



Concept Notes

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The Second Arab Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (14-16 September 2014)

Session: Urban Risk in Arab Region and the Aqaba Declaration Commitments

Organized by: SDC, UNHABITAT, UNDP, and UNISDR

Moderated by: Mr. Mohamed Boussraoui, UCLG

Time: Tuesday 14/9/2014 from 16:00-17:30pm

Location: Luxor room

Context:

This side event will highlight the urban risks in the Arab Region and hold discussions that will summarize the Arab region local government recommendations to the Post2015 Agenda and Habitat III. The session will aim to address the questions of how urban resilience should be addressed as part of the Sustainable Development Goals and how the Arab Region suggests contributing to the implementation of the set targets within the Aqaba Declaration for disaster risk reduction in Arab cities. In addition to that, the event seeks commitment by partner cities to an Arab Region Urban Resilience Programme.

Session discussions:

- Session will recall on the Aqaba Declaration as the commitment by Mayors and Local Government representatives together with National Government Officials emphasizing the importance of reducing disaster risk in Arab cities, in which the participants of the First Arab conference for disaster risk reduction recognize the vulnerability of Arab cities and towns to disasters. UNDP will present the context and targets.
- Session will highlight the status of the Making Cities Resilient campaign and the mechanics of the proposed Resilient Cities Marketplace.
- The session will highlight the cities in the Arab Region that have been participating in the Arab Cities Disaster Resilience Project 2013-2015, jointly implemented by UNISDR, UNDP and SDC (AinDharam/ Tunisia, Saida/ Lebanon, Sharm El Sheikh/ Egypt, Khartoum/ Sudan), and cities where UN-Habitat has been supporting local governments in urban resilience profiling as part of the *Cities Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP)* (Beirut/ Lebanon) as well as other relevant cities in the Arab Region. City level interventions, such as Tuti Island in Khartoum and Sharm El Sheikh, will elaborate the achievements agreed upon in the Aqaba Declaration.
- A discussion session will summarize the issues and Arab regional recommendations to the Post2015 Agenda and Habitat III will be drawn, addressing the questions of how urban resilience should be addressed as part of the Sustainable Development Goals and how the Arab Region suggests contributing to the implementation of the set targets. In addition to that, the event seeks commitment by partner cities to an *Arab Region Urban Resilience Programme* and suggests focus areas for interventions.

Session objectives:

- To summarize the issues and Arab Local government recommendations to the Post2015 Agenda and Habitat III., and further address the questions of how urban resilience should be addressed as part of the Sustainable Development Goals and how the Arab Region suggests contributing to the implementation of the set targets. In addition to that, the event seeks commitment by partner cities to an *Arab Region Urban Resilience Programme* and suggests focus areas for interventions.

Agenda with speakers:

Chair: Mrs. **Lea Valaulta Naamneh**, Country Director Iraq and Jordan and Deputy Regional Director, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)

Moderator: Mr. **Mohamed Boussraoui**, Executive Officer, United Cities and Local Government (UCLG).

Speakers:

- **Dr. Kishan Khoday**, Regional Cluster Leader for Climate Change, Energy and DRR in Arab States (UNDP Regional Center)
 - *Aqaba Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Cites, context, targets and the Arab Cities Disaster Resilience Project*
- **Mr. Ragy Saro**, Regional Programme Officer, UNISDR Regional Office for Arab States.
 - *Status of the Making Cities Resilient campaign and the Mechanics of the proposed Resilient Cites Marketplace.*
- **Dy. Khaled Metwalli**, South Sinai Assistant Governor, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt
 - *Sharm El-Sheikh best practice in disaster risk reduction*
- **Dr. Abdelrahman Abudoam**, Director of Demarsi institute for disaster and refugee studies of the International University of Africa, Khartoum, Sudan.
 - *Tuti Island-Khartoum best practice in disaster risk reduction*
- **Eng. Khaled Abo-Aisheh**, Director of Planning, Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA), Jordan
 - *Aqaba best practice in disaster risk reduction.*
- **Ms. Aline Rahbany, World Vision Lebanon and Mr. Matthew Flynn, UNHABITAT Egypt.**
 - *Disaster Risk Management in the context of Beirut, Lebanon – applying the urban systems approach*
- **Ms. Katja Schaefer**, Human Settlements Officer, UNHABITAT Egypt.
 - *Urban Resilience, Post2015 and Habitat III (UN-Habitat)*

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“Building Resilience by Linking Community Based Early Warning Systems to Informal Safety Nets”

Side event organized in cooperation with Somalia Resilience Program

Monday 15 September 2014 – 08.00 – 09.30 h – Room A

Introduction

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) is an important component to Climate Change Adaptation and a central theme of the Somalia National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change (NAPACC)¹. The programme identifies key areas for action of DRR in relation to climate change that include data collection, institutional establishment of early warning systems, and community level approaches such as community mapping and contingency plans.

A key emphasis in the NAPACC is also placed on developing strong disaster risk reduction capacity across government agencies and the implementation of DRR policies with a special focus on climate risks. This is also a strong reflection of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 which advocates for the integration of DRR into government legislation².

Furthermore, social safety nets play an important role in community level coping and mitigation of slow onset disasters. Mainstreaming DRR in social protection and strengthening of social safety nets will assist the poor, elderly and other at risk populations respond to and cope better with disaster.

Objectives

This session looks at early warning early action (EWEA) for slow onset disasters which is the main focus of this conference.

1. Discuss the roles of local communities in EWEA
2. Discuss the challenges of EWEA in linking all stakeholders at local and national levels in the Somalia context
3. Propose recommendations and possibly voluntary commitments for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

Expected outcomes

- Highlight the role of community based organised early warning and action in building resilience and addressing underlying causes of risk
- Provide recommendations for the post-2015 framework for DRR including the importance of linking community to local and national EWEA structures and the importance of a systematic method of risk assessment and ongoing monitoring for drought at the community level

Key points for discussion

Discussion points and/ or recommendations to trigger debate by the panel members and the audience:

¹ Federal Republic of Somalia (2013) Somalia National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change

² Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 -2015 - Priorities for Action

- Discussion on turning early warning into appropriate early actions - roles of agencies and government
- Discussion on The future of Early warning systems in Somalia
- Discussion of Informal safety nets in Somalia - opportunities & challenges for community led DRR
- Recommendations for linking communities to local and national level governments on Climate Change Adaptation & Disaster Risk Management

