TWG Workshop Series

ESCAP TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON DISASTER-RELATED STATISTICS

2021

Over the last year in its regular meetings, the TWG has been facilitating members, both statisticians and disaster managers, to share the present disaster data situation in their respective countries alongside their experience as well as challenges and innovations to improve it. In parallel, the TWG is actively participating in the ongoing global process to develop the internationally-agreed standards. It is considered important that the accumulated information, and the formative knowledge at the global process, be consolidated and, through regional workshops, be converted into practical, technical, and actionable recommendations to member states and, in doing so, also inform the ongoing global proces. To be conducted online every other month in alternate to the regular TWG meetings, the regional workshops will be tapping TWG members both as active participants and expert resource persons and facilitators. The regional workshop series comprises three topics: 1) catalysing the policy impetus towards DRSF; 2) determining the scope of data in the DRSF basic range; and 3) coordinating the DRSF business process.

CATALYSING THE POLICY IMPETUS FOR DISASTER-RELATED STATISTICS

Proposed Date: 29 September 2021

Background

A recent regional symposium and 10th TWG meeting on disaster statistics identified the lack of policy impetus to be one of major hindrance in catalysing the country level development of DRSF. National Disaster Management Agency is typically a specialised agency or line ministry regulated by a specific regulatory framework. Although the work of such an agency is, to large extent, dependent on data produced by NSS, it has only limited or no interface with national statistical offices (NSOs) or other members of the national statistical system (NSS). Such interfaces take place at a technical - pragmatic level.

The result is a typical gap: official statistics are often not used as much as they could be due to time lags or confidentiality issues that need to be considered for small scale analysis, and disaster administrative data are not fit for the purpose of enriching the official statistics. The challenge is considerably greater when only the statisticians or disaster managers appreciate the need to upgrade disaster-related data into official statistics. Even when the two pillars already appreciate the importance of DRSF, and the imperative to converge some of their portfolios is not an easy task. Attempting to overcome these barriers, some countries establish interagency platforms, specific forces, data exchange protocol, and other ad-hoc solutions. Although there have been recommendations concerning the complementary functions of NSOs and NDMOs[1], it is important to identify the highest priority indicators that need to be outputs of the compilation of disaster related statistics and, subsequently, to devise certain policy impetus to bring together the separate regulations to drive the multi sectoral motion towards DRSF.

Objectives

Members will be able to relate the need for policy impetus towards DRSF to the policy environment in their respective contexts and to envision the steps needed to catalyse such an impetus in their own countries. More specifically, the regional workshop aims:

[1] UNECE (2020) Recommendations on the Role of Official Statistics in Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters https://unece.org/DAM/stats/publications/2019/ECECESSTAT20193.pdf

a. To review the configuration of the policies relevant to DRSF
b. To determine the policy priorities related to the demand of DRSF
c. To identify the structure and mechanisms of producers and users of information
d. To develop policy impetus, based on policy gap analysis, to catalyse the DRSF

Expected participants: TWG Members

Resource persons

a. UNECE Task Force on Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters
b. NDMO Indonesia
c. AFAD Turkey

Process

1. Opening segment

2. Trigger presentations
   a. Recommendations on the Role of Official Statistics in Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters (UNECE)
   b. Complementary policies, functions and roles of NSO and AFAD (Turkey)
   c. Draft of national policy on DRSF (Indonesia)

3. Q&A

4. Breakout room discussions
   a. Group 1: configuration of DRSF relevant policies
   b. Group 2: policy priorities related to the demand of DRSF
   c. Group 3: identification of producers and users of disaster data

5. Group report back and consolidation
   a. Identification of core elements of catalytic policy products
   b. Identification of basic steps for initiating the development of policy impetus
   c. Capacities and resources required for initiating and sustaining the development of polity impetus
   d. Way forward to collective learning

6. Closing

References

- UNECE (2020) Recommendations on the Role of Official Statistics in Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters https://unece.org/DAM/stats/publications/2019/ECECESSTAT20193.pdf
- APAD (212) Towards Disaster-Relatead Statistics in Turkey https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/Towards_establishing_Disaster-related_statistics_in_Turkey_6thTWG_31Mar2021.pdf

DETERMINING THE SCOPE OF DATA IN THE DRSF BASIC RANGE

Proposed Date: 27 October 2021

Background

Throughout the year of 2014 - 2017, statistics and disaster management in Asia and the Pacific in the ESCAP Expert Group on Disaster - Related Statistics and the subsequent Technical Working Group have developed the basic range of disaster-related statistics. Various other schemes allowed the development of an overall or part of the basic range of disaster statistics such as the DesInventar, sectoral specific such as the disaster- related expenditure, as well as the well developed one, a digital platform such as InaRISK of Indonesia. This is ultimately codified in the DRSF. The conceptual framework would require review and analysis on what data are available related to disasters and what is the level of detail, e.g. spatial, temporal and physical scope, and level of data documentation/metadata at the country level. Alongside, a review on the country level collections and compilation that have been undertaken at national, sectoral or pilot level, of existing disaster-related statistics that may provide information relevant to the generation of additional statistics.

