



United Nations  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

## **Building a Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction**

[www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)

**"FOR A NEW GOVERNANCE OF NATURAL RISKS "**

*Istanbul 27-28 October, 2008*

Paola Albrito  
Regional Coordinator Europe

## Disaster risk reduction- integral part of sustainable development – a global AND local agenda

- International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-99)
- International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (2000→)
- Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: **Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters**
- Agenda 21- and Johannesburg Plan of action for sustainable development (2002)
- Millennium Development Goals (2000)
- Bali Plan of Action- to combat climate change (2007)



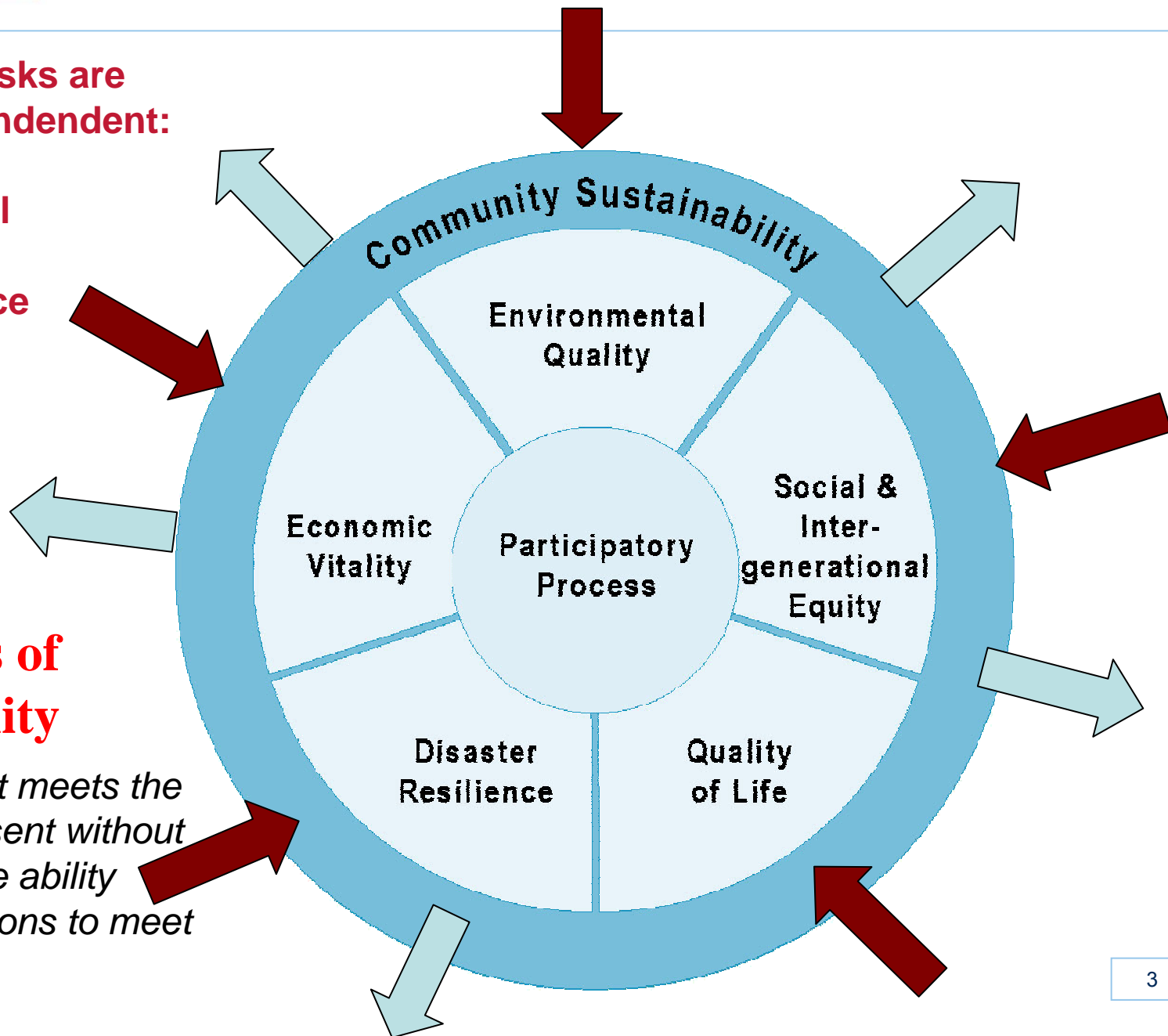
**“Think global, act local....”**



...but risks are  
interdependent:  
local  
regional  
global  
influence

## Principles of sustainability

*Development that meets the  
needs of the present without  
compromising the ability  
of future generations to meet  
their own needs*