Agenda

Time	Title	Speakers
8:00-8:05	Introduction	Abdullahi Yusuf, CARE International-Somalia, Country Director (chairperson)
8:05-8:15	Early Warning Systems in Somalia & key climate risks faced in Somalia	Abdirizak Nur, FEWS NET Somalia Deputy Representative
8:15-8:25	Overview of SomReP's Absorptive Capacity / Social Safety Nets System in Somalia	Dr. Georgina Jordan, Somalia Resilience Programme (SomReP), Quality Assurance and Knowledge Manager
8:25-8:40	Formal safety nets and SomReP Early Actions - Post Gu 2014 case study (pilot assessment)	Dr. Georgina Jordan
8:40-8:55	Informal Safety nets (Hagbar, Remittances etc) and community level DRR in Somali context and risks	Abdullahi Yusuf
8:55-9:20	Discussion on Informal safety nets and absorptive capacity, role of agencies, policy makers and regional initiatives in supporting community led Disaster Risk Management	Panel
9:20-9:30	Recommendations for linking Community DRR to local and national governments: - Governance structures at the community level and strengthening linkages to government or building inter-communal DRM networks in contested areas - Policy environment for management, financial management of community committees - Empowerment of communities in decision making, self management of disaster risks through education, provision of resources, capacity building and identification of market based solutions - Education and mobilization of diaspora community in supporting community led initiatives	Panel

Background on the Somalia Resilience Program (SomReP)

The Somalia Resilience Program (SomReP) is a multi-year effort by seven leading NGOs to tackle the challenge of recurrent droughts—and the chronic vulnerability that results—among pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, and peri-urban households across Somalia. Designed to address communities' unique needs

toward building resilient livelihoods, the program builds on collective lessons learnt by consortium members World Vision, Oxfam, DRC, COOPI, CARE, ADRA, and ACF.

SomReP's methodology and approach is to build resilience by leveraging social capital to build absorptive and adaptive capacity to shocks and improve collective livelihoods and health status. SomReP will work to improve local governance of disaster management, through strengthening government structures and building stronger links with existing community mechanisms.

At the district level, SomReP will provide capacity building and technical assistance to government staff through trainings, workshops, one-to-one capacity building of key counterparts. SomReP agencies will also support linkages between district level DRR government agencies and Early Warning Committees (EWCs) through inclusion of these staff in village level trainings and assessments with the aim of the eventual government coordination and support of these community DRR structures

In June 2014 SomReP's early action system was piloted in three districts in Somalia. Due to current drought early warnings SomReP has recently released an early action request to donors. Critical factors and lessons learned so far are the importance of the role of multiple stakeholders at various levels in mitigating the effects of drought through appropriate early actions.

Background Material

- A Dangerous Day (Oxfam), online
- Saving Lives Together (UNOCHA), online
- Managing Famine Risk: From Early Warning to Early Action (Chatham House), online

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Toward a knowledge centric society to Reduce Disaster Risk: Role of Science, Technology and Academic Communities

Monday, 15 September 2014, 8-9.30 hrs

Background

In recent years, disaster risk reduction became one of the important issues in sustainable development not only in the Arab States but across the World. Over the past three decades, the Arab countries have suffered mainly from earthquakes, floods, landslides, storms drought, desertification, climate change and other hazards which constitute critical challenges impeding growth and stability and increasing poverty and vulnerability. The consequent losses of these disasters have shown considerable gaps and deficiencies in disaster risk reduction strategies in the region. As in many recent disasters had their main impact in urban areas where there is a large concentration of people with a heavy dependency on infrastructure and services. The rapid urbanization, population increase, development of critical engineering works, industrialization of cities with modern types of buildings and the concentration of population living in hazardous areas are matter of growing concern, as they are likely to contribute to heavier loss of life and seriously increasing the economic losses in future disaster damage.

During the last two decades, the paradigm shift in disaster management from response and rehabilitation to disaster risk reduction has been taking deeper roots in several countries. In this context, higher education, hence science and technology, has a crucial role to play. In general sense, higher education includes the entire spectrum of education and research in higher education institutions and other technical and professional organizations across a variety of subjects and disciplines. Higher education institutions contribute to disaster risk reduction in two broad ranges. In one hand, they assure the capacity building of a critical mass of knowledgeable people and generate awareness, promote strategic thinking and create tomorrow's DRR managers holding key positions in various sectors. On the other hand, higher education institutions are permanently engaged in research on various subjects and across disciplines which enhance human knowledge in understanding the causes and consequences of the disasters. This allows the development of new methodologies, models, tools and technologies for better disaster risk reduction and also shifting from being an information centric society to a knowledge centric society.

Given the coalescence in 2015 of three major international instruments, namely the Hyogo Framework for Action on building resilience to disasters; the Sustainable Development Goals; and the 2015 climate agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change are under discussion, there needs to be an immediate step change in the use of science in these international efforts. In March 2014 a meeting was held where a joint Statement was developed on establishing an international science advisory mechanism for disaster risk reduction to strengthen resilience for the post-2015 agenda and on their commitment to work together to ensure science, engineering and technology are embedded into disaster risk management (Arabic translation is [here](#)). This statement, which was prepared in partnership with UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group, presents an action agenda for disaster risk reduction and resilience strengthening. The agenda proposes to:

- (i) Champion and reinforce existing and future programmes and initiatives for integrated research and the scientific assessment of disaster risk; and
- (ii) Establish and promote an international science advisory mechanism for disaster risk reduction to strengthen the evidence base to effectively reduce disaster risk and enhance resilience.

At the 1st Preparatory Committee Meeting (PREPCOM) for the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 14-15 July 2014, Geneva, many governments, including the Statement from the League of Arab States, were requesting more support for science, knowledge transfer, databases, monitoring and analysis. In addition the statement from the UN: 'Joint UN Statement – 1st Preparatory Committee Meeting (PREPCOM) for the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 14-15 July 2014, Geneva' (UNISDR 2014e) which stated that '*Strengthening science and research that informs disaster risk reduction policy and practice. In this regard, the UN system supports the proposed creation of an international science advisory mechanism to strengthen the evidence base for the implementation and monitoring of the new framework*'

Objectives

This session examines a timely issue on a timely topic indeed: higher education, science and technology, in disaster risk reduction. In this context, the session intends to deal with the complex disaster risk reduction challenges that require the involvement simultaneously in an integrated way of various disciplines and need to be addressed at different levels.

It deals also with disaster risk achievements in the Arab states that have been realized during HFA implementation harnessing academic, scientific and technological capabilities in collaboration with various stakeholders.

It intends to identify which of the previous scientific and technological initiatives that should be carried out through to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and how it can support the establishment of an international science advisory mechanism.

Similarly, the session attempts to visualise new emerging risk challenges and opportunities for the forthcoming period that should guide the future scientific and technological collaborations in Arab states, which should be included into the post-2015 DRR framework where Science should be a catalyst leader for a safer world.

The session will discuss how higher education institutions can strengthen scientific networks, as Periperi U network in Africa, among disaster experts, managers, planners, policy and decision makers as well as civil society across sectors and between countries, helping the transfer.

It is envisaged that UNISDR would play a key facilitative role in such networks at global, regional and country level.

