

# GFDRR Track 1 Building Global and Regional Partnerships



## Giving Risk Reduction a Regional Dimension



THE WORLD BANK



International Strategy for  
Disaster Reduction



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## Giving Risk Reduction a Regional Dimension



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Disaster Reduction



This report was produced within the context of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), a partnership of Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, and the World Bank.

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# Foreword



In creating the Global Facility, the World Bank brought strong, dedicated support to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework and the strengthening of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Funding provided by GFDRR Track I has significantly contributed to the growth of awareness about disaster reduction in all regions of the world, with a snow-ball effect in a number of countries; it has focused on all areas highlighted as priorities on the international disaster risk reduction agenda. This report provides feedback after the first two years of operation of the Global Facility, and demonstrates the significant value it has brought to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework around the world, as the Global Platform for Disaster Reduction convenes for its second session in June 2009.

Margareta Wahlström,  
Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk  
Reduction, United Nations

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery was established by the World Bank in partnership with the UN and major donors to reduce disaster risks for sustainable development. In order to substantially reduce disaster losses in the poorest communities, as a result of natural hazards and climate change, as called for by the Hyogo Framework for Action, we need to considerably upscale our level of engagement and commitment. In that sense, the partnership that the World Bank is building with the United Nations through the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery is providing an innovative platform from which to raise the profile of disaster reduction with Governments, regional intergovernmental organizations, and partners. Through its multi-pronged approach, that is Track I, Track II, Track III, the Economics of Disaster Reduction project, and South-South cooperation; the Global Facility has tailored its work to specific needs of countries and key Hyogo Framework priorities. This report provides concrete examples of the manner in which regional approaches, through GFDRR Track I, has increased awareness, political commitment and investments in risk reduction interventions at regional and global levels and the ways in which it is influencing country level plans and priorities.

Zoubida Allaoua  
Director, Finance, Economics and Urban Department  
Sustainable Development Network  
The World Bank



# Introduction

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is a partnership of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) system to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Its members include Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, OFDA/USAID, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UNISDR and the World Bank.

In order to achieve its objective to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into development, GFDRR fosters and strengthens global and regional cooperation among low- and middle-income country governments, international financial institutions, UN agencies, research and academic institutions, intergovernmental regional organizations, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

Through its Track I work with UNISDR, GFDRR promotes global and regional partnerships to develop new tools, practical approaches and other instruments for disaster reduction and recovery. It enables countries to generate greater investment in disaster mitigation practices within a sustainable legal, policy, financial and regulatory framework, and to facilitate knowledge sharing about reducing disaster risks and about sustainable disaster recovery.

For detailed information, including financial, please refer to the GFDRR Track I Annual Reports, available on [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org) and [www.gfdr.org](http://www.gfdr.org)

## **Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Sessions - taking stock of progress**

As the main worldwide forum on disaster risk reduction, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR) brings together representatives of governments, UN agencies, the World Bank, regional bodies, international financial institutions, civil society, the private sector and the scientific and academic communities to raise awareness on disaster risk reduction, to share experience and to guide the ISDR system in supporting countries to implement the Hyogo Framework. The first session of the Global Platform took place in June 2007 with over 1,100 delegates; its second session is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 16-18 June 2009. GFDRR Track I has been implemented for two and a half years. An evaluation of its impact has been initiated as part of an evaluation of the GFDRR. The 2009 session of the Global Platform is a good opportunity to take stock of progress achieved in the first years of operation of Track I, as a major component of the ISDR system.

# Background

**The Hyogo Framework for Action** identifies five priority areas that have been canvassing most disaster reduction activities in the past four years: making disaster risk reduction a priority; knowing risk and taking early action; building understanding and awareness; reducing risk; and being prepared and ready to act. At its first session in 2007, the Global Platform reiterated the international community's commitment to the Hyogo Framework and noted that a number of efforts and initiatives had raised disaster risk reduction higher on the international agenda. This included the establishment of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). Since its establishment in 2006, the GFDRR has committed around US\$ 50 million to 54 countries for risk assessment, mitigation and financing, emergency preparedness, and institutional capacity building programmes to strengthen the resilience of communities.

The Global Platform also called for greater response to the main challenges of creating an enabling environment for disaster reduction and empowering partners to achieve their goals in implementing the Hyogo Framework. The GFDRR is clearly positioned as a centrepiece of the international disaster reduction strategy, complementing and reinforcing ongoing efforts of ISDR stakeholders in disaster reduction, with Track I as a key element of ISDR's network of international cooperation. With Track I, the GFDRR supports the ISDR system through UNISDR; it facilitates ownership by developing countries and augments the volume and effectiveness of donor partner support in disaster reduction.

**GFDRR is governed and managed** by a charter that was adopted by its partners in February 2007. Its governance and organizational structure include a Consultative Group, a Results Management Council, and a small secretariat. The Consultative Group approves the indicative annual work programme and results framework of the GFDRR. It is chaired by the Vice President for Sustainable Development of the World Bank. A Co-Chair is selected by the Consultative Group from among its members. To ensure the quality, relevance and impact of the GFDRR-financed activities, GFDRR is supported by a Results Management Council consisting of experts and professionals drawn from developed and developing countries to advise on the impact of its resources. The secretariat manages GFDRR's day-to-day operations. It is housed at the World Bank's Headquarters in Washington DC. UNISDR in Geneva is responsible for supervising global and regional deliverables under Track I; World Bank task teams are responsible for supervising country deliverables. Track II activities which focus on country deliverables are either Bank or recipient executed, depending on the needs of the recipient country. So far, funding for activities undertaken under the Global Facility has reached US\$ 15.0 million for Track I (67 activities across the world), US\$ 34.3 for Track II (84 activities), US\$ 5.6 million for Track III (18), and US\$ 3.4 million (8) for South-South cooperation.

The Global Facility is not only the expression of close cooperation between international organizations and donors; it represents the strong commitment of a widening group

The Global Facility operates in five business lines to achieve its development objectives at the global, regional and country levels:

- Through Track I - Global and Regional Partnerships the GFDRR supports the ISDR system's global and regional processes to expand country resources for their investments in prevention, mitigation and preparedness activities, particularly in low and middle-income countries.
- Focussing on 20 priority, low-income countries, Track II - Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Development the Global Facility provides technical assistance to low and middle income countries to mainstream disaster risk reduction in strategic planning, particularly Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) and in various sector development policies. This includes promoting enhanced cooperation among the southern governments and institutions through South-South Cooperation (see hereafter).
- Track III - Standby Recovery Financing Facility (SRFF) for Accelerated Disaster Recovery primarily supports early recovery in low-income disaster-stricken countries to bridge the gaps between humanitarian assistance and medium and long term recovery and development. The SRFF includes two trust funds; a technical assistance fund to support disaster damage loss, needs assessment and planning; and a callable fund that is activated when disaster strikes to provide speedy access to financial resources for disaster recover. Its resources are targeted to support Disaster Recovery and Financing Plans or similar recovery plans, developed by the affected country.
- The GFDRR's Economics of Disaster Risk Reduction is an assessment intended to influence the broader thinking related to disaster risks and disaster occurrence, raise awareness of the potential to reduce disaster costs, and provide guidance on the implementation of disaster risk reduction interventions.
- South-South Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction is a special GFDRR initiative aimed at promoting enhanced cooperation among the southern governments and institutions to mainstream disaster risk reduction in sustainable development.

Track II priority countries are Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, Togo, Indonesia, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vietnam, Kyrgyz Republic, Haiti, Panama, Djibouti, Yemen, Nepal.

of donors to provide support to innovative approaches to disaster risk reduction. By December 2008, pledges in the amount of US\$ 83.3 million (US\$ 79.9 contributed) had been registered from its 14 donors, with others participating bilaterally in GFDRR's work.

