



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction



Information Note

A short report of the UN/ISDR secretariat

*Toward the first session of the
Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction*

For the period January 2006 to June 2007



United Nations

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Introduction

Since the adoption of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters*, many global, regional, national and local efforts have been addressing disaster risk reduction more systematically. Many regional bodies have formulated strategies for disaster risk reduction in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action in several regions or sub-regions, such as the Andean region, Central America, the Caribbean, Asia, Pacific, Africa and Europe. Governments have designated official focal points for the follow-up and the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Some have taken actions to mobilize political commitment and establish centres to promote regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction. One driving force of these changing patterns is the UN/ISDR secretariat and the strengthened ISDR system of networks and partnerships.

Through a wide range of programme activities, the secretariat is serving as a catalyst for change toward the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. Part of this effort is also dedicated to the strengthening of the ISDR system partners' roles and capacities in promoting and sustaining commitments and actions to disaster risk reduction.

This Information Note elaborates on the outcomes of the UN/ISDR secretariat's biennial Work Plan 2006-2007 in support of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. It is intended mainly to provide a much summarized secretariat's assessment of work activities. A number of reports, reviews and publications referred to briefly gives a wider account of the achievements.

Many of the UN/ISDR secretariat initiatives have well-defined aims to complete processes or products in time for the June 2007 session of the Global Platform for Disaster Reduction. For this reason, the Information Note is issued on this occasion.

As the note is concise, if readers want additional information on specific ISDR system activities, we refer them throughout the Information Note to specific websites.

For enquiries about the first session of the Global Platform please consult the website www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform

All information products mentioned in this note can be found on the UN/ISDR website: www.unisdr.org

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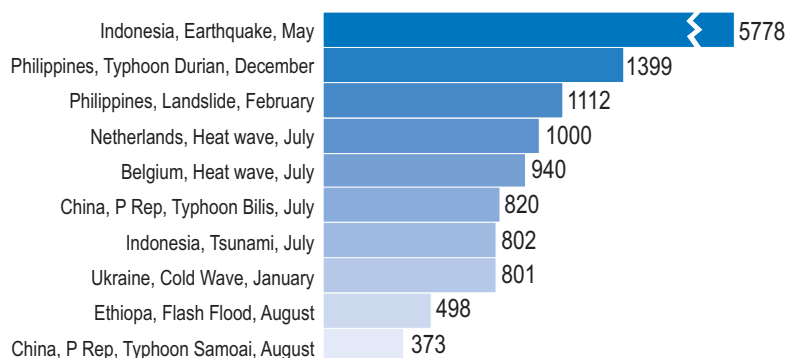
World context

We must acknowledge that there is disconcerting evidence that disasters caused by natural hazards still have grave consequences for the survival and livelihoods of individuals, and hard-won development gains. Disaster risk, combined with growing vulnerability, is of real concern in all parts of the world.

When discussing major disasters, one will frequently think of the Indian Ocean tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, and the Pakistan Earthquake. However, less well-publicized disasters continue to affect lives worldwide. According to CRED, in 2006 alone there were 395 natural disasters affecting 134.5 million people worldwide, with Belgium, Netherlands and Ukraine ranking among the top ten countries which are reporting more deaths. Nonetheless, Asia remains the main continent hit by disasters with 5778 persons killed in Indonesia last May by an earthquake and 2511 deaths in the Philippines due to the typhoon Durian in December and landslides in February.

Among other figures underlined by CRED are the number of floods, which continues to rise with 226 occurrences in 2006 compared to 162 in the past five years, and extreme temperature events, which increased from 23 to 30 in 2006.

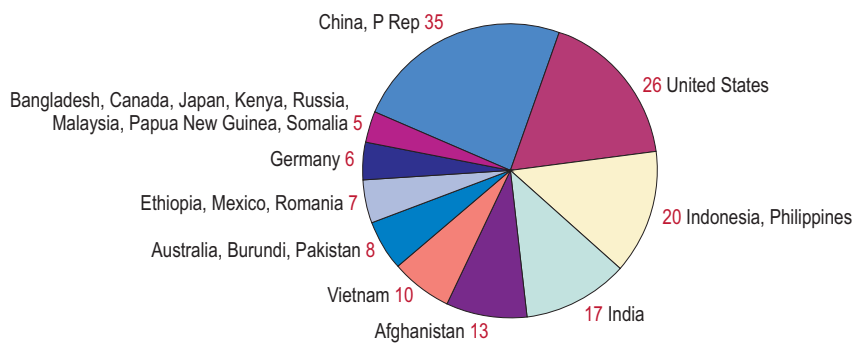
Natural disasters by number of deaths - 2006



Source: Source of data: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED, International Disaster Database, www.em-dat.net
 Université catholique de Louvain Brussels - Belgium

Changes in disaster risk are also driven by underlying processes such as urbanization, economic globalization and poverty. Eight out of the 10 most crowded cities in the world are potentially at hazard from earthquakes. Six out of 10 of these cities are vulnerable to storm surges and tsunamis. By 2015, 12 of the 15 largest cities in the world will be in developing countries¹. At the same time, evidence continues to mount that global climate change is already modifying patterns of climate hazard such as cyclone, drought and flood, with drastic implications for disaster risk. The report on the economics of climate change produced by Nicholas Stern² in 2007, recent evidence presented by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations Security Council's first-ever debate on the impact of climate change on peace and security, together with the increasing number of climate anomalies documented by the media, have converged to focus political interest on the prevention of further climate change and on the mitigation of its consequences.

Countries most hit by natural disasters - 2006



Source: Source of data: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED, International Disaster Database , www.em-dat.net
 Université catholique de Louvain Brussels - Belgium

1 Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative
 2 Nicholas Stern (2006), Op.Cit.

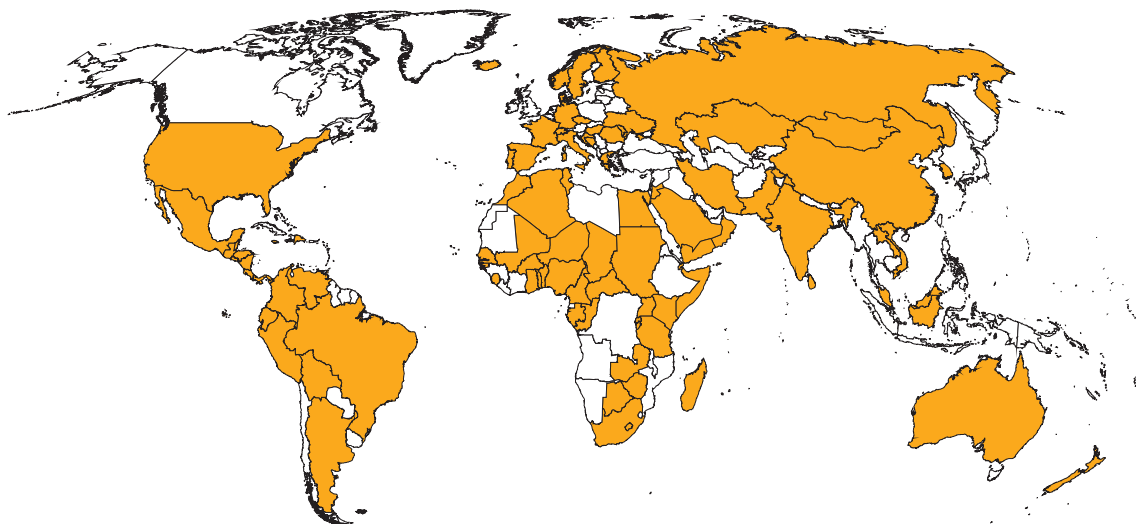


ISDR system


The World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDR, Kobe, Japan, 2005) represented a landmark in worldwide understanding of and commitment to implementing a disaster reduction agenda. The fact that the conference took place just three weeks after the devastating Indian Ocean Tsunami helped to move disaster reduction higher up on the international agenda. The 168 States attending the Conference adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action, which was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in December 2005. Developed through exhaustive negotiations between States, experts and collaborating organizations, the 10-year framework plan reflects the intention to take a holistic approach in identifying and putting into action complex multidisciplinary measures for reducing disaster risk.

