

**Working in partnership**  
to build safer communities  
and reduce disaster risk



Annual Report **PROVENTION**  
CONSORTIUM

2006

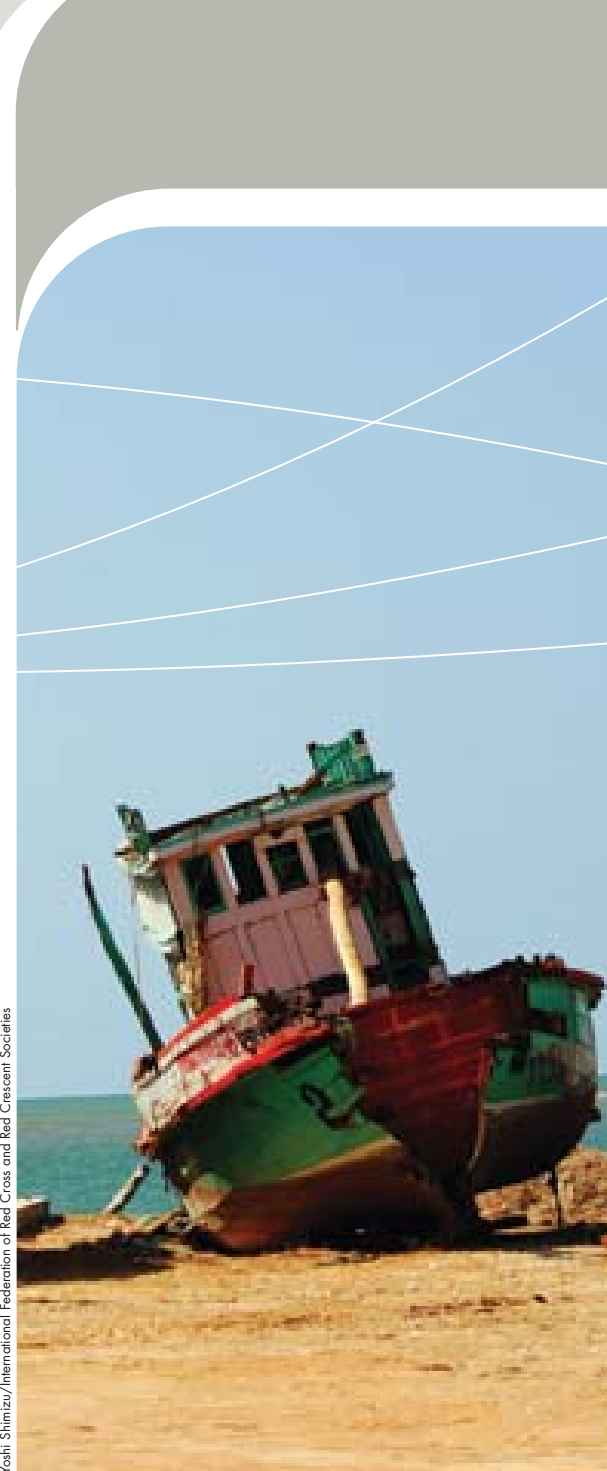
# ProVention's purpose

ProVention was created in 2000 to address the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters and their social, economic and environmental impacts on developing countries. As poor countries continue to be disproportionately affected by disasters and incur the majority of costs, there is a growing recognition of the inextricable links between disaster vulnerability, poverty and development. Addressing disaster reduction in this broad context requires a collaborative approach, involving different and diverse sectors and organisations where managing risk is seen as everyone's business. The ProVention Consortium therefore includes a broad range of partners, from development to humanitarian organisations and from the public to the private sector, with the goal of providing a forum for dialogue and a framework for collective action. ProVention identifies strategic issues, priorities and gaps in the field of disaster risk management and, thus, plays an important agenda-setting role. It is intended to catalyse new ideas and collaborative initiatives. The Consortium also functions as a virtual network with the explicit aim of brokering links between organisations and across sectors, providing opportunities for partnerships and joint activities or simply information exchange.

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Yoshi Shimizu/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



# Introduction



In 2006, increased international concern for disaster risk reduction triggered by events in 2004 and 2005 contributed to important changes in the global institutional set-up and resourcing of the disaster risk reduction system. The World Bank established the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, a major initiative aimed at supporting national capacities to deal with the risks of natural hazards, enhancing global and regional partnerships and improving the efficiency of international assistance for disaster recovery operations. The United Nations International Secretariat for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) is also developing a new institutional architecture aimed at more effectively promoting the Hyogo Framework for Action and expanding its outreach and representation. ProVention is actively supporting both initiatives, seeking to determine its strategic niche within the evolving international disaster reduction system.

Another important development this year was the growing consensus among world leaders, scientists, the media and the general public that climate change will be one of the main global challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and will strongly influence the severity, frequency and spatial distribution of future climate-related hazards. To address this major challenge effectively, more strategic collaboration and enhanced knowledge exchange between the climate change and adaptation and the disaster risk reduction communities is absolutely necessary. ProVention is increasingly looking at opportunities to link up both agendas, particularly through promoting more interconnected approaches to the assessment and mainstreaming of the management of disaster and climate risks.

ProVention continues to play an essential role in the global disaster reduction effort by linking key actors through multi-stakeholder networking. The Consortium also seeks to provide an informal forum for policy dialogue and agenda setting, catalysing innovative practice and combining knowledge advancement, gathering and sharing. In February, more than 100 participants attended the 2006 ProVention Forum in Bangkok, Thailand – the largest such meeting of the Consortium to date – to debate and critically reflect on ‘Incentives for reducing risk’. In 2006 the Secretariat, after extensive consultation, completed its new Strategic Work Plan 2007–2009, which builds on past programmes and also seeks to address new challenges and external trends identified by ProVention partners, such as the need for increased attention to climate issues and human security, and innovative approaches to knowledge management.

An important feature of ProVention’s work this year has been the attention paid to Africa, which has until recently been largely neglected in terms of disaster risk reduction efforts. ProVention supported several project initiatives, focusing on urban risk in the continent’s cities and promoting networking and experience sharing on disaster reduction among local actors in the context of three regional forums. The 2007 Global Forum in Tanzania will put disaster risk reduction issues in Africa in the spotlight to further the understanding of the complexities of this topic in a continent facing a multitude of risks and crises.

The ProVention Secretariat acknowledges the continued support of its donors during 2006 and thanks its partners for their constant commitment to the Consortium. We look forward to further collaboration in 2007 and to strengthening ProVention’s contribution to the global disaster reduction endeavour.

**Bruno Haghebaert**  
*Acting Head, ProVention Consortium Secretariat*  
*December 2006*





# ProVention approach

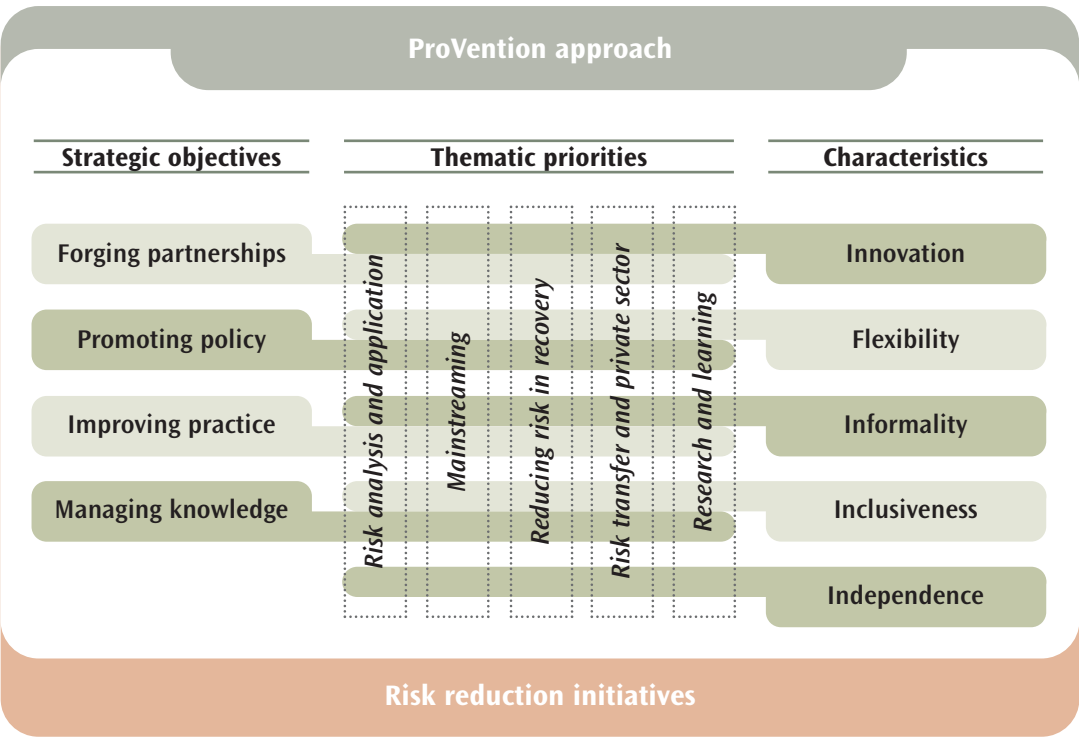
Drawing from this experience, ProVention has designed its work plan for 2007 and beyond around an approach that balances these different elements, recognising the cross-cutting nature of the work and the need for multi-faceted solutions to achieve long-term impact in reducing risks and strengthening resiliency. This approach also recognises the value of linking project activities within specific thematic priorities to broader networking and dialogue to create a dynamic cycle between theory, policy and practice, driving further learning and collaboration and influencing the broader environment toward increased risk reduction.

Since 2000 ProVention has supported a wide range of initiatives and activities designed to both promote dialogue and directly advance policy, planning and practice in key areas of disaster risk reduction. In approaching these challenges, the Consortium has guided its activities in accordance with a long-standing set of strategic objectives that reflects widely shared views on how ProVention should best promote change in the international disaster risk reduction system. Over the years ProVention has also carefully outlined key characteristics that define the dynamics for change and improvement in risk reduction that the Consortium is targeting. Finally, ProVention's initiatives and activities are also mapped against thematic priorities that ground them within the work programme.

The combination of ProVention's objectives, core characteristics and thematic priorities ultimately defines the Consortium's approach to bringing forward the disaster risk reduction agenda (illustrated in the chart opposite).

Certainly ProVention's experience from programme initiatives in 2006 has shown once again the need for cross-linkages between

theory, policy and practice, and the critical role of knowledge, innovation, dialogue and collaboration in catalysing real change in the risk environment.



