

Saint Lucia

National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

Name of focal point : Ms. A. L. Dawn French, Director

Organization : National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO)

Designation : Director

E-mail address : eoc@candw.lc

Telephone : 758-452-3802

Fax : 758-453-2152

Additional Focal points/ other comments :

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Strategic goals 1

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:

Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies integrated into the national development planning and development approval process through the implementation of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy.

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:

Strengthened capacity of District Disaster Preparedness Committees and private and public sector organizations to build resilience by incorporating hazard risk reduction strategies in everyday activities at every level of society.

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:

Policy and Plan developed and mechanisms established for effective recovery and reconstruction of communities post disasters.

Priority for action 1

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

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:

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

Description:

Saint Lucia has enacted a number of laws, is signatory to a number of regional and international Conventions and has developed and approved a number of policies, plans and standard operating

procedures relevant to disaster risk reduction. These include:

The Saint Lucia Constitution Order 1978

The Emergency Powers (Disasters) Act #5/1995)

The Disaster Preparedness and Response Act # 13/2000 is enacted and efforts are ongoing to upgrade it with the Disaster Management Act # 30/2006 which is soon to be accented to. The Hazard National Emergency Response Plan

Mitigation Policy & Plan has been approved,

Integrated Natural Hazard Risk Management Policy 2004 (draft)

Emergency Shelter Management Policy for Saint Lucia.

Saint Lucia Policy and Strategy for Planning for and Adapting to Climate Change

Sustainable Energy Plan,

National Climate Change Policy and Adaptation Plan

Signatory to St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability (Principle 9)

Plan Of Action - UN Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS (Section 20.A)

Signatory to Protocol on Combating Oil Spills

Oil in Navigable Waters Act

Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution) Act

Solid Waste Management Act

National Environment Policy (NEP)

National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS).

Given these expressed commitments Saint Lucia's intentions regarding DRR are clearly articulated.

Context & Constraints:

Notwithstanding the expressed commitment to DRR, 'buy-in' by the Policy makers still appear to be a challenge, as the required level of resources (human, financial & equipment) needed for effective actualization of the DRR policies is grossly inadequate. This may be due to more acute needs taking precedence over DRR concerns in the order of priorities. The issue of poverty and its crippling effects is also impacting the rate at which DRR policies can be made effective at the community level.

Supporting document:

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/8454_5of95.pdf [PDF 142.25 KB]

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/8454_constitution.pdf [PDF 71.06 KB]

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/8454_Disaster.Management.Act.pdf [PDF 243.57 KB]

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/8454_13of2000.pdf [PDF 210.51 KB]

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:

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

Description:

Direct annual budget for DRR actives is approximately EC\$500,000 which is the recurrent budget for the National Emergency Management Organization's administration, Support Agencies such as the Ministry of Physical Development and the Ministry of Communications & Works would have budgetary allocations which would indirectly address some DRR concerns.

Being signatory to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Relief Agency (CDERA) Agreement which calls for contributions to an Emergency Assistance Fund, Saint Lucia has stated financial and other

obligations to make to impacted Participating States of CDERA.

Context & Constraints:

In the National Budget negotiations various departments are vying for very limited available resources and thus many programs and activities do not attract funding support. Further, staffing constraints limit the ability of NEMO to develop funding proposals for seeking funding support from external sources.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

The NEMO operational structure is comprised of 11 National Committees and 18 District Disaster Preparedness Committees, organized as a network from the Chairman at the head to residents at the community level. All the members of all the Committees are volunteers. The Committees have the autonomy to manage their affairs with the NEMO Secretariat supporting them primarily by providing relevant training, materials, equipment and supplies. Each of 17 of the District Committees manages a Community Satellite Warehouse in which a stock of equipment and supplies is pre-positioned in the Community for used in disaster response. In response to disasters the Committees also have the authority to procure goods and services from community businesses and contractors based on pre-signed Memoranda-of-Understanding (MOU); the Government (through NEMO) will meet the bills subsequent to the response. Additionally, supplies for use in emergency shelters have been pre-positioned in 'strong boxes' in 50 of the Schools used as Emergency Shelters. This was funded with World Bank loan funds under the Disaster Management Project-Phase 2.

Context & Constraints:

The challenge for this mechanism is the level of attrition of trained individuals relative to the rate at which they get trained; thus there is the need for enhanced training for the volunteers. There is also a need to improve the stock of emergency materials, equipment and supplies pre-positioned at the community level.

These can be enhanced by greater collaboration with the public and private sector. Many agencies espouse the view the DRR is the business of NEMO; to realize behavioral and attitudinal changes in the realm of Disaster Management, the understanding and appreciation of these agencies are of paramount importance.

