



Geneva, 11 March 2003

INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION (ISDR)

INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION

Working Group 3: Quantification of risk, vulnerability and impact of disasters

A. Background:

The ISDR Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction has established four working groups to follow up on the initiatives developed during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR).

Working Group three (WG3) has as main objective to advance knowledge on the development and application of data and tools for risk/vulnerability assessment and reduction.

WG3 agreed to focus its work on three main activities:

1. The exchange of information on on-going activities for data gathering and for the development of indicators and indexes for global risks and vulnerability assessment;
2. The review of practices on the application of risk-vulnerability-impact assessment tools at the local level;
3. The harmonisation of criteria for the development of a risk-vulnerability index compatible with other indexes currently applied on the social and economic development context.

UN-HABITAT, through its Disaster Management Programme, in collaboration with UNDP has taken the lead in the development of a programme of activities for the second activity. Producing the following results:

1. A “Register” of tools and practices for risk-vulnerability-impact assessment at national and local level.
2. A critical “Review” of tools and practices for risk-vulnerability-impact assessment, as well as of their follow up in the development and application of risk-vulnerability-impact reduction plans and strategies.



3. A set of “Criteria-Guidelines for the development of best practice” on the design and application of risk-vulnerability-impact assessment tools and reduction plans, and their dissemination to practitioners at the national and local levels.
4. A “Network and referral facility” of practitioners and institutions active in the area of risk-vulnerability-impact assessment and reduction.

WG3 agreed on a work plan for implementation in incremental phases:

Phase I; preliminary version of the register.

Phase II: Updated version of “Register” and review of tools and practices.

Phase III: Draft version of “Guidelines” and review by expert group and practitioners

Phase IV: Publication and dissemination of “Guidelines” and updated version of the Register and the “Referral Facility”

Phase 1: Report

UN-HABITAT agreed and has initiated execution of activities for the production of the first output: the preliminary version of the “Register” of tools and practices. This phase it has been executed using secondary information only.

The preliminary list of practitioners, organisations and experts involved in the production, application or assessment of such tools¹, was compiled by UN-HABITAT and canvassed in a series of telephone and e-mail exchanges either to send electronic copies of data and reference material, or to express their interest in using the registry. The objective would be to develop a preliminary 'taxonomy' for tools, data and best practices; which would be further developed as itself a tool for both members of the WG's and external users.

The resulting response was limited with only 18% (or 20 responses) out of two mailings to over 112 organisations and experts very well selected. A high percentage of the responses showed the interest not sending any concrete material.

It is clear that a passive approach to collection of data/reference materiel has not been as successful as initially planned, and a more active pursuit of input is required.

¹ See Attachment 1: List of organisations canvassed for inputs to registry



Given the initial objective, it is clear from participants even within WG3 that there are numerous uncollated experiences and information in the development and application of risk-vulnerability-impact assessment tools at the local and national level. Given their relative isolation, there has consequently been a limited increase in knowledge, or in the further development and improvement of these tools.

Experience has also shown that these tools, applied at the local level, have to be responsive to local needs and have a direct impact on the local decision making processes to prove useful. Therefore, they have to be developed with a clear understanding of the issues and decision-making processes that take place at the local level, and subsequent action planning.

The objective of this proposal is to promote the application of improved practices for risk-vulnerability-impact assessment at the local and national level, as well as their follow up with the formulation and application of risk-vulnerability reduction action plans. This will be achieved through the systematic identification and review of existing applications and the dissemination of improved practices.

As a result we expect:

- An inventory of tools and practices for risk-vulnerability-impact assessment at the national and local level from the members of the WG3. The objective is to know about the material inside WG3, and to use this information as the basis for a preliminary taxonomy for organising the Register.
- A global interactive register of tools and practices for risk-vulnerability-impact assessment at the national and local level. The Register will be continuously updated and expanded.
- A critical review of tools and practices for risk-vulnerability-impact assessment, as well as of their follow up in the development and application of risk-vulnerability-impact reduction plans and strategies.
- A set of criteria-guidelines for the development of best practice on the design and application of risk-vulnerability-impact assessment tools and reduction plans, and their dissemination to practitioners at the national and local levels.
- A network and referral facility of practitioners and institutions active in the area of risk-vulnerability-impact assessment and reduction.

PROPOSAL

Phase I: Organisation of a workshop to be held in Geneva for the presentation and exchange of tools and best practices among the members of the working group. At the same time the presentation of the first version of the “*Register*” and review by WG3.

- Proposed date: June 2003
- Inputs: US\$20,000 In-kind UN-HABITAT/UNEP for the register
US\$30,000 for the workshop organised by UN-HABITAT



Phase II: Updated version of “Register” and review of tools and practices. Presentation of WG3 data and define criteria for formulation of the “Guidelines”. Presentation of the inventory of tools and best practices among the members:

- Completion date: September 2003
- Inputs: From project budget

Phase III: Draft version of “Guidelines” and review by expert group and practitioners

- Completion date: December 2003
- Inputs: From project budget

Phase IV: Publication and dissemination of “Guidelines” and updated version of the *Register* and the “Referral Facility”

- Completion date: March 2004
- Inputs: From project budget

All the activities will be executed in continuous consultation with the core group of experts from various regions and disciplines related to disaster management.

INPUTS-BUDGET

Period: March – June 2003:

US\$ 20,000 – In-kind contribution by UN-HABITAT/UNEP

US\$ 30,000 – To be secured

Period: June – March 2003/2004 (10 months):

Personnel

- International expert (6 w/m L4 level): US\$37,500
- International consultant (8 w/m L3 level): US\$40,000
- Support staff (10 w/m): US\$10,000
- Regional consultants (10 w/m L3 level): US\$50,000

Workshops

- Expert group meeting: US\$25,000

Miscellaneous

- Publications: US\$12,000
- Communications: US\$ 4,000



<u>Support costs</u>	
• Support costs:	US\$19,050
TOTAL:	US\$196,350

ATTACHMENT 1

List Of Organisations Canvassed for Input to Registry

African Union	Www.africa-union.org
Alternativas para el Desarrollo	Manuelarguello@yahoo.com
Annelis Heijmans	Bbxah@yahoo.com
Asian Disaster Management News	Adpc@ait.ac.th
Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre "Brian Ward"	Www.adpc.ait.ac.th
Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)	Ajrego@ait.ac.th
Mr. A.J. Rego	
Asian Disaster Reduction Center	Www.adrc.jp
Asian Disaster Reduction Center, (ADRC), Mr. Satoru Nishikawa	Nishikawa@adrc.or.jp
Asian Institute of Technology	Kamal@ait.ac.th
Asian Institute of Technology	Davholl@ait.ac.th
Carlos Villacis	Villacis@pangea.stanford.edu
Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), Ms. Debarati Guha-Sapir	Sapir@epid.ucl.ac.be
Center for Studies on Diseases and Natural Risks, Colombia, Mr. Omar Cardona	Ocardona@uniandes.edu.co
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Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO),	
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Fundacion Desarrollo Ciencia y Tecnologia	Fudecit@es.com.sv
Global Fire Monitoring Center	Www.gfmc.org
GTZ – FEMID	Wstiebens@gold.guate.net
Ibero- American Association of Civil Defense	Dcc@multiphone.net.co
International Council of Scientific Unions	Www.icsu.org
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LA RED Estudios Sociales en Prevención de Desastres en	Www.desenredando.com
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