



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction

Announcements

Call for contributions: Good practices in drought risk reduction. To be sent by 30 June 2008. Please contact Elena Dokhlik (dokhlik@un.org), for a submission template.

Call for contributions: Good practices in public-private partnerships for disaster risk reduction. To be sent by 31 May 2008. Please contact Stefanie Dannenmann for submission template (dannenmann@un.org) or visit www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=1683

Indicators of Progress: Guidance on Measuring the Reduction of Disaster Risks and the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

This new publication helps set priorities for implementing disaster risk reduction while regularly monitoring and reviewing achievements against clear indicators. Available from www.unisdr.org



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
Tel. : (+41 22) 917 8908/8907/8849
Fax : (+41 22) 917 8964
isdrhighlights@un.org
www.unisdr.org
International Environment House II
7-9 Chemin de Balexert
CH 1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland

In This Issue:

- Bangkok: risk reduction on climate change work programme
- Senegal hosts African regional training workshop on DRR
- South Asia and Southeast Asia take action on Safe Hospitals campaign
- APEC moves on adopting HFA in preparedness strategy
- South Eastern Europe Governments call for DRR action plan
- Hyogo Framework Monitoring Tool now online
- ProVention takes drawing board to the streets
- European National Platforms engage CCA agenda
- Venezuela's National Platform holds First Session

Also:

- Web Resources
- Mark Your Calendar
- Library Corner

To submit an article or inform us of a new publication, web resource or event, please send your input to: isdrhighlights@un.org by the 20th day of each month.

The information and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the policies of the UN/ISDR secretariat

To SUBSCRIBE to the ISDR Highlights: Send this one-line command in the body of your e-mail message (do not include <>):
SUBSCRIBE ISDR HIGHLIGHTS <Your Name> to isdrhighlights@un.org

To UNSUBSCRIBE: Send this one-line command in the body of your e-mail message (do not include <>):
UNSUBSCRIBE ISDR HIGHLIGHTS <Your Name> to isdrhighlights@un.org

Highlights

April 2008

Bangkok: risk reduction on climate change work programme

Risk management and risk reduction strategies will be included in the fourth session of the UN Climate Change Conference in Poznan, Poland, in December this year. This was agreed at the UNFCCC Climate Change Talks in Bangkok, Thailand, held from 31 March to 4 April. In Bangkok, countries negotiated and agreed on a workplan for negotiating a post-Kyoto international agreement, which must be concluded in Copenhagen in 2009. Following the main talks, the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change held an informal meeting of representatives to assess outcomes and identify next steps. The Chair's summary stressed the need to focus on how to create enabling environments for adaptation, and called for more work on vulnerability mapping at the global level, such as developing vulnerability indices as benchmarks. Economic diversification for building resilience, enhancing links with other activities such as the Adaptation Learning Mechanism of UNDP, additional work on insurance, and learning from the NAPA process were also identified as next steps. The next major meeting this year will be two sessions in Bonn, Germany, 2-13 June, which will include adaptation to climate change through finance and technology.

For more information, please visit <http://unfccc.int>

Senegal hosts African regional training workshop on DRR

In an step towards building a regional network on disaster risk reduction, an African Regional Workshop on disaster risk reduction (DRR) gathered some 90 officials, experts and scholars from 31 countries and various agencies, to focus on training in loss and damage assessments, using the HFA online reporting tool, and mainstreaming DRR into policies and programmes. Held in Dakar, Senegal, on 14-17 April, and co-organized by UNDP, the World Bank, the African Union, and UN/ISDR secretariat, the workshop demonstrated how DRR fits into development, poverty reduction and climate change strategies, and provided practical training and tools. Countries that were interested in further engagement on HFA reporting and monitoring, be it to pilot the online tool, undertake in-depth studies, or strengthen National Platforms, included Seychelles, Lesotho, Mauritania, South Africa, Madagascar, Uganda, and Burundi. Comoros, Uganda and many others were interested in further Damage Assessment and Loss Assessment training workshops. Uganda, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Seychelles and others expressed interest in sharing information how to access Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery Track II funding and adjustment of current Track II projects. The Regional Platform meeting planned for September, in conjunction with the second Ministerial Council meeting for the African Strategy for DRR, will be an opportunity to review progress and confirm next steps.

