



RESILIENCE

Promoting a culture of prevention, mitigation and preparedness

NDMA Newsletter

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COVER STORY

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) established – a step towards making Pakistan disaster resilient

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) was inaugurated on 15th February, 2010 by Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lt Gen Farooq Ahmad Khan (R).

The Government of Pakistan is striving to promote DRM as one of the priority development concerns. There is a growing realization that it would be difficult to achieve the objectives of DRM in the absence of a full-fledged academic institute dedicated for providing research and training services. In this background, NDMA was given the responsibility of establishing the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), which was a statutory requirement under the National Disaster Management Ordinance, 2009.



Lt Gen Farooq Ahmad Khan (R), Chairman, NDMA addressing the participants at the launching ceremony of NIDM

The NIDM will endeavor to promote a culture of safety through action oriented knowledge and awareness on Disaster Risk Management. The NIDM will function as a premier Centre of Excellence for providing training and research services on disaster risk management to public and private sectors. The NIDM will:

Organise short courses ranging from three to 15 day's duration covering various spectrum of the Disaster Management Cycle.

Undertake research studies on disaster-related areas to assist legislators and policy makers for informed planning and decision-making on Disaster Risk Management.



Ms Mikiko Tanaka, Dy Country Director, UNDP, Pakistan, addressing the participants

Establish a Disaster Information Resource Centre (DIRC) which will be a hub of disaster-related information for the consumption of public-sector departments and organizations, print and electronic media, students, development professionals, and academicians. Apart from books, research papers, training material, and documentaries, the DIRC will also provide on-line information on disaster statistics, news, briefs and soft copies of important or requested materials. Besides, the DIRC will start publishing a quarterly bilingual magazine on Disaster Risk Management, which will disseminate national disaster updates.

Its establishment will further strengthen the efforts of the Government to promote Disaster Risk Management (DRM) as a priority. Although, the NIDM was formally inaugurated in February, 2010, it had started functioning in 2009. So far courses have been run on various aspects of disaster management for the government officials, private sector, media, NGOs and community organizations. Through these training courses, the NIDM has trained more than 250 government officials, private sector, media, NGOs and community organizations.

In his address as Chief Guest on the launching of the NIDM, Chairman, NDMA, Lt Gen Farooq Ahmad Khan (R) said "It is my firm belief that the integration of knowledge, policy and practice play a key role in meeting the challenges of natural and technological disasters. I hope the NIDM will translate our dream of spreading knowledge on disaster risk management into reality".

Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, Deputy Country Director, UNDP speaking on the occasion said that she is confident that the NIDM, under the NDMA leadership, will serve as focal nuclei for strengthening the capacities of Disaster Management practitioners, government officials and civil society organizations. She hoped that in the times to come we hope that NIDM will be seen as a well reputed institute all over Asia and beyond.

The NIDM has been established with the support of UNDP Pakistan, as part of its ongoing programme, based on a comprehensive approach towards disaster risk reduction encompassing mitigation, preparedness and response.



Guests and staff members with Chairman NDMA

Editor's Note

We had the first issue of Resilience published in January this year and the response we received from our valuable readers was quite encouraging. Based upon the feedback, we have tried our best to improve the contents and outlook of the newsletter to disseminate objective and purposeful information on disaster management.

As you know, disaster management is a cross cutting field involving a multitude of stakeholders. Since the newsletter is primarily aimed at disseminating information and knowledge about disaster management, it will be appreciated if our valuable readers and stakeholders from the public as well private sectors contribute through sharing of information on DRR related activities being undertaken within their respective domains. We will also welcome scholarly contribution on different aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction for the "In Focus" section of the newsletter.

We hope that the contents of this issue carry enough value for our readers to entice them to give their feedback and response.

Haneefign
Chief Editor

In Focus

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management - a road towards sustainable urban development and creating safer urban communities

By Narayana Susith Arambepola
Director UDRM Team, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Bangkok

"Urban risk reduction delivers many benefits. When successfully applied as part of sustainable urbanization, resilient cities help reduce poverty, provide for growth and employment, and deliver greater social equity, fresh business opportunities, more balanced ecosystems, better health and improved education." Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction



Urbanization trends in Asia and internal and external drivers.

Urbanization is increasingly becoming common in the developing countries: in 1970s, 50% of urban residents lived in developing countries, whereas it is increased to 66% in 1990s, and is projected to be 80% by 2020. Eighty per cent of the world's urban residents will be in developing countries by the year 2025. As the cities are growing in much faster rate than even before, this growth is likely to threaten to make cities unsustainable. The pace of urbanization in the developing world is led by Asia. A majority of Asia's urban growth will be in seven developing countries: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines and Vietnam (Managing Megacities: ADB Urban Report 2003).

Cities are more culturally diverse, and are likely to be less safe and more socially fragmented than generally more stable rural areas due to high population density within urban areas (Wratten, 1995 Rakodi, 1993, Moser, 1996). This social diversity is likely to create tensions and the need for different survival strategies from those practiced in rural areas. The added issue of high poverty rates among this urban population in the developing world renders them more vulnerable for disaster risks than their counterparts in the rural communities.

In developing countries especially in Asia, city authorities struggle to meet the demand for supply of basic needs such as shelter, basic

infrastructure and associated urban services. The lack of facilities compounds the problems of 30-60 per cent of people in the largest cities of the developing world and therefore they live in densely populated squatter settlements. With the growing demand for land within urban areas, the land price increases together with the related living expenses rendering the survival of the poor more difficult. But due to the diversity of livelihood opportunities (the only lucrative option) for poor people, cities continuously keep attracting population from rural areas. The high demand for land in cities has forced often the migrating urban poor to use floodplains, unstable slopes and reclaimed land which are usually prone to natural hazards. This kind of demand in Asian cities (www.hindu.com/2004/02/28/stories), usually make the poor segment of urban population to live in most hazardous zones or vulnerable locations. On the other hand, growing number of industries in and around cities have put the city population at risk due to the possibility of release of hazardous materials or exposure to technological accidents and higher rate of environmental pollution. Urban development provides prosperity and opportunities to all but potential for urban disasters are growing with the kind of urban development seen in Asia and when such disasters strike the urban areas hardest is felt by not only the most vulnerable and poor but also the economy of the countries at large.

