



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

OF THE REPORT ON

**MANAGING DISASTERS AND
CONFLICTS IN OIC COUNTRIES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The frequency, duration and impacts of disasters and conflicts are on the rise. More than 430 million people are affected in OIC countries from 2,112 disasters (mainly due to floods, epidemics, earthquakes and storms) recorded during 1990-2012 and almost 650,000 people killed due to these disasters. Much of the impacts could be avoided if adequate actions were taken to reduce vulnerabilities of the communities. There is strong evidence that the critical drivers of vulnerabilities include rapid and inappropriate urban development, socioeconomic inequalities, trends and failures in governance, and environmental sustainability. In most of these indicators, OIC countries present a rather worrying picture, indicating that they are challenged by increased fragility and lack of capacities to prevent natural hazards turning into disasters.

Similarly, during the period 1946-2005, 53 OIC member countries have spent a total of 621 years in conflicts, or 11.7 years per country. Almost 3 million people have died in OIC countries during these conflicts, or more than 4,600 per conflict. Moreover, millions of people are being forced to flee their homes because of conflict or violence, often with little or no possessions. Some crossed a national border in search of refuge; others remained within their country and became internally displaced people (IDPs). The number of IDPs in OIC countries is estimated to be more than that in non-OIC countries since 2003. As of 2010, more than 14 million people in the OIC countries are internally displaced. Majority of the OIC countries are currently part of an ongoing conflict at varying intensity. According to the Conflict Barometer 2012, more than 40 OIC member countries are conflict affected. This includes low-intensity conflicts like the conflict between Turkey and Cyprus as well as high intensity conflicts like in Mali and Somalia.

There are various drivers of conflicts, but many of them are rooted in development deficits. OIC countries need to place more emphasis on building resilience to shocks and vulnerabilities to conflict through more effective and inclusive governance and greater collaboration. The complex causes of violence as well as prevention and early recovery need to be addressed with collective efforts of all OIC community as well as international partners active in humanitarian, peacekeeping, and development fields.

The disaster-conflict interface also seems likely to intensify over time. Urbanisation, migration, and changes to environmental and socio-economic conditions will potentially heighten underlying exposure and vulnerability to complex emergencies. The risk of violence and potential of conflict will rise with the increasing number of socio-economic and environmental stress factors such as food crises, youth unemployment, rapid urbanisation and social injustice. Therefore, there is need for effective programmes to manage crisis interventions that can reflect the complex structure of the conflict-disaster interface by developing more holistic and integrated approach. Otherwise, the complexity of situations may even negatively affect the outcome of an intervention aiming at reducing risks or preventing conflicts that concentrates only one aspect of the interconnected relation. There is also need

for more studies investigating the opportunities for conflict prevention and disaster resilience programmes that can contribute to alleviating joint risks and propose appropriate strategies and actions.

In this context, this report provides a comprehensive overview of the past disasters and offers strategic approaches in preventing and mitigating the potential disasters in OIC member countries. It also includes analyses of the state-of-the-art approaches in response to and recovery from these disasters and provides relevant recommendations. The report also analyses the current trends in man-made crises, including armed conflicts, civil wars and failed states, and provides recommendations for strengthening the peace and stability and enhancing collaboration between the member states. The focus is the all member countries that are prone to natural disasters and man-made crises, particularly the most vulnerable people in crisis-laden and disaster-prone member states.

After discussing the risks and vulnerabilities to natural hazards and conflicts and providing best practices in disaster risk reduction and management, the general purpose of this report is to promote joint initiatives on conflict resolution and management within the OIC countries; advocate for mutual actions for strengthening the institutional capacities for countries that experience destructive natural disasters and man-made crises, which may limit the operational and technical capacities of institutions; encourage the disaster-related actions to focus more on mitigation and preparedness instead of response with a view to minimizing the impacts of disasters; and offer policy recommendations for individual countries and cooperation areas at OIC level to increase the resilience throughout the whole OIC community.

As for the scope, the report presents an all-inclusive synopsis of the past disasters and offers strategic approaches in avoiding the potential disasters in OIC member countries. Although this report stresses the fact that OIC countries need to take immediate actions to increase their resilience to disaster risks and develop strategies to prevent the natural and man-made disasters, it, however, does not provide stepwise strategic actions to be taken by member countries. It provides only relevant recommendations based on state-of-the-art operations, best practices and specific convictions.

There have been numerous disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies developed over the past decades to effectively manage the disasters at national, regional and international level. OIC member countries endorsed the Strategy on Management of Disaster Risks and Climate Change Implications in the Islamic World at the Fourth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Environment in 2010. There are also few regional and international initiatives for conflict resolution and peace building, but there is no such initiative among the OIC countries. There is a need for OIC countries to support the existing initiatives on disaster management and coordinate their efforts to increase their resilience to disasters and conflicts.

