DRM in Afghanistan

Afghanistan Risk Profile

- Afghanistan is highly prone to intense and recurring natural hazards, including earthquakes, floods, flash floods, landslides, avalanches and droughts;
- Its low level of socio-economic development makes it extremely vulnerable to disasters;
- While earthquakes cause the highest loss of life, drought affects the most people and flooding causes the most economic damage;
- Natural hazards occur in addition to man-made disasters resulting in the frequent loss of live, livelihoods, and property;
- Since 1980, disasters caused by natural hazards have affected 9 million people and caused over 20,000 fatalities in Afghanistan.
- Latest NRVA shows that climatic shocks like drought has negatively impacted poverty levels.

Afghanistan DRM Structure

- Afghanistan National Disaster Management Agency (ANDMA) acts as the national authority for coordinating prevention, preparedness, disaster relief and reconstruction efforts;
- The current structure is outlined in the National Disaster Management Plan (2010);
- Line ministries are responsible for implementation within their respective areas;
- In reality though there has been very limited DRM capacity in Afghanistan, especially when it comes to preparedness and resilience;
- ANDMA has had limited capacity and influence but just in 2015 a new position of State Minister for DRM was created and State Minister Barmak was appointed;
- Having a capable State Minister leading ANDMA has brought new attention to the DRM area in Afghanistan, though it will take longer to build the necessary capacity;
- UN agencies, the World Bank and NGOs also play an important role in DRM. A DRR Working Group exists, which allows:
    - Partners to engage and coordinate on DRM issues;
    - ANDMA and line ministries to engage with partners to coordinate activities and discuss priorities.

The World Bank DRM Activities in Afghanistan

- Development partners in Afghanistan have supported DRM activities but mainly from a humanitarian perspective rather than developmental;
- Ongoing DRM activities, supported mostly by NGOs, have generated much learning but lack national scale and cohesiveness;
- This is the first phase of the Bank's DRM support in Afghanistan;
- **Starting Small, Building Bigger** – initial activities focusing on laying the foundation for strengthened risk identification, risk reduction and preparedness;
- The project is $2.5 m Bank executed grant, funded by Japan. It consists of 3 components:

Component 1 and 2

1. **National multi-peril risk assessment:**
    a) Produce risk (flood, landslide, avalanche, earthquake, drought) assessment and hazard mappings to inform and prioritize government development strategy and planning;
    b) Cost/benefit analysis of selected options to reduce existing risks and prevent future risks;
    c) Based on this mapping, preliminary identification of risk reduction investments, targeting initially the Bank/ARTF portfolio. This will require a gradual roll out of the risk assessment to different sectors and projects. Several projects have already been identified as potential pilots;
    d) Outreach to government and development partners to ensure wide knowledge of the risk assessment and data platform.
2. **Early Warning System (EWS) scoping:**
    a) A first step towards an EWS will be an organizational roadmap for designing an effective EWS and establish evacuation/action plans;
    b) This scoping will lay the foundation for establishing an EWS in a next phase of the Bank's DRM activities in Afghanistan;
    c) The risk assessment will be critical to developing a ESW roadmap.

Component 3

3. Mainstreaming DRM:

This component will focus on:

- Mainstreaming DRM across the Bank significant and multi-sectoral portfolio in Afghanistan, specifically focusing on using the risk assessment;
- Building capacity at a couple of key ministries to use the risk mapping and cost benefit analysis in planning and implementation;
    a) This will include developing disaster resilient specifications for key infrastructure (roads, schools etc.) to ensure strengthened risk resilience in high risk areas;
    b) The Bank has already started initial consultations on “Safe Schools” program.

