



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

2008-2009

ISDR secretariat Biennial Workplan
Final Report



United Nations

Foreword

The 2008-2009 biennium has proven a decisive period for the partners of the ISDR system. As is clear in the UNISDR 2008-2009 Biennial Report, the secretariat has teamed up with a wide range of partners to deliver on a challenging work programme. The 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, 'Risk and poverty in a changing climate' provided increasing evidence that investment in sound urban governance, storm drainage, people-centred early warning systems, seismic construction and the maintenance of eco-systems saves lives and livelihoods¹.

Over the biennium, important progress was made in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action: 'Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters'. All regions and almost all countries have by now established some form of institutional mechanism to deal with disaster risk. Risk assessments of critical infrastructure and hazardous areas are more systematically used to influence investment decisions by Governments. Over 100 countries have demonstrated their commitment to the systematic building of prevention and risk reduction capacity by reporting on their implementation of the Hyogo Framework. The 1,700 participants at the Global Platform 2009, supported acceleration of Hyogo Framework implementation and agreed to work towards the accomplishment of time-bound targets adopted at this session.

The benchmarks set out in the Chair's Summary at the Global Platform 2007 served as the basis for global and regional efforts. The Global Platform 2009 reviewed the results and set new targets. As you will find throughout this report, the secretariat has maintained focus on coordination and advocacy efforts. This, and the development of appropriate tools and partnerships for joint actions, have enabled the secretariat and its partners to make progress in addressing the recommendations of the Global Platform, as endorsed by the UN General Assembly.

Despite the considerable advances made by governments and the ISDR system, many countries and communities have experienced increasing vulnerability to hazards. Compounded by changing hazard patterns related to climate change, the losses suffered by countries and communities as a result of these underlying risk factors continue to rise. This fact challenges us to move faster in developing our capacities for effective risk management, such as people-centred early warning systems, improved ecosystem services and resilient infrastructure, cooperation and technology. We need stronger focus on risk reduction in all development planning: national, sectoral and local level instruments, and its practical application in implementation plans. This is a collective challenge. .

¹ Two earthquakes with similar magnitude hit both Chile and Haiti in early 2010. They had significantly different effects. Seismic construction and preparedness in Chile saved life, while Haiti's lack of disaster risk preparedness exacted a heavy price in loss of life, habitats and livelihoods.

Raising awareness continues to be an essential task. The ISDR World Disaster Reduction Campaigns serve to focus attention on significant vulnerabilities, how these impact people, and what can be done to address them. Following the biennial campaigns on Safer Schools and Safer Hospitals, the 2010-2011 Making Cities Resilient campaign was launched in early 2010. These campaigns provide our strongest advocacy messages and tools in the coming years.

Throughout 2008 and 2009, the UNISDR secretariat has sought to further strengthen its role in facilitating and catalysing action to advance disaster risk reduction worldwide and upscale commitments. In parallel, the secretariat has strengthened its capacity to more effectively support the ISDR system through more robust planning and monitoring, targeted communications and advocacy, web portal development, and regional outreach. Its work is underpinned by the drive for transparency and accountability.

We are grateful to all our partners in the ISDR system for the sustained collaboration and support – the achievements described in this report would not have been possible without you. We still have much to do to build the resilience of nations and communities to disasters – a goal that we can only achieve together.

Margareta Wahlström

Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

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Director, UNISDR secretariat

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Section 1

Introduction

BOX 1 - The UN Secretary-General on Disaster Risk Reduction

The risk of disasters is increasing globally and is highly concentrated in middle and low income countries. Reducing that risk and increasing resilience to natural hazards in different development sectors can have multiplier effects and accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, endorsed by Member States, commits all countries to make major efforts to reduce their risk of disasters by 2015. The horrific loss of life in Haiti underscores the need to ensure that the human-built environment is resilient in the face of an array of potential hazards, both seismic and climatic.

Para 44, Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly: 'Keeping the promise: a forward-looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015; 12 February 2010'²

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat (UNISDR) was established in 2000³ "as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster risk reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster-reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations, and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields". In 2005, following the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action in 2005, UNISDR was also called upon to follow-up on and facilitate the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in collaboration with relevant States, regional and international organizations, including those of the United Nations and the international financing institutions⁴. It has served this role through three continuing thrusts; strong global advocacy and awareness-raising on disaster risk and how to reduce it; the forging of greater collaboration and coordination among those concerned with disaster risk, in both government and non-governmental organizations; and the building of a base of analysis and guidance information upon which sound policy and action can be informed.

For ten years the secretariat has advocated for disaster risk reduction within the United Nations and outside,

amongst policy makers and practitioners, programme managers and the public. The 2008/2009 biennium has been witness to a paradigm shift in disaster risk reduction. Past advocacy and information campaigns have raised widespread awareness and commitment. The result has been a gradual shift of effort from knowledge to action. At the same time, the still insufficient evidence as regards the economics of disasters and risk reduction leaves decision-makers unclear as to politically viable options for action on investments in prevention and mitigation. These two important elements underpin the context out of which this report emerges.

Concretely, the 2008-2009 UNISDR Biennial Workplan was guided by the outcomes of the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2007 which identified strategic efforts needed to scale up action on the Hyogo Framework by overcoming barriers to implementation. Among others, the four focus areas identified by participants included: 1) overcoming the barriers to implementation by raising the political profile of risk reduction in the development sphere and developing clearer linkages with the climate change adaptation agenda; 2) addressing resource

² <http://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/238/02/pdf/N1023802.pdf?OpenElement>

³ UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/54/219 and A/RES/56/195 operational paragraph 6

⁴ A/CONF.206/6, UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/60/195

and financing gaps, including obstacles to national and international prioritizing and mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development agendas; 3) requiring better monitoring and reporting on progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework and linking better scientific knowledge to policy making and an additional focus area and 4) an effective secretariat to better support ISDR system partners.

Each of the four focus areas was defined by an objective and a set of outcomes as outlined below:

- **ISDR system coordination and resource mobilization** had the objective 'to ensure and enhance coordination and coherent action among ISDR system partners to support the Hyogo Framework for Action implementation.' The outcomes focused on coordinating the strengthening of ISDR mechanisms as in the Global, Regional, National, and Thematic Platforms, as a contribution to progress on Hyogo Framework Priority for Action 1. Activities were closely linked to others bringing science to policy-making on risk assessment through the Scientific and Technical Committee and increasing the resource base for investment in disaster risk.
- **Advocacy and partnership building** sought 'to achieve greater recognition of and commitment to disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action among policy and decision makers world-wide, guided by technically sound policies and practices.' Outcomes focused on raising awareness of disaster risk as a development issue requiring gender sensitive approaches; recognition that disaster risk reduction is central to climate change adaptation; and strengthening of key actors' capacities to implement the HFA at national, regional and global levels. Advocacy and

partnerships were the primary instruments for achieving Hyogo Framework Priority for Action 2, by promoting greater understanding through risk assessments and strengthening people-centered early warning systems, and in promoting sectoral programmes to reducing underlying risks through safer hospitals, schools and better environmental management thus advancing upon Hyogo Framework Priority for Action 4.

- **Strategic information and policy guidance**, aimed 'to ensure that information and knowledge on risk, progress and guidance to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action are available at national, regional and global levels.' Outcomes were directed at working with partners on developing monitoring systems to assess Hyogo Framework progress on implementation, providing information and knowledge on disaster risk reduction including through the Global Assessment Report and through websites making partner and secretariat knowledge more widely available.
- **Strengthened ISDR Secretariat** had the objective 'to strengthen the capacities of the ISDR secretariat to effectively support the ISDR system and facilitate the implementation of the Hyogo Framework.' The outcome was directed at ensuring that the ISDR system was well-supported through an effective secretariat and regional offices.

The following sections assess how UNISDR met the four objectives of its Biennium Work Plan 2008-2009. The report begins with key messages, leads on to a financial summary and thereafter reviews developments and impact on outcomes in relation to the above-mentioned four strategic objectives.

Section 2

Key Messages

2.1 ISDR System Coordination and Resource Mobilization

- The newly-created role of Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, effective in January 2009, accelerated the momentum and created political space for disaster risk reduction. As a consequence, 2009 has witnessed increased focus on acceleration of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework, and a higher degree of coherence and commitment to risk reduction globally, nationally, locally and within the UN system.
 - The Global Platform has been instrumental in building awareness and understanding of disaster risk reduction and, as a result, several advances have been made including: the establishment of thematic, regional and national platforms as coordinating mechanisms; the integration of disaster risk reduction into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and Common Country Assessments/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (CCA/UNDAF).
 - The voluntary reporting on progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action by countries is a main coordination effort by UNISDR, which completed its second cycle in 2009. The Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2009, coordinated and edited by UNISDR, has contributed the foundation for systematic understanding of risk, trends and progress. These are two fundamental coordination exercises supporting the Strategic Information and Policy Guidance objective of UNISDR (see 2.3)
-

Challenges

- Ensure added value within the ISDR partnership through greater clarity on UNISDR's role and strategic focus. There is a demonstrated need for substantial and accelerated investment in and the tracking of the financing of disaster risk reduction to meet the Hyogo Framework's goals by 2015. ISDR system partners also need to intensify and expand coordinated efforts to support national partners on disaster risk reduction.
 - More systematic financing of disaster risk reduction is needed to meet the Hyogo Framework goals.
-

2.2 Advocacy and Partnership-Building

- Advocacy and general awareness-building were assessed by the UNISDR External Evaluation 2009 as key achievements across all stakeholder groups. The Global Platform sessions and the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: 'Risk and Poverty in a changing climate' are among others highlighted as having made important contributions in raising the general awareness of disaster risk reduction. The Global Campaigns are viewed as effective tools that increase sector specific awareness and make disaster risk reduction more concrete. In addition, the advocacy for disaster risk reduction as a means for adaptation to climate change has firmly placed disaster risk reduction onto the climate change agenda.
 - Effective partnerships, including with civil society and parliamentarians, played a central role in ensuring that disaster risk reduction is mainstreamed to support coherence in the targeting of disaster risk reduction initiatives in development sectors.
-

Challenges

- Disaster risk reduction is not yet strongly communicated and visible. Media and communications need to play a stronger role in "non disaster times" to promote prevention through disaster risk modalities. The private sector needs to be more fully engaged and active in social responsibility, philanthropy and expertise. Synergies in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction must be implemented. More effective partnerships will support a needed shift from advocacy to implementation. According to the 2009 External Evaluation of UNISDR, it is viewed as a good convener, but needs still to assert a strong role in setting the agenda and ensuring appropriate follow-up.

2.3 Strategic Information and Policy Guidance

- UNISDR is recognized for its investment in cutting-edge information and knowledge management tools like the Global Assessment Report 2009, an authoritative risk trend analysis, and PreventionWeb, a global information network linking partners with the latest information on disaster risk reduction.
 - UNISDR succeeded in developing and implementing a Hyogo Framework monitoring system supported by Governments who voluntarily monitor and report via a system of indicators. As a consequence, more and better data is now available. Strategic information ensures defensibility of data and supports changed perceptions.
-

Challenges

- Still more efforts are needed to share guidance and best practice. Local level information requires strengthening and systematic exchange networks that respond more effectively to the divergent needs of stakeholders.
-

2.4 Strengthened ISDR Secretariat

- Achieving coherence and impact improved implementation of the Hyogo Framework among ISDR system partners requires an effective secretariat. Work on planning and monitoring systems begun earlier, progressed during the biennium. The immediate consequences were the beginnings of a results-based management system featuring improved internal monitoring and reporting which gradually led to better project implementation and management. During the biennium, evaluations served to sharpen organizational strategy and direction. Regional offices were restructured for increased regional presence and facilitation of regional support.
 - A critical look at the need for a better human resource system led to investment in staff training for improved staff development and internal capacity. It will require a few more years to be fully implemented.
-

Challenges

- Developing and implementing an information management capacity that supports comprehensive reporting by linking the secretariat with regional budget, planning and monitoring is a major undertaking that requires dedicated development effort and financing.
- The secretariat needs to improve its financial management system in order to ensure that all programme managers are equipped with access to real time and fully updated overviews of their financial situation. This work is done in close cooperation with UN's department of financial resources.

Section 3

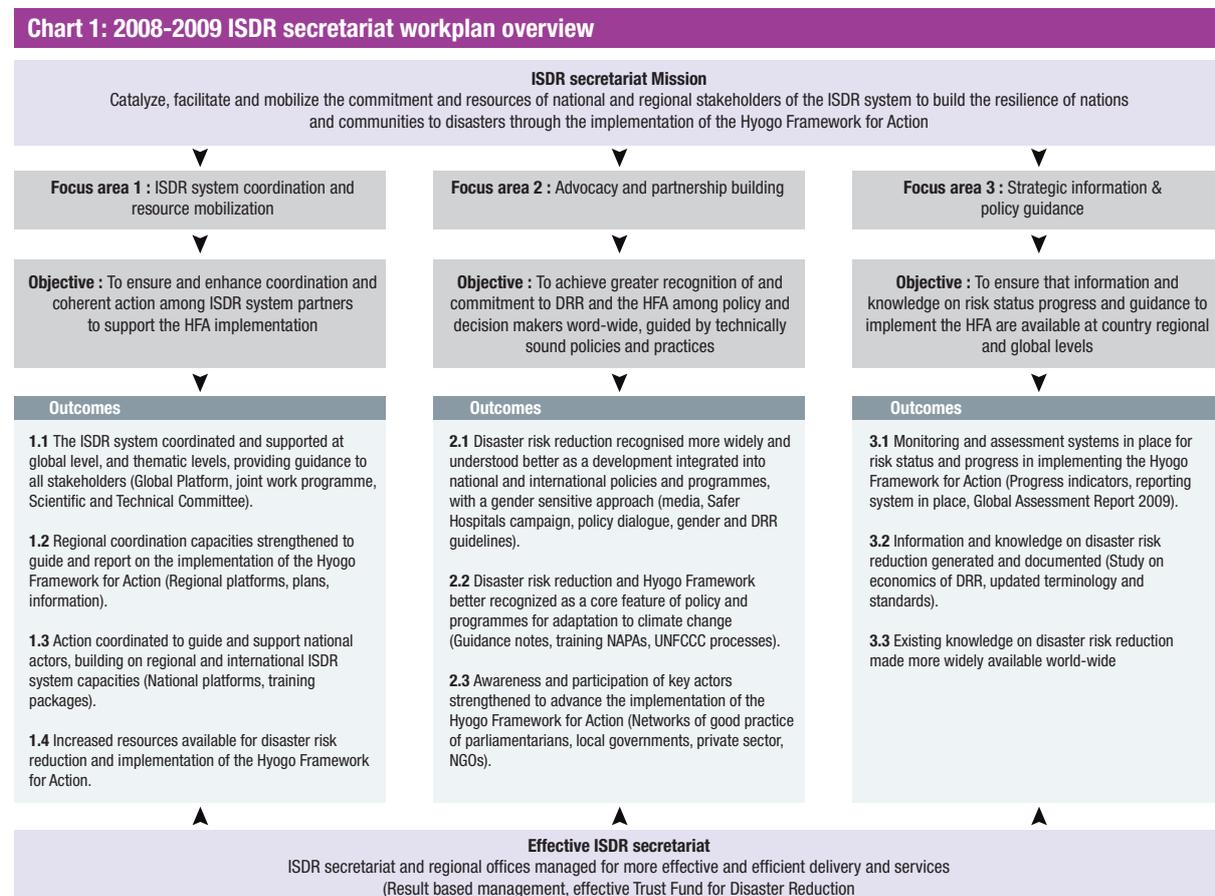
Financial Situation

3.1 Introduction

The goal of resource mobilization efforts for the biennium was to provide adequate resources for the implementation of the three strategic objectives and one enabling objective for the secretariat to effectively support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. See Figure 1 below.

The estimated biennial budget for global and regional work plans amounted to USD 48.6 million. Special initiatives including the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW) and the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) had an additional estimated budget of USD 6.7 million. Further, special initiatives such as Building Resilience to Tsunami in the Indian Ocean region, the Indian Ocean Consortium, and the International Recovery Platform were not initially budgeted for, and required further budget revisions (see Figure 5). Against the initial estimated budget of USD 55.3 million⁵ and income of USD 44.3 million, expenditure for the biennium amounted to USD 50.3 million. The resulting shortfall was covered by the carry-over of USD 15.3 million which decreased to USD 6 million by the end of 2008-2009. See Annex 2 for audited statement.

FIGURE 1



⁵ A total which includes the estimated budget for both the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW) and Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) of USD 3.4 and 3.3 million respectively

3.2 Income 2008-2009

The total income to the Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction over the biennium was USD 44.3 million, a growth of 23% on the previous biennium, see Figure 2 for a list of donors to the UN Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction for 2008-2009 and 2006-2007. A positive response by donors to the biennial work plan early in the biennium resulted in contributions in 2008 of USD 28.8 million. Income in 2009 was USD 15.5 million. This excludes the annual contribution from the World Bank of USD 5 million, which would normally have been received in 2009.

Though the total number of donors contributing to the Trust Fund increased from 22 in 2006-2007 to 25 in 2008-2009 (see Figure 2 below), this amounted to a modest increase in income of USD 8.3 million. New donors in 2008-2009 were Bahrain, Spain and the two private sector contributions, with China, the Netherlands and the USA renewing commitments not made since the 2004-2005 biennium.

Several donors provided un-earmarked funds to the core work- programme of UNISDR, these donors were Canada, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Spain (received in 2010), Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the USA. Of these, the following donors committed in advance to multi-annual contributions, which greatly helped planning and predictability of resources: Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom. Other donors, including some of the above, also contributed multi-annual support to specific regions or projects; Australia being the main donor to core regional work programming in the Asia-Pacific.

ISDR system partners are working with UNISDR in joint activities and commitments, often with shared resources. The major such partnership is the Global

Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, managed by the World Bank and of which UNISDR was a founding partner in 2006-2007. Over the biennium, the World Bank provided support of USD 5 million annually through Track 1⁶ to carry out global and regional work programming of the secretariat in support of advocacy, guidance and enhancing the capacity of regional organizations. Another partnership during the biennium that provided financial resources to UN Trust Fund was founded with UNICEF, which provided USD 0.65 million, to support the education and safe schools initiative.

Additional support for the work of the UNISDR secretariat was also received in-kind:

- Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) in UNISDR offices in Bangkok, Cairo, Geneva, Nairobi, New York⁷.
- The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2009⁸.
- Senior Advisor, Resource Management⁹
- The 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Kuala Lumpur¹⁰
- 'Building a Global Alliance of Local Governments for Disaster Risk Reduction' Incheon¹¹

6 Track 1 support to UNISDR is financed by the World Bank Development Grant Facility (DGF); Tracks 2 and 3 are financed through voluntary contributions from donors. UNISDR receives no support from Tracks 2 and 3.