Structure of the Report

The report consists of eight sections. The introductory section first establishes the link between disaster risk reduction capacities and the progress in sustainable development, and reviews the existing international and regional disaster risk reduction strategies. The section concludes with the aims, objectives and scope of the report. Sections 2 to 4 offer a quick overview of the disasters, conflicts and disaster-conflict interface, respectively. This includes an assessment and analysis of the risks of and vulnerabilities to *natural disasters* and *conflicts* in OIC countries as well as some of the cross-cutting issues which fall into the disaster-conflict interface. Constituting the backbone of the report, Sections 5 to 7 analyse a broad spectrum of dimensions pertaining to management of disasters, conflicts as well as the disaster-conflict interface. The analyses on each dimension are enriched through case studies which offer important lessons along with practical ideas/solutions. Section 8 concludes with a summary of policy recommendations for priority actions.

Disasters – Development Linkages

Earlier socio-economic vulnerabilities may aggravate the impact of a natural disaster and violent conflict, resulting in an instant increase in poverty and deprivation and making more difficult the process of recovery. Conversely, a development strategy that endorses development of financial and social mechanisms to reduce the vulnerability, enhance access to adequate water, food and safe houses, build social capital and community cohesion, and provide greater opportunities for involvement in decision making can substantially reduce disaster risks.

Similarly, while peace and security are prerequisites for development and prosperity, failures in development substantially increase proneness to civil conflict. The consequences of violent conflicts are not to be underestimate; on average, the cost of civil war is equivalent to more than 30 years of GDP growth for a medium-size developing country and destroys essential infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, and energy systems; destroys social cohesion and triggers forced displacement of people. Researches revealed that majority of the member countries with highest vulnerability to disasters also suffer from low levels of human development. The report clearly illustrates that while different OIC countries suffer from different types of natural hazards, with various frequencies and magnitudes, and man-made crises with distinct features, it is in fact their vulnerability to risks, or the lack of conditions and capacities for properly managing and reducing the risk of disasters.

Critical Aspects of Disaster Management

Risk management and vulnerability reduction is a continual process to reduce the adverse consequences of disasters upon people, livelihoods and built environment. A detailed description of higher level approaches for disaster mitigation against multiple natural hazards is provided in a broader framework. Accordingly, effective **risk governance** frameworks should be supplemented by two important functions, namely, disaster risk assessment and mainstreaming of disaster risk management into development policies. Prudent **environmental management** can contribute to reducing disasters risks particularly through three channels, i.e., sustainable water resources management, sustainable land-use management, and integrated coastal zone management.

The report supports the view that social protection and disaster risks have a mutually reinforcing relationship. The poorer the households are, the more they are vulnerable to disaster risks. **Social protection** in OIC countries needs to be improved through, inter alia, improving the access of the socially least protected to facilities provided by governments. Reduction of structural poverty, in that sense, is an essential part of improving social protection.

Capacity development requires an overview of approaches that aim to enhance preparedness capacity of governments at all levels. It shall build upon existing capacities and work with the assets that the country brings to the table. When a disaster happen, support is required from almost every ministry and organization to provide relief to the affected population, help with its recovery and to restore the pre-disaster services. Therefore, disaster risk management by its very nature is a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectorial subject, which requires **coordination and collaboration** amongst different ministries, departments, and stakeholders and vertically with provincial and local levels.

International cooperation is critical in sharing of information (e.g. on potential hazards), knowledge and good practices. In many disaster cases, neighbouring member countries find themselves on the same boat and sharing of timely information is belatedly recognized to be critical to avoid serious spill-overs between these countries. Moreover, cooperation is important not only bilaterally, but also through regional and international organizations and multilateral institutions as well as technical organizations to acquire best practices worldwide and develop the needed capacities.

Preparedness is based on a sound analysis of disaster risks and good linkages with early warning systems, and includes such activities as contingency planning, stockpiling of equipment and supplies,

the development of arrangements for coordination, evacuation and public information, and associated training and field exercises. **Needs assessment** is a vital first step in organizing an effective and relevant disaster response. It must be planned in advance, properly and thoroughly. The preparation of an assessment report is important to inform all stakeholders about the extent of disaster impact and the assistance that is required. It is a very important tool in making decision, mobilizing resources and informing media and general public.

Contingency planning is a systematic approach to identifying what catastrophes can happen in an area or country and gearing up systems and resources to organize an effective response when the emergency happens. The objective of contingency planning is not to develop a plan for every possible contingency, but to think about major catastrophes and possible responses. **Early warning systems** empower individuals and communities threatened by hazards to act in sufficient time and in an appropriate manner so as to reduce the possibility of personal injury, loss of life, damage to property and the environment, and loss of livelihoods. Early warning systems play a critical role in preventing hazardous events turning into disasters.