Questions to Guide Discussion

1. How do we improve the science and policy dialogue to ensure that decisions are informed by science? Examples?
2. How can we better understand the cost and benefits of disaster risk reduction?
3. How can we better understand the linkages between conflict, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development?
4. What are the top three science related issues, important to building local resilience to disasters that needs to be further addressed in a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction?

Programme:

The proposed programme will be structured in three parts.

- The first session will illustrate on HFA in Arab States from the perspective of academic, scientific and technology communities and will also integrate a vision of the disaster risk challenges and opportunities for future academic, science and technology collaborations.
- The following session will present examples of successful, sustainable collaborations and partnerships, if any, in Arab states between academic, science and technology actors with communities, local and national governments, international partners and private sector that have generated risk-reducing outcomes and contributed to the co-production of risk-knowledge.
- In the concluding session, there will be specific focus on determining any previous science, technology and academic elements from HFA to be carried forward to the post-2015 DRR framework as well as identifiable future academic, scientific and technology collaborations possibly via an international science advisory mechanism and related recommendations.

Outcomes:

- Key recommendations for Arab States’ contribution to the post-2015 framework for DRR.
- Stakeholder voluntary commitments to the proposed recommendations.

Reporting

The above will be presented, ‘Stakeholder Consultation Reports’, by a representative from the stakeholder group.

- The group should identify a reporter for taking notes and for reporting on the outcomes

Agenda

Chair / Moderator: Prof. Dr. Virginia Murray, Public Health Consultant for Global Disaster Risk Reduction, Public Health England and vice-chair of the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group, UK (TBC)

1. Framing the Role of Scientific, Technical & Academic Communities in Advancing DRR in Arab States	Prof. Dr. Djillali BENOUAR, Built Environment Research Labs (LBE), University of Science & Technology Houari Boumediene (USTHB), Algeria
2. Academic hubs: The role of academic institutions in driving forward sustainable risk reduction	Prof. Dr. Jalal Al Dabeek, Director of Urban Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction Center, An-Najah National University, Palestine
3. Disasters Management and Sustainable Development	Dr. Ahmed Badawi, Head of Egyptian national seismic network at National Research Institute for Astronomic and Geophysics (NRIAG), Egypt
4. Integrated Disaster Risk Science as a tool for sustainability	Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Klein, Executive Director, International Integrated Research on Disaster Risk, Beijing, China
5. Post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and the establishment of an International Science Advisory Mechanism	Prof. Dr. Virginia Murray, Public Health Consultant for Global Disaster Risk Reduction, Public Health England and vice-chair of the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group, UK

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Towards Informed Risk-Sensitive Development

Monday 15 September 2014 - 9.30-11 h – Room

Background

The Arab region is still characterized by the lack of comprehensive overviews on the risks and the real impact of “natural” disasters. Evidence on natural hazards, vulnerabilities, exposure, resulting in disaster risks and related losses and damages is mostly scattered. This session contribute to improve this session and illustrate recent findings on global and regional risk drivers and disaster impact in Arab States to better assess the full extent of the challenges faced in this field in the region.

It will also permit to share good risk governance practices from Algeria, Djibouti and Japan as an inspiration to move towards more risk-sensitive development practices in the region.

Interventions will make the macro-economic case for DRR, revealing direct versus indirect losses and through information from a new study in Islamic States. A summary of an on-going Regional analysis of disaster losses and damages in Arab States as well as work on probabilistic risk assessment in Djibouti will be presented. Examples from Japan and Algeria will reveal good practices in risk governance.

Expected outcome

The session is expected to equip Arab conference participants with new statistics on disaster impact and innovative ways to incorporate DRR in national policies. It is expected to conclude with Arab recommendations for the post-2015 framework for DRR with special focus on risk evidence, risk informed programming and overall risk governance in Arab States and worldwide.

Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter
9.30-9.35	Opening	
	Chair: Mrs. Lea Valaulta Naamneh, Country Director Iraq and Jordan and Deputy Regional Director, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)	
	Key note speech by H.E Gen. Adel Labib , Minister of Local Development, Egypt	

Disaster Risk Trends and Investments for a Safer Future		
9.35-9.45	Towards Informed Risk Sensitive Development	Mr. Marc Gordon, Risk Knowledge Section, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
9.45-9.55	Economic Impacts of Disasters in Arab States	Dr. Kenan Bagci, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries.
9.55-10.05	The Role of the Islamic Development Bank in Financing DRM Strategies and Programs in Member Countries	Dr. Azhari Gasim Ahmad, Lead Economist, Islamic Development Bank
10.05-10.10	Q&A	Chair
10.10-10.20	Disaster risk losses and damages in Arab States	Mr. Hicham Ezzine, Senior DRM consultant, Morocco
10.20-10.25	Q&A	Chair
Risk Governance for Resilience and Risk Reduction		
10.25-10.35	Japan Risk Governance Setup	Dr. TAKEYA Kimio, Visiting Senior Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency
10.35-10.45	Algeria`s experience in disaster risk management	Dr. Mohamed Belazougui, Director, National Centre for Applied Seismic Engineering, Algeria
10.45-11.00	Q&A followed by formulations of recommendations	Chair

Rapporteur: Marc Gordon, UNISDR Geneva

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Monday, 15 September 2014 - 11:30 – 13:30 – Main Hall

Climate risks and the changing landscape of food security **in the Arab Region**

1. According to Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (2007 and 2012)³, **North Africa and Middle East** countries are projected to experience an increase of up to 3°C to 5°C in mean temperatures and 20% decline in precipitation by the end of this century. Due to lower precipitation, water run-off is projected to drop by 20% to 30% by 2050. Reduced stream flow and groundwater recharge might lead to a reduction in water supply of 10% or greater by 2050. As a result, a reduction of groundwater levels by over 40% is expected towards the end of the century in Mediterranean coastal areas exacerbating the existing severe water scarcity. Severe drought, already a major concern in the sub-region, could increase in frequency, leading to further land degradation and desertification. Flood events could increase in frequency exposing up to 25 million urban residents. Effects of climate change would also raise sea levels and threaten the coastal areas with an increasing risk of marine inundation and coastal erosion and causing millions of people to be displaced.
2. Drought has become a common phenomenon with increases in frequency, intensity and duration. Recent studies indicate that the temperature rise intensifies the severity of drought because of increases in evaporation, which in turn worsens desertification, land degradation and poverty, and increases the frequency and severity of sand and dust storms. The region already witnesses severe negative effects on water security and food security, and some estimates that agricultural output in the Arab region as a whole would be reduced by 25% by 2080⁴. Food production alone will not be affected, but indeed all four dimensions of food security: food availability, accessibility, stability, and use. The region currently imports 50% of its food at a mounting cost⁵. What makes it more alarming is the fact that the most important food-exporting countries in the world are suffering from higher risk of drought and any policies pursued in these countries to manage the increased risk of drought will affect food security in the Arab region.
3. To address the impact of these risks on food security systems, Arab nations committed to an Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020, which highlights environmental degradation, rapid unplanned urbanization, acute water scarcity, a changing demography and migration trends as specific issues. This is aligned with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) which highlights the need to

³ IPCC, 2012. Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation. A Special Report of Working Groups I and II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change & IPCC, 2007. Fourth Assessment Report on climate Change

⁴ Cline, W., 2007. Global Warming and Agriculture, Impact Estimates by Country, Peterson Institute for International Economics

⁵ IFPRI, 2010. Middle East and North Africa Strategy

“promote food security as an important factor in insuring the resilience of communities to hazards, particularly in areas prone to drought, floods, cyclones and other hazards that can weaken agriculture-based livelihood”. The ongoing consultations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction seek to promote the needs to maintain and improve efforts to address nations’ resilience focusing on specific areas, namely understanding disaster risk; strengthening governance to manage disaster risk; preparedness for response, recovery and reconstruction; and investing in social, economic, and environmental resilience.

