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Progress of 10 Years Implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in ASEAN

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2015 marks the end of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) 10-year Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), an international disaster risk reduction plan that aimed to enhance the resilience of populations to disasters.

As countries meet in Japan in March 2015 for the 3rd United Nations World Conference on disaster risk reduction (DRR) to craft the post-2015 framework, it is time to review the progress made under the Hyogo Framework and consider the way forward for DRR.

The HFA has five priority action areas which cover (1) institutional basis for implementation (with four indicators), (2) monitoring and early warning, (3) education to build a culture of resilience, (4) reducing underlying risk factors and (5) disaster preparedness. Priority 1 is measured by national and local disaster legislation, budget allocation, community participation and existence of a national platform for disaster reduction. For detailed information about all the indicators, please consult Annex 1 below.

Taking stock of ASEAN Member States' progress on DRR

Based on the National Progress Reports on disaster risk reduction, a self-evaluation of a country's implementation of the HFA, ASEAN Member States (AMSs) performed best in Priority 1 and weakest in Priorities 3 and 4. Priorities 3 and 4 can be classified as adaptive capacities, while 2 and 5 are coping capacities. The results from the reports submitted by AMSs are shown in Figure 1 and the relative Disaster Resilience Index (measured by an average value of the overall HFA Priorities) across ASEAN is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1. Disparity in HFA Progress of ASEAN Member States (22 HFA Indicators 2009/2015 UNISDR Data)

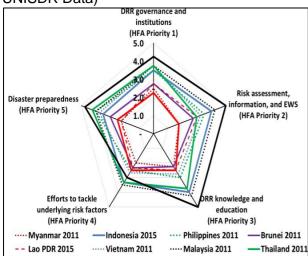
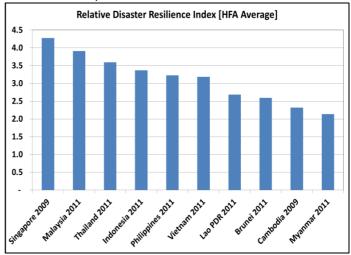


Figure 2 Disparity in Relative Disaster Resilience Index of ASEAN Member States (2009/2011 UNISDR Data)



Note. 1 suggests the lowest measure while 5 indicates the highest value.

Countries have displayed success in Priority 1, as shown by the Philippines' enactment of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act in 2010 and Indonesia's enactment of Law No. 24 on Disaster Management in 2007. Lao PDR has recently established a new National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee based on Prime Ministerial Decree 220/PM in 2013.

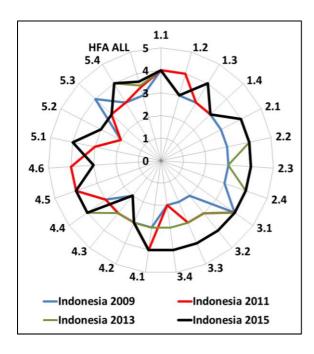
Indeed, the Philippines' response to typhoon Hagupit in December 2014 showed that the country has improved in terms of coping (or reactive) capacity. In preparation for Hagupit, the Philippines launched its largest-ever peacetime evacuation, activated disaster response workers and resources and issued storm surge warnings to local governments. However, more needs to be done to enhance adaptive capacities, in the form of anticipatory adaptation to hazards and the mitigation of risks and vulnerabilities.

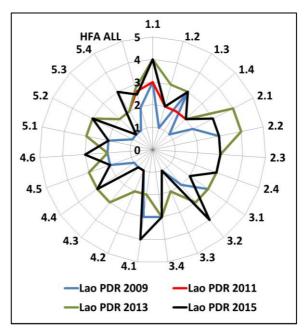
Priority 3 concerns the "use of knowledge, innovation, and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels." More needs to be done to bring national frameworks into the way of life of local communities. Figure 1 exhibits the big disparities between member states where Singapore is ranked the best (5 out of 5) in disaster education system and Myanmar comes in at the bottom (1 out of 5).

