

Information Note

for the period 1 May - 7 October 2004

IATF10/ISDR/Information doc/Nr. 1



"...I think we all can agree on one thing. A natural disaster is never, or rarely, simply a natural disaster. It is also about massive policy failures, whether we talk about drought and famine in Africa, or earthquakes in the Middle East or hurricanes in Latin America. The losses of lives, the vulnerabilities of people, especially the poor are greatly exacerbated by flaws in laws, institutions and policies. If we are to make progress these flaws must be corrected. Good governance, human rights and inclusive social policies must be part of our work on disaster reduction strategies.

... We need to take specific action to reduce risk, but it is equally important to mainstream a culture of prevention in more general development programmes and projects. This dual approach is the basis for Norway's disaster reduction policy. About 15 per cent (approximately NOK 35 million) of our humanitarian budget for natural disasters goes for preventive measures, including research and disaster preparedness.

...I am making the case that broad, sustainable impact will ultimately depend on how well governments succeed in enacting reforms that will allow the poor to enter the formal economy, the rule of law. This is a tough message. What gives me hope is that today this is better understood in the developing world than in the industrialised world."

Norwegian State Secretary Olav Kjørven, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Oslo, 27 September 2004



Inter-Agency Secretariat of the
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)

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Introduction

A new feature of the ISDR Information Note



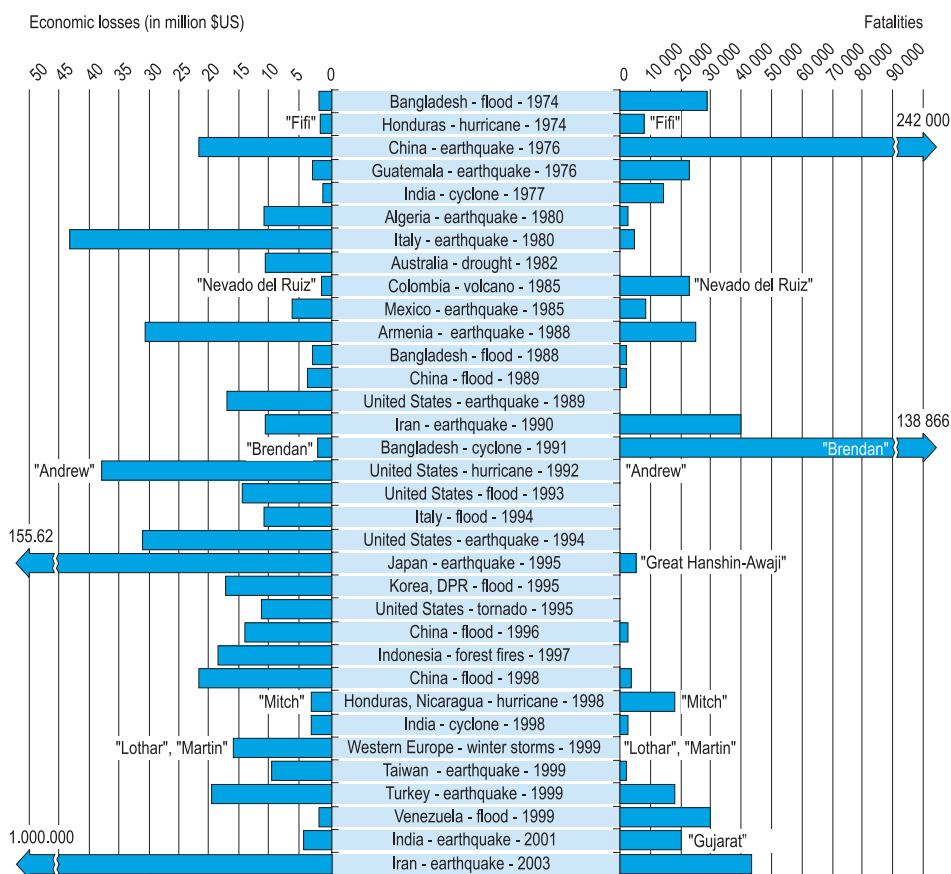
The recent hurricanes in the Caribbean show us two things: firstly, extreme weather-events continue to devastate lives and livelihoods and secondly, some countries and communities are better prepared than others to confront these hazards. Wherever the hurricanes caused a major disaster, the combination of a degraded environment, unplanned urban growth and a poorly organized and vulnerable population is to blame. We know very well however that an informed, organized and well-prepared community is capable of reducing such loss of lives and livelihoods. With good and effective early warning systems, among other key tools,

a community can become resilient to natural hazards.

Recent figures confirm the trend of growing numbers of people becoming vulnerable to hazards such as floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and landslides. In 2003, 254 million people were affected by natural hazards, an increase of 180 per cent compared to the 90 million affected in 1990. Global estimates for 2003 recorded 700 disasters, with 75,000 people killed and economic losses totaling over US\$ 65 billion in the same year.

Figure 1

Some large impact* natural disasters in the last 30 years



Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database - www.em-dat.net - Université Catholique de Louvain - Brussels - Belgium, 2004

*Note: Includes disasters with at least 2000 people killed or 10 billion \$US of economic losses (2002 \$US value)

Introduction

A new feature of the ISDR Information

This is why reducing vulnerability and including risk assessment in development plans and investments is a must if we want to reach the Millennium Development Goals. Along with reducing poverty and improving the life quality of communities, protecting the environment, stimulating social equity and economic growth needs to include building resilience to disasters. Good governance, community participation and gender balance are key challenges.

Through the review of the 1994 Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action we have learned that reducing disaster risks is less a matter of access to technical expertise than of political and public motivation and commitment, public awareness, appropriate resource allocation and strong institutional structures to enhance the results that can be obtained from existing capacities and capabilities. Inexpensive and simple measures are available to address the failure of human and environmental security represented by disasters. An approach to develop local coping capacities and disaster reduction is necessary in all phases of disaster risk management.

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction to be held in Kobe, Hyogo, on 18-22 January 2005 will be an opportunity to reflect on where we stand in the advancement of disaster reduction, share and learn from experience, and identify challenges and areas of priority for the next ten years. The expectation is to increase commitment and awareness to reduce disaster risk, and to identify appropriate means and resources to do it.

The purpose of this Information Note is to gauge progress and record major achievements in the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. It complements the annual report of the UN Secretary-General, informing Governments, partner organizations and interested stakeholders on activities related to disaster reduction carried out under the Strategy, including those of organizations participating in the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction and the ISDR secretariat. We expect this bi-annual note to gradually evolve into a useful information tool, including the development of an inter-agency Prevention Website for partners as well as all for experts and practitioners around the world.



Salvano Briceño
Director

Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster
Reduction (UN/ISDR)

Overview of major disasters

May-October 2004

Locusts - West Africa

Heavy rainfalls during 2003 provided ideal conditions for locust reproduction, with swarms forming and spreading in central Mauritania towards the end of the year. By March 2004, the plague intensified due to lack of pest control action in Mauritania and Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara. Swarms moved across the Atlas Mountains of Morocco to Algeria, threatening other countries in the sub-region.

Approximately two million hectares of land were infested with locusts in West Africa (of which 1.6 million were in Mauritania), with over US \$100 million spent in locust control operations.

In addition to causing devastating impacts on crops and food, the locust plague also imposed long-term negative effects on Western African countries' economic and social development. Depletion of precious resources including forests and livestock means that communities are at risk of further losses in the event of droughts which could follow the El Niño phenomenon forecasted for 2005.

Mitigation and prevention efforts in Mauritania were widely regarded as inadequate, ignoring early warnings from the FAO of late last year. As a result, communities in the region were forced to use pesticides in an attempt to kill locust eggs and mitigate further effects of the plague, predicted to continue over the next few months.

Floods - South Asia

Since May, a number of countries in South Asia have been struck by floods that have claimed over 1,800 lives and affected the lives of 67 million people. Viet Nam, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Japan, Nepal, Macedonia, China and Bangladesh have all been touched by heavy rains, with people forced to seek shelter in cramped and unsanitary conditions as they wait for the water levels to go down.

In China the floods killed 1,029 people, causing losses totaling 64.7 billion yuan (US \$ 7.8 billion US) and affecting 7.59 million hectares of farmland. In Bangladesh more than 33 million people were affected by the floods that mercilessly destroyed houses, crops, diseases, livestock and essential rural and urban infrastructure. According to the Ministry of Finance and Planning of Bangladesh, over 700 people were killed by the floods, which caused a total of US \$6.6 billion dollars' worth of damage to property and infrastructure throughout the country.

Further floods associated with the monsoon and cyclone seasons remain a real possibility in South Asia over the next six months.

Overview of major disasters

May-October 2004

Worth noting, however, is the positive example Bangladesh sets for others in the region. In spite of the floods, Bangladeshi communities shown remarkable resilience, due to comprehensive flood preparedness programmes, with the government spending one million dollars of its modest budget on prevention.

At the 59th session of the UN General Assembly, Bangladesh pointed out that "despite the heavy loss of life, resources and infrastructure as a result of the floods, better preparedness prevented even greater losses", calling for improved management of water resources in the region and international support for long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction measures.

Hurricanes - the Americas

August-September 2004 were record-breaking months for the annual Atlantic hurricane season. Twelve storms have already been named (the average for a whole season is nine). This year Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne have caused widespread destruction to the lives of inhabitants in the Caribbean and the United States.

The less-developed small island States suffered the greatest impact of the hurricanes. In Grenada, 39 people were killed in the wake of Ivan, which wiped out the island nation's two main sources of income: tourism and nutmeg exports. Nearly half of Grenada's 90,000 residents remain without housing, and 90 percent of the island's buildings were either destroyed or damaged. The Cayman Islands were also devastated by disaster caused by Ivan.

Jeanne hit Haiti on 16 September while still a tropical storm. Nevertheless, heavy rain falling over deforested hills in the north caused destructive flooding and flash flooding and killing over 1,650 people according to the Haitian government's calculations of 26 September.

Cuba proved a special case, attracting wide media attention after escaping largely unscathed from Hurricane Ivan, the biggest storm in living memory. The country has suffered minimal losses in the face of the season's hurricanes due to conscientious emergency preparedness procedures and rapid and orderly evacuation from high-risk areas. Public Information and communication practices provide Cubans with an effective early warning to reduce the impacts of hurricanes.

Key achievements for the May-October 2004

A summary

World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR)

The ISDR secretariat has been working on several fronts during the last six months in relation to preparing for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction; to support the substantive assessments and preparations of regions and thematic discussions, while the WCDR Unit has been working with the Bureau, the host country Japan, Member States and UN Conference Service to advance the organizational and logistical aspects. In general, these preparations have advanced very well and on schedule. An immediate effect of the work is that more awareness and information sharing on disaster reduction have already taken place, and will be expected to turn into increased commitment for implementation following the Conference.

National information

By September, over 90 countries had provided comprehensive national information on the current status of disaster risk reduction, which has served as input to the findings of the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a safer world as well as background information material to be shared at the WCDR. It will also be elaborated further for broader use beyond the Conference.

Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning

As part of its policy development initiatives and to work more closely with many key UN convention secretariats (climate change and combating desertification), the ISDR secretariat established an outreach office in Bonn, Germany, to host the new Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW). This programme, mainly sponsored by Germany, is following-up on the recommendations by the IATF/DR working group on early warning and the Second International Conference on Early Warning held in Bonn in 2003.

Media coverage and outreach

New media capacity at the ISDR secretariat and WCDR unit has strengthened the promotion of issues relating to disaster reduction in the lead up to the WCDR, building upon existing awareness raising activities of the secretariat and encouraging journalists to report on lessons learned in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. A broad range of media coverage was generated by the 2004 hurricane season in the Caribbean, highlighting good practices and lessons to be learned from disasters.

Key achievements for the May-October 2004

A summary

New innovative public-private partnerships

The ISDR secretariat has engaged in new private-public partnerships in the area of advocacy and information. One is in with Tudor Rose, a commercial publisher and information provider in preparing and fundraising for a publication, "Know Risk". This book will include good practice, examples and findings from the review of the Yokohama Strategy. The collaboration with Tudor Rose and ISDR may continue around other areas of advocacy and awareness raising in disaster risk reduction in the future. A similar engagement with Entico Corporation is built around an art contest as part of the annual awareness campaign in 2004. It will lead to a calendar based on the results of the contest in 2005. These kinds of innovative sponsoring partnerships may be increasing features within ISDR in the future to reach out to new constituencies and for cost-sharing.

New regional development in Asia within ISDR secretariat

The ISDR secretariat is currently establishing an outreach post for Central Asia hosted by UNDP in Dushanbe, Tajikistan (operational from October 2004), working in close collaboration with UNDP, OCHA and other regional stakeholders to disseminate information and advocate disaster risk reduction and regional networking on the subject. Increased capacity to support the ISDR Asia partnerships has also emerged in recent months.

Increased collaboration with UNDP and OCHA

In addition to collaboration in the context of specific activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America & the Caribbean, OCHA, UNDP and the ISDR Secretariat has engaged in a system wide study on gaps, relevance and strength of the UN system to better support disaster risk management efforts of local, national and regional institutions.

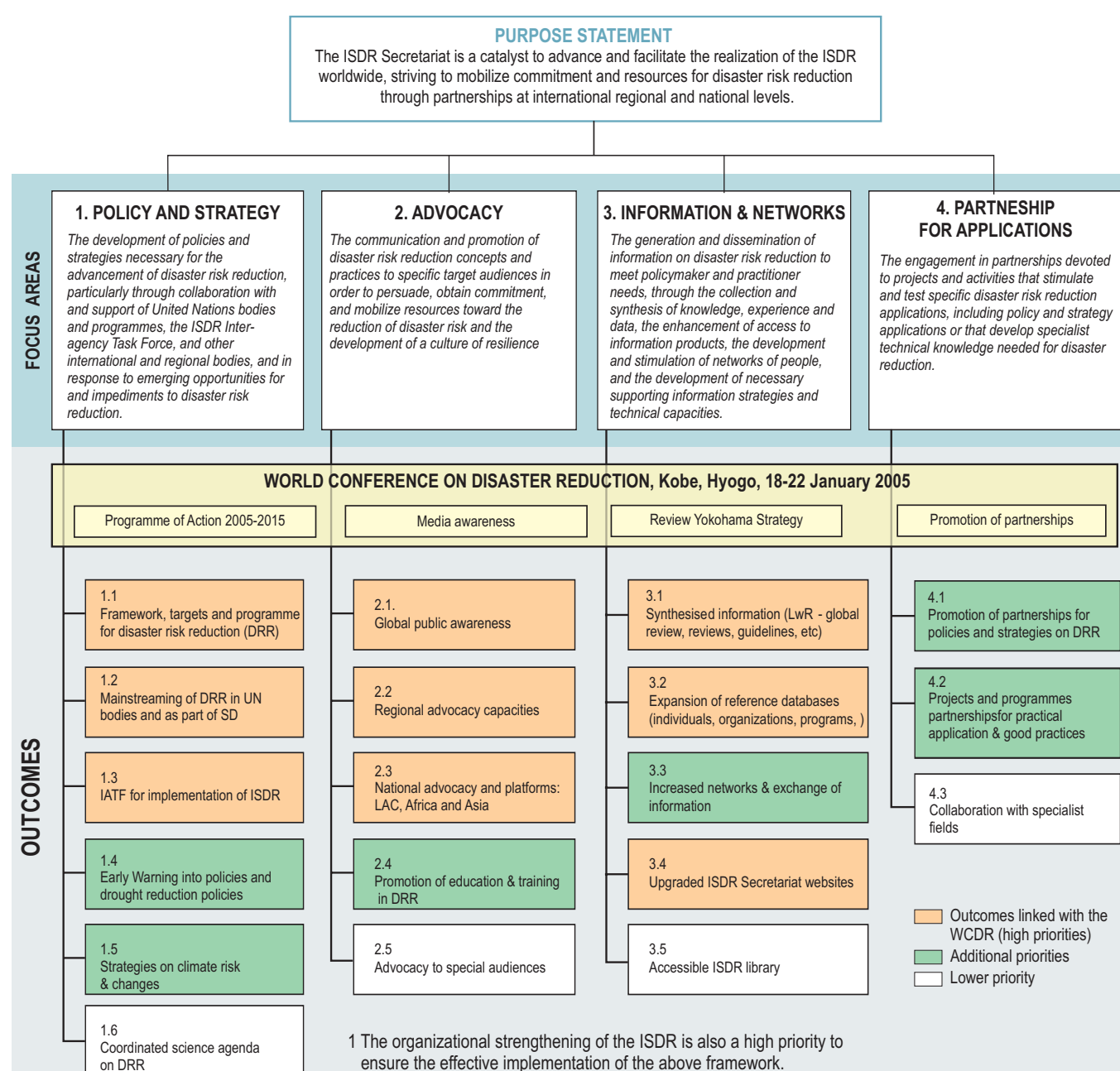
ISDR secretariat informs

This section provides information on main activities conducted by the ISDR secretariat based on its strategic framework, recording outputs and impacts achieved.

