

Regional level consultation on Mainstreaming DRR and CCA into development policies and practices

(With focus on UNICEF priority areas; Health, Nutrition, Protection, Education and WASH)

Background Context:

India has been a fastest growing country for last decade's, the gross domestic product (GDP) grew 7.6 % in 2015-16, up from 7.2 % a year ago¹, with such a high growth number and the recurrent disasters disrupts the lives and property of the people in the country and affect the economic growth adversely, which essentially require preparedness to address the adverse impacts of disasters and climate change. North-eastern Region (NER) of the country, by virtue of having more than 60% of its geographical landscape under forest and tree cover, acts as a major contributor to the overall forest and tree cover of India, which is around 23.9%². The 59 years flood hazard database of Assam reveals (1953 to 2012) total area affected by flood is 50.624 million hector, population affected is 163.369 million, crop area damage 25.018 million hector amounting to INR 2406.83 Crore, human live lost is 2753 nos. and total damages crops, houses & public utilities in Rs. 8239.202 Crores. The NER constitutes one of the twelve bio-diversity hotspots having more than one-third of country's bio-diversity. While mitigation strategies of disaster risk reduction and climate change goals in the country are under way, adaptation has to go hand-in-hand. Adaptation for North Eastern Region – a compact landscape - is crucial as more than two-third of population in the target States (Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim) is basically rural and depend on climate sensitive natural resources such as; agriculture, forest biodiversity and water availability.

Significance of the region is strategic and therefore, stability of the area from socio-politico and economic perspective becomes important. Geological instability of NER is significantly influenced by the young Himalayan stretch which forms source of various rivers and rivulets. The region is highly vulnerable to changing trends of the climate. –Agriculture production is impacted negatively due to *high incidence of shifting cultivation, North East Region is one of country's richest regions in terms of natural resources, high prevalence of natural disasters (floods, cyclones and droughts etc.) and Changes in trends of meteorological parameters likely to impact forests and livelihoods of dependent communities (workers in forest-based industries).*

Hence, to adapt to a better and likely adverse consequences of disasters and climate change in building resilience, it demands for a suitable strategy for tackling the risks and uncertainties posed by disasters to development processes, through using disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) strategies. However, it should very well focus on mainstreaming the development processes and to keep indicating the track of development. This consultation will support in developing a strategy in NER that would lead for reducing vulnerability of local populace to disaster and climate change in a target-oriented manner.

Current Mainstreaming status:

DRR and CCA approaches are integrated at national level through India's commitment to HFA 2005-15, SFDRR 2015-2030, NAPCC and other programmes of the government. There is an urgent need of integrating such programmes at sub-national levels by exploring and developing the required policy and programmatic instruments/mechanisms for creating enabling environment for large scale implementation. Agencies such as; the State Disaster Management Authorities, District Disaster Management Authorities, Department of Forest and Environment, Agriculture and

¹http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/at-7-6-in-fy16-india-is-now-the-fastest-growing-economy-116053101080_1.html

²North Eastern Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NECCAP), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi-110002

Urban Local Bodies are needed to have a forward looking approach in their planning and implementation activities that accounts for range and trends in climate projections. Promoting climate sensitive decentralised disaster management planning in DDMA's and at ward levels represents a potential point of entry for addressing the above gap.

What is the Call for action:

DRR and CCA need to be prominently integrated in all national planning processes. While the strategic thinking in the region, regarding disaster risk reduction, has been initiated and institutional arrangements are being implemented, the ground reality is far from satisfactory. Risk levels and exposure are increasing due to ill-managed development and growth of populous centres in vulnerable locations. Assam being a regional hub of NE region, its U5MR is 75 per 1000 live-births; there is still scope for successfully bringing down the Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) to the national average of 29 per 1,000 live births. Considering the above, the major areas like; *health, nutrition, child protection, education* and *WASH* would be given priority in addressing effective disaster preparedness for achieving sustainable development goals. Therefore, the region's policy makers, planners and climate negotiators need to endorse long-term approaches to building resilience, building on effective regional cooperation, while planning for uncertainty in the long-run. There needs to be a shift away from relief to risk reduction and climate change adaptation to build people's resilience to disasters, climate variability and change, reducing the underlying risk factors that make them vulnerable to hazards.

Objectives:

- Identify the common areas of mainstreaming on DRR and CCA like; *health, nutrition, child protection, education* and *WASH*
- Improved understanding of key international policy and guidelines in the field of DRR & CCA for enhanced community resilience addressing the issues of children and women
- Identification of regional priorities for action and cooperation in CCA and resilience building
- Linking child-centric DRR interventions, CCA and SDGs
- Linking CCA and DRR in an integrated approach for resilience in the NE region in the line of SFDRR and SDG frameworks.

Conclusion:

This consultation is a step towards attainment of the mainstreaming of CCA and DRR in an integrated approach for building resilience in the NE region in the major areas such as; *Health, Nutrition, Protection, Education and WASH* linking with ongoing policy dialogues for example, with the development of SFDRR, COP21 and SDG frameworks.

Reference:

- http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/at-7-6-in-fy16-india-is-now-the-fastest-growing-economy-116053101080_1.html
- http://www.cansouthasia.net/resources/policy_brief/CANSA_Policy_Brief-2.pdf
- <http://www.saarc-sec.org/userfiles/Large%20Publications/CCNDPPE/22-CCNDPPE-Chapter%20XVIII%20-%20Common%20Areas%20of%20Concern%20and%20Regional%20Level%20Measures.pdf>
- Managing climate extremes and disasters: Lessons from the IPCC SREX report for Asia' – http://cdkn.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/CDKN001_CDKN-RFQ_Asia-report_electronic1.pdf
- Context analysis of Assam
- Disaster Management in India (2011), MoH, Govt. of India http://www.undp.org/content/dam/india/docs/disaster_management_in_india.pdf
- 1953 to 2012 Assam flood hazard database, ASDMA, Assam