# Goal and objectives

The overall goal of ProVention is to reduce the risk and social, economic and environmental impacts of natural hazards on vulnerable populations in developing countries in order to alleviate poverty and contribute to sustainable development, in line with the goals and priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action. To achieve this goal, all ProVention project activities aim at contributing to four overarching and interconnected objectives:

- **Forging partnerships** and networks among key actors and sectors involved in disaster risk management.
- **Promoting policy** to advocate for greater attention and commitment to be given to disaster risk management by leaders and decision-makers.
- **Improving practice** to promote the development of innovative approaches and applications for reducing risk.
- **Managing knowledge** and information from ProVention's partners and projects about good practices, tools and resources for disaster risk management.

## Forging partnerships and promoting multi-stakeholder networking

Driving the ProVention approach is a fundamental commitment to forging linkages and, where possible, partnerships between organisations and across sectors. Interaction among ProVention's partners varies from direct project partnerships and the creation of communities of practice to policy dialogue and informal networking. The concept of ProVention as a

Consortium plays a central role in bringing together different partners, providing a space for dialogue on risk issues and a forum for generating cutting-edge ideas and collaborative initiatives.

ProVention aims to strengthen the participation and contribution of Consortium partners to the international disaster reduction system. It targets specifically key actors outside the formal United Nations (UN) and inter-governmental system, in particular international financial institutions (IFIs), the private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and academia, with a view to promoting multi-stakeholder involvement in the global disaster reduction agenda and forging linkages across the different constituencies, organisations, sectors and disciplines. ProVention, at present, involves some 70 associated partner organisations.

## Collaboration with IFIs

The international financial institutions have played a core role in ProVention activities and dialogue on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development policy and planning. Looking forward, ProVention aims to continue to provide an informal network for IFIs, enabling collaboration and more concurrent action.

A key development in 2006 was the release of the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) study on disaster-related projects undertaken by the World Bank over the last 20 years. The study highlights the role and value of ProVention and has proven to be an effective advocacy tool within the World Bank for lobbying for greater

attention to risk reduction. In May the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Asian Development Bank and other partners participated in a workshop hosted by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in Barbados to review progress on ProVention's Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction project. These same IFIs, the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) and ProVention also participated in a conference on 'Taking Lessons from Evaluation' organised by the World Bank and CEB in Paris in November.

Guidance notes for the Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction project were completed at the end of 2006 and, in 2007, ProVention will continue to focus on their promotion and dissemination as a key resource for introducing the mainstreaming of risk into organisations' training and management programmes.

## Linkages with the private sector

Over the past years, ProVention has prioritised linkages with the private sector by forging closer ties with reinsurance partners, such as

*Alyson Warhurst commenting on the role of business in disaster risk reduction at the International Disaster Reduction Conference, Davos, August 2006.*



ProVention





Sharilyn Amy/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Munich Re, Interpolis Re and Swiss Re, focused around a common interest in applying alternative risk transfer mechanisms in developing countries, at both macro and micro levels.

In order to start interacting with a broader set of companies and to uncover various entry points among private sector actors, ProVention and Maplecroft initiated a study on the business case for disaster risk reduction, which was presented at the International Disaster Reduction Conference in Davos, Switzerland, in August. A selection of Swiss companies was also interviewed in order to assess their perception of disaster risk and its possible implication on business continuity.

### Interaction with civil society

Several project activities in 2006 involved the Red Cross and Red Crescent network and a growing constituency of NGOs active in community-oriented disaster risk reduction. In the context of ProVention's Community Risk Assessment Toolkit initiative, a group of practice on participatory assessment of risks at the local level has been set up, involving some 160 NGO practitioners and researchers. ProVention also directly supported activities aimed at strengthening community resilience, such as reinforcing flood resilience in Africa and community mitigation measures in Central America.

Civil society organisations often lack the opportunity to participate in global and regional dialogue and knowledge sharing and to contribute their vital local perspective on disaster risk and vulnerability. ProVention therefore organised three regional forums on local perspectives on



ProVention

*Presentation on fire prevention in Nigeria at ProVention regional forum in Johannesburg, November 2006.*

disaster risk reduction in West and Central, East and Southern Africa. The findings and recommendations of these forums will shape the agenda and influence dialogue at ProVention's Annual Forum, which will take place in Tanzania in February 2007.

### Partnering key academic institutions and regional research and training centres

The involvement of academic institutions and training centres is key to building Southern capacity in risk reduction learning, training and knowledge generation. Through initiatives such as the Applied Research Grants Programme, the Training and Learning Circles in Asia and PHREeway (Partnership for Humanitarian and Risk Education Expansion) in Africa, ProVention seeks to strengthen collaboration between academic centres and NGOs, encourage applied research and learning and enable South-South knowledge exchange and research collaboration. These initiatives also broaden the base of academic institutes and training centres currently involved in the Consortium.

## ProVention Annual Forum

The 2006 ProVention Forum, held in Bangkok on 2–3 February, brought together more than 100 participants from different constituencies to explore key challenges in disaster risk reduction and address the central theme of ‘Incentives for reducing risk’. The Forum provided an opportunity for different actors to look at critical issues and identify new ideas and approaches to reducing risk from both global and regional Asian perspectives. Participants included representatives of governments, international and regional financial institutions, international development and humanitarian organisations, NGOs, academic institutes and researchers, and the private sector.

*Concluding remarks at the ProVention Annual Forum in Bangkok, February 2006.*



## Promoting policy as an informal forum for dialogue and agenda setting

### Donor policy reform

ProVention’s role and potential as an informal forum for policy dialogue and debate on risk issues have been highlighted consistently by partners as a primary value of the Consortium. ProVention’s policy efforts during 2006 concentrated on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development policy, planning, programming and financing. A strategic focus of this initiative has been to influence donor policy reform, specifically the policies of IFIs and bilateral donor governments. In this regard, progress was made in facilitating policy dialogue among IFIs and bilateral donors at the ProVention Forum 2006 where partners discussed current approaches, experiences and challenges to integrating risk reduction into development and humanitarian aid financing. Partners agreed that ProVention plays a valuable role in facilitating such dialogue and could help further advance donor policy reform by promoting policy initiatives and sharing information on policy developments in risk reduction as well as analysing the impact of partners’ mainstreaming activities.

### Evaluation of World Bank policy and operations

ProVention also contributed to other important policy developments during this period, including the launch of the World Bank IEG report, *Hazards of Nature, Risks to Development: An IEG Evaluation of World Bank Assistance for Natural Disasters*. The evaluation addresses weaknesses

in the current World Bank approach to natural disasters and calls for a major shift in Bank policy and operations from reactive ex-post towards proactive ex-ante management of natural hazards risks. It draws extensively on ProVention-supported analysis, such as the *Hotspots* reports and the *Learning Lessons from Disaster Recovery* papers, and highlights ProVention’s role and the positive impact of its activities on World Bank programming:

*“The way in which ProVention has been able to influence Bank thinking and practice with regard to both lending and nonlending services shows that ProVention has not only been relevant and consistent with the Bank’s development objectives, but also in some respects effective in identifying knowledge gaps and advancing the agenda of disaster risk reduction within the Bank.”*

### DFID’s disaster risk reduction policy

ProVention contributed policy and research analysis towards the new policy (‘Reducing the Risk of Disasters – Helping to Achieve Sustainable Poverty Reduction in a Vulnerable World’) of the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID) and also participated in the UK launch. ProVention considers this an important development among the bilateral donor community as it demonstrates increased attention and commitment to disaster risk management by key decision-makers – one of the main strategic objectives of the Consortium.





Jemini Pandya/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Improving practice through more effective problem solving

The outputs of ProVention initiatives and activities are intended to contribute to the Consortium endeavour and to benefit the wider international disaster reduction system. ProVention is results oriented and aims to strengthen the connection between disaster risk management theory, policy and practice.

It supports an expanding work programme producing research studies, disaster data, policy analysis, risk reduction tools and methodologies, lessons learned and pilot projects. Its partners jointly identify and discuss the challenges and gaps they face in advancing disaster risk reduction and collaborate in promoting innovative practice and finding appropriate solutions. This approach is relevant for all ProVention initiatives and projects, but the focus was on a number of specific activities in 2006.

### Risk assessment and analysis

Significant gains have been made in establishing the Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP), building on the success of the *Natural Disasters Hotspots* study in influencing the policy and programme prioritisation of the World Bank and other organisations. The *Hotspots* study received a Good Practice Award for 2006 from the World Bank's IEG. In 2006, the GRIP initiative solidified its team structure and organisational support. It also selected countries to pilot approaches to building national and regional capacities for risk





*A community in Nepal assesses disaster risk through a mapping exercise.*

analysis that could potentially be applied in other high-risk countries around the globe. Approaching risk assessment from the community level, ProVention has also successfully launched the CRA Toolkit, which provides a useful collection of assessment methodologies and case studies including supporting guidance notes, a search tool, a glossary and relevant links to community-based disaster risk management participatory approaches. The toolkit has garnered considerable positive feedback and set the ground for further collaborative efforts within the community risk assessment (CRA) network.

### **Risk transfer**

With the high level of attention given to recovery as a result of the large disasters over the

past several years, the focus has increasingly been on providing recovery assistance in more flexible and adaptive ways to better support individuals' and communities' own efforts to recover and reduce future risks. Also apparent is a growing interest in risk sharing through tools such as microinsurance, particularly in providing enduring risk management solutions, along with increased use of cash-based assistance and support to owner-driven housing solutions.

ProVention has supported the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) microinsurance pilot activity and the microinsurance study conducted by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). Both are providing critical learning and reference points for other organisations and communities interested in implementing microinsurance and other risk transfer systems.

### **Impact evaluation**

There has been growing demand to improve practice in impact evaluation of risk reduction measures and to establish effective indicators of sustained progress in reducing disaster risks and vulnerabilities, whether in the context of the tsunami recovery, the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action or in relation to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). During this programme period, ProVention has contributed input and guidance to the Tsunami Recovery and Impact Assessment Monitoring System (TRIAMS) on the inclusion of potential risk reduction indicators in the programme and commissioned background papers to look at indicators along key dimensions in risk reduction within recovery.

## **Managing knowledge through knowledge advancement, gathering and sharing**

ProVention seeks to connect different fields of expertise and experience and catalyse knowledge generation, collection and sharing, through both specific project activities and broader forums for exchange and learning.

### **Collaborative action and learning**

Collaborative activities are essential to create meaningful interaction and knowledge exchange between partners. Several communities of practice and networks have emerged from the Consortium's activities over the past years. Experience has shown that often ProVention's most successful activities are those that combine focused research to identify and ground new ideas and approaches with interaction and dialogue with a wider set of stakeholders to explore connections to awareness-raising, policy prioritisation and effective implementation. As the amount of available information increases, this dual approach offers the potential to frame relevant knowledge and learning in effective tools and methodologies that can be adapted as needed to particular stakeholders' needs and contexts.

