

Urgent Capacity Development for Managing Natural Disaster Risks of Flash Floods in Wadi Abu Sbiera, Aswan, Egypt

Dr. Dia El Din El Quosy

National Coordinator of Egypt for UNESCO project

Email: lmewp2000@gmail.com

The major objective of the project is to raise the capacity of the community towards the protection against the negative impacts of flash floods in one hot spot in the country as a model that can be replicated on other examples.

The project started in May/June 2015 for duration of one year, but was extended until September/October 2016.

The beginning was the appointment of a national project coordinator and preparation of an assessment report on the overall status of the phenomena of flash floods in Egypt.

The hot spot was selected in Wadi Abu Sbiera, located at 23 km north of the border city of Aswan, South Egypt. The criteria of selection included the economic situation of the residents, the number of development activities in the region, the Impact of previous flash floods, the possibility of replication on other sites, and the number of previous attempts to protect the area against the dangers of flash floods

Three teams were assigned to go ahead with the project activities

- i. Modeling team for the preparation of disaster and risk maps based on the geological, geomorphic, climatic, hydrologic and hydraulic situation of the area.
- ii. Remedial measures team to study the interventions needed before, during and after the flash flood event.
- iii. The awareness team in charge of putting the community in front of its responsibility together with the executive groups

Two capacity building workshops were held within the progress of the project:

- i. A training workshop on early warning systems organized by Japanese experts. This workshop was held in the premises of the German University in Cairo in December 2015 attended by 15-20 trainees from Jordan, Yemen, Sudan and Egypt for 10 days.
- ii. An orientation workshop on remedial measures held in Amman, Jordan in May 2016 attended by 20-25 trainees from the four above named countries.

The project is now approaching its end, for the author the results achieved are fairly positive given the time span and the allocated funds. This was only realized because of the dedicated effort from the four country teams and the professional management of the UNESCO groups plus the sincere assistance of the Japanese side.

Urgent Capacity Development for Managing Natural Disaster Risks of Flash Floods in Egypt, Jordan, Sudan and Yemen

Case Study

Wadi Abu Sbeira, Aswan, Egypt

Dr.Dia El Din El Quosy

National Project

Coordinator

Egypt

**Al Gouna, Red Sea
October,2016**



PROJECT INFORMATION

- Financial and Technical Assistance: Government and People of Japan
- Organizers and Coordinators: UNESCO Cairo
- Participating Countries: Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, and Yemen
- Project start up: May/June 2015
- Project End: October 2016
- Total Budget: \$US 500,000

PROJECT INFORMATION Continued

- Partner Institutions:
 - Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
 - Ministry of Environment
 - National Meteorological Authority
 - National Remote Sensing Authority
 - National Risk Disaster Authorities
 - Civil Defense and Civil protection
 - Universities
 - Municipalities and Local Government
 - NGO's

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Reduce Negative Impacts of FF
- Innovative Approaches of Harvesting
- Community Based
- Increase Institutional Capacity
- Monitoring Plans

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Evaluation of Present Status
- Risk Management Plans
- Public Participation
- Pilot Scheme and Hot Spot

PROJECT PROGRESS

- Appointment of National Project Coordinator
- Project Start Up: Critical Path
- Assessment Report
- Selection of Hot Spot

PROJECT PROGRESS

Continued

- Wadi Abu SbeiraWhy?
- Possible Replication
- Previous FFs
- Cultivated Land, Inhabited areas, Mining, Archeology, Utilities, Infrastructure, Etc.
- Modest Standard of Living
- Less Technical and Financial Assistant Attraction (Local and Foreign)

FIELD INVESTIGATION

- Inventory of Similar Wadis in Aswan
- Area of Cultivated Land (Extension, Irrigation, Crops, ... Etc.)
- Inhabited Houses and Public Buildings
- Government & NGO's
- Previous Events (Fatalities and Loss)
- Wadi Description

MAPPING

- Evolution of Wadi Abu Sbiera
- Geomorphology & Morphometric Analysis
- National Resources
- Archeological Remains
- Detailed Hazard and Risk Maps

REMEDIAL MEASURES AND GUIDLINES

- Water Resources Research Institute
- Atlas of FF's in Egypt
- Measures Before, During & After the Events
- Contribution of Stakeholders
- Guidelines

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

- Meetings and Guiding Speeches
- TV, Radio Programs and Newspapers Articles
- Posters, Brochures, Booklets
- Workshops and Symposiums

TRAINING AND CAPICITY DEVELOPMENT

- International Symposium on FF's in Wadi System, ... Kyoto, Japan, 14-15 October 2015
- Workshop on Warning Systems and GIS, GUC New Cairo, Egypt, 14-20 December 2015
- Workshop on FF Remedial Measures Amman, Jordan, 17-20 May 2016
- National Workshop on FF Community Awareness in Jordan, Aqaba, Jordan, 29 August – 1 September 2016
- National Workshop of FF Community Awareness in Aswan, Egypt, 12-13 October 2016
- Second International Symposium on FF's in Wadi Systems, El Gouna , Red Sea, Egypt 25-27 October 2016

WAY FORWARD

- No More Dependence on Foreign Aid
- Replication Through Education
- Importance of Community Leaders
- Follow Up With Government and NGO's

LESSONS LEARNED

- Great achievements can be accomplished with little resources, short time and ambitious management.
- School children are the key channel of success
- Women will always listen to sons and daughters.
- Technology is no more a problem
- Large number of stakeholders bigger, opportunity to succeed is higher

**Gratitude to Japan
Government and People**

**Appreciation to UNESCO
Cairo and Paris**

Thanks to ICHARM and You All