

## **ActionAid International comments on the WCDR Draft Programme Outcome Document of 21<sup>st</sup> December 2004**

### **1. Broad comments**

We endorse the comments by Tearfund on the current WCDR outcome document.

The WCDR outcome document provides a good basis for negotiations with many practical priorities suggested. However, three important elements are missing: a). human and rights/entitlement dimension of disasters reduction, b). reduction of human-induced climate change and finally c). an accountability and reporting mechanism to implement the range of priority suggested.

Almost all the major concerns that civil society experienced as top priorities for disaster reduction are bracketed in the document. It is important that the intergovernmental negotiation should also create a space for civil society to share their experience and contribute to the negotiation.

### **2. Comments on the preamble (para 2-6)**

- The document significantly failed to bring the human dimension of disaster impact to the fore, instead presenting disaster impacts as a technical problem. The preamble section should primarily highlight disasters as a poverty issue; hence any effort should contribute to the alleviation of it. We strongly suggest that a section on ‘poverty and poor people’ should come with specific reference to different groups of vulnerable people based on gender, generation and ability.
- The documents’ still remains at the community as lowest impact level/unit--it should go down to the household level.
- Climate change—it is great shame climate dimension appeared as bracketed issue, we feel this is a significant concession even from the previous version of the document. We join with the arguments made by TearFund on Climate Change.
- The current document (see 1.A) does not adequately address the causes of increased disasters and vulnerability. Para 2 should add polices without considering disaster vulnerability as a factor also increases the disaster problem.

### **3. Specific comments**

- Para 14 (point h bullet 5): specific attention to HIPC countries should be in special consideration—suggested bracket removed. An additional principle must come here that acknowledge ‘protection against disaster risk’ as a right of vulnerable people.
- Para 18 (point iv-1)—management of shared river basin should come as one of the priority action—removal of bracket is suggested.
- Para 20 (point I): Point (a)—bracket removed and should be read as “encourage the sustainable management, equitable access and control and use of natural resources to reduce

disaster risk, vulnerability and enhancement of resilience of poor and marginalized households”. Point (c)—bracket removed.

- Para 27 (point f): this is an important point with unilateral action increases disaster risk--bracket should be removed. And (point f), a reporting mechanism of progress must be in place to monitor the progress.
- Para 29 (point d): the last sentence should read—‘(in addition removed), ensure that disaster risk reduction considerations are fully in consideration in development assistance framework, such as common country assessment, UN development assistance framework, policy advices by the international financial institutions, PRSPs and finally projects financed by IFI and bilateral donors” An additional text is also required here for international financial institutions: ‘IFIs make a real effort to mainstream disaster risk reduction into long term development plans, policy advice and practices. IFI strengthen participatory tools for assessing vulnerability to disasters in order to ensure that their policy and practices reduce people’s vulnerability to disasters and does not create disaster hazards. A prior informed consent from potentially affected households and groups is must before a project and policy is conceptualised and designed and implemented’.
- Para 31 (point c): bracket on climate change adaptation should be removed.

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