For an effective and efficient **response** mechanism, there is a need for adaptation from the current ad hoc co-ordination to a pre-planned, pre-arranged and predictable system. When national capacities are overwhelmed, a well-organized and reliable system at regional or OIC level can save more lives. In order to improve **quality, performance and accountability** in response to disasters, responding agencies should use various tools such as systematic evaluation and peer review to ensure the quality of services according to globally accepted disaster management standards and to assess the impact of those activities on the lives of disaster affected populations. Both national authorities and international humanitarian organizations should seek the opportunity to effectively work together.

Effective **recovery** method entails appropriate policy guidance and financial, technical and institutional support in order to achieve maximum benefits from the rehabilitation and reconstruction process after disasters. Once the recovery is well achieved, disasters may become opportunities for dipping risk and acquiring growth; otherwise, the disasters can undermine future development by deepening inequalities, worsening poverty, increasing vulnerabilities of affected populations and enhancing risks. From the global experience in recovery, key principles in disaster recovery include, among others, focusing on the most vulnerable, restoring local capabilities, rebuilding livelihoods, reducing disaster risk, and engaging the civil society and private sector to non-partisan compensation. Experiences also reveal challenges in the recovery of disasters including a missing link relief and development nexus, institutional gaps and weak governance, inadequate vulnerability reduction in reconstruction, methodological gaps, and lack of awareness and knowledge on recovery management.

Critical Aspects of Conflict Management

Some OIC countries, especially those in the Middle East and North Africa, have experienced significant transformations over the past few years. These transformations have brought about their own opportunities for constructive socio-economic reforms as well as challenges to peace and stability. Furthermore, the number of conflicts observed globally increased from 83 in 1945 to 396 in 2012, including more than 40 OIC member countries with both low-intensity and high-intensity conflicts. To address the concerns regarding the impacts of ever increasing conflicts particularly in OIC countries, the Report discusses the role of **conflict analysis and early warning mechanisms**. This will rely on risk knowledge, systematic data collection and conflict assessments, monitoring and warning services, and response capability. Factors identified for monitoring of early warning include, among others, sudden demographic changes, rising unemployment rates and rise in social intolerance.

There are also sets of institutional capacities that should be developed for **conflict prevention**. Greater emphasis must be placed on **building resilience** to shocks and vulnerability – whether economic,

political, or environmental, including through more effective and inclusive governance systems. In order to promote sustainable development, countries and societies have to be prepared to deal with volatility and shocks, especially where these disproportionately impact on certain groups and exacerbate existing inequalities. Conflict prevention, as well as early recovery, requires collaborative effort by a range of actors, and complex causes of conflict and armed violence need to be addressed in integrated ways, with the work of humanitarian, peacekeeping, and development actors being mutually reinforcing.

The Report also identifies four clusters of challenge for **peace-building and recovery**, namely, management of transitions, management of recurring tensions over land and natural resources, addressing the threat of extremism, and preventing relapse into conflict. Common success factors identified in tackling these challenges include formation of multi-stakeholder platforms for dialogue, systematic and effective conflict resolution efforts such as regional and district peace committees, development of consensus around governance priorities, and devising of methods for participatory peace-building.

Management of Disasters and Conflicts When They Coincide

Strategies, policies and actions on disaster management and conflict prevention/peacebuilding are often considered in an isolated manner. While the two crises are usually distinct in both their onset and repercussion, strong linkages exist especially in terms of how the interface, if not understood and managed, can escalate and reinforce the impacts of disasters and/or conflict with potentially severe consequences. It is for this reason a thorough understanding of how disasters and conflicts can coincide and reinforce both positive and negative impacts is critical.

Obviously there are differences between the disaster and conflict phenomena. The trigger for disasters is typically a natural hazard while the trigger for conflicts can be a political decision, a failure of dialogue, a new economic policy, an action by security agencies, a confrontation between two different social or ethnic groups or a fight over a scarce natural resource. However, many of the root causes behind conflicts and disasters are similar and these causes can increase exposure and vulnerability of a population to conflicts and disasters. **Poverty and socio-economic marginalization** of social groups based upon class, ethnicity, language or other identities increases vulnerability of people to both conflicts and disasters. **Sustainable and equitable management of natural resources** is also a very important strategy for conflict prevention and disaster risk reduction. The lack of equitable provision of **basic services including education, health and infrastructure** aggravates a sense of deprivation and weakens social solidarity and cohesion, therefore becoming a driver behind instability and conflicts. The lack of basic services also increases people's vulnerability to natural hazards. Finally, an **exclusionary political system** is an important root cause behind society's vulnerability to conflicts and disasters. A political system that is not democratic, inclusive, transparent and accountable generates a perception of injustice, helplessness and being wronged.

In order to address the common aspects of conflicts and disasters, OIC countries need to take special measures in identified areas that are prone to both disasters and conflicts. The OIC can also develop partnerships with a range of international and regional stakeholders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report carefully analyses the exposure and vulnerabilities of the OIC countries to natural hazards and conflicts. It provides a comprehensive overview of the impacts of past disasters and highlights the main risk factors that increase vulnerabilities. It also includes analysis of the state-of-the-art approaches for prevention, response and recovery from disasters. The focus is the member countries that are particularly prone to natural hazards and man-made crises.