Several activities undertaken in 2006 exemplify this approach, including the CRA Toolkit, which continues to build on feedback and input from the wider CRA network, and the Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction project where the partner working group is guiding lead researchers on how to craft and adapt the next phase of the project. Some regional networks



have also been created, which aim to combine urban risk applied research (for example, African Urban Risk Analysis Network (AURAN)) or the gathering of tools and information on training and learning (e.g., Training and Learning Circle initiative in Asia) with a broader regional dialogue.

ProVention supports an expanding work programme producing research studies, disaster data, policy analysis, risk reduction tools and methodologies, lessons learned and pilot projects to support the implementation of risk reduction initiatives. Key resources published in 2006 are included in the Publications section below.

### New ProVention website

As a global network with an expanding set of diverse partners active in risk reduction throughout the world, ProVention primarily relies on its website, newsletter and conferences for information and knowledge sharing. This year was marked by the launch of a new website in April, which provides information on the Consortium's activities and links to partners' websites and a selection of resources. The increasing attention to disaster risk reduction and the success of ProVention in disseminating key information have already led to an increase in website traffic from 200,000 hits/year in 2002 to more than a million in 2005. Website hits currently average 180,000 a month. Feedback on the new website from both ProVention partners and the broader public audience has been very positive.

### Knowledge access and exchange

Despite steady improvements in the quality of data on hazards, vulnerabilities and risks and the continuing evolution of good practice in risk reduction tools and methodologies, the effective exchange of knowledge and information within the global disaster reduction system remains a challenge. There is still much duplication and under-utilisation of existing resources and too many gaps between the islands of resources that are well known and well documented. While the need for greater investment in knowledge management has been widely acknowledged, effective and comprehensive solutions will need to incorporate improved models aimed at combining knowledge advancement, gathering and sharing and frameworks for partnering so as to better



In August 2006, the ProVention stand at the International Disaster Reduction Conference in Davos attracted many visitors.

engage and build ownership among the diverse range of stakeholders involved in risk reduction.

### Dissemination and representation

Throughout the year, ProVention participated in a number of conferences and partner events.

The International Disaster Reduction Conference, hosted in August by the Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research, generated strong international interest and was attended by hundreds of participants from around the world. With a wide range of topics, the conference provided good opportunities to showcase ProVention activities and resources.

During the conference, ProVention hosted a session that examined the business case for



reducing natural disaster risks in developing countries, presented its CRA Toolkit project in a session on 'Environmental and Social Vulnerability: Emerging Theory and Practice', which was organised by the UN University Institute for Environment and Human Security, and supported a number of speakers to contribute to key sessions. Gabriel Kassenga from Dar es Salaam's University College of Lands and

Architectural Studies (an AURAN and ProVention partner) spoke about 'Higher education in disaster risk reduction and applied research in Tanzania' in a session chaired by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on stakeholders in disaster risk management. ProVention also hosted a feedback session on the ProVention Applied Research Grants programme that included a

number of grantees and mentors and highlighted the opportunities that the grants have often created for further scholarship and study.

In addition, ProVention participated in a range of other meetings and events to promote specific ProVention initiatives and the broader disaster risk reduction agenda. See the timeline on page 25 for more details.



Việt Thanh/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

# Strategic focus during 2006

## Overview of current themes

The 2006 work programme continued to be centred around five thematic priorities, identified by ProVention as key areas of strategic focus where the Consortium can add most value and deliver results for the international disaster risk reduction system. The strategic direction of 2006 built on ProVention's original focus and further developed the core themes of the 2003–2006 work plan.

Solid analysis, identification and evidence of hazards, vulnerability and risk play an essential role in informing development policy and guiding risk reduction investments. ProVention therefore specifically supported initiatives aimed at improving risk analysis, including risk information, quality and accuracy of disaster loss data, risk indicators and risk assessment tools.

### *Thematic priorities*

- *Risk analysis and application*
- *Mainstreaming risk reduction*
- *Reducing risks in recovery*
- *Risk transfer and private sector investment*
- *Expanding risk research and learning*

Upholding the focus on mainstreaming risk reduction into development, ProVention continued to carve out a particular niche of work with IFIs, donors and partner development organisations, aiming to accelerate the

integration of disaster risk management into development policies, programmes and projects particularly in high-risk countries.

Recognising the vital links between post-disaster recovery and development, the work programme in 2006 also targeted the reduction of risk in recovery, identifying opportunities and strategies for risk reduction and promoting good practice through lesson learning.

ProVention's work with the private sector, highlighted above as a priority for forging partnerships, is driven by a concern to increase business involvement and investment in disaster risk management. This remains a strategic interest for the Consortium, not just in terms of strengthening collaboration with the insurance sector on developing risk transfer mechanisms but also in enabling broader private sector engagement in disaster risk management.

The systematic strengthening of risk research and learning in developing countries was another important thematic priority in 2006. This research and learning orientation is reflected both topically, across the range of priority interests highlighted above, and systemically in terms of strengthening South–South partnerships and local action-oriented research, particularly in Africa.

The current focus and thematic priorities of the work programme, therefore, cut across all four main objectives and drive the project prioritisation of ProVention, as illustrated in the chart on the opposite page. In addition, knowledge management is highlighted as a cross-cutting

objective because of the critical role of learning and dissemination in supporting and promoting ProVention initiatives across the five thematic priorities.



Arne Hodalic/Slovenian Red Cross



# Strategy overview

Goal

To alleviate poverty and contribute to sustainable development

To reduce the risk and social, economic and environmental impacts of natural hazards on vulnerable populations in developing countries

Objectives

Forging partnerships

Promoting policy

Improving practice

Managing knowledge

Thematic priorities

*Risk analysis and application*

*Mainstreaming risk reduction*

*Reducing risks in recovery*

*Risk transfer and private sector investment*

*Expanding risk research and learning*

*Knowledge management*

Expected outcomes

Improved analysis of risks to guide decision-making and disaster risk reduction (DRR) investment

Risk reduction integrated into development policy and planning

Risk reduction strategies included within recovery planning and operations, resulting in reduced disaster vulnerability

Risk transfer tools for reducing natural disaster losses in developing countries; greater private sector involvement in DRR

Improved knowledge creation and sharing among researchers and practitioners in developing countries

Cross-cutting activities for knowledge advancement and sharing within the international risk reduction system

Expected outputs

Global framework for risk identification and national risk assessments and risk profiles

High-level donor policy forums linking DRR, MDGs and political will

Lessons learned and longitudinal impact assessments on post-disaster recovery operations

Establishment of index-based insurance facility for high-risk developing countries

Applied research projects by young practitioners and academics

Annual forum for dialogue on DRR issues, trends and innovations

**Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP)**

**DRR policy dialogue**

**Recovery learning**

**Global Insurance Facility**

**Applied research grants**

**ProVention forum**

Regional network for urban risk analysis and DRR activities in Africa

Tools and guidelines to adapt risk reduction into existing development planning practices

Strategies for fast-tracking risk reduction planning in early recovery

Research and analysis of risk reduction potential within microinsurance initiatives

Collaboration on DRR research, learning and training in South and South-East Asia

Dialogue with regional partners on DRR issues, trends and innovations in their particular context

**African Urban Risk Analysis Network (AURAN)**

**Mainstreaming tools**

**Early recovery tools**

**Microinsurance**

**Linking Southern training centres**

**Regional forums**

Community risk assessment tools, methods and case studies

Mainstreaming DRR into urban management and governance

High-level task force on risk transfer solutions targeting reinsurance industry

Capacity building on DRR among African universities and promotion of interaction with NGOs

ProVention website, newsletter, annual report, publications, advocacy and dissemination activities

**CRA/Vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) initiatives**

**Urban risk management**

**Risk transfer solutions**

**African universities DRR programme**

**Knowledge sharing activities**

Study of climate risk implications to DRR and development priorities

Mainstreaming climate risk into development planning and financing

DRR projects and research studies with corporate sector partners

**Private sector involvement**

**Climate risk and DRR**

# Risk analysis and application

Improving the analysis and identification of risk is crucial in order to provide critical and convincing information for mainstreaming risk reduction into policy-making and to help prioritise risk reduction investments. Accurate, comparable and appropriately scaled information on disaster losses, hazards, vulnerabilities and risks is fundamental for designing and implementing effective policies and programmes that reduce disaster risk. Risk identification provides the evidence base for disaster risk management applications and decision-making.

The international community has made significant progress in recent years in improving the quality and accuracy of global disaster data collection, in developing indicators and indexes of disaster risk and in developing tools and methods for assessing disaster risk at the different spatial levels.

ProVention has contributed to this advancement through supporting risk analysis and application initiatives at the global, regional and local level. It has also promoted linkages between disaster risk and climate risk assessment.

## Global Risk Identification Programme

At a global level, GRIP, an initiative led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which aims to improve the quality, availability and access to analysis, data and information on natural hazard risks, has made important progress. The programme's team has made a major effort to communicate the GRIP goal, objectives and architecture to key partners working in the area of disaster risk identifica-

tion. A wide range of materials, which explain how the programme will work and how partners can participate, has been prepared and distributed.

A concept paper outlining the major elements of the GRIP proposal and detailed project proposals has been developed. GRIP has five major, interrelated areas of work:

- Demonstrations, linking risk and loss information to decision-making in selected high-risk countries (Mozambique, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka).
- Capacity development to improve the quality of risk information and support its use.
- Enhanced global disaster loss data.
- High-resolution risk analyses in 10 to 15 high-risk countries.
- A global risk update, envisioned as a successor to previous global and regional risk reports, such as *Hotspots* or the UNDP's *Reducing Disaster Risk* report. This update will be used as a key advocacy tool for evidence-based risk management.

## African Urban Risk Analysis Network

At the regional level, ProVention continued to support AURAN's work. The network consists of leading universities and partner NGOs in six urban areas across Africa. The first-phase project activities have been completed in Accra (Ghana), Algiers (Algeria), Cape Town (South Africa), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Nairobi (Kenya) and Saint Louis (Senegal).

On 7–9 March in Cape Town, AURAN held an international workshop on 'Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the management

of urban planning and governance in Africa', hosted by the University of Cape Town's Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (DiMP) in collaboration with ProVention, UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). The workshop brought together over 30 experts, practitioners and government officials with a common interest and concern in urban disaster risk research and management in Africa. The key objectives of the meeting were the presentation, review and comparison of six country-specific urban disaster risk research projects, dissemination of research findings through the new AURAN website and discussion on the next phase of AURAN's activities.

The AURAN partners are developing a series of second-phase proposals aimed at using the results of the community-based action research carried out in the first project phase to influence urban management policy and promote the application of practical urban risk reduction measures in their respective countries.

## Community risk assessment tools

Global- and regional-level risk analysis was complemented by support to improve community-level risk assessment through the Community Risk Assessment Toolkit project. The CRA Toolkit, completed in 2006, includes a search tool, a glossary and a selection of key links to community-based disaster risk management and participation resources. The toolkit has been updated and now contains 25 methods and 35 case studies. In June, the toolkit was evaluated at a workshop in Cape Town, organised by the DiMP.