7 Supported by Sweden (Bangkok), Norway (Cairo and Nairobi), Italy (Geneva) and Finland (New York)

8 Support received in-kind from Switzerland and Australia

9 Provided by the International Labour Organisation and supported by Switzerland

10 Funded by the Government of Malaysia

11 Funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea and the city of Incheon

FIGURE 2 - Donors to the UN Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction for 2008-2009 and 2006-2007

2008-2009 – US\$ millions

1.	Sweden	6.4 ^a
2.	United Kingdom	5.3
3.	World Bank	5.0 ^b
4.	European Commission	4.6
5.	Germany	3.8
6.	Norway	3.7 ^c
7.	Australia	3.0 ^d
8.	Japan	2.4
9.	Switzerland	1.9
10.	Spain	1.3
11.	Luxembourg	1.2
12.	Netherlands	1.1
13.	Denmark	1.05
14.	Finland	1.0
15.	Canada	1.0
16.	China (People's Republic of)	0.6
17.	Bahrain	0.6
18.	United States	0.2
19.	UNICEF	0.07
20.	France	0.06
21.	Mexico	0.04
22.	GER & BTRF ^e	0.03
23.	Cyprus	0.01
24.	Vaisala OYJ ^f	0.005
25.	Philippines	0.004

Total Income 2008-2009 = US\$ 44.3 million

25 donors (avg. contribution / donor = US\$ 1.8 m)

2006-2007 – US\$ millions

1.	World Bank	10.0
2.	European Commission	6.4
3.	Sweden	5.5
4.	United Kingdom	3.8
5.	Norway	1.9
6.	Germany	1.5
7.	Japan	1.4
8.	Denmark	1.3
9.	Canada	1.0
10.	Switzerland	0.8
11.	Luxembourg	0.7
12.	Finland	0.7
13.	ADRC	0.4
14.	Italy	0.3
15.	Australia	0.1
16.	India	0.1
17.	UNDP	0.07
18.	Mexico	0.03
19.	France	0.02
20.	South Africa	0.02
21.	Philippines	0.02
22.	Cyprus	0.01

Total Income 2006-2007 = US\$ 36.0 million

22 donors (avg. contribution / donor = US\$ 1.6 m)

a An additional USD 3.4 million was received from Sweden in 2009 for expenditure in 2010-2011 (Strategic Objective 1).

b The 2009 annual contribution from the World Bank of USD 5 million was not received until 2010 and therefore was not recorded as income in the 2009 financial statement.

c An additional USD 0.2 million was received from Norway in 2009 for expenditure in 2010 (GAR 2011).

d An additional USD 1.6 million was received in 2009 for expenditure in 2010 (Asia/ Pacific work programme).

e Global Eco Rescue Ltd. & Borneo Tropical Rainforest Foundation – private sector

f Vaisala OYJ – private sector

3.3 Income Challenges 2008-2009

The UNISDR set itself a series of objectives to support the 2008-2009 Biennial Workplan. Results were progressively positive but only modestly successful and are outlined below:

- *Increase the number of donors and promote a more diverse donor base*

Moderate success

With new donors, and a small increase in contributions in 2008, efforts were moderately successful.¹² The challenge is to encourage repeat contributions from these first-time contributors and to attract new un-earmarked funding. The top 15 donors in 2008-2009 still accounted for 97% of total income. Private sector engagement has been identified as a priority for next biennium. Modest support was mobilized through partnering with Global Eco-Rescue Limited and Borneo Tropical Rainforest Foundation, as well as with Vaisala OYJ.

- *More predictable and flexible financing*

Moderate success

Though contributions from the majority of donors were provided on an annual basis, a growing number of donors responded to the secretariat's requests to provide multi-annual support as in the six donors below.

Un-earmarked support of almost USD 18 million, demonstrated wider recognition by UNISDR's donors of the need for an income base that facilitates work planning, reduces transaction costs, supports standardized reporting formats and offers the possibility of establishing an operating reserve.

The World Bank and UNISDR secretariat will review in 2010 the future nature of their partnership.

In recognizing the ODA-eligibility requirements of many of its donors, the secretariat has initiated discussions with the OECD/DAC secretariat for inclusion of the UNISDR in its Annex 2 List of ODA-eligible organizations¹³

FIGURE 3 - Multi-annual Contributions by Donors 2008-2009 (estimated USD)

Australia	USD 1.6m per year for 3 years
Denmark	USD 0.5m per year for 2 years
Netherlands	USD 1.1m per year for 3 years
Norway	USD 1.85m per year for 2 years
United Kingdom	USD 1.7m per year for 3 years
World Bank	USD 5.0m per year for 4 years

- *Increase support to UNISDR regional programming*
Successful

Ten donors provided support to the regional programming of the secretariat¹⁴. The secretariat was successful in aligning elements of its regional work plans to its strategic priorities and ODA eligibility requirements for donor financing.

- *Improved reporting, liaison and work planning*
Moderately successful

Work planning, monitoring and review were strengthened in the biennium resulting in more pertinent work processes and impact-oriented analysis, design and review. However, the real dividends of this investment will be felt following the implementation of the 2010-2011 Biennial Work Programme, the product of an extensive, consultative work and cost planning exercise.

Income generation overall proved challenging, particularly in 2009. The three resource issues identified in the 2008 Progress Report continued throughout 2009: lack of, or decreases in funding, predictability and conditionality of funding. Efforts continued throughout the biennium to secure UN regular budget funding. These have not yet yielded positive results. All income is generated from voluntary, extra-budgetary sources¹⁵. The general economic downturn due to the global financial crisis was also quoted by some donors as cause for more conservative approval of resources in 2009.

12 Bahrain, Spain and GER & BTRF, Vaisala OYJ (private enterprise)

13 At its Annual Meeting on 09 June 2010, and with unanimous support from OECD Member States, the OECD / DAC secretariat approved the inclusion of the UNISDR secretariat in its Annex 2 List of ODA-eligible organizations, with a 75% ODA-eligibility coefficient.

14 During the biennium, several contributors to the UN Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction elected to provide support to selected regions or geographic-specific hazards. This trend contributed to an increase in income for region-specific programming from donors such as AusAID (Australia), CIDA (Canada), the DG ECHO (European Commission), the Federal Foreign Office (Germany), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Norway), Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (Spain), Sida (Sweden), SDC (Switzerland), DFID (UK) and the GFDRR (World Bank). Together they provided support to UNISDR actions in Africa, Arab States, Asia/Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Mediterranean.

15 The UNISDR receives no funding from the UN Regular Budget, as was established in its founding resolution

3.4 Expenditure 2008-2009

Throughout the biennium, UNISDR's performance rate in expenditure steadily improved. This was due in part to increasing emphasis placed on regional engagement, particularly in established programmes such as those in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in Asia and the Pacific. Figure 5 below illustrates the distribution of global, regional and ISDR system biennial expenditure against the estimated budget and income

**FIGURE 4 - UN Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction
Financial and Budgetary Overview for the Biennium 2008-2009 (USD millions)**

	Estimated Budget	Total Income	Expenditure	
Global (GVA and NY)				
New York Liaison Office	1.5		0.5	
2008 - Office of the Director and Deputy Director	2.7		3.2	
2009 - Office of the SRSG, the Director and the Deputy Director				
Programme, Planning and Monitoring (including Global Platform 09)	3.7		2.4	
External and Donor Relations	1.2		1.1	
Information Management	3.9		3.5	
Global Assessment Report	1.8		1.7	
Policy	3.5		3.2	
Advocacy and Networking	3.8		4.2	
Sub-Total	22.1	20.1	19.6	a
Regional				
Regional Coordination and Support	1.2		1.4	
Africa	4.2		3.3	
Asia/Pacific	5.1		6.4	
Americas	3.2		3.9	
West Asia/North Africa (Arab States)	2.6		3.2	
Europe	1.1		1.2	
Sub-Total	17.4	16.1	19.4	a
ISDR System				
Building Resilience to Tsunami in the Indian Ocean region	5.1		6.3	
Early Warning Platform (PPEW)	3.4		3.0	
Indian Ocean Consortium	3.5		1.0	
Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI)	3.3		0.2	
International Recovery Platform	0.5		0.6	
Sub-Total	15.8	8.1	11.3	b
Total	55.3	44.3	50.3	c

a Unearmarked contributions to the Trust Fund were expended at both Global and Regional levels.

b Additional voluntary contributions of USD 8.1 million were made to the Trust Fund for special initiatives of ISDR partners (see Section 3.1). These contributions were made by: Canada, European Commission, Germany, Japan, UK

c Expenditure data for this table is sourced from internal UNISDR accounting and for which the total differs by USD 0.2 million with the audited Statement of income and expenditure and changes in reserves and fund balances at 31 December 2009.

Expenditure against estimated budget requirements was generally satisfactory. An improved performance rate on expenditure can be partly attributed to improved results-based workflow systems and processes that were developed and initiated during the biennium. Improved inter-agency planning and programming in several of the regions also contributed to better performance rate, since many activities are dependent on partners or executed by partners. Increasingly, timely funding – 65% of biennial income was received in 2008 – helped the secretariat to deliver a better rate of expenditure against income. The audited Financial Statement¹⁶ for funds administered by the UNISDR is provided in Annex 2 and details funds available to the secretariat over the biennium 2008-2009.

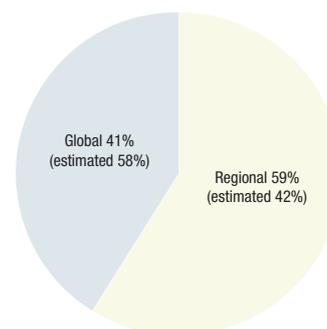
The Indian Ocean Consortium is a partner-executed consortium to which UNISDR raised resources from CIDA, Canada and DFID, United Kingdom. Performance in this initiative was dependent upon ensuring maximum ownership and institutional commitment of partners and governments. As this required more time than had been anticipated in three of the countries concerned, the expenditure rate for 2009 was lower than expected, with these activities to be finalized in 2010. Early in 2009, the preparation for and execution of the Global Platform mustered much of the human and financial resources, which caused some delay in other programming and monitoring activities. With the exception of CADRI (Capacity Building for Disaster Reduction Initiative), all activities included under ISDR System in the Financial Budgetary Overview above took place at the regional level where funds were also expended. However, the resources required to implement special initiatives of the ISDR System¹⁷ were not fully foreseen in the development of the Biennial Work Plan. As it was not possible to mobilize resources for all new initiatives beyond the Biennial Work Plan, the Management decided to use some of the un-earmarked resources to start these initiatives with partners, but not to fully resource these.

On the other hand, for activities such as the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2009, many additional partner contributions made it possible to prepare a high-impact report (main in-kind contributions from UNDP, UNEP, WMO, and World Bank).

Expenditure proved higher in support of regional programming than had been anticipated in the estimated budget for 2008-2009, which was a decision by Senior Management to improve the impact of the secretariat's work. Biennial expenditure on global and regional activities and staff and non-staff costs were varied against original budget estimates.

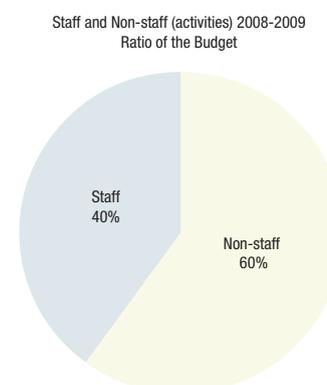
Figure 5 shows the distribution of global and regional biennial expenditure against budget estimates. Regional expenditure amounted to 59%¹⁸ as compared with 41% for global activities. Expanded expenditure in the regions contributed to the strengthening of regional partnerships, piloting local and national strategic action plans, and documenting of good practice.

Figure 5 Global and Regional 2008-2009 Ratio of the Total Biennial Budget



As reflected in Figure 6 below, expenditure at 40% for staff costs was lower than the 55% estimated, while 60% for non-staff costs was higher than the original 45% estimate.

Figure 6 - Staff and Non-Staff Expenditure 2008 – 2009



16 The Financial Statement provides an attestation of income and expenditure and changes in reserves and fund balances for the biennium 2008 – 2009 ending 31 December 2009.

17 excluding PPEW and CADRI

18 This figure includes expenditure associated with ISDR system initiatives including the Indian Ocean Consortium, the International Early Warning Programme / PPEW, the International Recovery Platform and the programme 'Building Resilience to Tsunami' in the Indian Ocean region

Increased non-staff expenditure is in part due to the increased emphasis by the secretariat on working through ISDR partners; a strategy that the UNISDR will continue in future. Taken together, the precedence of regional programming over secretariat was reflected in higher expenditure rates for regional activities and non-staff costs.

3.5 Lessons

The Lessons from 2008-2009 underpin UNISDR's commitment to managing resources by improving its planning and monitoring; expanding coordinated actions with partners; and working more effectively with its donors in mobilizing resources in an unpredictable global economy.

- *Planning and monitoring*

UNISDR has taken concrete steps to improve its planning and monitoring. Over the biennium, secretariat-wide programming, planning, monitoring and progress reporting requirements were initiated and implemented. The Regional Office for Asia/Pacific embarked on the development of a pilot project for an internal work plan monitoring tool, an e-resource system, with region-specific indicators. By the end of 2009, considerable advances had been made to the point where a hand-driven monitoring system was implemented which enabled the testing of procedures and reporting in line with the design requirements of an online system. This effort is further elaborated under Section 5.4, Effective ISDR secretariat.

- **Coordinated actions with partners**

In responding to the call by the UN General Assembly¹⁹ for the international community to systematically invest in disaster risk reduction and implement the objectives of the ISDR, the ISDR system Joint Work Programme (JWP) was launched in early 2008. It was the result of coordinated action and planning among the partners of the ISDR Inter-Agency group. It identified joint results that were consistent with the Hyogo Framework for Action and built upon the unique sector strengths of each partner. Most of the actions and results were initiated, some only partially completed,

but with little additional support from donors beyond an initial USD 7.6 million reported for the period 2008. As a consequence, each lead agency invested mostly its own resources. This prompted the secretariat and the Inter-Agency group to reconsider the usefulness of a Joint Work Programme as a resource mobilization instrument with partners. Partly as a function of this, the UNISDR secretariat has involved the Inter-Agency group and member states more explicitly than ever before in the development of the 2010-2011 Biennial Work Programme.

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery is an example of a developed partnership in line with Hyogo Framework for Action priorities on poverty reduction. Similarly, the partnership with Australia in the Asia/Pacific region is evidence of the increased prominence it accords the Hyogo Framework in protecting sustainable development investments. The challenge for UNISDR is how best to nurture the development of similar partnership arrangements leading to additional risk reduction financing mechanisms under climate change adaptation and the Millennium Development Goals.

- *Effective Resource mobilization*

During the biennium, un-earmarked, annual contributions were encouraged and gratefully received from Canada, China, Cyprus, Finland, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Philippines, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA. For the next biennium, strong encouragement is extended to all donors to join Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and the UK in making un-earmarked and multi-annual contributions. The secretariat has initiated discussions in 2008-2009 with some of its donors to secure a minimum level of sustainable financing in support of its core functions – as called for in the UN Secretary General's Report 2009. Discussions will continue in 2010 with the intention to seek a more stable financial platform for the UNISDR relative to prevailing economic conditions.

The role of an appropriate carry-over (around USD 10 million - as explained in the 2008 Progress Report) is critical to kick-start most projects, underpin staff costs and operating costs during

¹⁹ Resolution A/63/414/

the first quarter of each year. The carry-over is a guarantee that despite late arrivals of funding or failure to uphold a pledge, the reserve fills the gap. This downward trend in available reserve has continued into 2010 with a direct impact on organizational capacity to deliver on strategic objectives.

3.6 Next Steps

In 2010, efforts to further expand the donor base, through mobilizing new and emerging donors especially in the private sector, is a priority. In the light of pressures relating to the global economy, UNISDR is anticipating further funding challenges. To manage the potential of diminishing resources, UNISDR is committed to prioritizing and streamlining the delivery of its 2010-2011 work programme. This may well require a reduction in activities but with priority to supporting regional offices and all earmarked projects,

among these the Global Assessment Report and HFA Monitoring, Mid-Term Review, Global Platform, 'Making Cities Resilient Campaign' and disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

We will continue to focus on the efficient use of funding, and effective monitoring and reporting. We will forge strategic partnerships to better leverage international investment, regional activities, reach local populations and undertake special projects with demonstrable added value.

These efforts are required to underpin the mandate and sustainability of UNISDR after 2015 as 'an inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster-reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields.'²⁰

20 Resolution 56/195, 21 January 2002, adopted by the General Assembly, International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, on the report of the Second Committee

Section 4

Regional Highlights

The following boxes provide a summary overview of major developments in the regions. In all regions, there is still outstanding need to increase capacity, both human and technical, at regional, sub-regional and national levels. For further information on regional developments, please consult Section 5.

Asia and the Pacific

Engagement with regional and sub-regional organizations and parliamentarians furthered awareness and implementation of disaster risk reduction at regional, national and local levels through regional strategies, Strategic National Action Plans on Disaster Risk Reduction (SNAPs²¹), Strategic Local Action Plans for Disaster Risk Reduction (SLAPs²²), disaster risk reduction and climate change legislation and the establishment of disaster risk reduction knowledge and information mechanisms. Awareness of gender issues in the context of disaster risk reduction was specifically highlighted at several regional conferences. Though achievement was good against indicators, the need remains in the region for better management of knowledge as well as expectations on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation support.

Regional and sub-regional impact

- Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (December 2008) resulted in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on disaster risk reduction in Asia and supported a Public-private-partnership initiative and publication 2008/2009 as a kick-off for better integration of the private sector in the region in 2010/2011 and beyond.
- Pacific Regional Platform sessions (July 2008; May 2009) resulted in an agreement for better integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at the regional and national levels; recommendation to joint development and implementation of National Disaster Risk Management Action Plans and National Action Plans for Adaptation.
- Partnerships were strengthened with the Association of South East Asian Nation (ASEAN), South East Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Pacific Islands Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC), Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), including through biennial ISDR Asia Partnership meetings and joint action planning (IAP Meetings in March, August, December 2009).
- New tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ASEAN and World Bank/GFDRR was signed focusing on collaboration arrangements to support the implementation of disaster risk reduction measures identified in the ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management (ARPD), ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the HFA. MoU with South East Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to collaborate on various aspects of disaster risk reduction in South Asia. MoU with Pacific Islands Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and World Bank aimed at strengthening the mainstreaming of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation into the development processes of Pacific Island States and territories.

21 A SNAP is a ten-year roadmap that outlines the country's strategic objectives and vision for disaster risk reduction in line with the Hyogo Framework's goals and priorities for action. In synergy with the policies, plans, and sustainable development strategy, the SNAP identifies a consolidated set of programs/projects that can be undertaken with the Government budget and those that may be considered for donor assistance.

22 SLAPS aims to assist in the mainstreaming of DRR into local level planning and policies, facilitate better coordination and management, and improve efficiency of resource allocation and utilization of disaster risk management at the provincial and district/city levels

- The 'Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region 2009 – 2015' was endorsed by APEC in August 2008 with the aim to provide APEC economies with information on disaster risk reduction and identified gaps to enable member economies, and to investigate additional initiatives and develop practical mechanisms to enhance regional preparedness.
- Roundtable Consultative Meeting for Parliamentarians (Manila, October 2008) adopted Manila Call for Action on disaster risk reduction as a tool for Climate Change Adaptation; First Asian Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Champion, Senator Loren Legarda, named in the Philippines.
- Gender awareness raised globally through Forum on 'Gendered Dimensions of Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change' (February 2008); Third Global Congress of Women in Politics on Gender, Climate Change and disaster risk reduction (Manila, October 2008); Conference on Gender and disaster risk reduction (Beijing, April 2009).
- Support for UNISDR coordination mechanisms was achieved through strong regional representation at GP2009, including regional meeting; Regional GAR launches in Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Nepal, Thailand, and Vanuatu; Safe Hospital Campaign launches in Bangkok (January 2008), Delhi (April 2008) and Manila (August 2008) followed by regional workshops and events; International Disaster Risk Reduction Day Special Events in Thailand (2008, 2009).
- New UNISDR Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific in Suva, Fiji established with reassignment of international staff and recruitment of national (December 2008).
- Legislation on disaster risk reduction and climate change including gender perspective adopted in the Philippines.
- Review of National Action Plans and National Action Plans for Adaptation in Tonga and the Federated States of Micronesia concerning the integration of disaster risk reduction and establishment of a Tonga Task Force for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation .
- 7 National Platforms with new platforms established in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.
- Improved mainstreaming was achieved with the inclusion of disaster risk elements in CCA/UNDAFs in India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste; World Bank Country Assistance Strategies were reviewed and persuaded to include a stronger recognition of disaster risk in Indonesia; recognition of India as a potential leader for regional and/or South-South leadership on Disaster Risk Management.

Thematic and Knowledge Management

- Launch of Regional Task Force on urban risk reduction (January 2008) and World Bank/GFDRR Climate Resilient Cities Primer (July 2008) and pilots in five cities.
- Negotiating an ISDR Training and Research Institute for Urban Risk Reduction in Incheon, the Republic of Korea (August 2009) with potential for a multi-year pledge from the Republic of Korea.
- Media training workshops.
- Sub-regional risk assessments and catastrophe risk financing as input for a flagship programme on reducing disaster risks through up-scaled by investments (World Bank, Asian Development Bank, IFRC, UNDP).

National impact

- Strong country-level impact led to holistic, integrated and multi-stakeholder approaches through the facilitation of:
- 18 National Hyogo Framework Progress Reports submitted and summarized in Global Assessment Report 2009.
- 5 SNAPS bringing together national and local stakeholder for joint action including disaster risk reduction; over 9000 SLAPs in India and Indonesia (including local platforms).

