

# Information Note

for the period 1 November 2003 – 30 April 2004



*“Disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development... although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development.”*

UN General Assembly A/RES/58/214  
February 2004

## *Purpose Statement*

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



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

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# Introduction

## The global context – growing threat from natural hazards

Disasters are causing debilitating impacts on developing countries and the livelihoods of hundreds of millions, affecting in particular the poor and making sure they remain poor. Developed countries are also suffering increasingly from economic losses, due mainly to the impact of climate related hazards. Various countries have recognized the importance of reducing risk to natural hazards and addressing vulnerabilities, demonstrated by their inclusion in development and poverty plans. Some have actually implemented initiatives aimed at vulnerability and risk reduction, while others remain in the early stages of policy development and are yet to actually take action. Bilateral donors and international financing institutions have also shown signs of addressing these issues by taking a more holistic approach to supporting disaster risk reduction.

However, much remains to be done to identify and share lessons as well as the benefits disaster risk reduction among all actors. The World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005) presents a milestone opportunity in that respect.

The tragic earthquake that struck Bam, Iran in December 2003 made international headlines with more than 25,000 people killed and over US\$ 1 billion in losses in the city that was almost totally destroyed. Smaller but still damaging earthquakes occurred in Algeria, China, Morocco, Pakistan, Turkey and USA.

Equally worrying are the massive losses and destruction resulting from other disasters occurring during the same period. These include the severe and costly urban wildfires in California and Arizona, USA; cold winter temperatures across several South Asian countries; and typhoon

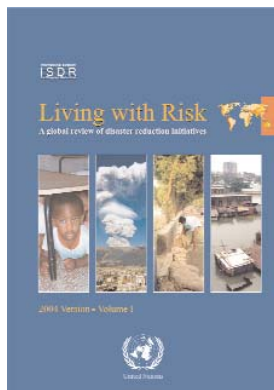
Heta that hit several Pacific island states. The continuing drought in Southern African countries as well as in Ethiopia, Eritrea and Sudan has resulted in acute food shortages, and is further aggravated by the widespread social and economic consequences of HIV/AIDS infection. Climatic conditions brought flood conditions in Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Indonesia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Turkey, Uganda and Vietnam.

These disasters serve as a grim reminder that hazards still – and increasingly so – threaten countries in all parts of the world. Perhaps more crucial is the knowledge that the professional experience and means already exist to identify, assess and manage risk to hazards. As demonstrated by the Bam earthquake – as did the Algerian, Italian and Turkish earthquakes of the preceding two years – reducing disaster risks is less a matter of access to technical expertise; rather, it depends on the extent of political and public commitment, public awareness, appropriate resource allocation and sustainable institutional structures to maximise existing capacities and capabilities.

## Options for action to reduce their impact

The on-going task of reviewing the implementation of the 1994 Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action clearly illustrate the above-mentioned points by highlighting good practices that have been employed by some countries. Adopting a long-term, strategic and systematic approach to disaster reduction, incorporating risk management practices as a fundamental responsibility of national planning and sustainable development policies, and capitalizing on the value of regional motivation implemented over a longer-termed period emerge as important recommendations for more resilient and therefore safer societies.

# Introduction



## **Living with Risk- Global review of disaster reduction initiatives**

The 2004 version is finalized and abstracts are available on-line (see [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)). This version is issued in two volumes, and it includes new sections on local authorities and research, as well as a detailed thematic index for easy searches and an updated terminology. It will be available for purchase from UN sales publications in June 2004.

*Living with Risk* will be translated and adapted in Spanish, with the support from the Multinational Andean-Canadian project “Geosciences for Andean Communities (MAP:GAC) and the Regional Disaster Information Centre (CRID), involving Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela which adopted *Living with Risk* as a “text book” to guide the implementation of its programme.

An agreement between UNDP/BCPR and the ISDR secretariat has been reached on an approach for future reports, building on the UNDP global report: *Reducing disaster risk: A challenge for development*, which was launched worldwide in February 2004, and *Living with Risk*. The Disaster Risk Index developed by UNDP and UNEP/GRID will be further developed, as well as good practices and monitoring of the agreements reached at the WCDR. The joint reporting will start in 2005.

The 2004 version of *Living with Risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives* will be available for purchase from UN Sales Publications in June 2004. It contains up-to-date information on trends, disaster reduction options and examples from regional, national and local achievements in this area. The ISDR-UNDP framework for disaster risk reduction (appearing in *Living with Risk*; also see annex 1), formulated through broad consultation and information collected for the publication has evolved and is proving to serve as a valuable tool to guide and monitor disaster risk reduction, including in the compilation of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action.

## **A renewed vision and strategy for the future**

The ISDR secretariat strongly believes that progress in disaster risk reduction can only occur through wide global support and the development of strong and sustainable partnerships. This information note highlights the achievements of a

variety of institutions and programmes, with whom the secretariat engaged in results-oriented relationships, including particular members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR), the Provention Consortium and a few others.

Efforts to develop a new thrust for global guidance on disaster reduction for the next decade – as specified by the UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/58/214 – should provide a quantum leap in global thinking and commitment to disaster risk reduction. On-going consultations on a globally acceptable framework for disaster risk reduction, the review of Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action and the planning of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, Hyogo, January 2005, Japan are expected to lead to a substantive implementation mechanism to translate words and intentions into action in the coming years with a view to achieve the objectives of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals set for 2015.

# Progress and potential of the ISDR - organizational strengthening

# 2

In addition to the development of a new work-programme and modalities for 2004 for the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction, the ISDR secretariat developed a strategic framework to better carry out its mandates and strategic aims of the ISDR, with a greater emphasis on a needs-driven, results-based approach.

Important features of the framework include:

- A more explicit role in stimulating and supporting the development of a strong policy basis for disaster risk reduction, and in identifying and responding to emerging opportunities and impediments in respect to disaster risk reduction.
- Recognition of the secretariat's role to facilitate or support numerous projects in regions and countries, but as a secondary partner and with the aim to achieve value-adding, leveraging, and testing and demonstration of risk reduction policies and methods.
- Coordination and regional outreach remain as important as ever, but they are not identified as focus areas; instead they are seen as natural and essential complementary means to achieve progress on all of the outcomes.

Another major feature of the ISDR secretariat is the development and support of partnerships and networks. The IATF/DR members and regional actors are the primary partners with whom to secure reliable and longer-term working modalities. The IATF/DR-8 session recognized the catalytic role the secretariat plays in facilitating team-building among Task Force members, UN, regional and civil society organizations.

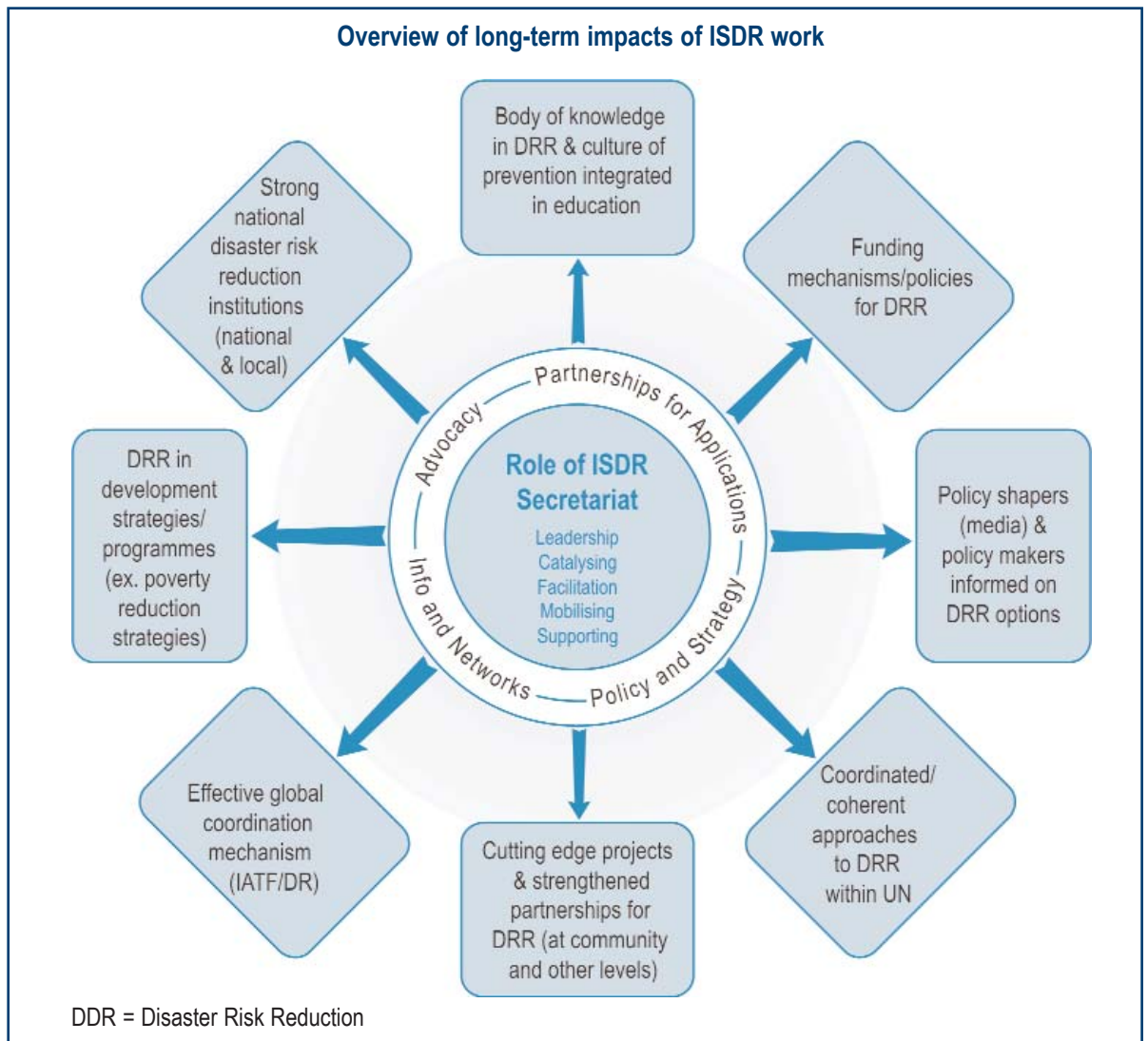
In order to serve more effectively IATF/DR members and the wider global disaster risk reduction community, the ISDR secretariat

undertook an organizational development process to enhance on an ongoing basis its skills and capacities. A new output-based management system is being developed. The system rests on the identification of specific outputs and priorities with key partners and staff involved, detailed workplans per output, and individual staff plans. An internal method for evaluation of priorities and resource allocations complements the system, which records regularly any changes and will soon become computer-based.

