

HFA Monitor

Administration

[Dashboard](#) | [Demo Account](#) | [Reports by Indicator](#) | [Generate PDF Reports](#)

[2011-2013](#) | [2009-2011](#) | [2007-2009](#)

Dashboard > Canada

[\[back \]](#)

Canada: National Progress Report on the Implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action (2011-2013)

Name of focal point: Peter Bundy

Organization: Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Response Division, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada

Title/Position:

Reporting period: 2011-2013

Last updated on: 15 November 2012

Print date: 07 May 2013

Outcomes 2007-2009

1. Integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning

Outcomes:

To be completed in final report.

2. Development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards .

Outcomes:

To be completed in final report.

3. Systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.

Outcomes:

To be completed in final report.

Strategic goals

1. Integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning

Strategic Goal Statement 2009-2011:

The Government of Canada continues to implement the Emergency Management Act, which supports policies, programs and strategies to ensure an emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

In 2011-2012, Public Safety Canada has been working on one-time funding to help Provinces with flood recovery; the program includes an emphasis on new disaster prevention measures and mitigation. Public Safety Canada is now also working on an integrated National Disaster Mitigation Strategy which will bring a holistic approach to mitigation and support for preventative structural and non-structural disaster reduction and preparedness.

In 2011, The Government of Canada released its first Progress Report on The Federal Sustainable Development Strategy. The Report outlines actions taken to implement the requirements under the Federal Sustainable Development Act and focuses on progress made on setting up the systems needed to implement the Act. The report is part of a long-term plan to improve the management approach geared to making environmental decision-making more transparent and accountable over time.

Internationally, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and other partner departments/agencies continue to collaborate to raise awareness of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and its integration into sustainable development programming abroad.

2. Development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards .

Strategic Goal Statement 2009-2011:

The Government of Canada has been, and will continue to be, involved in supporting resilience capacity building; however most disasters are local in nature and therefore fall within the purview of municipalities and the provinces and territories. As the scale of disasters increase, the Government of Canada will become more involved.

Core to Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is to empower communities and stakeholders to become resilient in the face of disasters. The Resilient Communities Working Group has promoted the "Resilient Cities" campaign across Canada and is modifying the framework to be relevant to non-incorporated rural, remote and aboriginal communities, thus supporting local resilience. Other working groups are similarly engaged in developing capacity and building resilience within their respective sectors (private sector / volunteer sector).

Canada continues to work with the provinces and territories on the Emergency Framework for Canada, which clarifies the governance and responsibility delegation mechanisms enabling jurisdictions to strengthen their emergency management protocols. This is fundamental to Canada's multi-tiered approach to resilience.

Internationally, Canada promotes and supports disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives within existing multilateral and regional institutions such as the UN system, the Organization for American States, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and international financial institutions such as the World Bank. Canada supports activities that aim to enhance institutional capacity at all levels and is particularly focused on DRR activities in the Americas and Caribbean region although continues to support DRR initiatives in other regions such as Southeast Asia, where CIDA has integrated Disaster Risk Reduction into regional programming.

For example, CIDA has provided \$2.5 million from 2011-2012 to the Pan American Health organization (PAHO) for its Programme for Emergency Disaster Preparedness (PED). Since 1988, Canada has provided over \$24 million to PAHO PED to strengthen disaster preparedness in the Americas.

Between Sept 2010 and June 2012, DFAIT has provided \$135,000 to the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to facilitate the delivery of the UN Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Course (UN-CMCoord) and the UN-CMCoord Familiarization Module for Peacekeeping Training Centers (PKTCs) in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region. The course increased mutual awareness and understanding of the roles of military and humanitarian actors working on the ground in complex emergency and disaster situations in the LAC region, thereby contributing to improved effectiveness and preparedness of international relief operations.

3. Systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.

Strategic Goal Statement 2009-2011:

The Government of Canada has established a Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement which

supports recovery programming, but which includes provisions to make mitigation eligible for cost-sharing as part of the repair. This program recognizes the importance of prevention and mitigation in advance of disasters, but is also a systematic approach to incorporating mitigation into recovery programs.

The Government of Canada is also developing a National Disaster Mitigation Strategy which will further the inclusion of risk reduction into not only emergency preparedness, response and recovery, but will create a framework for future projects and policies to include mitigation as a core criteria for development.

Internationally, where possible, Canada supports and promotes global resilience building activities and approaches, including the integration of risk reduction approaches into emergency preparedness, response, and recovery programmes. Canada believes that comprehensive resilience building activities must address natural, economic, and conflict related shocks and stresses. CIDA's Strategic Policy and Performance Branch is identifying ways that CIDA can strengthen its contribution to building resilience globally, including through an increased focus on DRR.

CIDA is currently managing a \$20 million program entitled "Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Program (CDRMP)", which is being implemented from 2007 to 2015. The goal of this program is to enhance regional capacity to mitigate, manage and coordinate gender and environmentally sensitive responses to disasters in the Caribbean region.

DFAIT, through the Global Peace and Security Fund, has been providing support to risk reduction approaches through a series of stabilization and reconstruction projects in Haiti following the January 2010 earthquake in that country. These include:

First Aid Instructor Training in Haiti (FAITH), \$1.3 million, St. John Ambulance – This project has established a training Program comprised of Basic First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), which to date has reached over 3000 Haitian National Police (HNP) officers. A train-the-trainer model is also being pursued to ensure sustainability of Canada's intervention. To date, over 170 trainers have been trained along with 10 instructor trainers. Additionally, nearly 200 senior and middle HNP management personnel have been provided Emergency Preparedness awareness training courses to help better enable the HNP to respond to catastrophic events. (Ongoing project)

Haitian National Police (HNP) Early Recovery Equipment Project, \$4.8 million, Canadian Commercial Corporation – Canada has provided 100 patrol vehicles to the HNP to help better enable them to, among others, conduct patrols and respond to emergencies including natural disasters. (Ongoing project)

Strengthening local capacity-building and seismic risk prevention related to natural disasters, \$1million, Emergency Architects of Canada and Engineers without Borders, Quebec. This project has helped reinforce local capacities in appropriate seismic construction and disaster risk prevention by offering training to Government of Haiti engineers and architects who participate in building security and justice infrastructure. (Ongoing project)

Additionally, in its support for several projects to reconstruct critical security infrastructure in Haiti, Canada has worked to ensure the safety and durability of buildings, including with respect to international standards in anti-seismic resistance.

Priority for action 1

1. National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

The Government of Canada engages in a range of activities aimed at building resilience and strengthening disaster risk reduction domestically and globally. Public Safety Canada, as the lead federal department domestically, facilitates collaboration among federal institutions, provinces and territories, as well as non-governmental partners to advance the safety and security of Canadians.

An Emergency Management Framework for Canada, revised in 2011, guides and strengthens the way in which federal, provincial and territorial governments work together by reinforcing shared responsibilities among all levels of government; and supporting the design, implementation and on-going improvements of emergency management in Canada.

Through policies and strategies such as the Emergency Management Act, the Federal Policy for Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Response Plan, the Government of Canada provides direction regarding emergency management planning roles and responsibilities under a whole-of-government approach, and outlines process and mechanisms to facilitate an integrated national response to emergencies.

