



International Strategy for  
Disaster Reduction

## Announcements



Mary Robinson and Richard Newfarmer  
at the World Disaster Reduction Campaign  
launch: Hospitals Safe from Disasters

ISDR Informs: Issue 3  
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January 2008

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## Making Hospitals Safe from Disasters: global campaign launched

The World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009 'Hospitals Safe from Disasters' was launched in Davos, Switzerland, by the UN/ISDR secretariat and the WHO, with support from the World Bank, as a side-event during the World Economic Forum. The campaign's three main objectives are to better protect the lives of patients, health staff and the public by reinforcing structural resilience of health facilities; to ensure that health facilities and services continue to function in the aftermath of disasters; and to better prepare and train health workers on preparedness plans that will keep health systems operational if natural hazards strike. At the global launch in Davos, speakers included Under-Secretary-General John Holmes, WHO ADG Dr Ala Alwan, Princess Zahra Aga Khan, Mary Robinson, Richard Newfarmer of the World Bank, Walter Fust of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Walter Ammann of the IDRC and Global Risk Forum GRF Davos.

*For more information, please contact Tze Ming Mok ([mokt@un.org](mailto:mokt@un.org)).*

*Videos of the panellists' interventions are available online at:*

[www.unisdr.org/eng/public\\_aware/world\\_camp/2008-2009/launch.html](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/public_aware/world_camp/2008-2009/launch.html)

## Regional actions start on Hospitals Campaign

Coinciding with the Global launch in Davos, regional launches of 'Hospitals Safe from Disasters' took place in Bangkok and Panama on 25 January, with further regional actions to come.

**Bangkok:** The regional campaign was launched by UN/ISDR Asia-Pacific, WHO Regional Office for South East Asia (SEARO), WHO Regional office for the Western Pacific (WPRO) and key regional partners, resulting in concrete first steps and recommendations to develop a joint regional strategy on safe hospitals for Asia and the Pacific. SEARO and WPRO will keep Campaign momentum going throughout the year with staggered regional launches that coincide with high level regional health meetings.

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

**Panama:** UN/ISDR Latin America and the Caribbean launched the campaign in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for the Americas (AMRO), also known as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), which has been working on safe hospitals issues for several years, laying significant groundwork for the World Campaign.

*For more information, please contact Julio Trelles ([jtrelles@eird.org](mailto:jtrelles@eird.org))*

**Tehran:** The campaign was launched on 29 January with a joint press conference between WHO, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

and UN/ISDR secretariat, and was attended by embassies of ECO states, media and UN agencies.

For more information, please contact Seyed Mohammad Sadatinejad ([mohammad.sadatinejad@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:mohammad.sadatinejad@unisdr-wana.org))

**Cairo:** on 3 February the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) and UN/ISDR Western Asia and North Africa (WANA) office will be launching the campaign, with the attendance of the Egyptian Minister of Health, and UN/ISDR secretariat Director Salvano Briceno. The WANA regional Arabic website will also be launched that day at [www.unisdr-wana.org](http://www.unisdr-wana.org).

For more information, please contact Tine Ramstad ([tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org))

**PreventionWeb:** an email listserver on Health and Disaster Risk Reduction will be operational from early February, and will be used to share information and support collaboration during the World Campaign. *Subscribe to the list under the 'Networks & Communities' section of: [www.preventionweb.net/english/themes/health/](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/themes/health/)*

**New CRED report for 2007: more floods, Asia hit hardest**

2007 saw a marked increase in the number of floods compared with the average of the last seven years, and Asia was the region hit hardest by disasters, according to the new yearly figures released by the Belgian WHO collaborating Center for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED). Eight out of the 10 countries with the highest disaster deaths of 2007 were in Asia, with 4234 killed in Bangladesh by cyclone Sidr last November, and more than 3000 fatalities from severe floods in Bangladesh, India, North Korea and China. "Current trends are consistent with the predictions of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, in that Asia, and also West Africa, are already suffering from more severe and frequent floods," says Professor Debarati Guha-Sapir, director of CRED.

For more information, please contact Regina Below ([regina.below@uclouvain.be](mailto:regina.below@uclouvain.be))

**Collaborations with DPPI of SEE**

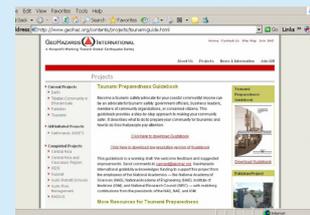
South Eastern Europe's Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative (DPPI) is launching three collaborations for 2008 on disaster risk reduction (DRR) in its yearly workplan. UN/ISDR secretariat is collaborating with DPPI to establish a DRR database within DPPI, and to hold a regional workshop on the roles and establishment of National Platforms in addressing DRR issues. CADRI will collaborate with DPPI to incorporate disaster risk reduction into the DPPI's Disaster Management Training Programme, an ongoing regional training initiative that was established in 2001.

