

Disaster Risk Reduction – Good Practice

Mongolia

The National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia (NEMA) is executing its duties in accordance with the Constitution and other laws of Mongolia, and is implementing the Disaster Protection Objectives reflected in the Government Action Plan and in the Economic and Social Development Strategy for providing national safety and sustainable economic and social development in Mongolia.

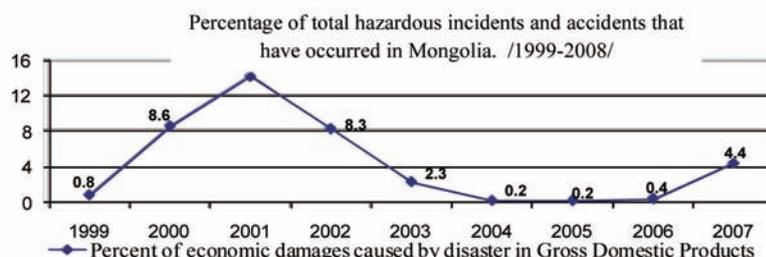
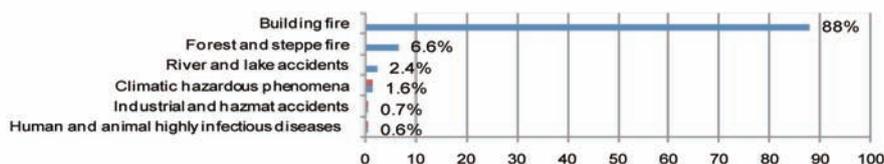
The Law on Disaster Protection was adopted by the Parliament of Mongolia in 2003. NEMA, which is responsible for disaster prevention, rescue, response and recovery, was established in 2004, merging the State Board for Civil Defence with a history of 45 years, the Fire Fighting Department with a history of 87 years, and the State Reserve Agency with a history of 44 years.

NEMA recognizes the importance of community participation for strengthening disaster management and implementing disaster protection measures. For this reason, NEMA has identified its vision as supporting the provision of national safety through risk and vulnerability reduction, strengthening disaster management and implementing intensive disaster protection measures based on community involvement.

Mongolia has experienced huge economic losses caused by hazardous incidents and by technical accidents due to the continental climate, environmental degradation, ecological unbalance and man-made activity. Building fires, forest and steppe fires, climatic hazardous incidents, river and lake accidents, incidents related to industrial and chemical substances, and human and animal highly infectious diseases are common in Mongolia. For the last 10 years, the number of hazardous incidents has reached 2200. A survey has shown that the frequency of such incidents is increasing by 150 cases every year.

The Government of Mongolia has paid considerable attention to strengthening NEMA through regularly increasing the budget, creating a suitable legal environment, improving the knowledge and professional skills of personnel, and by providing technical training. In particular, 36% of all personnel or 1154 staff members attended national and international training sessions and 2.7 billion MNT was spent for necessary technical training and equipment in 2008.

Since NEMA has enhanced its activities, we have executed honorably and professionally our duties as entrusted to us by the State and the people of Mongolia. Our rescuers and firefighters work at the site of every accident to which we are called, and we have saved the lives of 3975 people and of properties worth with 10 billion MNT (7 million USD).



NEMA cooperates with the USA, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, the United Nations and other international and regional organizations in the field of emergency management. It has successfully implemented a number of projects and programs to strengthen its disaster protection capacity. One of these is a project to strengthen the disaster mitigation and management system in Mongolia funded by UNDP and the Government of Luxemburg. The project is being implemented in three phases beginning in 2002:

The results of Phase I 2002-2004 (Total budget: USD 565,000)

- According to the Law on Disaster Protection, an appropriate legal environment for emergency management was created through developing legal documents and drafts of the State Policy on Disaster Protection and a National Strategy and Action Plan.
- Capacity and preparedness of the organization was improved by providing vehicles equipped with rescue sets; motor boats and complete scuba diving sets; and radio communication equipment.
- Revised methods and curricula for disaster protection training were created for management teams (the decision makers), rescue personnel, members of professional units, officers, university and secondary school students, and for the general public.

The results of Phase II 2005-2007 (Total budget USD 800,000)

- The draft paper of the “National Framework for Action on Strengthening Disaster Protection Capacity from 2006-2015” was developed and submitted to the Government of Mongolia.
- Training in disaster management was organized among 75 staff members of NEMA and 250 staff members of local units. Search and rescue equipment was also provided in 23 fire fighting and rescue units.
- An internal computer network was set up.
- Some disaster risk reduction partnerships, cooperative agreements and Memorandum of understanding were made and signed by the Government, non-government organizations, donors, and local organizations.
- A draft paper on community based disaster management was developed and implemented in 8 selected soums (small administrative units) in 4 provinces as an experiment. The results of the experiment were successful.
- The draft of a national program on public awareness was developed.
- A methodology for urban risk assessment was created.

The expected outcomes of Phase III 2008-2011 (Total budget USD 2,000,000)

The objectives for the project are for the Government to adopt and implement the “National Framework for Action on Strengthening Disaster Protection Capacity 2008-2018”; to improve the preparedness and professional skills of NEMA personnel and its 30 branches; to build the resilience of the nation to new kinds of disasters such as accidents related to chemical substances, avian influenza; to increase community awareness on disaster protection, develop disaster risk reduction partnership in all levels, and to work out a long term strategy on risk reduction related to climate change and adaptation.

The Government Action Plan and the Economic and Social Development Strategy reflect the strengthening of emergency management services, improvements to disaster prevention, response, and recovery and the enhancement of disaster protection capacity through increasing the supply of rescue equipment, training staff and rescuers and cooperating with international organizations in the emergency field. We are making our best efforts to achieve the abovementioned objectives.