Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Global Report on Disaster Reduction

Questionnaire

Please use additional sheets if you need more space to adequately respond to this questionnaire. An electronic version can be provided upon request to the address mentioned on page 5.

1. Have any major disasters occurred in your country during the past 5 years? If so, please describe briefly the natural hazard (i.e. earthquakes; volcanic activity; landslides; tsunamis; tropical cyclones and other severe storms; tornadoes and high winds; river floods and coastal flooding; wildfires and associated haze; drought; sand/dust storm; infestations), which triggered the disaster and the impact of this disaster in terms of loss of human lives and economic assets.

Type of Natural Hazard	Date of Occurrence of the Disaster	Loss of Human Lives	Loss of Economic Assets estimated in US$
Earthquake Azores - Horta Island	9/07/98 - 5,8 Richter	10	68 million US$
Forest Fires	7-8/1998	NIL	91 million US$
River Floods	6/11/97	3	159 000 US$
River Floods/ Landslides	Nov.00 to Mar. 01	22	Not known yet
Bridge Collapse Entre-os-Rios	4/03/2001	59	Not known yet

Comments: _____

_____

_____

2. Has any of the above mentioned disasters been subject to a "lesson learned" exercise by the relevant authorities of your country/region with a view to avoiding or limiting the impact of future disasters?

Yes	No
☒	☐

If yes, please describe the nature of this exercise and provide any documentation you consider appropriate

Regarding forest fires every year after the season there is always an evaluation of the fires that occurred. The participants of this evaluation are: National Fire Service and the Forest Authority. On the past 7th of June there was a seminar to evaluate and discuss the search operations after the collapse of the bridge in Entre-os-Rios with all the entities that took part.

3 Is there a specific national policy in your country with regard to disaster reduction with special reference to the following issues?

a) Increasing public awareness of the importance of disaster reduction

No policy	In progress	Implemented
☐	☒	☐

b) Obtaining commitment from public authorities at all levels (national and local)

No policy	In progress	Implemented
☐	☒	☐

c) Stimulating interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral partnerships *(i.e. among governmental bodies, research and scientific institutions, NGOs, the media and the private sector, including insurance companies)*

No policy	In progress	Implemented
☒	☒	☐

d) Expanding risk reduction networking at all levels *(e.g conferences. websites)*

No policy	In progress	Implemented
☐	☒	☒

e) Improving scientific knowledge of natural hazards

No policy	In progress	Implemented
☐	☐	☒

f) Applying science and technology *(i.e. for the development of early warning systems and/or other means of improving disaster reduction)*

No policy	In progress	Implemented
☐	☒	☐

g) Coordinating disaster reduction activities at national level

No policy	In progress	Implemented
☐	☐	☒

If your reply is "IN progress" or "Implemented" for any of the above mentioned issues, please provide

documentation on the nature of such policy and the methods used for its implementation by authority

Comments:

In attachment we are sending you the explanation to each of the answers given and a text that explains how the civil protection system of Portugal is organized.

4. Has an assessment been carried out at national level to evaluate the success of the measures mentioned under question 3?

Yes	No
☐	☒

If yes, please provide a copy of report(s) you consider appropriate

Comments:
The National Service for Civil Protection has a Department of Inspection that should evaluate civil protection operations but that does not have authority to the municipal operations.

5. Have local communities been active in disaster reduction?

Yes	No
X	
☐	☐

If yes, please provide documentation on organizational arrangements in place at the local level for the promotion of disaster reduction

Comments:

6. Has the government engaged in risk mapping (based on the identification of potential hazards and vulnerable conditions) with a view to facilitating effective land use planning and risk reduction measures?

Yes	No
X	
☐	☐

If yes, please provide any documentation you consider appropriate

Comments:
Theoretically yes, at least for floods, draughts, and seismic risk.

7. Are there building codes and other regulations in existence to ensure disaster resistant construction in

your country?

