



EXTRACT
FROM THE PROTOCOL OF THE GOVERNMENT SESSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

N 14 dated 6 April, 2017

2. ON THE APPROVAL OF THE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT NATIONAL STRATEGY
AND THE ACTION PLAN

1. To approve:

- 1) Disaster Risk Management National Strategy of the Republic of Armenia in conformity with Annex N1;
- 2) Action Plan for implementation of the Disaster Risk Management National Strategy of the Republic of Armenia in conformity with Annex N2.

PRIME MINISTER OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

KAREN KARAPETYAN

10 April, 2017
Yerevan



Annex N 1
of protocol decree N 14 of the session of the
Government of the RA
dated 6 April, 2017

CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

1. Armenia is located in a seismic zone with frequent strong earthquakes. The earthquake of Spitak in 1988 was the most disastrous seismic strike of the last century in the country. As a consequence, 25,000 people died and 517,000 were left homeless and economic losses were equivalent to 14,2 billion US dollars.

2. One thirds of the country's territory is located on landslide-prone area. Landslide-prone areas are mainly in mountain foot and mountainous territories. A total of 470,000 people or 15% of the whole population is subject to landslides, and annual damage caused by landslides is about 10 million US dollars.

3. Effects of climate change are visible in the whole world, and Armenia is not an exception. It has a vulnerable eco-system, dry climate, active external and desertation processes and frequent natural disasters, which make the country more sensitive to climate change effects. Meteorological hazards have increased in their frequency and severity within the last decades. Armenia is mostly prone to droughts, early spring freezing, hail, mudflows, landslides, strong winds and forest fires.

4. Studies of the meteorological observations data of 1935-2014 show that the annual temperature in Armenia has increased by 1.03°C and the precipitations have decreased by 8% compared to the average of years of 1961-1990. Changes in temperature and precipitation have different tendencies in different regions and seasons of the country.

5. According to the Third National Communication on Climate Change a significant and continuous increase in temperature is envisaged in 2030, 2070 and 2100, especially in spring and summer months. Total river flow will decrease by 11.6%, 24.9% and 39.8% accordingly by 2030, 2070 and 2100 (compared to the norms of 1961-1990). Decreased water resources will have a negative impact on agriculture productivity thus causing problems of necessary level of food provision.

6. Technological (man-made) hazards are also sources of risk. There are more than 20 chemical factories in Armenia that use ammonia, chlorine, chlorine acid, nitrogen acid and other dangerous chemical materials. More than 1,500 enterprises are prone to explosions and fire. There are functional and conserved tailing dumps in Armenia driven by exploited mineral deposits. The nuclear plant of Armenia is located in a seismic zone.

7. The population, economy and environment of Armenia are highly vulnerable to natural disasters. The poverty level is high; the poor population is mainly centralized in village communities and cities in regions. Due to high urbanization (more than 70%), disaster and especially seismic risks are centralized in cities. The economy is also highly vulnerable to disasters. During the years of 1990-2005, 20% of forest area

of Armenia or about 6,300 ha forests were subjected to widespread and partial unregulated logging which has increased the probability of mudflows and landslides. It is an urgent issue to raise the resilience against natural disasters, which may be achieved by integration of disaster risk management into the development plans and capacity development at all levels.

8. The legislative field of disaster risk reduction is regulated; however, it needs to be continuously improved based on contemporary challenges. Several laws of the Republic of Armenia on “Population Protection in Emergency Situations”, “Fire Safety”, “Hydro-meteorological Activities”, “Seismic Protection”, “Civil Protection”, “Rescue Forces and Status of Rescuers”, “State Regulation of Provision of Technical Safety”, “Armenian Rescue Service” and “Sub-divisions of Civil Protection”, as well as many other decrees of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and other legal acts. Authorities of the republican executive bodies, other state agencies, regional administrative bodies and local self-government bodies are defined for cases of emergency situations.

9. Availability and further development of a common system for disaster risk management will enable horizontal and vertical cooperation among all state and non-governmental structures involved in disaster risk management processes, including the civil society as well.

10. Within the international activities on disaster risk management, the Republic of Armenia:

1) has joined several conventions and agreements signed within the United Nations and Council of Europe (as well as European Union) on management of phenomena causing emergency situations, emergency situations, reduction of disaster consequences and recovery.

2) Cooperates with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, bordering countries and the ones in the region on response and mutual support at times of emergency situations.

3) Consistently continues its activities in joining new agreements and implementing joint actions with other countries in the field of emergency situations.

4) As a UN member state, joined Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030 that defines necessary disaster risk reduction sectoral and inter-sectoral targeted actions for countries on local, national, regional and global levels.

5) Joined United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Paris Agreement) in 2016 that envisages improving capacities for climate change impact resilience, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and limiting temperature rise.

6) Joined the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools in 2015 aimed at increasing school safety.

CHAPTER II. BACKGROUND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT NATIONAL STRATEGY

11. One of the main prerequisites for the development of the Disaster risk management national strategy (hereinafter-strategy) is Armenia’s vulnerability to disasters. Given increasing number and

intensity of natural, man-made and climate change related disasters within the recent years and the significant damage caused to different sectors of the economy, it is necessary to find new solutions and approaches for disaster management, prevention, mitigation and recovery, as well as early warning in the disaster risk reduction strategy.

12. Risk assessment and reduction is a required step for adequate and successful policy implementation. The main objective of disaster risk assessment is to provide safety for all the representatives of the society equally considering the specifics of women, men, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, people with special needs and socially vulnerable groups and the level of their preparedness.

13. The strategy is in compliance with the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia approved by the RA President's decree NH-37-N dated 7 February, 2007 and the priority actions of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030 which are as follows:

- 1) Understanding disaster risk;
- 2) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
- 3) Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience;
- 4) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

14. Seven targets have been selected for the assessment of the progress of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030:

- 1) Reduce global disaster mortality by 2030;
- 2) reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030;
- 3) reduce direct disaster economic loss by 2030;
- 4) Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030;
- 5) increase the number of countries with national disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;
- 6) enhance international cooperation by 2030;
- 7) Increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

15. One of the main prerequisites is also connection and coherence of the strategy with the country's sustainable development and national security strategies. Disaster risk management is also important for development strategies of various sectors.

16. Disaster risk management and disaster resilience activities are also reflected in the UN General Assembly "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" resolution adopted on 25 September, 2015. Disaster risk management related sustainable development goals include:

- 1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere:

By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture:

By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

3) Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being:

Strengthen the capacity for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.

4) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all:

By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights and promotion of global culture. Build and upgrade education facilities that consider the interests of learners and the necessity of providing relevant conditions for the inclusion of those in special needs.

5) Make communities resilient, safe and sustainable:

By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected caused by disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations, increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

6) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts:

Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation; promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management.

7) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss, ensure availability and sustainable management of water.

17. In the national security strategy, following hazards are reflected:

1) Outbreak of epidemics, devastating earthquakes and other natural and man-made disasters in the territory of the country, bordering regions and in the region;

2) Further urbanization of Armenia with a pattern of overly compact inhabitation and settlement in the areas prone to seismic activity, a deterioration of the demographic balance in rural areas, and a depopulation of border villages;

3) The Republic of Armenia faces a challenge to construct and extend additional road links and to develop water, gas, lighting, communication networks and other related infrastructures.

