

Sierra Leone

Interim national progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

Name of focal point : Ms MYE KAMARA Mary

Organization : Disaster Management Department, Office of National Security

Designation : Director, Disaster Management Programme

E-mail address : marymyek@yahoo.com

Telephone :

Fax :

Additional Focal points/ other comments :

Reporting period : 2007-2009

Last updated on : 30 January 2009

Print date : 19 Mar 2009

Reporting language : English

An HFA Monitor update published by PreventionWeb

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/africa/sle/>

Strategic goals 1

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Strategic Goal Statement:

In its three-year development plan, GoSL signed a pact with one of its major development partner to integrate disaster and environmental risk management policies into development plans at national and local levels. The response capability on the side of government has been generally weak because of limited resources. As such it is only prudent that such resources be channelled towards prevention, rather than response, which has never been our area of strength. One of the major environmental hazards faced by Sierra Leone, for eg, is that of deforestation in almost all forest reserve areas. Deforestation has over the period resulted to such natural phenomenon like flooding, mudslides, landslides, erosion and to a large extent water shortage. In 2006, Freetown, the capital city of Sierra Leone had acute water shortage. To address the problem, government through the Ministry of Energy and power has put together a group of stakeholder institutions to develop a national policy on the use of affordable water resource in the country. This policy underwent a national validation exercise with views expressed from stakeholders in Government, NGOs, civil society, United Nations Specialized agencies and opinion leaders around the country. As a further step in supporting the policy for sustainable development, government has temporarily put a moratorium on the sale of state land especially in the western area. This policy is intended to prevent squatters from using high risk areas for human settlement. As a proactive step to protect the water catchment areas in the western area peninsula forest government has come out with a policy in which joint security patrol comprising of Sierra Leone Police and the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces to prevent catchment areas from illegal loggers. A green belt will be set up to demarcate forest reserve areas from human settlements.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Strategic Goal Statement:

The establishment of Disaster Management Committees in all twelve districts plus the Western Area, to serve as 'first responders' provides increased efficiency and quick response to disaster victims at local levels. Membership comprises of stakeholder government institutions, NGOs, UN agencies and local community groups. This has also provided an opportunity for a more inclusive and participatory approach in addressing the problems of vulnerability, risk management and response to disasters. With regards capacity building however, a lot needs to be done at all levels. The concept of disaster management is still a relatively new one in Sierra Leone. As such there remains to be relatively few people with the requisite knowledge on its overall management. While staffs of the coordinating institution have been able to attend related trainings on such issues, not many of the staff of implementing agencies and local community partners have been privileged to do so. Thus to address this problem, a series of training programs have been planned to be conducted for implementing agencies and Disaster Management Committees at all levels. This however will be done batches, with priority being given to the district and regional levels, depending on the availability of funds. With regards early warning, the Disaster Management encouraging and promoting the use of indigenous/traditional knowledge to forecast weather patterns. While it is true that this may never really substitute modern technology in accurately forecasting imminent natural disasters, such knowledge may save a life or two

in the absence of the former.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Strategic Goal Statement:

A systematic arrangement has been put in place to ensure the effective implementation of established policies developed together with stakeholders institutions, At the national level for example, the Disaster Management Department works closely with the Department for Environment protect forest , Lands, Forestry and Country Planning have each been respectively charged with the responsibility of assessing and monitoring vulnerability, hazards and risk associated with environmental degradation. With respect to rehabilitation and resettlement of disaster victims the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), an institution that has its offices in all the four regions and twelve districts of the country has the legal mandate to take a lead in reintegration and resettlement of disaster victims. They are supported by non-governmental organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations in the various regions of the country. At the local level the responsibility is taken forward by District Disaster Management Committees comprising of key stakeholder institutions and partners including local council officers. They are supported other government institutions that have been decentralized by the central government.