The report highlights that as the number of disasters in OIC countries is growing, the number of affected people is mounting. The physical, social, economic and environmental capacities and conditions of most OIC countries for effective management of risks are found to be limited. Conflicts are also main obstacles to development in OIC countries, as a large number of Muslim countries are experiencing recent and protracted conflicts. The share of OIC countries in total armed conflicts reached almost 50% in 2011. The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in OIC countries is estimated to be more than that in non-OIC countries since 2003. What's more, the disaster-conflict interface seems likely to intensify over time with urbanisation, migration, and changes to environmental and socio-economic conditions potentially heightening underlying exposure and vulnerability to complex emergencies.

Considering all these challenges that OIC member countries face in terms of managing disasters, this report proposes a set of recommendations to reduce vulnerabilities and minimize the impact of disasters. It offers strategic approaches in preventing and mitigating the potential disasters in OIC member countries. These recommendations are classified under three categories: natural disasters, conflicts and disaster-conflict interface.

8.1 NATURAL DISASTERS

It is obvious that although the occurrence of natural hazards cannot be stopped, disaster risk and adverse impacts can be minimized by reducing social, economic and environmental vulnerability and improving prevention and preparedness for response. Most critical issues related to the disaster management in OIC countries are highlighted in section 5. In this context, following actions are recommended to be taken at national and OIC/international level to effectively reduce disaster risks.

Risk Management and Vulnerability Reduction

Effective governance is crucial to identifying disaster risks and implementing schemes to reduce vulnerabilities and risks. The following approaches are recommended to improve governance for disaster risks:

- Formulate national and local policies that prioritize mitigation and, at the broader level, adopt a **policy shift from response to mitigation** to establish a culture of prevention;

- Prepare **supporting planning frameworks** (e.g. National Disaster Risk Management Framework or a National Disaster Management Plan) to elaborate the arrangements for implementation policy and to define responsibilities of ministries and other stakeholders, and define priorities for disaster mitigation;
- Establish effective **disaster management committees/council/commissions for coordination and policy making** where all key stakeholders, including government, academia, civil society, international organizations, private sector and media, are represented. They should be supported with appropriate organizations at national, province and local levels to serve as focal points for policy formation and implementation as well as to serve as secretariat to coordination committees;
- Develop and implement **disaster risk assessment schemes** including, inter alia, the production of disaster risk maps and accompanied analysis, preparation of hazard maps to define the general hazard zones and establishment of a disaster database, accompanied by an analysis of the socio-economic and environmental conditions in different regions of the country;
- **Integrate disaster risk management concerns into national development planning** in order to promote safer construction of buildings and infrastructure, apply land-use planning to reduce exposure of settlements and infrastructure to hazards, and introduce risk transfer through insurance of large scale infrastructure and critical facilities as well as community based disaster mitigation activities;
- Encourage related ministries and departments to mainstream disaster risk reduction and subsequently to **reform their approaches** to project design and management so as to integrate disaster risk assessment and mitigation project cycle. The ministries can setup in-house disaster mitigation units to provide required technical assistance in this regard;
- Establish **regional insurance scheme** among countries that are exposed to similar types of disasters and develop insurance pools among small states that are not able to absorb the impact of adverse natural events.
- Promote and mainstream the implementation of **prudential environmental management strategies** for mitigation of disaster risks and adverse effects of climate change, e.g. protection and remediation of forests, rangelands, mangroves, water bodies and other such resources;
- Promote **sustainable water resources management** through, inter alia, reducing water loss due to leakage and inefficient irrigation systems, recycling of urban and industrial water, rainwater harvesting, focusing on new resources of water (e.g. desalination), and implementation of innovative and participatory approaches such as Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM);
- Promote **sustainable use of rangeland** as well as riverine, coastal and urban lands and their effective management through, inter alia, reforestation, soil conservation, reforestation, soil conservation, communal management arrangements, reduction in livestock populations, and introduction of alternative livelihoods sources, introducing resilience frameworks, implementing land-zoning wherever possible, conservation and remediation of natural habitats and construction of relevant infrastructure such as river and coastal dikes. Integrate also urbanization into sustainable land management into urbanization through provision of open spaces, protection of natural drainage channels and safety of plantation;
- Promote **climate change adaptation** through cutting-edge multidisciplinary approaches such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

Promoting Public Awareness, Participation and Social Protection

One of the main determinants of the success in disaster risk management is the level of awareness and participation. A lack of awareness of hazards and vulnerability can build complacency, leading to ignorance for risk reduction. Social protection of vulnerable communities also plays a key role. In this context, following approaches are recommended at national and international level to promote public awareness, participation and social protection:

