

Moldova

National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011)

Name of focal point : Mr BOIAN Ilie

Organization : State Hydrometeorological Service

Title/Position : Director

E-mail address : boian@meteo.md; hidrometeo@meteo.md

Telephone : +373 22773529

Fax : +373 22773529

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Strategic goals

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Strategic Goal Statement:

In most of the national strategies, plans and programmes the component of disaster risk management are addressed and analyzed in order to establish the needs and gaps of this issue. Some of the projects to be implemented during the next 4 years also regard disaster risk reduction, especially the ones of hydrometeorological origin.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Strategic Goal Statement:

A series of actions are being taken in order to address disaster risk reduction at institutional level, including the establishment of an Emergency Crisis Center within the Civil Protection and Exceptional Situations Service, which would enhance the capacity of other institutions to respond collectively in time in case of emergency situations.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Strategic Goal Statement:

Risk reduction actions are planned to be included in the updated national strategies. Some risk assessment studies are to be undertaken at regional and national level, through mapping, feasibility studies and local research.

Priority for action 1

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 1

National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is DRR included in development plans and strategies?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: National development plan
- * No: Sector strategies and plans
- * Yes: Climate change policy and strategy
- * No: Poverty reduction strategy papers
- * No: Common Country Assessments (CCA)/ UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

Description:

At this moment there are no legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction, but through the means of several projects (World Bank and UNDP funded), that are to be implemented in the next years, there will be established a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and a National Emergency Crisis Center. These will be the fundamentals for the future actions.

Context & Constraints:

The communication between the institutions directly related to disaster risk reduction (prevention and mitigation) represents a relatively well built system during the crisis, but lacks systematization.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 2

Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is there a specific allocation of budget for DRR in the national budget?

No

Means of verification:

- * 0 % allocated from national budget
- * 0 USD allocated from overseas development assistance fund
- * 0 USD allocated to hazard proofing sectoral development investments (e.g transport, agriculture, infrastructure)
- * 0 USD allocated to stand alone DRR investments (e.g. DRR institutions, risk assessments, early warning systems)
- * 0 USD allocated to disaster proofing post disaster reconstruction

Description:

The national budget does not have specific funds for disaster risk reduction, though in case of emergency, it is possible to change the budget so that there would be funds available for mitigation. In

such conditions, a big financial contribution for disaster risk reduction actions is external. In the last year the projects of World Bank and UNDP are the largest.

Context & Constraints:

The National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is not yet in place to provide a legal basis for the allocation of the budget.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 3

Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Do local governments have legal responsibility and budget allocations for DRR?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Legislation

* No: Budget allocations for DRR to local government

Description:

There is a permanent structure of the Commission for Exceptional Situations. It can be completed with relevant institutions in case of emergency. At local level the authorities also form a Commission, that is addressing the crisis at this level.

Context & Constraints:

The budget does not always cover all the necessities to mitigate an emergency situation. There is still need of inter-institutional capacity building in disaster prevention and mitigation.

Priority for action 1: Core indicator 4

A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Are civil society organisations , national planning institutions, key economic and development sector organisations represented in the national platform?

No

Means of verification:

* 0 civil society members (specify absolute number)

* 0 sectoral organisations (specify absolute number)

* 0 women's organisations participating in national platform (specify absolute number)

Description:

The National Platform is planned to be implemented in the following years.

Context & Constraints:

The process of implementing the National Platform will provide the necessary legal and institutional support for involving different organizations, relevant for specific risks.

Priority for action 2

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 1

National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is there a national multi-hazard risk assessment available to inform planning and development decisions?

No

Means of verification:

* No: Multi-hazard risk assessment

* 0 % of schools and hospitals assessed

* 0 schools not safe from disasters (specify absolute number)

* No: Gender disaggregated vulnerability and capacity assessments

* No: Agreed national standards for multi hazard risk assessments

Description:

The multi-hazard risk assessment is planned during the following projects. At this moment there are some data on the risk of some hazards, but they are few and still not updated. Also, as a result of the 2010 flood on Prut river, the need for these kind of studies has increased. A risk assessment study of floods is ongoing.