For ease of reference, the numbering of focus areas and outcomes follow the illustration in the Summary of the strategic framework of the ISDR secretariat (see figure 2) The update on the preparations for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) is reported separately to the core activities of the ISDR secretariat.

Figure 2

ISDR Secretariat: summary of strategic framework¹



ISDR secretariat informs



Preparations for the WCDR

The preparation for the WCDR has strengthened the inter-agency work of the secretariat and involves all the regular focus areas. In addition to logistical and organizational matters dealt with by the WCDR Unit, the preparation has brought focus to the following outcomes, as reflected throughout this Information Note:

- Substantive policy and strategy support to develop regional, thematic and global contributions to future priorities and action based on an updated framework for disaster risk reduction, including establishment of a Working Group of the IATF/DR;
- Advocacy for increased awareness through improved media outreach;
- Information collection and analysis in the review of the Yokohama Strategy; and
- Promotion of existing or new partnerships to support implementation of key areas of risk reduction.

Update from the WCDR Unit, Conference Coordinator; on organizational aspects

A number of important issues for the WCDR have been finalised in the lead up to the second session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom2) for the WCDR to be held 11-12 October 2004, including thematic segments, round tables, organizational plan, public forum and the next steps after PrepCom2. Substantive work (outcomes) will be resumed in earnest during PrepCom2.

Funding for approximately 50 delegates from developing countries for participation in PrepCom2 was obtained, and participation of NGOs at the October meeting has also been

agreed upon. Chairing arrangements for the thematic panels is almost finalised. The WCDR Bureau is expected to address the question of establishment of the Drafting Committee at PrepCom2 during its meeting on 4 October.

Lists formally closed at the end August for applications for thematic sessions and for the public forum, which are currently being reviewed and reduced to a manageable number of between 50 and 60 sessions. The public forum has attracted many requests for participation (now full). Organization of thematic panels is underway, with the participation of relevant agencies and lists of names for the high level round tables is being finalized (due for completion by early October). A full timetable for all events will be ready in draft form for distribution at PrepCom2.

A new draft (9 August) of the programme outcome document is currently being reviewed by Member States and other stakeholders called Draft programme outcome document tentatively entitled "Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters: elements for a programme of action, 2005-2015" (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/4, available at <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/wcdr/preparatory-process/prepcom2/p2-outcome-document.pdf>), with no movement expected before PrepCom2. It is anticipated that a drafting committee will be established at PrepCom2 to advance work on the document to have the semi-final or final version ready before the WCDR.

A declaration has yet not been initiated by the Government of Japan, however drafting is expected to begin once the content of the programme outcome document is clearer, a process linked to the setting up of the above-mentioned Drafting Committee.

The WCDR communications strategy is focusing on three areas:

1. Development and updating of the Media Room section within conference website;
2. Establishment of an informal journalists network, to promote and support the conference and the subject of disaster reduction; and
3. Production of a TV clip for wide audience; production of short documentaries on subjects related to the conference.

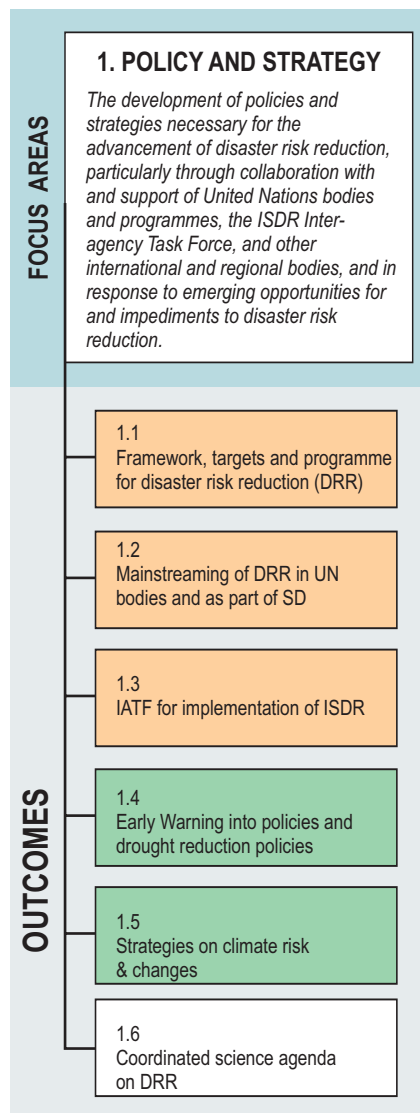
An inter-agency communications group is kept abreast of developments, with the aim being to cooperate as much as possible together, and reinforce joint key messages directed at a broad audience. The UN Department of Public Information is also cooperating on WCDR communications activities and providing support via the UN Information Centre in Tokyo.

Funding for WCDR

The additional costs for the UN and the ISDR secretariat to prepare for and hold the World Conference on Disaster Reduction was estimated to be more than US \$4 million, including support to travel of delegates from developing countries.

The Government of Japan has committed in total US \$2.5 million for the WCDR and ISDR, and will also cover local costs. In addition, the secretariat has received funding and pledges for travel of delegates from developing countries and NGOs from Japan, Norway, Sweden, USA and Australia. There remains, however, a shortfall still in the order of US\$ 900,000. UN agencies (UNDP, UNESCO, WMO and others) will also support travel of some delegates and participants from specific sectors. Each organizer of thematic sessions and public forum is responsible for funding their own requirements.

ISDR secretariat informs



1. Policy and Strategy

1.1 On-line dialogue on priority areas to implement disaster risk reduction: Helping to set a new international agenda

On 15 June-20 July 2004 the ISDR secretariat coordinated an on-line conference based on the background document "Elements for Programmatic Outcome for the WCDR" previously discussed at the ninth session of the IATF/DR and made available to Member States at PrepCom 1 (background document available at <http://www.unisdr.org/WCDR-dialogue>).

The purpose of the on-line dialogue was to provide a broad-based global discussion between government representatives, experts and interested stakeholders on priorities to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards.

The dialogue was divided into three discussions relating to different sections of the background document. Topic 1 addressed the draft goals, objectives and priorities for action proposed for the WCDR. Topic 2 turned to the mechanisms for implementing these. Topic 3 focused on the "voluntary partnerships" mechanism proposed to complement the WCDR implementation machinery.

Participants were asked to support their observations with examples of good practices or other lessons from experience, which provided a rich wealth of cases and references, recorded in the report from the dialogue (see <http://www.unisdr.org/WCDR-dialogue>).

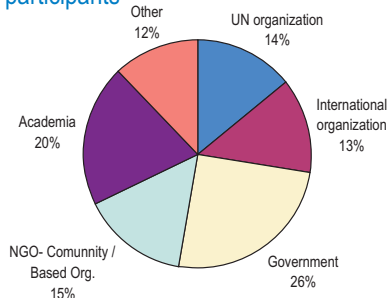
Outputs and impact

- Participation of 730 people from 107 countries, representing governments, academia, UN and other international organizations, NGOs and community based organizations from a variety of sectors and backgrounds.
- The on-line dialogue became a forum for a greater public around the world to participate actively in and take ownership of setting a global disaster reduction agenda for the following 10 years. The results provided valuable contributions to defining global goals and priorities for disaster risk reduction. The recommendations have been used in the preparation of the draft programme of action 2005-2015 that will be discussed at PrepCom2.
- Overall, participants agreed that the WCDR initial draft for an outcome and programme (discussed at IATF/DR-9, May 2004) provided a solid foundation for progress in the implementation of disaster risk reduction. The idea of setting overall goals and objectives was approved as a useful

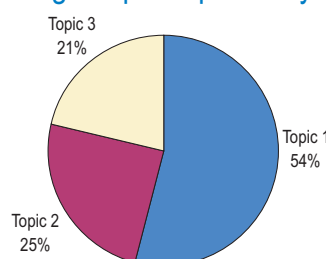
means of increasing implementation, and the three proposed goals were considered relevant and valid. The participants endorsed the suggested implementation mechanisms and actions at the different levels, and the draft criteria and modalities for guiding the operations of voluntary partnership mechanisms.

- Many participants referred to activities that could be considered "good practices" or examples for others to learn from, which are listed with references in the final summary of the on-line dialogue. Others, though, are short or anecdotal references.
- Both this and the previous on-line dialogue conducted by UN/ISDR with UNDP of 2003 on an updated framework for guidance and monitoring of disaster risk reduction represent the most visited pages of the ISDR website, and inputs have served reference in many papers, studies and publications.

Percentage of participants by affiliation
730 participants



Percentage of participation by topic



Topic 1 Core objectives and areas for action, stemming from preliminary conclusions of the review of implementation of disaster reduction
Topic 2 Implementation mechanisms at local, national, regional and international scales. Links with existing developmental mechanisms and frameworks. Support to national and local implementation and follow-up.
Topic 3 Voluntary partnerships to support implementation, at all levels. Operational criteria and modalities. Links with relevant WSSD partnerships and other existing ones.

"Overall goal: The sustained commitment of political will and related resource allocations for tangible risk management practices planned and conducted within a strategic framework."
Solveig Thorvaldsdottir

"Risk reduction, development and emergency response are very much related: the need to recognise this linkage should be reflected in the goal."
David Stevens

Proposed overall goals 2005-2015 (August 2004):

"...to take concrete steps over the next ten years to build the resilience of nations and communities to disaster, and to seek the following principal overall goals:

1. The substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.
2. The integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies and into the development planning and programmes of national and local government.
3. The development of stronger institutions, mechanisms and community capacities that can systematically build resilience to natural hazards and disasters."

Draft programme outcome document tentatively entitled "Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters: elements for a programme of action, 2005-2015" (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/4, 13 August 2004)

ISDR secretariat informs

1.2 Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in UN bodies and as part of sustainable development

Reports of the Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly

The ISDR secretariat prepared the draft report for the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/59/228), to be presented by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and discussed at the Second Committee of the 59th session of the General Assembly in October 2004 under agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development. Based on information compiled by the ISDR secretariat, as well as inputs solicited from UN agencies and other IATF/DR members, the report included information on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon (in response to resolution A/RES/57/255) as well as a section on natural disasters and vulnerability (A/RES/58/215) highlighting the role of disaster reduction as an essential policy tool to support adaptation to climate change. On this occasion the report also included an update on the preparations of the WCDR as requested in resolution A/RES/58/214.

The ISDR secretariat has provided inputs to several other reports of the Secretary-General to both the UN Economic and Social Council and General Assembly, among them 59/1 on the Work of the Organization; the report on Strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and the report on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the

field of natural disasters, from relief to development. Additional inputs were prepared for the reports of the Commission on Sustainable Development on risk management aspects in human settlements, water and sanitation and for small island developing States.

Outputs and impact

- Improved mainstreaming and visibility of disaster risk reduction in the relevant areas of reporting of the Secretary-General and the United Nations system.
- A pending challenge is to better integrate disaster reduction into the work of the UN Development Group (Common Country Assessments, and UN Development Assistance Frameworks) and the assessment of the Millennium Development Goals in conjunction with UNDP and other stakeholders.

Small island developing States

The preparatory process for the review of the Barbados Plan of Action (BPoA + 10) have taken into consideration under the item "Natural Disasters" the ISDR as a strategy to promote disaster reduction in small island developing States. The link is also made with the preparation and follow up to the WCDR. This follows the Background Paper, entitled "Small Island Developing States, Disasters, Risk and Vulnerability" prepare by the Secretariat and the participation of the President of Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), his Excellency Koonjul of Mauritius in the first Preparatory Committee for the WCDR at Geneva.

Outputs and impact

- Recommendations included in the AOSIS Strategy document that recognize the process leading to, and the follow-up to the WCDR in the preparation of the BPoA+10. A high level panel at the Mauritius Summit, organised by AOSIS which will conclude the BPoA review focussing on disaster reduction and the WCDR.

Water agenda

The terms of reference (TOR) for UN-WATER have been finalised as requested by the United Nations High Level Committee on Programming. UN-WATER is now the inter-agency mechanism that promotes coherence in, and coordination of, UN system actions aimed at the implementation of the water agenda defined by the Millennium Declaration and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. As an active member, the ISDR secretariat has contributed both to the elaborations of the TOR with regard to water related disasters, and is currently supporting the development of the plan of work for the UN-WATER, which, inter-alia is supporting the High Level Advisory Group on Water established recently by the Secretary-General, as well as the upcoming Decade "Water For Life" to be launched in March 2005.

Outputs and impact

- Work plan of UN-WATER recognizing disaster reduction as an integral part of the water agenda to support the integration of the subject at national and sub-national strategies and policies, in particular Integrated Water Resources Management.

1.3 Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR)

The secretariat supports and service the Task Force, prepares great part of its background documentation and ensures fluid communications to members. The IATF/DR work programme 2004 was revised at the ninth session of the IATF/DR in May 2004. It focused on supporting the thematic and substantive preparations for the WCDR and a working group was established for that purpose. Many IATF/DR members are active in preparing thematic sessions, leading the work of thematic clusters and organizing preparatory activities, consultations and reviews with their constituencies and regions.

The IATF/DR working groups established in 2000 (WG1 on Climate; WG2 on Early Warning; WG4 Wildland fire) had all finalized in 2003 and developed into either specific programmes or networks, which will continue to inform the Task Force on progress. WG3 on Risk, Vulnerability and Disaster Impact Assessment, chaired by UNDP, continues active throughout 2004. In addition to the WG on WCDR (convened by the ISDR secretariat), two new groups were set up in 2004: WG on Africa (co-chaired by the AU and NEPAD secretariats) and a WG on Climate Change and Disaster Reduction (co-chaired by UNDP and WMO).

Working Group on Africa

As mentioned in relation to African regional policy development, the main focus of this working group will be to support the multi-stakeholder process to develop and guide

ISDR secretariat informs

implementation of an African strategy for disaster reduction. Other aspects of its work include the facilitation of regional consultations for WCDR, increase stakeholder coordination and collaboration on disaster mitigation, and the creation of a body of knowledge on disaster reduction in Africa.

Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Reduction

The working group will address the following issues:

- (a) The importance of linking with the IPCC process. Interactions between the IPCC and ISDR secretariat and the IATF/DR should be promoted, especially in the preparatory phase of WCDR and IPCC fourth assessment report.
- (b) Prepare elements for the IATF/DR to play a catalytic role to generate recognition of the climate change and disaster reduction policy implication among stakeholders and governments involved in the WCDR. This should focus on advocacy, policy recommendations, and outreach to the public.
- (c) Provide guidance on the needs of developing countries to develop adaptation strategies, which should include the development of simple and realistic impacts scenarios.
- (d) Target the UNFCCC and small island developing States (SIDS) processes with relevant information stemming from the working group and ISDR secretariat.
- (e) Address the environmental consequences of climate events.

Outputs and Impact

- Increased number of active members in the IATF/DR during the last year (NEPAD secretariat from Africa, and EC/JRC and UNITAR. UNICEF has also expressed interest in joining the Task Force), leading to major involvement towards disaster reduction within member organizations.
- IATF/DR observers have almost doubled, from 37 at IATF/DR-8 in late 2003 to 61 observer groups at IATF/DR-9 in May 2004 (representing 48 Member States and 13 organizations).
- The work programmes of the IATF/DR and that of the ISDR secretariat have been better linked in 2004.