4. In the Arab region, challenges identified through the consultation process⁶ include the lack of political will and limited leadership for disaster risk reduction; negative effects of climate change and the worsening of water security and food security; unplanned urban growth and rapid urbanization with lack of risk reduction standards and measures; weakness of the published scientific research and reviews; lack of a strong disaster risk reduction culture and weak stakeholder participation; and finally, low prioritisation for funding of disaster risk reduction;
5. Against this background and in support of the League of Arab States and the regional partners, Action against Hunger (ACF), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) are hosting a session during the Second Regional Platform (Sharm El Sheikh, 14-16 September 2014) that will seek to provide governments and other stakeholders evidence-based understanding of key risks, challenges and opportunities in the region in terms of the current situation and which policy actions and recommendations are relevant for a food secure future.
6. This session is built on three modules addressing the main challenges identified for food and nutrition security regarding climate change challenges across the region, as:

a) Understanding disaster risk and the underlying risks drivers to food insecurity

Rapid urbanization, environmental degradation, water scarcity, changing demographics and migration trends, the high dependency of food imports with exposure to food prices and volatility, as well as risks associated with social instability and population displacement, all present critical challenges for the Arab region. These interconnected challenges and risks have a negative impact on the capabilities of the Arab countries to undertake effective disaster risk reduction and management. However, and at the same time, the nature of these risks and how they can be addressed may also be an important way to reduce the vulnerability and exposure to disasters. In this context, climate change acts as a threat multiplier exacerbating already-existing vulnerabilities with severe environmental, economic and political repercussions that affect not only the national and regional security but also the human security of the Arab citizen itself.

b) Addressing water scarcity and drought issues to strengthen food and nutrition security;

The Arab Region is the most water scarce region in the world. More than 70% of the land is dry and rainfall is sparse and poorly distributed. By the end of the 21st century, Arab countries are

⁶ UNISDR, 2013. Synthesis report: Consultations on a post-2015 framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2)

predicted to experience an alarming 25% decrease in precipitation and a 25% increase in evaporation rates leading to a 30–50 percent drop in water availability and exacerbating the existing severe water scarcity (IPCC, 2007). Floods and drought hazard are likely to be more frequent and intense, exposing up to 25 million urban dwellers to disaster risk and presenting a serious threat to the human security in the region (UNDP, 2009). The region already witnesses the severe negative effects on water security and food security, and some estimates that agricultural output in the Arab region as a whole would be reduced by 21% by 2080, with a drop of up to 40% in parts of North Africa.

c) Improving capacities to address food security issues through an integrated approach of disaster risk reduction.

In most of the Arab countries, if not all, there is no national institution responsible for disaster risk reduction, which has capacity and potential for the implementation of programs, and the necessary authority to make decisions and identify the roles and responsibilities of disaster risk reduction at all levels to promote accountability, starting at the local/ community level and ending with the local and national authorities, which are the decision makers. The high degree of centralization in decision-making, undermines the local authority, hinders the local participation in decision-making processes, and weakens the relationship between citizens and the local government. As well as not considering the disaster risk reduction a cross-cutting issue that should be integrated in all sectors. In this context and under a changing climate, achieving food security requires substantial increases in capacities to cope with the risk of disasters. Building a stronger integrated approach of DRR is fundamental to bridge the distance between citizens and local/national governments, to demonstrate that food security is a key driver for socioeconomic development and by managing risks through a participatory approach.

AGENDA

Climate risks and the changing landscape of food security in the Arab Region	
Time	Module / speaker
11:30	Session introduction
11:35	Linkages between DRR and CCA highlighted in IPCC SREX Report and IPCC WGII input to the 5th AR focused on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability Presented by Prof. Virginia Murray, Consultant in Global Disaster Risk Reduction at the Public Health England

Coordinating Lead Authors in IPCC's SREX

11:50 **Challenge 1: Understanding disaster risk and the underlying risk drivers to food insecurity**

Presented by Prof. Wadid Erian,

Senior Advisor for DRR and Climate Change, LAS

Lead Author in IPCC's SREX

12:00 **Challenge 2: Addressing water scarcity and drought issues to strengthen food and nutrition security**

Presented by Dr. Hammou Laamrani

Advisor for the Adaptation to Climate Change in the Water Sector in the MENA Region, LAS

12:10 **Challenge 3: Improving capacities to address food security issues through an integrated approach of disaster risk reduction**

Presented by Dr. Ayman Al-Ouda,

Leader of Conservation Agriculture Program, ACSAD Syria

12:20 **Discussion for the formulation of strategic and policy oriented recommendations relevant for the region to give guidance to the post-HFA regarding food and nutrition security issues for the most vulnerable systems and people in the Arab region.**

Moderated by Dr. Carlo Scaramella, WFP Regional Deputy Director - regional bureau for North Africa, Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe

Expert panellists: above presenters + Mme. Lucia Oliveira, ACF Spain Country Director in Egypt; Dr. Pasquale Steduto, FAO Regional Deputy Director - regional bureau for the Near East.

13:30 **Lunch Break**

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Day 2: Monday 15 September 2014, Time: 14:30 – 16:00

Title: High Level Dialogue on Role of Governments (National and Local) in Building Resilience and Reducing Disaster Risk

The Arab region is one of the most urbanized regions in the world and the trend is increasing. The situation is compounded by a number of factors including population growth, struggling economies and unplanned urbanization. Some Arab countries have mega urban centres that are burdened with extreme urban poverty, informal settlements and slums, which are often built with no planned expansion and in high risk zones.

Many Arab cities have taken initiatives to mobilize their counterparts nationally and to raise awareness and political commitments on disaster resilience, while others have also succeeded in institutionalizing disaster risk reduction at the local administrative level thus guaranteeing allocation of resources and implementation of strategic planning and projects on DRR. However, there are still big gaps faced by cities to boost resources and capacities of DRR at local level and develop local sustainable strategies for DRR.