Over the past two years, the Hyogo Framework has witnessed an acceleration of its implementation at all levels. Several regions or sub-regions have recommitted themselves to the goals of the Hyogo Framework through ministerial or other high-level meetings (Beijing Declaration); some regions have adapted the Framework to their specific needs (Madang Framework in the Pacific).

As stated by the Hyogo Framework, the primary responsibility for implementing disaster risk reduction policies rests with States. Many countries have mobilized political and financial support to disaster risk reduction. Several Governments have focused on setting up or strengthening multi-stakeholder national coordination mechanisms. At the policy level, an ever-growing number of Governments have devised guiding policy instruments and enacted legislation for risk reduction. Other countries have integrated risk reduction as a cross-cutting issue or focus area in their national development plans including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. Finally much experience has been gained in putting theory into practice by implementing risk reduction measures at community level.



116 HFA Focal Points

Have been formally designated with responsibility for the implementation and follow-up of the Hyogo Framework for Action (marked in .

39 National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction

Have been established/strengthened in countries, including: Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic), Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, Senegal, Seychelles, Spain, Switzerland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, United States of America, Venezuela, Zambia.

Towards a more effective, multi-stakeholder ISDR system

Since 2006, the ISDR has been evolving more and more into a global system of partnerships for disaster risk reduction.

One major achievement, and example of a broader and strengthened partnership through ISDR system is the more active engagement of the World Bank in disaster reduction, through the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery.

Another important element of the strengthened ISDR system is the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to become the main global forum for devising strategies and policies to reduce disaster risk, monitoring progress, identifying gaps in policies and programmes and recommending remedial action. The first session is taking place in Geneva, 5-7 June, 2007.



For more information on progress towards implementing the Hyogo Framework:

**Disaster Risk Reduction:
2007 Global Review**

This review draws on national and regional reports, requested by the ISDR secretariat, as well as existing risk assessments.

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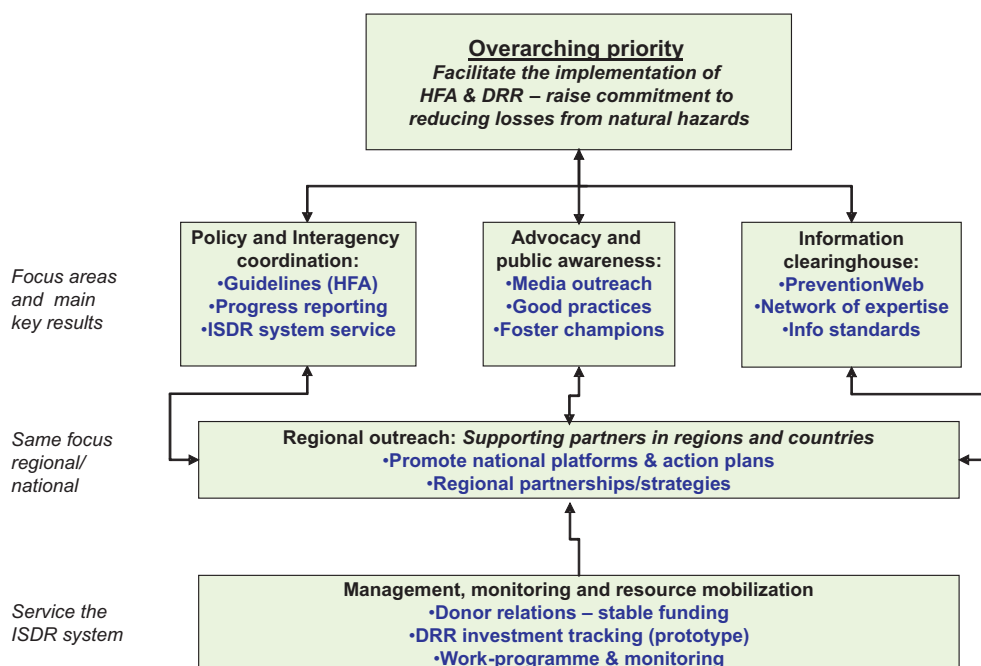
UN/ISDR secretariat

The primary function of the UN/ISDR secretariat is to serve as catalyst and advocate for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action worldwide, to mobilize commitment and resources for disaster risk reduction through partnerships at international, regional and national levels. It also services the ISDR system partners.

As a facilitating body and “honest broker”, the UN/ISDR has been following the objectives included in the biennial workplan 2006-2007. The work of the secretariat has been carried out in line with the five focus areas:

- Policy coordination
- Advocacy
- Information provision
- Regional outreach
- Resource mobilization

ISDR secretariat work-plan structure 2006-2007



This note will cover a few key-results accomplished by the UN/ISDR secretariat in all these areas- it is not a comprehensive account of all achievements 2006 until mid-2007.

Summary of key achievements

Partnership with the World Bank – increasing investment in disaster risk reduction

One of the major achievements during the period has been the collaboration with the World Bank, which led to the launching of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) in September 2006. The positive outcomes to date of the first part of a three-year agreement between the UN/ISDR secretariat and the World Bank in the context of the new GFDRR include:

- Participation at highest level in the governance structures of the GFDRR, to ensure coherence with ISDR system guidance and Hyogo Framework for Action.
- Signs of leveraging additional World Bank investments for risk reduction within poverty reduction strategies, health and education sector wide budget support, climate change and adaptation enables.
- Enhanced regional inter-governmental and national government engagement with ISDR system in concrete disaster risk reduction initiatives:
 - Regional risk profiling and capacity assessments and mapping of progress against the Hyogo Framework for Action in Africa ; Middle East and North Africa regions; forth-coming in Central America, South Asia and East Asia.
 - Helps to raise national resources from Government budget and complementary investments by World Bank in targeted Risk Mitigation projects: e.g. Caribbean catastrophe bonds to transfer local risk to the region and get reinsurance support; follow-up possibility in South Eastern Europe and South Asia.
 - In Africa focus on PRSP to include disaster risk reduction investments.
- Strengthening ISDR system regional outreach capacity: additional UN/ISDR human resources to in Africa to support the African Union Commission, in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and in particular East Asia (in support of ASEAN) and South Asia, Middle East and North Africa and Europe (focus on South Eastern Europe):
 - Joint sub-regional strategies and conscious pursuit of disaster risk reduction agenda with the World Bank and regional organizations.
- Thematic partnerships fostered:
 - An emerging academic and research organization network with the World Bank Institute to enhance future human resource development and expertise in disaster risk reduction
 - Public-Private sector partnerships, together with the World Economic Forum.
 - Support to risk identification and reporting capacities, including in collaboration with UNDP and UNEP for the Global Risk Identification Programme.

