

Information Note



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

For the period October 2002 to March 2003

7 April 2003



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

Table of Contents

Introduction1

1

Advocacy2

2

Coordination12

3

Information Management22

4

Regional Outreach Programmes28

5

Internal Management34

Conclusions36

Acronyms37

UN/ISDR Contributions/Pledges40

Introduction



This information note refers to the ongoing progress of activities of the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the ISDR (UN/ISDR) for the period October 2002 to March 2003, grouped around its three functions of advocacy, coordination and information management at the global and regional levels.

This report covers the full spectrum of the work carried out by UN/ISDR, all covered by voluntary contributions. While the contributions received from donors and UN agencies (in cash as well as in-kind) have greatly assisted and enabled UN/ISDR's core activities to take place, there remains a pressing need to seek further funding in order to sustain and build on the achievements of disaster reduction to date.

Significant recent developments include the increasingly close collaboration with UNDP, OCHA, the ProVention Consortium, WMO, UNEP, UNESCO and UN-HABITAT in addition to other UN and non-UN organizations and partners in disaster reduction; the development of an outreach programme in Africa, the continued success of the existing programme in Latin America and the Caribbean; as well as the review and revision of UN/ISDR's role as an international information clearing house on disaster reduction.

Advocacy



In line with the ISDR mandate of increasing public awareness to understand disaster reduction or reducing risk and vulnerability to natural hazards, the ISDR Secretariat places great emphasis on its advocacy activities. The dissemination of clear messages is crucial to the development of disaster reduction initiatives at global, regional, national and local levels. While the ISDR's target audience is broad - including international agencies, non-governmental organizations, government representatives, local decision makers, scientists, educators and local communities - a variety of advocacy activities and materials tailored to specific groups allow for widespread understanding and active participation in disaster reduction initiatives.

1.1. Annual World Disaster Reduction Campaign

2002 World Disaster Reduction Campaign

Disaster Reduction for Sustainable Mountain Development

As informed in the previous progress report, the theme for the 2002 Campaign was chosen to complement the International Year of Mountains, aiming to raise global awareness of successful disaster reduction efforts in mountain areas so that vulnerable mountain populations can benefit from already existing experiences. With the main target audiences being media and educational systems, and to a lesser degree decision makers at different levels, the Campaign was launched in mid-2002 and culminated on the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, 9 October 2002. As in previous years, a wide range of partners contributed with information for the campaign, the main ones being ICIMOD, UNESCO, FAO and the European Vulcanological Society.

2003 World Disaster Reduction Campaign

Living with Risk: Turning the tide on disasters towards sustainable development

In line with the International Year of Freshwater, the 2003 World Disaster Reduction Campaign will focus on the significance of water in the field of disaster reduction. Hydrometeorological hazards such as droughts, floods and storms are noticeably on the rise due to various climate variability phenomena such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), affecting more communities than ever due to human activities that increase vulnerability and change the natural balance of ecosystems. These hazards are expected to increase both in frequency and intensity, having major impacts in particular, on developing countries, in the social, economic, environmental and humanitarian sectors. Equally important is the consideration of secondary consequences of such hazards, such as access to freshwater in the event of floods or drought. Now more than ever before, disaster reduction must be effectively incorporated into the broader goals of sustainable development to enable the building of disaster resilient communities.

As the slogan suggests - 'Turning the tide' - the 2003 Campaign aims at changing people's perceptions and attitudes towards hydrometeorological disasters through the involvement of as many sectors as possible. The Campaign itself will in fact extend beyond the year 2003 until World Water Day on 22 March 2004, whereupon UN/ISDR takes the lead jointly with WMO within the UN system in the international celebrations focusing on water-related disasters. The extended Campaign will provide an opportunity to delve deeper into the subject and comprehensively review the key issues of disaster reduction, accessing a broader audience through partnerships with agencies such as UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN/DESA, WHO, UNICEF and IFRC. Being a small secretariat, UN/ISDR's purpose is to play a catalytic role in mobilizing its partners to develop initiatives in this field.

Achievements

- The ISDR Secretariat produced a variety of supporting information materials for the 2002 World Disaster Reduction Campaign (available in English, French and Spanish), with over 2,000 Campaign packages disseminated to partners and practitioners in disaster reduction through UN/ISDR's extensive networks from mid 2002.
- The International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction was celebrated on 9 October 2002. Events took place worldwide, with the main international ceremony (held in Geneva, Switzerland), coinciding with the presentation of the 2002 UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction. ISDR Regional Units supported local events such as seminars, exhibitions, workshops and children's activities.
- Launched in March 2003, the 2003 World Disaster Reduction Campaign first announcement was produced and disseminated to UN/ISDR's partners, calling for contributions for supporting information materials (to be disseminated from mid-2003).

Advocacy

1.2. Administration and Management of the Annual UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

The UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction was established in 1986 founding Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, Mr. Ryoichi Sasakawa, in recognition of innovative efforts and outstanding initiatives in the field of disaster reduction. The total approximate value of the Award is US \$50,000, shared between the Laureate and the recipients of Certificates of Distinction and Merit. In addition to the financial prize, the Laureate is presented with the valuable UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction crystal trophy.



In 2002, 17 nominations from the five continents were received, and the selection of the 2002 Laureate and Certificate recipients was agreed upon by the UN Sasakawa jury. While this figure represents less nominations than previous years (23 in 2001, 21 in 2000, 15 in 1999 and 29 in 1998), it was noted that the profile and quality of them have changed and improved significantly in terms of applied disaster reduction, recognising more community-based experiences. To increase the financial incentive of the Award, the UN Sasakawa jury decided to provide financial retributions also the winners of Certificates of Distinctions (US \$3,000) and the Certificates of Merit (US \$2,000) in addition to the Laureate Award (US \$40,000).

Achievements

- Taking place in UN Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland - coinciding with the International day for Natural Disaster Reduction, 9 October 2002 - the UN Sasakawa Award Ceremony received significant international and national media attention, with several of the Awardees traveling to Geneva for the occasion.
- A report of the 2002 UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction was produced in early 2003 and disseminated to the Laureate and Certificate recipients as well as UN/ISDR partners.
- The launch of the 2003 UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction nomination process took place in March 2003, with the production of nomination booklets for dissemination to potential nominating organizations and individuals.

1.3. Production and Dissemination of the ISDR Informs Magazine for Latin America and the Caribbean

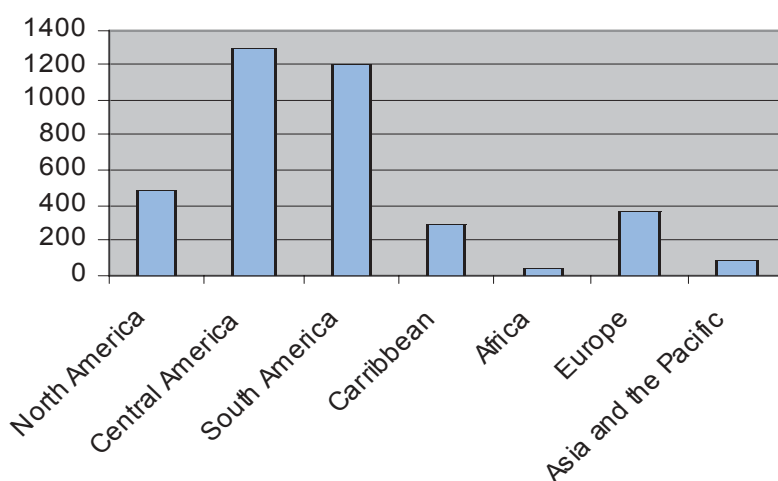
Number 6 of ISDR Informs Latin America and the Caribbean was released in December 2002, prepared and produced by UN/ISDR LAC. Reviewing the current global debate on disaster reduction, it cites examples of ongoing activities, partners in action and specific contributions and latest in multimedia, with particular emphasis on the region. The ISDR Informs LAC subscription mailing list contains close to 4,000 persons worldwide, with additional copies distributed upon request to coincide with workshops and other disaster reduction-related events. The increased interest and appreciation of the magazine is manifested through a great number of feedback messages from readers and an increasing number of requests for permission to reproduce particular articles or sections for local adaptation and application. While the majority of subscribers pertain to the LAC region (38 per cent), there is an increasing interest from other regions, including Europe (24 per cent) as well as Asia and Africa (both 18 percent).