One critical aspect is to better identify and measure impacts of the work of the secretariat, and in this regard, measurement tools are being developed, including:

- survey of UN Member States to determine progress in disaster reduction and identify good practices to promote further;
- development of a database on impacts of UN/ISDR's work and preparation of an annual review of the work accomplished;
- periodic assessment of progress through the global review process accompanying the *Living with Risk* publication, to be developed jointly with UNDP;
- internal UN indicator-based performance management;
- monitoring of indicators for each outcome of the secretariat's workplan; and
- external evaluation on the impact of the Strategy as implemented by partners at all levels, and the work of the secretariat, in particular in promoting, facilitating, mobilizing and supporting the advancement of disaster risk reduction. Eventually, specific indicators being currently developed should allow for assessing how effectively risk and vulnerability to natural hazards are being reduced.

# Progress and potential of the ISDR - organizational strengthening



## Resource base for ISDR

The ISDR secretariat launched a fundraising document in December 2003 for the biennium 2004-2005 entitled: *An open opportunity to reduce disaster impacts. Request for funding to support the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and its secretariat.*

Donor support for both core activities and the ISDR regional outreach programmes, in 2004, has been increasing steadily. The United Kingdom

continues to be the major donor with the benefits of multi-year commitment and un-earmarked funding. The Government of the United States has contributed for the first time since the inception of the UN/ISDR; the Governments of Canada, Japan, Norway and South Africa have again contributed after a period of absence; and the Governments of Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom have continued to provide support on an annual basis (see annex 3, table of contributions attached).

The Government of Japan contributed specifically for the preparations of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, both for the additional work of the ISDR secretariat and for the costs of holding the first preparatory committee in Geneva (UN conference services).

Additionally, a contribution from the United Kingdom through the Department of International Development (DFID) Policy Division was made to the ISDR secretariat to spearhead a multi-stakeholder consultative process on the linkages between climate change, disaster risk reduction and development policy agendas. This contribution, along with a contribution from the Government of Switzerland (in 2003) to enhance the ISDR information system, both come from non-humanitarian budget sources, which is a positive development in broadening the donor-base and identify funding opportunities for disaster risk reduction and UN/ISDR from new and additional sources.

Although progress is being made in the area of resource mobilization and despite the increased donor support it should be pointed out that UN/ISDR continues to face challenges in this area. Areas identified for strengthening, are:

- development of similar approaches to that of Good Humanitarian Donorship as well as durable, collaborative relationships with donors, which should extend into sectoral, development and multilateral funding in addition to humanitarian sources;
- balanced (unearmarked and earmarked) and increased funding on a predictable and sustainable basis;
- multi-year commitments; and
- joint fundraising initiative with UNDP and OCHA, including access to UN regular budget.

In order to achieve this it is clear that the UN/ISDR will need to work more closely with the

donor community focusing on needs based multilateral support while simultaneously building mutually beneficial partnerships towards common results to enhance the implementation of disaster risk reduction.

The funding requirements for the biennium 2004-2005 as set out in the fundraising document are as follows:

UN/ISDR biennial estimated requirements	In USD	2004-2005 Biennium % covered	2004-2005 as of 30 April % covered
Baseline budget	9,598,000	48%	70%
Additional needs – special priorities'	2,913,000	26%	35%
Total requirements	12,511,000	43%	60%

Special priorities identified are:

- organizational development
- information management system
- global guidance and framework for disaster risk reduction
- regional outreach programmes
- early warning promotion programme

In-kind contributions have also been received. The Government of Switzerland has provided support to UN/ISDR organizational development; the Government of Canada through the Multinational Andean-Canadian project "Geosciences for Andean Communities (MAP: GAC) has provided support to translate the new version of *Living with Risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives* (2004) in Spanish.

UNDP is also co-funding several initiatives at regional scale in Africa with the ISDR secretariat, and will fund translation of the ISDR Informs for Asia.

*World Conference on Disaster Reduction*

Additional funding requirements for the effective holding and preparation of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) have been

# Progress and potential of the ISDR - organizational strengthening

identified jointly between the ISDR secretariat and the UN Conference Service. Japan has committed to covering the main costs for the Conference itself, including basic support to the ISDR secretariat and UN conference services, travel for delegates from LDC countries to the Conference. Additional resources for travel of delegates from developing countries to the preparatory committee sessions in Geneva, and to the Conference itself in Kobe, Hyogo is sought, as well as additional resources for support to preparatory regional and thematic meetings, national reporting analysis and more resources for translation into UN official languages. The total budget to include all these needs has been estimated to approximately 5.0 million USD, to which Japan has offered to contribute half of that amount (2.5 million USD). UNDP has allocated a considerable amount of funding to the preparatory process for WCDR, in particular, to support developing countries in their preparation of national information, as well as their participation (see Annex 3, table of contributions attached).

<b>World Conference on Disaster Reduction</b>	<b>In USD %</b>	<b>% covered as of 30</b>
Total estimated requirements	5,006,204	18%

### *Public-private partnership and resource-mobilization*

The ISDR secretariat has engaged in a partnership with the UK based Tudor Rose publisher to jointly prepare, publish and disseminate a book on disaster risk reduction practices, building on the global review of ISDR and good practices. As a contribution to ISDR Tudor Rose will carry out the fundraising work with private sponsors for the publication.

# Key achievements for the period 1 November 2003 - 30 April 2004

*This section highlights the key-achievements during the last six months, matching the workplan priorities. Other important outputs and achievements against the ISDR workplan are reported in section 4.*

*Areas of activity:*

- *Preparations for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction*
- *Review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action*
- *National advocacy and platforms for disaster reduction*
- *Strategies on climate risk and change*
- *Early warning platform*
- *Regional ISDR outreach capacities*

## **Preparations for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction**

In December 2003 the UN General Assembly adopted two resolutions in support of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Previously postponed in 2002 (when the GA took the decision to conduct the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action), resolution A/RES/58/214 conveyed the decision to convene the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Hyogo (18-22 January 2005). Prior to the adoption of the resolution, UN Member States engaged in long discussions among UN Member States on the purpose, focus and level of the World Conference, as well as the relevance in its timing.

As stated in the resolution, the World Conference is expected to bring about concrete changes and results in the form of specific guidance and mechanisms to help countries and organizations achieve significant progress in reducing risk from natural and technological hazards. The main objectives of the World Conference are to conclude the review of the 1994 Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action and identify activities aimed at ensuring the implementation of relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

In addition to deciding on the modalities and objectives of the World Conference, the resolution

urges the secretariat to continue its work on critical issues, including the consideration of disaster risk assessment as an integral component of development plans and poverty eradication programmes, the importance of linking disaster risk management to small island developing states (SIDS) and regional frameworks and the importance of integrating a gender perspective in disaster reduction planning and implementation.

Addressing the latter, in April the ISDR secretariat co-sponsored a Regional Women's Conference on Gender and Disaster Reduction (for further information see section 4) to promote women's active participation in disaster risk reduction and advocate a gender-sensitive approach to disaster risk management. The resulting policy recommendations will feed into the World Conference outcomes.

The ISDR outreach unit in Nairobi is working closely with the NEPAD secretariat and other relevant partners in Africa to develop a specific strategy for disaster risk reduction, and is servicing the working group established by the IATF/DR for this purpose.

On SIDS, the ISDR secretariat has been actively involved with the SIDS secretariat (DESA) and the preparatory consultations for the Mauritius conference (Barbados + 10) to support the integration of disaster risk reduction in the updated strategy and plan of action for SIDS.

# Key achievements for the period 1 November 2003 - 30 April 2004

In its resolution 58/214 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (paragraph 7), the UN General Assembly decided to convene a World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005, at the senior-official level, designed to foster specialized discussions and produce concrete changes and results. Its objectives are:

- To conclude the review of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action, with a view to updating the guiding framework on disaster reduction for the twenty-first century;
- To identify specific activities aimed at ensuring the implementation of relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management;
- To share best practices and lessons learned to further disaster reduction, within the context of attaining sustainable development, and to identify gaps and challenges;
- To increase awareness of the importance of disaster reduction policies, thereby facilitating and promoting the implementation of those policies;
- To increase the reliability and availability of appropriate disaster-related information to the public and disaster management agencies in all regions, as set out in relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.'

A separate progress report is available on preparation for the World Conference, which will be presented at the first session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom 1, Geneva, 6-7 May), containing information from those regional and thematic consultations already held and will feed into the World Conference outcomes (see document A/CONF.206/PC(I)/5 on the ISDR

website [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)). In addition, several regional and thematic consultations on other subjects (since January 2003) have been co-sponsored by the ISDR secretariat and conducted by partners, with a compilation of their outcomes within the context of the Yokohama review as well as the World Conference on Disaster Reduction.

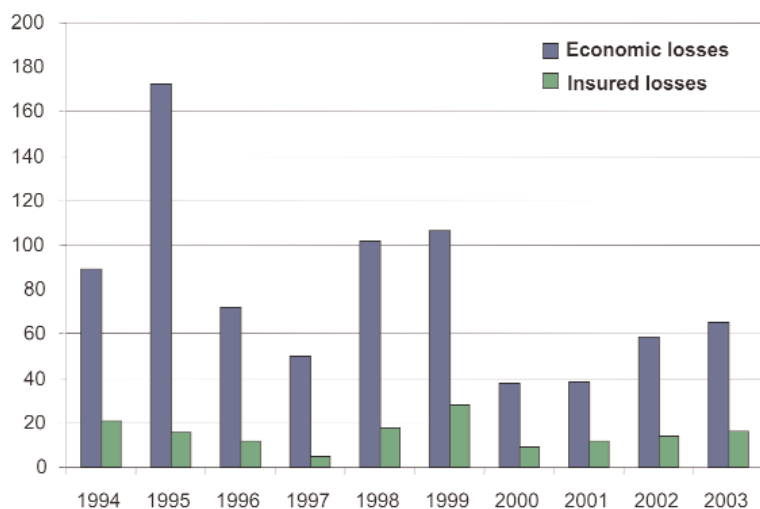
In April the ISDR secretariat established a special unit for the World Conference, with two staff posts (one senior and one junior) supported by Japan, as well as one senior coordinating post supported by Switzerland. The unit's task is to ensure the smooth overall organization of the World Conference, involving preparations for the Preparatory Committee, mobilising resources in support of the conference, logistical arrangements, managing substantive inputs, promotional activities in the lead up to and during the event. The unit acts as the focal point for all matters relating to the Conference, with support from other ISDR secretariat staff engaged in their regular functions.

