

Information Note

for the period 1 April – 31 October 2003



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 disaster risk reduction through partnerships at international, regional and national levels.

ISDR Secretariat staff retreat, September 2003



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

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Introduction

The Secretary-General's Report to the UN General Assembly on the Implementation of the ISDR (57/277) outlines the major achievements during the last year by ISDR partners, the Inter-Agency Task Force and the Secretariat. It was presented at the GA Second Committee (under Environment and Sustainable Development) on 16 October 2003. Selected statements from Member States are available at the ISDR Secretariat.

This Information Note follows the Work Plan established for 2002-2003. It was based on the functions of advocacy, coordination, information management, and regional outreach. An evaluation of the outputs carried out until October 2003 showed that the overall completion rate was approximately 85 per cent. The discrepancy is largely attributable to the addition of unforeseen higher priority tasks, which of course have contributed compensatory outputs.

The additional activities, during the current reporting period, includes (i) development, in partnership with UNDP, of a framework for disaster risk reduction; (ii) implementation of a fellowship programme under an OCHA fund to support more than 100 students from 49 developing countries to attend international disaster risk reduction courses; and (iii) support to an inter-agency project led by UNDP and in collaboration with OCHA and NGOs

on volcanic risk reduction in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Although continual progress has been made in the fields of education, national platforms development and support, and visibility of disaster risk reduction within UN Secretariat information materials, the publishing of Living with Risk - A global review of disaster reduction initiatives (updated version) and websites development, these important areas require further work to reach planned levels and therefore will be given additional emphasis during the remaining months of 2003 and into the new year.

Having demonstrated its potential and raised many expectations over the last biennium, and with further growth likely, the Secretariat now needs to enter a new phase of consolidation and organizational development. This started over the past several months, thanks to the support from the British and Swiss Governments. A leading consultant in organisational design and operation has been engaged to guide the process. A second staff retreat was held in September 2003, initiating a reformulation of priorities, strategic institutional framework and results based planning. The first phase is expected to be finalized in December 2003. A summary of the internal strategic framework is attached.

The added value of ISDR is to provide a common international platform to develop coherence and guidance to the existing and emerging wide range of approaches that are available in the field of disaster risk reduction.

Introduction

1.1 Highlights of key achievements April-October 2003

Mainstreaming and policy setting

- Strong linkages and a network among the climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction communities were established, particularly with UNDP, IFRC and the Climate Change secretariat, leading to a sense of common purpose and commitments to collaborate. Products: An electronic newsletter (the Disaster Reduction + Climate Change Infolink); a plan and draft outline for a multi-stakeholder policy paper on disaster risk reduction and climate change policies, including a joint launch at a side event to the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies meeting in Bonn, June 2003).
- Early warning: Regional consultation meetings and workshops and the development of policy briefs and elements for an international early warning programme and the organization of the Second International Early Warning Conference held in Bonn, 16-18 October 2003, with over 300 participants, including ministers and other government officials, representatives of UN and other multilateral organizations, development and assistance agencies, private sector, technical and research institutions and non-governmental organizations. Products: The conference and its attendant documents, especially the meeting-endorsed international programme outline. (See www.ewc2.org and <http://www.iisd.ca/isdr/ewc2/>).
- Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: A table of ongoing activities and programmes by ISDR partners to support the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation was prepared; ISDR participation in the 11th meeting of the Commission on Sustainable development (CSD-11) in May 2003, in which vulnerability and disaster management was recognized as a cross cutting topic as well as focus topic during the cycle 2004-2015; co-organized a side-event on Resilient Communities led by ICLEI at CSD-11; currently preparing input papers on water, sanitation, and human settlements for the Secretary-General's reports to CSD-12 (April 2004).

Review of Yokohama Strategy

- Development of documentation for the review, mainly a draft Framework for Guidance and Monitoring of Disaster Risk Reduction as a backbone for the review and future programme of action. Products: Results of a one month on-line conference, updated matrix-framework and rationale. Inputs for the Review from regional and thematic conferences, most notably the Pacific Community at the Communities at Risk conference in Fiji (May), the Euro-Mediterranean Forum in Madrid (October) and the Second International Conference on Early Warning in Bonn (October).

Partnerships with key players

- UNDP: A joint staff meeting for planning purposes was held with BCPR/DRU, and mutual collaboration in several regional and national projects took place: ISDR participated in four UNDP Project Appraisal Committees, including in follow up to IATF Working Group activities with UN-HABITAT, OAS and ADPC for Tools and Best Practices for Risk and Vulnerability Analysis at the Local and Urban Levels, and the joint initiative involving also OCHA on volcanic risk in Goma, DR and on El Niño in Latin America and the Caribbean; in addition to the joint development of the framework for guidance and monitoring of disaster risk reduction.
- ProVention Consortium: Periodic information sharing sessions, and mutual participation in initiatives such as in the organization of a risk reduction workshop with IFRC for the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Conference in December 2003.
- UN-HABITAT: Development of a joint programme for increasing local risk management capacities in the Caribbean basin, and initiated study of gender issues in disaster risk reduction in Africa with UNIFEM, led by UN/ISDR Africa.
- UNESCO: Partnership is evolving on several fronts and in particular, on the development of a programmes involving

local authorities and communities for risk assessment and building resilience (also following up on the RADIUS experience) with involvement of UN-HABITAT, UNCRD, ICLEI, and other relevant partners and on the preparations for the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction and its integration in the International Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.

- UN-WATER: UN/ISDR continues in its commitment to UN-Water, a committee comprising UN system agencies and programmes addressing issues related to water issues, demonstrated through participation in related events such as the Dushanbe International Fresh Water Forum in August-September 2003.

Regional outreach

- Africa: The outreach programme is evolving positively, with a number of specific policy and technical outputs and partnerships, in addition to information products: website, Disaster Reduction in Africa - ISDR Informs magazine, educational booklets and a radio programme in English, French and Swahili on: hazards and disasters, drought what to know and what to do, impact of disasters in our communities, and living with disaster risks. Three national platforms established and supported (Djibouti, Madagascar, Uganda, in addition to the existent one in Zambia).

Introduction

- Latin America and the Caribbean: UN/ISDR has been active in early warning, urban risk reduction, public awareness and education, and developing innovative advocacy and educational tools, in partnership with regional and UN agencies and communications NGOs and institutions (radio soap operas *Tiempos de Huracanes* and *Replicas en el Corazon* with contents related to floods, hurricanes, earthquake and volcanic risk; *ISDR Informs - Latin America and the Caribbean* magazine).
- Asia: Established partnership arrangement with ADPC and ADRC in collaboration with ESCAP and UNDP, and issuance of "Number 0" of the joint newsletter *Disaster Reduction in Asia - ISDR Informs*. In addition, project development with ADPC to seek ECHO funding, close collaboration with ADRC in the planning for the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe-Hyogo, as well as with ESCAP in the Asian drought network.
- Pacific: Agreement and resource mobilization for SOPAC to carry out ISDR advocacy work and review of achievements in the context of Yokohama review.

Awareness raising and visibility of disaster risk reduction

- The ISDR website www.unisdr.org in Geneva improved with a new design and enhanced structure underway, as well as the regional outreach ones: Latin America and the Caribbean, www.eird.org; Africa www.unisdrafira.org.
- Awareness products: Information kits and press material widely disseminated drawing from contributions from over 30 collaborators worldwide. The UN-Sasakawa Award has been given good visibility within the UN and within selected countries. ISDR Secretariat staff has produced articles and chapters in several magazines and books, including a chapter in a book on *Climate Change in Africa*, *WMO Bulletin* and book on *Convention on Biological Diversity*.

Achievements and impacts

This section outlines those activities undertaken during the period 1 April-31 October 2003 as indicated in the 2002-2003 ISDR Secretariat Work Plan (Annex 1), recording their achievements and impacts.