Plans for developing a similar regional magazine for Africa ISDR Informs for Africa are underway, to be produced at UN/ISDR Africa.

Achievement

- 7,000 copies were printed of the latest issue of ISDR Informs (68 pages), published twice a year in English and Spanish (circulation English 2,500, Spanish 4,500). The magazine is also available on the websites www.eird.org, www.crid.or.cr.

Region	Number of subscribers	Percentage of total (%)	Number of countries reached	Percentage %
North America	480	12.74	3	2.65
Central America	1,293	34.31	7	6.19
South America	1,209	32.08	11	9.73
Caribbean	290	7.7	25	22.12
Africa	40	1.06	20	17.7
Europe	367	9.74	27	23.89
Asia and the Pacific	89	2.36	20	17.7
TOTAL	3,768	100	113	100



Advocacy

1.4. ISDR Highlights

The bi-monthly newsletter ISDR Highlights received a 'facelift' in early 2003, with a new format and complemented by articles on recent disaster reduction initiatives and



resources contributed by UN/ISDR partners. The existing ISDR Highlights mailing list is being strengthened through the development of new contacts to ensure the widest possible outreach of ISDR information materials for increased visibility, understanding and, ultimately, implementation, of the concept of disaster reduction.

Achievements

- Produced in English and Spanish, ISDR Highlights Issue I, 2003 was disseminated to over 3,000 recipients via email, hard copy and made available at the ISDR website www.unisdr.org.
- ISDR Highlights Issue II, 2003 was prepared in March for dissemination in April 2003.

1.5. Education and Training

1.5.1. Educational Tools

The official launch and dissemination of the Riskland game and educational booklet was initiated in October 2002. The game is produced in Spanish, English and Portuguese, coordinated by UN/ISDR LAC in collaboration with UNICEF (for more information on Riskland see Section 5.2.).

The radio soap-opera *Tiempos de Huracanes* (Times of Hurricanes) - also coordinated by UN/ISDR LAC - held its inaugural broadcast in October 2002, and has since received extremely positive feedback from both local radio

stations, as well as from NGOs and community based organizations. The soap opera and the accompanying didactic booklet have been used by community groups in Honduras and Nicaragua to support the development of local

organization to prepare for the hurricane season and to develop community risk maps and action plans. The soap opera is based around four different stories, each with 5 chapters of approximately 30 minutes duration. The scripts of the plays were developed after extensive fieldwork and the stories tested on community focus groups before being finalized. The Panamanian singer and Hollywood actor, Ruben Blades, provided the music score for the radio production.

Interest from both Central Europe and Africa (with support from ISDR Regional Units) has led to initial planning stages of similar radio



Achievements

- A first draft project profile on education for the preparation of guidelines for the incorporation of disaster risk reduction in school curricula is being developed for completion during 2003.
- The preliminary dissemination process of the Riskland game used both UNICEF and UN/ISDR networks for dissemination. It is gradually being recognised by additional partners in the region, who will in turn play a valuable role in the promotion, adaptation, translation and reproduction at the local and/or national levels (graphic arts of the game available for local reproduction).
- An adaptation of the Riskland game is planned to be developed for Africa, which would include the translation into French and Swahili. The production period for such a game is time-consuming and needs to take into account educational, cultural and technical aspects in collaboration with a wide range of actors. It also includes the testing and validation of the game before the final product is widely reproduced.
- The Latin American Broadcasting Association, with whom the dissemination of the first soap opera in Spanish is organized, has asked permission to rebroadcast *Tiempos de Huracanes* in the lead up to the 2003 hurricane season in July. More than 48 radio stations in Central America, and others in Mexico and Venezuela have already participated in the broadcasting.

Continued on page 8.

Advocacy

productions, which will focus on specific disasters relevant to the region. The production processes are expected to take over one year from inception to completion (to date the production process has not yet commenced).

In addition to the existing educational materials produced by ISDR in previous years (wildland fires, volcanoes) a series of educational booklets for Africa is under preparation, coordinated by UN/ISDR Africa. They are produced in collaboration with the Drought Monitoring Centre (DMC) in Nairobi.

- A similar production in English for the Caribbean is already planned to commence shortly, in partnership with CDERA, the Caribbean Development Bank and PAHO. Many Red Cross societies in the region are picking up on the use of this tool in their own community work. New productions are already being planned in the region to feature seismic and volcanic risks, coordinated by ISDR and this time also involving UNDP in addition to PAHO, IOM and CEPREDENAC (for more information see Section 5.2.).
- The first draft of the UN/ISDR Africa education booklet *Safari's encounter with a landslide* was completed in February 2003, addressing landslide prevention.

1.5.2. ISDR Fellowship Programme for Training in Disaster Management

In late 2002 the UN Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) handed over the administration of the ISDR Fellowship Programme for Training in Disaster Management to UN/ISDR. The Fellowship Programme offers financial support for training to persons already entrusted with or about to assume responsibility for their country's disaster management programmes (policy development as well as implementation) in developing countries. Its overall aim is to strengthen national capacities in the area of disaster management by providing the opportunity to well-qualified candidates from developing countries, enabling them to participate in training courses (of three months' duration) offered by national and international institutions.

Achievements

- Compilation of an extensive database of highly-regarded and recognized training courses for Fellowship Programme candidates (available on request from UN/ISDR).
- Liaison with education institutions for revision of Programme for improvement and to ensure fair candidate selection.

1.6. Promoting Commitment From Public Authorities

1.6.1. Common methodologies and policy papers

In consultation with various partners and experts, UN/ISDR has produced a series of policy papers aimed at addressing a selection of specific issues in the field of disaster reduction. UN/ISDR seeks to promote and facilitate interactive and participatory dialogue, through common methodologies and platforms for which to consolidate current and future initiatives in disaster reduction.

Achievements

- Sustainable development: The policy paper produced in a participatory manner in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was finalized and published end of 2002: Disaster Reduction and Sustainable development: Understanding the links between vulnerability and risk to disasters related to development and environment (available at www.unisdr.org).
- Climate change adaptation and disaster reduction: UN/ISDR places great emphasis on the subject of raising the profile of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change adaptation, an increasingly relevant subject for the future effectiveness of disaster reduction. A project proposal and concept paper has been developed and widely circulated for consultation and to look for additional resources to support and further advance these activities (see Section 3.4.1.).
- Urban risk: Pilot project initiated with UNESCO in February 2003, to further develop and apply a local and urban risk assessment methodology, based on the experience of RADIUS, and linking to initiatives of UN-HABITAT, ICLEI and others. Preparation of final report in Spanish (not yet published) of the consultation meeting held in Havana in September 2002, organized jointly with UN-HABITAT and other organizations in the Spanish speaking countries of the Caribbean basin. It focused on local development of risk reduction capacities and plan of action (involved municipality organizations, community groups and national disaster management institutions).