## **The review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action**

A first draft annotated outline of the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action (hereafter referred to as the 'Yokohama review') will be made available at the ninth session of the IATF/DR, and the outline and the process of requesting national information for the review will be discussed at PrepCom 1.

Building on information collected by the ISDR secretariat over the last four years (in particular for the preparation of *Living with Risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives*), the Yokohama review was complemented by additional regional and subregional studies undertaken throughout 2003, in addition to regional consultations held

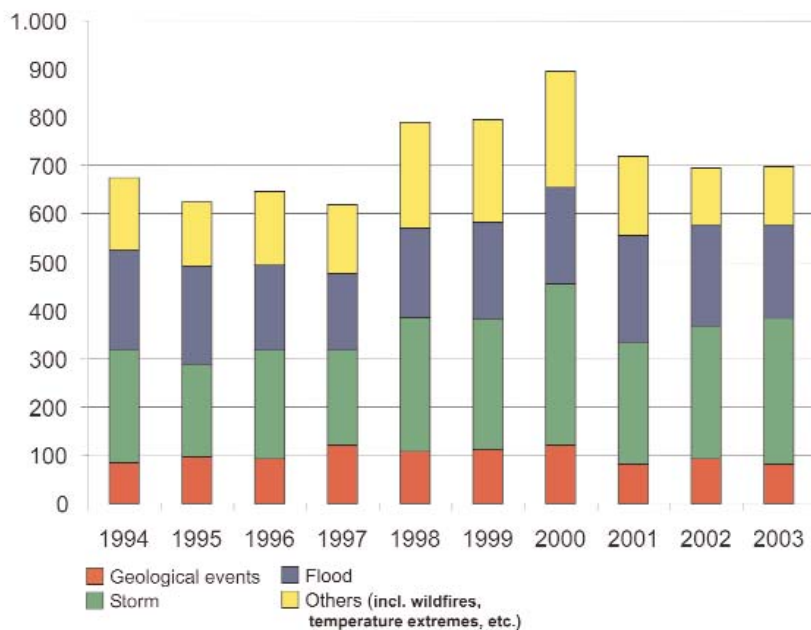
**Munich Re NatCatSERVICE®**  
**Natural disasters 1994 – 2003 – worldwide**  
**Economic and insured losses\***



\* Losses in original values

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**Munich Re NatCatSERVICE®**  
**Natural disasters 1994 – 2003 – worldwide**  
**Number of events**



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# Key achievements for the period 1 November 2003 - 30 April 2004

throughout in 2003 and 2004 in the context of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction.

The on-line conference co-organized by the ISDR secretariat and UNDP in August 2003 further reinforced the relevance of those elements that comprise the framework to guide and monitor disaster risk reduction, used as a basis for the elaboration of the Yokohama review as well as the outcomes of the World Conference.

## *Outputs and Impact:*

- The Yokohama review represents one of the major products of the World Conference process, in response to the UN General Assembly's request. It is the backbone against which action and implementation of disaster risk reduction will be planned and programmed for the future. It will also answer many of the questions regarding the status of the subject as of today.
- An innovative public-private partnership between the ISDR secretariat and a private UK-based publisher Tudor Rose will publish a book in time for the World Conference, outlining the main findings and conclusions resulting from the Yokohama review, accompanied by a collection of specific case studies and focusing on good practices provided by countries, agencies and other partners. This endeavor will be fully funded through sponsorships motivated by Tudor Rose.

## **National advocacy and platforms for disaster reduction**

The ISDR secretariat has been engaged in enhancing its institutional national networks with a view to build and strengthen contact with national counterparts through the establishment of national platforms for the advancement of sound national and regional disaster reduction policies.

Regional meetings in Latin America (Mitch + 5, Honduras, December 2003; regional meeting of civil protection organizations, Santiago, Chile, March 2004) and Asia (ADRC annual meeting and 4th ISDR Asian Disaster Reduction Conference, Cambodia, February 2004; ADPC 4th Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management, Bangladesh, March 2004) brought together many national agencies and the ISDR secretariat to interact and promote national platforms with key stakeholders. More recently, the meeting of European national platforms (Bad Honnef, Germany, April 2004) offered a useful opportunity to exchange experiences on the current activities of national platforms.

These efforts are linked to the preparatory process for the World Conference, in particular as the active engagement of national authorities is crucial for a successful event. With the task of compiling national inputs for the World Conference, the ISDR secretariat issued a formal request to governments in early 2004 through Permanent Missions accredited in Geneva, with copies to national platforms and UN Resident Coordinators (both documents are available on the ISDR website [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)). UNDP country offices have offered invaluable support in ensuring the dissemination and compilation of national inputs.

## *Outputs and Impacts:*

- Two new ISDR national platforms have been established since November 2003, with several other potential national platforms being identified. The Russian Federation established the *Commission of the Russian Federation for the Implementation of the ISDR* under the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM), and a new ISDR national platform was established in Comoros in late 2003.

- A special effort is underway in Africa where the UN/ISDR Africa is joining efforts with UNDP's regional and national capacities to support the establishment of national platforms. To date, Burundi, the Republic of Congo, Ghana and Rwanda have made significant progress in establishing national platforms for disaster reduction. In Latin America, preliminary discussions with *PREANDINO* (Andean countries) focused on the development of national platforms within the context of the regional programme. Mexico and Central American countries are also looking into the possibility of establishing national platforms, and Costa Rica has identified the Executive Board of the *National Committee for Risk Prevention and Disaster Relief* as potential platform. Macedonia and Mongolia are also looking to establish national platforms.
- Additional Governments have identified their "national focal points" for the ISDR, formally communicated to the secretariat through their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs, though some are yet to be formally recognized national platforms for disaster reduction (see the ISDR website [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org) for the updated list of over 100 countries).
- A first draft of Guiding Principles was developed in consultation with existing national platforms in November 2003 to assist Governments in the establishment of their national platforms (see the ISDR website [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org) for the guiding principles). Country profiles on national platforms is expected to appear shortly on the ISDR website.
- The ISDR secretariat is preparing a first draft of "Cooperation between National Platforms and the ISDR secretariat", in collaboration with the German national platform, DKKV, to be

available for consultation by the end of May. A first draft for the cooperation amongst the European network of existing national platforms will be produced by the end of April using the outputs of the above-mentioned meeting of European national platforms.

### Strategies on climate risk and changes

Another GA Resolution on "Vulnerability to Natural Disasters" (A/RES/58/215) addresses the important issue of reversing the negative impacts of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters in particular in developing countries through the implementation of the ISDR and encourages the IATF/DR to continue its work in this regard. It extends the focus of the work to include activities on the effects of climate change carried out under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and it also encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries.

The ISDR secretariat has been interacting with organizations focusing on adaptation to climate change reported in previous information notes. Activities in support of the UNFCCC process were highlighted in the statement made by the ISDR secretariat at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties in Milan, December 2003. The conceptual and implementation challenges for policy makers associated with climate-related disaster reduction and those working on adaptation to climate change are similar and will benefit from a coordinated approach to maximize resource use.

*The ISDR secretariat takes this opportunity to call on Government to take the necessary steps to establish official platforms for disaster reduction and communicate their focal points to the ISDR secretariat.*

# Key achievements for the period 1 November 2003 - 30 April 2004

## *Outputs and Impacts:*

Activities to coordinate and promote disaster risk reduction as a climate change adaptation strategy include:

- The statement made during the Nineteenth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-9) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Convention (Milan, 1-9 December 2003). For a copy of the statement please contact the ISDR secretariat.
- The second edition of the regular newsletter on the linkages between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation initiatives, called DR+CC infolink produced jointly with the IFRC Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Climate Change, in the Netherlands and UNDP (see [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)).
- In addition, with the support of UK/DFID, the ISDR secretariat is developing a consultative policy report, in collaboration with a number of partners and in particular the Vulnerability and Adaptation Resource Group of the World Bank. The paper, to be presented at the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-10) and the WCDR will address the linkages between disaster risk reduction, adaptation to climate change and sustainable development, including policy options and practical steps within these three areas for reducing risks in the face of a variable and changing climate.
- The ISDR secretariat is also supporting a greater participation of disaster risk reduction experts in the preparation of the fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the IPCC.
- The activities carried out in this area by the ISDR secretariat are building a greater

understanding and policy clarity on the linkage between disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and the development community. This includes the identification of initiatives, organisations and institutions involved and concerned with such a linkage. It gradually leads to the provision for both communities of needs-assessment based practical tools.

## **Early warning platform**

A summary report of the second International Conference on Early Warning (EWC-II) held in Bonn, October 2003 and a CD-Rom compilation of the Conference documents were finalized in partnership with the German Committee for Disaster Reduction. With the support of the Government of Germany, considerable progress was made by the ISDR secretariat toward developing the early warning platform that was recommended by the conference. An office capacity is being established in Bonn, an ad hoc experts meeting was convened to provide guidance for the activities that the platform will undertake, and a project work programme for 2004 was developed.

The platform aims to sustain the dialogue on early warning and related risk reduction, and to encourage the development of more systematic approaches to the application of early warning. Specific tasks planned include establishing the platform's operational capacities and initial products, promoting early warning and its integration into key international policy processes, particularly those associated with the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, and generally stimulating dialogue and innovation on early warning through networking, information generation and partnerships.

*Outputs and Impacts:*

- These outcomes of EWC-II will materially raise the profile of early warning. The platform increases the resources and effort that the secretariat can contribute to early warning and risk reduction, and an ISDR secretariat presence in Bonn will strengthen interactions with several key UN institutions there, notably the secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, (UNFCCC), the secretariat of the UN Convention for Combating Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), and the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security.

**Regional ISDR outreach capacities**

The regional dimension of promoting policy and strategies for disaster risk reduction, carrying out public awareness and building partnerships has

proven very powerful in Africa, as well as in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the ISDR secretariat has established outreach programmes and offices, based in Nairobi and San José respectively.

For the first time, ISDR now counts on seed funding to support similar activities in the growing partnership in Asia as well with financial support from Sweden and Norway, functioning shortly mainly out of Bangkok, Thailand, and Tajikistan for Central Asia. A shared staff resource with OCHA to be based in Kobe, Japan, is also in the phase of recruitment with the support from Japan to OCHA and UN/ISDR.