Phil Yine/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies





Recommendations made by workshop participants have been taken into account and have contributed to the toolkit's quality and user-friendliness. In 2006, the CRA network developed into an active community of practice of over 160 risk experts and practitioners, who regularly share information and resources. Next project steps include developing guidance notes for the remaining methods and case studies, publishing a monograph on CRA and strengthening the links between the CRA project and post-disaster impact assessment for relief and recovery planning by organising a workshop on participatory damage and needs assessment.

### Applying community risk analysis

ProVention has supported field-level application of risk assessment tools in the Americas and Africa to strengthen community resilience and capacity-building activities.

The IFRC and Organization of American States (OAS) Community-Based Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment project in Central America uses the IFRC's VCA experience as an entry point and builds on OAS technical expertise in the field of risk reduction. It aims at building the capacity of local authorities, Red Cross and communities in Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras to carry out VCAs and develop risk reduction activities at the community level.

VCAs have been completed in 16 pilot communities (four in each project country) and manuals have been developed jointly by IFRC, OAS, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for community-based risk

reduction activities in:

- school maintenance;
- disaster mitigation of rural water supplies and sewerage systems;
- natural hazards and school shelter;
- coping strategies for communities;
- community early warning systems for small valleys;
- droughts and floods awareness practice guides; and
- community dialogue on water and climate.

In addition, IFRC and PAHO have drafted a community-based manual for vulnerability assessment of drinking water systems and environmental sanitation in rural areas. An interactive VCA Toolkit CD-ROM was also developed in collaboration with the Regional Disaster Information Centre.

In Sudan, initial success of the community-based flood risk reduction project in three states attracted the interest of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which decided to support activities aimed at promoting environmental awareness and capacity building of local communities in Khartoum and Bahr el Jebel states. Sudanese Red Crescent branches in these two states organised training on health and environmental risk reduction, home-based education, awareness-raising sessions, clean-up campaigns and tree planting activities.

### Community risk assessment and climate adaptation tools

In collaboration with the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET) and its partners in India and Nepal, ProVention supported in

2006 a new project initiative to document community risk and climate adaptation assessment methods, which ISET uses in its programmes in South Asia. These methods together with several case studies will be documented in 2007 in a major study and a methodology handbook.

Through this initiative, organisations working on disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation will have increased access to methodologies and conceptual frameworks they can use in designing programmes and implementation strategies. The methods will also help organisations evaluate basic parameters such as the costs and benefits of specific implementation options. The project findings, case studies and tools will be integrated in the ProVention CRA Toolkit.

*As ProVention continues to dedicate attention and resources to improving risk identification and analysis, a key focus of this next phase will be on the interpretation of disaster data, risk indicators and risk assessments and on the implications for development policy, planning and decision-making. High-quality data are essential for successful mainstreaming of risk reduction into development.*

*Equally, improving the availability of and access to such risk information and harnessing local-level risk assessment to sub-national, national, regional and global levels remain priorities for ProVention.*

# Mainstreaming risk reduction



Arzu Ozsoy/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Mainstreaming risk reduction into development continues to be a priority initiative for ProVention. Unsound development practices and processes are often an important cause of disaster risk (e.g., unsustainable land use, unsafe building practices and infrastructure, etc.). Risk reduction strategies are, therefore, most efficient when integrated into the framework of overall development. In principle, risk reduction should not be considered as an end in itself that requires incorporation into development but rather as an integral component of all development processes in the first place. Hence, a central concern for ProVention is to expose and address natural hazard risk within the development context and ensure that development policies, projects and programmes do not unintentionally contribute to new forms of vulnerability.

## Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction

As a follow-up to the Measuring Mitigation studies, the Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction initiative focuses on developing practical tools for integrating natural hazard risk management into development planning, project appraisal and evaluation. A series of guidance notes has been developed to adapt existing tools for development planning (country strategy papers, poverty reduction strategy papers, budget support), project appraisal (environmental impact assessment, economic appraisal, VCA, social impact analysis, sustainability livelihoods) and monitoring and evaluation.

Drafts of the guidance notes were presented to the Project Advisory Group at a workshop in

May, hosted by the Caribbean Development Bank in Barbados as part of a CDB–ProVention Forum on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk. A wide range of ProVention’s partners, including ActionAid, Canadian International Development Agency, CDB, DFID, GTZ (Germany’s Technical Cooperation Agency), IDB, Tearfund, UNDP, UN/ISDR and World Bank, reviewed the tools, which were also presented to government representatives of CDB member countries. Final revisions were made based on feedback given at the CDB workshop. The complete set of tools will be published in early 2007. Already several of the more complete drafts, such as the notes on poverty reduction strategy papers and environmental impact assessments, are being used and adapted, particularly within the context of IFI mainstreaming activities.

In addition to the guidance notes, the project is also developing a *Disaster Reduction Monitoring and Evaluation Sourcebook* as a resource for methods and tools for evaluating the socio-economic benefits of disaster reduction initiatives. It will include detailed guidance on planning and implementing evaluations, the application and value of different assessment approaches and methods, and choice and validation of different indicators. It will also contain case studies of ‘good practice’ in evaluation and case evidence on the net benefits of risk reduction.

## Documenting mainstreaming policies and experiences

In order to highlight the mainstreaming experiences of its partners and facilitate the exchange of mainstreaming information among IFIs and donors, ProVention has created a Mainstreaming



Resource page on its website, which documents mainstreaming policies of IFIs and donors, provides examples of efforts by UN and regional organisations to promote mainstreaming into development planning, poverty reduction and urban planning, and gathers several mainstreaming tools and frameworks.

### **Addressing risk in urban planning**

Recognising the need to support the mainstreaming of risk reduction at local and district levels, ProVention and UNDP are supporting the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI) to continue the development and expansion of its programme to focus on the integration of disaster risk management into urban master planning. In 2006 EMI conducted field trips and planning workshops in Manila (Philippines) and Kathmandu (Nepal) to engage key local stakeholders at national, regional and local levels in priority assessment and planning for the programme. EMI has also convened project partners in an indicators focus group to develop risk indices to promote communication among different stakeholders and monitor different risk reduction practices implemented at the local level. Preliminary development has been completed for both an Urban Seismic Risk Index and a Disaster Risk Management Index, which are being tested in Manila. In order to support further dissemination and adoption of the programme's tools, EMI has also begun to develop an online learning tool to guide local government and planning departments in integrating disaster risk reduction into land use planning. In November, as part of its Cluster Cities Programme, EMI hosted a meeting of its partners in Asia. It highlighted recent EMI work on

urban risk indicators, the development of an e-learning system for urban planners and the creation of an Urban Risk Forum. It also provided an opportunity to showcase ProVention initiatives and activities to EMI's partners. In the future, ProVention plans to work with EMI to develop guidance notes on mainstreaming risk reduction into the urban master planning process to complement ProVention's Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction guidance notes. Additional activities on e-learning are also planned.

### **Climate risk management mainstreaming**

Another important ProVention mainstreaming initiative launched at the end of 2006 concerns support for a World Bank study on mainstreaming climate risk management into development policy in the Philippines. Climate change is expected to affect the Philippine economy in particular through its impacts on natural resources and agriculture, sectors that are crucial to the country's economic development and poverty alleviation efforts.

The project intends, therefore, to enhance the availability of data on these sectors' vulnerability and to carry out a risk analysis, which will be used to strengthen weather insurance and risk transfer schemes in the Philippines. The study also aims to produce solid and validated climate change impact scenarios to enable key stakeholders to make informed decisions on adaptive measures to climate change and on their integration into disaster risk reduction efforts. The study will provide ProVention's partners with guidance on specific models for climate risk

mainstreaming and will contribute to the Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction project, by incorporating models of adaptation to climate change in the guidance notes.

*The development of these various mainstreaming initiatives, however, needs to be complemented by a broader analysis of how such efforts both support and are supported by economic, social, institutional and political factors. ProVention will therefore work with its partners to identify models for success in integrating risk reduction into development processes. In this respect, the questions concerning the enabling factors, conditions and incentives for effective risk reduction will be a priority issue for the ProVention work programme in 2007–2009.*

*Furthermore, ProVention will continue to play a key role in facilitating policy dialogue on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development financing by international financial institutions and providing a platform for harmonising donor policies on mainstreaming.*

# Reducing risk in recovery

During 2006, the responses to the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the South Asia earthquake in October 2005 changed from concerns for immediate relief assistance to longer-term efforts to rebuild and reconstruct what was lost. The intense media interest and public support across the globe after these disasters generated record levels of donations and external assistance, but they also significantly expanded the range of actors contributing to recovery programming and the extent of programming interventions. Increased attention to livelihoods in particular often led to more comprehensive programming, better bridging relief and development than was frequently the case in the past.

However, while the call to 'build back better' was widely echoed, in many areas in the affected countries there appears to have been less progress than initially hoped in addressing underlying risks and establishing effective systems for implementing risk reduction measures on an ongoing basis. The various reports of the Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (TEC) in particular have highlighted a number of recommendations for building capacities among agencies to better promote risk reduction and for strengthening support to national and local actors in linking risk reduction to long-term sustainable development. While lessons are continuously being learned, it is becoming increasingly clear that we need to understand better how these many lessons are currently being applied, or not, to reduce risks and what approaches are most effective for removing or weakening the obstacles to linking recovery to effective risk reduction.

## Exploring the 'window of opportunity' hypothesis

Seeking to better ground the conventional wisdom that recovery automatically represents a 'window of opportunity' for risk reduction, the 2006 ProVention Forum in Bangkok included a session that focused specifically on this theme. The participants engaged in broad dialogue exploring the reality behind the assumptions that disasters will lead to significantly increased public attention, political will, concerted action and funding for disaster risk reduction. Recognising that effective risk reduction needs to be rooted in sustained actions by local civil society and government organisations, participants noted that the difficulties of effecting broad change in 'normal' environments are no easier in post-disaster situations. Often local organisations have been themselves directly impacted and the number of competing priorities has typically been increased and not decreased. The session focused in particular on the trade-offs between speed and quality and the slow progress to mainstream risk reduction into donor policies and programming.

## Continuing the policy dialogue

In 2006, ProVention raised the issue of reducing risks in recovery in a number of other key forums. During its annual July working session, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) considered disaster risk reduction strategies, particularly within the context of the recovery process. During the meeting, the ProVention Secretariat highlighted the considerable challenges to effective risk reduction that have been so frequently seen in the past and emphasised to the member states that disaster reduction



is a long-term process that requires long-term support to planning.

