

GFDRR Track I
"Strengthening Regional and Global Partnerships for Disaster Risk
Reduction"
A Five Year Retrospective: 2007- 2011

Annexes

November 2012

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS OF GFDRR TRACK 1

Regional cooperation is important for DRR not only in terms of forging partnerships between national governments to pool knowledge and resources and sign up to global commitments but also to understand and address cross-boundary risks. Each of the six regions of Track I face particular disaster risk and hazards as well as differing levels of resources and capacities for implementing the HFA commitments. Regional achievements and impacts of Track I support are outlined in the following six regional profiles. Common features identified across the regions include¹:

- Creating political space and commitment for HFA and DRR agenda through regional and sub-regional policy platforms and frameworks
- Promoting the importance and effectiveness of DRR cooperation through joint regional action and resources for improved national implementation
- Building and sharing knowledge and expertise on scientific, geographic, social and economic dimensions of disaster risk reduction
- Building capacity of regional and sub-regional inter-governmental organisations for improved DRR knowledge of issues, challenges and opportunities
- Mainstreaming of DRR into development planning processes
- Promoting national ownership and support through engagement and accountability of regional policies and action plans

Regional work through Track I has been driven by UNISDR Regional Offices in collaboration with key regional and sub-regional inter-governmental organisations and institutions. Importantly, Track I funding guaranteed UNISDR engagement in the regions and ensured the continuous support and encouragement that effective partnership building requires.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS AFRICA 2007-2011

The Africa region secured the largest share of Track I resources to help build regional and sub-regional forums and frameworks for DRR. The region is home of 9 of the 20 Track II countries², and required support and investment to develop and implement policies and activities to address chronic disaster risk compounded by poverty and the implications of climate change.

The AUC (African Union Commission) has been the principal regional inter-governmental partners for Track I engagement and support. Track I also worked through sub-regional organisations, notably ECOWAS (the Economic Community of West African States), SADC (the South African Development Community), ECCAS (the Economic Community of Central African

¹ A desk review of work plans, reports, evaluations and publications of GFDRR Track I was undertaken in the preparation of this present report. A full list of sources is set out in the Bibliography.

² Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, and Togo. Djibouti is a member of both the Arab League and the African Union.

States) and EAC (East Africa Community). Activities included development of regional and sub-regional strategies and action plans, regional and national risk assessments, training and technical support on HFA reporting, risk reduction planning to inform integrated DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) programmes. Together they constituted a commitment to accompanying and strengthening the regional architecture for DRR and CCA in Africa.

Strengthening the Regional Framework for DRR

Africa has a long history of policy engagement with disaster risk reduction. Heads of State approved the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction as early as 2005, pre-dating the adoption of the HFA. Between 2007 and 2011, UNISDR and partners worked to strengthen the ownership and commitment behind this framework. This included the establishment of a regional platform for DRR and implementation of the HFA. Results included the adoption of the 'Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction' in 2010 (see Box 1).

Box 1: Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015).

At the 2nd African Ministerial Conference on DRR (14-16 April 2010 in Nairobi), African ministers adopted the *Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015)*, which was confirmed by Heads of State in Addis in January 2011. Interventions funded under Track I included: "

- Track I supported the 2009 'Africa Status Report 2009' on the progress in implementing the Africa Regional Strategy and the HFA. The report provided an analysis of progress and gaps that included concrete commendations coming from the 2nd Consultative Meeting of Africa Regional Platform DRR in Nairobi in May 2009 (also supported by Track I and the UNISDR regional office).
- The status report built on Track I-supported training of national focal points for DRR on reporting and monitoring the HFA in Africa which supported the completion of 24 national reports in 2008, which also contributed to the first Global Assessment Report (GAR) in 2009.
- A DRR expert deployed to the AUC and support from UNISDR regional office and headquarters ensured continuous technical support to the consultation process towards the Extended Programme of Action.

In follow up to the Extended Programme of Action, the UNISDR regional office provided technical support to the AUC/RECs meeting organized by AUC/WB in Nairobi in December 2010. The meeting served as a preparatory event for the implementation of the regional strategy by identifying pilot countries and interested partners.

Track I and UNISDR support to the AUC and RECs also supported the establishment of the Africa DRR Working Group, as recommended by the 2011 ministerial declaration. Its 2012 work plan included establishing regional disaster management funds, strengthening existing DRR institutions, developing an atlas and maps for major hazards in Africa, capacity building for DRR at national level, increasing political commitment to DRR in Africa and supporting overall coordination and implementation of DRR Africa strategy.

In addition to providing technical support to AUC through a DRR expert deployed since 2008, Track I also focused on strengthening the sub-regional institutions ECOWAS, SADC and ECCAS. UNISDR's brought together partners from different stakeholder groups to support the development and implementation of sub-regional action plans. An example of successful partnership building included the participation of agriculture, health and water resources departments of ECOWAS, SADC and ECCAS in the DRR regional platform which ensured relevant capacities and knowledge to address key risk issues in the region (i.e. epidemics, food security, drought and floods).

ECOWAS

The deployment of a DRR Adviser to ECOWAS since February 2009 has served to strengthen its capacities and provide assistance in developing the *ECOWAS Programme of Action for the Implementation of the ECOWAS Policy for DRR (2010-2014)*. This was agreed at the ECOWAS DRR Expert Meeting in Ouagadougou in October 2009 and endorsed by the ECOWAS Ministerial Conference on DRR in 2010. Support to national coordination and platforms were provided to

Côte d'Ivoire, Cape Verde and Liberia. Track I also enabled ECOWAS to support member states including Gambia, Ghana and Togo to develop and refine DRR policies particularly with regard to integrating CCA. In the cases of Ghana and Togo this support complemented on-going Track II programmes focused on cross-border issues of flood mitigation.

SADC

Between 2007 and 2011, Track I funding helped UNISDR to develop a cooperation partnership with SADC. With Track I support, SADC appointed a DRR liaison expert in November 2009 to strengthen SADC's capacity for risk assessment and integration of DRR issues. Track I also helped to develop a work plan on DRR that was approved by SADC's DRR Technical Committee in 2010. SADC, with Track I support, and Mozambique, a Track II country, collaborated closely on the Zambezi flood mitigation programme. SADC also supported a number of member states—Angola, Namibia and South Africa, among others—affected by transboundary floods, including assistances to share transboundary rainfall and river flow data and analyses.³ In 2011, UNISDR supported SADC coordination with partners to develop a DRR sub-regional strategy and related plan of action, which are yet to be formally adopted by SADC.

ECCAS

With Track I support, UNISDR deployed a DRR specialist to ECCAS between January 2009 and December 2011. In-house DRR expertise ensured technical guidance to ECCAS and member states on the implementation of the ECCAS DRR programme. As a main result, ECCAS adopted a DRR strategy, programme of action, plan of action and ministerial declaration at a ministerial meeting in Libreville, Gabon in June 2012, which was organized with support from UNISDR and OCHA. Other support included facilitation of a training workshop for sub-regional stakeholders on DRM and climate change in 2010. The partnership between ECCAS and UNISDR was further strengthened through an MOU for continued cooperation signed in December 2010.

Risk Analysis, Tools, Knowledge Networks

Training workshops on mainstreaming DRR, methodologies for disaster loss accounting, and reporting on progress in implementing the HFA have been key features of knowledge building and sharing in the regional and sub-regional support of Track I. Examples include two workshops organized by ECOWAS, ISDR and WB/GFDRR in Senegal in 2008 and 2009, on 'Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Assessing Disaster Damage and Losses in Development' and 'West-Africa Sub-Regional Risk Assessment' respectively. A total of 130 DRR focal points and delegates from Civil Protection/Disaster Management offices and Ministries of Finance of 33 countries were trained in risk assessment concepts and methodologies and HFA monitoring. As a result, national reporting from the Africa region through the HFA Monitor has been extended from 17 countries in the 2007-09 cycle to 23 countries in the 2009-11 one. UNISDR also provided support to the regional 'status reports' on risk analysis and progress in 2009 and 2011 which fed into the respective Global Platform meetings and Global Assessment Reports.

UNISDR technical support to regional partners focused on mechanisms to address risks related to hydro meteorological hazards including drought, floods and cyclones, as well as linking DRR and CCA. Support included advice to the ECOWAS Technical Committee in the preparation of the joint World Bank/ECOWAS 'West Africa Regional Study on Transnational Flood Impacts and preparedness' (February 2010). In addition, UNISDR advised on the selection of 4 countries to

³ See GFDRR 2011 Annual Report, p.41.

pilot projects on risk assessment together with UNDP. A simulation exercise was jointly organised by WG/GFDRR and UNISDR (22-23 June 2011) on the use of climate services (meteorology and hydrology) to improve disaster risk management and climate services

Box 2: Building and Sharing Expertise on Drought and Climate Change Adaptation in Africa

Track I, together with funding from the European Commission's DG ECHO, has supported the strengthening of the African Drought and Development Network that was facilitated by UNISDR and UNDP/DCC, as a forum for supporting the inter-linkage of DRR and CCA in the region. The network advises states and organisations on reducing the impact of recurring droughts. The overall aim of Track I support to this network was to ensure that existing strategies and tools for drought risk reduction are contributing to building resilience to climate hazards as part of the NAPA process. The projected impact of climate change and variability in terms of increased occurrence of droughts and floods is well-documented. The NAPAs (National Adaptation Programmes of Action) are designed to profile priority areas of action in development for climate change adaptation.

Track I also supported the 3rd African Drought Adaptation Forum, held in 2008 in Addis Ababa. The Forum included a regional workshop on national adaptation processes and assessing climate hazards with view to developing proposals for implementing seasonal climate risk management⁴, which made an important contribution to updating and issuing of a new version in 2009 of *Drought Risk Reduction Framework and Practices* by the ISDR.

In East Africa, Track I and ECHO funding enabled UNISDR to organize a policy dialogue with the East African Community (EAC) in support of a drought resilience project. As a result, disaster risk reduction was integrated into the EAC Climate Change Policy. Sub-regional support, including through IGAD, also ensured synergies with Track II supported drought mitigation efforts, for example in Ethiopia .

With Track I funding, UNISDR supported the African Regional Climate Organization (ACMAD) and SADC to establish alerts based on anticipated risk and weather patterns to enhance early warning systems for climate-related events in Africa. As a result, ACMAD is now producing severe weather forecasts and flood alerts, which help preparedness planning in the region. In 2011, UNISDR co-organised climate outlook forums with ICPAC/IGAD, ACMAD and SADC⁵ and generation of a new community of knowledge and action to better integrate DRR and CCA. The events gathered DRR managers, climate organisations and specialists, creating an opportunity for dialogue between science and practitioners that was identified as a major gap for effective DRR by the 2011 IPCC Special Report on Extreme Events (SREX). Activities included:

- PRESAO (PRévisions Saisonnières en Afrique de l'Ouest) (West Africa): A simulation exercise conducted by UNISDR, WB/GFDRR and ACMAD on the use for climate and hydrology forecasts for DRR programming.

⁴ This collaboration included UNISDR, UNDP/ Drylands Development Centre, World Bank and UNECA

⁵ IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC); Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); African Centre of Meteorological Application and Development (ACMAD).

- GHACOF (Great Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum): The Forum gathered participants from different sectors (health, agriculture, water, etc) to translate forecasts into scenario planning.
- SARCOF (Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum): The Forum, supported by WMO, UNISDR and the World Bank, provided the opportunity for dialogue between met service in both SADC and its member states and the “end users”, mainly Disaster Managers.
- An on-going mapping of regional and sub-regional technical capacities in DRR (institutes, research, and expertise) to identify gaps and needs for improved hazard and risk data collection.