18. Prevention of hazards and disaster recovery are preconditions for sustainable development of the country. Modernization and further development of the disaster risk management system are important with special attention to the following areas:

1) Development of natural and man-made disaster forecasting, early warning and rapid response systems;

2) Investing in disaster risk management;

3) Raising the awareness and education of the population, building a culture of disaster resilience;

4) Proportionate development of infrastructures and regions, building a disaster resilient country.

19. Disaster risk reduction is taught in higher education institutions and schools of general education by introducing relevant educational programmes. Disaster risk reduction educational topics are included in the state standards of general education which enabled providing disaster risk reduction courses also in elementary and secondary schools, as well as in pre-school institutions. The necessity of physical safety of institutions of general education was highlighted. The process of regular training of managers and specialists is also regulated. Existing knowledge and expertise and further development of capacities are one of the milestones for implementation of disaster risk reduction strategy and building a culture of safety and resilience.

20. There are necessary grounds for awareness raising on disasters and risk reduction. It involves regulation of disaster-related information sharing processes among the players of emergency management regardless of organizational and legal structure; training and requalification of staff of all media structures; development of relations between the latter and the authorized body; establishment of specialized structures and information tools for raising the awareness of the population; integration of awareness into international programmes and developments through the application of international best practices, etc. Availability of such a field undoubtedly contributes to building a culture of safety and resilience to disasters by being a principal component for the strategy implementation.

21. There are developed, contemporary and holistic grounds for disaster risk management, a cooperation mechanism for governmental and non-governmental structures; a favourable environment is established by the Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform and regional teams for disaster risk reduction are established.

CHAPTER III. CURRENT SITUATION ANALYSIS

22. As a UN member state, Armenia joined the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA) in 2005 and, development and safety of the country.

23. The priority actions of the HFA are as follows:

1) Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation;

2) Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning;

3) Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels;

4) reduce the underlying risk factors;

5) Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

24. There are significant achievements in disaster risk reduction based on the HFA priorities, in particular:

1) The “Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform” foundation was established by the Government of Armenia decree N 1694-N dated 2 December, 2010 aimed at establishment of a disaster risk reduction multi-sectoral mechanism with the involvement of all stakeholders.

2) The disaster risk reduction national strategy was approved by the Government of Armenia decree N 281-N dated 7 March, 2012 aimed at building a resilient country with the provision of gradual increase of individual and societal safety and sustainable development.

3) Disaster risk reduction regional teams have been established that are advisory bodies for DRR national strategy and HFA implementation on community level.

4) A total of 22 cities of the country have joined the UNISDR “Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready” disaster reduction global campaign taking up important steps for making cities safe.

5) The common methodology on “Local Level Risk Management” has been localized and piloted. It is implemented with the direct participation of the community and is a tool for community risk identification and management.

6) “Community Risk Certificate” has been developed where community risks and development processes are considered as closely interlinked components which will promote safe development and disaster risk reduction of the community.

7) The “City Scenario” seismic risk assessment methodology was piloted which enables urbanization risk assessment with the application of the outcome data for further urban development and territorial planning.

8) There is basis for introduction of early warning systems in communities.

9) Armenia has become a partner country within the “Mainstreaming Adaptation and disaster reduction in development” programme involving relevant specialists from the Ministries of Emergency Situations, Economic Development and Investments, Finance and Territorial Administration and Development.

10) The Concept for disaster risk reduction education of the population was approved by the protocol decree N17 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia dated 16 April 16, 2015. Disaster risk reduction issues are included in the educational and subject standards of the general education, as well as in the curricula of schools of general education, higher education institutions and additional education.

11) Issues of disaster risk reduction and organization of education in emergency situations are incorporated in all educational curricula of the Crisis Management State Academy of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia (vocational, higher, additional educational programmes). About 1700 participants from state administration and local self-government bodies and organizations, about 400 firemen-rescuers get to know disaster risk reduction issues through the training programmes of the Academy and about 200 graduates annually become specialists of disaster risk reduction.

12) Several ministries and agencies have reviewed their sectoral strategies and development plans based on the objectives of the Disaster risk reduction national strategy.

13) Climate change adaptation is among the priority issues of the country with due consideration to the fact that Armenia is a mountainous landlocked country with vulnerable ecosystems, dry climate, active external and desertation processes and frequent natural disasters, which make the country more sensitive to the current and forecasted climate change impacts.

14) Seismic resilience of schools of general education has been studied, and consequently, the seismic safety improvement programme for the state schools of general education of the Republic of Armenia 2015-2030 was approved by a Government of Armenia decree N 797-N dated 23 July, 2015.

15) Rescue forces became a member of the international search and rescue team after being qualified in accordance with the relevant standards of the UN international search and rescue advisory team.

16) Significant and targeted processes were carried out for the establishment and development of the Crisis Management National Centre; significant investments were made for technical and technological re-equipment, development and registration of information and disaster risk management with the support of the UN Development Programme, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Global Risk Identification Program, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and other partners to forming a Crisis Management National Centre in compliance with international standards.

17) The “911” service has been established in compliance with international standards.

18) Regional crisis management centres have been established with their “911” services.

25. The gaps in implementation of disaster risk reduction activities include:

1) There are bases for the decentralization of disaster risk management; however, the decentralization process is not complete. It is also connected with incomplete processes of local self-government.

2) Issues related to the functions of state administration, territorial administration and local self-government bodies and several players of the disaster risk reduction sector.

3) The requirements of the concept of population education on disaster risk reduction are partially implemented, in particular, disaster risk reduction issues are not fully incorporated in pre-school education programmes and curricula of the middle school (5-9 grades); there are issues in relation to organization of disaster risk reduction education that are connected with global transformation to inclusive general education, including pre-school education; there is no common database on the safety of educational institutions yet.

4) There are issues associated with global climate change, resilience and adaptation.

5) Disaster risk reduction awareness system has not been effective with its specific mechanisms and tools.

6) A common methodology for disaster risk assessment and a complete monitoring system with its components and databases have not been formed yet.

7) Rapid response preparedness in case of disastrous consequences is in place; however, there are serious gaps in efficient organization of post disaster recovery.

26. Gaps exist in many countries and there are global problems that were identified during the HFA implementation. These problems are associated with the elimination of disaster risk factors and formulation of objectives and recommendations for specific activities, which is necessary for strengthening disaster resilience and provision of adequate means of implementation at all levels. An action plan is necessary to solve the mentioned issues, which the relevant stakeholders would be able to implement through mutual support and cooperation and help identify disaster risk to be managed, and will ensure necessary investments for strengthening resilience.

27. Disasters continue to hinder sustainable development activities even after the HFA implementation. It is necessary to reflect upon the existing challenges for disaster risk reduction and prepare to overcome them by disaster risk monitoring, assessment, understanding and information sharing, and through strengthening disaster risk management capacities in relevant institutions and sectors, ensuring stakeholder participation on relevant levels, making investments in strengthening economic, social, healthcare, cultural and educational resilience of people, communities and the country, as well as in the protection of the environment through technologies and studies and development of multi-hazard early warning systems, preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction.

28. The development tendencies of disaster risk management are as follows:

1) Targeted decentralization of disaster risk management system (to become a priority action) support and promote participatory active involvement of scientific structures, non-governmental organizations and the communities on local level in disaster risk management policy making and implementation processes with special attention to community risk management and building a culture of resilient communities.

2) Integration of disaster risk management functions and climate changes priorities in the country's development processes.

