

Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance¹

Introduction

The goal of Tajikistan's **Disaster Risk Management Strategy** is to *reduce preventable harm from natural and technological disasters leading to improved lives and wellbeing in Tajikistan*. **Component 3** of the **Strategy, Risk Management and Development** sets out the objective of *disaster risk reduction being incorporated into the development process of Tajikistan*.

This objective is accomplished by *establishing mechanisms to define and include the alleviation and management of disaster risk in development policy, programmes and projects*. Expected outcomes of this strategy include:

- Disaster risk management measures integrated into rehabilitation and development programmes.
- Potential disaster effects defined and addressed in development projects.
- Disaster risk management issues integrated in the process of developing the national policy and decision-making related to land use and planning.
- Safer construction used to reduce disaster risks.
- Disaster effects reduced through the introduction of the financial mechanisms for risk transfer.
- Disaster effect reduction plans developed, regularly updated and implemented at all levels.

The first outcome is being achieved through the development of a **Recovery Guide** by the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. This **Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance** document sets out how the Government plans to attain the other four outcomes.

This **Guidance** defines activities to be implemented through the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction based on the policies set in the **Disaster Risk Management Strategy** and international good practice to integrate disaster risk reduction into the development process in Tajikistan. An emphasis is placed on using existing capacities, systems and procedures while introducing appropriate attention to cross-cutting issues and international practices as required.

Defining and Addressing Disaster Effects on Development Projects

The National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, drawing on the **National Disaster Risk Management Strategy**, will establish a specific policy on the integrating disaster risk reduction into development projects. The policy will set out the:

- Rational for disaster risk reduction,
- Positive impact of risk reduction in development,
- Requirements for each development project or program to this end, and
- Process to implement this policy.

A process for assessing potential disaster risks that could affect development projects will be established. This process will incorporate existing procedures on environmental impact assessment in Tajikistan, the risk assessment process as developed by the Committee of Emergency Situations and disaster risk assessment approaches as piloted by foreign development agencies. An outcome of the assessment process will be (1) the identification of

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how a project could be affected by disasters, and (2) measures to mitigate or avoid these impacts.

Within the process, specific attention will be paid to the impacts of disasters on gender and gender-directed risk reduction actions will be identified when one gender is identified as more at risk than others. A similar differentiation of risk impact and targeted risk reduction will be undertaken for identified vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly and the disabled.

The integration of disaster risk reduction measures will be the responsibility of each development program or project. The costs of incorporating disaster risk reduction into programs or projects will be borne by the each project or program as an integral part of project development and implementation.

A mechanism for collecting information on the success of disaster risk reduction integration will be established under the authority of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. To this end, the Platform will establish a technical working group to devise the monitoring and evaluation process. The implementation of the process will be managed by the Platform Secretariat. The monitoring and evaluation system will consider gender and vulnerability-specific impacts and outcomes.

Integrating Disaster Risk Management into Land Use and Planning Policy and Decision-Making

Tajikistan has an established system for land use management and for the allocation of land to specific uses. Specific legal regulation and plans exist for dealing with ecological hazards, including planning to relocate people from at risk locations. Assistance has been provided to the Government in defining cadastral data for the country to improve land use intelligence.

The Platform will develop a policy to expand the integration of natural hazard information into land use planning and decision making process. This policy will (1) identify the justification for better information on natural hazards, (2) the level of detail needed for this information (at or below the 1:5,000 scale) and (3) the mechanisms for incorporating this information on the current land use planning and decision making process at the national (Agency for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography) and District (Department for Land Use) levels. Where appropriate, gender and other cross-cutting issues will be incorporated into land use planning and decision making.

The work of the Platform on **Defining and Addressing Disaster Effects on Development Projects**, and specifically the development of a risk assessment process for Tajikistan, will be linked to the integration of natural hazard information into the current land use planning and decision making process.

The Platform will report annually on the success of the Agency for Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography on the integration and disaster risk management and natural hazard information into land use planning and decision making in Tajikistan.

Reducing Disaster Risk Through Safer Construction

Recognizing the variety of means used to construct buildings in Tajikistan presently and in the past, the National Platform will initiate a study to (1) assess where the greatest threats to safety from construction exist and (2) define a roadmap to address the issues identified. The study will take place through a technical working group convened by the Platform and including

the Agency for Architecture as lead organization, with representatives of the construction industry (design, construction and surveillance) involved.

The study will consider construction of multi-story and single story buildings using the range of materials and methods available in Tajikistan. Earlier work in this area preformed for Dushanbe by the Committee of Emergency Situations and UNDP, and ongoing work in GBAO by the Aga Khan Development Network, will be included in the study. Gender issues, particularly related to construction workers, decisions on housing construction methods and materials, and the management of family-focused shelter, will be included in the report.

Once accepted by the Platform, the report will form the basis for an Action Plan to address the issues identified. This Action Plan will be submitted to stakeholders for comment and eventual approbation by the Government. Implementation of the action plan will involve financing from the Government's own resources, through projects proposed to donors through projects initiated by the construction industry.

The Platform will report annual on the progress of the action plan.

Using Financial Risk Transfer Mechanisms to Reduce Risk

The National Platform will establish a technical working group to guide a study of the options available in Tajikistan to use financial mechanisms to reduce risk. The working group will include representatives of the insurance, banking, and microcredit sectors, and a representative of the National Bank of Tajikistan. The report will identify specific financial risk transfer issues relate to gender or specific human vulnerabilities faced in Tajikistan.

The National Platform will review the working group report and propose to the Government specific policies and actions needed to improve the use of financial mechanisms for risk transfer. The policies and actions will include modifications to existing legal documents, new laws and regulations and consideration of catastrophic risk insurance and reinsurance at the national level, as well as for Government and Government-linked entities.

Once approved, the Platform will report annually on the implementation of the financial risk transfer policies and actions.

Disaster Effect Reduction Plans Developed And Implemented.

Based on the work under **Defining and Addressing Disaster Effects on Development Projects** and other risk assessments, include climate risk assessments, conducted in Tajikistan, a group established by the Platform will develop an assessment of expected disaster effects at the District level. The results of this assessment will be, together with risk management plans, be incorporated into **District Development Plans**. The assessments will give specific attention to the impacts of disasters by gender as well as on identified vulnerable groups. Where **District Development Plans** exist, these will be updated through this process.

The Government will cause to be allocated specific sums (from its own or other resources) to Districts to specifically to address the disaster effects identified in the **Development Plans**. These funds can be used to address disaster effects within existing operations, as part of new projects or as components of existing projects or projects initially focusing on other issues.

The allocation of these funds will be through the normal mechanisms of government and can include funds and in-kind contributions provided by external parties. The decision on which Districts will be allocated funds, and for what purposes, will be based on a comparative

assessment of disaster effects between Districts, developed by a working group of the Platform and approved by the Platform for submission to the Government.

The Platform Secretariat will issue an annual report covering the success in the use of these funds. .