



World Conference on Disaster Reduction

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ECHO/ISDR good practices for resilient communities

Mongolia: Towards to Community Based Disaster Risk Management Info sheet of poster

Since 1999, Mongolia Livestock sector were affected by severe drought, dzud disaster and epidemic disease, and as a result, one third of total head of livestock had been lost. Livelihood for rural people rapidly plummeted contributing to an increase in unemployment and poverty. The latest statistics showed 36.1 percent poverty incidence in Mongolia with 43.4 percent for the rural population. Today in Mongolia, total 900 thousand people out of 2.5 million populations are living in poverty.

The poster with colorful pictures, photos and illustrations introduces what lessons Mongolia has learnt from dzud disaster, how government, NGO, community and private collaboration and initiatives made significant steps towards to reduce disaster risk in the framework of policy and legal environment improvement, disaster management system reform, capacity building, and development of knowledge and best practices.

Last few years, National Agency for Disaster Management, National Agency for Meteorology, Hydrology and Environmental Monitoring, Poverty Research Unit of the Ministry of Finance and Economy, Risk study working group (at present Agriculture Risk Study Center) and JEMR Consulting have been conducting series of disaster risk studies on the example of drought, dzud disasters, hazardous windstorm, climate change, environmental degradation and poverty, and piloting some practical measures that were recommended for further implementation. National Remote Sensing Center, local authorities of provinces and counties, other NGOs, IT companies, herders and farmers joined to the initiatives with their valuable contribution. Creative and effective collaboration of all has improved significantly disaster risk knowledge and best practices at the grassroots.

Poster displays some outputs of disaster risk studies, pilots and outputs of "Risk manager" infosystem that conducted and developed with NGO, community and private initiatives. The Agriculture Risk Study Center has coordinated activities of all stakeholders and managed downscaling of weather prediction to community and farm levels, regular information and consulting service to reduce disaster risk. Risk reduction infosystem consists from database, Internet web site and integrated information processing with GIS and remote sensing techniques, VSAT data net and local FM radio broadcasting. Pilots, such as use of liquid gas in rural area to protect bushes and reduce risk of desertification, restocking with incubation and reproduction to alleviate poverty, production of natural carpet from camel "male" wool to increase herders' income and encourage rearing of camels to substitute for cattle losses in drought prone areas were useful for designing of a disaster risk management system.

Poster also introduces activities of Community information center that has been operating since October 2004 at the Erdenedalai county of Dundgobi province. The Center provides localized early warning on hazardous events; vulnerability of pasture, livestock and households and with this assists the local communities in preparedness and decision making for coming winter and spring of 2004-2005. The center is an output of disaster studies and effective collaboration among politics, government officials, professionals and local communities. Indeed, the Center is a vital to reach grassroots, institutionalize and implement community based disaster risk management with participatory and bottom-up approaches. As

such exercises are new in Mongolia and all involved in stakeholders have been learning-by-doing.

Poster introduces some objectives for 2005 that include R & D of disaster risk management and information system, prediction and assessment methodologies, partnership and networking, institutional strengthen and capacity building, and curriculum and content development for public awareness and training.

... more information on www.agronet.mn