- Organize **public awareness campaigns** on risk reduction related to specific hazards and risks regularly, at least once a year, for example during the International Day for Disaster Reduction. Target as many sectors of the community as possible, including schools, professional institutions and general householders, with the preparation of educational materials relevant to each group.
- Develop and implement **awareness, dissemination and education programs** for general public and all other stakeholders. Include risk reduction and concepts of culture of safety into the school curriculum. At the top of the chain, government officials and policy makers also need to be targeted with specific awareness campaigns, in order to generate high-level motivation for disaster mitigation measures
- **Integrate disaster risk management** concerns into national development planning in order to implement education, awareness and training activities to increase technical capacities and personal safety;
- **Improve access of the poor to facilities provided by governments;** e.g. loans, credits, compensation packages, technical resources, etc.;
- Devise national strategies and private sector programmes to **reduce structural poverty** through, inter alia, implementing micro-credit programmes for the poorest of the poor, as poverty reduction contributes to reduction in vulnerability to disaster risks.

Information, Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Development

As highlighted in the report, preparing capacities for disaster risk reduction requires a sound analysis of existing capacities and gaps, risks, well-developed early warning systems, contingency planning, stockpiling of equipment and supplies, coordination mechanisms, public information, and associated training and field exercises. In this context, following approaches are recommended at national and international level to promote information, knowledge sharing and capacity development:

- Establish **national and local databases** to collate developmental and disaster risk information and to produce analysis of hazards, risks and vulnerabilities;
- Set up team of experts to gather, collate and analyse information and produce analysis of risks, needs and capacities;
- **Develop and regularly update a well-designed contingency planning,** conduct regular drills and coordination meetings, maintain the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders in contingency planning process as it helps participating parties to learn about possible scenarios, needs and existing capacities and gaps;
- **Establish a multi-disciplinary early warning forum** to ensure information sharing among key actors and the integrated implementation of early warning action across all sectors. Ensure at national level that authority for issuing warnings is clearly defined in the law and the chain of command for dissemination of warning is clearly established.
- **Conduct analysis** of all early warning needs, covering hazards and vulnerabilities, institutional and social factors, and existing capacities, and gaps and develop a national plan for systematic strengthening of early warning systems, covering technical and social elements;

- **Stimulate community-based risk assessment and early warning systems** through the assignment of specific responsibilities for risk reduction and emergency management to local bodies, the support of local training and information needs, and the use of traditional knowledge and experience in warning system design;
- **Institute a public education programme** that reaches the whole population at least once a year to teach them about risks they face, the meaning of warnings and the appropriate responses to take and undertake annually a well-publicized exercise to demonstrate and test national early warning systems, evacuation plans and public response, preferably involving all or large fractions of the at-risk population;
- **Strengthen the capacity of the local institutions** by involving local experts in skills training measures as disaster risk reduction depends upon measures to be taken at local level. Accordingly establish and/or support local training facilities which will be the key objective of any future capacity building programme;
- **Establish capacity building networks** among the relevant institutions in the member countries with a view to sharing, transfer and exchange of knowledge and expertise;
- **Build a regional multi-hazard network** for an effective disaster risk management with possible cooperation areas including information sharing, capacity building, technology sharing, joint infrastructure, and the promotion of common standards;
- Establish an **OIC Disaster Management Centre** to provide training, research and information services to develop capacities of the member countries of OIC as well as to coordinate timely response to disasters through **effective sharing of information, knowledge and good practices** at regional and international level;
- **Strengthen cooperation with multilateral organizations** including UNDP, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the World Bank and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) with a view to raising awareness and formulating regional policies, acquiring and/or enhancing capacities for disaster risk management, sharing best practices and lessons, and securing financial resources for mitigation-related large-scale infrastructure projects.

Coordination of Emergency Response

In order to organize rescue after disaster and stabilize physical and emotional condition of survivors, an effective coordination mechanism is needed. In order to promote quality standards in humanitarian response, OIC member countries need to base their national disaster response guidelines on relevant international standards as well as moral values of humanity and Islam. In addition to that, special coordination and response mechanisms should be established for effective disaster management. In this context, in order to strengthen the response capability and enhance cooperation during emergencies, the following actions are proposed for the OIC community:

- Establish mechanisms to quickly **identify the needs on the ground and national sources to meet these needs** during sudden onset emergencies;
- **Establish a database of existing emergency response capacities** of the different Muslim countries that can be mobilized for deployment in other Muslim countries in times of disasters, such as capacities in the area of search and rescue, fire fighting, emergency shelter, disease prevention, emergency needs assessment etc.;
- Enhance intra-OIC cooperation to **improve strategic planning for preparedness and response** for better coordination of emergency health services, to control and prevent disease outbreaks

during emergencies, to ensure effective delivery of emergency health services, and improve information management and analysis for emergency health services.