For more information, please contact Pedro Basabe (basabe@un.org)

South Asia and Southeast Asia take action on Safe Hospitals

Substantial regional work on making hospitals safe from disaster started at the New Delhi regional consultation and launch of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign. The Hospitals Safe from Disasters Campaign for the WHO South-East Asia Region (or SEAR, including most of South Asia, several Southeast Asian countries, and DPR Korea), launched on 15 April, and was followed by a three day consultation and workshop entitled 'Keeping health facilities safe from disasters.' Attended by 60 people, the consultation included country presentations, discussion of technical elements and tools such as the Hospital Safety Index, partnership case studies, reviewing and validating indicators for disaster-resilient hospital and health facilities, drafting of national plans of action, and validation of Regional Framework of Action for SEAR countries on 'Hospitals Safe from Disasters'. Participants included health and disaster professionals from nine countries across South and Southeast Asia, WHO, UN/ISDR secretariat, and partner organizations including National Disaster Management Authority, National Institute of Disaster Management, SEEDS India, and the ICRC.

For more information, please visit: www.searo.who.int/Safe-Hospitals

APEC moves on adopting HFA in preparedness strategy

The first 'APEC Dialogue among APEC Economies, Business Community and Key International Organizations on Emergency Preparedness' took place on 24-25 April in Hanoi, Vietnam. The meeting grouped together around 50 participants from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Secretariat, APEC Economies' representatives from Ministry of Trade, UN/ISDR secretariat, WFP and the Pacific Disaster Centre to discuss the development of an APEC Strategic framework on emergency preparedness for 2009-2015. The initiative is led by Peru, as the Chair of the APEC Task Force for Emergency Preparedness. Extensive discussions took place on the issue of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and preparedness as part of the Task Force's activities, along the lines of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Concrete recommendations were made by the group to adopt the HFA as a valuable common policy framework for action on disaster risk reduction activities and will be submitted by Task Force co-chairs (Australia and Indonesia) to the Task Force Senior Officials Meeting (August 2008, Lima) for endorsement, before final approval at the APEC Ministerial Meeting in November. Upon endorsement of the HFA, there will be more discussion of the involvement and possible leadership of the APEC Secretariat in public private partnership for disaster risk reduction and the economic cost of disasters in the Asia Pacific region.

For more information, please contact Christel Rose (rosec@un.org)

South Eastern European Governments call for DRR action plan

Calls for the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI), to develop a bi-annual action plan to support and complement national activities in disaster management, were a part of the Joint Statement of the Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Preparedness and Prevention in South Eastern Europe. The meeting was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, 9 April 2008, and was attended by Ministers from the region and the Prime Minister of Bulgaria. Interventions on issues for future regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction included statements from the International Community including Slovenia as EU Presidency, Statement from European Commission, NATO, the World Bank, and the UN/ISDR secretariat.

For more information, please contact Miroslav Vujanic (miro.vujanic@dppi.info)

WEB RESOURCES



<http://www.searo.who.int/Safe-Hospitals>
Resource page for WHO South-East Asia Region consultation and activities on the World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009: Hospitals Safe from Disasters. Includes meeting proceedings, presentations, case studies, resource documents, and more.



http://unfccc.int/meetings/interessional/awg-lca_1_and_awg-kp_5/items/4288.php
Proceedings of the Bangkok meeting of the UNFCCC, including video, statements, information notes, agendas, conclusions, and submissions from IGOs and NGOs.



<http://unfccc.int/adaptation/items/4159.php>
UNFCCC resource section on climate change adaptation, including background papers, definitions, and the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, implementation, and National Adaptation Plans of Action.

Hyogo Framework Monitoring Tool now online

Training and piloting have been preparing the way for the online launch of 'HFA Monitor', the ISDR system's online tool to monitor, review and report on progress and challenges in implementing disaster risk reduction at the national level, in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Regional orientation workshops and training sessions have taken place in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, with numerous countries' National Platforms and HFA focal points already starting to pilot the reporting method.