Advocacy

1.6.2. Promotion of ISDR National Platforms

UN/ISDR is currently restructuring responsibilities within the Secretariat to provide appropriate support and guidance to ISDR National Platforms, for advocacy and information sharing as well as for the establishment of multi-sectoral networks for disaster reduction at the national level.

UN/ISDR welcomes the recent establishment of new ISDR National Platforms outlined below.

It is important to note that the majority of ISDR activities at national level in developing countries are carried out in close collaboration with UNDP, the UN in-country team and/or any other interested UN agency. Currently being addressed is the increased commitment and collaboration of UN Resident Coordinators with ISDR Regional Units, ISDR National Platforms and their activities, particularly in developing countries.

Achievements

- Europe: In January 2003 a meeting of EU ISDR National Platforms was held in Bonn (convened by the German ISDR National Platform, DKKV), further promoting the enlargement of the European ISDR network. Among its conclusions, the meeting recommended that EU countries and candidate countries make additional efforts to establish ISDR National Platforms, supported by UN/ISDR's Regional Unit for Europe (currently under development) (see Section 5.4.).
- Spain: In late 2002, the Government of Spain announced that it established an ISDR National Platform to maintain a closer collaboration link with the ISDR and to follow-up on the activities carried out by the previous committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The decision was taken by the Council of Ministers in September 2002 and forms part of a series of governmental decisions to improve and rationalise the area of disaster management and risk reduction. The ISDR National Platform is chaired by the Director General of Spain's National Commission of Civil Protection, and is committed to ensuring the full integration of all elements and stakeholders in disaster reduction.
- Asia: At the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre meeting of January 2003 (Kobe, Japan), 25 countries were represented, sharing information on advancements in disaster reduction within the region and focusing on urban risk issues and integrated water management to reduce floods (reports available at www.adrc.org.jp, and www.unisdr.org).
- China: Following several invitations to visit China, UN/ISDR Director had the opportunity to meet with the Chinese ISDR Platform, the China Seismological Bureau, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chinese Committee for Agenda 21 and UNDP in Beijing in January 2003. Having wide experience in disaster reduction planning and application (China was one of the first countries to link disaster reduction to their national

Continued on page 11.

sustainable development plans), the National Platform expressed its interest in assisting in the translation and dissemination of ISDR information materials into Chinese, as well as contributing substantively to the work of ISDR by way of a number of potential collaborations including joint UNDP projects and the hosting of regional consultation in view of the Yokohama Review and 2nd International Conference on Disaster Reduction.

- Australia: Emergency Management Australia (very active during IDNDR) expressed its interest in the possible establishment of an Australian ISDR National Platform for ISDR to be discussed in May 2003, as well as the development of initiatives for disaster reduction in the region in close coordination with SOPAC.
- Canada: Several Canadian institutions were recently visited by UN/ISDR in early 2003 to promote the establishment of an ISDR National Platform in support of the implementation of the Strategy. These institutions include: OCIPPEP, CIDA, NRCan and Geological Survey of Canada and Geomatics Canada, the Canadian Space Agency, The Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction of Western Ontario University, the Public Security Ministry of Quebec Province and the Geoscientific Center of Quebec. To guarantee the sustainability of such a platform, it was suggested that an existing official mechanism, such as the OCIPPEP/IDMCC, take the lead in its establishment. The decisions are yet to be finalised by the Government of Canada.
- Djibouti: Established in January 2003, the National Disaster Management Unit was officially designated the role of the Djibouti ISDR National Platform by the Djibouti Ministry of the Interior. The establishment of the region's first National Platform is a breakthrough for the ISDR in Africa, and will hopefully encourage the interest and commitment of neighbouring countries' governments for the creation of similar partnerships.

Coordination



The aim of this area of activity is to support and facilitate the work of governments, relevant organizations, experts and practitioners of disaster reduction around the world on various subjects, in various sectors, and at various levels to achieve the objectives of the ISDR. This is done in the first place through the support to UN and non-UN organizations working on disaster reduction.

As the focal point for disaster reduction within the UN system, UN/ISDR holds responsibility for coordination of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR), in addition to collaboration with key partners for the synchronization and management of global initiatives.

2.1. Support to the Work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction and Its Working Groups

Since the 6th Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction meeting (IATF/DR-6), held on 24-25 October 2002, UN/ISDR has been engaged in consultations with various IATF/DR members to elaborate elements for a workplan for the Task Force for the period 2004-2005, to be discussed at IATF/DR-7 (Geneva, 10-11 April). Recent IATF/DR Working Group 3 and the Ad Hoc Discussion Group on Drought meetings in March 2003 proved most fruitful, with results outlined below.

In this period, two new members of IATF/DR were appointed (by Chairman and Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Kenzo Oshima): the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) of the University of Louvain, Belgium, and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Achievements

- IATF/DR WG3 Risk, vulnerability and disaster impact: Led by UNDP/BCPR, WG3 met on 10-11 March 2003 to discuss a wide range of issues, including:
 1. *Improving Quality, Coverage and Accuracy of Disaster Data*
Upon review of two recent studies comparing various disaster databases, it was found that there is a pressing need for improvements in primary national data collection through capacity-building for monitoring disaster losses and ensuring more coherent synthesis. It was suggested that through the use of a common unique identifying number (GLIDE), consistent comparison and systematic data analysis from multiple sources would prove a crucial factor in the development of an integrated multi-tiered global disaster database.
 2. *Review of Indexes relevant for Risk and Vulnerability Indexing*
Prepared by UNDP as part of the upcoming publication World Vulnerability Report, it is hoped the national level disaster risk index will contribute to the ongoing review of the level of risk to natural disasters that countries face.
A recent collaboration between UNDP and UN/ISDR has also led to the development of a framework for monitoring and measuring disaster risk reduction efforts, to be further elaborated.

Continued on page 14

Coordination

3. *Tools and Best Practices for Risk and Vulnerability Analysis at the Local and Urban Levels*

With the objective of planning and developing a new work programme for the collection of tools and best practices for vulnerability assessment at the urban and local levels, a proposal for local disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness was accepted and endorsed by the members of WG3 and the implementation of the first phase is underway.

- Ad Hoc Discussion Group on Drought: The first meeting of the Group took place in Geneva, 11-12 March 2003. In accordance with its overall goal of addressing drought and related issues - including the identification of success stories and recommendations for drought vulnerability reduction - the Group looked at ways of promoting the development and improvement of drought early warning systems, appropriate mitigation actions, preparedness planning methodologies, and risk-based drought management policies. The results of the meeting included the recognition of the human dimension in drought as well as the value of sharing regional experiences within broader global regional and sub-regional drought preparedness networks, encouraging initiatives between partner organisations.