1.4 Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning

As part of its policy development initiatives, the ISDR secretariat established an outreach temporary office in Bonn, Germany, to host the new Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW). The PPEW arose from the train of activities of the now-disbanded IATF/DR working group on early warning, culminating in the recommendation for such a platform at the Second International Conference on Early Warning held in Bonn (October 2003). The platform project is supported by the Government of Germany and the office hosted by UN Volunteers (UNV). Three staff were brought into place around July, including a senior officer to head the office and, a programme officer, both transferred from the ISDR secretariat in Geneva, and a support contractor.

The office is primarily concerned with promoting action on early warning issues, but it also contributes to other ISDR policy initiatives and activities, particularly in support of the IATF activities, on climate change and water risks, including the ISDR contribution to the UN water- and interagency initiative. Conversely, ISDR secretariat headquarters in Geneva and regional outreach offices programmes contribute their specialised inputs to support the platform project. Current priorities include the development of the platform's operational capacities and outreach products and the promotion of early warning in relevant international processes, most particularly in the preparations for the WCDR.

The planning for 2005 includes consolidation of activities and support for the WCDR and follow-up of WCDR recommendations concerning early warning. In addition new substantive tasks include support in promoting benchmarking and cost-benefit analysis for early warning systems.

Outputs and impact

Although the Bonn office is quite new, some good progress has been achieved:

- An increased collaboration with other Bonn based UN initiatives related to the area of disaster risk reduction, principally UNV, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the UN University. This collaboration is expected to develop into specific activities and policy support to increase mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into their activities.
- Specific products and outputs to date include:
 - Publication and dissemination of EWC-II summary publication in conjunction with DKKV and with support of the Helmholtz Foundation
 - Interim revision and expansion of early warning materials on the ISDR website completed in early April (see web page <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/risk-reduction/early-warning/rd-early-warning-eng.htm>), and a new overall structure and content is being developed at www.unisdr.org/ppew.
 - Development and publication of a PPEW newsletter.
 - Participation in and presentations on early warning options at several international conferences and seminars.
 - Inputs on early warning provided for official UN documents, including the reports of the Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly and WCDR documentation, and the programme outcome document for the WCDR
- The PPEW is assisting the lead agencies (WMO, EC/JRC and UNU) for the WCDR Thematic Segment 2, on "Risk assessment, monitoring and early warning" 2, in the planning of sessions under this segment. Linkages are being developed with the other UN entities in Bonn, principally UNV, UNFCCC, UNCCD and UNU.

ISDR secretariat informs

1.5 Strategies on climate risk and change

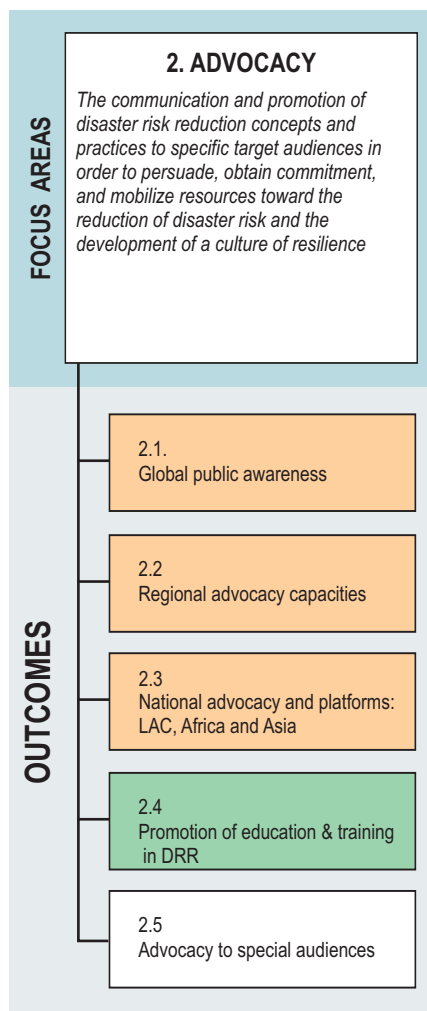
Vulnerability and Adaptation Resources Group (VARG)

The ISDR secretariat has assisted in ongoing collaboration with the UNFCCC, in connection with ISDR interventions at Subsidiary Body of Science and Technology of UNFCCC (SBSTA-20), in Bonn (June 2004), and planning for adaptation activities at COP-10, Buenos Aires (December). A presentation was made to the VARG, a coalition of bilateral partners under the auspices of the World Bank, on a consultative

policy paper initiative to interlink climate change, disasters and development. A preparatory scoping project was undertaken by the ISDR secretariat over the last six months with the assistance of a consultant and the support of the Government of the United Kingdom.

Outcome and impact

- As a result of the scoping paper and presentation, the VARG has undertaken, in close collaboration with the ISDR secretariat to adopt, support and lead the development of this initiative.



- Outcomes linked with the WCDR (high priorities)
- Additional priorities
- Lower priority

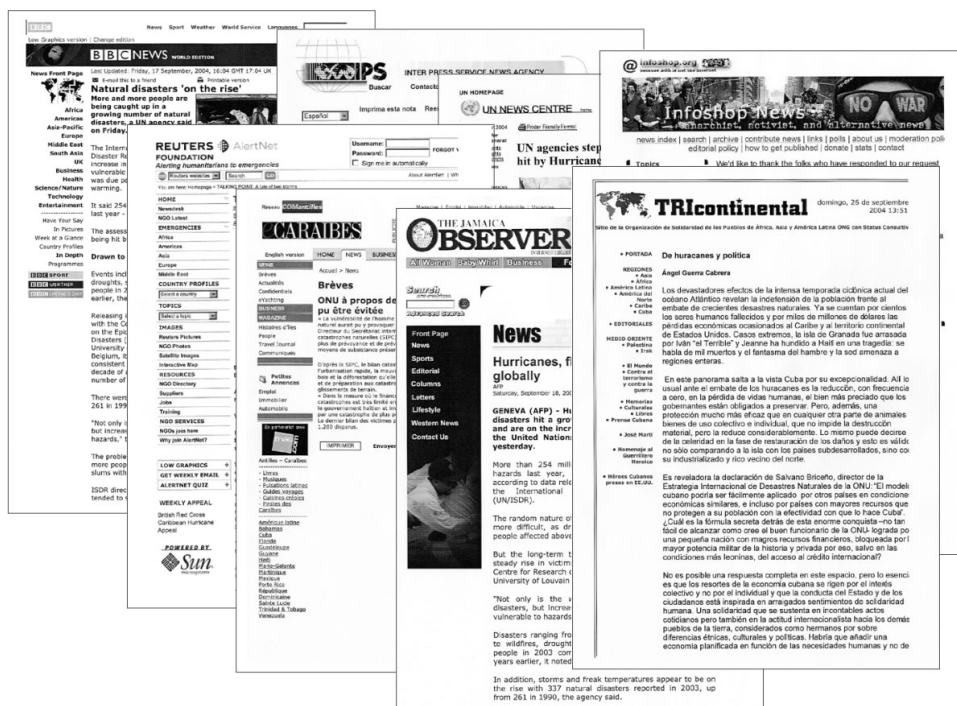
2. Advocacy

2.1 Global public awareness

Media

In June 2004 the ISDR secretariat and WCDR unit employed the services of a media relations consultant to promote issues relating to disaster reduction, building momentum in the lead up to the WCDR. This new media capacity complements and builds upon existing awareness raising activities of the secretariat, and has proved equally effective in encouraging journalists to report on lessons learned in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

The 2004 hurricane season in the Caribbean generated a great deal of media coverage on the subject of disaster reduction. News media highlighted Cuba's extensive experience and good practices in hurricane preparedness, comparing the relatively few mortalities and losses with those of Florida, USA and other Caribbean islands hit by hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne.



ISDR secretariat informs

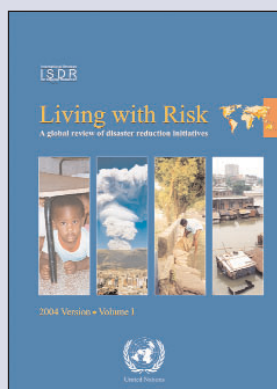
Outputs and impact

- Development of the new section Media room on the ISDR website, publishing up-to-date articles and press releases related to disaster reduction (<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/media-room/media-room.htm>).
- Media interviews with the ISDR secretariat and ISDR partners have been conducted and recorded with BBC and CNN news (television, radio and on-line), French television TF1, Italian TV, US radio, specialist journals including National Geographic, International Development Review and Natural Resources Forum, and news wire services including UN News, Reuters Spanish EFE, and Agence France Presse have further disseminated reports and articles throughout their networks.
- Increased cooperation with ISDR partner organization communications counterparts to provide inputs and dissemination throughout media and public information networks related to disaster reduction.
- Collaboration with CRED and MunichRe publicizing and circulating new statistics to the media, attracting significant coverage.

2004 World Disaster Reduction Campaign - "Learning from today's disasters for tomorrow's hazards"

The ISDR secretariat launched the World Disaster Reduction Campaign that in 2004 focuses on the theme of "learning". Learning to live with the risks that hazards pose to communities is one of the key ways to protect people and property from the disastrous impacts of hazards, and can take place through formal education such as in schools and universities, or informal groups and networks such as community meetings and advocacy activities.

The theme also represents the lead up to the WCDR whereby participants will reflect on lessons learned from past disasters, in addition to paving the way for the upcoming UN Decade for Education on Sustainable Development (2005-2015). The Campaign culminates on the International Day for Disaster Reduction, Wednesday 13 October.



Living with Risk

The 2004 version of "Living with Risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives" was officially launched by Jan Egeland, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, on the occasion of the Economic and Social Council held in New York (July 2004). Available for purchase from UN Sales Publications, the full text of the publication is also available on-line and will be available for purchase on CD-ROM by the end of 2004. The publication is also currently being translated into Spanish and Chinese.



The key components of the Campaign are:

1. *International art contest for young people aged 16 and under*

Twelve pictures will be selected for publication in a UN/ISDR 2005 calendar that will be disseminated to participants of the WCDR and beyond, and will be framed and exhibited on-site at the Conference.

2. *Let's learn to prevent disasters! educational kit + Riskland game*

UN/ISDR is working with UNICEF to promote the translation and adaptation of the educational kit into as many languages as possible for display at the WCDR. To date, the kit is available in English, Haitian Creole, Maya Kachiquel, Nepali, Portuguese and Spanish, with translations into over 15 others currently underway.

3. *On-line information kit*

In contrast to previous Campaigns, this year the entire information kit has been placed on-line, comprising the announcement, educational kit, messages for the International Day and a range of weblinks to educational resources for young people. (see http://www.unisdr.org/eng/public_aware/world_camp/2004/pa-camp04-announc-eng.htm)

Outputs and impact

- Development of innovative public-private partnership with private UK-based communications company Entico, who is responsible for fundraising to support the production of the calendar and exhibition.
- Widespread interest from ministries of education and involvement of NGOs in promoting the art contest among young people worldwide.
- Translation of educational kit into 15+ languages by ISDR partners currently underway, including adaptation to local conditions and cultures.
- Closer collaboration with UNICEF in promoting children's participation in disaster reduction through joint educational kit project.
- 2004 International Day for Disaster Reduction media and public launch of video of children playing Riskland increasing public awareness of the importance of learning and young people's role in reducing risk and vulnerability.
- Organization of special events on the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction worldwide.

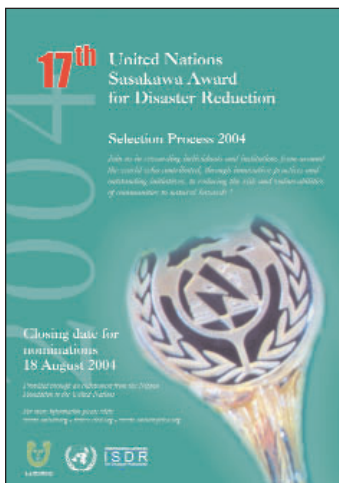
ISDR secretariat informs

2004 UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

The 2004 nomination process for the United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction was launched worldwide in January 2004 through UN/ISDR's regular channels, encouraging Permanent Missions in Geneva, UN Resident Coordinators network, UN agencies, former Sasakawa laureates, IATF/DR members, ISDR Support Group members among others to join the ISDR secretariat in identifying and rewarding

individuals and institutions from around the world who contributed, through innovative practices and outstanding initiatives, to reducing the risk and vulnerabilities of communities to natural hazards.

34 quality nominations were received and evaluated thoroughly by the independent UN Sasakawa Jury, representing Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas in September 2004.



The Jury decided to select Dr. Omar Cardona Professor and Researcher at the National University of Colombia in Manizales as the 2004 UN Sasakawa Award Laureate. The Award recognizes his long and committed scientific endeavours and promotion of disaster reduction policies and technical solutions to reduce risk and assess vulnerability. In addition to his academic activities, Dr. Cardona has consistently contributed to Colombia's decision-making process regarding the adoption of prevention mechanisms, as well as advancing the issue at

the international and regional fora. The Jury found this high-quality contribution and commitment most encouraging.

Certificates of Distinction were awarded to Walter Hays (USA), an engineering seismologist who serves as Senior Fellow in the Global Institute for Energy and Environmental Systems, University of North Carolina at Charlotte and as Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Disaster Reduction (GADR), as well as Gustavo Wilches-Chaux (Colombia), a lawyer, philosopher and author promoting local government and community development of risk management and sustainable development, in recognition and appreciation of their respective outstanding contributions to disaster reduction.

Certificates of Merit were awarded to the Local Government of La Paz (Bolivia), and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC - Fiji), in appreciation of their valuable efforts to promote disaster reduction within their communities with worldwide recognition.

The Award ceremony will take place on 7 October 2004 in Geneva, in the context of the tenth session of the IATF/DR.

Outputs and impact

- Increased public profile of the UN Sasakawa Award and promotion of future nominations to reward and widely publicize excellence and good practice to implement disaster risk reduction. The UN Sasakawa laureate and certificate recipients receive cash prizes in addition to a traditional crystal trophy for the laureate.

2.2 Regional advocacy capacities

Latin America and the Caribbean

The ISDR regional outreach programme in Latin America and the Caribbean generated new partnerships over the reporting period, such as that with the Association of Caribbean ACS, enhancing the implementation of the Strategy in the greater Caribbean.

Collaboration with several UN agencies and other international organizations, has been intensified, including with UNESCO, UNICEF and OAS in the field of education for disaster reduction. A regional meeting was held in El Salvador to review the advances over the past ten years, identifying gaps and opportunities as well as making recommendations for the future. Further collaboration has also taken place with IFRC, in particular the fields of public information, communication and community based education programmes.

Outputs and impact:

- Increasing number of the magazine ISDR Informs- Latin America and the Caribbean readership (in hardcopies in Spanish and English and on the web)
- Continuing partnerships with PAHO, UNDP and CEPREDENAC have resulted in many concrete initiatives, such as the production of the new educational radio soap opera (that deals with earthquakes and volcanic eruptions) which is being widely broadcast throughout Latin America.
- A new radio soap opera (on floods and hurricanes) is currently being prepared for the English speaking Caribbean in collaboration with CDERA, ACS, IFRC and PAHO.

Africa

Outputs and impact

- Included a third language of the Africa Informs- Disaster risk reduction magazine, now available in English, French and Portuguese. This is the only compilation and means of communication on disaster risk reduction within Africa, and it has been used to reproduce articles and information in local means. The demand is heavily increasing but difficulties for reproduction and dissemination is still limiting wide dissemination.
- ISDR outreach programme has initiated the consultation for and preparation of additional Information products and educational booklets on environmental aspects and risk management (with UNEP), on climate change and disaster risk (with African experts) and on Governance and disaster risk reduction (with UNDP).

2.3 National platforms for disaster risk reduction

The elaboration of national information for the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Implementation has stimulated many countries to revisit their current coordination mechanisms on disaster reduction.

An ongoing project of UNDP reviewing institutional and legal systems for disaster risk management (see below) is also providing valuable insights and recommendations for further strengthening the consolidation on national mechanisms and platforms to deal with disaster risk management, in particular in developing countries.

