

	<p>4.4. Increasing public participation in planning and implementing disaster risk reduction interventions</p> <p>Priority in action: To develop the concept public-private partnership for sustainability in the DRR at local, national and sub-regional levels taking into account the role played by ECA on the issue.</p> <p>Encourage partnership with Private sectors top strengthen capacity on DRR</p>	Public participation in DRR increased especially at local level.		
	<p>4.5. Increasing gender sensitivity of disaster risk reduction policies, legislation and programmes.</p>	Gender concerns and needs in DRR increasingly addressed.		
5. Integrate Disaster Risk Reduction in Emergency Response Management	<p>5.1. Advocating the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in development strategies at local, national, sub-regional and regional levels.</p> <p>Priority in action: Enhance partnership between WFP, UN OCHA and RECs in contingency planning at the country, sub-regional and regional levels.</p> <p>5.2. Preparing and disseminating the Guidelines for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Assessment in development planning and activities.</p> <p>Priority in action: AU to translate the "Guidelines" prepared by UN ISDR, UNEP, UNDP and AfDB into working languages of the Union and to disseminate among Member States.</p> <p>Facilitate the adoption of the Guidelines by the national platforms</p>	<p>Advocacy material developed to facilitate the integration of DRR into development planning and practice.</p> <p>Consultation/training, through RECs, for capacity building for inclusion of DRR by AU/NEPAD.</p> <p>Guidelines for mainstreaming DRR into sustainable development prepared in AU working languages.</p>	<p>AU/NEPAD, AfDB and RECs</p> <p>UN Agencies (WFP, UIN OCHA, UNEP)</p> <p>National Governments</p> <p>Civil Society</p>	
	<p>5.3. Facilitating the orientation of emergency response management towards disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>Facilitating the strengthening of contingency planning and other preparedness measures in emergency management.</p>	<p>Orientation of emergency response management towards disaster risk reduction facilitated.</p> <p>Facilitation given for the strengthening of contingency planning and other preparedness measures in emergency management</p>		
6. Overall Co-ordination and Monitoring of the Implementation of the Strategy	<p>6.1. To provide a secretarial support AU and NEPAD in their efforts to pursue the implementation of the Strategy and Programme of Action and to strengthen Human resources, material and financial capacity of RECs to support AU and NEPAD in the implementation of the Strategy and Programme of action</p>	Secretarial support to AU and NEPAD provided for effective implementation of the Strategy and Programme of Action	UN/ISDR-Africa (with UN Country Team and UN OCHA)	
	<p>6.2. To co-ordinate the mapping of the priority needs in the region.</p> <p>Priority in action: National platform to coordinate mapping of priority needs at the country level</p>	Priority needs in the region are well mapped and co-ordinate	UN/ISDR-Africa (with UN Country Team and UN OCHA)	

	<p>6.3. To lead the process of linking the implementation of the strategy with WCDR outcomes.</p> <p>Priority in action: AUC, RECs and national platforms and UN ISDR to supervise the process if linking the implementation of the Strategy with HFA</p>	<p>The implementation of the strategy is well linked with WCDR outcomes in Africa</p>	<p>UN/ISDR-Africa (with UN Country Team and UN OCHA)</p>	
	<p>6.4. To co-ordinate the collaboration with development partners for the integration of DRR into development programmes in Africa</p>	<p>Integration of DRR into development programmes in Africa is well co-ordinated the collaboration with development partners</p>		
	<p>6.5. To facilitate the development of sub-regional strategies in order to harmonise with the Strategy and ISDR:</p> <p>Priority in action: Facilitate the development of sub-regional strategies in line with the regional strategy and HFA.</p>	<p>Sub-regional strategies developed in harmony with the Strategy and ISDR</p> <p>RECs and AU capacity are strengthened</p>		

UN ISDR AFRICA activities in 2006

With the progress and impacts it has made since it was established in October 2002, the UN/ISDR Regional Outreach Programme in Africa – also known as UN/ISDR Africa – carried out its work in 2006 through outreaching, networking, cooperation, coordination and partnership (with major stakeholders in Africa) on the basis of a *catalytic* approach to its overall objective of “contributing to saving lives and assets through improved risk management and disaster prevention culture” in line with the Priorities for Actions set in the HFA. Such a *catalytic* approach is particularly suitable for promoting national ownership of the disaster reduction process. It is also a key not only to a successful implementation of the ISDR but also to the cost-effectiveness of any actions and programmes undertaken on a huge African continent characterized by limited human, financial and technological resources.

