



Embassy of the Republic of Mauritius and Permanent Mission of Mauritius to the United Nations and other International Organizations

Ambassade de la République de Maurice et Mission Permanente auprès des Nations Unies et des autres Organisations Internationales

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The Embassy and Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and with reference to a letter dated 22 February 2018 from the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, transmitting a questionnaire pursuant to resolution 33/10 has the honour to attach herewith the replies of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius.

The Embassy and Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 24 May 2018

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais des Nations
Geneva



INPUTS FROM MAURITIUS

In the local context, the access to drinking water and sanitation of forcibly displaced persons is mostly relevant during natural disasters.

The common calamities that the island faces are cyclones and localized flooding. During such calamities people who feel they are at risks usually go to refugee centers. As such given the Mauritian context, there is no major displacement of affected people. Yet those attending the refugee centers are provided with potable bottled water. In terms of sanitation, these centers are supplied with water and also there are toilet facilities.

Moreover, for the proper coordination of actions of calamities, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (NDRRMC) has been created with a view to enhance national effectiveness and efficiency in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.

The NDRRMC acts as the focal institution for the State of Mauritius for the planning, organizing, coordinating and monitoring of disaster risks reduction and management activities at all levels, and it is also responsible to develop, in line with National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Policy, a National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategic Framework and Plan for approval by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and to ensure their implementation;

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council consists of various stakeholders and even the Central Water Authority who is the authority responsible for the supply of potable water.

The NDRRMC has created the following emergency schemes:

- Cyclone Emergency Scheme
- Heavy Rainfall, Torrential Rain and Flooding Emergency Scheme
- Tsunami Emergency Scheme
- High Waves Emergency Scheme
- Water Crisis Emergency Scheme
- Earthquake Emergency Scheme
- Landslide Emergency Scheme
- Port Louis Flood Response Plan

Each scheme takes on board vital stakeholders such as Central Water Authority and the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life amongst others and describes the roles of each stakeholder before, during and after a disaster.

The Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, being the enforcing agency for drinking water quality under the Environment Protection Act (EPA) regularly undertakes drinking water sampling to ensure compliance with the drinking water standards of the EPA. After calamities, this surveillance programme is further enhanced through more drinking water sampling exercise and advice to the public to boil water prior to consumption.