3) The issue of climate change adaptation must become a priority action as the territory of the country becomes more sensitive to the impacts of climate change.

4) Introduction of innovative approaches and contemporary technologies for disaster risk management; therefore, it is necessary to promote localization and dissemination of the best practices on the methodology for disaster risk identification, assessment and modelling, education and awareness raising of the population on disaster risk reduction, raising the resilience of social protection and application of innovative technologies that would enable risk sensitive decision making on national and local levels.

5) Strengthen social orientation in disaster risk management reforms for the implementation of which it is necessary to support and promote active involvement of educational institutions, persons with disabilities, socially vulnerable groups and other players in disaster risk management policy making and implementation processes. Promote the importance of provision, safety and accessibility of social protection and healthcare services as part of humanitarian aid and disaster risk reduction.

6) Ongoing development of international activities which implies regular study and application of DRM international best practices.

CHAPTER IV. THE GOAL AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

29. The aim of the strategy is to establish a disaster resilient country, reduction of disaster risk and losses of human lives, livelihood and health and economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental losses of people, organizations, communities and the country and ensure increased safety of individuals and the society and the sustainable development of the country.

30. Disaster risk management is aimed at protecting people, their health, property, as well as industrial, cultural and environmental values.

31. The vision of the strategy is “to make Armenia a disaster resilient country and ensure significant reduction of various disaster threats to human lives, country’s economy and communities by establishing holistic grounds for sustainable development”.

32. The main goal of the strategy is to strengthen disaster risk management capacities for the sustainable development of the country.

33. The priority actions and objectives of the strategy are as follows:

1) “Understanding disaster risk” – improve the disaster risk identification, assessment, analysis, monitoring and early warning continuously developing systems aimed at disaster risk reduction, as well as making risk sensitive effective decisions for the country’s development.

2) “Strengthening the disaster risk management system” – ensure strengthening of the disaster risk management system through raising the effectiveness of management functions, targeted decentralization and continuous development of the players.

3) “Investments in disaster risk reduction” – incorporate disaster risk reduction functions and measures, and enhance transparency ensuring investments in disaster risk reduction sector and possibilities for implementation of innovative programmes.

4) “Building back better” – continuous strengthening of the country’s capacities and opportunities for disaster preparedness, as well as disaster rapid response and more effective recover after disasters.

CHAPTER V. STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION RISKS AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

34. Risks hindering effective implementation of the strategy and challenges of disaster risk management sector are as follows:

1) political risks which assumes that the strategy is left out of the government priorities of the Republic of Armenia in terms of provision of necessary legal, organizational, structural and budget support; lack of necessary support by the main players in the management process. A strategy management council is envisaged to be formed in compliance with the current decree to decrease the mentioned risks.

2) Bureaucratic risks, ineffective cooperation among state agencies and conflict of interests hinder full cooperation for disaster risk management, decision making and their effective implementation; the strategy will contribute to the clarification and regulation of the existing relations.

3) Insufficient resources or lack of resources that leads to absence of mechanisms for resource mobilization and utilization in terms of quantity and quality.

a. Insufficient financial and material resources may create serious problems for the implementation of the strategy action plan and strategic goals; it will always be necessary to review the prioritization of programmes due to lack of resources with preference to more efficient and long-term impact programmes.

b. In terms of resource mobilization, it is necessary to promote the involvement of the private sector in disaster risk reduction programmes by expanding the delegated services and mutually funded initiatives; this approach will form a favourable field for further expansion of international partnership as well as implementation of innovative programmes.

c. Successful implementation of the strategy is based on human resources, commitment of people, staff members, and level of specialization, professional approach and high motivation. Implementation of strategy programmes will be difficult or impossible in case of the absence of the mentioned factors, and the solution of this issue is directly connected with further development of the disaster risk management system. Within this process, it is necessary to identify and implement relevant measures for the optimization of functions. It would be possible to increase staff motivation through decision making and capacity decentralization even with scarce resources. The Crisis Management State Academy of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia, as well as international structures of disaster risk reduction may have a significant role in human resource preparedness and training.

d. Problems of utilization of natural resources result in not only new environmental issues but also increases the vulnerability of the population and territories.

e. Phased implementation of strategic issues is driven by the capacity level of the given phase; and inadequate capacities hinder not only the implementation of the strategic objectives of the given phase but also the possibilities of further phases.

4) The risk of “stagnation” of the strategy implementation may hinder the whole process of the strategy implementation and the previous achievements; in many cases, adopted and approved strategies lose their relevance over years and lag behind the development processes. For the reduction of this risk, it would be necessary to form an effective process for strategy implementation evaluation and monitoring to be carried out by the responsible body of disaster risk management sector. Monitoring results would enable establishment of regularly updated database for effective strategic decision making, disaster risk management reporting and raising transparency and improvement of cooperation.

5) Wars, conflicts, economic and financial crisis and their consequences hinder the development of the country and its economy; these risks are not driven by the strategy implementation, however, they may have a significant impact on it.

6) Existing corruption risks lead to inefficient use of disaster risk management capacities and resources, and in some cases lead to disruption of initiatives and programmes and dispersion of scarce resources.

7) Natural hazards do not incur disasters unless they are coupled with vulnerability of the society and low level of resilience. In this sense, climate change effects on hazards may incur in cases of increased number of hydrometeorological and climatic phenomena, increased vulnerability of the society against natural hazards. Reasons for the latter are degradation of the eco-system, decreasing natural and water resources, lack of necessary living conditions, food, etc. Thus, it is an urgent issue to assess the impact of climate change on the economy and eco-systems and develop resilience programmes with national and local involvement.

8) Existing hazards in the region may lead to cross-border emergency situations. Imperfect cooperation within the region leads to inefficient solution of regional issues, and lack of capacities and mechanisms for deployment of resources hinder prevention and mitigation of cross-border hazards.

9) Imperfection of safety culture and lack of knowledge on disaster risk management lead to new challenges, increase vulnerability to hazards and cause increased disaster risks.

10) Ineffective territorial planning and uncontrolled urbanization lead to undesired increase of population density in disaster high risk zones and unbalanced resettlement that may cause new risks and increase vulnerability.

11) Issues associated with equal rights and opportunities of men and women in disaster risk management sector hinder their full involvement in disaster risk reduction processes, which lead to inefficient use of human resources and capacities.

12) Low level involvement of socially vulnerable, people with special needs and vulnerable groups (women, children, elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with chronic diseases) impede complete

consideration of their special needs of both before and after disasters; therefore, it is necessary to integrate them into all disaster risk management processes.

13) Absence of management of mass migration movements resulting from natural disasters and wars.

14) Improvement of the legal field on disaster response necessary for the integration of local developments into international development processes.

15) Low level of resilience of cultural, religious and historical buildings and territories and absence of disaster prevention measures in their maintenance and operation processes hinder increasing the level of tourism development to a new quality level.

16) Absence of planning for post disaster recovery activities does not allow having a common and coordinated recovery process. It is necessary to take management processes into account during the whole process of recovery aimed at capacity development of state and local self-government bodies responsible for the evacuation of the population from disaster and risk zones.

17) Insufficient level of disaster risk assessment in the sectors of urban development and land use, land degradation, violations of land use and urban development norms create new risks and hazards for territories and population; therefore, disaster risk, vulnerability and capacity assessment processes must be integrated into community development plans.