ISDR secretariat informs

The regional out-reach programmes in Africa and in Latin America & the Caribbean has continued to promote the development of national platforms in those regions. In the regional consultations (see Policy) important recommendations were made to establish national platforms where needed, or consolidate national mechanisms in place to coordinate disaster risk reduction and to relate to the ISDR.

European national platforms have met in two occasions; one among Central European Disaster Prevention Forum (Germany, Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia), hosted by the Czech National Committee for Disaster Reduction in Prague; and another in Paris, convened by the French national platform and the UK advisory committee on disaster reduction. The discussions focused on improved collaboration among countries, recommendations for WCDR and in the latter, on flood protection measures.

Tajikistan organized an internal one-week workshop with ADRC and the UN, where one of the topics was aiming towards the development of a national platform for Tajikistan (see more under Asia- partnerships).

Outputs and impact

- New national platforms announced in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Gabon, Kenya, Republic of the Congo and Uruguay,
- Network of institutional contacts at the national level substantially updated on the basis of national inputs submitted by countries towards the WCDR
- Increased collaboration with UNDP and UN country teams in a few countries to support national platform development in developing countries.
- The European national platforms are currently finalizing a framework of cooperation among themselves. The ISDR secretariat and the German national platform (DKVV) developed a draft guideline for "Cooperation between the European national platforms and the UN/ISDR Secretariat"
- Prototype set of national profiles will be launched in the coming months on the ISDR website

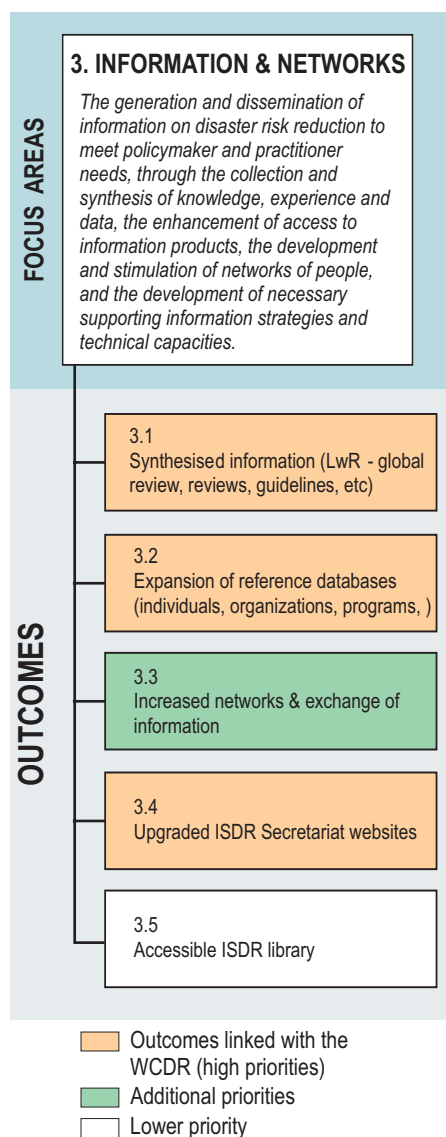
2.4 Promotion of education and training in disaster risk reduction

ISDR/OCHA 2004 Fellowship programme on disaster risk reduction

Education and training represent fundamental pillars for effective disaster risk reduction. In order to promote the knowledge and expertise on this subject, the UN/ISDR has continued a fellowship programme in 2004 with the financial support of OCHA. The aim is to support the participation of potential future decision-makers from developing countries in available short-term training courses on disaster risk management. The international courses were selected based on the inventory of courses and experience by the ISDR secretariat in 2003.

Outputs and impact

- More than 40 candidates from Latin America & the Caribbean, Africa and Asia were selected jointly with the training institutions to participate in the following courses:
 - "Hazards assessment, seismology, risk mitigation" of Geoforschungszentrum of Potsdam, Germany for African countries;
 - "Disaster Risk Reduction and Development" of the African Centre for Disaster Studies, Potchefstroom University, South Africa;
 - "Disaster and Development: Reducing Risk - Protecting Livelihoods" of University of Cape Town, South Africa;
 - the "Regional Disaster Management Course" of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Bangkok, Thailand; and
 - the virtual course of "Gestión Integral de Riesgo y Desastres" of CIMNE of the University of Cataluña, Spain for Latin American participants.



3. Information management

3.1 National inputs to the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action

A summary of the findings of the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a safer world ("Yokohama review") was prepared for the second WCDR Preparatory Committee session held on 11-12 October 2004 (document: A/CONF.206/PC(II)/3).

In addition to the contributions from agencies, regional bodies, experts and stakeholders from the IATF, participants in two on-line dialogues and experts, the review enjoyed the input of over 90 countries (see box) that provided comprehensive national reports on the current status of disaster risk reduction, which simultaneously will serve as background information material to be shared at the WCDR and will be elaborated further for broader use beyond the Conference.

Countries providing specific national information to date

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cameroon, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, India, Iran, Israel, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lithuania, Macedonia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Monaco, Montserrat, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippine, Portugal, Republic of Congo, Saint Lucia, Serbia and Montenegro, Somalia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, United Arabs Emirates, Uganda, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

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In March 2004 the ISDR secretariat requested national information on the status, achievements, gaps, recommendations and indications of good practices on disaster risk reduction. The purpose of the request was to gather information for the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, as well as to initiate an "information baseline" collection on disaster risk reduction. In addition the request aimed at helping countries prepare for their participation in the WCDR, using the opportunity to establish a national platform on disaster risk reduction or similar coordination mechanisms through consultation among many stakeholders on the subject.

The information was provided largely as requested in the areas of:

- political commitment and institutional aspects;
- risk identification and early warning;
- knowledge management;
- risk management applications and instruments;
- preparedness and contingency planning;
- outstanding gaps and challenges; and
- examples of good practice.

The ISDR secretariat worked closely with UNDP to support many of these national efforts throughout Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Outputs and impact

- Since the first session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom1) for the WCDR in May 2004, over 90 countries provided national information, which has been systematically compiled and analysed by the ISDR secretariat with collaboration from UNDP. A preliminary summary of national information has been prepared to be shared as

an Information Document at IATF-10 (7-8 October) and for the second session of the WCDR Preparatory Committee (11-12 October). The summary will be made available in due course.

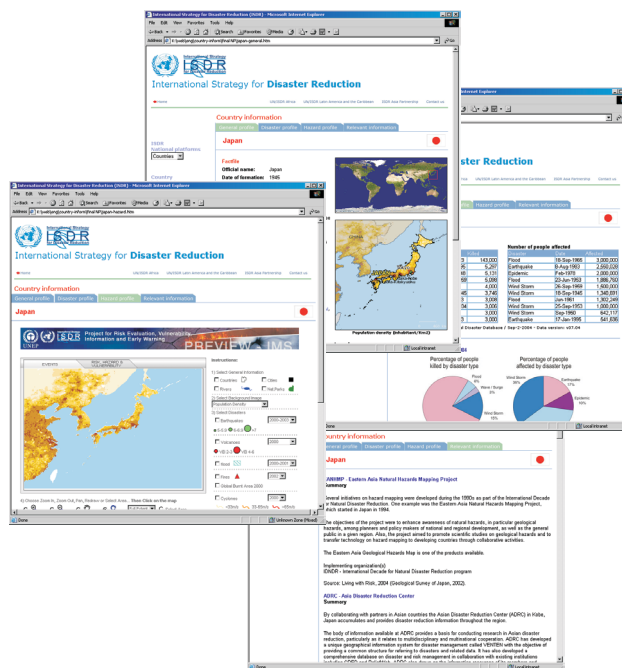
- The majority of national inputs kept to the guidelines provided by the ISDR secretariat and followed the primary areas of the Policy framework to guide and monitor disaster risk reduction (annex 1). In many cases inputs cited the preparation of national reports stimulated valuable discussion and assessment of the issue of disaster risk reduction at country level among the different players.
- The information received by the ISDR secretariat reflects widespread political commitment to the subject, providing an overall positive picture of actions sustained in risk reduction efforts by the reporting countries. However, no indicators are available on how the actions are contributing to reduce the risk scenario in each country.
- The national inputs highlighted a number of challenges as being crucial to disaster risk reduction. A common challenge identified was how to integrate disaster risk reduction into national development strategies considering the frequent inadequate human, technical and financial resources available. The lack of coordination among different actors at both national and international levels was also a dominant feature in inputs. Countries expressed significant interest for international and regional support in these two areas.
- The overall quality of the good practices elaborated in the reports illustrates enriched social, technical and organizational capabilities at the national level.

3.2 Collaboration for improved databases and risk/vulnerability profiles

The ISDR secretariat's role as an information hub and clearinghouse for its wider partnership based on advocacy, networking and information management embodies a complex process that comprises a wide range of activities. The development of an inter-agency "PreventionWeb" (as a sister to the existing ReliefWeb) as a web portal is underway, and has been discussed with partners for 2005.

Outputs and impact

- Internal improvements and updating of reference databases on disaster reduction contacts/experts, organizations and initiatives. This information is expected to be available on the ISDR website (with search facilities) by the end of 2004
- A cooperation agreement with UNEP/Global Resource Information Database (GRID) to build web-based hazards and vulnerability profiles has been established.
- Under the section "Country information" of the ISDR website the following information available at date:
 - Listing of ISDR national platforms and focal points for disaster reduction;
 - On-line hazard and vulnerability information on earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, cyclones and tsunamis hazards for the period 1980-2003 (according to data availability);
 - Prototypes of country information, including maps and information for ISDR country profiles



3.3 Increased networks and exchange of information

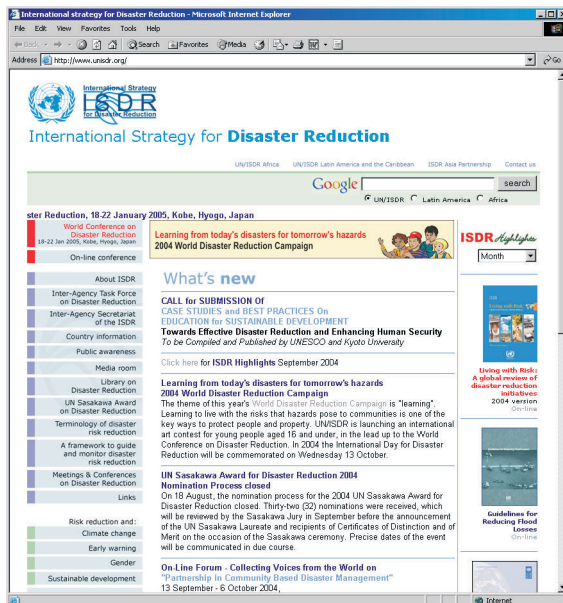
This is an outcome which draws from most of the other areas of work of the secretariat. The collection of information to conduct the review of the Yokohama Strategy and the upcoming publication "Know Risk" together with the publisher Tudor Rose has increased the network and exchange of information, contacting institutions, countries, experts and other stakeholders. The preparation for thematic sessions and networking with UN agencies, regional and civil society organizations, co-sponsoring of thematic and regional consultations have been part of this effort.

Outputs and impact

- The outcome is reflected in the ISDR information products and reference database, which also served for dissemination of information such as monthly electronic ISDR Highlights.

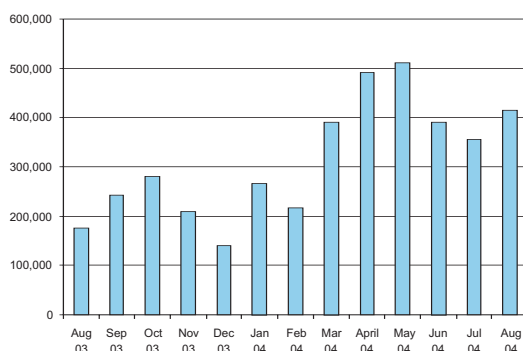
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3.4 ISDR website



The ISDR website has continued to make significant progress, offering more comprehensive information services to its users. New sections include the Media room and a listing of meetings and conferences related to disaster reduction, providing links to news and partners websites for further information. The special WCDR website section is another frequently visited and dynamic feature.

Total hits per month 2003-2004



Outputs and impact

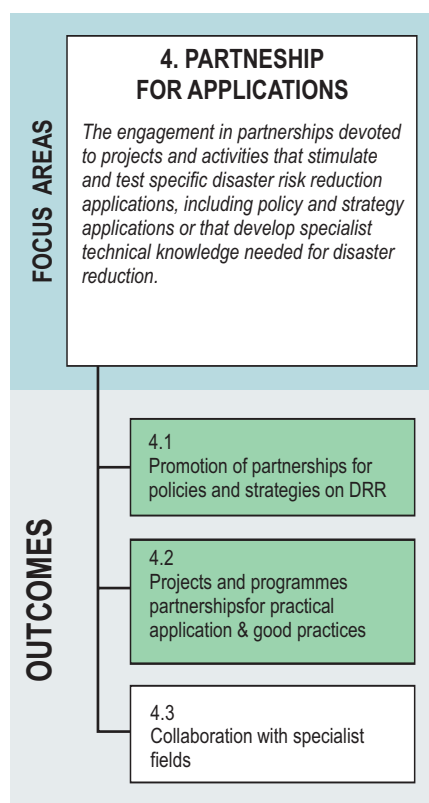
- Total number of hits per month on the ISDR website doubled in comparison to those of one year ago. In addition, a great amount of hits are reflected on the regional websites in Africa (www.unisdrafica.org, and Latin America and the Caribbean: www.eird.org)

3.5 Virtual library on disaster risk reduction

The ISDR library is rapidly expanding, making significant progress towards its integration into the UN library system of Geneva. The ISDR secretariat is currently preparing a CD-ROM set of key reference and information materials on disaster reduction, comprising a range of full-text documents originating from the UN's collection and beyond (also to be on-line in early 2005).

Outputs and impact

- Increased cooperation between the ISDR secretariat and partner organizations through the acquisition of copyrights of publishing full-text documents.
- ISDR partners' inputs have provided valuable contributions for the improvement of the ISDR secretariat's role clearinghouse for the disaster reduction community.
- Production of CD-ROM set to be dissemination free-of-charge to participants at the WCDR.



4. Partnerships for application

The promotion of strategic partnerships for implementing disaster reduction is an important element of the ISDR strategic framework. One of the expected outcomes of the WCDR is a set of specific initiatives or partnerships to support the implementation of the Programme of Action (see box). This will be linked to the partnership mechanisms created following the World Summit on Sustainable Development, coordinated by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

More coordination among partners and regional and international stakeholders is needed to effectively support vulnerable countries in addressing the objectives of the ISDR, in addition to the priorities that will be set at the WCDR. Strategic partnerships to support implementation and information sharing in critical areas can have a wider impact than ad-hoc and little-known initiatives. The regional dimension is a key priority.

In section 5 partner organizations inform about their own activities, conducted as institutional commitments or in partnerships with others.

Partnership Mechanism

"...Countries, organizations, international financial institutions, and the private sector are invited to initiate and expand voluntary, multi-stakeholder partnerships to support the achievement of the stated objectives, priorities and follow-up activities, by means of major partnerships that either (a) commit to or demonstrate the achievement of targeted actions by countries and organizations, or (b) mobilize resources and build capacities, or (c) develop innovations in policy, technical methodology and good practices.

...The Secretariat of the ISDR is requested to develop and maintain a register of partnerships that meet the above criteria and that are consistent with the partnership principles set out by the General Assembly, including the need for transparency and accountability, and to assist in the promotion and dissemination of the achievements of the partnerships. This should be done in liaison with the Commission on Sustainable Development, serving as the focal point for partnerships promoting sustainable development and the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The Secretariat of the ISDR is requested to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Commission for Sustainable Development to ensure that the registered partnerships are included in the partnership database operated by the Commission for Sustainable Development and are subject to the same management standards and reporting procedures."