Areas of focus in 2006

To foster national ownership of the disaster reduction process, UN/ISDR

Africa continued to provide tailored assistance to the establishment of national platforms with national leadership and cost sharing. At the same time, UN/ISDR Africa endeavoured to reinforce partnership with already established ISDR National Platforms through mutual support in disaster reduction initiatives. UN/ISDR Africa’s areas of focus in 2006 were:

- ⊙ Supporting Policy & Strategy Development
- ⊙ Advocating & Raising Awareness in Disaster Risk Reduction
- ⊙ Promoting Information Sharing & Knowledge Exchange
- ⊙ Forging networks, partnerships & coordination in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development

Implemented & ongoing activities in 2006 Under the guidance of the UN/ISDR Secretariat Director and with the support of colleagues in the Geneva Head Office, UN/ISDR Africa was able to consolidate its constructive working relationship with

regional and sub-regional organizations and National Governments, and made some tangible progress in the implementation of the ISDR and the HFA in Africa.

Regarding the year 2006 in general, UN/ISDR Africa focused on the above-mentioned four areas on the basis of the following priorities.

Priority 1: Promote Disaster Risk Reduction Policy Development and Inter-Agency Coordination at national, sub regional and regional levels

1.1. Establishing a larger number of national platforms

One of UN/ISDR Africa’s major areas of work is establishing formal working relations with National Governments, in order to promote ownership of disaster reduction and its mainstreaming into development planning and programmes. Establishing national platforms is a means of generating such ownership at national level.

To date, in addition to existing ones in Djibouti, Madagascar, Uganda, Comoros,

Botswana, Congo, Gabon, Kenya, Senegal, Mali, Nigeria, Seychelles and Tanzania, and in 2006, the official launching of Ghana National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2006 expanded the worldwide network of National Platforms that form part of the global implementation of the ISDR and HFA.

1.2. Facilitating the Second African National Platform Consultative Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction

The “Second African National Platform Consultative Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction” was held from 13 to 17 March 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya, attended by 50 participants from countries with ISDR national platforms, countries intending to establish national platforms, Officials from the Ministries of Education, representatives of National Red Cross/Red Crescent, UNDP Country Office, UNDP Drylands Development Centre, UN/ISDR Geneva and Africa. The consultative meeting served as a forum to: (1) Provide a forum for focal points of national platforms in Africa to share their successes and lessons learnt in coordinating national platforms for disaster risk reduction; (2) Provide a three-day training course to national platform focal points; (3) Review the effectiveness and relevance of the existing guidelines for the establishment of national platforms; (4) Discuss the possible ways to engage more policy makers and general public in annual campaign – disaster risk reduction Begins at School; (5) Discuss the possible ways to integrate disaster risk reduction into primary and secondary school curricula; (5) Build consensus on the major theme for the third consultative meeting: mainstream disaster risk reduction into PRSPs.

1.3. Facilitating the Second meeting of the African Advisory Group on Disaster Risk Reduction

To follow up with the outcomes of WCDR II and to implement the HFA, UN/ISDR Africa established, in 2005, an Africa Regional Forum of National Platforms for Disaster Reduction and an Africa Advisory Group (AAG) on Disaster Risk Reduction to build trust and advance partnership with National Governments in promoting DRR and its mainstreaming into development planning and programmes.