- Enhance intra-OIC cooperation to **reduce the crisis-induced migration** through developing local and national capacities with effective risk reduction and emergency preparedness strategies and to improve the living conditions of already displaced population.
- Design effective **contingency logistics and communication strategies** to be implemented during emergencies.
- Establish an **OIC Emergency Coordination Mechanism**: An OIC Emergency Coordination Mechanism (OIC-ECM) can be established to coordinate the relief efforts among the OIC member countries. This mechanism will create at the outset, based on the declarations of member countries, a voluntary pool of assets (equipment, personnel, etc.) for immediate deployment as part of a joint OIC intervention. It will facilitate the coordination of the relief by matching the needs on the ground with the capacities available from the voluntary pool of assets. In case of an emergency, member countries will be asked to voluntarily place those resources on call by the OIC-ECM. This mechanism could also work together with UN-OCHA to support its cluster coordination system to facilitate the coordination of activities of various relief institutions/agencies and the delivery of services. It may also promote the international quality and accountability standards within the OIC community.
- Establish an **OIC Emergency Response and Recovery Fund**: An OIC Emergency Response and Recovery Fund (OIC-ERF) can be established to enable more timely and reliable humanitarian assistance to those affected by natural disasters and armed conflicts. It would act as a joint reserve mechanism designed to provide short-term funds to the participating countries immediately after a disaster. In line with TYPOA, this will help countries affected by these disasters to rebuild their buffer stocks. The Fund will also provide assistance to the member countries for rehabilitation and reconstruction. Such assistance may include aid and loan depending upon the economic situation of the recipient country and the scale of the recovery effort.
- Explore the possibility of developing **alternative financial mechanisms** that could be implemented by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the member countries as part of their short and long-term financing strategies for disaster management. These may include traditional financing mechanisms as well as innovative mechanisms such as sovereign risk financing, regional catastrophe insurance pools and index-based insurance, and special Disaster/Risk Management Facility by the IDB.
- Improve the **effectiveness of solidarity funds** to help poor and vulnerable communities to recover and to make them more operational, particularly for people affected by natural disasters and conflicts.
- Establish **regional disaster response systems** with potential areas of cooperation including rapid emergency assessments, regional deployment of equipment and teams, coordination mechanisms with international organizations, and joint emergency information management.
- Facilitate **interregional partnerships for country-based capacity-building** in the field of disaster response and early recovery.
- Conduct **joint contingency planning** for possible future events/set-backs in the areas of emergency responses following a natural hazard or any man-made crises.
- Cooperate on **gender based violence prevention and response** and mental health and psychosocial support activities.

Sustainable Recovery

Disaster recovery offers a window of opportunity to change and transform the society. Post-disaster period provides a supportive political context to take decisions and actions for transformative changes for rebuilding a more resilient society by reducing vulnerabilities and risks and removing underlying causes. From early recovery planning to implementation, key steps in disaster recovery should be carefully observed by the OIC member countries during the post-disaster period. Early recovery measures are crucial to avoid secondary impacts of a disaster. In this context, in order to manage transitory and sustainable recovery processes effectively and utilize the opportunity to be more resilient after a disaster, the following actions are recommended:

- Strengthen **intra-OIC cooperation** to assist countries who lack the capacity to conduct post-disaster damage and needs assessment and who lacks institutional mechanisms for managing recovery processes;
- Support development of **institutional and technical capacities** of countries recovering from a disaster through various capacity development activities;
- Cooperate in addressing the **financing needs** of the disaster-hit countries for early recovery. While methodological gaps can be addressed by promoting technical cooperation and exchange of knowledge between OIC member countries, innovative financial instruments can be developed to address resource gaps;
- Carefully design the **shift from relief to recovery** so that causes of vulnerability are adequately addressed;
- **Establish partnership** with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which is the UN lead agency for recovery / early recovery, to develop capacities of OIC secretariat and its member countries in the area of disaster/conflict recovery.

8.2 CONFLICTS

Conflicts are also main obstacles to development in OIC countries. Most of the OIC countries have been, in a way or another, affected by conflict. Armed conflicts have increased among the OIC countries, and as mentioned earlier in the report, according to the Conflict Barometer 2012, more than 40 OIC member countries are conflict affected. Moreover, it is important to take into account the changing patterns of conflict, for example, in the case of the Arab Spring or possible emerging conflicts related to natural resources, extreme and frequent weather conditions that might be caused by climate change. In this context, the report proposes following actions to be taken at national and OIC/international level to effectively manage the conflicts situations.