Draft programme outcome document tentatively entitled "Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters: elements for a programme of action, 2005-2015" (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/4, 13 August 2004)

ISDR secretariat informs

4.1 Regional partnerships for policies and strategies on disaster risk reduction

Africa

The African ISDR outreach programme has attracted increased interest and involvement from organizations and UN agencies of the region, in particular from UNDP, UNEP and the African Development Bank (ADB). A tripartite partnership now exists between the ADB, AU/NEPAD and the ISDR African outreach programme, which proved instrumental in conducting the regional review of disaster reduction initiatives as well as the regional strategy and guidelines on disaster reduction (also supported by UNDP). Inter-agency advocacy efforts of the ISDR African outreach programme included educational and information materials and workshops that further strengthened and facilitated information sharing and knowledge exchange.



Outputs and impact

- Increased leadership and ownership of AU/NEPAD in the process of the regional strategy on disaster risk management, including participation in the IATF/DR working group on Africa.
- Joint review and development of strategy and guidelines on disaster reduction by UN/ISDR, ADB and AU/NEPAD.

Africa in preparation for WCDR

In June 2004 an African regional consultation took place in Johannesburg motivated by

ISDR and the WCDR, attracting representatives from over 30 African countries and many regional and international organizations. Convened by the AU and NEPAD secretariat with support from UNDP, the World Bank and the ISDR secretariat, the meeting provided strategic directions and specific recommendations for integrating disaster risk reduction into sustainable development at all levels. The consultation built on preparatory studies and reviews and a draft strategy prepared by NEPAD secretariat in collaboration with the African Development Bank, ISDR secretariat and UNDP. An African expert meeting preceded the consultation, and the IATF working group on Africa had provided advice on the strategy and the process.

It formulated an African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction that was presented and adopted in July 2004 by African Ministers of the Environment (AMCEN) and later supported by African Heads of States at their third ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, July 2004. The Assembly resolution AU/Dec.49 mandates the AU Commission and the NEPAD secretariat to work closely with ISDR partners to develop a programme of work that will enable member States to integrate disaster risk reduction into national development processes. The regional consultation emphasised that investment in disaster risk reduction acts as an insurance policy for investment and development gains in Africa.

Outputs and impact

- The most notable result of the consultation was the review and adoption of an African

regional strategy for disaster risk reduction, which was presented and adopted by African Ministers of the Environment (AMCEN) in their meeting in June, and later endorsed by African Heads of State at their third ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, July 2004. The Assembly resolution AU/Dec.49 mandates the AU Commission and the NEPAD secretariat to work closely with ISDR partners to develop a programme of work that will enable member States to integrate disaster risk reduction into national development processes.

- The AU Commission and NEPAD secretariat were also mandated at the AU Assembly to work closely with ISDR partners "to develop a programme of work that will enable member States to integrate disaster risk reduction into national development processes" (Assembly resolution AU/Dec.49).

Asia

In accordance to the ISDR Asia Partnership established in late 2003 and launched in 2004 in the ADRC sponsored Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction in Siam Reap, Cambodia, the ISDR secretariat has been gradually expanding its presence and outreach in Asia in Kobe (Japan), Bangkok (Thailand) and Dushanbe (Tajikistan).



With support from OCHA and the Government of Japan, a part-time programme officer commenced in July within the OCHA office in Kobe. She will be focusing her ISDR

time on the preparations for the WCDDR in 2004, and following up on national and NGO initiatives and networks throughout 2005.

The ISDR secretariat recently engaged the services of a consultant based in Bangkok, made possible by additional support from the Governments of Sweden and Norway. His main task is to support ISDR partners in the region - ADPC, ADRC, UN/ESCAP and UNDP - to consolidate information products for Asia, including Issue 1 of Disaster Reduction in Asia - ISDR Informs (Issue 0 was launched in late 2003). In the period leading up to the WCDDR, he is also helping to formulate follow-up options to a study on environmental degradation and disaster risk, developed by ADPC and supported by SIDA, Sweden, early 2004.

During the reporting period the ISDR secretariat visited Central Asia on several occasions to support the preparation for the WCDDR in Central Asia and pave the way for the ISDR outreach in this region. The ISDR outreach post for Central Asia is hosted by UNDP in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. An Associate Expert from Norway was selected to work in close collaboration with UNDP, OCHA and other regional stakeholders to disseminate information and advocate disaster risk reduction and regional networking on the subject.

In August 2004 the Ministry of Emergencies Situations and Civil Defense, ADRC and the UN Disaster Risk Management Project in Tajikistan organized a national workshop on disaster risk management for senior officials, in cooperation with UNDP/BCPR, the Swiss Cooperation Office and the ISDR secretariat,

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aiming at promoting multi-level and multi-sectoral cooperation and collaboration in disaster risk reduction and integration of disaster risk reduction into national development planning, policies and implementations. Panel discussions during the workshop were oriented to evaluate the progress and identify gaps and constraints in disaster reduction.

Outputs and impact

- Increased ISDR secretariat networking capacity in Asia to support the regional partnership, carrying a different format than ISDR regional outreach in Latin America & the Caribbean and in Africa. The results of this recent capacity will not be apparent until 2005.
- Development and support of follow-up activities to ongoing programmes of UNDP-BCPR in Central Asia and South-East Asia, to continue throughout 2004-2005.
- The ISDR secretariat has also been involved in lessons learned review of the Iranian earthquake in Bam, and is supporting OCHA, the Government of Iran and other stakeholders to organize an international seminar on seismic risk management to be held on 16-18 November in Teheran, Iran.

Asia in preparation for the WCDR

Regional meetings to review progress, coordinate efforts and discuss future priorities for disaster reduction and development in Asia took place in Cambodia, Bangladesh, Philippines and China, sponsored by the hosting governments, ADRC, ADPC, WHO and the UN/ISDR respectively. Such

meetings also took the opportunity to discuss and develop the concept of "Total Disaster Risk Management", currently being developed within the region.

In May 2004 China hosted a consultative meeting in Beijing in preparation for the WCDR, which drew on the conclusions from the above-mentioned meetings.

Outputs and impact

- The "Beijing Declaration on the World Conference on Disaster Reduction" adopted by representatives of 18 countries and six international or regional organizations, presenting the Asian perspective on the subject for WCDR and appealing for further political commitment and increased investment in disaster reduction.

Europe in preparation for the WCDR

The European Commission, with its Directorate General for External relations (DG-Relex) as a focal point, has been increasingly engaged in the preparations for the WCDR. Several services and directorates are engaged in activities related to disaster risk reduction. The most relevant policies are the humanitarian (disaster preparedness ECHO), research and environmental (includes civil protection). Recent policy documents, notably the Commission Communication on a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development¹, highlight that it is imperative to design



¹ "Towards a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development". COM (2002) 82 final, 13.2.2002

appropriate development policies to reduce disaster risk. In this Communication the Commission committed itself to "integrate disaster prevention into European Union development and environment policies" - a clear reinforcement of the commitment made already in the 2001 Commission Communication on Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development² where disaster preparedness is seen as an issue that requires "increased attention both in humanitarian assistance, and particularly in development co-operation strategies and programmes".

Outputs and impact

- As a member of the IATF/DR, DG-JRC (EC Join Research Centre) in Ispra has played an active role in supporting DG-Relex. In addition JRC was instrumental in preparing a session on systemic risks together with OECD for the WCDR. This included the organization of a preparatory joint seminar of over 100 experts held on 20 September 2004 on "Systemic Risks and Lessons learned - on the road to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction", in Karlskoga, Sweden, co-sponsored by the Swedish Rescue service, EC-DG/JRC and OECD.
- ECHO is currently reviewing a proposal submitted by the ISDR secretariat and OCHA to support the sharing of good practices in disaster preparedness and risk reduction as a contribution to the WCDR and advocacy for risk reduction.
- The preparations for the WCDR has presented potential opportunities for future collaboration between the EC and the ISDR secretariat, promoting the regional implementation of disaster risk reduction.

Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for the WCDR

In addition to several meetings in the Americas in preparation for the WCDR related to health and water systems and education and social communication (see partnerships section), a regional policy consultation was convened by the Government of Ecuador in collaboration with PAHO/WHO, UNDP, the ISDR secretariat and with financial support from the Swiss Cooperation (COSUDE). Attracting approximately 100 participants from 17 countries of the region, international and regional organizations and governments, the consultation served as an opportunity to compile regional inputs to the current draft of the programme outcome document for the WCDR, to be presented at PrepCom2 in October 2004.



A similar consultation had been planned for the English-speaking Caribbean organized by UWI, CDERA and OPDEM on "Managing hazards in the 21st Century" on 12-16 September 2004. However, during the same week Hurricane Ivan struck Jamaica, causing widespread damage and forced the organizers to postpone the meeting until a later date.

An additional significant policy development in the region was the endorsement of the "Andean strategy for prevention and response" by Andean Heads of State (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela). The Strategy is based on multi-

Systemic risk: Risk affecting the entire society and/or critical infrastructure. Need for understanding the inter-connectiveness and complexity of "highly uncertain, intricate concatenating series of events affecting vital complex societal systems".

Holistic: Emphasising the importance of the whole and the interdependence of its parts.

² "Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development-An Assessment". COM (2001) 153 final, 23.4.2001

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sectoral consultations in each country. In accordance with the ISDR framework, it contains detailed recommendations on policy, information, identification, monitoring and evaluation of risks, institutional and capacity building and mutual assistance in disaster situations. The Strategy also identifies activities and programmes to be developed by specific sectors. The development of the Strategy was spearheaded by the new Andean Centre for Disaster Prevention and Response (CAPRADE) and sponsored by CAF, UNDP and others.

Outputs and impact

- The Quito consultation brought a number of concrete recommendations to the draft WCDR programme outcome document, adding suggestions for additional priorities and emphasising among other areas stronger linkages and responses to the effects of climate change. The meeting also stressed the need for clear targets and indicators for progress as a result of the WCDR.

The Pacific in preparation for the WCDR

South Pacific countries joined forces to discuss a regional position paper for the WCDR and a draft "Pacific regional strategic action plan for disaster risk reduction" at a workshop held in June in Fiji, organized by SOPAC and supported by the governments of Australia and New Zealand. The Action Plan addresses the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, providing policy guidance and encouraging a systematic approach to disaster reduction in the region.



Thematic policy consultations A selection of thematic policy consultations in partnership

Gender equality

August 2004, Hawaii

On 10-12 August a workshop was held in Honolulu, Hawaii that provided a forum for dialogue and strategizing across disciplines, sectors, regions and all other boundaries that divide those with shared concerns about social equality and the risk of disaster. The workshop, organized by the Gender Disaster Network succeeded in recommending strategies and reviewed practical tools relating to recommendations from previous work on gender equality and disaster risk reduction, supported by activities developed through the Gender Disaster Network and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women.

Specific areas addressed at the meeting included:

- dialogue across disciplines, regions, and sectors about empowering women and reducing the risk of disaster;
- integrating gender and disaster concerns into parallel dialogues about global development, environmental racism, environmental sustainability, global feminisms and other social movements for change;
- sharing and learning about strategies for transforming organizational culture

in disaster management

- strategies for an integrated approach building gender equality into crisis response and reconstruction
- consultations to design and develop educational resources promoting awareness, training and education on gender equality and disaster risk reduction

Urban risk: Building disaster resilient cities

World Urban Forum - 13-17 September 2004, Barcelona (Spain)

The second World Urban Forum brought together around 3,000 participants from governments, local governments, NGOs, UN and experts, with one key area of interest being the increasing concern for urban risk and threats of natural hazards and other man-made risks and crisis recovery. A thematic dialogue focused on urban disasters and reconstruction: Sustainable relief in post-crisis situations; transforming disasters into opportunities for sustainable development in human settlements. The dialogue drew its conclusions from several networking events on Building resilient cities in which the ISDR secretariat collaborated with UN-Habitat, What is the civil society doing? organised by the Disaster Mitigation Institute, India, and The role of national and local authorities in peace-building and institutional development, organised by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities/International Center for Municipal Development. The

recommendations of these events will be brought to WCDR, in particular those related to the involvement of local Governments and community based groups in risk reduction, crisis management and sustainable recovery in human settlements. Civil society highlighted the need for data on safety and risk to be widely known to communities and also to for them to participate in monitoring and data collection. A concept of "reporting city alliances" was suggested to that extent.

Communication and Education

In Latin America two workshops were held in August 2004 on communication and education, in Guatemala and El Salvador, respectively.

UNESCO, PAHO/WHO, IFRC and UN/ISDR Latin America and the Caribbean co-organized the regional meeting on "Communication and public information strategies for disaster reduction", supported by the Training Center of Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI). The meeting attracted communication experts, national and local authorities, scientists and media from 14 Latin American countries, in addition to several international, regional and donor institutions such as CEPREDENAC, ACS; UNDP, UN-HABITAT and JICA, COSUDE and DIPECHO. The workshop was an opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned on communication strategies for risk management and disaster reduction,

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identifying areas for the formulation of strategies for adoption at the national and regional levels. It also made specific recommendations and targets to be achieved by 2015, for inclusion in discussions at the WCDR in the areas of:

(a) policies and strategies related to educational communication and public information, (b) the Role of Media in Disaster Reduction, and (c) the use of scientific information and public understanding of it.

The Latin American and Caribbean meeting on education for disaster risk reduction held in El Salvador drew 114 representatives from 17 hemispheric nations, including education experts, school infrastructure and risk management, public authorities, sub-regional, regional and international organizations, NGOs and

community leaders together to discuss education for disaster reduction. The meeting was supported by UN/ISDR, UNESCO, OAS, UNICEF, the Fundación Salvadoreña de Apoyo Integral (FUSAI), the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador, the National Service for Territorial Studies, among key cooperation agencies. The meeting advanced the hemispheric action plan (EDUPLANhemiférico) that encompasses educational physical infrastructure, public participation and academic aspects, making concrete recommendations that emphasised the importance of formal and informal education, and affirming the importance of risk management education within national education policies.

4.2 Partnerships for practical application

International platform for disaster recovery and reconstruction

In response to an often mentioned need in ECOSOC and other bodies and based on recent recovery needs, Japan has initiated a dialogue with UNDP, the ISDR secretariat and OCHA to work jointly on a proposal with relevant agencies and governments to launch a new initiative to improve lessons-learned, information sharing and assessment capacities for transitional recovery and reconstruction to natural hazards. The gap in this area had been identified through an internal self-assessment of mandates,

capacities and activities among UNDP, OCHA and UN/ISDR in 2003.

A particular shortcoming is the lack of resource mobilization frameworks for transitional recovery, while the Consolidated Appeal Process exists for immediate relief and rehabilitation, and international financial institutions provide mechanisms for long-term reconstruction loans.

Outputs and impact

- UNDP is taking the lead to identify appropriate format and content for such a networking facility and platform, based on last years ad-hoc transitional recovery plans, in close partnership with the ISDR secretariat, OCHA and Japan. Building on

existing networks of expertise in different areas of recovery needs, the platform would focus on building common frameworks for assessment of needs, resource mobilization and dissemination of good and bad practices.

- A consultative process among countries and other UN agencies is planned in the months leading up to the WCDR for a possible launching of the initiative at the WCDR.

El Niño: International research center for the El Niño phenomenon (CIIFEN - Guayaquil, Ecuador)

Sponsored by WMO and the Government of Ecuador, CIIFEN's work has advanced with the continuing support of the ISDR secretariat. ISDR and other regional partners have been promoting the center throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to gain increasing political recognition. An international board was established in 2004, a fundraising strategy developed and specific projects identified. The first official meeting for the international board is scheduled for November 2004 under the auspices of WMO.

CIIFEN has also joined forces with the Andean Development Bank (Corporación

Andina de Fomento - CAF) for the implementation of the project entitled "Organizational and managerial assistance for the consolidation of CIIFEN", aiming to building a regional platform, define a strategic plan of action and consolidate CIIFEN at the international and institutional levels. With the assistance of international consultants and sectorial participation from the Andean region the project is expected to be completed by October 2004.

Outputs and impact

- Two pilot projects on agriculture-climate and health-climate applications were finalized and promoted by CIIFEN, attracting funding for a project on climate risk indexes on agriculture, road and settlements infrastructure on the Ecuadorian coast, developed in cooperation with the Ecuadorian national meteorological and hydrological service.
- A regional modeling workshop held at CIIFEN triggered a strategic process to implement a regional ocean model in the southeastern Pacific which complements existing climate models and national efforts on atmospheric modeling as well as attracting active participation by the US National Science Foundation.