The implementation of ISDR is being promoted actively in the South Pacific through the partnership with SOPAC.

For more information on activities, outputs and impact in the respective regions, this information is presented in the following section.



# Impacts against the ISDR strategic framework and workplan

*This section provides additional information on main activities and outputs during the reporting period, which have not already been mentioned in the previous sections of this report. It is based on the strategic framework of the ISDR secretariat.*

## Focus area: Policy and strategy advocacy:

### *Framework for Guidance and Monitoring of Disaster Risk Reduction*

Efforts by the ISDR secretariat and UNDP are continuing in the development of an internationally endorsed and applied framework as a tool to aid understanding and guide action in disaster risk reduction (see annex 1). This initiative has been particularly useful for the Yokohama review and preparations of the World Conference.

### *Outputs and Impacts:*

- The framework for disaster risk reduction developed with UNDP has already shown its added value helping to structure Yokohama review, to organize issues to be addressed at the World Conference and guide the establishment of national platforms for disaster risk reduction.
- Furthermore it guided initial identification of the core priorities for action for the next ten years to be considered by the Preparatory Committee in its preparation of the World Conference substantive outcome document.
- Noteworthy the priority topics overlap with the actions identified in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, but also with a review of past inter-governmental decisions, declarations and plans of action addressing disaster risk reduction. The framework is under regular scrutiny by experts, and will be further enhanced through the discussions with Governments throughout the year, with the aim of developing into a planning and monitoring tool to be adapted to suit widely differing national circumstances and capacities.

### *Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in UN bodies and the sustainable development agenda*

#### *Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)*

In 2003 the CSD concluded its first meeting since the Johannesburg Summit with an agreement on its future programme and organization of work for the next 15 years.

The Commission now functions on the basis of two-year “Implementation Cycles”, addressing a number of cross-cutting issues during its Review and Policy Years. The Review Year will evaluate progress made in implementing sustainable development goals and identifying obstacles and constraints, while the Policy Year will decide on measures to speed up implementation and mobilize action to overcome these obstacles and constraints.

For the first two-year cycle (2004-2005), the CSD is focussing on water, sanitation and human settlements. Most noteworthy is that disaster management and vulnerability will be covered in 2014-2015.

### *Output and Impact:*

- The ISDR secretariat has provided inputs to the reviews on water, sanitation and human settlements in collaboration with United Nations Department and Social Affairs and contributed to the discussions at CSD-12, 14-30 April 2004. As a result, disaster risk reduction is recognised as a cross cutting issue in all three themes.

*This area addresses the secretariat’s role in stimulating the development of a strong policy basis for disaster risk reduction, and in identifying emerging opportunities and impediments for implementation of disaster risk reduction.*

# Impacts against the ISDR strategic framework and workplan

## *Small island developing states (SIDS)*

In the same year as the first World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction held in Yokohama in 1994, Governments and international organizations made a global commitment towards sustainable development of small island developing states.

The Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) noted that natural disasters are of special concern to SIDS and called for assistance in establishing and/or strengthening national and regional institutional mechanisms and policies designed to reduce the impacts of natural disasters, improve disaster preparedness and integrate natural disaster considerations in development planning, including through providing access to resources for disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

While many of the priorities set out in 1994 are still valid today, the BPoA +10 and the preparations of the upcoming World Conference on Disaster Reduction provide an opportunity to redefine future actions and increase commitments for disaster risk reduction. This is crucial for small islands particularly vulnerable to natural disasters due to climate variability and change.

### *Output and Impact:*

- To facilitate the linkage between the two intergovernmental processes the ISDR secretariat drafted a compilation of the recommendations on disaster risk reduction emanating from the three regional preparatory meeting for the BPoA +10, as a contribution to the inter-regional preparatory meeting, held in Nassau, Bahamas, January 2004.
- The AOSIS Strategy for the further implementation of the BPOA drafted at this event called for the international community to strengthen the ISDR as a dedicated facility to

address national disaster mitigation, preparedness and early warning capacity, and the mainstreaming of risk management into the national planning process. In addition it called for the international community to use the opportunity of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction to address the specific concern of SIDS.

- The 12th Session Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12), held New York, April 2004, further discussed the preparations for the Mauritius Summit to be held 30 August – 3 September, and reconfirmed the need to ensure synergy between this process and the intergovernmental preparation for the World Conference.

## *Humanitarian coordination and agenda – IASC Task Force on Natural Disasters*

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) for humanitarian coordination initiated a task force on natural disasters lead by OCHA and IFRC. The ISDR secretariat was invited to participate, to ensure synergies between the humanitarian concerns and disaster risk reduction. The task force met several times over the past six months to coordinate activities on preparedness, disaster management and to identify those vulnerable countries whereby pilot projects can be undertaken.

### *Output and Impact:*

- Identification of “most vulnerable countries” for the purpose of IASC on natural disasters, based on an ISDR review of the occurrence and impacts of hydrometeorological, geological and biological disasters for the period 1973-2002 by country, comparing the information received from the participant organizations, namely: OCHA, UNDP, WHO, WFP and IFRC.

Following exchange of criteria, ten countries were selected for preliminary missions to identify existing national mechanisms, actors and capacities and define activities to enhance preparedness to an effective response.

#### *Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction*

A closer integration of the IATF and ISDR secretariat workplans was the result of the eighth IATF/DR meeting in November 2003. The four working groups of the IATF are concluding their work, and their new work programme for 2004 focuses on:

- substantive and organizational support to the preparation of the World Conference (first session in November 2003);
- climate risk and adaptation;
- Africa (first preparatory meeting in April 2004, led by NEPAD/AU, UNDP with the UN/ISDR Africa); and
- data-collection, indexing of disaster risk/vulnerability and urban risk, crystallising from the working group 3 activities and other related initiatives.

#### *Output and Impact:*

- A new work-programme of the IATF/DR, comprising a collection of more coherent activities that will generate greater impact with the support of the ISDR secretariat in the area of policy guidance on specific areas of need.

#### *Policy and strategy in Africa*

To facilitate the advancement of disaster risk reduction and its integration into sustainable development in Africa, UN/ISDR Africa has been focusing on advocating coherent concepts, framework for disaster risk reduction,

interrelationships between disasters and development, mainstreaming disaster reduction into development planning and programmes, and integration of gender concerns and needs into disaster reduction. This includes preparation of African positions and recommendation for the World Conference.

#### *Output and Impact:*

- At regional level, the African Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction was drafted in a joint effort with AU/NEPAD based on widespread consultation throughout the region. In addition the IATF/DR working group on Africa (led by NEPAD/AU), is focusing on providing elements for an African disaster reduction strategy, supported by the UN/ISDR Africa, UNDP and others.
- A joint initiative between the African Development Bank and UN/ISDR Africa has resulted in guiding principles in disaster risk assessment in development activities.
- Planning of one or two African consultation papers and meetings to be held later in 2004 (in partnership with AU/NEPAD and national governments), in support of African active participation in the World Conference.
- At national level, UN/ISDR Africa has been advocating the importance of national policy and strategy in disaster reduction through the establishment of national platforms. The government of Djibouti is now ready to develop a long-needed national policy and strategy, with the support of UN/ISDR Africa and UNDP. Ghana recently organised the first workshop on disaster reduction for sustainable development in the lead up to shifting its policies from disaster response to disaster reduction.

# Impacts against the ISDR strategic framework and workplan

## *Policy and strategy in Latin America and the Caribbean:*

Over the past 6 months UN/ISDR LAC has been actively involved in the preparations for the World Conference. In this context the regional outreach unit co-sponsored and co-organized several workshops such as the Forum Mitch + 5 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras (December 2003) in collaboration with UNDP and CEPREDENAC, the international conference on disaster management in Cuba, and the Latin-American workshop on the vulnerability of the health sector, organized by PAHO in Nicaragua (April 2004).

UN/ISDR LAC has also been promoting the incorporation of risk reduction into development policies in different sectors, such as urban development and housing, finance and agriculture.

## *Output and Impact:*

- The recommendations of the above-mentioned events provide policy recommendations and elements to feed into the work of the preparatory committee of the World Conference, demonstrating the interest of the region in advancing disaster risk reduction and ensuring appropriate regional input (results and background papers for these meetings are accessible at [www.eird.org](http://www.eird.org)).
- In November 2003, the regional unit participated in a Latin-American Meeting of the Ministers for Urban Development and Planning (MINURVI), which took place in Bolivia, following up on previous joint initiatives between UN/ISDR, UN-HABITAT and MINURVI to work with local governments, the housing sector and community groups to introduce risk management in urban planning and management. In the final declaration of the meeting, Ministers recognize ISDR as their

guiding strategy and commit to promote the incorporation of risk reduction in urban planning, in order to reduce the impact of disasters and achieve a sustainable development.

- UN/ISDR LAC has also advanced discussions with the Central American Integration Bank (BCIE), in order to incorporate the topic of risk reduction in the agenda of Ministries of Finance, and with the Inter-American Institute for Agriculture Cooperation, in order to incorporate it in the agenda of Ministries of Agriculture.

## **Focus Area: Advocacy:**

### *Global public awareness*

#### *World Water Day: A watershed event for disaster reduction*

During the reporting period an unprecedented opportunity emerged to promote public awareness of disaster risk reduction. World Water Day (commemorated annually on 22 March) is an annual event that receives widespread attention from the media and public, which in 2004 focused on the theme 'water and disasters'. WMO and the ISDR secretariat were designated the co-leading agencies in the international celebrations, and co-produced an information kit of which 13,000 copies (in English and French) were disseminated in support of activities that took place worldwide on the Day. The Day concluded the World Disaster Reduction Campaign: "Turning the tide on disasters towards sustainable development".

World Water Day inspired numerous activities such as media broadcasts about floods (Jamaica), a memorial walk along the banks of a river in remembrance of flood victims (Hungary), televised political debate on water policy making (Pakistan), on-line photo galleries by major press agencies

(Reuters Alertnet and Xinhuanet), public forum on floods (Japan), inauguration of a water pumping station to ward off floods and droughts (Ethiopia) and a theatrical performance and press conference by Minister for Water and Environment (Yemen).

The Day was celebrated in Geneva with two complementary events organized by WMO and the ISDR secretariat. A roundtable organized by the ISDR secretariat in conjunction with the Geneva Environment Network brought together an eclectic mix of individuals, government representatives, environmental and other organizations to debate the question: "Natural Disasters: Is climate change responsible?". Presenters from the Guardian newspaper, IFRC, WMO, UNEP and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research challenged one another and the audience over the contentious issue of climate change and its role/responsibility for the increasing number of water-related disasters.