The National Disaster Mitigation Strategy enhances Canada's capacity to prevent and reduce the impact of disasters, and promotes disaster-resilient emergency management in Canada. To support Federal policies, tools such as the All-Hazards Risk Assessment and the Emergency Management Planning Guide have been developed.

In 2010, Canada launched its National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which serves as a multi-stakeholder mechanism to discuss national disaster risk reduction objectives. Canada's Platform's objectives are to create an enabling environment to raise awareness and enhance dialogue, provide strategic advice to policy makers, and enhance stakeholder collaboration on disaster risk reduction activities.

Internationally, the Government of Canada supports a range of DRR, preparedness, response and recovery activities aimed at enhancing the capacity for disaster management.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) has the lead responsibility for coordinating the Government of Canada's whole-of-government response to major natural disasters abroad. In this regard, Canada works closely with humanitarian organizations to further strengthen response capacities and to ensure that humanitarian needs are met across crises.

Internationally, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has supported the UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) to mainstream DRR into its poverty reduction, governance and environment files. CIDA currently continues to fund the UNDP Peacebuilding Fund, which benefits BCPR indirectly, to ensure that DRR continues to be mainstreamed into UNDP's activities worldwide.

CIDA has also recently contributed \$10 million to the World Bank for a 5-year Integrated Disaster Risk Management project that aims to reduce the impact of disasters and preserve development gains in Southeast Asia.

Context & Constraints:

Emergency management in Canada is a shared responsibility, which relies on ongoing cooperation and communication between all levels of government. The federal, provincial and territorial governments have complementary roles in emergency management, and each jurisdiction has emergency management legislation articulating its responsibilities. All governments have adopted an all-hazards approach that addresses both natural and human-induced hazards and disasters.

All Canadians are implicated in strengthening disaster risk reduction and resilience domestically, including individual citizens, communities, municipalities, federal, provincial, and territorial governments, First Nations communities, first responders, the private sector, volunteer and non-government organizations, and academia. Establishing effective communication and mechanisms to share information and to collaborate are key components for building resiliency in Canada and enhancing our approach to disaster risk reduction.

2. Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

The Government of Canada has made investments to strengthen disaster risk reduction in Canada. Public Safety Canada, which has the lead responsibility for emergency management in Canada, is allocated a budget of \$412 million and has 1,095 employees.

The Government of Canada provides financial assistance to provinces and territories in the event of a large scale natural disaster through Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements, which provide a mechanism for federal sharing of eligible provincial and territorial costs for response and recovery following a major natural disaster where such costs would place an undue burden on a provincial or territorial economy. In 2008 the Government of Canada introduced a provision whereby provinces or territories can request up to 15% of their eligible response and recovery costs under the DFAA, which can then be directed towards mitigative enhancements to infrastructure being rebuilt following a disaster event.

Recognizing that disasters are increasing in magnitude and complexity and that mitigation can lessen the impact of natural disasters on vulnerable communities and reduce the costs associated with these events, the Government of Canada allocated \$99.2 million in Budget 2012 to share the cost of permanent flood mitigation investments made by provinces and territories affected by the 2011 spring floods. The Government of Canada is also exploring options for developing a National Disaster Mitigation Program.

Many other federal departments are also engaged in disaster risk reduction activities. For example, Environment Canada's Environmental Emergencies Program is aimed at reducing the frequency and consequences of environmental emergencies involving unplanned, uncontrolled or accidental release of hazardous substances such as oils or chemicals. Through Infrastructure Canada, disaster mitigation infrastructure is eligible for federal cost-sharing.

Context & Constraints:

Although many federal departments are engaged in disaster risk reduction activities, specific funding to support such activities is not comprehensively tracked.

3. Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels

Level of Progress achieved:

5

Description:

Legislation in Canada ensures that emergency management is a shared responsibility with jurisdictional roles clearly identified and outlined. Each provincial and territorial government has its own emergency management legislation articulating its roles and responsibilities, and those of municipalities and communities within their jurisdiction. However, there is recognition that Canadians and actors at all levels have a role to play.

All levels of government, including local governments, share an interest in reducing the risks posed by disasters. Through Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which involves bringing together stakeholders from many disciplines who share an interest in reducing the risks associated with disasters, Canada builds a sense of national, cross-sectional ownership of leadership in disaster risk reduction. The goal is a national, cooperative approach to emergency management of all hazards.

The Resilient Communities Working Group, under Canada's Platform, further seeks to empower communities (including rural, remote, coastal and First Nations) in building resilience and understanding their role in disaster risk reduction.

Context & Constraints:

All levels of Canadian society undertake activities in emergency management. Federal, provincial and territorial governments all share the responsibility for emergency management in Canada, and partner with each other, other sectors and citizens in preparing for disasters.

Canada has a suite of legal and policy frameworks that establish guidelines and standards to ensure due diligence and accountability in relation to emergency management activities aligning responsibilities with their respective jurisdiction. At the national level, the federal government has a leadership role relating to emergency management responsibilities.

4. A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

Disaster risk reduction, while a priority for the Government of Canada, is the responsibility of all sectors and all Canadians. Canada therefore supports and facilitates opportunities for a multi-stakeholder dialogue on disaster risk reduction, resilience and mitigation.

In June 2009, as part of its commitment to deliver on the Hyogo Framework of Action, Canada announced the establishment of a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to raise awareness and enhance dialogue, provide strategic advice to policy makers, and enhance stakeholder collaboration on disaster risk reduction activities.

When establishing Canada's Platform, the Government built on existing consultation mechanisms and relationships while creating new opportunities to maximize participation in disaster risk reduction activities. The Platform also complements and strengthens existing domestic disaster risk reduction initiatives such as the National Disaster Mitigation Strategy, the National Strategy and Action Plan for

Critical Infrastructure, the Federal Emergency Response Plan, and the National Public Alerting System.

Canada's Platform governance model comprises four interconnected components: an advisory committee; general membership; working groups; and a secretariat. The Advisory Committee is composed of ten representatives who represent federal institutions, provinces and territories, non-governmental organizations, first responders, the private sector and academia. Its role is to guide, set priorities, and support the development, implementation and operation of Canada's Platform.

An Annual Roundtable on Disaster Risk Reduction is organized to bring together all the components of Canada's Platform. To date, Canada has held three annual Roundtables with the most recent taking place in October 2012. Participation has been growing since the inaugural Roundtable in 2010, reaching over 200 participants from all sectors of society at the most recent in 2012. The Roundtable has proven to be an important mechanism to consult a broad cross-section of stakeholders and individual citizens on disaster-related issues.

Context & Constraints:

Any new initiative that is national in scope takes time to develop. Over the past three years, the benefits of participating in Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction have been underscored by many sectors of society, which has resulted in a consecutive increase in participation year over year. Moving forward, Canada will continue to engage with all sectors to expand representation and to ensure that all Canadians have a voice in disaster risk reduction issues.

Priority for action 2

1. National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.

Level of Progress achieved:

3

Description:

The Government of Canada continues to advance a number of national initiatives that support and inform risk-based decision-making.

Public Safety Canada continues to implement a federal All Hazards Risk Assessment initiative, which, when fully implemented, will provide a whole-of-government risk picture. Additionally, prototype risk assessments using HAZUS-Multi Hazards are being conducted through federal, provincial and municipal cooperation in British Columbia and the Ottawa-Montreal corridor. These efforts are helping to refine the definition of needs for vulnerability information required as input for regional and national scale risk assessments. This initiative, along with other efforts, support effective emergency management planning and risk-based decision-making.

