



# World Conference on Disaster Reduction

18-22 January 2005, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan

## ECHO/ISDR good practices for resilient communities

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### **The Need for an Integrated Disaster Management Strategy for Urban Risks: A Case Study of Algiers (Algeria)**

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#### **Summary:**

Algiers, the Capital of Algeria, including its surroundings communities, has a population of approximately three millions, represents the most important concentration of investment, government institutions and population in the whole country. As the capital, particularly, it represents a gravitational pole, recording a considerable migratory flow in addition to one important demographic growth, a fast industrialization and an anarchistic urbanization, which make of it the receptacle of various sources of pollution, where ground, air and sea do not escape the consequences of these plagues. It is the intellectual, social, political and economic center of the country. In recent years the disaster risks have increased due to overcrowding, faulty land use planning and construction, inadequate infrastructure and services, and environmental degradation and technological plants within and surrounding the city. In the last two decades, the city of Algiers and its surroundings have known an important development in the urban domain as well as in the industrial one and thus it is actually confronted to rapid environmental degradation and to a multiform pollution. The industrial sector implemented within the city itself and its surroundings increases considerably the risk of disasters. Algiers is confronted seriously to all types of risks as earthquakes, floods, landslides, storms, tsunamis, as well as the industrial pollution (4 Industrial zones), atmospheric pollution (road traffic, main industries, Public dump Oued Smar), Solid wastes pollution (Public dump Oued Smar, units for wastes treatment), Hydro pollution (superficial and underground water), marine pollution, soil pollution, forests and green spaces degradation, as well as to geological risks. The topography, the waterfront location and the ancient neighborhoods (Casbah) make it difficult to affect radical solutions to most of its problems. This paper presents also the case study of the different earthquake disaster prevention and post-disaster measures taken by the government of Algeria between 1980 and 2004. It details the measures

learning activities taken at the country level as well as those involving the cooperation of international organizations. Decision-makers need adequate integrated information on the likely (probabilities) intensity of the disaster the city will face if they are to reduce disaster vulnerability. This research work shows the need of an integrated disaster risk management in megacities.