18) Insufficient operation of a disaster insurance system reduces the flexibility of financial processes of disaster risk management leaving the main load on state and community budgets. Thus, financial capacities are reduced and the vulnerability of the population and territories are increased.

CHAPTER VI. THE MAIN ACTIVITIES FOR THE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

35. Taking into consideration the current situation and further developments of disaster risk management, the main activities for the strategy implementation are as follows:

1) Activities for the improvement of disaster risk management legal and organization field include improvement of the legislation, clarification of regulations and procedures, as well as effective cooperation with international partners.

2) Activities for strengthening of the disaster risk management on institutional level include clear distribution and coordination of the roles of structures and organizations, raising the effectiveness of operation and communication, ongoing expansion of international cooperation and targeted decentralization of decision making, resource distribution and responsibilities.

3) For the human resource development it is important to improve the knowledge, skills and capacities of the staff of the relevant institutions and partner structures and implementation of innovative programmes with partner organizations.

4) Activities for the improvement of scientific and information basis envisage continuous development of scientific and information bases of the disaster risk management sector, modernization and making them available for the sector specialists and the population, expansion of the application of

information technologies and raising the effectiveness of public awareness, which will promote involvement of wide layers of the population in the disaster risk management and strengthening resilience.

5) Activities for expanding opportunities for investments in disaster risk reduction sector – progressive development of the sector would be impossible without the investments of the private sector. In this sense, it is necessary to increase the level of participation of the public and private sectors in the ongoing programmes.

6) Activities for the development of disaster risk management.

36. Activities planned by the strategy action plan are subject to monitoring.

CHAPTER VII. BENEFICIARIES AND PLAYERS

37. Formation and development of an effective system for disaster risk management with the involvement of all sectors of the economy and wide layers of the society is a most important factor to ensure sustainable development of the country.

38. The strategy implementation is aimed at disaster prevention, risk reduction, reduction of consequences of emergency situations and recovery and capacity development and strengthening the management of the sector.

39. Disaster risk management system is a complete framework of processes and functions aimed at strengthening disaster resilience capacities, promoting regional sustainable development and formation of disaster resilient country. It is aimed at preventing and mitigating hazards, reducing possible negative impacts and the amount of losses.

40. Disaster risk management is one of the important factors for the country's development. It requires combined activities to be implemented by state, regional, community structures, civil society, scientific institutions, international organizations and the private sector.

41. Formation and development of disaster risk management system requires implementation of strategic objectives, identification of new issues, clarification of rights and functions of DRM players and exclusion of duplication of functions creating basis for ensuring sustainable and continuous process for disaster risk management and building a disaster resilient country.

42. Disaster risk management process is not a monopoly of one structure. It requires comprehensive approach, active involvement of all structures and resources of the country, application of political logistical means and scientific and participatory components.

43. The overall management of disaster risk management is carried out by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

44. The authorized body for the coordination and monitoring of disaster risk management process is the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia.

45. The main players of the disaster risk management are state agencies, state agencies of territorial administration, local self-government bodies, governing bodies of non-governmental and private organizations, the “Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform”, international organizations, diplomatic representations in the Republic of Armenia, committees formed for conducting disaster risk management activities involving representatives of different levels. The main players are:

1) The Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia that develops, implements and coordinates the policy of the Republic of Armenia in the fields of civil protection and population protection at times of emergency situations using authorities vested in laws and other relevant legal acts; carries out activities on emergency prevention, reduction of consequences and recovery, ensures management of forecasting systems of possible earthquakes, creation, maintenance and updating of necessary material stockpiles for population protection, supervision over keeping and implementation fire safety rules and technical safety norms, carries out regular and special observations, studies and forecasts of hydro-meteorological phenomena, implements technical expertise to ensure the safety of hazardous production facilities, disaster risk reduction training of state and local self-government bodies, managers and specialists of organizations and the population, carries out processes associated with information management and general awareness during emergency situations, operational management of emergency situations, centralization of information sharing processes on population protection and civil protection, operation reflection of information with contemporary measures, and raising the effectiveness of population and civil protection processes.

2) The Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia participates in the activities of territorial administration and local self-government bodies for the population protection in emergency situations, as well as in the disaster risk reduction activities of regional administration bodies and communities, contributes to prevention of emergency situations, reduction of consequences and recovery, building resilient communities, integration of disaster risk management measures in community development programmes and implementation, organization and implementation of regular exercises for DRM capacity development.

3) The Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia ensures preparedness of general and specialized medical institutions and equipment with necessary medical-sanitary means and medication, carries out supervision over the quality of medications imported as humanitarian aid and simplified certification, if necessary, prepares the application for the request of necessary medications from foreign countries and submits it to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, coordinates international medical forces and ensures integration of disaster risk management component into sectoral development programmes, participates in provision of livelihood for the evacuated population during chemical accidents, conducts situational assessment during biological accidents, ensure sanitary-epidemic safety, laboratory research of air, soil, water and bioassays, identification of biological contamination zones, epidemiological, parasitological and entomological supervision, preventive and anti-epidemic activities,

provides relevant conclusion on sanitary-epidemiological situation of disaster consequences, provides recommendation on quarantine, if necessary.

4) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia coordinates international cooperation, implementation of international humanitarian programmes and mutual aid processes. The Ministry ensures international cooperation, manages processes for signing of international agreements, processes for the organization of humanitarian aid, and participation of international rescue forces and structures in the disaster relief activities.

5) The Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia regulates and controls ecological safety, ensures environmental protection and monitoring processes, as well as carries out the functions of eco-education and manages climate change issues, implements integration of disaster risk management component in sectoral development programmes.

6) The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia carries out activities related to veterinary sanitary, food safety and plant sanitary services, activities on primary seed breeding and ensuring availability of food, forest maintenance, protection, reproduction, utilization and sustainable control, state monitoring of forests and anti-mudflow activities. The Ministry integrates disaster risk management component into sectoral development programmes.

7) The Ministry of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources of the Republic of Armenia carries out research on the energy supply networks, activities on ensuring sustainable energy supply in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, suspending gas and energy supply in the administrative areas of the evacuated communities, activities on providing energy supply for the residential areas of accident planning zones in case of nuclear and/or radial accidents in the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant, as well as integrates disaster risk management component into sectoral development programmes. Within its authorities, the Ministry supervises the exploitation of open and underground mines both on daily basis and at times of disasters.

8) The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia is responsible for organization of education on disaster management and civil protection in all educational institutions of the Republic. It ensures the continuity of the education process in emergency situations, coordinates the processes for introduction of disaster risk reduction and emergency plans in the educational institutions, integration of disaster risk management component into the disaster risk reduction education of republican level and educational programmes, organizes regular activities in the organizations under its supervision on the development of disaster risk management capacities.

9) The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia develops recommendations on funding issues regarding population protection activities in the sector of disaster risk management.

10) The Ministry of Economic Development and Investments of the Republic of Armenia ensures sustainable operation of the economy, food and logistical supplies, conducts metrological supervision over

technical means of civil protection, integration of the disaster risk management component into the sectoral development programmes.

11) The Ministry of International Economic Integration and Reforms of the Republic of Armenia supports organization of the relevant processes for involvement of rescue, recovery, medical sub-divisions and accepting material aid from foreign countries and international structures for disaster recovery.

12) The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia organizes and coordinates continuity of programmes of providing livelihoods and social protection for the affected population in the placement areas of affected population with the cooperation of Regional Administration bodies; this is implemented with the resources of regional social service centres and state non-commercial organization under the supervision of the Ministry. It integrates the disaster risk management component into the sectoral development programmes.

