



International Strategy for  
Disaster Reduction

## Announcements

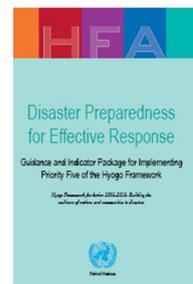
Call for contributions: Mapping initiatives for Hospitals Safe from Disaster

What is being done and where to make hospitals, health facilities and systems, and health workers safe from disasters? Does your organization have a project or initiative? To fill out the questionnaire online, please visit: [http://safehospitals.info/form\\_June08/questionnaire.htm](http://safehospitals.info/form_June08/questionnaire.htm) or contact Ms Tze Ming Mok ([mokt@un.org](mailto:mokt@un.org)), by 15 August 2008.

## Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response:

A Guidance and Indicator Tool designed to provide guidance on preparedness to respond as set out in Priority Five of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). This tool aims primarily to assist governments, local authorities, and other stakeholders.

[www.unisdr.org/eng/about\\_isdr/isdr-publications/OCHA-Disaster-preparedness-for-effective-response/Disaster-preparedness-for-effective-response.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about_isdr/isdr-publications/OCHA-Disaster-preparedness-for-effective-response/Disaster-preparedness-for-effective-response.pdf)



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To submit an article or inform us of a new publication, web resource or event, please send your input to: [isdrhighlights@un.org](mailto: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*

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# Highlights

June 2008

## UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme asks for more DRR

Substantial technical input on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) are part of the next stage of the Nairobi Work Programme, agreed in Bonn during the UNFCCC meeting of the subsidiary body for scientific and technological advice (SBSTA). The 4-13 June meeting was the 28th session of the SBSTA. In its conclusions, the SBSTA made numerous requests for technical and practical input on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, from global, national and local actors. Among these was a request to the UN/ISDR secretariat to prepare by the 29th session a technical paper on integrating practices, tools and systems for climate risk assessment and management, and disaster risk reduction strategies, such as those included in the HFA, into national policies and programmes. It also requested the secretariat to organize a supporting technical workshop before SBSTA 30 (June 2009), involving country representatives, relevant organizations and experts, to identify successful examples of using these tools.

For the full draft conclusions, please see: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/sbsta/eng/l13r01.pdf>

## Senegal launches national parliamentary DRR network

In a first for Africa, the Senegalese national platform for disaster risk reduction (DRR) has launched a national DRR network of parliamentarians. Members of the two Chambers - the National Assembly and the Senate - will gather in a network with a view to updating the legal and institutional framework for DRR in Senegal, as part of the country's wider national strategy for disaster risk reduction. The network is a component of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of Senegal. Currently in its early stages, the network has the objective of creating a formal structure in the future. Lending the network weight at a national level, its president is the Minister of Finance. The network's small group of parliamentarians will first work on disaster risk reduction issues, and will communicate the project to the presidents of the two Chambers, who will then call a parliamentary plenary session to discuss the project. The parliamentarians will also be trained on DRR issues so that they can become local and traveling advocates. The network's annual workplan will be developed with support from the Senegalese National Platform and other stakeholders, including UNDP.

For more information, please contact: Amadou Lamine N'Diaye ([gestion\\_risque@yahoo.fr](mailto:gestion_risque@yahoo.fr))

## A 'Stern Report' for DRR gets the green light

A joint UN-World Bank assessment of the economics of disaster risk reduction (DRR) has been approved for go-ahead. The eventual report is intended to be a review of the economics of DRR that will hold similar authoritative sway as the Stern Report did for economic costs of climate change. The study will have six major themes including: Balancing ex ante and ex post facto actions and the role of public intervention; the relationship of DRR to long-term development prospects; cost-benefit analysis for DRR; disasters and conflicts; the urbanization of disasters; and the implications of climate change on disaster economics. The findings of the study will be made available at the next Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held 15-19 June 2009, in Geneva. The project concept-note was adopted on 30 May at meeting between World Bank and UN representatives.

