

NATIONAL REPORT AND INFORMATION ON DISASTER REDUCTION FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION KOBE – HYOGO, JAPAN, 18 – 22 JANUARY 2005

1.0 POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

1.1 Yes, there is national policy, strategy and legislation addressing disaster risk reduction in the country. The Act 517 of 1996, established the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) and mandated it to manage disasters and similar emergencies in the country. (See Annex 1)* Strategic Disaster Management Plans have been drawn at the National, Regional and District levels to manage disaster risk reduction.

Mechanisms for Implementation of Legislation include:

- Establishment of NADMO offices at National, Regional, District and Zonal levels.
- Drawing of Disaster Management Plans at National, Regional and District levels.
- Establishment of Technical Committees on disaster-types.
- Co-ordinating the activities of collaborating agencies for disaster management.

1.2 Yes, the National Disaster Management Organisation is the national body for multi-sectoral co-ordination and collaboration in disaster risk reduction.

Structure

The National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) is under the Ministry of the Interior. Its governing council is the National Security Council.

* Act 517 is under review

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The Organisation is headed by a National Co-ordinator at the Headquarters.

It has ten (10) Regional Offices, one hundred and ten (140) District Offices and nine hundred (900) Zonal Offices headed by Regional, District and Zonal Co-ordinators respectively.

NADMO has a National Disaster Management Committee and Technical Committees as well as Regional and District Disaster Committees. (See Annex 2)

Functions

The main objective of the Organisation as stipulated in the Act is to manage disasters and similar emergencies in the country.

Specific functions include:

- a) Preparing national disaster plans for preventing and mitigating the consequences of disasters;
- b) Monitor, evaluate and update national disaster plans;
- c) Ensure the establishment of adequate facilities for technical training and the institution of educational programmes to provide public awareness, warning systems and general preparedness for its staff and the general public;
- d) Ensure that there are appropriate and adequate facilities for the provision of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction after any disaster;
- e) Co-ordinate local and international support for disaster or emergency control relief services and reconstruction;
- f) Perform any other functions that are incidental to the functions specified;
- g) Social Mobilisation for poverty reduction.

1.3 Yes, there are sectoral plans/initiatives that incorporate risk reduction concepts into each respective development area. Examples:

- The National Fire Service Plan
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Plan
- Tema Oil Refinery Plan
- Ghana National Petroleum Company Plan
- National Building Regulation
- Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Ghana Armed Forces
- Ghana Police Service
- Ghana Health Services
- Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Challenges / limitations encountered include:

- Lack of effective co-ordination
- Lack of integration and harmonization of the sectorial plans
- Lack of funds to effectively implement the plans.

1.4 Yes, disaster risk reduction is incorporated into the national plan for the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

Main contacts for these initiatives include:

- Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
- National Development Planning Commission
- Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
- Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs
- Ministry of Works and Housing
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Food and Agriculture

1.5 Yes, the country has building code of practice and standards in place, which take into account seismic risk. However, there exist national building regulation since 1996 (L.I. 1630). The enforcement of the codes is weak.

1.6 Yes, there is an annual budget for disaster risk reduction. This commitment represents part of the national budget through the NADMO.

1.7 Yes, the Private Sector, Civil Society, NGOs, Academia and media are participating in disaster risk reduction efforts.

This is done through Disaster Reduction Programmes at Workshops, Seminars, Symposia and Joint Simulation Exercises. Disaster risk awareness and sensitization are also carried out through publications and programmes in the print and electronic media as well.

2.0 **RISK IDENTIFICATION**

2.1 Yes, Ghana has carried out hazard mapping / assessment. There is no integrated hazard mapping but some individual organisations such as NADMO, Ghana Armed Forces, Geological Survey Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Ministry of Health are working in that direction.

