

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION INVEST TO PREVENT DISASTERS**

On the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction, to be held on 12 October 2005, and to mark the International Year of Micro credit, the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) is launching a global debate on how micro finance can reduce the impact of natural disasters on vulnerable communities.

Roundtables and discussions will be held worldwide on or near the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, to explore concretely how micro finance can alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable populations.

UN/ISDR Central Asia will support the theme by organising a round table discussion on Micro Finance and Disaster Risk Reduction for high-level officials. The primary objective will be to raise awareness amongst the social and financial communities and institutions to Disaster Risk Reduction measures, as Micro Finance projects easily suffers from frequent disasters in Tajikistan.

In Tajikistan hazards represent a major risk for the poor and marginalized. In 2005, disasters caused economic and social damages worth 99,472,400 Somonies (USD 31,280,000). Between 2000-2005, Tajikistan sustained a heavy loss from natural disasters – equivalent to \$202,9 million. During this period, 36,998 houses were damaged or completely destroyed, and 111,292 persons were affected.

First Deputy Minister Mr. Radjabov, Ministry of Emergency and Civil Defence; Mr. Feerasta, Resident Representative AgaKan Development Network and Mr. Pillonel, Head of EBRD Resident Office will be participating at the round table together with other UN organisations and institutions. The event will take place at the UN Common Premises Conference Hall, Aini St 39 Dushanbe, 09.30 am-2 pm, October 12,2005.

Other events will take place in Geneva, Switzerland and in New Delhi, India, to discuss on the potential of using micro finance to reduce disaster risk and increase community resilience.

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