Priority for action 1

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Core indicator 1

National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Description:

LEVEL 4. Significant progress made on data collection. Following the development of a National Hazard Assessment, which entails the risk and vulnerabilities common in different parts of the country, Disaster Management Committees at district levels have been updating data on their respective communities to reflect emerging trends. To compliment this effort, the Disaster Management Department has been partnering with other institutions like the Red Cross. So far, this has been completed in nine out of the twelve districts in the country, plus the Western Area (Freetown and its environs). These twelve districts have functional disaster management committees whose stakeholders meet on every last Thursday in a monthly coordination meeting, to discuss emerging issues and the community's level .of preparedness. Financial constraints and technical expertise to conduct the required training, establishing an effective communication and information network, simulation exercises tend to pose significant setbacks to operations.

Context & Constraints:

One of the key challenges faced by the country is that Disaster Risk Reduction is a relatively new

phenomenon in the country, with the department only being established at the end of 2004 . Hence a lot needs to be done to capture the minds of people and getting them to understand the concepts and participate in preparedness programs at all levels. Also, having just come from a war, Sierra Leone is currently undertaking a lot of post-war recovery construction work. This has caused a great deal of environmental degradation, particularly so in areas where there has been very little government supervision/intervention. As a result, most of the disasters that have occurred in recent times are man-made or to a large extent induced by man's activities on the environment. Unfortunately, Government at the moment does not have the resources, both material, financial to adequately support Disaster Risk Reduction activities.

Core indicator 2

Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

LEVEL THREE· Stakeholder institutions are committed but are limited in their activities due to poor resources· Disaster Risk Reduction is still a relatively new phenomenon in Sierra Leone. More needs to be done to educate the public on the whole concept. This venture will certainly require funds and road worthy vehicles for stakeholders to move around the country to educate the public on DRR. The absence of this means that limited areas will be accessed in rural communities, which are the areas most vulnerable to risk. · Stakeholder institutions are still waiting for Government's formal endorsement of the National Disaster Management Policy and the National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan· Government is yet to dedicate specific emergency funds for the effective functioning of the National Disaster Management programme. · The negative interaction of people with the environment is continue to pose a problem to the over all activities of DRR in Sierra Leone.

Context & Constraints:

Since the adoption of disaster risk reduction in Sierra Leone, National or state authorities have been grappling with the problem of resource mobilization for effective implementation of DRR. The national budget is meant to address key issues such as payment of salaries, food security health, education and other social amenities. In this situation of limited resources, government finds it difficult prioritise dedicating a separate budget for Disaster Risk Reduction. This has slowed down preparedness measures by way of capacitating communities for slow on-set or sudden disasters. Though development partners have been doing their bit in addressing Disaster Risk Reduction at the level of their institutions, yet it is expected that Government should take the lead in the overall process. However, at this point in time, Government cannot fully meet such obligation. In respect of the above, it is therefore recommended that a special disaster fund be set aside for risk reduction activities in the country. It is also recommended that more personnel be trained for DRR activities in the country.

Core indicator 3

Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Description:

LEVEL 4 Here, substantial achievements have been attained but with some recognized limitations in capacities and resources. An appreciable number of communities in the country have been participating in disaster risk activities. This is as a result of the fact that decentralization of political power has been conducted across the board especially with the conduct of local and district council elections. Local authorities have been empowered to develop local legislation on disaster risk reduction. Though local governments are now responsible for risk reduction activities yet resources at the disposal of council authorities is very minimal. What has been prevalent though is that Non-Governmental Organizations have been undertaking risk reduction exercises in their areas of operations as described in the mandates given to them. In some communities roles and responsibilities of members are clearly stated. Local laws also stipulate some of the penal codes that might affect inhabitants in case of a breach of some of the local laws.