Increasingly disasters are being recognized as failures of development or unsustainable development. It is seen that unplanned urbanization creates the social, economic and political conditions that lead to disasters. Therefore conventional approach for disaster risk management in developed countries is not easily applicable to the urban areas unless disaster risk reduction solutions are mainstreamed to be an integral part of development process. Building codes, zoning measures and risk based urban planning techniques, for example, are difficult to enforce unless it is made mandatory requirement of the urban development process. The losses and damage are determined by the different levels of exposure and vulnerability of the population, infrastructure, facilities, etc. of the locality. The more local governments and local communities know about their risks by doing their own risk assessment and evaluation, the more they can learn about what they can do about it and the better chance they have of reducing the risks, reducing their losses, and using recovery as an opportunity to transform risk.

Overview of the present context

The impacts of disasters are becoming increasingly severe in urban areas and urbanization trends show the possibility of major losses to economy in urban areas in case of future disasters. Long term Climate Change and its possible consequences add to this trend. Many countries in Asia have already shown commitment to HFA and UNISDR has already announced that 2010/2011 to be the period for Global Campaign for Urban Disaster Risk Reduction.

However in many Asian countries, yet the subject of Disaster management is handled by a national level institutions or a ministry. It is often observed that the activities and functional responsibilities of such institutions are rarely decentralized or authority of such institutions adequately delegated to lower levels of governments. This need to be viewed as a hindrance for achieving the overall disaster resilience or reducing the growing disaster risk in highly vulnerable areas to natural hazard events.

Why DRM mainstreaming is necessary?

Due to the varying nature of hazard environment, policy and local governance structure, the requirements for mainstreaming risk management in local government areas varies. The escalating economic losses due to disasters limit the potential urban growth and sustainable development of urban areas. The cities need to be proactive and should have long term programs to reduce such potential impacts taking in to consideration the futuristic risk.

The factors attributed to high impacts due to disasters need to be assessed at micro-level to understand the nature and consequences. Subsequent measures are essential to be included in development programs for increasing the public safety and to avert or reduce the scale of economic impacts. It is proved that not necessarily that the local governments need to have mandates for special DRM actions at local level. This can be done easily by integrating DRM in to local government level responsibilities as otherwise all gains of development will be destroyed.

Present status functions/services undertaken by Local government in selected Asian countries

Local governments are elected bodies which have autonomy for decision making to certain level(as seen from the review of local government set up in PROMISE target countries Bangladesh, Philippines, Indonesia, Pakistan, Vietnam, Sri Lanka)

Mandated services/responsibilities of Urban Local Governments of selected countries include services such as

- o Emergency services – Fire fighting, ambulance, Search & Rescue
- o Solid waste management
- o Health, Sanitation and Hygiene
- o Land use planning
- o Shelter & Infrastructure development & control
- o Information supply and awareness creation
- o Urban Services such as drainage, water supply, supply of electricity, gas etc
- o City level Transport
- o Budget allocation, Tax collection and investment promotion
- o Welfare assistance

Increasingly disasters are being recognized as failures of development or unsustainable development. In order to mainstream DRR the local authorities need to identify the possibilities of integrating Disaster risk reduction measures in the routine functions/services undertaken by them.

Steps proposed for mainstreaming DRM for Urban Local Authorities

- Understand the Hazard environment, vulnerability and risk due to natural disasters as per historical records
- Extend the extent of assessment to understand the futuristic risk environment. Obtain the assistance of professional

bodies/mandated national level agencies to conduct HVCA

- Identify needs in terms of new policies and mandates, legal and institutional arrangements, resources, information dissemination and awareness creation and ensure external assistance
- Develop a long term action plan for the city identifying areas for reducing the risk(use any mechanism available for the city to develop a city level forum to involve all other stakeholders)
- Identify areas where DRM can be mainstreamed through integration of DRM actions in to existing service functions, development programs undertaken by the local government
- Build alliances to improve the resource base. Identify the external assistance needed which can be provided by others such as Central/provincial Governments, NGOs, professional bodies, private sector etc.
- Ensure community participation in all steps

Broad Objectives of Mainstreaming DRM at Local Government level

Plan for a change to ensure public safety, protection of built environment and sustainable urban development
Responding to the policies of Good Governance
Develop a strategy for risk reduction planning
Better Building Control and to ensure Safety of Critical Facilities
Risk based Land Use Planning to reduce future risk
Develop Emergency response capacity at City level
Allocation of funds from Annual budget
Enhancing Institutional set up (Admin/policy/finance Structure)
Awareness Generation and ensure Public Information flow on risk scenarios
Training & Capacity enhancement of staff engaged in city services

Assistance by other stakeholders to strengthen the capacity of local governments

Possible interventions by other stakeholders such as LG Associations, NGOs, Professional bodies etc for advocacy for Mainstreaming DRM at local level:

- Assist in development of generic guidelines to facilitate integration of risk reduction in all functions carried out by local governments
- Carry out local government level projects/demonstration activities to show the appropriateness and to convince the authorities
- Organize lessons learned workshops
- Publication of Good practices
- Regional/National level meetings, seminars to present findings of pilot demonstrations at city level.
- Regional level activities such as conferences, round table discussions, study tours, etc.
- Assist in organizing Capacity building programs

Conclusions

Urban development provides prosperity and opportunities to all but potential for urban disasters are growing with the kind of urban development seen in Asia. Increasingly disasters are being recognized as failures of development or unsustainable development. The urban local bodies have necessary mandate for development and hence risk reduction should be considered as a part of the mandated role of the local governments. Hence the Urban local governments need to have a regular practice to assess the risk environment at micro-level to understand the factors attributing to high hazard impacts, its nature and consequences. When measures for reducing the risk are integrated in the regular development programs or routine service functions, it will become more cost effective. At the mean time it will ensure public safety, reduce the scale of economic impacts and contribute to sustainability of development gains. The approach will boost the confidence of the private sector for more investment to flow, which will essentially contribute in sustainable growth of urban areas, public safety and long term urban development of the country.