Training, workshops and consultations have been organized and supported by UN/ISDR secretariat and ISDR system partners, including UN organizations such as UNDP, and national platforms. Inputs to the online tool will lead to the generation of comprehensive National Progress Reviews for the period 2007-09, and will give countries easy access to its disaster risk information and monitoring trends in progress over the years. Designated national authority/ HFA focal points will have access to the HFA Monitor online tool from May 2008 onwards.

For more information, please visit: www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/hfa-monitoring/hfa-monitor/index.php

ProVention takes drawing board to the streets

One of the highlights of the 2008 ProVention Annual Forum 'From Grassroots to Global: People-Centered Disaster Risk Reduction', hosted in Panamá City 8-10 April together with the IFRC, was an 'Urban Risk Charrette', which engaged participants in an extensive agenda of local field visits and workshops for developing solutions to urban risks. Charrettes are an intensive workshop tool used in city planning. Through field visits and case studies over several days, participants developed stronger real-world links between international, national, and local practitioners, looking at risks of fires, floods, and urban violence in informal settlements, as well as risks springing from what has been called the 'Dubaization' of Panama – the dense construction of high-rise buildings, with little planning for access or fire protection in emergencies. Case studies also looked at climate risk challenges for urban areas elsewhere in the Americas, an innovative urban risk indicators project in Istanbul, and the role of the National Platform in Panama in addressing urban risk. The charrette highlighted the overlaps between disaster

risk and human security, and provided an opportunity to engage with local leaders who stressed the need to identify practical opportunities to collaborate on problem-solving, especially through existing networks such as the Urban Risk Thematic Platform in the Americas, regional governmental organizations, and various Red Cross networks.

For more information about the charrette, please contact Ian O'Donnell at the ProVention Consortium (ian.odonnell@ifrc.org).

European National Platforms engage CCA agenda

Climate change adaptation (CCA), and how National Platforms can make a stronger impact at the European level, were two key issues discussed at the second meeting of European National Platforms and Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) Focal Points in Paris from 24-25 April. National Platforms presented their work on CCA, including the Swedish National Platform's involvement in a broader national report on Climate Change, and the work of the German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV) in the UNFCCC Working Group on Extreme Events. The prominence of the Climate Change issue in Europe is providing openings for European NPs and HFA focal points to be further involved in European-level processes. The participants highlighted the French government's intention to call a Climate Change meeting in November as it takes the EU Presidency, as an opportunity to ensure the involvement of European National Platforms. At the April meeting, the Council of Europe (European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement) signed an MoU with the co-organizing body, the UN/ISDR secretariat, agreeing on activities to support and develop European National Platforms. The meeting was held in collaboration with the DKKV, and hosted by UNESCO.

For more information, please contact Paola Albrito (albrito@un.org)

Venezuela's National Platform holds First Session

The First Session of the Venezuelan National Platform for DRR was held from April 22-23 as a workshop to support Venezuela's participation as pilot country for testing out UN/ISDR's new online tool, the HFA Monitor. This workshop sought to strengthen the integration of DRR within the State's planning and policy framework for sustainable development while using the ISDR system's HFA Monitor as a way of determining the levels of progress and the challenges being faced, surrounding the implementation of the HFA at the national and local levels. This event was hosted by Venezuela's National Civil Protection, with participation from Venezuela's many ministries and institutions that make up the National System of Civil Protection.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Guralnick (jguralnick@eird.org)

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit these weblinks:

Africa: www.unisdr.org/africa

Asia & the Pacific: www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

Europe: www.unisdr.org/europe

Latin America & the Caribbean: www.eird.org

West Asia and North Africa: www.unisdr-wana.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
Conferences, Trainings and Events
May 2008 - June 2008