Funding Situation

Expenditure: USD 6.4 million against estimated budget USD 5.1 million²³; main regional donors: Australia, European Commission, Finland, Germany, World Bank/GFDRR, Sweden and UK. A three year partnership framework between the UNISDR and Australia provided additional reinforcement to the secretariat's forward planning and support to countries, partners in the region.

23 This estimated budget included funds for activities carried out by the UNISDR office in Kobe/ Japan, but excludes those expected for the International Recovery Platform.

Europe and Central Asia

Engagement with regional and sub-regional organizations led to the establishment of a number of new regional mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, including commitment and funding by European Member States and Institutions. New National Platforms were set up and Parliamentarians showed support for disaster risk reduction by adopting the influential 'Malta Declaration'. Despite these advances, still more can be done to ensure the requested need for guidance and knowledge dissemination in the regions.

Regional and sub-regional impact

- Regional Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Management in Sofia (April 2008): Agreement on a two-year ISDR work plan to address disaster risk management in South Eastern Europe, World Bank GFDRR.
- Enhanced regional cooperation through European National Platforms and Hyogo Framework focal points meetings (France, April 2008; Germany, February 2009; UK, November 2009), which led to new Regional Forum as well as National Platform` Twinning between Albania and Italy.
- Strengthened regional cooperation with South Eastern Europe Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI/RCC) resulting in development of a Regional Work Plan and database, European Commission, South-Eastern-Europe and Central Asia Steering Committee (World Bank, UNICEF, WMO, UNDP, EC, UNISDR).
- South-Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme (SEEDRMAP) developed to reduce vulnerability to disasters in the region; consolidated disaster risk reduction actor capacities and understanding of disaster risk reduction issues to accompany the SEEDRMAP implementation in their national component as reflected in disaster risk reduction inclusion in Serbian development legislation; South Eastern Europe Ministers agreement on development of Central Europe Disaster Risk Catastrophe Insurance Facility (SECE CRIF) to cover catastrophic events through regional funding (Regional Conference on the 'Role of Hydromet Services in Disaster Risk Reduction,' Moldova October 2008) with UNISDR/WB/WMO and the Moldova Hydromet Institute on hydro-meteorological supporting forecasting, data sharing and early warning.
- European Commission engagement resulted in communications on development cooperation and disaster risk reduction and Western Balkans; EC programme (2008-2013) supporting the Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative for South Eastern Europe; Euromed Programme 'Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-Made Disaster' initiative (Italy, UNISDR, France, Egypt).
- Based on the GFDRR session at 8th Conference of the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank (Paris, November 2008) and a Parliamentarian Meeting at the Global Platform 2009, the International Roundtable of Parliamentarians (UNISDR and the Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly) resulted in the 'Malta Declaration' (Malta, November 2009); making disaster risk reduction the first line of defense for climate change adaptation.
- Demonstrable support to global UNISDR coordination mechanisms resulted from strong regional representation at the Global Platform 2009; Global Assessment Report 2009 launches in France, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Norway Switzerland, Tajikistan and UK; Launch of the Global Campaign for Safe Hospitals and application of Safe Hospitals Index in Kyrgyzstan; participation and support for disaster risk reduction from regional focal points at COP15; International Disaster Risk Reduction Day Events 2009 in UK and Tajikistan.
- Development of the Central Asia and Caucasus Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Initiative (UNISDR and GFDRR in collaboration with Central Asia Regional Cooperation (CAREC) and partners). In the context of the initiative produced the "Risk Assessment Desk Review endorsed by Central Asia and Caucasus countries, Mitigating the Adverse Financial Effects of Natural Hazards on the Economies of Central Asia and Caucasus".
- Mobilized resources in South Eastern Europe and Central Asia via one donor round table and a donor workshop organized in the region in collaboration with the World Bank.

National impact

- 19 National HFA progress reports completed (15 in Europe and 4 in Central Asia) and summarized in Hyogo Framework Report for Europe 2009 and the Global Assessment Report 2009.
- 18 National Platforms, or similar coordinating mechanisms, with new establishments in Croatia, Italy, Kazakhstan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Monaco, Poland and the UK.
- Disaster risk reduction and National Platform training package developed and delivered in 12 countries.
- New legislation covering disaster risk reduction issues developed in Turkey and Serbia.
- Turkey workshop on how to include disaster risk reduction into sustainable developments issues through CCA/UNDAF (UNDP Turkey, UNICEF, UNISDR and UNDP/BCPR), June 2008.

Thematic and Knowledge Management

- CADRI/DPPI cooperation on disaster risk reduction

incorporation and UNISDR/DPPI joint regional training;

- Workshop organized on disaster risk reduction issues in collaboration with EC, DG Research stemming into strengthening (series of workshops) exchanges among the scientific community and disaster risk reduction decision makers in Europe.
- Central Asia: Disaster Risk Financing Options Study for Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; school risk assessment studies (World Bank/GFDRR); Regional Conferences on Seismic Safety of Buildings and Structures, May/October 2008;
- UNISDR supported International Water Risk Conference (October 2008);

Funding Situation

Expenditure: USD 1.2 million against estimated budget USD 1.1 million²⁴ from mainly regional donors: European Commission, Italy and World Bank/GFDRR. Italy supported the Europe office through the assignment of a JPO.

Arab States

Since its establishment in 2007, the regional office for the Arab States has substantially increased its engagement with regional and sub-regional organizations. As a result, the region witnessed further regional cooperation and commitments for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction including through partnerships with the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT). This led to ministerial resolutions by the League of Arab States and related budgetary allocation at regional level. Close cooperation with academia and media led to increased awareness and improved knowledge sharing. To sustain the momentum and further mainstream into regional strategies and development plans, more human and financial resources are needed to promote and implement disaster risk reduction in light of the complex and competing priorities facing the political leaders, agency partners, media and the public in the Arab region.

Regional and sub-regional impact

- Strengthened partnerships with LAS, AASTMT, Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Drylands (ACSAD), Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI), Environmental Center for Arab Town, Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), Islamic Development Bank, Organization of the Arab Conference.
- League of Arab States led on the integration of disaster risk reduction into budgetary allocations and implementation of disaster risk reduction plans; commitment of LAS and its Member States to include disaster risk reduction into key regional policies on climate change, sustainable development and disaster management coordination mechanisms.
- Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment hosted discussions on development of an Arab strategy for disaster risk reduction and committed to accelerate HFA implementation through the establishment of National Platforms or committees for risk reduction across the region.
- Support to global UNISDR coordination mechanisms was the result of strong regional representation at the Global Platform 2009, including a regional consultation meeting; Safe Hospital Campaign launches in Cairo (Jan 2008); Campaign Regional Consultations, workshop and pilot exercise

24 This amount does not include UNISDR cost plans for activities in Central Asia backstopped by UNISDR's office in Dushanbe/ Tajikistan.

2008/2009; Regional disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation workshop (UNISDR/GFDRR /LAS); Global Assessment Report launches in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

National impact

- 5 National HFA Progress Reports submitted in 2009 and summarized in Global Assessment Report 2009.
- 2 new National Platforms in Egypt and Mauritania
- Piloting of the World Bank/GFDRR Primer on climate resilient cities in 5 cities.
- Strengthened national coordination mechanisms on disaster risk reduction and HFA implementation in Bahrain, Jordan and Syria.

Thematic and Knowledge Management

- Regional Center for Disaster Risk Reduction Training and Research (fully funded by AASTMT).
- Regional thematic workshops on sustainable development and urban risk that led to the establishment of a dedicated regional network to support cities' resilience.

- Several training workshops, targeting media, government stakeholders, UN system at country and regional levels and NGOs leading to increased awareness of disaster risk reduction.
- Translation into Arabic and dissemination of several publications such as the GAR, Gender Sensitive: Policy and Practical Guidelines, Hyogo Framework, ISDR Terminology and UNISDR Climate Change policy notes,

Funding Situation

Expenditure: USD 3.2 million against estimated budget USD 2.6 million²⁵; main regional donors: Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, GFDRR, Norway and Switzerland. The Arab Academy is hosting the UNISDR Regional Office in Cairo and provided short-term consultancy support during the biennium. Growing commitment within the region prompted in-kind investment from Norway through assignment of a JPO for the regional office (and a second JPO from Norway was assigned to the Arab States office in replacement of the first).

Africa

Engagement with regional and sub-regional organizations supported the development of national coordinating mechanisms and facilitated mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction at the local level.

Parliamentarians supported a move to more wide-spread action for reducing disaster risk at national and sub-national levels which has resulted in a commitment to promote disaster risk reduction in planning and development legislation in their various constituencies. Still more needs to be done to mainstream disaster risk as part of poverty alleviation at regional, sub-regional and national levels.

Regional and sub-regional impact

- 2nd Africa Regional Platform (May 2009) resulted in an update of the Africa Programme of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction and climate change adaptation until 2015 and the outline of an Africa position on disaster risk reduction to the Global Platform 2009.
- Strengthened partnerships with the African Union (AU), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) including technical assistance: for example ECOWAS Expert Meeting (October 2009) and ECOWAS' Programme of Action 2010-2014; new MoU with Southern African Development Community (SADC); strengthened collaboration with Intergovernmental Authority on Development/

Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (IGAD/ICPAC).

- Parliamentarian support for disaster risk reduction as a tool for climate change adaptation was the result of several initiatives: UNISDR Consultative Meeting for Parliamentarians in Africa (February 2009); Pan African Parliamentarian Meeting in South Africa (October 2009); African parliamentarians 'Black and Green – Ready to Lead' campaign; Launch of a Parliamentarians' network for disaster risk reduction in Senegal; and the announcement of Member of Parliament, Rachel Shebesh, as African Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Support to global UNISDR coordinating mechanisms resulted in strong regional representation at Global Platform 2009, including at Africa regional meeting;

support to development of the Global Assessment Report through Hyogo Framework monitoring; health risk assessments and awareness symposium for Global Campaign on Safe Hospitals in South Africa; disaster risk reduction advocacy supported by HFA focal points at COP15 and preparatory meetings; International Disaster Risk Reduction Day Events in Seychelles (2008), Nairobi, and South Africa (2008/2009).

National impact

- 27 National HFA Progress Reports submitted in 2009 and summarized in Africa Status Report and GAR2009.
- Improved mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction as a result 6 CCA/UNDAF including Malawi, Mali, Togo and Niger; 28 Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) with initial disaster risk reduction integration plans for CAR and Sao Tome and Principe and Country Assistance Strategies for Benin, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Liberia, Niger, Rwanda, Togo with reference to disaster risk reduction (UNISDR/World Bank/GFDRR); Integrated National Programmes for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in The Gambia, Ghana and Togo; 28 NAPAs relating to disaster risk were concluded through UNFCCC processes.
- 21 National Platforms with one new platform launched in Senegal (strongly supported by women); Namibia supported the start up of a National Platform and adopted a new Disaster Risk Management bill; national needs assessment and climate change study conducted with support from UNISDR/ECOWAS consultant; capacity developed in Tanzania through ILO-led disaster risk reduction training; regional

symposia in South Africa Burundi, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, The Gambia in 2009 on safe hospitals raised awareness of disaster risk reduction.

Thematic and Knowledge Management

- Network and Forum on Drought, Climate & Development (September 2008) brought together stakeholders from AU, ICPAC and UNDP Dryland center to share information and best practice; the publication Drought Risk Reduction Framework and Practices 2009 was disseminated amongst partners and legislators.
- CADRI capacity development workshops ensured dissemination to decision-makers in Kenya, Namibia and Tanzania.
- 600 disaster risk reduction publications were disseminated through the Africa resource centre in Nairobi.

Funding Situation

Expenditure: USD 3.3 million against estimated budget USD 4.2 million; main regional donors: European Commission, Finland, Germany, World Bank/GFDRR, Norway, Sweden and UK. Donor interest for funding disaster risk reduction activities in Africa has grown as a result of intensified advocacy in 2008-2009 that supported a more visible role for the ISDR. Additional financial and technical assistance to ISDR partners came from Germany and the United Nations Development Fund and supported partners at regional, sub-regional and national levels. Norway assigned a JPO to support the work of the Africa office.

Americas

Engagement with regional and sub-regional organizations led to the agreement and development of several sub-regional disaster risk reduction strategies and new National Platforms, both of which supported progress in disaster risk reduction at national, local, municipality and sector level. Parliamentarians from the region strongly supported disaster risk reduction efforts at COP15 and advocated for mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development and climate change adaptation plans and programmes. Gender sensitive disaster risk reduction has increasingly been recognized and cooperative action has led to improved knowledge management and information sharing. Still more needs to be done to support the development through the ISDR system of National Platforms.

Regional and sub-regional impact

- First Regional Platform meeting (March 2009) led to the Agreement on a sub-regional disaster risk reduction mechanism in Mercosur/Southern

Cone countries; a proposal of 30% climate change adaptation funding for disaster risk reduction was presented by Colombia at Global Platform 2009.

- Strengthened partnerships with the Andean

Committee for Disaster Prevention and Relief (Comité Andino para la Prevención y Atención de Desastres; CAPRADE), the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres Naturales en América Central; CEPREDENAC), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Risk, Emergency and Disasters Task Force of the Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (Red de Emergencias y Desastres de Latino América y el Caribe; REDLAC), the Organization of American States' Department of Sustainable Development (OAS/DSD), the International Code Council (ICC) at the regional and national levels supported disaster risk mitigation efforts in the region.

- 2008 Santo Domingo Declaration adopted by 21 Heads of States (Ministers of the Environment and Heads of Delegations) at the Sixteenth Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean; Recognition and follow-up discussions of the November 2007 Saint Marc Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Greater Caribbean by the Association of Caribbean States.
- New Ibero-American Program for Adaptation to Climate Change (PIACC) ensuring the addition of risk reduction into the climate change agenda.
- Parliamentary support for disaster risk reduction as a tool for Climate Change Adaptation at COP15 was agreed at the Consultative Meeting of Parliamentarians of Latin America (held in Costa Rica in November 2009).
- Support to global UNISDR coordination mechanisms ensured strong regional representation at Global Platform 2009, including regional consultations; support for Global Platform 2009 High-Level Panel on Safer Schools and Hospitals; Global Campaign on Safe Hospitals launch in Panama (January 2008); application of PAHO/WHO Safe Hospitals Index in Latin America and the Caribbean; participation and support for disaster risk reduction from regional focal points at COP15 and preparatory meetings; International Disaster Risk Reduction Day Events in Panama (2008 and 2009) and Global Assessment Report launches in Argentina and Peru.

National impact

- 18 National HFA progress reports submitted in 2009, 16 of which were included for consideration in the Global Assessment Report 2009.
- Improved disaster risk reduction integration in CCA/ UNDAFs 2008/2009 in Mexico, Nicaragua, Venezuela;

initial progress in addressing disaster risk reduction in PRSPs and Country Assistance Strategies (e.g. Mexico, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay, Uruguay) with support from GFDRR.

- 13 National Platforms: 7 new (Argentina, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador (women's participation), Guatemala, Mexico, Peru (including Finance and Economic Ministries, NGOs, Private sector, local communities); 1 strengthened (Jamaica): Better disaster risk reduction integration and involvement of stakeholder groups; Improved regional cooperation between NPs showcased at First Regional Consultative Meeting of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction and Dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation (October 2008).
- Municipality initiatives strengthened strategic planning for risk reduction in Nicaragua and Colombia.

Thematic and Knowledge Management

- Urban Risk Platform launched in 2008
- Roll-out of Central American Probabilistic Risk Assessment (CAPRA) (UNISDR/World Bank/GFDRR initiative in cooperation with Huairou/GROOTS in Central America.
- HFA-Pedia disaster risk reduction information matrix and regional database were launched.
- Cooperation with regional knowledge networks such as Red Universitarios de Latinoamérica y el Caribe para la Gestión y Reducción del Riesgo en Desastres (REDULAC) and the Federación Latinoamericana de Facultades de Comunicación Social (FELAFACS) was increased over the biennium multiplying stakeholder knowledge regionally.

Funding Situation

Expenditure: USD 3.9 million against estimated budget USD 3,2 million; main regional donors: Canada, European Commission, Finland, Germany, World Bank/ GFDRR, Spain and Sweden. A two year agreement was established in support of the Ibero-American Programme on Climate Change, with support from Spain, promoting disaster risk reduction as a tool for climate change adaptation in the region. The agreement includes a project portfolio for policy dialogue, information products and tools developed together with stakeholders from regional thematic platforms including with the Regional Disaster Information Centre (CRID) to which funds were approved from the European Commission (DIPECHO).

Section 5

Work Plan Focus Areas: Impact and Challenges

The biennium witnessed increasing coherence in coordination among partners at global, regional and national level. All regions have now set up Regional Platforms or have decided to do so as in Arab States. As a new knowledge resource, the ISDR Scientific and Technical Committee, was launched in 2008. Two new thematic platforms on health and the environment and disaster risk reduction were also set up led by ISDR partners (WHO and UNEP/IUCN respectively). The second session of the Global Platform concluded with more substantive results relating to the targeting of action to scale-up implementation of the Hyogo Framework.

At the national level, progress has been made with an increase in the number of national platforms from 41 to 64. While the numbers have increased, their role in spearheading the implementation of the Hyogo Framework has had mixed success. Uncertainty about the role and functioning of National Platforms, their complementarities with existing mechanisms for disaster management, along with limited resources are often the biggest obstacles to the establishment and maintenance of effective national coordination mechanisms. Joint efforts are needed, including scaled up and more systematic and coherent long-term support programmes by ISDR system partners, to increase sustainability of National Platforms and other national coordinating mechanisms. National Platform representatives made this call in recommendations issuing from their global meeting at the Global Platform 2009, where they appealed both to governments and ISDR system partners to scale up and substantiate their support in a more systematic fashion²⁶.

Partner engagement at the country level influenced the development and roll-out of a disaster risk reduction guidance note and targeted training for UN Resident Coordinators. Greater support for the elaboration of what so far have been pilot initiatives to further mainstream disaster risk reduction into national development instruments and sector programmes and the UN Development Assistance Framework, as well as World Bank Common Assessment Strategies (CAS) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), have been demonstrated over the past biennium.

5.1 ISDR Coordination Mechanisms: Global, Regional and National

The biennium was witness to progress and strengthening across all ISDR mechanisms in 2008-2009. Responding to the need to scale up support for the implementation of the HFA, the enhancement of key ISDR mechanisms were a clear priority.

Beginning with the UN Secretary-General's Policy Committee and continuing through the UN Chief Executive Board, the Secretary-General's recognition of the importance of disaster risk reduction throughout

all areas of the UN's work offered a major boost to the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into UN system planning and policies. Among others, the Committee encouraged UN system entities to ensure that their mandates and policies are in line with the Hyogo Framework and reallocated resources to comply with UN agency roles and responsibilities for disaster risk reduction, in particular in support of national counterparts needs. The Committee further urged agencies to incorporate disaster risk reduction objectives into their own results-based management systems, including developing and monitoring planning and activities with appropriate outcome indicators

26 Please access: http://www.preventionweb.net/files/globalplatform/entry_outcome~NPRRecommendationsFinalEnglish.pdf

measured against Millennium Development Goals. In 2008 and 2009, regular meetings of the ISDR Management Oversight Board (MOB) and the Geneva-based ISDR Support Group took place. Together with the ISDR Inter-Agency Group (IAG), these entities have been instrumental in acting as a sounding board for guidance and facilitation of progress of the ISDR not least on the Global Platform 2009 and an independent evaluation in 2009. Several Thematic Platforms²⁷ and the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) contributed to the overall progress within their sectors, while the ISDR secretariat continued to service inter-governmental bodies, such as the General Assembly, by providing support for committees and policy guidance as well as information on disaster risk reduction and progress on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action²⁸.

A major positive gain for disaster risk reduction was the appointment by the UN Secretary-General in late 2008 of a new Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction whose role is to support disaster risk reduction worldwide through implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The challenge for the secretariat has been to scale up support for the Office of the SRSR as she moves to fully discharge her role.

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2009 'Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow'

Over the past four years, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction has developed as a global stakeholder forum guiding the implementation of disaster risk reduction at all levels, not least the Hyogo Framework for Action.

As convenor of the Global Platform, UNISDR's leadership and coordination, as mandated by UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/62/192, is critical to increasing interest and awareness leading to action on acceleration of the Hyogo Framework. UNISDR was recognized by participants at Global Platform 2009 for the growing interest and awareness of the importance of disaster risk reduction worldwide and the recognized value of creating space for information sharing and partnership building. One significant indicator of success was a 36% increase in the number

of participants at Global Platform 2009 as compared to the first session in 2007. This included more high-level Government representatives, a larger regional organization and civil society presence, and more focussed media coverage.