Core indicator 4

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

Although NEMO leads the Disaster Management charge with the support of most Agencies and the participation of all sectors, a DRR approach on a national multi-sectoral platform is not apparent. What currently exists is not as systematic as it could be. However, NEMO provides DRR elucidation to the activities, programs and projects of a number of public and private sector agencies including the Climate Change Unit, the Sustainable Development Unit, the Ministries of Physical Development, Agriculture,

Fisheries, etc.

Context & Constraints:

The potential for the advancement of DRR principles by the public sector is great; thus the involvement, understanding and appreciation of the public sector in the promotion of DRR can be significantly enhanced, particularly with regards to preparedness, mitigation and risk transfer.

Priority for action 2

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

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

Description:

Vulnerability Assessments, Hazard Maps and Risk Assessments for critical facilities have been conducted for flooding due to storm/wind surge, winds, drought and debris flow. These were apparently developed or conducted under different projects and not in a coordinated systematic manner. However, these products are not being generally used to support decision making.

Context & Constraints:

There is a need to develop more of these products in a more systematic manner and to provide for their timely update. Further the relevant agencies need to be trained and sensitized in using them to support their decision making. Policy decisions need to be adopted to cause agencies such as the insurance firms to consider the use of DRR strategies as a basis for offering lower premiums to their clients. This policy can be further enhanced by way of legislation.

Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

Systems are in place for monitoring Weather Systems. The Saint Lucia Met Service provides 24 hour weather forecasting service and is a member of the Caribbean Met. Organization. The US National Hurricane Center provides longer term Hurricane forecasting support to the region. The Seismic Monitoring Unit based at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad monitors seismic activity (Earthquake & Volcanoes) in Saint Lucia. There are 7 seismic monitoring sensors on the island. Mechanisms for establishing a Tsunami Early Warning System are currently being addressed on a regional level. Currently there exists a number of wave monitoring sensors within Saint Lucian territorial waters some of which are owned by foreign Governments. Information from these sensors all feed into the Global Tsunami Monitoring Network. National Focal Points have been identified and efforts are ongoing for establishing community level warning mechanisms, which should be completed soon.

Context & Constraints:

Mechanisms for the systemic research, recording and analysis of the hazards which have impacted Saint Lucia and the impacts of these hazards need to be established. Effort should be made to encourage Saint Lucian graduate and under-graduate students to undertake research focused on disaster mitigation, response and preparedness.

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

Description:

Systems are in place for early warning down to the community level for weather systems and volcanoes; however early warning for other hazards is lacking or inadequate, although efforts are afoot to establish an early warning system for tsunami on a national scale and for floods due to rain on a community level. These are both being pursued under regionally promoted projects.

Context & Constraints:

A lack of financial and human resources to implement and maintain a comprehensive Early Warning System.

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

Description:

Regional co-operation exists in disaster risk reduction, as Saint Lucia is a member of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) a regional disaster management organization. A security agreement 'the Regional Security System (RSS)' also provides security and other support in disaster response. An MOU with Martinique caters for the provision of air-lift for medical evacuations from Saint Lucia to Martinique and other such air services by the Martinique military.

Seismic activity in Saint Lucia and the other CDERA Participating States is being monitored by the Seismic Monitoring Unit in Trinidad.

Avian Influenza monitoring and testing is being conducted on a regional basis by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO); thus the confirmation of the initial suspicion of any outbreak is done by this regional agency.

Regional and international institutions such as the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), etc. have undertaken regional programs and projects with DRR themes encouraging collaboration and shared learning.

Context & Constraints:

It is sometimes a challenge to get the required National Agencies to implement projects and execute activities required to fulfill regional commitments on a timely basis.

Priority for action 3

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

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

Description:

Information is generally available and accessible as all forms of media is used to reach the target audiences. This includes TV, posters, newspapers, radio, internet, text messaging, libraries, town criers, loud hailers, fliers, etc. However being sensitized informed does not guarantee any change in attitudes and behavior.

Context & Constraints:

In order to effectively realize behavioral change education needs to take place and the information used to that end. Thus the formal education system needs to be tapped into, the current media programs need to take be designed to influence behavioral change rather than information sharing and available technology such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) needs to be harnessed to promote that learning.

Additionally, residents need to be made aware of the availability of the information, further they need to be enlightened on how to use the information to good effect and finally they need to be motivated to use the information.

Core indicator 2

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

A Safer Buildings Program was introduced at a tertiary level institution and efforts are ongoing in an attempt to make it an elective on the school curriculum. With the support of USAID-Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) a 'Safer Schools Program' is being introduced into the Saint Lucia Education System.

Context & Constraints:

There is a need to incorporate DRR concepts and ideas into the primary, secondary and tertiary level schools beyond what has been achieved so far. These concepts may be made part of the Social Studies syllabus and DRR examples may be used to build content for subjects such as English Language and Mathematics.