Coinciding with the Day was the launch of the inter-agency publication *Guidelines for reducing flood losses* at Geneva, Harare and Bangkok. The guidelines were re-launched in April in New York to coincide with the twelfth session of the Commission on Social Development (CSD-12). Media coverage included interviews and articles. A great deal of interest has been expressed in the guidelines, in particular from governments (national and local) as well as NGOs, with all copies of the first print run being distributed free-of-charge within one month of publication. The second print run is expected to be distributed in May 2004.

#### *Outputs and Impact*

- *Guidelines for reducing flood losses* are a result of a series of consultations led by UN/DESA and US/NOAA, drawing on the experience of various partners, experts and contributors including that of UN/ISDR. They aim at providing decision-makers with a range options to consider for flood risk reduction, offering a complementary approach to those existing structural and engineering

measures designed to reduce flood losses (available in hard copy from the ISDR secretariat and on-line at [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)).

#### *Media: A more disaster-discerning public*

The global dialogue on disaster risk reduction is building momentum, with urgent issues such as climate change and the increasing number of disasters receiving more public attention demonstrated by publication of articles in high-profile media. The *Observer* published an article controversially entitled "Now the Pentagon tells Bush: climate change will destroy us" (22 February), describing the leak of a confidential secret document commissioned by a Pentagon defence adviser, predicting that abrupt climate change could bring the planet to the edge of anarchy as countries develop a nuclear threat to defend and secure dwindling food, water and energy supplies.

The *Economist* highlighted risk and security issues in a special survey that explored the links between growing globalization and the increased frequency of disasters – or is it simply that thanks to more sophisticated telecommunications, media coverage now ensure that such disasters are reported from around the world.

#### *Outputs and Impact*

- The more the media draw to the public's attention the importance of the subject, the more pressure is placed on governments to recognize and commit to developing policies and implementing disaster reduction initiatives.
- The ISDR secretariat continues to work in support of this, raising awareness through its information products, press releases and its most powerful information tool, the ISDR website. The past year has seen the total number of hits almost double from 199,595 (March 2003) to 391,062 (March 2004) (see Focus Area: information and networking).

*This focus area aims to contributing to a culture of resilience through the communication and promotion of disaster risk reduction concepts to specific target audiences. It is carried out at a global scale, at regional levels through the ISDR regional outreach programmes and through a growing number of national platforms or focal points for disaster risk reduction.*

*"Simple words can and do, literally, save lives... If all you can do is warn, or explain, keep on warning, or explaining, but do so in clear and urgent language."*

*Tim Radford  
The Guardian*

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*“Question: Are natural disasters caused by climate change? Answer: Does it really matter?”*

*Richard J.T. Klein  
Potsdam Institute  
for Climate Impact  
Research*

*“This year’s observance of World Water Day also marks the publication of Guidelines for reducing flood losses. A manual and menu of options for decision-makers, the guidelines are... meant to contribute to the discussions at the next World Conference on Disaster Reduction to be held at Kobe-Hyogo, Japan in January 2005. I commend them to all interested actors.”*

*Kofi Annan  
UN Secretary-  
General*

## **ISDR public awareness products/activities 2003-2004**

- *ISDR Highlights* (monthly)
- *Guidelines for reducing flood losses*  
Launched Mar 2004 in Geneva and Harare on the occasion of World Water Day 2004 in conjunction with DESA  
Re-launched in NY on the occasion of CSD-12
- *World Water Day information kit*  
Completed for World Water Day (22 March) in conjunction with WMO
- Roundtable - “Natural disasters: Is climate change responsible?”  
Held on World Water Day (22 March) in conjunction with the Geneva Environment Network (UNEP)
- ISDR website
- World Conference first announcement + further information materials available throughout 2004
- Press activities  
Press interviews/articles (SB) with National Geographic, Reuters Alertnet, BBC World Service radio (Africa Live), several articles on ISDR in Latin American newspapers
- *Living with Risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives*  
Produced in conjunction with UN Sales Publications  
Available for purchase in June 2004
- UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction Nomination booklet launched in January 2004
- *ISDR Informs Latin America and the Caribbean* (English/Spanish)
- *Riskland* (now available in five languages)
- *Disaster Reduction in Africa – ISDR Informs* (English/French/Portuguese)
- *Water and Risk in Africa*
- *Safari’s encounter with a landslide/floods*
- *Interactive CD ROM on wildfires for school children* (Latin America)

## *Sasakawa Award nominations*

The 2004 nomination process for the United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction was launched worldwide in January 2004 encouraging Governments, UN Resident Coordinators, UN agencies and organizations, former Sasakawa laureates, and others to join the ISDR secretariat and Sasakawa Jury in identify and reward individuals or institutions from around the world who contributed, through innovative practices and outstanding initiatives, to reducing the risk and vulnerabilities of communities to natural hazards. The deadline to submit nominations is 18 August 2004 (see [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org) for related information and nomination forms).

## *Regional Advocacy*

### *Africa*

Advocacy and public awareness have been the core activities of UN/ISDR Africa since its inception in 2002. This year, UN/ISDR Africa continues its effort through the production of educational materials on disaster reduction, participation in regional and sub-regional events related to disaster issues, organization of workshops and establishment of national platforms. The biannual *Disaster reduction in Africa – ISDR Informs* issue No. 3 is going to be available in three major languages in English, French and Portuguese, thanks to the support of UNDP.

Based on the major theme (Water) of 2003, UN/ISDR Africa produced educational booklets on *Water and Risk in Africa* in English and French for community leaders and teenagers at school. For pupils in primary school, *Safari’s Encounter with Floods* is now also available in both English and French in cooperation with IGAD Climate and Application Centre (ICPAC), UNEP and ISESCO. Efforts are also made to increasing women’s understanding of disasters and enhancing their access to information on disasters (see section 4 under Regional partnerships).

### *Asia*

In Asia also the publication of *Disaster Reduction in Asia - ISDR Informs* as an evolving publication containing informed opinions on disaster reduction in the region is pursued. Furthermore, funding has been secured from UNDP to translate ISDR Informs Asia into local languages for the Asian continent and increase its dissemination and impact.

### *Latin America and the Caribbean*

The regular activities of the UN/ISDR LAC include the production of *ISDR Informs – Latin America and the Caribbean* magazine in Spanish and English and dissemination to more than 6000 addresses in LAC and outside (see [www.eird.org](http://www.eird.org) for the latest issue).

UN/ISDR LAC is also undertaking a study and review on education for risk reduction, over the past 10 years. This study will serve as a basis for the thematic Latin-American workshop on education for risk reduction (with UNESCO, SNET, FUSAI, COSUDE, among others) which will take place in June, in El Salvador. Another workshop will be held on communication and public information (with UNESCO, PAHO, IFRC) and will take place in Guatemala in August.

In February, UN/ISDR LAC in collaboration with IFRC, PAHO, ACS and CDERA commenced production of a new radio soap opera for the English speaking Caribbean. This educational program is intended to be used in schools and for general public (through radio stations) to raise awareness on hurricanes, floods and disaster reduction.

UN/ISDR LAC also collaborated with the Costa Rican Ministry for Environment (MINAE) on the production of the interactive CD Rom on forest fire prevention for school children in Central America. PAHO, UNICEF and

CERODE (Argentinian NGO) joined efforts to produce an interactive version of *Riskland*, which will soon be available on the web. IFRC and the Central American Council for Indigenous people also produced a new version of *Riskland* in Maya kackchiquel language for indigenous people in Guatemala.

### *Outputs and Impact:*

The success of information materials produced by UN/ISDR LAC has gone beyond the Latin American region, with *Riskland* being translated and adapted into Nepali language by NSET in Nepal, and the Radio soap-opera *Times of Hurricanes* being translated into local languages in Mozambique by GTZ.

*In order to fulfil the core offering of the ISDR as platform for coordinated, coherent, well-informed, international action to reduce disaster risk, the work related to securing and enhancing the information base available to all partners is ongoing and regularly yielding new products.*

## **Focus Area: Information and Networking**

### *Synthesized information*

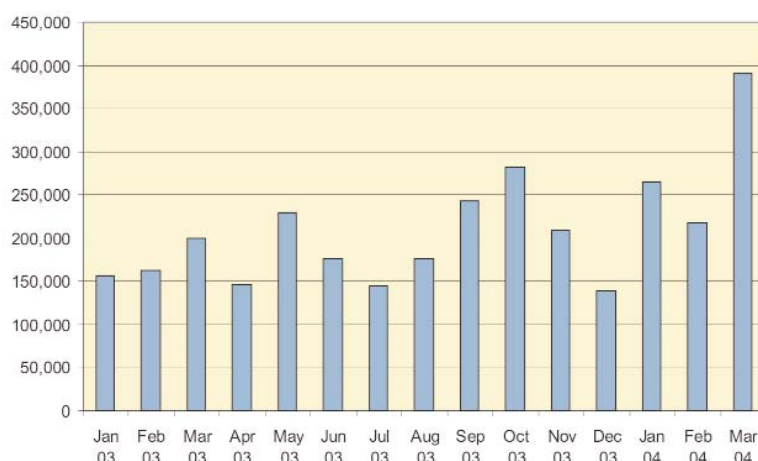
The ISDR information management system With financial support from Switzerland, the ISDR secretariat is strengthening its information management system and website. Resources have been provided to improve ISDR reference databases (contacts, organizations, initiatives, calendar of events) including their re-structuring, interrelation, updating, reporting and management by using specialized services and software. Specific emphasis is given to the development of country profiles, which will include database information, hazard and vulnerability analysis in cooperation with other UN organizations, as well as information on initiatives and good practices.

### *ISDR Website*

The ISDR website underwent a complete overhaul in late 2003 as a first step in its re-development and is now more user-friendly than before. A great deal of positive feedback has been received by users, noting the easy access of

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**Total number of hits www.unisdr.org 2003-2004**



documents related to disaster reduction as well as the comprehensive search engine. The website is a dynamic means of two-way communication between the ISDR secretariat and the world, whereby users are invited to provide their input and comments to further enhance its usability and impact and better match user needs (see [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)).

Efforts to increase information sharing and network building in Africa are improving, with the new UN/ISDR Africa website now available on-line. To date, UN/ISDR Africa has built contacts with over 600 individuals, networks with government officials from 45 African countries and more than 10 regional and sub-regional organizations.