Advocacy and Campaigns

Track I support enabled the AUC and RECs to prepare for and participate in key global events and discussions, notably COP 17 in Durban in 2011, and the Global Platforms 2009 and 2011.

With UNISDR support, over 40 cities in the region signed up to the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient Campaign, including Kampala, Johannesburg, Nairobi, Arusha, Dakar, Maputo and Addis Ababa and Yaoundé. This active engagement showcased by the large number of signatory cities highlights the recognition of the importance of local action, which is crucial for a region which, , will face a potential doubling of urban population by 2030⁶ according to UN Habitat and the World Bank.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC 2007-2011

Regional Political Commitment and Binding Policy Framework for DRR

The regional architecture in Asia and Pacific is relatively mature and so the work of Track 1 to promote the mainstreaming of DRR into regional frameworks and planning. Track I has created political space and institutional capacity of the Regional Platform and the IGOs of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations), SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) and the Applied Geosciences & Technology Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC/SOPAC). The main areas supported in East Asia and Pacific through Track 1 during 2007-2011 includes:

- Enhancing regional leadership and coordination through the Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction as Regional Platform in Asia and the Pacific, framing ASEAN regional strategies and the support to the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and SPC/SOPAC in framing regional strategies and plans on DRR while promoting knowledge management in SAARC. Track 1 also helped to strengthen coordination among actors and partners that drive the technical and programmatic advancement of regional strategies and plans on DRR.
- Building the credible evidence base for policy and action in a region facing fast accumulation of disaster risks as well as increase in frequency and intensity of hazards due to global climate change. This includes support to standardize risk assessments,

⁶ See UN Habitat (2010) *State of the World's Cities 2010/2011: Bridging the Urban Divide*, and World Bank on-line data sets on urbanisation and urban development: <http://data.worldbank.org/topic/urban-development>

- necessary studies and researches, data collection and analysis tools and capacities, disaster loss databases, regional information management (e.g. support provided to the Pacific Disaster Net) reports and studies. This includes capacities for monitoring through the HFA review, connecting regional and global knowledge and experience and data and analysis to support planning.
- Continuing the advocacy and outreach to build cooperation among regional constituency of actors on DRR action through advocacy campaigns, public education and media events, and high-level engagement and dialogue with policy- and decision-makers and donors to support more investments in DRR.

The UNISDR Regional Office for Asia and Pacific is based in Bangkok supporting both East Asia and Pacific and South Asia. Track 1 budgets account for some one third of overall budgetary support provided through this office. In the implementation of Track 1 activities UNISDR is able to draw upon the ISDR Asia Partnership, the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR, the Pacific Platform on DRM and its 5-year MOUs with ASEAN and SOPAC/SPC to ensure greater coordination, participation and impact.

Figure 1: ASEAN Leadership on DRR

ASEAN has exerted strong normative influence in setting standards and building peer responsibilities in advancing the DRR agenda in the region. Track 1 has contributed to this progress. The ASEAN framework includes the unique legally binding *ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)*⁷ that was ratified by the 10 Member States and came into force in December 2009. It is strongly linked to HFA commitments and reporting.

The breakthrough Agreement has been followed up with an *AADMER Work Programme 2010-2015* that outlines 4 strategic areas of work: Risk Assessment, Early Warning & Monitoring; Preparedness & Response; Prevention and Mitigation; and, Recovery. 8 out of 10 Member States have developed Strategic National Action Plans (SNAPs) with support from UNISDR as part of Track 1 support. Technical Assistance on DRR has also been supported within the ASEAN Secretariat by Track 1 to accompany and strengthen these developments.

Figure 2: Memorandum of Cooperation – ASEAN-UNISDR-WB 2009

Track 1 activities in the region are part of a unique 5 year tripartite Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) of ASEAN Secretariat- UNISDR-WB, signed in April 2009. The MoC lays a framework for technical support from the UNISDR and the World Bank to help the ASEAN secretariat formulate and implement strategies and action plans for disaster risk reduction and management. The objectives of this MoC include (i) building ASEAN's capacity in the areas of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation; (ii) mobilizing resources for the implementation of DRR initiatives in ASEAN; and (iii) helping ASEAN policy-makers gain knowledge of effective and practical ways to reduce disaster risks. The framework serves as a potential model for cooperation in other regions. The intention is for a 5 year framework of dedicated support to enable greater take-up thereafter by member states for taking the action

⁷ The 10 Member States of ASEAN are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao DRR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

plans and programmes forward. It provides a framework of cooperation with indicators and results attached.

A regional evaluation of UNISDR's activities in the ASEAN region was carried out in 2009 and found very strong progress in creating an enabling environment of regional and national plans⁸. High-level political access and mobilisation was found to have driven this progress. In terms of the ASEAN-UNISDR-WB MoC, the report set out what it considered to be the comparative advantages of this cooperation:

The potential is in the comparative advantage of each partner and their complementary as a whole. The UNISDR is viewed within the cooperation as spear-heading the HFA and facilitating focus and progress. It brings or accesses technical knowledge and support when needed and provides access to an increasing system of partners. The ASEAN community has the mandate, neutrality and political positioning to address regional issues and exert positive (peer) pressure on national issues and progress. Like UNISDR it has the mandate and position to monitor progress and facilitate regional sharing and national policies and planning. The World Bank has financing capacity to drive processes forward, which when coupled with knowledge and assistance in development can be instrumental in turning policies and the enabling environment into action. The World Bank has access to and influence on networks at sub-national level and can provide leadership in incorporating the private sector.

Regional Platforms

Track 1 has provided on-going support to UNISDR in its core work of building and supporting regional platforms for DRR. The political leadership of the platform is provided by the biennial Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) and the annual Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (PPDRM). The 5th AMCDRR will be held in Indonesia in October 2012, while the 4th Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management will be held in New Caledonia in September 2012. These meetings have been important for reviewing progress, sharing good practices, strengthening coordination and priority-setting for regional and national action on DRR.

The Regional Platform also operates at technical levels that enable commitments and work plans to be taken forward. The ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) plays a strong role in coordinating the regional action plan. Through support from GFDRR Track 1, the membership of the IAP has considerably expanded from 7 in 2007 to about 50 in 2011. Each meeting is attended by 40-50 partner organizations including regional IGOs, UN agencies, Governments, NGOs, research and academic organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

In the Pacific sub-region the main IGO partnership is with SPC/SOPAC. A regional framework was adopted in 2005 - 'Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005-2015' (RFA). It adapted the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 to the regional context and outlines six broad themes for cooperation, including governance, knowledge and awareness, risk and vulnerability analysis, planning, preparedness and response, early warning systems, and a focus on risk reduction addressing underlying causes. Among the related initiatives in place is the Pacific Islands Framework of Action on Climate Change 2006-2015

⁸ See levers, John (2009) *Impact Assessment and Evaluation of UNISDR's Activities in the ASEAN Region*;

referring to the UN Framework on Climate Change. In 2009, UNISDR-WB signed an MOU to strengthen the mainstreaming of DRR and CCA into the development processes of the Pacific Island States and Territories. Track 1 supported Tonga and the Federated States of Micronesia in developing Joint National Action Plans for DRM and CCA.

Convening and strengthening a shared regional platform for the diverse Pacific Island Countries has been an important impact of Track 1 support through UNISDR. Track 1 support has helped to forge a regional agenda for DRR and CCA through convening the Platform, risk studies and reports, and advocacy. The Pacific Platform for DRM was established in 2008 with the support of UNISDR including through the form of a dedicated facilitator, and paved the way for an agreed work plan; it became the overarching designation for 3 on-going regional forums on disaster risk matters – the annual Disaster Managers Meeting, the annual meeting of the Pacific DRM Partnership Network, and the biennial Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) meeting. The effect of these regional plans includes the evolving development of national integrated programs and institutions on DRR and CCA, including new integrated national action plans in a majority of the Pacific Island States similar to that of Maldives in South Asia. . In 2011 the Platform endorsed to start the 'Roadmap' process for the development of a integrated regional strategy on disaster risk management and climate change by 2015 to provide continuation to some form of regional arrangements in 2015.

Regional Risk Assessments and Evidence Base

In 2010, the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Incheon, South Korea, was an important landmark for high-level commitment to integrating DRR and CCA in regional and national plans to respond to increasing occurrence of severe weather events. The result was the Incheon REMAP - a five-year regional roadmap which brings together climate-sensitive risk management systems at the regional, national and community levels. Key elements of the roadmap include improving national hydro-meteorological capacities to increase preparedness, forecasting, risk transfer, and early warning and evacuation systems, as well as incorporating disaster risk into urban development for the most exposed communities. Progress will be reviewed at the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference, in Indonesia in 2012.

Track 1 supported a 2010 *Synthesis Report on Ten ASEAN Countries Disaster Risks Assessment* as part of the MOC to support the AADMER Work Programme. This provided a desk review of already available reports, studies, maps, analyses and assessments regarding disaster risks at the country and regional levels. The review analysed and assessed disaster risk at country and regional levels, focusing on natural hazards such as earthquakes, tropical cyclonic storms (typhoons), floods, landslides, tsunamis, droughts, and forest fires. The review also analysed trans-boundary disaster risks and their effects; projected losses in the absence of mitigation measures, climate change assessment, population growth, economic development, and urban expansion.

An ASEAN Disaster Risk Assessment Roadmap has been developed under Track 1, stimulating ASEAN Member States agreement on the need to improve the national loss database and to standardize multi-hazard risk assessment. Work has started to start the loss database in the Philippines and Myanmar.

The disaster loss database and assessment are preconditions to model future risk and a new regional initiative in ASEAN – the Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI). In November

2011 Track 1 supported the ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) Forum at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia. An ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) Roadmap was prepared and adopted, recognizing DRFI an important strategy for ASEAN to reduce disaster losses and impacts and emphasizing the partnership between three committees of ASEAN: the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Regulators Meeting (AFDM), and the ASEAN Insurance Regulators Meeting (AIRM). The road map emphasises the development of disaster risk information and modelling systems to assess economic and fiscal impacts of disasters at regional level. At the national level, development of DRFI strategies, the establishment of inter-agency mechanisms for DRFI, and, exploring the option of a National Disaster Fund are prioritized.

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Track 1 funding also helped to launch the AADMER flagship project 'ASEAN-Wide Disaster Risk Assessment' in the form of Regional Risk Assessment Scoping Workshop in Bangkok in 2011. This focused on the development of protocols and best practices to complement efforts of Member States and to enhance the sharing of analysis and information sharing capabilities of the AHA (the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management).

Also under TRACK 1, an assessment of hydromet and early warning capacity, including an initial cost/benefit analysis of improved early warning through a regional collaborative approach, was carried out for five ASEAN countries (that are also all countries of GFDRR Track II – both priority and donor earmarked): Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Philippines and Viet Nam in collaboration with the WMO. This study was used by the WB Office in Indonesia and the Indonesian Government to design the Bank's investment programmes in order to improve hydromet services and early warning in Indonesia. It also provided inputs to WMO's on-going development of a regional programme to improve hydromet services in South East Asia.

An ASEAN roster of experts has also been developed to improve the mobilization of disaster risk management professionals in Southeast Asia. The roster has been specifically created to assist in the implementation of AADMER and ARPDM. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and protocols for DRR and DRM on issues including safe schools, safe hospitals, safe cities, and risk financing have been developed and tested, notably in response to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in 2008.