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

**World Bank scopes Pacific Sustainability and DRR initiative**

In preparation for its initiative on 'Sustainable Management through Reduced Risk of Disasters and Climate Variability in the Pacific', the World Bank launched a scoping mission at a meeting of the Pacific

**WEB RESOURCES**



Geohazards international, a non-profit working towards Global Earthquake Safety  
<http://www.geohaz.org/contents/projects/tsunamiguide.html>

Geohazards International has a working draft available online of a Tsunami Preparedness guidebook on how to become a Tsunami safety advocate. They are inviting comments and feedback. Also available on the website is an archive of other tsunami preparedness resources.



EIIP Podcast: Top Ten Favorites for 2007  
[www.emforum.org/podcasts/071226.htm](http://www.emforum.org/podcasts/071226.htm)

This podcast features the top ten favorite virtual presentations given as part of the Emergency Information Infrastructure Partnership (EIIP) Virtual Forum series during 2007 in the form of a ten minute review. All transcripts are archived and available from the EIIP Virtual Forum homepage.



Disaster Zone: Emergency Management in the Blogosphere  
[www.disaster-zone.com/](http://www.disaster-zone.com/)

The weblog of Eric Holdeman, Emergency Management and Homeland Security principal with consultancy firm ICF International. The weblog focuses on contemporary developments in all aspects of disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, recovery, and response.

Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network, hosted by SOPAC, on 16 January in Suva, Fiji. The aim of the initiative, which is funded from GFDRR Track II resources, is to operationalize the World Bank's regional policy note 'Not if but when', and to develop specific investments in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation to be implemented in the coming years. At the meeting, partners, including the UN/ISDR Asia and Pacific Office, were briefed on the proposed methodology for the scoping mission, and input was sought on the approach.

*For more information, please contact: Idah Pswarayi-Riddihough, ([lpswarayiriddiho@worldbank.org](mailto:lpswarayiriddiho@worldbank.org))*

### Work towards gender mainstreaming in DRR

A three-day workshop in Geneva began work on policy guidelines for mainstreaming gender into disaster risk reduction (DRR), on 28-30 January. Experts from different backgrounds agreed that there was much common ground between gender mainstreaming in Climate Change Adaptation, Environmental Resource Management and DRR, that a gender perspective had not been adequately integrated into any of these areas, and that joint work was necessary. A great need for policy guidance development was identified. Participants agreed on an outline of policy guidelines that they committed to working on together, to make available to governments at national and local levels. To support implementation of these guidelines, participants also identified a list of documents and tools which need to be developed through joint efforts. Participants committed to follow up the results of this workshop to move the gender mainstreaming agenda to the next level. The workshop was co-organized by IUCN and the UN/ISDR secretariat.

*For more information, please contact Lorena Aguilar ([lorena.aguilar@iucn.org](mailto:lorena.aguilar@iucn.org)) and Ana Cristina Thorlund ([thorlund@un.org](mailto:thorlund@un.org))*

### Sri Lanka: new multistakeholder DRR mechanism

Sri Lankan stakeholder groups, led by the Disaster Management Centre, under the chairmanship of the

Secretary to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, set up their national mechanism for coordinating disaster risk reduction (DRR). This took the form of a National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee, established on 7 January, which aims to implement the 'Road Map for Disaster Risk Management: Towards a Safer Sri Lanka' by making DRR initiatives in Sri Lanka coordinated, comprehensive and sustainable. Public and private sector institutions, NGOs, donors, UN agencies, academic institutions and the media were all part of the consultations leading up to the establishment of the NDMCC.

*For more information, please contact Mr U.W.L Chandradasa, director, Mitigation and Technology, DMC ([chandradasa@dmc.lk](mailto:chandradasa@dmc.lk))*

### Panama: consolidating national platform

The Panamanian government organized the second national forum for the strengthening of their national platform for DRR on 21 and 22 January. The forum analyzed progress since the platform was established in December 2005, and discussed new issues such as the need to provide institutional resources to address links between climate change and disaster risk reduction, as well as public investment in DRR. Around 110 people from government and civil society attended, including experts and high level officials. Since 2005, the Panamanian national platform has incorporated new actors, including the Panama Canal Authorities.

*For more information, please contact Haris Sanahuja ([hsanahuja@eird.org](mailto:hsanahuja@eird.org))*

### SEE DRR desk study review published

The Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Initiative for South Eastern Europe, developed by the World Bank, UN/ISDR secretariat and partners within the context of the GFDRR, published a desk study review on risk assessment at the end of January. This assessment has been carried out by RMSI, in a form of a desk review of all existing and available assessments, reports, and studies on DRR. The desk study review represents a practical tool for all actors when addressing issues related to the disaster risk reduction in South Eastern Europe at a national and regional level.