| DATE | LOCATION | EVENT |
|-------------|-----------------------|---|
| May | | |
| 5-7 | Cephalonia, Greece | 6th International conference on computer simulation risk analysis and hazard mitigation, Wessex Institute of Technology, www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2008/ |
| 5-16 | Bangkok, Thailand | Use of GIS and remote sensing in disaster risk management: second regional training course, ADPC, www.adpc.net |
| 8-10 | Colombo, Sri Lanka | 7th Regional Consultative Committee meeting on disaster management: ADPC and Sri Lankan Government |
| 14-16 | Islamabad, Pakistan | 2008 International conference on school safety: Aga Khan Planning and Building Services and Focus Humanitarian Assistance |
| 19-23 | Lodz, Poland | International conference - ecohydrological processes and sustainable floodplain management opportunities and concepts for water hazard mitigation, and ecological and socioeconomic sustainability; European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology, www.erce.unesco.lodz.pl |
| 19-30 | Klong Luang, Thailand | Capacity development for disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation: Asian Institute of Technology, www.ait.ac.th |
| 24-26 | Kobe, Japan | Pre-G8 Environment Ministers' Meeting: Ministry of Environment, Japan, www.env.go.jp/en/ |
| June | | |
| 2-4 | Bled, Slovenia | 24th Conference of the Danubian countries on the hydrological forecasting and hydrological bases of water management, http://ksh.fgg.uni-lj.si/bled2008 |
| 2-5 | Emmitsburg, USA | 11th annual emergency management higher education conference, FEMA, www.fema.org |
| 2-13 | Bonn, Germany, | Twenty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC, www.unfccc.int |
| 3-5 | Rome, Italy | High-level conference on world food security and the challenges of climate change and bioenergy, FAO, www.fao.org |
| 5-6 | Kathmandu, Nepal | UK-South Asia young scientists and practitioners seminar on climate change and disaster impact reduction, Northumbria University, www.unn.ac.uk |
| 11-13 | Toronto, Canada | Livelihoods based planning for disaster risk reduction, RedR, www.redr.ca |
| 15-18 | Toronto, Canada | 18th World conference on disaster management, Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness, www.ccep.ca |
| 26-27 | Bern, Switzerland | Gender equality and climate change: gender mainstreaming in natural resource management programmes - training course. SDC, contact: susanne.berger@deza.admin.ch |
| 27-29 | Dushanbe, Tajikistan | International conference on water related disaster reduction, Government of Tajikistan, www.icwdr2008.tj/eng/ |

Source: *PreventionWeb.net*

Library Corner

Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh: Damage, loss and needs assessment for disaster recovery and reconstruction, March 2008

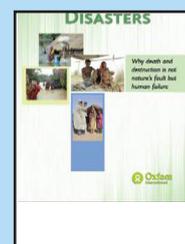


A report prepared by the Government of Bangladesh assisted by the international development community with financial support from the European Commission. The cyclone was the second natural hazard to hit Bangladesh in a year. Monsoon floods had previously caused extensive destruction and crop loss, totaling near US\$ 1.1 billion. The occurrence of these events in close succession is a reminder of the country's extreme vulnerability to frequent hydro-meteorological hazards, which stand to be further exacerbated by climate change.

Disaster risk reduction in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, January 2008

By the Commission of the African Union, UN/ISDR and the World Bank. This report is the result of ongoing efforts to effectively integrate disaster risk reduction into development processes. The first section provides background on disaster risks in the region followed by an overview of disaster management at the World Bank and activities currently undertaken by other partners in SSA. The next section summarizes efforts at the regional and country levels in DRR, followed by best practices in the region. The final chapter identifies gaps, constraints and needs in DRR.

Rethinking disasters – Why death and destruction is not nature's fault but human failure Oxfam International, April 2008



Oxfam's experience shows that successful disaster risk reduction policies, integrated into development work, saves lives and money, making communities more resilient and protecting development. This report, focusing on South Asia, examines how to achieve those goals – and the cost of failure.

REMINDER: Call for contributions to our upcoming Virtual Disaster Reduction Library II (extended deadline 15 May 2008)

At the International Disaster Reduction Conference in Davos, Switzerland, from 25-29 August 2008, the UN/ISDR secretariat will release the 2008 Virtual Disaster Reduction Library II. Please send your contribution and request for further information to: Marie-Lou Darricau (darricau@un.org, tel +41229178859) UN/ISDR Library, IEH 2, 7-9 Chemin de Balexert, Room 0-56, 1219 Chatelaine/Geneva, Switzerland