

Report



Workshop on

'Flood Management'

7-9 November 2007

Babolsar, Mazandaran Province, Iran

Wednesday Nov 7th 2007
Morning Session

Opening ceremony

1. Mr. Naderi, Governor of Babolsar City:

After a welcome note he started his speech by emphasizing on the fact that natural Disasters are the main concern of human beings today. According to the statistics, more than 3,000,000 people have died because of natural disasters and more than one billion people have been affected. Therefore, we need to raise public awareness and to introduce new approaches for confronting disasters.

He precised that floods or earthquakes should not be considered as crisis but their consequences so there should be some proper plans most of which are not well defined, unfortunately. Crises comes up when needs do not correspond with resources. Hence, we should focus on reinforcement of building or infrastructures, public training, training on relief and rescue. Unfortunately, in Iran flood management is merely done by the government. In developed countries hazards and their risks are identified first and then controlled. In this regard, our country also needs professionals and consultants who could collaborate with government in order to develop applicable approaches. Crisis management should be based on public awareness so that people especially villagers can contribute to it. To be effective, crisis management should be handled by both community people and professionals. It should be noted that when someone provide assistance to someone else, he/she is accomplishing his/her human obligations.

He also said that natural disaster prevention should be based on a scientific technological policy. Since Iran is prone to various natural disasters, it would be important that crisis management comply with government's policies. Fortunately, our government and its ministries have enough capacity to deal with natural disasters. The priorities in crisis management include preparedness, response, reconstruction, capacity building and since vulnerable people are considered to be target group the first part of the crisis management should focus on raising their awareness.

All in all he concluded that natural disaster is mostly because of human being's improper interventions such as misuse of land, destruction of forests, etc.

2. Film on flood in Mazandaran Province in 2003 in Noshahr and 2000 in Neka
(CD)

3. Engineer Hashemi, Deputy of Mazandaran Province Governor General in Construction Affairs:

After a welcome note he reminded that Iran is amongst 10 most disaster prone countries. In order to have effective crisis management, the first step is organizing training workshops.

4. Dr. Shabestari, Head of UNOCHA Office in Iran:

After greetings and a brief description on OCHA and its activities, he referred to the fact that this training event is the first workshop which is organized within the framework of disaster preparedness proposal program among three Farsi speaking countries of Iran, Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

5. Engineer Pourmohammad, Head of Mazandaran Province Emergency Task Force:

He once more reminded that because of its specific climatic and geographical situation, Iran is exposed to different types of natural disasters. At the same time, Iran in accordance with the global trend, is willing to reach sustainable development. However, there are many obstacles ahead, which should be over come and this by:

- preparedness,
- training on flood mitigation with a focus on search and rescue in floods,
- capacity building,
- identification of resources for controlling flood,
- determination of roles and responsibilities,
- insurance for flood (which lacks in our country).

As a common literature, a common guiding policy plan is needed to combat floods. He wished that at the end of the session participants can reach on a unified action plan with regards to flood management.

Module 1:

Mr. Nazari, UNOCHA Consultant in Tehran:

Introduction of the course;

Hazard and Disaster Concepts;

Group exercise

(Power point presentation)

Purpose of this presentation was to identify hazards, potential hazards in local locations, and to know how hazards become disasters and get knowledge on how to mitigate hazard risks.

A list of topics/issues covered within this presentation included:

- A list of hazards (natural/man- made) with photos
- Definition of hazard
- Definition of disaster
- Impacts of disasters
- Disaster risk definition and its formula ($DR = H * V / C$)
- A list of sources of risks
- A list of elements at risk
- DM cycle
- And, finally objectives of DRM

Afternoon Sessions:

1. Dr. Sergi Koryak, Emergency Program Coordinator, WHO:

Floods and their Effects on Health

(Power point presentation)

Main areas of discussion:

- Flood – definition and cause
- Floods classification
- Floods use in agriculture
- Flood effects - direct
- Mapping Flooding frequency in Iran
- Factors of severity
- Factors of vulnerability
- Flood effects - indirect
- Flood effect - indirect
- Flooding and communicable diseases
- Water-borne diseases
- Clinical signs of dysentery
- Vector-borne diseases and some other health problems
- Risk posed by human corpses
- Preventive measures
- Health education
- Typical impact on health services
- Foreseeable needs

2. Engineer Pourmohammad:

Flood, Intensifying Factors and Preventive Measures.

