

Workshop on National Platforms 23 - 29 August 2008, Davos Switzerland

Disaster Risk Reduction National Coordinating Mechanisms

in

Jordan

Context of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Jordan

Jordan is situated in a region that is susceptible to natural disasters such as, among others, earthquakes, floods, drought and desertification. These pose as major natural hazards that can affect the country. With this in background, Jordan established a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Program in 1991.

The DRR Program was subsequently modified in 1999 to be mandated by the law governing the Higher Council on Civil Defense and is being implemented by the Directorate of Civil Defense.

The program was envisaged to minimize natural disaster risks by preparing, mitigating and responding effectively once occurred.

Legal Framework for DRR and DRR National Plan

In 2006, Jordan embarked on establishing the National Centre for Security and Crisis management (NCSCM).

NCSCM is practically a step further than just dealing with natural disasters, which still is a major role, and it deals with all types of crisis by preventing (by prediction), mitigating and managing coordinated response and recovery.

The NCSCM is being established and is governed by a law. It is expected to be fully operational in 2009.

The NCSCM works on national level by applying streamlined interagency coordination mechanism across government departments, the private sectors and NGOs including international humanitarian aid agencies. In doing so, it is also capable of working in all levels from national to local.

The vision of the center is to build national resilience through coherent cross-sector emergency preparedness capabilities in all sectors of society both the public and private, and on all national levels (strategic, operational and tactical).

Legal Framework for DRR and DRR National Plan

The Objectives of the Center are:

- ✓ Create a comprehensive Common Intelligence Picture (CIP) of internal and external threats (natural, political, military, etc.) to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- ✓ Enable rapid and effective decision-making during a crisis through the timely development and display of the Common Operational Picture (COP).
- ✓ Build a comprehensive national database.
- ✓ Achieve national resilience through coherent cross-sector emergency preparedness capabilities in coordination with government departments.
- ✓ Create a comprehensive understanding of national assets and capabilities available to prevent, respond to a crisis and to mitigate consequences (Resources).
- ✓ Develop functional interagency crises response plans for priority threats to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- ✓ Train national and local government leaders on crises response plans and crises management (National Exercises & Drills).

DRR in Sectoral Policies

Risk reduction concerns are integrated in the following main sectoral policies:

- **Institutional Development and decentralisation**
- **Natural resources management.**
- **Climate Change Adaptation (Desertification)**
- **Water management**
- **Livelihood and agriculture**
- **Urban planning**
- **Education**
- **Health**
- **Energy**
- **National Infrastructure**