A regional study on links between disaster risk and poverty was prepared with SOPAC, UNISDR and UNDP Regional Centre in 2009 and contributed to the analysis of the first GAR. UNISDR and the UNDP commissioned a global study to assess the relationship between poverty and extensive disaster risk. Case studies in selected Asia Pacific regions include India, Nepal, Iran, Sri Lanka and Fiji. The Fiji case study was funded by GFDRR Track 1 with other partners. The study⁹ :

- developed and piloted a method to assess empirically the relationship between disaster and poverty in the Pacific, using Fiji as the case study
- identified policy implications of the improved understanding of the relationship between poverty and natural disasters,
- drew out the relevance of the Fiji study for the Pacific and make policy suggestions to help other Pacific Island countries and territories in their disaster risk management.

⁹ See UNISDR and SOPAC (2009) *Relationship Between Natural Disasters and Poverty: A Fiji Case Study*, SOPAC Report 678; A Report Prepared for the UNISDR's 2009 Global Assessment Report on DRR.

The regional study on Fiji paved the way for cooperation in the form of the MOU for the 2010-2015 on supporting SPC/SOPAC's work to mainstream DRR and CCA into the development programming of the Pacific countries and territories. In addition, the Pacific Disaster Net, a DRM web information portal has been operating since 2010 promoting link up to the global PreventionWeb for greater access and sharing of relevant data and expertise.

Advocacy and Campaigning

Urban risk and mobilizing local actions for DRR have been the major themes of advocacy and action by the UNISDR Regional Office for Asia and Pacific.¹⁰ Track 1 has provided early support to promote safe cities and safer schools and hospitals. In 2008, the *Climate resilient cities: a primer on reducing vulnerabilities to climate change impacts and strengthening disaster risk management in East Asian cities*, jointly developed by UNISDR and GFDRR through Track 1 support was launched. It is a tool for city governments in East Asia to better understand how to plan for climate change impacts and impending natural disasters through sound urban planning to reduce vulnerabilities. Building on the earlier UNISDR campaigns around safe schools and hospitals, the *One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals Campaign* was launched in Manila, on April 8, 2010, with the support of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management. The campaign aims to raise public awareness and so far 180,000 schools and hospitals in the Asia Pacific region had pledged to the campaign

This experience has informed and helped to shape the successful global campaign 'Making Cities Resilient' that was launched by UNISDR in 2010. (See P... for more on this campaign). At the end of 2011, more than 360 cities in Asia and Pacific that have signed up to the campaign. This includes 13 Campaign Role Models cities, 5 Campaign Mayor Champions, and 2 Sasakawa Award Winners from the region¹¹. The region has also been at the forefront of promoting the campaign action on city-to-city learning. This involves twinning role model cities, with participating cities willing to learn from others on a particular aspect of building city resilience. Thus far, 20 cities have participated in such city-to-city learning exchanges with about 10 cities testing implementation on issues such as solid waste management, coastal zone management, environmental protection, community participation, and development of risk sensitive land use plans.

Philippine Senator Loren Legarda, Asia's first regional champion for DRR and CCA, - she was appointed at the 3rd AMCDRR in Kuala Lumpur in 2008. She has been joined a range of city, local, and national leaders who are championing the DRR agenda across the region.

Track 1 has also contributed to improving the range and quality of HFA progress reports from the region: 27 national reports have been submitted to the HFA Monitor from Asia Pacific region, providing a good picture of progress in reducing risk in the region, including evidence on investment in DRR. These include reports from Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam in 2010 and

¹⁰ Track 1 reporting adopts the World Bank's regional parameters and so reports on East Asia and Pacific, and South Asia as 2 regions. In UNISDR's own organizational structure the Regional Office in Bangkok works in the entire Asia and Pacific region taking account of the variations of South Asia, South East Asia, and Pacific Island States in its work streams.

¹¹ The United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction is one of three prestigious prizes established in 1986 by founding Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, Mr. Ryoichi Sasakawa.

Brunei Darussalam, Lao DRR, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand in 2011. Sub-regional progress reports by ASEAN and SPC/SOPAC have also been supported as well as a Regional Synthesis Reports for the Global Platform meetings in 2009 and 2011.

In addition to providing vital planning and policy information for governments and IGOs and building accountability for the HFA commitments, this reporting also builds the knowledge networking in the region and contributes to the risk analysis updating and HFA monitoring undertake as part of the flagship Global Assessment Reports (2009, 2011).

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS SOUTH ASIA 2007-2011

The South Asia Region (SAR) has a diverse and vast geography where countries differ, sometimes drastically, in terms of size, population density and topography. It is a region that ranges from the mountains and valleys of the Himalayan landscape of Nepal and Bhutan, through the many climates and topography of India, to the island country of Maldives where most the land lies close to sea level. It is a region that is prone to the risks of earthquake; glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFS), flood, landslide, drought and cyclone with devastating human and economic consequences.

Opening the Space for DRR Regional Strategy

The wider Asia Pacific Regional Platform for DRR in the form of the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (AMCDRR) and the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) supported by UNISDR and Track I funding as well as other partners creates the enabling environment for both building a sub-regional platform for DRR and advancing regional strategy and action on DRR in South Asia.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation *SAARC Comprehensive Framework on Disaster Management (2006-2015)* is aligned to the Hyogo Framework Agreement and sets out objectives for the region in terms of disaster risk reduction and management.¹² The SAARC Disaster Management Centre (located in New Delhi, India) leads the implementation of the framework. Over the period 2007-2011, Track I has contributed to create an enabling environments for the implementation of the Comprehensive framework on disaster management by building partnership between UNISDR and the SDMC (MoU with SAARC); providing the required substantive and strategic guidance and strengthening its capacity; by generating HRV information and evidence base to guide policy planning and implementation (South Asia Hazard Risk assessment); new entry points and opportunities for dialogue and sharing information (South Asia Disaster Knowledge Network; SAARC Secretariat and SDMC as member of ISDR Asia Partnership). Over the period of 2007-12, Track I has effectively supported a growing platform for policy, strategy and programming on DRR in South Asia.

In implementing Track I activities in South Asia, UNISDR has been able to draw upon a 5 year partnership established in 2008 with SAARC to underpin greater coordination, participation and cooperation. The MOU between SAARC and UNISDR was based on the HFA and the SAARC

¹² SAARC has 8 Member States – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

comprehensive framework and provided the framework for Track I activities to generate and facilitate knowledge networks, regional risk assessments, and DRR mainstreaming.

Building a Regional Knowledge Platform for DRR

Facilitating the enhanced sharing of DRR knowledge and practices through the South Asia SAARC Knowledge Management Network has been an on-going project for Track 1 since 2009.

Figure 1: South Asia Knowledge Networking (SADKN) Launched in 2011

SADKN is an information and knowledge portal and a networking system connecting the eight (8) South Asian countries of the SAARC region - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The portal was launched in 2011, housed in the SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) in India. It facilitates interaction, dialogue and coordination among governments, scientific, technical and academic institutions, media, corporate sectors, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders and provides a live repository for disaster reduction information, data, reports and good practices to build and serve the DRR and CCA community across South Asia. Global access is provided through linkages to PreventionWeb, the portal for DRR Institutional Mapping in the Asia Pacific (an initiative of IAP), the Asia Pacific gateway of UNESCAP for mainstreaming DRR, and SAARC's own Vulnerability Atlas.

The portal is an important step forward in strengthening the capacity and strategic coordination position of the SDMC with its member states. It has enabled the SDMC to pursue its mandate to serve member countries by providing policy advice and facilitating capacity developing services including strategic learning, research, training, system development and exchange of information for effective disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation in South Asia.

The MOU between UNISDR and SAARC along with the development of SADKN has strengthened regional cooperation on DRR, provided a strong institutional base for the regional SAARC Disaster Management Centre located in New Delhi. The action plans of the SMDC for 2011 and 2012 were prepared in coordination with the GFDRR Track I plans of the respective years and approved by the SAARC Governing Board for implementation.

Regional and Country Risk Assessments: Strengthening the Evidence Base for South Asia

From 2008 to 2010, Track I funded the development of a risk assessment study of South Asian Region (SAR) countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The Synthesis Report was finalised and published in 2010 and provided an analytical overview of the SAR hazard risk and vulnerability¹³. The report was first to provide a comprehensive and consistent summary analysis of risks, closing a long existed gap in the region. It contained an economic loss analysis for each country in the region plus in-depth country level profiles of risks and risk mitigation priorities. The study analysed and assessed disaster risk at country and regional levels with a focus on earthquake, flood, drought, landslide,

¹³ RMSI (2010) *South Asia Disaster Risk Management Programme: Synthesis Report on SAR Countries Disaster Risks*, Final Report. Authors, Sushil Gupta and Dr. M Muralikrishna.

cyclone and volcano hazards. It also considered the potential impact of climate change on the SAR countries and provides a social and economic vulnerability analysis in this respect. The information reviewed included:

- Reports and literature available at country, regional and global levels on hazards and vulnerability.
- National level data and country specific reports and research papers
- Existing hazard, vulnerability and economic loss data at country level including data sources of CRED EM-DAT, World Bank UN, UNOCHA, SAARC, DesInventar, NGDC, GSHAP, ADRC, ESCAP, Swiss Re and Munich Re.

The study also analysed economic data along with the mortality risk for various hazards to quantify the vulnerability using the Global Assessment Report (GAR) PREVIEW platform database. It developed important country risk profiles for all 8 case studies.

The analysis provided a necessary foundation for supporting DRR national plans as well as the development of the World Bank's South Asia Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) in a number of countries in the region. It also proved useful for planning and programming risk reduction initiatives, such for the early warning system planning project in Maldives. In addition to the work and data and analytical resources generated by this study, the SMDC was also embarking on developing a Vulnerability Atlas for SAARC to help governments plan disaster mitigation investments. The analysis also contributed to the 2009 GAR and also drew assistance and benefit from the GAR PREVIEW platform database. This alignment of global and regional approaches to measuring and assessing particular disaster risks has been one of the valuable contributions of the study.

The study complements the UNISDR initiative of promoting the adoption of disaggregated national disaster loss databases based on the Desinventar system that was partially supported by Track I. India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka are currently at various stages of development of the disaster loss databases. This system will allow planning institutions in the countries to look at historical disaster damages and use this information for land use, and investment planning decision-making. The safety of critical infrastructure such as schools and hospitals is also a focus of current Track I work plan working with SDMC on piloting and disseminating school and hospital assessment tools in South Asia Region

One area of risk assessment and early warning where Track I has actively opened new space is on the trans-boundary climate risks associated with glacial lake outburst floods.

Figure 2: Assessing Trans-boundary Climate Risks associated with Glacial Lakes and Promoting Early Warning System

The South Asia programme of GFDRR Track I gave high priority to the sub regional issue of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). GLOFs inherit the threat of accelerating glacial melt and increasing risk of avalanches and floods, in particular from expanding glacier lakes. A number of such floods have occurred in the region, causing considerable loss of lives, homes and livelihoods. The potential for more serious losses is likely to increase as global warming progresses. Estimates indicate that there are some 8,000 glacial lakes in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region with more than 200 of them identified as potentially dangerous.

Track I supported a technical assessment study of GLOF risks in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) with a particular focus on the impact of GLOFs and their trans boundary nature. The study aimed to strengthen the evidence base for inter-country dialogue, to develop appropriate policies, and to generate the required investments. It was published in 2010: *Formation of Glacial Lakes in the Hindu Kush – Himalayas and GLOF Risk Assessment*. It found that regional collaboration among or between the governments in the event of trans-boundary disasters such as GLOF risk assessment and mitigation, as well as sharing of data and information for GLOF risk management, is essential.