Context & Constraints:

One big challenge faced by authorities in the implementation of local legislation in communities is ignorance. The degree of illiteracy in the country is over seventy percentage of its national population. This is having serious impact on the way the communities perceive the whole issue of disaster risk reduction in the communities. This has slowed down the activities of council administrators in the overall implementation of the programme. Another problem faced by local council authorities in the implementation of the programme is the poor road condition. Some areas in the country are completely made inaccessible during the raining season especially as the water level in some places leads to flooding thereby making the terrain difficult for risk reduction activities to be implemented to the fullest. Finally, the unavailability of resources continue to be a huge challenge as always. Recommended solutions would include mass sensitisation, training and the availability of financial and technical resources.

Core indicator 4

A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Description:

LEVEL 4. Quite a lot has been achieved in this direction but with some limitations experienced with regards to capacities and resources. A national multi sectoral forum has been established with inclusion of all government ministries, department and agencies, all Non Governmental Organizations, specialized agencies of the United Nations and the civil society. This body meets on the last Thursday of every month. This body can also have emergency meeting as the case may be depending on the type of emergency or slow onset disasters on which assessment is done.

Context & Constraints:

One major challenge faced is getting total commitment of the stakeholders that constitute an integral component of the absence of an effective or dedicated communications channel between the coordinating body and implementing/responding agencies and then to the general public. Another constraint facing the functioning of the national platform is resources. Resources available to these stakeholders are limited and cannot adequately facilitate all the disaster risk reduction activities that are planned

Priority for action 2

Core indicator 1

National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Description:

LEVEL FOUR. A lot has been achieved in this direction but there are some limitations with regards to capacities and resources of the institutions given this responsibility. A detailed study of the national and local risk assessments are readily available and include risk assessments for key sectors within the country. The hazard data and vulnerability information covers that of all the communities nationwide. In addition to the National Hazard Profile that ensures decision makers and communities to fully understand their exposure to various hazards and the social, economic, environmental and physical vulnerabilities that they may face; a nationwide vulnerability and capacity assessment on the hazards and risks as per community also make room to sensitise communities on the vulnerabilities that they may face and the capacities at their disposal to tackle them. The National Hazard Profile also allows communities to take effective action to reduce disaster and environmental risks. The provincial and District Disaster Management Committees are there to ensure that readily available information on impending disaster is timely communicated to the community for necessary actions to save lives and properties. Even though the National Hazard Profile is available and vulnerability assessments have been done, yet there is a strong need to update the information and incorporate new/emerging hazards at least quarterly unlike the bi-annual being done in the country. Undertaking such ventures is expensive and there is not money set-aside for such. As such there is a lack of resources. Communities generally cannot afford modern and technological upgraded 'capacities' but can make do with the localised capacities that cannot suffice in all instances of tackling the many hazards that might befall them. Next is the need to conduct regular training to improve on capacity of national authorities and partner agencies to refresh their knowledge.

Context & Constraints:

Even though the National Hazard Profile is available and vulnerability assessments have been done, yet there is a strong need to update the information and incorporate new/emerging hazards at least quarterly unlike the bi-annual being done in the country. Undertaking such ventures is expensive and there is not money set-aside for such. As such there is a lack of resources. Communities generally cannot afford modern and technological upgraded 'capacities' but can make do with the localised capacities that cannot suffice in all instances of tackling the many hazards that might befall them. Next is the need to conduct regular training to improve on capacity of national authorities and partner agencies to refresh their knowledge.

Core indicator 2

Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Description:

There has been remarkable progress made in this sector. Hazards and vulnerabilities are monitored and information is sent to the communities to ensure measures are taken to limit the impacts. Hazard profile is continually being reviewed to include new vulnerabilities based on the changing times and circumstances. This information is shared in the disaster management committees nationwide which in turn disseminate the information to the people for an effective disaster management system.

Context & Constraints:

One of the major constraints is that of accessibility to some remote areas in the country. Even though the information might be readily available, another setback is the absence of trained personnel in the rural areas. Maintaining/retaining trained and qualified volunteers in remote and underprivileged areas can be really tough.