National **Preventive** Disaster Risk Reduction Mechanisms

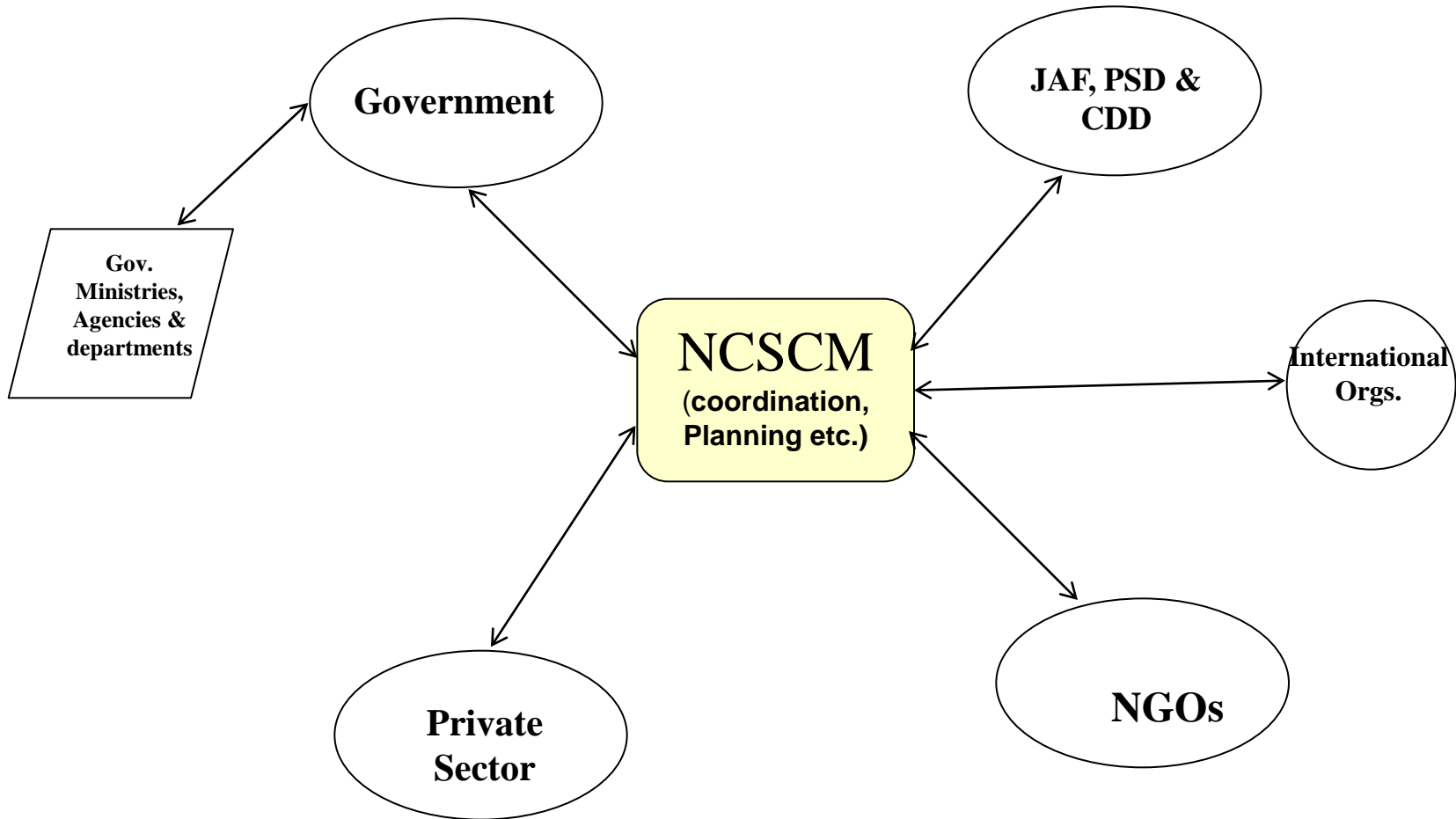
The Disaster Risk Reduction mechanism is now part of the crisis management cycle. It is embedded within the organizational structure of the centre.

