



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO NATURAL DISASTERS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

SHARING EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN THE REGION



**Discussion Paper
of the Project on
Building Community Resilience
to Natural Disasters through Partnership:
Sharing Experience and Expertise in the Region**

ESCAP is the regional development arm of the United Nations and serves as the main economic and social development centre for the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. Its mandate is to foster cooperation between its 53 members and 9 associate members. ESCAP provides the strategic link between global and country-level programmes and issues. It supports Governments of the region in consolidating regional positions and advocates regional approaches to meeting the region's unique socio-economic challenges in a globalizing world. The ESCAP office is located in Bangkok, Thailand. Please visit our website at www.unescap.org for further information.



The shaded areas of the map represent ESCAP members and associate members.

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This publication was jointly prepared by Mr. Emmanuel M. de Guzman, Ms. Lotten Ekelund Kratt and Mr. Ti Le-Huu of the Sustainable Development and Water Resources Section, Environment and Sustainable Development Division; Mr. Marco Roncarati of the Social Emerging Issues Division; and Mr. Miguel Perez-Ludena of the Poverty and Development Division of ESCAP. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or of the Governments of India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

This document has been issued without formal editing.

Preface

The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2007 (ST/ESCAP/2476) pointed out that the developing economies in the Asia-Pacific region grew by 8.2 per cent in 2007, up from 8.1 per cent in 2006, and are expected to continue to grow by about 7.7 per cent in 2008. The analysis therein shows that the region has made significant strides in economic and social progress during the past half century with per capita income growing at a much faster rate than elsewhere in the world. This remarkable achievement in socio-economic development during such a long period also indicates accomplishments in disaster risk management in most countries. However, the 2004 tsunami disaster, along with several other subsequent disasters, reminds us all that the Asia-Pacific region is most vulnerable to natural hazards. Disaster risk management will therefore remain among the most important challenges to sustainable development in the region.

Over the last century, the Asia-Pacific region accounted for about 91 per cent of the world's total deaths and about 49 per cent of the total economic damage due to the impact of natural hazards. In the region, losses caused by disasters are particularly damaging, depriving countries of resources which could otherwise be used for economic and social development. The loss from such disasters is most severe and tragic in the least developed and developing countries of the region, which set back development by many years or even decades as a result. In this context, regional cooperation in disaster risk management, especially in building the resilience of communities to disasters, is essential not only to cope with the increasing trend of losses and risks, but also to contribute to ensuring sustainable economic growth of the region. For this reason, ESCAP attaches great importance to assisting developing countries in the region, especially in the development of policies and strategies for more effective integration of disaster risk management into the socio-economic development process.

In this regard, ESCAP embarked on the initiative "*Building Community Resilience to Natural Disasters through Partnership: Sharing Experience and Expertise in the Region*". The initiative promoted regional cooperation in disaster risk management and applied good practices to partnerships at the regional and national levels. Preparing this discussion paper is an important part of the initiative as it documents the process and outcomes of capacity building. In developing this paper, the great diversity of Asia and the Pacific was taken into account, including the complexity of socio-economic development processes in developing countries and also various innovations undertaken at the grassroots level.

Moreover, the capacity-building process included national workshops in the three pilot countries, i.e. India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, and the *Concluding Regional Workshop on Sharing Experience and Expertise on Building Community Resilience to Natural Disasters through Partnership*, held in Bangkok from 21 to 23 April 2008. The concluding regional workshop was attended by some 40 experts from nine ESCAP-member countries affected by the 2004 Tsunami, namely Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and from the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the United Nations Development Programme, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

This publication was jointly prepared by Mr. Emmanuel M. de Guzman and Ms. Lotten Ekelund Kratt under the direct supervision of Mr. Ti Le-Huu of the Environment and Sustainable Development Division, in collaboration with Mr. Marco Roncarati of the Emerging Social Issues Division, and Mr. Miguel Perez Ludega of the Poverty and Development Division of ESCAP. The contributions of all the expert representatives at the concluding regional workshop and also the resource persons of the three pilot projects are highly appreciated.

The financial assistance provided by the Government of Republic of Korea through the Republic of Korea Tsunami Trust Fund at ESCAP and the generous support of the Governments of India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka, and the respective project authorities of the three countries for the implementation of the pilot projects are profoundly appreciated.