Core indicator 3

Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

The level is THREE. There is an overwhelming institutional commitment, however, the main provider of early warning for natural disasters, the national meteorological services got vandalized during the war and has yet been replaced. With regards to man-made emergencies, the services of local radio stations are normally requested for since the disaster management department don't have a designated channel of its own.

Context & Constraints:

Re-equipping the meteorological station, recruiting and training of more personnel plus an improved communications network/information channel to be provided for the coordinating institution.

Core indicator 4

National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Description:

The level is 4. National policies have been developed, in collaboration with key partners. Because many of these partners have contributed to the process of developing such policies, ownership and a clear knowledge of institutional /departmental etc roles and responsibilities during disasters has been made possible. Sub-regional meetings are also held on a regular basis to develop sub-regional hazard/vulnerability/risk assessments with sub-regional response plans. These resources, both human and material are designed in such a way that they could be requested for at very short notice by any member country as and when the need arises. For localised disasters/risks that have the propensity to become sub-regional, meetings have also been done at various levels to map out contingency plans to address this. One challenge encountered here though is that not all of Sierra Leone's immediate neighbours have conducted national hazard/risk/vulnerability profiles. Thus writing out contingency plans hasn't always been reflective of the real issues facing those countries. An example could be cited of recent flooding that swept across from Sierra Leone to Liberia. It is flooding in a border town near any of the neighbouring countries. Thus, Sierra Leone is part of the Mano-River and the ECOWAS

(sub-regional and regional bodies) that have strong cooperation in terms of risk assessments and reduction activities. Contingencies plans are in place to cover inter-regional disasters and funds and stockpiles are readily available to support those plans.

Context & Constraints:

The country's meteorological systems were virtually destroyed during the civil war, leaving a very weak early warning system in place, especially with respect to natural disasters. In addition, there have been no dedicated emergency response funds set aside for use by implementing Government partners such as ministries/departments/agencies. This causes a real challenge in ensuring effective and timely response during emergency periods. In some instances authorities tend to turn a blind eye to certain malpractices forgetting what dire consequences might result in such action. The enforcement of laws governing environmental protection and other policies, which, if not implemented cannot only result in national emergencies but are also inclined to cause trans-national crises. Another problem could be that of accessing funds. Authorities find it difficult to see the benefit of investing in DRR because these are the disasters that did not happen. Sharing the experiences of other countries, which have taken a similar path, could help. The need for some intervention to put in place early warning systems and for emergency funds to be set aside or use when the need arises cannot be overemphasized. Finally, the need to commit funds to support the regular update/review hazard/risk/vulnerability assessments is almost always a challenge, especially in a situation of limited resources competing demands

Priority for action 3

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

Core indicator 1

Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Description:

LEVEL 4. There is readily available information on disasters via the internet and on television but not everybody can afford the luxury of such in a situation of abject poverty. For many members of the public, the only place they get to hear this is through the radio. Information on risk reduction and safer disaster prevention and mitigation options are shared with the public and are done in the local languages for easy communication and for the people to take the necessary actions to create a disaster resilient country.

Context & Constraints:

The radio discussion programme is done an hour per week and that is not enough to disseminate all that is needed. Thus, the strong need for more networking. In addition, disseminating such information on a wider scale and with increased frequency since this has huge financial implications, especially so when done on a national level. In the absence of Government support, using commercial communications networks can be very costly.

