

Report

LEARNING EVENT: Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Basics for Mainstreaming 22 June 2016, 9.30 – 16.40, Berne

Frame: Over the past decade the concepts of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) have gained relevance in international cooperation. Mainstreaming these concepts means to systematically include disaster and climate risk considerations in decision making and planning processes. This can take place at different levels (international, national, sub-national level) and in different areas of decision making (policy making, planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring). The **Learning Event on DRR and CCA Basics for Mainstreaming** aims to introduce basic terms and concepts of DRR and CCA and discuss with the participants approaches on the systematic integration of DRR/CCA into the programme/project cycle. Through an interactive approach using different methodology, e.g. theoretical inputs, presentation of case studies, games, movies, group work – participants will gain a better conceptual understanding of DRR/CCA and will be able to address it more systematically in their programmes and projects.

Summary of Learning Event Results:

The day started with a *Game “Resilience Walk”* (adapted by HEKS from the power walk), where all participants assumed a different character role in the disaster prone village of “Hazardia” (refer to workshop documentation).



The game aims to show that not all the people in the village are affected by a disaster in the same way, but that disaster risk depends on different factors: hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity.

In the debriefing session after the game the participants mentioned the following insights from the exercise:

- If and how well a person or community recovers from a disaster depends on many factors such as savings, insurance, connections/social network/marriage, exposure of assets, access to information, social status/good reputation, knowledge, access to relief, support system, policies and regulations.
- Vulnerability of the different characters in the village is different
- There is a clear link between poverty and disaster risk

In the *second session the basic terms and concepts of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation* were presented to the participants (refer to workshop documentation).

The discussion after the presentation particularly evolved around the Risk Staircase and the clear distinction between the different steps, particularly between avoiding new risk, preventing disaster and mitigating impact. The following description of the different steps might make the distinctions more

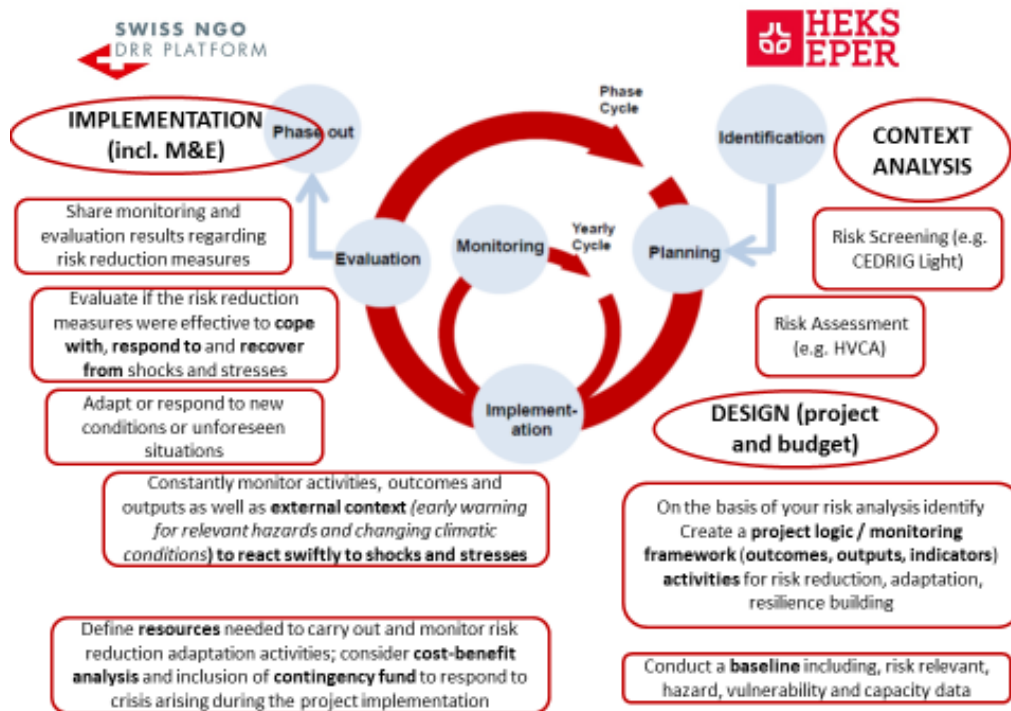
obvious, however, there is an overlap between disaster prevention and impact mitigation. The creation of risk awareness is crucial in all five steps of the risk staircase.