Through Track I, GFDRR responds to disaster risk reduction needs at the global and regional levels, in line with the Hyogo

Framework priorities. With funding from the World Bank's Development Grant Facility (DGF), UNISDR manages the Track I work programme in support of the ISDR system's efforts to implement the Hyogo Framework at global and regional levels. Its stated two key deliverables are:

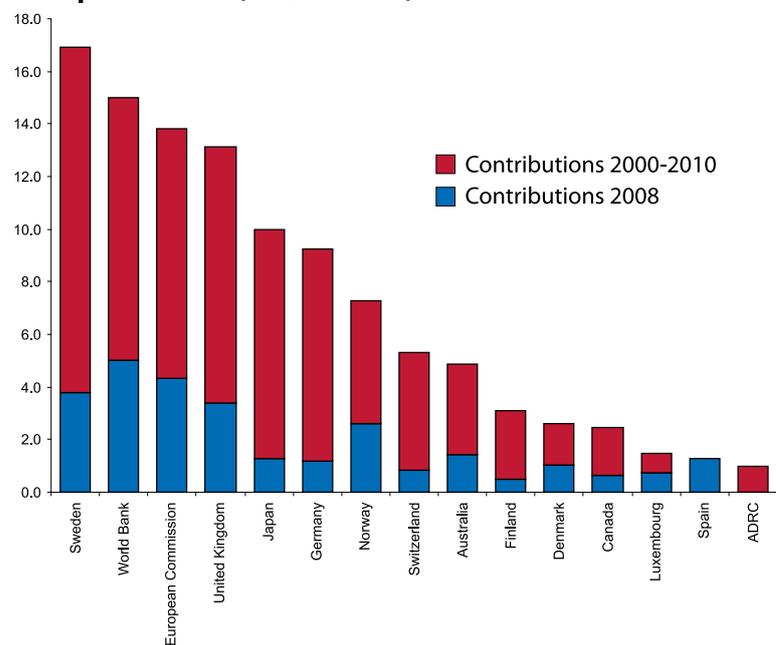
- to enhance global and regional advocacy and partnerships for mainstreaming

- disaster risk reduction in high risk low and middle income countries, and
- to promote knowledge management and harmonization of hazard risk management tools, methodologies and practices.

GFDRR Track I has developed into a unique partnership between the United Nations and the World Bank. It combines the strengths of both organizations, and brings together a wide range of stakeholders in the multiple areas of disaster risk reduction, through its deep integration within the ISDR system. Through funding from the World Bank's DGF, UNISDR promotes disaster risk reduction through effective advocacy and coordination functions. Indeed, GFDRR Track I has given UNISDR a new and sustained impetus in the common efforts of its partners to engage in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

ISDR is a system made up of governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions, technical bodies and networks as well as civil society and the private sector, all of which have essential roles to play in disaster risk reduction at global, regional, national and local levels. The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs provides oversight and ensures coherence of the system, with UNISDR's support. In its first two years, Track I has supported UNISDR activities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, as well as globally.

**UN Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction 2000 - 2010  
Top 15 Donors (US\$ millions)**



# Focus of impact

The primary development objective of GFDRR is to reduce losses of lives and livelihoods caused by disasters through hazard risk mitigation and building adaptive capacities, particularly in low and middle-income countries vulnerable to disasters and related mortality and economic losses. Integrating disaster risk mitigation in national development plans through PRSs, CASs, UNDAFs, NAPAs and other sector development strategies is one of the principal outcomes of this partnership.

Building on the momentum gained through regional and global programmes, through several donor trust funds, GFDRR provides technical assistance to natural hazard hotspot countries to identify risks to their poverty reduction and economic growth outcomes, and helps them design risk mitigation and risk financing strategies. In its country level interventions, GFDRR aims at moving away from a reactive relief approach to a proactive prevention and preparedness stance integral to PRSPs, Country Assistance Strategies and UNDAFs with resulting increase in investments for risk reduction.

Predictable funding to UNISDR through Track I has contributed to concrete results at the regional and global levels, and consequently provided direct and indirect benefits to disaster prone countries. At the regional level: development of regional disaster risk

profiles in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean; establishment of knowledge networks in Africa, South Asia and Latin America for exchange of information, good practice and experiences in key thematic areas; development of a joint regional cooperation programme framework on drought risk reduction in Africa; feasibility study of South Eastern Europe on regional cooperation in weather forecasting and early warning; disaster response coordination; a regional risk transfer pool in Central America, Caribbean and draft proposals in South Eastern Europe; region-wide study on risk exposure and financial response capacity in Central America. At the global level: development of a web portal for the ISDR system, PreventionWeb – the first step to a global information clearing house for the system; establishment and strengthening of global networks of institutions engaged in disaster risk reduction to facilitate exchange of knowledge and good practice; establishment and strengthening of major global partnerships to support implementation of the Hyogo Framework, including with media, parliamentarians and the private sector; development of strategic information on progress towards implementation of the Hyogo Framework and risk benchmarking and analysis of disaster risks and emerging risks; support of governments in their efforts to position disaster reduction as a pillar of global efforts to adapt to climate change.

### In a nutshell - ten global and regional impacts achieved under GFDRR Track I

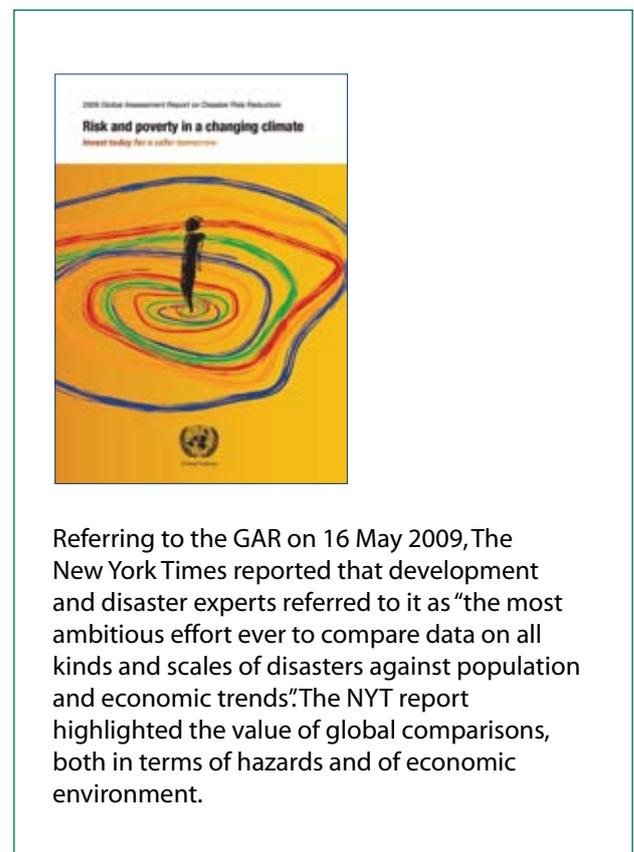


- GFDRR Track I contributed towards the production of the Global Assessment on Risk: Poverty in Changing Climate. It serves as a tool for high level advocacy for government officials to invest in mitigating and adapting to risk as an integral part of development.
- At the regional level, the capacity to assess risks, develop and implement regional disaster risk reduction strategies has been enhanced in 6 regional intergovernmental organisations (AU, ECOWAS, ASEAN, SAARC, LAS, OAS) through UNISDR with the support of GFDRR Track I.
- Advocacy for disaster resilient hospitals led to regional partnerships with WHO, the World Bank, regional organisations, resulting in the application of school and hospital safety kits as a means of increasing the health sector's commitment to assess and invest in safety of health facilities.
- GFDRR Track I assisted UNISDR in its efforts to include disaster risk reduction in the climate change negotiations as an essential pillar of adaptation agreements in COP-14.
- Track I's support to PreventionWeb as a global information portal on disaster risk reduction has contributed to a fivefold increase in the number of monthly visits to the site (35,000 in March 2009 compared to 6,200 in March 2008), as well as a considerable increase in the number of subscribers to mailing lists and published documents.
- In Africa, under Hyogo Framework's priority 1, some 25 countries have established multi-sector national institutions to promote disaster reduction policy and investments and now regularly assess their own progress towards implementation of the Hyogo Framework. UNISDR's support to the AU with GFDRR Track I resources led to enhanced capacity and commitment of AU and RECs.
- In Asia, Track I has supported the capacity of UNISDR's regional office in South Asia to provide technical support to SAARC. This led to region wide risk identification report, resulting in country specific ex ante risk mitigation priorities. An MOU between ISDR and SAARC and the development of a knowledge network in South Asia has for the first time strengthened regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction with an institutional basis provided by the SAARC Centre for Disaster Management in New Delhi. In South East Asia, the partnership with GFDRR has enhanced the capacity of disaster risk reduction through the placement of expertise in the ASEAN secretariat. Active advocacy also resulted in a unique trilateral MOU with the World Bank, UNISDR and ASEAN to pursue the implementation of the Hyogo Framework.
- In the Middle East and North Africa, from a low level of engagement by League of Arab States in implementing the Hyogo Framework, UNISDR's partnership with GFDRR provided standing regional advocacy and promotion capacity. An immediate result was the first regional MENA risk profile and assessment of capacities. This was conducive to mobilising the Arab Academy of Sciences' help for country specific risk reducing applications by the World Bank under Track II.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, increased collaboration with the Organization of American States (OAS) and the mobilization of regional organizations has strengthened the regional platform to promote the Hyogo Framework. One practical output is the Central American Probabilistic Risk Assessment (CAPRA), enabling Central American and Caribbean governments to predict probability of weather shocks and provide for contingency funds to minimise their impact on national budgets.
- In Europe, the Hyogo Framework's priority 2 on early warning capacity and preparedness, with the assessment of hydro meteorological capacities in South Eastern Europe jointly with WMO, the World Bank and national governments, has resulted in support from Italy, Finland and the EU to undertake a capacity upgrading in Albania and in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Creating political space: global assessment on risk and poverty in a changing climate