Core indicator 2

School curricula, education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Description:

The level is FOUR. As part of our efforts to promote DRR, we continue our schools programme "DRR begins at school. Selected schools in the capital and district headquarters have disaster risk reduction as part of their school curricula, education material and relevant trainings. This program started two years ago with just 4 pilot schools. This year, we extended the programme to 6 more schools and since then, demand for inclusion by schools continues to grow. At the end of every school year, quiz competitions are held and prizes given to encourage students. It is hope that this will soon grow to become a national school's competition in the near future. The objective here is to enhance positive behavioural change towards the environment through students. The national disaster management programme is lobbying with authorities to Incorporate disaster risk-related issues into the existing education curricula so that the outreach programme is extended in order to foster and reinforce positive attitudinal change and knowledge as most of the disasters that are common in the country are due to man's negative activities. It is believed that children can serve as vehicles of change and carriers of the message of risk reduction to their communities.

Context & Constraints:

The schools' outreach programme is yet to cover all the schools in the country and yet to be part of the national education syllabus as given to schools by the Ministry of Education, Youths and Sports. The national disaster management programme is lobbying with the Ministry of Education, Youths and Sports to include risk reduction into the nation education syllabus as the roles pupils play in risk reduction cannot be over-emphasised.

Core indicator 3

Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Description:

The level is FOUR. The vulnerability and capacity assessments is done using scientific methodologies with models to assessment the impact of hazards and capacities at individual and community levels and that future monitoring. However, the resource limitation for such venture limits the focus groups that participate during the assessments and the enumerators are not capacitated on the phenomenon of disaster management.

Context & Constraints:

The level is FOUR. The vulnerability and capacity assessments is done using scientific methodologies with models to assessment the impact of hazards and capacities at individual and community levels and that future monitoring. However, the resource limitation for such venture limits the focus groups that participate during the assessments and the enumerators are not capacitated on the phenomenon of disaster management

Core indicator 4

Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach

to urban and rural communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

Financial resources and capacity training must be set aside to equip the national disaster management programme to sustain such programme as disaster management is an evolving concept and needs to be review to in cooperate novel issues.

Context & Constraints:

The level is FIVE. The National Disaster Management programme with help from the United Nations have put in place strategy for a community radio sensitisation nationwide. The national programme was undertaking a weekly radio programme in a station that covers the whole country, however, in partnership with the UN, some (though not all) community radios can now be use in disseminating messages of DRR. This venture is to create a positive culture wherein disaster resilience is part of the activities of communities. The public awareness campaign is part of the sensitisation campaign to inform the general public on the options on disaster prevention, mitigation and the chanel in disaster reporting.

Priority for action 4

Reduce the underlying risk factors

Core indicator 1

Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.

Level of Progress achieved:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

Not all community radio stations are used in the campaign and there are communities in the country with people speaking a dialect that only using their community radio can help in sensitising them on DRR. Thus, the need for funds to take the message of DRR to all in the country.

Context & Constraints:

The level is FIVE. Many of the disasters that befall Sierra Leoneans are a result of man's negative interaction with the environment. Thus, the government have put in place policies and plans to reverse this trend with punishment for defaulters. This measure is to curb the underlying risks that are associated with the many disasters.

Core indicator 2

Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

Enforcement of laws is a major setback in Sierra Leone, and thus the need to ensure that the policies are implemented and follow to the letter as reversing the negative trend take a long time.

Context & Constraints:

The level is 3 While it is true that there is institutional achievement, enforcement of laws isn't always done. The national disaster management programme is gaining new heights in the country. Disaster management is taken into consideration when most of the development policies are formulated and environmental impact assessment is a must for all development actions to be undertaken. This is to ensure that the underlying risk is noted and local groups are capacitated and taken care of.

Core indicator 3

Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities

Level of Progress achieved:

5: Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Description:

The national disaster management department is short-staffed to handle all the emerging problems. As a country coming from a civil conflict, many development actions are welcomed. This pose a threat as the risk Evaluation/IAssessment done might be done in a haste and do not take into consider the most minute details.

Context & Constraints:

The level is FIVE. Presently a majority of all the economic and development policies that are being put in place recognise that disaster management is an integral component of development. The government has now come to fully realise that without an effective disaster management system, all developmental efforts is wasted by a single disaster. Thus, policies make room for disaster management

Core indicator 4

Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

Enforcement of policies is another aspect and it not always done, thus enforcement and strengthening must be a priority at all levels.