In addition, low levels of achievement under Priority 4 show that governments recognise that there has been insufficient progress in reducing the root causes of disaster risks (e.g. through land use planning measures (Priority 4.1) and disaster mitigation measures (Priority 4.6)). Impacts of disasters are exacerbated due to socioeconomic vulnerabilities which have not been adequately addressed (Priority 4.2 and 4.3). Policies need to target issues such as poverty and housing (Priority 4.3 and 4.4), which limit the capacity of communities to adapt, prepare and recover from a disaster. AMSs also rated their procedures to include disaster risk impacts in all major development projects (Priority 4.6) poorly. This highlights that adaptation has yet to be mainstreamed into national development plans.

Figure 3. Indonesia National HFA Progress 2009-2015

Figure 4. Lao PDR National HFA Progress 2009-2015





While there is room for progress, AMSs have improved on the HFA priorities over the years (see Figures 3 and 4). Between 2009 and 2015, under the HFA, most AMSs reformed their national disaster risk management plans and developed more regulations for DRR. Indonesia performed better DRR measures in almost all the indicators except the consistency in budgeting (Priority 1.2) and contingency budget (Priority 5.3), and mainstreaming DRR in big development projects (Priority 4.6).

Figure 4 shows that in some areas such as risk assessment (HFA 2.1) and disaster monitoring (HFA 2.2), Lao PDR experienced a decline from level 4 (substantial achievement) to level 3 (less substantial achievement). Lao PDR displayed substantial achievement in HFA Priority 4.1 (DRR as an integral part of development planning, including for land use, natural resource management, and climate adaptation) as it moved from level 1 (no effort) to level 4 (substantial achievement). However, Lao PDR suffers from big declines in Priority 4.2, 4.3 and Priority 3.3 (investment in disaster research and development).

A post-Hyogo framework

Hyogo Priority 4 promotes the general idea of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the coming decade, the post-Hyogo framework needs to expand on Priority 4 to include the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation protocols and disaster risk reduction imperatives into national development plans. This will encourage governments to make a concerted effort to include disaster risk assessment, climate adaptation, poverty reduction and sustainable development into their national plans to enhance national adaptive capacities.

Moving forward, the challenge is how to sustain the existing Hyogo Framework while integrating it with the SDG initiative that may serve as a larger framework that includes climate change adaptation measures. As promoted by the SDG initiative, the challenge is how a Post HFA can be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate; the indicators should be universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

The next step for ASEAN

ASEAN has achieved significant progress in disaster response and humanitarian assistance (HFA Priority 5). The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) responded rapidly to typhoon Hagupit's onslaught. With this momentum, ASEAN can explore regional actions to encourage member states to enhance coping and adaptive capacities, especially with regards to the impacts of climate change. While countries have reported national progress on DRR over the last 10 years, they have acknowledged

constraints in addressing socioeconomic issues and incorporating DRR measures into national development plans.

As a regional body, the challenge is how ASEAN through the AHA Centre can help member states to address underlying risks and sustain the present achievement in institutional development and disaster education.

Recommended Readings

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Annex 1. Indicators of HFA Priorities for Implementation

| HFA Priorities | Self-evaluation Indicators | Scale 1-5 |
|---|---|------------------|
| 1: Ensure DRR is a national and a | 1.1 National institutional and legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction exist with decentralized responsibilities and capacities at all levels. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation | 1.2 Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans at all administrative levels. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| | 1.3 Community participation and decentralization is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| | 1.4 A national multi-sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| 2: Identify, assess, and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning. | 2.1 National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| | 2.2 Systems are in place to monitor, archive, and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| | 2.3 Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| | 2.4 National and local risk assessments take account of regional/trans-boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| 3: Use knowledge, innovation, | 3.1 Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems). | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| and education to build a | 3.2 School curricula, education material, and relevant training include risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| culture of safety and resilience at all levels. | 3.3 Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| | 3.4 Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| 4: Reduce the underlying risk factors | 4.1 Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment-related policies and plans, including for land use, natural resource management, and climate change adaptation. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |

| | 4.2 Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
|---|--|------------------|
| | 4.3 Economic and productive sectoral policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| | 4.4 Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| | 4.5 Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post- disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| | 4.6 Procedures are in place to assess disaster risk impacts of all major development projects, especially infrastructure. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| 5: Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels. | 5.1 Strong policy, technical, and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective, are in place. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| | 5.2 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 programs. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| | 5.3 Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to enable effective response and recovery when required. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| | 5.4 Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during disasters and to undertake post-event reviews. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |

Source: HFA Progress Indicators

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