Coordination: UN/ISDR secretariat as an “honest broker” for the ISDR system

The UN/ISDR secretariat, under the supervision of the office of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, has over the last year been restructured and strengthened to better respond to the increasing expectations set out in the Hyogo Framework for Action. With additional staff resources in the areas of resource mobilization, planning and programming, advocacy and information management, in addition to more regional capacity, the secretariat has developed better monitoring and more effective internal management practices towards the results set out in its workplan. This has accompanied and enabled the development of more structured partnerships within the ISDR system, building on the Inter-Agency Task Force for disaster reduction, to support specific priority areas of the Hyogo Framework. Key achievements include:

- Organization of the first session of Global Platform, building on IATF/DR - with a major participation from Governments and national platforms, and regional partners. The Global Platform attracted high-level participation from many Governments and organizations, and from different sectors, despite being mainly a working level forum, which shows how the commitment to disaster risk reduction is growing. The focus of the session is on sharing experience, assessing the progress in implementation of the Hyogo Framework, in particular priority area one (Making disaster risk reduction a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis) and raising the profile of the subject, with special high-level dialogue focusing on urban risk and climate change adaptation. The session was preceded by regional consultations and meetings to elaborate regional baseline reports on progress. A reference group of UN agencies, the World Bank and civil society organizations further provided advice on enhanced modalities for the ISDR system and a joint planning framework to provide coherent support to national implementation.
- The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs has appointed a Management Oversight Board to assist him in providing high-level advocacy on disaster risk reduction in general, strategic directions within the United Nations (including to the Secretary-General) and to the UN/ISDR secretariat (met four times between May 2006 and May 2007). It consists of his peers of UNDG/UNDP, the World Bank, UNEP, WMO, OCHA and IFRC, which gives access to influence the development, environment, scientific, humanitarian and community based settings and stakeholder-groups.
- **Capacity development efforts:**
 - Re-design of the United Nations Disaster Management Training Programme into Capacity Development for Risk Reduction Initiative (CADRI) in a joint effort with UNDP and OCHA. The UN/ISDR secretariat provided a staff resource, office space and technical advice. In addition, the secretariat has provided technical content advice and contacts to other training and capacity building initiatives, which will be part of the network of CADRI, i.e. Swedish Cooperation and Rescue Service and the Pacific Disaster Centre.
 - Provided support to ILO/Delnet (International Training Institute, Turin) to develop a local level capacity development programme, within the context of International Recovery Platform – addressing in the first phase Latin America. This programme is managed by ILO-Delnet and UN/ISDR provided advice on content and facilitated fellowships for students and partnerships with other organizations. This programme is linking local development with visible management practices and strategic planning.

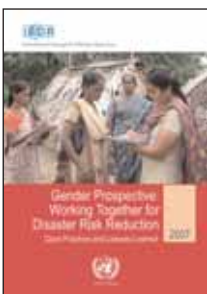
- Other key areas where progress has been made with the support of the UN/ISDR secretariat brokering function include:
 - **Knowledge management and education:** collection of good practices and wide dissemination of messages as part of 2006-2007 awareness campaign in partnership with UNESCO, UNICEF and others organizations, inventory of educational tools and curricula, advocacy efforts for safer schools and curricula development with Ministries of Education.
 - **Urban risk and cities:** an emerging initiative to promote risk reduction methodologies and programmes with local governments.
 - **Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction:** UN/ISDR has provided input and advice to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat and subsidiary bodies on linkages between climate change adaptation and the Hyogo framework, as well as participated as reviewers of the IPCC Fourth Assessment report. Advocacy efforts with media and coordination with the IATF working group on climate risk has contributed to enhanced visibility of this subject. (see next section on partnerships)

Public awareness and media outreach - building the “disaster risk reduction movement”

To increase the interest and knowledge about disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action, the UN/ISDR secretariat has engaged actively with different stakeholder groups to develop new channels for advocacy and public awareness raising, information sharing and knowledge exchange for disaster risk reduction to reach both international, national and community level audiences. These networks include one with NGOs, one on gender issues and one for media. Achievements include:



- Currently, the **NGO network** includes 500 international and local NGOs, and has to date compiled a series of good practices, discussed monitoring of progress and south-south cooperation in support of community projects for disaster risk reduction.



- The **partnership for gendering disaster risk reduction** has already more than 80 active members and has collected good practices, revised ISDR guidance and policy material to ensure it includes a balanced gender perspective and maintains a list serve, which was set up since many years by the Gender-and Disasters-Network. The secretariat will work towards institutional partnerships to ensure gender mainstreaming into national and regional policies and projects for disaster risk reduction

- The **media network**, which involves journalists and media, as well as many UN public information officers, IFRC and the World Bank, has led to increasing number of reports in media and by broadcasters on disaster risk reduction issues, including interviews, BBC Earth reports from Vietnam and Honduras, tsunami follow-up focusing on stories that has led to reduced future risks, among others. UN/ISDR has now established solid and regular contacts with BBC and BBC Mundo,

TVE, CNN, Asian Broadcasting unions, European Broadcasting union, Al Jazeera, Alertnet Reuters, Radio France Internationale, Media 21 and many Asian, African and Latin American media.



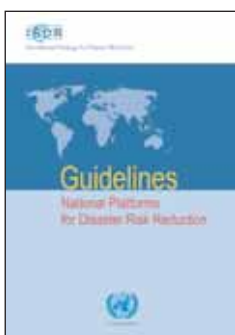
- The UN/ISDR secretariat produced, in cooperation with a number of experts and organizations, an on-line educational game called “**Stop Disasters**” for students and children, to support the disaster risk reduction learning process. The game has proven to be highly successful, with thousands of hits on the website, numerous reviews in newspapers and other media.

Strategic information and policy guidance - setting standards

- Strategic guidance on many issues developed by the UN/ISDR secretariat, in collaboration with experts and other ISDR partners, are increasingly being referred to as “standards” for disaster risk reduction matters. The Hyogo Framework for Action is, of course, the landmark document, but equally is the increased utilization of the ISDR terminology. It has been cited in many national plans, international documents and academic papers. The International Standards Organization has set up a Committee to establish international standards in crisis management. UN/ISDR has been invited as an expert organization to ensure coherence with current developments in this field.



- The secretariat has developed number of key guidance documents over the last year, drawing on the expertise from countries and agencies. The first issue of a practical guide to help national authorities and others to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action (*Words into Action*) is one of the main tools to help decision-makers promote and implement disaster risk reduction measures and monitor of progress. The guide contains a set of 22 suggested tasks, each addressing a primary area of effort for implementing disaster risk reduction with practical step-by-step advices and examples from around the world. This guide has already served as basis for developing training material (Swedish Cooperation) and will be used systematically in promoting implementation with local and national authorities. During the coming biennium, sector specific and complementary guides will be developed with technical partners.



- The *Guidelines for National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction* were revised at a meeting in Pretoria, South Africa, in October 2006 by 14 National Platforms and other coordinating authorities from all continents gathered for the first time. The Guidelines have since been published and translated into six UN-languages with Government support. In addition, a number of good practice examples on National Platforms have been prepared jointly by the national authorities and the secretariat. They will be made available through the website and used as examples for emerging platforms.