NDMA continues incident management at Atta'abad Hunza Landslide

The NDMA continued to play a lead role in coordinating efforts, overseeing the work at Atta'abad, for the safe drainage of water from the lake and supporting the Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA) to be well-prepared to meet any emergency situation in the event of a sudden lake burst. The landslide on 4th January 2010 resulted in 19 deaths and displacement of 1,732 people and inundating of 40 houses in the villages of Ainabad and Shishkit. It also blocked the flow of Hunza River to create a 12km long lake and has blocked the Karakoram Highway causing disruption of normal land access to Upper Hunza, consequently stranding almost 25,000 inhabitants living upstream of the blockage area. The blockage is posing a threat to the inhabitants and the infrastructure in the downstream areas, while it has serious impact on the livelihoods of the people living upstream.



An aerial view of Atta'abad lake

In order to ensure and facilitate provision of items of daily use to people of upper Hunza and continued flow of business activity, the NDMA has deployed both helicopters and boats to address the gaps in the provision of edibles and daily items as well as transporting people across the lake. So far 6,574 persons have been transported across the blockage through 735 helicopter sorties and transported over 14,333 persons and goods through 874 trips since January 2010.



Food items are being airlifted to the affected areas through helicopter sorties provided by the NDMA

The work on the Spill Way Cut is likely to be completed by the 2nd week of May. In consultations with experts, the Spill Way Cut was found to be the best possible mitigation option for the safe drainage of the lake.

Technical experts, Mr. Alessandro Palmieri, World Bank's leading Dam Specialist, and Dr. David Petley, International Landslide Center, Durham University, UK have studied the lake. Almost all experts have termed the Spill Way Cut as the only viable option in this case and have appreciated the pace of work.

According to experts, due to the immense mass of debris, the possibility of a sudden outburst due to lake failure was less likely. However, the NDMA has emphasized the need to be prepared for a worst case scenario. The GBDMA, in coordination with the relevant stakeholders, revised its Evacuation Plan and prepared an Emergency Preparedness and Action Plan based on the recommendations of NESPAK's Detailed Dam Break study, undertaken on the request of the NDMA.

In order to review and assess the latest situation of the Hunza landslide, a meeting with all the key stakeholders was held on 19th April, 2010 at the NDMA, which was presided over by Mr. Niamatullah Khan, Acting Chairman, NDMA. The meeting reviewed various aspects of the landslide, including making of a spillway cut, relief provided to the affectees and the Evacuation Plan revised and updated by the GBDMA.

NDMA bids adieu to its founding leaders

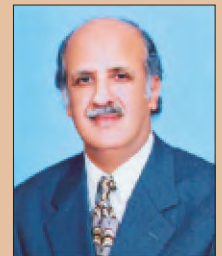


NDMA bade adieu to its two founding leaders, Lt Gen Farooq Ahmad Khan (R) who completed his tenure as Chairman, on 31st March, 2010 and Shaukat Nawaz Tahir, Senior Member, who retired on 2nd February, 2010.

Lt Gen Farooq Ahmad Khan (R) was the pioneering leader who provided visionary leadership for the establishment of a new viable disaster risk management system in Pakistan. Keeping in view his outstanding work as Federal Relief Commissioner, during the relief operations of Earthquake 2005, the government assigned him the gigantic task of raising a new comprehensive disaster management system in the country. He took the command of the NDMA in 2007 and was fortunate enough to have the services of Mr. Shaukat Nawaz Tahir, one of the finest and ablest civil servants, as the Senior Member of the newly raised organization. Due to their relentless efforts the NDMA has become a national platform with credible institutional capacities to deal with the whole spectrum of disaster management. The NDMA, under their able leadership, initiated and implemented a wide range of DRR interventions across the country which led to the institutional capacity building, increased awareness and promotion of a culture of safety and resilience.

Both left a legacy which will continue to inspire the NDMA staff in their professional lives, to perform their duties with dedication, professionalism and commitment in years to come.

We wish them success and happy, memorable years ahead, just as the legacy they have left behind.





Mr. Niamatullah Khan, Senior Member, NDMA, presiding over a meeting to review and assess the latest situation of the Hunza landslide

Mr. Khan asked the NHA to work out options to re-open land route to Upper Hunza by exploring the possibility of restoration/realignment of existing KKH or preparation of an alternate route to Upper Hunza so that trade activities between Pakistan and China are not affected after re-opening of borders in May 2010. He also emphasized the need for closer interaction among stakeholders for identifying recovery and rehabilitation priorities, satisfying the people's concerns and enabling all in meeting the challenges in a better manner. He thanked the valuable inputs of the technical experts, saying that post-disaster coordination between all the stakeholders can ensure better management, rehabilitations and risk reduction.

NIDM runs Cyclone Mitigation course

A 5-day course on Cyclone Mitigation was organized by NIDM from 26th – 30th April, 2010 at Karachi.

The aim of the initiative was to impart training and necessary skills to concerned officers with regard to disaster preparedness, response and mitigation for saving lives and properties of people from natural and human-induced disasters. The course provided disaster risk management knowledge and skills to district government officers and civil society members who have key disaster risk management responsibilities at the district level. The participants were encouraged to develop key skills and adopt proactive attitudes through participation in interactive lectures and reflection on a range of key issues raised during discussions and practical activities.