The “Africa Advisory Group (AAG) on Disaster Risk Reduction” held its Second meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, on 18-19 March 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya with the active participation of an AU senior official, government representatives from Nigeria, Senegal and Madagascar, and experts from Lesotho, South Africa and Algeria. The AAG meeting was to review the progress made in Africa on advancing disaster risk reduction. It was also decided that the AAG membership should be extended to a Regional and sub regional organizations.

1.4. Supporting the Economic Community of West African States Secretariat (ECOWAS) in developing a sub-regional policy on disaster risk reduction

The ECOWAS Council of Ministers’ 51st Session, held in December 2003 in Accra, Ghana, established a Technical Committee on Disaster Management to recommend ways to operationalize a disaster prevention and reduction capacity. A meeting of the Technical Committee was convened from 8 to 10 March 2005 to discuss the required institutional and legal framework, common policy, operational framework and resource mobilization, and to outline the modalities for the establishment of a disaster management mechanism in West Africa. One of the recommendations was to develop a common DRR policy in the sub-region.

At the request of the ECOWAS Secretariat, UN/ISDR Africa supported ECOWAS in the development of a common policy and mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction. From 08 to 10 August 2006, ECOWAS Secretariat called for experts meeting to discuss the draft policy and finalize it. The document was finalized and supposed to be presented to the Council of Ministers for adoption.

Priority 2: Increasing awareness of disaster risks (raising general awareness of disaster risks through advocacy, production of newsletters, information kits and educational material, and in-depth analysis of disaster impact on socio-economic development)

2.1. High-level advocacy on disaster risk reduction

Keeping the momentum gained at WCDR II and implementing the priorities for action underlined in the HFA require increased understanding and interests among higher-level national government officials, especially heads of state and government. To face up this challenge, UN/ISDR Africa has forged a very sound partnership with African National Governments and regional organizations to promote understanding of disaster risk reduction and address it in the context of sustainable development in Africa.

UN/ISDR Africa in cooperation with UNEP Regional Office for Africa (UNEP ROA) were able to carry out higher-level advocacy on disaster risk reduction in advocating (1) the integration of environmental dimensions into disaster risk reduction programmes in the context of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction during the last African Ministerial Conference for Environment (AMCEN) from 23 to 26 May 2006 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo; (2) the consideration of Disaster Risk Reduction into Least Developed Countries Mid term Review which was held in Cotonou, Benin, from 5 to 7 June 2006.

UNISDR Africa also supported Policy Makers participation to an International Conference on Disaster Reduction to increase their understanding and the integration of disaster risk reduction in development programme, planning at national level.

2.2. Biannual journal on disaster reduction in Africa

Since the launching of its biannual newsletter/magazine, UN/ISDR Africa has received increasing requests for copies, growing contributions in the forms of article, and institutional interests and contribution.

The newsletter/magazine, now available in English, French and Portuguese, was, in 2005, evaluated by the national platforms and disseminated in various ways: online, by e-mail, by mail and during workshop/consultations/meetings and other events.

2.3. UN/ISDR Africa’s networking at national, sub-regional and regional levels

Expanded networking with UN agencies and regional and sub-regional organizations has helped to strengthen information sharing and knowledge exchange on disaster reduction. UN/ISDR Africa has a mailing list of over 900 names and disseminates information through electronic networks and UN agencies.

2.5. Facilitating and supporting the development of a training manual on disaster risk reduction

At the request of the Secretariat of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), UN/ISDR Africa facilitated and supported IGAD's efforts to develop a training manual on disaster risk reduction. The training manual aims at increasing understanding of the subject and the capacity of national governments in IGAD member countries. IGAD with the support of UN ISDR Africa organized training for disaster managers in the region to test the training manual developed.

2.6. Campaign for the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR): Facilitating IDDR activities

The theme of the 2006 annual campaign is "Disaster risk reduction begins at School". UN ISDR Africa will co-organize, in cooperation with the South African Government, an African event to be held in Cape Town, South Africa.

