



Introduction

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has been present in Pakistan for 51 years. The SDC Humanitarian Aid (HA) efforts are concentrated on support to the Government of Pakistan's (GoP) led response for protection of vulnerable people in displacement, the return process to Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), and Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and emergency preparedness are priority themes across the humanitarian response, and are taken into consideration in the interventions implemented under the SDC's two main domains i.e. water governance and local state building.

Thematic Priorities

The SDC-HA has been supporting the GoP response in the aftermath of the earthquake 2005, recurring floods since 2010 and displaced population crises in the country. It has delivered various projects in the domains of public infrastructure, safe drinking water, protection and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The projects aim at supporting the concerned authorities and affected populations to recover from displacement, natural and man-made disasters, and to re-establish resilience and livelihoods.

Besides focusing on direct implementation, SDC-HA has been providing expertise and financial contribution to the government's line departments at federal and provincial levels, partner NGOs and multilateral partners such as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The projects are being implemented in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The project design and implementation modus operandi are sensitive and supportive to KP-FATA mainstreaming and public sector reforms, including decentralisation.

1. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction

In partnership with the GoP and WFP, the SDC-HA successfully implemented the 'Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR)' project to enhance community resilience in the risk-prone area of Chail Valley in Swat District. Replicating this successful model, a similar project was launched in the Bajaur and Mohmand Agencies of FATA in 2015, in partnership with the GoP, WFP and the local

NGO HAJRA. The project aims to reduce food insecurity and livelihood vulnerability in flood affected communities through cash for work supported DRR activities. It is based on a holistic concept for the protection of the valley's agro ecology and entails gully-plugging, slope stabilisation against landslides and bioengineering measures. About 15,000 households or more than 120,000 persons are directly benefiting.

DRM Plan of FDMA

The SDC-HA is assisting the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) in the development of a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) plan and institutionalization of DRM theme within the FATA Secretariat. This draws on SDC's earlier experience with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in the development of DRM Roadmap for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. FDMA is the mandated government authority in disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response. This project aims to enhance the resilience of the FATA people to disasters through integration of disaster risk reduction in the recovery and development projects. It also aims to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of FDMA in disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response.

DRR Capacity of NDMA and PDMA

To strengthen the institutional capacity of concerned government authorities, the SDC supports the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at the federal level and the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with funding and DRR expertise.

Natural Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF)

The SDC-HA foresees contributing to the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) of the Government of Pakistan. The Economic Affairs Department of the Ministry of Finance will execute the fund under the oversight and guidance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The overall objective of the NDRMF is aligned to the National Disaster Management Plan (2013-2022) and the National



Flood Protection Plan (2016-2025) to have a more disaster resilient Pakistan with reduced socio-economic and fiscal vulnerability to natural hazards and climate variability and change.

2. Protection support for Refugees and IDPs

The SDC-HA contributes to improved water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in selected Afghan refugee camps in KP. In FATA, it is supporting the protection unit of the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA), which is responsible for humanitarian assistance to the conflict affected population in displacement and on their return to FATA. The SDC-HA further contributes to ICRC, UNHCR and WFP programme with funding and expertise.

3. Emergency Relief

The SDC-HA in the past has been assisting the victims of earthquakes, floods and fragile security situations. More recently, the earthquake affected Chitral District was supported with distribution of water purification kits and repair of irrigation channels. Considering the persisting humanitarian needs and numerous potential natural disaster challenges, the SDC-HA has signed standby agreements with nine leading INGO/NGOs till 2018. This contingency arrangement will enable the SDC-HA to quickly engage with partners in case of any natural or man-made hazards.

4. SDC Experts Supporting UN Agencies

The SDC-HA supports multilateral partners, such as UNHCR and WFP, with expertise from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit. Currently, experts in disaster risk management and protection are seconded to WFP and UNHCR ensuring know-how transfer and capacity building to the benefit of institutions and Pakistani people.



Participants of training conducted by FDMA on protection and humanitarian principles. © SDC

Further information

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