2.1 Advocacy

The ISDR Secretariat was involved in numerous advocacy activities in 2003, resulting in further raising awareness of disaster risk reduction and promoting participation in related initiatives at the regional, national and local levels. A variety of complementary activities ensured the widespread dissemination of information materials to diverse publics, that generated increased interest and collaboration in a number of areas.

Areas of Activity

- 2003 World Disaster Reduction Campaign: Living with Risk - Turning the tide on disasters towards sustainable development
- Administration and management of annual UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction
- Production and dissemination of ISDR Informs regional magazines
- Production and dissemination of ISDR Highlights e-newsletter
- National platforms for disaster risk reduction
- ISDR Fellowship Programme

Achievements

Production of World Disaster Reduction Campaign information materials

The ISDR Secretariat produced public awareness materials including a Campaign announcement, poster and information kit (10,000 units in English/French/Spanish) that were disseminated worldwide to assist in the preparation and implementation of events, including those held on the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction. These were disseminated in hard copy, via email as well as made available on-line at www.unisdr.org.

Campaign outreach via alternative communication channels

The ISDR Secretariat made the use of a range of methods to ensure widespread dissemination of Campaign messages, reaching new publics and generating increasing interest in disaster reduction. These include appearance on the UN headquarters website www.un.org, including the UN Division for Public Information, the Freshwater Year dissemination channels, regional and international partners and national platforms and Governments and related websites.

Achievements and impacts

"On the International Day for Disaster Reduction, let us remind ourselves that we can and must reduce the number and impact of disasters by building sustainable communities that have the long-term capacity to live with risk."

Kofi Annan
UN Secretary-General

International Day for Disaster Reduction - 8 October 2003, Geneva *Water: Floods in Central Europe*

In addition to local and regionally organized activities done by partners, the ISDR Secretariat organized a photographic exhibition in conjunction with the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic, installed in the Salle des Pas Perdus of the UN Palais des Nations, Geneva. Accompanying the exhibition was text highlighting Campaign messages using the images to reflect on the importance of disaster reduction.

Nomination and selection of UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction Laureate and Certificate recipients

Many geographical regions were represented in the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction selection process and the annual award ceremony held on 16 October in the context of the Second International Conference on Early Warning in Bonn, Germany. The 2003 Laureate was awarded to Mrs. Esther Tadzong of the Global Centre for Compliance, Hazards and Disaster Management (GLOCECOHADIM), Republic of Cameroon. Certificates of Distinction were given to: Fundación para la Prevención del Riesgo Sísmico (FUNDAPRIS), Mérida, Venezuela, Mr. Meda Gurudutt Prasad, from CADME, Andhra Pradesh, India and Mr. Rafi Ahmad, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica. Certificates of Merit to: Association Prévention 2000, Paris, France; the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority, India; and Dr. Jean Pierre Massué, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France

The Nippon Foundation expressed interest in utilizing the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction as a model for the management of the two other Sasakawa prizes (UNEP Environment and WHO Health prizes).

Production and dissemination of ISDR Informs regional magazines

UN/ISDR LAC produced and disseminated 8,000 hard copies of ISDR Informs - Latin America and the Caribbean (Issue 7, 2003), available in English and Spanish (available on the web: www.eird.org).

UN/ISDR Africa produced and disseminated 1,000 copies of Disaster Reduction in Africa - ISDR Informs (Issues 1 and 2, 2003), the first ever Africa-wide magazine dedicated to the subject of disaster risk reduction. A mailing list is currently being compiled, pending availability of funds for mailing costs.

Exceeding what was set out in the 2002-2003 Work Plan for the ISDR Informs regional magazines, UN/ISDR collaborated with ADPC, ADRC, ESCAP and UNDP/BCPR to produce and disseminate 3,000 copies of Issue 0 Disaster Reduction in Asia: ISDR Informs, compiled in Geneva, printed in Bangkok by ADPC, to be disseminated by all partners, in addition to website availability.

Production and dissemination of ISDR Highlights e-newsletter

Conversion of the former bi-monthly ISDR Highlights e-magazine into a monthly e-newsletter, comprising 'newsflash' items and weblinks thereby improving readability, flexibility of delivery and ease of production. ISDR Highlights continued to receive positive feedback for both its English and Spanish translations, proving most successful as a channel for communication with ISDR partners. However, due to the volume of contributions as well as reasons of pdf-file size, it was decided that ISDR Highlights would convert into a more concise monthly, shorter e-flash, and the Highlights would turn into a bi-annual magazine, similar in format as the regional ISDR Informs. The first version of the magazine is expected to be available in early 2004.

National platforms for disaster risk reduction

Identification of baseline and validation of national platforms designated as counterparts to ISDR (mostly existing national mechanisms), resulting in 15 national platforms confirmed with formal recognition from their own national governments and the Secretariat. In addition, approximately 40 national focal points or committees are registered in the ISDR database and in continual contact with the Secretariat on an information exchange basis. Many others are under way.

A draft of Guiding Principles for National Platforms were prepared and shared with UNDP/BCPR and selected national platforms for validation and finalisation, as the official document to guide the creation and work on national platforms for disaster risk reduction.

In conjunction with the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) in Brussels, over 170 disaster country

Countries with established ISDR national platforms officially recognized by the Government

Bulgaria
China
Czech Republic
Djibouti
France
Germany
Iran
Japan
Republic of Korea
Madagascar
Republic of the Philippines
Spain
Switzerland
Uganda
Zambia

In addition, 40 national focal points

Achievements and impacts

MoUs established under the ISDR Fellowship Programme

- La Secretaría Centro Virtual Structuarlia for the course Gestión Integral de Riesgo y Desastres of the Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña
- Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Bangkok Thailand for the 5th Regional Flood Risk Management Course and 30th Regional Disaster Management Course
- The African Centre for Disaster Studies (ACDS) for the course on Disaster Risk Reduction and Development at Potchefstroom University, South Africa
- The University of Cape Town, South Africa for the course on Disaster and Development: Reducing Risk - Protecting Livelihoods

profiles were disseminated via UNDP country office network as a means of increasing risk awareness and strengthening data collection within national authorities.

ISDR Fellowship Programme

ISDR recovered an available resource at OCHA for fellowships, and has since early 2003 managed and developed the criteria, selection and implementation of the programme to support students from developing countries to assist training.

Seven international courses on disaster risk reduction were supported by the ISDR Fellowship Programme. Partnerships with various educational and research institutions were developed in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, and a growing number of existing courses were identified and registered in the ISDR information system, to be shared with general public through the website and partners.

FIGURE 1:
Number of participants from Latin America and Caribbean countries. Total 50 participants

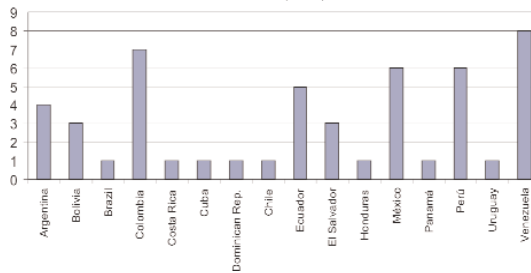


FIGURE 2:
Number of participants from Africa. Total 31 participants

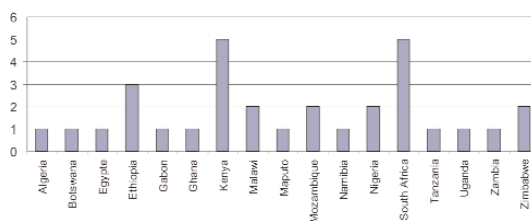
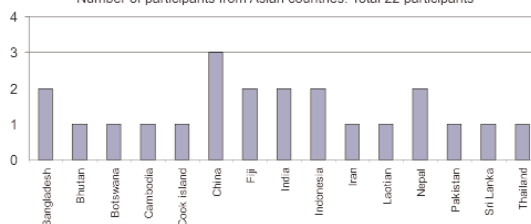


FIGURE 3:
Number of participants from Asian countries. Total 22 participants



Impacts

- The Campaign encouraged global information exchange and the sharing of experiences evidenced with 40 written contributions for inclusion in the information kit, with over 75 per cent of kits disseminated worldwide and reproduction of kit contents in 5 independent publications and CD ROMs.
- Widespread e-dissemination via the internet shown by the fact that the Campaign webpage was the third most visited page of the ISDR website during the month of September 2003.
- The Campaign and International Day for Disaster Reduction promoted participation through ideas for action and application reflected by local and national activities in over 20 countries.
- Greater visibility of specific disaster risk reduction achievements as illustrated through the increased number of nominations for the Award received (33 in 2003 in comparison to 17 in 2002) and by local and international press coverage, in particular in those countries and communities where an award or certificate was received.
- ISDR Informs are the only periodicals in Africa, LAC and Asia on disaster reduction issues providing a forum for partners and countries to share experiences, connect, learn and network.
- Increased contact with ISDR partners via regular monthly ISDR Highlights e-updates of news in disaster reduction to over 4,000 subscribers.
- Wider connected network of national counterparts through existing and newly established ISDR national platforms for information dissemination and collection, advocacy and policy coherence for integrated risk reduction in a two-ways relationships: from global to national, and from national to global.