## **Focus Area: Partnerships for Application**

Success in reducing disasters can only come through mobilizing and supporting partnerships that address the multiple factors that cause disasters. The ISDR is advanced through the collaborative efforts of many partners throughout the world. In this respect stimulation and

coordination of regional partnerships and networks to promote and endorse disaster risk reduction concerns is of crucial importance.

One expected outcome of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction is the launching or recognition of a set of voluntary key partnerships to support national and local efforts to pursue disaster risk reduction objectives, such as the Earthquake Megacities Initiative and UNESCO for a partnership on education and risk reduction. The ISDR secretariat has been liaising with several major global and regional players to define and consolidate efforts in this respect, with a descriptive report to be available at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IATF/DR and PrepCom 2.

### *Regional partnerships*

#### *Africa*

In 2004, UN/ISDR Africa further consolidated partnerships with regional organizations and UN agencies through joint activities to address common concerns in Africa (NEPAD) and some of its sub-regions, as well as with UN agencies working in the region.

*Outputs and Impacts:*

- Development of advocacy and educational material with UNDP regional capacity on linking disaster risk reduction and governance, with IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre on linking disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, with UNEP and water resource management with ISESCO on linking disaster risk reduction and environmental protection.
- Promotion of water and risk management in partnership with the Drought Monitoring Centre in Harare.

*Gender issues and disaster risk reduction in Africa*

Together with UN-HABITAT and Carrying out of case studies on gender and disaster reduction in

five countries (Algeria, Cameroon, Madagascar, Mozambique, Kenya). A Regional Women's Conference on Gender and Disaster Reduction was held in April 2004 to promote women's active participation in disaster risk reduction and advocate gender-sensitive approach in disaster risk management.

*A Workshop on Mobilizing Women to Participate in Disaster Risk management* was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in March 2004, attended by 38 participants – women and men – brought together from NGOs, government organizations and disaster-prone areas, organized by the Soroptimist International Club of Nairobi, ICPAC (IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre) and UN/ISDR Africa (see box).

*The ISDR secretariat is a tiny part of the global risk reduction community. To serve its particular role, it very actively seeks to develop and support partnership and networks, especially with IATF/DR members and regional actors.*

### **Mobilizing Women to Participate in Disaster Risk Management**

**1-2 March 2004, Nairobi, Kenya**

#### **WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Recognizing that gender concerns involve both men and women, both men and women should therefore be actively engaged in the disaster risk management process.*

#### **PUBLIC AWARENESS/ADVOCACY**

- Accessing national draft policy on disaster management to identify if it is gender-sensitive and responsive; and recommending a national workshop with other stakeholders (religious organizations, government, NGOs, CBOs, women MPs, etc.) to discuss disaster management policies from a gender perspective.
- Lobbying for national budget allocation for disaster risk management within constituency development fund, notably in the framework of the PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper).
- Integrating a gender perspective in the design and implementation of disaster management initiatives like tree planting, dyke construction, use of climate predictions and early warning systems, and establishing mechanisms to review such initiatives.
- Establishing a mechanism to support elderly and handicapped persons.
- Initiating literacy programmes to overcome societal challenges caused by illiteracy.
- Proposal submitted to ongoing Bomas Constitutional Review talks for one third of women representation in local development committees should be supported and mainstreamed.
- As informed individuals, recommending to policy makers to ensure access to resources, in particular land and property ownership, and take measures to empower women as producers and consumers to enhance their capacity to respond to disasters.
- Both women and men be trained and sensitized on land rights and inheritance.
- Women to be more assertive about the top management role they play in individual households and use their skills towards societal management of disaster issues.

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## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- In creating awareness, religious organizations and local groups should be used as for a to reach women.
- Educating women on disaster risk management through mobile sensitization units and centres.
- Information sharing with communities and leaders.
- Developing educational materials with a gender perspective on disaster reduction.
- Introducing disaster awareness and preparedness in school curricula.
- Using mobile phones to disseminate early warning information for effective disaster risk management.
- Be culturally informed and custodians of traditional knowledge to be brought on board and the knowledge be identified and documented: analyze all aspects of culture, select what is relevant and applicable and set aside what is retrogressive. Need for sensitization to certain negative cultural aspects and develop role models.
- Use of media in advocacy to play a major role in highlighting the role of men and women working together for change in disaster risk management. Editors should be sensitized on the importance of disaster management, climatology, hydrology, etc., and the importance of disseminating information on early warning.
- Utilizing local radio stations to discuss early and timely disaster management.
- Disseminating information on disaster reduction in mother tongues or any languages understood by a community.
- To get radio sets distributed to users in some priority areas as a pilot project.
- Need for a FM gender radio station run by Soroptimist International Union of Kenya, which will deal concretely with gender concerns in disaster risk management.

## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- Capacity building for women to cope when disaster strikes, empowering women through mobilization, and working towards set goals related to disaster risk management, coping skills.

## COOPERATION / PARTNERSHIP

- Forging partnerships and networks between governments, international organizations, private sectors and NGOs in integrated and gender-sensitive sustainable development to reduce risks, and with relevant organizations in civic education to get women into decision-making bodies.
- Women to liaise with district disaster management committees and incorporating existing Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) as focal points to train women.
- Networking all Soroptimist International members in Africa and elsewhere, ICPAC (IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre) and UN/ISDR Africa to address all issues pertaining to mainstreaming gender concerns in disaster reduction.

### *Asia*

UN/ISDR and its Asian partners agree that a strategic partnership for disaster reduction is the way to build a stronger basis to promote disaster reduction in the region and develop the conditions for a regional programme in the future. The basis for the partnership is the substantial number of existing programmes and efforts carried out by national and key regional players across Asia. A separate focus on the sub-region of Central Asia has also been added to ISDR regional outreach efforts in 2004.

### *Outputs and Impacts:*

- Communication to countries in the region on the partnership (public announcement at Asian Disaster Reduction Conference in Cambodia, Websites, etc)
- Collaboration with ADPC and ADRC and UNDP for the consolidation of Asian regional policy inputs for the preparation of key documents for WCDR. In this regard, the conclusions of the Cambodian

Conference (ADRC – see [www.adrc.or.jp/publications/Asian\\_Conference\\_2004/index.html](http://www.adrc.or.jp/publications/Asian_Conference_2004/index.html)), as well as the Dhaka Conference (ADPC – see [www.adpc.net/audmp/WGM.html](http://www.adpc.net/audmp/WGM.html)) provided strategic implications for both the preparations of WCDR and the subsequent implementation in the region of its conclusions.

The Asian Partnership is a strong political means to build unity and orient action in the region, facilitating the collaboration among international and regional organizations and building confidence among countries willing to share practices and knowledge on disaster reduction.

As a separate achievement, additional donor resources were mobilised for ISDR activities in Asia with the promising prospects of increasing its role in the near future (Sweden and Norway).

#### *Europe*

The ISDR regional outreach for Europe continues to evolve. The proposed regional programme is becoming a logic grid for sub-regional and thematic efforts by European partners and countries. The secretariat has brokered a partnership between the EU countries and those of the Mediterranean region. Confidence building with the European Commission also showed some success.

#### *Outputs and Impacts:*

In Europe, the following activities took place during this period:

- Second Meeting of European National Platforms, Bad-Honnef, April 2004, organized by the German Committee for Disaster Reduction.
- Involvement of the European Commission in the preparatory phase of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction.
- Involvement of UN/ISDR in the policy process of the Council of Europe Major Risks Agreement.

- The fact that European countries are both donors for disaster reduction in developing countries and victims of natural disasters makes the work between the ISDR secretariat and European countries as well as the European Commission and other bodies of great potential mutual benefit. ISDR has been recognised as a common strategic platform for the EC, the Council of Europe and several EU member countries.
- The group of European national platforms is enlarging to include non-members of the EU and constitute a potential venue for policy coordination and collaborative projects. This is expected to increase the availability of funds for disaster reduction in general in the future.

#### *Latin America and the Caribbean*

#### *Outputs and Impacts:*

- The tripartite collaboration between ISDR, UNDP and OCHA has been strengthened during the reporting period and their 3 regional offices are developing inter-agency activities at the regional level.
- An inventory/assessment of El Niño activities in Peru and Ecuador.
- Development of a inter-agency programme to fill the gaps identified in this assessment and define a resource mobilization strategy for programme funding. The above inventory will be carried out in close collaboration with the existing initiatives in the region, such as CIIFEN, PREANDINO, etc.).
- Contribution to the UNESCO final workshop on “cross-cutting CCT Initiative for Safer Cities”, which was held in Tijuana, Mexico.

The increased collaboration among UN agencies in the region is a healthy sign of willingness to make best use of limited resources and capacities for a better end result and impact. Following

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interest generated by the contribution on CCT, UN/ISDR LAC is currently discussing with the UNESCO regional office in Costa Rica possibilities for follow-up activities at the regional level, including more cities, from more countries.

## *South Pacific*

Further to the work started in 2003 to support a community risk reduction strategy for the benefit of Pacific Island Countries in collaboration with SOPAC and others, support has been secured from Australia and New Zealand for the coordination of the preparation for World Conference in the region and the consolidation of policy inputs for the concluding results expected from the World Conference, through SOPAC.

## *Outputs and Impacts:*

- Continuing contact with SOPAC on several policy and programme issues, including the review of the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States.
- ISDR meetings with Australia and New Zealand, including visits by Director and meetings with delegations in Geneva. The UN/ISDR Director addressed the 2003 Australian Disaster Conference “Safer Sustainable Communities” hosted by Emergency Management Australia (10-12 September, Canberra), highlighting global challenges in disaster reduction. The event was attended by over 700 delegates from Australia and the Pacific region, and resulted in concrete outcomes that will contribute towards the World Conference.
- Definition of the outline for the preparatory studies leading to World Conference.

## *Practical applications- good practices*

The ongoing strong tripartite relationship between OCHA, UNDP and ISDR is steadily bearing more fruits and tri-partite meetings are being held on a regular basis in Geneva, at highest level and at technical levels.