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5. Organizational development

5.1 Human resources

Over the reporting period, the ISDR secretariat has continued its organizational development process with a view to enhance its capacity and effectiveness. The current organizational chart is attached. The addition of new staff for African and Asian outreach is timely and will contribute to provide support to ongoing intergovernmental and inter-agency efforts in those regions. Additional Associate Experts are sought for the Latin

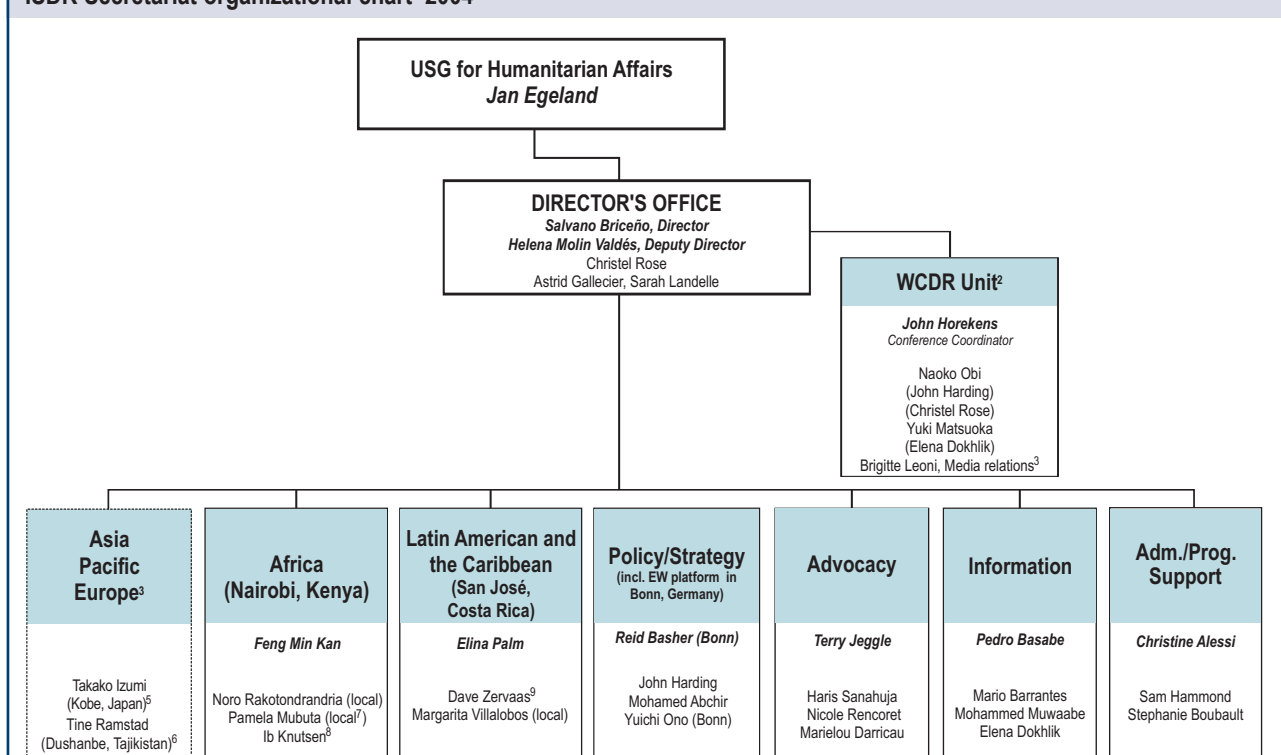
America & Caribbean office in Costa Rica as well as the Promotional Platform for Early Warning in Bonn.

The WCDR special unit continues to play a key role in this period and will be closed down shortly after the final reporting on the WCDR expected by April 2005.

The ISDR secretariat has received human resources support from partner agencies; including one staff shared with OCHA based

Figure 3

ISDR Secretariat organizational chart¹ 2004



¹ The ISDR Secretariat work plan has four areas: Policy and strategy support; Advocacy & public awareness; Information and networking; and Partnerships for application.

Regional programmes cover activities in all four areas, and Partnerships for application are cross-cutting.

² The WCDR Unit is temporary and coordinates actions related to the organization of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe-Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005).

³ Hired temporarily as consultant

⁴ Programmes in Asia, the Pacific and Europe are under development and currently managed from Geneva.

⁵ This post is shared with OCHA

⁶ Associate Expert from Norway (as of 12 August 2004) in support of the Central Asia programme, hosted by UNDP

⁷ Funded by UNEP.

⁸ Associate Expert from Norway (as of 1 August 2004)

⁹ General Coordinator of CRID, contribution of the ISDR to the inter-agency Regional Center on Disaster Information (CRID)

in OCHA's Kobe office and a one year loan of a senior adviser from UNDP/BCPR, effective 1 November. This is a welcome trend which will support the ISDR secretariat's core functions, in particular its inter-agency role.

Discussions with other UN and non-UN partners are ongoing to seek similar support, including possible hosting and sponsorship of ISDR staff at their respective programmes to promote and facilitate further mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into their own agendas. This will be particularly relevant to the implementation of the programme outcome of the WCDR in 2005 and beyond.

Areas in which the ISDR secretariat still needs strengthening include donor relations and resource mobilisation. Presently, such responsibilities are being temporarily covered by the WCDR Conference Coordinator; however, a full-time senior post should be dedicated to this function following the WCDR.

5.2 Financial resources

Financial resources

New or additional contributions to the Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) have been received from

UN/ISDR (do not include WCDR)	2004-2005 Biennial Estimated Req.	2004-2005 Received or pledged	2004-2005 % covered
Baseline budget	9,598,000	4,745,904	49
Additional needs, special priorities	2,913,000	967,226	33
Total	12,511,000	5,713,130	46

the Governments of Cyprus, Germany, Japan, Norway, the Philippines, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States since May 2004. The United Kingdom continues to represent the major donor to ISDR in 2004, followed by Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan, Norway, United States, Canada, South Africa, Cyprus and the Philippines. (see annex 2 for full list of contributions). ISDR has also received support funding from UNDP and WMO to engage in joint activities.

To date, almost 75 per cent of the 2004 total funding requirements for ISDR have been met as presented in the fundraising document An open opportunity to reduce disaster impacts. Requests for funding to support the ISDR and its secretariat 2004-2005.

However, 2005 total funding requirements are only partly covered by pledges (20 per cent), providing little security and capacity to plan for human resources and other commitments in the coming year. This does not include the preparation and holding of the World Conference, which is kept separate.

An outstanding challenge remains ensuring more stable and predictable funding for the ISDR secretariat, linked to the potential future recognition within the UN regular budget.

"Given the importance of disaster reduction in the achievement of sustainable development, I encourage Member States to actively support the consolidation of the ISDR as an essential instrument for sustainable development... I would encourage the international community to provide the necessary financial support to the Trust Fund for the strategy in order to ensure the adequate support for the activities of the secretariat."

Report of the Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly, 59/228

ISDR secretariat informs

Regional review and upcoming evaluation of ISDR

DFID regional review

As part of its annual monitoring activities with ISDR, the UK Department for International Development conducted a review of the ISDR regional outreach programmes in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean in August 2004. Its main purpose was to look at: (a) what impact and value-added the ISDR and the secretariat is having in the regions and how this impact is monitored; (b) the relevance and appropriateness of the secretariat's objectives at the regional level; (c) how effectively the secretariat's work plan is being rolled out in the regions; and (d) the effectiveness for coordination between the regions and the secretariat in Geneva.

Main conclusions of the review include:

- ISDR's main perceived role and value-added is a catalytic one, i.e. bringing together and mobilizing other actors, including national governments, to more effectively tackle disaster risk reduction.
- Both ISDR regional outreach programmes use of innovative awareness products have proved valuable in providing strategic engagement with new partners.
- The challenge of limited resources has forced the ISDR regional outreach programmes to forge active partnerships in areas such as cost and human-resource sharing - including co-funding with governments - resulting in a greater chance of being owned at the national level.
- Strong differences exist between the two regions which means that activities are not always jointly applicable across the regions.

Recommendations included improvements in:

- profiling the role and work programme of ISDR among countries and other agencies;
- monitoring and evaluation capacities for increased learning among the regions and with the Geneva based staff;
- staff capacity at the ISDR secretariat for donor relations and resource mobilizations; and
- exit strategies in areas where work has been conducted during a long period of time and other actors and national institutions are taking over.

The need for clear plans for follow-up support to the WCDR and the coordination role of ISDR at the regional level was also highlighted and recommended.

Evaluation of ISDR

USG for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland, who oversees the ISDR secretariat, had suggested to conduct an independent evaluation to determine the added value, relevance and impact of the work of the ISDR secretariat and the ISDR as a global and inter-agency mechanism, prior to WCDR as a means to provide more specific recommendations to be considered by the Conference. However, following consultation with key partners and donors, the evaluation has been postponed until after the WCDR and is tentatively scheduled for March-July 2004.

Partner organizations informs

The implementation of the ISDR is only possible if it is adopted by governments, regional and international organizations dealing with development and the interface between humanitarian assistance and recovery. The number of concrete initiatives in the various sectors and communities affected by disaster risk are increasing, and UN programmes and specialized agencies are further enhancing their capacities in support of national and local implementation of disaster reduction.

A selection of examples of such developments are presented below, set out in accordance with the main thematic areas defined in the updated policy framework for disaster risk reduction (annex 1). This will represent an increasing feature of future ISDR Information Notes, under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction.

1 Governance - Institutional and legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction

United Nations Development Programme - Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (UNDP-BCPR)

UNDP-BCPR's Disaster Reduction Unit launched a report in early 2004 "Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development", to improve global understanding of the relationship between development and disaster risk. This report introduced a Global Disaster Risk Index which measures the relative vulnerability of countries to three key natural hazards (earthquakes, tropical cyclones and floods), identifying development factors that contribute to increased risk levels as well as policy options to address these risks in the context of the Millennium Development Goals. Good governance was highlighted in the report as being essential for ensuring that development policy alternatives contribute to managing and reducing disaster risk. The report is available in three languages (English, French, Spanish), with the Executive Summary published in six languages (Arabic, English, French, Japanese, Russian, Spanish).

Institutional and Legislative Systems

UNDP is currently undertaking a global analysis of National Disaster Risk Management and Reduction Institutions with the aim to review the results of UNDP's past and ongoing assistance in the development of institutional and legislative systems for disaster reduction in its programme countries. In-depth analyses were carried out in 17 countries in Africa, Asia & Pacific, Latin America & the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe & the CIS. The results from these country analyses were shared during a global workshop, which was held in September in Geneva. The lessons learned and good practices identified will be fed into UNDP's ongoing work in capacity building and training with a view to increasing the effectiveness and impact of its interventions. The project will also provide inputs to the WCDR.

Local Level Risk Management Review

The importance of the active participation of the local population in managing and reducing disaster risk and responding to disasters has been widely recognised and efforts have been made to strengthen local capacities for disaster preparedness and

Partner organizations informs

response. UNDP has embarked in a global analysis of local level risk management initiatives in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to extracting lessons-learned and good practices to better focus its future disaster reduction programming with local level interventions. The results of UNDP-sponsored initiatives in Bolivia, Colombia, Jamaica and Nicaragua (LAC) and Nepal, India and Sri Lanka in Asia were analysed. As UNDP recognises that other partners have much more experience in this field, the analysis will expand to selected initiatives from other sponsors such as ADPC, WHO/PAHO, IFRC and other NGO's. Similarly to the ILS review mentioned above, lessons-learned and good practices will feed into UNDP's learning process to make its interventions more effective, and will provide inputs on this sphere of disaster reduction programming to the WCDR.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

WMO is actively working with Member States to support the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the preparations for the WCDR. The thrust of the support is on the how to further develop a culture of prevention by shifting more investments from post-disaster recovery to risk management and prevention. Furthermore efforts are made towards strengthening the collaboration of NMHSs with the national bodies responsible for disaster reduction coordination. It is expected that these activities will contribute towards the attainment of WMO's target at reducing by 50 per cent the associated ten-year average fatality from the

period 1995-2004 to the period 2010-2019 for natural disasters of meteorological, hydrological and climatic origin.

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The increasing awareness of the links between disasters, poverty, development and sustainability led FAO to establish its "emergency operations and rehabilitation division" in 2002. Its aim is to enhance rural people's resilience and ability to recover from human and natural disasters. The current medium-term plan (2002-2007) also established a "priority area of interdepartmental action" group to work on disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness and post-emergency relief and rehabilitation. FAO also continues to promote the explicit consideration of environmental issues in the development, management and use of food insecurity and vulnerability information systems to guide development policy and programmes.

2 Risk assessment, monitoring and early warning

WMO

The WMO Executive Council at its annual meeting in June 2004 adopted a comprehensive implementation plan to attain the objectives under the WMO programme on natural disaster prevention and mitigation. Through a 10-year international global atmospheric research programme (THORPEX), WMO aims at improving 1 to 14 days forecasts of high impact weather

and support decision making for weather related natural hazards. Ultimately, such efforts will enhance the capacity of society to realize societal and economic benefits of improved weather forecasts and better connect providers of weather forecasts and warnings with users and decision makers.

WMO is also developing a climate alert system to assist Member States make use of seasonal and inter-annual forecasts in their disaster risk reduction activities. WMO carries out several initiatives to improve flood forecasting and implement risk management practices to mitigate social, economic and environmental losses resulting from flooding including aspects of climate variability and change. It is also working with the ISDR secretariat on the risk management chapter of the second edition of the World Water Development Report.

FAO

Altogether, about forty countries worldwide have established national and regional early warning systems for food security with FAO assistance: currently FAO provides support to Afghanistan, Angola, Eritrea, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia, Zambia and Central America.

South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)

SOPAC's initiative to develop an environmental vulnerability index (EVI) in collaboration with UNEP is well underway. Once operational at the end of 2004, the EVI will provide a unique tool to monitor changes of environmental vulnerability over time and

measure ability to manage it. It will give policy and decision-makers specific directions on how to reduce environmental vulnerability to hazards and build resilience towards sustainability.

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC- UNESCO)

The International Coordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific (ICG/ITSU) of IOC-UNESCO continued its support to the International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC), Honolulu, Hawaii. It decided to establish an international component for its training programme (ITP-International) for in-country assistance to Member States and a "Pool of Experts" to assist Member States with expert missions; it recommended formal collaborative links with the Circum-Pacific Council and close(r) collaboration with GLOSS, ISDR and CEPREDENAC.

Space technology

Disaster reduction has proved to be a key consideration in the development of various integrated space-based disaster management systems. Partnerships to promote and disseminate space and telecommunications-based applications for disaster prevention aim at making vulnerable communities in developing countries benefit from available low-cost, high-impact solutions. In particular, the recognition of the importance to focus on local community needs in prevention rather than emergency response represents a major breakthrough.

Partner organizations informs

Space-related activities involve policy coordination and partnerships with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN/OOSA), the Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS), Action Team on Disaster Management (UNISPACE-III), OCHA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and its Global Monitoring of Environment Security (GMES), other space agencies and the ad hoc Group on Earth Observation. Among others, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN) through UNOSAT are dedicated to the search of concrete solutions by translating space technologies into maps and products for disaster management and risk reduction..

In April 2004 the Earth Observation Summit II (in Tokyo, Japan) adopted a framework for a 10-year implementation plan (2005-2015) to achieve comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained earth observations for the benefit of humankind. During the summit a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) was launched with the support of the US government to address shortcomings of current observation systems. Of direct relevance to the implementation of the ISDR are the foreseen benefits in reducing loss of life and property from natural and human-induced disasters; understanding, assessing, predicting, mitigating, and adapting to climate variability and change; and weather information, forecasting, and warning. The framework also recognised achievements made by existing programmes, including the better understanding of natural hazard through a

range of international observing and early warning systems consistent with the ISDR. Membership is open to all interested governments and the European Commission, and to representatives of relevant international organizations taking part, of which the ISDR secretariat is a member. The components of the plan will be duly taken into account in the WCDR programmatic outcome.