The information has been shared and accessed by SDMC, UNDP BCPR, ICIMOD, and Sentinel Asia for forward planning of GLOF risk management in the region. Development of the GLOF risk management Road Map and action plan is under way including devising a mechanism for exchanging information in the region. In a positive example of DRR networking across the region, the work on a Regional Early Warning System for glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) using remote sensing technologies has been explored. Although some early warning systems for GLOFs already exist, they are mostly national and glacial lake specific, and require substantial improvements. This Regional Project which is under way with a scope for broader hydro – meteorological hazards include partnership arrangements with UNDP country offices and relevant government agencies in Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan, BCPR and the SDMC.

Tracking evidence on DRR progress and challenges

Track I has also enabled UNISDR training and technical assistance to regional and national reporting on the HFA in South Asia. 27 national reports have been submitted to the HFA Monitor from the wider Asia Pacific region in 2011, providing quality data on HFA implementation and including evidence on investment in DRR. These include reports from Bangladesh, Pakistan India, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka. A sub regional Report for the South Asia was also developed by SDMC for 2007-09 and for 2009-2011 review cycles.

Linking to country level:

Track I added value to Track II in the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation project, in India. Track I supported the development of this major risk mitigation project which covered 6 cyclone prone states in India with Technical Assistance and advice for negotiations with the World Bank on a loan/grant proposal. The National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project was the first risk mitigation project taken up in India by the National Disaster Management Authority, constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 with the assistance of Track II. The project was conceived to understand the cyclone risk faced by the country and take up structural and non-structural measures to build the resilience of the coastal communities in India. The first phase of the project at a cost of US \$ 319 million was approved by the World Bank Board in 2010 and the project was launched in the two project states of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha in 2011. The project would be taken up in the other vulnerable states of West Bengal, Maharashtra, Kerala and Gujarat in the second phase. Each phase is expected to be completed in five years.

UNISDR promoted and coordinated joint assistance for disaster risk reduction in fragile states such as Maldives and Afghanistan. Track I partnerships also enabled UNISDR, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, IFRC and others to support the Government of Nepal to join the

Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium established in October 2009 and support parliamentary approval of a National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management.

Advocacy

Some 217 cities, municipalities and local governments across the 8 countries of South Asia have joined the global 'Making cities resilient' campaign. This includes Kabul, Thimphu, Kathmandu, Karachi, Batticaloa and Mumbai. Thirty (30) urban areas in Pakistan affected by the floods of 2010 signed up to the campaign, led by the National Disaster Management Authority and the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities. UNHABITAT Pakistan joined the Campaign as a partner to assess the baseline status of each city against the 10 point checklist of 'essential' actions, using the Local Government Self-Assessment Tool (LGSAT). The outcome will provide guidance and indications for post – flood resilient re-construction.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN 2007-2011

Leadership and Coordination on Disaster Risk Reduction

Regional Strategy and Action Plan

Track I through support to UNISDR has made a significant contribution to the evolution of a Latin American and Caribbean institutional framework for disaster risk reduction over the period 2007-2011. Support included facilitation and cooperation in the organisation of regional and sub-regional meetings and forums bringing together political decision-makers and technical expertise to build the regional agenda for the DRR and the implementation of the HFA as well as joint consideration of DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) risks and responses.

The projects implemented through this partnership in the period 2007-2011, focused in the following:

- Support the increase of regional knowledge networks, capacities for information management and HFA reporting;
- Promote through the regional work, national initiatives to advance towards the achievement of HFA commitments.
- Support regional and national decision makers access to hazard management tools and evidence based information on disaster risk reduction.
- Promote and support the establishment of enabling legal environments for disaster risk management in the region.
- Disseminate information materials to promote the global campaign on Resilient Cities, as well as the safe schools and hospitals initiative.

The projects implemented with Track I support have contributed to further a systemic approach towards DRR at the different country sector levels. Although government sectors adoption of DRR remains a challenge, UNISDR has engaged with a range of actors in countries such as in Guatemala, where the national platform, with UNISDR support¹⁴, organized various thematic

¹⁴ This process was supported by a UNISDR consultant who made 4 visits to Guatemala over a 12 month period and the UNISDR Regional Office review of drafts of the policy proposals.

tables involving all sectors. Efforts in Guatemala resulted in the formulation of a Law and National Policy on CCA and the establishment of a coordinating body at the level of the Vice-Presidency articulating DRR and CCA agendas. Similar processes have been supported in Honduras, Chile, Paraguay and Bolivia. In the reporting period, at least seven countries in the region a (Uruguay, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Guatemala) have reviewed their respective DRR legislative framework placing a higher emphasis on DRR.

Regional -Level Engagement through Regional Work

In the Americas, the sub regional organizations have played a critical role as active advocates for the adoption of policy commitments for advancing in disaster risk reduction. In particular, regional mechanisms for cooperation in Central America (CEPREDENAC)¹⁵, the Andean Countries (CAPRADE)¹⁶, the MERCOSUR Countries (REHU)¹⁷, the Caribbean (CDEMA)¹⁸, and the Organization of American States (OAS) have been catalytic in the development of sub-regional plans and influenced the development of new legislation, the inclusion of DRR in national policies, and the monitoring of the regional advances in the HFA commitments. Among other, UNISDR supported the Forum of Cooperation and Coordination of Regional Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, which includes CEPREDENAC, CDEMA, CAPRADE and REHU. The Forum allowed the exchange of experiences, DRR priorities, good practices and enhanced coordination among the decision-makers surrounding DRR policies, with particular focus on legislative frameworks integrating DRR. The initiative was replicated at the global level during the Global Platform in 2011 and will be repeated in 2013, creating a more focused and coherent approach towards DRR by these entities.

Figure 1: Central American Policy for Integral Disaster Risk Management 2010

A notable regional achievement has been the 2010 *Central American Policy for Integral Disaster Risk Management (PCGIR)* that introduces DRR as a policy instrument of the highest level approved by the presidents of the member countries. The policy provides strategic guidelines to the countries, sectors and cooperation agencies for the development of risk management policies at regional, national, and local levels. Based on earlier support to CEPREDENAC since the early 2000s, UNISDR continued to promote the integration of the Hyogo Framework for Action and DRR throughout the different stages of the formulation and later approval and implementation of PCGIR. In particular, UNISDR's role intensified after Mitch+5. The influence of the HFA and the ISDR system in the materialization of the PCGIR, although difficult to measure, has influenced CEPREDENAC's agenda that has constituted one of the main and strongest advocates in the promotion of DRR in the region.

During the last four years, the UNISDR has also played a brokering role in bringing CEPREDENAC's experience to other IGOs and Central American Countries, using the different instruments such as the Regional Platform and the IGO Forum¹⁹.

¹⁵ Central America Coordination Center for the Prevention of Disasters

¹⁶ Andean Committee for the prevention and Attention of Disasters

¹⁷ The specialized meeting of MERCOSUR on Socio-Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Assistance

¹⁸ Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency

¹⁹ For the Regional Platform 2012, for example, CEPREDENAC is the lead institution for the organization of the thematic session on public policies on DRR thus facilitating the dissemination of the Central American experience to a broad group of national, regional and local actors.

An MOU between UNISDR and CEPREDENAC in 2010 reinforced joint support for the implementation of the PCGIR. One key part of the MoU was the Regional Conference of Integrated Risk Management and Summit of Heads of State/Government held in El Salvador in July 2011, resulting in a joint declaration and action plan of the 37th Summit of Heads of State of SICA that included a commitment for the continuation of the implementation of the PCGIR. The agreement also enabled support for the preparation of the 38th Summit of Heads of State of SICA in December 2011 that focused the Integrated Risk Management “For the right to prevention”, emphasizing the linkages between DRR and climate change adaptation. The PCGIR is being rolled out among the 7 countries of SICA/CEPREDENAC. The CEPREDENAC experience and its role in advancing in a comprehensive approach to risk reduction in Central America in the context of the HFA commitments was mentioned in the Sasakawa awards 2011²⁰.

Regional Platforms

With Track I support UNISDR’s Regional Office for the Americas mobilized and coordinated the promotion of regional alliances with intergovernmental organizations, as well as sub-regional mechanisms. UNISDR prepared the ground for the launch of a Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to support the implementation of the HFA. The first meeting of the Platform took place in Panama in 2009 under the auspices of the Organization of American States (OAS). The Second Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Americas in March 2011 in Nayarit, Mexico, supported in part through Track I funding, brought together 350 participants. The *Communiqué of Nayarit on Lines of Action to Strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas* included agreed commitments of the participating countries and partners in three main areas : strengthening mechanisms for joint and permanent review of progress on integration of DRR and CCA strategies ; addressing underlying risk factors by promoting a comprehensive approach to land management, biodiversity, fragile ecosystems water resource management, and soil degradation to reduce vulnerability to a range of hazards and identifying key regional and sub-regional initiatives in support of national and community efforts to reduce disaster risk.

One of the main objectives of the Regional Platforms has been to foster the systemic approach towards DRR by promoting the active involvement of “non-traditional” actors in DRR. In the Regional Platform held in Mexico in 2011 key thematic sessions such as “DRR in Sectors: progress and challenges” involved participants from the ministries of health, planning and infrastructure as well as members of parliaments. For the Regional Platform in 2012, UNISDR will continue engaging representatives of key sectors such as the Ministries of Finance and Planning. Particularly, the RP in 2012 will include a session on “Public investment in DRR” currently being organized by the IADB in collaboration with the World Bank, building on results of the forum “Methodologies and advances in DRR investment tracking” organized by UNISDR with the government of Mexico with the support of WB and GIZ in September 2012 in San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico.

The growing number and level of participation and interest in the two regional reflects the effective contribution of these events to mobilize key stakeholders in support of HFA’s implementation at the regional, national and local levels and to influence the subsequent commitment definition and adoption of important political statements and commitments at

²⁰ The United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction is one of three prestigious prizes established in 1986 by founding Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, Mr. Ryoichi Sasakawa.

Ministerial and Heads of State level. Some examples include the outcome document of the Ministerial meeting on DRR and the Education Sector held in Panama in 2011 (which followed up the discussion on DRR and education in the Regional Platform in Mexico), 18 country statements made during the Regional Platform meetings in 2009 and 2011 as well as the incorporation of explicit texts regarding DRR and the HFA within country submissions for the decision process of the UNFCCC COPs (e.g. Argentina, Peru) as a result of advocacy efforts. An important result of the commitments originated in the Regional Platform, are also as mentioned, the national policy and plan for DRR of Guatemala and Chile (the latter currently being drafted with UNISDR support)

Track 1 has also contributed to an inter-regional and systematic exchange of regional knowledge in DRR through different forums such as the *Forum on the Institutional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa* held in Panama City, in December 2010 and the *Forum on Cooperation and Coordination of Regional Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas* which also received support through Track I. The Forums are a space for coordination and technical cooperation as well as exchange of knowledge and experiences in disaster risk management, and serves to bring coherence and consolidation to the existing national, sub regional and regional mechanisms and platforms.

Country-Level Engagement through Regional Work

Building on this regional and sub-regional coordination, an on-going core activity of UNISDR supported by Track I over 2009-2011 has been the setting up and strengthening of National Platforms for DRR including in Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela.

UNISDR responded to requests from the Governments of Chile, Uruguay and Dominican Republic, for assessing DRR capacities through a joint interagency initiative that involved the participation of IFRC, UNDP, OCHA, PAHO/WHO, UNEP, ECLAC, UNESCO, WMO, and OAS. This assessment was followed by the preparation of a set of recommendations. The inter-agency mission reports have been used as a guiding document for the implementation of the recommendations contained therein, which refer to the need to revise/develop new legislative frameworks²¹. Both countries developed new legislative frameworks are taking steps to ensure the effective implementation of these recommendations.