2.2. Providing Policy Inputs to the Partnerships for the Follow-Up to the WSSD

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-11) is meeting 28 April - 9 May 2003 in New York and to discuss follow-up arrangements to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). There will also be an opportunity for the Partnerships to meet and plan at that occasion. The extracts of the final edited version of the Plan of Implementation is available at www.un.org, and an extract of the most relevant points for ISDR has been prepared by UN/ISDR.



Paragraph 37 is the most relevant to ISDR (NB a full compilation of actions was prepared for the last IATF-6 meeting in October 2002):

"37. An integrated, multi-hazard, inclusive approach to address vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, is an essential element of a safer world in the 21st century. Actions are required at all levels to:

(a) Strengthen the role of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and encourage the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to its Trust Fund;... and nine additional action points outlines actions in relation to strengthened capacities at regional and national level to deal with disasters, enhanced early warning capacities, etc..."

The CSD-11 will determine the arrangements for monitoring and implementation, and it will be important, with decisive support from UN Member States, to keep the focus on this subject within the following year's work programme of the CSD.

Achievements

- The 2nd International Conference on Early Warning (EWCII) to be held in October 2003 (Bonn, Germany) will contribute to the follow up to the WSSD in relation to the early warning systems, with regional consultations due to take place in throughout 2003 in the lead up to the international event (see Section 3.6.2. for more information on EWCII).
- UN/ISDR has supported the partnership 'Resilient Communities' coordinated by ICLEI, and supported by UNESCO, UN-HABITAT and others. Working meetings were held in Washington, USA (December 2002) and a formal planning meeting with all partners is scheduled for April 2003, led by ICLEI.

Coordination

2.3. Establishment of Specific Agreements

The development of a strong coalition to achieve the goals of the International Strategy of Disaster Reduction is a key priority for UN/ISDR. To date UN/ISDR has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) for closer collaboration with UNDP, OCHA, UNEP, JRC/EC, CEPREDENAC, the Earth Science Sector of the Department of Natural Resources of Canada and discussions for future collaboration are currently underway with UN-HABITAT, UNESCO and a number of other institutions. The advantages of such instruments include: the possibility of identifying specific joint areas of work and giving a structured form to the collaboration; formally engaging or committing the parties involved; developing closer ties among the respective teams through the discussion and negotiation of the MoUs. It is important to note, however, that the MoUs only represent an initial important step of a long-term process of collaboration, which is essential for the effective implementation of disaster reduction objectives.

In practical terms these negotiations have allowed the development of closer links to institutions, the identification of specific initiatives for joint undertaking and support, the careful planning of collaborative activities and the engagement of high level authorities. The signing of MoUs also demonstrates to the outside world the seriousness of the collaborative commitment, attracting further partners and the adoption of a common longer-term approach.

Achievements

- UNDP: Close liaison and increasingly regular working meetings have taken place between UNDP/BCPR and UN/ISDR, enhancing collaborative activities, for example:
 1. A joint development of the draft document Guidance and monitoring framework for disaster risk reduction
 2. Shared staff resources between both organizations, supporting the finalization of UNDP's World Vulnerability Report (WVR), and the joint launching (planned for mid-late 2003) of the WVR and the final version of the ISDR publication *Living with Risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives* (including the development of complementary information bi-products)
 3. Initiation of the preparation of a joint publication on climate change and risk reduction
 4. UN/ISDR Africa and LAC meet with their UNDP regional counterparts on a regular basis, conducting joint missions and engaging in collaborative activities.
- OCHA, UNDP and ISDR: In addition to regular tripartite consultations between facilitating information exchange and the planing and implementation of concerted action in areas of common interest, an internal self-assessment exercise is currently underway agreed upon by UN Under Secretary-General of Humanitarian Affairs Kenzo Oshima and UNDP Administrator Mark Malloch-Brown (following the Senior Management Group led by Kofi Annan in New York, April 2002). It aims at clarifying roles and responsibilities at different levels in relation to natural disasters, and to identify issues that need further action to resolve and to prepare for a UN system-wide policy study on the subject.
- UNEP: Installation of UN/ISDR Africa on the premises of UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya in addition to UNEP administration staff support increased ISDR/UNEP collaboration, with joint initiatives planned for late 2003-early 2004.
- UN-HABITAT: A common framework of cooperation is in the process of being developed for signing in 2003.

2.4. Provide Policy Development Support

2.4.1. 3rd World Water Forum

The 3rd World Water Forum held 16-23 March in Kyoto, Japan provided an opportunity for thousands of participants to gather together to discuss current water-related issues of concern at the international, regional, national and local levels. In collaboration with the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), UN/ISDR convened the session Living with Risk - towards effective disaster reduction as part of the overall theme 'Water and Poverty coordinated by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The ISDR Director also addressed a high-level WWF3 Ministerial Conference attended by Ministers and heads of international organizations, contributing to the discussion area 'Disaster Mitigation and Risk Management' for consideration in the WWF3 Declaration adopted on 23 March.

While it is recognised that water-related disasters have caused widespread social, economic and environmental disruption to communities worldwide, it is necessary to note that often the principle cause of the increase in the impact of such hazards is due primarily to the underlying vulnerability of the poor. With this in mind, session participants called on the WWF3 Ministerial Conference to address both the root causes of the problem - namely, lack of awareness, human settlement conditions and infrastructure, public policy application, limited financial resources for disaster reduction and lack of integrated approaches - in addition to the source of hazards.

Achievements

- The launch of the Water Water Development Report took place at WWF3 on the occasion of World Water Day, 22 March 2003. The Report is a joint initiative of 23 UN organizations, including UN/ISDR who collaborated with WMO, UN/DESA, UNESCO, WHO, UNEP, UNCCD, UNCBD and UN Regional Commissions to produce Chapter 11: Mitigating Risk and Coping with Uncertainty.
- The following key elements were identified as being essential to a successful disaster reduction strategy at the Forum:
 1. An integrated, multi-hazard, inclusive approach to address vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery
 2. The integration of the reduction of risk and vulnerability into water resource management policies and initiatives
 3. Support to regional disaster reduction initiatives, including the use of traditional and knowledge and the promotion of community-based disaster management planning
 4. Encourage governments to address the problems created by urban settlements in high-risk areas
 5. The sharing of hydrometeorological data and information at a regional level in the case of transboundary basins to enable reliable forecasts

Coordination

2.4.2. Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction

The side event Living with Risk in a Changing Climate was organized on 29 October 2002 in the context of the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP8) in New Delhi, India. Attended by 50 participants, it provided the opportunity for an overall review of existing strategies, as well as examples of institutions working on disaster reduction at the global, regional and national levels. The side event also allowed experts in climate change adaptation to discuss areas of commonality and collaboration and facilitated the gathering of documentation on disaster reduction from a wide range of partners. Further studies and works on disasters and climate change and variabilities are expected to be carried out within the framework of the IATF/DR WG1 throughout 2003.

UN/ISDR has met with WG2 co-chairs and their Technical and Scientific Unit (TSU) to discuss collaboration in the field of climate change, in addition to preparing a list of experts to contribute to IPCC's next assessment report (AR4) in collaboration with the International Center for Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness, presented at the IPCC expert meeting on climate change and sustainable development in Colombo, Sri Lanka (March 2003).

UN/ISDR has also supported the participation of developing country experts in various workshops in conjunction with UNFCCC, UNITAR and the Least Developed Group of Experts of the Convention.