Context & Constraints:

The data on disasters are scattered among the institutions responsible for different aspects of them - the monitoring, the research in the field, the actions taken to reduce the impact, the evaluation of damages etc. In this context, a need for inter-institutional capacity building for the processing of these data is evident.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 2

Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Are disaster losses systematically reported, monitored and analysed?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Disaster loss database

* No: Reports generated and used in planning

Description:

The monitoring, the evaluation of the possible and real damages, the research in the field of disaster risk reduction methods are done at different institutions. The data bases exist, but they are not centralized, although there is collaboration between these organizations, so the data are possible to be exchanged.

Context & Constraints:

The lack of centralization of the entire data base on disasters still represents a gap in disaster risk management. In these conditions, this has been reflected in the future actions.

Also, there are still a lot of data on paper, but the process of electronically archiving is ongoing.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 3

Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Do risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending hazard events?

Yes

Means of verification:

* No: Early warnings acted on effectively

* No: Local level preparedness

* Yes: Communication systems and protocols

* Yes: Active involvement of media in early warning dissemination

Description:

At this moment there is no early warning system, but one is planned to be put in place in the following years, along with the National Crisis Center. Nowadays, each organization that is issuing warnings have their schemes of communicating it to the decision makers and population. Also, in the case of

meteorological warnings, the World Bank project includes the procurement of a weather radar. Also, a 4 color warning system has been instituted in 2010. These actions are considered to be the first steps in establishing an early warning system.

Context & Constraints:

The actions to put in place a early warning system are planned for the next few years.

Priority for action 2: Core indicator 4

National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Does your country participate in regional or sub-regional DRR programmes or projects?

Yes

Means of verification:

- * Yes: Programmes and projects addressing trans-boundary issues
- * Yes: Regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks
- * Yes: Regional or sub-regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms
- * Yes: Action plans addressing trans-boundary issues

Description:

Considering the geographical situation of Moldova, the fact that we have 2 boundary rivers and that we are neighbors with the EU, the regional projects concerning trans-boundary water and air pollution, water directives, regional climate are implemented on different levels. Also, there is a good collaboration between similar institutions in Moldova, Ukraine and Romania.

Context & Constraints:

Some of the EU projects are not available for Moldova, due to eligibility conditions or low national budget. Also, there is a need of regional harmonization of monitoring and evaluation methodologies.

Priority for action 3

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 1

Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Is there a national disaster information system publicly available?

No

Means of verification:

* No: Web page of national disaster information system

* No: Established mechanisms for accessing DRR information

Description:

The information on disasters and any actions taken in order to reduce their impact is available to decision makers at governmental level. The data are also provided upon request to other authorities, research centers etc. In case of dangerous events, mass-media and therefore the population is also informed on the possible development and consequences.

Context & Constraints:

The information on disasters is still archived by the responsible institution, not centralized. This reduces the access to the entire data set concerning a specific disaster. In this context, the creation of a centralized archive/observatory is included in the plans for the next years.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 2

School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is DRR included in the national educational curriculum?

No

Means of verification:

* No: Primary school curriculum

* No: Secondary school curriculum

* No: University curriculum

* No: Professional DRR education programmes

Description:

The school activities include several thematic hours per year that relate to the field of environment protection, civil protection, sustainable development etc. At university level, the topic of disasters is addressed only by specialized departments (earth sciences, civil protection etc.)

Context & Constraints:

The information to be provided to students must be thoroughly prepared as to offer category and age

oriented data.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 3

Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is DRR included in the national scientific applied-research agenda/budget?

No

* No: Research outputs, products or studies

* No: Research programmes and projects

* No: Studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR

Description:

The research in this matter has been carried out throughout the years. At the moment there is a need of updated cartographic material and data and the integration of the disaster parameters.

Context & Constraints:

Most of the researches are done by the Academy of Sciences and other governmental facilities, which experience lack of budget for appropriate hardware and technologies.

Priority for action 3: Core indicator 4

Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Do public education campaigns on DRR reach risk-prone communities?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Public education campaigns.