(Power point presentation)

Main areas of discussion:

- Flood and its different types
- Intensifying factors
- negative impacts of flood
- Coordination in Flood Managing
- Preventive measures
- Methods of flood mitigation

3. Dr. Shabestari:

(Power point presentation)

- Main areas of discussion:
- UNOCHA and Disaster Management
- Status of Humanitarian Affairs in the World
- Natural Disasters, Conflicts and Wars
- Soft Law on Response to Disaster within UN system
- Tehran Disaster Response Plan
- Lessons Learnt from Response Trends in Iran
- Lacks and Deficiencies with in the Government and International Community
- Challenges in Humanitarian Assistance
- Minimum Standards

4. Mr. Poretti, Head of Office, SDC

SDC's Community-Based Disaster Management Approaches in Turkey & Iran

(Power point presentation)

Main Subject: Strengthening civil society for disaster management – A New Approach in Turkey and Iran

First, 4 questions related to CBDRM approach and its importance were raised to stimulate interactions. Then, blow issues were presented and discussed through a power point presentation:

- August and November 1999 earthquake in Turkey
- First 72 hours after occurrence of any disasters
- Objective of Neighborhood Disaster Volunteers (NDV)
- Principles of NDV approach
- Personal and team equipment
- Neighborhood Disaster Support Center
- Partnership between government and civil society, key element
- Selected Mahalle (areas) in Tehran for SDC project of NDVs

Finally, Requirements of a successful implementation of NDV approach were discussed and finalized.

5. Allghiyas Soddin Ghiyas, First Secretary, Embassy of I.R. of Afghanistan in Tehran:

Mr. Ghiyas has spoken about natural disasters in Afghanistan that because of its specific climate condition and geographical situation, Afghanistan has experienced several droughts as well as different type of floods and each year several people die because of one of these natural disasters. After the flood on 2006 in eleven province of Afghanistan, 124 people died and as a result many left homeless.

In 2006 many people had to leave their houses after a huge landslide which also led to so many deaths. Fortunately, Afghan Government is taking necessary actions with

this regard by applying applicable approaches in order to combat floods, improving preparedness and identifying resources. Many organizations have also participated in order to make these efforts more effective, among which, the Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior, Afghan Red Crescent Society and some NGOs were involved and covered 8 Afghan provinces.

Unfortunately, this country has not access to enough resources and facilities in order to face all different types of natural disasters and there should be more cooperation among neighboring countries and a global collaboration is desirable.

6. NazarKhan Nazarov, First Secretary, Embassy of Tajikistan in Tehran:

He believed that from long time ago, nature and human being have been in an everlasting conflict. When human being becomes greedy and ambitious, he starts misusing the nature and the nature respond back by natural disasters.

For example there was a place called Gazneh (which in the local dialect means a place full of gas) in Tajikistan which was over exploited and after some years this misuse caused a severe collapse of the ground.

At the end, he wished that cooperation and collaboration among Afghanistan, Iran and Tajikistan in this regard to be further expanded.

Module 2:

Presentation by Mr. Nazari, UNOCHA Consultant in Tehran:

Hazard, Vulnerability, Capacity Assessment (HVCA)

Group exercise

HVCA, Hazard Assessment

(Power point presentation)

A list of topics/issues covered within this presentation included:

- Formula: $DR = H * V / C$
- Purpose of hazard assessment
- Possible reasons for occurrence of new disasters
- A hazard causing secondary hazard
- To understand nature and behavior of hazards; which factors should be taken into consideration in analyzing hazards,
- Explanation on a table for hazard assessment
- Some points in conducting hazard assessment.

HVCA, Vulnerability Assessment

(Power point presentation)

Purpose of this presentation was to know elements at risks, vulnerability assessment process and different types of vulnerabilities.

A list of topics/issues covered within this presentation included:

- Definition of vulnerability
- Definition of vulnerability assessment
- Types of vulnerability (each with examples and details)
- Causing factors of vulnerabilities
- Vulnerability assessment process
- Tools for vulnerability assessment

HVCA, Some Tools for Vulnerability Assessment
 (Power point presentation)

A list of topics/issues covered within this presentation included:

- Review of scientific data
- Review of secondary data
- Historical perspective/timeline
- Risk map
- Transect walk
- Historical description
- Seasonal calendar
- Seasonal diagram
- Venn Diagram
- Livelihoods
- Classification/grading
- Review on development process
- Problem tree

HVCA, Capacity Assessment (2 presentations)
 (Power point presentation)

Purpose of the presentations was to introduce available resources to help decrease vulnerabilities and know capacity assessment process in community level.

A list of topics/issues covered within this presentation included:

- Definition of capacity
- Key concepts and scope
- Types of capacities
- Capacity assessment
- Q: Why do we assess capacity of populations at risk?
- Coping strategies
- Coping mechanisms
- Main concerns.