At the same meeting, the TEC released its *Synthesis Report* drawing on the findings from TEC's own thematic evaluations of the Indian Ocean tsunami response and recovery and from over 140 additional reports, real-time and ex-post evaluations and learning reviews. The report highlighted the need for greater response capacities and in particular for "a fundamental reorientation from supplying aid to supporting and facilitating communities' own relief and recovery priorities". The report noted that further research relating to disaster recovery and poverty reduction is necessary and pointed to the ProVention network as a strong platform from which to support such studies.

The World Bank's IEG report on the Bank's assistance for natural disasters commented on the need for a stronger focus on risk reduction in recovery and rebuilding. The evaluation team looked at 528 projects totalling US\$ 26 billion in



Daniel Cima/American Red Cross

disaster-related assistance over a 20-year period and reviewed World Bank policies and strategies regarding disasters. The report noted the World Bank's role in establishing the ProVention Consortium and its involvement in various ProVention activities over the last six years.

Overall, the evaluation highlighted the need for still greater pre-disaster investment in prevention and mitigation and increased attention to disaster risk reduction in general as a standard component in development programmes.

Together with the Council of Europe Development Bank, which recently completed its own evaluation of past CEB disaster recovery projects, the World Bank hosted a workshop in Paris in November bringing together other IFIs, donor agencies, NGOs, the IFRC and several research organisations to critically explore insights and lessons on impact evaluation in relation to risk reduction. ProVention is exploring opportunities for linking this network on impact evaluation to its Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster

Risk Reduction project, in particular through the *Monitoring and Evaluation Sourcebook*, piloted in the second half of 2006.

### Risk reduction indicators

Measuring progress in reducing risks continued to be a significant challenge as the impacts of risk reduction measures are often diffuse and the causalities difficult to trace. In the context of the Indian Ocean tsunami recovery, TRIAMS, an initiative of the governments of India, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand, is measuring the impact of ongoing recovery efforts with support from the IFRC, World Health Organization and other UN agencies.

Within this process, TRIAMS' project partners recognised the need to include additional indicators relating to risk reduction even though they felt there was a lack of guidance for developing such indicators. In order to provide rapid, preliminary guidance, ProVention commissioned a set of short background papers and draft indicators on the following topics in risk reduction: linking relief to rehabilitation and development; social vulnerability; institutional capacity; and infrastructure and municipal planning.

### Further lessons on recovery

After the earthquake in October 2005 that affected Pakistan and India, ProVention and the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) jointly developed two briefing papers synthesising key lessons learned from past disaster response operations to guide operational decision-makers and relief/recovery programme

managers working on recovery policies and strategies. As a series of follow-up activities, ProVention and ALNAP initiated plans for further collaboration to draw together additional lessons on food security in emergency contexts and to further refine the 2005 recovery lessons paper to integrate key lessons from the TEC review and other recent evaluations in regard to disaster risk reduction.

ProVention also started to research the development of collective key lessons in risk reduction that would serve as a continuously updated reference resource and draw broad input and participation among researchers and practitioners active in risk reduction throughout the world. The lessons would be complemented by analytic studies on key topics in recovery, particularly looking at long-term impacts on risk reduction and drawing on research by local academic institutions or other partners to strengthen the analysis and understanding of the local political, social, cultural and economic contexts.

***Current approaches to recovery continue to assume that recovery represents the opportunity and responsibility to 'build back better' although too often there is still little guidance and understanding of what drives the implementation of effective risk reduction measures. Significant challenges also remain in linking risk reduction, development and planned growth. ProVention's ongoing interest in recovery aims to identify strategies and approaches for effective disaster reduction and analyse the impacts of the recovery process on long-term patterns of risk and vulnerability.***



# Risk transfer and private sector investment

As in previous years, ProVention's private sector agenda in 2006 focused on two separate, although related, streams of activities. The first was a continuation of ProVention's work in advancing risk transfer mechanisms that can be applied in developing countries. The second aimed at developing the case for increased private sector investment and involvement in disaster risk reduction as a core component for business continuity, new market development and corporate social responsibility (CSR) agendas.

## Extending disaster insurance to poor communities

Recent disasters in developed countries have shown the value of risk transfer tools in providing effective options to affected individuals, households and communities for managing disaster risk. Unfortunately, such tools are rarely available to those living in the poorest and most vulnerable communities.

Increasing attention has been paid to the promise of microinsurance to protect individuals and businesses against specific risks in exchange for regular premium payments, allowing individuals or groups to pool resources and share the costs of a risky event. Although there is growing interest from the development community in microinsurance as a form of social protection and from the insurance industry as a potential new product, there continues to be a lack of solid evidence regarding both the commercial viability of the existing schemes and the extent to which microinsurance can contribute to reducing risk or can provide incentives for mitigation measures.

Seeking to address these challenges, ProVention supported 'Afat Vimo', a pilot microinsurance scheme in India, which is implemented by AIDMI. The institute has provided insurance coverage to more than 5,519 policy-holders, including 1,500 tsunami-affected families. The scheme provides life and non-life disaster insurance targeting low-income households and covering 19 different types of disasters. The scheme also seeks to include incentives for mitigation measures, including training, risk education and safe construction practices.

In 2006 ProVention also supported a wider research initiative undertaken by IIASA to document experiences with the 'Afat Vimo' scheme and nine other microinsurance programmes in responding to natural hazard risk and to critically analyse the potential benefits and limitations of each. The study's results show clear evidence of the value and potential of microinsurance in transferring risk and protecting low-income households and businesses against disaster losses. Microinsurance can provide access to post-disaster liquidity, thus protecting assets and livelihoods, and funds for reconstruction and even disaster prevention if insurers offer lower premiums to reward risk-reducing behaviour. However, the long-term viability of such programmes, particularly in the face of large covariant losses, is still to be determined.

Lessons learned from the pilot scheme in India and the findings of the ProVention-IIASA research study were shared widely with the microinsurance community through the IIASA conference, 'Forum on Integrated Disaster Risk



Anne Hodalitz/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Management', in Istanbul, Turkey, and Munich Re's conference in Cape Town, 'Making insurance work for Africa'.

## Disaster insurance to support more effective national response

Complementing the programmatic interest in micro-approaches to risk transfer, ProVention sought to support and advance the development of effective risk transfer and risk pooling mechanisms at broader national levels within



developing countries. In the second half of 2006, ProVention finalised planning with the World Bank to support the initial risk analysis for an initiative of the World Bank's Commodity Risk Management Group to establish a Global Index Insurance Facility (GIIF). The ProVention-supported component of the project will examine the feasibility and demand for GIIF at a country level in Madagascar as a pilot case.

Overall, the GIIF aims at facilitating and co-financing access to index insurance and hedging products for developing countries. It offers a unique approach to transferring risk of low-income countries through a multi-stakeholder framework involving governments, international and regional financial institutions, reinsurers and key disaster reduction actors. Through its involvement, ProVention also hopes to encourage the use of similar risk transfer mechanisms as an incentive for risk reduction.

### **The business case for prevention**

Strengthening linkages with the wider private sector remains a high priority for ProVention with an aim to increase business involvement and investment in disaster risk management. For businesses with supply and distribution chains, direct operations or investments in disaster-prone regions, natural hazards represent a serious threat to core business interests in that they can cause lost production time, damage to facilities, legal liability, business interruption and market disruption. Multinationals often survey local conditions and histories before locating resources in an area, but most rely on insurance and other risk transfer mechanisms to help mitigate potential damages and disrup-

tions caused by catastrophic natural disasters. However, insurance does not cover all costs and premiums in certain areas can be prohibitive – premium rates in Asia for reinsurance, for instance, rose by 60 per cent in April 2006. Furthermore, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which create the lion's share of employment, have little access to such financial services. Deeply anchored in their local communities, they cannot move their operations or access remote markets when a disaster strikes.

The business case for disaster prevention is currently held back by a lack of empirical evidence, so assessment – of the impacts of disasters on business, of the contribution business involvement can make to disaster reduction and of the costs and benefits of that involvement for both global corporations and SMEs – is needed to establish the most effective actions businesses can take. The specific contributions that different companies and business associations can make in disaster management depends not only on which phase the disaster is in, but also varies according to the industry sector and the types of products, services, resources and skills that each business has. The company's business model, size, location and ownership structure are also factors. At the same time, risk reduction and resilient development could also present significant market opportunities if community demand can be spurred through public education and awareness-raising or government regulation and incentives. More dialogue and research is needed to help catalyse new ideas and identify some key aspects for collaboration but some activities can already be suggested for implementation.

In 2006, therefore, ProVention worked with Maplecroft, the World Economic Forum and corporate sector partners to help build the business case for reducing natural disaster risks in developing countries. This resulted in a study, *Disaster prevention: a role for business?*, which examined the business case for reducing natural disaster risk in developing countries and the potential for disaster prevention partnerships with the private sector. The study was first presented at the International Disaster Reduction Conference in August. Overall, the session provided a lively dialogue and will help catalyse further ProVention initiatives with the business community.

In a separate follow-up activity, a selection of Swiss companies was also interviewed in order to assess their perception of disaster risk and its possible implication on business continuity and uncover some additional entry points among private sector actors.

*As ProVention continues to develop the use of risk transfer solutions for developing countries, a key concern will be to examine their relevance and viability for low-income households and how such risk transfer mechanisms can provide incentives for disaster risk reduction. On the broader private sector engagement agenda, a major challenge remains the lack of business incentives for investing in long-term reduction of natural hazard risk. While there is a strong case for minimising the risks businesses face in terms of their own facilities or production, the case for wider business involvement in measures to reduce the vulnerability of the communities in which they work or to which they sell their goods and services is still to be strengthened.*



# Expanding risk research and learning



Arne Hodalic/Slovenian Red Cross

## Building capacity and turning learning and knowledge into action

At a session entitled ‘Turning learning and knowledge into action: Is it time to rethink our approach?’ at the 2006 ProVention Forum, participants stressed that a considerable development in learning has taken place over the past decades from North–South transfer of technology towards a more equal learning relationship, which values social, economic and cultural aspects of disaster management alongside natural and physical science knowledge. Contributions by risk scientists, academics, practitioners and policy-makers from developing countries have effectively demonstrated that Southern-based researchers have a crucial role to play as they bring critical perspectives, skills and essential values to understanding risk issues and environments in a variety of contexts. However, networks of Southern and Northern partners need to join forces to further develop human resources and employment opportunities in poorer countries.

Moreover, growth in research by practitioners and academics on disaster impact, response and risk reduction has generated more information, but whether this has translated into more action is not always clear. Coherent integrated action is constrained by the wide professional diversity in the field and by limited collaboration between scientists and practitioners. Innovative teaching and learning systems, which can reach out to multiple constituencies, and a more effective, action-oriented and user-driven approach to knowledge management for disaster risk reduction must be encouraged and nurtured.

Strengthening applied risk reduction research and knowledge management capacities in developing countries is a priority of the ProVention work plan. The Consortium also continues to explore ways to promote and sustain interaction and collaboration between academic researchers, trainers and practitioners through supporting communities of practice and fostering the development of new initiatives.