## Regional and local governance: Institutional and Policy Frameworks

*Commitment: Make an investment in protection of resources and assets for national benefit and public good.*

- Commit to multiyear, multidisciplinary integration of vulnerability and risk reduction into development planning and policies
  - ❖ National strategies and legislation – regional/local strategies
  - ❖ Institutional capacities – technical and multisectoral local committees
  - ❖ Decentralization of responsibilities and resources (local authorities and communities)





## Risk Assessment and Early Warning

*Fundamental starting point to know, accept what the relative hazards, vulnerabilities and risks are*

Basis for coherent territorial and development plans; setting of priorities

- Dependent upon data needs, information use, shared resources, dialogue
- Need for determining “acceptable” risks-political decision.
- Monitoring of emerging risks (e.g. climate change related, epidemics and HIV/Aids...)
- Early warning and risk monitoring: High return value on investment, if organized and tied to public information, awareness and preparedness



## Reducing underlying risk factors

*Sectoral implementation – and linking to sustainable recovery*

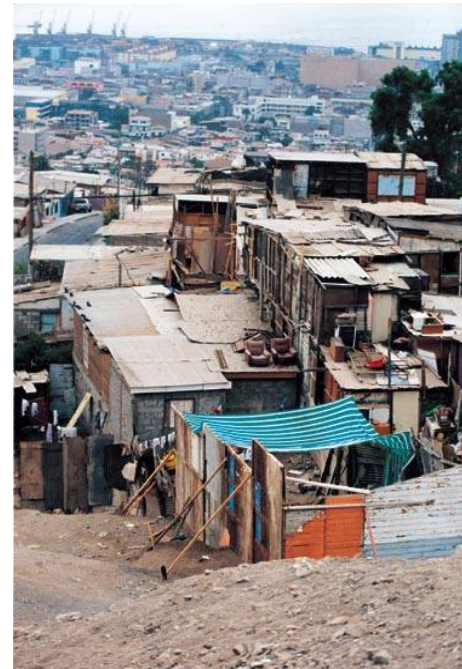
- Linkages to environmental management and protection endeavors and actors (e.g. wetland & mangrove protection)
- Planning and land use commitment, especially compliance to regulations and codes, building on RISK ASSESSMENTS
- Locally applicable insurance or related financial instruments, variations of micro-finance and micro-credit tied to DRR protection efforts. Addressing the uninsured and poorly insured
- Urban risk management and plans



## Reducing underlying risk factors

*Matter of  
governance,  
and public  
participation,  
if to be valid  
and  
sustained*

- Wider infrastructure protection – techniques are known and professional resources available. As much a governance issue as a technical one – enforcement of regulation
- Invest in human capital: improved recovery capacities and safety nets
- Applying existing advanced technologies, can focus on local scales, too (e.g. GIS applications, telecommunications systems, remote sensing)





## Context

- Local and Regional Authorities have a key role to play in making DRR a reality at local and sub-national levels.
- Several initiatives are currently underway, still not matching growing demand in this area.
- Local-level implementation of the HFA requires increased efforts, and recognition of both urban and rural dimensions of vulnerability.
- A gap between ongoing DRR processes at the Global and National levels, and the reality on the ground.