- The Hyogo Framework for Action calls on the ISDR partners and secretariat to prepare periodic reviews of progress and to identify gaps in implementation. In response, UN/ISDR supported by the World Bank partnership and UNDP, has started preparing a major global stocktaking report on trends in disaster occurrence and risks and progress on disaster risk reduction, for release in early 2009. The *global disaster assessment report* (working title only) aims to be a landmark assessment based on thorough analysis of achievements and gaps, that will provide a foundation for future priorities and policy on disaster risk reduction, as well as an important advocacy tool at all levels. This report will be developed as an integral part of the ongoing work on reporting by the ISDR system and ISDR secretariat. It will draw on the information provided by Governments and ISDR system partners, and its analyses will progressively inform the ISDR annual reports and other reports. It will also make use of inputs from ISDR partners, regional and sub-regional organizations, consultant studies, and special data analyses. Its quality will be secured by peer reviews, ISDR consultation and guidance processes, and secretariat overview. A first preliminary version of the findings was presented as the Disaster Risk Reduction: 2007 Global Review, at the Global Platform.

ISDR regional developments

The UN/ISDR secretariat functions have been replicated in the regions and an enhanced regional outreach capacity has developed over the last year and a half. It has also included opportunities to work with hosting countries towards collaborative centres, like in the case of Iran and the Asia Centre on Seismic Risk Reduction, and in the case of the international drought centre in China. The secretariat has enhanced its presence and staff resources for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, West Asia and North Africa and Europe. A combination of UN Volunteers, local staff and international experts has been recruited to work with the partners to enhance national and regional commitments and actions to implement Hyogo Framework for Action. A new office in Cairo, Egypt, for West Asia and North Africa will be functioning as of Mid-2007, hosted by WHO and the Red Crescent. Agreements for strategic collaboration with regional bodies such as the African Union Commission, Organization of American States, the Association of Caribbean States, the Central American Coordination Center for Disaster prevention (CEPREDENAC), the ASEAN, SAARC, and Economic Cooperation Organizations are only a few of the most relevant ones. Some elements that have contributed to these decentralized regional developments include:

- The Global Facility agreement with UN/ISDR has a strong regional focus, including development of regional risk assessments
- The Indian Ocean Consortium was launched at the third Early Warning Conference in Bonn (March 2006) by Bill Clinton in his capacity Special Envoy for Indian Ocean recovery together with the ISDR partners. Seven organizations joined efforts to assist interested tsunami affected countries in Asia and Africa to develop actions plans to enhance their tsunami early warning systems- focussing on “people-centred early warnings systems”. The regional outreach offices in Africa and Asia has assisted the countries and participating partners in developing proposals to submit to the consortium related to early warning.
- Specific donor support which has made possible more specific focus at regional level include contributions from DIPECHO for Southeast-Asia and Central Asia (national platforms; strategic plans; early warning capacities and knowledge-sharing), AIDCO (Asia), ECHO (Pakistan) and Sweden (drought in Horn of Africa).

High-level advocacy

The UN/ISDR secretariat has developed a strategy to address high-level decision makers, both among Governments, the international community, NGOs and private sector to invest in disaster risk reduction and focus on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action through its regional and advocacy work. This includes direct meetings with Heads of States, Ministers, Heads of Agencies and Governing Boards of partner organizations. This work will become a higher priority in coming years.

- The UN/ISDR secretariat seconded a programme officer to Bill Clinton's office in 2006, when he was the Special Envoy for recovery in the Indian Ocean. This became a very useful advocacy opportunity, building on President Clinton's high-powered networks and contacts to promote the implementation of risk reduction measures and the Hyogo Framework.
- Accompanied with champions like the young "ISDR Ambassador" Tilly Smith, a British school-girl who survived and saves many lives on a beach in Thailand. The disaster risk reduction message and early warning were developed with a human face during 2006.
- The secretariat has kept a liaison officer in New York to enhance the advocacy potential with member states and partners there. The UN Secretary-General has expressed commitment to play a more active role in championing and advocating for disaster risk reduction globally, as well as to mainstream disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework into the UN policies and programmes, through the UN Development Group and country offices. The Liaison Office will work closely with the Under-Secretary-General and Secretary General offices to support follow-up on the implementation of these issues.

PreventionWeb

The ISDR resource centre, virtual services and inter-agency library have boosted over the last half year.



- **PreventionWeb:** Following user survey, a prototype of the PreventionWeb was launched in June, available at www.preventionweb.net. It aims to provide a common platform for institutions to get connected, exchange experiences and share information on DRR. The system is designed to allow distributed data entry as well as provide options for content syndication. The site will be updated daily, with partners at local, national and international levels being able to use the architecture and list services in an inter-active way. A set of databases with expertise, contacts and initiatives will be the backbone of the site, as well as country profiles and direct links. The ISDR virtual library will be linked to the



PreventionWeb. The development of the site included a detailed study of user tasks of disaster risk reduction practitioners, as well as national focal points. Information architecture development also included two sessions of usability testing with stakeholders. Information management tools and technical assistance have been provided to several thematic platforms including the Gender and Disaster Network, the Education platform, the Media Network, and the International Recovery Platform.

- 40 Field Libraries, with key documents on disaster risk reduction, were delivered by June 2006 to countries affected by the Indian Ocean disaster. The recipients are African organizations and the following countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Oman, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Yemen and distribution was supported by UNDP country offices. Madagascar received the first library developed in French, which was developed in collaboration with the Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN).

Management and resource mobilization

Over this period, greater clarity on how the different elements of the changing international disaster risk reduction architecture fit together has been achieved, as illustrated in the ISDR system. The UN/ISDR secretariat strengthened its capacity in programming and monitoring during the last year, to become more efficient in fulfilling its role to support ISDR system partners. It has improved the efficacy and impact of its actions at all levels as regards the planning, implementation and evaluation of its own biennial work plan. Better internal management coordination and programme review have been put in place. Donor relations have also been strengthened. Currently, discussions are underway with the members of the ISDR Support Group³ to complement the group with a smaller one that would focus on resource issues to facilitate structured, focused and planned resource mobilization activities and better donor relations dialogue.

For more information visit www.unisdr.org

³ The ISDR Support Group, until now chaired by Switzerland, is an open-ended group of countries committed to ISDR and the Hyogo Framework for Action. It meets in Geneva to advise the secretariat on the work programme and resource mobilization activities.

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In brief: ISDR system partners in action

Partnerships, networks and thematic platforms

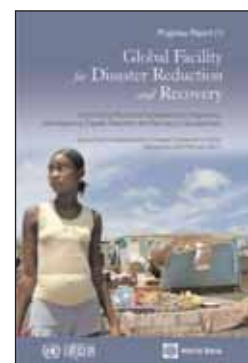
The partnerships in this section are of global nature. In addition, a growing number of regional agreements and partnerships have been strengthened and developed with inter-governmental and other bodies. Many regional strategies and action plans have been developed, based on the directions set out in the Hyogo Framework. More information is available under each region at www.unisdr.org.