The hazards include:

- Geological Hazards
- Hydro-meteorological Hazards
- Pest and Insect Infestations Hazards
- Bushfires & Lightning Hazards

- Diseases Epidemics Hazards
- Mining and Industrial Hazards
- Radiological Hazards

Yes, the assessment includes characteristics, impacts, historical data, and multi-hazard approach. The above mentioned institutions and other interested institutions and individuals are using the results of the hazard assessment. They are made available to institutions and the general public.

2.2 Vulnerability and capacity assessment is on-going by the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC). The UNDP Ghana has carried out a vulnerability and Capacity Assessment Study on Ghana.

2.3 Yes, the country has mechanisms for risk monitoring and risk mapping. NADMO is responsible.

2.4 Yes, there is a systematic socio-economic and environmental impact and loss analysis in Ghana after each major disaster.

The results are available. Examples include:

- Accra floods (affected the Accra Metropolis in 1996 and 2001)
- Northern floods (affected the Northern part of Ghana in 1999)
- Operation Okunkom 1 & 2 (Food insecurity 1997 and 1998)
- Kokomba and Nanumba War (ethnic conflicts in 1994).

2.5 Yes, Early Warning System exists for Hydrometrological hazards for the entire country as well as for Bushfires, Pest and Insect Infestations hazards.

The system was activated lately as follows:

- Caterpillar invasion December 2003
- Army worm invasion in July 1999

Main institutions involved include the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and NADMO.

Early warning helps in reducing the effect of the disaster.

Public reaction to early warnings issued were quite positive.

3.0 **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT**

3.1 To some extent Ghana has risk information management systems. At the governmental level, a system is underway in building an information management system for disaster risk reduction.

Some international NGOs, like the Ghana Red Cross Society and World Vision International have information management system in place for disaster risk reduction.

The information is collected by their staff and disseminated through Radio, Television, Brochures, Posters, Symposia, Workshops, Seminars and Durbars.

Main users include the general public, NADMO, affected communities, MDAs and other Stakeholders.

3.2 Yes, academic and research communities in the country are linked to institutions dealing with disaster reduction.

Mechanisms for information sharing:

Some experts from the academic and research institutions are members of the Technical Committees of NADMO. These institutions conduct specific researches in the areas of water resources, pest and insect infestations, epidemiology and geology.

- Brochures on earthquake risk reduction
- Ministry of Health's Research Department

Academic / Research Institutions

Activities related to Disaster Risk Reduction Needs

- a. University of Ghana
Research information from Departments such as Geology, Botany, Agriculture, Geography and Sociology that are relevant to disaster risk reduction.
- b. Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology - do -
- c. Western University College - do -
- d. University for Development Studies - do -
- e. University of Cape Coast - do -
- f. Centre for Scientific & Industrial Research
Research into quality of water.
- g. Cocoa Research Institute
Research into cocoa diseases and pest infestations.
- h. Noguchi Memorial Institute
For medical research into epidemiology.
- i. Crop Research Institute
Research into crop diseases, pest and insect infestations.
- j. Geological Survey Department
Research into geological hazards.

3.3 No educational programmes related to disaster risk reduction in public school systems.

3.4 Yes, there are educational programmes available.

<u>Training Programme</u>	<u>Scope</u>	<u>Target Audience</u>
a) <i>Disaster Management</i>	Various aspects of disaster management	Regional and District Co-ordinators of NADMO and other stakeholders
b) <i>General Orientation</i>	Role of NADMO and basic skills in disaster management	All staff of NADMO

c) <i>Search & Rescue</i>	Search and rescue, evacuation operations, fire fighting and first aid administration	NADMO's Rapid Response Team
d) <i>Basic Training</i>	Disaster prevention, first aid, search & rescue operations	Disaster Volunteer Groups (DVGs)
e) <i>Internal Crisis Management Course</i>	Crisis management techniques, threats to national safety and security, key organisations involved in crisis management	Senior & Middle Management from the Ghana Armed Forces, Ministries, other security agencies and Emergency Services
f) <i>Management Courses</i>	Strategic Management, Human Resource Management, Training and Development, Monitoring & Evaluation	Senior and Middle level staff of NADMO

The Courses have been useful in terms of developing the capacity and efficiency of NADMO's officials and its collaborators.