Participants of the Cyclone Mitigation Course

Besides the government officers, 10 participants from civil society organizations working in cyclone prone districts also participated in the course.

Mr. Niamatullah Khan takes over as Senior Member, NDMA

Mr. Niamatullah Khan took over as the Senior Member of the NDMA on 2nd February 2010, succeeding Mr. Shaukat Nawaz Tahir, who headed the Planning Wing of the NDMA since 2007. A seasoned civil servant belonging to the District Management Group of 9th Common, Mr. Khan brings an enormously rich experience of Public Management in varying capacities, spanning over a period of nearly three decades.



After joining the civil service in 1982, Mr. Khan served as Assistant Commissioner/Assistant Political Agent in Balochistan (1984-1986), as Deputy Secretary/Director in Government of Punjab (1988 to 1998), as Commissioner, Secretary and Managing Director in Government of NWFP (1999 to 2003) and thereafter in the Federal Government as Joint Secretary of different Ministries (2004 to January, 2010). Prior to joining the present assignment, he was serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions, Islamabad.

The NDMA will benefit immensely from his diversified experience in public sector management.

Acting Chairman NDMA, Mr. Niamatullah Khan inaugurated the course while Saleh Ahmed Farooqui, Director General, PDMA Sindh was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony.

The participants also visited the communities in Jatti, Thatta, which were hit by the 1999 cyclone.

JICA Mission visits Pakistan

In order to strengthen DRM system in Pakistan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) sent a series of missions to Pakistan from 2008-2009 to identify the needs and requirements of different stakeholders. After detailed discussion, a scope of work was signed between the Government of Pakistan and JICA in November 2009 to enhance capacity of the DRM system in the country.

The aim of the project is to formulate the National Disaster Management Plan which shows institutional and technical direction of the DRM in Pakistan and to improve the national DRM capacity in line with the Plan, thereby mitigating the human and economic damages caused by the natural disasters in Pakistan. The project has five key components and will undertake the following:

- Formulation of National Disaster Management Plan.
- Development of Human Resource Development Plan for Disaster Management and launching of human resource development training program based on the foregoing plan.
- Formulation of an Early Warning Plan responding to major disasters. The Plan will identify high-priority activities to be undertaken during the course of the study.
- Implementation of Community-based Disaster Risk Management

Pilot Projects in cooperation with the community and local government.

- Development of the cooperative system/skill of relevant organizations, and enhancing the capacity of the staff members based on the above process.



Mr. Niamatullah Khan, chairing the 1st Steering Committee meeting for the National Disaster Management Plan.

In this regard, the first meeting of the Steering Committee for the National Disaster Management Plan was held at NDMA on 27th April 2010. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Niamatullah Khan, Acting Chairman NDMA.

The three-member mission, visited Pakistan, from 8th - 28th April, 2010, and undertook a number of activities to take this project forward. The NDMA is looking for technical, as well as structural, assistance from JICA for establishing the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) in sector G-5, for which the CDA has already allocated land.

NSPP team visits NDMA

A team of the Senior Management Course from the National School of Public Policy (NSPP), Lahore led by its faculty members visited the NDMA, on 26th April, 2010. Mr. Muhammad Bilal, Director (Administration) NDMA gave a detailed briefing on "Disaster Risk Management System in Pakistan" to the course participants. The briefing was followed by a Q&A session.



Brig. Sajid Naeem, Member Operations, NDMA presenting a shield to the visiting team leader of NSPP

Appreciating the role of NDMA, the head of the visiting team, Mr. Rahat-ul-Ain, said that despite resource constraints, the NDMA has the resolve and commitment to rise to future disasters. He thanked the NDMA for the impressive presentation which he said has inculcated hopes in the minds of the participants.

At the end, shields were exchanged between the National School of Public Policy and the NDMA. The briefing was also attended by Brig. Sajid Naeem, Member Operations, and Directors of the NDMA.

Global campaign on "One million safe schools and hospitals" to be launched in Pakistan

A preliminary meeting for launching of "One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals Campaign" in Pakistan, was held at NDMA on 17th April, 2010, with the visiting Regional Programme Officer, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Bangkok-Thailand, Ms. Madhavi Malalgoda Ariyabandu. Mr. Niamatullah Khan, Acting Chairman, NDMA, chaired the meeting. The representatives of relevant UN agencies i.e. UNDP, WFP, UNESCO and WHO also attended the meeting.

The global campaign is in line with the priority set in the Hyogo Framework 2005 on disaster risk reduction and aims at raising public awareness against different hazards and to create demand for safe schools and hospitals. The campaign is expected to be launched in Pakistan around July 2010.



Senior Member, NDMA, chairing the meeting to discuss the launching of "One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals" campaign in Pakistan.

On the basis of deliberations at the meeting, the NDMA will act as the focal agency in Pakistan for the initiative. The implementing agencies will be the Ministries of Education and Health at the federal level and Education and Health Departments at the provincial level as well as the PDMAs and DDMA's. The NDMA will hold consultative meetings with other counterparts to finalise the launch of the initiative in Pakistan.

NDMA holds workshops on "Earthquake Risk Reduction and Preparedness" in Murree, Quetta and Chitral

A series of two-day capacity building training workshops were organized on "Earthquake Risk Reduction and Preparedness" (ERRP) in Murree (29th - 30th March), Quetta, (7th - 8th April), and Chitral (20th - 21st April 2010).

These workshops were organized by NDMA, in collaboration with the relevant Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The aim of the workshops was to raise awareness of the local administration on earthquake preparedness and risk reduction measures and to highlight the importance of community based disaster preparedness. Eminent resource persons from leading institutions of the country were requested to share their knowledge and experiences regarding earthquake risk reduction in vulnerable areas. In addition to this, the outcomes of the Earthquake Risk Assessment of Murree,

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Quetta and Chitral were shared with participants from the respective cities for their information and feedback.