The Government of Canada, with Provincial and Territorial stakeholders, are exploring options for a National Disaster Mitigation Program which will strengthen a culture of risk management at all levels of government and civil society.

Canada's environmental regulations require that environmental emergency plans for regulated chemical substances address the full range of hazards that can reasonably be expected to occur at the site including natural disasters, severe weather conditions, etc. Information on the type and quantity of chemical substances is stored in a national database.

Provincial Governments, such as Ontario, have introduced legislative provisions that require municipalities and ministries to assess their hazards and risks. In addition, the Province of Ontario has developed the 'Adapting to Climate Change: A Risk Assessment Guide for Ontario Municipalities' and Workbook (the Toolkit) for use by small to medium size municipalities in developing their adaptation planning.

Context & Constraints:

At the sub-national level, provincial and territorial governments are responsible for the development and implementation of risk assessments and have the authority to place this as a requirement on municipal governments within their jurisdictions. For example, the Province of Ontario requires provincial ministries and municipalities to assess their hazards and risks as part of their compliance to provincial emergency management legislation. To mitigate the challenges of decentralized responsibilities and accountabilities, Public Safety Canada has worked at improving governance and coordination mechanisms with sub-national entities to improve information sharing, discussions and collaboration on disaster risk reduction.

2. Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

The Government of Canada recognizes the key role that effective knowledge and information management plays in informing risk based decision-making.

Maintained by Public Safety Canada, the Canadian Disaster Database is a publically accessible web-based repository of information about natural and made-made disasters since 1900 in Canada or abroad that have affected Canadians. It contains over 1000 events and supports research and decision-making across a breadth of fields. Originally developed to better inform the public and government decision-making on disasters in Canada, the Database is now accessed internationally and also used for awareness and risk assessment. Data is collected through media scans, research, in consultation with partners and is verified via a network of disaster experts.

The Government, with Provincial and Territorial partners, continues to invest in initiatives that support risk based decision making. The Multi-Agency Situational Awareness System (MASAS) was identified as a priority by federal and provincial interoperability partners and added as an item to the Communications Interoperability Strategy for Canada (CISC) Action Plan in January 2011. MASAS is an interconnected network of systems for exchanging location-based emergency incident information among multiple agencies using common standards, policies and interoperable technologies, providing an aggregation of sources of information relevant to emergency managers. Currently this aggregation includes alerts and information updates from other emergency management organizations, including on weather, earthquakes and wildfires. MASAS is intended to support daily emergency response activities and allows emergency managers to spend less time searching for, compiling, making sense of and sharing information. Although MASAS can provide access to a large volume of information, it is structured and uses standard terminology allowing for the filtering and flagging of information. Currently the MASAS user community reaches 350 organizations. Plans are being made for the transition from an operational pilot to operational capability by the end of 2012.

Context & Constraints:

Initiatives such as MASAS build on an existing information sharing culture between the Federal government and Provincial and Territorial partners. When situations arise, information is shared through established systems or through regular contact with partners through established vehicles (situation reports, emergency information notifications, teleconferences, etc.). The focus of efforts and investment is on building a more effective and efficient mechanism for information sharing and reducing legislative and regulatory barriers.

3. Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

The dissemination of timely and accurate information to communities is a critical function of Canada's emergency management system. Canada continues efforts to improve the capability and capacity of systems, including the timeliness and accuracy of critical event information.

Public Safety Canada has been coordinating the development of a National Public Alerting System (NPAS) through a public-private partnership, between other federal departments and agencies, provinces and territories, and the broadcasting industry. The goal is to enable authorized government authorities to rapidly warn the public of imminent or unfolding dangers (e.g. tornados / chemical spills). The system will operate 24/7 and use radio, television and the internet. The NPAS complements existing public alerting systems and tools in a number of federal-provincial-territorial jurisdictions.

Environment Canada is investing in infrastructure necessary to detect high impact weather events and predict their occurrence, development, severity and impacts (e.g. weather radar and lightning detection networks; surface weather and climate networks; and supercomputing infrastructure).

Environment Canada's Meteorological Service is investing in services that provide information to enable Canadians to make better decisions to protect their health (e.g. alerting of heat events; enhancing the Wind Chill Program; advancing the Air Quality Health Index; and enhancing the UV Index). Environment Canada has distributed 15,700 Weather radio receivers to schools and Scouts /

Guides camps across Canada; this network broadcasts weather information, severe weather and tsunami alerts.

Natural Resources Canada has developed an automated notification of all Canadian earthquakes with magnitude above 4.0, which is now available via social media (e.g. Twitter).

The Province of Ontario's Emergency Public Warning System was re-launched in 2012 with the capability to send Red Alerts, Emergency Information Notifications, and Tornado Warnings. Information is sent via Twitter, e-mail, and RSS (Rich Site Summary), and posted on Emergency Management Ontario's website. The system is administered in partnership with municipalities and media.

CIDA's International Humanitarian Assistance Directorate (IHA) has been refining its DRR toolkit to enable a more effective response to calls for assistance following natural disasters, and to support the disaster preparedness capacity of the humanitarian system writ large. In this capacity, IHA has developed several disaster preparedness projects, including:

- A roster of highly qualified Canadian disaster relief and humanitarian experts who can be rapidly deployed to sudden-onset natural disasters to help United Nations organizations respond to the needs of affected populations;
- The maintenance of emergency relief stockpiles that can be rapidly delivered and distributed to disaster-affected populations by trusted humanitarian partners;
- A rapid draw-down funding mechanism that provides financial support to the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in responding to smaller, localised disasters;
- Strengthening the capacity of the Red Cross Movement to prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies through initiatives including the establishment of a Rapid Deployment Field hospital managed by the Canadian Red Cross;
- Strengthening disaster management capacities on the ground where disasters hit through supporting the health sector in the Americas to better prepare for, and respond to, disasters.

Context & Constraints:

Advances in technology and social media create opportunities to effect change in the mechanisms of information extrapolation and dissemination of information. As Canadians become more accustomed and familiar with the use of technology, expectations and demands for information increases. Responding to these expectations requires considerable investment of time, energy and resources.

4. National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

Canada's emergency management system is based on shared responsibilities. Constitutional and legislative responsibilities are defined by statute for all orders of government, but, equally engaged are all other aspects of Canadian society, including first nations, industry and private sectors, and individuals and communities. This broad-based approach fosters regional and sub-regional perspectives in disaster risk reduction activities undertaken.

Examples include:

- The Province of Ontario considers events that take place outside of Ontario that may impact the province. In addition, the province participates with regional, national and international partners on trans-boundary risks.
- Adjacent municipalities in the Province of Ontario are encouraged to work jointly in developing adaptation to, and planning for, climate change using the Risk Assessment Climate Change Toolkit to ensure uniform strategies within a watershed or common planning area.
- Public Health Agency of Canada uses risk assessments and the implementation of border health measures at points of entry and on conveyances to address the issue of trans-boundary risks. This ensures the protection of the public health and the travelling public in Canada.
- Public Safety Canada ensures continuous improvement for whole-of- government efforts.