13) The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia organizes disaster risk management assessment processes in the sector, implementation of disaster risk management programmes and carries out maintenance of cultural values and their evacuation, if necessary.

14) The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia participates in rescue activities during emergency situations and provides forces and means for rescue and recovery work.

15) The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia supports involvement of the youth in the establishment of social and volunteer rescue movement in Armenia and implementation of development actions, establishment of volunteer fireman rescue brigades, and works on the integration of the disaster risk management component into the sectoral development programmes.

16) The Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia which, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, coordinates inclusion of disaster risk management component into the programmes of Diaspora organizations, organizes provision of necessary humanitarian aid by organizations in Diaspora in times of disasters.

17) The Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technologies of the Republic of Armenia supervises integration of disaster risk management component into programmes of roads, highways, structures and construction, as well as develops, organizes, coordinates and controls their vulnerability reduction programmes, provides necessary means of transportation and communication channels for transportation of technical means for the evacuation of the population, affected people and survivors and rescue forces and organization of population protection activities.

18) The General Department of the Civil Aviation adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia organizes stable activity of the organizations under its supervision, protection of the system staff and passengers in airports. It is guided by the Decree N 105-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia dated 2 February, 2017 for accepting emergency response, humanitarian aid and international rescue forces and sending humanitarian aid and rescue forces from the Republic of Armenia to other

countries. The decree regulates the actions and activities of mutual cooperation of the airports of civil aviation of the Republic of Armenia and state governing agencies of the RA.

19) State Urban Development Committee of the Republic of Armenia ensures compliance with disaster resilient urban development norms during the whole process of newly built and reconstructed healthcare, educational, social and other critical buildings, conducts technical supervision and monitoring. Organizes and coordinates scientific research and experimental-constructive activities, development of normative technical documents for seismic resilient construction, studies of areas and engineering protection activities.

20) The State Revenue Committee adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia controls imported humanitarian aid and applies simplified procedures for importing and exporting rescue equipment and property.

21) State Nuclear Safety Regulatory Committee adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia organizes and implements safety assessment and expertise of nuclear energy utilization activities, objects and equipment, organizes immediate suspension of the Armenian nuclear power plant, as necessary based in the situation.

22) National Security Service adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia coordinates the functions of ensuring safety of critical state facilities.

23) Republic of Armenia Police adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia organizes and ensures public order, protection of population property and uninterrupted traffic during evacuation in communities, organizations of defence and strategic importance for the economy, as well as in organizations of high risk in terms of population protection, protected objects, evacuation assembly points and placement areas, and in passages of movement of rescue forces and equipment in times of emergency situations.

24) State Committee of Real Estate Cadastre adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia provides cadastral, topographic or land maps to the state agencies; these maps may be provided to other parties (arriving international forces) by the state agencies only based on a decree of the Government of the Republic of Armenia for which a compensation is paid to the real Estate State Registry.

25) The Council of Public TV and Radio of Armenia organizes stable operation of the organizations under its supervision, extension of reserve portable and mobile satellite stations, raising public awareness on behavioural rules in emergency situations, and broadcasting programmes on the process of rescue work and disaster recovery.

26) The National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia contributes to the establishment of a common statistical database on disasters in compliance with relevant international norms and improvement of administrative registry maintenance in relevant state agencies with the integration of disaster risk management provisions.

27) Civil Service Council of the Republic of Armenia promotes integration of disaster risk management issues into training programmes of civil servants.

28) The Municipality of Yerevan and Community Halls of the Republic of Armenia conduct regular assessments of disaster risks, community vulnerability and capacities, ensure inclusion of disaster risk reduction activities and actions in community development programmes, ensure application and ongoing updating electronic risk maps, inclusion of disaster risk management standards in the process of upgrading the General Plan, formation of a transparent system for disaster risk management information provision, creation of geo-information common system, provision of relevant base areas for the evacuation of the population, introduction, operation and maintenance of early warning system, building a culture of safety and raising the awareness level of the population.

29) Civil and scientific organizations are important players and contribute to the development of scientific potential of the disaster risk management system and solution of disaster risk management issues in communities.

30) Insurance companies support development of disaster insurance system and contribute to further improvement.

31) International partners provide assistance to the establishment and development of the disaster risk management system in Armenia. Main partners include the UN Development Programme, UNICEF, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency, The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, The World Bank, Asian Development Bank, German Technical Cooperation Agency, Armenian Red Cross Society, "Oxygen" foundation, Save the Children International, "World Vision" organization, UMCHOR organization, etc.

CHAPTER VIII. INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE

46. It is necessary to develop international cooperation with different countries and international organizations to supplement to the national efforts and capacities.

47. Great Britain, Australia and Japan are among the countries with greater experience in terms of disaster risk management where disaster risk management strategies are an integral part of national security or crisis management national concepts. They are applied on national, regional and local levels.

48. Seismic risk assessment of Yerevan city and management planning project has been implemented within the seismic risk assessment and management planning programme implemented in the Republic of Armenia by the Japan International Cooperation Agency. The Agency implements a project on establishment of landslide monitoring and assessment systems for landslide risk reduction in Armenia.

49. Mutual projects on raising the level of disaster preparedness and rescue force capacity development have been implemented with the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency that played an important role in making the preparedness of rescue forces in line with international standards.

50. A preparedness training project for the operators, instructors and dispatchers of crisis management centres and "911" service has been implemented in cooperation with the German Red Cross, ARMENIA_DRM_ national strategy and action plan

Crisis Management National Centre, “Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform” foundation and Crisis Management State Academy of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia, which was incorporated into the educational programmes of the Academy.

51. Training programmes have been implemented in the USA for the specialists of the Ministries of Emergency Situations, Agriculture and Health with the EU support aimed at reduction of biological risks; as a result, a mobile station for hazard assessment and monitoring was established in the Rescue Service of the staff of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the RA, and a biological laboratory was established in the Crisis Management State Academy.

52. Within the UNDP supported projects, the sub-divisions of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia have received not only technical replenishment but also developed their capacities. Disaster risk reduction projects have been implemented with the support of UNICEF to strengthen disaster risk reduction capacities in the educational sector. These achievements were completed with close cooperation with and support from the UN Development Programme, UNICEF, UNISDR, BCPR, Global risk identification programme, World Vision, Armenian Red Cross, Oxfam, Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency and other agencies.

53. Cooperation has enabled studying, understanding, contributing to and developing the culture of disaster risk management in our country. Representatives of about twenty countries and international organizations have visited the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia in the recent years to share disaster risk reduction practice.

54. The study of the implementation of DRR national strategies shows that the HFA was the basis for their development. National, regional and global reports on their implementation inform that countries and other stakeholders have made progress on local, national and regional levels.

55. DRR international strategy, advisory, international mechanisms of coordination and cooperation, such as Disaster risk reduction global and regional platforms, as well as other international and regional cooperation forums had an important role in policy making, strategy development and acquiring knowledge.

56. The HFA has been a guiding tool in disaster risk reduction processes and has contributed to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. However, several issues have been identified during the HFA implementation associated with the elimination of disaster risk factors and formulation of action objectives and priorities, which is necessary to ensure proper measures for strengthening disaster resilience.