Floods, Concepts, Legal Issues, Trends, Hazard Identification
 (Power point presentation)

A list of topics/issues covered within this presentation included:

- Discussion on a Q: Do floods have any benefits? If so, how and when?

- Comparing flood risks in rural and urban settings
- Public awareness impact on flood prevention/preparedness
- Discussion on a Q: A comprehensive intervention for flood management should include what?
- Definition of flood
- Reasons to pay serious attention to floods and risks
- Types of floods
- Human interventions causing floods
- Impacts of floods

Thursday Nov 8th 2007

Morning Sessions:

Module 3:

Presentation by Mr. Nazari, UNOCHA Consultant in Tehran:

1) Floods: concepts, legal issues, trends, hazard identification

Group Exercise

(Power point presentation)

A list of topics/issues covered within this presentation included:

- Discussion on a Q: Do floods have any benefits? If so, how and when?
- Comparing flood risks in rural and urban settings
- Public awareness impact on flood prevention/preparedness
- Discussion on a Q: A comprehensive intervention for flood management should include what?
- Definition of flood
- Reasons to pay serious attention to floods and risks
- Types of floods
- Human interventions causing floods
- Impacts of floods

2) Flood Hazard Mitigation;

Group Exercise

(Power point presentation)

A list of topics/issues covered within this presentation included:

- Mitigation strategy
- Traditional approaches
- Structural mitigation
- Prevention approaches
- Protection of assets
- Relief services
- Preservation of natural resources
- Why initiative interventions?
- Initiative interventions

- Awareness
- Training & awareness
- Group discussions
- Flood campaign
- Ceremonies and public events
- Newspaper, brochures, guide booklets
- Flood web-sites and database
- Early warning.

Afternoon Sessions:

-Presentation by Provincial Disaster Task Force of Sistan-Bsaluchistan:

Sistan and Baluchestan Province Flood response

(Power point presentation)

-Presentation by the State's Rangeland and Forestry Organization:

Flood mitigation and Flood Managmnet

(Power point presentation)

-Presentation by Management & Planning Organization (MPO):

DesInventar

(Power point presentation)

-Presentation by Mazandaran Province Rangeland and Forestry Department:

Rangeland Management and Flood mitigation

(Power point presentation)

-Presentation by Provincial Ministry of Energy:

Risk and Disaster Management

(Power point presentation)

Module 4:

Presentation by Mr. Nazari, UNOCHA Consultant in Tehran:

Draft Plan of Action for Local Flood Mitigation, Local Flood Early Warning (10 Steps Approach)

(Power point presentation)

Some main points discussed, but not limited to, included:

- Identification/assessment of all hazards/vulnerabilities
- Identification of all stakeholders, their roles, resources, expectations and their capacities
- All stakeholders preparing their plans for (mitigation/preparedness/response)

Friday, 9 November 2007:

Site visit:

Flood vulnerability assessment (Noushahr, Mazandaran Province)

Visit Mitigation programmes/

Capacity analyses;

Group discussion

Visiting flood risk reduction plans in Babolsar:

- Director General of Provincial Forestry Department, Mazandaran gave speech by Neyrang River of Bablosar by one of the dykes constructed:

Welcoming workshop participants, he started to speak about vegetation coverage and soil structure and rivers of the area. He also pointed out a flood which had hit the city of Babolsar once 13 years ago and then 6 years ago, both causing lots of damages to the city. After studies, it had been agreed to run flood mitigation plans (structural), part of which was followed by building 30 dykes on the way of rivers throughout the province. The participants observed constructed dyke in one of the rivers (called Neyrang).

- Other people who spoke to the participants included governor of Bablosar City, Director General of Mazandaran Province DTF, Mr. Nazari (who talked about structural & non-structural mitigation of floods and that school children can also visit such sites), and Mr. Shabestari (who mainly spoke about coordination and collaboration of bodies responsible for disaster risk management at local and national level).
- The speeches were then followed by an interview with the head of UNOCHA office, Mr. Shabestari, which was conducted by provincial media. Mr. Shabestari introduced UNOCHA and its mandate and put emphasis on the fact that raising public awareness, prevention and disaster risk reduction are tools to reduce damages and losses. "Using experience and knowledge gained in Iran can be shared with other countries such as with ECO member states", he also noted.
- The last program was to visit risk reduction plans carried out on Geleh Kan River which is running in the middle of Babolsar. Explanations were made that 6 years ago due to a flood, the river had overflowed and caused damages. After that, raising walls height around river, its maintenance, and reallocation of some 30 families and some other minor plans were executed to reduce risks due to the floods in Babolsar.