An analysis of Official Statements from Global Platform 2009 confirmed that the Global Platform is viewed as an important forum for the sharing of experiences, cross-fertilization of information, lessons learning, stock-taking of progress and challenges of Hyogo Framework implementation, including North-South and South-South exchanges.

Reflecting the positive impact of UNISDR's advocacy, the link between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and related funding was a major topic at the meeting. Delegates made an overwhelming and unanimous plea for joint action to target disaster risk reduction approaches in institutional frameworks for climate change adaptation and subsequent implementation programmes as a means to increase investment in disaster risk reduction.

Inter-Agency Group

Over the biennium, the ISDR Inter-Agency Group (IAG) played a progressively influential role in strengthening the ISDR partnership. Facilitated by UNISDR, the IAG contributed significantly to the definition of common ISDR positions on a variety of strategic issues including inputs to the UNFCCC processes and regional meetings. The IAG also played a pivotal role in supporting the design and delivery of a successful Global Platform in 2009 and provided guidance and comment to the development of the UNISDR Biennial Work Programme 2010-2011. In the second half of 2009, the IAG committed itself to renewed cooperation in support of the strategic directions outlined in the Chair's Summary of the Global Platform 2009.

Joint Work Programme

The ISDR system Joint Work Programme launched in early 2008 sought to support coordination among ISDR partner towards joint results, building on strengths of each agency and creating capacities to support sectors.

27 These included the Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, the Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education (TPKE), the International Platform for Recovery (IRP), the Early Warning Platform (PPEW), as well as the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PE-Disaster Risk Reduction).

28 The General Assembly resolutions issued in the biennium are A/RES/62/192 International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (11 February 2008), A/RES/63/217 Natural disasters and vulnerability (18 February 2009) and A/RES/63/216 International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (25 February 2009).

This included, among others, safe schools and hospitals. Partners published a number of joint guidance books. The partner agencies also tried to mobilise funding for their work, but as only modest support was raised, parties to the programme agreed to pursue other avenues, most prominently, a revitalized and more proactive Inter-Agency Group which better reflected the prominence of partnerships in the core work of the ISDR system.

ISDR Scientific and Technical Committee

The ISDR Scientific and Technical Committee (STC), established in early 2008, made a strong plea for relying first on science before making disaster risk reduction choices. Its membership worked to ensure that scientific knowledge needed was made available to policymakers for more informed policy formulation via an STC report on issues and actions to effectively reduce disaster risk through science and technology. Presented at the Global Platform, the report influenced delegates and led to several references to the role of science in climate change, early warning, public health and socio-economic resilience.

Thematic Platforms

Efforts during the biennium included support for work on existing Thematic Platforms, such as the Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education, and new Platforms including the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PE-Disaster Risk Reduction) in 2008 and the Thematic Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction for Health in 2009²⁹. The International Recovery Platform (IRP) initiated a series of guidance documents, which were already used in various countries, including Philippines and Tonga, in their recovery processes. The joint actions taken by partners in these platforms – including IUCN, UNESCO, UNEP, WHO and the World Bank - have been acknowledged for their relevance in integrating disaster risk reduction into specific sectors: For example, the Education Platform accounted for major achievements in promoting the recognition of disaster risk reduction education as a major pillar of Education for Sustainable Development during the World Summit on Education for Sustainable Development.³⁰

BOX 2 - Investing in Education as a contribution to HFA Priority for Action 2

Today they are students; tomorrow they are engineers, city planners, doctors, civil defence actors. So it's important to work with the new generation on awareness, on knowledge and on information.

Egypt Today, April 2010

If I knew there was a hidden danger [with my school's structure] and I didn't do anything about it then I would be the one responsible.

Ye Zhiping, Principal, Sangzao Middle School in Sichuan Province, China - Ye Zhiping saved the lives of hundreds of his school students by forcing the retrofitting of his school before the 2008 earthquake.

UN Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks

Support by UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams including through effective integration of disaster risk reduction into Common Country Assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (CCA/UNDAF) is critical for generating long-term ISDR system support to developing countries in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into national development instruments.

As a major success toward better mainstreaming in 2008, disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework were implemented in the revised Terms of Reference for Resident Coordinators. Also, the synthesis report of UN Resident Coordinators' annual reports in 2008 dedicated a chapter to 'Disaster risk reduction in a changing climate', reflecting ways in which UN country teams already contribute to advocate for disaster risk reduction, highlighting the importance of investing in disaster risk reduction as a

29 For further details on UNISDR work in the health sector, please review Outcome 2.1 highlighting achievements of the Global campaign 'Hospitals Safe from Disasters.'

30 Work also advanced on several other Thematic Platforms. Outputs of this work included the International Flood Initiative, the International Consortium on Landslides, the International Recovery Platform, the CIIFEN (El Nino), the Global Fire Monitoring Network and the International Early Warning Platform. The Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) developed and rolled out training workshops to build disaster risk reduction knowledge.

cost-effective means to protect development gains, reduce poverty and adapt to climate change³¹.

Twenty-four United Nations Country Teams, whose United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) period started in the biennium 2008-2009, incorporated disaster risk reduction into their Common Country Assessment documents as stand-alone outcomes/outputs or as cross-cutting issues. For example, the UN Resident Coordinator's office in the Maldives integrated disaster risk reduction into the ongoing UNDAF planning process, and Indonesia implemented disaster risk reduction as a key priority area for partner agencies in its CCA/UNDAF cycle.

A global review by UNISDR of CCA/UNDAF revealed that 21 CCA/UNDAFs in 2008 and 8 in 2009 referred to disaster risk reduction³². The report also acknowledged that the current rate of progress towards integrating disaster risk reduction into development programmes is inadequate for the substantial reduction of disaster losses called for in the HFA and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

During this period, a United Nations Development Group (UNDG)/UNISDR task team was set up for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the CCA/UNDAF process. As a result, a new UNDG/DOCO guidance note on integrating disaster risk reduction into CCA/UNDAFs was published and disseminated, among others through a new UNDG/DOCO workspace for disaster risk reduction. UNDG/DOCO, UNDP and UNISDR also held a 'training of trainers' through the UN System Staff College out of which a roster of disaster risk reduction experts was established to support UN Country Teams throughout the CCA/UNDAF process.

BOX 3 - Disaster Risk Reduction is central to Development Planning

We have now come to recognize that disaster risk reduction is a critical component of development planning...gender issues, governance, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction [are] inextricably linked facets of any national policy framework...Recognizing the importance and value of affording men and women equal opportunities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, governance and development... ensures that the global goals enunciated in the Millennium Development Goals and the Hyogo Framework can be fully met.

Mahinda Samarasinghe, Disaster Management Minister of Sri-Lanka, on the occasion of the Conference on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction in Beijing, China, from 20-22 April 2009, Daily News, The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., 21 Apr 2009

Regional and National Coordination

During the biennium, UNISDR Regional Offices played an increasing role in supporting implementation of disaster risk reduction at regional and national levels. Efforts included capacity enhancement and technical cooperation through deployment of secondees to regional offices of inter-governmental organizations to assist in the development of action plans and regional strategies. Cooperation with the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (World Bank/GFDRR) was a critical element of such support. Launched in 2007, the World Bank/GFDRR is an ISDR partnership to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework. It is managed by the World Bank and provides technical and financial assistance to high risk low and middle income countries to mainstream disaster reduction in national development strategies and plans, including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP), to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With support from World Bank/GFDRR, UNISDR regional offices and ISDR Partners focused on partnership and alliance building, as well as on the creation of space and encouragement for policy dialogue at regional

31 According to the synthesis report of UN Resident Coordinators' in 2008, a review of 67 CCA/UNDAFs from Asia showed that 65 per cent of these included disaster risk in one of their outcomes or outputs and 15 per cent recognized the close relationship between poverty reduction and disaster risk reduction.

32 Countries starting UNDAF in 2008 with reference to disaster risk reduction included Bhutan, Bolivia, Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, India, Jordan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Togo; 2009: Angola, Cote d' Ivoire, Haiti, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Timor-Leste, Venezuela

level. UNISDR assisted several partners in how to access resources through the World Bank/GFDRR Tracks I and II, and South-South Cooperation.

As set out in the GFDRR Annual Report 2009³³, '[L]ong-term impact was achieved by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in country policy dialogues.' In the past three years, an increasing number of countries, including World Bank/GFDRR priority countries, have strategically mainstreamed disaster risk management into their national development strategies, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper PRSPs and World Bank Country Assistance Strategies (CASs). More than 80 percent of CASs and PRSPs now regularly include disaster risk reduction relative to the achievement of stated development goals.

In 2009, GFDRR interventions continue to broaden country dialogue on disaster risk reduction in 19 poverty reduction strategy papers and 32 country assistance strategies. In at least 15 countries - including Benin, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Indonesia, Guatemala, Haiti, Rwanda, and Yemen - disaster risk reduction is a key pillar of their development goals. These findings were confirmed in the Evaluation of the World Bank/GFDRR in 2009, which stated that 'One clear example of this contribution is linked to integration of disaster risk reduction into the national planning of vulnerable countries. The practice of intensive upstream engagement marks an important shift in dealing with country strategies in the global disaster risk management community, that is, from analyzing past strategies to participating in formulating the strategies, which tends to have a greater policy impact.

A stocktaking of the mainstreaming progress in Africa developed under the Hyogo Framework showed evidence of the mainstreaming progress underway in Africa as the PRSPs of Benin, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Togo include an analysis of the interaction of natural hazards and environmental vulnerabilities, and incorporate strategies to reduce disaster risk within environmental and natural resource management frameworks.

Regional Platforms

Regional coordination was further enhanced through the establishment of Regional Platforms within all regions. Regional Platforms are forums for information exchange and the promotion of tools for disaster risk reduction implementation and contribute to develop practices and improve information on national and local needs and progress. They are complemented by Regional Ministerial Meetings in Africa, Asia and the Arab States.

Through cooperative action, regional alliances and joint or supported initiatives on disaster risk reduction, UNISDR regional offices were able to consolidate their efforts in support of the adoption and strengthening of regional strategies and action plans in Africa and Asia-Pacific. In-depth risk-assessments known as Regional Synthesis Reports were carried out in Asia, Africa and the Arab states. Building on this base, the task for the coming biennium, as reflected in UNISDR's Biennial Work Programme 2010-2011, is to further expand regional cooperation to translate the growing commitment set out in strategies and action plans into concrete initiatives on the ground.

National Platforms

Efforts among partners contributed to an increase of National Platforms from 41 in January 2008 to 59 by end of 2009, and a strengthening of other existing national coordinating mechanisms. This success has largely been due to the joint capacities of ISDR partners whose joint efforts have resulted in the development of a replicable model for supporting disaster risk reduction policy and activities at the national level. This model was show-cased in Indonesia and Nepal through joint programming and the engagement of GFDRR and the government which was enabled through UNISDR, the UN Resident Coordinator, OCHA, UNDP, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and IFRC.

Such facilitation of exchange and mobilization of support through a large range of stakeholders, national and international, is essential to sustain progress and further build comprehensive disaster risk management as a necessary and logical

33 Countries starting UNDAF in 2008 with reference to disaster risk reduction included Bhutan, Bolivia, Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, India, Jordan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Togo; 2009: Angola, Cote d' Ivoire, Haiti, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Timor-Leste, Venezuela

developmental progression from too often sole focus on emergency management.

The fifty percent increase in the number of National Platforms³⁷, which substantially contributed to achieve Priority for Action 1 by strengthening the institutional basis for disaster risk reduction at national level, is also due to both global and regional advocacy and information-sharing events and improved coverage by UNISDR websites including its disaster risk reduction portal PreventionWeb.net³⁸. In addition, knowledge products helped to inform stakeholders on practice in the establishment of National Platforms, including a publication of 'good practices.' This has been complemented by other guidance documents in Spanish edited by UNISDR's America's office. Additional guidance notes on key activities expected to be carried out by National Platforms are being finalised as part of an ISDR Toolkit for National Platforms.

Despite the increase in the number of National Platforms more needs to be done to further develop them into effective mechanisms for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development planning and financing institutions and more sectors at national level.

At the second session of the Global Platform 2009, National Platforms adopted recommendations which they had agreed upon in a consultative process facilitated by UNISDR. Their statement called for more engagement by governments and ISDR system partners, in particular members of the ISDR Inter-Agency Group, to further support National Platforms to play their role for better national coordination, advocacy and mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction.

UNISDR Regional Office Coordination

Africa

Over the biennium, national coordination mechanisms, legal frameworks and national planning and related UN support to disaster risk reduction implementation were strengthened through various advisory services. Knowledge on disaster risk reduction increased

including through the compilation and sharing of an inventory of existing national coordination mechanisms in African countries and the roll-out of training workshops.

The Regional Office for Africa trained representatives from 37 African countries on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and disaster damage and loss assessment in a workshop in Senegal in cooperation with the AU and World Bank. Further training was carried out for Africa Disaster Reduction Focal Points on using Hyogo Framework monitoring tools and, together with CADRI, UNDP and others, risk reduction principles were shared. More formal training for National Platform Coordinators was also ensured through collaboration with the North-West University in South Africa.

As a result of strategic support to seven African countries under a German-funded project, institutional arrangements for disaster risk management in Madagascar and Senegal were reviewed and related reports shared with the relevant authorities. These efforts led to the establishment of a National Platform in Senegal and a request to UNISDR to help in strengthening the existing national coordination mechanism in Madagascar. In Senegal, UNISDR engagement with National Platform partners also contributed to the launch of a Parliamentarians' network for disaster risk reduction.

In Togo, the National Platform managed to include disaster risk reduction into the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the Framework Law on Environment. With UNDP support, its members developed a National Strategy for disaster risk management. In Namibia, UNISDR advice contributed to the development of a disaster risk management bill, which is being finalised.

Based on targeted advocacy and technical support to key regional organizations by UNISDR's Regional Office for Africa and partners including disaster risk reduction advisors assigned to the Commission of the African Union, ECOWAS and ECCAS, participants at the Second Regional Platform in April 2009 committed to the revision and acceleration of the implementation of

³⁷ Annex 6 provides an overview of countries, which have established new National Platforms for disaster risk reduction in 2008/2009.

³⁸ See www.unisdr.org, www.eird.org/hfa.html and <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/national/>.

the 'Africa Programme of Action' as part of the African Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. ECOWAS, ECCAS and the African Union assisted these organizations to systemize and synchronize their work at national level which led to the revision of national policies to include climate change adaptation elements in the Gambia, Ghana and Togo.

Together with the African Union and other partners, UNISDR strengthened regional networks of institutions active in drought risk reduction by promoting and thus furthering the integration of strategies and tools into national adaptation and development planning. Major activities included the organization of the Third African Drought Network Forum as an opportunity for dialogue which informed the drafting of 'Drought Risk Reduction Framework and Practices' published in 2009.

Asia/Pacific

In support of the growing trend towards commitment and political engagement that is more substantial for disaster risk reduction investment in the region, efforts by the UNISDR Regional Office for Asia/Pacific and its partners in Asia focused on the pursuit of stronger links with key regional organizations.

For example, the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP), which grew from its original 6 member organizations in 2003 to 37 committed and active partner organizations by the end of 2009, remained the main driving force for increased regional networking, coordination, collaboration and resource mobilization. Together with the IAP, UNISDR further developed its partnerships with main actors such as the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).³⁹

Stronger regional cooperation and commitment were further reflected in the

- endorsement of a Peru-initiated 'Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region 2009 – 2015' by APEC economies in August 2008;
- launch of a new initiative on public-private-partnerships on disaster risk reduction;

- establishment of Asia's first ISDR Education and Training Institute for Urban Risk Reduction in Incheon, Republic of Korea in August 2009, inaugurated by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, which will as of 2010 focus attention on North-East Asia;
- sub-regional risk assessments and catastrophe risk financing, which served as a significant input to the Consortium of Partners (World Bank, Asian Development Bank, IFRC, UNDP) for developing a flagship programme on reducing the risks of disasters by up-scaling investments in safer schools, hospitals, flood management and community level disaster preparedness.

In the Pacific, the newly-created Regional Platform in October 2008 proved to be a useful tool for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in regional institutions. Two sessions of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (July 2008 and May 2009), led to an agreement to strengthen the integration of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation at the regional and national levels and to pursue the joint implementation of National Disaster Risk Management Action Plans and National Adaptation Programmes of Action.

As a follow-up in 2009, two Pacific island countries -- Tonga and the Federated States of Micronesia -- began the development of combined National Action Plans for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation. In Tonga, integration has also progressed institutionally with the establishment of the 'Tonga Task Force for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation.'

The nomination of Senator Loren Legarda from the Philippines as First Asian Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Champion (see Parliamentarians, Outcome 2.1) at the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in December 2008 and the mobilization of other Parliamentarians including through a Roundtable consultative meeting were instrumental in mobilizing further support for disaster risk reduction. In the Philippines, this contributed to the inclusion of risk reduction in the new Climate change bill.

³⁹ Regional cooperation was also enhanced through agreements concluded in the context of GFDRR Track II implementation: A five-year tripartite agreement between the ASEAN Secretariat, the World Bank and UNISDR to further strengthen regional disaster risk management implementation in the context of the HFA-based ASEAN

BOX 4 - National level engagement: Risk mapping and National Action Plans in Nepal

Nepal is at high risk from many geological and climate related hazards, which have led to severe disasters in the recent past. In response to Government requests through the United Nations Resident Coordinator and in close cooperation with key ISDR partners working in Nepal a UNISDR facilitated a process that led to the agreement of a five point action plan for enhanced resilience in Nepal with the Government. This plan commits financial and technical support by the Asian Development Bank, UNDP, OCHA, IFRC/Red Cross Nepal and the World Bank for disaster risk reduction programmes, including investments in disaster-proof critical infrastructure and the launch of the Nepal flagship program in October 2009.

At national level, in Indonesia, cooperation among partners resulted in a new National Platform, and enhanced disaster risk management through cooperation among IFRC, UNDP and UNISDR and a joint UN disaster risk reduction work programme. In Indonesia and in Vietnam, cooperation between UNISDR, UNDP and World Bank also supported local level action plans for disaster risk reduction.

Some other countries, including the Maldives, Nepal, and Viet Nam, have not yet formally declared National Platforms, but went through participatory processes to arrive at national disaster risk reduction plans. UNISDR temporarily detached staff and consultants and worked closely with regional partners including ASEAN and the Asian Development Bank to strengthen national partner capacities through sub-regional training, advocacy and technical assistance. This substantially contributed to the development of Strategic National Action Plans on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Maldives and Viet Nam, which are of particular importance as they mark the first action plans integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. In the Maldives, the action plans address risk sensitive land use planning for islands to mitigate impact of rising sea level.

BOX 5 - Findings of project evaluation - carried out by the European Commission (AIDCO)

In general, 'Building Resilience to Tsunamis in the Indian Ocean' should be considered a success as a programme of various activities in support of the HFA priorities. A number of useful interventions have helped fill gaps in knowledge related to tsunamis and other natural disasters, and in the emerging national and local programmes for building resilience to disasters.

Recommendations for UNISDR included:

- Advise governments on how to replicate and scale up the Project's most valuable and effective activities, experiences and practices.
- Depending on a decision to continue managing operational projects like this one or not, undertake an analysis of the remaining gaps and weaknesses in disaster preparedness in the target countries and either prepare itself, or encourage and guide suitable partner organizations, to prepare proposals to address those gaps and weaknesses.
- Further refine the HFA-based indicators used to assess DRR capacity in a practical, operational manner, particularly at the community level.
- Explore ways by which UNISDR might work with the Tsunami Trust Fund to build on and replicate the Project's achievements.

Beyond activities at national level, UNISDR engaged other ISDR partners including UNDP to provide support at community level. In India, Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka, the Secretariat's implementing partners raised awareness and provided institutional support and training to community leaders and government officials. A total of 84,000 community members were sensitized and 8,800 community preparedness plans in India were drawn up as a result of projects funded by the EC/AIDCO through UNISDR in follow-up to the response to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. Within the framework of the project, UNISDR and UNDP Indonesia also facilitated the development of 9000 Strategic Local Action Plans (SLAP) in the Provinces of Central Java and Yogyakarta, Indonesia. These counted amongst the first such initiatives in the country and can now serve other localities as best practice, both within Indonesia

and abroad. With numerous countries in Asia having decentralized or devolved disaster risk management to local and provincial levels, it is expected that this process will inspire and facilitate other interested actors, both local and national, in other countries to be engaged in similarly developing action plans for disaster risk reduction. Based on the findings of the evaluation of the AIDCO-project, UNISDR is reconsidering its role at national level.