57. Achievements of the country in terms of disaster risk reduction include policy making, implementation and development, introduction of participatory decision making with the involvement of all main players from the national to the local level, as well as social, scientific and international organizations, persons with disabilities, vulnerable groups, etc. One of the main preconditions of the mentioned achievements is the political will in the country, and an important factor for the development of

the country is formation and development of DRR effective system with the involvement of all the sectors of the economy and wide layers of the society.

58. Progress has been made in terms of raising the awareness and education of the population on disaster risk reduction and management issues, introduction of common contemporary methodological models for urban risk management, as well as decentralization of crisis management system and establishment of the National Platform for the involvement of various stakeholders and ensuring sustainable activity.

59. With the implementation of the HFA, the main gaps in the processes of the country's development were identified. These gaps included overlooking disaster risk management factor, lack of relevant knowledge and experience, necessity for capacity development, as well as lack of involvement of various players and participatory basis. As an international process, it became the cornerstone for the establishment of efficient cooperation mechanism and sharing best practices both among the local players and other countries and structures thus being a common and accepted "word and experience" consolidating the efforts of all for building a culture of resilience.

60. The successor to the HFA is Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted at the Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan, on March 18, 2015 where the participating 187 countries reiterated their commitment to address disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to integrate, as appropriate, both disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience into policies, plans, programmes and budgets.

61. Sendai Framework highlights the importance of enhanced work to reduce exposure and vulnerability, thus preventing the creation of new disaster risks, and accountability for disaster risk creation are needed at all levels. More dedicated action needs to be focused on tackling underlying disaster risk drivers, such as the consequences of poverty and inequality, climate change and variability, unplanned and rapid urbanization, poor land management and compounding factors such as demographic change, weak institutional arrangements, non-risk-informed policies, lack of regulation and incentives for private disaster risk reduction investment, limited availability of technology, unsustainable uses of natural resources, declining ecosystems, etc. Moreover, it is necessary to continue strengthening good governance in disaster risk reduction strategies at the national, regional and global levels and improving preparedness and national coordination for disaster response, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

62. The development of disaster risk reduction strategy is drawn from the development peculiarities of each country. Although disaster risk management vision is mainly a concept of disaster risk reduction processes, it may have different approaches and expectations in different countries in terms of DRR and tend to solve country-specific issues. For some countries, it may be the issue of poverty reduction, for another - political, and for others an issue country development, whereas several countries may be able to

develop disaster risk reduction coordinating mechanisms without having financial investments for the implementation.

63. The international as well as the Armenian experience assumes revision of DRR strategies or concepts taking into consideration the principles of Sendai Framework in disaster risk management activities, such as understanding of disaster risk, strengthening disaster resilience capacities at all management levels, clarification of disaster risk information sharing, clear planning of disaster risk reduction promotion activities at all levels of management and improving disaster preparedness capacities.

CHAPTER IX. IMPLEMENTATION PHASES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

64. The phases of the strategy implementation may be classified by the terms of the ongoing programmes:

- 1) Short-term programmes;
- 2) medium-term programmes;
- 3) Long-term programmes; and
- 4) Procedural programmes.

65. Short-term programmes include strategy activities with one to two years of implementation period. Preconditions and justifications are clearly set for such programmes, the resources required for the implementation are visible and the expected results and further steps are predictable. This group of programmes includes strategic actions that ensure the legal, organizational and methodological basis of the strategy implementation. These activities include development of relevant capacities and implementation of pilot projects.

66. Medium-term programmes include activities that would supplement and continue the short-term programmes and ensure practical implementation of legal and methodological principles. The programme implementation period is three to five years.

67. The long-term programme implementation period is five and more years. These programmes include mainly activities that may be implemented in one to two years when relevant prerequisites and financial means are available and activities with long-term implementation period.

68. Procedural programmes mainly are of continuous nature, have repeating functions and ensure the implementation process of programmes. Annual planning and outcome assessment approach is appropriate for similar programmes where the programme process and the action plan are reviewed annually based on the previous results and new opportunities.

69. Expected results of the strategy are:

- 1) Planning and identification of organization process for population protection during emergency situations at all levels of the population protection system.
- 2) Introduction of a contemporary disaster insurance system.

3) Strengthening disaster risk management capacities of schools and increasing the safety of school staff and students with inclusive and child-centred approach.

4) Availability of relevant legal acts in compliance with international standards.

5) Clarification and simplification of procedures for receiving and sending humanitarian aid and rescue forces, ensuring provision of support to international forces in emergency situations and availability of support network in the accepting country.

6) Availability of capacities for rapid assessment of losses and needs in times of disasters.

7) Availability of disaster risk assessment and management capacities in the regions and communities of the Republic of Armenia in compliance with international standards; strengthening community disaster risk assessment, management and reduction capacities.

8) Strengthening capacities for resilient communities, availability and implementation of disaster risk management plans in communities.

9) Formulation of disaster risk management issues and teaching skills, understanding of disaster risk management issues among learners and design a common teaching methodology on the mentioned issues.

10) Availability of active DRR regional teams, regional disaster risk management and building disaster resilient regions.

11) Availability of functional emergency early warning system with due consideration of the specifics of people with special needs.

12) Availability of strategic documents and legal acts in compliance with contemporary requirements and international processes.

13) Availability of urban development normative documents in compliance with international standards, raising the seismic resilience of critical and social buildings.

14) Integration of disaster risk management activities in state targeted and community development programmes, plans and budgets.

15) Involvement of the private sector in disaster risk management and promotion of innovative and technological development.

16) Availability of post disaster rapid recovery and reconstruction plans.

17) Replenishment and modernization of necessary rescue stocks in the regions and communities of the Republic of Armenia with contemporary rescue, medical, sanitary and educational equipment.

18) Strengthening information management capacities at all levels.

19) Increasing the funding for disaster risk reduction activities in state and community budgets.

70. The expected results from the strategy implementation with the application of economic, structural, legal, social, healthcare, cultural, educational, environmental, technological and political tools would include disaster prevention and mitigation, disaster risk reduction and management, effective response to disasters, strengthened post disaster recovery capacities and building a culture of resilience.

CHAPTER X. MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES OF THE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

71. A strategy management council (hereinafter-council) is established for the management and coordination of the strategy implementation process, which is an advisory body adjacent to the Minister of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia.

72. The President of the Council is the Minister of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia and the secretary of the council is the National Coordinator of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

73. Council members are Deputy Ministers of Health, Labour and Social Issues, Nature Protection, Agriculture, Economic Development and Investments, Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources, Territorial Administration and Development, Education and Science and Finance of the Republic of Armenia, Deputy Chief of the Republic of Armenia Police adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Deputy Chairman of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia.

74. The council assembles sessions, as necessary, not less than once a year. The council session are chaired by the President of the Council. The secretary of the council organizes the session conduct, compilation of session minutes, ensures provision of relevant information documents to the council members and delivers council decisions to the relevant implementers.

75. The working procedure of the council is approved by the President of the Council.

76. Monitoring and evaluation working groups are formed by the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia within the “Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform” for monitoring and evaluation of the strategy implementation process. Implemented activities are discussed within the working groups four times a year after the end of each quarter, and semi-annual and annual resulted are reported to the President of the Council.

CHAPTER XI. FINANCIAL SOURCES OF THE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

77. Disaster risk management is a very costly process impossible to implement with one funding source. It is necessary to clearly identify disaster risk management priorities with clear measures and timeframes and include relevant activities in medium-term and long-term expenditure programmes.