Further, undergraduate and graduate studies need to be encourage to undertake research in DRR topics relevant to Saint Lucia.

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

Description:

The Disaster Risk Management Benchmarking Tool (B-Tool) was developed by the OECS as a Disaster Risk Management assessment tool; it is also a methodology for identifying and prioritizing Countries' risk reduction actions and for quantifying reductions in risk profiles. Its assessments may also be used to benchmark DRR strategies and activities of one Country against another. Saint Lucia was involved in the development of the B-Tool and utilizes it.

The Enhanced Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy was embraced and adopted by the CDERA Participating States in 2005. The implementation of this strategy is being monitored, evaluated and reported on using the Results Based Management (RBM) framework which is being promoted by many international donor agencies including CIDA and UNDP. Saint Lucia has been involved in the reviews and refinements of both the CDM strategy and the RBM framework (relative to its adaptation for CDM use).

Periodic assessments are conducted by CDERA sometimes targeting specific activities or capabilities (e.g. Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) preparedness). The results of these help inform future actions pursued by NEMO.

Context & Constraints:

More funding and staffing support is required to facilitate more research aimed at improving DRR activities here.

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

Description:

NEMO has provided Public Service Announcements (PSA's), both audio and video for all major hazards to all major media houses for public sensitization. These were received under a regional project coordinated by CDERA. Additionally, NEMO developed ten (10) video and audio productions in English and Creole on response planning for the key hazards. Ad-hoc expert presentations are done for specific hazards via radio and TV; and NEMO staff and volunteers also engage in presentations to communities, public and private sector agencies and town hall meetings sensitizing citizens to DRR.

Context & Constraints:

Availability of information and products does not necessarily redound to use their use for the sensitization of people. There is a need for greater use of the information and products by the media houses. Also, relative to engaging in sensitization of persons there is a need to engage in more educational activities where a change in people's behavior is the goal; and further these educational activities need to be organized and conducted in a structured and systematic way, with clear objectives, targets and goals. Thus, the development and execution of a DRR Public Awareness and Education program need to be pursued, with greater use being made of experts in the relevant fields.

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:

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

Description:

The following environment related policies all consider DRR concerns:

The Climate Change policy

Environmental Management policy

Water policy;

However, these policies have not been fully implemented or operationalized.

Context & Constraints:

The development and approval of policies and plans is only part of the resolution. Commitment to and the enforcement of these policies, plans and regulations is a grave issue; for example the enforcement of existing regulations regarding land use planning is a challenge and at best haphazard.

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

Description:

Efforts have been made to develop a Social Policy; however it is yet to be approved. Notwithstanding a number of Government and private sector agencies and non-governmental organizations are involved in the implementation of social interventions with DRR considerations. Some of these include:

The Poverty Reduction Fund;

The Basic Needs Trust Fund

National Community Foundation

Ministry of Social Transformation

Further, policies and plans for response to Avian Influenza and such other possible pandemics are currently being developed.

Context & Constraints:

The supporting resources and in some instances commitment by the decision makers for realizing these policies and plans are absent. Thus there is need to source the resources to support these initiatives. Also there is a need to target the more immediate issues of poverty such as food security and persons' employability, in an effort to elevate DRR issues on the scale of priorities.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

Description:

Activities regarding economic and productive sectorial policies appear to give very little consideration to DRR concerns.

Context & Constraints:

The development of policy positions regarding the provision of insurance coverage within the economic as well as other sectors and the implementation of the recommendations of post impact socio-economic assessments, or the use of these recommendations to guide future development activities.

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

Description:

The Physical Planning Act covers some DRR considerations and requires the enforcement of some building codes; it also allows for the review of development plans by NEMO where DRR considerations may be addressed.

The Programme for the Regularization of Unplanned Developments (PROUD) was a program aimed at regularizing squatter settlements in the country and in its activities it did consider DRR issues. Its responsibilities including the DRR considerations were recently transferred to the Ministry of Housing.

Context & Constraints:

It is apparent that the existing building codes need revision and update. Additionally they need to be enforced more stringently. Input by NEMO on the review of development plans need to be utilized more frequently.

Core indicator 5

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

Saint Lucia is currently developing its Recovery Policy and Plan with a series of activities involving stakeholders and utilizing learning from recent response experiences (such as Grenada's post Hurricane Ivan). Although this document has not completed the approval process it is expected to inform any current response effort.

Context & Constraints:

Experience has shown that political expediency sometimes over shadows taking the requisite time and effort to do things that are more structurally sound and durable. A change in this attitude and approach

may prove to be challenging in response ,(notwithstanding the existence of a Recovery Plan).