"Allow me to thank you for the wonderful job and for the consideration of Mozambique efforts to mitigate the effects of calamities. The article about Mozambique New Warning System posted in the web is making a splash around here. This is really wonderful. THANK YOU!!!!"

Antonio Mavie
FEWS-NET MIND
Mozambique
Contributor to the World Disaster
Reduction Campaign information kit

"Thanks again for sending all of the wonderful International Strategy for Disaster Reduction materials. Although you were not physically present, we set up a display booth with all of your materials."

"I believe that all who participated walked away with a better understanding and appreciation for that work that each of our respective organizations is doing in support of risk reduction."

Christine Leonardo
American Red Cross
Co-organiser of the American Red Cross,
Organization of American States, and Pan
American Health Organization open house
in recognition of International Day for
Disaster Reduction, 2003

Achievements and impacts

"When the proposed national disaster preparedness platform is set up, we shall not only be fulfilling the requirements of the national disaster preparedness policy - that calls for multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary approach in disaster management, but we will also be able to ensure timely early warning information that reaches both key stakeholders and vulnerable groups of the society or community concerned whenever a disaster is predicted."

Martin Odwedo, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister
Uganda

- A total of 104 participants from 49 developing countries of Latin America & Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe (Figures 1, 2 and 3) were sponsored to attend training on disaster risk reduction assessment and management. They will contribute through their knowledge to the promotion and implementation of sound practices for disaster risk reduction and the implementation of ISDR.

2.2 Coordination

Collaboration is a key contributor to the success of any disaster reduction initiative, and the ISDR Secretariat found that by way of cooperating with partners it was able to move closer towards the achievement of the overall Strategy. Throughout 2003, the ISDR Secretariat continued to collaborate with a range of partners, resulting in concrete projects and programmes towards reducing the negative impacts of hazards.

Areas of Activity

- Support to the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction and its working groups
- Follow up to WSSD - sustainable development
- Interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnerships increased and continual expansion of the risk reduction network:
 - Early warning
 - Space applications
- Climate risk management and adaptation to climate change
- Partnerships for "Connecting people and institutions" in Middle East and Arabian Gulf

Achievements

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

Increased number of UN formal members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (UN University, United Nations Centre for Regional Development), and one new civil society member joined at IATF-7: the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), at Louvain Catholic University in Brussels.

New inter-agency projects sprung from IATF/DR work, such as the WG3 UNDP financed and ISDR supported UN-HABITAT, OAS and ADPC project for Tools and Best Practices for Risk and Vulnerability Analysis at the Local and Urban Levels.

Draft work-programme for the IATF/DR in 2004, providing more synergy with the work-programme of the Secretariat, and introducing new modalities to make the IATF/DR work more effective.

Follow up for the WSSD

ISDR participated in the eleventh session (CSD-11) in April/May 2004, in support of member states and the UN/DESA secretariat, to cover disaster and risk management aspects and co-organize a partnership side event on Resilient communities (led by ICLEI). CSD-11 adopted a Multi-Year Programme of Work to review progress in implementation in which the focus will change in cycles of two years. Disaster and risk management is recognized as a cross-cutting issue. In addition, vulnerability and disaster management will be addressed as a specific thematic area in the cycle 2014-2015.

The ISDR Secretariat is contributing to the UN Secretary-General's State of the Implementation reports for all three thematic areas for 2004: "Water, Sanitation and Human Settlement". ISDR participated in the scoping meetings coordinated by UN/DESA. The reports will address new challenges and opportunities related to

The consolidation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction is the essential instrument to reduce the risk of and vulnerability to natural hazard and related environmental and technological disasters.

Statement presented in response to the Report 58/277 on the Implementation of ISDR during the General Assembly's 58th Session (October 2003)

Achievements and impacts

"We support the activities of the Inter-Agency Secretariat and Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction. We believe that efforts in this regard should focus on developing early warning systems and strengthening the national response potential"

Statement presented in response to the Report 58/277 on the Implementation of ISDR during the General Assembly's 58th Session (October 2003)

the implementation of disaster risk reduction and the thematic areas. The input on water is being coordinated by UNWATER, of which ISDR is an active members since its creation in 2002. The Human Settlement report is coordinated jointly by UN/DESA and UN/HABITAT and UN/DESA where ISDR is providing an input paper; and WHO coordinate the report on Sanitation also through UNWATER.

Early warning

Regional early warning consultations: The ISDR Secretariat, in close collaboration with partners undertook four regional consultations on early warning systems for natural disasters in preparation for the Second International Conference on Early Warning (EWC-II). The workshops took place in Bandung, Indonesia, 26-28 May 2003 (Asia region), Antigua, Guatemala, 3-5 June 2003 (the American Hemisphere) , Nairobi, Kenya 23-24 June 2003 (Africa region), and Potsdam, Germany 28-29 July 2003 (Europe region). The regional consultations have already had spring-offs in new collaborations among countries. Conclusions and recommendations available on: www.ewc2.org

Second International Conference on Early Warning (EWC-II): The Government of Germany and the ISDR Secretariat hosted the Second International Conference on Early Warning (EWC-II) in Bonn, Germany, from 16-18 October 2003. Over 300 participants attended, including ministers and government officials, representatives of UN and other multilateral organizations, assistance agencies, technical and research institutions and non-governmental organizations.

Climate risk management

Living with Risk in a Changing Climate side event at Subsidiary Bodies of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, 5 June 2003: At this side the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the International Red Cross / Red Crescent Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness, and the ISDR Secretariat proposed to develop a scoping document to be a vehicle for developing disaster reduction and climate change policies; provide guidance for current activities; be aimed at both policy and technical experts; contain an inclusive iterative consultative process; be accessible and widely endorsed.

Pilot edition of DR+CC Infolink: In order to stimulate linkages and information exchange between the disaster reduction and climate change communities, IFRC/Netherlands Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness, UNDP and the ISDR Secretariat are collaborating to produce the Disaster Reduction + Climate Change (DR+CC) Infolink. This electronic newsletter focuses exclusively on the intersection of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, to promote disaster risk reduction as an adaptation strategy, and to clarify the role of climate change in disaster risk management. The pilot edition was produced on 28 August 2003 and highlights the need to take steps to have disaster risk better dealt with in the IPCC process. The second edition to be released in November 2003.

"How can we congratulate you enough for the excellent initiative of combining DR with CC. Such good timing and such a direct way. Congratulations to you and your team."