Inter-Agency Partnerships

One illustration of inter-agency partnerships is the Reference Group made up of representatives of UNDP, OCHA, UNESCO, WMO, UNEP, UNICEF, World Bank, ProVention Consortium, IFRC and the ISDR secretariat and the Government of Switzerland. The African Union Commission, ActionAid, and InterAmerican Development Bank were also consulted during this process. This Reference Group was tasked with providing advice on strengthening the ISDR system and to develop a joint planning framework for those partners that want join the system. The first draft is introduced during the Global Platform.

Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery, World Bank www.gfdr.org

Context and background: The partnership between the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) and the World Bank resulted in September 2006 in the launching of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). UK, Switzerland, Spain, Denmark, Australia, Japan, Sweden, Italy, Finland, Germany, Canada, Italy and EC are committed donors of GFDRR initiative. The GFDRR aims to boost national, regional and global capacities to reduce disaster risk and respond effectively after disasters, particularly in low and middle-income countries at high risk. It represents an important new component of the architecture of the ISDR system and facilitates a coordinated approach among donors to mainstream risk reduction in development processes in natural disaster hotspot countries.



GFDRR tracks: The GFDRR is hosted by the World Bank and supports stakeholders of the ISDR system using three-track operations to create an enabling environment at the global, regional and national levels for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction (DRR) and reducing the vulnerabilities of populations at risk from natural calamities. Track I is managed by the UN/ISDR secretariat. It targets global and regional deliverables, namely the increased commitment and knowledge to promote DRR. Track II is implemented by the World Bank, UN, other IFIs and development partners. Track III is a Standby Recovery Financing Facility for effective mobilization of international disaster recovery assistance and supports disaster-stricken countries' immediate recovery needs before medium and long-term recovery programmes are formulated and launched.

Under track I - managed by UN/ISDR: With an initial contribution of \$5 million per year from the World Bank's Development Grant Facility for global and regional partnerships under Track I, the partnership has begun to engage with partners at all levels to make a stronger case for disaster prevention as a core dimension of sustainable development. The UN/ISDR secretariat as the implementing partner under Track I is making significant progress to strengthen regional cooperation in risk mitigation, catastrophic risk financing and adaptation to climate change in partnership with regional and sub-regional organizations in Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Central America, South Eastern Europe, Pacific and other parts of the world.

Track I support also enhances global advocacy, partnership and knowledge management for mainstreaming hazard risk management with different stakeholders, including: the private sector; media; and universities and research Organization network (see Networks).

Track I aims to standardize and harmonize hazard risk management tools, methodologies and practices through:

- Establishment of a virtual clearinghouse for disaster risk reduction: A webportal "Prevention Web" is being developed by the UN/ISDR secretariat, in partnership with CRED, GRIP, IRP, UNEP, OCHA (Relief Web) and SAARC Centre for Disaster Management, which will be the source for comprehensive quality disaster reduction information. (see ISDR Clearinghouse - Building the prevention Web).
- Global Assessment Report: Risk trends and progress in addressing disaster losses.
- Disaster risk reduction tools and methodologies for environment and climate change.

Under the framework of GFDRR, the World Bank and the UN/ISDR Secretariat have several ongoing and planned initiatives with other partners of the ISDR system, notable among them, with UNDP in developing global risk updates under GRIP, with UNESCO in effective global campaign for disaster reduction in education, with WHO in developing and launching a safe hospitals campaign, with WMO on assessment of economic benefits of strengthening hydromet services, with UNEP in integrating DRR in strategic environment impact assessment, with IFRC on country level upstream initiatives to make community-based disaster preparedness a priority in national DRR policies.

Global Alliance IFRC - www.ifrc.org

The UN/ISDR secretariat is working with IFRC towards a Global Alliance, which aims to herald the scaling up of activity in disaster risk reduction at the national and regional levels. This will address the communities on the ground with which the National Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are working. It will include key strategic partnerships with organizations such as UN agencies and NGOs. Reciprocally, the IFRC plays its full part in the Global Platform and demonstrates its full commitment to the implementation of the HFA priorities as part of its mandate to support its member National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their fulfillment of their obligations and duties according to the movement's principles.

ProVention Consortium www.proventionconsortium.org

The UN/ISDR secretariat is a partner of the ProVention Consortium Advisory Committee (AC) and participated in a meeting on 12 February 2007 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Reciprocally, ProVention is fully engaged in the Global Platform, and is supporting the process in a number of ways: 1) Organization of workshop on "making disaster risk reduction a national and local priority;" 2) Organization Working Group 4 to focus on partnerships for implementation, presenting cases where national and local authorities and CBOs/NGOs and other stakeholders have worked together effectively to achieve disaster risk reduction.

Science Committee

The UK Government, mainly through the Office of the Chief Scientist, has been advocating for the United Nations, since mid-2005, through the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the UN/ISDR secretariat, to establish an international panel of top scientists to provide advice on extreme natural hazards. The UN/ISDR secretariat produced a comprehensive paper in December 2005 on ISDR system needs for scientific and technical advice. It proposed a dual solution of a standing ISDR Scientific and Technical Committee to set policy, plus high level panels to address specific priority scientific and technical questions. A workshop of senior representatives of scientific agencies and some experts was convened on the topic by the secretariat in April 2007, hosted by Margareta Wahlstrom, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. It agreed that a scientific and technical committee should be established to advise on scientific and technical matters relevant to the ISDR, including the need for specific scientific and technical studies or panels, and to generally assist in the coordination of scientific and technical activities of the ISDR system.

Academic - Universities Network

The UN/ISDR secretariat, the World Bank Institute and other partners have initiated a global partnership of universities, academic institutions and research organizations for disaster risk reduction with selected universities and research organizations from the North and the South working on promoting disaster risk reduction education, training and research. A first meeting in December 2006 facilitated the development of an indicative road map for identifying current gaps in higher education and research in disaster risk reduction and for addressing them through pilot courses.

NGO Network

www.unisdr.org/ngos

The first “consultative meeting” on the Global Network of NGOs was organized by the UN/ISDR secretariat (October 2006) in Geneva, in collaboration with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok. As a result of this meeting, participants have endorsed the Global NGO Network concept, prepared a first draft of its terms of reference and agreed upon the next steps to be taken. In early 2007, the secretariat took the following activities to advance the development of the Global Network of NGOs, with its core group members:

- Facilitate the preparation of a joint “NGO position paper” to be delivered at the Global Platform;
- Coordinate the publication of a compilation of good practices and lessons learned on community-based DRR;
- Facilitate the launching of the Global Network of NGOs during the Global Platform.

Private Sector

The World Bank, the World Economic Forum, UN/ISDR secretariat, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, SwissRe, MunichRe, Aga Khan Development Network, US Homeland Security Department, Social Accountability International (SAA Certification) and other businesses have initiated a global partnership with the private sectors to enable investments in reducing risk that complement public and multilateral resources. This Private-Public Partnerships strategy has succeeded to provide the opportunity to bridge private and public sectors. Key elements were the one-day gathering at the World Bank Group headquarters in February 2007 and the public-private sector risk reduction dialogues held on the margins of the Davos meeting 2007 and Indian Disaster Management Congress 2006. A global business case study has also been prepared to document working models and strategies for encouraging partnerships as an integral element of risk reduction. The next meeting is taking place on 4 June 2007, outputs feed into the Global Platform. Risk reduction dialogues would also take place in Asia and Africa during 2007.