Track I contributes to opening the political space for disaster reduction, through strategic information sharing, the provision of global public products such as the Global Assessment Report (GAR) on disaster risk and capacity building. Pushing disaster reduction high on the political agenda is a central feature of ISDR's objectives and of UNISDR's work plan. The creation of national platforms for disaster reduction and the setting-up and strengthening of national focal points for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework are part of this broad endeavour. Reaching national policy and decision makers through regional mechanisms is an important aspect of the work led by UNISDR with support from GFDRR Track I. Awakening the interest of governments and other main actors on the political scene is a key achievement of Track I, through the provision of sharp, up-to-date strategic information on hazard trends, emerging risks and policy guidance on how to reduce risk. The GAR provided an assessment of the status of hazard and vulnerability from a review of progress in 103 countries reporting on their status of implementation of the Hyogo Framework. The GAR was launched in May 2009 in all regions (Bahrain for West Asia and North Africa; Bali for Southeast Asia; Kathmandu for South Asia; Washington DC for the Americas). This report,

widely disseminated through the media, has expanded the global political commitment to reducing disaster risk.



Referring to the GAR on 16 May 2009, The New York Times reported that development and disaster experts referred to it as “the most ambitious effort ever to compare data on all kinds and scales of disasters against population and economic trends.” The NYT report highlighted the value of global comparisons, both in terms of hazards and of economic environment.

# The New York Times

## 2 Studies Tie Disaster Risk to Urban Growth

By ANDREW C. REVKIN

Published: May 16, 2009

A pair of new studies say that more people than ever lie in harm's way from earthquakes, droughts, floods and other disasters, largely because of a surge in urban populations in developing countries.

Smaller or poorer countries can be devastated by disasters that are relatively inconsequential in places shielded by size or wealth, said one of the reports, a United Nations study that is being released Sunday in Bahrain.

That study, the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, compared the impact of cyclones in the Philippines and Japan, for example. While more people in Japan are exposed to cyclones, the estimated annual death toll from such storms is 17 times higher in the Philippines, the study said.

Yet the report's authors concluded that the level of vulnerability does not always mirror economic conditions, with high rates of disaster losses seen in a mix of developing countries with growing or weak economies.

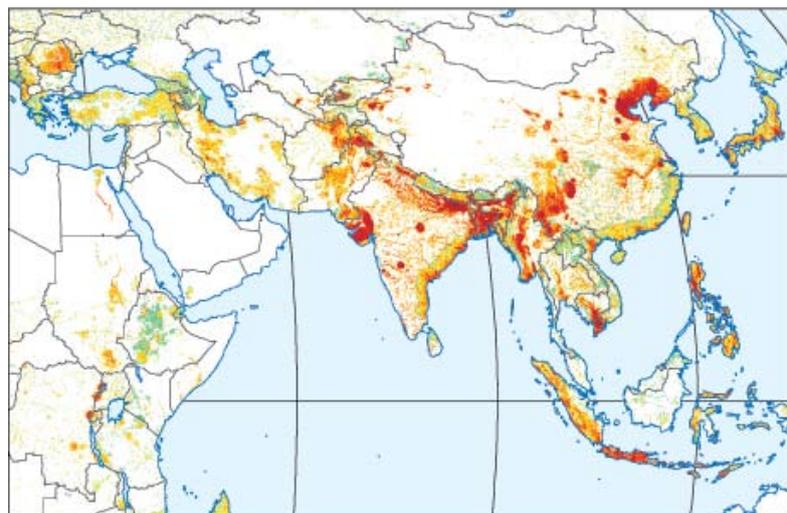
The United Nations report is the most ambitious effort ever to compare data on all kinds and scales of disasters against population and economic trends, development and disaster experts said. It is available online at [unisdr.org](http://unisdr.org).

It offers hints of progress. While the economic cost from disasters has risen, the cost as percentage of the global economy has been flat. The mortality rate has been declining in many areas. But in hot spots combining dense populations with the risk of earthquakes, floods and other hazards, the potential for catastrophic impact is growing.

Additionally, the study shows how deep poverty and rapid economic growth can increase vulnerability to disasters.

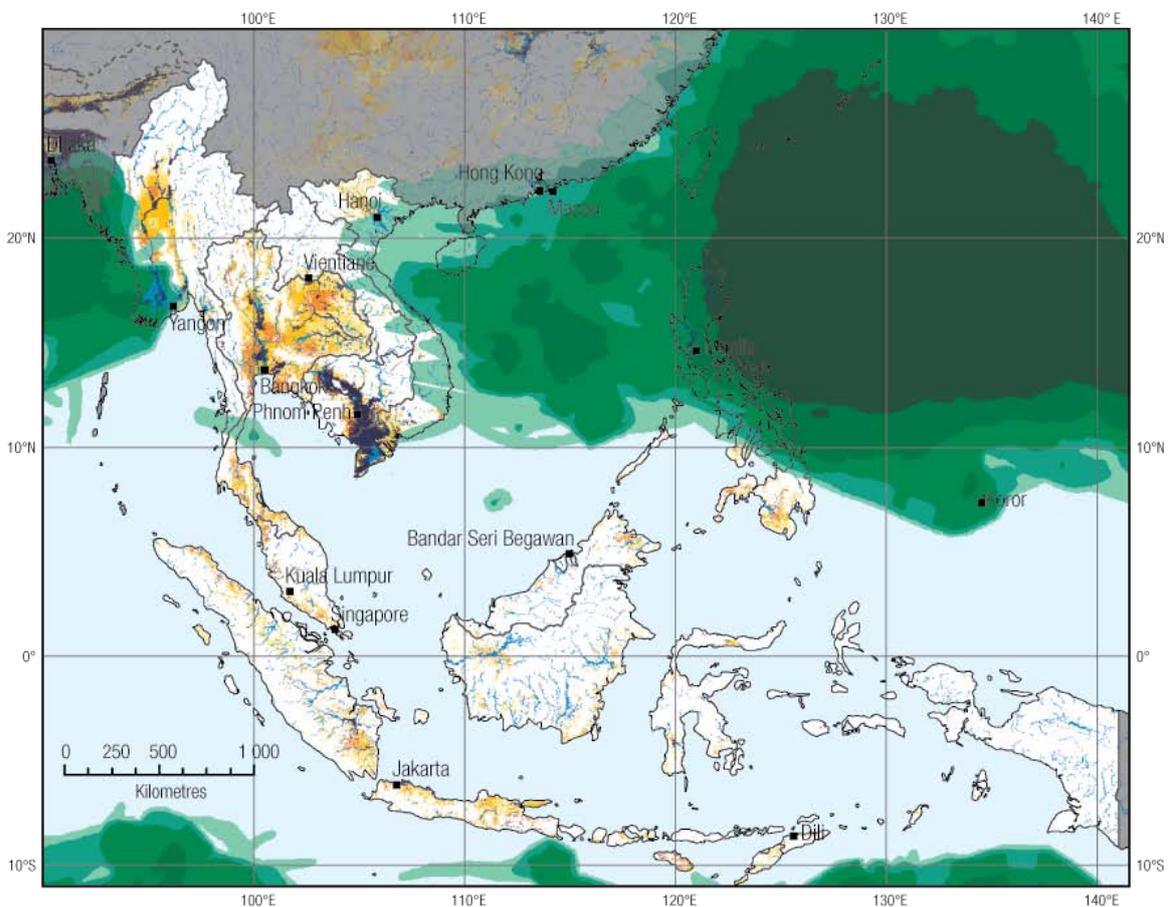
### Global distribution of multiple hazards mortality risk

GIS analysis and cartography: P. Peduzzi, UNISDR, UNEP/GRID-Europe, 2009



## Example of risk assessment (GAR) application in ASEAN

GAR presentation, with analysis of sub region specific hazards developed practical approaches towards disaster risk reduction in ASEAN: Discussion with 50 Government officials in joint ASEAN, World Bank and UNISDR forum were followed by practical clinics on application of risk transfer mechanisms like insurance and catastrophe bonds with ASEAN Member States, World Bank and UNISDR Asia Pacific teams.