2.4.3. Space applications

UN/ISDR and several other UN organizations met the three co-chairs of the UN Action Team on Disaster Management (France, Canada and China), tasked with implementing some of the recommendations stemming from the Third UN Conference on the Exploitation and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE-III) to discuss developments towards the design of an integrated space-based disaster management system. The meeting took place in Vienna on 18-19 February, in the context of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). It was found that recent developments in space related applications for natural disasters should lead to greater visibility and use of satellite techniques in the fields of vulnerability assessment and risk reduction, drawing attention to the potential benefits of using satellite data for disaster reduction instead of concentrating mainly on emergency management.

Achievement

- Elaboration of the concept and project document Linking natural disaster reduction and adaptation to climate change, in collaboration with UNDP, IFRC, ProVention Consortium and UNFCCC Secretariat.

2.5. Give Visibility to Disaster Reduction in UN System Information Material

Disaster reduction has enjoyed increased recognition through involvement and association with high profile UN conferences and events such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD, August-September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa), the International Year of Mountains (2002) and currently the International Year on Freshwater (2003).

Achievements

- Increasingly improved working relations and coordination with the Department of Public Information (UN/DPI) and the UN Library is expected to lead to higher visibility in UN exhibits, website etc.
- Increased partnerships between UN/ISDR and UN system organizations through the issuance of joint information materials, for example: press releases (with WMO on the occasion of the International Day of Natural Disaster Reduction 2002), article included in the WMO Bulletin 2003, the collaborative 2003 UN publication World Water Development Report (alongside 23 UN agencies and organizations) and the International Year of Freshwater's website (www.wateryear2003.org)

Coordination

2.6. Supporting International Cooperation on El Niño Phenomena and Early Warning

As part of ISDR's mandated function with regard to El Niño, the Secretary-General's report on international cooperation on El Niño (October 2002) was presented to the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (report prepared by UN/ISDR). The 57th session of General Assembly requested for the Secretary-General to "report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eight session on the negative impacts of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters on vulnerable countries, in a separate section of his report on the ISDR".

2.6.1. International Research Center on El Niño (CIIFEN) Guayaquil, Ecuador

At the first international meeting on El Niño, held in Guayaquil, Ecuador (1998), delegates affirmed the interest and commitment to the establishment of an International Research Center on El Niño, a declaration later reiterated in several subsequent UN General Assembly resolutions. Following two feasibility studies undertaken by WMO and UN/ISDR (1999 and 2002), a Trust Fund for the Center was established by the Government of Ecuador in collaboration with WMO. By the end of 2002, appropriate space was assigned by Ecuador in Guayaquil and an interim director for CIIFEN was appointed.



In parallel, UN/ISDR LAC supported the Andean Development Bank in several sub-regional meetings in different countries in the Andean region, to prepare national standpoints and knowledge platforms to participate in CIIFEN and increasing collaboration to reduce the impact of future El Niño events. UN/ISDR and WMO continue to jointly seek support for the ongoing development of CIIFEN.

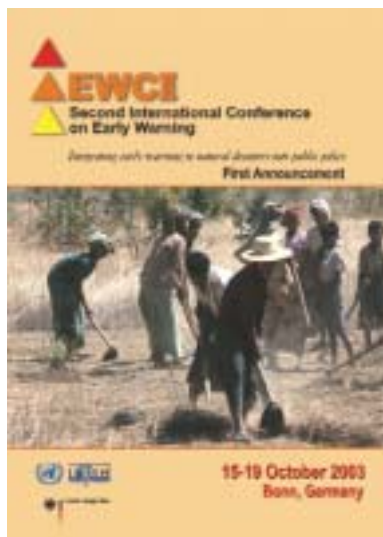
Achievement

- The launching and opening ceremony of the International Research Center on the El Niño Phenomenon (CIIFEN) took place on 9-10 January 2003 in Guayaquil, Ecuador, hosted by the Government of Ecuador and organized in collaboration with WMO and UN/ISDR. The meeting brought together more than 110 participants from 28 countries and 18 international and regional organizations took part in the event, including UN/ISDR, UNDP, PAHO, Andean Development Bank (CAF-PREANDINO Programme), CPPS, IRI, and DMC. The meeting provided an important platform to share information related to El Niño as well as the opportunity to bring together different actors and institutions interested in collaborating with CIIFEN.

2.6.2. Early Warning programme

Planning is currently underway for the 2nd International Conference on Early Warning (EWCII), to be held in October 2003 (Bonn, Germany).

UN/ISDR leads the organization of the event, with close collaboration with the German ISDR National Platform and the host Government of Germany and supported by an advisory group and steering committee, composed of a wide range of UN organizations and partners. The Conference will contribute to the follow up to the WSSD in relation to the early warning systems, with regional consultations due to take place in throughout 2003 in the lead up to the international event.



Achievements

- The EWCII Steering Committee met on 19 January in Bonn, Germany, to discuss issues such as the integration of early warning to natural disaster into public policy, and included the participation of a consultant who developed an input paper for the preparation of the conference. Members of the steering committee include UN/ISDR, German ISDR National Platform (DKKV), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Germany, WMO, UNESCO, UNEP, OCHA, MunichRe, ICSU, UN/OOSA, UN/ECE, UNDP, FAO, WFP, UNV and UNCCD.
- UN/ISDR produced the EWCII first announcement in March 2003, to be disseminated through the EWCII Advisory Group, Steering Committee and UN/ISDR networks.
- UN/ISDR Africa and LAC are planning regional consultations to take place in June 2003, involving DMC, OCHA, FAO, WFP, FEWS-NET, UNDP Drylands Unit (Africa) and GTZ, CDERA, CEPREDENAC, PAHO and CIIFEN (LAC).
- In Europe the regional consultations are being coordinated by GFZ, Potsdam.
- In the Asia/Pacific region joint ESCAP/ISDR consultations have taken place between ADRC, ADPC, OCHA Jakarta office, UNDP/BCPR regional advisors, ICIMOD and SOPAC.

Information Management



The development of UN/ISDR's information management function plays a crucial role in its facilitation and support of disaster reduction worldwide. The global review process is integral to the monitoring, review and assessment of disaster reduction initiatives, bringing on board multiple actors for the development and implementation of its framework in addition to the review of achievements since the adoption of the Yokohama Strategy, and in the lead up to the 2nd International Conference for Disaster Reduction (to be held in January 2005).

Through its renewed commitment and holistic approach to information management structures, activities and services, UN/ISDR is in the process of refining and improving its function as an international information clearing house on disaster reduction, expanding risk reduction networks and promoting scientific research, involving partners such as UNDP, the ProVention Consortium, OCHA and other education and information centres.

3.1. Monitoring, Review and Assessment of Existing Disaster Reduction Initiatives

As a result of the global review process as well as the close collaboration with UNDP for the preparation of a World Vulnerability and Risk Index, a proposal has been formulated aimed at developing a common framework for understanding, guiding and monitoring disaster risk reduction at all levels and in all sectors. The ultimate goal of this collective endeavour is to encourage and increase appropriate effective disaster reduction practices.

As agreed among many organizations in the field of disaster reduction, a common understanding and structured approach could be extremely helpful in reducing the proliferation of approaches by guiding future efforts and in monitoring disaster risk reduction at different levels. Indeed, a widely accepted framework would eventually permit the development

of benchmarks and related indicators to progressively measure the effects of, and provide guidance to, policies for disaster risk reduction.

