3RD INDUS BASIN KNOWLEDGE FORUM

RESEARCH, POLICY AND CURRENT PRACTICES IN THE INDUS BASIN

1 June 2018
Vienna, Austria
The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat has been established to develop a holistic approach to all aspects that constitute a safe and sustainable habitat in which communities, families and individuals can thrive. AKAH merges the activities of FOCUS, AKPBS and DRMI.

AKAH’s mandate as stipulated in the Establishment Memorandum is as follows:

- **Improve the quality of life of individuals, families and community**
  - To ensure that target population lives in physical settings that are as safe as possible from the effects of natural disasters.
  - To ensure that target population is able to cope with disaster events in terms of preparedness and response.
  - To ensure that these settings are conducive to developing economic opportunities and access to social and financial services.
AKAH will aim to ensure that communities in the areas of focus have consistent levels of safety and resilience, no matter their geographic setting. This will require specific approaches, especially for remote mountain communities.

AKAH’s strategic framework thus starts at home:

A safe home and surrounding habitat in a resilient community are the foundation stones that allow communities to build their quality of life. AKAH will work to ensure that we build not only a solid foundation, but also empower communities to lead and realize the aspirations they have for their children and beyond. Access to quality social and financial services provides the staircase to the first floor of the “quality of life building”. The elevator to the next level of the quality of life building is provided by a set of conditions that ensure economic opportunity for all.
Goals

AKAH Goals for 2018 - 2022

- Promote Integrated Habitat Management
- Access to Services & Opportunities
- Construction Management Systems
- Strengthen Emergency Management Systems
- Elevate Safety & Environmental Consciousness
- Build Resilient Structures
Main Programme Interventions in Indus Basin

Emergency Preparedness and Response
- HVRAs
- CBDRM/School Safety Program
- SART/DART
- JPP/WP
- EWS/Stockpiling
- Emergency Shelters
- EPM
- ICS/EOC/AKDN Safety officers trainings

Water and Sanitation
- Clean Drinking Water Infrastructure
- Health and Hygiene Education
- Household sanitation
- Village level piped sewerage
- Operation and management systems

Habitat Risk Management
- Built Environment Master Planning
- Mitigation Infrastructure
- Seismic resilient construction
- Retrofitting of buildings/Safe shelters
- Design Coordination
- Non Structural Hazard Mitigation

Housing Improvement
- Promotion of housing improvement products
- Energy efficient Building construction
- Capacity building of housing societies
- Housing Construction
Effectiveness of Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation Projects

Over 181 houses in Puli Khumri Afghanistan were damaged or destroyed by flooding and debris flow in May 2018.
Research, policy and practice on water resources in AKAH countries

DRR context: Too much water (flood) and too little water (drought)

Research to understand how and when it happens (hazard)?

Research to understand how hazard evolves to disaster?

Policy and practice on how to better manage water and land management to minimize/avert disaster.
Risk Anticipation, Informed decisions and Land Use Plans in Indus Basin

The maps are used:
1. to guide village development; use safe areas and avoid hazard zones;
2. as a basis to plan and design mitigation structures to protect existing elements and reduce future disaster losses;
3. to plan emergency measures like warning systems, evacuations schemes or safe havens;
4. to raise awareness of local authorities, communities and individual villagers;
5. to help people prepare their own emergency planning.

What are hazard and risk maps?
Anything that has the potential to cause harm and loss is called a hazard.
Natural hazards are floods, debris flows, rock fall or avalanches.
Risk is the probable loss, high or low, when somebody or something is harmed by the hazard.
Hazard and risk maps represent hazardous processes and the possible effects of these processes on our living environment.

What do hazard
The type of hazard is shown with particular symbols.

The intensity of the hazard describes the size or severity of a damaging event; high building is destroyed; medium building is severely damaged; low building suffers some damage.
The degree of hazard is a combination of intensity and frequency.

The frequency of the hazard is also called return period. Return periods of 10, 20, 50 years are considered.
The various elements at risk are overlaid on the hazard zones. Existing risks and problem zones are immediately visible like the school in the flood zone of the Ghizer River.

Why are hazard and risk maps produced?
Hazard and risk maps help to better understand existing risks and possible disasters in a particular area.
They are indispensable tools for reducing risks and disasters and to learn to be prepared in case of an emergency.

The maps:
- Illustrate areas prone to hazards like landslides, floods or snow avalanches;
- Identify areas with different degrees of natural hazards;
- Locate assets in hazard prone areas and thereby provide first information about prevailing risks;
- Show emergency measures (e.g., stock pile) and other protective measures.
Risk communication is seen as a gap in DRR practice

Hazard to risk: Moving to risk based early warning system

The impact scenario based EWS should be pursued to support civil protection departments with actionable information.

It needs applied research and policy support to make it happen.
Reaching out to the most vulnerable section of the communities

Making sense to the last person

The research should focus on how best to communicate so that it makes sense to the last one in the communities.

These information should yield actions by putting into practice. There has to be external support mechanism including policy support and actions: awareness, drills, etc.
Thank you