* No: Training of local government

* Yes: Availability of information on DRR practices at the community level

Description:

The authorities are using the available means of information to prevent and inform the population on possible disasters - mass-media, press-conferences, websites, annual reports, national communications etc.

Context & Constraints:

There is still a low level of awareness of the population and of the necessity of taking action to prevent the increase of disaster risk.

Priority for action 4

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 1

Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Is there a mechanism in place to protect and restore regulatory ecosystem services? (associated with wet lands, mangroves, forests etc)

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Protected areas legislation

* Yes: Payment for ecosystem services (PES)

* Yes: Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)

* Yes: Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs)

* Yes: Climate change adaptation projects and programmes

Description:

The national development strategies, plans and projects include actions to reduce the emission of green-house gases, to preserve natural resources and protected areas, to reduce and eliminate POPs and obsolete pesticides, to monitor the quality of the environment and the impact of anthropological activity etc.

Context & Constraints:

In order to be able to reflect in more details the environmental problems and the methodology to prevent and reduce their risk, there is a need of additional funding for research, raising awareness, education in this field.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 2

Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Do social safety nets exist to increase the resilience of risk prone households and communities?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Crop and property insurance

* No: Employment guarantee schemes

* No: Conditional cash transfers

* No: DRR aligned poverty reduction, welfare policy and programmes

* No: Microfinance

* No: Micro insurance

Description:

Due to the fact that the main occupation of the rural population is agriculture, extreme weather events represent a danger for the activity in this sector. The system of crop insurance exists, but the population is not fully aware of its advantages.

Context & Constraints:

Because of the low level of awareness of the population in the field of insurance, this system still needs adjustment to different situations and categories of beneficiaries.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 3

Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Are the costs and benefits of DRR incorporated into the planning of public investment?

No

Means of verification:

* No: National and sectoral public investment systems incorporating DRR.

* No: Investments in retrofitting infrastructures including schools and hospitals

Description:

The field is still under development and it is possible that it will be discussed during the elaboration of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Platform.

Context & Constraints:

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Priority for action 4: Core indicator 4

Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Is there investment to reduce the risk of vulnerable urban settlements?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas

* No: Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas

* No: Training of masons on safe construction technology

* No: Provision of safe land for low income households and communities

Description:

The capital is also subject to flash flood risk, because of intense down-flow. The local authorities are discussing investments and a project of repair and restoration of the municipal drainage system.

Context & Constraints:

The urban settlements are exposed to the risk of unauthorized building sites in regions of various risk - floods, landslides, land subsidence etc. Some research is done to update the information on dangerous regions, but the process is slow because of low budget and insufficient technology.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 5

Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Do post-disaster recovery programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR?

No

Means of verification:

* 0 % of recovery and reconstruction funds assigned to DRR

* No: Measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery

Description:

The most recent case of post-disaster strategy is related to the 2010 floods. The governmental programme includes a series of actions to reduce the impact of these disaster and to insure the safety of the population - the building of the new houses in risk free regions, restoration of damaged and old dams, mapping of the risk areas etc.

In the field of agricultural risks (drought, hail) there is a possibility to insure the crops, but the system is still not fully presented to the users.

Context & Constraints:

The data base of disasters needs to be completed and centralized, in order to raise the awareness of the population to possible risks in their region.

Priority for action 4: Core indicator 6

Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Are the impacts of major development projects on disaster risk assessed?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Assessments of impact of projects such as dams, irrigation schemes, highways, mining, tourist developments etc on disaster risk

* Yes: Impacts of disaster risk taken account in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

Description:

All major projects are evaluated to reflect the potential danger they represent to the environment. Also, the development strategies include the determination of various risks at regional and sectoral level.

Context & Constraints:

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Priority for action 5

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 1

Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Are there national programmes or policies to make schools and health facilities safe in emergencies?

No

Means of verification:

* No: Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety

* No: Training and mock drills in school and hospitals for emergency preparedness

Description:

The National DRR Platformr and the Emergency Crisis Center are planned to be established in the following years.

Context & Constraints:

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Priority for action 5: Core indicator 2

Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Are the contingency plans, procedures and resources in place to deal with a major disaster?

