below average rainfall followed by intense rainfall severely affected farming activities in the north of the country, resulting in a humanitarian crisis. The cumulative effects of the prolonged dry spell, the spillage of the Barge Dam and the ensuing excessive rainfall was outside what the local authorities normally deal with. As a result, more than 50 people were killed and over 300,000 people were directly affected by the floods, with the Northern Region experiencing most losses with an estimated 227,817 people affected.

The response immediately after the floods was swift. Under the leadership of the Government of Ghana, UN agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross Movement and religious groups provided much needed relief for the affected populations. In addition, a joint assessment exercise called for the implementation of medium- and long-term strategies to prevent or mitigate flood impact in the future. To improve the country’s flood response capacities, the UN is collaborating with the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) to prepare contingency plans to strengthen national capacity for disaster preparedness.

Project Summary

UNDP aims to support national efforts for disaster response and seeks to develop capacities in the north of the country to plan and respond effectively to the perennial disasters confronting the Northern, Upper West and Upper East Regions of Ghana. Specifically, the project focuses on: a) enhancing national disaster coordination mechanisms in the north of the country; b) developing the capacity of NADMO to coordinate more effectively with relevant agencies and institutions; c) enhancing livelihoods initiatives; and d) strengthening the capacity of UNDP to ensure more effective recovery activities in the north.

The project works with government institutions at the regional and district levels and collaborates with other UN agencies, the World Bank and NGOs with regard to coordination and implementation of the planned activities.

Activities

- Hold consultations to prepare emergency coordination plans and communication mechanisms;
- Undertake a vulnerability assessment and develop a contingency plan for Northern Ghana;
- Develop guidelines and training package for mainstreaming of disaster risk management.
- Establish a project office and regional hubs and recruit project staff members;
- Establish an inter-agency task force for the Northern Region in the regional capital of Tamale;
- Establish inter-agency task forces in Wa (for the Upper West Region) and Bolgatanga (for the Upper East Region);
- Conduct simulation exercises for relevant actors to reinforce disaster coordination techniques;
- Collect, analyse, compile and disseminate information to stakeholders for integration into recovery programming response at the district level;
- Organize sub-regional workshops on gender and recovery in Northern Ghana (ensure active participation by women and girls/ youth);
- Develop a computerized Management Information System (MIS) for disaster management and tracking;
- Establish a supporting mechanism at SLEC (Sustainable Livelihoods and Employment Creation Unit) within UNDP Ghana;
- Undertake mapping of development interventions and identify gaps to serve as a basis for the selection of project districts/communities;
- Establish and develop capacity of the District Coordinating Team in each project district;
- Establish and develop capacity of Village Development Committees in each project community;
- Formulate or review existing Community Action Plans (CAPs) and mainstream recovery and disaster prevention and management aspects in CAPs;
- Provide technical, material and/or financial support to on-farm income generating activities (traditional and dry season farming) identified in each locality;
- Conduct surveys on alternative income generating activities (e.g. feasibility of shea butter processing, soap making, fortified cereal making, and other activities);
- Provide technical, material and/or financial support to alternative income generating activities identified in each locality;
- Provide technical, material and/or financial support to other community level activities which affect sustainable livelihoods in each locality;
- Provide loan capital to microfinance institutions for on-lending to project beneficiaries;
- Develop training packages and conduct training of trainers;
- Develop manuals and conduct trainings for Disaster Volunteer Groups; and
- Promote disaster risk reduction through media campaigns and radio discussions.

Achievements to date
The project is in its initial phase. No achievements have been reported to date.

Contact information:
UNDP Country Office Ghana
Website: http://www.undp-gha.org/

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

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