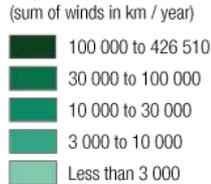


### Weather-related hazards

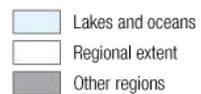
#### Droughts index (frequency and intensity)



#### Tropical Cyclones (sum of winds in km / year)



#### Floods (average annual frequency)



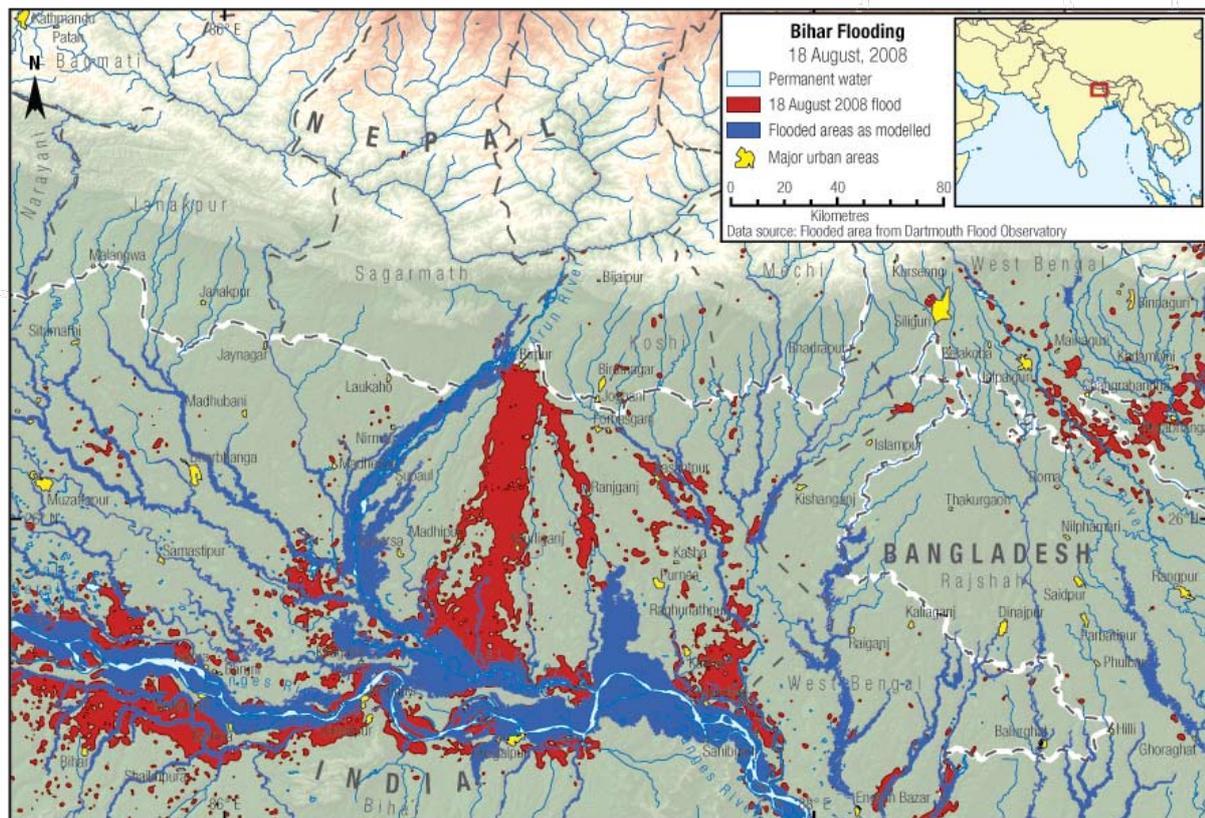
#### Data sources:

Tropical cyclones: UNEP/GRID-Europe  
 Floods: UNEP/GRID-Europe + observed from Dartmouth Flood Observatory and frequency from Flood PREVIEW  
 UNEP/GRID-Europe  
 Droughts: International Research Institute for Climate and Society of Columbia University.

**Cartography:**  
 P.Peduzzi, UNEP, UN/ISDR, 2009

## Example of risk assessment (GAR) application in Nepal

In Nepal the GAR was presented to Ministry of Home Affairs, drawing attention to country specific risk associated with floods: one key outcome of the joint World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UN mission led to prioritisation of flood management in the Nepal's National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.



## Enhanced capacity of regional inter-governmental organizations to reduce disaster risk

Strengthening the technical capacities of key regional intergovernmental organizations has proved a valuable way to reach national authorities and help develop policies and launch programmes that have a direct impact on national and local communities. Building capacities in disaster risk reduction at any level is recognized as a long term process. Through this approach, Track I of GFDRR has increased political space for a more effective implementation of disaster risk reduction in countries. The provision of technical and financial assistance through Track I, for instance to the African Union (AU), the League of Arab States (LAS), or the Organization of American States (OAS), has strengthened those regional organizations and bolstered their ability to spearhead collective responses to regional disaster issues, and downstream to national concerns. This has proved to be true in all regions, as can be seen by the regional highlights hereafter. Track I has also supported the expansion of disaster risk reduction agenda to regions where the ISDR system had little or no engagement. These include regions with highly vulnerable countries either of low or middle development status. For example, in 2008 to the Middle East and North Africa, working closely with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, such as the Arab Academy of Science and Technology. The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) based in Iran, is developing programmes to support neighbouring countries as well as Central Asia.

With GFDRR resources, UNISDR and the World Bank's enabled the African Union and regional economic commissions to visibly increase commitments of national governments in Africa to invest in disaster risk reduction, and linking it with the climate change agenda. This endeavour has benefitted significantly from the promotion gained through the growing involvement of UN institutions in African capitals, including with the engagement of UN Resident Coordinators.

In Asia and the Pacific, the GFDRR partnership with inter alia ASEAN, SAARC, SOPAC has enhanced the capacity of disaster risk reduction through the use of relevant regional expertise. For example, the regional study commissioned to review the poverty-disaster interface in Pacific Islands Countries is helpful in influencing the development policies in these countries.

GFDRR supported the High-Level Conference on Disaster Reduction in the Greater Caribbean organized by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) in Haiti in November 2007, the 'Santo Domingo Declaration' was adopted in the Dominican Republic in March 2008 by the Summit of Heads of State/ Government, demonstrating commitment among practitioners from throughout the Greater Caribbean.

Initiating engagement of the League of Arab States in implementing the Hyogo Framework, GFDRR has contributed to building a regional capacity to advocate and promote disaster risk reduction in countries of the region. This has resulted in disaster reduction being recognized by governments not only as a priority on its own merits, but as an important link with climate change. The Arab region risk profile and assessment of capacities created conditions for a joint World Bank and National Government led risk mapping in Sana'a, Yemen, under Track II, profiling areas at risk from flash floods and earthquakes and undertaking of appropriate land use plans to mitigate disaster risk.



### Track I regional outreach in 2008:

- Strengthened capacity in the African Union Commission (AUC) to support the regional wide strategy for disaster risk reduction approved in 2004;
- Through the AU, assistance was provided to the Economic Commission for West African States (ECOWAS), that led to the development of a disaster risk reduction sub-regional programme and the elaboration of a South-South cooperation programme, that was submitted to the World Bank in June 2008;
- Support to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations secretariat (ASEAN) in delivering the disaster risk reduction component of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management (ARPD). Assistance was also provided to the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Public Awareness and Education of which ISDR and ADPC are regional partners;
- In Latin America, a regional platform for disaster risk reduction was initiated with the Organization of American States (OAS) its first meeting in February 2009. Support is provided to OAS in promoting increased South-South cooperation.

