



PRESS RELEASE

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World Bank-ISDR partnership to promote resilience of nations and communities to disasters

In the wake of more disasters to come, the World Bank is teaming up with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and has launched a Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery to reduce the impact of disasters caused by natural hazards on populations and their livelihoods.

The World Bank Global Hotspots Study identified 86 vulnerable countries to natural hazards with high mortality and economic loss and has decided to work closer with the ISDR to increase the national capacities of these countries to natural hazards.

“Risk reduction is a moral imperative. It is also the smartest and most cost effective investment we can make for the future. The benefits of it will save not only dollars but countless lives,” said Salvano Briceno, Director of the ISDR secretariat.

The two organizations will work at the regional and global level to ensure that disaster risk reduction becomes a priority for development investments in countries at risk.

The World Bank through this Global Facility will contribute five million USD to the ISDR secretariat for a period of three years to promote disaster risk reduction at the country level. The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery will provide support for several activities including: global reporting on disaster risk reduction trends and on progress in reducing risks, promoting the ISDR global advocacy campaigns on safe schools and disaster reduction practices and the development of a PreventionWeb for disaster risk reduction related information.

“The World Bank has now prioritized reducing disaster risk by mainstreaming disaster prevention in all its programmes as an integral dimension of its poverty reduction agenda. This will be undertaken through partnerships with regional intergovernmental organizations, civil society and academic institutions to leverage country resources for sustained investments in prevention, mitigation and preparedness activities, particularly in low and middle income countries,” said Ms. Katherine Sierra Vice President of Sustainable Development Network of the World Bank.



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction -
Stratégie internationale pour la prévention des catastrophes

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The Facility provides expertise and technical assistance to assist low and middle income countries to mainstream disaster risk reduction in strategic planning, particularly in the national poverty reduction strategies and various sectoral development policies.

The United Kingdom's Department for International Development has already committed eight million USD for this purpose and many donors have expressed additional support to the World Bank's Global Facility at a donors' forum meeting held recently in Washington D.C.

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