The Regional Platform offers a space for countries to exchange information, knowledge and best practices in various areas, including legal and institutional frameworks. At the RP 2011, for example, a parallel session was dedicated to review national systems and mechanisms for DRR. In the case of Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Ecuador, discussions at the RP, together with other factors such as the occurrence of disasters, public pressure, and political circumstances, supported decisions by the respective Governments to develop new legislation. Upon request, UNISDR helped develop and review the new legislation, including through meetings in country as well as written comments.

²¹ See recommendations number 1 and 2 of the Chile report (page 50) and 1 and 2 of the Uruguay report (page 40).

UNISDR's global instruments, such as the HFA Monitor, Global Platform, and Global Assessment Report, in combination with its regional interventions, also triggered further prioritization of DRR in national agendas. In Argentina, national legislation has been influenced by its HFA review. In Peru the HFA priorities have been the basis for the formulation and approval of the new Legislation Framework National System of Risk Management as can be seen in the State Policy # 32 of the national agreement of Peru ("Acuerdo Nacional"), which expressly mentions UNISDR and the HFA (<http://www.acuerdonacional.pe/politicas-estado>). In Colombia, Uruguay and Brazil, update reviews and amendments of existing legislation relevant to disaster risk reduction, are based on the priorities emerging from HFA reviews.

Strengthening the Evidence Base for Risk Reduction HFA

The Central American Probabilistic Risk Assessment (CAPRA) has been one of the flagship programmes supported under Track I with its impact reaching beyond its original base in Central America. It began in January 2008 as a partnership between Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the Inter-American Development (IADB) and the World Bank. The objective was to build the evidence base for the many hazard risks that affected Central American countries so as to raise awareness and commitment by decision-makers to take concerted, large-scale action on disaster risk reduction. CAPRA was developed as a tool to improve data and consultation processes for planning related to DRR and CCA. UNISDR supported the development and promotion of the CAPRA platform through communication and advocacy work, partnership building with interested countries and organizations, support to the development CAPRA's content management and its wiki as well as in the formulation of a diagnostic of CAPRA and a subsequent communication strategy to improve CAPRA's entry strategy with countries and partners.

CAPRA is an information system, using advanced regional risk modelling techniques, which aims to enhance decision-making in risk management; for example, assessing the risks of excess rainfall resulting in floods and landslides, excess wind and earthquakes. Through CAPRA, countries are better able to analyse their risk of disaster; it provides them with the means to measure and compare different types of risks, and to develop sector-specific applications for managing risks more effectively.

CAPRA is seen in the field as an exemplary Open Source Risk Model that provides a GIS-based platform for risk analysis of earthquakes, tsunamis, tropical cyclones, floods, landslides, forest-fires, and volcanoes. Probabilistic techniques are applied to the analysis of various natural hazards. At this level of analysis, hazard information is combined with exposure and vulnerability data allowing the user to determine the risk simultaneously on an inter-related multi-hazard basis. The activities supported included development, application, training and promotion of CAPRA tools by a range of users in governments, regional organisations,

CAPRA is now being used and tested outside of its Central American home. The World Bank has been actively rolling out and adapting CAPRA in its risk assessment work at country level to inform Track II planning and programming both in Latin America (Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama and Peru) and South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka).

The CAPRA model has also been explored in other Track 1 regions; for example, by the Europe and Central Asia Regional Office of UNISDR in its work in South East Asia and Central Asia.

HFA Reporting in the Region

Track 1 also funded a project for the development of a regional tool HFA-Pedia aimed at supporting regional organisations and governments in LAC region to monitor and report their progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework; this has generated portable virtual libraries in the form of CDs that have been used for training activities and dissemination of HFA-related information for the region. The HFA-Pedia, modelled on Wikipedia – was initiated in 2008 with Track I funding. It has developed as a very user-friendly way to report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework, as well enabling exchange of up-to-date country, regional and thematic information on DRR and the implementation of HFA.

UNISDR also with some support from Track I worked through the regional and sub-regional inter-governmental organisations to enhance and increase HFA reporting at national level; this led to 30 interim reports being submitted to the HFA Monitor by the end of 2010 (26 countries and 4 dependant states in the Caribbean), a significant increase compared to the 17 progress reports submitted by end of 2009.

Advocacy

The UNISDR World Disaster Reduction Campaign, *Making Cities Resilient: “My City is Getting Ready”*

Regional Launch was held in Lima in May 2010 and 8 further national level meetings and events were conducted. The *Making Cities Resilient Campaign for the Caribbean* was launched in December 2011, organized in collaboration with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). Cities have signed up from LAC countries including Argentina, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Chile, Paraguay, El Salvador, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and Haiti. In the Americas region, some 167 cities from 22 countries have joined the campaign, three cities have identified champions for the campaign (the Mayors of Mexico City, Santa Tecla in El Salvador, and Lampa in Chile) and three cities have become role models (Santa Fe, Argentina; Telica in Nicaragua and Bogota in Colombia). At the World Urban Forum, in Brazil (2010) Track 1 funding supported a networking event on DRR targeting participants and promoting the Resilient Cities campaign.

The launch of the Making Cities Resilient campaign has helped to reactivate the Urban Risk Thematic Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean that has been supported since 2008/09 by Track I funding. In October 2010, a MoU was signed with the National Federation of Municipalities of Argentina, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior in Argentina. The MoU contributed to promote the campaign for resilient cities which finally led to the identification of the city of Santa Fe as a role model city. . In January 2011, following a joint assessment mission on DRR capacities in Chile, UNISDR established a Cooperation Agreement focusing on urban risk with the Association of Municipalities in Chile and the Regional Association of Municipalities of Maule, O’Higgins and Bio-Bio, the main regions affected by the 2010 earthquake. In 2011, UNISDR advanced in promoting the Making Cities Resilient Campaign with the Association of Municipalities of Panama, El Salvador and key cities of Uruguay and Venezuela.

UNISDR has continued developing tools to support the implementation of the Resilient Cities Campaign and its 10 essentials such as the local HFA self-assessment tool and the manual for local government leaders.

Figure 3: Thematic Focus on Education and Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America & the Caribbean

Track 1 support over 2007-2011 has helped to establish a thematic platform on Education and DRR in the region with a focus on constructing safer schools as well as curriculum development which takes into account disaster risk. The *Regional Strategic Framework for Education and Disaster Risk Reduction for Central America* launched in 2008 was greatly influenced by the 2006-2007 global campaign supported in part by UNISDR Track 1 on *Disaster Reduction begins at school*. In 2007 a tool kit on 'Disaster Reduction begins at School' was developed with Track 1 support in LAC, and throughout 2008 was rolled out with a number of partners including OAS, IFRC, UNICEF, Plan International, national platforms and regional organisations including CAPRADE and CEPREDENAC, and NGOs in the region. In January 2009, in collaboration with UNISDR, UNICEF organized a regional workshop on education in emergency situations. Based on the previous initiative of the 2009 meeting of Ministries of Education of Central America, UNISDR coordinated actions with country and UN partners to support the development of the High Level meeting of Latin American Education Ministries on DRR in 2011. The participating countries signed a declaration of Ministries that defined guidelines and priorities for the inclusion of DRR in education policies and the commitment for the establishment of a thematic platform for education and DRR in Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA 2007-2011

Track 1 programming and funding has been an important propeller for UNISDR presence and support to regional coordination in the Middle East and North Africa region. The primary regional interlocutor since 2008 has been the League of Arab States (LAS) and the pinnacle of Track 1 supported activities is the *Arab Strategy for Disaster Reduction 2020* (ASDRR). It was adopted in December 2010 by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) and was adopted in 2011 by LAS Socio-Economic Council for immediate implementation and rolling out in the Arab states. In March 2012, at the highest level of representation, the Arab Summit in Baghdad endorsed the ASDRR and re-emphasized the importance for the Arab region to tackle disaster risk challenges and address vulnerabilities, capacities and resilience.

The work on DRR in the region has obviously been affected by the political development in the region arising from the 'Arab Spring' and subsequent events in several Arab states. Current efforts are focused on stabilising the gains made in policy and coordination and to maintain engagement on DRR at regional and national level where possible.

Increasing political commitment for DRR

The regional dialogue and engagement of LAS has contributed to significantly increase political commitment for DRR in the region leading to the development and adoption of the Arab

Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020 through a multi-stakeholder process led by LAS in collaboration with UNISDR Regional Office for Arab States. Several partners contributed to the process including many regional technical institutes, UN agencies, the World Bank, IFRC and civil society networks. This strategy, which recognised the gaps and challenges in the region, aims to reduce the cost and loss from disasters, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries across the Arab region. Technical assistance provided by Track 1, facilitated the development of this strategy in addition to mainstreaming DRR in several sustainable development policies and plans initiated by LAS and regional partners.

Growing political commitment by Arab leaders has been demonstrated in the meetings of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment where disaster risk reduction is now a permanent item on their agenda. There is also a stronger emphasis on reporting and monitoring progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework at the national and regional levels. Countries have also begun to systematically monitor and report on HFA as a stock-taking exercise, measuring national progress and existing challenges. Disaster risk reduction has been recognized and included in the draft *Arab Framework of Action for Climate Change* and in the *Arab League Regional Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Management*, adopted in 2009, as well as in the Arab position for RIO+20 and the *Arab Initiative on Sustainable Development*.

Working with HFA/DRR focal points in member states, UNISDR is currently responding to increasing demand to advise and support the enhancement of national coordination mechanisms on DRR and engagement of national and local government officials in DRR actions. Djibouti, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia are recent examples.

Strengthening technical capacity and sharing knowledge

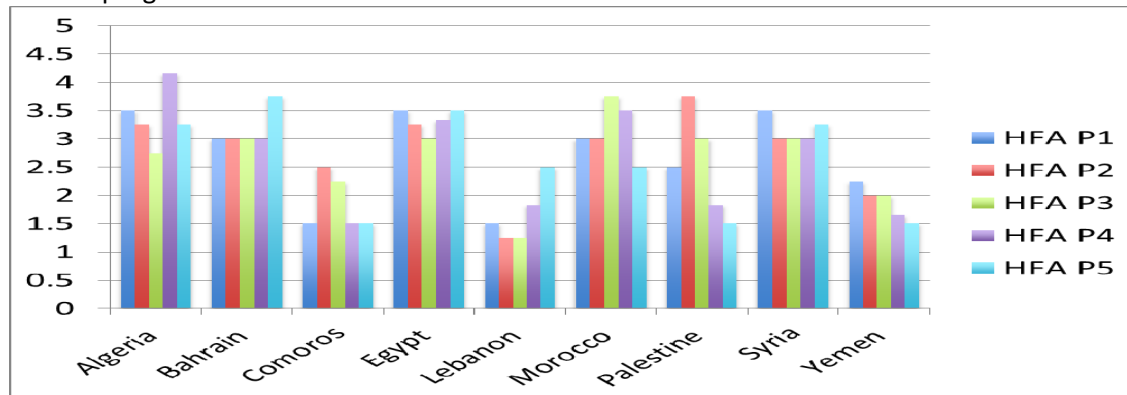
Regional Center for Disaster Risk Reduction Training and Research

A Regional Center for Disaster Risk Reduction Training and Research (RCDRR), a joint initiative between UNISDR, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport and the Chair of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, was opened in Cairo in March 2009, with support from GFDRR Track I funds. RCDRR establishment aimed at facilitating the exchange of lessons learned, best practices and experiences and to become a 'centre of excellence' for DRR in the Arab Region, hence bridging a critical gap in information and knowledge on DRR. The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, a technical organization of LAS, fully hosts RCDRR and offered space and equipment as well as human resources for initial operations. GFDRR Track 1 supported a regional database for DRR launched by RCDRR in 2009 to address the information gaps on risk, hazards and vulnerabilities in the region. The database – with web interface – is available in Arabic and English. In 2011 targeted support for RCDRR was provided to refine its work programme, establish a science and technical committee and initiate research activities.