The process will draw from (and feed into) existing institutional and policy planning processes and practices. It will be transparent and engage as many actors as possible in the development and testing of the framework. Benefits of systematically compiling information about disaster reduction initiatives using an agreed framework include the enhanced abilities to identify existing problems and their possible solutions, assist in systematic and comprehensive data collection as well as the comparison and analysis of trends. This framework for disaster risk reduction will provide a valuable contribution to the Yokohama review process.

Information Management

3.1.2. Yokohama review process

A global review of the achievements since the adoption of the Yokohama Strategy was endorsed by the UN General Assembly in December 2001 (resolution 56/195). The GA resolution 57/256 (Dec. 2002):

"Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Inter-Agency Secretariat for the Strategy, to plan and coordinate, in consultation with Governments and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the financial institutions, the 2004 review of the Yokohama Strategy and report to the general Assembly at its fifty-eighth session in this regard".

The SG report on ISDR (57/190) states in paragraph 61 that: "this review process will help identify gaps and means of implementation in a way that will chart the course of action for the forthcoming decade, while taking into account the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development".



The continuous global review process, will gain momentum towards its culmination at a 2nd international conference on disaster reduction to be held in Kobe, Japan in January 2005. (The first World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction was held in Yokohama,

1994). The above-mentioned guidance and monitoring framework for disaster risk reduction developed between UN/ISDR and UNDP is progressing towards its ultimate goal as the backbone for and beyond the ten-year review.

The review will include reporting from governments of national developments in the field of disaster reduction, providing specific guidelines and the completion of questionnaire surveys based on the monitoring framework. Regional and thematic consultations with partners will also contribute to the subsequent Plan of Action following the review.

Achievements

- Regional and thematic consultations: The first regional panel to initiate the review took place in Kobe (January 2003), with further regional consultations to take place in the context of the 2nd International Conference on Early Warning in LAC, Africa, Asia and the Pacific in addition to the international event in Bonn (October 2003).
- Venue for 2nd International Conference for Disaster Reduction: Discussions took place between UN/ISDR and partner organizations, the Government of Japan and the Hyogo Prefecture to establish and confirm the venue and date for the Conference to be Kobe, Japan (January 2005), coinciding with the tenth anniversary of the Kobe earthquake.

3.1.2. Global review process

Consultants have been engaged to evaluate over 250 comments received concerning the preliminary version of *Living with Risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives*, taking them into consideration in the editing, revision, and addition of material for preparation of the final version of the 400 page volume. With their respective expertise



and experience of disaster risk management policy, climate change, environmental knowledge and sustainable development outlooks, team has brought further new information sources and organizational relationships to the global review process.

Achievements

- A first draft of a guidance and monitoring framework is in the process of being developed together with UNDP. It was distributed among some key collaborators for consultation (in February-March 2003), and was presented for discussion and feed-back to some members of the ProVention Consortium Steering Committee and the IATF/DR Working Group 3 and ad-hoc group on drought in March 2003.
- The date for the official launch of the final version of *Living with Risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives* (preliminary version of July 2002) is planned for mid to late 2003. As mentioned previously, efforts are being made to streamline the contents of UNDP's WVR and *Living with Risk*, to ensure that they are complementary in scope and visually recognisable, as part of a series of UN publications on the subject of disaster reduction. It is hoped that further financial assistance will be available to cover translation of the final version into as many languages as possible. The second edition of the volume will reveal ongoing results of the global review of disaster reduction initiatives and achievements, and is planned for 2004 as part of the 'Yokohama review' (see above).

Information Management

3.2. Information Clearing House on Disaster Reduction

UN/ISDR renewed its commitment to its information management structures, activities and services, taking on a more holistic approach to enable a more user-friendly information system and to ultimately become the lifeblood of ISDR's advocacy, sharing of experience and knowledge, networking and coordination functions. Based on the engagement of its continuously expanding audience, the information system is designed to fully incorporate the diverse interests and needs of its partners in risk reduction.

The revision of ISDR's information management and services strategy is being refined to address key areas such as public awareness and policy advocacy, enhanced networks and wider information exchange as well as improved systematic dissemination practices. Several proposals have been developed and elaborated aimed at providing a coherence and consistency to the manner by which the Secretariat accesses, synthesizes, and disseminates information.

By building on earlier efforts, the period from November 2002 to February 2003 saw a renewed commitment of staff attention and resources, with a specific work plan for active progress in this area of work. The participatory formulation of ISDR information management and services is essential to address and complement many of the ongoing functions of UN/ISDR, in particular with regards to the global review and development of a guidance and monitoring framework for disaster risk reduction.

Achievements

- Identification of clear goals and objectives by way of a step-by-step process for the integration and improvement of all elements of the ISDR information system.
- Consultation with key partners including UNDP, OCHA (Reliefweb), IFRC and ProVention Consortium.
- Review of existing internal/external ISDR information flow practices, including ISDR websites, knowledge networks, reference databases and the ISDR Resource Centre.
- Preparation of a comprehensive study and project proposals to implement a global disaster reduction information clearing house, including the enhancement of the www.unisdr.org website, reference databases on contacts, organizations, country profiles and initiatives.

3.3. Networking for Improved Scientific Knowledge Development

UN/ISDR has been involved in various initiatives aimed at promoting scientific research through the sharing of experiences and knowledge in meetings such as the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre conference in Kobe, Japan (January 2003), the 3rd World Water Forum, in Kyoto, Japan (March, 2003), the launching of the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) at UNESCO, Paris, France (November 2002).

Regional Outreach Programmes

4.1. Implementation of Regional Programme In Africa



UN/ISDR Africa opened in October 2002 in Nairobi, Kenya, with financial support of the Government of Germany and in cooperation with UNEP. Being highly prone to a wide variety of disasters - in particular large-scale floods, drought, tropical storms and volcanic eruptions - the African continent is extremely vulnerable due to large-scale social, political and economic problems.

In 2002, tangible preliminary progress was made in the implementation of the ISDR in Africa. A MoU between ISDR and UNEP was signed in December 2002, facilitating plans for collaborative initiatives as well as activities with other UN organizations including UNDP, UNOPS, OCHA, and UNITAR. Furthermore, close partnerships with regional organizations in disaster reduction have been developed, such as IGAD, ECOWAS, SADC, RCMRD, African Development Bank, FEWS-NET, DMC and others.

While UN/ISDR Africa has faced serious constraints in human and financial resources, the support of its partners has proved invaluable in its assistance in the promotion and implementation of a regional disaster reduction framework. It places firm emphasis on supporting enhanced capacities and partnerships throughout all of its activities, to encourage political commitment and improve training and educational opportunities for disaster management within the region.