Several regional, national and local consultations took place in the Arab region to discuss the challenges and good practices of DRR thus far and the expectations from a post-2015 DRR framework. These consultations have particularly considered the DRR context of the Arab region with focus on governance, accountability, coordination mechanisms and the role of local governments.

Building on the ongoing consultative process, there is a need to still highlight the issues pertaining to increasing risks in Arab cities and the need for a strong engagement of local governments to better equip them with capacity, resources and knowledge to effectively lead DRR actions at local level. Most Arab cities, particularly small municipalities lack political authority to plan and implement disaster risk reduction programmes. These cities require more support from the central government.

This high level dialogue will bring together leaders from national and local governments to illustrate the gaps and challenges faced in the Arab region as it pertains to disaster risk reduction practice. Participants may also make recommendations to be reflected in the post-2015 DRR agenda as well as in national and local infrastructure development planning. The high level speakers will be invited to propose forward looking steps to ensure that national-local coordination efforts in the Arab region are strengthened, supported and financed.

Moderator: *Mr.Hosam AlSokkari*, President, MeSocial.me

Speakers:

- H.E. Margareta Wahlström, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction
- H.E. Fatimetou Abdel Malick, Mayor of TeveraghZeina, Mauritania
- H.E. Musa Hadid, Mayor of Ramallah, Palestine

- H.E Mohamad Sadek Abo Watfa, Deputy Minister of Local Administration, Syria
- H.E. Omar Hamzeh, Director General of Municipalities, Ministry of Interior, Lebanon.
- Mr. Khalifa Al-Kaabi, Head of Unit, NCEMA

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Children and Youth Input to the DRR Dialogue and the post-2015 Agenda: MENA Children and Youth Messages on Disasters, Climate Change and Conflict

Monday, 15 September 2014, 16:00 – 17:45 – Main Hall

Organized in cooperation with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Save the Children International, World Vision International, International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Health Organization (WHO) and the Major Group on Children and Youth

Introduction

As a contribution to the global consultations for the post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action 2 agenda, Children and Youth in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region have been consulted on their experiences and views on how natural hazards, climate change and conflict and displacement affect their lives, their communities and their future. At least 1,800 children participated in various focus group discussions in nine countries (Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Sudan), which were facilitated by Children in a Changing Climate (CCC) Coalition members Save the Children International, UNICEF and World Vision International, together with IOM and WHO through their regional and country offices. The output from across the nine countries is a set of key messages that they wish to bring to their governments in the 2nd Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. They will deliver their voices through 6 key messages covering the following thematic areas: 1. Equality and Protection; 2. Conflict and Displacement; 3. Governance; 4. Children Engagement; 5. Comprehensive School Safety; and 6. Climate Change and Water scarcity.

MENA Children and youth's messages are linked to the 5 Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) Priorities of Action and the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction – which recognizes youth's role as a key stakeholder as well as driver for change - and the Major Group of Children and Youth Statement at the First Preparatory Committee (PrepCom1) of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which will take place in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015.

Objectives

In view of the above, the session will have the following objectives:

1. Articulate Children and Youth voices as well as Children in a Changing Climate (CCC) Coalition regional consultation results with children and youth in MENA.
2. Launch the MENA Children and Youth Key Messages on Disaster Risk Reduction as a contribution to the 2nd Arab Conference on DRR declaration on the post-2015 framework for DRR (HFA2).
3. Present trends and development as well as recommendations on how disaster, climate change and conflict/displacement affect children and youth in the region on key thematic areas.

Expected outcome

Expected outcome of the session is the adoption of the MENA Children and Youth Statement on DRR as a contribution to the definition of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and the Third World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction agenda, which serves to strengthen children and youth position as agents of change.

1. Endorsement of the MENA Children and Youth Statement by the LAS member states and/or Arab Conference participants
2. Strengthened commitment and subsequent action to support children and youth engagement as agents of change

Methodology

The session will use the following to engage audience and stakeholders:

- 1) Thematic presentations by the technical experts/specialists on key areas such as DRR and Governance; DRR and Conflict; Climate Change and Water Scarcity and Impact on Children’s Health; and DRR and Education;
- 2) Youth representative from Major Group of Children and Youth to articulate joint key messages on DRR from regional consultations; and
- 3) Film presentation of children and youth voices in consulted countries in the region.

Key points for discussion

1. What do children and youth from Arab countries say about how they are affected by natural and climate-induced hazards, conflict and displacement?
2. What are the trends and emerging risk patterns as well as opportunities for children and youth on DRR in the region?
3. How can we strengthen partnerships, commitments and practical actions for children and youth on DRR?

Agenda

Time	Programme	Speaker/Facilitator
16:00 – 16:10	Opening of the Session	Chair: Mrs. InasS. Mekkawy,

		Head of Women, Family and Childhood Department, League of Arab States (LAS) Key note speech by : H.E. Dr Adel Adawi, Minister of Health and Population, Egypt
16:10-16:18	DRR Governance for Children and Youth	Dr.Fadi Hamdan, Managing Director, DRMC
16:19-16:27	DRR and Conflict (Child Protection Focus)	Miled AbouJaoude, Programme Design & Quality Director, Save the Children International ,Lebanon Country Office
16:28-16:36	Open Forum	CCC Moderator
16:37 – 16:45	DRR and Education	Antony Spalton, DRR Specialist, UNICEF New York/Middle East and North Africa Regional Office
16:46 – 16:54	Climate Change, Water Scarcity and Impact on Health	Dr. MariaLuizaGaler, Emergency and Humanitarian Action Coordinator, World Health Organization Sudan
16:55- 17:05	Children and DRR Voices film presentation	Children in a Changing Climate (CCC) Coalition
17:06-17:15	MENA Children and Youth Statement	Mr. Majid Shangab, Youth Representative of Major Children and Youth Group (MGCY)
17:16-17:40	Reactions from the floor	CCC Moderator Government Response: Ms. RudainaFahimHalasa, Head of Protection Section, Ministry of Education, Jordan
17:40 – 17:45	Synthesis and Session Closing	Session Chair

Contact:

For more on the session and the CCC, you may contact the regional coordination group:

- Kathlyn Kissy Sumaylo, UNICEF MENARO: ksumaylo@unicef.org (Focal point)
- [Elsa Carnaby, World Vision International: elsa_carnaby@wvi.org](mailto:elsa_carnaby@wvi.org)
- [Soso Bagashvili, Save the Children International: soso.bagashvili@savethechildren.org](mailto:soso.bagashvili@savethechildren.org)

For social media and communications:

- Simine Alam, Save the Children International: simine.alam@savethechildren.org (Focal point)
- Inas Hamam, World Health Organization: hamami@who.int

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SIDE EVENT: Climate Change in Cities

Session convened and organized by the Participatory Development Programme in Urban Areas / GIZ (Egypt)

Date: 15 September 2014

Time: 17:45 - 19:00

Venue: Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

A. PROGRAM

I. Opening: “Climate Change & Resilience from an urban perspective - how cities can act to achieve international, national and local targets of sustainability.”

