



South East Europe Knowledge Management Workshop
on
Hyogo Framework for Action priority 3
(with special focus on children in disaster risk reduction)

2 – 3 October 2013
Hotel «Mediterran»
Budva, Montenegro

Workshop Report

The workshop, held from 2-3 October in Budva, Montenegro, was **organized** by DPPI SEE in cooperation with UNICEF Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS) and UNISDR Office for Europe. The workshop was **hosted** by the Directorate for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro.

Government **representatives** from ten countries of the South Eastern Europe (SEE) region participated in the workshop, notably Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia (former Yugoslav Republic of), Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey. Unfortunately, Croatia could not be represented at the meeting. The country delegations included a mix of participants, including civil protection agencies, education sectors, school directors and local governments. In addition, there were **representatives** of DPPI SEE Secretariat, UNICEF Regional Office and UNICEF Country Offices (BiH, Moldova and Montenegro), UNISDR Europe and UNDP Montenegro. The workshop was facilitated by a DRR expert from Switzerland (Prof. Jean-Jaques Wagner), who until 2012 was a member of the Swiss National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (PLANAT).

As the title of the workshop suggests, the main **purpose** of the workshop was to provide a forum to relevant government representatives in the SEE region to share knowledge, exchange experience and discuss good practices in disaster risk reduction, with a particular focus on HFA Priority 3. By doing so, the workshop contributed to the advancement of the goals set under the Priority # 3 i.e. use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels and provided inputs for the currently ongoing post-HFA consultations on the issues of public awareness, DRR education and Innovation for reducing risks. The workshop also provided a unique opportunity to establish or further strengthen communication and networking between the governments and organizations supporting their efforts in risk reduction.

In terms of the **structure**, the workshop began with introductory remarks from the Director General of the Directorate Emergency Situations of Montenegro, followed by DPPI SEE Secretariat, UNICEF CEE/CIS Regional Office, UNISDR Europe and finally UNICEF Montenegro. The first session included presentations from UNISDR on the status of **HFA progress** in the European region and from UNICEF on its **approach** to advancing implementation on HFA 3, especially with regard to building knowledge and awareness of children and through them the wider society.

The second session started with presentations from the Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially the municipalities of Bijelina and Tuzla where with UNICEF's technical assistance and OFDA/USAID's final support detailed **risk assessments** were conducted. It was clear that the risk assessment methodology introduced under the UNICEF OFDA/USAID-funded DRR programme really helped in consolidating the existing risk data, collecting new data and analyzing the relationship between hazards and vulnerabilities. Moldova also presented their risk assessment work in the rayon of Stefan Voda, with similar positive results especially in terms of linking the resulting recommendations into the local development plans. Montenegro also presented the work it had conducted, also under the UNICEF OFDA/USAID funded programme, on school safety assessments and risk reduction plans, which were further complemented through development and dissemination of training materials for teachers to enable them to better transfer the DRR knowledge to children in target schools.

During several sessions and especially the Marketplace, countries like BiH and Montenegro and UNICEF Regional Office presented information education and communication (IEC) **materials** which were well received by the country delegations. Particularly popular were the one-minute junior videos on disaster risk reduction, which were unique in that they were developed by children with some support from UNICEF. It is important to note that the video productions were entirely the work of teenage children who came up with the scenario, wrote the script, performed acting and filmed.

The day ended with inputs from representatives of other DPPI SEE member countries - Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey who presented on the efforts pursued in their respective countries in **implementing HFA Priority 3 (the presentations are uploaded on the DPPI SEE website)**.

On Day 2, the participants were divided into three **groups** for discussion and brainstorming on specific ideas to further advance implementation of HFA Priority 3 on the following topics:

- Public awareness of disaster risks
- DRR education
- Innovation for DRR

This was a very lively session and some of the key points that emerged from the three groups are summarized below and are intended as the main recommendations that the countries participating to the workshop intend to share with UNISDR as part of the consultations that will lead to the HFA 2 in 2015.

Public awareness of disaster risks

The working group formulated the following recommendations for strengthening the promotion of disaster risk awareness in vision of the HFA 2:

- Enhance the legislative framework which regulate risk communication to the public
- Dedicate a fund at national and local level for awareness raising activities
- Collect data on disaster risk on a single system which is available for the population
- Increase the cooperation between different national/local stakeholders for an increased efficiency of public awareness.
- Build disaster awareness strategies at the national and local level

DRR Education

The working group formulated the following recommendations for addressing DRR in school curricula within the HFA 2:

- * Get to know basic safety risks, their manifestations risk for people both for students and teachers through training on disaster prevention, preparedness and emergency situations coordinated with the DRM authorities and NPs.
- * Build up consciousness on the need of self-protection, other people and environment.
- * Train teachers and identify context-specific needs. Apply information from school safety assessments/school disaster management into practice.

Innovations for DRR

- Using new technologies and social media to raise DRR awareness and innovative communication campaigns and tools (IDRD, DRR open days etc.)
- Develop and maintain updated guideline for actions in disaster prevention / risk reduction and in case of disasters, which are context specific (for schools, kindergardens, hospitals etc.)
- Promote the use of practical guideline how to “self-assess” readiness for disasters in schools, hospitals, offices etc..
- Strengthen national and local capacities in accounting for disaster impacts and improve risk modeling