Conflict Analysis and Early Warning Mechanisms

Conflict analysis and early warning response systems support informed based decisions on how to tackle violent conflict in an efficient manner. Therefore it is important to:

- **Conduct conflict analysis at regional/national level** to provide a deeper understanding of the conflict drivers, peace engines, stakeholders, key issues and dynamics of the conflict and help identifying entry-points and opportunities to support identifying potential scenarios, frame programming, and inform strategic priorities;
- **Strengthen cooperation with international institutions**, such as UNDP, through OIC to benefit from their experiences in identifying best practices, develop necessary capacities and resources,

build a framework for assessing potential risks to and opportunities for advancing peace and development, and set some specific and realistic benchmarks and targets in this regard;

- **Develop early warning systems** based on new technologies such as mobile technology and social media to gather real-time information to inform preventive action in a potential conflict, as well as making use of existing early warning systems for natural hazards that could be also used in case of conflict, both at regional, national and local level;
- **Develop early response and reaction capacity** at national, regional and OIC/international levels to address potentially violent conflict through risk knowledge, data collection and assessment;
- Work with key development partners to **develop a balanced approach to alleviate the risk factors and resolve the root causes** that could trigger violent conflict through multi-stakeholder dialogues and peace infrastructures.

Institutional Capacity Building for Conflict Prevention

As mentioned in the report, countries will require five sets of capacities to achieve both lasting peace as well as sustainable development in a rapidly changing development environment: i) Have in place systems that guarantee inclusive governance, where citizens and groups perceive themselves as enjoying equal access to the state, especially rule of law, and to the economy; ii) Ensure that governance offers the recognition of basic rights of all citizens without discrimination; iii) Develop and use standing mechanisms and skills for the peaceful settlement of recurring conflicts and crises; iv) Manage transitions inclusively, effectively, and on the basis of consensus, including both governance transitions as well as in post-conflict settings; v) Develop social cohesion among polarized or divided groups and communities, primarily through local education and dialogue, or through economic activity that binds them closer together through shared value.

However, a baseline is needed to know exactly what kind of capacities is needed and what capacities already exist (for example in conflict transformation/mediation/analysis; social cohesion; infrastructures for peace; early warning systems, dialogue, etc). Therefore, it is recommended to:

- **Conduct a regional and national conflict capacity and needs assessments** to identify gaps and priorities, as well as existing capacities to address conflict at three levels: enabling environment, (i.e. policies, legislation, institutional arrangements, etc); organizational level (i.e. strategies, procedures, frameworks put in place to allow the organisation to perform); and the individual level (related to skills and knowledge through formal education, training, coaching, among others);
- Based on the outcomes of the regional/national conflict capacity assessment, **revise or formulate regional and national conflict capacity development strategy and action plan** through a participatory approach;
- **Systematize the results of the implementation of the conflict frameworks** in order to improve future actions, and draw upon lessons learned for future actions.
- Develop systems at national, regional and OIC/international levels to **guarantee inclusive governance and allow equal access to the state** - especially rule of law and to the economy - and recognize basic human rights of all citizens through good governance mechanisms;
- Develop at the national and OIC/international level **standing mechanisms and a solid base of skills** to draw upon in order to respond to and resolve conflict as well as build social cohesion amongst polarized groups.

Coordination and Resource Mobilization for Conflict Affected People

Affected people require support to overcome the existing challenges they face and recover their livelihoods. Inadequate assistance can cost lives and uncoordinated activities may be harmful to early recovery, peace-building and state-building. In this context, following actions are recommended:

- Establish **national infrastructures for peace** that serve as multi stakeholder mechanisms to ensure coordination through dialogue, collaboration and consultation (i.e. local peace committees, peace secretariats, national peacebuilding platforms/Forums, among others);
- Set up a **network of Insider Mediators**, essential to establishing trust and strengthening communities' capacities for mediation and negotiation;
- Establish regional and national **observatories of conflict and violence prevention** to monitor conflict and violence and provide evidence base practice;
- Encourage **partnerships with key international interlocutors** who can work in partnership to support peace and overcome conflicts collectively such as: the UN Peacebuilding Architecture; European Union and their Instrument for Stability; the African Peace and Security Architecture; ASEAN Political and Security Community as well as the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict.

Peace Building and Post-conflict Recovery

Based on the Ten-Year Program of Action, the OIC should strengthen conflict prevention, confidence building, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation in OIC member states as well as in conflict situations involving Muslim communities. However neither the OIC nor the international community is able to replace the critical ownership and leadership role that each member country must assume in order to reduce and prevent violent conflict. Political commitments at the national level must be made as well as commitments to providing sufficient financial resources. This can be accomplished by building cooperation with international and regional institutions in order to enable to the membership of the OIC to avail of and apply documented experiences in a systematic manner.

Following actions can be recommended for OIC countries for conflict resolution and peace building:

- Establish **national platforms to manage social, political and economic transitions** by fostering multi-actor dialogue engaging critical actors and encourage sustained conversations among them in order to build confidence or consensus around development priorities;
- Establish **organized platforms of religious leaders and elders** as part of systematic resolution efforts as well as regional and district peace committees or commensurate mechanisms with a view to addressing cyclical conflicts over land and natural resources;
- Establish **conflict resolution mechanisms** to address some of the drivers of recurring violence and scarcity at the local level and develop societal consensus around governance priorities that can accommodate a range of ideas and hence increase resilience to extremism, particularly the sectarian threats;
- Enhance **the role of women and civil society** in sustaining post-conflict peace and develop methods for participatory peace-building.
- Strengthen **the role of the OIC in conflict prevention, confidence-building, peacekeeping, conflict transformation and post-conflict rehabilitation** in OIC Member States as well as in conflict situations involving Muslim communities (TYPOA).