HFA Reporting and Monitoring

With the League of Arab States, a review of risk reduction and HFA implementation in the region led to the development of the *First Regional Synthesis Report on the Progress in Implementing HFA in the Arab Region* in 2009 and 2011. Track 1 supported several regional training workshops on HFA monitoring and reporting targeting HFA focal points, (national/regional institutions, LAS partners, and others). These training supported Arab countries report on HFA

and an increase in the number of national reports on HFA implementation has steadily increased with 2 countries reporting in 2007, to 5 countries in 2009, to 9 countries in 2011. These national reports highlight progress and gaps in implementing HFA and undertaking DRR actions nationally and the national inputs provide valuable contribution to the Biannual UN Global Assessment Report on DRR. Graph below illustrates progress made by 9 Arab states reporting on HFA progress in 2011:



Disaster Loss Databases

UNISDR rolled out a regional initiative in 2010 to support countries establish, develop and institutionalize national disaster loss databases as first key step in enhancing risk information systems and inform risk reduction plans and policy decisions. Track 1 supported a regional training (March 2010) on the disaster loss database tool, methodology and approaches “was undertaken followed by series of national workshops to engage national stakeholders and start national implementation where possible. Track 1 also provided technical assistance and support to Yemen and Djibouti (both Track II countries) to take this training nationally and start the establishment of national disaster losses databases as a critical baseline for development planning and financial risk management²². Yemen completed its national disaster loss database in December 2010 and was published in the GAR2011 and online. Djibouti completed its work in June 2012 and will be published in GAR2013. Additionally, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon have established their national disaster loss databases (with support from UNISDR, SDC and UNDP) while Egypt and Morocco are in the finalization process. Tunisia has initiated work on establishing its national database in 2012 supported by UNISDR-UNESCWA and SIDA.

Mainstreaming DRR in development policy frameworks

Additionally, UNISDR supported the UN country teams and national authorities in integrating disaster risk and risk reduction related activities in Common Country Analyses (CCA) and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF). Targeting the Track II country, Djibouti, UNISDR co-facilitated a related training workshop on integrating DRR, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change in the new CCA/UNDAF 2013-17 in September 2011 in Djibouti. In addition, UNISDR continued to provide guidance to the UN country teams in Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia through the UN Development Group.

Drought Risk and Climate Change challenges

²² This support to national disaster losses database is part of UNISDR’s wider work in the region building database capacity that includes Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Syria.

Track I through UNISDR supported the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Land (ACSAD), an intergovernmental regional technical organization of the Arab League, to undertake a regional drought risk assessment study to identify vulnerability and risk concerns. The study findings which offered a standardized approach and methodology for drought risk assessment at regional and national level fed into the Global Assessment Report 2011. A case study based on drought risk in Syria was also developed and submitted by ACSAD as a contribution to the Global Assessment Report 2011 and the IPCC Special Report on Extreme Events, which also provided policy guidance to the Syrian Ministry of Agriculture on integrating DRR measures in water resources management and agricultural strategies. Taking into consideration that water is a scarce commodity in the region that is increasingly affected by climate change and creeping drought, GFDRR Track 1 prioritized research on water in the region and support ACSAD to undertake a research study on the assessment of agriculture drought and land degradation focusing on major Trans-boundary Rivers in the Arab Region. Study completed and will feed into GAR2013 and other regional drought policies.

The UNISDR Regional Office in coordination with GFDRR and League of Arab States convened a Regional Workshop on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: "Challenges and Future Actions", which took place in Cairo 21-23 November 2009 with participation of more than 80 national representatives, experts and regional and international institutions. Workshop led to enhanced coordination and information exchange between the DRR and climate change communities and circles of stakeholders. Workshop recommendations on key challenges and areas for prioritization fed into the Arab Strategy for DRR and other LAS environmental policies and related actions.

Standardized disaster risk reduction terminology in Arabic

To further common understanding and use of standard approaches and terminologies to disaster risk reduction in the Arab Region, UNISDR, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport produced the Arabic version of the UNISDR standard DRR terminology. This exercise was supported by a technical expert group representing various UN, LAS and independent academic organizations. The terminology is widely disseminated and used by all Arab countries in promoting DRR and in undertaking DRR related research and studies.

Advocacy campaigns increase awareness and impetus for action

The World Disaster Campaign 'Making cities resilient' was successfully launched in partnership with the Arab Towns Organization (ATO) in Kuwait in 2010. As of June 2012, 268 municipalities from eight countries in the Arab region had signed up to the campaign and to strengthening the resilience of their cities to disasters. Through this campaign, targeted advocacy and training sessions enabled the exchange of experiences and good practices and the strengthening of knowledge and awareness of urban risk and the value of investments at local level in resilient infrastructure.

In support of capacity development of local authorities in the context of the Campaign, several training workshops and high-level advocacy events took place in collaboration with UN-HABITAT, UNDP, ATO and local governments in the region. The Local Government Self-Assessment Tool (LGSAT) launched by UNISDR as online tool for local governments was rolled out in the region with access and usage facilitated for Campaign cities to start recording their progress and challenges on DRR. Training material, guidance information products and a Mayors Handbook for Local Government were made available in Arabic and disseminated widely in the

region. Exchange forums with other regions and cities were facilitated to enhance local government learning experience and partnership building around risk reduction and local resilience. An excellent example of that is the Byblos (Lebanon) and Venice (Italy) announcement of technical cooperation to reduce risk in coastal areas following their exchanges facilitated by UNISDR at the Global Platform for DRR 2011.

Also in the region, Track 1 supported media partnerships to strengthen advocacy and awareness on DRR focused on raising the awareness and interest of media professionals, sensitizing journalists and enhancing their knowledge base with respect to disaster risk reduction. Three media training workshops were organised in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. Several videos were produced in Arabic to highlight importance of DRR, promote the cities campaign and enhance public awareness, which have been published on UNISDR, PrevntionWeb and YouTube websites.

UNISDR with Track 1 support coordinated the launch of the Arabic version of the 2009 and 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction in Bahrain and in Lebanon respectively in collaboration with the national stakeholders, UN partners and the UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UNESCWA).

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA 2007-2011

Europe

A Programmatic Approach to Regional and National Cooperation on DRR: The South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme (SEEDRMAP)

The *South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation programme* (SEEDRMAP) was established in 2008 by Track 1 (UNISDR and the World Bank) in collaboration with a number of global and European partners.²³ The programme aimed to reduce vulnerability of SEE counties to disasters by focusing on three priority areas of action on DRR: (i) hydro-meteorological forecasting, data and early warning; (ii) coordination of disaster mitigation, preparedness and response; (iii) and, financing of disaster losses, reconstruction, recovery and disaster risk transfer.

The concept behind SEEDRMAP was that because of shared risks, high vulnerability, and relative small size of many countries in the region, it would be efficient and effective for the countries within sub-regions to cooperate in disaster risk reduction. The region of SEE is exposed to a range of natural hazards including droughts, forest fires, earthquakes, floods, landslides and storms. The cooperation is of particular importance for the countries sharing river basins and water resources. The SEEDRMAP scope in South Eastern Europe includes the countries of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, and Serbia. Turkey – although not part of the SEEDRMAP countries – kindly contributed to the programme's studies and reviews sharing relevant information and data on

²³ See the Concept Note for the Programme. http://www.unisdr.org/2011/docs/europe/concept-note_SEEDRMAP.pdf

their national risks and prevention measures. This allowed the programme's publication to be regionally comprehensive.

The success of SEEDRMAP has established it as an innovative approach to implementing DRR at regional and national levels. It also reflects how the DRR agenda in SEE has been advanced through a strong programmatic approach with coordination and advocacy, risk assessments and studies paving the way for operational adoption of regional and national programmes as a direct result of building a regional approach. SEEDRMAP was conceived of in 2 phases in terms of 'non-structural' and 'structural' support that would be sequenced and then simultaneous. Through track 1, the Programme finances investment priorities in DRR and CCA at regional level and through Track 2 at national level in the form of grants and loans to support national DRR measures and programmes.

The Track 1 contribution through UNISDR was to provide the essential 'software' of coordination and capacity development in terms of: (i) enhancing regional coordination and building national platforms for DRR by facilitating dialogue among partners and bringing national governments on board; (ii) increasing knowledge, credible evidence and awareness of DRR in the region through regional and national risk assessments and thematic studies; (iii) providing technical support and advice to advancing key aspects of supporting the process of ownership and endorsement through Ministerial meetings. This 'software' linked up with the structural aspects of country support by the World Bank and other partners. Strong foundations for effective collaboration were put in place early on with,

1. Track 1 support to assessments of needs and gaps through risk assessments and reviews
2. UNISDR and World Bank developed strong collaboration with a range of actors including SEE Governments, the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI)²⁴, Regional Cooperation Council for South Eastern Europe (RCC)²⁵, European Forum for DRR (EFDRR)²⁶, European Commission, and EU Member States.

The UNISDR-World Bank partnership on SEEDRMAP was underpinned by regular meetings and extended joint missions with relationships extending beyond GFRDRR interlocutors to the regional desks in the Bank. The buy-in of countries was strong, and the complementarity of actors has been a factor of the success of the Programme. A range of ISDR partners including

²⁴ DPPI SEE was established in 2000 under the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and seeks to provide a framework for South Eastern European nations to develop programs and projects leading to strengthened capabilities to prevent and respond to natural and man-made. It is a regional framework of cooperation on DRR. A representative of Track 1 serves as a member of DPPI's advisory board.

²⁵ The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) membership consists of 46 countries, organizations and international financial institutions. The RCC has a Secretariat based in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, headed by the Secretary General. The RCC is the successor to the Stability Pact and was established in 2008: '...the RCC focuses on promotion and enhancement of regional cooperation in South East Europe (SEE) and supports European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the aspiring countries'.

<http://www.rcc.int/pages/6/2/overview>

²⁶ The European Forum for DRR which, established in late 2009, and covers the whole of Europe. It includes HFA Focal Points and representatives of National Platforms for DRR in the European region, regional and sub-regional organizations that include representatives from the Council of Europe, and representatives from the European Commission, Civil Protection - Prevention & Preparedness Unit, as well as EU member countries and regional donors, and UNISDR-Europe.

WMO, UNDP, civil society organisations, and private sector groups are involved in the programme.

Risk Assessment and Evidence Base for DRR in SEE

The risk assessments and thematic reviews undertaken in the region through Track 1 enabled a mapping of country and trans-boundary risks, as well as examining role of civil protection in risk reduction, the possibilities of disaster risk financing options, and the need for hydro-meteorological forecasting and early warning services. For example, the 2008 review - *Strengthening the hydro-meteorological services in South Eastern Europe* - stressed that important economies of scale could be made by using a regional approach to buying expensive equipment; for example, purchasing a regional radar system. A *Synthesis Report on South Eastern Europe Countries Disaster Risk* was also commissioned in 2007 to inform country level risk and economic impact assessments. The analyses contributed to mobilizing resources towards integrating DRR in sustainable development by providing gap analysis and evidence on early warning and hydromet issues to improving forecasting, data sharing and early warning systems

The independent SEEDRMAP evaluation and result assessment, undertaken by Ms. Cvetka Krajic Tomin, published in December 2010 found:

The assessments and reviews have provided the basis for the development of national programmes (national disaster risk mitigation and adaptation programmes [DRMAPs]) to address disaster risk reduction activities in the South Eastern Europe countries through World Bank support (loans). In this respect, SEEDRMAP has fully addressed the mandate of its donor facility, GFDRR Track 1 – which is the part of the facility devoted to promoting disaster risk reduction at the regional level – and shall serve as well the needs of GFDRR Track 2 – which is the part of the facility funds addressed to the national level. (World Bank/UNISDR/GFDRR, 2010 p.xi)

Track 1 also supported the strengthening of trans-boundary knowledge sharing in SEE through the development of a web platform by a Management Information System that is hosted by the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative (DPPI) website. Training workshops aimed at building capacities of national DRR practitioners in hazard analysis and early warning were also supported through Track 1.