ProVention

*A ProVention grantee reporting on the outcomes of his study on environmental laws in Sri Lanka.*

## Applied research grants

A recent review of the ProVention Applied Research Grants Programme, which has enabled over 100 teams of young researchers and practitioners in developing countries to lead disaster risk reduction projects since 2003, highlights the importance of acculturating the next generation of researchers and practitioners to cross-disciplinary practice and participatory action research and problem-solving.



The programme is set to encourage participants from various academic and professional backgrounds to cross barriers between technical and local knowledge; knowledge and action; and research and practice.

Young researchers from the programme's second phase completed their projects under the guidance of mentors and ProVention partner institutions in July 2006. They were invited to present their findings at regional events in Johannesburg (South Africa) and Bangkok and through web conferences in the second half of the year. Case studies from 2003–2006 grantees will be published and a third round of grants will be announced in 2007.



In Johannesburg, a grantee from the West Bank presents her research on seismic risk in Nablus City.

## Communities of practice and networks

Investment in disaster risk research and learning has been limited in Africa. ProVention, therefore, supported the AURAN initiative in 2005–2006 as a model for multi-discipline collaboration in risk reduction throughout Africa. As new networks of researchers and practitioners emerge, following, for instance, the three ProVention regional forums which took place in Western, Eastern and Southern Africa in the last quarter of 2006, it is expected that new synergies will be found among linguistic, thematic and sectoral initiatives.

The Community Risk Assessment network initiated in Cape Town in June 2005 now counts over 160 risk experts and practitioners, who regularly share information and resources. ProVention grantees also have the opportunity to communicate and exchange knowledge online through a website dedicated to the programme. Functionalities of the website will be further enhanced and facilitation strengthened as the programme welcomes new young researchers and the alumni network expands in 2007.

Additional activities in 2006 focused on generating new models to strengthen the capacities of Southern research institutions and on enhanced South–South learning. Exploratory discussions took place with PHREEway, a global network of international NGOs, research and training support organisations and universities in Africa, Asia and Latin America which work together to expand education and improve capacity for disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action towards sustainable development and human

security. A South–South learning initiative among training institutions in Asia is also being set up. It aims to develop a support system for trainers and educators on disaster risk reduction in South and South-East Asia by establishing an integrated knowledge and learning programme.

Lively discussion at the AURAN meeting, March 2006.



**An enormous volume of knowledge and learning on disaster risk reduction has been generated over the last decades but translation into action has been limited. Collaboration between Southern and Northern academics and practitioners is needed to bridge gaps effectively between disciplines, science and action, and between local/indigenous knowledge and technical knowledge. Southern capacity for applied research and knowledge exchange must be further enhanced and interaction between those who produce scientific knowledge and learning and potential end-users strengthened. ProVention will continue to develop current initiatives and engage with new partners in 2007 to address some of these challenges.**

# Global and regional forums

## 2006 Annual Forum

ProVention hosted its second Annual Forum, a venue for policy dialogue and debate on risk issues, in Bangkok on 2–3 February. Some 100 disaster risk reduction practitioners considered the political, economic, social and institutional incentives needed for a more proactive and preventive approach to dealing with disaster risk and vulnerability. They also provided proposals for ProVention's future work. Key findings touched on a number of critical issues, including:

- **Evidence of changing patterns of risk and new perspectives on disaster vulnerability.** More (local) disaster risk and loss data are needed. They are considered critical to understand the link between disaster risk and the MDGs and for related evidence-based policy. Partnerships with environmental science disciplines would help to respond to the dynamic nature of hazard and vulnerability.
- **Government incentives – and disincentives – for investing in disaster reduction.** A strong evidence base and cost-benefit analyses for investment in risk reduction are also necessary. The Hyogo Framework for Action and increased donor interest in integrating risk reduction in their own policies present a window of opportunity but more direct support is needed to integrate disaster risk reduction in poverty reduction strategy papers.
- **Post-disaster recovery: Is there a real window of opportunity for reducing risk?** Better collaboration between humanitarian and development actors in recovery is necessary if the opportunity for sustained risk reduction is to be achieved.

- **Balancing state responsibility and community action in risk reduction.**

Participants stressed that state–civil society relationships are a core indicator of a nation's socio-political health and emphasised the role of effective partnerships to address the root causes of disaster risk. Good practices in risk reduction governance should be documented and more research conducted to explore disasters in their wider social and political contexts.

- **Risk transfer solutions and the business case for managing risk.**

Participants recommended further research on novel financial risk transfer schemes for risk reduction focusing on the poor to make the case for donor support to this sector. ProVention's role in raising the business community's awareness of risk reduction was also highlighted.

- **Turning learning and knowledge into action: Is it time to rethink our approach?**

Technical knowledge on disaster reduction is mushrooming, but much needs to be done to translate this into action. Both South–South linkages and distance learning were raised as key opportunities.

## Regional forums

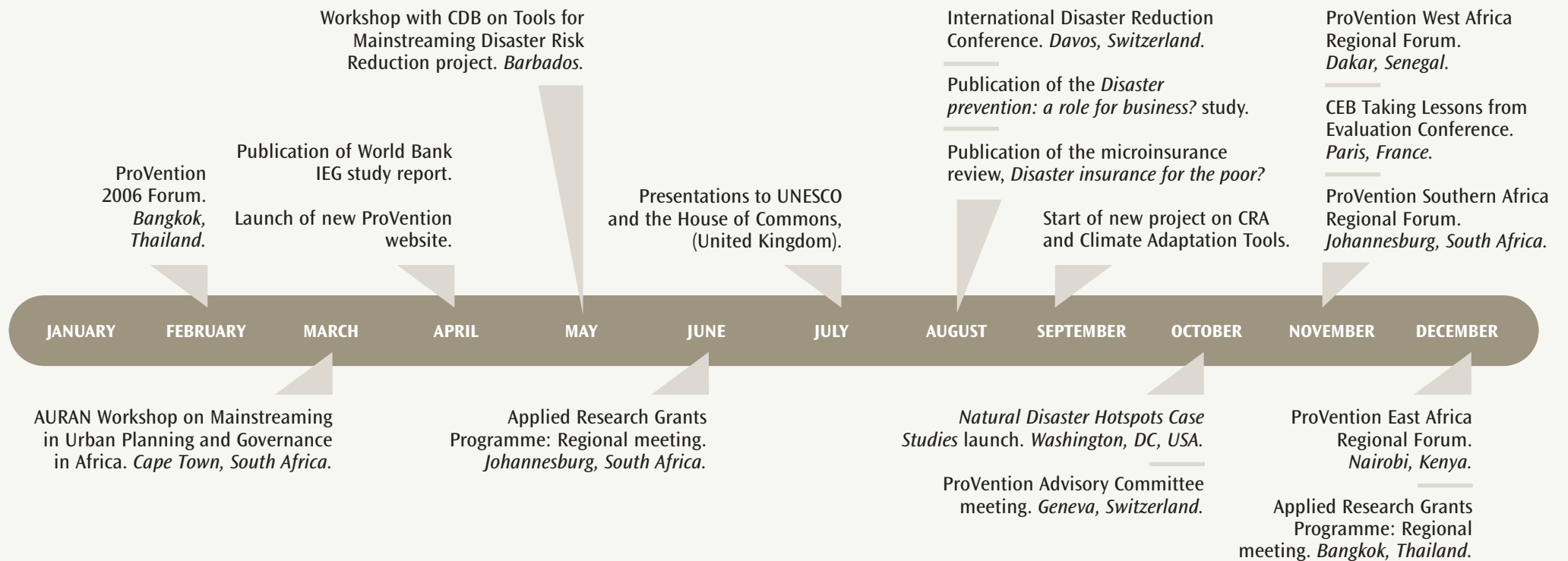
To ensure that local perspectives on risk reduction continue to influence regional and international policy, in November and December 2006 ProVention partners organised three regional forums which brought together community-based organisations, international NGOs, local government, academia and the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement.

ENDA RUP hosted the **West and Central Africa Forum** in Dakar, Senegal. The participants identified the main hazards facing local communities, which result in a complex variety of health, sanitation, housing and food security problems. Discussions focused on ways to maximise participation to promote and implement a culture of prevention. Recommendations from the forum called for more to be done by national and international partners to support risk reduction at local level and to prioritise funding for prevention and mitigation of disasters in national, local authority and NGO budgets.

Participants at the **Southern Africa Forum**, hosted by the IFRC in Johannesburg, stressed the need to keep a flexible view on risk definition to reflect the evolving multi-hazard context and slow-onset nature of many hazards in Africa. They pleaded for a common approach by the climate change and disaster risk communities to capture and mitigate the broader implications of chronic vulnerabilities for human security.

The ActionAid-hosted **East Africa Forum** in Nairobi stressed the role of disaster risk reduction to sustain development gains and to avoid further conflict on scarce resources. Participants proposed building upon a blend of indigenous knowledge and formal research findings in a participatory process involving all stakeholders as the best way forward for reducing risks at local level. This approach would strengthen ownership and respect of cultural traditions and beliefs, while also avoiding superstition and making use of cutting-edge technologies.

# Timeline – Key ProVention developments in 2006





# Publications

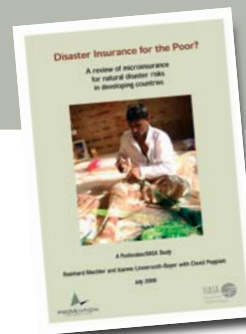
ProVention continues to generate new knowledge and resources aimed at organisations and practitioners active in disaster risk management. Key resources published during this period include:



## ■ Natural Disaster Hotspots Case Studies (World Bank)

*Edited by Margaret Arnold, Robert S. Chen, Uwe Deichmann, Maxx Dilley, Arthur L. Lerner-Lam*

These case studies complement the earlier work of *Natural Disaster Hotspots: A Global Risk Analysis* published in April 2005. Three case studies address specific hazards: landslides, storm surges and drought. Three additional case studies address regional multi-hazard situations in Sri Lanka, the Tana River basin in Kenya, and the city of Caracas, Venezuela.



## ■ Disaster Insurance for the Poor? A review of microinsurance for natural disaster risks in developing countries (IIASA-ProVention)

*By Reinhard Mechler and Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer with David Peppiatt*

This study provides an in-depth review of microinsurance by analysing a range of case studies and examining the benefits and limitations of microinsurance. The results of the study show clear evidence of the value and potential of microinsurance in transferring risk and protecting low-income households and businesses against disaster losses.



## ■ ProVention Forum 2006 – Incentives For Reducing Risk. A reflection on key themes, issues and ideas on risk reduction raised at the 2006 ProVention Forum

*By Mark Pelling, King's College, London*

The 2006 ProVention Forum focused on the theme of 'Incentives for reducing risk'. The Forum was held in Bangkok and brought together more than 100 partners. This report aims to highlight innovative ideas, significant challenges and emerging trends for disaster risk reduction that came out of the formal workshop debates and more informal discussions between participants during the meeting.