Yes

Means of verification:

* Yes: Contingency plans with gender sensitivities

* No: Operations and communications centre

* Yes: Search and rescue teams

* Yes: Stockpiles of relief supplies

* Yes: Shelters

* Yes: Secure medical facilities

* Yes: Dedicated provision for women in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities

Description:

The Commission for Exceptional Situations, composed from the institutions of central and local administration, the Civil Protection and Exceptional Situations Service and other relevant organizations, set the necessary measures to minimize the material losses and casualties. Also, the affected population is evacuated to safer regions, are located in schools, hospitals, a big part of the provisions are delivered by the Agency for Material Reserves etc.

Context & Constraints:

For the moment the Commission for Exceptional Situations is the only authority to manage the crisis situation. The future Emergency Crisis Center will enhance the activity of this Commission and of other institutions that can provide support in case of emergency.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 3

Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Are financial arrangements in place to deal with major disaster?

-- not complete --

Means of verification:

* No: National contingency funds

* No: Catastrophe insurance facilities

* No: Catastrophe bonds

Description:

The national budget does not have specific funds for disaster risk reduction, though in case of emergency, it is possible to change the budget so that there would be funds available for mitigation.

Context & Constraints:

The financial part of disaster mitigation will be included in the National Platform.

Priority for action 5: Core indicator 4

Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Has an agreed method and procedure been adopted to assess damage, loss and needs when disasters occur?

Yes

Means of verification:

* No: Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities available

* No: Post disaster need assessment methodologies

* No: Post disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects

* No: Identified and trained human resources

Description:

In case of hazard, there are local Commissions responsible for the evaluation of the damages. The data is then available between the institutions relevant to the specific hazard.

Context & Constraints:

It is expected that the Emergency Crisis Center will manage a centralized database of the hazards and their consequences.

Drivers of Progress

a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development

Levels of Reliance:

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?:

No

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

The necessity of a multi-hazard approach is acknowledged, but for the moment there are no actions taken literally in order to identify and map regional risk levels. Because the Government is aware of this necessity, the project for the national DRR Platform includes the issue of multi-hazard approach.

b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized

Levels of Reliance:

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

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c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

Levels of Reliance:

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

There is an ongoing capacity building process in the issue of risk reduction and recovery. Also, by establishing the national DRR Platform, the centralized inter-institutional capacity will be strengthened.

d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities

Levels of Reliance:

Significant and ongoing reliance: significant ongoing efforts to actualize commitments with coherent strategy in place; identified and engaged stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Human security is the main factor to influence the decisions taken by the Commission for Exceptional Situations. The future National DRR Platform will include this issue as one of the most important objectives.

e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

As the National Emergency Crisis Center will represent a inter-institutional body to reduce disaster risk, it is possible to include in its actions and responsibilities the partnership and engagement with other related institutions of the private sector.

f) Contextual Drivers of Progress

Levels of Reliance:

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

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Future outlook

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Overall Challenges:

The updating of the national strategies in order to include all the aspects of disaster risk reduction.

The implementation of National Disaster Risk Reduction Platform.

The establishment of the National Emergency Crisis Center.

Future Outlook Statement:

The actions taken in the last year to begin the implementation of a national platform and to centralize the efforts to reduce disaster risks are based on the awareness of the necessity to create an integrated system to insure the capacity to prevent and mitigate hazards.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular

at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Overall Challenges:

The establishment of the National Emergency Crisis Center, that would centralize and build the institutional capacity to reduce and mitigate disasters.

Future Outlook Statement:

The strengthening of the institutional capacity represents an important factor to insure a well built system to build resilience to hazards.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Overall Challenges:

The implementation of a National DRR Platform that would include community-oriented activities of prevention, response and recovery in emergency situations.

Future Outlook Statement:

The updating of the national strategies in order to include all the aspects of disaster risk reduction, the implementation of National Disaster Risk Reduction Platform, the establishment of the National Emergency Crisis Center will contribute to the constant actions to prevent and reduce the impact of hazards.

Stakeholders

Departments/organizations that have contributed to the report

* State Hydrometeorological Service (Gov)