Certificates are being awarded to the participants of ERRP Workshop in Quetta.

In Murree, besides officials of the relevant departments, the workshop was also attended by Mr. Rizwan Ahmed, TMO, Murree, Mr. Imran Niaz, Town Planning Officer and other officials of the TMA, Murree.

In Quetta, the workshop was formally launched by Mr. Arshad Nawaz Chheena, Deputy Director (M&P), NDMA, while Mr. Muhammad Tahir Khan, PDMA Quetta, Mr. Amir Rahat, Field Coordinator ERRP and the project team were also present on the occasion.

In Chitral, the workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Amir Mohyuddin, Director (M&P) and was attended by around 60 participants from different line departments, NGOs and civil society. Mr. Qadir Naseer, TMO Chitral, Mr. Shahid Aziz, Project Manager, ERRP and project team were also present on the occasion. District Coordination Officer, Mr. Rehmat Ullah Khan Wazir, distributed the certificates among the participants. On the occasion he appreciated the efforts of NDMA in organizing the workshop and introducing the ERRP project in Chitral.



DCO Chitral, awarding certificates to the participants along with Director (M&P), NDMA



Participants of the ERRP workshop held at Chitral

The NDMA is implementing ERRP in the Municipalities of Quetta, Chitral, Murree, Mansehra and Muzaffarabad. The project aims to promote and achieve earthquake resilience in most vulnerable

locations by conducting detailed earthquake risk assessment. The risk assessment is followed by action planning for earthquake risk mitigation, awareness raising, capacity building of local administration and members of civil society and by implementing pilot demonstrational activities on safer construction practices. Capacity development of local government authorities and institutions is the main priority under this project.

NDMA holds DRM training for District Officers of Karachi

The NDMA, in collaboration with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Sindh organised a five-day training course on DRM at Karachi from 22nd - 26th March, 2010. The objective of the training was to build the capacity of the concerned government officers and civil society organizations for proactively handling future disasters.



Certificate award ceremony of DRM training, Karachi

Mr. Saleh Ahmed Farooqi, Director General PDMA, Sindh inaugurated the training course and thanked the cooperation extended to the PDMA Sindh by the NDMA for building the capacity of the district officers. Mr. Ghulam Ali Shah Pasha, Senior Member Board of Revenue/Chariman PDMA, Sindh was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony. Key DRM experts from the academia, the UN, the government sector and INGOs imparted skills to the participants of the training through five different modules consisting of lectures, group exercises, interactive discussions, readings and video clips. The participants were also taken to a field visit to see the disaster management methods of vulnerable communities during disasters.

Some 30 senior government officials from various departments, including the PDMA, Fire Brigade, Revenue, Agriculture, Health, Planning, Finance, Administration & Accounts, Social Welfare and Forest Departments of the Government of Sindh, Pakistan Red Crescent Society (Sindh) and Civil Society Organizations took active part in the training.

NDMA trains Pak Army USAR Team

The NDMA started a 10-week training of a 54-member team comprising of officers, junior commissioned officers and other ranks of the Pakistan Army from 22nd March, 2010.



Chairman NDMA, handing over USAR equipment to Chief of General Staff at GHQ Rawalpindi

The purpose of the training is to build capacity of the Pakistan Army team in the field of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR). The 10-week

intensive training includes both classroom sessions and practical work according to international standards. NDMA's USAR Advisor, Lt Col Aijaz Akram (R), is leading the training with support from Trainers from the Capital Development Authority, who have been trained by the NDMA and international experts.



NDMA's USAR Advisor, Lt Col Aijaz Akram (R) conducting training of the Pak Army USAR team.

In a simple but elegant ceremony held at the General Headquarters Pakistan Army, Lt Gen Farooq Ahmad Khan (R), Chairman, NDMA handed over state-of-the-art urban search and rescue team equipment and drawings of the training/rubble field to Lt Gen Mustafa Khan, Chief of General Staff, GHQ Rawalpindi.

NDMA holds Interactive Dialogue on Disaster Risk Management with Civil Society Organizations

The National Disaster Management Authority held an interactive dialogue on DRM with civil society organizations on 19th March, 2010. The objective of the dialogue was to develop a robust system for information sharing and resource mapping on DRM as well as to benefit from the expertise of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

Chairman NDMA, Lt Gen Farooq Ahmad Khan (R), chaired the meeting and appreciated the key role played by the Civil Society Organizations in the overall development of the society, particularly the crucial role they play in disaster risk management in Pakistan. He recalled the tremendous support provided by some of the organisations to the affectees of the devastating earthquake in 2005. Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Ateeb Siddiqui (R), Director Operations, Pakistan Red Crescent Society said that interaction in a post-disaster scenario can help identify, relief, recovery and rehabilitation priorities.



Representatives of the civil society organizations are being briefed about Hunza landslide

The dialogue was attended by representatives of national and international NGOs such as Aurat Foundation, Sungi Foundation, SPO, Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Lead Pakistan, Plan Pakistan, Save the Children Sweden, FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance, Oxfam GB, Oxfam Novib, IUCN, WWF, Wetlands Programme, Concern Pakistan, Action Aid, CRS and American Refugee Committee.

Tsunami awareness among students from vulnerable communities of Makran

The NDMA, in collaboration with UNDP, NED-UET and University of Balochistan, arranged an orientation workshop at Quetta on 16th - 17th

March, 2010, for the students of Gwadar and other coastal districts. The objectives of this workshop was to orient the students on basic concepts and issues related to tsunami and other hazards threatening the coastal areas of Pakistan, as well as, promote community preparedness among the participants. The students were also given skills to enable them to plan and execute disaster management activities such as strengthening the early warning system in the project area.