OAS in supporting and promoting Track 2 of GFDRR in the region;

- In South Asia, a regional knowledge networking system for the exchange of information on risk analysis, good practices in hazard risk management, and experts in disaster risk reduction for the South Asian Region was initiated through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC);
- The South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme (SEEDRMAP) was finalized, setting the priorities and the operational timeframe for the different activities implemented at the national and regional level in South Eastern Europe.

### Strengthening national institutions

With GFDRR resources, UNISDR has worked with CEPREDENAC to promote National Platforms in El Salvador, the Dominican

Republic, Jamaica and Peru (to be launched in 2009). El Salvador's National Platform is led by a development and land-use oriented government entity while the response-related issues remains part of the civil protection

agency's mandate, as an integral component of the NP's more holistic approach to disaster risk reduction. GFDRR resources are also supporting a partnership with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) is setting up national platforms in the Caribbean within the framework of the Caribbean Platforms Programme (CPP). Thanks to support provided through the African Union, ECOWAS and ECCAS, 25 countries had established National Platforms or similar national level institutions in Africa by March 2009, with more countries planning to designate a focal point or an institution on disaster risk reduction.

In South Eastern Europe, the development of the Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme (SEEDRMAP) that provides financing for investment priorities in disaster reduction and climate change adaptation at the regional and national levels through Track II and WB Financing Instruments, is now the model for replication in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

In the Middle East/North Africa region, the establishment of National Platforms in Bahrain and Egypt demonstrate that regional processes impact on national developments. In both countries the process began in regional consultations, with the government's commitment to set up a participatory forum with all stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector.

## Reducing risk

Twenty four countries in the sub-Saharan region of Africa reported progress for 2008 on their efforts to implement the Hyogo

Framework compared with only 14 countries reporting for the previous year. This shows that more countries know about the Hyogo Framework and the importance of monitoring and assessing progress in its implementation.

In the South Asia region, highly exposed to disaster, a report on hazard risks and vulnerability provided a comprehensive and consistent summary analysis of risks in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The report contains an economic loss analysis for each country in the region in relation to country level risk profiles.

The South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme focuses its priority activities inter alia on hydro meteorological forecasting, given the region's exposure to storms, droughts, floods and landslides. A noteworthy development is SEEDRMAP's approach to insurance, providing home owners and enterprises exposed to risk the possibility to be protected at an affordable cost.

As in most parts of the world, the Middle East and North Africa region is concerned about reducing urban risk. The World Bank with UNISDR under GFDRR have adapted the climate change primer to the region to help city managers better plan for climate change impact and natural disasters, reducing vulnerabilities of town dwellers.

## Advocacy campaign for disaster resilient health systems: mainstreaming country engagement

The World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNISDR with GFDRR resources has expanded the outreach of the global campaign “Hospitals Safe from Disasters” to numerous countries. WHO recommends six core actions that governments, public health authorities and hospital managers can undertake to make

their health facilities safe during emergencies. These include training health workers, designing and building safe hospitals, retrofitting existing health facilities to make them more resilient, and ensuring staff and supplies are secure. In 2009, WHO dedicated its World Health Day (7 April) to the theme “Make hospitals safe in emergencies”.



Gujarat’s devastating earthquake in 2001 provided impetus for change. Almost 2,000 health facilities were destroyed and another 4,000 partially damaged. Damage was mainly due to poor-quality building materials and weak foundations. New and retrofitted health facilities were then planned; revising building guidelines to take into account the seismic zones. The authorities now ensure new health facilities are constructed according to building codes.

With 60% of Kathmandu Valley buildings likely to be heavily damaged in a strong earthquake and casualties predicted to reach thousands, Patan Hospital in Nepal’s capital Kathmandu has taken measures to reduce its risk of damage. It relocated its planned maternity wing, and made retrofitting modifications. The hospital also conducts mass casualty drills to test and refine its emergency plan.

Haiti experienced a highly intense hurricane season in 2008, with three major tropical storms hitting the country. Critical infrastructure was severely damaged. The city of Gonaives lost its 175-bed Providence Hospital, which served a population of more than 1.8 million people. In response, the health ministry, with WHO support, is promoting ways to prevent such tragedies in the future.

## Placing disaster risk reduction in climate change adaptation: from global advocacy to local impact

At the global level, UNISDR and the World Bank ensure that reducing risk to disasters is part of the international efforts to adapt to climate change. GFDRR Track I supported the successful inclusion of disaster reduction and Hyogo Framework references in the “Assembly Document” produced during COP-14 (Poznań, Poland, December 2008). As a result of consistent advocacy, many governments expressed at COP-14 sessions the usefulness of disaster risk reduction measures for climate change adaptation. As mandated by the 2007 Bali Action Plan, UNFCCC hosted a formal workshop on risk management and insurance where Parties intervened to endorse disaster risk reduction as an important step in adaptation.

At the local level, Track I has enabled urban risk awareness related to climate change. In producing the primer for cities in Asia, the World Bank and UNISDR contributed to enabling cities to identify and plan for climate change adaptation, in the specific context of urban risk. The primer is being applied in a number of cities in Asia and the Middle East and North Africa (see hereafter in regional highlights). This is an example of the ISDR systems advocacy and political mobilization efforts which have practical relevance to local governments through appropriate tools.

### Knowledge and science to reduce risk for climate change adaptation

Collaboration has been strengthened with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which has approved a request from Norway and UNISDR to produce a special report on managing the risk of extreme events to advance climate change adaptation. State-nominated scientists and disaster risk reduction experts met in March 2009 at an IPCC scoping workshop hosted by Norway in Oslo. IPCC agreed at its 29th session, in August 2008, to hold a scoping workshop on the proposed special report and to consider the workshop’s recommendations on the proposed special report at its 30th session in April 2009. Given the influence of IPCC publications, the special report would greatly strengthen awareness among governments and other stakeholders of the need to integrate disaster risk reduction.

The Global Assessment Report (GAR) that was unveiled by the UN Secretary-General on 17 May 2009 in Bahrain underlines the need to assess emerging risks, particularly resulting from climate change and unplanned urbanization, and to mobilize political action at the highest level to invest in mitigating and adapting to these risks as an integral part of development.



# Regional highlights

Although not exhaustive, the following sections provide illustrations of activities that were undertaken under GFDRR Track I, their regional value and their impact on national developments. These include areas such as intra-regional cooperation; sub-regional and national level risk assessments; analysis of costs of natural hazards; review of institutional, legal, and financing mechanisms for risk mitigation; advocacy and awareness-building on risk reduction measures; enhancing local level risk management capacities. Partnerships are being developed with a variety of actors: the case for business continuity in the face of natural hazards is part of the dialogue for increased investment by private sector into risk reduction,

to complement multilateral and bilateral resources. Partnerships have been developed with media networks to promote public awareness on climate change and disaster reduction. Collaboration with universities and research institutions has been initiated to enhance knowledge for disaster reduction. A virtual clearing house for risk reduction is supported through the PreventionWeb. World Bank country operations under Track II are being facilitated by activities conducted in regions under Track I. These are designed to assess risks, devise strategies to mitigate those risks and ensuring that they form part of national development assistance frameworks like PRS/UNDAF.

## Africa

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**Awareness in disaster reduction** Reports from Sub-Saharan countries show that GFDRR's engagement in Africa resulted in increased commitment from a growing number of governments to implement the Hyogo Framework and raise awareness to risk reduction. This is attributed to two training workshops supported by the Global Facility: one on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and assessing disaster damage and losses in development (Dakar, Senegal, April 2008; jointly organized by the World Bank and the African Union), focusing on mainstreaming disaster reduction into poverty reduction

and other development planning processes, the other on Hyogo Framework reporting (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, June/July 2008) to support African countries in their efforts to monitor progress in disaster risk reduction and report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework to the global platform through the GAR. As a result, by March 2009, 24 countries had submitted national reports, the majority of which had established strong institutional and legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction at the national level, with dedicated resources and emergency funds in some cases. Community participation was

successfully promoted through local disaster reduction committees and assemblies in Cape Verde, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique. In a number of countries, multi-level multi-hazard risk assessments have been undertaken in a context of hazard and risk monitoring and early warning. Good regional cooperation is developing in sub-regions to monitor risks such as epidemics, locust infestations and other pests. The information collected through these reports has been used to update the Africa Programme of Action to cover the period up to 2015.