Core indicator 6

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

The current development approval process requires that Environmental Impact Assessments be conducted for development proposals of a certain size and/or located in certain locales.

Context & Constraints:

Enforcement of the recommendations of the EIA's is an issue as they are sometimes not adhered to.

Priority for action 5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

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:

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

Description:

The DRR advocacy is being driven by NEMO with minimal 'concrete' support from other agencies.

Context & Constraints:

There is a need for activities to encourage other private and public sector agencies to embrace DRR principles and practices, particularly the Physical Planning Department. DRR is often viewed as the business of NEMO.

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

Description:

NEMO has championed the development of a compendium of contingency plans for various hazards for the Country as well as encouraged many public and private sector agencies to develop their contingency and continuity of operations plans.

Few drills and emergency exercises are held. Annually NEMO supports an exercise with the Air and Sea ports Authority and participates in two regional exercises; however, other exercises are held and participated in on a more ad-hoc basis.

Context & Constraints:

The missing plans need to be addressed and more drills and exercises need to be organized; however the resources required do so need to be provided.

Core indicator 3

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

Level of Progress achieved:

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

Description:

An initial allocation of funds is set aside from the National Consolidated Fund for response to any declared disaster. It is expected that this allocation will be augmented dependent on the magnitude of impact and the scale of the response.

Saint Lucia, being a CDERA Participating State makes an initial pre-agreed contribution to any impacted member; additional contributions would usually follow.

Context & Constraints:

Whereas some financial allocation and provision is made for disaster response and recovery, the amounts can be significantly improved.

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:

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

Description:

Within the National Disaster Response Mechanism, eighteen district committees all report to the NEMO Secretariat. Communication is maintained via VHF, HF & CB radios and telephone, text messaging and email. Additionally, a national Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) Committee is fed into by eighteen district level DANA committees. These committees are responsible for making the required assessments pre and post disaster events.

Context & Constraints:

The capacity of these district committees needs to be enhanced and additional administrative staff needs to be provided at the NEMO Secretariat to support the activities of the National and District Committees. The available communications equipment could also be enhanced.

Drivers of Progress

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

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

Yes

If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy?:

No

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

Resource constraints in Saint Lucia have generally forced disaster management planning to be approached from a multi-hazard perspective; however with varying degrees of success.

In more recent times, programs and projects driven from the regional level have encouraged, promoted and reinforced the multi-hazard approach.

A limited amount of information exists on it; however the currently available information is very rarely used.

There is a need for more current and continuously updated information; as well as mobilization and education to ensure it use for day-to-day decision making.

Supporting document:

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/8454_CDBVASAINTLUCIANONTECHFINALREPORTSeptember21.doc [DOC 117.50 KB]

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

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):

Gender relevant data is available (2001 census) and gender issues are appreciated and considered in the draft recovery plan. For example consideration is given to the number of single female headed households and mechanisms for ensuring their access to relief supplies post disasters.

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

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):

Some capacity at the community level have been developed but this needs enhancing. There is need to provide resources for those with the capacity to share their knowledge and to put their skills into practice.

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

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):

Some attention has been given to providing for vulnerable persons in disaster response planning. For

example District Committees maintain inventories of persons who would need assistance to evacuate (such as the elderly, disabled, etc.) and confirm that arrangements are in place for providing them with shelter in the event of a hazard impact.

Additionally, shelters are opened in communities for access by the homeless and 'street-people' after Hurricanes or Storm Warnings have been issued.

However, more needs to be done to cater for more of the needs of and more vulnerable persons.

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):

Most agencies have been targeted with varying levels of cooperation and support; however most agencies have been sensitized. There is a need for more effective education regarding DRR thus the process need to progress from sensitization to behavioral change.

f) Contextual Drivers of Progress

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):

Climate Change Program

Schools Safety Program

Avian Influenza Response Planning Activities

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:

- Achieving behavioral change in society regarding DRR
- The commitment of Government decision makers (viz. Permanent Secretaries, Head of Departments, Senior Technical Officers, etc.) to DRR efforts (relative to commitment from the political directorate).
- Availability of resources to facilitate the implementation of necessary activities for effective DRR.

Future Outlook Statement:

The adoption of a policy position by the Government decision makers to integrate DRR considerations into their developmental decision and making and to utilize fully the recommendations of post impact socio-economic assessments.

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:

Resources to facilitate training and the sharing of knowledge at the community level.

Future Outlook Statement:

The allocation of resources such that DRR initiatives at the community level are supported significantly and implemented extensively.

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 willingness and ability of the Ministry of Physical Planning to enforce the building regulations

Future Outlook Statement:

The adoption of relevant building standards to guide developmental activities here and their implementation and effective enforcement.