

Recommendations from the Bosnia and Herzegovina National Policy Dialogue

Based on the detailed assessments of the DRR policies and practices as well as the NMHS capacities, gaps and needs in the beneficiaries to support DRR, policy recommendations were developed. Initial results were presented to national stakeholders for review and discussions during National Policy Dialogues organised by WMO together with the UNDP in Sarajevo, on 21-22 June 2010.

During this meeting, high-level participants endorsed the assessment, as well as the set of recommendations emanating from it and presented hereunder.

HFA priority 1: Ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation

Recommendation 1: To establish and adopt bylaws that support legislature pertaining to DRR. The mainstreaming of DRR into legislature, such as laws pertaining to spatial planning and forestry, in order to give greater legal authority to the process of building an effective DRR system and structure in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and ensure that the roles and responsibilities and mandates of the various technical agencies, such as the Hydro-met and seismological services, are properly reflected in the legal framework.

Recommendation 2: To formulate the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. A goal for the Government is the establishment of a National Platform which should design responsibilities at the national through to the local level and facilitate and coordination across sectors by maintaining a broad based dialogue at the national and regional level aimed at promoting awareness among the relevant sectors, and ultimately linking such coordination to national planning, budgeting and implementation of DRR activities.

Recommendation 3: To clarify the roles and responsibilities increased cooperation and improved communication between all relevant segments. Promote and support dialogue, the exchange of information and coordination among relevant agencies and institutions at all levels with the aim of fostering a unified approach towards disaster risk reduction. Also promote community participation in disaster risk reduction through the adoption of specific policies, the promotion of networking, the strategic management of volunteer resources, the attribution of roles and responsibilities and the delegation and provision of the necessary authority and resources.

Recommendation 4: Efficient financial planning to ensure that DRR has its own budget allocation. Allocate resources for the development and implementation of disaster risk management policies, programmes, laws and regulations on Disaster Risk Reduction in all relevant sectors and authorities and at all administrative levels with budgets based on clearly prioritised actions.

HFA priority 2: Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

Recommendation 5: To enhance the technical and human resources of the hydrometeorological sector to support risk assessment and early warning systems by promote operational monitoring, warning, forecasting and mapping of meteorological and hydrological hazards. It is critical to urgently renew the legislation for Meteorological and Hydrological Services, upgrade and modernise the national hydro-meteorological observation network, data management and forecasting system and to provide sustainable organisational, human and technical resources to maintain and operate it. It is also necessary to strengthen the early warning capacity with a multi-hazard approach and cooperation with civil protection authorities and other stakeholders in line ministries.

Recommendation 6: To enhance institutional capacity through multi-agency and multi-stakeholders (including both technical agencies such as Hydrometeorological services and civil protections and line Ministries) approach to carry out risk assessment too support policy and planning decision-making.

Recommendation 7: To mainstream adaptation to climate change into DRR strategy. The frequency and magnitude of hydrological and meteorological extremes and hazards are predicted due to climate change. It is critical to invest in local scale climate studies in order to promote adaptation to climate change.

HFA priority 3: Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

Recommendation 8: To improve education of DRR. Promote engagement of the National Platform members, local communities and authorities such as police and fire brigade within the education programs in coordination with the Ministry of Education and local parent-teacher associations to develop sustainable public education programs at primary, secondary and tertiary levels so as to raise awareness and educate children about hazards.

HFA priority 4: Reduce the underlying risk factors

Recommendation 9: Reducing disaster risks by systematically integrating them into policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development and poverty reduction. Supported through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including partnerships, sustainable development, poverty reduction, good governance and disaster risk reduction as mutually supportive objectives, and in order to meet the challenges ahead, accelerated efforts must be made to mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction into development and governmental and sectoral strategies. Furthermore, efforts must be made to build the necessary capacities at all levels of institutional organization in Bosnia and Herzegovina to manage and reduce risk. In the context of the increasing risks associated with climate change, there needs to be enhanced investments in climate modelling and forecasting and analysis to support sectoral planning in at-risk sectors.

Recommendation 10: In the context of reducing overall risks, and with consideration for increasing climate associated risks, development of national capacities for climate services to support medium and long-term sectoral planing, is a critical aspect of risk reduction. Development of these capacities would require a strong collaboration and coordination across many ministries and with the Meteorological and Hydrological Service, as well as enhanced regional cooperation in this area with other South Eastern European and EU countries.

Recommendation 11: Networking with international organisations/institutions present in the region. There is a need to enhance regional and international cooperation for the purpose of transferring observation data, knowledge, technology and expertise regarding DRR, to share research findings, lessons learnt and best practice, participation in joint trainings and workshops all of which would contribute to enhancing the ability of governments to strengthen DRR mechanisms, raise overall awareness and improve capacity development measures.

Recommendation 12: Examine the ways for establishment of regional funds for support to ongoing projects

HFA priority 5: Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

Recommendation 13: Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective emergency response at all levels. First, ensure that emergency response plans are targeted to the individual needs of the vulnerable communities, authorities and emergency responders. Second, establish guidelines for systematic development of contingency plans at all levels that are backed by the requisite human, material and funding resources. Lastly, harmonise standard operating procedures governing

response to emergencies and standardize terminology and capacity development taking into account roles and responsibilities in emergency response.

Recommendation 14: To strengthen awareness about the importance of DRR. Promote the engagement of the media in order to stimulate a culture of preparedness and strong community involvement through sustained public education campaigns and public consultations at all levels of society.

Recommendation 15: Increase the involvement of the private sector in activities aimed at capacity development with special emphasis placed on insurance companies for the purpose of developing sectoral involvement in DRR. There is a need to promote the establishment of public private partnerships to better engage the private sector in Disaster Risk Reduction activities. This can be done by encouraging the private sector to place greater emphasis on and allocate more resources to pre-disaster activities, such as risk assessments and early warning systems and through the promotion of the development of financial risk-sharing mechanisms, particularly insurance and reinsurance against disasters.

Recommendation 16: Increase the involvement of the NGO sector in activities related to DRR. Promote programmes for technical cooperation, capacity development, the development of methodologies and standards for hazard and vulnerability monitoring and assessment, the sharing of information and effective mobilisation of resources with a view to supporting national and regional efforts aimed at developing and strengthening DRR.