The NDMA/UNDP, had earlier organized a number of awareness workshops for the students of Primary, High and College level students in the coastal areas, while master level students studying in Karachi and Quetta were also included in the activity.

It is pertinent to mention here that Makran is one of the most vulnerable regions to tsunami due to presence of the Makran Subduction Zone (MSZ) which lies at a distance of 80-130 km. The tsunami generated from this fault line has the potential to strike the coastal areas of Pakistan within 18-30 minutes. In order to mitigate the effects of tsunami, the NDMA has taken a number of initiatives in the coastal areas for saving life and property of the local communities.

Some 125 male and female students and other officials from different departments of the University of Balochistan took part in the tsunami awareness workshop.

Need for DRM stressed in development programs and policies

The NDMA organized a 5-day training course on "Integration of Earthquake Disaster Risk Management into development sector and policies" at the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Islamabad from 8th -12th March, 2010.

The objective of the course was to build the capacity of the officers of the District Government and Civil Society Organizations for effective integration of earthquake disaster risk management into the development programs and policies.

Key experts from academia, government and INGOs, having sound academic background in their field, imparted skills to the participants of the course on: (1) Earthquake Disaster Risk Situation in Pakistan (2) Earthquake Risk Assessment (3) Earthquake Mitigation Measures

Mr. Tariq Rafique, Programme Manager, One UN DRM Program, awarded certificates to the participants and said that the Earthquake Mitigation course will promote the sharing of information on preparedness and mitigation measures in Pakistan. He hoped that the course participants would replicate their newly learned techniques into their development programmes, as well as effectively cope with the future potential earthquake disasters.

Balochistan, Pakhtunkhwa Parliamentarians urged to promote DRM cause

The NDMA arranged an interactive dialogue for the parliamentarian of Balochistan province on "Effectiveness of Disaster Risk Management - Engaging Parliamentarians" on 10th March, 2010 at Quetta.

The aim of the dialogue was to sensitize the legislators of the country to actively work for the cause of disaster risk management in Pakistan.

Mr. Abdul Wasy, Senior Minister/Minister for Planning & Development, Balochistan, chaired the dialogue and thanked the NDMA for holding such a useful event. He hoped that the dialogue would help sensitize the legislators to become ambassadors of DRM in Pakistan. On behalf of

the Balochistan government, he extended all his support to the NDMA and PDMA Balochistan.

Chairman NDMA welcomed the support and stressed the need for continuous cooperation and effectiveness of building linkages with PDMA and the DDMA. He also highlighted the need for a political will to achieve an effective implementation of NDMA in Balochistan. On this occasion Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed, Director General, PDMA, Balochistan gave a presentation on the status of PDMA Balochistan and highlighted the issues faced by it.



Eng. Zamrak Khan, Minister for Revenue, Balochistan sharing his views on DRM during Parliamentary Dialogue held at Quetta

The dialogue was attended by members of the Balochistan Assembly as well as representatives from the Civil Society Organizations, media and Bar Associations from the province. Prominent among them were Ministers for Health, Forest, Youth, Sports, Minorities, Fisheries, Population Welfare, the SMBR, Secretary Health, Secretary Home and Secretary Finance. They showed keen interest in disaster management and expressed their willingness to become the DRM promoters.

In continuation of the series, a similar Policy Dialogue was held in Peshawar for the parliamentarians of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province on 24th March, 2010 at Peshawar.



Mr. Kiramatullah Khan, Speaker Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Assembly, and Chairman NDMA at the Policy Dialogue held at Peshawar

Mr. Kiramatullah Khan, Speaker, KPK Assembly was Chief Guest on the occasion. He appreciated the efforts of NDMA and assured his full support to the PDMA in the province. Mr. Shakeel Qadir Khan, Director General, PDMA, KPK, delivered a presentation on the status of PDMA, KPK and the issues faced by it. The dialogue was attended by the members of Provincial Assembly, KPK belonging to various political parties across the political arena, heads of various government departments, civil society organizations, media representatives and bar associations from the province.

Integration of DRR into Marble Sector highlighted

The NDMA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Industries & Production and Pakistan Stone Development Company (PASDEC) and UNDP, organised a workshop on "Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management into Marble Sector" at the National Institute of Disaster Management, Islamabad on 2nd March, 2010. The objective of the workshop was to

identify gaps in the Industrial Policy of Pakistan, with reference to the Marble and Granite Sector, from a DRR perspective. The aim was to make industrial activities in these sectors safer and sustainable through adoption of modern scientific techniques.



Chairman, PASDEC, Mr. Ahsan Ullah Khan, presiding over the workshop

Mr. Ahsan Ullah Khan, Chairman, PASDEC was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Addressing the participants of the workshop he said that there are various quarrying activities involving more than 100,000 workers in KPK and Balochistan. The marble and granite are extracted and processed into value added products. He said that the use of explosives, unscientific mining and improper waste disposal also leads to land degradation, stagnant pool and flooding of water, visual impairment, pollution, health and safety hazards.



Participants of the workshop with Mr. Tariq Rafique, Program Manager, One UN DRM Programme

Mr. Tariq Rafique, DRM National Project Manager, welcoming the participants said that in Pakistan, since earthquake – 2005, focus is on incorporation of DRR in all policy and regulatory instruments. He informed that steps are being taken to incorporate DRR in all future programmes, practices and procedures.

The workshop was attended by various stakeholders including mine owners and marble products manufacturers/processers, chips industry and professionals from various relevant organizations and academia.

NDMA conducts first ever mock exercise for industrial disasters

The NDMA, in collaboration with the PDMA, Sindh, DDMA Ghotki and various other response agencies/stakeholders, conducted the first ever mock exercise on Industrial Disaster Management at the premises of ENGRO Fertilizers Ltd. at Daharki on 25th February 2010.

The exercise was aimed at providing a base for active involvement of district/provincial disaster management authorities and various stakeholders at different tiers to handle industrial disaster in an effective way.



