



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Huge mudslides from Hurricane Stan were big killers In Central America and southern Mexico**

The torrential rains that caused flooding and huge mudslides, resulting in over a hundred deaths in Central America and southern Mexico prove again that we need to be better prepared against what is the most destructive type of natural hazards in the world.

Flooding counts every year for over two thirds of the people affected by natural hazards.

The torrential rains brought by Hurricane Stan in Central America rapidly swelled rivers, saturated soils, and triggered huge landslides in locations where the most vulnerable population lived.

Once again, the most vulnerable suffered most. They often have no choice other than to build their houses in unsafe plots without recognizing the risks they face.

“To reduce the number of people killed or affected by natural hazards, we have to integrate risk reduction, including risk mapping in land-use planning and urban management, as priorities of every government in disaster-prone areas” says Salvano Briceño, Director of secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

The Hyogo Framework for Action adopted by Governments at Kobe, Japan, in January 2005 proposed a course of action to address the challenges of disaster mitigation and prevention.

“This plan of action has to be implemented as soon as possible if we want to revert the current rising trend of economic and social losses due to natural hazards. Governments have to invest more in disaster prevention” adds Briceño.

For more information, please contact:  
Brigitte Leoni, Media Relations  
[Inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction \(UN/ISDR\)](#)  
Tel: +41 22 917 4968  
Email: [leonib@un.org](mailto:leonib@un.org)