During the biennium, eleven countries affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami benefited from early warning system enhancement through activities supported by the Indian Ocean Consortium, a joint initiative of IFRC, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP, UNISDR, OCHA, WMO, and the World Bank with funding from Canada and the UK.

Europe

In Europe, efforts among partners centred on strengthening cooperation to maximize knowledge exchange and support for the development of National Platforms. European partners established a Regional Forum in 2009, made up of National Platforms and national Hyogo Framework Focal Point organizations.

UNISDR was also instrumental in facilitating bilateral exchanges between National Platforms and twinning arrangements between Albania and the Italian National Platform sharing Italian expertise in civil protection.

A main outcome of UNISDR cooperation with the World Bank was the development of the South-Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme (SEEDRMAP). This programme aims to reduce vulnerability to disasters in South Eastern Europe and covers three focus areas: hydro-meteorological forecasting, data-sharing and early warning in collaboration with WMO; coordination of disaster mitigation, preparedness and response in collaboration with the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI SEE) and the European Commission; and, financing of disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery, and of disaster risk transfer – disaster insurance – in collaboration with DPPI SEE. Partners of SEEDRMAP produced several reviews on disaster risk reduction and organised a South Eastern Europe Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Management in Sofia in April 2008.

Participants at this meeting agreed to develop a two year work plan to address disaster risk management in line with the SEEDRMAP.

In the context of the SEEDRMAP focus area 3, an agreement was reached with the Prime Ministers of the Region, to develop a Central Europe Disaster Risk Catastrophe Insurance Facility (SECE CRIF). The development of the SECE CRIF benefited from the support from Switzerland for the technical assessments. The SECE CRIF will serve as a regional catastrophe risk pool owned by countries and managed by the private sector to cover catastrophic events through regional funding.

From 9-10 October 2008, regional representatives met at a 'Regional Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Role of Hydro-Met Services' organized by UNISDR, World Bank, WMO and the Moldova Hydro-met Institute, in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova to discuss practical ways to reduce the impacts of natural hazards through strengthened collaboration among National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and disaster risk management actors (Hyogo Framework Focal Points). In the context of the SEEDRMAP focus area 1, the aim of the conference was to foster specific ways of building stronger and sustainable scientific and technical capacities for disaster risk reduction in the region.

Concerted efforts also resulted in the adoption of two communications related to disasters: a Community approach to reducing the impact of natural and man-made disasters within the EU, and a strategy for supporting disaster risk reduction in developing countries. In line with the communications, the European Commission through DG Enlargement has launched a new programme with focus on disaster risk reduction issues aligned to the South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme. An initiative by Italy together with UNISDR, France, Algeria, Egypt sought to link risk reduction efforts of Mediterranean countries through the Euromed Programme 'Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters.'

Central Asia

In Central Asia initiatives and partnerships on disaster risk reduction targeted institutional capacity

development through the education sector, poverty reduction strategies, development planning, and disaster preparedness and response capacities. Efforts with partners led to the development of a Disaster Risk Financing Options Study, which identified the way forward in strengthening markets for hazard insurance and catastrophe funds, and the set up of hydro-metrological systems, and analyzed risk financing options based on risk assessment for Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Similar to SEEDRMAP, the World Bank and UNISDR has developed a Central Asia and Caucasus Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Initiative. The initiative covers three focus areas: hydro-meteorological forecasting, data sharing and early warning in collaboration with WMO); coordination of disaster mitigation, preparedness and response; financing of disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery, and of disaster insurance. The overall partner of the initiative is Central Asia Regional and Economic Cooperation.

In this region, local level engagement led to civil society participation in multi-stakeholder dialogue meetings including NGO presentations of their Views from the Frontline reports, which complemented countries' official Hyogo Framework monitor reports. School risk assessment studies, part of the safer schools campaign, were carried out in a joint partner action by UNISDR and the World Bank. In Iran, the secretariat helped the National Platform to devise a comprehensive work plan and implement measures to make hospitals safer from disasters.

Arab States

In the Arab States, UNISDR's cooperation with regional inter-governmental organizations, in particular the League of Arab States (LAS) and its specialized technical organizations, led to commitments by LAS and Member States for the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in key regional policies on climate change, environment and disaster management coordination mechanisms.

LAS also started to integrate disaster risk reduction plans into its budgetary allocations and committed to address disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change during the 2011 League of Arab States Socio-Economic Summit. The Council of Arab Ministers

Responsible for the Environment started discussions towards development of an Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. This group also committed to reduce disaster risk and increase cooperation with UNISDR by ensuring implementation and follow-up of the Hyogo Framework through establishment of National Platforms or committees for risk reduction across the region.

In an effort to enhance information resources and knowledge transfer in the Arab world, a Regional Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction – Training & Research – was jointly launched in March 2009 by the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, and UNISDR. The Arab Academy hosts the Regional Centre while UNISDR supports with technical guidance, planning and partnership-building with regional and international institutions.

Bahrain hosted the highly publicised launch of the Global Assessment Report in 2009. The Arabic version of the report significantly heightened the understanding and support for disaster risk reduction, as did other activities supported by the Regional Office for Arab States, such as media training and multi-stakeholder meetings to prepare for setting up National Platforms in Bahrain and Egypt, the latter of which established a National Platform in November 2009.

Americas

In the Americas, the partnership with the Organization of American States and other sub-regional partners including the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Relief (Comité Andino para la Prevención y Atención de Desastres; CAPRADE), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDEMA) and the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres Naturales en América Central; CEPREDENAC), resulted in the First Hemispheric/ Regional Platform meeting for the Americas, which took place in March 2009 in Panama. At this meeting a new intergovernmental alliance on disaster risk reduction for the Southern-Cone countries of MERCOSUR was announced. This alliance aims to add additional sub-regional disaster risk reduction capacity for these countries. Participants also reached a collaborative

agreement to propose the use of 30% of climate change adaptation funding to support disaster risk reduction which was later presented by Colombia at the second session of the Global Platform in June 2009 and reflected in the Chair's Summary.

In addition, several other cross-regional benefits resulted from UNISDR partnerships. For example, CEPREDENAC, with technical guidance from UNISDR, integrated disaster risk reduction planning in its sub-region activities and finalized the Central American Integrated Risk Management Policy. The commitment of regional partners was also reflected in the adoption of the Santo Domingo Declaration by 21 Heads of States in 2008 and the recognition and follow-up discussions of the Saint Marc Plan of Action for Disaster Reduction by the Association of Caribbean States.

Also of note was the transition of the Caribbean regional disaster management body formerly known as CDERA, to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDEMA) in September 2009. This represented the concretization of an organizational transition and strategic shift in focus from disaster preparedness and response to comprehensive disaster management in line with the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) strategy and promoted by the CDM Conference in December of 2009. Finally, a proposal by CAPRADE, the Andean Community General Secretariat and the Andean Council for Foreign Affairs minister's for the updating of decision number 591 the Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Relief in 2009 as well as other Andean region initiatives ensured another regional win for disaster risk advocacy turned political strategy.

An important agreement between UNISDR and Spain resulted in the implementation of the Ibero-American Program of Adaptation to Climate Change (PIACC). The programme aims to further the integration of climate change and disaster risk reduction agendas into national policies and plans.

UNISDR supported risk assessments and targeted capacity development in the region. Efforts included the roll-out of the Central American Probabilistic Risk Assessment (CAPRA) tool on methodologies for hazard and risk evaluation together with the World Bank/GFDRR; the development of an Urban Risk Platform and sponsorship of local level sustainable development and

risk management courses in Colombia and Nicaragua. Within the framework of sustainable development at the local level, UNISDR supported participation of disaster risk reduction and Climate Change Adaptation focal points in the Delnet Programme of the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ILO/DELNET).

Seven countries, with long-term national systems for disaster risk management in place established National Platforms and committed to more multi-stakeholder involvement across sectors, including efforts to reach out and include climate change adaptation in their work.

The Latin American region shared its expertise in applying the Safe Hospitals Index, including at a Global Platform workshop, as a major tool promoted worldwide for making health facilities safer against disasters.

Regional knowledge networks such as Red Universitarios de Latinoamérica y el Caribe para la Gestión y Reducción del Riesgo en Desastres (REDULAC) and the Federación Latinoamericana de Facultades de Comunicación Social (FELAFACS) advanced their knowledge transfer capacities through university support and discussions at the Regional Platform for the Americas.

In Nicaragua, three municipalities initiated strategic planning for risk reduction as a consequence of UNISDR support through capacity development and training in three localities. This could provide a model for other local governments in the country and among its neighbours.

Cooperation with the Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti

Responding to a request from the Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti, President William Clinton, a UNISDR officer was deployed from September 2009 to May 2010. This assignment raised the political importance of disaster risk reduction in Haiti in the recovery from last year's cyclones and resulted in increased financial commitment to community preparedness, early warning systems and integrated national-led watershed management. Originally planned for 3 months, the support was extended after the 12 January 2010 earthquake, which resulted in a coordinated hazard assessment to assist the relief, early recovery and preparations for the 2010 hurricane season. Support was also provided to integrate disaster risk reduction into the Government

led Post Disaster Needs Assessment. UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlström, visited Haiti in April to review immediate priorities to address disaster risk in mechanisms and to assist the recovery efforts, with an emphasis on the health and education sectors.

5.2 Advocacy and Partnerships

Over the past two years, disaster risk reduction featured highly on the agendas of major processes and meetings of high level policy and decision makers world-wide. This included the WHO organised World Health Assembly in 2009, a number of regional Parliamentarians meetings and other conferences organised by the secretariat of the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC). The commitment of the Secretary-General to promote disaster risk reduction culminated in his recognition of disaster risk reduction as a main mechanism for accelerated achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the report of the UN Secretary-General at the beginning of 2010. The Secretary-General also supported disaster risk reduction by spearheading the launch of the Global Assessment Report in Bahrain in May 2009 and the opening of the ISDR Training Centre for Urban Risk Reduction in Incheon, Republic of Korea in August 2009.

The biennium saw strong advocacy and support for strengthened disaster risk reduction and preparedness from Member States at various high-level meetings of the EU, G77 and ASEAN, as well as by individual Member States, at the General Assembly plenary debate on strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance, as well as in the humanitarian sector of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

High-level advocacy efforts, led to an increasing number of States, UN organizations, inter-agency processes and initiatives recognizing disaster risk reduction as a development issue, in particular as a tool for climate change adaptation. Proof of the success of advocacy efforts is clear in the mention of disaster risk reduction in development planning policies and strategies at national level. Several drivers of change, women, NGOs and parliamentarians, are progressively supporting the promotion and implementation of disaster risk reduction activities at national and local levels.

All above mentioned processes directly contributed to progress in implementation of the Hyogo Framework and in particular as regards its priorities of action 2 related to awareness and 4 reduce underlying risk by involvement of additional sectors in disaster risk reduction, in particular health, climate change adaptation and development planning.

Gender Approaches in Disaster Risk Reduction

Responding to requests from the Global Platform 2007, experts and related stakeholders are increasing addressing the role of women in disaster risk reduction.

For example, the International Conference on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction, organized by UNISDR together with the All China Women's Federation and the UN country team in China in 2009, laid the foundation for the joint publication of UNISDR, UNDP and IUCN Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender Sensitive: Policy and Practical Guidelines which was promoted by parliamentarians at COP 15 in December 2009.

The publication is regarded by partners as an excellent tool for promoting gender sensitive disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. The guidelines have been made available in Arabic, Chinese, and Spanish and have been used by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in their field office training programmes. UNISDR is also working with the Huairou/Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (Huairou/GROOTS) to work together to bring disaster risk awareness to women's grassroots organizations, starting in India and Central America.

BOX 6 - Message from the Second Session of the Global Platform 2009

We know how to move ahead. We can close the gaps and engage those who most need it. We can save lives, protect livelihoods, make our schools and hospitals safe, and help address the climate change issue. With strong advocacy and stronger commitment, greater public awareness and support, and appropriate funds, we can substantially reduce the losses from disasters, as well as contributing to resilient social and economic development.

Paragraph 21, Chair's Summary of the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 19 June 2009, Geneva, Switzerland⁴⁰

Media

As a result of UNISDR's continued focus on media partnerships to raise awareness and enhance journalists' knowledge of disaster risk reduction, the issue has seen increased coverage worldwide, particularly following a major disaster.

The way the media have been covering disasters has changed, from covering consequences and responses to disasters to investigating the causes and giving more 'space' to disaster risk reduction stories in general. Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and the earthquake in Sichuan, China in 2008, were two good illustrations of this as both events triggered numerous in-depth articles on the need for more early warning systems, better constructed housing and improved school safety.

Today's media, including big international networks, seem to be more willing to write and broadcast investigative stories that highlight the benefits of disaster risk reduction. The New York Times, Reuters AlertNet, The Guardian and Al Jazeera, for example, produced a number of very good disaster risk reduction stories in the past two years.

Over the biennium, the UNISDR communications unit focused its messaging on disaster risk reduction as a

tool for climate change adaptation. This resulted in the widely viewed BBC documentary (93 million viewers worldwide), *Tsunami Revisited*, which showed how communities benefited from disaster risk reduction programmes since the 2004 Tsunami.

Key media events prepared for in 2008 and the beginnings of 2009 were the launch of the first Global Assessment Report in Bahrain in May 2009 and the second session of the Global Platform for Risk Reduction in June 2009⁴¹. Both events generated significant media coverage worldwide. The Global Platform 2009 saw interviews with Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Margareta Wahlström on Al Jazeera. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon presided over the launch of the Global Assessment Report I in Bahrain. At the same time, a significant number of articles on disaster trends were triggered by the regional launches⁴².

At a special media event during the Global Platform 2009, the BBC produced a one-hour live World Debate entitled *Prevent or React*, with senior BBC presenter Nik Gowing as host. The programme, which has been viewed by more than 100 million people, focused on the importance of preventing rather than reacting to disasters.

BOX 7 - Disaster risk reduction and safer structures

Storms and earthquakes do not kill people: buildings do the killing. More than half of the world's population is now urban, the numbers at risk are greater than ever, and so is the need for safer schools and hospitals.... But in 2008, a total of 321 natural disasters claimed more than 235,000 lives and cost the world an estimated \$181bn . . . on average, 398 events have met the UN criteria for a natural disasters each year during this decade.

Editorial in The Guardian celebrating the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction: 'Natural disasters: A place of greater safety'; Monday, 12 October 2009

40 <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2009/background/documents/GP09-Chair's-Summary.pdf>

41 Please access <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2009/coverage>

42 For more information on media coverage, visit: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/media/?pid:34&pil:1>

At national and local level, UNISDR developed new partnerships with local and national media organizations, such as RPN9, a national TV network in the Philippines, to further its reach on raising awareness on disaster risk reduction issues. To further increase general knowledge of the public at large, the communications unit also contributed to the production of 10 short disaster risk reduction videos, which can be viewed on YouTube.

ISDR World Disaster Reduction Campaign on Safe Hospitals 2008-2009

The ISDR World Disaster Reduction Campaign on Safe Hospitals was implemented throughout the 2008-2009 biennium to raise awareness and effect change. It focused on three objectives:

- Protect the lives of patients and health workers by ensuring the structural resilience of health facilities.
- Ensure health facilities and health services are able to function in the aftermath of emergencies and disasters, when they are most needed.
- Improve the risk reduction capacity of health workers and institutions, including emergency management.

The international campaign included global, regional and national public awareness activities; the establishment of multi-stakeholder health task forces; workshops, conferences, concerts, exhibitions and media events; the development and dissemination of good practices, and the implementation of projects to implement building codes and train staff. The motivation for the campaign was that disaster damage to health systems results in human tragedy and huge economic losses, deals devastating blows to development goals and shakes social confidence. Health facilities must be accessible and functioning, at maximum capacity, immediately after a hazard strikes.

At global level, the campaign theme was chosen as a topic for the highly publicised 2009 World Health Day celebrated around the world through WHO offices. At national and regional levels, new initiatives included the adoption of the Kathmandu Declaration on Protecting Health Facilities from Disasters by health ministers in South East Asia, and endorsement of the revised Hospital Safety Index, which was created by PAHO/WHO for assessing hospital preparedness, at facilities in several regions.

The Index, was applied by Cuba, Anguilla, Barbados, Bolivia, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Montserrat, Nevis, Peru, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, and St. Kitts. It has been introduced to regions in Europe and the Middle East.

Other examples of national initiatives spurred by the campaign include:

- Mexico's Civil Protection System launched a national Safe Hospitals Program, which led an initial analysis of the safety of complex or tertiary-level hospitals located in high-risk areas and the rigorous training of a team of hospital safety evaluators. Based on the results and recommendations from the evaluation team, eight hospitals are undertaking needed improvements.
- Cuba was one of the first countries to apply the Hospital Safety Index and the results obtained are consistent with their hospitals' continuing to function immediately after hurricanes Gustav and Ike.
- In Nairobi, Kenya, a disaster scenario including a makeshift hospital with equipment and volunteers was simulated and information and material on hospital safety prepared.
- In Welkom, South Africa, the Government with UNISDR support, held a symposium entitled 'Hospitals Safe from Disasters: Reduce Risk, Protect Health Facilities, Save Lives.' This included a session on 'Hospitals and disasters: meeting the challenges of the 2010 Soccer World Cup.'

The campaign largely benefitted from WHO's global network, as well as strong engagement among other partners; the campaign theme was chosen for the widely-publicised 2009 World Health Day.

Major long-term commitments to make health structures safer from disasters were undertaken at the Global Platform 2009. These included the adoption of time-bound recommendations to retrofit the most critical and vulnerable health and education facilities by 2011, and to adopt comprehensive, national, multi-sector safe hospital and education policies and programmes by 2015. Implementation will be supported by a new Thematic Platform on disaster risk reduction for Health, which was launched at the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR)⁴³ to build effective global partnerships for safer hospitals.

43 The Platform was hosted by the UK Health Protection Agency in collaboration with WHO and UNISDR in London on 14 October 2009, and dedicated to the theme 'Hospitals Safe from Disaster'. For further information on the event please see: <http://www.hpa-events.org.uk/hpa/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=39949&eventID=92&mode=previ&version=future&eventID=92>.

To assist Governments in achieving the Global Platform goals on safer schools and hospitals, UNISDR with UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, European Commission and many other partners launched the 'One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals' pledging campaign online in 2010. The campaign urges individuals or organizations to make a commitment to do specific actions on any of the three components that could make schools and hospitals safer before a disaster: public awareness, emergency and disaster preparedness, and disaster risk reduction.

BOX 8 - Disaster Risk Reduction Campaigns and Lessons Learned

- The ISDR World Disaster Reduction Campaign on Safe Hospitals was the second ISDR campaign after the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action following the Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School campaign run in 2006/2007.
- Partnerships are crucial in reaching intended targets and providing additional sector validation, in this case to education and health stakeholders. UNESCO's and WHO's broad network of national and regional offices enabled global reach for both campaigns.
- Also important is high-level support for the campaigns to raise the profile of the issues at hand. Speeches on hospital safety by the UN Secretary-General, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and WHO Director-General during the International Disaster Reduction Day and the 2009 World Health Assembly were culmination points for the campaign.
- Faced with competing priorities and limited resources, decision-makers must be convinced that the importance of an initiative will greatly outlast the campaign itself.
- Achieving results takes time and continued advocacy to ensure long-term engagement.

- Results must go beyond training one district's teachers or evaluating a few hospitals' safety. Any campaign period must seek to achieve sustainable programmes that are supported by implementing partners. To be most effective, campaigns also require advocacy, monitoring systems and implementation strategies at all levels.