- *Avoid new risk*: Regulation and practices that avoid and reduce the creation of new “unacceptable” risks; for example territorial planning with prohibition of settlements and other investments in disaster prone areas, banning the use of toxic substances such as harmful fertilizers, environmental impact checks for private sector investment, laws and regulations to avoid the overuse of natural resources such e.g. aquifer depletion, native forest. Risk prevention of “new” risks are mainly directed to man-made (technological, biological, environmental) or mixed manmade/natural hazards.
- *Disaster Prevention*: Technical/structural, organizational and management measures to avoid materialization of potential “existing” hazards, vulnerability factors and/or exposure through action taken in advance of a hazardous event. Measures encompass for example elevated construction plots in a flood prone area, Agronomic and structural measures for increased vegetation cover to reverse or fully stop erosion, drip irrigation to stop salinization of soils or terracing to avoid landslides, reforestation to stop desertification. Management measures encompass for example settlement plans that do not permit any housing in risk zones.
- *Impact Mitigation*: Technical/structural, organizational and management measures that reduced the adverse impacts of already materialized hazards, vulnerability factors or existing exposure. Mitigation measures encompass often structural (vegetative, engineering) techniques resulting in reinforced built infrastructure. Measures encompass earthquake and storm-resistant construction, flood dams or river bank protection, avalanche protection, and similar. It should be noted that in climate change policy, “mitigation” is defined differently, being the term used for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that are the source of climate change.
- *Preparedness*: The knowledge and capacities to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from, the impacts of likely, imminent or current disasters. Preparedness action is carried out within the context of DRM and aims to build the capacities needed to efficiently prepare for and manage all types of emergencies and achieve orderly transitions from response through to sustained recovery. Preparedness is based on a sound analysis of disaster risks and good linkages with early warning systems (such as precipitation, river flow monitoring), and includes activities like contingency planning, stockpiling of equipment and supplies (emergency kits, food, seeds) the development of arrangements for coordination, evacuation and public information, and associated training and field exercises. It may as well be directed to increase life-saving capacities such as first aid training, swimming courses etc.
- *Risk Transfer*: The process of formally or informally shifting the financial consequences of particular risks from one party to another whereby a household, community, enterprise or state authority will obtain resources from the other party after a disaster occurs, in exchange for ongoing or compensatory social or financial benefits provided to that other party. Insurance is a well-known form of risk transfer. Another form of risk transfer are solidarity mechanisms at community level that help people to share and bear impacts of a disaster in form of community saving groups, including seed banks to replenish stocks. Remittances, which are generated after a disaster at higher rates, are another example of risk transfer poor people benefit.

In the *third session*, representatives from the different NGOs present at the Learning Event gave a short *introduction into the DRR/CCA Mainstreaming process* at their respective organisations. (refer to workshop documentation).

The *fourth session* was conducted by Nicole Stolz, who presented a *case study on linking Disaster Risk Reduction and Water Management in the Irrawaddy Delta in Myanmar* (refer to workshop documentation).

In the fifth and last session of the day, the integration of DRR/CCA into project cycle management was discussed with the participants and a brief introduction was given to different risk assessment tools and indicator systems (refer to chart below and workshop documentation).



Key Questions and Recommendations to follow up:

- Collection of case studies on how to integrate DRR/CCA in different sectors would be helpful
- How can the risk equation be linked to the risk staircase? Clear distinction between the different steps.
- Where is the overlap between DRR and CSP (conflict sensitive project management)? Would it make sense to create a combined risk – conflict sensitivity assessment tool?
- If a project creates a potential new risk – what level of risk is acceptable?

Reference List

General Publications on DRR and CCA:

Global assessment report on disaster risk reduction (2015):

http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2015/en/gar-pdf/GAR2015_EN.pdf

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Reports (IPCC), 5th Assessment Report (AR5) (2015)

http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg2/ar5_wgII_spm_en.pdf

<http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5>

http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/IPCC_WG2AR5_SlideDeck.pptx

Special Report on Managing the risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation – SREX (IPCC, 2012) <http://ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/report/report-graphics/ch4-figures/>

UNISDR Terminology of DRR (2009): http://www.unisdr.org/files/7817_UNISDRTerminologyEnglish.pdf

Turnbull, M., Sterrett C.L., Hilleboe, A. (2013). Towards Resilience: A guide to Disaster Risk and Adaptation to Climate Change <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ECB-toward-resilience-Disaster-risk-reduction-Climate-Change-Adaptation-guide-english.pdf>

Twigg, J. (2015). Disaster Risk Reduction: <http://odihpn.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/GPR-9-web-string-1.pdf>

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction - SFDRR (2015):

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

Wisner, B., P. Blaikie, C. Terry, I. Davis (2003). At risk: Natural hazards, people's vulnerability and disasters. Second edition. Routledge. New York. http://www.preventionweb.net/files/670_72351.pdf

Links to Platforms, Networks and Portals:

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction: www.unisdr.org

SDC Climate Change and Environment network: <https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Climate-Change-and-Environment/Pages/%C2%B0.aspx>

SDC DRR network: <https://www.shareweb.ch/site/disaster-resilience/Pages/default.aspx>

CCA Platform: <http://weadapt.org/>

UNISDR DRR Platform: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/>

Disaster Assessment Portal: <http://www.disasterassessment.org/resources.asp?id=7&cid=1>

GNDR Global Network of Civil Society Organisation for Disaster Reduction: <http://www.gndr.org/>

International Disaster Database (global, regional and country level): EM-Data Base provides systematic collection and analysis of disaster risk data: <http://www.emdat.be/>

Selected Tools:

SDC CEDRIG (Climate Environment DRR Integration Guidance):

<https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Climate-Change-and-Environment/toolstranings/CEDRIG/Pages/CEDRIG.aspx>

CRiSTAL (Climate Risk Screening Tool – Adaptation & Livelihoods): <http://www.iisd.org/cristaltool/>

PACDR (Participatory Assessment of Climate and Disaster Risks):

<http://www.breadforall.ch/development-policy/climate-change>

IFRC VCA (Vulnerability and capacity assessment):

<http://www.ifrc.org/vca/>; <http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Publications/disasters/vca/vca-toolbox-en.pdf>

Note: Many (H)VCA (Hazard-Vulnerability-Capacity-Assessment) tools exist from a range of organizations at local to global level; at the base of (H)VCAs are participatory assessments of hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities in a specific location. The above presented links are the most spread tools - amongst the Swiss DRR / CCA community of practitioners - for the integration of DRR/CCA in project planning and implementation processes.

Annexes:

Programme Outline:

Time	Content	Methodology	Responsible
9.30 – 9.50	Welcoming and Introduction	<i>Short presentation on Swiss NGO Platform; Learning Event Goals</i>	Judith Macchi (HEKS)
9.50 – 10.20	“Resilience Walk”	<i>Introduction Game</i>	Judith Macchi (HEKS)
10.20 – 10.40	Coffee Break		
10.40 – 11.40	Basic Terms and Concepts of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation	<i>Presentation; Q&A</i>	Judith Macchi (HEKS)
11.40 – 12.10	Definitions Matching Game	<i>Game to get familiar with DRR/CCA terms</i>	All

12.10 – 12.50	Short Presentations of DRR/CCA in different Swiss Organisations	<i>Presentation of Participants Flipcharts</i>	All
12.50 – 13.50	Lunch Break		
13.50 – 14.20	Integration of DRR/CCA into PCM	<i>Presentation</i>	Judith Macchi (HEKS)
14.20 – 15.10	Case Study Caritas	<i>Presentation</i>	Nicole Stolz (Caritas)
15.10 – 15.30	Coffee Break		
15.30 – 16.30	Peer Exchange on DRR/CCA Mainstreaming	<i>Group Work</i>	All
16.30 – 16.40	Evaluation and Closure		All

Contact: Judith Macchi (HEKS), Email: judith.macchi@heks.ch , Tel: 078 705 81 75

Participants List:

No.	Name	First Name	Institution	Email
1	Rothe	Manuel	Christoffel Blinden Mission	manuel.rothe@cbmswiss.ch
2	Buesch	Fortunat	Swiss Red Cross	fortunat.buesch@redcross.ch
3	Gambon	Helen	Swiss Red Cross	helen.gambon@redcross.ch
4	Huber	Gentiane	Swiss Development Cooperation	gentiane.huber@eda.admin.ch
5	Fleiner	Renate	Caritas Switzerland	rfleiner@caritas.ch
6	Wijesekera	Ruvani	Interdisciplinary Center for Gender Studies, Uni Bern	ruveni_w@yahoo.co.uk
7	Knobel	Thomas	Swiss Red Cross	thomas.knobel@redcross.ch
8	Affolter	Joëlle	Caritas Switzerland	jaffolter@caritas.ch
9	Kalytta	Thomas	Worldvision Schweiz	t.kalytta@worldvision.ch
10	Vondeling	Annette	Swiss Red Cross	annette.vondeling@redcross.ch
11	Schwiter	Daniel	Worldvision Schweiz	d.schwiter@worldvision.ch
12	Grünewald	Christian	Studentin, Nadel	christina.gruenewald@gmx.ch
13	Vianden	Isabelle	Tearfund Switzerland	vianden.isabelle@tearfund.ch
14	Nufer	Mirjam	Tearfund Switzerland	mirjam.nufer@tearfund.ch
Facilitators				
15	Macchi	Judith	HEKS/EPER	judith.macchi@heks.ch
16	Stolz	Nicole	Caritas Switzerland	nstolz@caritas.ch

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