Mr. Carl Philipp Schuck, Head of Component “Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience in Informal Urban Areas”, Participatory Development Programme in Urban Areas, GIZ, Egypt
[10’]

II. “Urban Profiles”: Cairo/Egypt, Petra/Jordan and Ramallah/Palestine present their resilience concepts to climate change & disaster risks.

- H.E General Mohamed Al Bendary – Secretary General of Cairo Governorate
- *Eng. Hussein Alhasanat*, Director of Planning (Petra Dev. & Tourism Reg. Authority), City of Petra
- *Eng. Musa Hadid*, Mayor, City of Ramallah
- *Mr. Abderrahm Amor*, Mayor and President of the Environment Commission of the Regional Council of Souss Massa Draa Rural Municipality of Irigh N’ TahalaTafraout Morocco

[10’ each]

III. Panel Discussion: Key issues of urban adaptation and resilience.

[20’]

IV. Questions from the audience & Lessons learnt(for post-2015 Arab position for DRR)

[15’]

facilitated by:

Mr. Saber Osman, Technical Advisor “Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience in Informal Urban Areas”, Participatory Development Programme in Urban Areas, GIZ, Egypt

B. SUMMARY & KEY QUESTIONS

Two overarching phenomena progressively inform the Arab region’s development trajectory in the 21st century, namely rapid urbanization and climate change. Climate change has become a global reality and is now being regarded as one of the world’s top challenges while its impact is being felt in all countries around the globe, though with different impacts and on different scales. The Arab region stands to be one of the most affected by climate change, often felt as extreme weather events. While the region’s

urban population continues to grow, **climate change will have a significant impact on the future development of Arab cities.**

Despite urban areas are being particularly vulnerable to climate change cities also have enormous **opportunities to adapt to impacts of climate change**, increase their resilience and mitigate disaster risks. Examples for this include the cities of Cairo (Egypt), Petra (Jordan) and Ramallah (Palestine), all with different urbanization patterns and challenges of dealing with climate change.

Key to success in fighting climate change induced hazardous impacts on the cities' infrastructure, economy and public health is a **distinct shift in urban policies** which help to prioritize the local authorities' and civil societies' support to urban communities most vulnerable to a variety of disaster risks. Another success is a **participatory, people-oriented approach** where residents and civil society organizations become familiar with the concepts of climate change adaptation, urban resilience and disaster risk management, and where they can actively contribute to the implementation of their city's resilience action plans.

The side event will be referring to these aspects through a two-part presentation and discussion of relevant questions:

Key questions to which representatives of the cities of Cairo, Petra and Ramallah are invited to respond during their **"Urban Profiles" presentation** include:

- 1) What are your city's experiences with climate change having an impact on the frequency and/or intensity of disasters?
- 2) Does your city have high risk areas? What are their physical and social features? Which risks threaten their residents?
- 3) Is your city able to cope with the growth of urban population? What does this mean for your disaster risk management and your means of adaptation to climate change?
- 4) Which step recently taken proved to be successful for making your city's residents aware of impacts of climate change on their livelihoods and disaster risks challenging their lives?
- 5) Has your city been one of the signing members of the Aqaba Declaration on DRR? Which elements have you managed to resolve?

Key questions that will be raised during the **panel discussion** include:

- 1) How does your city manage to gather information about urban vulnerabilities and the city's potentials to adapt to climate change impacts?
- 2) How do you ensure that residents in urban settlements prone to disaster risks become aware of climate change impacts?
- 3) What kind of projects of supporting resilience and adaptation has your city implemented so far? What went well, what needs improvement?
- 4) How do you in your city interact with civil society? And do you partner with other cities on the projects you just mentioned?
- 5) Which lessons would you like to feed into the post-2015 Arab position for DRR?

The **objectives** of the side event "Climate Change in Cities" are:

- to highlight the cities' needs and potentials to increase their resilience to climate change affected disaster risks;
- to build partnerships between different cities' actors dealing with impacts of climate change;
- to feed in lessons and experiences from Arab cities into the post-2015 Arab position for DRR.

For questions related to organization and content of this event please refer to:

Mr. Saber Osman, Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); +20 1277888283;
saber.osman@giz.de

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**UN Delivering as One for Disaster Risk Reduction:
Implementing the UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience**

Tuesday, 16 September 2014 - 8:00 – 9:30 – Room Summit

- *Session open for all interested Arab Conference delegates* –

UN Plan of Action available at: http://www.preventionweb.net/files/33703_actionplanweb14.06cs1.pdf

Background

Experience demonstrates that the United Nations is an effective partner to support countries' and communities' efforts to reduce disaster and climate risk. With the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience adopted in 2013, the UN formalized its commitment to work jointly with national and local authorities and communities to adapt to new realities and changing risk scenarios and to anchor disaster risk in their sustainable development plans and programmes.

The leadership of UN Resident Coordinators, the strategic and principle-based nature of the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF), combined with the sectoral and technical expertise of UN agencies; all form the basis of the UN's work on disaster risk reduction. The UN is also aligning its humanitarian engagement in Arab States with national development aspirations to enable communities to be effectively prepared and to manage their basic needs in the aftermath of crisis and ensure that response and recovery efforts place them on a path towards sustainable development.

The session "UN Delivering as One for DRR – Implementing the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience" provides an opportunity for delegates and partners to understand how the UN can assist national and local efforts to reduce disaster and climate risk. The Panel will provide examples of current practices in Arab States and the commitment and principles that guide the UN's country level work with regard to disaster risk and resilience building.

Guiding questions for discussion

1. How can the UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience provide an effective mechanism to strengthen coordination and UN Delivering as One?

2. How can the UN be a catalyst for change that sets disaster risk reduction as a principle for sustainable development?
3. What are the replicable models for exiting the poverty/disaster/humanitarian assistance spiral? How can the UN assist?
4. How does implementation of the UN Plan need to be adapted in the Arab region where many countries are frequently faced with conflict and instability?
5. What are participants' recommendations for the post-2015 framework for DRR and the role of the UN therein?