### Strengthening national institutions

Broadening awareness through the UN System, disaster reduction has been raised more with UN Resident Coordinators and Humanitarian Coordinators (RCs/HCs) by UNISDR's participation in training workshops jointly organized with UN Development Operations Coordination Office (UNDOCO) and UNDP/BCPR. Two workshops were conducted for UN RCs/HCs in October 2008, for the West and Central Africa, and for the Southern and Eastern Africa regions. UNISDR also works with UN Country Teams and other UN agencies to mainstream disaster reduction into development planning, linking them to UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

**Using regional organizations** With direct support by UNISDR staff, capacities and regional mechanisms of the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have been strengthened to support the implementation of the African Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, approved by Heads of State in 2005. The AU Commission and UNISDR

A UNISDR expert based in the African Union secretariat in Addis Ababa, assisted with the application of the strategy in a number of countries and the leveraging of additional resources for disaster risk reduction. Likewise, a UNISDR expert was housed in the OCHA Regional Office for Southern Africa in Johannesburg to support SADC and Southern African countries. Two consultants for ECOWAS and ECCAS were engaged to support their human and technical capacities on disaster reduction and better extend their support to member countries. These punctual and focused actions helped with the update the Africa Plan of Action up to 2015, adjusting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework to the region's requirements.

Africa have convened the 2nd Africa Regional Platform for disaster risk reduction in May 2009, to be followed by the the 2nd African Ministerial Conference on disaster reduction (second half of 2009 or later). An updated regional status report for the implementation of the African Strategy and the Programme of Action for disaster reduction in line with the Hyogo Framework was produced for the new version of the Programme of Action for the implementation of the African Strategy for disaster reduction.

The original GFDRR 2008 work plan highlighted the strengthening of ECOWAS and SADC, but after consultation with the World Bank, it was agreed to extend similar support to other regional organizations: discussions have started with IGAD and SADC to extend assistance through UNISDR. ECCAS developed a project which is financially supported by the EU to enhance capacities and establish

national platforms and develop and implement national strategies for disaster reduction in all ECCAS member states. ECOWAS has developed an action plan to implement its regional strategy for disaster reduction within assistance from the EU project. The World Bank has increased its cooperation with countries in the ECOWAS region.

**Focus on sectors** The growing application of modern information and communication technology is to be noted as a significant achievement, as well as in the inclusion of disaster reduction components in school curricula, education materials and trainings.

In some countries disaster risk reduction has become an integral objective of environment-related policies and plans, including for land use, natural resource management and adaptation to climate change: disaster reduction is mainstreamed into environmental and climate change initiatives. This is the case for Togo and Sierra Leone, for example, where environmental legislation has been adopted. In some cases, disaster reduction has been mainstreamed into national poverty reduction strategies as part of environmental and natural resources management.

UNISDR provides technical support to regional partners to strengthen mechanisms to address risks related to hydro meteorological hazards including drought, floods and cyclones. In particular, a specific focus in 2008 was to raise awareness on their linkage with climate change and demonstrate how the concept of disaster reduction and the implementation of the Hyogo Framework can contribute to adaptation to the climate change, and how climate change can be mainstreamed in disaster reduction.

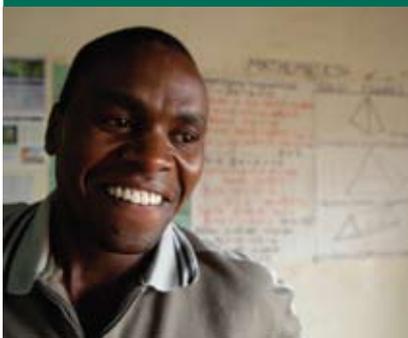
**Advocacy and education** In Ghana, an innovative, multi-media approach is taken to reach a wide range of users. In South Africa, a web-based software package linked to a geographic information system is used to enable all spheres of government to coordinate the planning and management of disaster reduction programmes. In Angola and Burundi, UNICEF supports curricular development and provides training for teachers; in the Comoros, UNDP facilitates the production of a student manual for primary schools; in Cape Verde, the national society of the Red Cross works with Civil Protection to disseminate educational materials on disaster reduction; in Mozambique, GTZ supports the production of booklets and brochures for schools. A wide range of popular and mass media techniques - exhibitions, banners, newspapers, radio and television programmes and electronic media - are used in Cape Verde, Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Sierra Leone and South Africa to convey messages to all sectors of the population. In Guinea, 'muezzins' (prayer-callers) and 'griots' (bards) are used as traditional means of communication to embed disaster reduction messages in the local culture.



As part of UNEP's Climate Change Strategy, regional consultations were conducted to establish a Global Climate Change Adaptation Network to function as a strategic vehicle in support of climate change adaptation strategies for vulnerable developing countries. UNISDR and UNEP also raise awareness on climate change and disaster reduction with

briefing notes in events such as the "Sub-regional dialogue of ECOWAS and West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) Countries on Climate Change" (Cotonou, Benin, October 2008) or the 25th session of the UNEP Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (February 2009).

**Disaster reduction, the environment and climate change** A session of the 3rd African Drought Adaptation Forum (Addis Ababa, September 2008) was dedicated to providing inputs for UNISDR's publication "Drought Risk Reduction framework and practices: Contributing to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework." This document, jointly developed with the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA, elaborates five main elements of the drought risk reduction in line with the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework, and highlights the importance of strengthening existing drought networks in different regions by linking them. The final version will be issued in 2009. Sierra Leone and Togo adopted new environmental legislation, the latter with a climate change adaptation programme. Burkina Faso, Burundi, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique emphasise the importance of multi-sector coordination as an impediment to more effective implementation of policies and plans. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) of Benin, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Togo include an analysis of the interaction of natural hazards and environmental vulnerabilities, and incorporate strategies to reduce disaster risk within environmental and natural resource management frameworks. Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo and Zambia (with Swaziland and Ghana to follow shortly) have made linkages between social development and disaster reduction, and are implementing social protection programmes for the most vulnerable sectors of their populations, and in some cases this includes significant progress in protecting economic and productive sectors from disaster risk. In Togo, the regional ECOWAS framework for economic development and resilience is used to guide national plans for relevant sectors. Addressing urban risk, Angola and Mozambique incorporate disaster reduction elements including enforcement of building codes in planning and management of human settlements.



In cooperation with OCHA and SADC, UNISDR facilitated a “Training Workshop for Flooding, Cyclones and Drought Preparedness Planning in Southern Africa” (Johannesburg, October 2008). This event was a follow-up to the December 2007 Emergency Preparedness and Response workshop organized by OCHA where eight countries agreed to bolster regional cooperation through sharing information and capacities for emergency response as well as develop protocols that allow for the free circulation of emergency personnel and relief materials in the region. UNISDR also provided support for a training workshop on “Factoring in Hydro-Climatic Disasters in Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)” (Nairobi, June 2008), organized by the Nile IWRM-Net with funding from the International and OCHA, targeting professionals on water and disaster management issues from Nile Basin countries. The training contributed to enhancing regional capacity in developing strategies for coping with hydro-climatic disasters and hence improve resilience of the poor and vulnerable communities.

## Asia & the Pacific

**Awareness in disaster reduction** UNISDR has developed a mechanism through which experts are deployed to countries in the region to work on risk assessment and disaster risk reduction programming. The funding mechanism, supported by GFDRR Track I in close association with Track II activities in India, allows experts from the region to work on disaster reduction projects, in particular structural, such as a cyclone mitigation project in coastal India. The arrangement facilitates knowledge exchange and capacity building and leads to the development of a pool of individuals with relevant expertise in project implementation in the South Asia region who can rotate and share lessons learned throughout the region.

A synthesis report on hazard risks and vulnerability in the South Asia Region was developed for the purpose of providing a

comprehensive and consistent summary analysis of risks in the region. It reviewed available studies, data, analyses and assessments on vulnerability and hazards at the country and regional levels covering floods, drought, earthquakes, landslides, cyclones, and tsunamis, from a variety of sources (World Bank, CRED, OCHA, SAARC, DesInventar, NGDC, GSHAP, ADRC, UN ESCAP, Swiss Re, Munich Re, and more). The report contains economic loss analysis for each country in the region as well as in-depth country level profiles of risks. Socio-economic data was analyzed with the hazard data to quantify vulnerability, taking into account climate change risks, urban risks, and future needs. The study will be integrated in the World Bank’s South Asia Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy. It will contribute to the development of country level risk profiles, to be shared with partners such as

SAARC, governments, non-governmental organizations, academicians, and others in the region.