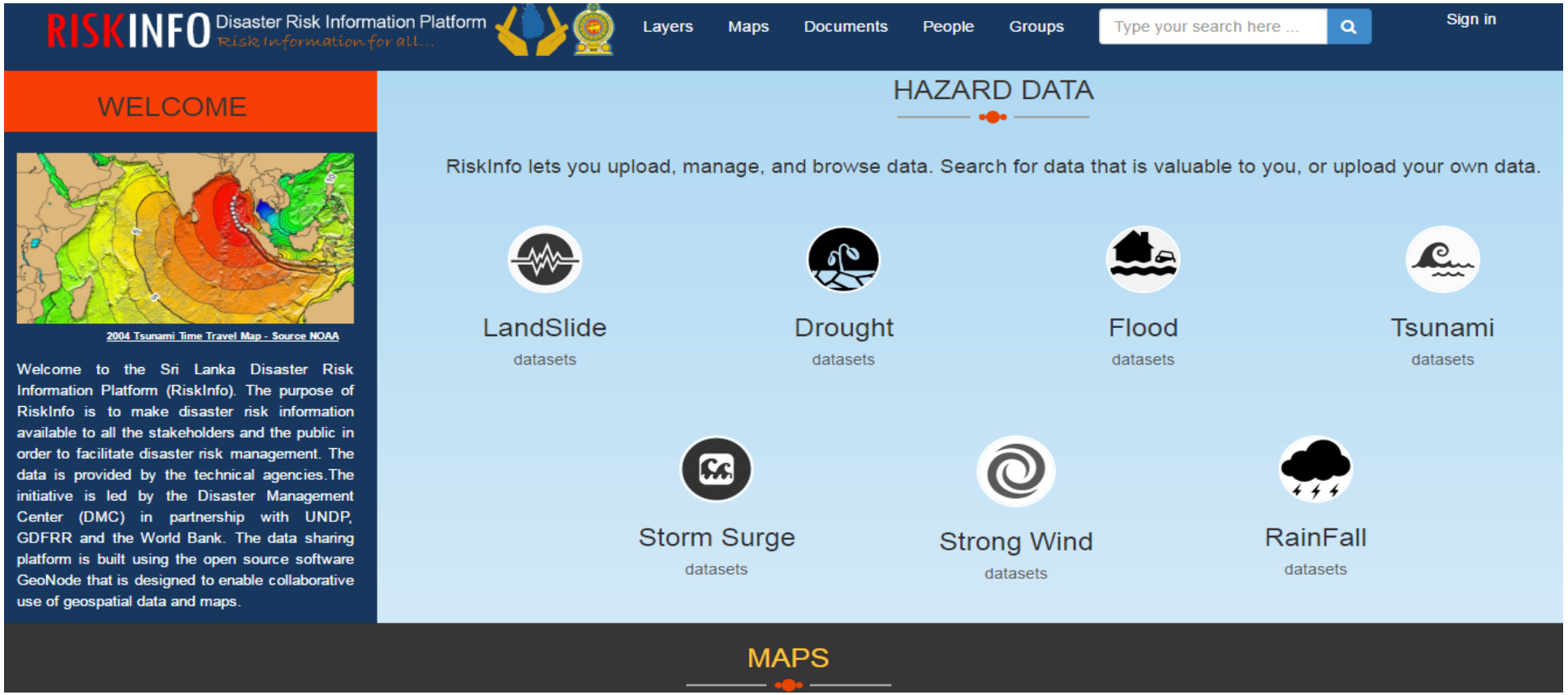


Risk assessment– focus and timeline

- **Improve understanding of the level of risk** of the various natural hazards across the administrative areas of Afghanistan, and possible changes over the coming decades
- Enabling Government and non-Government counterparts to **access disaster risk information** when making investment and infrastructure decisions
- **Demonstrate the value** of disaster risk information by mainstreaming this in the World Bank portfolio in Afghanistan
- Focus on following Hazards: **flood, flash flood, drought, earthquake, landslide, avalanche**
- Phased assessment of **hazards, exposure** and **risks** and cost-benefit analyses of **adaptation options**
- Capacity building – setting up **data sharing and visualization platform** (GeoNode), and training of government on the use of it

GeoNode – concept and examples

- **Online web platform to visualize and distribute** geographical hazard, exposure and risk data
- Enables **easy search and combination** of different layers
- Allows for **full metadata** and reference to academic papers
- Allows for **effective capacity building** with government counterparts



Intended Outcomes

Improve understanding of the level of risk of the various natural hazards

Establishing a roadmap to strengthen hydromet services and EWS

Including DRM in key projects in the Bank portfolio and building critical capacity in ministries

Enabling Government and non-Government counterparts to **access disaster risk information** when planning and making investment and infrastructure decisions

Potential future investments to prevent hazard risks and reduce exposure of the poorest and most vulnerable

Mainstreaming DRM in all development projects, ensuring more resilient and sustainable development and efficient use of limited financing