

United Nations World Food Programme- Statement for ISDR Global Platform

As the largest humanitarian organization in the world, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is consistently among the first to be engaged in response to disasters. WFP remains committed to working with our UN, NGO, government, and donor partners in Disaster Risk Reduction.

Currently WFP is assisting more than 90 million people, of whom more than 30 million are directly or indirectly affected by natural disasters. With a presence in 83 countries and by reinforcing its preparedness capacity at regional and country levels, the organization is prepared to respond throughout the world. In addition, WFP is fully aware of its accountability in regards to the cluster lead for logistics and cluster co-lead with UNICEF and OCHA for ICT, as designated in the UN Reform.

In line with Priority 5 of the Hyogo Framework for Action, emergency preparedness for efficient response is a key priority for the World Food Programme. Preparedness including vulnerability mapping is crucial to ensure rapid and successful response and to prevent natural hazards from becoming natural disasters. WFP plays a lead role at the Interagency level as the co-chair with UNICEF of the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) "Sub-Working Group on Preparedness and Contingency Planning". The Sub-Working Group is responsible for the development of the Guidelines for Inter-Agency Humanitarian Contingency Planning as well as the preparation of the IASC Early Warning – Early Action Report. Furthermore, the IASC has assigned WFP the responsibility for the development and maintenance of the Humanitarian Early Warning Service web (www.hewsweb.org). HEWSWeb will be presented at the UNICEF and WFP facilitated side event on Multi-agency Early Warning and Contingency Planning.

In addition, WFP in partnership with FAO and the World Bank has developed a contingency financing strategy based on weather indexing. The goal of the project is to manage risk of natural disasters in developing countries.

In 2006, WFP's received funds from the Swedish Government to develop a Disaster Risk Reduction policy guidance framework and a corporate strategy to ensure WFP's compliance with the HFA.

Crucial elements of the project are to:

- Build on WFP's existing assessment and analysis capacity to further develop a forecasting model to predict the occurrence of natural disasters and their impact on the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable people throughout the world.
- Strengthen National Governments capacity to prepare for, respond to and mitigate effects of Natural Disasters
- Foster partnerships with other UN agencies, international organizations, academic institutions as well as the private sector

Hence, WFP strongly supports the initiatives of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and is determined to continue to play an active role in the implementation of the HFA.

On a final note, WFP would like to extend its appreciation for the