

Report from the workshop on Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction through Preparedness

6 June 2007

The workshop assembled the governments of Ecuador, Germany, India, Kenya, Switzerland, Tajikistan and ECHO and IFRC.

The workshop addressed strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction through Preparedness from the perspective of Best Practices at the local and national level and strategies to support their implementation.

Trends

- ❖ Community based approaches are identified as most efficient; this involves the development of local networks and building political and technical platforms using, where possible, existing structures. In order to be sustainable and to reach an acceptable national level of preparedness, political commitment and support to these initiatives is vital, otherwise they will remain scattered.
- ❖ Governments, humanitarian and other organizations face the difficulty of committing funds as preparedness shows benefits only after disasters, and other needs tend to get priority. There is tension between preparedness measures and political and economic costs. Therefore preparedness needs to be more manifest and show positive investment.

Actions

- ❖ Suggest that the plenary recommends, to the global platform, to focus efforts on mainstreaming preparedness into all aspects of disaster management and to create political space to promote disaster preparedness.
- ❖ Stakeholders should adopt multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional approaches to disaster management, with a strong involvement of civil society. Adequate legal and institutional frameworks are recognized as an enabling factor.
- ❖ Most experiences relates to rural community settings. There is a need to scale up projects into highly vulnerable urban settings.
- ❖ While donor efforts to step up their contribution towards preparedness were praised, more efforts are needed in order to reach acceptable levels.