Once the NCSCM is fully operational, it will act as a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and will provide the adequate mechanism to implement the national DRR program.

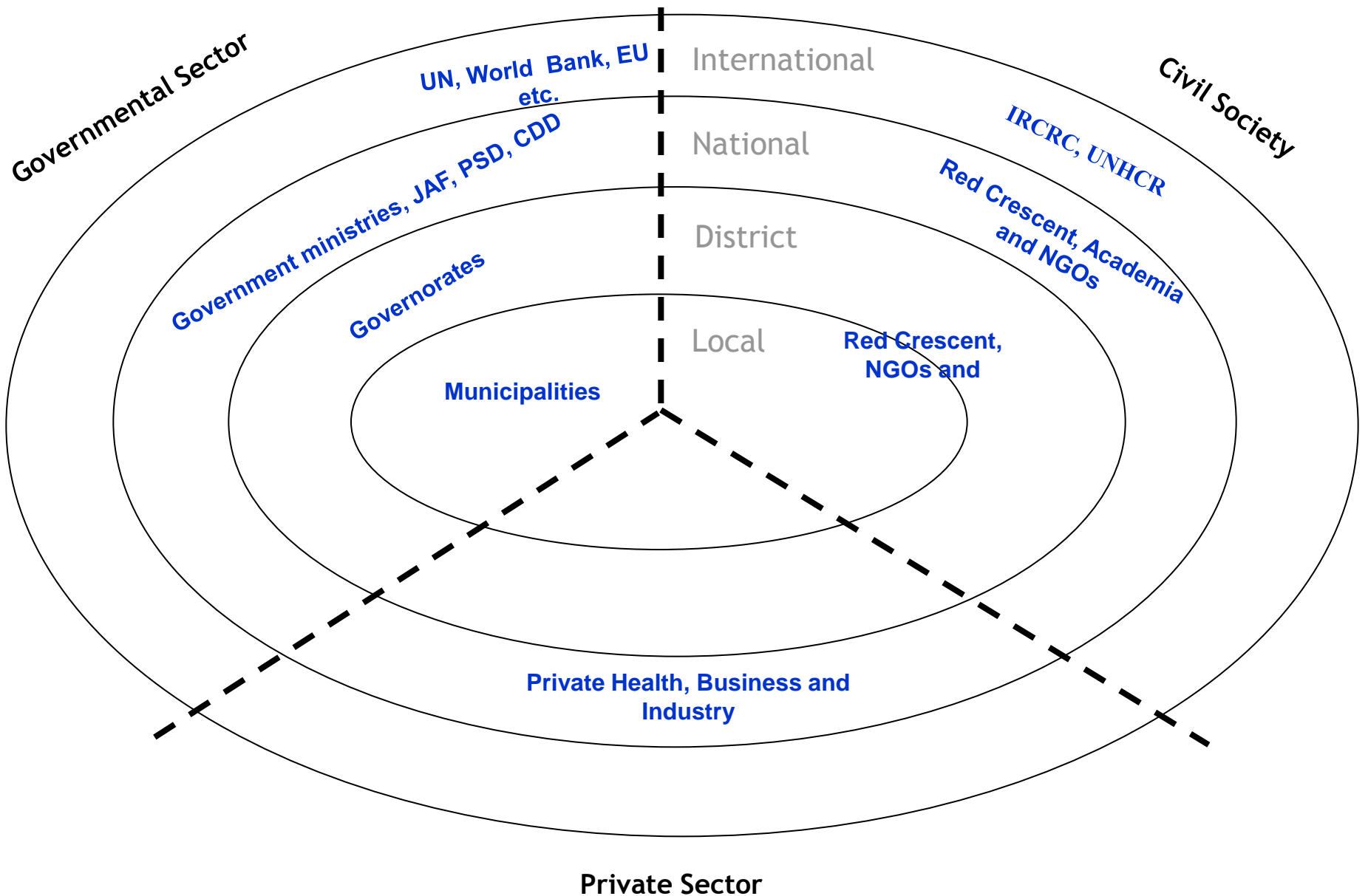
The DRR program focuses mainly on the following disaster-related areas:

- National Capacity building
- National Hazards Maps
- Awareness and education campaign.

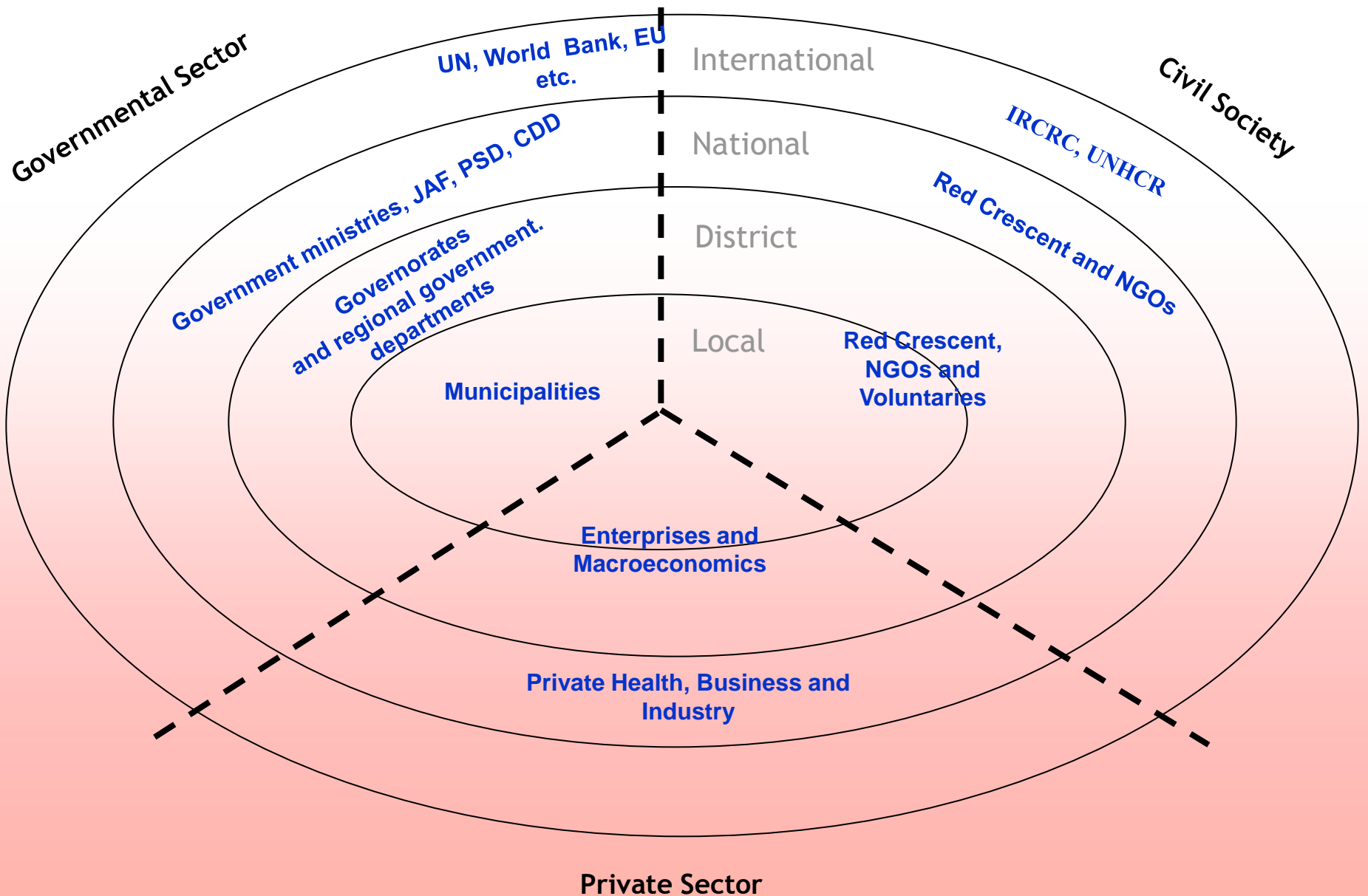
National Crisis Management Mechanisms



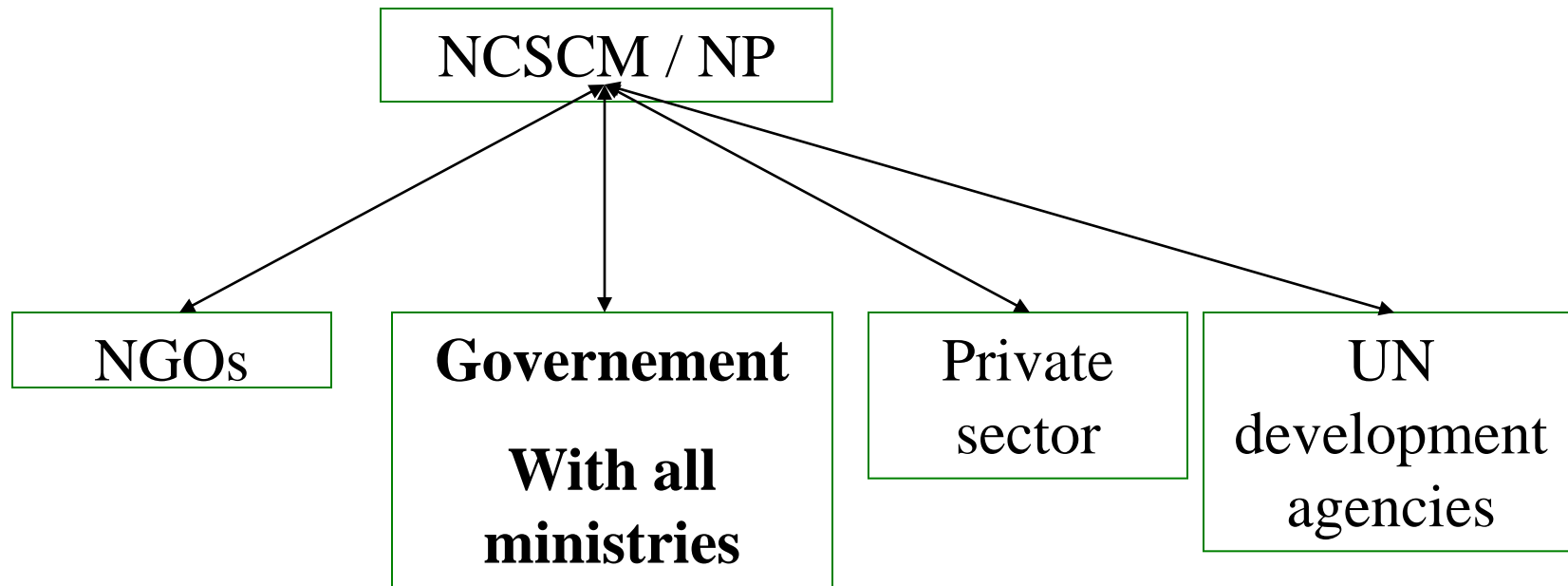
Institutional Actors and Stakeholders in Normal Times