It is hoped that the discussion paper would serve as a background document for other regional meetings of experts on various aspects of disaster risk management, especially those on the development of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning Systems. It is also hoped that the paper would contribute to further strengthening regional cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action towards achieving socio-economic development through disaster risk reduction in the region.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
BAKORLAK PB	National Disaster Management Coordinating Board, Indonesia
BRR	Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency for Aceh, Indonesia
CBDRM	community-based disaster risk management
CFS	child friendly spaces
DMC	Disaster Management Centre
DDMU	District Disaster Management Unit
DoM	Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka
DFID	Department for International Development
DRR	disaster risk reduction
EAP	emergency action plan
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESDD	Environmental and Sustainable Development Division of ESCAP
ESID	Emerging Social Issues Division of ESCAP
FCCI	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IOTWS	Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning Systems
ISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
MDTF	Multi-Donor Trust Fund
MHEWS	multi-hazard early warning system
MOSA	Ministry of Social Affairs, Indonesia
NAD-Nias	Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency for Nias
NGO	non-governmental organization
OSCY	orphans, separated children and youth
PDD	Poverty and Development Division of ESCAP
PPP	public-private partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PTSD	post-traumatic stress disorder
RoKTTF	Republic of Korea Tsunami Trust Fund
SATKORLAK PBP	Provincial Disaster Management Coordinating Board, Indonesia
SOP	standard operating procedures
TEC	Tsunami Evaluation Coalition
TEWS	tsunami early warning system
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WB	World Bank
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

Executive Summary

Through more than three years since the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunamis, the affected countries together with the international community have continuously endeavoured to rebuild the lives and livelihoods of countless victims. The Governments and communities concerned have embarked on and implemented noteworthy initiatives that aimed to rebuild the devastated communities with reduced vulnerability and risks and strengthened resilience to disasters. They endeavoured to promote sustainable and coordinated approaches in mitigating the impact of the tsunami and other possible disasters in the future. Inevitably, the process has created enormous experiences of countries in building community resilience from which important lessons may be drawn by all.

In support of post-disaster recovery efforts of its member countries, ESCAP launched in May 2006 the initiative called *Building community resilience to natural disaster through partnership: Sharing experience and expertise in the region*. Targeting affected and vulnerable communities in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar, and Thailand, the initiative endeavoured to support the Governments of these countries in enhancing their technical capacity to promote and replicate good practices in disaster risk management and post-disaster recovery through partnerships.

More specifically, the initiative intended to increase the access of Governments to innovative approaches to managing and reducing disaster risks and building community resilience through multi-stakeholder partnership at all levels. This was achieved through sharing of experience and expertise derived from the region, and particularly from three component pilot projects: (1) integrated, multi-hazard early warning systems in Sri Lanka, (2) livelihood recovery in India, and (3) recovery support to orphans, separated children, and youth in Indonesia. Lessons learned from these three pilot projects were complemented with additional experiences from the region and built into existing regional supporting mechanisms, thereby stimulating regional and national partnerships, building government capacities, and disseminating good practices on disaster risk management for possible replication or adoption by countries in the region.

The initiative is funded through the Republic of Korea Tsunami Trust Fund (RoKTTF), which was established in July 2005 in an agreement between ESCAP and the Republic of Korea for projects with a focus on multi-hazard preparedness and comprehensive risk reduction, based on and linking national and regional capacities. The approach adopted for RoKTTF included early warning system (EWS) technology, education strategies, governance structures, community awareness, and related rehabilitation work in the context of sustainable development. In particular the projects would facilitate the sharing of inter-country approaches, expertise, experiences, and good practices.

This paper was prepared as part of the concluding activities of the initiative, the assessment and dissemination of project outcomes, experiences, and lessons learned for the benefit of tsunami-affected Governments in the region. It essentially summarizes the project outcomes and consolidates the regional experiences and learned lessons. It also includes comparative analyses of project outcomes and integration of key recommendations as presented and discussed at the concluding regional workshop held in Bangkok, Thailand, in April 2008. Moreover, this paper intends to facilitate the replication or adoption of national and local experiences elsewhere in the region and to promote meaningful partnerships.