Members of TWG, in their country sharing presentations, typically have recognised the breadth of data above and beyond the disaster emergency response dataset, and outlined the basic range that include risk, disaster occurrences, impacts, and disaster-related expenditure. In order to be truly useful, however, the basic range needs to be operational enough in the form of statistical tables that are organised into worksheets according to basic components in the DSRF. These tables are to be used by national agencies as a tool for assessing gaps and identifying opportunities to produce new statistics for disaster risk reduction. The variables in such tables represent queries from a disaster-related statistics database being organised according to the geo regions and the relevant time period and monetary term calculations as well as, in other part, disaster-related expenditure tables.

Objectives

Members will be able to validate the DRSF basic range of statistics and associate it with the ground realities in order to refine the data scope and the mapping of disaster-related data producers and users. More specifically, the regional workshop aims:

a. To review the basic range of DRSF and other relevant frameworks
b. To review and analyse the existing disaster-related data and the level of detail
c. To identify the basic statistical tables for producing disaster-related statistics
d. To determine the need for new data scope and the likely sources

Expected participants: TWG Members

Resource persons

a. Global Centre for Disaster Statistics (GCDS/UNDP)
b. NSO India
c. ESCAP

Process

1. Opening segment

2. Trigger presentations
    a. Recommendations on the Role of Official Statistics in Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters (UNECE)
    b. Complementary policies, functions and roles of NSO and AFAD (Turkey)
    c. Draft of national policy on DRSF (Indonesia)

3. Q&A

4. Breakout room discussions
    a. Group 1: Components of DRSF Basic Range
    b. Group 2: Linking compilation tables and data sources
    c. Group 3: Application of hazard definition and classification

5. Group report back and consolidation
    a. Identification of existing and gaps in disaster - related statistics
    b. Identification of basic steps for initiating the development of policy impetus
    c. Listing of new data scope
    d. Way forward to collective learning

6. Closing

References

- DRSF (2017) Basic range of Disaster - Related Statistics Summary Tables https://communities.unescap.org/system/files/final_tables.pdf
- OIEWG (2016) Report of the Open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction https://www.preventionweb.net/files/50683_oiewgreportenglish.pdf
- UNDRR (2020) DesInventar Sendai 10.1.2 User Manual on Analysis Module https://www.desinventar.net/documentation/Desinventar_Sendai_Data_management.pdf
- World Bank (2021) Public Expenditure Review : Disaster Response and Rehabilitation in the Philippines https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35064
- InRISK Portal https://inarisk.bnpb.go.id/about
- UNDRR (2020) Hazard definition and classification review https://www.undrr.org/media/47681/download

COORDINATING THE DRSF BUSINESS PROCESS

Proposed Date: 24 November 2021

Background

One of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, is that no citizen is to be excluded from its "consumption". This constitutes an opportunity and challenge for DRSF. This necessitates a business process to meet statistical demands effectively and efficiently and to maximize the user's satisfaction at minimum costs. The business process that involves NSOs and NDMOs as principal agencies, and other institutional stakeholders is crucial to ensure synergies that mutually benefit the work of the institutions involved and enhance the quality of their respective statistical outputs – while preserving in all respects the independence of each of them.

The cross-cutting nature of disaster- related statistics would likely to require business process that include national government agencies such as NDMOs and NSOs and sectoral ministries and agencies, civil registrar/ministry of interior, government research institutes, academy as data providers; national government and line ministries as data producers; while social, industry, environment and economic government agencies, the market and industry, and civil society and academic societies as data users. Each of these parties could realise its full potential when the business process is able to provide a clear division of responsibilities and work among the principal agencies and the stakeholders; a framework for adopting common methodologies, concepts and nomenclatures and sharing lists of statistical units and administrative data; and an institutional setup where producers and users of disaster-related data interact productively.

This business process may accommodate many different purposes and may be embodied in different forms such as apex bodies and standing committees, ad-hoc arrangements such as task force or working groups, or other forms. These platforms would facilitate actors sharing responsibilities under the framework; contributing to the joint development of standard classifications and systems, and to perform more disaster - related data specific tasks, including among others, cooperative data collection; exchange of information and best practices; and technical assistance and common training initiatives.

Objectives

Members will be able to

a. To review the division of labour among DRSF stakeholders
b. To analyse the institutional arrangements necessary to establish DRSF
c. To propose DRSF coordination structure and mechanisms aims

Expected participants: TWG Members

Resource persons

a. UNDRR /IAEG
b. BPS Indonesia
c. NDMO Fiji

Process

1. Opening segment

2. Trigger presentations
    a. Country level coordination for disaster-related statistics (UNDRR/IAEG)
    b. Indonesia One Disaster Data: institutional aspects (BPS Indonesia)
    c. Post Disaster Needs Assessment: a multi sectoral approach (NDMO Fiji)

3. Q&A

4. Breakout room discussions
    a. Group 1: Country level sectoral agencies division of labour
    b. Group 2: Comparison of the different coordination platform models
    c. Group 3: Interagency data flow diagrams

5. Group report back and consolidation
    a. NSO - NDMO complementary roles
    b. Determining the appropriate coordination platform
    c. Key principles of DRSF interagency coordination
    d. Way forward to collective learning

6. Closing

References

- BPS & BNPB, UNFPA (2019) Indonesia One Disaster Data https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Mv4a3fpnxQTaoT5ivtccFi7KLHpYoyeY/view
- ESCAP (2018) Disaster-Related Statistical Framework https://communities.unescap.org/system/files/final_drsf_manual_190918_reduced.pdf
- UNECE (2014) Coordination of the production of official statistics https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/technical_coop/2014/mtg3/S2_Jan_Byfuglien.pdf