Mihir R. Bhatt
Disaster Mitigation Institute
India

A section on extreme weather events and their impact on vulnerable countries was prepared by the Secretariat and included in the SG report on Implementation of ISDR (58/277) as requested by General Assembly 57th session (Decision A/57/547)

Recognition of relevance of disaster reduction in space community activities

- OOSA: publication on space applications for disasters and sustainable development (main concepts derived from ISDR experience in WSSD)
- Action Team: Inclusion of disaster reduction as main topic for the integrated space-based disaster management system.
- UN-COPUOS (Committee on Peaceful Use of Outer Space): recognition of disaster reduction as central topic for future (vs. historical preference for emergency management support) and higher profile of ISDR in COPUOS.
- ESA: Involvement of ISDR in user needs survey for GMES and, through this, recognition by GMES of need to focus on local community needs in prevention rather than emergency response (here cooperation took place with both OCHA and Red Cross - MSF)
- US/NOAA: Inclusion of ISDR in Global Earth Observation (GEO) talks and meetings (ISDR Director invited to EO Summit)
- UNOPS/UNITAR/UNOSAT: realisation of low-cost technology measures for vulnerability assessment in Matagalpa (Nicaragua). Achievements can be viewed at www.unosat.org.

Achievements and impacts

"Partnerships are essential to the successful implementation of effective early warning and disaster risk reduction."

Jan Egeland
UN Under-Secretary-General
for Humanitarian Affairs

ISDR and technological hazards

Expanded professional outreach of risk reduction concepts and practice among technological, environmental, educational, commercial, and government interests (University of Jordan Center for Security Studies, Amman, Jordan; and Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain)

Recent locally-funded participation of ISDR staff in October 2003 as a primary international speaker in two regional workshops on "technological hazards with an environmental perspective" has advanced regional efforts to pursue the creation of a Center for Technological Risks to further ISDR objectives.

Impacts

- Results and policy recommendations from IATF being more widely consulted and used
- Increased interest for membership or association with IATF by UN, regional and civil society organizations
- The Second International Conference on Early Warning (EWC-II) process provided an overview of the extent to which early warning has been integrated into natural disaster reduction initiatives and public policy, and identify the critical needs and propose strategies and requirements to fulfill these needs.
- Elements for an international programme on early warning formulated and endorsed by the EWC-II provide increased understanding of solutions for integrating early warning into public policy, new technologies and low-technology solutions for early warning systems, the responsibilities of policy makers in the context of early warning and urban risks, and early warning as a decision tool for emergency management.
- The Government of Germany has engaged with the ISDR Secretariat to ensure resources to initiate the suggested programme for early warning.
- Partnership established on climate risk management and adaptation to climate change between ISDR Secretariat, UNDP, IFRC/Netherlands Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness and the Climate Change Secretariat.
- Investment in partnerships has increased the promotion and dissemination of space based applications for disaster prevention especially aimed at making vulnerable communities in developing countries benefit from low-cost, high-impact solutions that are already available.
- Greater commitment for implementation of disaster risk reduction at global, regional, national and sub-national levels to be strengthened through the review of the Yokohama Strategy and the World Conference.
- Identification and engagement of an institutional focal point for risk reduction education and professional advocacy in the Middle East/Arabian Gulf area.
- Renewed interest and possible engagement of the subject in Oman, through Sultan Qaboos National University.

2.3 Information management

As the focal point within the UN system on disaster risk reduction, the ISDR Secretariat has been involved in a range of activities that contribute to the development of more sophisticated information collection, synthesis and dissemination processes.

An emerging area that will rise in priority over the coming year is the Yokohama review, which will culminate in the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction to be tentatively held at Kobe-Hyogo in January 2005. Many ISDR partners have indicated their support and interest in contributing the review as well as the Conference itself, during the recent on-line conference on the framework for guiding and monitoring disaster risk reduction. Their valuable inputs were recorded and will provide the backbone for the overall review, to be enhanced by existing and future ISDR information and networking services as outlined below.

Areas of Activity

- Global review process: Living with Risk - A global review of disaster reduction initiatives 2003
- Review of the Yokohama Plan of Action
- Information clearinghouse on disaster reduction
- Improving scientific knowledge of the causes of natural disasters and the effect of natural hazards
- Increased partnerships for volcano risk reduction
- Increased partnerships on drought risk reduction globally

Achievements

Living with Risk - A global review of disaster reduction initiatives

The texts for the Living with Risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives 2003 were updated to be published and distributed by UN Sales Publications (for tentative release at the end of 2003). A draft Summary for policymakers based on Living with Risk was developed, to be finalised, translated and disseminated in 2004.

In parallel to Living with Risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives, UN/ISDR provided input and contributed to the review of the UNDP report Disasters and Development (former World Vulnerability Report), for release in early 2004.

Achievements and impacts

"We are taking this conference [on the framework for guiding and monitoring disaster risk reduction] as a platform to exchange ideas and information and use as the avenue for joint work. I consider this opportunity as a valuable one and look forward to further communication in this regard. Let us work together for the main cause of disaster reduction for sustainable development."

Dr.SriGowri Sanker
ADRC
Kobe Japan
Participant of the on-line conference

Progress in the Yokohama Review, on the road to the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction

In August 2003, an on-line conference was held together with UNDP discussing the framework for guiding and monitoring disaster risk reduction. Approximately 300 participants provided expert input on its content as well as on the process of its development, political endorsement and application.

Based on the above-mentioned framework, a draft outline for regional and thematic meetings and review as well as for the identification of national case studies were prepared, to serve as basis for the publication *Living with Risk 2005: A review of the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World* (working title).

Preparations for the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction have advanced steadily, with Japan offering to host the Conference in Kobe-Hyogo (January 2005). The UN General Assembly will decide in November-December 2003 on the format and the extent of the Conference under the auspices of the UN (also to be discussed at IATF-8, 5-6 November 2003).

ISDR information system

The components of the ISDR information system for disaster reduction includes a set of reference databases (still only for internal use), a specialized library, websites and electronic networking facilities. Further updating of the UN/ISDR reference databases of individuals/contacts, organizations, events and training, and projects and programmes for disaster risk reduction has taken place.

Phase 1 of the ISDR Library development process achieved in acquiring software and provision of training and application of system administration.

A CD-ROM was issued on UN Documents Related to Disaster Reduction including Volume 1 (1987-1999), second edition and Volume 2 (2000-2002) English/French/Spanish, as well as issuance of Volume 2 in hard copy, disseminated widely to national policymakers.

Cooperation for advancing scientific knowledge and research

In collaboration with the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters in Brussels (CRED) and the many participating agencies of Working Group 3 of the IATF/DR, UN/ISDR continued working to support enhancement of the International Disaster Database, EM-DAT. Official partnership with CRED was established with Letter of Agreement signed between UN/ISDR and CRED.

In direct consultation with experts on disaster risk reduction, a comprehensive list of terminology was compiled and finalised, published on the ISDR website and will appear in the updated version of Living with Risk - A global review of disaster reduction initiatives.

Using Venezuela as case study, UN/ISDR collaborated with SDC, UNDP, and national institutions to conduct a review of methodology on debris flow assessment, including legend for hazard maps.

Using Ecuador as a case study, UN/ISDR collaborated with SDC, national, regional and local institutions to follow-up multi-hazard monitoring and early warning systems, as well as the application of risk assessment in land-use planning.

Using Nicaragua and El Salvador as case studies, UN/ISDR collaborated with SDC, national, regional and local institutions to synthesize good practices of a disaster risk reduction multi-national project in Central America, in particular the application of risk assessment into municipality policies.

Initiated by the Geological Survey the Canada, with Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, UN/ISDR participated in the application of its guiding framework for the multinational Andean project Geosciences for Andean Communities-Strengthening Geosciences Knowledge in Communities.

Increased partnerships for volcano risk reduction

UN/ISDR completed an inter-agency mission with UNDP, OCHA and the Council of Europe to Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, supporting public awareness and educational components with local partners (CONCERN, Save the Children, Goma Volcanic Observatory and others). This project is also part of OCHA CAP 2004, with OCHA, UNDP and ISDR as implementing agencies. The joint UNDP-ISDR-OCHA project proposal was finalized, with initial funds allocated by UNDP for the project.