Global Wildland Fire Network

The Global Fire Monitoring Centre (GFMC) has consolidated and enhanced its capabilities as a global information provider (global fire monitoring portal) and its international liaison function in supporting of the development of informed policies at national, regional and international levels. Following the joint UN inter-agency Advanced Wildland Fire Management Training Course and Consultation in Sub-Saharan Africa (June 2004), which involved the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), a permanent partnership between with UNU will be developed by end of 2004, aimed at creating high-level capacity building for fire management and international cooperation in wildland fire management.

The network evolved during the lifetime of the former Working Group on Wildland Fire and consists of recently established or existing Regional Wildland Fire Networks. The Global Wildland Fire Network is a follow-up programme under the auspices of the ISDR, aimed at promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation in wildland fire management, including sharing of fire management resources, within and between regions. Main

financial support for the network is provided by the German Foreign Office.

Regional consultations have been held in the Northeast Asia Region (March 2004), the Balkans, Eastern Mediterranean, Near East and Central Asian Region (April 2004), the Baltic Region (May 2004), Sub-Sahara Africa (June 2004), South America (June 2004), Central America and Caribbean (October 2004) and for the Western Hemisphere / Americas (October 2004) have consolidated the formation of and/or the dialogue between 12 Regional Wildland Fire Networks and resulted in recommendations, work programmes and declarations aimed at supporting consensus for the WCDR and the high-level FAO meeting.

Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center launched new initiatives on Climate Forecast applications and Urban Disaster Mitigation in South and South East Asia, a new program on Capacity building for Flood Preparedness planning in the Mekong Delta and a study on Environmental Degradation and Disaster risk.

Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC)

In the context of the IATF WG3, ADRC has led the further development of GLIDE (GLobal unique disaster IDentifier number). The GLIDE automatic generator has been developed by ADRC and ReliefWeb, with technical assistance by LaRED and started its function in May 2004 for enhanced disaster

information sharing. It is being sought to further promote the use of GLIDE numbers, in particular at the national level.

3 Knowledge management and education

United Nations Disaster Management Training Programme (UN-DMTP)

The inter-agency programme continues its training aimed at strengthening UN country teams' capacity to provide effective coordination during crisis events and establish disaster preparedness plans. The programme's administrators, namely UNDP and OCHA, are in the process of undertaking a review in July-November 2004 to assess its strategic focus, purpose and added value. The review will also assess the UN-DMTP's premise and objectives from a historical perspective and in light of present trends and future challenges and demands made on UN field offices with regard to their functions, roles, competencies and performance expectations in addressing disaster events, disaster risks and their reduction. The outcome of the review will be to identify one or two possible future scenarios for UN-DMTP and define action steps for its reconfiguration. The ISDR secretariat is collaborating with UN-DMTP on workshops in selected countries to promote the establishment of national platforms for disaster reduction, and has also participated in the review of the programme, for closer synergy and cooperation in the future

Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)

Following the joint UN inter-agency advanced wildland fire management training course and consultation in sub-Sahara Africa (June 2004),

Partner organizations informs

which involved the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), a permanent partnership between GFMC and UNU will be developed by end of 2004, creating high-level capacity building for fire management and international cooperation in wildland fire management.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

At its thirty-second session, the General Conference of UNESCO approved a new Main Line of Action in its programme and budget for 2004-2005 entitled "Enhancing disaster prevention and preparedness". This main line of action is designed to encourage Member States to address the issue of natural hazards with an intra- and intersectoral approach. Under the programme, the effective use of advances in scientific knowledge and know-how to underpin preventive action and encourage disaster preparedness is being promoted. The promotion of wise disaster reduction practices is encouraged with particular attention to poor vulnerable zones in least developed countries and in some megacities, small islands and coastal zones. Efforts focus on capacity-building mechanisms aimed at sensitizing and educating decision-makers and municipal authorities in specific disaster mitigation strategies. Support is given to the elaboration, dissemination and testing of information and training materials and tools on disaster prevention bearing in mind the specific requirements of the poor, urban dwellers and rural area.

FAO

FAO has developed an international portal on food security to provide information to field practitioners and policy analysts. The multilingual Food Security and Complex Emergencies information portal focuses on various aspects of emergencies, endeavouring to ensure effective communication between risk assessors and risk managers in the area of food safety.

ADRC

ADRC is actively promoting the concept of Total Disaster Reduction Management (TDRM) together with UN, OCHA, ADPC and others. ADRC hosted several workshops to discuss the implications of TDRM with member countries. One concrete spin-off has been that the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior, Thailand, has translated TDRM materials have been translated into Thai.

ADRC have developed cooperative projects with member countries (e.g. Philippines, Mongolia and Viet Nam) to strengthen capacity and partnership, including:

- Training in the Philippines strengthened capacity in supply management and logistics in humanitarian assistance.
- Seminar in Mongolia stressed the need to enhance earthquake disaster management capacity in the country.
- Seminar on flood management held in Viet Nam focused on the need to urgently introduce a comprehensive approach to disaster reduction, stressing the preventive and proactive action, rather than responsive action.

4 Reduction of underlying risk factors - application

The Pacific

The Pacific region is engaged in a number of sectoral projects to develop capacity to reduce underlying risk factors. Among them (i) the South Pacific Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project (SOPAC, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, PFS, AusAID) addressing inter alia impacts of El Niño/La Niña events, (ii) Catastrophe Insurance in the Pacific (SOPAC, World Bank, AusAID) to highlight the work that needs to be done in each country as a prerequisite to developing a regional catastrophe insurance scheme in a region where insurance cover is sparse, (iii) Pacific HIV/AIDS Programme (Secretariat of the Pacific Community, World Health Organization, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) to improve awareness of the potential damage that can be caused by HIV/AIDS, the way it is transmitted and the methods of reducing risk, and (iv) project to reduce the vulnerability of Pacific ACP States (SOPAC and European Union) looking at hazard mitigation and risk assessment; the availability of aggregates for improved construction; and safeguarding and improving water resources and sanitation systems.

United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

Community empowerment and sustainable development are essential for effective disaster mitigation. To achieve safety and sustainability of livelihood for effective disaster mitigation, UNCRD is carrying out a project

"Sustainability in Community-Based Disaster Management" in 2002- 2005. The expected outputs of the project include the provision of best practices for community based disaster management, recommendations and strategic framework through policy interventions at local level to sustain community initiatives, dissemination of guidelines and tools through partnership-building. The results and local experiences of the project will be presented at the WCDR.

FAO

The FAO programme on the role of local level institutions in reducing vulnerability to natural disasters gathers experience and field based evidence to provide guidance to policy makers on linking disaster prevention and response activities and long-term sustainable rural development strategies. Based, among others, on projects in China and Mongolia, an inter-regional comparative study was done on the role of local institutions in reducing vulnerability to natural disasters.

UNEP

One of the focus areas of UNEP's work on environmental emergencies is disaster reduction, which involves the implementation of activities to raise awareness and strengthen capacities of Governments to develop policies, legislation and programmes for reducing disasters - particularly those that have profound consequences on the environment.

A number of joint UNEP and UN/ISDR activities have been undertaken to promote regional perspectives of disaster risk reduction. In June 2004 UNEP participated

Partner organizations informs

in the African regional consultation on disaster reduction, presenting the importance of environmental protection and its linkages with sustainable development, poverty alleviation and disaster reduction. Throughout 2004 UNEP has developed profiles of institutions working on disaster and environmental risk reduction in Africa, which are intended to enhance information exchange and promote coordination of disaster risk management in the region. An additional tool for information dissemination and public awareness is the newsletter "Environmental Emergency News".

UNEP, UN/ISDR and the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre produced a joint publication on environmental and floods management, specifically targeting school children.

UNEP and OCHA are currently engaged in a joint partnership on environmental emergencies within the framework of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, harmonising disaster reporting and notification procedures between international organizations. A website for sharing information on global prevention, preparedness and response to disasters was launched, and

5. Preparedness for effective response

World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO has made progress in mainstreaming disaster management over the past few years, gaining experience in supporting countries dealing with complex and natural emergencies. In line with the global WHO country focus initiative, WHO promotes

disaster reduction by providing policy, systems and technical support to countries at risk and by promoting competence building at the regional and country levels by:

- gathering information and outlining strategic directions;
- building up networks and working with international partners;
- strengthening national capacity; and
- securing in-house capacity to meet new challenges.

In the context of the Latin American meeting on Vulnerability Reduction in Health: Hospitals and Drinking Water Systems (Managua, Nicaragua, April 2004), representatives and experts from 18 countries prepared an action plan to reduce vulnerability in health facilities and water systems over the next 10 years. At a parallel meeting on drinking water facilities, participants concluded that both the knowledge and technology exist to enable disaster-stricken developing countries to make drinking water available to the affected population. Not taking risk management into account during the planning and development of water services jeopardises the safety of these systems and will make it difficult to achieve the Millennium Development Goal that seeks to "Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation".

During the Caribbean meeting on Mitigation in Health Facilities (Port of Spain, May 2004), representatives and experts from 11 Caribbean countries as well as from ACS, CDERA, OFDA, UN/ISDR and PAHO/WHO were present. The meeting

identified a key issue of hospitality vulnerability reduction as a national indicator of risk reduction.

One of the focuses of the WHO regional office for Africa is to build capacity and ensure self-reliance of Member States to prepare for, respond to and mitigate health consequences of disasters. It also addresses rehabilitation and adequate intervention in emergency situation. Its interventions at national level address policy frameworks and

strategy development, technical support and assistance and resource mobilization, strengthening of the multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary approaches

WHO's challenge is to clearly incorporate disaster mitigation into decision-making levels outside the health sector in order that countries may develop a national risk reduction policy.

VI The way forward and continuing challenges

Definition of disaster (risk) reduction

The conceptual framework of elements considered with the possibilities to minimize vulnerabilities and disaster risks throughout a society, to avoid (prevention) or to limit (mitigation and preparedness) the adverse impacts of hazards, within the broad context of sustainable development.

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction has generated an enormous amount of activity and interest around the world for the subject of disaster reduction. As stated at the ninth session of the Task Force in May 2004: the Conference will be the opportunity and milestone to get renewed attention and commitment from Governments, international, regional and non-governmental organizations, in particular financial institutions to promote the integration of risk reduction in their investments. It is the opportunity to make a quantum leap in providing for more explicit policies to integrate risk reduction into the Millennium Development Goals at their upcoming assessment in 2005.

A challenge to address before, during and, in particular, after the WCDR, is of course to identify the institutional, technical and financial resources required to effectively implement the priorities agreed upon. This includes a clearer and more substantive capacity within the UN to assist Governments and communities in this area. It also challenges current donor and financial policies, where risk reduction often falls in between humanitarian and development portfolios.

As part of this strategy, USG Jan Egeland, on behalf of OCHA and ISDR, and UNDP Administrator, Mark Malloch-Brown, have jointly taken the initiative for a UN system-wide study to enhance the UN capacities for disaster risk management and provide effective support to the implementation of WCDR's programme outcome. The study is expected to be ready by December 2004.

This study is considered part of a longer process to:

- determine the relevance and effectiveness of support provided by the UN system to disaster risk management efforts of local, national and regional institutions;
- identify gaps and overlaps across the UN system that affect potential synergies, and reduce its overall effectiveness in the area of disaster risk management;
- make recommendations that will assist the UN system to strengthen its capacity and effectiveness to support disaster-prone countries for the future

The ISDR secretariat is playing a facilitating role for the study and works closely with UNDP and OCHA.

Meanwhile, the priorities for the ISDR secretariat for the next six months, remain directly or indirectly related to the preparation, holding and follow-up to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, and they include:

- To ensure a well attended, substantive and successful WCDR, with high impact on public awareness with substantial exposure in the media and within participating countries on the benefits of reducing risk to natural and related hazards;
- To facilitate and service Member States in preparing for a substantive and feasible Programme of action for disaster risk reduction 2005-2015 that facilitates the implementation of the Johannesburg objectives for sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals;
- To ensure that the Thematic Segment of the Conference provides for full ownership of

UN agencies and international and regional stakeholders, as well as a Public Forum that provides for opportunities to share experiences among a wider range of stakeholders and civil society in disaster risk reduction;

- To ensure that the follow-up to the WCDR counts on full support from the IATF/DR and the ISDR secretariat (to be discussed at the tenth and eleventh sessions of the IATF/DR, to be held 7-8 October and April/May 2005, respectively);
- To increase funding opportunities for both the ISDR mechanisms as well as for disaster risk reduction activities at local, national and regional scales, as part of the above mentioned programme of action;
- To prepare for an independent evaluation of the ISDR mechanisms following the WCDR (planned for March-June 2005).

The current mandate and strategic framework for the ISDR secretariat remain valid in 2005, possibly with some adjustments after the WCDR. Any further change stemming from WCDR would be implemented gradually in the coming years. The challenge of increasing the inter-agency collaboration and synergy to facilitate and support the implementation of the programme of action and partnerships expected from the WCDR will remain high on the ISDR agenda. This will require a strengthened donor relations and resource mobilisation capacity as well as an improved clearinghouse system for information sharing and monitoring disaster risk reduction practice, including the development of an inter-agency Prevention Website capacity.

List of acronyms

AfDB African Development Bank

ACDS	African Centre for Disaster Studies
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Centre
ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AfDB	African Development Bank
AMARC	World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters
AU-NEPAD	African Union - New Partnership for Africa's Development
CADME	Coastal Area Disaster Mitigation Efforts, Andhra Pradesh, India
CCT	City of Cape Town
CDERA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency
CEPREDENAC	Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de Desastres Naturales en America Central (Coordinating Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America)
CERG	Centre d'Etudes des Risques Géologiques
CONRED	Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres
CRED	Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters
CSD-11	11th meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development
DFID	Department for International Development, UK
DMCN	Drought Monitoring Centre,
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EM-DAT	Emergency Events Database (CRED)
ESA	European Space Agency
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission of Asian and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand, United Nations
EU	European Union
EWC-II	Second International Conference on Early Warning
FUNDAPRIS	Fundación para la Prevención del Riesgo Sísmico, Merida, Venezuela
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEO	Global Earth Observatory
GMES	Global Monitoring for the Environment and Security
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IATF/DR	Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction
IATF-7	Seventh meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
MSF	Médecins sans Frontières
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OAS	Organization of American States
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OCHA/CAP	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs/Consolidated Appeal Programme
OFDA	Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance, USA

OOSA	Office for Outer Space Affairs, United Nations
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PIC	Pacific Islands Centre
RADIUS	Risk Assessment Tools for Diagnosis of Urban Areas
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
UN/COPUOS	United Nations/Committee on Peaceful Use of Outer Space
UNCRD	United Nations Centre for Regional Development
UN/DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP/BCPR	United Nations Development Programme/Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework on Climate Change
UN/HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Fund for Women
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UN/ISDR	Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UN/ISDR Africa	Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for Africa (Nairobi, Kenya)
UN/ISDR LAC	Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for Latin America and the Caribbean (San Jose, Costa Rica)
UNOPS	United Nations Operations and Projects Services
US/NOAA	United States/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
VARG	Vulnerability and Adaptation Resources Group
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

Annex 1

Policy framework to guide and monitor disaster risk reduction

Thematic area 1: POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (GOVERNANCE)

Governance is increasingly becoming a key area for the success of sustained reduction of risks. Defined in terms of political commitment and strong institutions, good governance is expected to elevate disaster risk reduction as a policy priority, allocate the necessary resources for it, enforce its implementation and assign accountability for failures, as well as facilitate participation from civil society private sector.