For more information, please contact Reid Basher ([reid.basher@un.org](mailto:reid.basher@un.org))

## CBD requests more information on drought early warning

The Conference on Biodiversity's working group on drylands requested more information and solutions on drought management to be submitted to the CBD process. The decision on biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands issued at the end of May, at the Conference of the Parties on the Convention for Biodiversity in Bonn, requested relevant organizations, including the UN/ISDR secretariat, to compile information on the impacts of drought on biodiversity. It also requested proposals on management options for biodiversity and drought, including early warning systems, for consideration by the CBD's subsidiary body for scientific, technical and technological advice (SBSTTA) prior to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2010. The International Day to Combat Drought and Desertification was also marked on 17 June. The UNCCD recently made a strong connection between drought, desertification, climate change adaptation and risk reduction, and on the International Day, highlighted the importance of forging a coalition to combat desertification as well as drought in the context of climate change.

For the full CBD decision, please contact Jaime Webbe ([jaimewe@cbd.int](mailto:jaimewe@cbd.int))

## DRR moves onto international education agenda

A Regional Preparatory Conference in advance of the International Conference on Education (ICE) for Education Ministers, took place 29-31 May in Bali, Indonesia. The ICE will take place 25-28 November 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Preparatory Conference discussed how to define the approach to the ICE theme of inclusive education policies. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Education, including the integration of DRR into school curricula and building the resilience of school infrastructures to disasters, was recognized as one of the eight policy issues of concern for the Asia Pacific region, proposed to be discussed at ICE "as an integral component of Inclusive Education". Presentations on DRR education were made by the NGO ASB, and UN/ISDR secretariat. The conference recognized access to education as a basic human right, with specific emphasis on the urgent need to ensure safer schools for all

## WEB RESOURCES

### inTERRAgate

[www.interragate.info](http://www.interragate.info)

Aggregates natural hazard information and risk

data both by country and by hazard, as well as blogs, links, and news. Information, including text and graphics, is uploaded by users in a wiki-type format. A project of the Benfield UCL Hazard Research Centre (BUHRC).



### NASA's hurricane resource page

[www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/hurricanes/main/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/hurricanes/main/index.html)

Up to date information on the latest cyclones, and past hurricane and typhoon seasons, covering the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans, including satellite imagery. It also provides hurricane alerts for the Atlantic, and comprehensive education resources including posters, multimedia, and lesson plans for middle school and high school teachers.

### Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

<http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/index.html>

Information from the Yale New Haven Center, a Connecticut centre that aims to advance healthcare planning, preparedness and response in emergencies and disasters through collaboration. This site includes community preparedness programs; training for emergency managers, first responders, healthcare workers, and others.

### Hospitals Safe from Disasters - WHO-EMRO

<http://www.emro.who.int/eha/hospitals.htm>

The new WHO-Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office webpage for the World Disaster Reduction Campaign: Hospitals Safe from Disasters includes region-specific resources such as the WHO e-Atlas of Disaster Risk for the Eastern Mediterranean, the Hospitals Safe from Disasters Campaign Kit in both English and Arabic, information about the regional Campaign launch, and a photogallery.



children expected to start school by 2015. Displacement and poverty resulting from disasters, were recognized as major causes of children's exclusion from education. Follow-up discussions have already been initiated with the International Bureau of Education (IBE), as well as with UNESCO and UNICEF to promote further DRR Education at ICE through the plenary session, as well as through a pre-ICE International Workshop and a side event on DRR Education to be jointly organized by UNICEF, UNESCO, UN/ISDR secretariat and the members of the Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education.

For more information, please contact Christel Rose ([rosec@un.org](mailto:rosec@un.org))

### Civil protection looks to disaster prevention

As a joint initiative of the Italian and Russian Departments of Civil Protection supported by Switzerland, a workshop on the topic 'The Roles of Modern Civil Protection Systems and the New Global Challenges - From the Hyogo Framework for Action to Real Time Response' was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 25 June. The objective was to promote the creation of a global civil protection network offering a wide range of tools aimed at providing a coherent and coordinated response to catastrophes, under the umbrella of the United Nations System. The meeting was the first event to focus on civil protection agencies and disaster risk reduction (DRR) since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action in 2005. Participants acknowledged that more work needed to be done to identify how to include DRR into civil protection activities, how to bring funds in for DRR, and how to clearly define the role of civil protection agencies within the varied landscape of DRR stakeholders.