Magnitude12 Earthquake is an exercise based on national and local risk assessments, taking account of regional / trans-boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction. Validating regional response plans will provide opportunities to identify gaps, and to take corrective actions thus reducing risk in the long term.

Canada's regional and sub-regional participation takes place in a whole-of-government context, where the Departments of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, Canadian International

Development Agency, Public Safety Canada, Health Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Fisheries and Oceans all take part in multilateral fora to advance regional and national capacity building, sharing of information, and contributing actively to practical means and methods of all-hazards risk reduction, mainly through UN agencies, the Organization of American States (OAS) and NATO. For Example:

CIDA has supported the UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) to mainstream DRR into its poverty reduction, governance and environment files. CIDA currently continues to fund the UNDP Peacebuilding Fund, which benefits BCPR indirectly, to establish a crucial bridge between conflict and recovery. Through their efforts in post-conflict countries, UNDP aims to minimize the risk of a relapse into conflict.

Context & Constraints:

N/A

Priority for action 3

1. Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

Informed Canadians are safe Canadians, and therefore the Government of Canada, Provincial and Territorial partners and municipalities have numerous mechanisms in place to share information with the public.

Public Safety Canada provides Canadians with information and services relating to public safety from the Government of Canada and its partners. This is achieved through its website: www.publicsafety.gc.ca.

Public Safety Canada has a number of other programs and projects to ensure Canadians are informed either after an event or to help them respond to an event. This includes the Canadian Disaster Database, a publically accessible web-based repository of information about natural and man-made disasters that have taken place since 1900; and Canada's Multi-Agency Situational Awareness System (MASAS), an interconnected system for exchanging location-based emergency incident information among multiple agencies using common standards, policies and interoperable technologies.

Public Safety Canada's "72 Hours: Is your family prepared?" campaign includes a range of publications and hazard specific promotional materials, a dedicated website (www.GetPrepared.ca), social media, advertising, collaborative arrangements, exhibits and special events. Public Safety Canada's regional offices distribute emergency preparedness materials directly to regional stakeholders across Canada.

Health Canada has developed and disseminated public guidance documents to promote a culture of emergency preparedness for all Canadians with understandable advice on risk reduction in times of emergency (e.g.: "Preparing Your Family for an Emergency").

Natural Resources Canada's seismologists routinely respond to public and media enquiries, which increase following public perception or awareness of domestic or catastrophic international earthquakes.

Context & Constraints:

The contents of the Canadian Disaster Database undergo constant revision as new disasters occur and more information about past disasters becomes available. Cost and loss data in particular are subject to regular update since there are currently no standardized guidelines for collecting this type of information. This lack of standardized guidelines for data collection has posed challenges in comprehensively and consistently quantifying the aggregate costs of disasters, especially secondary socio-economic costs.

2. School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.

Level of Progress achieved:

3

Description:

Jurisdiction over primary and secondary school curriculum in Canada is the exclusive jurisdiction of Provincial and Territorial governments. There is no national level initiative to develop and include lesson plans on natural hazards and disaster risk reduction; however, many school boards across Canada do so, specifically in disaster prone areas which include hazard specific content on their curriculum. This content is usually coordinated at the municipal school board level.

Natural Resources Canada maintains the Public Safety Geoscience Program, which makes available nationally classroom resources and lesson plans for middle and secondary school students to better understand the geographic scope and potential impact of geohazards (earthquakes, landslides and tsunamis) in Canada. The program also contributes to regionally specific exercises.

In January 2012, British Columbia held their first province-wide earthquake drill, "ShakeOut BC"; more than 10% of the population participated. This activity served as the catalyst for broad-based discussions regarding emergency preparedness. After the first British Columbia ShakeOut drill, its organizers consulted with school districts, the Ministry of Education, and emergency management stakeholders from across the province and decided to align "The Great British Columbia ShakeOut" with ShakeOut drills in western North America. 2012 is the second year of "The Great British Columbia ShakeOut", which will be the largest earthquake drill ever to take place in Canada.

Numerous private educational institutions have established emergency management and disaster risk reduction programs at the college, undergraduate and graduate levels in Canada. However, Canada still lacks dedicated doctoral level programs in emergency management or disaster risk reduction.

Public Safety Canada provides annual courses to federal institutions on the preparation of emergency management plans which encompass the development of all-hazards risk assessments and treatment, as well as recovery strategies by federal institutions.

Context & Constraints:

Currently, there are no post-secondary scholarships funded by any level of government in Canada which directly support emergency management or disaster risk reduction academics. The Canadian chapter of the International Association of Emergency Managers offers one of the few privately funded emergency management or disaster risk reduction related scholarships in Canada.

3. Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.**Level of Progress achieved:**

3

Description:

Canada is committed to research to support evidence based decision making and the development of tools for risk assessment and disaster risk reduction. The Federal government undertakes much of this research and development with private and academic organizations.

Environment Canada makes available scientifically sound information on the environmental, social, and economic risks and impacts caused by vulnerabilities to atmospheric change, variability, and extremes, and on the viability of adaptive responses. Scientists at Environment Canada are also responsible for meteorological research, which focuses on research activities; understanding, detecting and predicting severe weather phenomena, and the applications of cloud and precipitation physics to severe weather processes.

Defence Research and Development Canada hosts a joint endeavor, called the Centre for Security Science, with Public Safety Canada that provides science and technology support and services to address Canada's public safety and national security priorities. Work is undertaken through a collaborative model that invests in science and technology research, development, testing and evaluation of concepts and technologies. The Centre also applies scientific methodologies and expertise to support policy development, and emergency and security planning and operations.

Public Safety Canada supports additional natural hazards research and networking through the Canadian Risk and Hazards Network and the Science and Technology Working Group established under Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Natural Resources Canada scientists provide expertise to render satellite data useful to the Government of Canada. The group encompasses experts in remote sensing technology, satellite signals, data methodologies, and the development of value-added image products, information, applications and services. In addition to transforming data from existing satellite sensors, scientists are involved in the development of next-generation satellite sensors, and the effective and

immediate use of data from these sensors continues to modify HAZUS-Multi-Hazard for use in a Canadian context, with extension beyond earthquakes to other natural hazards.

Context & Constraints:

Canada is developing a National Disaster Mitigation Program and cutting-edge research will be essential to both the development and execution of the program. The program will build upon domestic and international disaster mitigation research initiatives, scientific developments, best practices, and lessons learned from disaster events, and will support the new and ongoing research to promote evidence based decision making for sustainable mitigation activities.

4. Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

Public awareness is an important component of disaster risk reduction in Canada and there are on-going activities across the country to promote awareness and action by Canadians.

Public Safety Canada's "Get Prepared" marketing campaign encourages Canadians to be prepared to cope on their own for at least 72 hours after an emergency, enabling first responders to focus on those in urgent need. The campaign was designed in collaboration with a behavioural psychologist and risk communications experts. The campaign serves to pre-position emergency communications so that when a major event occurs, people are better prepared and able to cope during an emergency. Campaign objectives were measured each year and compared against the 2005 baseline research, with successful results.

The Resilient Communities Working Group, established under Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, coordinates the Canadian implementation of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction's "Making Cities Resilient" campaign. To date, five Canadian municipalities have been officially certified as a United Nations' Resilience Cities, including North Vancouver, which was awarded the United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction, in 2011.

Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction seeks to engage any Canadian with an interest in disaster risk reduction and identify opportunities to ensure all sectors participate in activities to promote resilience. This year's Roundtable will include a 90-minute session seeking ideas for engagement and outreach.

Public Safety Canada and Defence Research and Development Canada's Centre for Security Science funded the development and testing of a draft resilience household survey, designed to fill the gaps in Canadian resilience-related data. This survey covers hazard/risk awareness, prior experience of a major disaster, and precautionary behaviours used to prevent or mitigate the effects of disaster.

Context & Constraints:

While public information on disaster risk reduction is available from a variety of sources in Canada, to date a single whole-of-community approach to emergency management and disaster risk recovery has not yet been formalized.

Priority for action 4

1. Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.

Level of Progress achieved:

3

Description:

Disaster risk reduction is integral to environmental policies and plans, including adaptation to climate change. Canada continues to protect the natural environment, promote adaptation and safeguard Canadians by mobilizing federal and provincial institutions to develop an integrated approach to climate adaptation.

Environment Canada has a number of programs that are aimed at protecting wildlife and areas of significance, including the 2011 Protected Areas Strategy and the Environmental Damages Fund. Environment Canada has also initiated a multi-year program to improve and extend the level of climate services it provides to Canadians, and is developing an approach to provide emergency management organizations and decision-makers with advanced warnings and expected impacts.

Environment Canada is also leading the Global Framework for Climate Services that will enhance the quality and volume of climate services available worldwide.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA), 2012, is a federal law that requires consideration of the potential impacts a proposed project may have on the environment before federal authorities proceed.

Transport Canada monitors shipping through its National Aerial Surveillance Program to detect ship-source pollution; enabling enforcement of domestic and international laws, supporting emergency response; and providing ice monitoring. Transport Canada has a comprehensive framework for marine safety, pollution prevention, enforcement, and oil spill preparedness and response programs.

At a regional level, adjacent municipalities in the Province of Ontario are being encouraged to work jointly in developing adaptation to climate change using the Risk Assessment Climate Change Toolkit, to ensure uniform strategies in same watershed. The Federal Government is further promoting collaboration at the regional level through the Regional Adaptation Collaborative Climate Change Program, which is a three year, \$30 million initiative cost-shared between federal, provincial and territorial governments to support coordinated regional action towards advancing climate change adaptation decision-making.

Context & Constraints:

Given the vastness of Canada's landscape and the diversity of its climate zones, the impact of climate change on the health of Canadians as well as on Canada's environment and security is recognized as a complex issue. Key to addressing these challenges are to continue collaborative national efforts in research and science, and to continue moving forward with partners in implementing innovative strategies and plans such as the standing up of the Canadian High Arctic Research Centre.

2. Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.

Level of Progress achieved:

3

Description:

Vulnerable populations are often more at risk to disasters and are less resilient in the face of change. Canada has a number of programs to ensure social development to help these populations.

Human Resources and Social Development Canada administers a work sharing program that is an adjustment program designed to help employers and employees avoid layoffs during temporary reductions in the normal level of business activity, beyond the control of the employer. The measure provides income support to employees eligible for Employment Insurance benefits who work a temporarily reduced work week while their employer recovers.

The Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan for the Health Sector is a guidance document developed to assist in the preparation for and response to an influenza pandemic in all jurisdictions in Canada. In 2009 Health Canada released specific guidance to pandemic planners, at all levels of government, regarding influenza pandemic considerations in on reserve First Nations communities.

AgriRecovery is a disaster relief framework and part of a suite of Business Risk Management programs. It provides for a coordinated process among federal, provincial and territorial governments to jointly respond to specified disasters (e.g., disease, weather) with quick, targeted assistance on a case-by-case basis. The objective of AgriRecovery is to reduce the impact of the business risks faced by Canadian producers by assisting those who have been affected by disasters with assistance to resume business operations as quickly as possible, take actions to mitigate the impacts of a disaster, or if needed, facilitate transition into new production where long-term restrictions are placed on a property due to a disease or pest.

Administered at the provincial and territorial level, Canadians have benefited from a Crop Insurance Program for over 25 years. Crop insurance was specifically implemented to address losses to the agriculture industry from uncontrollable natural hazards.

Context & Constraints:

Through Budget 2012, the Government of Canada initiated changes to its federal employment insurance program, the effects of which have yet to be assessed as a mechanism to increase resiliency for underemployed, impoverished or risk prone households or communities, including those that are sustained by seasonal agricultural workers.

3. Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

Economically, Canada has remained comparatively strong, despite the global down-turn. However the Government continues to develop policies and plans to reduce vulnerabilities of economic activities, especially in post-disaster recovery.

In 2012, Canada established a three-year contribution program totaling \$99.2 million in response to requests from provinces and territories for financial assistance toward their investments in permanent flood mitigation measures. Public Safety Canada's one-time contribution program aims to reimburse provinces and territories, on a 50-50 cost-shared basis, for eligible permanent flood mitigation measures taken by provinces and territories in 2011 that are not otherwise eligible under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. The payments will be made under a new class of contributions entitled, Financial Support to Provinces and Territories for 2011 Flood Mitigation Investments.

The Building Canada program, administered by Infrastructure Canada, seeks to create a more competitive and prosperous economy, and maintains a distinct investment category targeted to disaster mitigation. Building Canada investments are directed towards projects that will reduce the vulnerability of a community or public infrastructure to the potential impacts of extreme natural events, including climate change. Funding is limited to structural mitigation projects, but must be supported by appropriate non-structural mitigation measures. In addition, projects must be supported by appropriate risk assessments that demonstrate the need for the structural mitigation.

The National Strategy for Critical Infrastructure seeks to build a safer, more secure and more resilient Canada by advancing coherent and complementary actions among federal, provincial and territorial initiatives and among ten critical infrastructure sectors. Its associated Action Plan outlines steps that will be implemented to enhance resiliency of Canada's critical infrastructure.

Context & Constraints:

It is vital to continue to protect communities and key infrastructure investments that are vulnerable to the impacts of natural and man-made events and would have a negative impact on businesses and local economies.

4. Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.

Level of Progress achieved:

4

Description:

Canada has made achievements incorporating disaster risk reduction elements into the planned and built environment, coordinated at the federal level by national codes.

The 2010 National Building Code of Canada sets out technical provisions for the design and construction of new buildings. It also applies to the alteration, change of use and demolition of existing buildings. The building code is complemented by the National Fire Code of Canada, and the National Plumbing Code of Canada.

These Codes incorporate close to 800 technical changes to address technological advances as well as health and safety concerns raised since 2005. They are an indispensable source of information for building, fire and plumbing officials as well as construction professionals and educators. While these Codes are non-binding, they help inform provincial and territorial legislation and enforcement. Provinces and territories may adopt, in whole or in part, these codes for mandatory use within their jurisdiction.

A nation-wide flood management program, including investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas, does not exist. However, individual provinces and territories, and municipalities, invest in flood management measures, with periodic support from the Government of Canada. In response to significant spring flooding in 2011, the Government of Canada committed \$99.2 million to supporting provinces and territories that invested in flood mitigation measures in 2011.

To assist in planning and development, Natural Resources Canada has developed the first national scale tsunami hazard assessment map for Canada.