## *Outputs and Impacts:*

- One example of successful collaboration on the ground, which included UNICEF was the holding of the Disaster Preparedness and Contingency Planning Workshop, in the Union of the Comoros, (17 – 18 March 2004). Although the main focus of the workshop was on preparedness and response, the participants with the support of the facilitators, identified concrete measures for prevention in each of the identified sectors such as food security, early warning, water and sanitation,..etc. This really represents a major achievement they can build on in the future for any activity related to prevention. The follow-up should be continued in a coordinated manner for the benefit of the population. A project proposal is being prepared at the request of the UNDP CO and funds or in-kind contribution will be identified soon.
- International Centre for the Research on El Niño phenomenon (CIIFEN), Guayaquil, Ecuador (with WMO)  
Important steps forward to the implementation of the International Centre for the Recherche on El Niño phenomenon (CIIFEN) have been done this year, supported mainly by Ecuador and WMO, with advice given by the IATF/DR working group on climate. The Coordination Committee with the participation of the Government of Ecuador, WMO, CIIFEN and ISDR met in February in Geneva to discuss the achievements during 2003 and define the mechanisms and activities for 2004, including the establishment of the International Board, a fundraising strategy and specific projects. In this context ISDR facilitated the international coordination and revision of the project proposal to enhance the organizational development and consolidation of CIIFEN to be funded by

the Inter-Andean Development Bank (CAF). This proposal is about to be approved, which will contribute to define a substantive workplan and interactions to move to the regional and international recognition and support.

#### *Space applications*

UN/ISDR has been leading a broad based effort to gather partners around the idea that space based applications and tools can benefit prevention (risk and vulnerability assessment) much more than currently believed. The ISDR secretariat continues its efforts to invest in partnerships to promote and disseminate space based applications for disaster prevention especially aiming at making vulnerable communities in developing countries benefit from low-cost, high-impact solutions that are already available.

#### *Outputs and Impacts:*

- policy coordination and partnerships (OOSA, Action Team, OCHA, ESA, GEO, COPUOS);
- partnership for concrete solutions (UNOPS, UNITAR, UNOSAT);
- participation in global system design (Action Team-UNISPACE III, ESA-GMES, GEO); and
- publication on space applications for disasters and sustainable development with OOSA.

Disaster reduction is now included as a main topic for integrated space-based disaster management system. It also has a higher profile and is recognised as a central topic for future activities by COPUOS (versus historical preference for emergency management support).

The involvement of UN/ISDR in user needs survey for GMES with ESA, led to the recognition of the need to focus on local community needs in prevention rather than emergency response (cooperation took place with both OCHA and Red Cross – MSF)

Achievements in the realisation of low-cost technology measures for vulnerability assessment in Matagalpa (Nicaragua) are available at [www.unosat.org](http://www.unosat.org).

#### *Interrelation between Natural and Technological hazards (Natech)*

The ISDR/EC agreement on this area of research entered its phase 2 in 2004 based on the results of an international meeting organised jointly by UN/ISDR and JRC. This phase includes pilot studies and vulnerability mapping.

#### *Outputs and Impact:*

- The implementation of the agreement has led to closer collaboration with the European Commission and a general increase in awareness of the mission of ISDR in EU circles. As a result, the EC/JRC requested and obtained membership in the IATE.
- The joint publication stemming from the Natech workshop has been disseminated.
- The state of the art on Natech (draft available) will contribute to clarify to integrate this area into the policy discussions on disaster reduction.
- EC/JRC with other partners will organise a session during the World Conference on this topic.

#### *Landslide risk reduction*

The ISDR secretariat continues to promote international coordination among the scientific community dealing with landslide risk reduction activities. In this context, it is contributing towards the emergence of a common approach from policy and sciences to practices for the implementation of landslide risk reduction measures on the ground.

# Impacts against the ISDR strategic framework and workplan

## *Output and Impact:*

- Facilitation of linkages with the Joint Technical Committee on Landslides (JTC-1) as part of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), the International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM) and the International Association for Engineering Geology (IAEG). This group is organizing the international symposium on landslides (ISL) every four years, the next one (ISL9) will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on June 2004, JTC-1 and the international conference on landslide risk management in May 2005 in Vancouver, Canada.
- Input on the implementation of landslide risk reduction measures as part of the publication on good practices to be released in Vancouver 2005.
- Contribution of an article for IMIRILAND PROJECT to promote landslide risk reduction policies and methodologies as well as their implementation on the ground entitled “Landslide risk reduction in Ecuador: from policy to practice”.
- The efforts of the ISDR secretariat in the field of landslide risk reduction measures will provide inputs to the WCDR and adds to the good practices available in this field. International coordination also contributes to avoid duplication of projects and allows better interaction and sharing of experience and lessons.

### **Landslide risk reduction in Ecuador: from policy to practice**

Within the framework of a multihazard project (PRECUPA) in the region of Cuenca city, South of Ecuador, geological and hydrometeorological hazards were studied, mapped and monitored between March 1994 and December 1998, including landslides, floods and earthquakes assessment, real time network installation and the implementation of mitigation measures. One of the main components of the project included the detailed identification and mapping of landslides in inhabited or productive zones and the implementation of landslide risk reduction measures (non structural ones); such as development of public awareness and community work, strengthening of local capacities, and encouragement of public commitment including the development and application of urban law and land-use planning.

# The way forward and continuing challenges

The ISDR secretariat's activities in the coming six months will concentrate around work which directly or indirectly will strengthen the momentum to increase visibility and knowledge on the subject of disaster risk reduction, emphasized by the preparation for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction. Far from distracting the secretariat from its main mandate and role, these preparatory activities reinforce its impact and contribute to publicize its achievements and significance of disaster risk reduction in the pursuit of safer and resilient communities. The momentum for discussion and exposure of disaster risk reduction concepts, methods and practices, as well as the massive information generated by the many thematic and regional meetings and reviews motivated such an international event, will enhance the four focus areas of the ISDR strategic framework.

The continuing challenges until the end of the year include:

- Strengthening the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction, by increasing its profile, and ensuring focused outcomes of its working groups.
- Continuing strengthening national platforms for disaster risk reduction, in particular in collaboration with UNDP and regional bodies.
- Finalising the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action.
- Further development of the multistakeholder process and policy paper on climate change and adaptation for disaster risk reduction.
- Improving the ISDR information management system.

*Related to the preparation for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction:*

- Securing further inputs from regional and thematic consultations, as well as experts for the Yokohama review and World Conference outcomes.

- Preparing for the second session of the Preparatory Committee (Geneva, 11-12 October 2004) on the basis of the outcomes of IATF-9 and the first session of the Preparatory Committee and ensure full support to the Bureau.
- Further refining the World Conference format and content, especially distribution of parallel events on specific thematic issues and good practices among sponsoring and participating organizations, and further engaging stakeholders from Governments, UN bodies and major groups.
- Further designing the activities to promote participation in the World Conference.
- Further disseminating the World Conference objectives and utilizing the opportunity for wide public awareness on disaster risk reduction options.

The ISDR secretariat expects the World Conference to be a powerful venue for interested parties to advance their disaster risk reduction interests and gain from the synergies that will arise. It forms an important milestone for advancing and strengthening work in this field. The World Conference process should lead to more substantive implementation mechanism for disaster risk reduction in the next decade.

An expected achievement brought along by the request for national information and reporting, triggered by the preparatory process for the World Conference, has been the strengthening of national platforms and other such institutional mechanisms for disaster reduction. Similarly the development of networks and partnerships to mainstream disaster risk reduction in sectoral policies and programmes should gain momentum throughout the year.

The reformed work modalities of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction, the secretariat's organizational strengthening and improvement of its integrated information resources and clearinghouse function, the ISDR's enhanced regional presence and the operationalization of the recommendations of the Second International Conference on Early Warning will also remain high on the coming six months agenda.

# 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
CEPRENAC	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

# Annex 1

## Current draft of framework for disaster risk reduction

<b>Thematic area 1: POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (GOVERNANCE)</b>		
<p><b>Governance</b> is increasingly becoming a key area for the success of sustained reduction of risks. Defined in terms of political commitment and strong institutions, good governance is expected to elevate disaster risk reduction as a policy priority, allocate the necessary resources for it, enforce its implementation and assign accountability for failures, as well as facilitate participation from civil society private sector.</p>		
Thematic areas/ Components	Characteristics	Criteria for benchmarks (very tentative)
<b>Policy and planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk reduction as a policy priority</li> <li>• Risk reduction incorporated into post-disaster reconstruction</li> <li>• Integration of risk reduction in development planning and sectoral policies (poverty eradication, social protection, sustainable development, climate change adaptation, desertification, natural resource management, health, education, etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National risk reduction strategy and plan</li> <li>• Disaster reduction in poverty reduction strategy papers, in national Millennium Development Goals reports</li> <li>• Disaster reduction in National Adaptation Plan of Action (for LDCs) on climate change</li> <li>• National follow up on WSSD Plan of Implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Legal and regulatory framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laws, acts and regulations</li> <li>• Codes, standards</li> <li>• Compliance and enforcement</li> <li>• Responsibility and accountability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement of compliance by law</li> <li>• Existence and update of codes and standards</li> <li>• Existence of systems to ensure compliance and enforcement</li> </ul>
<b>Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource mobilization and allocation: financial (innovative and alternative funding, taxes, incentives), human, technical, material, sectoral</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of budgetary allocation</li> <li>• Staffing allocation</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships</li> </ul>
<b>Organizational structures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing and coordinating bodies</li> <li>• Intra and inter-ministerial, multidisciplinary and multisectoral mechanisms</li> <li>• Local institutions for decentralized implementation</li> <li>• Civil society, NGOs, private sector and community participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existence of an administrative structure responsible for disaster reduction</li> <li>• Sectoral programmes in line ministries</li> <li>• Consultation with and role for civil society, NGOs, private sector and the communities.</li> <li>• Existence of "watchdog" groups</li> </ul>
<b>Thematic area 2: RISK IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT</b>		
<p><b>Identification of risks</b> is a relatively well-defined area with a significant knowledge base on methods for disaster impact and risk assessment. Systematic assessment of losses, particularly the social and economic impact of disasters, and mapping of risks are fundamental to understand where to take action. Pre-investment appraisals of disaster risk to development and vice versa, consideration of disaster risks in environmental impact assessments is still to become routine practice. Early warning is increasingly defined as a means to inform public and authorities on impending risks, hence essential for timely inputs to reduce their impact.</p>		
Thematic areas/ Components	Characteristics	Criteria for benchmarks (very tentative)
<b>Risk assessment and data quality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazard analysis: characteristics, impacts, historical and spatial distribution, multi-hazard assessments, hazard monitoring including of emerging hazards</li> <li>• Vulnerability and capacity assessment: social, economic, physical and environmental, political, cultural factors</li> <li>• Risk monitoring capabilities, risk maps, risk scenarios</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazards recorded and mapped</li> <li>• Vulnerability and capacity indicators developed and systematically mapped and recorded</li> <li>• Risk scenarios developed and used</li> <li>• Systematic assessment of disaster risks in development programming</li> </ul>
<b>Early warning systems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring and forecasting</li> <li>• Risk scenarios</li> <li>• Warning and dissemination</li> <li>• Response to warning</li> </ul>	<p>Effective early warning systems that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of forecasts</li> <li>• Dissemination channels and participation at local level</li> <li>• Effectiveness of response to warnings</li> </ul>

