



Project data

Client: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Sri Lanka
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Contact: disaster-reduction@gtz.de

National platforms for disaster risk management in South and South-East Asia

Recommendations for action

Context

After the tsunami of 26 December 2004 many regions in South and South-East Asia urgently required large-scale reconstruction measures. The considerable impact of the tsunami led to greater awareness among international, national and local decision-makers in the region of the importance of recognising natural hazards and the associated risks.



Disaster risk management is aimed at mitigating these risks. National disaster risk management platforms serve to support the integration of disaster risk management approaches at various national levels. These platforms are multi-sectoral structures that bring together all major actors in the field of disaster risk management at the national

level. The government-endorsed national platforms in the respective countries function as a central point of contact for all disaster risk management-related issues. They serve as an interface to both international cooperation organisations and national bodies, which improves the coordination of national efforts to reduce disaster risks.

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), which was adopted at the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe and aims to prevent and mitigate natural disasters, calls for the establishment of such national disaster risk management platforms. They are to raise awareness and promote the integration of disaster risk management in policies, strategies and sectors (e.g. construction, education).





Project

The project was implemented by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) on behalf of GTZ and the German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV), the German national platform, and was funded by BMZ.

To support Bangladesh, Cambodia and Sri Lanka in setting up such national platforms, ADPC examined ways to introduce them and developed concepts for implementation. The results were summarised in a study.

An analysis was performed using case studies from the three countries that made reference to their geography and vulnerability to natural disasters. It identified the areas of activity and responsibilities of governmental institutions in various fields of disaster risk management (e.g. prevention, preparedness) at all administrative levels – national, regional and local. ADPC also examined all national policies and programmes run by the involved ministries, departments and agencies. The analysis also covered initiatives run by other organisations as not only public sector bodies are engaged in disaster risk management.

ADPC then went on to analyse the strengths (e.g. existing emergency plans) and weaknesses (e.g. lack of political commitment) of existing national programmes and structures.

It also identified those organisations that would later form the nucleus of the national disaster risk management platforms.

For instance, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Sri Lanka all have interministerial disaster management mechanisms that are to be used as a basis for their national platforms. Actors from civil society, the private sector, the media and academia are also to be involved.

The analysis revealed that all three countries should integrate disaster risk management more systematically in their national development plans.

A separate national reporting system can help to monitor the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. In other words, regular progress reports should be encouraged.

Finally, all three countries are part of regional mechanisms and programmes that should be used to exchange experience and know-how.

Results – What was achieved?

The analysis and resulting study are facilitating the set-up of national disaster risk management platforms in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Sri Lanka. They highlighted the next steps and provide recommendations for international organisations on how they can support the set-up of national platforms. The project therefore supports the implementation of one of the main demands of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

The study is available for download at:
www.2.gtz.de/dokumente/bib/07-0662.pdf

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Sector Project Disaster Risk Management
in Development Cooperation
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn
Germany
T +49 61 96 79-16 21
F +49 61 96 79-80 16 21
E disaster-reduction@gtz.de
I www.gtz.de/disaster-reduction/english

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