Priority 3: Encouraging consultations and promote cooperation and collaboration (initiating and encouraging multi-level and multidimensional consultations on specific subjects related to disaster reduction through formal and informal meetings at national, sub-regional and continental levels)

3.1. Partnership with UNDP Drylands Development Centre (UNDP/DDC)

The idea of a discussion forum on issues of drought risk and development policy in Africa was conceived during an April 2003 during a UN/ISDR-hosted meeting of the UN *ad hoc* Working Group on Drought. A broad range of

drought experts from various institutions discussed the issue of drought as a development issue. The participants to the April 2003 meeting also agreed that there had to be a global network of drought networks or at least of networks more focused on the policy and risk reduction and development aspects of drought.

To increase understanding of the drought issue in Africa, UN/ISDR Africa, in partnership with UNDP Drylands Development Centre, is organizing the Second Africa Drought Conference from 16 and 17 October 2006.

3.2. Set of booklets published

UN/ISDR Africa is developing a set of booklets aimed at facilitating the creation of enabling environments for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction by increasing understanding on the linkage between disaster risk reduction and various sectors for government officials, community leaders and school children. UN/ISDR Africa has constantly received new requests for more copies of the booklets from National Governments, UNDP country offices, regional organizations in Africa and educational institutions.

3.3. Support to AU Commission on the African Working Group for Disaster Risk Reduction

UN/ISDR Africa supported the AU Commission Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture on the implementation of the *Africa Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction* that was the outcome document of the First African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 5 to 7 December 2005 and adopted by the African Union Executive Council in January 2006 in Khartoum, Sudan.

Following the December 2005 Ministerial Conference in Addis Ababa, and the adoption of the Africa Programme of Action by the African Union Executive Council in Khartoum, Sudan, the African

Union Commission called a meeting between the African Working Group and Advisory Group for Disaster Risk Reduction with regional organizations and UN agencies to discuss ways to implement the Programme of Action. The meeting came up with "Priorities in Action" for the Programme of Action under the leadership of the African Union.

Priority 4: Facilitating the implementation the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (facilitating African regional implementation in cooperation with National Governments, sub-regional and regional intergovernmental organizations and the UN System)

4.1. Various training on tsunami and related risks for the Eastern Coast of Africa

To assist African countries affected by the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and to increase understanding of tsunami risks, UN/ISDR Africa supported 10 countries along the Southwestern Indian Ocean Countries in raising community awareness on tsunami risks through various workshops at national level and integrating disaster risk reduction in school curricula through the organization of a training for trainers in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11 to 13 May 2006. Back home, the participants trained teachers on disaster risk reduction and were to develop a students' textbook and a teacher's guide for use in class.

UN/ISDR Africa organized a consultative meeting for journalists (television, radio and print) from 13 to 15 June in Nairobi, Kenya. The consultative meeting aimed at increasing their understanding on disaster risk reduction issue amongst journalists who in turn will have to assist the National Disaster Management Unit in raising public awareness on disaster risk reduction along the Indian Ocean Coast. 30 journalists attended the consultative meeting and joined the existing journalists' network called "Journalists in Africa for Disaster Risk Reduction Network" (JADRR Net). ■

EASTERN & SOUTHERN AFRICA: Educationists from coastal, island States discuss students' textbook on disaster risks

UN/ISDR Africa
Nairobi, Kenya

A regional training workshop on the development of a school students' textbook on tsunami risk, other disaster risks and disaster risk reduction (DRR) was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11 to 13 May 2006, organized by UN/ISDR Africa.

The workshop was attended by Education Ministry officials from seven Indian Ocean coastal and island states in Africa: Mozambique, Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti, Seychelles, Comoros and Madagascar. South Africa, Tanzania and Mauritius could not send their representatives.

The 10 countries above are all exposed to Indian Ocean tsunami risk. Of the 12 countries affected by the 26 December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, five were in Africa.

The workshop was a follow-up to a regional consultative meeting organized by UN/ISDR Africa in March 2006 which discussed, among other things, the "Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction into School Curricula", a meeting attended by Education Ministry officials from 19 African countries.