Various response agencies/stakeholders responding to an industrial disaster during the Mock Exercise

The CDGK's Urban Search and Rescue Team also took part in the mock exercise. The exercise was evaluated by a joint team of experts from the Technical Cell of the NDMA, Ministry of Industries, DESTO and ENGRO Fertilizers.



Members of USAR Team, CDGK participating in the Mock Exercise

Training of NUST staff on 'Emergency Preparedness and Response'

The NDMA, in collaboration with the National University of Science & Technology (NUST), Islamabad arranged a 5-day training programme on "Emergency Preparedness and Response", at the University campus from 19th – 23rd February, 2010.



Participants practicing fire fighting as part of the training of NUST staff

The main objective of the training was to build the capacity of the key staff in disaster risk management through enhancing their knowledge and skills in preparedness and response.

A total of 16 staff members of the NUST were imparted skills in evacuation planning, first aid and basic search and rescue who will act as Master Trainers for other members.



CDA USAR team responding alongside the newly trained NUST staff

The participants showed keen interest in the event and displayed their newly learnt skills in a simulation/drill conducted at the end of the training. The specialized Urban Search and Rescue team of CDA raised by the NDMA, also participated in the activity and highlighted the importance of working together in a disaster situation.

NDMA conducts 'Flood Mitigation' training for district officers

A five-day training course on "Flood Mitigation", for the district authorities and community based organizations of flood prone districts, was organized by the NDMA at the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) from 15th to 19th February, 2010.

The objective of the training was to build the capacities of the concerned government and civil society organizations in flood disaster preparedness, response and mitigation, through structural and non structural interventions adopted at local level for saving lives and properties of the people. Renowned experts in the field of flood management delivered lectures on four key modules: (i) Overview of flood disaster risk situation in Pakistan (ii) Institutional arrangements to cope with flooding (iii) Flood Risk Assessment and (iv) Flood Mitigation Measures.



Resource person imparting skills to the participants of the Flood Mitigation training course

Chairman, NDMA, was the Chief Guest at the inauguration of the course. Addressing the participants he said the course would provide comprehensive flood disaster risk management knowledge and skills to district government officers and civil society members who have key flood disaster risk management responsibilities at the district and tehsil level.

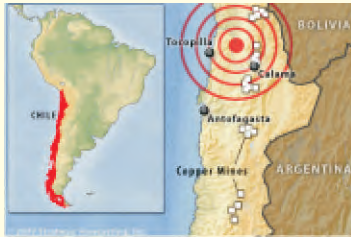
A total of 23 participants representing the District Finance, Planning and Development, Revenue and Tehsil Municipal Committees, as well as community-based organizations, attended the training course. A field trip to the Pakistan Meteorological Department was also organized where participants were given a chance to learn about the different traditional and modern equipment and satellite technologies for weather forecasting and early warning system.

At the closing ceremony Ms. Rabia Khattak, Assistant Country Director, UNDP-Pakistan awarded certificates to the participants of the training.

World at a Glance

Chile hit by 8.8 Richter scale earthquake

Located on the Pacific Rim 'ring of fire', the world's most seismically active region, Chile suffered one of its worst earthquakes measuring 8.8 on the Richter scale which killed above 700 people. The calamity also triggered a tsunami causing 53 countries to issue a warning to their coastal areas. Mercifully, the killer waves forecast did not materialize. At least two million have been affected, necessitating the declaration of a "state of catastrophe" in the country. But in spite of its current crisis, Chile stands out as a shining example of how nations can indeed take precautions to avoid the worst fallout of unpredictable natural disasters.



Chile is an earthquake-prone country, and that knowledge and preparedness for such calamities are ingrained in the government's economic planning and governance. The national emergency office, which is organized at the national, regional and local level, coordinates the services of fire-fighters, medical teams, civil defense, etc which means that an effective emergency response system is in place. Moreover, strictly enforced house-building codes have ensured that structures are quake-resistant. Third World countries still have a long way to go in learning lessons from Chile in disaster management.

219 dead in Brazil mudslide

As many as 219 people died and a further 200 were buried alive and feared dead under tons of mud after a slum built atop a former landfill gave way in the deadly landslide to hit metro Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 7th April, 2010.



The mudslide was a wall of black earth and garbage about 12 metres high that ploughed through the Morro Bumba shantytown before coming to a halt along the edge of road in Niteroi, a city of about 500,000 across the bay from Rio. Nearly all the deaths were caused by mudslides that smashed through hillside slums crowded with poorly built shacks. The record rainfall triggered deadly mudslides across Rio's metropolitan area and plunged the city into chaos, snarling traffic, knocking down trees and power lines, opening up enormous craters in streets and sending wastewater flowing to the white sand beaches of the city of six million.

Multilateral banks ready to mobilize climate finance

The PreventionWeb, quoting World Bank sources, has reported that Leading Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and the International Monetary Fund, will map out their plans to support a sustainable global recovery and agreed the Copenhagen Accord is an opportunity for action to finance measures to combat climate change.

Following on from their joint statement in December (1), the MDBs and IMF welcome the commitment of developed countries as part of the Copenhagen Accord to provide additional fast track financing for developing countries of USD 30 billion in the period 2010-12 and the pledge to mobilize USD100 billion by 2020 in order to help developing countries cope with the impacts of climate change and achieve the deep cuts in global emissions needed to hold the increase in global temperatures below 2 degrees Celsius.