3.5 Traditional indigenous knowledge and wisdom used in disaster related practices on disaster risk reduction in Ghana include:

- Proverbs
- Folklore
- Myth
- Taboos
- Traditional Religion

3.6 There is a national public awareness programme / campaigns on disaster risk reduction.

Main players for raising public awareness include:

- NADMO
- Ghana National Fire Service
- Geological Survey Department
- Ghana Aids Commission
- Ghana Health Services
- Environmental Protection Agency
- District Assemblies
- Traditional Authorities
- Mass Media
- Information Services Department
- Politicians
- Disaster Volunteer Groups
- School Disaster Volunteer Clubs

The mass media (print and electronic) are involved through dissemination of information on disaster risk reduction.

The schools are also involved through the activities of their respective School Disaster Volunteer Clubs.

The targeted group is the general public. The programmes are evaluated through impact assessment on attitudinal changes.

4.0 RISK MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS / INSTRUMENTS

Yes, there are programmes linking environmental management and risk reduction practices in Ghana.

- a) *Coastal Zones:* Land reclamation from sea. Eg. Keta Sea Defence Project.
- b) *Wetland and Watershed Management:* Several wetlands are being managed and protected to check floods through drains construction. Eg. Odaw River Drainage Project.
- c) *Reforestations:* It is embarked upon countrywide. Eg. National Reforestation Project.
- d) *Agricultural Practices:* Contour farming to check soil erosion is practiced countrywide.

4.2 Yes, financial instruments are utilized as a measure to reduce the impact of disasters in Ghana.

<u>Financial Instrument</u>	<u>Establishment</u>	<u>Management</u>	<u>Eligibility</u>
a. Insurance	1962	Public/Private	General Public
b. Micro Finance	1953	Banks/NGOs	- do -
c. Community Fund	1992	District Assemblies	Disaster Victims

4.3 Specific technical measures/programmes on disaster risk reduction carried out include:

- a. Keta Sea Defence Project (Land Reclamation)
- b. Accra Odaw Drainage Project
- c. Constructions of drains in towns and cities
- d. National Forest Plantation Project (Reforestation & Afforestation)

- e. Reviewing of National Building Codes Regulations
- f. Retrofitting of old buildings
- g. Flood Plain Management

5.0 **PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

5.1 Yes, there are disaster contingency plans in place for both national and community levels.

Main component include:

- Relief and Reconstruction
- Hydrometeorological
- Fires and Lightning
- Disease and Epidemics
- Geological disasters
- Man-Made Disasters

Those responsible for activating the plans at National, Regional and District levels are the Minister for the Interior, the Regional Ministers, and the District Chief Executives respectively. The plans are not updated on annual basis. Yes, some of the plans have ever been used. The results have been generally positive.

5.2 No, the government has not yet established emergency funds for disaster response. Yes, there are storage facilities at the National, Regional and District levels with stockpile of relevant emergency relief items.

5.3 NADMO is responsible for the co-ordination of disaster response preparedness. NADMO is equipped with enough human resource but inadequate financial and logistic resources. Co-ordination has not been very effective for a number of reasons such as:

- Difficulty in co-ordinating stakeholders during crisis when each institution may have its own areas of interest and when their modus operandi are shaped and directed by policies out of disaster context.
- Poor communication system in the country hampers effective co-ordination during disasters and emergencies especially at the District levels.
- Lack of experience due to inadequate training or simulation exercises among the collaborating civil authorities poses serious difficulty for their co-ordination and co-operation during crisis.
- Problems regarding the command structure and command centres hamper co-ordination.

NADMO is a very young organisation, and there are attempts been made to improve co-ordination with the collaborating agencies.

