

- private sector (private clinics, ambulances, etc.)
- medical universities (training and applied research)
- the Academy for Scientific Research and Technology.

Because these partners have a strong role to play in the health aspects of emergency management, they are full partners of the Ministry of Health in planning and implementing the health functional emergency plan

■ The role of research

In Egypt, the Academy for Scientific Research and Technology is a solid and well-established institution. It is headed by a high-level officer with the rank of Minister. It has

many commissions dealing with almost all of the country's socioeconomic aspects

When the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) was declared, it was done on the basis of research and scientific grounds. Consequently, the research academy established a commission to deal with IDNDR. The commission's terms of reference, however, were not very clear. As a result, many government officials thought that the research academy was responsible for developing a national counter-disaster plan. The commission has neither the mandate nor the means to implement such a function

The planning process for the country's counter-disaster plan brought out the problem and clarified the role of the research academy, i.e., as a strong supporting partner which could undertake applied research and develop technical tools to

Features of Disaster Management in Egypt

- Great readiness, prompt contribution, and active involvement of the community during disasters
- Coordination between different governmental departments experienced in war-time.
- Active, well-planned preparedness programmes in various government departments which are not horizontally coordinated within a comprehensive national plan.
- Coordination between different governmental departments experienced during war-time.
- Separate preparedness plans are available in various government departments, but systematic review, training and promotion of awareness are lacking.

Benefits of the Planning Process:

- Greater involvement of legislative and constitutional bodies.
- Better understanding of the role and responsibilities of agencies involved in disaster management
- Greater public awareness.
- Recognition of the need to strengthen and upgrade emergency networks.
- A system that maximizes available resources.

allow executing agencies to promptly and efficiently reduce the impact of disasters.

This is a clear example of how working in partnership and coordination could lead to complementarity and synergy of action, while working in isolation could lead to misunderstanding, duplication and a tremendous waste of time, money and effort

The risk remains that the momentum will be lost among some of the partners needed in the process.

Advocacy at the international level — such as the strategies advocated at the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction — will help keep up the momentum. ■

■ Constraints

Strong political will exists in Egypt to improve prevention and preparedness for disasters. Political leaders recognize that effective emergency management in Egypt is a necessity. The constraints lie mainly in the task of coordination itself. Bringing together the many partners involved to create and implement emergency management plans is a process that is time-consuming and requires patience.

Recommendations/*Public Sector*