Achievements

- UN/ISDR coordinated two sub-regional reviews of disaster reduction, in close cooperation with IGAD (for East Africa) and ECOWAS (West Africa), resulting in project proposals addressing regional needs and future initiatives (currently under review by potential donors)
- In co-operation with national governments, UNOPS and UNDP, UN/ISDR facilitated a workshop in Djibouti (February 2002) to support and assist the national government in improving capacities and competence for the coordination of disaster management initiatives. Key actors in disaster reduction - including the Minister of the Interior, the national agency for Civil Defence as well as UNDP and UNOPS - were brought together to enhance their synergy for improved disaster management, and further follow-up meetings are planned for 2003.
- On 13-25 January 2003, UN/ISDR Africa collaborated with UNOPS, UNITAR and OCHA to hold the first disaster management training workshop in Asmara, Eritrea, targeted at the seven IGAD countries: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.
- In collaboration with SARDC (based in Harare, Zimbabwe), UN/ISDR developed a project to strengthen disaster information management in Africa to address one of the major problem of access to information relating to disasters. The final of this joint initiative will be available in April 2003.
- Development of a joint initiative between UN/ISDR Africa and the African Development Bank, promoting the integration of disaster risk management into sustainable development planning and implementation in Africa for the alleviation of poverty and mainstreaming into overall socio-economic development processes.
- Development and consolidation of three databases, consistent with the overall ISDR information system: 1) organizations' profile, 2) contact persons, and 3) roster of experts.
- Production of UN/ISDR Africa information resources, including public awareness and educational materials including the first issue of ISDR Informs Africa and website www.unisdrafira.org

Regional Outreach Programmes

4.2. Consolidation of Outreach Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean



UN/ISDR LAC continues to receive financial support from Sweden and support from PAHO, with its active participation and comprehensive range of outreach activities being recognised and applauded by many beyond the LAC region. In addition, the experiences and successes of UN/ISDR LAC have proved to be most useful in the recent establishment of UN/ISDR Africa, and in some cases have allowed for regional adaptation and/or replication of public awareness resources and information systems.

Achievements

- Educational materials: In late 2002 the Riskland game was finalized in Spanish and English, and is being disseminated to UN/ISDR partners within and beyond the LAC region. Several agencies and NGOs have expressed interest in both reproducing the game in their activities as well as promoting it as a useful tool to their own networks.
A volcano booklet, *Diario de Volcanes*, prepared by UN/ISDR last year was adapted to the LAC region in collaboration with PAHO, with reprinting and dissemination taking place throughout the region.
- The radio programme *Tiempos de Huracanes* (an inter-agency initiative of UN/ISDR with PAHO, IOM CEPREDENAC) was broadcast by 46 radio stations throughout Central America, and several other countries have requested copies of the radio production for broadcast across Mexico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Venezuela and Peru. As a result of the overwhelming positive feedback, UN/ISDR LAC's is currently involved in coordinating a new programme with the participation of UNDP/BCPR, CEPREDENAC and PAHO on volcanoes and earthquakes. UN/ISDR LAC also received numerous requests for assistance in coordinating similar initiatives in English.
- Participation in regional events including ECLAC regional workshop on Disaster assessment in El Salvador; UNDP workshop on Caribbean Risk Management Network, Cuba; the first national meeting on Risk Management in Guatemala (October 2002); the inauguration of CIIFEN, Ecuador (January 2003) and the first preparatory meeting for the Regional Consultation on Early Warning, Barbados (February 2003)
- MoUs: UN/ISDR negotiated agreements with CEPREDENAC and with the Secretariat of the Andean Community, and a similar agreement will be negotiated with CDERA for the Caribbean region later in 2003.

Regional Outreach Programmes

4.3. Preliminary Work to the Establishment of Regional Programme in Asia And The Pacific

Concrete steps have been taken over the past six months in the negotiation process with interested governments, UN organizations as well as other partners in Asia and in the Pacific including ESCAP, UNDP, ADPC and ADRC to elaborate common regional approaches and assess the requirements for the relevant ISDR regional outreach activities in these regions.

Achievements

- Asia: Following several missions held between UN/ISDR and key partners in Asia during 2002, UN/ISDR participated in consultations with UNDP/BCPR, ESCAP and ADPC in Bangkok (November 2002), allowing collaborative planning towards the implementation of joint activities in the region. With the existing close working relationships with several regional centres of excellence - in particular ADPC and ADRC, the region's main interlocutors for UN/ISDR - UN/ISDR plays an active supporting and coordination role through joint activities.
- South Pacific: In November 2002 consultations were held with AusAid and SOPAC on potential avenues for regional cooperation and support of the work of UN/ISDR, indicating renewed interest in the establishment of a UN/ISDR outpost for the Pacific to be based in Fiji. Further negotiations will be held in May 2003, on the occasion of a SOPAC meeting with Australia and New Zealand.

4.4. Support to Regional Programme in Europe



Building on increasing converging interests by EU countries, candidate countries, the Council of Europe and the European Commission, the ISDR Secretariat decided to concentrate on the implementation of a dedicated regional outreach programme for Europe (including Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean basin). The programme is intended to lead to the facilitation of the elaboration of an integrated European strategy for disaster reduction (currently a goal for the European Commission and a requirement advocated by several EU countries). Early consultations in Bonn and Madrid in January 2003 indicated there are expectations of UN/ISDR to nurture and support this process in Europe as the best global platform able to cater for all Euro-Mediterranean countries.

In December 2002 UN/ISDR participated in the first preparatory meeting in view of the October 2003 Madrid Forum on Disaster Reduction in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The Forum stems from a recommendation of the Ministerial session of the EUR-OPA Major Risk Agreement of the Council of Europe and is being co-organized by UN/ISDR, the EUR-OPA Executive Secretariat and the Government of Spain.

Achievement

- European Commission Joint Research Centre: In February 2003, UN/ISDR and JRC formalized a collaboration agreement valid until 2006 to implement joint study programmes on the interrelation between natural and technological disasters, including the participation of JRC in other ongoing ISDR processes, such as the global review, integration of disaster databases and the provision of technical and scientific support. UN/ISDR intends to further develop this initiative to extend the benefit of such research to developing countries from other regions of the world, subject to the availability of donor funding.

Internal Management

The ISDR Secretariat is funded exclusively by voluntary contributions to a Trust Fund established under General Assembly resolution 54/219. The Fund was renamed the Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction after the establishment of UN/ISDR in 2000, with the UN/ISDR Director being the Trust Fund's Programme Manager and the USG having delegated authority for acceptance of extra budgetary contributions and the issuance of allotments. All contributions to ISDR are channeled through this Trust Fund, with the exception of the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction.

5.1. Personnel

UN/ISDR staff met for a first planning retreat in March 2003, allowing an opportunity to review the workplan, identifying priority areas for the Secretariat and its activities. Recent staff changes have taken place including the replacement of the Awareness and Promotion Officer in addition to the temporary secondment of a senior advisor on climate from IRI (Columbia University, USA), commencing in March 2003. A Junior Professional Officer (JPO) from Japan joined UN/ISDR in February, shared half-time with WMO.

The work of UN/ISDR can be divided into core and non-core functions (as requested explicitly by the UN General Assembly). Core activities include supporting the IATF/DR, provide policy advice to ISDR National Platforms, the Yokohama review, awareness-raising and serving as an international information clearing house on disaster reduction. Non-core activities include additional tasks such as translation of official documents and information materials into additional languages to reach a broader audience, regional outreach programmes, and expansion of the above-mentioned core functions. However, it is important to note that while this division of functions into core and non-core exists, there remains a contradiction in terms of UN/ISDR's insecure financial position (that is, the implementation of even UN/ISDR's core functions is entirely dependent on the receipt of funding which is often earmarked).

5.2. Monitoring of Budget, Finance and Activities

Financial expenditures are monitored on a regular basis, with financial updates accessible as necessary through the use of the UN Integrated Management Information System (IMIS). An internal audit was carried out by the UN in March 2003, producing satisfying results, suggesting areas for improvement and making several recommendations for financial planning, monitoring and evaluation.