Workshop objectives

As mentioned earlier, the purpose of the May 2006 training workshop was to develop a school students' textbook on tsunami risk, other disaster risks and disaster risk reduction (DRR) through increased understanding of tsunami and other risks – as the Education Ministry officials present were to impart the knowledge acquired to primary and secondary school teachers in schools located along the Indian Ocean in their home countries.

The workshop was also expected to enable the participants to share



Participants at the Regional Training Workshop on Education

experiences of mainstreaming DRR into school curricula.

Mainstreaming DRR into school curricula? Experience from the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and other disaster events show that raising awareness of and teaching school children how to reduce disaster risks can make a difference in the event of a disaster. For instance, 12-year old British girl Tilly Smith saved hundreds of lives on a Thailand beach on 26 December 2004. Recognizing the early signs of a tsunami from her geography lessons in Britain, she warned her parents and hundreds of people left the area ahead of the tsunami waves' landfall.

Workshop proceedings

After a number of presentations on natural and man-made disasters and on disaster risk reduction and its importance for sustainable development, group discussions were held on the following topics:

- ⊙ Country experience of tsunami, related risks and school teaching of tsunami and/or other disaster risks;

- ⊙ Development of generic tables of contents for a students' textbook and a teachers' guide, and the development of national action plans for introducing DRR issues in classes.

Recommendations

Each country represented at the workshop submitted a draft national action plan and training programme – as the school teachers attending the meeting were expected to train a number of other teachers upon their return home. The workshop participants also made the following recommendations:

- ⊙ The students' textbook should focus on local context.
- ⊙ Every country should add a chapter on specific risk in their regions, in addition to tsunami risks.
- ⊙ DRR should be mainstreamed into school curricula by integrating it into already existing subjects – because school children already have heavy workload.

- ⊙ The participants shall keep in touch with one another to learn from others' experiences.

The next steps

The participants agreed to carry out the following activities by 15 June 2006:

- ⊙ Return home, report to educational authorities by 17 May

- ⊙ Seek approval for proposed plan
- ⊙ Identify possible teachers' groups, potential task team members by 18 May
- ⊙ Formulate plan for working group
- ⊙ Begin pilot project with selected group by 20 May
- ⊙ Undertake training session(s) by 1 June

- ⊙ Identify artist to develop textbook pictures/illustrations
- ⊙ Identify from among trainees in home country a small group to prepare students' textbook and prepare draft by 20 May

The participants agreed to allocate a week for planning until 19 May, after which concrete action would start on 22 May. ■

Journalists from east coast of Africa discuss disaster reporting from a DRR perspective

UN/ISDR Africa

Nairobi, Kenya

A regional consultative workshop on Media and Disaster Reduction for Countries along the East Coast of Africa was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 13 to 14 June 2006, organized by UN/ISDR Africa.

The workshop was attended by journalists from Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar, Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti. A Zambian journalist, who is particularly active in disaster reduction reporting, was also invited.

The two-day workshop focused on how the media could report disasters before and after they happen and influence governments and policy makers to make

disaster risk reduction a priority at national level. Indeed, journalists can play a major role by highlighting issues that may threaten the socio-economic status of the society.

Workshop objectives

The main objectives of the regional consultative workshop were the following:

1. Raise media awareness of the nature and scale of natural disasters in Africa and their increasing impacts on people's livelihoods.
2. Discuss media promotion of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.

3. Discuss media strategies for engaging more policy makers and the general public to appreciate disaster risk reduction as a development priority.
4. Discuss the establishment of monthly inter-media (print/electronic and inter-house) forums on DRR.
5. Engage the media in the UN/ISDR 2006-2007 world campaign under the theme "Disaster Risk Reduction Begins in School".
6. Discuss increased media collaboration with national platforms for DRR in Africa.

Proceedings

After various presentations on DRR and its importance for sustainable



Journalist participants at the consultative meeting

development, the participants were divided into three groups.

