



prevention,
preparedness,
response to
natural
and man-made
disasters

للوقاية
من الكوارث الطبيعية
والناجمة عن النشاط البشري
والاستعداد
والاستجابة لها

prévention,
préparation,
réponse
aux désastres
naturels et
humains

pprd
south
programme

First PPRD South workshop for high-level officials

“Disaster Risk Reduction: mechanisms and methodologies in Civil Protection”

Sonesta Hotel – Cairo, Egypt, 10-11 February 2010

Workshop description

PREFACE

Losses caused by natural and man-made disasters can seriously affect the efforts for sustainable development in the Mediterranean region, especially when prevention, preparedness and response capacities are not adequately promoted, and therefore increase the opportunity for regional cooperation in Civil Protection.

As the successor of the previous EU funded “Pilot” and “Bridge” programmes on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in Civil Protection, in March 2009 the Euromed Programme on Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters (the PPRD South or the Programme) started under the aegis of the Consortium established by the Italian Civil Protection Department, as leader, jointly with the Civil Protection authorities of Algeria, Egypt and France and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction – UNISDR.

The Programme works jointly with the Civil Protection Authorities of Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey (the Partner Countries).

The main objective of the PPRD South is contributing to reinforce the quality of Civil Protection services in the Euro-Mediterranean region and to continue institutional cooperation in the field, both between the EU and the Partner Countries and among the Partner Countries themselves.

For this purpose, the PPRD South has planned to implement a number of initiatives aimed at improving the knowledge by the Partner Countries of existing risk prevention and preparedness methodologies and tools as well as at reinforcing the capacities for coordinated and effective response to disasters.

INTRODUCTION

Risks of disasters can be reduced and impacts can be limited by addressing the root causes of people’s vulnerability and increasing their capacities to cope.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) – which comprises preparedness, mitigation and prevention – aims to enhance the resilience of communities to disasters and is underpinned by knowledge on how to manage risks, build capacities, and make use of information and communication technology.

Over the years, efforts have been made globally in order to reduce the impact of natural and technological hazards through close cooperation among governments, DRR institutions and development actors.

This approach, in particular, was promoted through the adoption by UN Member States of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) to act as the driving force for the implementation of DRR measures and initiatives.

At national level a strong need emerged from multiple actors towards the establishment and continual strengthening of mechanisms aimed to coordinate DRR initiatives. The National Platforms established by UN Member States, in particular, address this need and play a crucial role in coordinating DRR measures at country level.

During the recent years the focus has moved from mainly responding to disasters to implementing comprehensive DRR approaches. In this context, in 2005 168 governments adopted the “Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters” (HFA) which is fully supported also by the European Commission and is currently being translated into effective action at global, regional, national and local level.

In this regard, many developing countries are putting considerable efforts into the implementation of HFA, but are actually constrained by lack of funding and adequate capacities and National Platforms have been formed in several countries, but are still in the early stages of development.

At EU level, many actions have been undertaken in this direction and the European Commission has growingly reinforced its global presence in the field of DRR initiatives both inside and outside Europe.

EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE WORKSHOP

To increase knowledge of key concepts and principles of DRR and to enhance understanding of the scope of National Platforms as multi-stakeholder mechanisms for reinforcing integrated DRR at the national and regional level in the context of the Civil Protection actions.

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING WORKSHOP

- Addressing the concept and scope of DRR and its linkages to Civil Protection actions;
- Increasing understanding of the institutional mechanisms operating at different levels for advanced DRR;
- Identifying challenges and priority areas for DRR at regional level;
- Exploring the scope of National Platforms as DRR coordination mechanisms, including procedures for setting-up and key partners.

PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE

The workshop targets high-level officials from all Partner Countries operating in the field of DRR, such as policy and decision-makers and practitioners within Civil Protection authorities.

TOPICS COVERED BY THE WORKSHOP

- Background and key concepts of DRR;
- Hyogo Framework for Action;
- Disaster preparedness;
- Institutional capacities and coordination mechanisms for disaster preparedness;

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- National Coordination Mechanisms and guidelines for the setting-up of National Platforms;
- Vulnerability and capacity assessment for effective preparedness planning;
- Challenges and capacity development needs for DRR reinforcement in the PPRD South Partner Countries.