

National Government Partners

To date, the ministries that have specific disaster management roles are:

- The Ministry of Planning: which is a member of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for the ODP. Its coordination and planning role at the provincial level is an important element in support to emergency response and long-term disaster reduction projects and activities. It has a direct link to the vulnerable groups listed above through its Department of Social Affairs, UN agencies, and NGOs through its role in the Emergency Task Force (ETF) and the Provincial Coordinating Body (PCB). It can provide planning and management training and direct support to ODP when needed.
- Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development: is actively involved in vulnerability and livelihood surveillance activities as discussed in section 2.2. MRRD is one of the key ministries that have the mandate to implement vulnerability reduction projects to alleviate poverty and improve peoples' livelihoods. Identification and implementation of socio-economic projects for urban and rural people should be done in close collaboration with and close involvement of MRRD and its Inter-Ministerial Commission comprising Health, Urban Planning, and Agriculture.
- Ministry of Irrigation and Environment: is involved in disaster mitigation in relation to drought and floods as they affect agricultural production, irrigation systems and water supply and management. Some of these mitigation activities include rehabilitation and management of watershed and water-catchment areas and enforcement of land use planning. Irrigation to reduce dependence on rain-fed agriculture is important for the drought prone regions. Given the current devastating drought and history of past occurrences, the role of the ministry in improving and expanding irrigation systems to cope with drought situation should help towards a reduction in vulnerable and displaced people and in destruction of crops, livestock, property and other livelihoods.
- Ministry of Telecommunications: is represented in all provinces, but does not have the capability or the resources to provide emergency communications systems support during disaster operations. Establishing critical communications links to the disaster sites for the country, as part of Telecom's preparedness measure is essential for effective response. Having reliable communications countrywide assists in rapid and effective response. Ministry of telecommunications is currently in the process of establishing comprehensive satellite communications systems, which will be available in case of all emergencies.
- Ministry of the Interior: has the important role of law and order enforcement if required during an emergency through the Police Force. It has the responsibility for the Fire and Emergency Services in the urban areas. Training in urban search and rescue in preparation for a devastating earthquake should be done for selected capable officers. Also training materials should be produced and trainers and trained. The ministry is also important in that it houses the Central Statistic Office and the

Geodesy and Cartography section that is useful information sources for preparedness and response.

- Ministry of Public Health: is a key lifeline ministry that has important role in emergency health and medical services to the country. It has direct involvement in disasters through the mobilization of its “Emergency Health Task Force” (EHTF). The latter is present in all the regions. MoPH (and MRRD) works closely with UNICEF and WHO in disaster management related field. More specifically WHO has conducted training with MoPH in emergency health and continues to build its medical requirements as well as its human and physical resources. As one of the main partners in the Regional EHTF, it is actively working towards achieving the objectives of its action plan.
- Ministry of Information and Culture: have important roles in disaster response and preparedness and during emergencies. This includes broadcasting/disseminating warnings to communities before a disaster occurs and education and awareness messages for preparedness and response actions to follow and promoting government disaster-related policies and programmes among others.
- Ministry of Agriculture: have roles in assessment of agricultural crops and livestock damage and food needs for the affected population. Also in acquiring, distributing, managing and being accountable for food relief to victims. A main role is to provide seeds and necessary planting materials and other inputs to assist in early recovery. Because agricultural sector provides the main livelihood and employment for most of the population, it has a critical role in reducing agricultural vulnerability through effective disaster mitigation, preparedness and response programmes.
- Ministry of Defense: has the important role of providing security, logistics and if necessary distribution of relief items and equipment for emergency response. Also it can provide trained personnel with specialist skills, such as communications in isolated areas and specialized transportation systems.
- Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation: has a critical role in the welfare and provision of humanitarian assistance to refugees, returnees and IDPs. It is also responsible for their repatriation and livelihoods development in collaboration with other government agencies, NGOs and UN agencies. It works closely with UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and NGOs in the re-integration process of displaced people.
- National NGOs: Local NGOs play an important role in emergencies and disaster management because of their understanding of local culture and systems and their close connections to local communities. Local NGOs are essential partners with international NGOs and development agencies, particularly in humanitarian assistance. The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) counts 189 national NGOs working in the country. Of this large number of organizations, it is not clear how many are engaged in humanitarian work, and with whom, as no such survey has been undertaken. Their roles and potential to contribute in the event of a major disaster need to be further assessed. NGOs provide a critical link between the communities and the government.

- International development partners: The main development partners involved in disaster risk management in Afghanistan include UNDP, UNAMA, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR, German Foreign Affairs Ministry through InWent execution, IFRC/ARCS, FAO, UNCHS/Habitat. These agencies cover a wide range of service provision, including among others: English language and computer training, equipment, stockpiling of relief and non-food relief items for critically poor families, stockpiling of essential drugs, training and capacity-building at national and district level, seismic and flood mitigation, housing re-construction to standards, food aid, community awareness, assistance to refugees and IDPs. Various agencies work through various national government counterparts (MRRD, MoE, MoPH, Building and Reconstruction). A number of international NGOs (i.e. CARE, World Vision, Catholic Relief Services) are also delivering services at the community-level in various aspects of disaster management.