Thematic areas/ Components	Characteristics	Criteria for benchmarks (very tentative)
Policy and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk reduction as a policy priority • Risk reduction incorporated into post-disaster reconstruction • Integration of risk reduction in development planning and sectoral policies (poverty eradication, social protection, sustainable development, climate change adaptation, desertification, natural resource management, health, education, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National risk reduction strategy and plan • Disaster reduction in poverty reduction strategy papers, in national Millennium Development Goals reports • Disaster reduction in National Adaptation Plan of Action (for LDCs) on climate change • National follow up on WSSD Plan of Implementation
Legal and regulatory framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws, acts and regulations • Codes, standards • Compliance and enforcement • Responsibility and accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirement of compliance by law • Existence and update of codes and standards • Existence of systems to ensure compliance and enforcement
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource mobilization and allocation: financial (innovative and alternative funding, taxes, incentives), human, technical, material, sectoral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of budgetary allocation • Staffing allocation • Public-private partnerships
Organizational structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing and coordinating bodies • Intra and inter-ministerial, multidisciplinary and multisectoral mechanisms • Local institutions for decentralized implementation • Civil society, NGOs, private sector and community participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of an administrative structure responsible for disaster reduction • Sectoral programmes in line ministries • Consultation with and role for civil society, NGOs, private sector and the communities. • Existence of "watchdog" groups

Thematic area 2: RISK IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT

Identification of risks is a relatively well-defined area with a significant knowledge base on methods for disaster impact and risk assessment. Systematic assessment of losses, particularly the social and economic impact of disasters, and mapping of risks are fundamental to understand where to take action. Pre-investment appraisals of disaster risk to development and vice versa, consideration of disaster risks in environmental impact assessments is still to become routine practice. Early warning is increasingly defined as a means to inform public and authorities on impending risks, hence essential for timely inputs to reduce their impact.

Thematic areas/ Components	Characteristics	Criteria for benchmarks (very tentative)
Risk assessment and data quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazard analysis: characteristics, impacts, historical and spatial distribution, multi-hazard assessments, hazard monitoring including of emerging hazards • Vulnerability and capacity assessment: social, economic, physical and environmental, political, cultural factors • Risk monitoring capabilities, risk maps, risk scenarios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazards recorded and mapped • Vulnerability and capacity indicators developed and systematically mapped and recorded • Risk scenarios developed and used • Systematic assessment of disaster risks in development programming
Early warning systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and forecasting • Risk scenarios • Warning and dissemination • Response to warning 	<p>Effective early warning systems that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of forecasts • Dissemination channels and participation at local level • Effectiveness of response to warnings

Thematic area 3: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Information management and communication, education and training, public awareness and research are all parts of improving and managing knowledge on disaster risks and their reduction. Inclusion of disaster reduction with a strong gender balanced approach at all level of education, effective public awareness and information campaigns, media involvement in advocacy and dissemination, availability of training for the communities at risk and professional staff, targeted research are the ingredients to support the knowledge base for effective disaster reduction.

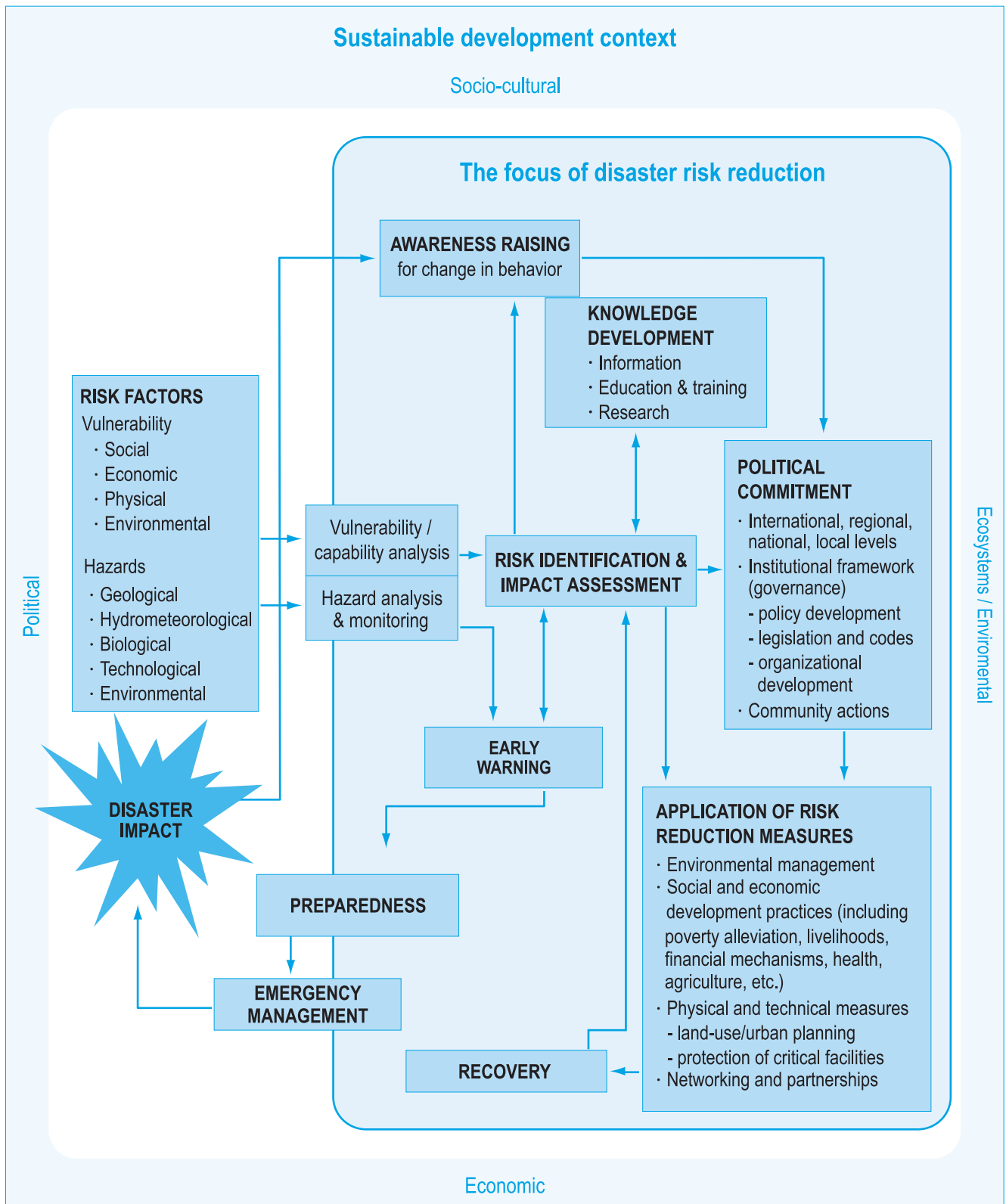
Thematic areas/ Components	Characteristics	Criteria for benchmarks (very tentative)
Information management and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and dissemination programmes and channels Public and private information systems (including disaster, hazard and risk databases & websites) Networks for disaster risk management (scientific, technical and applied information, traditional/local knowledge) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation and databases on disasters Professionals and public networks Dissemination and use of traditional/local knowledge and practice Resource centres and networks, in particular educational facilities
Education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of disaster reduction at all levels of education (curricula, educational material), training of trainers programmes Vocational training Dissemination and use of traditional/local knowledge Community training programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational material and references on disasters and disaster reduction Specialised courses and institutions Trained staff Evidence of systematic capacity development programmes
Public awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public awareness policy, programmes and materials Media involvement in communicating risk and awareness raising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage of disaster reduction related activities by media Public aware and informed Visibility of disaster reduction day
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research programmes and institutions for risk reduction Evaluations and feedback National, regional and international cooperation in research, science and technology development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existence of a link between science and policy (evidence-based policy and policy-oriented research) Indicators, standards and methodologies established for risk identification Regional and international exchange and networking

Thematic area 4: RISK MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS & INSTRUMENTS

Instruments for risk management have proliferated especially with the recognition of environmental management, poverty reduction and financial management tools as complementary solutions. The role of **environmental and natural resource management** in reducing climatic disaster risks is acknowledged. Wetland and watershed management to reduce flood risks, deforestation to control landslides, ecosystem conservation to control droughts are among the best known applications. For effective results, synergies need to be built between sustainable development and disaster risk management practices. **Social and economic development practices** with proven results in poverty alleviation such as social protection and safety nets are increasingly regarded as ways of reducing risks and instruments for self-reliance in recovery. Financial instruments in the form of micro-financing and public-private partnerships can be of great help. Others such as insurance, calamity funds, catastrophe bonds are useful in spreading risks though still difficult to establish in low-income countries. **Physical and technical measures** such as flood control techniques, soil conservation practices, retrofitting of buildings or land use planning are well known practices and have been implemented with mixed results. Their failure is often due to poor governance rather than knowledge of what to do. Moreover, such measures, while effective in hazard control, can often be inadequate for social protection and economic recovery.

Thematic areas/ Components	Characteristics	Criteria for benchmarks (very tentative)
Environmental and natural resource management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interface between environmental management and risk reduction practices, in particular in coastal zone, wetland and watershed management, integrated water resource management; reforestation, agricultural practices, ecosystem conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of wetland and forestry management to reduce flood and landslide risk Trends in deforestation and desertification rate Use of environmental impact assessments in disaster reduction planning

Thematic areas/ Components	Characteristics	Criteria for benchmarks (very tentative)
Social and economic development practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social protection and safety nets • Financial instruments (involvement of financial sector in disaster reduction: insurance/reinsurance, risk spreading instruments for public infrastructure and private assets such as calamity funds and catastrophe bonds, micro-credit and finance, revolving community funds, social funds) • Sustainable livelihood strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to social protection and safety nets as well as micro-finance services for disaster risk reduction • Use of safety nets and social protection programmes in recovery process: Insurance take up • Public-private partnerships for micro-financing and insurance at community level
Physical and technical measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use applications, urban and regional development schemes • Structural interventions (hazard resistant construction and infrastructure, retrofitting of existing structures, drought, flood and landslide control techniques) • Soil conservation and hazard resistant agricultural practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction reduced/zoning plans enforced in floodplains and other mapped hazard-prone areas • Compliance of public and private buildings with codes and standards. • Public buildings (health facilities, schools, lifelines, etc) at high risk retrofitted • Regular maintenance of hazard control structures
Thematic area 5: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Preparedness and emergency management have been effective instruments in reducing life losses from direct and indirect effect of disasters. A well-prepared system is expected to be effectively informed by early warning, have in place national and local preparedness plans regularly rehearsed establish communication and coordination systems, as well as adequate logistics infrastructure and emergency fund to respond from. Local level preparedness, particularly of the communities, including their training deserves special attention as the most effective way of reducing life and livelihood losses.		
Thematic areas/ Components	Characteristics	Criteria for benchmarks (very tentative)
Preparedness and contingency planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency plans (logistics, infrastructure) National and local preparedness plans • Effective communication and coordination system • Rehearsal and practice of plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing and updating of emergency response networks and plans (national/local, private/public) • Coverage of community training and community based preparedness • Emergency funds and stocks
Emergency management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil protection and defence organizations and volunteer networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective response to disasters and mobilization of volunteers, including NGOs, in particular Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies



Annex 2

ISDR secretariat financial overview - contributions and pledges

Secretariat of the ISDR
Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction
Contributions/Pledges (in USD) as at 4 October 2004
Biennium 2004-2005

UN/ISDR 2004-2005 estimated requirements

2004-2005 financial requirements	12,511,000 ¹
2004-2005 income/written pledges	5,713,129
2004-2005 outstanding requirements	6,797,871

WCDR estimated requirements

4,706,754
1,710,651
2,996,103

DONORS	Year 2004		Year 2005		WCDR	
	Received	Written Pledges	Received	Written Pledges	Received	Written Pledges
Canada	187,973.47					
Cyprus	7,140.00					
Germany	969,649.49 ²					
Ireland						52,586.21
Japan	317,492.00				1,118,117.88	
Norway	298,173.69 ³				97,638.78	
Philippines	1,618.83					
South Africa	7,414.06					
Sweden	584,385.58 ⁴			607,287.45 ⁴		*
Switzerland	375,625.00 ⁵				242,307.69	
United Kingdom	1,398,694.17			714,285.71		
United States	200,000.00					200,000.00
UNDP	40,000.00					
WMO	3,390.00					
Sub-total	4,391,556.29	0.00	0.00	1,321,573.16	1,458,064.35	252,586.21
TOTAL	4,391,556.29		1,321,573.16		1,710,650.56	

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Government of Japan: one Associate Expert - JPO (Jan 2004) part-time, shared with WMO

Government of Norway: two Associate Experts - JPO for Central Asia and Africa

Nippon Foundation: funding for the Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

In-kind contribution from the Government of Switzerland in support of ISDR organizational development

In-kind contribution for preparatory mission (WCDR) to Japan in January 2004 (US\$ 40,000)

In-kind contribution from Canada for the translation of Living with Risk into Spanish (through Fundacrid)

In-kind contribution from UNDP - Senior Programme Officer

* Sweden has made a commitment of SEK 2,000,000.

^{1/} As per document "An open opportunity to reduce disaster impacts", December 2003.

^{2/} In support of the regional outreach programme of the ISDR in Africa and of the Early Warning Platform.

^{3/} In support of project: Africa, Central Asia and Advocacy.

^{4/} In support of the regional outreach programme of the ISDR in Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia.

^{5/} In support of project: "Living with Floods".

Contributions are subject to UN Operational Exchange rates at the time of receipt.

UN/ISDR

CONTRIBUTIONS/WRITTEN PLEDGES to the Trust fund for Disaster Reduction (in USD) as at 4 October 2004

Donor	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005	TOTAL	
						WCDR			
ANEM ^{1/} (France)	10,093							10,093	ANEM ^{1/} (France)
Austria			12,942	14,251	**			27,193	Austria
Canada	99,714				187,973			287,687	Canada
Cyprus			8,369		7,140			15,509	Cyprus
Denmark		254,511						254,511	Denmark
European Commission					**			-	European Commission
Finland		60,784		191,834	**			252,618	Finland
Germany		228,260	543,976	854,249	969,649			2,596,134	Germany
Iceland			5,000					5,000	Iceland
Ireland						52,586		52,586	Ireland
Italy	242,483		148,662	117,371	**			508,516	Italy
Japan	300,000	234,155	300,000		317,492	1,118,118		2,269,765	Japan
Norway	252,966		274,360		298,174	97,639		923,138	Norway
Philippines		7,624		4,450	1,619			13,693	Philippines
South Africa	15,006				7,414			22,420	South Africa
Spain					**			-	Spain
Sweden	896,683		377,749	526,286	584,386	***	607,287	2,992,391	Sweden
Switzerland	97,956	161,180	616,696	697,446	375,625	242,308		2,191,210	Switzerland
UNDP					40,000			40,000	UNDP
UNEP	13,000	2,000		15,000				30,000	UNEP
United Kingdom	125,000		1,428,571	1,191,693	1,398,694		714,286	4,858,245	United Kingdom
United States					200,000	200,000		400,000	United States
WMO			19,017		3,390			22,407	WMO
TOTAL	2,052,901	948,514	3,735,342	3,612,579	4,391,556	1,710,651	1,321,573	17,773,116	
^{1/} Association Nationale des Elus des Montagnes (ANEM)									

Other Contributions:

- * L'Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie: one Associate Expert - JPO (2001-2003)
- * World Meteorological Organization: Senior Expert Seconded for a year (2002-Feb 2003); office space for the UN/ISDR
- * Government of Japan: one Associate Expert - JPO (2003-2004) part-time, shared with WMO;
in-kind contribution for preparatory mission to Japan in January 2004 (US\$ 40,000)
- * Government of Norway: Two Associate Experts - JPO for Central Asia and Africa
- * International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI), Columbia University: Senior Expert seconded in 2003
- * World Bank: through UNOPS: US\$ 20,000 in 2002 and US\$ 24,860 in 2003 for Living with Risk report and Information system
- * Nippon Foundation: funding for the annual Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction
- * In-kind contribution from the Government of Switzerland in support of ISDR organizational development
- * In-kind contribution from UNDP, one Senior Programme Officer

** Discussions are on the way for specific additional contributions

*** Sweden has made a commitment of SEK 2,000,000

ISDR Mission

The ISDR aims at building disaster resilient communities by promoting increased awareness of the importance of disaster reduction as an integral component of sustainable development, with the goal of reducing human, social, economic and environmental losses due to natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters.

ISDR Secretariat purpose statement

The ISDR Secretariat is a catalyst to advance and facilitate the realisation of the ISDR worldwide, striving to mobilise commitment and resources for its wide implementation and for disaster risk reduction through partnerships at international, regional and national levels.



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