After reflecting on disaster reduction terminology, most of the participants said the media in their countries were not involved in national platforms for DRR. The following findings emerged from the group discussions:

Findings from each journalist

1. Lack of political will and prioritization of disaster risk reduction; more priority is given to other development issues such as hunger, poverty, health.
2. Getting information from Government officials is difficult.
3. Lack of transparency from Government officials when disaster strikes.
4. For interview and research, journalists are referred to so many people and sometimes the very people you expect to give the right information must also consult before issuing statements.
5. Information given to the media are sometimes conflicting and this has been a major setback
6. The media are not invited to participate in national platform meetings.
7. Lack of interest for disaster reduction from journalists.
8. Disaster reporting from a disaster reduction perspective requires more research by journalists.
9. Lack of staff to deal with various issues and lack of concentration on disaster issues until next disaster strikes.
10. Addressing disasters before they are officially declared disasters is a tricky issue: journalists' fear of being arrested.
11. Access to Internet restricted.

Findings from each country

KENYA: Most media houses in Kenya have now developed categories of reporters to specialize in various fields (including DRR).

MAURITIUS: The Government has put in place a national multi-sectoral

coordination mechanism. People are being sensitized on disaster risks.

ZAMBIA: There is need for empowering journalists to enable them go to disaster-affected areas and get the necessary information. Journalists are poorly paid and this makes them have no interest in working hard carrying out research. There is also lack of specialization. Most of journalists are not interested in environmental issues. There is need to influence policy makers and sensitize the general public.

COMOROS: Population need to be made aware of disaster risks through the media.

SOMALIA: Immediate action needed to sensitize people on the need for evacuation in the event of some disasters. Wars and killings are Somalia's main disasters.

SEYCHELLES: Building back better is needed after disaster events.

Strategies for more media involvement in disaster reduction

Regarding media involvement in disaster reduction, the participants made the following suggestions:

- ⊙ Set up special news desks dealing with disaster risk reduction and management.
- ⊙ Use community radio stations to broadcast in local languages, at market places, churches and public gatherings for raising awareness.
- ⊙ Develop a culture of follow-up: disaster-related stories should be followed up to the recovery stage.
- ⊙ Capacity building for editors to develop their interests in assigning reporters to cover disaster reduction stories.
- ⊙ Introduce television and radio talk shows where disaster experts are invited. UN/ISDR can help identify experts.
- ⊙ Mobilize other journalists to work on DRR issues.
- ⊙ Empower journalists involved in DRR reporting through sponsorship of their education in the field.
- ⊙ Work in collaboration with national

platforms to pass all available information on impending disasters and DRR to the public.

- ⊙ Make use of future UN/ISDR Resource Centre for research purposes.
- ⊙ Come up with exchange programmes under which journalists can meet and exchange ideas from their regions and countries.
- ⊙ Organize field meetings in disaster-prone areas to fully empower journalists. Such meetings will help journalists highlight local realities.
- ⊙ Make use of the Hyogo Framework for Action as a basis for raising awareness among policy makers and the general public, and for disaster reporting.

The way forward

Regarding the next steps, the journalists agreed on the following:

- ⊙ Write more stories on DRR and change the reporting style so that DRR stories are given the same priority as any other story. Journalists must strive to carry out more research and get statistics and not just write for the sake of filling up a page or airtime.
- ⊙ UN/ISDR should influence Governments to involve journalists in DRR decision making, especially within national platforms.
- ⊙ UN/ISDR to organize inter-ministerial conferences on DRR and invite journalists.
- ⊙ Organize more workshops at regional or national level and train more journalists on DRR issues within the next six months.
- ⊙ Establish monthly or yearly meetings for journalists in this field, where they will meet and deliberate on what they will have done and their recommendations.
- ⊙ UN/ISDR Africa will continue to fund workshops to equip the media with the necessary knowledge - as far as resources permit and on provision of prudent strategies. ■