Gender Partnerships

www.unisdr.org/gender

A gender expert meeting, held on 12-13 February 2007 in Geneva, has started the process of Building Partnerships for Gendering Disaster Risk Reduction. The participants included gender and DRR experts (both women and men) from Government, non-governmental organizations, UNDP country office as well as the academic and private sector. They provided invaluable technical support to the UN/ISDR secretariat in integrating gender perspectives into the guide “Words into Action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action.”

More specifically, the initiative has provided a platform for different groups of stakeholders to share information, knowledge, lessons learned and good practices in addressing gender needs and concerns; increase the voice and visibility of women and by their contribution made to the DRR process whilst facilitating dialogue among different stakeholders. To contribute to this purpose, the secretariat has facilitated the diffusion of “*Gender Perspective: Working Together for Disaster Risk Reduction: Good Practices and Lessons Learned.*”

Media Network www.unisdr.org

The World Bank communication team and the UN/ISDR secretariat advocacy team are jointly leveraging media networks to promote public awareness about how climate change is aggravating disaster risks. The Media Networks, which is in progress, aims at promoting public awareness about how growing climate change is aggravating disaster risks. With the same goal, a media workshop for leading journalists from various geographic locations to discuss disaster risk reduction issues and devise plans for awareness-raising was organized in February 2007 in Washington DC.

Early Warning www.unisdr.org/ppew

The Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW) has been playing an important role in promoting people-centered early warning systems and in developing standardized understanding on the multiple factors that constitute a successful early warning system. A check-list was developed and discussed at the third Early Warning Conference in Bonn, March 2006. On behalf of ISDR, PPEW supported the elaboration of a Global Survey of Early Warning Systems, called by the UN Secretary-General and completed in 2006. The survey results call for the development of a global, multi-hazard early warning system. In order to strengthen national tsunami early warning systems in the Indian Ocean, PPEW coordinated the implementation of the US\$ 10.5 million multi-partner, multi-donor Tsunami Early Warning Strengthening Project. Its final evaluation is scheduled for 2007. In addition, the PPEW is supporting the Indian Ocean Consortium consisting of seven ISDR system partners and the Office of the Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, former US President Bill Clinton to assist the Indian Ocean countries in both Asia and Africa in formulating national action plans. Those plans address needs and gaps for capacity building in reducing tsunami risks and request support of the Consortium in mobilizing necessary financial resources. The UNESCO Inter-Oceanographic Commission's Intergovernmental Coordination Group has provided the venue to discuss between partners and countries (meetings in Bali and Mombasa). Substantive additional resources are required to assist the Indian Ocean countries to establish full-fledged early warning system in a multi-hazards framework and considerable resources are needed for the establishment of a global EWS. So far, the Government of Canada is supporting the Indian Ocean Consortium process and the Aid Cooperation Office of the European Commission has offered a two year support to fund an initiative for four Asian countries in the Indian Ocean on "Building Resilience to Tsunamis in the Indian Ocean". Substantive progress was made to strengthen the early warning stakeholders' governance mechanisms and develop programme activities for the International Early Warning Programme. The First Advisory Group meeting was held in Bonn in March 2007. The World Meteorological Organization will chair this Advisory Group with IFRC, handed over by UNEP.

Capacity Development www.undmtp.org

The Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) was conceived in 2007 as a resource within the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in support of capacity development for disaster risk reduction. Grounded within the ISDR system and therefore dedicated to the objectives expressed in the HFA, CADRI succeeds the UN Disaster Management Training Programme (1990-2006) that trained UN, Government and civil society professionals and organizations. During this period there has been

significant growth in training and related organization learning capacities throughout the world. It is these resources that CADRI seeks to draw upon and further expand. CADRI is conceived as a joint programme of the United Nations Development Programme's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, the ISDR secretariat, and the United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The three organizations engaged in CADRI with their combined efforts collectively reflect the broader dimensions of disaster risk reduction including advocacy, policy development, governance issues, preparedness and recovery.

[International Recovery Platform www.recoveryplatform.org](http://www.recoveryplatform.org)

The International Recovery Platform (IRP) was promoted by the Government of Japan together with UN/ISDR, UNDP, ILO, the World Bank, IFRC, OCHA and Asian Disaster Reduction Center during the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. As a part of knowledge management kit on recovery, the book 'Learning from Disaster Recovery - a guidance for decision makers' is a major deliverable of IRP at the Global Platform. Further, IRP has pursued Knowledge management and advocacy in terms of collection of "Good Practices" and "Lessons learned" (currently about 60), link with other data sources through GLIDE with search engine to facilitate cross cutting analysis, and compilation of a KM Kit of Recovery Guidelines based on a field survey to Sri Lanka, Indonesia (Aceh), Bangladesh and other experiences and analysed along key thematic lines.

The IRP has identified a need to develop a technical sound common methodology to assess damages and post disaster recovery needs in a way that can provide a framework for the planning of coordinated recovery efforts across different sectors (shelter, livelihoods, governance, environment, etc.) with a risk reduction focus. UNDP, as part of its commitment to the IRP and in its capacity as Cluster Lead for Early Recovery, has been providing the overall project supervision and coordination of a broad and inclusive process in the development of the Post Disaster Recovery Needs Assessment methodology. IRP provided support to the on-going recovery operations in Yogyakarta. The knowledge materials such as Building codes guidelines (Indonesian and Indian context), the IRP knowledge kit "Learning from Recovery" in a summary, building design posters used in Pakistan by UN-HABITAT, recovery lessons learnt from the Bam earthquake have been helpful in integrating risk reduction strategies during the recovery operations. ILO/Delnet at the International Training Institute, Turin, designed and launched a comprehensive course on local level management with UN/ISDR and other partners. One of the two modules focuses on recovery. The first course started in December 2006.

[Climate Change Working Group](#)

The Working Group, spearheaded by Working Group co-chair UNDP-BCPR, the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Sussex and the ISDR secretariat, developed a consultation version of "On Better Terms: A Glance at Key Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Concepts." This pocket-sized booklet and accompanying CD-ROM was launched at a well attended side event of the UNFCCC twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties in Nairobi, December 2006. It defines and discusses five terms that are used in the climate change and disaster risk reduction contexts, often with different meanings. In preparation of a final version, focus groups will gather users' comments. In addition, the paper on disaster reduction tools that can be useful for climate change adaptation, prepared by the Working Group with support from WMO, is being submitted to the UNFCCC as a contribution to the Nairobi Work Programme on Adaptation. At the Global Platform

for Disaster Risk Reduction, Working Group members gather to discuss the possible creation of a thematic platform that would carry out joint activities on climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Knowledge and Education Platform

The cluster/platform on knowledge and education includes representatives of members states, civil societies, international and non-governmental organizations among them: Bangladesh, Spain, France, UNESCO, UNICEF, WMO, Council of Europe, IFRC, ADRC and many others. An Interim Organizing Committee of the cluster/platform has been established to coordinate the cluster's efforts and is formed by: UNESCO (Convener), Council of Europe, Action Aid, UNICEF, IFRC, ProVention Consortium, ADRC and UN/ISDR. Since its first meeting in November 2005, the cluster commissioned a desk study on knowledge and education and disaster risk reduction "Let our Children Teach Us". The cluster elaborated an evolving biennial work plan, which links to the promotion of "Disaster Reduction Begins at School" Campaign in national and regional policy arenas and to the highlighting of UN/ISDR secretariat campaign objectives at international and regional conferences, meetings and workshops. Over the past months, opportunities were taken in international and regional high-level meetings to address the integration of disaster risk reduction in the education system and research community. These events have served to raise the profile of disaster risk reduction and education for key players. The platform has engaged in the collection of educational tools in the field of disaster risk reduction from Member States. More than 50 countries from Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America and Latin America and the Caribbean region have so far contributed. The physical libraries at UNESCO and UNISDR headquarters are providing resource materials for an activity of the education platform workplan: the development of a substantial database called "The Golden Library" prepared in conjunction by UNESCO, Risk Red, Council of Europe, Coalition for Global School Safety, UN/ISDR. Additionally, a tool-kit, developed by UNICEF, Plan International, IFRC, ITG, OAS, is available on the UN/ISDR LAC webpage.