Yes X No

☐ ☐

If yes, please provide information/documentation you consider appropriate, including a description of the institution(s) responsible for ensuring the application the these codes

Comments:

We have several codes which are updated once in a while for buildings, dams and all types of new constructions. No legislation applies to buildings existent prior to 1961, date of the first code regarding specifically to the seismic risk in construction.
The Water Institute controls the construction of the dams. The building codes are controlled by the Municipalities which has to approve the construction plan.

8. Has the government adopted any measures for the enforcement of building codes and land use planning with regard to disaster reduction?

Yes X No

☐ ☐

If yes, please provide a copy of the relevant legal instruments or any other documentation you consider useful to share

Comments:

Each Municipality has to approve its Municipal Master Plan that should be crossed with the Municipal Emergency Plan where the assessment of the existent risk are done, thus saying in which areas there can be construction, taking into consideration flood areas and seismic-proof constructions.
The Ministry of Equipment controls the state construction like bridges and roads.

9. Has any overall legislation relating to disaster reduction been adopted?

Yes X No

☐ ☐

If yes, please provide a copy of the relevant legal instruments

Comments:

For construction yes, in the terms mentioned above. For dams there is a Security Ruling that obliges them to map the risk of flooding, have an emergency plan among other things.

10 Given your experience of disaster reduction in your country, please provide comments as to what you believe are the most important issues to be addressed in the future.

We should be prepared for disaster and thus develop adequate intervention policies on various subjects such as:

a) Study of seismic impact and other risks on communities and its social-economic characterization;
b) The definition of safety policies;
c) To find a strategy to strengthen the structure of buildings;
d) The defense of the existent patrimony;
e) Definition of a national policy for land use;
f) Better elaborated emergency planning;
g) More information and education to the public regarding risks and a culture of civil protection;
h) Improvement of risk mapping and
i) Fiscalization of the compliance with the existent codes.

11. Please add any general comments you may wish to make regarding any aspect of disaster reduction activities in your country not covered by this questionnaire.

THE CIVIL PROTECTION SERVICES IN PORTUGAL

GENERAL ASSIGNMENT

To prevent natural or man-made hazards related to major accidents, disaster or calamity, to mitigate losses and damages upon population, material resources and environment, and to relieve population every time emergency situations strike.

RELIEF ORGANIZATION

The civil protection system integrates the National Service for Civil Protection (SNPC), the Regional Services for Civil Protection (SRPC), and the Municipal Services for Civil Protection (SMPC). Delegations of the SNPC are based on each of the 18 districts that are part of the Portuguese administrative organisation.

The Prime-Minister is responsible for directing the civil protection policy and emergency response in case of disaster at national level. He may delegate his responsibilities to the Minister of Interior. At regional level, responsibility belongs to the Presidents of the Government of Açores and Madeira Autonomous Regions, and to the Governors of District in the mainland. At local level, responsibility belongs to the mayors. The National Emergency Operations Centre (CNOEPC) is activated by the SNPC soon after a major disaster cannot be solved either by the means assigned to the Municipality or the District where it takes place, for co-ordination and control of the relief operations and logistics support at national level. A National Disaster Emergency Relief Response Office works out 24 hours a day in the SNPC to control and manage the current situation. At regional and local levels, Emergency Operations Centres in Districts (CDOEPC) and Municipalities (CMOEPC) are activated every time a major accident or disaster takes place in their respective administrative areas.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Emergency plans are prepared at all levels (national, regional and local) under the responsibility of SNPC, SRPC and SMPC, in accordance with the guidelines

provided by the National Commission for Civil Protection (intergovernmental technical body for co-ordination of civil protection activities), thus, they are classified: according to the territorial levels they cover as national, regional, district and municipal; according to the risks they tackle with, as general (all risks), and specific (one risk).

National and regional plans are approved, respectively, by the Portuguese Government Cabinet and by the Governments of Autonomous Regions. District and municipal plans are approved by the National Commission for Civil Protection.

TRAINING OF CIVIL PROTECTION AGENTS

The SNPC is responsible for development of plans and policies, co-ordination and control of emergency response. Thus, there are no organic disaster response units nor schools for civil protection in its organisation. The training of civil protection agents lies down under their command/directions that have schools and training centres for such a purpose and are financed by their own budgets.