5.3. UN/ISDR Fundraising

The results of UN/ISDR fundraising to date are encouraging: at the end of 2001, US\$ 953,315 was received from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, the Philippines, Switzerland and UNEP. At the end of 2002 a total of US\$ 2,259,563.01 was received to core activities and US\$ 1,475,778.99 to outreach activities, from Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and WMO (a status of contributions is attach to this note).

Achievements

- In March 2003 the first UN/ISDR internal planning retreat took place in Geneva involving all staff, consultants and heads of UN/ISDR Africa and LAC. This proved a most fruitful opportunity for information exchange through discussions on the enhancement of teambuilding efforts, as well as clarifying roles and responsibilities in the updated ISDR workplan.
- Fundraising activities resulted in a total amount of US\$ 3,735,342.00 received for 2002, representing approximately 85% of the required amount, according to the UN/ISDR costplan for 2002. The pledged and received contributions for 2003 still only cover a little more than 50% of the budget requirements. As a result, continuous attention and efforts are required for finance and resource mobilization, involving constant revision and adaptation of workplans and budgets.

Conclusions

While this information note details the various achievements of the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the ISDR in 2002-2003, many of these are long-term initiatives requiring continuous revision and adaptation due to the ongoing demands within the field of disaster reduction. UN/ISDR recognizes the importance of this challenge and will continue its efforts in the active participation and collaboration with UN and non-UN partner organizations in order to achieve its overarching goal of implementing the ISDR for building disaster resilient communities.

As an integral component of sustainable development, implementing the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction is a process requiring all parties to be committed to a common goal of addressing vulnerabilities and risk in as coherent a manner possible. The ISDR workplan has proved extremely

useful to guide and prioritise issues to ensure gradual and effective implementation of the Strategy.

However, as the work of UN/ISDR depends entirely on voluntary contributions, considerable time and efforts are still invested in attracting funds to enable the implementation of tasks in its workplan. While the workplan itself was designed to be relatively flexible, there remains concern of whether certain aspects will in fact be possible due to continuing financial constraints. Accordingly, UN/ISDR is undertaking extensive measures to raise its profile in order to attract further contributions.

An important challenge remains, however, of attracting funds from the fields of development, environment and sustainable development, in addition to the already engaged humanitarian sector.

Acronyms

ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Centre
CAF-PREANDINO	Andean Development Bank's Programme on Disaster Prevention
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDERA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency
CEPREDENAC	Coordinating Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIIFEN	International Research Centre on El Niño
CILSS	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the SAHEL
COP8	Conference Of the Parties on Climate Change (October 2002, New Delhi, India)
COPUOS	United Nations Committee for Peaceful Use of Outer Space
CPPS	Permanent Commission of the South Pacific
CRED	Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters
DFID	Department for International Cooperation, United Kingdom
DKKV	German Committee for Disaster Reduction
DMC	Drought Monitoring Centre
DWC	Dialogue on Water and Climate
ECOWAS	Economic Commission of West African States
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
ESS	Canadian Earth Sciences Sector
EUR-OPA	Major Hazards Agreement of the Council of Europe
EWCII	2nd International Early Warning Conference (October 2003, Bonn, Germany)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning System Network
GA	United Nations General Assembly
GFZ	GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam
IATF/DR	Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction
IATF-6	6th meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (October 2002, Geneva, Switzerland)
IATF-7	7th meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (April 2003, Geneva, Switzerland)
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICL	International Consortium on Landslides
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
ICSU	International Council of Science
IDMCC	Inter-Department Mitigation Coordination Committee
IDNDR	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-1999)
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
ILO	International Labour Organization

Glossary of Acronyms

IMIS	Integrated Management Information System
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPCC	Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change
IRI	International Research Institute for Climate Prediction of Columbia University
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
IUCN	World Conservation Union
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JRC/EC	Joint Research Centre of the European Commission
LwR	Living with Risk - A global review of disaster reduction initiatives
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRCan	Canadian Ministry of Natural Resources
OCIPEP	Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness of Canada
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
RADIUS	Risk Assessment Tools for Diagnosis of Urban Areas against Seismic Disasters
RAMSAR	Ramsar Convention Wetlands
RCMRD	Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SARDC	South African Research and Documentation Centre
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
UN/DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development
UN/DPI	United Nations Department of Public Information
UN/ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN/ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UN/ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UN/ISDR	Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UN/OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN/OOSA	United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCRD	United Nations Centre for Regional 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 Centre for Human Settlements
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN/ISDR Africa	Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Office for Africa (Nairobi, Kenya)
UN/ISDR LAC	Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (San José, Costa Rica)
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research

UNOG	United Nations Office at Geneva
UNOPS	United Nations Operations and Projects Services
UNU	United Nations University
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
USG	Under-Secretary General
WFP	World Food Programme
WG1	IATF/DR Working Group 1: Climate
WG2	IATF/DR Working Group 2: Early Warning
WG3	IATF/DR Working Group 3: Risk, Vulnerability and Impact Assessment
WG4	IATF/DR Working Group 4: Wildland Fires
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSIS	World Society of Information Summit (December 2003, Geneva, Switzerland)
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development (August-September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa)
WVR	World Vulnerability Report
WWF3	3rd World Water Forum (March, 2003, Kyoto, Japan)

UN/ISDR Contributions/Pledges (in USD) Biennium 2002-2003 as at 1 April 2003

DONORS	Year 2002		Year 2003			
	Contributions Received		Contributions Received		Pledges	
	Core	Outreach	Core	Outreach	Core	Outreach
Austria	12,941.79					
Cyprus	8,369.17					
Finland			73,068.89			
Germany		249,569.71 ¹ 294,406.28 ²				304,090.41 ¹ 322,927.87 ²
Iceland	5,000.00					
Italy	148,662.04					
Japan	300,000.00					
Norway	182,449.21	91,910.50				
Sweden		377,749.07 ³		526,285.79 ³		
Switzerland	511,695.91	105,000.00				210,000
UNESCO					6,000	
United Kingdom	1,071,428.00	357,143.43			1,071,428	
WMO	19,016.89 ⁴					
Sub-total	2,259,563.01	1,475,778.99	73,068.89	526,285.79	1,077,428	837,018.28
TOTAL	3,735,342.00		599,354.68		1,914,446.28	

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

- L'Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie: one Associate Expert - JPO (2001-2003)
- Nippon Foundation: funding for the Sasakawa Award
- World Meteorological Organization: Senior Expert Seconded for a year (2002- Feb 2003)
- Government of Japan: One Associate Expert - JPO (2003-2004)
- International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI), Columbia University: Senior Expert Seconded for 4 months (March-June 2003)

NOTES:

- Governments of Canada and the Philippines have made offers to contribute to core activities.
- Governments of France and the United States have offered to consider contributing to specific projects.

1 In support of the Working Groups of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF). Please note that the programme support costs charged to this contribution are attributed to the core costs of the Secretariat of the ISDR.

2 In support of the Regional Outreach programme of ISDR in Africa. Please note that the programme support costs charged to this contribution are attributed to the core costs of the Secretariat of the ISDR.

3 In support of the Regional Outreach programme of ISDR in Latin American and the Caribbean. Please note that the programme support costs charged to this contribution are attributed to the core costs of the Secretariat of the ISDR.

4 Contribution for the printing of "Living with Risk" 2002.

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