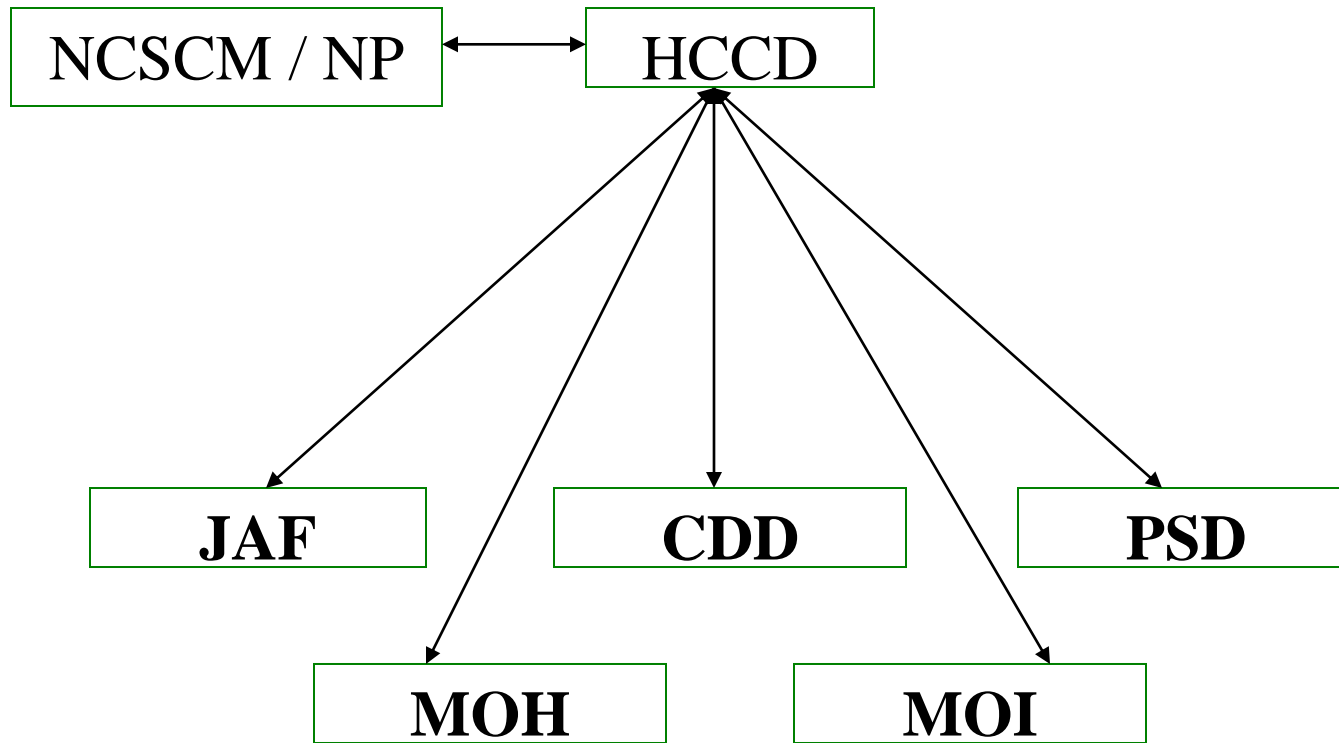
Institutional Actors and Stakeholders in Crisis Situations



Institutional DRR Actors and Stakeholders in Normal Times



Institutional DRR Actors and Stakeholders in Crisis Situations



DRR Institutional Relation to Climate Change

Climate change on Jordan can take many forms. Critical to that, among other things are Desertification and Draughtiness.

The NCSCM will host a permanent office for the National Meterology Department and will have a close links with national Academia and Scientific institutions, to monitor the effect of climate change on Jordan.

Regional Coordination of DRR and South-South Collaboration

Sub-regional Facility for Cooperation in Disaster Reduction Among the Arab States

This project focuses on developing a sub-regional facility for sharing and networking of knowledge and the development of common approaches to training and capacity building. Initially, its participating countries include: Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Yemen.

Activities + Results

National Activities

- The establishment of Prince Al-Hussein Bin Abdullah II Academy, which is a specialized Academy in Civil Defence sciences and gives a bachelor degree in Disaster Management.
- Forming an international specialized team for search and rescue operations that is authorized by INSARAG in addition to the search and rescue teams in the three regions and the Hazmat team .
- An agreement with United Nations Development Program in the field of building national capacities to reduce earthquake risks in Amman city.
- Conducting awareness programs for citizens through periodic seminars, workshops and lectures and Participating in local, regional and international courses related to disaster management.

Identified Strengths and Weaknesses

Jordan needs improvements in the following areas:

- **Capacity Building.**
- **Hazards Maps**