Safe Hospitals – Partnership for the World Disaster Reduction Campaign

Given the importance of safeguarding hospitals and health facilities in disaster and crisis situations, as outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action, the ISDR is partnering with the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the Pan American Health Organization and other partners to spotlight "safe hospitals" as the theme of the next two-year global disaster reduction campaign 2008-2009. Much work has already been done on this issue. Regional agencies have expressed commitment by passing resolutions on risk reduction in the health sector. On another front, countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are developing an easy-to-use tool to rank a health facility's level of safety in emergency situations. One aim of the global campaign to share these kinds of best practices. However, much remains to be done and the existing gaps will be the focus of the global partnership. Although the campaign will not be formally launched until early 2008, promotional materials are being developed and many partners have been briefed on how they can contribute to this global initiative at a workshop on health sector risk reduction at the Global Platform and in similar venues.

Environment Working Group

The Environment and Disaster Working Group (EDWG) was established with the aim of advocating for more authoritative understanding of the two-way linkages between environment and disaster risk

reduction, from the scientific and policy perspectives and responding to requests for guidance on related issues from the ISDR system. In 2006, the EDWG convened a plenary session on Environmental Vulnerability at the International Disaster Reduction Conference in Davos, Switzerland. The presentations highlighted the interlinkage between environmental degradation, climate variability and disasters and called for more collaboration between environment and disaster managers, greater involvement of legislators and the need for international cooperation in mobilizing environmentally sound humanitarian assistance. The Working Group also provided a vehicle for commenting on significant reports of common interest such as the fourth Global Environment Outlook. In 2007, the EDWG prepared an Issue Paper “/Environment and Vulnerability – Emerging Perspectives.”/ This paper introduces the linkages of the state of the environment and disaster risk, and identifies areas of action where disaster and environmental managers could make better use of environmental management to reduce disaster risk. In contribution to the First Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the EDWG has organized a session workshop on “Ecosystems and environmental management for risk reduction” At the first session of the Global Platform. This session introduces areas of action where disaster and environmental managers have made use of environmental management. The session also seeks to stimulate a discussion of priorities directions and opportunities for strengthening the role of environment and environmental management in disaster reduction.

Urban Risk and Local Authorities

Achieving urban and megacities’ disaster risk reduction in the long term is an objective that a core group of city associations, UN agencies (UNDP, UN HABITAT, UNISDR, OCHA), ProVention Consortium, and representatives of Governments highly risk prone municipalities (Mumbai, Quito, Manila, Tehran) aims to tackle. On April 2007 in Kobe, Japan, a consensus was reached to establish a global forum on urban and megacities risk. The focus is on addressing the root causes of urban vulnerabilities and filling the current gaps in knowledge, policy, organization, and practice related to urban and megacities’ disaster risk reduction. This concept was launched at the Global Platform, this gathering in Kobe served as a global impetus to advocate, facilitate and support the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in the urban context with emphasis on large metropolises and megacities and to integrate an urban disaster risk reduction agenda with state and international obligations related to poverty alleviation, sustainable development and environmental management as prescribed in the Hyogo Framework for Action. The Forum may evolve into a thematic cluster of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in urban areas, similar to the Early Warning Platform or the International Recovery Platform.

Earthquake/Seismic Risk

- The Asian Center on Seismic Risk Reduction was launched in Teheran, coinciding with the 5th International Conference on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering in Tehran, in May 2007, which was another important event in the field of seismic risk reduction to contribute to the expansion and promotion of the Center’s activities. The Government of Iran has provided all the necessary resources for the establishment of the Center, and UN/ISDR and other relevant regional and international organizations will support the Center through various ways and means.
- In order to support the framework of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation for disaster management, UNDP/BCPR in collaboration with the Government of Japan and other national and international agencies is planning to implement a regional project on Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery programme in 5 South Asian countries. The programme is designed to

strengthen the institutional and community capacity to plan and implement earthquake risk reduction strategies integrating disaster preparedness, mitigation and post disaster recovery for countries exposed to earthquake hazards following a regional approach.

Drought Network

UN/ISDR and partners propose a drought risk reduction framework and practices that take into consideration national and local needs, as well as international strategies. The proposal underlines the need to move from policies to practices based on a knowledge network. This includes meeting needs to identify indigenous practices, exchange criteria, expertise and propose simple and affordable technologies, tools and good practices that can be promoted and implemented in vulnerable communities through coordinated mechanisms, programmes and projects. The UN/ISDR secretariat is also proposing the establishment of an advisory group on drought risk reduction with experts and practitioners to guide this process. To advance this agenda, the secretariat in collaboration with partners has completed a publication entitled “Drought Risk Reduction Framework and Practices: Contributing to the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action”, based on current thinking and practice in many countries. A preliminary version is presented in a side event during the Global Platform.

In April 2007, the International Center for Drought Risk Reduction, co-sponsored by the UN/ISDR, was established by China in Beijing, to monitor and assess drought risk across Asia, develop knowledge and capacities for drought mitigation and promote cooperation between China and other Asian countries on drought relief.

Floods and water related networks

- The UN/ISDR secretariat actively participated in the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico City in March 2006. During the Forum, the secretariat was part of the Asia-Pacific Water Ministerial Meeting by organizing two sessions, 1) Tools for capacity building in risk management and 2) Collaborative approach among international agencies for effective flood management. The main aims were to support and promote local actions for disaster risk reduction and widely share good practices. Closely working with WMO, ICHARM, and UNU/EHS, UN/ISDR jointly contributed one chapter, ‘Risk management,’ to the World Water Development Report II, which was launched during the Forum. This is one of the activities agreed within the UN Water in which UN/ISDR is seriously committed.
- UN/ISDR participated and supported the International Flood Initiatives Advisory Committee and Management Committee in Geneva in January 2007. PPEW helped draft the concept paper in 2004 and UN/ISDR became a member of the committee. The secretariat chaired the Hashimoto High Level Panel Meeting co-organized with Japan Water Forum in Geneva in January 2007. This is a three-year process to set up a common goal among the water-related disasters stakeholders to reduce water-related disasters in the world.