This global action is part of the 2010-2011 World Disaster Reduction Campaign 'Making Cities Resilient-My city is getting ready!' preparations started in late 2009; it was launched in May 2010, in Bonn, Germany, during the Mayors' Adaptation Forum. The main targets for this campaign are Mayors and city council members. The aim is to have them pledge to commit 'to invest smarter' in their city infrastructure and social services to better withstand disasters. The objective is to invite them commit to a ten-point checklist of action which will take forward steps to ensure safer schools and hospitals.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

Over the biennium, efforts by the secretariat and partners to promote disaster risk reduction as a tool for climate change has put disaster risk reduction firmly on the climate change agenda. Efforts included high-level statements by the UN Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Member States, parliamentarians, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and key ISDR system partners, the publication and dissemination of policy briefs, formal submissions to the UNFCCC process and continued technical guidance by UNISDR and partners to national disaster risk reduction advisors in their national preparatory negotiations to COP14 and 15.

The draft text being developed by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action (AWGLCA) at COP15 calls for enhanced action on disaster risk reduction, including through building on the Hyogo Framework for Action, as well as risk assessment and management and risk-sharing and risk-transfer mechanisms. While the exact language for the post-Kyoto regime is still being refined, the Parties to the

Conference have recognized disaster risk reduction as a component of climate change adaptation.

Further progress on linking disaster risk reduction with climate change adaptation has also been made with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on 'Managing the Risk of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Adaptation' as IPCC members accepted the proposal and work has started on the report. The report focuses on authoritative factual information on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Over the next biennium, UNISDR will be supporting the production and publication of peer-reviewed disaster risk reduction research to inform the Special Report on Weather Related Risks as well as the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report⁴⁴.

At regional and national levels, the development of commitments and strategies included the identification of common regional challenges and key priorities to strengthen linkages between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at a workshop jointly organized by UNISDR, World Bank/GFDRR and the League of Arab States in November 2009. After the meeting of the Regional Platform of the Americas in March 2009, Colombia linked disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at the policy level in deciding to support disaster risk reduction as part of its national climate change adaptation budget. In Asia Pacific, advocacy and technical guidance by UNISDR and partners resulted in the adoption of two new acts in the Philippines which for the first time globally link climate change and disaster risk reduction, as well as advancements in Vietnam and the Gambia to link disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in their national policies.

The outcome of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-15 of UNFCCC) in December 2009 with its commitments for financing climate change adaptation during the period 2010-2012 to 2020, present potential for scaled-up investments in disaster risk reduction for countries and strengthened ISDR partnerships. This has been made possible by extensive support by UNISDR to the Parties to the UNFCCC and national negotiators.

Building on these achievements, and acknowledging climate change as a central issue in the coming years, the UNISDR Biennial Work Programme 2010-2011 focuses on implementation of disaster risk reduction as a tool for climate change adaptation at global, regional and national level.

Local Government

In line with the recommendation of the Global Platform 2007, Chair's Summary, which identified Local Governments as major players in successful disaster risk reduction, UNISDR started to promote an alliance with local governments for disaster risk reduction. In August 2009, participants at the Incheon Conference, which was opened by the UN Secretary-General, SRSG and the Mayor of Incheon City, adopted the Incheon Declaration, and identified challenges and ways forward as a basis for the ISDR World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2011: Making Cities Resilient – My City is Getting Ready! The Campaign focuses on mayors and their local governments as both key targets and drivers and is a first step to make local governments a permanent pillar of the ISDR system partnership. Partners of the Campaign include: United Cities for Local Governments (UCLG), Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Local Governments Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction, CityNet, Earthquake Megacities Initiative (EMI), UNHABITAT, World Bank, IFRC, the Global Network of CSOs for Disaster Reduction, Huaioru Commission/GROOTS, among others⁴⁵.

In parallel with the Incheon Conference, UNISDR and the Government of South Korea launched a new training centre for urban risk reduction in Incheon, South Korea, in August 2009. The centre was opened by the UN Secretary-General, the Mayor of Incheon in the presence of many Ministers from Asia/Pacific and other high-level supporters.

NGOs and Civil Society

UNISDR has tried to bridge the divide between local and national by facilitating the contribution of civil society in national coordinating mechanisms. In

44 "Briefing Note Number 1: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction"; "Briefing Note 2: Adaptation to Climate Change by Reducing Disaster Risks: Country Practices and Lessons"; and joint-publication "Practitioner's Handbook for Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change Impacts and Related Natural Disasters in East Asia and South Asia".

45 2009 already saw the development of a plan of engagement as role models or participating cities for Mayors and local governments with a global alliance of local governments, a ten point checklist of essentials for resilient cities for sign-up by Mayors and City Councils, and a guideline to localize the implementation of HFA. National action plans or "compacts" to address urban risk will be part of expected results with the campaign partners. Increased funding to and inspections of schools and hospitals to become safer is another concrete outcome of the partnerships and campaigns. A first partnership meeting was hosted by the United Cities of Local Governments (UCLG) in October 2009, followed by sessions with partners in the regions.

turn, civil society organisations increasingly take a proactive approach to ensure their participation in such multi-stakeholder mechanisms to make them more representative and capable in fulfilling what is expected from them.

BOX 9 - Civil Society monitoring of HFA implementation as a conduit for dialogue

A major contribution to awareness raising and information was the development of a series of case studies which were summarized in a global publication called 'Views from the Frontline' by the Global Civil Society Organisations Network:

It [Views from the Frontline] improves organizational capacity in conducting this type of research, and it also improves communication and expands networking both with government and CEOs. *Global Network member: Indonesia, April 2009*

The most important objective for the VFL project is to see an increase in dialogue understanding, and action among government, civil society organization, community leaders. *Global Network member: Swaziland, April 2009*

In order to better integrate the knowledge, work and networks of NGOs into the ISDR system's work, several NGOs and their networks were invited to join the ISDR Inter-Agency Group in 2009. Similarly, the Global Civil Society Organisations Network and Huairou/ GROOTS have been invited to form part of the Hyogo Framework Mid-Term Review Advisory Board, and several NGOs joined the Global Campaign on Resilient Cities.

The cooperation with civil society organisations, including through a major EC/AIDCO project to build resilience to tsunamis in several Asian Indian Ocean bordering countries, also enlarged the network of partnerships and created a wealth of knowledge on local networks, action plans and awareness, which is now yielding results as communities and local administrators are more risk savvy.

Parliamentarians

Advocacy activities of UNISDR together with a total of 130 parliamentarians from 62 countries, led to enhanced political space for disaster risk reduction by the end of 2009. In particular, the parliamentarians' network acted as a strong advocate to build leadership and ownership among law-makers around disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation issues. This included the UNISDR's Parliamentarian Initiative on Disaster Risk Reduction on Making Disaster Risk Reduction a Tool for Climate Change Adaptation along with the appointment of two disaster risk Regional Champions for Disaster Risk Reduction: Senator Loren Legarda of the Philippines (Asia) and MP, Rachel Shebesh of Kenya (Africa).

The combined impact of the efforts of these two Champions, have resulted in measurable increased debate on disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change adaptation at the parliamentarian and ministerial levels.

BOX 10 - Parliamentarian voices

We have opportunities and responsibilities in leading our citizens through crises and uncertainties using innovative ideas to overcome the challenge of climate change through the application of disaster risk reduction as a tool for climate change adaptation.

...the frequency and scale of disasters obliges us to promote the coordination between governments, parliaments, civil society, private sector, academia, local communities and the general populace to commit to immediate action to share our collective experiences and knowledge, and implement all the decisions of COP15 to reduce the threat to our welfare and existence.

We call upon all parliamentarians to collectively: ... use all the available instruments of their legislative bodies, including gender mainstreaming, to ensure disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures are integrated in national planning and budget processes.

The Malta Declaration of the Commitment by Parliamentarians to COP 15 and Beyond unanimously adopted at the International Roundtable of Parliamentarians on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, St. Julians, Malta, 24 November 2009

Private Sector Engagement

To engage the private sector, UNISDR initiated activities, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, to increase awareness within the business sector through the development and dissemination of a best-practice publication on Private Sector Activities in Disaster Risk Reduction (December 2008).

In addition, a review of the current status and framework of public-private partnerships for disaster risk reduction in East-Asia led to the development of a Public Private Partnership Framework and Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia was commissioned by UNISDR in 2009 with support from the German Federal Foreign Office.

Following requests from stakeholders, donors and the external audit in 2009 which recommended that UNISDR increase private sector engagement, UNISDR has now established a private-public partnerships team which started work in March 2010.

5.3 Strategic Information and Policy Guidance

All three areas of UNISDR's work under this objective, namely Hyogo Framework monitoring and reporting, development of policy guidance, and information tools and dissemination, reported good progress over the biennium. Together they substantially contributed to advance Priority 3 of the Hyogo Framework to use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.

At the same time, demand for guidance in terms of guidelines, tools, methodologies, statistics and standards grew rapidly as countries moved to initiate, implement and scale-up systematic efforts on disaster risk reduction not least through National Platforms.

Information and Knowledge Management

Progress at national and regional level has been supported through UNISDR knowledge products and information-sharing tools. Overall, UNISDR developed or supported the development and disseminated 75 publications and multimedia materials, together with a range of partners, including WMO, UNU, ECHO, UNICEF, World Bank, UNDP, OCHA and many others.

Responding to stakeholders requests, special focus was placed on good practices and lessons learned. All publications were posted on PreventionWeb, and a selected number were sent to participants attending major disaster risk reduction conferences and workshops and in particular made available to the participants at the Global Platform 2009 and to UN Resident Coordinators to facilitate mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction.

UNISDR publications⁴⁶ developed with partners such as guidelines for National Platforms or the secretariat's good practice collections have served as reference or models for replication for integrating disaster risk reduction in UN and government development frameworks. These products have resulted in more awareness, knowledge, ownership and leadership to advance the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, as reported in the Hyogo Framework for Action National Progress Reports and assessed in Global Assessment Report 2009.

Another forthcoming product begun in the last biennium, The World Bank Study on Economics and Disasters under the leadership of the Chief Economist of the Sustainable Development Division of the World Bank. It is expected to be published in the second half of 2010.

Hyogo Framework for Action Monitoring System and the Global Assessment Report

Over the biennium, UNISDR with partners developed, tested and improved an online monitoring and reporting system on risk status and progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework. In engaging partners in compiling information on their implementation progress and commissioning of

⁴⁶ For a complete list of UNISDR publications, visit <http://www.unisdr.org/publications/>.

specialized studies and high-level analysis of main risk patterns and drivers, UNISDR has responded to one of its core roles as secretariat for the ISDR. UNISDR support to develop capacities in monitoring and the introduction of structured progress monitoring led in several countries to highly participatory assessment exercises to more systematically track achievements in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action and helped to strengthen capacities of countries to identify needs and gaps and guided their disaster risk reduction planning and institutional capacity building.

The ISDR Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: Risk and Poverty in a Changing Climate, published in 2009, is a new periodic flagship process and report of the ISDR system. It reflects the wealth of experiences and analysis on disaster risk reduction. Concluding a process which started in May 2008 with the roll out of the Hyogo Framework for Action monitor system, the Global Assessment Report was officially launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Bahrain in May 2009, followed by 25 regional and national launches which greatly improved awareness of the report and disaster risk reduction issues as a whole. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction was a primary advocate for disseminating the Global Assessment Report in a number of key events. Individual member states referred to the Global Assessment Report as an authoritative source in a number of official statements.

Over the biennium, 8000 copies of the Global Assessment Report were printed and disseminated through partners and their networks, resulting in increased awareness and calls for more information worldwide. Statistics also show the worldwide use of the Global Assessment Report: Since its launch in May 2009, the different chapters were downloaded over 270,000 times from the official website in all four languages. This still includes more than 12,000 downloads per month one year after its launch. It is noteworthy that the Global Assessment Report was the first global publication on disaster risk reduction to be published in Arabic, a significant milestone for awareness-raising in the region.

Responding to the call from ISDR partners, donors and other stakeholders, UNISDR together with a number of committed partners have already embarked on the

development process for the Hyogo Framework for Action monitor system and Global Assessment Report 2011.

BOX 11 - Global Assessment Report

On May 16, 2009, the New York Times reported that development and disaster experts referred to the Global Assessment Report as 'the most ambitious effort ever to compare data of all kinds and scales of disasters against population and economic trends'.

PreventionWeb and UNISDR Websites

Over the biennium, UNISDR websites were key mechanisms for sharing disaster risk reduction knowledge globally. In particular, the increasing use of PreventionWeb as the global hub for disaster risk reduction and as a virtual library containing the largest body of select disaster risk reduction materials worldwide, reflected the success of advocacy efforts and increasing global awareness

After its launch in late 2007, PreventionWeb has steadily increased its overall content collection, number of visitors and search engine rankings. PreventionWeb has had 565,176 unique users since 2007, averaging over 50,000 unique visitors per month; its content collection grew from fewer than 250 key documents by theme and hazard at launch, until today's repository of 7500 items published with the support of the ISDR Library.

Over 1000 items were submitted by partner organizations by the end of 2009. The site now promotes over 2000 sources including governments, technical support partners and the media.

The 2008-2009 also saw increased demand and use of online networking services, as well as an increase of workspaces from 45 to 60, including an increase of 35% in traffic.

The 'All disaster risk reduction' website search was launched in 2009 and features indexing of over 400 disaster risk reduction sources. Google search engine results for PreventionWeb grew from 32,500 in 2008 to 117,000 by the end of 2009. The PreventionWeb Hyogo Framework section was also home to the 2009 Global Platform website, biennial HFA reporting,

the promotion and release of the 2009 Global Assessment Report and facilitated online access to reporting on Hyogo Framework implementation progress

In addition to online sources, UNISDR placed emphasis on developing regional knowledge networks and databases on disaster risk reduction, such as through HFA-Pedia and a media database to meet regional information and language needs in the Americas, and an Arab Disaster Risk Reduction Network established with the League of Arab States. Regional information sharing resulted in stronger regional partnerships and consensual positions on disaster risk reduction, for example, at COP15 and the Regional Ministerial Conferences in Asia, the Americas and Africa.

Lessons from the biennium, underline that information and policy guidance need to be further targeted to respond to client needs and be easily accessible. To make the right information available to the right person, in the right format and in a timely manner remains a challenging but achievable objective. Further investment is required to ensure ease of access to relevant information and to have information available in more local languages.

5.4 Effective ISDR secretariat

In 2008, UNISDR embarked on an agenda of internal restructuring and consolidation which will continue in 2010-2011. Over the past two years, major steps have been taken, leading to many improvements of UNISDR internal structures and processes and thus improving its external accountability, transparency and strategic focus.

Following the appointment of the Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR accelerated the implementation of internal changes through a four-pronged approach: strengthening of regional offices; human resource management aligned to assessed needs and functions; development of an information management system- 'e-resource system' to support budget, planning, monitoring and reporting; and, development of an evaluation plan.

Regional Office Strengthening

Streamlining and prioritization of UNISDR's work through the consolidation of regional offices featured high in management priorities for 2009. This included closing the sub-regional office in Iran and South Africa; moving the Pakistan office to Bangkok; opening a sub-regional office in Suva (Fiji); linking the regional office for Central Asia with the Europe office; and a change of country responsibilities in the Western Asia and Northern Africa regions, which is now known as the 'Regional Office for the Arab States'. A regional oversight unit was established in the secretariat whose role is to ensure coherence of implementation of the organizational work programme at the regional level. Reflecting the importance of European institutions in disaster risk reduction, in early 2010 UNISDR redeployed its Regional Office for Europe from headquarters to Brussels.

Strengthening regional and sub-regional offices and partnerships in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, UNISDR ensured stronger regional presence. To bolster more effective and efficient leadership at the regional level, resources were made available to fill vacant posts in the regions, among these three new regional coordinators were appointed in Latin America, the Arab States and Africa. UNISDR also locally recruited national professionals through its cooperation with UN common system partners, UNDP and UNOPS. UNISDR is fully committed to regional development as a biennium priority for 2010-2011.

Human Resources Management

Steps towards the recruitment and management of human resources relative to workforce needs and identified functions began in earnest in 2009. Preliminary discussions began on a profiling exercise to review the current human resources structure and ensure its alignment to the global work programme to be carried out in 2010-2011.

The UN General Assembly's decision to streamline contractual arrangements, effective 1 July 2009, introduced a unified contract for all staff, simplifying

and standardizing administration in the long term. The reform provided UNISDR with an opportunity to harmonize the contractual arrangements of its staff with those of other UN Secretariat departments. This arrangement should facilitate better future mobility and workforce planning.

While the reform brought about the harmonization of contractual arrangements, UNISDR faces challenges due to the funding requirements that come with the regularization of posts. As UNISDR is not funded from regular budget sources it has to mobilize funds to ensure a stable financial base before embarking on filling positions through the established regular UN mechanism.

Since 2008, UNISDR has worked to improve the provision of administrative services in serving the needs of staff, including regular updates on administrative developments.

Planning, Monitoring and Reporting

In support of more effective planning and monitoring, an internal work plan monitoring tool was piloted during 2008-2009. This system focused on integrating previously separate functions: the management of finances, with work planning and monitoring. Monitoring, based separately in headquarters and the field, was developed in a collaborative manner with region specific indicators. The goal of these efforts over the biennium was to develop the basis for an e-resource management system to link efforts already in progress in the Bangkok regional office.

Some of the steps taken to meet the challenge of supporting the pilot project for managing resources included:

- The establishment of a Task Force with a timeframe and deliverables whose purpose is to ensure integrated development or planning, monitoring and reporting and, in a second phase, links to a budget system;
- A fully developed and tested set of performance indicators with clear indications of how results link to the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- A work plan revision process for 2009 with timelines and cost plan instructions was developed, shared and followed up with managers;
- A Programme Review Committee was activated

in 2008 with clear terms of reference to support unit managers by providing coherence and focus on priorities while sharpening monitoring and fundraising efforts.

The development of an effective information management system- 'e-resource system', in 2008-2009 is to be continued into 2010- 2011. Thus the Biennial Work Programme for 2010-2011 is already supported by a pilot planning and monitoring system with the goal, resources willing, of a fully implemented e-resource system. The strategic direction for 2010-2011 is based on the outcomes of the Global Platform 2009, regional consultations and the recommendations of several UNISDR evaluations which were finalized in 2009. The programme has been further shaped through broad consultation with the ISDR Support Group in Geneva, donors, the ISDR Inter-Agency Group and other partners. While the current strategic overview is for two years, the vision, targets and strategic directions are forward looking to 2015.

UNISDR Evaluations

Two external evaluations were commissioned over the biennium. Their purpose was to review and provide guidance to UNISDR in its strategic approach in undertaking its mandated role for disaster risk reduction. The first was an office-wide evaluation commissioned by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and donors. This evaluation was complemented by an audit of UNISDR's governance and organizational structure by the UN Office for Internal Oversight Services (UN OIOS) on request of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Additional evaluations for the Asia-Pacific Office and the Tsunami Flash Appeal Initiative were undertaken. UNISDR also contributed to evaluations of the World Bank's GFDRR as well as the UNDP/BCPR, both of which also reviewed UNISDR's work performance.

The external evaluation of UNISDR was followed by a Management Response endorsed by the ISDR Support Group in April 2010. It set out the response framework and action timetable. The evaluation framework is connected to a revised internal monitoring and

reporting system with the first reporting cycle having been finalized in February 2010 and a mid-year review planned for June 2010.

During 2009, planning for an internal evaluation of UNISDR Regional Offices and Prevention Web was undertaken for implementation during 2010-2011.

BOX 12 - UNISDR Evaluation 2009

The general importance of a body to champion disaster risk reduction is recognized across all stakeholder groups, and UNISDR is increasingly seen as the right organization for this task. UNISDR is considered to be relevant for all stakeholder groups engaged in disaster risk reduction, in particular for coordination, advocacy and strategic information.

UNISDR Evaluation 2009⁴⁷

47 Conclusions, Page 8, UNISDR Evaluation 2009; Final Report: http://www.unisdr.org/preventionweb/files/12659_UNISDRevaluation2009finalreport.pdf

Section 6

Future Considerations

The biennium has seen significant progress on UNISDR work plan objectives through the strengthening of ISDR system coordination mechanisms and increasing strategic partnerships at regional, national and local levels. It has also witnessed significant influence as a consequence of the Global Assessment Report⁴⁸, the Global Platform 2009 and advocacy by informed and committed decision-makers: UN Secretary-General, Parliamentarians, Resident Coordinators and not least the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction. The task set out in the Annual Report for 2008, 'to obtain agreed targets and commitments through substantially expanded mechanisms for scaled up country-level action to reduce risk and to implement the Hyogo Framework is underway with some demonstrated progress in 2009.