Yoshi Shimizu/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



■ **Disaster prevention: a role for business?**  
(Maplecroft–ProVention)

By Alyson Warhurst

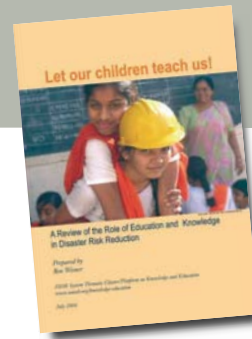
This study was commissioned by the ProVention Consortium to examine the business case for reducing natural disaster risks in developing countries. The study explores a corporate social responsibility perspective on disaster prevention and addresses, in particular, the potential for establishing partnerships between the private sector and the humanitarian system. It is intended to stimulate dialogue and help catalyse new ideas and collaborative initiatives involving the business community.



■ **Real Risk**  
(Tudor Rose)

*Real Risk* is a fully illustrated, 150-page book in which more than 50 authors relate their activities in natural risk reduction at international, regional, national, municipal and local levels. Their commentaries draw upon experiences around the world that reflect how people live with natural and related environmental and technological risks and their efforts to reduce their exposure to disasters. *Real Risk* is intended to be an updated companion publication to its larger predecessor *Know Risk*.

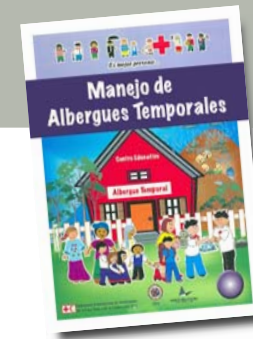
The publication includes ten articles by grantees from the Applied Research Grants Programme and a paper on microinsurance resulting from the ProVention–IIASA study. It can be ordered from Tudor Rose at <http://www.tudor-rose.co.uk/publishing/realrisk.html>



■ **Let our children teach us!**  
(ActionAid, Council of Europe, DFID, UN/ISDR, IFRC, ProVention, UNESCO)

By Ben Wisner

The UN/ISDR System Thematic Cluster/Platform on Knowledge and Education and its partners published a review of the role of education and knowledge in disaster risk reduction. This review examines good practices to reduce disaster risk through education, knowledge and innovation. It looks critically and strategically at current activities in order to identify gaps and opportunities in the form of synergism and partnerships.



■ **Community-based Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment in Central America**  
(IFRC, OAS, PAHO, UNICEF)

This set of six manuals is a collaborative effort between IFRC, OAS, PAHO and UNICEF, supported by ProVention, aimed at promoting community-based disaster risk reduction activities in the following fields:

- School maintenance
- Disaster mitigation of rural water supplies and sewerage systems
- Natural hazards and school shelter
- Community early warning systems for small valleys
- Flood awareness practice guides
- Community dialogue on water and climate

These manuals (only available in Spanish), produced together with an interactive VCA Toolkit CD-Rom, can be found at: <http://www.cruzroja.org/desastres/redcamp/Proyectos.htm>



Unless otherwise stated, copies of these and other ProVention publications are available at <http://www.proventionconsortium.org/publications>



# ProVention's links within the international disaster risk reduction system

Effective risk reduction requires multi-faceted solutions drawn across the mandates and boundaries of the different organisations contributing towards the broader international disaster risk reduction system. Since 2000, ProVention has sought to provide an informal forum for dialogue among diverse partners and to both drive and ground the debate with focused initiatives to establish the evidence base for effective risk reduction measures.

At the same time ProVention also seeks to strengthen the roles and capacities of its partners and other organisations in promoting and sustaining attention and action to disaster risk reduction. Looking to support the growth of system-wide capacities and mechanisms, ProVention has worked to engage proactively with a number of initiatives under way to strengthen key aspects of the international disaster risk reduction system.

*The UN/ISDR 2006–2007 World Disaster Reduction Campaign focuses on disaster risk education and safer schools.*



Eliha Jafar/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## UN/ISDR system

ProVention, and many of its partner organisations, are active participants in the UN/ISDR system and strong supporters of the commitments embodied in the Hyogo Framework for Action. At a strategic level, ProVention's goals and objectives harmonise with those of UN/ISDR, sharing a common purpose to reduce the human, social, economic and environmental losses due to natural hazards.

The activities, outputs and outcomes of the ProVention Consortium work programme are intended to benefit the ISDR system directly and contribute to realising UN/ISDR's mission and objectives and the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. To this end, ProVention has crafted its Strategic Work Plan and reports on its work programme of activities to indicate the expected outputs and outcomes of the Consortium towards the implementation of the Hyogo Framework (see overview on next page).

At an institutional level, ProVention participated as a member of the Reference Group for the UN/ISDR Programme Advisory Committee that was charged with drafting and outlining the newly reformed architecture of the global ISDR system. ProVention also helped plan several stakeholder and thematic platforms evolving within the Global Platform that will be hosted by UN/ISDR, including the education platform, the NGO platform (initiated in November 2006), a potential research and universities platform and the ongoing planning for a Business Alliance.

## Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) was established in 2006 as a major new initiative of the World Bank in support of the Hyogo Framework for Action. ProVention welcomed this project to prioritise support for global and regional initiatives, strengthen funding mechanisms to country-level risk reduction programmes and increase the attention and funding to risk reduction in the context of post-disaster recovery programmes.

The GFDRR's first track, in particular, parallels many areas in which ProVention is already active. This track will be coordinated by UN/ISDR and will focus on global and regional efforts in the field of advocacy, partnerships and knowledge management as well as standardisation of hazard risk management tools, methodologies and practices. In preliminary discussions with the GFDRR and UN/ISDR, ProVention highlighted the Consortium's past achievements and ongoing initiatives in areas prioritised by GFDRR, including mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development planning, insurance, tools and methodology development, risk assessment, partnerships with private sector and universities, etc. Looking forward to 2007 and beyond, ProVention will continue to work in close consultation and coordination with UN/ISDR and other stakeholders in the GFDRR to outline common objectives and collaborate in programming initiatives.

1

Ensure risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

**Key components:**

- Strengthening national institutional and legislative frameworks.
- Developing *resources* for risk management policies and programmes.
- Promoting community participation.

2

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.

**Key components:**

- Strengthening national and local risk assessments.
- Establishing institutional and community capacities for effective *early warning*.
- Developing capacities for effective data collection and hazard analysis.
- Cooperation for analysing *regional and emerging risks*.

3

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.

**Key components:**

- Strengthening mechanisms for *information management and exchange*.
- Promoting risk reduction in school and community *education*.
- Research on cost–benefit analysis for risk reduction.
- *Public awareness* to engage media and community interest.

4

Reduce underlying risk factors.

**Key components:**

- Integrating environmental and natural resource management with risk reduction.
- Strengthening safety-nets by improving *social and economic development practices*.
- Incorporating risk management into land use planning and other measures.

5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

**Key components:**

- Strengthening *institutional capacities* and learning.
- Strengthening contingency and preparedness planning.
- Promoting community participation.

Mainstreaming risk reduction into development policy decision-making and planning:

- Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction project including risk assessment and risk reduction measures in development tools and practices.
- Link to UNDP–UN/ISDR Global Mainstreaming Project.
- AURAN project and EMI Disaster Risk Management in Megacities project for urban plan applications (ProVention–UNDP).
- Dialogue with key partners in the IFIs and private sector.

Addressing challenges of risk identification and analysis:

**Global data sets**

- Global Risk Identification Programme (ProVention–UNDP).

**Community risk assessment**

- Community mitigation pilot in Americas by OAS and IFRC.
- CRA Toolkit.
- Dialogue with UNDP and Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Change Centre to integrate climate change factors into community risk trend analysis.
- Guidance on risk reduction indicators within TRIAMS initiative.

Incorporating knowledge sharing and expansion of research and learning into all activities to forge partnerships, promote key policies and encourage innovative practice:

- Highlighting activities of Consortium partners on the ProVention website and in updates through the *ProVention News e-zine*.
- Regional forums for the ProVention Applied Research Grants Programme, the regional AURAN network and an evolving community of practice on community risk assessment.

Catalysing new ideas and approaches in risk reduction:

- Initiatives in risk transfer/microinsurance, community risk assessment and action planning and integration of risk reduction into development planning at all levels.
- The Applied Research Grants Programme supporting young researchers in exploring new areas of risk analysis and practice.
- Dialogue with corporate sector to promote disaster risk management on corporate social responsibility agenda.

Supporting long-term learning in risk preparedness and planning:

- Community-oriented disaster activities, including local-level preparedness through ProVention's partnership with IFRC.
- IFRC–OAS partnership in Central America in community participation and action learning through community-based vulnerability and capacity assessment.



# Governance



Peter Colton/British Red Cross

In terms of governance and management arrangements for the Consortium, 2006 marked an important year. Based on an external governance review conducted in 2005, with additional input provided by partners, the new governance and management structure was put fully in place in 2006 to help improve the impact of ProVention's work and ensure greater accountability, participation and ownership among Consortium partners.

Governance and management issues were discussed in depth at both the February and the October Advisory Committee (AC) meetings. AC members agreed that the new institutional arrangements increase the opportunities for participation of more partner organisations and provide improved mechanisms for guiding ProVention's strategic direction and management.

The governance structure and institutional arrangements are summarised as follows:

## ProVention Consortium Structures



Implementation of the ProVention work programme is managed by the **ProVention Secretariat**, which comprises five staff and is responsible for the day-to-day administration and coordination of ProVention activities, under the direction of ProVention's governance structures and the overall management supervision of the IFRC, the current ProVention host organisation.

The critical dialogue and agenda setting that has taken place in the past during the annual Steering Committee meetings has been broadened and expanded to include a wider range of ProVention partners as part of a **ProVention Annual Forum**. The Forum retains the tradition of open and informal dialogue but is broadened to involve new and different actors and generate new ideas and initiatives. These issues and ideas directly inform the development of the ProVention work programme. The regional forums, introduced in 2006 to shape the agenda and dialogue of the 2007 Tanzania Forum, will most likely also be continued in the following years. The revised governance structure now includes an **Advisory Committee** to oversee and support the Secretariat by providing guidance and advice on strategic, policy and organisational decisions. The AC is comprised of representatives of the founding and host organisations, donors, intergovernmental organisations, academic institutions, civil society and other ProVention partners. The Advisory Committee and Secretariat also solicit expert technical advice from independent project reviewers, as needed, to ensure high-quality technical appraisal of ProVention project activities and accountability in project approval and decision-making.

# Partners

Linking disasters, poverty and development requires a collaborative approach, involving different and diverse sectors and organisations. The ProVention Consortium includes a broad range of partners, from development to humanitarian organisations and the public sector to the private sector, with the aim of connecting different disciplines and sectors within a common goal and a clear set of objectives.