Global Wildland Fire Network

www.fire.uni-freiburg.de/GlobalNetworks

/globalNet.html The Global Wildland Fire Network (GWFN) through the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) aims at capacity building of decision makers at national level in the development of

national fire management plans and strategies, and community-based Fire Management, through Advanced Wildland Fire Management Training Courses. Several Advanced Wildland Fire Management Training Courses have been conducted in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. Preferably these courses are held at regional level in order to initiate or consolidate cooperation between countries in the region. Partners have been involved, including OCHA, UNEP and FAO. While there is a general positive acceptance of the concept of the training courses, there is a lack of resources to replicate courses in other regions of the world. As a follow-up of the FAO Ministerial Conference on Forests in 2005, GFMC and members of the GWFN supported the FAO to develop a "Strategy to Enhance International Cooperation in Fire Management". Major products included: the Global Assessment of Fire Management, Principles and Strategic Actions as detailed in the Voluntary Guidelines, a Review of International Cooperation, and supporting an Implementation Partnership.

CIIFEN

www.ciifen-int.org

During 2006, CIIFEN increased its visibility by consolidating relationships with the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, Civil Defense and Protection Services and Climate Change Offices in the Region. The most prominent event was the organization of the Ibero-American Meeting on Disaster Reduction and Climate Change held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in June 2006, whose conclusions were a valuable outcome for the Environment Ministerial Meeting in September 2006 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. A special partnership with the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific has been also developed through participation into common meetings and activities. Operational cooperation is being enhanced and progressing. Operational association on seasonal forecast, climate analysis and applications with the NMHSs of Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Chile is smoothly carrying out within the Climate Outlook Forum for Western South America framework and delivering regional seasonal forecastings to many institutions related to Civilian Defense and Protection. A noticeable increasing of the number of visitors of several sectors along the region, including private and public national and international entities, has happened. The CIIFEN Bulletin containing the assessment and outlook of the oceanic surface conditions along the Eastern Pacific has increased its frequency from monthly to bi weekly in order to provide a more detailed watching on the ongoing El Niño Phenomenon event and the demanded information from the users. Both products are available in Spanish and English at the CIIFEN web page. CIIFEN has submitted projects to other entities as NOAA, AECI and CYTED, seeking for support of his activities through the benefit and interaction with national and regional partners and focused on DRR.

Landslide

<http://icl.dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp/>

The UN/ISDR secretariat is collaborating with the Joint Technical Committee on Landslides to promote the use of knowledge in landslide risk identification and management. The group has elaborated a first draft of a "Guidelines for landslide susceptibility, hazard and risk zoning" which includes landslide risk management practices. Also, the secretariat supports the initiative and contributes to the publication of the International Consortium on Landslides, a scientific NGO based at Kyoto University that is facilitating the development of specific projects as part of an International Programme on Landslides. Finally, the secretariat has supported the implementation of the Multinational Andean Project: Geoscience for Andean Communities (2002-2007) includes Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. It facilitates the international coordination and advises as part of the project international advisory group. Several reports and publications are being discussed to capitalize the project results.

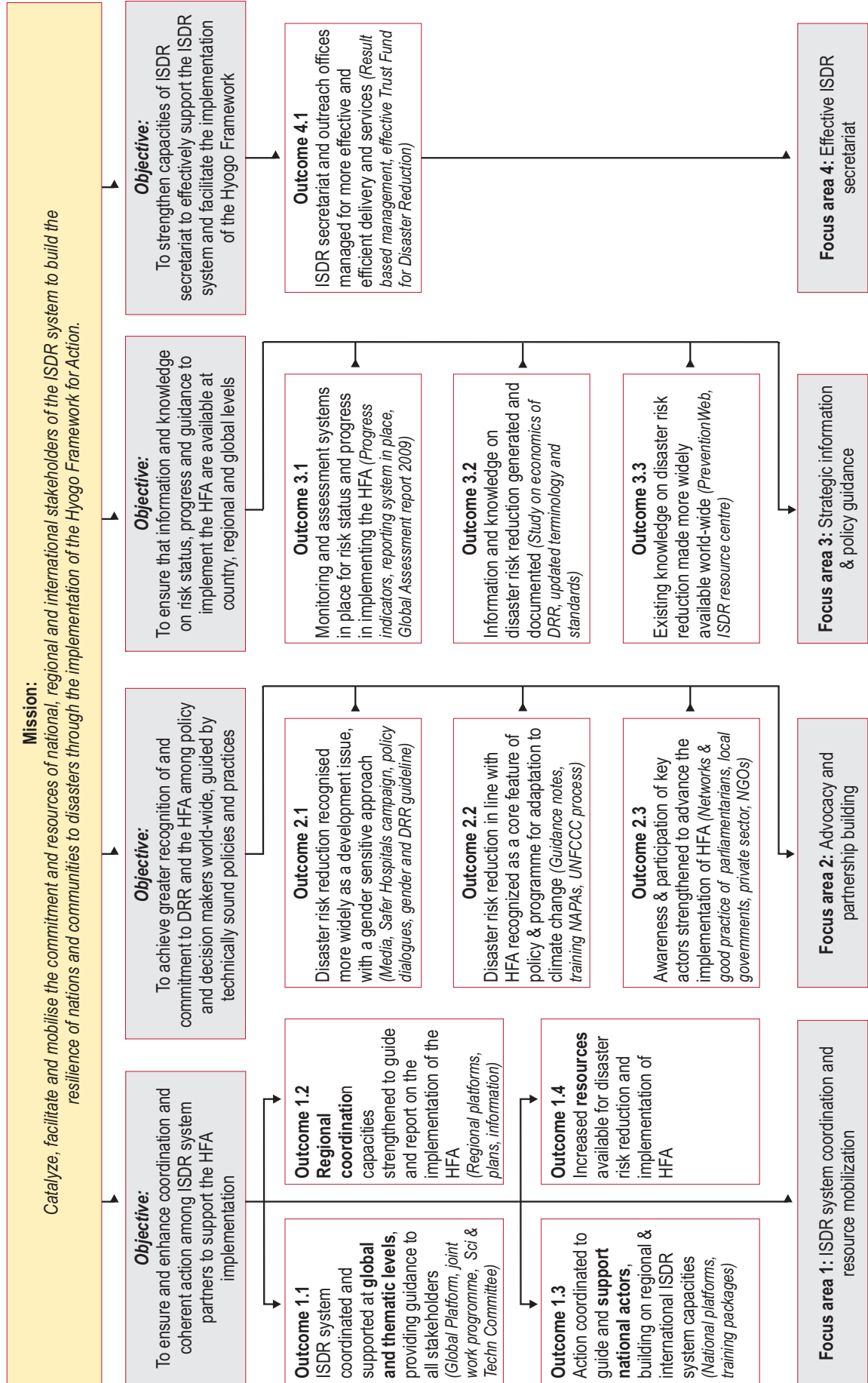
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Concluding remarks

UN/ISDR secretariat Strategic Workplan 2008-2009

Two years have passed since the Hyogo Framework for Action was agreed in Kobe, and there is a growing demand by policymakers and practitioners for processes, tools and resources to assist them in their work. There are high expectations of the UN/ISDR secretariat and hence the secretariat to produce complementary disaster risk reduction-related products and processes in support of the ISDR system partnerships. While this Information Note offers an overview on major deliverables, the future biennial work plan 2008-2009 will be soon developed with the aim to respond to these expectations, with clear priorities. It will be also in conformity with the results and guidance of the first session of the Global Platform.

2008-2009 ISDR secretariat workplan overview





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