At a global level too, progress is evident. As awareness of disaster risk rises, so too does the commitment by Governments and other major actors to systematically address disaster risks. Global awareness has been rising over the past decade, accelerated by growing economic losses, the unprecedented Indian Ocean tsunami, the World Conference on Disaster Reduction and the growing concerns about climate change. Now, five years after the Hyogo Framework was set in place, we can see this motivation beginning to be transformed into more organized action.

This change is evident in many ways—in national policies and initiatives, regional strategies, the agendas of technical associations and private sector enterprise, the nature and scope of media reporting and from agreements on tangible results and concrete targets reached by the delegates of the Global Platform 2009. National processes for the implementation of the Hyogo

Framework are now more established encouraged by efforts of UNISDR and its partners to provide a global picture of national progress and to lobby leaders to take action.

The biennium has also seen a maturing of the relationship between disaster risk reduction and climate change. This will be an important core theme for the future. In the past, the two issues were seen as separate and in competition for political space. The parties agreed to retain disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework in the ongoing negotiations following COP15 at Copenhagen in December 2009. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon neatly summarizes these linkages as a 'triple win for development, adaptation and reduced disaster losses.

Transformation, from awareness to commitment and action is still at an early and fragile stage. Demands and challenges, not least resources and politics, could cause it to falter. Strengthened institutions and capacities are needed to fund and implement disaster risk reduction on a systematic basis. At the same time, increasing attention will need to be given to bottom-up approaches and nurturing grassroots demand for risk-reducing services.

In its role at the centre of disaster risk reduction coordination, UNISDR will continue to identify priorities among the many issues and concerns voiced by the many stakeholders in the disaster risk arena. Expectations are high amongst partners for the secretariat to take up a leadership role in the promotion of commitment, coordination and accountability.

If appropriately and consistently resourced and

48 The findings of the GAR had an impact on the deliberations and Chairs' Summary of the Global Platform 2009. The Global Assessment Report also informed the 2009 report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/64/280). The report called for acceleration in implementation of key activities of the HFA to ensure achievement of its goals by 2015, while pointing out some good improvements in institutional capacities and in disaster preparedness. It also called for urgent investments in more systematic implementation and to address the driving factors: rural poverty and vulnerability, unplanned urban growth and declining ecosystems alongside pleas to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation efforts and to strengthen community-level action.

supported by its partners, the secretariat can make the leap and meet the growing demands of partners and countries for practical help to implement disaster risk and, most importantly, the Hyogo Framework by 2015.

The end of a biennium is the point of departure for the next which is upon us. The past biennium offered up lessons and experience that have prepared UNISDR, as a review of the work plan attests, to ably take up the challenges of the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework and the Global Platform 2011 to 2015 and beyond.

Annex 1 – List of Acronyms

AADMER	Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency and Response	FELAFACS	Federación Latinoamericana de Facultades de Comunicación Social
AASTMT	Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport	FEMICA	Federation of Municipalities in Central America
ACSAD	Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Drylands	GAR	Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre	World Bank/ GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery of the World Bank
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Center	Huairou/ GROOTS	Grassroots organizations operating together in sisterhood
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities for Disasters
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations	IAG	ISDR Inter-Agency Group
AU	African Union	IAP	ISDR Asia Partnership
AUDI	Arab Urban Development Institute	ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
CADRI	Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative	IGAD/ICPAC	Intergovernmental Authority on Development/ Climate Prediction and Applications Centre
CAPRA	Central American Probabilistic Risk Assessment	IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
CAPRADE	Comité Andino para la Prevención y Atención de Desastres	IGO	Inter-Governmental Organization
CAS	World Bank Country Assistance Strategy	ILO/ITC DELNET	International Training centre of the International Labour Organization
CCA/UNDAF	Common Country Assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency	IRP	International Recovery Platform
CDM	Comprehensive Disaster Management	ISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
CEPREDENAC	Centro de Coordinación para Prevención de los Desastres Naturales	IUCN	World Conservation Union
COP	Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	JPO	Junior Professional Officer
CRID	Regional Disaster Information Centre Latin America and the Caribbean	LAS	League of Arab States
DipECHO	Disaster Preparedness European Commission's humanitarian aid department	MDG	Millennium Development Goals
DPPI SEE	South Eastern Europe Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
EC/AIDCO	Europe Aid Cooperation Office	MOB	Management Oversight Board
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States	MTR	Mid-Term Review
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	NGO	Non-governmental organization
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid	OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council	OECD DAC	Organization for Economic Cooperation Development Assistance Committee
ECOWAS	Economic Commission of West African States		

PIACC	Ibero-American Program of Adaptation to Climate Change	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
PDN	Pacific Disaster Net	UNISDR	Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
PPEW	Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning	UN OIOS	United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Programme Support
RAED	Arab Network for Environment and Development	UNU	United Nations University
REDLAC	Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (Red de Emergencias y Desastres de Latino América y el Caribe)	USG	United Nations Under-Secretary-General
RedUlaC	Red Universitarios de Latinoamérica Latina y el Caribe para la Gestión y Reducción del Riesgo en Desastres	WMO	World Meteorological Organization
REHU	Civil Protection and Humanitarian Assistance	WHO	World Health Organization
SAARC	South East Asian Association for Regional Cooperation		
SADC	Southern African Development Community		
SECE CRIF	South East and Central Europe Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility		
SEEDRMAP	South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Program		
SLAP	Strategic Local Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction		
SNAP	Strategic National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction		
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community		
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)		
STC	Scientific and Technical Committee		
SOPAC	Pacific Islands Applied Geosciences Commission		
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments		
UNESCO	United Nations		
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme		
UNDG	United Nations Development Group		
UNDG/DOCO	UN Development Operations Coordination Office		
UNDP/BCPR	United Nations Development Programme/ Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery		
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change		

Annex 2 – Trust Fund for the ISDR – Statement of Income and Expenditure and Change in Reserves and Fund Balances

TRUST FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION Statement of income and expenditure and change in reserves and fund balances for the biennium 2008-2009 ending 31 December 2009 (expressed in United States dollars)

	Sche. 7.4.14 Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction	Sche. 7.4.29 Sub-account for Trust Fund for Tsunami Disaster Relief for activities related to contingency planning and early warning mechanisms	Sche. 7.4.15 UNDRO SASAKAWA DISASTER PREVENTION AWARD FUND	
	DXA	TNB	DLA	TOTAL
INCOME				
Voluntary Contributions	45,374,807	-	-	45,374,807 1/
Received under Inter-Organisation arrangements	73,392	-	-	73,392
Interest Income	915,167	38,307	129,407	1,082,881
Miscellaneous income	395,131	49,730	8,483	453,344 2/
TOTAL INCOME	46,758,497	88,037	137,890	46,984,424
EXPENDITURE				
Staff and other personnel costs	24,478,597	57,612	53,074	24,589,283
Travel	5,836,754	35,075	-	5,871,829
Contractual services	5,911,532	90,713	933	1,988,980
Operating expenses	1,681,989	2,515	989	1,685,493 3/
Acquisitions	1,145,894	314,347	-	1,460,241
Fellowships, grants and other	5,957,495	-	50,047	6,007,542
Programme support costs (Agency)	651,031	22,753	-	673,784
Total Direct expenditure	45,663,292	523,015	105,043	46,291,350
Programme support costs	4,666,671	36,788	13,655	4,717,114
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	50,329,963	559,803	118,698	51,008,464
Excess (shortfall) of income over expenditures	(3,571,466)	(471,766)	19,192	(4,024,040)
Prior period adjustments	-	-	-	-
NET EXCESS (SHORTFALL) OF INCOME COVER EXPENDITURES	(3,571,466)	(471,766)	19,192	(4,024,040)
Transfer (to) from reserves and other funds	-	-	-	-
Refund to Donors	(693,786)	-	-	(693,786) 4/
Savings on prior period obligations	665,478	15,576	2,788	683,842
RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES BEGINNING OF PERIOD	15,289,743	1,413,306	2,275,416	18,978,465
RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES END OF PERIOD	11,689,969	957,116	2,297,396	14,944,481

Statement of assets, liabilities, and reserves and fund balances as at 31 December 2009 (expressed in United States dollars)

ASSETS				
Cash and term deposits	-	-	-	-
OAH Cash Pool	16,486,822	510,627	2,299,227	19,296,676
Pledged contributions receivable	3,320,159	-	-	3,320,159
Inter-fund balances receivable	-	-	-	-
Other accounts receivable	55,658	1,355	-	55,658
Other assets	874,474	-	-	874,474
Operating funds provided to executing agencies	3,618,269	447,559	-	4,065,828
TOTAL ASSETS	24,355,382	958,188	2,299,227	27,612,795
LIABILITIES				
Inter-fund balances payable	76,549	47	218	76,814
Other accounts payable	435,477	-	-	435,477
Unliquidated obligations	4,758,107	1,023	1,613	4,760,743
Contributions/payments received in advance	7,395,280	-	-	7,395,280
TOTAL LIABILITIES	12,665,413	1,070	1,831	12,668,314
RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE				
Operating Reserves	1,880,853	-	9,046	1,889,899
Reserves for allocations	3,937,826	448,032	-	4,385,858
Endowment fund	-	-	2,000,000	2,000,000
Cumulative surplus (deficit)	5,871,290	509,084	288,350	6,668,724
TOTAL RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES	11,689,969	957,116	2,297,396	14,944,481
TOTAL LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES	24,355,382	958,186	2,299,227	27,612,795

1/ The contributions received are all in convertible currencies

2/ Including gain on exchange of \$853 for fund TNB and of 8,120 for fund DLA

Including related programme support costs adjustment of \$72,150 for fund DXA; of \$2,025 for fund of \$363 for fund DLA

3/ Including loss on exchange for fund DXA of \$243,036

4/ Represents refund to Germany of \$693,786

Annex 3 – Progress Tracking

a) By work plan indicator

Objective 1 (Coordination and Resource Mobilization): To ensure and enhance coordination and coherent action among ISDR system partners to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

Indicators:

1. Increased capacity and resources of the ISDR system partners to guide global, thematic, regional and sub-regional processes, to support Governments and national platforms on Disaster Risk Reduction for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action
2. Expanded donor support for the ISDR system manifested in increased levels of investment in the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction and related instruments, including for the Joint Work Programme

Status of Progress

- Funding for the biennium rose from 36.0 million USD in 2006-2007 to 44.3 million USD in 2008-2009. With the majority coming in 2009 reflecting a growing commitment to multi-annual financial support for the secretariat.
- Number of donors rose from 21 in 2006-2007 to 24 in 2008-2009. In particular, new donor relations were established in the regions. Sufficient funding for the ISDR Joint Work Programme proved challenging.

Outcomes	Indicators	Status of progress
1.1 The ISDR system coordinated and supported at global level, and thematic levels, providing guidance to all stakeholders (Global Platform, joint work programme, Scientific and Technical Committee).	Positive comment on the general functioning of the ISDR system in inter-governmental proceedings (particularly the UN General Assembly) and through the specific organization, delivery and reporting of the 2nd session of the Global Platform in June 2009	Increased coverage at all high-level meetings, including GA, CSD, and ECOSOC. Member states also promoted the topic in UN General Assembly Plenary debate on Humanitarian Assistance; firm SG commitment and leadership from the UN Secretary-General established over the biennium and beyond: disaster risk reduction now officially an SG priority for achievement of MDG for 2010-2015; Reflecting worldwide recognition and commitment, the second session of the Global Platform, 16-19 June 2009, with 1700 participants from 152 governments, 44 UN and other international organizations, 22 Regional and intergovernmental organizations and 69 civil society groups and resulted in time-bound targeted recommendations including on safer schools and hospitals and investment for disaster risk reduction.
	> by the number of national and thematic platforms established and that are reporting progress of HFA implementation through the PreventionWeb hub as part of the GAR process	Increasing number of National Platforms from 41 in 2008 to 64 by end2009; Global, regional and national platform meetings; Thematic Platforms on urban risk, health, education, environment; CAPRA, DelNet; HFA Monitor: in first reporting cycle 2008/2009, 102 HFA reports in development, 78 reports submitted. Regional reports developed on the basis of national HFA Monitor reports. HFA monitor revised in 2009 and new cycle timely launched for 2010/2011. Global Assessment Report 2011 development process launched with growing number of committed partners.
	Scientific and Technical Committee documents and essential messages widely disseminated through GA and Global Platform processes	Science & Technical Committee established in February 2008; links established with International Disaster Reduction Conference, Publication of Reducing Disaster Risks through Science report. Science concerns reflected in Global Platform's Chair's summary; new work plan developed for 2010/2011; Global Assessment Report 2009 providing risk assessment based on latest scientific research, including sub-regional risk assessments
	> by the number of countries that incorporate HFA/disaster risk reduction into UNDAF/CCA processes and poverty reduction strategies	CCA/UNDAF mainstreaming guidance note published and training module developed; Related Training-of-Trainers workshop held at UN Staff College Turin (November 2009); workshop on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction delivered in Turkey; Training and UNDG guidance for Resident Coordinators provided. As a result, disaster risk reduction is now featuring in several Resident Coordinator Annual Reports, and UN Resident Coordinator Offices are increasingly committing to integrate disaster risk reduction in their CCA/UNDAF cycles as in the Maldives.

1.2 Regional coordination capacities strengthened to guide and report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (Regional platforms, plans, information).	> the number of regional and thematic platforms established and that are reporting progress of HFA implementation through the PreventionWeb hub as part of the GAR process.	Thematic Platforms on urban risk, health, education, environment; CAPRA, DelNet; in first reporting cycle 2008/2009, 102 HFA reports in development, 78 reports submitted and 24 partly finalized. HFA monitor revised in 2009 and new cycle timely launched for 2010/2011. Global Assessment Report 2011 development process launched with growing number of committed partners
	Periodic consultations on joint regional work programme conducted among partners	Regional platform meetings and other regional consultations held in all regions. Increased regional turnout at Global Platform, including presentation of regional results such as regional strategies and action plans developed in 2008/2009.
	> the number of networks established around sector or disaster risk reduction professional issues with website information available on membership and activities	Firmly established networks of parliamentarians, Civil Society Organisations, water, media, local government, gender and environment engaged in active lobbying for disaster risk reduction with concrete results as in the Philippines legislation on DRM and CC; recommendations on water risk reduction adopted by UNSGAB; launch of Global Campaign on Resilient Cities with strong support from local governments and Mayors) and the development of knowledge products and information (Gender guidelines, NGO publication, World Water Development Report, BBC shows and other media publications).
1.3 Action coordinated to guide and support national actors, building on regional and international ISDR system capacities (National platforms, training packages).	Toolkit for National Platforms published	Guidance notes on key NP activities developed, Toolkit being finalised and available in May 2010; Good practice on national Platforms published; Information exchange enhanced through PreventionWeb; CADRI/UNISDR training package on disaster risk reduction, HFA and National Platforms developed and used in national workshops in Bosnia, Croatia, Jamaica, Kenya and Namibia
	> number of national coordinating mechanisms that fulfil the characteristics of multi-stakeholder National Platforms on disaster risk reduction	Increasing number of National Platforms from 41 in 2008 to 64 at the end of 2009 Facilitation of multi-stakeholder dialogue meetings, Contribution to implement European National Platform network organised workshop and facilitation for twinning between national coordinating mechanisms in Albania and Italy, Madagascar and Senegal; Assistance to conduct institutional assessments (Madagascar, Senegal) and adopt Strategic National Action Plans (Maldives) (For more information, please access: http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/national/) Consultations held in Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Maldives, Mozambique, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania involving National Platforms and Indian Ocean Consortium partners to discuss and finalize National Action Plans on Tsunami Early Warning Systems.
	Leadership Development Programme to orient Resident Coordinators/ Representatives on their roles and work in Disaster Risk Reduction established	UNISDR/ CADRI briefing of UN Resident Coordinators (RC) on disaster risk reduction at Regional retreats in 2008/2009, Guidance documents and factsheets developed, accessible through http://www.eird.org/regional/coordinators.html

1.4 Increased resources available for disaster risk reduction and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.	100% funding of the ISDR Biennial Joint Work Programme 2008-2009 met by end 3rd qtr 2009	Several joint efforts undertaken by ISDR partners such as support to Global Assessment Report 2009. Renewed cooperation agreed for 2010/2011. Expanded participation of civil society actors.
	Private sector coalition set up to fund disaster risk reduction projects/ programmes	Good practice document on Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) developed and published; Study on PPP presented at IAP for endorsement; talks initiated with several private sector companies over 2008. UNISDR Private Sector Engagement team established early 2010.
	The GFDRR becomes a sustainable partnership (window 1) to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.	Move to Window 1 effectively executed mid 2009. New GFDRR work plan developed and agreed for 2010/2011.
	Comprehensive guidelines for disaster risk reduction eligibility in ODA developed and subsequently adopted	Advocacy efforts by UNISDR in 2008 and 2009 led to strong support for increased ODA disaster risk reduction funding at the Global Platform 2009. Resource mobilization strategy developed.

Objective 2

Advocacy and Partnership Building: To achieve greater recognition of and commitment to disaster risk reduction and Hyogo Framework among policy and decision makers world-wide, guided by technically sound policies and practices

Indicators:

1. Increased number of States, United Nations organizations and inter-agency processes and initiatives incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction in their development planning policies and strategies with emphasis on health and climate change
2. Increased number of diverse targeted partnerships engaged in advancing the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in particular those supported by the Joint Work Programme

Status of progress

1. Increasing number of UNDAFs with integrated disaster risk reduction action; stronger Resident Coordinator commitment to disaster risk reduction; closure of UNISDR Global Campaign on Safe Hospitals with good results, including long-term engagement of countries and other stakeholders (Thematic Platform for Health, National application of Safe Hospital Index, etc); IASC, One-UN and other mechanisms promoting disaster risk reduction at all levels
2. Increasing number of partnerships on disaster risk reduction, including with key actors of change (parliamentarians, women and children, NGOs, media); funding-hampered Joint Work Programme reviewed and adapted for 2010/11

Outcomes	Indicators	Status of progress
<p>2.1 Disaster risk reduction recognised more widely and understood better as a development integrated into national and international policies and programmes, with a gender sensitive approach (media, Safer Hospitals campaign, policy dialogue, gender and DRR guidelines).</p>	<p>Member states indicate support to the ISDR through their statements and negotiations in the GA, ECOSOC and other intergovernmental entities.</p>	<p>Increased coverage at all high-level meetings, including GA, CSD, and ECOSOC. Member states also promoted the topic in 'non-traditional' meetings, e.g. UN General Assembly Plenary debate on Humanitarian Assistance; firm SG commitment and leadership established over the biennium and beyond: disaster risk reduction now officially a priority of the Secretary-General for achievement of MDG for 2010-2015; disaster risk reduction promoted by Member states in UNFCCC negotiations;</p>
	<p>Increased coverage of disaster risk reduction related issues by the media at all levels</p>	<p>Increasing coverage of disaster risk reduction issues in media worldwide; including international media such as BBC (2 programmes in 2009 on disaster risk reduction) and various newspapers at national level; good coverage of GAR09 launch; coverage of Global Platform to be improved;</p>
	<p>GAR analysis on why and how to adopt development oriented approaches to reduce disaster risks in light of risk trends and progress</p>	<p>Global Assessment Report 2009 developed and launched with set of recommendations; good feedback from stakeholders, including request to turn Global Assessment Report into regular tool; Global Assessment Report 2011 process in progress;</p>
	<p>Training module reflecting gender and disaster risk reduction developed and tested and rolled out in Asia, the Americas, Europe</p>	<p>Gender guidelines developed and disseminated with strong positive feedback from different stakeholders at all levels; advocacy through gender conferences and good practice publication as basis for future training</p>
	<p>Global campaign "Hospitals Safe from Disasters" 2008-2009 implemented</p>	<p>Global Campaign implemented with WHO and World Bank as main partners, Multitude of advocacy events to raise awareness and promote use of tools like the "Safe Hospitals Index", targets for 2011, 2013 and 2015 adopted at Global Platform High-level panel session, included in UNISDR Biennial Work Programme, www.safehospitals.info website revived</p>
<p>2.2 Disaster risk reduction and Hyogo Framework recognized as a core feature of policy and programmes for adaptation to climate change (Guidance notes, training NAPAs, UNFCCC processes).</p>	<p>Disaster risk reduction included in climate change high-level speeches, texts and publications, press reports and negotiation instruments (such as that for the post-Kyoto regime).</p>	<p>Draft text being developed by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action (AWGLCA) at COP15 calls for enhanced action on disaster risk reduction, including through building on the Hyogo Framework for Action; disaster risk reduction events and recognition at all levels; continued SG and other high-level commitment; disaster risk reduction as a SG priority to achievement of the MDGs in 2010-2015</p>
	<p>Training modules developed and rolled out by the Inter-American Institute for Global Change for disaster risk reduction and climate change in one region</p>	<p>Not started</p>
	<p>Capacity of LDCs built to incorporate early warning into climate change and development planning</p>	<p>Regional climate change activities, e.g. study on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Viet Nam, review of climate change strategy in the Latin American region, climate change and drought work in Africa, launch and pilot testing of the Primer on Urban Risk and Climate Change in Asia Pacific. Several moves at national level, including national laws, national action plans and policies developed on disaster risk reduction and CCA</p>

2.3 Awareness and participation of key actors strengthened to advance the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (Networks of good practice of parliamentarians, local governments, private sector, NGOs).	Private sector network functional with roundtables organised in China, the Philippines, Russia and Panama	Activities in 2008/2009 were limited but targeted to corporate social responsibility. Two good practice documents on Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) were developed and published in Bonn and Asia Pacific office; regional PPP activities in Asia, Europe and Panama which led to draft strategy paper on PPP as a basis for new UNISDR Private Sector team 2010; talks initiated with several private sector companies; private sector engagement for PPP for disaster risk reduction as part of BWP 2010/2011.
	Parliamentarian Networks advocate and provide recommendations for mainstreaming DISASTER RISK REDUCTION at the local level	Strong support by growing parliamentarian network at high level and national levels, including UNFCCC COP15; several parliamentarian meetings held in different regions, with clear messages and outcome statements such as the Parliamentarian Manila Call for Action 2009; Announcement of two Regional Champions for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (Asia and Africa); IPU declaration adopted in early 2010.