Context & Constraints:

Almost all of Canada's current infrastructure stock was designed using values derived from historical climate data, which do not reflect current trends around climate variability, and has the potential to impact the safety of existing structures, increase the frequency of weather-related disasters, accelerate premature weathering of structures, change climatic design criteria for codes and standards and alter engineering practices.

In the face of increasing climate variability, a significant challenge will be developing adaptive solutions for Canada's existing infrastructure assets, estimated at more than \$5.5 trillion, as well as ensuring ongoing improvements to how structures are engineered, maintained and operated. While the national code documents do not directly address issues related to climate change mitigation, the climatic data that forms the basis for much of the design of buildings is continuously being updated in the National Building Code to ensure it is current.

5. Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes**Level of Progress achieved:**

5

Description:

The Government of Canada provides financial assistance to provincial and territorial governments through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements for large natural disasters when response and recovery costs exceed what individual provinces or territories could reasonably be expected to bear on their own. The percentage of eligible costs reimbursed under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement is determined by a pre-defined cost-sharing formula.

On January 1, 2008, the Government of Canada revised the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement Guidelines to include the sharing of cost for mitigative improvements to damaged infrastructure in order to better protect against future disasters. Under this provision, up to 15 percent of the estimated cost of repairs to damaged infrastructure to pre-disaster conditions can be allocated for mitigative enhancements. Examples of improvements to damaged public infrastructure include enlarging a culvert beside a road in a flood prone area, raising a bridge to prevent it from being washed away, or extending a dike.

Context & Constraints:

Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements were established in 1970 to provide a consistent and equitable mechanism for federal sharing of provincial or territorial costs for natural disaster response and recovery where such costs would place an undue burden on a provincial or territorial economy. Provinces and territories design and administer their own recovery programs; Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements cost-share eligible provincial and territorial expenditures under these programs. Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements do not provide assistance directly to individuals, businesses or municipalities.

Following a natural disaster, an affected province or territory may request federal financial assistance, if the eligible provincial or territorial expenditures appear to exceed the established threshold. Since the inception of the program in 1970, the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement has been applied to over 180 events with total federal payments to date of \$2.1 billion.

6. Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.**Level of Progress achieved:**

4

Description:

As outlined in An Emergency Management Framework for Canada (2011), all jurisdictions in Canada have agreed to an all-hazards approach to emergency management. A key principle of the Framework is the importance of risk-based decision-making for effective emergency management. Risk assessments are fundamental for identifying the potential impacts of hazards and threats and informing evidence-based priority setting for investments in disaster risk reduction.

Under the Emergency Management Act (2007), Public Safety Canada is responsible for providing leadership and guidance to all federal institutions regarding their legislated requirements to identify risk related to their mandates and developing emergency management plans and measures to address such risks. Policy tools and guidance have been developed, such as the Federal Policy for Emergency Management, the All-Hazards Risk Assessment and the Emergency Management Planning Guidelines.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act is the legal basis for federal environmental assessment process. The Act and its associated regulations outline the responsibilities, requirements and procedures for the environmental assessment of projects and establish a process for assessing the potential environmental effects of projects in which the Government of Canada has a decision-making responsibility. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 came into effect on July 6, 2012.

Established in 1994, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency provides high-quality environmental assessments that contribute to informed decision making, in support of sustainable development. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency is the responsible authority for most federal environmental assessments and serves Canadians by helping to eliminate or reduce a project's potential environmental effects. Its activities include working to ensure that mitigation measures are applied and are functioning as intended and promoting uniformity and coordination of environmental assessment practices across Canada through research, guidance and ongoing discussion with stakeholders and partners.

Context & Constraints:

N/A

Priority for action 5

1. Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.

Level of Progress achieved:

5

Description:

As the coordinator for federal emergency management activities, Public Safety Canada is responsible for evaluating the emergency management plans of federal institutions. These evaluations include conducting assessments to ensure that: all federal jurisdictions have arrangements in place to manage emergencies that may have multi-jurisdictional implications given the nature of their mandate; and that these measures continue to be appropriate, so as to ensure there are no gaps in the federal government's integrated risk management suite.

The Canadian Interoperability Strategy for Canada sets goals and identifies key national priorities to enhance governance, planning, technology, training and exercises to promote national and bilateral interoperable voice and data communications. The Strategy's Action Plan is linked to strategic objectives, including the development of: harmonized, standardized operational procedures; a broadband communications network for public safety workers that would operate in the 700 megahertz (MHz) band; and continued evolution of educational, training, exercise and evaluation programs.

Transport Canada manages a centre that is responsible for assisting emergency response officials with handling and transporting dangerous goods during emergencies on a 24/7 basis. In coordination with international partners, an annual Emergency Response Guidebook is produced for use by firefighters, police, and other emergency services personnel in identifying hazardous materials involved in an incident and protecting themselves and the general public during the initial response phase.

Context & Constraints:

A key challenge is securing dedicated, ongoing funding for disaster risk reduction initiatives, given the current fiscal environment in which Canada, and the rest of the world, is operating. Federal departments will continue to manage these initiatives with the resources allocated.

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 programmes.

Level of Progress achieved:

5

Description:

The Federal Emergency Response plan and the Federal Policy on Emergency Management include provisions for emergency management planning among federal institutions. Public Safety Canada is responsible for assisting federal departments in developing their business continuity plans, and for planning the relocation of constitutional government functions during emergencies. In addition, Public

Safety Canada manages the National Exercise Program, which conducts regular operational exercises to enhance the National Emergency Response System and engages multiple federal institutions and provincial/territorial governments.

The Government Operations Centre provides 24/7 situational awareness on events of interest in Canada and internationally, and undertake regular risk assessments. In that capacity, the Government Operations Centre partners with other federal operations centres (e.g., co-location of Health Canada employees to the centre during a health-related emergency), provinces and territories, and international partners.

Provincial emergency response plans are in place in provinces and territories, which also undergo regular exercises. Provinces and territories have undertaken complementary emergency management initiatives (e.g.: the Province of Ontario developed a standardized approach to managing emergencies through its Incident Management System /and the Province of British Columbia developed a Federal Emergency Response Plan to support federal response efforts).

Canadian businesses and other private and public sector organizations are encouraged to develop strategic emergency management plans and business continuity plans to ensure that they are able to respond to, and recover from, disasters, and maintain the delivery of essential services to Canadians.

Through the federal government's "Get Prepared" campaign, individuals and families are also encouraged to make preparations to ensure that they are prepared to cope during the first 72 hours of an emergency, allowing first responders to focus on those with urgent needs. The campaign involves individuals maintaining awareness of potential risks, and developing an emergency plan and an emergency kit.

Context & Constraints:

All levels of government should continue to ensure that post-disaster plans and activities are collaborative, coordinated and complementary in order to prevent duplication of efforts and gaps in Canada's emergency response suite.

3. Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.

Level of Progress achieved:

3

Description:

The Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements are a key mechanism through which federal financial assistance is provided to provinces and territories (upon request), when the response and recovery costs exceed what provinces and territories would normally be expected to bear. Since the inception of the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements program in 1970, the Government of Canada has provided more than \$2.1 billion in post-disaster financial assistance to provinces and territories.