## Challenges regionally and locally

- Lack of understanding and political incentives: Regional and local Governments have a key role to play to influence and change local risk- and to influence national and global agenda setting
  - Building a “disaster risk reduction movement” needs active participation and involvement of local governments, at all levels
  - Limited resources committed at local levels of responsibility to support disaster risk reduction – link it to climate change adaptation
  - Competing priorities and agendas, often challenged by competition for funds
  - Lack of accessible tools and technical competence

## Opportunities...

- Broad consensus reached on the need to engage local and regional authorities in DRR processes.
- Growing evidence that DRR is a local issue, and that more needs to be done at local and sub-national levels.
- Tools and resources exist to identify and manage disaster risks at the local level.
- Local and Regional authorities an increasingly active actor at the international level.
- Climate Change Adaptation an opportunity for DRR actors to play an important role.

## Way forward

- Sound institutional basis for effective governance, at international, national and LOCAL levels- get local and regional Governments more involved
- Include capacity strengthening to address “emerging risks” to natural hazards and related technological disasters in local governments capacity building and governance efforts- focus on climate change adaptation
- Identify gaps in implementation: integrating risk reduction into development programmes and projects – within resources
- ISDR supports partnerships for building resilient cities and communities – forging an ISDR Alliance of Local Governments for Disaster Risk Reduction among local and regional Governments, and promoting an Urban Risk Forum- regional and global



**Building an alliance of Local Governments for disaster risk reduction** → to implement Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015): Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters” – a local HFA

### **Objectives - Local Government driven initiatives & leadership:**

- To increase the political space for disaster risk reduction locally, raise awareness among local authorities about the problems and solutions available
- To improve local authorities' understanding of central governments (and vice-versa) with respect to DRR strategies and implementation
- To ensure coordination of DRR actions in this area among different stakeholders
- To facilitate knowledge and information sharing between north/south, urban/rural local authorities to raise awareness

:

**A small, consultative meeting in Barcelona, Catalunya, 22-23 May 2008**





## Proposed Objectives of the LGA/DRR

- To facilitate knowledge and information sharing between North/South, urban/rural, local and regional authorities.
- To raise awareness and encourage the active role of local governments in mainstreaming DRR.
- To improve local governments' understanding of central governments (and vice-versa) with respect to DRR strategies and implementation.
- To facilitate coordination of DRR actions in this area among different stakeholders.
- ...



## Proposed Strategy for Developing the LGA/DRR

- Take stock of existing initiatives and draft a Concept Note for the LGA/DRR (Nov - Dec 2007)
- Hold a Consultative Meeting with Local and Regional Authorities in Barcelona (May 2008)
- Establish an “Advisory Group” for the LGA/DRR (May - Jul 2008)
- Hold a broader meeting to discuss proposed objectives, governance mechanism, etc. (Global Dialogue - Chengdu, China, 12-14 Nov 2008)
- Global Urban Risk Meeting in Incheon, Korea (2009)
- Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction – Geneva, Switzerland, 15-19 Jun 2009



## Consultative Meeting: 9-11 April 2008, Barcelona

- A reality-check, to better understand the demand and needs from local and regional authorities.
- Substantive comments and observations on the LGA/DRR concept were put forward.
- Initial commitment and support to the Alliance was reached.
- Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Alliance and its «Advisory Group» are currently being finalised.
- Next steps and follow-up actions up to the 2nd session of the GP/DRR have been agreed upon.



## The Way Forward..

- 2nd Consultative Meeting of the LGA/DRR will be held in Chengdu, China, on 12-14 Nov. 2008.
- Participants will review and finalise draft ToRs for the Alliance and LGA/DRR «Advisory Group».
- Further discussion on the proposed activities, governance mechanisms and overall strategy for developing the Alliance will be held.
- Key events for the LGA/DRR currently include the following:
  - (i) 2nd GP/DRR, Geneva, 15-19 Jun 2009.
  - (ii) Incheon, Korea, 24-26 Aug 2009 - Official Launch of the LGA/DRR?

**For more information contact:**

Mr. Michele Cocchiglia

Programme Officer, UNISDR secretariat

Email: [cocchiglia@un.org](mailto:cocchiglia@un.org)

Or visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/lgadrr>





# Thank you

United Nations, secretariat of the  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction  
International Environment House II  
7-9 Chemin de Balexert, CH 1219 Chatelaine  
Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 917 8908/8907  
Fax: +41 22 917 8964  
[isdr@un.org](mailto:isdr@un.org)

[www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)