**Using regional organizations** In Southeast Asia and the Pacific, an increased commitment is noted from ASEAN, SAARC and SOPAC, to report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework in their respective sub-regions. Through the support from the GFDRR, all three sub-regions will present an analysis of progress and challenges at the 2nd Session of the Global Platform in June 2009. A synthesis report cutting across the three sub-regions of South and Southeast Asia and the Pacific was submitted to the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference as well as to the GAR, discussing progress achieved in implementing the SAARC Comprehensive Framework on Disaster Management and examining the difficulties and challenges faced in its implementation. The Asia Regional Platform on disaster reduction met for the second time in Kuala Lumpur in December 2008, culminating with a recommendation to develop a joint regional action plan. The ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) is taking the lead in coordinating regional action, with its membership considerably expanded from 5 to 37 members, now including inter-governmental organizations such as ASEAN, SAARC, SOPAC and APEC, thus strengthening coherence, coordination and joint action. APEC has integrated disaster risk reduction as part of its internal reporting process and introduced valuable references to the Hyogo Framework.

**Information sharing** The need for a knowledge networking system was identified by SAARC to allow countries in the sub-region to learn and share information for improved disaster risk management. GFDRR

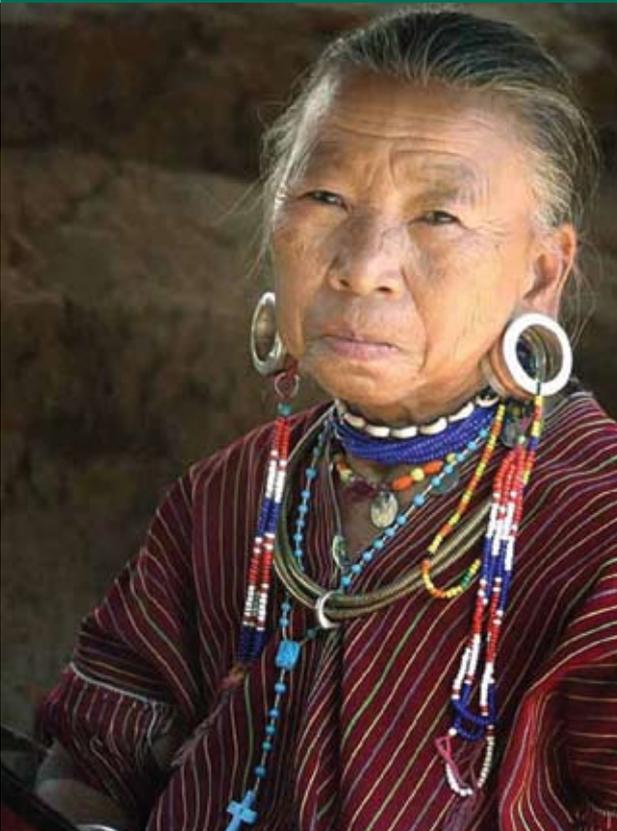
The 1st World Congress on Disaster Management took place in October 2008 in Hyderabad, India, addressing issues related to climate change adaptation (emerging trends, and practices, and integrating initiatives on disaster reduction and climate change adaptation), and public-private partnerships (corporate social responsibility, business continuity practices, forms of partnerships).

Track I supports the joint implementation of this knowledge portal with the SAARC Disaster Management Centre. Each SAARC member country has appointed a knowledge management national focal point, who regularly posts best practices and shares country specific policy guidelines on disaster reduction. The ultimate aim of this virtual online community for knowledge is to strengthen information management capacities at the country level while allowing liaison with governmental, academic and other institutions to facilitate information exchange and continuous interaction within the country as well as between countries in the region. All countries in the region participate in the portal which has linkages with existing systems such as PreventionWeb.

**Focus on poverty** With funding support from the GFDRR, UNISDR contributed to the efforts of Pacific island countries, regional partners and UN Country Teams to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development policy and programming in the Pacific region. This was achieved through a regional study on the poverty-disaster interface in Pacific Islands Countries, prepared in partnership with SOPAC and the UNDP Pacific Centre, tested in a case study country (Fiji). Econometric analysis, combined with qualitative deductive

**Multiples outputs of regional conference**

The Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction was attended by over 600 participants, with 30 Ministers in charge of disaster reduction and more than 50 country representatives. The meeting marked several firsts - the first Asian Ministerial Conference focusing on “action” with the Kuala Lumpur Declaration being supported by an action plan to be developed through the ISDR Asia Partnership by March 2009. The conference launched the Kuala Lumpur Initiative on Public Private Partnership for disaster risk reduction. It appointed the first Regional Champion on disaster reduction, Senator Loren Legarda of the Philippines. Of the many outcomes of the conference, the repeated call made by governments for the allocation of 10% of humanitarian funding for disaster reduction was the most prominent, coupled by a call by governments for setting voluntary, multi-year national public spending on disaster reduction in various development sectors.



analysis, confirmed the existence of a two-way relationship between disaster risk and economic and social well-being. The study showed that a complex set of factors influences the depth and breadth of these relationships, including that disasters increase poverty and reduce national economic growth, and conversely, that poverty increases the impact of disasters.

**Disaster reduction, urban risk and climate change** The World Bank, GFDRR and UNISDR launched a primer entitled “Climate Resilient Cities: A Primer on Reducing Vulnerabilities to Climate Change Impacts and Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in East Asian Cities”, which addresses the risks faced in cities from climate change and other natural hazards, and strategies to deal with these risks. As a tool for city governments to better understand how to plan for climate change impacts and impending natural disasters through sound urban planning to reduce vulnerabilities, the primer presents unique exercises for cities on ways to prioritize investments and actions based on their risk profile and on creating a

**Poverty and disasters** With similar types of hazards, the results of the Fiji study are directly relevant to other Pacific Island Countries (PICs), although the empirical relationship between disaster and poverty may vary in different countries. Analysis of the relationship between disasters and poverty in Fiji suggests a multi-pronged approach to disaster risk management and poverty alleviation is required. Attention needs to be given to reducing the vulnerability of particularly poor households to disasters by improving their economic and social wellbeing. The study’s findings will contribute to national efforts to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development plans of Pacific Island Countries.

city information base. It includes good practice, and guidelines on steps to be taken at city level to reduce the risk of disasters and the impact of climate change. Adapting the East Asia primer to a South Asia context, it built case studies, gathering data on two selected cities (Mumbai and Pune, India), convening and engaging key decision-makers and policymakers at the local level, with a view to replicate the activity in other South Asian mega-cities in coming years.

**Urban risk** The launch of the “primer” in July 2008 at the Green Cities Workshop in Pattaya near Bangkok highlighted the importance of developing climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies among city authorities in Asia. It provided opportunities to members of the UCLG ASPAC (United Cities and Local Governments/Asia Pacific) to engage in a dialogue on key issues that have to be addressed to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change and related natural disasters at the local level. The initiative is an example of collaboration between diverse stakeholders on multiple, complementary issues linking climate change and risk reduction.

The development of the primer for South Asia was undertaken by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai. The All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG) assists with the collection of data in Mumbai and Pune, with the engagement of local decision-makers involved in climate change and disaster reduction. With the support of IIT Mumbai, city associations in South Asia, National and State disaster management organizations, city councils, municipalities, technical institutions, an online survey tool developed by UNISDR and the World Bank is collecting detailed required data in both cities.

## Latin America & the Caribbean

### **Awareness in disaster reduction: from promoting political commitment at regional level to tangible actions to reduce risk at local level**

The High-Level Conference on Disaster Reduction in the Greater Caribbean organized by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) (Haiti, November 2007) led to the adoption of the Saint-Marc Plan of Action. The Plan's comprehensive list of concrete actions includes commitments on strengthening the ACS's role as the key regional forum for disaster risk reduction, evaluating regional progress on the Hyogo Framework, promoting National Platforms, mainstreaming disaster reduction, gender and adaptation to climate change, as well as policy frameworks promoting synergies between the Small Island Developing States. The meeting emphasized the need for a common strategy on the region's sustainable development; its high attendance was a visible commitment to disaster reduction throughout the Greater Caribbean. In March 2008, the 'Santo Domingo Declaration' was adopted by the Summit of 21 Heads of State/Government of the region, a significant expression of support in valuing the regional initiatives for pre and post disaster attention within existing frameworks (e.g. ISDR, OAS, ACS, CEPREDENAC, CDERA, CAPRADE, etc.) This activity was made possible thanks to GFDRR Track I funding.