78. Disaster risk management priorities must be identified in each sector and included in development programmes to be implemented by the funds allocated from sectoral budgets.

79. Taking into account the fact that initial expenses make prevention and mitigation processes 7-10 times more efficient from the economic and financial perspective, it is necessary:

1) Find new funding sources and, after legislative amendments, make hazardous enterprises take up the protection of the population and territories in the risk zones of their activity or allocate funds from their income to the relevant community budgets or the state budget for the mentioned purpose.

2) Establish foundations (humanitarian, disaster response, etc.) with benefactors' and business sponsorship.

3) Expand international programmes with active support and motivation of the country.

4) During new constructions, make companies by the force of legal acts and norms build shelters, fire safety and other complimentary systems for rescue activities.

5) In resettlement and development programmes, consider the location of the residential areas and targeted distribution of production forces and healthcare institutions with respect to effective implementation of disaster prevention and mitigation and rescue activities, as well as organization of protection of the population at times of war.

80. Funding sources for the disaster risk management system may include:

1) the state budget,

2) budgets of local self-government bodies,

3) funds of the "Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform" Foundation,

4) investments of hazardous organizations,

5) investments of international and donors organizations,

6) potential credits, and

7) other sources not prohibited by law.

**NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION
ACTION PLAN**

Actions	Expected outcome	Performer	Co-performer	Implementation date	Funding requirement
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>1. Improvement of legal and organizational frameworks of disaster risk management</i>					
<i>1.1. Improvement of legal framework with clarification of responsibilities and duties of government agencies in disaster prevention and mitigation</i>					
1.1.1 Revision of RA laws on “Protection of Population in Emergency Situations”, “Seismic Protection”, “Fire Safety”, “State Regulation of Technical Safety”, “Local Self-Government”	Improved legal framework for disaster risk management, incorporation of disaster risk management activities into community development programs and budgets	RA MES	RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, State Urban Development Committee adjunct to the RA Government, international organizations (by consent)	2018 1 st quarter	No funding required
1.1.2 Local customization of “Host Nation Support Guidelines”	Ensuring support to international forces during emergencies and establishment of host nation support network	RA MES	RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RA Ministry of Healthcare, RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, RA Ministry of Nature Protection, RA Ministry of Agriculture, RA Police adjunct to the RA Government, National Security Service adjunct to the RA Government,	2018	No funding required

			General Department of Civil Aviation adjunct to the RA Government, State Revenue Committee adjunct to the RA Government, RA Regional Administrations, Yerevan Municipality (by consent), UN OCHA (by consent), NPDRR (by consent)		
1.1.3 Local customization of international Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance	Simplification of processes for receiving and provision of international humanitarian aid, and international forces' entry into, and exit from, the country	RA MES	RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RA Ministry of Healthcare, RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, RA Ministry of Nature Protection, RA Ministry of Agriculture, RA Police adjunct to the RA Government, National Security Service adjunct to the RA Government, General Department of Civil Aviation adjunct to the RA Government, State Revenue Committee adjunct to the RA Government, NPDRR (by consent), ARCS (by consent), UN OCHA (by consent)	2017-2020	No funding required
1.1.4 Revision and improvement of relevant normative acts with regard for disaster risk reduction needs	Construction of disaster-resistant and earthquake-proof and safe buildings and structures, while ensuring disaster-resistance of, and clarification of requirements for, existing buildings and structures and those under construction.	State Urban Development Committee adjunct to the RA Government	RA MES, RA Ministry of Economic Development and Investments, WB (by consent), international organizations (by consent)	Continuous 2017-2030	international donor organizations
1.2. Incorporation of disaster risk management activities into sectors and programs of economic growth, innovation and technology development					

1.2.1 Development of concept for attraction of private investments in disaster risk management	Stimulation of private investments in disaster risk management	RA MES	RA Ministry of Economic Development and Investments, RA Ministry of Finance, NPDRR (by consent), international organizations (by consent)	2017 4 th quarter	No funding required
1.2.2 Development of concept for stimulating innovation and technology development in disaster risk management	Technology development and introduction of innovation in disaster risk management	RA MES	RA Ministry of Economic Development and Investments, Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technologies, NPDRR (by consent), international organizations (by consent)	2018 1- st quarter	No funding required
1.2.3 Development of concept for building disaster early warning system	Disaster early warning system is introduced and effective (operable); reduction in economic losses and casualties	RA MES	RA Ministry of Economic Development and Investments, RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, RA Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technologies, NPDRR (by consent), WB (by consent), international organizations (by consent)	2018 2 nd quarter	No funding required
2. Institutional development of disaster risk management					
2.1. disaster risk reduction capacity building within institutions					
2.1.1 Introduction of a plan for reducing disaster risk to general education establishments and contingency action	Enhancement of the level of disaster resilience of schools, implementation of disaster reduction measures	RA Ministry of Education and Science	RA MES, State Urban Development Committee adjunct to the RA Government, RA Regional Administrations, LGBs (by consent), Yerevan Municipality (by consent), United Nations Children's Fund - UNICEF (by consent), Save the Children	2017-2020	No funding required

			(by consent), World Vision (by consent), ARCS (by consent), OxYGen foundation (by consent), “‘Lore’ Rescue Team of Stepanavan” NGO (by consent)		
2.1.2 Establishment of national database of losses (mortality and damage) caused by disaster, and control system for disaster risk management information database.	Detailed and accessible information on hazard exposure, vulnerability, risk, disaster, and losses for decision making in disaster risk management.	RA MES	republican executive bodies, Yerevan Municipality (by consent), scientific and research institutions (by consent), WB (by consent), international organizations (by consent)	2019 4 th quarter	international donor organizations
2.2. Development and continual strengthening of disaster response plans at national, regional, and local (community) levels					
2.2.1 Continual updates to disaster response plans in cooperation with concerned organizations, availability of agreed realistic action plans within medical, educational, special and critical infrastructure establishments (facilities) at all levels.	Strengthening of disaster response capacities within establishments (facilities)	RA MES	RA Ministry of Healthcare, RA Ministry of Education and Science, RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, LGBs (by consent), NPDRR (by consent), “‘Lore’ Rescue Team of Stepanavan” NGO (by consent), international organizations (by consent)	Continuous 2017-2030	No funding required
2.2.2 Stockpiling of necessary rescue/relief material and technical resources in regions and communities.	Strengthening of capacities for rescue/relief operations and disaster response	RA MES	RA Ministry of Healthcare, RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, LGBs (by consent), ARCS (by consent), international organizations (by consent)	Continuous 2017-2030	international donor organizations

3. Development of human resources					
3.1. Incorporation of disaster risk management topics into general and vocational education, and professional development programs					
3.1.1 Incorporation of disaster risk management topics into professional development programs for personnel of state and regional administration bodies	Personnel capacity development in disaster risk management	RA MES	RA Regional Administrations, RA Civil Service Council (by consent), LGBs (by consent)	2018	No funding required
3.1.2 Incorporation of disaster risk management topics into appropriate courses within curricula of higher education establishments	Student capacity development in disaster risk management	RA Ministry of Education and Science	RA MES, Higher education establishments (by consent), United Nations Children's Fund - UNICEF (by consent)	2018	No funding required
3.1.3 Incorporation of disaster risk management topics into professional development programs for pedagogues and administrative staffs of pre-school, general education, primary and secondary vocational education, and higher education establishments.	Improvement of professional development programs for capacity development in disaster risk management	RA Ministry of Education and Science	RA MES, United Nations Children's Fund - UNICEF (by consent), Save the Children (by consent), "'Lore' Rescue Team of Stepanavan" NGO (by consent)	2020	No funding required
3.1.4 Disaster risk reduction capacity building within regional teams	Disaster risk reduction and resilience enhancement at community and regional levels	RA MES	RA Regional Administrations, LGBs (by consent), Yerevan Municipality (by consent), NPDRR (by consent), UNDP (by consent), United Nations Children's Fund - UNICEF (by consent), ARCS (by consent), OxyGen foundation (by consent), "'Lore' Rescue Team of Stepanavan" NGO (by consent)	Continuous 2017-2030	international donor organizations