"It is necessary to promote better comprehension and better acknowledgement of the causes of the natural hazards - that is, the creation of capacities and institutional strengthening by the appropriate technology transfer; the access to the sources of relevant information; and the development of the early warning systems to identify, control and issue warnings on natural hazards and the vulnerability that can affect societies."

Statement presented by Kenya on behalf of the Andean community in response to the Report 58/277 on the Implementation of ISDR during the General Assembly's 58th Session (October 2003)

Achievements and impacts

"We call for a strengthened role of International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) through provision of adequate resources to the Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction. In addition, efforts towards disaster reduction should be enhanced through integrated efforts that strengthen national capacities, awareness creation, exchange of information as well as new and additional financial resources."

Statement presented by Kenya in response to the Report 58/277 on the Implementation of ISDR during the General Assembly's 58th Session (October 2003)

Within the framework of the Sixth EU Framework Programme, UN/ISDR participated in an integrated project on early warning of volcanoes activities. The project involves over 30 participants and a community of over 300 researchers.

In July 2003 UN/ISDR contributed to the Cities on Volcanoes workshop, Hawaii in a poster presentation on volcanic risk reduction.

Increased partnerships on drought risk reduction globally

UN/ISDR adopted as partner in the Asia Regional Drought Preparedness Network coordinated by UNESCAP, applying for GEF funding.

Impacts

- Substantial responses and revised EM-DAT country data sets received from 30 countries in Africa, Europe, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, (September 2003).
- ISDR terminology referred to in at least 5 global programmes and publications.
- Increased use of the ISDR framework for disaster risk reduction to guide action of projects on the ground, providing feedback for the global review of lessons learnt.
- Strengthened international collaboration between bilaterals, national institutions and UN organizations for the development of multihazards projects in applied best practices.
- With a target audience at international, regional, national and local levels, UN/ISDR's focus on volcanic risk reduction has resulted in increased cooperation between key stakeholders in this area.
- ISDR drought policy paper used to guide implementation of drought risk reduction by different groups of key actors (ex: ESCAP, UNDP/Dryland center, DMCN)
- Drought risk reduction network expansion continues - linking experts, practitioners and key organizations worldwide (mainly at regional scale).

2.4 Regional outreach

The ISDR Secretariat is complying with recommendations from the General Assembly and other bodies to strengthen its work and outreach in advocacy, information management and policy support at regional levels. Africa and Latin America/Caribbean continue being the only outreach offices, but increased partnerships and activities are taking place in Europe, Asia and the Pacific.

ISDR outreach programme for Africa

Africa is a region prone to a wide variety of disasters, especially large-scale floods, drought, tropical storms and volcanic eruptions. The impact of disasters is on the rise and people in Africa are extremely vulnerable to disaster risks due to the combined factor of wide spread poverty, HIV/AIDS and armed conflicts. For example, the combination of extensive drought and the high HIV/AIDS prevalence is now threatening the food security of 14.5 million people in southern and east African countries. Disasters deprive millions of people of food security, access to clean drinking water, social services and their modest economic gains. As a result, the needed humanitarian relief in Africa has diverted billions of US dollars which could be used for poverty reduction and socio-economic development.

It is impossible for African countries to achieve poverty alleviation and sustainable development without mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into their overall socio-economic development process. Therefore, disaster risk reduction, like poverty alleviation and environmental protection, should be considered as part of sustainable development. To promote disaster risk reduction and integration of disaster reduction into sustainable development, UN/ISDR Africa has carried out its work through outreaching, networking, cooperating and coordinating with major stakeholders in Africa, but on the basis of a "catalytic" approach.

"We also support a stronger focus on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and would like to see enhanced regional outreach because it is a means by which to introduce best practices through policy integration, advocacy and information-sharing in order to strengthen cooperation on disaster reduction among existing regional stakeholders."

Statement presented in response to the Report 58/277 on the Implementation of ISDR during the General Assembly's 58th Session (October 2003)

Achievements and impacts

Achievements

- Strengthened information sharing and knowledge exchange on disaster reduction among different stakeholders in Africa.
- Produced booklets for community leaders and children on Water and Risk in Africa, Safari's encounter with landslide, and Safari's encounter with floods.
- Consolidated the development of UN/ISDR Africa website.
- Expanded UN/ISDR Africa's network at national, sub-regional and regional levels.
- Launched UN/ISDR Africa's Biannual INFORMS - Disaster Reduction in Africa.
- Produced radio programme in English, French and Swahili on: hazards and disasters, drought what to know and what to do, impact of disasters in our communities, and living with disaster risks.
- Facilitated the establishment of ISDR national platforms in Madagascar and Uganda, in addition to Djibouti and the previously established one in Zambia.
- Led the coordination and organization of the first African Regional Consultation on Early Warning.
- Supported the NEPAD-led regional workshop on disaster management and AU/NEPAD led regional consultative meeting on disaster risk management.
- Started the joint-initiative of AU/NEPAD and UN/ISDR Africa - development of African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management.
- Reviewed the sub-regional early warning systems in IGAD, SADC and ECOWAS.
- Finalised the agreement with IOC Secretariat on a sub-regional consultation and review on disaster reduction.
- Fostered coordination in disaster reduction at regional, sub-regional and national level.
- Promoted women's participation and gender concerns in disaster reduction in Africa.
- Started joint initiative with UN-HABITAT, UNIFEM, and DMCN on review of disaster reduction from a gender perspective for strategy development and policy recommendations.
- Facilitated the link between water-related disaster risk reduction with water resource management.
- Carried out a Joint mission to Djibouti with UNDP/BCPR.

Impacts

- Foster national ownership of the disaster reduction process: tailored assistance to the establishment of national platforms, based on official requests, and making sure that national governments lead the process of establishing national platforms as well as fostering partnerships with already-established ISDR national platforms through mutual support in disaster reduction initiatives.

- Facilitate the creation of enabling environments: created enabling environments consisting of national policy, legislation, strategy, institutional frameworks, human capacity and financial resources through advocacy, technical support, information-sharing and knowledge exchange.
- Increased awareness of disaster risks: Dissemination of information, production of newsletters with inputs from partners and practitioners, information kits and educational materials, and in-depth analysis of disaster impact on socio-economic development to a wide African audience.
- Encouraged consultations and collaboration: Through facilitating venues and multi-level and multidimensional consultations on specific subjects related to disaster reduction through formal and informal meetings at national, sub-regional and continental levels being achieved and new elements for sub-regional strategies to reduce risk enhanced.
- Addressed gender concerns in disaster reduction.
- Advocated the linkages between disaster reduction and poverty eradication towards the Millennium Development Goals: In-depth studies in poor areas in Africa and developed guidelines on how to link disaster reduction with poverty eradication, based on the insight gained in the planned in-depth studies initiated.

ISDR outreach programme for Latin America and the Caribbean

Over the past 6 months, UN/ISDR LAC has been strengthening its collaboration with various regional and subregional organizations in order to implement ISDR more effectively in the region. The fields/topics in which ISDR has been the most active over the past months are early warning, urban risk reduction, public awareness and education.

Latin America and the Caribbean is exposed to an accelerating rate to catastrophes caused by disasters with 150 million people, or one in three inhabitants of the region, at risk. Reducing the vulnerability of Latin America and the Caribbean to the threat of disasters merits a priority investment in the region.

Among the social, economic and governance factors that increase the vulnerability of Latin America and the Caribbean, the main factor is the development standard including poverty, accelerated demographic growth; the concentration of the population in high-risk areas; socioeconomic exclusion, environmental degradation, and inadequate infrastructure, housing and services.