However, the SNPC is responsible for a systematic public awareness, information and education campaign, through the dissemination of security and self-protective measures to be adopted by the population in case of na emergency situation, paid by its own financial assets.

CIVIL PROTECTION AGENTS

The main civil protection agents are the National Fire Service (SNB), the security forces (Police and National Guards), the Armed Forces, the Maritime and Aeronautics Authorities, and the National Institute for Medical Emergency (INEM).

The leagues of volunteer firemen, health services, social institutions, NGO's and other volunteer organisations, public services responsible for forest and natural reserves, industry and energy, transports, communications, water resources and environment, security and relief services belonging to private and public companies, seaports and airports, have the duty to co-operate with civil protection agents already mentioned. Several scientific and technological institutions and organisations are particularly assigned for co-operation with

SNPC and are important contributors into the civil protection system, namely those related to meteo and geophysics, engineering, industrial technology, forestry, nuclear protection and natural resources.

ATTACHMENT TO QUESTION Nº 3

3.

a) In progress

Not precisely a specific national policy, but education/information actions are being developed in order to provide population with self-protection measures that usually contain some information on risk reduction. They are not organized in a specific policy, and therefore they are not developed at the same extent all over the country, but work is being done, and the National Service for Civil Protection has this concern in mind.

Schools also include in their curriculums subjects concerned with civil protection and risks, that are in some way related with risk reduction. This measure is maybe the most organized one in what concerns people awareness and risk reduction, at national level.

b) In progress

Commitment at national and district (regional) level. At local (municipal) level there are still many discrepancies.

c) No policy / In progress

For dam break emergency management these aspects and simulations are predicted, but not yet implemented, and with no expression at general level in what concerns natural risks. It also happened in an earthquake exercise, but events were to scarce to be considered a policy.

d) In progress / Implemented

Website: YES
Conferences: YES

One could say that the idea is on our mind but not fully accomplished at national level.

e) Implemented

The Study of seismic risk for the metropolitan area of Lisbon and surrounding municipalities is an example of a case study. A similar study that is going to be implemented for the Algarve (south of Portugal) this year is another case.

Not all risks are being equally studied and analyzed at the same time with the same depth due to scarcity of human and financial resources, but the policy exists.

f) In progress / Implemented

Implemented:

Civil Protection Situation Centers
Water resources surveillance and alert system for floods and droughts
Weather forecast
Seismic surveillance, etc.

In all these areas scientifical and technological knowledge is applied for the development of software that can help prevent disaster and provide real-time surveillance to provide on-time warnings.

In progress: dam break

No policy: land slides

g) Implemented

S. R.

Ministério da Administração Interna

Serviço Nacional de Bombeiros e Protecção Civil

REPORT AND INFORMATION ON DISASTER REDUCTION FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION

1 – POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

1.1 – Are there national policy, strategy and legislation addressing disaster risk reduction?

Yes. Portugal has made a large effort in order to create legislation addressing disaster risk. For example, municipalities are obliged to identify flood risk areas and to use that information in their Municipal Landuse Plans; there are laws concerning prevention measures to control fire ignitions (e.g., it is forbidden to use fire for soil renewal during summer); there is a national strategy for climate changes which could lead to prevention of extreme events, such as floods, forest fires or heatwaves; there are roles concerning major industrial accidents and transportation of dangerous goods.

1.2 – Is there a national body for multi-sectorial coordination and collaboration in disaster risk reduction ...?

There is a National Centre for Operations on Civil Protection Emergencies, which is responsible for coordination of response to extreme emergencies. This Centre aggregates collaboration from organizations belonging to the Ministries of Interiour, Environment, Health, Agriculture, Defense. However, this Centre only deals with emergency management issues (prevention and risk reduction strategies are not in the scope of action).

1.3 – Are there sectorial plans or initiatives that incorporate risk reduction concepts...?