Objective 3

Strategic Information and Policy Guidance: To ensure that information and knowledge on risk status, good practice and progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework are available at country, regional and global levels.

Indicators:

1. Informative, updated and substantive information in all fields related to Disaster Risk Reduction, Hyogo Framework and ISDR system available and publicly accessible
2. A major global report on Disaster Risk Reduction and progress towards implementation of the Hyogo Framework is published and available by 2nd quarter of 2009.
3. Study of the economics of Disaster Risk Reduction published and available by 2009.

Status of progress

1. Over 7,500 documents published on PreventionWeb, including various new publications in different sectors by UNISDR and partners.
2. Global Assessment Report 2009 produced and launched. GAR11 in development.
3. Economics study in progress. Publication date envisaged for 2010 due to extended revision and consultation process.

Outcomes	Indicators	Status of progress
3.1 Monitoring and assessment systems in place for risk status and progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (Progress indicators, reporting system in place, Global Assessment Report 2009).	Global risk update completed - baseline on global disaster risk against which progress in DISASTER RISK REDUCTION will be assessed;	Global risk update undertaken as part of Global Assessment Report 2009. Several regional and sub-regional risk assessments undertaken and implementation started. Development of Global Assessment Report 2011 on basis of results in Global Assessment Report 2009.
	GAR published and distributed on the International Day for Disaster Reduction 2009	Global Assessment Report 2009 developed and launched in May 2009. Global Assessment Report 2011 in development with committed partners.
	Annual SG Report delivered on time	SG report 2009 published on time and SG report 2010 in development.

3.2 Information and knowledge on disaster risk reduction generated and documented (Study on economics of DRR, updated terminology and standards).	Economics and Disaster Risk Reduction Report prepared with strong engagement of experts and ISDR partners	Study in development with active engagement from numerous ISDR partners and UNISDR; to be published in 2010 due to extended revision and consultation process
	Current terminology on disaster risk reduction translated and reviewed in all UN official languages.	Terminology revised, published at Global Platform 2009 and translated in all official UN Languages and several East Asian language versions. Agreement with partners on development of water-risk-terminology in 2010.
	Permanent mechanism/process established for continued validation and improvement of data and knowledge.	PreventionWeb as an accepted and well-used global hub for information and experience exchange and collaboration. Over 690,000 users by 2009 and 7,500 documents published. Continuous revision process for improvement of functions and easy-usage and linking to UNISDR websites in progress. Google search engine results for PreventionWeb grew from 32,500 in 2008 to 117,000 at the end of 2009.
3.3 Existing knowledge on disaster risk reduction made more widely available worldwide (Preventionweb, ISDR resource center).	PreventionWeb has greater functionality, increased usage (access stats) and feedback by users showing satisfaction with usability, content and scale of information	Increased usage of PW; improved and extended functions. Positive feedback in UNISDR evaluations. Processes for linkage of all UNISDR websites in progress. Over 560,000 users, 7500 documents, 60 workspaces, 2000 multi-stakeholder sources including government focal institutions and media.
	Partnerships and resource exchange agreements developed with other disaster risk reduction information centres	PreventionWeb has published content from over 1600 disaster risk reduction organizations and developed automated information exchange and sharing with World Bank/GFDRR; PAHO; UNDP/GRIP; IRP; CADRI. Disaster Risk Reduction Information Management Network launched to define global information exchange standards and increase number of partners to reduce duplication of effort.

Objective 4:

To strengthen capacities of ISDR secretariat to effectively support the ISDR system and facilitate the implementation of Hyogo Framework (Effective Secretariat)

Indicators:

1. Financing requirements of the secretariat are met by the 3rd quarter of 2009 including increased number of multi-year commitments to core functions from donors
2. Deliverables of the secretariat are produced by the end of 2009.

Status of progress

1. Increased funding and donor base over the biennium; GFDRR move to long-term funding tool
2. Satisfactory return on deliverables of Biennial Work Plan 2008/2009 by end of 2009, in particular in key areas such as climate change, global risk assessment, parliamentarians and other drivers of change, Global Campaigns

Outcomes	Indicators	Status of progress
4.1 ISDR secretariat and outreach offices managed and enhanced for more effective and efficient delivery and services	No specific indicators developed	Biennial Work Programme 2010/2011 including conservative cost plan developed and endorsed by donors; Evaluation and Audit 2009 finalized and Management Response published as part of M&E system; UNISDR monitoring tool further improved and first monitoring cycle successfully conducted in Q1 2010; New organigramme developed and implemented; training for all staff implemented; regular meetings of key bodies such as MOB and ISDR Support Group held; regular Project Review Committee meetings held; MIS system development in progress.

b) By work plan indicator

UNISDR secretariat work areas related to the goals and priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015:
Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters

HFA Strategic Goals	UNISDR secretariat's contribution and outputs
1. The integration of DISASTER RISK REDUCTION into sustainable development policies and planning	<p>Long-term commitment (Window 1) of World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery for poverty reduction; increasing number of PRSPs incorporating disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>UN Resident Coordinators' Annual Reports increasingly featuring disaster risk reduction; increasing number of CCA/UNDAFs integrate disaster risk reduction; UNDG Guidance documents developed (accessible through http://www.eird.org/regional/coordinators.html)</p> <p>National climate change adaptation plans including disaster risk reduction content and early warning; UNFCCC draft negotiation documents with disaster risk reduction links; 'IPCC Special Report on Weather Related Climate Risks' in development</p> <p>UNISDR Global campaign 2008-2009 on safe hospitals; education, urban risk and environment platforms</p>
2. Development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards	<p>64 national platforms for disaster risk reduction (by 31.12.2009 from 41 on 1.1.2008)</p> <p>Committed parliamentarians network at global and regional level and local authorities' engagement</p> <p>Regional platforms and regional consultations held in all regions; regional strategies and action plans; strong regional participation at Global Platform 2009; firmly established cooperation with regional partners (e.g. ISDR Asia Partnership)</p> <p>Global Platform process; Science & Technical Committee set up; Global Assessment Report 2009 published; PreventionWeb</p>
3. The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes	<p>Calls by Member States at Global Platform 2009 for increased disaster risk reduction funding from ODA</p> <p>Disaster risk reduction promotion by Member States in UN General Assembly Plenary debate on Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p>UNISDR coordinated disaster risk reduction contribution to humanitarian flash appeals</p> <p>Increased disaster risk reduction engagement of relevant organizations and mechanisms such as OCHA, the International Recovery Platform, the Platform for Promotion of Early Warning</p> <p>Collection and dissemination of guidelines; good practices and lessons learned (see http://www.unisdr.org/publications/)</p>

HFA Priorities and cross cutting issues	UNISDR secretariat results areas (output level)
<p>1. Ensure that DISASTER RISK REDUCTION is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation</p>	<p>Increased coverage at all high-level meetings, e.g. GA, CSD, and ECOSOC, including non-traditional meetings; firm SG commitment and leadership: disaster risk reduction an official SG priority for achievement of MDG for 2010-2015</p> <p>Global Platform the main global disaster risk reduction process with 36% increased participation and targeted, time-bound outcomes</p> <p>Increased number of HFA National Reports submitted through HFA Monitor;</p> <p>Increased number of Regional platforms and Ministerial Conferences</p> <p>Increased number of National Platforms and mechanisms, strategies and plans for disaster risk reduction</p> <p>Committed parliamentarian networks with concrete results</p> <p>Thematic Platforms on urban risk, health, education, environment; CAPRA, DelNet; disaster risk reduction in humanitarian (IASC), development (UNDG), environmental (EMG) fields</p>
<p>2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning</p>	<p>Global Assessment Report 2009; regional and sub-regional risk assessments; Global Assessment Report 2011 in process</p> <p>Disaster risk reduction firmly established in UNFCCC negotiations, and IPCC Special Report related to disaster risk reduction</p> <p>Consultations on PPEW- early warning practices, and support to Indian Ocean Consortium</p>
<p>3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels</p>	<p>High-level disaster risk reduction promotion and support</p> <p>Increased media coverage at all levels</p> <p>Global Assessment Report 2009 and Disaster Risk Reduction Terminology and other information and guidance tools</p> <p>Scientific & Technical Committee for disaster risk reduction set up</p> <p>PreventionWeb accepted and well-used global hub for disaster risk reduction information, experience sharing and networking; regional websites</p>
<p>4. Reduce the underlying risk factors</p>	<p>Global Campaigns on Safe Hospitals implemented; Global Campaign on Safe Cities 2010-2011 developed. Integration of disaster risk reduction in environmental management and development planning</p> <p>Disaster risk reduction firmly established as a tool for climate change adaptation; disaster risk reduction as a SG priority to achievement of the MDGs in 2010-2015; regional and national risk assessment studies</p> <p>Information management and good practices on post-disaster coordinated action (through IRP)</p> <p>Network on Water related disaster risk reduction with concrete results</p> <p>Two good practice documents on Public-Private-Partnerships</p> <p>Advocacy by Parliamentarian network, two disaster risk reduction Champions (Parliamentarians from Africa and Asia)</p>
<p>5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels</p>	<p>Support to IASC work on preparedness</p> <p>Preparedness indicators</p> <p>Indian Ocean Consortium (multi-agency follow-up of the tsunami work)</p>
<p>i. Community and volunteers participation</p>	<p>Firmly established networks of Civil Society Organisations and the development of knowledge products and information (NGO publications and independent "Views from the Frontline" report)</p>
<p>ii. Gender perspective and cultural diversity</p>	<p>Firmly established networks of on gender and the development of Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction guidelines and good practices</p>
<p>iii. Capacity building & technology transfer</p>	<p>CADRI/UNISDR training package on disaster risk reduction, HFA and NPs developed and used</p> <p>Local government capacities on disaster risk reduction developed through support to ILO/ITC DELNET course</p> <p>Support to university programmes on disaster risk reduction</p>

Paragraph 33 HFA- Implementation and follow-up	UNISDR secretariat's key processes, reports and publications
Develop a matrix of roles and initiatives in support of follow/up to the Hyogo Framework	ISDR Inter-Agency exchange on progress to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework; One-UN process identifying disaster risk reduction actions within UN organizations ('Yellow pages on disaster risk reduction in the UN)
Facilitate the coordination of effective actions within the UN system and other international and regional entities to support the implementation of the HFA, identify gaps, facilitate processes to develop guidelines and policy tools for each priority area	ISDR System Joint Work Programme; Renewed cooperation agreed for 2010/2011 with expanded participation of civil society actors Joint results of ISDR system partners, thematic platforms, Civil Society, Parliamentarians and Gender Networks contributed to facilitate HFA implementation. UNDG, CEB, IASC, WB/GFDRR committed to HFA (Gender Guidelines; Manila Call for Action and Malta Declaration; HFA Priority 5 Guidance document; Views from the frontline; Terminology; Global Assessment Report 2009, World Bank Primer on Safe Cities)
Develop generic, realistic and measurable indicators that could assist States in measuring progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework	HFA Monitor: in first reporting cycle 2008/2009, 102 HFA reports in development, 78 reports submitted. Regional reports developed on the basis of national HFA Monitor reports. HFA monitor revised in 2009 and new cycle timely launched for 2010/2011. Global Assessment Report 2011 development process launched with growing number of committed partners.
Support national platforms & regional coordination	Words into action: HFA available in Bahasa Indonesia, French, Spanish and Russian Good practices of national platforms for disaster risk reduction Creating linkages for a Safer Tomorrow - Proceedings from GP09 Strengthened UNISDR regional programmes Inter-agency programmes in support of national platforms and mechanisms
Stimulate the exchange, compilation, analysis and dissemination of best practices, lessons learnt	PreventionWeb well-used hub for disaster risk reduction information exchange 75 UNISDR publications in the biennium (guidance notes, terminology, good practices, etc.) (see http://www.unisdr.org/publications/)
Prepare periodic review on progress towards achieving the objectives of the HFA and provide reports to the UNGA & other UN bodies	UN Secretary-General Reports on Implementation of ISDR 2008 and 2009

ANNEX 4 - List of Key Events and Platform Meetings at Global and Regional Level

Global Platform		
Date	Title	Key Outcome
16-19 June 2009	Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, Switzerland	Chairs Summary
Regional Platforms and Regional Ministerial Meetings		
13- 15 February 2008	1st meeting of the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) in 2008	Discussed outcomes of the 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Delhi, India, November 2007, and prepared for the next ministerial Conference
19-20 Feb 2009	European National Platform and HFA focal point meeting	Identification of the road map to establish in the next European HFA and NP meeting a Regional Platform for disaster risk reduction
09 April 2008	High-level ministerial meeting on disaster and preparedness in South Eastern Europe, Sophia, Bulgaria	Call for high level engagement on disaster risk reduction issues; Ministerial Communication adopted, DPPI tasked to develop a regional plan on disaster risk reduction issues
24-25 Apr 2008	Meeting of European National Platforms and HFA focal points, Paris, France	Preparatory discussion concerning European Regional Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction
21-25 July 2008	1st Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management, Nadi, Fiji.	Communiqué adopted: «Inaugural Pacific Regional Disaster Risk Management Meeting for CEOs of Finance/Planning and Disaster Management - Call for Action»
23 September 2008	2nd Meeting of the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) in 2008	Drafting committee meeting for the KL Declaration
1 December 2008	3rd Meeting of the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) in 2008	Discussion of the KL Declaration and the preparation for the follow-up to Ministerial Conference
2-4 December 2008	3rd Asian Ministerial Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,	Kuala Lumpur Declaration on DISASTER RISK REDUCTION in Asia 2008 http://www.amcdisaster risk reductionmalaysia.com.my/docs/Final%20Kuala%20Lumpur%20Declaration.pdf
17-19 March 2009	1st Hemispheric Regional Platform meeting, Panama, Panama	A significant advance was the decision announced on behalf of representatives from MERCOSUR countries to analyze and work towards means of setting up a sub-regional mechanism (resembling the Central American CEPREDENAC structure) for Mercosur / Southern Cone countries.

23-24 March 2009	1st Meeting of the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP)	Discussed outcomes of the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on disaster risk reduction held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in December 2008, and prepared for the next ministerial Conference. Also developed the KL Action Plan as requested by Ministers.
5-7 May 2009	2nd Meeting of the African Regional Platform, Nairobi, Kenya,	Africa Regional Strategy and Programme of Action for disaster risk reduction and the HFA, including concrete recommendations; Africa Regional Programme of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction
11-15 May 2009	2nd Meeting of the Pacific Platform on Disaster Risk Management, jointly hosted by SOPAC and the UNISDR Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific, Nadi, Fiji.	Communiqué adopted by the Pacific CEOs of Finance and/or Planning and Disaster Management «Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Development in Pacific Island Countries – The Need for Leadership by Central Agencies».
19-21 May 2009	Regional workshop for the promotion of the regional implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction - Disaster risk reduction for sustainable development League of Arab States Jeddah (Saudi Arabia)	Progress in the development of an Arab strategy to integrate disaster risk reduction in sustainable development policies and plans.
13-14 Aug 2009	2nd Meeting of the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP)	Preparation for the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Also adopted the Kuala Lumpur Action Plan as requested by Ministers.
11-13 November 2009	Meeting of European National Platforms and HFA focal points, London, United Kingdom,	Establishment of the European Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction called the European Regional Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction. Sweden Elected Chair of the Regional Forum and FRY of Macedonia Co-Chair.
8 December 2009	3rd Meeting of the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) in 2009	Preparation for the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Annex 5: New National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction Established in 2008-2009

Number of National Platforms as of 01.01.2008: 41

Number of National Platforms as of 31.12.2009: 59

The following list provides an overview of countries which in 2008/2009 declared or officially launched new National Platforms for disaster risk reduction to UNISDR. Most launches took place with UNISDR presence and active facilitation support.

For a full list of National Platforms, please access the following website:

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/national/list/>

Newly established National Platforms in 2008/2009:

1. Afghanistan (Official declaration on 05 October 2009, Launched on 24 January 2010)
2. Argentina (29 September 2008)
3. Bolivia (14 October 2009)
4. Croatia (Launched on 09 November 2009)
5. Democratic Republic of Congo (Established in 2009)
6. Dominican Republic (March 2008)
7. El Salvador (16 July 2008)
8. Egypt (November 2009)
9. Guatemala (25 September 2009)
10. Guinea (Established in 2008)
11. Indonesia (20 February 2009)
12. Italy (January 2008)
13. Jamaica (18 July 2008)
14. Kazakhstan (Official declaration on January 2008)
15. Macedonia, The former Yugoslav Republic of (Official declaration on 23 February 2009)
16. Mauritania (Established in 2009)
17. Mexico (Official declaration on 13 November 2009)
18. Monaco (Official declaration on 03 July 2009)
19. Peru (27 February 2009)
20. Poland (27 August 2009)
21. Senegal (Official declaration on March 2008)
22. Sri Lanka (January 2008)
23. United Kingdom (November 2009)

Annex 6: Greening the Secretariat

Offsetting the carbon footprint of the Global Platform 2009:

In line with its mandate to reduce the risks of disasters, including effects of climate change, reducing green house gas emissions as part of good environmental practice is a basic requirement for UNISDR. UNISDR in 2008 joined the initiative of the UN Secretary General to make the UN a climate neutral organization. Over the biennium, UNISDR established an inter-unit 'Green Team' which developed an internal policy note with key steps to climate neutrality, including efforts to reduce UNISDR's environmental footprint and to 'lead by example.' The successful offsetting of the emissions of the 2009 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was a highlight of UNISDR's efforts in 2009.

Emissions for the Global Platform session in 2009, in particular from travel, were estimated based on the first session in 2007. UNISDR is evaluating options to offset air travel and operations emissions from its headquarters in Geneva and its regional offices, following the example of its Asia & Pacific office, which has been carbon-neutral for the past 2 years.

UNISDR opted to purchase certified emissions reductions (CERs) from a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project under the Kyoto Protocol. On the basis of a list of criteria for the selection of the carbon credits, UNISDR selected a wind-power generation project in India.

The total cost for the purchase of 1000 CERs for the Global Platform meeting was approximately USD 30.000. Funds were allocated from the meeting budget and procurement of the CERs was conducted by the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG). Due to the lack of available climate data for the estimation of conference venue and hotels, calculations had to be based on travel only.

As a follow-up action, UNISDR agreed to ensure the promotion of the initiative internally and externally in order to increase momentum and to move from a good-will initiative to a programmed action.



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

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