Achievements and impacts

Achievements

- June 2003, UN/ISDR with GTZ, ACS (Association for Caribbean States) UNDP, CDERA, CEPREDENAC and CONRED, the Hemispheric Meeting on Early Warning as a preparatory activity leading to the EWC-II.
- July 2003, the UN/ISDR co-sponsored an international workshop entitled "Hospitals in Disasters: Handle with Care", organized by PAHO, WHO, the World Bank, DFID, OFDA, and GTZ in El Salvador.
- August 2003, ISDR co-sponsored a meeting on "Disaster Management in Brazil, in collaboration with the Civil defense institutions and several international organizations.
- In the field of risk reduction in cities, ISDR has been active with several partners, in particular with Habitat and UNESCO. In May 2003, UNESCO, in collaboration with UN/ISDR launched the "CCT Initiative for Safer Cities", building on the experiences of the 1997-1999 RADIUS project. The launching workshops in both Antofagasta and Tijuana, included training sessions targeted for local authorities in charge of city planning on the application of RADIUS risk assessment tools and methodologies for sound urban planning.
- In the field of public awareness, ISDR has been involved in the production of a series of flexible public information tools. The Radio Drama "Times of Hurricanes" (produced in 2002) continues to be very successful in many Latin American countries and has been broadcast already by more than 100 radio stations in the region.
- A new radio series "Replicas en el Corazon" (Tremors in My Heart) includes three stories on topics related to earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, land use planning and proactive risk management in general. Replicas en el Corazon was officially launched in Nicaragua, in October, in collaboration with the Nicaraguan ISDR National Platform and CEPREDENAC. As an immediate result 25 radio stations in Nicaragua confirmed their interest in broadcasting the drama. In addition the radio network AMARC, who has more than 100 members in Central America, has expressed interest in broadcasting the program.
- In the field of education, ISDR has strengthened its collaboration with UNICEF, UNESCO and other organizations. The Riskland education kit, which was originally produced in Spanish and English in 2002, has now been translated into Portuguese and Creole (Haiti). The success of the education kit has been demonstrated over the past months by the multitude of requests emanating from all over the region and outside as well. ISDR has strengthened its collaboration with UNESCO and in August, UNESCO invited ISDR to the workshop on Education for All (with participation from all the ministries on education from Central America) to make a presentation on the importance of including risk reduction as a cross-cutting topic into school curricula.

Impacts

- Significantly advanced early warning agenda in the region.
- Increased knowledge and awareness of applied good practices with national planning authorities in the region in the field of risk reduction in cities.
- Encouraged consultations and collaborations on emergency health care in the case of a disaster.
- Significant contributions in the area of public awareness of topics related to earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, land use planning and proactive risk management in general.
- Contributions in informal and formal childhood educational programmes for risk reduction.

ISDR outreach programme for Asia

In order to establish a common vision and goals with regional partners, UN/ISDR took steps to set the basis for concrete initiatives and consolidating support for disaster reduction commitment and resources in Asia. In agreement with key partners (ADPC, ADRC and UNDP,) it was felt that a strategic partnership is the way to build a stronger basis to promote disaster reduction Asia and develop sound conditions for a regional programme in the future. More resources need be sought and programmed for further strengthening the information sharing and policy development components of the programme in Asia, and to support national platforms, through the partners in the region (ADPC, ADRC, UNDP, ESCAP), as well as coordination among initiatives.

Achievements

- Disaster Reduction in Asia - ISDR Informs "Issue 0" launched in November 2003, with contributions from the main partners: ADRC, ADPC, ESCAP and UNDP.
- Collaboration between ADPC-ADRC augmented within the ISDR context.

Achievements and impacts

Impacts

- With a relatively low resource input from the ISDR Secretariat to support coordination and advocacy efforts with regional partners in Asia, achievements have been recognized by the partners.
- A strategic partnership between UN/ISDR, ADRC, ADPC, ESCAP and UNDP/BCPR has been established.

ISDR outreach programme for the South Pacific

In 2003 UN/ISDR has continued to support a community risk reduction strategy for the benefit of Pacific Island countries in collaboration with SOPAC and others and seeking support from Australia and New Zealand, strengthening ISDR partnerships in the region leading to increased commitment advances towards the establishment of an ISDR outpost in the Pacific.

Achievements

- Successful conference held: Co-sponsoring of South Pacific regional conference Communities at Risk, part of the Yokohama Strategy review process (May, Fiji).
- Donor relations strengthened: Australia, NZ, European Union (Fiji regional office). Interest by the Government of Australia to fund the coordination of South Pacific input in review process through SOPAC

Impact

- Consensus on regional process to prepare input for the Yokohama review and national preparation for the second World Conference (January 2005) at highest level

ISDR outreach programme for Europe

Europe and Mediterranean constitute a special region in which a critical mass of knowledge and resource exists to develop serious disaster reduction programmes. As such it should be dealt with focusing on its particular requirements. However synergy with other regional programmes is sought, especially from Latin America and the Caribbean. The overall goal is to augment ISDR regional outreach in Europe, bringing UN/ISDR services and support closer to vulnerable communities and promote North-South and West-East cooperation.

Achievements

- Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Disaster Reduction was successfully held and produced a policy declaration, which sets the stage for further progress in disaster reduction in Europe, in particular in the area of education.

Conclusions

As the designated UN focal point for disaster risk reduction, the ISDR Secretariat recognises its special responsibility for advancing disaster reduction worldwide. Donor countries and supporters rightfully expect and entrust UN/ISDR to undertake its mandated functions and programme activities with a high level of effectiveness and efficiency. To this end, the Secretariat is highly committed to the strengthening of its organizational development, which has been strongly emphasised during recent months, with the intention of further improving its current mechanisms for managing and reporting its work programme.

As the work of UN/ISDR depends on extra-budgetary voluntary contributions, considerable time and effort need still be invested in resource mobilisation. While it is clear that UN/ISDR has achieved a great deal in its relatively short history, further resources need to be secured and organisational structures and processes refined to ensure the realisation of the Secretariat's utmost potential.

Annexes

ISDR Secretariat work-plan, mid 2002 – 2003 with indications of achievements as at October 2003

FUNCTION	STRATEGIES (UN resolutions)	IMPACT INDICATORS	SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	Percentage and indications of achievements
<h1 style="text-align: center;">A D V O C A C Y</h1>	<p>Increasing public awareness</p>	<p>The public at large is more aware of the risks posed by natural disasters and of the benefits deriving from sound disaster reduction policies</p>	<p>Annual disaster reduction campaign Culminate at the "International Day for Disaster Reduction"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Production of thematic publications (1 per year) 2. Production of press kits in Eng, Fr, Sp (minimum) 3. Organization of the yearly event 4. Dissemination of information materials <p>Administration and management of annual UN-Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction</p> <p>Production and dissemination of "ISDR Informs" magazine for Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>Production and dissemination of "ISDR highlights"</p> <p>Education</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elaboration of guidelines for disaster risk reduction in school curricula 2. Dissemination of the booklet "Learning How to Prevent Disasters" and game "Risk Land – Learning how to prevent disasters" 3. Adaptation of the game to new languages <p>Common methodologies and policy papers Bring together stakeholders, draft papers and methodology, and disseminate results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban risk assessment • sustainable development, • information sharing <p>Promotion of national disaster reduction platforms or committees</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organization of sub-regional/regional or thematic meetings 2. Collaboration and monitoring of minimum one specific project in country per region submitted by national platforms (collaboration with UNDP) 3. Fundraising support 	<p>Booklet on mountains and on freshwater Press kits disseminated Event on 2nd Wednesday of October 2002 and 2003. Observance at HQ in Geneva and replicated regionally and in-countries by partners. Materials sent to approx. 2,000 recipients every year</p> <p>International jury meeting Award ceremony</p> <p>Two issues per year in Spanish and English. Production and dissemination to approx. 8,000 recipients</p> <p>Six issues per year produced and disseminated to approx. 3,500 recipients (Eng, Sp) (by email)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First draft of the guidelines 2. Dissemination of booklet and game with support of UNICEF 3. Adaptation in new languages (French and indigenous languages, including adaptation to local conditions) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Methodology project on urban risk assessment with UN-Habitat, UNCRD and Harvard University, and with ADPC/AUDMP & ICLEI 2. Target to local authorities and planners 3. Policy paper on sustainable development 4. Policy paper on information sharing <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting for Euro-Mediterranean region (October 2002), Europe (October 2002), Asia (January 2003), Pacific (May 2003), Africa, Latin America 2. Projects selected by mid 2003 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100% for 2002 on mountains (booklet, information & website). 80% for 2003 on freshwater: ongoing 2. 80% achieved 3. 100%: carried out for 2002 and 2003 4. 100%: finalized for 2002 and for 2003 <p>100%: carried out (Oct. 2002) 100%: carried out (Oct. 2003 at EWII)</p> <p>100% for 2002: issues 5 and 6 80% for 2003: issue 7. Issue 8 in progress NEW: ISDR magazines for Africa and Asia</p> <p>100%: finalized for 2002 100%: finalized (exceeded) for 2003</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 50%: in progress 2. 100%: finalized and disseminated 3. 80%: in process 4. NEW: Fellowship programme for 2003: Training in Disaster Risk Reduction assessment and management of 104 professionals from 49 developing countries <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 80% ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – UNESCO – UN-HABITAT – ICLEI 2. 100%: finalized 3. 50% <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100%: finalized: Euro-Mediterranean, Europe & Asia, finalized for Africa and LAC through regional offices 2. 50%: in progress
	<p>Promoting commitment from public authorities</p>	<p>Disaster reduction becomes part of government policies</p>	<p>Common methodologies and policy papers Bring together stakeholders, draft papers and methodology, and disseminate results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban risk assessment • sustainable development, • information sharing <p>Promotion of national disaster reduction platforms or committees</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organization of sub-regional/regional or thematic meetings 2. Collaboration and monitoring of minimum one specific project in country per region submitted by national platforms (collaboration with UNDP) 3. Fundraising support 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting for Euro-Mediterranean region (October 2002), Europe (October 2002), Asia (January 2003), Pacific (May 2003), Africa, Latin America 2. Projects selected by mid 2003 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 80% ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – UNESCO – UN-HABITAT – ICLEI 2. 100%: finalized 3. 50% <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100%: finalized: Euro-Mediterranean, Europe & Asia, finalized for Africa and LAC through regional offices 2. 50%: in progress