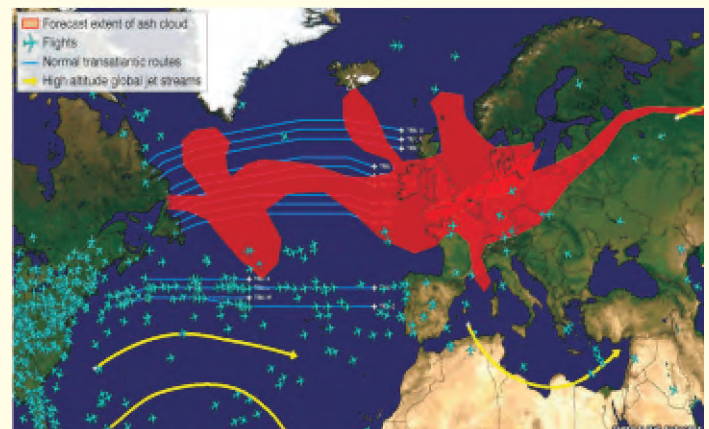
They fully endorsed the UN Secretary General's establishment of a High Level Advisory Group on Climate Financing and the inclusion of African Development Bank President Donald Kaberuka. They affirm their collective commitment to support the work of the group in the months to come.

The MDBs will seek to continue harmonizing their approaches in the field of climate change and further joint work towards enhancing knowledge management and sharing of tools and methodologies for supporting countries with vulnerability and climate risk assessments, nationally appropriate mitigation actions and improved forest management.

Ash clouds brings chaos to European air industry

Iceland is home to several volcanoes and straddling two tectonic plates. The Eyjafjallajokull volcano began erupting in March, however, on 14th April 2010 the eruption entered a new explosive phase which brought European airspace to a standstill affecting one third of global flights and around 1.2 million passengers a day. It was the biggest disruption to flights since 9/11.

According to a report by the Centre for Economics and Business Research, estimated cost of the disruptions was €1.08bn (\$1.45bn; £942m) over the six days. The effects of the crisis were also felt in other industries as tens of thousands of people were stranded and unable to get to work. Producers of perishable goods, such as food and flowers, were also hit hard. Most flights resumed on 21st April, 2010.



The map shows the flights restricted to flying around the ash cloud, shown in red. The darkest shading indicates the cloud extending higher into the atmosphere. Photo Courtesy bbc.co.uk

World at a Glance

Powerful storm claims 130 lives in South Asia

A powerful storm on 13th April, 2010, killed 130 people in India and Bangladesh. About 100,000 houses were hit by winds of up to 160 km/h (100mph). Aid was rushed to the Indian states of Bihar, West Bengal and Assam, and the Rangpur region in Bangladesh, after the cyclone struck the country. The relief operation was hampered

by blocked roads and a lack of resources. It was the most violent storm in this area since Cyclone Aila hit eastern India and Bangladesh in May last year, killing more than 150 people.



Upcoming Events

3-day "DRM Course for Women" 23rd - 25th June, 2010 (tentative) at Islamabad, organized by NIDM

4-day "DRM Planning Workshop" from 8th - 11th June, 2010 at Lahore, for the districts DG Khan, Mianwali, DI Khan, Nowshera and Bajaur organized by NIDM

6-day "Management of Public Health Risks" from 15th - 20th June, 2010 at Muzaffarabad

9th Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Course (EVRC-9) from 10th - 21st May, 2010 at Bangkok, Thailand, organized by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)

3rd International Disaster and Risk Conference from 29th May - 3rd June, 2010 at Davos, Switzerland, organized by Global Risk Forum (GRF) & International Disaster and Risk Conference (IDRC)

20th World Conference on Disaster Management (WCDM) from 20th - 23rd June, 2010 at Toronto, Canada, organized by Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness (CCEP)

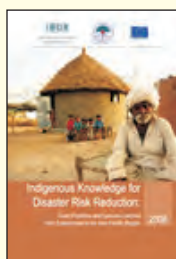
DISASTER MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION: 8th – 9th June 2010

The Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management (CDPM), University of Peshawar and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Khyber-Pukhtoonkhwa are actively involved in disaster preparedness and management.

To provide a platform to all stakeholders working in the field of disaster risk reduction, a Disaster Management Exhibition is being jointly organised on 8th – 9th June 2010 at the University of Peshawar. The exhibition will be open for Government Organizations, NGOs, INGOs and Corporate Sector to participate as an Exhibitor and display their sample products, equipments, books, periodicals, pamphlets, software etc. and services to the general public.

Organisations interested in exhibiting their products may visit the following websites (www.upes.edu.pk), CDPM, Website (www.cdpm.org.pk) and PDMA website (www.pdma.gov.pk). The last date for submission of exhibit registration form is 20th May, 2010.

Useful Books & Publications



Indigenous Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction:

Even before the advent of the high technology based early warning systems, or standard operating procedures for response, numerous local communities worldwide have prepared, operated, acted, and responded to natural disasters using indigenous methods passed on from one generation to the next. This publication aims to build awareness for indigenous knowledge as an effective tool for reducing risk from natural disasters. This publication can help all practitioners and policy makers to consider the knowledge held by local communities and act to integrate this wealth of knowledge into future disaster-related work.



National Disaster Response Plan

National Disaster Response Plan (NDRP) formulated after extensive cross-sectoral consultations by NDMA, seeks to upgrade the country's ability to cope with all conceivable disasters. To achieve this purpose, complete range of disaster management activities from preparedness to response have been addressed. NDRP outlines a framework for emergency response at different levels of the government structure; identifies roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, and lays down coordination mechanism for activities involving the United Nations, INGOs / NGOs, civil society organizations, public & private sectors and media to harness the full national potential for efficient disaster management.



Participatory Learning and Action Community based adaptation to climate change

This special issue of Participatory Learning and Action focuses on recent approaches to climate change adaptation which are community-based and participatory, building on the priorities, knowledge, and capacities of local people. It discusses how community-based approaches (CBA) to climate change have emerged, and the similarities and differences between CBA and other participatory development and disaster risk reduction approaches. It highlights innovative participatory methods which are developing to help communities analyze the causes and effects of climate change, integrate scientific and community knowledge of climate change, and plan adaptation measures.

We welcome comments/response from readers of our newsletter

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