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RESILIENCE BUILDING AND DISASTER RESPONSE MANAGEMENT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (RDRM-IO) PROGRAMME

BRIEFING ON THE COMPONENT “BUILDING RESILIENCE AND IMPROVING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY IN INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND STATES FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION” IMPLEMENTED BY UNDRR

BACKGROUND

The Indian Ocean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are threatened by several environmental challenges such as extreme weather conditions, sea-level rise and climate change. The latter have exacerbated the economic, social, and environmental challenges of these island states. Owing to their size, limited resources, and geographical isolation, they are particularly vulnerable to more frequent and more intense disaster risks and to the adverse impacts of climate change. Climate change and natural hazards have placed additional burdens on national institutions, budgets and undermined sustainable development.

COMPONENT DESCRIPTION

The overall objective of the Resilience building and Disaster Response Management in the Indian Ocean (RDRM-IO) programme is to reduce disaster and climate related losses in the human, economic, social, physical and environmental assets of IOC member states. In the context of this programme, the specific objective of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is to improve Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) understanding and governance capacities of the island states through activities that aim at:

1 | Improving the national institutional and operational preparedness on DRR

2 | Assessing, improving, and developing national policies and regulatory framework on DRR

STAKEHOLDERS

Targeted stakeholders to participate in this programme component are national disaster risk management authorities, DRR stakeholders, technical staff, disaster loss data officers, data officers of sectoral ministries and Early Warning officers from Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Comoros.

CURRENT GAPS TO BE ADDRESSED

The main problems identified in the region pertaining to DRR and adaptation to climate change can be grouped as follows:

- weaknesses and gaps in institutional and operational capacity on DRR
- lack of financial and technical capacity to address DRR
- deficiencies in information systems and data

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- 1 Review the national institutional and operational response capacity on DRR of the national disaster management institutions.
- 2 Assess the institutional response procedures in the four countries to strengthen multisectoral coordination.
- 3 Clarify stakeholders' roles (including civil society and civic-military coordination) and foster inter-sectoral coordination on management of crises.
- 4 Where relevant, assess the level of funding, preparedness and capacity of civil protection and mobilize civil society.
- 5 Improve disaster risk database management and geospatial information, enhance sharing of information and meteorological observations and forecasts.
- 6 Assess the national and subnational early warning systems (EWS) and their efficacy, reach country-wide coverage by advising on investments in equipment and human capacities and by proposing national communication protocols in emergency situations.
- 7 Formulate a DRR communication and sensitization strategy including clear actions and responsibilities of all key stakeholders to raise awareness on DRR.
- 8 Undertake a review of each country's national DRR systems i.e., the national DRR policies, strategies, action plan and regulatory frameworks.
- 9 Propose amendments to the national regulatory frameworks on DRR.

IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES

Period: from 2022 until 2025

UNDRR will deploy the following resources:

- In-country presence: Experts UNVs, national consultants, UNRC DRR focal points
- International expertise: international consultants, grants with internationally and locally recognized institutions and peer reviewers

Implementation will be done in close coordination with other implementing partners of the EU-IOC RDRM-IO programme:

- the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
- PIROI

Field missions will be planned as Covid-19 restrictions will be lifted or eased. Virtual and hybrid meetings will be held in the meantime to start implementation.

TIMELINE

During the first year of implementation the following activities will be implemented:



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