ISDR Secretariat work-plan, mid 2002 – 2003 with indications of achievements as at October 2003

FUNCTION	STRATEGIES (UN resolutions)	IMPACT INDICATORS	SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	Percentage & indications of achievements
<p>C O O R D I N A T I O N</p>	<p>Stimulating inter-disciplinary and intersectoral partnerships and expanding risk reduction networking</p>	<p>Effective guidance to the Inter-Agency Task Force</p>	<p>Support to the work of the Task Force and its working groups (1. Climate, 2. Early Warning, 3. Risk and Impact assessment, 4. Wildfires)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organization of the meetings 2. Elaboration and dissemination of decisions/recommendations (incl. on drought) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2 meetings of the Task Force/year, 8 meetings of the working groups/year 2. Meeting report disseminated to international, regional and national organizations, and to Governments 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100% finalized for 2002 (IATF 5, 6) 100% finalized for 2003 (IATF 7, 8) 2. 100% finalized for IATF 5, 6 and 7 Ongoing activity for IATF 8
	<p>Improved thematic and regional partnerships</p>	<p>Providing policy inputs to four partnerships for the follow up to WSSD (ISDR Secretariat part of steering committees)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resilient Communities (ICLEI convenor) 2. Awareness in Central America (El Salvador, convenor) 3. South Pacific Islands capacity building (SOPAC convenor) 4. Early Warning (ISDR secretariat convenor) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy inputs for the plans of action of the four partnerships by mid- 2003 • Collaboration in the implementation of the plans of action, start by end of 2003 	<p>100% meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-11) in NY on 28 April - 9 May to discuss follow-up arrangements to WSSD</p> <p>50% ongoing activity for the implementation of plan of action</p>	
	<p>UN system coordination and focal point for disaster reduction</p>	<p>Improved coordination among disaster reduction partners and consolidation of a global coalition with relevant international actors</p> <p>Disaster reduction becomes integral part of UN agencies' programming</p>	<p>Establishment of specific agreements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building global coalition with UNDP and ProVention consortium and moving gradually to include all relevant actors. 2. Development of specific partnerships for implementation and strengthening of the ISDR as a shared platform <p>Provide policy development support</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate disaster reduction in the Plan of implementation of WSSD, Climate Change and other relevant agenda 2. Draft UN SG reporting to General Assembly on the implementation of ISDR, and International Cooperation on EI Niño 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall MoU signed with UNDP 2. MoU signed with UNEP (Africa ISDR outreach) 3. MoU signed with WMO (secondment and CLIFEN center) 4. MoU with UN/DESA 5. MoU with "ProVention" (World Bank and IFRC) 6. MoU signed with OCHA <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roadmap documents currently being developed (Sustainable Development and Climate Change) 2. Concept papers on disaster reduction & gender 3. Special-side-event, UNFCCC COP-8, New Delhi 4. Recommendation for greater integration of climate change into ISDR to IATF8 meeting 5. Follow-up on integration of disaster reduction into telecommunication and outer space activities of the UN SG reports to the UN General Assembly 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100% + joint activities 2. 100% + joint activities 3. Joint activities in progress 4. Joint activities in progress 5. Joint activities in progress 6. 100% + joint activities) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100% 2. 100% 3. 100% + e-newsletter 4. 100% 5. 100%
<p>Supporting international cooperation on EI Niño phen. & Early Warning</p>	<p>Enhanced cooperation and strengthened partnerships</p>	<p>International Research Centre on EI Niño (CIIFEN), Guayaquil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to feasibility studies for the Centre (research and information service) • International promotion and programming (Planning Committee for the launch with Ecuador and WMO) • Early warning programme (see above) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links on disaster reduction available at UN websites, Library, DPI/UN, UNOG, specialized agencies and programmes. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Launch of the CIIFEN, Guayaquil, and establishment of interim International Board 2. Workplan and management guidance for CIIFEN 3. Programme or support to Early warning Systems 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100%: carried out 9-10 Jan. 2003 2. 80%: in progress 3. 100%: Bonn, 16-18 Oct 2003 	

ISDR Secretariat work-plan, mid 2002 – 2003 with indications of achievements as at October 2003

FUNCTION	STRATEGIES (UN resolutions)	IMPACT INDICATORS	SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	Percentage & indications of achievements
<p>Monitoring, review and assessment of existing disaster reduction initiatives</p> <p>Clearinghouse Risk Reduction Observatory</p>	<p>Policy makers and other stakeholders are informed of successes, failures and lessons learnt of disaster reduction initiatives</p> <p>Easy access to a comprehensive body of up-to-date information</p>	<p>Global review process Develop methodology for systematic gathering of information monitoring, review and assessment of disaster reduction Global review of disaster reduction, first version</p> <p>Review of the Yokohama Plan of Action (linked to global review process 2003-2004)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 thematic and regional meetings <p>Information clearinghouse (“Observatory”) on disaster reduction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study for the Information clearinghouse on disaster reduction and resource center Completion of information system structure and regular updating of content (reference databases on contacts and expertise, organizations, resources and country initiatives and profiles) Upgrade of the Web site with integrated online content management system Electronic networking lists and debates Incorporation of the disaster reduction library as part of the UN Geneva Library 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and review methodology, reference database Issuance of publication: <i>Living with risk- a global review of disaster reduction initiatives</i> (preliminary and final version) Production of final documents, including ten year assessment and renewed programme of action for disaster reduction <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Project document on the information clearinghouse, preceded by project document on website upgrade & content management system. Enhanced web site (including LAC and Africa regional websites) & content management system. Improved disaster reduction library and resources network (accessed also through UN Library) and specialized bibliographic digests On-line debates on themes developed by the ISDR Secretariat (examples: urban risk management; climate change and disaster reduction; terminology; global review and monitoring methodology) in English, other languages depending on funding available. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 100%: finalized and submitted 50%: in progress 50%: in progress 100% on-line debate in English 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 80%: in progress 100%: preliminary version Aug 2002 80%: version 2003: expected end 2003 80%: background document completed, others in progress (ends in 2005)
	<p>Improving scientific knowledge of the causes of natural disasters and the effect of natural hazards</p>	<p>A better understanding of disaster risk and networking opportunities</p>	<p>Water-related disasters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Input on risk management for the UN World Water Assessment Programme/World Water Development Report and the World Water Action Report (Inter-agency Committee on Water) Participation in the International Year of Freshwater Input for “Flood management guidelines”, UN/DESA, US/NOAA; and others Establishment of an ad-hoc expert group on drought <p>Landslide hazards</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote coordination among stakeholders. Promote disaster reduction policies and multi-hazard concepts into international initiatives on landslides. Part of the Steering committee of the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL). Support to the Isle of Wight Council project on coastal risks and climate change to be submitted to the European Commission. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar on risk management in the 3rd World Water Forum, Kyoto Widely disseminated guidelines on water related disaster management (included in WEHAB priorities of WSSD) Study on international collaboration on drought and recommendations for integration of drought into ISDR to IAFT 7 meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of the International Consortium (ICL) and Programme on Landslides (IPL) (with Uni. of Kyoto, UNESCO, WMO and others). Project proposal of the Isle of Wight Council to the European Commission. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 100%: carried out (March 2003) 100% 100%: finalized (March 2003)