Yes. It is being drawn the National Plan for Land Management Policies, where the National Service for Fire and Civil Protection is been asked for contributions. In the past, Civil Protection was also involved on the National Water Plan, in issues concerning flood and drought risk reduction.

1.4 – Is disaster risk reduction incorporated into your national plan for the implementation of...?

N/A

1.5 – Does your country have building codes of practice for seismic risk?

Portugal has several codes, which are updated once in while for buildings, dams and all types of new constructions. No legislation applies to buildings existent prior to 1961, date of the first code regarding specifically to seismic risk in construction.

1.6 – Do you have an annual budget for disaster risk reduction?

Not specifically. Budget is spread through several organizations connected with those issues, such as the National Service for Fire and Civil Protection, Water Institute, National Laboratory for Civil Engineering, Environment Institute, General-Directorate for Forests, etc. Additional budget can be obtained through national, EU and international projects.

1.7 – Are the private sector, civil society, NGOs and media participating in disaster risk reduction efforts?

There are several initiatives involving other organizations. For instance, surveillance in forest areas (prevention of forest fire risk) or cooperation with private sector for dam-break risk management. Additionally, universities and other scientific organizations cooperate with Civil Protection in risk evaluation (seismic risk, fire risk, technological accidents risk, etc.)

2 – RISK IDENTIFICATION

2.1 - Has your country carried out hazard mapping/assessment?

Yes, for forest fires (fire probability), floods (flood-risk areas), seismic risk and technological hazards. In most of the cases, this includes historical data, such as impacts of past events. For hydrological risks (floods, dam-break, droughts) hydrodynamic computation models are used. For studies concerning technological accidents dispersion models are used. All data is available for Civil Protection and organizations connected with each risk (Water Institute, General-Directorate for Forests, Environment Institute, etc.).

2.2 – Does your country carried out vulnerability and capacity assessments?

N/A

2.3 – Does your country have any mechanisms for risk monitoring and risk mapping?

Yes. Risk monitoring is available for meteorological risks (Met-Office), for floods (Water Institute) and for radiological emergencies (Environment Institute). Risk mapping is available for forest fire (Met-Office; General-Directorate for Forests), floods and dam-break (Water Institute).

2.4 – Is there a systematic socio-economic and environmental impact and loss analysis after each major disasters?

No. Only in specific disasters (example: economic damage after 2003 forest fires).

2.5 – Are there early warning systems in place?

There is still no systematic early warning system. However, early warning actions are preformed in case of meteorological (heavy rains, strong wind, heatwaves, coldwaves, snow, etc.) and hydrological extreme events or facing radiological/nuclear emergencies. Public reaction to issued early warnings is variable.

3 – KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

3.1 – Does your country have disaster risk information management systems?

In process.

3.2 – Are the academic and research communities in the country linked...?

Yes, for risk evaluation such as described in question 1.7. Academic and research community is involved due to cooperation agreements made with Civil Protection.

3.3 – Are there educational programmes related to disaster risk reduction...?

Issues connected with risk reduction are being more focused on schools, mainly in ages from 7 to 14. At the moment is being developed educational material to support teachers. There are also leaflets for children with advices in case of disasters.

3.4 – Are there any training programmes available?

Universities and private institutions have training programmes for civil protection agents, fire-fighters, municipalities staff, etc. There is also a National School for Fire-Fighters with operational training.

3.5 – What kind of traditional indigenous knowledge is used in disaster-related practices...?

N/A

PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

ISDR - 277/ 2004

The Permanent Mission of Portugal presents its compliments to the Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and, further to its letter dated January 25, 2004, has the honour to send herewith the Portuguese replies to the questionnaire on the progress made by Portugal and current status of disaster reduction since the first World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Yokohama, 1994), in view of the preparation of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, to be held in Kobe-Hyogo, Japan, in January 2005.

The Permanent Mission of Portugal avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction the assurances of its highest consideration.

MISSION PERMANENTE DU PORTUGAL * GENÈVE *

Geneva, June 23, 2004

Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10