Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk – example from Iceland

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Disaster governance and management

Governance

- Civil Protection and Security Council → Ministers and Dir. Gen. of governmental institutes

Management

Science Council
- Icelandic Meteorological Office
- University of Iceland
- Other institutes as needed, e.g. Health authorities
Risk assessments for natural hazards in Iceland

IMO has the role to conduct risk assessment for natural hazards on request by the Icelandic government

- Risk assessments have been conducted for
  - avalanche – 1995 → on-going
  - volcanoes in Iceland – 2011 → on-going
  - Floods – 2015 → on-going
  - Storm surge – 2015 → on-going

- Done in collaboration
  - Local authorities
  - University
  - Institutes
Risk assessment: Laws, regulation and financing

The laws about the Icelandic Meteorological Office (IMO) states:

- IMO conducts hazard- and risk assessment about natural hazard in Iceland on request by the Icelandic government

There are laws and regulation about avalanche

- Important for planing authorities

Other type of natural hazard is not documented in laws, however

- Guidelines available e.g. regarding storm surge and floodings

Financing of risk assessment conducted so far

- The Icelandic Avalanche and Landslide Fund
The Icelandic Avalanche and Landslide Fund – a mitigation fund

Established 1976 and expanded greatly 1995 after the devastating avalanches that took place that year

Financed by tax on property in Iceland - 0,3‰

The fund finance

- Risk assessment of avalanche in Iceland
- Mitigated structures for avalanche in towns and villages prone to avalanche threat
- Research related to avalanche and issues that enhance the risk assessment and mitigation measures
- Temporary funding for risk assessment for:
  - volcanoes in Iceland (2012-2017) → to be extended to 2022
  - floods and storm surge (2015-2017) → to be extended to 2022
16th of February 2016: The Icelandic government decided to create a natural catastrophe fund

- The legislation work is led by the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources
- The plan is that the fund will be financed in similar manner as the Icelandic Avalanche and Landslide Fund
- The aim is that the fund will be two-fold and finance:
  - Mitigation, i.e. hazard- and risk assessment; mitigation actions
  - Compensation to operational institutions that have special duties regarding natural hazard
Natural catastroph fund - creation

The suggestion is that

- The natural catastrophe fund will replace the Icelandic Avalanche and Landslide Fund and part of the Agricultural Catastrophe fund

If this will be accepted by the Icelandic Parliament:

- Financing of risk assessment of all natural hazards in Iceland will be secured → it will be possible to finalize and maintain all risk assessments
- Laws and regulations will be set regarding natural hazards which will benefit the planning authorities and civil protection and thereby fulfilling the main goal of risk assessment:
  - Minimize loss of lives
  - Reduce vulnerability of the society and increase its resilience
  - Minimize economic disruption to the society.
If the establishment of Icelandic Catastrophe fund will take place it will secure funding and thereby the work needed to fulfill the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030:

- **Scope and Purpose**
- **Expected Outcome**
- **Goal**
- **Target**
- **Priority of Action**
- **Guiding Principles**
Thank you