Context & Constraints:

The level is THREE. There is the national office in charge of town and city planning and an office responsible for issuance of building permit and regulations. However, the enforcement of the laws governing the operations of these offices is very minimal if any at all. After the civil conflict the city and other provincial and district headquarters saw a sharp increase in population and with the same plots of land, settlements sprung in areas not fit for human settlement.

Core indicator 5

Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Description:

Many of the laws are outdated and the ones that are amended are not enforced, thus the need to update the old laws and enforce the new ones to ensure that the associated risks within human settlements are minimal.

Context & Constraints:

The level is FOUR. The national disaster management programme was born in 2004 and all post recovery activities are done in a manner wherein the recurrence of a disaster within the recovered area is at the most minimal point.

Core indicator 6

Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Description:

With no disaster management/emergency funds and a greater reliance to donor support, the national disaster management programme tries to meet the minimum international requirement because it cannot boast of independent funds.

Context & Constraints:

The level is FIVE. Disaster risk reduction is part of the pillars of the poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) and all development and social policies on WATSAN, agriculture etc incorporate disaster management as not to create a disaster during development.

Priority for action 5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

Core indicator 1

Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Description:

All of the pillars of the PRSP are yet to be implemented hindering the full implementation of disaster management into all spheres of national development.

Context & Constraints:

The level is THREE. There is marked commitment on the part of institutions to improve disaster

response, however, resources to respond and capacity of responders are lacking. This is to a large extent due to the absence of a disaster management fund and a pre-positioning of stockpiles of relief items to be used in the event of a disaster. the national disaster management programme has to rely on aids from NGOs and the UN and these are not always forthcoming.

Core indicator 2

Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

With no disaster management fund or a pre-positioning of stockpiles of relief items disaster preparedness and response become difficult, thus the need to have at least one of these for an effective preparedness and response activities

Context & Constraints:

The level is FOUR There are contingency plans for almost all the hazards that are peculiar to the country and those that are inter-regional. However, due to limited resources and capacities, regular training drills and rehearsals are not undertaken to test the effectiveness of the plans.

Core indicator 3

Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Description:

The major challenge in this area is resources to pre-test the contingency plans and the requisite capacity of disaster managers and the general (but more so the general public) to undertake drilling exercises. Thus, the need for pre-testing as it is only through this method, that the effectiveness and efficiency of the plans are known and the gaps identified and measures taken to ameliorate them.

Context & Constraints:

The level is TWO. There is the national disaster management policy that clearly spells out the responsibility of government and other institution on their financial obligations towards disaster management in the country. However, the policy is yet to be ratified by the government and thus, cannot fully come into play. Whenever a disaster strikes, ad-hoc measures are taken for a speedy assessment and ad-hoc measures are taken to respond to the disaster victims.

Core indicator 4

Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Description:

Ratifying the national disaster management policy should be a top-most priority of the government as there is provision for funding, thus the elimination of always begging aids from donor partners.

Context & Constraints:

The level is FOUR. The central mandate of the national disaster management programme is to coordinate the resources of other agencies. Thus, in disaster relief all agencies with mandate on disaster management form part of the response team. Information flow and exchange of relevant information is part of the meetings. This is to ensure that the causative agent of the preceding disaster can be avoided in order not to cause another disaster.

Drivers of Progress

a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development

Levels of Reliance:

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?:

Yes

If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy?:

No

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Though relevant information is shared, it is not always the case that the causative agent can be tackle. Resources play a major part and with it lacking, then there is the need to have it to overcome these obstacles.

b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

There is a national hazard analyses that is available to all and is been used in the development policy of the country. The hazard analyses are also part of the regional framework on disaster risk reduction. However, translating the findings to the common man is a major problem as the national disaster management programme can only have an hour a week on the UN radio for free of charge, and any other airtime has to be paid for. Thus, getting the man in the most remote area to be aware of the hazard analyses and letting him know what to do in terms of disaster prevention and mitigation is not always possible. There is the strong need for funding and resources to take the finding to the schools and all communities nationwide (sensitisation).