6.0 **CALL FOR GOOD PRACTICES IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT**

a. **Name of Project:** Urban Environmental Sanitation Project, Accra Drainage Improvement Works, Odaw Drainage Channel – Lot 1

Area of Work: The project consists of the construction, reconstruction and development of the Odaw Drainage Channel in Accra. It covers a stretch of approximately 3.25 kilometres length from the Abossey Okai Bridge to Avenor Bridge. It also includes construction of side drain on each side of the Odaw Channel to trap the discharge of localized drains direct to the Korle Lagoon. It also includes reconstruction and desilting of existing local drains along the Odaw Channel.

Institutions Involved: Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Resettlement Committee, Accra

Metropolitan Assembly, Ghana Telecom, Ghana Water Company Limited, Electricity Company of Ghana, NADMO, Messrs China International Water and Electric Company, SNC – Lavalin International Inc. (Canada) in association with Comptran Engineering and Planning Associates (Accra).

Duration: November 1999 to December 2001 (24 months)

Impact of Project: The Drainage Project has made profound impact on reducing the effect and risk of the perennial floods as well as other environmental problems in flood prone areas.

Lessons – learnt: One of the lessons learnt is that infrastructural development project such as the construction and widening of drainage in towns and cities can effectively reduce run-off flood disasters. Another lesson learnt is the need for collaboration with all stakeholders in the planning and implementation of development projects.

Replication: Arrangements are underway to replicate the projects in other Regional Capital.

b. **Name of Project:** Prevention of new HIV/AIDS infections.

Area of Work: Greater Accra, Eastern, Volta, Central, Western, Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions.

Institutions Involved: National Disaster Management Organisation, Ministry of Health and Ghana Aids Commission.

Duration: One year (2003 – 2004)

Impact of Project: Staff sensitization and behavioral change

- Lessons Learnt:**
1. Disorganisation of family homes
 2. Collapse of businesses and Organisation by skilled staff.
 3. Economic decline of the state and
 4. Increased poverty

Replication: Other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).
Development of Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS

c. **Name of Project:** Forest Plantation Development Programme – Seedling Nursery Establishment Project.

Area of Work: One hundred and thirty (130) communities in seventy-one (71) Districts of Ghana.

Institutions Involved: NADMO, Ministry of Lands & Forestry, District Assemblies.

Duration: Six months (6) initially, with a possibility of extension to two or more years.

Impact of Project:

- a) Increased availability of seedlings for reforestation.
- b) Increased awareness of community responsibility towards environmental protection.
- c) Creation of alternative livelihood or participants.
- d) Decrease in rural-urban migration, since participants remain in the communities to manage disasters/environment.
- e) Increased community earnings from sale of seedlings.

f) Transfer of technology in nursery development.

g) Enhanced group formation for community development.

Lessons Learnt:

a) Involvement of participants in planning and monitoring is crucial for effective project implementation.

b) Timely delivery of appropriate inputs/intervention necessary.

c) Increased monitoring to check on project targets.

Replication: Expansion, within six (6) months of completion, to 40 more Districts in the country, especially to the semi-arid and arid regions.

7.0 **PRIORITIES TO BE ADDRESSED AT THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION (WCDR)**

Priority topics:

- a. Building capacity for risk reduction and response in developing countries.
- b. Developing resilient communities to disasters.
- c. Integration of disaster risk reduction in development process.
- d. Poverty reduction programmes as a means to disaster risk reduction.

Specific topics for discussion:

- Development of a comprehensive National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy.
- Legal support for enforcement of regulation on disaster prevention systems.
- Establishment of a National Disaster Relief Fund.
- Strengthening communication with all stakeholders.

Information on national contact and provider of Info:

Name: Brigadier (Rtd) Joseph Odei
Position: National Co-ordinator
Organisation: National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO)
Address: P. O. Box CT 3994, Cantonments Accra, Ghana.
State/Province: -
Zip/Post Code: 233
Country: Ghana
Phone: (233 - 21) 781941, 762593
Fax: (233 - 21) 781941, 772926
E-mail: nadmo@africaonline.com.gh, jodei@hotmail.com
Website: -

Was the Information provided consulted with other Institutions? NO

If yes, please list these organisations here-below.....

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