3.2. Organizing of health care workers within health care system who are well-educated and prepared in disaster medicine					
3.2.1 Ensuring preparedness in disaster medicine within professional development and additional training programs	Development of disaster medicine	RA Ministry of Healthcare,	RA MES, RA Ministry of Defence, RA Police adjunct to the RA Government	Continuous 2017-2030	No funding required
4. Strengthening of scientific and informational capacity					
4.1. Development of methodological capacity aimed at disaster risk management					
4.1.1 Local customization of international methodology for multi-cluster initial rapid evaluation	Rapid evaluation of damage, losses and needs during a disaster	RA MES	RA Ministry of Healthcare, RA Ministry of Nature Protection, RA Ministry of Agriculture, RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, RA Regional Administrations, LGBs (by consent), NPDRR (by consent), UN OCHA (by consent), WB (by consent)	2017-2018	international donor organizations
4.1.2 Local customization of international methodologies for multi-cluster post-disaster needs evaluation	Improvement of organization of disaster zone recovery and reconstruction process	RA MES	republican executive bodies, RA Regional Administrations, LGBs (by consent), NPDRR (by consent), UN OCHA (by consent), WB (by consent)	2017-2018	international donor organizations
4.2. Application of disaster risk management methodologies and i information flows					
4.2.1 Introduction of common disaster risk management methodology at local level	Enhancing disaster resilience of communities, periodic assessments of disaster risks facing the communities, as well as latters' vulnerability and capacities	RA MES	RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, LGBs (by consent), NPDRR (by consent), "Lore' Rescue Team of Stepanavan" NGO (by consent), international organizations (by consent)	2017-2020	No funding required
4.2.2 Strengthening of information management capabilities at national,	Availability of effective information management system	RA MES	republican executive bodies concerned, LGBs (by consent), media	Continuous 2017-2030	No funding required

regional, and community levels			outlets (by consent), "Lore' Rescue Team of Stepanavan" NGO (by consent), international organizations (by consent)		
4.2.3 Strengthening of emergency communication and public awareness capabilities	Raising awareness and disaster preparedness of RA state administration bodies and LGBs, media outlets and population, organization of national and public awareness campaigns and whole-of-government rehearsals.	RA MES	republican executive bodies, LGBs (by consent), "Emergency Channel" Informative NGO (by consent), media outlets (by consent), international organizations (by consent)	Continuous 2017-2030	international donor organizations
4.2.4 Creation of disaster risk management readily available depository	Availability of disaster risk management readily available depository	RA MES	republican executive bodies, international organizations (by consent)	2020 4-րդ quarter	international donor organizations
4.2.5 Local customization and introduction of international methodologies for rapid assessment of environmental emergencies and ecological situation	Development of mechanism for rapid evaluation of environmental emergencies and ecological situation	RA MES	RA Ministry of Nature Protection, LGBs (by consent), NPDRR (by consent), international organizations (by consent)	2017-2020	international donor organizations
5. Expansion of opportunities for implementation of investment projects in disaster risk management					
5.1. Increase of public and private short- and long-term investments in disaster risk management					
5.1.1 Increase of funding of disaster risk reduction activities in communities	Implementation of disaster risk reduction activities in communities	RA MES	RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, RA Ministry of Economic Development and Investments, RA Ministry of Agriculture, ՀՀ RA Ministry of Finance, LGBs (by consent)	Continuous 2017-2030	international donor organizations
5.1.2 Introduction of disaster risk	Compensation for damages and	Central Bank of	RA MES, RA Ministry of Economic	2020	international

insurance system	losses from disaster	Armenia (by consent)	Development and Investments, RA Ministry of Agriculture, RA Ministry of Finance, WB (by consent), international organizations (by consent), insurance companies (by consent)		donor organizations
5.2. Ensuring preservation of contemporary disaster-resistant urban development norms during construction of health care, educational, social, and public facilities					
5.2.1 Improvement of seismic safety of general education schools	Strengthening of preparedness and response capacity for seismic disasters	RA MES	RA Ministry of Education and Science, RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, State Urban Development Committee adjunct to the RA Government, Yerevan Municipality (by consent)	Continuous 2017-2030	Armenian Territorial Development Fund (by consent)
5.2.2 Increase of seismic stability of pre-school buildings, as well as facilities for caring for and protection for, children, adults and disabled people, and health care	Increase in safety level of buildings	RA MES	RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, RA Ministry of Healthcare, RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, State Urban Development Committee adjunct to the RA Government	Continuous 2017-2030	international donor organizations
6. Development of disaster risk management capacities					
6.1. Conduct of disaster risk assessments in communities					
6.1.1 Establishment of disaster risk management information system for the city of Yerevan, clarification of base areas in suburban zone for population	Allotment of evacuation areas	Yerevan Municipality (by consent)	RA MES, international donor organizations	2020	No funding required

evacuation					
6.1.2 Introduction of disaster risk electronic maps within communities	Availability of disaster risk electronic maps	RA MES	RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, republican executive bodies concerned, LGBs (by consent), international organizations (by consent)	Continuous 2017-2030	international donor organizations
6.1.3 Creation and activation of unified geoinformation system for the city of Yerevan	Effective (operable) unified geoinformation system	Yerevan Municipality (by consent)	RA MES, State Committee of the Real Estate Cadastre adjunct to the RA Government, State Urban Development Committee adjunct to the RA Government, international organizations (by consent)	2020	international donor organizations
6.2. Inclusion of disaster risk reduction activities in community development plans and budgets					
6.2.1 Inclusion of disaster risk reduction activities in the process of formulation of community development programs and budgets	Enhancing of community resilience, reduction of disaster risk	RA MES	RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development	Continuous 2017-2030	No funding required
6.2.2 Incorporation of disaster risk management activities into the process of refining master plan for the city of Yerevan	Development of capacities for managing urban development planning process in the territory of Yerevan	Yerevan Municipality (by consent)	RA MES	2020	international donor organizations
6.2.3 Introduction of a community disaster risk management passport	Availability of a single unified information document on community, with inclusion of disaster risk management components	RA MES	RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, RA Regional Administrations, LGBs (by consent), NPDRR (by consent), UNDP (by consent), United Nations Children's Fund - UNICEF (by consent), WB (by	2017-2021	international donor organizations

			consent), "Lore' Rescue Team of Stepanavan" NGO (by consent)		
7. Implementation and monitoring of activities					
7.1. Implementation of programs in disaster risk management, monitoring and analysis of results					
7.1.1 Monitoring of disaster risk management community programs and analysis of results	Ongoing program effectiveness analysis, identification of new tasks	RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development	RA MES, LGBs (by consent), NPDRR (by consent)	Continuous 2017-2030	No funding required