Outcomes

The outcomes of the 2nd Arab Conference for DRR should include a strong call on the UN system to:

- 1) Promote inclusion of disaster risk reduction at all levels as a fundamental strategy and holistic approach for sustainable development
- 2) Converge around and implement the actions set-out in the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience adapted to Arab States context

Agenda

Time	Topic	Responsible/ Comments
8.00-8.10	Introduction of the UN Plan of Action	Margareta Wahlström Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG)
8.10-8.20	Inter-agency efforts in Arab States to implement the UN Plan of Action in Arab States	Amjad Abbashar, Head, Regional Office for Arab States, UNISDR
8.20-8.30	DRR to build resilience in Arab States - How to implement the UN Plan in the particular context of Arab States?	Alia A.G. Al-Dalli, Manager, Regional Centre Cairo, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
8.30-8.40	Integration of DRR in WFP's strategic planning and programming	Carlo Scaramella, Deputy Director, WFP Regional Bureau for North Africa, Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe
8.40-8.50	Reflections of UN RC on Plan of Action roll-out in the region: Needs and expectations by UN country teams	Cristina Amaral, UN Resident Coordinator Algeria
8.50-9.15	Debate	SRSG Margareta Wahlström
9.15-9.30	Conclusion – definition of recommendations for post-2015 agenda and next steps in UN Plan of Action roll out in	Margareta Wahlström Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG)

	Arab States	Amjad Abbashar, Head, Regional Office for Arab States, UNISDR Lars Bernd, Regional Programme Officer, UNISDR
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The Second Arab Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (14-16 September 2014)

Session: The Role of women as Change Agents for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

Organized by: UN Women, UNFPA, and UNISDR

Time: Tuesday 16/9/2014 from 09:30 to 11:00

Context:

Building the resilience of nations and communities require social, economic and environmental investments. A number of countries involve women and men actively in disaster risk management and planning and have integrated gender dimensions into risk reduction and response plans. However, women and their role as change agents in their societies are often overlooked in the disaster context, where they are often categorized as vulnerable groups.

To further the role of women in the context of disaster risk management locally and nationally, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA) recognized gender perspective and called for it to be *“integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making process, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management, education and training.”* However, progress reported over the past decade on the implementation of HFA indicates that gender-disaggregated data on losses, vulnerabilities and capacities still lacking or weak and the contributions of women and girls, visible especially at community level, remain largely isolated from government, private sector and multi-stakeholder decision-making in disaster risk reduction.

In the Arab region, women empowerment faces several challenges and any progress on gender equality is often impeded by female illiteracy and low rates of labor-force engagement. Women are also often absent from decision-making processes in the disaster management context in the Arab region, while they play a pivotal role in community resilience and social cohesion.

The 1st Arab Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Aqaba, Jordan in March 2013, called for “women to be agents of change and to be viewed as such”. It also stated that “there is a need to move beyond the perception of placing women in the “vulnerable” category and start actively involving them in the disaster risk reduction process”. Furthermore, globally, the gender dimensions and the role of women are recognized in the preparatory process for a post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework to ensure that women will be viewed as change agents and will be included in resourcing and managing disaster risk plans and policies.

Session objectives:

1. To explore the role of women as change agents for disaster risk reduction in the Arab region including identification of critical challenges and vision to enhance women role and improve gender equality in the context of risk reduction and community resilience.

2. To provide examples of good practices in the Arab region that have worked to increase women's participation in efforts and approaches to disaster risk reduction and resilience. This may include initiatives related to civic engagement to build community resilience, livelihoods and food / water security, preparedness and disaster response, environmental protection, etc.

Expected Outcome:

Better understanding of the role that women and girls do and can play in disaster risk reduction decision making at local, national and Arab regional level, and why their engagement lead to improved resilience and sustainable development.

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Event: Effective Preparedness for Disasters

Date: 16 September, 2014

Time: 11:30-13:00

Location: Main Hall (Summit)



OCHA

This paper describes OCHA's corporate position to be promoted during the HFA2 consultation process that culminates in the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan, on 14-18 March 2015.

1. OCHA's Perspective on the Current Hyogo Framework for Action

- Since 2005, the HFA has achieved substantive outcomes on the two priority areas most closely related to OCHA's mandate: Priority 2 (Enhance early warning) and priority 5 (Strengthen preparedness for effective response). Priority 4 (Reduce underlying risks) has been the most challenging area, as it requires long-term development efforts and related investments.
- For those weather-related hazards where early warning is possible, disaster preparedness and response have contributed to a downward trend in mortality risk.⁷ However, other disasters, such as earthquakes and tsunami, continue to cause massive loss of life.
- Emerging themes for HFA2 are: (future) *risk prevention*, (existing) *risk reduction* and strengthened *resilience* (i.e. actions that enable nations and communities to manage losses, anticipate, mitigate and prepare for crisis, minimize the number of deaths and people affected, and get back to normal as quickly as possible).⁸

2. OCHA's Position is that HFA2 needs to include clear references to early warning, preparedness and response

OCHA will work with partners to ensure that; (i) people are better able to withstand shocks; (ii) Governments are aware of risks, are well prepared, and are able to respond to disasters quickly and

⁷UNISDR. *Proposed Elements of Consideration in the Post -2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*. 17 December 2013. p. 2.

⁸*Ibid.*, p. 7. Paragraph 34.

effectively, and (iii) international (and regional) assistance is provided quickly, efficiently and appropriately.⁹

OCHA's new study "*Saving Lives Today and Tomorrow*" highlights the need for increased investment in risk management. The number of people receiving international humanitarian assistance has almost doubled over the last decade. Today, protracted crises, usually related to conflicts, and disasters induced by natural hazards demand ever greater provision of aid. Therefore, from OCHA's perspective, the focus needs to remain on helping people and governments to respond as effectively as possible. They need to make use of available risk management tools to do so.

Major disasters will continue to occur, demanding effective coordinated multilateral response. Thus, *swift and timely response is an important contributing factor for sustainable development*. When humanitarian relief is delivered quickly and critical needs are addressed immediately, communities are better placed to focus on recovering from the initial shock and getting back to normal as quickly as possible. As a consequence, coping mechanisms are not eroded and the ability to bounce back is strengthened – an essential condition for longer term *resilience*, especially for communities facing recurring disasters.

Therefore, it is OCHA's position that early warning, preparedness and response should be included in the HFA2 as a distinctive set of priorities (as integral elements of overall disaster risk management), in addition to other key development concerns.

3. OCHA's Four Key Messages for the HFA2 Consultation Process

OCHA will seize opportunities for advocacy, both at working and senior management level, together with follow-up actions of the senior leaders. This includes contributions to the regional consultations in Almaty, Abuja, Guayaquil, Suva, Bangkok, Sharm El Sheikh and Madrid, as well as the Preparatory Committee Meetings in Geneva in July and November 2014. OCHA will also ensure coherence with other global consultation processes, such as the Climate Summit (New York, 23 September 2014), the post-2015 development agenda (September 2015), COP¹⁰ (Paris, 2015) and the World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul, May 2016).

Message 1: HFA2 needs to include language that recognises the continuing value of preparedness and response as a necessary contributing factor of sustainable development.

Message 2: HFA2 should promote risk management on all hazards through clear articulation that conflicts, disasters, environmental, technological and industrial accidents, food and fuel price hikes and other factors interact in complex ways, with varying impact from one location to another and that the Framework should explicitly respond coherently to these multiple challenges.

Message 3: HFA2 should include predictable funding schemes for emergency preparedness, in addition to, and in line with, those already in place for response.