Following greater-than-expected flooding in 2011 in a number of provinces, and in recognition of the important role of mitigation, Prime Minister Harper committed to the Provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec that the federal government would cost-share, on a 50-50 basis, the cost of permanent mitigation measures taken for 2011 flooding that are not otherwise eligible under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. The federal Budget 2012 committed up to \$99.2 million over three years to deliver on the Prime Minister's commitment.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriRecovery program is a framework that supports affected producers recover from disasters and resume business operations as quickly as possible following a disaster.

A number of provinces and territories also have their own respective disaster assistance programs to help communities, small business, agricultural operations, and non-governmental organizations recover from natural disasters.

Internationally, CIDA has contributed \$25 million toward the capitalization of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) for the period of 2007-2012. The CCRIF has been established to reduce financial vulnerability of participating countries to catastrophic natural disasters, by providing access to insurance.

Context & Constraints:

Though the federal government will continue to make post-disaster financial assistance available, as required, to provinces and territories through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements, the

costs of disasters are rising. As such, the Government of Canada is exploring alternative measures, including pre-disaster mitigation, to complement the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements.

4. Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews

Level of Progress achieved:

3

Description:

Canada maintains mechanisms to exchange information between jurisdictions and across regions to ensure that response and recovery activities are coordinated and effective. As the leader in emergency management initiatives for the Government of Canada, Public Safety Canada manages post-event and post-exercise reviews. Federal departments contribute to these reviews on a regular basis.

Mechanisms for coordinating and sharing information during a disaster or hazard event include the Government Operation Centre, which monitors events of national significance on a 24/7 basis, and shares relevant information with other federal institutions, provincial and territorial governments, and the private sector. Senior officials are therefore informed of events as they evolve, and bring forward issues that would require their engagement or decision.

Post-event, the National Exercise Program includes a Lessons Learned Program and provides the Capability Assessment Improvement Process templates for After Action Reports for exercises, and After Incident Report templates to assist institutions in post event reviews and on-going tracking of corrective actions and improvement initiatives.

Provinces also maintain their own operations centres. The Province of Ontario leads the coordination of emergency management information and the provincial After Action Report process. Ontario is also finalizing the development of an Emergency Management Enterprise System (EMES) to provide an electronic system for the collection, collation, evaluation and dissemination of emergency information.

Context & Constraints:

N/A

Drivers of Progress

1. a) ♦ Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development

Levels of Reliance:

3 - Significant and ongoing reliance

>Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region? Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?: Yes

If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy? : Yes

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Canada adopts an all-hazards approach to emergency management in all jurisdictions. However, provincial, territorial and municipal governments across Canada are responsible for the development and implementation of their own risk assessment processes.

The evaluation of Strategic Emergency Management Plans is now laying the groundwork for an integrated risk management approach to disaster risk reduction across federal institutions.

Environment Canada is contributing to the Government of Canada's integrated approach to emergency management, including the development of Environment Canada's Strategic Emergency Management Plan which provides a comprehensive and coordinated approach to emergency management activities relevant to the department, the development of Emergency Support Functions to facilitate a flexible collaborative planning process geared towards whole-of-government responses to incidents; and the development of a federal All-Hazards Risk Assessment Framework that will produce a whole-of-government risk picture to support emergency management planning across federal government institutions.

The Geological Survey of Canada continues to develop and support HAZUS, a suite of tools for quantitative risk assessments for Canada, which can be used to assess a full range of hazards.

2. b) **Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized**

Levels of Reliance:

3 - Significant and ongoing reliance

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

The Government of Canada continues to recognize the importance of Gender-Based Analysis across all departments and agencies. Public Safety Canada and other federal institutions engaged in emergency management and disaster risk reduction all have a responsibility for including Gender-Based Analysis.

Status of Women Canada continues to coordinate the role of Gender-Based Analysis and seeks to ensure it is applied across departments and becomes sustainable.

3. c) **Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened**

Levels of Reliance:

2 - Partial/ some reliance

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is continuing to show momentum and the 2012 Roundtable, held on October 23, 2012 in Vancouver, British Columbia exceeded the target of 150 participants. This one-day free event focuses on building capacity across sectors and engages members in a discussion on how to reduce disaster risk in Canada.

Additionally, the Government of Canada committed to one-time funding in 2011 for flood mitigation, and has committed to discussing the development of a National Disaster Mitigation Program.

In the evaluation of federal Strategic Emergency Management Plans, Public Safety Canada includes specific recommendations to improve adherence to key emergency management principles and all-hazards risk assessments and treatments for enhancing disaster risk reduction within and across federal institutions.

Through commitments made under the HFA, ongoing domestic emergency management initiatives and international development activities, Canada continues to strengthen the scope and depth of its DRR resilience capacity building.

Recent examples of this capacity building include Canada's humanitarian responses to natural disasters worldwide, including severe floods in Pakistan, Thailand and much of Southeast Asia in 2011 and the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of the same year.

4. d) **Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities**

Levels of Reliance:

2 - Partial/ some reliance

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

A key focus of Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is the role of communities, and to that end, the Resilient Communities Working Group seeks to develop and promote activities which recognize that local level action, and sensitivity to the broad spectrum of socio-economic groups, is important in disaster risk reduction and management. The Private Sector Working Group is also exploring the role of small- and medium-sized businesses in communities in recovery activities.

Canada works to ensure that social equity concerns are incorporated in DRR initiatives. As DRR is further mainstreamed throughout Canadian international development Programming, links continue to be made between DRR and social equity. For example, CIDA's Strategic Policy and Performance Branch is in the process of creating a document on resilience in order to encourage a more systematic incorporation of DRR into CIDA's programming.

5. e) **Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels**

Levels of Reliance:

3 - Significant and ongoing reliance

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

The establishment of Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction serves as an example of the cross sectorial engagement of stakeholders and partners (civil society, private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations, and all levels of government) in support of disaster risk reduction. The Platform hosts an Annual National Roundtable to bring members together to learn from each other and identify priorities for supporting and promoting action for disaster risk reduction.

Additionally, Public Safety Canada works with partners and in the regions to develop capacity and help solidify emergency management networks. Public Safety Canada, while undertaking exercises, uses the opportunity to engage and partner with non-governmental actors and the private sector (e.g.: Canadian Electricity Association).

Public Safety Canada participates in regional activities like the "Great BC ShakeOut" Organizing Committee, which annually conducts a province-wide drill to promote earthquake preparedness and response. Public Safety Canada is also involved in the cross-border seismic-related Cascadia Region Earthquake Working Group, which brings together researchers, practitioners and citizens from northern California to British Columbia to help the region plan for earthquakes and become more resilient.

Public Safety Canada is involved with the Quebec regional committee for emergency telecommunications. Lead by Industry Canada and with federal, provincial and private sector partners, this committee meets twice a year and has developed an annual joint exercise to look at the needs and issues in telecommunications in emergency situations to ensure that they are coordinated.

6. Contextual Drivers of Progress

Levels of Reliance:

3 - Significant and ongoing reliance

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

Canada has made significant progress in supporting disaster risk reduction in Canada, including Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, developing an all-hazards approach to emergency management, HAZUS, 700Mhz, identification of critical infrastructure, one-time flood mitigation funding, and is now developing a National Disaster Mitigation Program.

These commitments are being complimented with on-going outreach and engagement strategies that are stakeholder specific and ensure that Canadians understand their role in disaster risk reduction, as well as what the Government of Canada and provincial and territorial partners are doing to keep Canadians safe.