For more information, please see: [www.protezionecivile.it/cms/view.php?cms\\_pk=14373&dir\\_pk=52](http://www.protezionecivile.it/cms/view.php?cms_pk=14373&dir_pk=52)

### CADRI supports UN workshops

The Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) has been delivering support to agencies across the United Nations system this month. On 17 and 18 June CADRI supported OCHA's Humanitarian Coordination System Strengthening Project to deliver the Humanitarian Coordination session of the UNSSC Leadership and Coordination Skills Workshop in Turin, Italy. CADRI's participation enabled the design and facilitation of a more integrated session with a stronger emphasis on disaster risk reduction and early recovery. CADRI also participated in the

Resident Coordinators Regional Workshop on Humanitarian Coordination which took place from 16-18 June 2008 in Panama City, Panama. CADRI collected and analyzed capacity development requests that the Resident Coordinators raised during the workshop, designed a capacity development strategy to answer those needs and explored how to offer support for implementation, in cooperation with UNDP/BCPR, UN/ISDR secretariat and OCHA regional. At the request of UNDP country office, CADRI also produced a capacity development strategy for Mozambique in May, to develop an enabling environment for disaster risk reduction and to support the UNCT in the implementation of the Joint Programme. Specific recommendations were related to the Joint Programme, UNDAF activities and the creation of a DRR network.

To receive copies of these reports, please contact Geraldine Becchi ([becchi@un.org](mailto:becchi@un.org))

### Govts and NGOs shown community DRM solutions

A raft of practical recommendations for local and national governments on one hand, and NGOs on the other, for better supporting community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) are part of Tearfund's comprehensive report 'Turning Practice into Policy, now available as a CD-ROM resource. Based on two years of research, 'Turning Policy into Practice' identifies key obstacles to 'top down' government engagement and 'bottom up' NGO work on CBDRM, and provides key methods to overcome these. Some key methods for governments are to ensure more training and dedicated DRR staff to increase capacity in a cost-effective way, provide tools, checklists and guidelines for officials, raise awareness within government of the long-term cost-effectiveness of DRR, and develop legislation to increase synergy between all DRR stakeholders, in support of CBDRM. Key recommendations for NGOs include gaining better understanding of national policy contexts to increase government receptiveness, engage with government through meetings and consultations, forming alliances and networks of advocates, and using more visual tools such as videos/DVDs rather than reports and manuals to avoid 'workshop fatigue' and literacy barriers. A major recommendation to both sides is to work on breaking down mistrust, by focusing on multi-stakeholder platforms and good quality research on good practices in specific contexts.

For more information, please contact Jessica Faleiro ([Jessica.Faleiro@tearfund.org](mailto:Jessica.Faleiro@tearfund.org)) or visit <http://tliz.tearfund.org/Research/Disaster+Risk+Reduction+reports>

### Correction: Focus on school safety in Pakistan

The main sponsors of the International Conference on School Safety held on 14-16 May in Islamabad, Pakistan were the Aga Khan Planning and Building Services (AKPBS) and Focus Humanitarian Pakistan, representing the Aga Khan Development Network - not solely the AKPBS.

For more information, please visit: [www.schoolsafetyconference.org](http://www.schoolsafetyconference.org)

## REGIONAL NEWS

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

Africa: [www.unisdr.org/africa](http://www.unisdr.org/africa)

Asia & the Pacific: [www.unisdr.org/asiapacific](http://www.unisdr.org/asiapacific)

Europe: [www.unisdr.org/europe](http://www.unisdr.org/europe)

Latin America & the Caribbean: [www.eird.org](http://www.eird.org)

West Asia and North Africa: [www.unisdr-wana.org](http://www.unisdr-wana.org)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

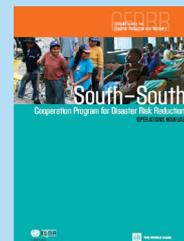
Conferences, Trainings and Events  
May 2008 - June 2008

