



Monday 15 January 2007

AFRICA WEEKLY SPOTLIGHT

Seychelles. Cyclone Bondo hit the Seychelles on 20 and 21 December 2006, leaving no one dead but causing severe damage. In the light of this, the Seychelles government is considering establishing, in cooperation with other countries, a disaster response mechanism for remote islands. An early warning system is also being established.

Mali. The Malian National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is planning to organize disaster simulation exercises in Mopti, Sikasso and Kayes regions in January and February 2007. The simulation exercises will be prepared and carried out jointly with regional authorities.

Nigeria. Preparations are under way in Nigeria for the launching in February 2007 of “Fire Safety Clubs” in primary and secondary schools by a NGO called “Fire Disaster Prevention and Safety Awareness Association of Nigeria” (FDPSAAN). The NGO focuses on the adoption of a fire disaster risk reduction strategy in Nigeria and the West African sub-region. The fire safety clubs are meant to serve as platforms for promoting DRR in line with the UN/ISDR worldwide campaign under the theme: “Disaster Reduction Begins at School”.

WEEK-AHEAD FORECAST

ProVention Consortium’s NGO Global Forum, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 13-15 February 2007. ProVention Consortium will hold its NGO Global Forum 2007 from 13 to 15 February 2007 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with one of the sessions entitled “Governance and Disaster Risk Reduction: Enabling Factors and Challenges”. Topics to be

discussed include the experience of National Platforms for DRR as one mechanism to mitigate natural disasters in Africa and worldwide. Several chairpersons of National Platforms in Africa will participate in the Forum to contribute their expertise.

THANK YOU

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Monday 22 January 2007

AFRICA WEEKLY SPOTLIGHT

SIERRA LEONE. The country's Disaster Management Department carried out a number of DRR-related activities from 1 to 15 December 2006. A DRR workshop was held for Government Ministry Officials, during which the Department gave a number of presentations including on "Disaster Risk Management in Flood-Prone Areas" and "The ECOWAS Policy on DRR and Its Impact on the Disaster Management Programme in Sierra Leone". A disaster risk and vulnerability/capacity assessment was also carried out in Kambia District, northern Sierra Leone, with the help of the Government, UN agencies, NGOs and local communities. The assessment aimed to examine emerging hazards, assess existing coping mechanisms and identify gaps in prevention, mitigation and response.

SIERRA LEONE. In cooperation with the United Nations Radio, the country's Disaster Management Department continued its radio-based public awareness programmes in December 2006 with the following topic: "Causes and Prevention of Domestic Fires". Personnel from the National Fire Force and the Sierra Leone Police joined the radio programme. Messages on fire accidents and their prevention were also conveyed to some school students through a "School Outreach Programme" aimed at encouraging volunteerism. The school students will serve as liaison points between their schools and the Disaster Management Department.

UN/ISDR AFRICA & ACTION AID INTERNATIONAL. The "World Social Forum 2007" kicked off in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on 20 January 2007. On 21 January at the Forum, UN/ISDR Africa and ActionAid International co-hosted a side event under the following theme: "Disaster Reduction is Everybody's Business – A Safer World is Possible!" During the side event, school children from Malawi and Kenya talked about their personal experiences of natural disasters. Presentations were given by UN/ISDR Africa on the ongoing ISDR world campaign entitled "Disaster Reduction Begins at School" and "The Role of NGOs in the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015". The Forum ends on 25 January.

MADAGASCAR. In line with the country's National Strategy for DRR enforced in January 2007, the name of the country's government agency in charge of disaster management has been changed from *Conseil national de secours* (CNS - National Relief Council) to *Bureau national de gestion des risques et des catastrophes* (BNGRC – National Office for Disaster Risk Management).



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Monday 29 January 2007

AFRICA WEEKLY SPOTLIGHT

UN/ISDR AFRICA & UNEP. UN/ISDR Africa on 16 January held a joint staff meeting with UNEP Disaster Management Branch. Continued cooperation and joint initiatives between the two sides were stressed during the meeting held in Nairobi. The UNEP Disaster Management Branch (DMB) had been restructured and the Branch has been merged with UNEP's Post Conflict Branch (PCoB) since 1 January 2007 to form a single entity called "Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch" (PCoB-DMB). The new UNEP Branch is headed by Mr Henrik Slotte.

UN/ISDR AFRICA & DFID. UN/ISDR Africa on 24 January held a meeting with the British Government Department for International Development (DFID) to discuss DFID disaster risk reduction strategy for Africa. The meeting took place in Nairobi. It is to be noted that DFID is actively involved in the ISDR world campaign entitled "Disaster Reduction Begins at School"

UN/ISDR AFRICA & ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL. UN/ISDR Africa on 24 January invited two school students from Malawi to visit its premises in Nairobi. The school students were with their parents and two representatives of ActionAid International who were accompanying the children on their trip to Kenya. The students had the opportunity to learn more about the work of the UN/ISDR secretariat, to talk about their concerns regarding natural disasters from a child's perspective, and to ask questions to UN/ISDR Africa Senior Regional Coordinator Mr Martin Owor. Sponsored by ActionAid International, the two Malawian school students were in the Kenyan capital to speak about their experiences of natural disasters at the World Social Forum 2007.

SENEGAL. The Government of Senegal has appointed Mr Cheikou Cisse Director of the Civil Protection Unit and HFA (Hyogo Framework for Action) Focal Point in Senegal as of January 2007. Mr Cheikou Cisse replaces Mr Abdoulaye Ndiaye.

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