INFORMATION

ISDR Secretariat work-plan, mid 2002 – 2003 with indications of achievements as at October 2003

FUNCTION	STRATEGIES (UN resolutions)	IMPACT INDICATORS	SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	Percentage & indications of achievements
REGIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAMMES	<p>Develop of advocacy, coordination and information management functions by regions, with the same strategies as the Headquarters</p>	<p>Increased public awareness at regional, national and local level</p>	<p>Implementation of regional programme in Africa</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up office with UNEP 2. Identify joint activities with UNDP and OCHA 3. Strengthen collaboration with regional organizations 4. Enhance regional information exchange and follow up the recommendations of WSSD 5. Support to capacity building and cooperation in disaster reduction at national and regional level 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Office in Nairobi staffed and functional 2. Strategy and workplan for Africa outreach 3. Establish partnership with IGAD and SADC 4. ISDR Africa outreach web-site 5. Ongoing task 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100%: open Oct. 2002 2. 100%: finalized 3. 100% + additional partnerships (NEPAD + others) 4. 100%: in service 5. Ongoing task
	<p>Headquarters</p>	<p>Promotion of disaster reduction policies with national and local governments</p>	<p>Consolidation regional programme in Latin America and Caribbean</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public awareness (see also advocacy). Preparation of awareness and educational material 2. Promote awareness project in Central America (Governments, SICA/CEPRENAC) 3. Co-organization of workshops and conferences with regional organisations (OAS, UN/Habitat, PAHO, etc.) 4. Upgrade of existing information center (CRID), with PAHO, and other partners. 5. Support to regional institutional development 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examples: Massive campaign through at least 40 radio stations to broadcast Radio novela (Radio soap opera) on risk reduction related to hurricanes and floods; further development of educational materials in digitalized format (CDROMs, website, etc.) 2. Initial contacts 3. At least 3 workshops by the end of 2003, and follow up. Common publication with UN-HABITAT on risk reduction in Human settlements, by end of 2003. 4. Upgrade to digital, 50% of the documents 5. Start of CAPRADE and CLIFEN by early 2003. 6. Strengthen collaboration with CDERA; CEPREDENAC, ACS, etc. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100%: finalized and dissemination ongoing (2003) 2. 100%, in addition specific MoU 3. 80%: workshops carried out. Publications in progress 4. 100%: ongoing task 5. 100%: continue collaboration 6. 100%: specific MoU
	<p>Common approach on disaster reduction with regional organizations and initiatives</p>	<p>Preliminary work for the establishment of regional programme in Asia and Pacific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of partnerships with Asia Disaster Preparedness Center, Asia Disaster Reduction Center, South Pacific Applied Geo-Science Commission 	<p>Support to regional programme in Europe</p> <p>Coordination with European Commission (EC) and council of Europe for enhancing collaboration in Europe and with development regions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploratory contacts with the three organizations by the end of 2002, working arrangements during 2003 	<p>100% for 2002 and 2003 + concrete activities</p>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of European national Committees, Bonn • Meeting of Euro-Mediterranean region, Bandol • Project proposal with EC/JRC on disaster reduction and technological hazards. 	<p>100%: carried out (Oct 2002)</p> <p>100%: carried out (Oct 2002)</p> <p>100%: project under implementation</p>	

ISDR Secretariat work-plan, mid 2002 – 2003 with indications of achievements as at October 2003

FUNCTION	STRATEGIES (UN resolutions)	IMPACT INDICATORS	SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	Percentage & indications of achievements
INTERNAL MANAGEMENT	Management of the ISDR Secretariat	Improve the effectiveness of ISDR Secretariat and enhance collaboration with other stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic work planning (including one retreat per year) • Personnel and office management • Administration of the Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction and the Sasakawa Award Trust Fund • Fund raising • Monitoring of budget, finance and activities • Assessment and evaluation of UN/ISDR activities and performance (including regional outreach) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Workplan for internal and external use 2. Roles and responsibilities of staff, team building 3. Timely substantive and financial reporting to donors. 4. Adequate office space and equipment for ISDR, project for 2004 5. Performance assessment 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100% for 2003 2. 100% for 2003. 2 retreat in 2003 3. 80%: Ongoing task 4. 100%: for 2003 5. 100% auditors assessment on March 2003 <p>NEW: Institutional development and ISDR Secretariat Plan for 2004-2005 initiated</p>

Annex 2: ISDR Secretariat Summary of Strategic Framework

PURPOSE STATEMENT

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

FOCUS
AREAS

1. POLICY AND STRATEGY

The development of policies and strategies necessary for the advancement of disaster risk reduction, particularly through collaboration with and support of United Nations bodies and programmes, the ISDR Inter-agency Task Force, and other international and regional bodies, and in response to emerging opportunities for and impediments to disaster risk reduction.

2. ADVOCACY

The communication and promotion of disaster risk reduction concepts and practices to specific target audiences in order to persuade, obtain commitment, and mobilize resources toward the reduction of disaster risk and the development of a culture of resilience

3. INFORMATION & NETWORKS

The generation and dissemination of information on disaster risk reduction to meet policymaker and practitioner needs, through the collection and synthesis of knowledge, experience and data, the enhancement of access to information products, the development and stimulation of networks of people, and the development of necessary supporting information strategies and technical capacities.

4. PARTNERSHIPS FOR APPLICATIONS

The engagement in partnerships devoted to projects and activities that stimulate and test specific disaster risk reduction applications, including policy and strategy applications, at regional, national and sub-national levels, or that develop specialist technical knowledge needed for disaster reduction.

OUTCOMES

1.1 Framework, targets and programme of disaster risk reduction (DRR)

1.2 Mainstreaming of DRR in UN bodies and as part of SD

1.3 IATF for implementation of ISDR

1.4 Early Warning into policies

1.5 Strategies on climate risk & changes

1.6 Strategies for DRR in drought policy

1.7 Coordinated science agenda on DRR

2.1. Global public awareness

2.2 Regional advocacy capacities

2.3 National advocacy and platforms

2.4 Promotion of education & training in DRR

2.5 Advocacy to special audiences

3.1 Synthesised information (LwR - global review, reviews, guidelines, etc)

3.2 Expansion of reference databases (individuals, organizations, programs,)

3.3 Increased networks & exchange of information

3.4 Upgraded ISDR Secretariat websites

3.5 Accessible ISDR library

4.1 Regional partnerships for policies and strategies on DRR

4.2 Projects and programmes partnerships for practical application & good practices

4.3 Collaboration with specialist fields

Annex 3: List of acronyms

ACDS	African Centre for Disaster Studies
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Centre
ACS	Association of Caribbean States
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
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

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.



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