In developing these strategies and programs, the Government of Canada has adopted a multi-stakeholder approach and ensures that partners at all levels of government, as well as the private sector, non-governmental sector and academic sector, are engaged in program development.

Future Outlook

1. Integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning

Overall Challenges:

Since Canada has not recently experienced a major natural disaster that resulted in a large number of casualties, the perception of risks in the population in general may be biased towards a false sense of security. While the Government of Canada has a leadership role to play in developing strategies and policies to emphasize planning and programming to enable disaster prevention and risk reduction, out-reach and engagement will need to be a priority to reinforce the understanding that a range of actors, including individual Canadians, have a role in preparedness and mitigation.

Future Outlook Statement:

Prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery continue to be the core components of emergency management in Canada. Through the close cooperation of departments and agencies across the federal government, provincial and territorial governments and other stakeholders, Canada will continue making progress on incorporating disaster risk reduction and build linkages across the emergency management continuum in order to increase the resilience of communities, businesses and the country. This focus will be highlighted through Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and is a key consideration in the development of a National Disaster Mitigation Program. The Government of Canada will compliment this with continued implementation of legislation and policies like the Emergency Management Act, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, and the National Disaster Mitigation Strategy.

On-going work in developing out-reach and engagement strategies will strengthen the message that, despite existence of a robust legislative and policy framework aimed at helping to build capacity, all Canadians have a role in disaster risk reduction. Into the future, public awareness activities will continue to be important for influencing the adoption of a more risk-based approach, in particular down to the community and individual level.

2. Development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards .

Overall Challenges:

Through collaboration and by leveraging capacities across all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academics, and the general public, Canada is seeking to increase awareness of emergency management, disaster risk reduction and the opportunities to better manage risk, and is developing tools to empower individuals and organizations to become more resilient.

Extensive efforts have been made to build and strengthen institutional mechanisms and capacities at the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal levels. However, the community-based approach to disaster risk reduction, whereby a range of actors, including individuals, have a role in building resilience and reducing disaster risks in their communities, remains relatively new. Further efforts are needed to encourage communities to develop institutional mechanisms and processes for strengthening disaster risk reduction, recognizing that they must be appropriate to their specific context.

Robust and comprehensive information and research on risks, hazards and vulnerabilities are key to achieving evidence-based investments in disaster risk reduction. Initiatives like the Canadian Disaster Database and the Multi-Agency Situation Awareness System are useful tools for collecting and sharing data on disaster events and emergencies. Increased research, data collection and analysis are needed though to support informed decision-making. Emergency management and disaster risk reduction are inter-disciplinary in nature and more cross-cutting research would serve to identify and explain important linkages between disciplines and how best to ensure complementarity of effort.

Future Outlook Statement:

Canada will continue to champion an all-hazards approach to disaster risk reduction, resilience and response. This approach enables even small communities the ability to develop comprehensive plans, flexible enough to address a range of potential hazards. This approach will be integral to the National Disaster Mitigation Program.

At the community level, the work of the Resilient Communities Working Group, under Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, is raising awareness among Canadian communities about tools and mechanisms for building local resilience to risks and hazards. An important area of focus in this regard is providing context specific support for remote, rural, coastal, and First Nations communities whose environments and requirements are often quite different from urban communities. The efforts of the Resilient Communities Working Group are complemented by a virtual community of practice to facilitate information sharing between communities and practitioners.

The Government of Canada will continue efforts to improve the knowledge base of the disaster and emergency management field through initiatives like the Centre on Security Science, the Science and Technology Working Group, under Canada's Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, and through partnership with the Canadian Risk and Hazards Network. Enhancements to existing resources and the development of additional tools are being explored to improve collection and dissemination of information on hazards, risks and vulnerabilities in order to support risk identity, awareness and assessment and to inform initiatives to reduce vulnerability.

3. Systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.

Overall Challenges:

The frequency, severity and cost of natural disasters are increasing. Globally, 2011 was the most expensive year on record for natural disasters and the decade of 2000-2009 was Canada's most costly by far. In the face of rising response and recovery costs, incorporating disaster risk reduction into all phases of emergency management is becoming an increasing priority and is leading to a greater emphasis on community-based resilience.

Disaster risk reduction is among the most complex interdisciplinary fields implicating stakeholders from all levels of government, academia, the private sector, community partners, non-governmental organizations, Aboriginal communities and individual citizens. Further efforts to build and foster linkages between various disciplines and fields would improve the knowledge and capacity of individuals and organizations to take informed, comprehensive action in all phases of emergency management to reduce disaster risk.

Future Outlook Statement:

Canada's Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is growing in terms of membership and scope, which provides opportunities to ensure risk reduction principles are part of the dialogue at the community level. In addition, the multi-stakeholder nature of Canada's Platform helps to support the building and strengthening linkages and collaboration between various actors to enhance integrated disaster risk reduction and resilience.

4. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/199, requested the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. A first outline will be developed for the next Global Platform in 2013, and a draft should be finalized towards the end of 2014 to be ready for consideration and adoption at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015

Please identify what you would consider to be the single most important element of the post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction:

Canada would welcome a post-2015 Framework that: is evergreen and flexible; continues to facilitate the exchange of information; highlights linkages between disaster risk reduction and sustainable development; includes an integrated approach to risk management; sheds further light on cost/benefit ratios associated with DRR investments; highlights the role of the private sector in partnering for DRR; and includes a strong gender component.

Stakeholders

Organizations, departments, and institutions that have contributed to the report.

- * Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada ()
- * Canada Border Services Agency ()
- * Canada Command ()
- * Canada Revenue Agency ()
- * Canadian Coast Guard ()
- * Canadian Food Inspection Agency ()
- * Canadian International Development Agency ()
- * Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission ()
- * Canadian Security Intelligence Service ()
- * Citizenship and Immigration Canada ()
- * Communications Security Establishment ()
- * Correctional Services Canada ()
- * Environment Canada ()
- * Fisheries and Oceans Canada ()
- * Foreign Affairs and International Trade ()
- * Health Canada ()
- * Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada ()
- * Industry Canada ()
- * Integrated Threat Assessment Centre ()
- * Justice Canada ()

- * National Defence ()
- * National Search and Rescue Secretariat ()
- * Natural Resources Canada ()
- * Privy Council Office ()
- * Public Health Agency of Canada ()
- * Public Works and Government Services Canada ()
- * Public Safety Canada ()
- * Royal Canadian Mounted Police ()
- * Service Canada ()
- * Status of Women Canada ()
- * Transport Canada ()
- * Treasury Board of Canada ()
- * Provincial and Territorial Governments ()
- * Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police ()
- * Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs ()
- * Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness ()
- * Canadian Electricity Association ()
- * Canadian Red Cross ()
- * Canadian Risk and Hazards Network ()
- * Canadian Veterinary Medical Association ()
- * Canadian Volunteer Fire Services Association ()
- * Emergency Medical Services Chiefs of Canada ()
- * Federation of Canadian Municipalities ()
- * Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction ()
- * Mennonite Disaster Service ()
- * Paramedic Association of Canada ()
- * Toyal Roads University ()
- * The Salvation Army ()
- * Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada ()
- * St. John Ambulance ()