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
<b>July</b>		
7-9	Hokkaido Toyako, Japan	G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit 2008, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, <a href="http://www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/">www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/</a>
8-11	St Michael, Barbados	United Nations regional UN-SPIDER workshop: building upon regional space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response for the Caribbean: <a href="http://www.unoosa.org">www.unoosa.org</a>
10-11	Cardiff, UK	Dealing with disasters 2008 international conference: putting resilience into response, Northumbria University: <a href="http://www.unn.ac.uk">www.unn.ac.uk</a>
7-18	Brussels, Belgium	Assessing public health in emergency situations: international CRED summer course 2008: <a href="http://www.cred.be">www.cred.be</a>
16	New York, USA	ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment panel discussion: 'Disaster risk reduction and preparedness: addressing the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including the impact of climate change': <a href="http://www.un.org/ecosoc">www.un.org/ecosoc</a>
28 Jul	Cambridge, UK	Summer course on natural and cultural heritage of coastal zones, Cambridge Centre for Landscapes and People: <a href="http://www.cclp.group.cam.ac.uk">www.cclp.group.cam.ac.uk</a>
<b>August</b>		
10-24	Peshawar, Pakistan	Recent developments in geo-hazard disaster management: focusing on earthquake vulnerability reduction in mountainous regions, International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation: <a href="http://www.itc.nl">www.itc.nl</a>
17-23	Stockholm, Sweden	2008 World Water Week: <a href="http://www.worldwaterweek.org">www.worldwaterweek.org</a>
21-27	Accra, Ghana	UNFCCC Accra Climate Change Talks 2008: <a href="http://unfccc.int/meetings/intersessional/accra/items/4437.php">http://unfccc.int/meetings/intersessional/accra/items/4437.php</a>
25-28	Umeå, Sweden	Adaptation of Forests and Forest Management to Changing Climate with Emphasis on Forest Health: A Review of Science, Policies, and Practices: <a href="http://www.forestadaptation2008.net">www.forestadaptation2008.net</a>
25-29	Davos, Switzerland	International Disaster and Risk Conference, 'Public-private partnership – key for integral risk management and climate change adaptation!': <a href="http://www.idrc.info">www.idrc.info</a>

**Library Corner**

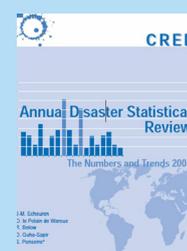
**South-South Cooperation Program for Disaster Risk Reduction: Operations Manual.**  
<http://gfdrr.org/docs/south/SouthOperationsManual.pdf>

The overarching goal of the GFDRR South-South Cooperation Program is to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action through technical assistance to low- and middle-income countries for inter-country collaboration. The objective is to build and expand capacities to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development planning and programming. This initiative will catalyze strong inter-country partnerships within the South that collaborate on disaster reduction and recovery, including climate change adaptation



**Annual Disaster Statistics Review**  
[www.emdat.be/Documents/Publications/Annual%20Disaster%20Statistical%20Review%202007.pdf](http://www.emdat.be/Documents/Publications/Annual%20Disaster%20Statistical%20Review%202007.pdf)

In 2007, 414 disasters resulting from natural hazards were reported. They killed 16,847 people, affected more than 211 million others and caused over 74.9 US\$ billion in economic damages. Last year's number of reported disasters confirmed the global upward trend in natural hazard-related disasters, mainly driven by the increase in the number of hydro-meteorological disasters. In recent decades, the number of reported hydrological disasters has increased by 7.4% per year on average.



**2008 World Disasters Report**

[www.ifrc.org/publicat/wdr2008/index.asp](http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/wdr2008/index.asp)  
The AIDS epidemic is a disaster on many levels. In the most affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa, where prevalence rates reach 20 per cent, development gains are reversed and life expectancy may be halved. HIV is a challenge to the humanitarian world whose task is to improve the lives of vulnerable people and to support them in strengthening their capacities and resilience. Disasters, man-made and 'natural', exacerbate other drivers of the epidemic and can also increase people's vulnerability to infection. The World Disasters Report 2008 includes chapters on the humanitarian interface: using the HIV lens, HIV and population mobility: reality and myths, and Natural disasters: the complex links with HIV.