Enhancing Regional Coordination and Building National Platforms for DRR in SEE

SEEDRMAP enhanced DRR coordination in SEE countries and promoted the integration of the countries in European DRR networks. This was done through the participation and contribution of SEE HFA Focal Points to major European events such as the European HFA Focal Points meeting for the HFA Mid-Term Review (Switzerland, June 2010), European Forum for DRR (Sweden 2010 and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2011), DRR Media and communication training (Belgium, November 2010), and SEEDRMAP event in Rome coupled with the launch of the HFA Mid-Term review (Rome, March 2011).

Since 2007 countries in SEE have hosted four ministerial conferences addressing risk reduction issues. Coordination and sharing of regional knowledge and information transfer was also increased through the annual meeting of the regional platform European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction that was established in 2009. The second annual meeting of the EFDRR was held

in Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in October 2011. The participation of SEE HFA focal points and National Platform coordinators were supported by Track I. This meeting provided an environment to strengthen exchanges on DRR within the 25 participating European Countries.

With support from UNISDR Europe, SEE national counterparts have strengthened their capacities in risk reduction and developed National Platforms for DRR. All SEE countries have received training on DRR and NP developments (UNISDR-CADRI). Since 2007 National Plans have been launched by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia, Turkey and Serbia (to be formalised via the National Parliament). Furthermore, institutional capacities on DRR and CCA have been increased at national level through regional training in SEE with the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) and the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative (DPPI) and through four national workshops (held in Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo (as defined under UNSCR 1244) and Turkey). Track 1 also supported a Training Workshop on DRR was jointly organized by CADRI, DPPI-SEE, Croatia and Sweden (September 2009) which strengthened national DRR related institutions through the setting up of National Platforms for DRR in Croatia and FRY of Macedonia. Track 1 facilitated the twinning of national platforms between Albania and Italy.

High-level conferences were enabled through Track I support. These included the Ministry of Emergency meeting in Belgrade (Serbia, February 2010), the SEECF Ministerial and Experts Meeting on disaster and emergency management in Antalya (Turkey, May 2010), and the 12th Ministerial Session of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement (Russia, Sep 2010).

Coordination among SEE international actors was enhanced through the UNISDR organized and chaired the South Eastern Europe and Central Asia and Caucasus (SEE CAC) informal Steering Committee meeting at the side of the Global Platform for DRR 2011. The Steering Committee was participated by the World Bank, UNDP, WMO, UNICEF and UNISDR. Also, part of the Global Platform for DRR 2011 programme, a meeting of the European Forum for DRR (EFDRR) was organised on 16 May 2011.

Disaster Risk Financing: Financing of disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery, and disaster risk transfer (disaster insurance)

Financing of disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery is one of the three pillars of SEEDRMAP. The *South Eastern and Central Europe Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility* (SEEC CRIF) has been developed through the direct support and technical assistance from the World Bank and UNISDR with support of Track 1 funding working with the Regional Cooperation Council for South Eastern Europe. It is an innovative facility for disaster financing by creating a regional catastrophe risk pool owned by countries and managed by the private sector to cover catastrophic events through regional funding. Such an initiative is needed because the commercial insurance market in the region does not offer affordable and dependable insurance coverage to protect individuals and small businesses against material losses caused by natural hazards. It will make a vital difference to people's lives and livelihoods, and could play a key role in reducing the level of economic and fiscal exposure to disasters. It is being set up as a regional catastrophe risk pool owned by countries.

Preparatory activities included the development of a thematic paper the co-organization of a conference held in March 2009 in Zurich and a coordination meeting in July 2009 in Sarajevo with SEE governments. In 2010, Europe Re -the governing body of the *South Eastern and Central Europe Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility* (SEEC CRIF), was created. This facility, aimed at building effective private-public partnerships in SEE and Central Europe to give home owners access to insurance and re-insurance products, is now incorporated in Switzerland with a board of trustees.

A Regional Insurance Conference for South Eastern Europe took place in Ohrid, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in October 2010. The conference was collaboration between UNISDR, World Bank and Europa RE, and aimed to advance the knowledge and availability of insurance products related to the SEEC CRIF. The conference was attended by representatives of the insurance market, senior government officials and national Insurance Regulatory Commissions.

Further financial support has been received from the Government of Switzerland that contributed US\$4.5 million to support the technical preparatory work. The EC through its IPA Multi-Beneficiary initiative supports the promotion of insurance and reinsurance products for disaster risk transfer in collaboration with UNISDR, the WB, and Europa Re. Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia have already signed up and are receiving training on insurance at the local level.

Impacts of SEEDRMAP

The 2010 independent evaluation found that SEEDRMAP demonstrated the cost-effectiveness of the regional pooling of knowledge and resources for hydro-met weather forecasting and early warning systems as well as disaster financing options whereby the costs to national governments would otherwise have been prohibitive. This is just one of the impacts of the innovative programme that have been reported and documented. See Figure 1 given below:

Figure 1: Impacts from Track 1 engagement with SEEDRMAP

- ✓ The Track 1 investments in platform building with a range of actors, building credible evidence on DRR in SEE in terms of needs and gaps, and accompanying Governments in the process, all served to leverage new and additional resources and spending on DRR in SEE by Governments, EU (Commission and Member States), as well as the World Bank. This financing took the forms of loans, investments and grants. For example:
 - The European Commission mobilised €6 million Euro under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) Multi-Beneficiary financing line for 2009-2014.
 - At the national level, Track 1 has helped leverage financial resources for countries such as Albania and the Republic of Moldova to start DRMAP projects through World Bank loans.
 - Swiss support to the scoping SEEC CRIF project and Finland support in addressing Hydromet issues in Moldova.
- ✓ A regional and national agenda for DRR has been generated with strong buy-in from governments and regional organisations.
- ✓ Track 1 process of opening door and building enabling environment of partnerships, knowledge and evidence, and enabled a regional case to be made for loans and investment in the region for DRR and CCA
- ✓ On insurance and reinsurance models, learning from SEEDRMAP has been shared with counterparts in the Caribbean region to promote exchange of good practices and lessons learned.
- ✓ The success of SEEDRMAP has generated impact in terms of possible replication; the case of Central Asia is discussed below.
- ✓ Track 1 funding in SEE gave UNISDR the opportunity to expand engagement with countries it did not yet have strong links with
- ✓ Another positive impact was to provide a focus for engagement of SEE countries and the EU that enhanced cooperation and relations in the context of enlargement and neighbourhood policies of the EU.
- ✓ Bilateral relations between EU Member States and SEE countries have also been strengthened as the SEEDRMAP created opportunities for twinning and cooperation arrangements in civil protection; for example, Italy and Albania;
- ✓ The knowledge, capacity development, and partnerships that opened to SEE countries through engagement with the European platform provide another positive result of the programme, for example when HFA National Focal Points participated in meetings.

CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS

Following the success in the SEE region, the World Bank and UNISDR are seeking to replicate the approach in Central Asia and the Caucasus involving the countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. In collaboration with a number of international and regional partners, they have initiated the Central Asia and Caucasus Disaster Risk Management Initiative (CACDRMI). It shares the same three priorities as SEEDRMAP: a) Hydro meteorological and seismological forecasting and data sharing; b) Coordination of disaster mitigation and reduction; c) Financing of disaster losses and disaster risk transfer.

To pave the way for CACDRMI, in 2009, Track 1 supported a sub-regional risk assessment report for Central Asia. The report provided clear figures and quantitative information regarding the impact of expected hazards on the GDP for countries in the region. This facilitated the technical assessment of the hydro-meteorological services of eight countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus in coordination with key partners including the World Bank, WMO and UNDP. It also supported the assessment of seismic monitoring and research in Armenia and Tajikistan. The findings of the reviews and assessments were discussed at regional meetings of respective national agencies, government ministries, UN and other international organizations – the regional thematic platforms in the fields of reduction of seismic risk and weather-related hazards, all being parts of regional coordination scheme. A regional workshop of national Hydro-Met agencies from Central Asia and Caucasus that was jointly organized by UNISDR and the World Bank under the GFDRR partnership resulted in road map for shared approaches to strengthening hydro-met capacities for promoting early warning systems.

Based on the experience of disaster financing through SEEC CRIF, a similar approach of pooling risk was also initiated through the 2010 final report of the Disaster Risk Financing Options Study. This identified the way forward in strengthening markets for hazard insurance and catastrophe funds in the region. It provided an assessment of (i) current practices to finance damages, (ii) the state of the current private insurance market in providing catastrophe insurance, and (iii) the viability of creating a regional disaster insurance mechanism through risk pooling.

Following the development of the reviews for each of the priority areas highlighted in the CACDRMI, two regional donors meetings were organised around the CACDRMI findings. Strengthening the regional architecture and coordination for DRR in this region remains a critical component of the plans to replicate SEEDRMAP.

Technical assistance was provided to members of DRR national coordination mechanisms through workshops in Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The special training sessions on the preparation of national reports on HFA implementation progress were organized in Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Importance and benefits of national coordination in DRR was highlighted in a series of workshops with national and international stakeholders. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia formally established National Platforms for DRR in the period of 2007-2011, with the required legislative and administrative support for their functioning.

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS OF GFDRR TRACK 1

Track I supported a number of initiatives at the global level which unlike the regional engagements differed from one year to the other. Given below are a few examples of Track I's support at the global level.

Promoting the World Disaster Reduction Campaign, *Making Cities Resilient: "My City is Getting Ready"*

In May 2010, UNISDR launched the World Disaster Reduction Campaign, *Making Cities Resilient* with the slogan "My city is getting ready!" With its focus on local governance and urban risk, the campaign is strengthening the role and leadership of local governments in DRR across the globe: over 1100 cities around the world have signed up committing to enhance resilience of its communities. The Campaign is galvanizing the role and leadership of local government in across all regions. It also directly addresses the growing concern and gaps, reaffirmed by the Rio+20 outcomes in 2012, that communities are not being sufficiently targeted for the implementation of HFA in terms of building resilience.

More than half of the global population resides in urban areas today. By 2025, roughly two-thirds of the world's inhabitants and vast majority of the wealth will be concentrated in urban centres. Many of these centres and mega-cities are already situated in locations prone to major earthquakes and severe droughts, and along flood-prone coastlines where the impacts of more extreme climatic events and sea level rise pose a greater risk to disasters. Most of these anticipated increase in the world's population between now and 2030, will be in urban centres in Africa and Asia- and a large part of this will be in small and medium urban centres in these regions that lack basic infrastructure in general services to cope with disasters.²⁷

The campaign targets local governments, municipalities, mayors and other stakeholders who commit to the "Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient". These are a localised version of the Hyogo Framework for Action, adapted for local governments, that include participatory organization, assigning a budget for risk reduction incentives, maintaining critical infrastructure such as flood drainage, safety of schools and hospitals, improving urban planning, infrastructure and building safety; installing early warning systems; conducting public preparedness drills; and taking measures to adapt to the increasing impact of climate change.