*For more information, please contact Miroslav Vujanic ([miro.vujanic@dppi.info](mailto:miro.vujanic@dppi.info))*

## REGIONAL NEWS

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

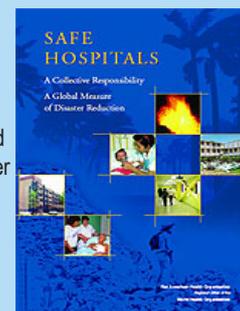
Africa: [www.unisdr.org/africa](http://www.unisdr.org/africa)  
 Asia & the Pacific: [www.unisdr.org/asiapacific](http://www.unisdr.org/asiapacific)  
 Latin America & the Caribbean: [www.eird.org](http://www.eird.org)  
 Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning:  
[www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources](http://www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**  
**Conferences, Trainings and Events**  
**February 2008 - March 2008**

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
<b>February</b>		
3	Cairo, Egypt	West Asia & North Africa regional launch of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign. Contact: tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org
6-9	New Orleans, USA	Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) Annual Meeting See: <a href="http://www.eeri.org/news/meetings.html">www.eeri.org/news/meetings.html</a>
7-9	New Delhi, India	Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) 2008, 'Sustainable Development and Climate Change.' See: <a href="http://www.teriin.org/dsds/2008/">http://www.teriin.org/dsds/2008/</a>
25-27	Richmond, BC, Canada	Emergency Preparedness for Industry and Commerce Council (EPICC) Forum 2008 'Business Continuity is Everybody's Business' See: <a href="http://www.epiccforum.org">www.epiccforum.org</a>
28-29	Rome, Italy	Preparatory Expert Meeting on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, for the High Level Conference on World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy. Organizers: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). See: <a href="http://www.fao.org/foodclimate/">http://www.fao.org/foodclimate/</a>
<b>March</b>		
1	Online, Netherlands	Flood modelling for management: online short course. See: <a href="http://www.unesco-ihe.org/education/short_courses/online_courses/flood_modelling_for_management">www.unesco-ihe.org/education/short_courses/online_courses/flood_modelling_for_management</a>
1	St Augustine, Trinidad	Disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean: the role of the surveying community, University of the West Indies. Contact: Dr Jacob Opadeyi, <a href="mailto:jacob.opadeyi@tsa.uwi.tt">jacob.opadeyi@tsa.uwi.tt</a>
3-8	Santiago, Spain	Advanced training course spatial planning as a strategy for mitigation and adaptation to natural hazards, University of Santiago de Compostela. See: <a href="http://www.xente.mundo-r.com/science/atc">www.xente.mundo-r.com/science/atc</a>
4 - 12	New Delhi, India	Online training course on comprehensive disaster risk management framework, NIDM & World Bank. See: <a href="http://www.nidm.gov.in/WBI/OnlineCourse.pdf">www.nidm.gov.in/WBI/OnlineCourse.pdf</a>
10-26	Bangkok, Thailand	First certificate training programme in tsunami science and preparedness, Asian Institute of Technology. Contact: Dr. Theerachai Haitook, <a href="mailto:theerachai@ait.ac.th">theerachai@ait.ac.th</a>
17	Bangkok, Thailand	37th Regional training course on disaster management (DMC 37), 17 March-4 April, ADPC. See: <a href="http://www.adpc.net">www.adpc.net</a>
31	Online, Turkey	Safe Cities online course in Turkish, 31 March-12 May, World Bank and Turkish universities. Contact: B. Burçak Başbuğ, <a href="mailto:bberna@metu.edu.tr">bberna@metu.edu.tr</a>

**Library Corner**

Safe Hospitals, A Collective Responsibility, A Global Measure of Disaster Reduction  
 PAHO, WHO, 2005



Prepared by PAHO/WHO for the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction, 'Safe Hospitals' emphasizes that protecting critical health facilities, particularly hospitals, from the avoidable consequences of disasters, is not only essential to meeting the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations, but also a social and political necessity in its own right.

Risk reduction and emergency preparedness: WHO six-year strategy for the health sector and community capacity development, WHO, 2007

Under the aegis of international policies, including WHA resolutions, and as part of its mandate as the international health lead agency and the IASC global health cluster leader, WHO intensified its work during 2006 in the field of emergency preparedness and response. This strategy is based on the recommendations of a global consultation held by WHO in February 2006 that brought together experts in emergency preparedness and response from around the world. The consultation was followed by several important activities to discuss the various components of the strategy and to reach consensus on the objectives and key strategic directions.

Disaster risk reduction and preparedness for health facilities, WHO Kobe Centre, 2007

This literature review was prepared to assess the extent of our knowledge on health facility disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness to better achieve the goals of the HFA by identifying the priority areas of action for the WHO Kobe Centre. Considering the critical need for health facilities in the aftermath of disasters, priority should be put on identifying and reducing the weaknesses of existing facilities and on improving the building standards for new construction.