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not

achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

There is no data available on this sector, but with funding, the national disaster management programme can undertake a study and publish taking gender into consideration. However, Sierra Leone is a patriarchal society and though the roles of women might not be fully spelt out, they are partners in development and disaster management at local and national levels, and occupy seats of authority that define the responsibilities of those active partakers in community disaster management activities.

d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities

Levels of Reliance:

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Disaster management is a nouvelle phenomenon in the country. Institutions and, communities are not independently capacitated to handle risk reduction activities on their own, and there is not volunteer bank in the country but rather depending on the disaster, passers-by serve as volunteers. There is the need for the gaps that are identified to be capacitated and strengthening measures taken to ameliorate the training needs.

e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels

Levels of Reliance:

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

The post disaster assessment points out the most vulnerable of the disaster victims. The minimal aids that are dished to disaster victims, the socio-economic marginalised groups are given priority as they are most vulnerable. However, the alms given are minimal and cannot suffice to take them back even to the pre-disaster state they were in. Disaster recovery and rehabilitation are sectors that need utmost consideration as they handle getting people back to a dignified state. Here again, post disaster funding is essential but lacking at the moment. Thus the greater need for a post disaster fund.

f) Contextual Drivers of Progress

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Yes. Community leaders form part of the disaster management committees. With no technological early warning system in place, communities have to rely on traditional methods, thus their inputs are very much necessary in meetings. There is the need to capacitate community elders on quickly identifying the traditional early warning systems.

Future outlook

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Overall Challenges:

Inclusion of DRR into the national education curricula poses one of the major challenges faced by the national disaster management programme. DRR inclusion involves a wider coverage of the schools' outreach programme nationwide in as many schools for the education authorities to have into the schools' syllabuses. Expanding the outreach programme has financial implications that the national disaster management programme cannot foot independently

Future Outlook Statement:

Incorporating DRR issues into the national education curricula will contribute to continuous learning and reinforces knowledge for disaster risk reduction, thus promoting positive attitudinal changers that will result in less disasters and foster a disaster resilient country. In light of this, the national disaster management programme will sought funds to expand the schools' outreach programme to cover $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total schools in the country

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Overall Challenges:

Another challenge is that of volunteer training and retention or a volunteer production line that will train as many as those leaving their location. The national disaster management cannot boat of a single volunteer that can be pull to assist in disaster response. These volunteers need to be train in the disaster management cycle and first aid and other basic disaster related issues as they will serve as the first port of call in disaster response.

Future Outlook Statement:

The national disaster management again needs funds to undertake volunteer training, retention and re-training. This training will go a long way in helping the national disaster management in speedily responding to disasters and minimising the loses incurred from disasters.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Overall Challenges:

Disaster management is a nouvelle phenomenon in the Sierra Leone context and there is the strong need for national sensitisation of the programme to all. The weekly radio programme is limited to just the capital and provincial headquarters and the school's outreach is conducted in limited schools. Community radios, drama groups, engaging community people in face-to-face discussions are all essential in sensitising the public on best practices as they are the causes of the many disasters that they face. Ratifying the national disaster management policy, reviewing the national hazard profile and undertaking more vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) of communities nationwide are all of essence in building a stronger disaster management system in Sierra Leone. Capacitating staff of the

national disaster management programme is very much necessary as disaster management is an evolving concept and knowledge about new issues is of utmost importance.

Future Outlook Statement:

Technical experts of disaster need to capacitate staff of the national disaster management programme on disaster management evolving issues, funding to undertake VCA exercises, nationwide sensitisation, and review of the hazard profile all need to be sought.