In November 2011, a meeting of Campaign partners took place in Geneva, with a preceding survey of Campaign partners and cities, which identified some of the strengths, achievements and challenges that are now being addressed within the Campaign.²⁸ Representatives of cities, who benefit directly from the campaign, said its added value lay in:

- Enabling city authorities to gain greater visibility for work already being done on disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction.
- Having a framework in which dialogue can occur between stakeholders from different disciplines, to support cities' to conduct disaster risk self-assessments.
- Having a ready-made platform for city-to-city exchange at an international level.

²⁷ <http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/toolkit/report2012>

²⁸ Taking stock of progress and future strategy of the Resilient Cities campaign: Summary of responses from partners 28 October 2011. Feedback from ICLEI, EMI, UNHABITAT, Asia RTF-URR, ADPC, WCSDA, RMIT, GROOTS International; Proceedings from the Partnership Meeting. See Annex 1a, References.

- Enabling cities to receive recognition from UNISDR, through the Role Model City framework, the UN-Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction, and other frameworks associated with the campaign.
- Drawing media attention to disaster risk reduction, which in turn triggers greater accountability among local government authorities as well as citizens.

At the end of 2011 the campaign had 29 Role Model Cities chosen for their expertise in areas such as flood management, early warning and earthquake reconstruction amongst others. These cities are at the heart of a cascading peer-to-peer network of twinning, visits and exchanges that enable sharing of experience and transfer of good practices. Every region has found its Champion for the campaign, a growing group of powerful advocates to drive change for cities and local governments across the regions. These are individuals and organisations with demonstrated leadership for the change that is required to save lives and livelihoods by investing in a safer tomorrow.

As of October 2012 the campaign has enrolled 10 Champions ranging from Mayors to heads of organisations demonstrating exemplary actions in their areas of work.

“Changing attitudes and behaviours is a tough undertaking, but I never give up. It’s necessary to start small and with those who are willing. You have to show people actions with high impact, and then they will join the effort and become organised. It took me five years to accomplish that.” – Alfredo Arquillano, Vice Mayor, San Francisco, Philippines.

Vice Mayor Al Arquillano is one of the champions appointed under the Making cities resilient campaign. Under his leadership, San Francisco won the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2011 for its community empowerment programme to boost the resilience of a mostly poor population living below the poverty line. As a champion, he along with SRSR for Disaster Risk Reduction met with Mayors and Municipalities to advocate for more investment in risk reduction actions post repeated typhoons in Philippines. He, further in his own capacity and with the help of partners organized at least four city-to-city learning events in San Francisco for other Asian Cities.

Similarly, Graciela Fernanda Ortuzar Novoa, Mayor of Lampa, Chile and Vice President for the Chilean Municipality Association on Environmental Issues is also a champion appointed under the campaign to advocate for the need for implementation of the Ten Essentials. She was appointed as Making Cities Resilient Champion based on her experience in community management post the February 2010 earthquake. As champion, she has advocated with cities within Chile and in Latin America to raise capacities of the municipalities to implement the principles of the campaign and to secure resources from the national budget.

The campaign has attracted the interest of many stakeholders: 25 partners at global and at least 20 more at regional level are supporting the implementation of the objectives of the campaign. UN agencies including UN-HABITAT, WHO and UNICEF are key partners along with city associations and organizations, including the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and CityNet.

One added value has been to develop a series of tools and venues for building coherence around disaster resilient cities that local governments can apply. These include the Local HFA: a

Local Government Self-Assessment Tool²⁹ compatible both with the Hyogo Framework for Action and the ten Essentials for making cities resilient. It was piloted in 23 cities across 16 countries in 2011, and rolled out in 2012. A “Handbook For Local Government Leaders on How to Make Cities More Resilient”³⁰ was also launched early 2012, and during the first six months was translated by partners into several local languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French and Spanish. These tools aim to influence actions for DRR and CCA at local level by defining baselines, identifying gaps and establishing comparable data across local governments, within the country and globally, to measure advancements over time. For the 2011 HFA Monitor review in the Global Assessment Report, local self-assessment was possible by aligning the Ten Essentials of the Resilient Cities Campaign with the local HFA indicators. The first Making Cities Resilient report is scheduled to be launched in 2012. It will provide trend analysis in urban resilience activities, and a snapshot on how local governments implement disaster risk reduction. It would also start to discuss improved measurement of urban resilience and the role of urban planning to improve resilience.

In 2010, Albay Province in the Philippines applied the local- HFA indicators and assessed its progress as a province at 4.6 out of a possible 5 in terms of implementing the 5 objectives of the HFA. Albay was used as a model for the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, which requires a Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office in every local government unit. The province has 25 permanent emergency research and disaster specialists, and risk mapping is a common and essential tool for all existing hazards. Early warning systems are in place and communications chains are clarified and tested. Safe schools and hospitals are a major priority. Whereas Albay is exposed to multiple hazards (typhoons, volcanic eruptions, landslides and floods), its governor, Joey Salceda, pioneered the ‘zero casualty policy’ with pre-emptive evacuation and a clear business-continuity plan for both government and the private sector.

(Taken from 2011 GAR, Box 4.3 *Using the HFA Monitor at the Local Level in the Philippines*)

The Resilient Cities Campaign draws upon previous UNISDR Campaigns on safer schools and hospitals, as well as on the sustainable urbanization principles developed in the UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign 2009–2013. These earlier global campaigns were also supported by Track 1. The campaign on safe schools and increased education on disaster risk reduction was organised with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNICEF, and the Thematic Platform on Education and Knowledge from 2006-2007, while the campaign on safe hospitals, was organised in partnership with the World Health Organization and the World Bank in 2008-2009. The targets on safer schools and hospitals have been cemented in the Global Platform and remain a critical priority. In this drive to focus on local actors and communities, the Campaign has been able to learn from and build upon early investments of Track 1 in 2007-2008 in terms of a focus on cities in South Asia and Middle East and North Africa regions on urban risk.

²⁹ <http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/toolkit/howto>

³⁰ <http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/toolkit/handbook>

Track 1 has significantly contributed to the *Making Cities Resilient* Campaign in 2010 and 2011. The Global and Regional plans were well integrated in this support that included Regional launches of the campaign in all six regions.

Such has been the success and momentum of the campaign that the Global Platform in 2011 agreed that it should be a priority for the DRR agenda through to 2015 to focus on urban risk and to mobilise local government leadership and support community-level action and resources for building resilience.

Contributing to the first Global Assessment Report on DRR (2009)

The first biennial report was launched in 2009 with financial support from the Track 1, alongside other partners³¹. Over 2008 and 2009, Track 1 invested USD 755,000 in the preparations, various launch events and dissemination of the report. The *2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: Risk and poverty in a changing climate, Invest today for a safer tomorrow*, became a flagship initiative for research, advocacy, policy, and monitoring. It was a clarion call for disaster risk reduction as an intrinsic part of sustainable development with its “focus on the nexus of disaster risk and poverty in a context of global climate change”.³²

The 2009 GAR sought to harness the knowledge of disaster risks and outline the means to integrating it into development planning and action. It examined in depth the linkages between disaster risk, poverty, and vulnerability and the identified four major drivers of risk in terms of poor urban governance, vulnerable rural livelihoods, declining ecosystems and global climate change. Preparing the report provided a focus for the global constituency of actors working on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

This unique global collaboration was coordinated by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Secretariat, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the ProVention Consortium, the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute and a wide range of other ISDR partners. This collaborative process by the ISDR system partners included national governments, scientific institutes and experts, international organisations, regional intergovernmental and technical organisations, and civil society networks. The preparatory research included global and local risk analyses, commissioned thematic and practice papers, seminars and discussions.

The GAR also vitally included the HFA Monitor as a critical tool for accountability in tracking progress for the implementation of the Hyogo commitments. 62 countries reported on-line against a set of 22 core indicators and 5 benchmarks. As such the HFA monitor is also proving to be a repository of critical knowledge for planning and identification of gaps. The 2009 review of progress concluded that while some good progress was reported in terms of capacity strengthening, institutional arrangements, and legislation to address DRR and response as well

³¹ These partners included the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Government of Norway, the Government of Switzerland, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ, now GIZ), the ProVention Consortium, UNDP and UNEP. See PreventionWeb for more on background of the GAR 2009.

³² See GAR 2009, p.v.

as some progress on early warning systems, there was little progress to report in terms of the mainstreaming disaster risk reduction considerations into core social, economic, urban, environmental and infrastructural planning and development so as to save lives and reduce disaster losses.

The 2009 GAR was cited and used in the path-breaking 2012 Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX)*. This reflects the growing momentum of policy and research demonstrating the inter-linkages of DRR and CCA. The 2009 GAR had its global launch in Panama and was followed by more than 23 regional and national launches. It has been published in 4 languages (English, Spanish, Arabic, and French) and widely disseminated in all regions.

UNISDR went on to coordinate the well-received second edition GAR 2011 though not with GFDRR sources, focusing on increased investment in local action. In the HFA Monitor 2011, 133 governments were part of the Review, marking an increase of more than 100% on the 2009 HFA Monitor, with 82 countries submitting full reports. Over 30 regional and national launches were organized. Over 16,000 copies have been printed and disseminated. There were 49,913 chapter downloads and an additional 27,843 visits to the GAR11 web-site with 89,677 page views by January 2012. GAR11 is available both as a PDF and a web-site. Its predecessor GAR09 was available only for download as a PDF and has had 151,212 chapter downloads since its launch. GAR11 was designed as an interactive web-based report structured around a series of expert background papers and data bases. This achievement reflected the demand and impact generated by the innovation of the first report and while GFDRR did not directly fund the second edition it was engaged in the consultation process.

PreventionWeb

UNISDR's PreventionWeb (www.preventionweb.net) was launched on 15 November 2007 with support from Track 1 to serve the information needs of the disaster reduction community by making it easier to find and share information, connect, and collaborate on disaster risk reduction (DRR) issues.

PreventionWeb provides a common platform for disaster risk reduction professionals and a vital advocacy channel to non-specialists. The website is updated daily and has published over 20,000 disaster risk reduction items from policy and legislation, country progress reports, publications, DRR maps and risk profiles, disaster data and statistics, to news, events, educational materials, networks and more.

A recent evaluation of UNISDR's PreventionWeb found that 'over the four years Prevention Web has been operating, it has played a unique and key role supporting and informing the evolution [of disaster risk reduction to a major global priority issue]. PreventionWeb has led the 'mapping' of the disaster risk reduction domain' ... and 'established itself as the pre-eminent global generalist, content aggregation site for disaster risk reduction'. (Preventionweb Evaluation, p xii)

An intensive user needs assessment was undertaken in 2007, targeting national focal points and practitioners. During its first full year, 2008, PreventionWeb averaged 12,600 visitors per month and grew to an average of over 56,000 visitors per month in 2011. An estimated 25,000

professionals currently visit the site more than once per week and over 3,000 subscribe to its email alert service. Some 125 public networks are promoted, with an average of 20 private workspaces and other processes hosted by the site in support of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) implementation: HFA Monitor at regional, national and local levels; Consultative processes related to the HFA Mid-Term Review 2010-2011 and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction; the Global Assessment Report and its corresponding peer review workspaces and risk profiles; and various thematic partnership workspaces.

UNISDR is currently undertaking a broader user needs assessment of its PreventionWeb users and the disaster risk reduction community at large to identify their information and knowledge needs to improve its service.

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