### Thematic area 3: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

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

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

### Thematic area 4: RISK MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS & INSTRUMENTS

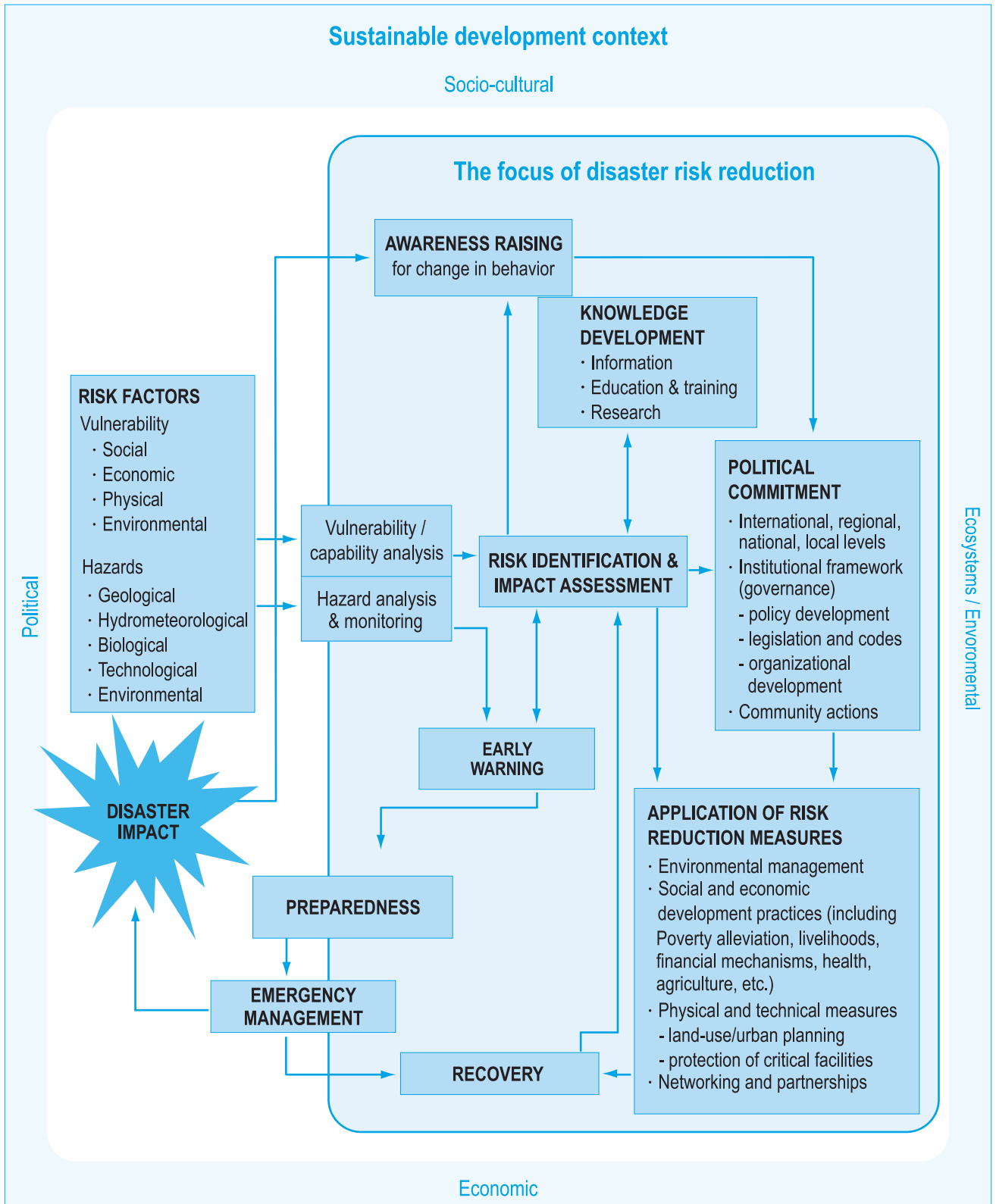
Instruments for risk management have proliferated especially with the recognition of environmental management, poverty reduction and financial management tools as complementary solutions. The role of **environmental and natural resource management** in reducing climatic disaster risks is acknowledged.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

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

Thematic areas/ Components	Characteristics	Criteria for benchmarks (very tentative)
<b>Social and economic development practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social protection and safety nets</li> <li>• Financial instruments (involvement of financial sector in disaster reduction: insurance/reinsurance, risk spreading instruments for public infrastructure and private assets such as calamity funds and catastrophe bonds, micro-credit and finance, revolving community funds, social funds)</li> <li>• Sustainable livelihood strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to social protection and safety nets as well as micro-finance services for disaster risk reduction</li> <li>• Use of safety nets and social protection programmes in recovery process- Insurance take up</li> <li>• Public-private partnerships for micro-financing and insurance at community level</li> </ul>
<b>Physical and technical measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land use applications, urban and regional development schemes</li> <li>• Structural interventions (hazard resistant construction and infrastructure, retrofitting of existing structures, drought, flood and landslide control techniques)</li> <li>• Soil conservation and hazard resistant agricultural practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction reduced/zoning plans enforced in floodplains and other mapped hazard-prone areas</li> <li>• Compliance of public and private buildings with codes and standards.</li> <li>• Public buildings (health facilities, schools, lifelines, etc) at high risk retrofitted</li> <li>• Regular maintenance of hazard control structures</li> </ul>
<p><b>Thematic area 5: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p><b>Preparedness and emergency management</b> have been effective instruments in reducing life losses from direct and indirect effect of disasters. A well-prepared system is expected to be effectively informed by early warning, have in place national and local preparedness plans regularly rehearsed establish communication and coordination systems, as well as adequate logistics infrastructure and emergency fund to respond from. Local level preparedness, particularly of the communities, including their training deserves special attention as the most effective way of reducing life and livelihood losses.</p>		
Thematic areas/ Components	Characteristics	Criteria for benchmarks (very tentative)
<b>Preparedness and contingency planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contingency plans (logistics, infrastructure)</li> <li>• National and local preparedness plans</li> <li>• Effective communication and coordination system</li> <li>• Rehearsal and practice of plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testing and updating of emergency response networks and plans (national/local, private/public)</li> <li>• Coverage of community training and community based preparedness</li> <li>• Emergency funds and stocks</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil protection and defence organizations and volunteer networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective response to disasters and mobilization of volunteers, including NGOs, in particular Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies</li> </ul>
<p>Source: UN/ISDR, October 2003</p>		

# Annex 2

## ISDR Strategic Framework with priorities



**Annex 3**  
**Secretariat of the ISDR**  
**Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction**  
**Contributions/Pledges (in USD) as at 29 April 2004**  
**Biennium 2004-2005**

**UN/ISDR 2004-2005 estimated requirements**

2004-2005 financial requirements	12,511,000 <sup>1</sup>
2004-2005 income/written pledges	5,347,255
2004-2005 outstanding requirements	<u>7,163,745</u>

**WCDR estimated requirements**

5,006,204
<u>908,089</u>
4,098,115

DONORS	Year 2004		Year 2005		WCDR	
	Received	Written Pledges	Received	Written Pledges	Received	Written Pledges
Canada	187,973.47					
Germany	378,048.78 <sup>2</sup>	609,756.10 <sup>3</sup>				
Japan					661,995.00	
Norway		283,286.12				
South Africa	7,414.06					
Sweden	584,385.58 <sup>4</sup>			607,287.45 <sup>4</sup>		
Switzerland	360,000.00 <sup>5</sup>	15,384.62				246,093.75
United Kingdom	1,365,701.47	33,731.34		714,285.71		
United States	200,000.00					
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3,083,523.36</b>	<b>942,158.18</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,321,573.16</b>	<b>661,995.00</b>	<b>246,093.75</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,025,681.54</b>		<b>1,321,573.16</b>		<b>908,088.75</b>	

**OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:**

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

Nippon Foundation: funding for the Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

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

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

<sup>1/</sup> As per document "An open opportunity to reduce disaster impacts", December 2003

<sup>2/</sup> In support of the regional outreach programme of the ISDR in Africa.

<sup>3/</sup> In support of the Early Warning Platform.

<sup>4/</sup> In support of the regional outreach programme of the ISDR in Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia.

<sup>5/</sup> In support of project: "Living with Floods".

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

## UN/ISDR

### CONTRIBUTIONS/WRITTEN PLEDGES to the Trust fund for Disaster Reduction (in USD) as at 29 April 2004

Donor	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 WCDR	2005	TOTAL
ANEM <sup>1/</sup> (France)	10,093							10,093
Austria			12,942	14,251	**			27,193
Canada	99,714				187,973			287,687
Cyprus			8,369					8,369
Denmark		254,511						254,511
European Commission								
Finland		60,784		191,834	**			252,618
Germany		228,260	543,976	854,249	987,805			2,614,290
Iceland			5,000					5,000
Italy	242,483		148,662	117,371	**			508,516
Japan	300,000	234,155	300,000		**	661,995		1,496,150
Norway	252,966		274,360		283,286			810,612
Philippines		7,624		4,450				12,074
South Africa	15,006				7,414			22,420
Spain					**			-
Sweden	896,683		377,749	526,286	584,386	**	607,287	2,992,391
Switzerland	97,956	161,180	616,696	697,446	375,385	**	246,094	2,194,755
UNEP	13,000	2,000		15,000				30,000
United Kingdom	125,000		1,428,571	1,191,693	1,399,433		714,286	4,858,983
United States					200,000			200,000
WMO			19,017					19,017
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,052,901</b>	<b>948,514</b>	<b>3,735,342</b>	<b>3,612,579</b>	<b>4,025,682</b>	<b>908,089</b>	<b>1,321,573</b>	<b>16,604,680</b>
<sup>1/</sup> Association Nationale des Elus des Montagnes (ANEM)								

#### Other Contributions:

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

\*\* Discussions are on the way for specific additional contributions

### ***ISDR Mission***

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

### ***ISDR Secretariat purpose statement***

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



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