- Enhance **cooperation among the OIC Member States and between the OIC and international and regional organizations** in order to protect the rights and interests of the Member States in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict peace-building (TYPOA).

8.3 DISASTER-CONFLICT INTERFACE

As clearly highlighted in the report, strategies, policies and actions on disaster risk management and conflict prevention/peace-building are considered in isolated manner. They lack the basic persuasion on complex emergencies supported by evidence-based research for effective interventions. For integrated action to complex emergencies, it is needed to foster research, learning, exchanges of knowledge and experience, and accountability. Otherwise, the complexity of situations may even negatively affect the outcome of an intervention aiming at reducing risks or preventing conflicts that concentrates only one aspect of the interconnected relation. Therefore, interventions should ideally target reducing the risks of both natural disasters and conflict.

In this context, the report proposes following actions to be taken at national and OIC/international level to effectively manage the situations where disasters and conflicts coincide.

Risk Management and Vulnerability Reduction

Risk management and vulnerability reduction aims to understand hazards and build capacities needed to efficiently manage all types of potential emergencies and plan orderly transitions from response to sustained recovery. Following actions are recommended for OIC countries to improve risk management and vulnerability reduction when disaster and conflict collide:

- Ensure **special measures** are taken in identified areas that are prone to both disasters and conflict, for example by providing easy access to livelihoods, employment and low cost insurances to the most vulnerable populations.
- Ensure that **contingency plans are conflict sensitive**, for example, by contemplating conflict free shelters in case of a disaster caused by natural hazards strikes.
- Encourage members to focus on the **equitable provision of basic services** including education, health and infrastructure for all its citizens in order to reduce vulnerability and manage potential violent conflict;
- Encourage **inclusive, transparent, and accountable political systems** to prevent violent conflicts and also reduce the risks of natural disasters.
- Assist OIC member governments' ability to **integrate ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities and remote rural communities** into governance systems by providing them voice and representation.
- Ensure that disaster risk assessments are informed by a conflict analysis.

Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation

Conflicts and disasters both result in similar kind of consequences for affected populations and may lead to mortality, casualties, displacement and destitution. Both can also create similar needs in terms of relief and rehabilitation. In order to strengthen disaster relief and rehabilitation in case of complex emergencies, following actions are recommended:

- **Train DRM staff in conflict mediation/ negotiation** to be able to support the population to minimize the risk of new conflicts (at national/sub national/community level) in case a disaster strikes.

- Develop mechanisms to **involve all key relevant ministries and departments to respond to relief needs** emerging from conflicts and disasters that may include provision of shelter, food, water, and sanitation services to affected communities.

Reconstruction and Sustainable Recovery

Disaster recovery provides an opportunity to potentially change and improve societal interaction. Effective recovery methods entail appropriate policy guidance and financial, technical and institutional support after crises. In this context, following actions are proposed:

- Ensure that **urban planning needs are conflict sensitive** during the recovery period. In communities that are prone to conflict and disaster, a good urban planning ensures that conflicts are minimized among different groups, and that shared common public areas are planned to avoid exclusion. In addition, urban planning needs to take into account the most vulnerable populations that often are located in high risk areas, in case of floods and landslides for example.
- Share **best practices on the role of women and civil society** in sustaining post-conflict peace and development methods for participatory peacebuilding and sustainable recovery;
- Develop **crisis response plans**, including assessment capacity, and recovery frameworks that outline the responsibilities and mechanisms available for governments to help with restoration of livelihoods, construction of houses, construction of infrastructure etc.
- Establish **central recovery and reconstruction agencies** to deal with assessments, recovery planning and recovery management for both conflicts and disasters.

Regional and International Partnership

In order to address the common aspects of conflicts and disasters, the OIC can develop partnerships with a range of international and regional stakeholders. In this context, following actions are recommended:

- Promote **south south/regional cooperation** to ensure exchange of conflict disaster interface experiences and good practices among OIC countries and between OIC and non OIC countries to inform future actions/decisions;
- Build **synergies with existing strategies and programs** with key agencies that work with governments to develop effective systems for prevention, response and recovery from conflicts and disasters. The most important amongst them are: the European Union, the World Bank, the UNDP and UNOCHA;
- Work closely with Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), League of Arab States (LAS), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) and African Union (AU). These inter-governmental bodies have their own strategies and programs to assist the member countries in areas of disaster risk management and conflict resolution. OIC can build synergies with the existing strategies and programmes of these organizations.