Message 4: HFA2 should demand changes to the current humanitarian and development systems that promote a comprehensive preparedness approach which places people at the centre and recognizes their needs as the priority of collective action.

4. Proposals for Sendai WCDRR: Linking Sendai and Istanbul

⁹ OCHA Strategic Plan: 2014-2017.

¹⁰ Conference of the Parties (COP) to the 1992 [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC)

A proposal has been forwarded to UNISDR for the consideration of the Bureau (a 10-Member Preparatory Committee with Japan) to promote the development of clear links between the outcome of the WCDRR and two of the four World Humanitarian Summit themes: Humanitarian effectiveness and Reducing vulnerability and managing risk.¹¹

Ministerial Round Table: ‘From Sendai to Istanbul’

- Reaffirm emergency preparedness as a key element of HFA2 and beyond.
- Discuss how HFA2 with better risk management in development practices, can support and catalyse transformation of humanitarian action to respond to the (as yet to be agreed) outcomes of the WCDRR.
- Identify and maximize linkages between Sendai and Istanbul through the two of the WHS themes: humanitarian effectiveness; and reducing vulnerability and managing risks.

In addition, UNISDR informed that UN agencies could express interest to co-organize or engage as speakers to Thematic HFA Sessions. OCHA considers proposing an additional Session.

Thematic HFA Sessions: Priority 5

- Co-organize the session with WFP and member states (tbc)
- Draw lessons from Priority 5, which will ensure that preparedness and response remain key elements in the post-2015 agenda
- To specifically emphasise the importance of preparedness and response as key elements of effective disaster risk reduction

For Reference: HFA (2005-2015) ‘*Building the Resilience of Nation and Communities to Disasters*’

- **Priority 1:** Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation
- **Priority 2:** Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning
- **Priority 3:** Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
- **Priority 4:** Reduce the underlying risk factors
- **Priority 5:** Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

¹¹ This will require accelerated articulation of a clear shared framework that incorporates the outcomes of the WCDRR, UNFCCC, GA Session on SDGs and the WHS.

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Consultation on Civil Society Involvement in DRR in Arab States and Recommendations for a post-2015 Framework for DRR

Tuesday, 16 September 2014, 14:30 – 16:00 – Main Hall

Session organized by the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) - with participation of representatives of Arab civil society organizations (RAED members) active in the field of risk reduction from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen – in cooperation with the Norwegian Refugee Council, Global Network for DRR (GNDRR), World Vision International, and partners.

Introduction

The Arab Conference on DRR 2014 is the key regional event to define the Arab position toward the post-2015 framework for DRR. To this end, it serves to reflect on past to present achievements, but also gaps and challenges in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action and the Arab Strategy for DRR 2020 and related plans and programmes at local, national and regional level. All Arab Conference on DRR sessions contribute to feature progress in and aspirations of Arab stakeholders on DRR for the post-2015 period and until adoption of “HFA2”.

The Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020 (ASDRR 2020) adopted in December 2010 states that civil society organizations, in addition to the private sector will participate in the implementation of the ASDRR by collaborating with authorities at the local, national and regional level and provide coordination and implementation support and guidance in niche sectors as applicable.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) have played important roles over the years in the disaster field. Starting from the traditional approach of response and relief, the emphasis has gradually shifted to disaster risk reduction. From regional NGOs to national and local NGOs, all stakeholders have recognized the significance of and need for community-based risk reduction. In their different capacities, they have endeavored to establish links to the policy options at the local and national levels.

Although, civil society organizations are essential in building community disaster resilience and supporting local-level implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, there are still many issues that remain unaddressed by CSOs, and local CSOs face special challenges in terms of human, financial, and technical resources. There is also significant lack of coordination on DRR within some governments, which results in weak involvement of CSOs in policy making in the Arab region.

Objectives

The aim of this session is to highlight the important role that CSOs could play as a core partner for disaster risk reduction, as illustrated through success stories in the Arab region and other regions.

Specifically the session objectives are to:

1. Contribute to facilitate and include civil society voices in discourse and action on DRR in Arab States at regional but most importantly also national and local level.
2. Develop and adopt recommendations on an Arab regional position and input, especially on the civil society level, towards a post-2015 DRR Global Framework.

Expected outcomes

- Highlight the role of civil society organizations in DRR
- Share best practices and success stories of civil society involvement in Arab region
- Contribute to facilitate further integration of DRR in national and local development and emergency plans.
- Develop an Arab position on civil society level, with concrete practical recommendations to be presented at the 3rd United Nations World Conference on DRR scheduled to take place in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan
- Emphasize the importance of strengthening capacities and available investments to reduce the risk of destructive disasters, especially due to climate change.
- Contribute to identify resources including funding for DRR, which remains a critical challenge facing the Arab region
- Highlight the importance of following a partnership approach with clear specific roles and responsibilities, and effective coordination among all involved actors to enable fuller civil society participation in DRR in Arab States

Key questions for debate

The session seeks to address the following questions:

1. What would civil society highlight as the main achievements against the five priority areas of action of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015?
2. What have been the major challenges in the implementation of community and national level programmes?
3. What is the future role of civil society in Disaster Risk Reduction and strengthening community resilience?
4. What are the commitments of civil society to the post-2015 framework for DRR to promote disaster risk reduction and resilience?
5. How does the community influence the decision-making process in disaster risk reduction?

Key discussion points will address the:

- Institutional capacities of CSOs in the Arab countries (improved governance)
- Roles and responsibilities of all concerned stakeholders through a partnership approach, focusing on the role of CSOs in DRR.
- Building resilience through knowledge, advocacy, research, and awareness raising and training of CSOs.
- Challenges and gaps facing civil society in the Arab region & priority actions for improved and more efficient civil society & community actions to address DRR.

Agenda

Time	Topic	Speakers
14.30-14.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome addresses and opening remarks Introduction of speakers and participants 	Dr. Emad Adly, RAED General Coordinator (Session Facilitator)
14.40-14.50	Engaging CSOs with governmental bodies in policies' reforms concerning vulnerable communities	Dr. Magdy Allam, Chairperson, Arab Union for Youth and Environment
14.50-15.00	Exchange of experience highlighting the role of NRC & presenting displacement models in different regions	Dr. Emad Adly on behalf of Ms. Nina Birkeland, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
15.00-15.10	Presenting the WVI case studies and experience in the Arab Region and / or other regions	Mr. Richard Rumsey, WVI Global DRR Coordinator
15.20-15.30	Action at the Frontline (AFL) : Strengthening CSOs capacities for action to disasters & building community resilience	Mr. Essam Nada, Regional Development Coordinator – Northern Africa & Western Asia Global Network for Disaster Risk Reduction Global Network of Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
15.30-16.00	Debate and adoption of civil society recommendations for DRR in Arab States and post-2015 framework for DRR	All participants