Currently, partners contribute to the Consortium in a variety of vital roles – as Advisory Committee members, Presiding Council members, Forum participants and project partners and donors.

**ProVention project partners in the 2006 work programme included:**

## NGOs

- ActionAid International
- All India Disaster Mitigation Institute
- Center for Disaster Preparedness (Philippines)
- Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) Initiative
- ENDA Tiers Monde (Senegal)
- Risk Red
- International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
- Opportunity International Network
- Shelter Centre
- Tearfund
- Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET)

## Donor governments/agencies

- Canadian International Development Agency
- Department for International Development, United Kingdom
- Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)
- Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

## International financial institutions

- African Development Bank
- Asian Development Bank
- Caribbean Development Bank
- Council of Europe Development Bank
- Inter-American Development Bank
- The World Bank

## International and regional organisations

- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Organization of American States
- Pan American Health Organization
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- United Nations Habitat
- United Nations University
- World Meteorological Organization

## Networks

- African Urban Risk Analysis Network
- ALNAP
- Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative
- La RED
- The World Conservation Union
- ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability
- PeriperiU
- PHREEway

## Private sector

- Interpolis Re
- Munich Re and Munich Re Foundation
- Swiss Re
- World Economic Forum

## Universities and research centres

- Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
- Asian Disaster Reduction Center
- Benfield Hazard Research Centre
- Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters
- Columbia University, Center for Hazards and Risk Research
- Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme, University of Cape Town
- Disaster Management Research Unit, Kenyatta University
- Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Research Center
- Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO, Costa Rica)
- Global Fire Monitoring Center
- International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
- International Institute for Environment and Development
- King's College London
- Maplecroft/Warwick Business School
- Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado, Boulder
- Norwegian Geotechnical Institute
- Pacific Disaster Center
- University College of Lands and Architectural Studies, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- University of Accra, Ghana
- University of Bab El Ezzouar, Algeria
- University of Kyoto, Japan
- University of Wisconsin Disaster Management Center
- Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania



# Finances



Oleav Salbones/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

ProVention's 2006 work programme of activities has been funded by contributions received from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, and the Canadian International Development Agency.

ProVention acknowledges the generous support of these donors, which has enabled the implementation of the work programme and management of the Secretariat. December figures are not yet available as this report goes to print, but the opposite page provides an overview of the financial situation from January to November 2006. It should be noted that a new work programme of activities has been developed over the year and that several new activities are due to start in 2007 as part of the 2007–2009 Strategic Work Plan. In addition, donor funding commitments typically vary in term, so not all contributions are tied to activities completed in 2006.

As part of the hosting arrangement with the IFRC, the ProVention Consortium prepares all financial statements in accordance with Swiss law. The IFRC's financial statements, including those of ProVention as a hosted project, are audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers SA.

# Financial overview 2006

## Expenditure (January–November 2006)

CHF\*

|   |  |   |               |
|---|--|---|---------------|
| Risk Analysis and Application               | <b>Risk Information Framework</b>              | ■ Global Risk Identification Programme; Global Disasters Risk Hotspots                        | 32,695        |
|   | <b>Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment</b>   | ■ Tools for Community Risk Assessment and Action Planning                                     | 31,179        |
|   |  | ■ Community-based Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment in Central America                    | 19,344        |
|   | <b>Risk Analysis and Monitoring</b>            | ■ Community Risk Assessment and Climate Adaptation Tools                                      | 142,989       |
|   |  | ■ African Urban Risk Analysis Network   | 793           |
| <b>Application</b>                          | ■ Reducing Flood Risk in Africa                | 12,244  |               |
| Mainstreaming Risk Reduction                | <b>Development Planning and Policy</b>         | ■ Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction   | 174,080       |
|   | <b>Urban Master Planning</b>                   | ■ Megacities: Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management  | 2,563         |
| Reducing Risks in Recovery                  | <b>Improving Response and Recovery Systems</b> | ■ Learning Lessons from Disaster Recovery   | 23,282        |
|   |  | ■ Reducing Risk in Recovery   | 7,216         |
| Risk Transfer and Private Sector Investment | <b>Risk Transfer Mechanisms</b>                | ■ Microinsurance Pilot Scheme   | 76,404        |
|   |  | ■ Micro Risk Transfer Research and Analysis   | 9,338         |
|   | <b>Corporate Sector Investment</b>             | ■ Private Sector Involvement in Disaster Risk Reduction                                       | 27,625        |
| Expanding Risk Research and Learning        | <b>Southern Research Capacities</b>            | ■ Applied Research Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction   | 25,494        |
|   |  | ■ Training and Learning Circles   | 2,456         |
|   | <b>Knowledge Sharing</b>                       | ■ ProVention Forum and regional forums 2006, International Disaster Reduction Conference 2006 | 139,213       |
|   |  | ■ ProVention Knowledge Sharing Activities   | 71,034        |
| <b>ProVention Secretariat</b>               |  | ■ Secretariat staff, project management and administration                                    | 643,048       |
| <b>Total</b>                                |  |   | CHF 1,440,998 |

## Income (January–November 2006)

|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Opening balance</b>      | <b>1,328,326</b> |
| <b>Income for 2006–2007</b> | <b>1,836,267</b> |
| <b>Total</b>                | CHF 3,164,593    |

This unaudited financial statement reports expenditure from 1 January to 30 November 2006 and is based upon information available on 9 January 2007. \*CHF = Swiss francs.



# Future challenges

In developing the work plan and reflecting on key issues and external trends identified by ProVention partners, certain challenges emerge which, although not included as priorities of the current work plan, should be considered as potential topics for ProVention's evolving agenda and ongoing dialogue. They include:

## **Human security and risk accumulation**

A broader perspective on risk, looking at a wider set of human security concerns which goes beyond natural hazards, is needed to effectively reduce the social, political and economic factors that drive human vulnerability. Issues such as livelihood and food insecurity, conflict, forced migration, limited access to basic social services, political and economic stability, HIV/AIDS and other health crises are in many cases inextricably linked to disaster vulnerability. In exploring the links between risk reduction and human security, ProVention needs to consider how disaster risk reduction can be strengthened in more integrated ways to reflect the accumulation and diverse range of risks that households and communities face, especially in the least developed countries.

## **Drought and food security**

ProVention activities have tended to focus on sudden-onset hazards, often treating drought somewhat as an anomaly. In Africa, vulnerability to drought and food insecurity remains a priority concern for millions of people. Moreover, as climate change and variability indicate the likelihood of more extreme weather events, the subject of drought poses an ever-growing challenge for the international disaster reduction system. Future ProVention project activities must, therefore, give greater consideration to drought vulnerability and analyse where this issue converges and diverges from current thinking, policy and practice in hazard risk management.

## **Climate change**

The scientific evidence that climate change will influence the severity, frequency and spatial distribution of future climate-related hazards is largely considered incontestable. To address this challenge, a growing ProVention constituency is arguing for closer collaboration and exchange between the disaster risk reduction and climate change and adaptation communities. It is clear that the opportunities and poten-

tial benefits for greater engagement exist, both in capitalising on the political attention to climate change and in utilising the rapidly advancing tools and approaches for climate adaptation analysis. The current work plan explores links between both agendas in promoting collaboration among key players in assessment of disaster risk and climate adaptation in South Asia and in a World Bank study targeting greater policy and operational coherence in the management of climate and natural hazard risks in the Philippines.

## **Incentives for risk reduction**

How can ProVention give governments greater incentives to invest in mitigation when the benefits tend to be long term and often not visible? This is a key challenge raised by many partners in relation to their work with national governments where the political and economic benefits of risk reduction are not always evident. The subject of incentives will be addressed as a critical future challenge and considered in the context of ProVention's mainstreaming activities, including the cost-benefit case for disaster reduction and the use of incentive measures, such as development rewards, reduced insurance premiums, mandatory hazard risk management requirements and legislation.

## **Knowledge management**

A specific challenge for ProVention and the global disaster reduction system concerns the effective transfer and exchange of knowledge and information. Data on hazards, risks and vulnerabilities are growing rapidly but access and availability, particularly at national and local levels, is limited. Risk reduction tools, methodologies and examples of good practice are also on the rise but often poorly documented and not shared widely, leading to much duplication and under-utilisation of existing resources. Indeed, the lack of investment in knowledge sharing and management systems is already limiting the impact of global disaster reduction efforts. As ProVention evolves as a global network with knowledge sharing as an integral part of all activities, a critical challenge will be the use of appropriate and effective systems to maximise sharing of knowledge and information between organisations and sectors and across regions to facilitate the participation of larger audiences in contributing knowledge and resources to the ProVention knowledge base.



# Acronyms


|          |   |
|----------|---|
| AC       | Advisory Committee  |
| AIDMI    | All India Disaster Mitigation Institute   |
| ALNAP    | Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action   |
| AURAN    | African Urban Risk Analysis Network   |
| CDB      | Caribbean Development Bank  |
| CEB      | Council of Europe Development Bank  |
| CRA      | community risk assessment   |
| CRID     | Regional Disaster Information Centre  |
| CSR      | corporate social responsibility   |
| DFID     | Department for International Development (United Kingdom)                           |
| DiMP     | Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (University of Cape Town) |
| DRR      | disaster risk reduction   |
| ECOSOC   | United Nations Economic and Social Council  |
| EMI      | Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative   |
| GFDRR    | Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery                                 |
| GIIF     | Global Index Insurance Facility   |
| GRIP     | Global Risk Identification Programme  |
| IDB      | Inter-American Development Bank   |
| IEG      | Independent Evaluation Group (World Bank)   |
| IFI      | international financial institution   |
| IFRC     | International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies                    |
| IIASA    | International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis                                |
| IIED     | International Institute for Environment and Development                             |
| ISSET    | Institute for Social and Environmental Transition                                   |
| MDGs     | Millennium Development Goals  |
| NGO      | non-governmental organisation   |
| OAS      | Organization of American States   |
| PAHO     | Pan American Health Organization  |
| PHREEway | Partnership for Humanitarian and Risk Education Expansion                           |
| SME      | small and medium-sized enterprise   |
| TEC      | Tsunami Evaluation Coalition  |
| TRIAMS   | Tsunami Recovery and Impact Assessment Monitoring System                            |
| UN       | United Nations  |
| UNDP     | United Nations Development Programme  |
| UNEP     | United Nations Environment Programme  |
| UNESCO   | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization                    |
| UNICEF   | United Nations Children's Fund  |
| UN/ISDR  | United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction                        |
| VCA      | vulnerability and capacity assessment   |

Marko Kokic/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



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The ProVention Consortium is a global coalition of international organisations, governments, academic institutions, the private sector and civil society organisations dedicated to reducing the risk and social, economic and environmental impacts of natural hazards on vulnerable populations in developing countries.



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