

National Disaster Risk Management Framework

Reducing Disaster for a Safe and Happy Bhutan

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Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Disaster Threats
- National Authorities/Stakeholders
- Strategies and Initiatives
- Progress Made
- Challenges [and Opportunities]
- Areas of Assistance

Introduction



ITU/ESCAP Disaster
Communications Workshop,
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Courtesy: Disaster Management
Division, DoLG-MoHCA, Thimphu

Disaster Threats (1)

- Disaster hazards in Bhutan include:
 - Landslides and (Flash) Floods
 - Forest Fires
 - Epidemic, Pests and Diseases
 - Earthquakes
 - Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)
 - Natural Dam Formations and Bursts
 - Windstorms/Snowstorms/Hail Storms/Droughts

Disaster Threats (2)

- Underlying vulnerabilities include:
 - Unsafe construction practices
 - Rapid urbanization
 - Pressure on land and settlements
 - Socio-economic factors
 - Lack of awareness
 - Environmental degradation
 - Inadequate enforcement of by-laws
 - Lack of preparedness planning

National Authorities/Stakeholders

- Nodal agency for disaster management
 - Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs
- Stakeholders
 - Other ministries and agencies
 - Local governments (Dzongkhags, Dungkhags, Gewogs, Thromdes)
- Agency responsible for disaster communications
 - Ministry of Information & Communications

Strategies and Initiatives (1)

- Key objectives of the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Framework are to:
 - Promote a DRM approach instead of an ad hoc reactive approach to dealing with disasters
 - Recognize the respective roles of different agencies in DRM and provide all possible support to their work within the DRM Framework
 - Establish linkages between DRM and other ongoing activities in different development sectors
 - Build DRM mechanism at National, *Dzongkhag*, *Gewog* and *Thromde* levels and make it sustainable
 - Ensure appropriate and timely welfare for isolated victims of disasters

Strategies and Initiatives (2)

- Scope of the DRM Framework:
 - Establishing the context
 - Risk identification
 - Risk analysis
 - Risk evaluation
 - Risk communication
 - Risk reduction (through both anticipatory and compensatory means)
 - Monitoring and evaluation

Strategies and Initiatives (3)

- Inter-related components of the DRM Framework include:
 - Institutional, legislative and policy frameworks
 - Hazard, vulnerability and risk assessments
 - Disaster management system
 - Early warning systems
 - Disaster preparedness plans
 - Mitigation and integration of disaster risk reduction on development sector
 - Public awareness and education
 - Capacity development
 - Communication and transportation

Progress Made (1)

- Draft National Disaster Risk Management Framework – Outcomes of two rounds of multi-sectoral stakeholder consultations (Nov 2005, Feb 2006)
- Study visit to India for dealing officials and other stakeholders (Jan 2006)
- Disaster management included as a thematic area for SAARC cooperation and exchange
- Indo-Bhutan Joint Group of Experts on flood management formed
- Process of consultation with relevant int'l agencies (UNDP, WFP, FAO, WHO, UNICEF, etc.) initiated

Progress Made (2)

His Majesty the King

The Cabinet



Challenges [and Opportunities]

- Challenges
 - Lack of resources
 - Limited technical capacity
 - Competing development priorities
 - Multi-sectoral coordination
- Opportunities
 - Plethora of existing initiatives
 - Sound civil administration system
 - Interdependent and cohesive social system

Areas of Assistance

- Development of a coherent end-to-end Early Warning System (EWS)
- Establishment of the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC)
- Design and implementation of a disaster communications network including developing protocols for emergency communications
- Strengthening of the disaster risk management and response capability
- Mobilization of Emergency Fund for Major Disasters
- Mobilization of the Disaster Mitigation, Prevention and Preparedness Budget