Training and capacity building activities have been initiated within the inter-agency partnership between UNISDR, ILO, UNOSAT and FEMICA (Federation of Municipalities in Central America) to build model cases and produce concrete strategies to implement the Hyogo Framework at the local level: land use

**Inter-agency cooperation** UNISDR hosted and co-organized a workshop in the framework of the "Preparedness, Readiness and Resilience" Working Group of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE EWS), coordinated with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC UNESCO, OFDA/USAID) and with support of the Maritime Authority of Panama, as focal point of the IOC. The meeting brought together community preparedness leaders and planners from across the region to share their experiences in developing community-based programs for dealing with coastal hazards, including tsunamis. This initiative supports the development of a Caribbean-wide tsunami and other coastal hazards early warning systems (CARIBE/EWS). The meeting recommended more capacity building measures and strengthening at the regional and national level, development of standard operational procedures and other concrete steps such as educational aspects at the community level, public-private liaisons and communications as the main pillars for "Tsunami ready" communities.

planning, community mapping, links with the regional urban risk thematic platform. Several communities in Nicaragua and Colombia have held participatory strategic planning exercises and disaster risk reduction strategies are being implemented locally with support from local municipal authorities. Initiatives have been launched to provide free satellite data for monitoring and vulnerability assessments, as well as inter-agency developed training programmes. Selected municipalities are setting up training and partnering schemes for the use of satellite and related data in vulnerability analysis and planning. This

project is becoming a cornerstone for linking partners in addressing urban risk and could become a model for others.

**Working with regional organizations**

Strategic alliances with regional partners and NGOs have been initiated or substantially strengthened. The result of this network expansion can be measured through formal inter-institutional agreements, new initiatives or concrete results in disaster risk activities, or by synergic political lobbying activities. This has led to major advances in the implementation of international campaigns as well as in the development of specific products (such as an education toolkit).

The first session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas (Panama, March 2009) demonstrated a remarkable level of interest from actors both within the region and beyond, and illustrated the necessity to bridge the gap between the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and National Platforms throughout the region. The inclusive structure and membership of the Regional Platform, based on existing mechanisms, allows for participation and involvement across sectors and institutions.

**Sector development** A variety of activities benefitted from GFDRR funding, many combined with financial support from other sources. With the support of Track I, UNISDR’s institutional capabilities have been strengthened to disseminate and facilitate communication and information services coverage. UNISDR has developed information products such as briefing notes on climate change and disaster reduction, interactive materials on construction codes, on the

**Enabling Track II** In the margins of the Regional Platform, Brazil decided to set up a national (federal) office which will serve as support to the ISDR system, with support from UNISDR. This office, housed on a university campus, brings Brazil in the ISDR regional work. Another important strategic achievement announced during the Regional Platform, was the announcement by representatives of Mercosur countries to work towards the setting up a sub-regional mechanism (resembling the Central American CEPREDENAC structure), Mercosur for Southern Cone countries.

With support from UNISDR-Americas, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Peru launched National Platforms for Disaster Reduction in the past two years. With a well-structured plan for disaster reduction, Haiti may soon announce the launch of a National Platform.



implementation of the Hyogo Framework, and information on disaster reduction resources. A variety of stakeholders and regional partners have been involved in the activities undertaken in the region in the context of 2008-2009 Global Campaign for “Safe Hospitals”.

In May 2008, Central American and Dominican Republic Ministries of Education and other national authorities approved the Regional Strategic Framework for Education on Disaster Risk Reduction. This landmark strategy will serve to define policies and actions that regulate the education sector throughout Central America and the Dominican Republic, while serving as a model for similar initiatives in other regions. It addresses the links between disaster reduction, climate change and development, an important way of bridging the disaster reduction and CC communities. UNICEF organized in January 2009 a regional workshop on education in emergency situations in collaboration with UNISDR, aimed at strengthening alliances and integrating national education strategies in Central America, and to expand disaster reduction awareness in vulnerable educational communities.

A 2008 agreement between UNISDR and the International Code Council (ICC) is helping to generate extensive outreach worldwide, covering activities where ICC could promote training, advise on building codes and best practice in Latin America and the Caribbean. This would include the review and adaptation of building codes to regional realities.

**Using internet technology** Modelled on Wikipedia, the HFA-Pedia was launched as a convenient, cost efficient, evolving and flexible way to report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework. It is adjustable and ensures that information can be shared in real time through the internet. HFA-Pedia aims to assist all actors in their understanding of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the workings of the ISDR system. While initiated for the region of the Americas, HFA-Pedia is intended as a global mechanism encompassing inputs and initiatives from all geographic regions and from all ISDR system partners. Its growth and evolution will depend on its users. Upon registering, members of the user community are granted editing rights which then allows them to make changes or add new pages, as they see fit: please visit [http://www.eird.org/wikien/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://www.eird.org/wikien/index.php/Main_Page)



## Middle East & North Africa

### Increasing disaster reduction awareness

As a result of two years efforts in advocacy, knowledge sharing, communication and support to policy-makers, disaster reduction is recognized widely in the region by the governments and key regional organizations. The Arab League Ministerial Conference in December 2008 recognized disaster reduction as a priority for the region, and as such to become a permanent item on the agenda of the LAS Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (CAMRE), where all LAS Member States will be asked to report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework at the national level. Disaster risk reduction has been recognized and included in the Arab League Regional Framework for Climate Change and in the Arab League Regional Framework for Disaster Management which have been adopted in 2009.

### Working with regional organizations

With support of GFDRR Track I, the first Regional Workshop on Disaster Reduction was held in Cairo in April 2007, organized by UNISDR and the World Bank, resulting in the commitment by governments and regional actors to promote disaster risk reduction at the national and regional levels. A year later, the first Regional Inter-agency Workshop on Risk Assessment (Cairo, March 2008) recommended the establishment of an Arab Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Network. This was followed by the 1st preparatory meeting on ADRN in Bahrain in May 2009 where agreement was reached on the establishment and objectives of ADRN, to become fully functional in 2009. An inter-agency meeting of the League of

Linking disaster reduction and climate change in the Arab League's priorities The national agencies in countries of the League of Arab States do not yet have established disaster reduction policies, but have included disaster reduction as a priority in their planning for 2009. Since the early days of GFDRR in 2007, there has been growing interest and engagement by the regional and national decision makers to raise risk reduction on the agenda. The partnership with GFDRR is expected to lead to the formulation of policies and action plans. Partner agencies lend their institutional capacity and support to Member States, providing coordination at the regional level and facilitating the exchange of knowledge, expertise and resources.

Arab States, in December 2008, elaborated the modalities of cooperation among the technical specialized agencies affiliated to LAS on matters related to disaster reduction. A proposal for South-South Cooperation on disaster reduction has also been developed in cooperation with LAS for cooperation with West Africa. A regional workshop for the promotion of the regional implementation of the ISDR (Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, May 2009) promoted support to disaster reduction efforts and initiatives at the local and national levels and the development of tools for disaster risk reduction.

A Regional Disaster Reduction Training and Research Centre was opened in Cairo in March 2009, with support from GFDRR Track I. A regional database on disaster reduction became functional at that time, to serve the region with reliable data on disaster risk reduction and related areas. Disaster

**Establishing a reliable data base for the region**

Information and knowledge gaps are recognized as key challenges to develop disaster reduction capacities at the local, national and regional levels. A survey of the existing related data bases was conducted in the region, to design a system and link it to the existing most prominent networks. The Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport in Cairo has provided its support. Tier Client/Server architectures have 3 essential components: a database server, user PCs and an application server. The Arab Academy for STMT conducts review and authentication of data before inclusion in the data base.

Drawing the lessons from Bam A review of the Bam earthquake was used as a “lessons learned” example in recovery. Considering the historical, socio-economic and urban context of Bam city, the characteristics of Bam and Kerman province were examined in regard to exposure to natural hazards and vulnerabilities to seismic risk. The study explored the link between emergency relief, transitional relief period and reconstruction, the process through which a common understanding and recovery plan of Bam was reached and how risk reduction measures were integrated in recovery plans for resilience. The study also explored the integration of Bam’s historical heritage and identity in terms of recovery and reconstruction, the renewed socio-economic development of Bam with community participation.

reduction terminology in Arabic has been adopted (March 2009) and is now used for the translation and publications of disaster reduction material into Arabic.

**Urban risk** An urban risk tool was prepared by the World Bank to develop a risk assessment methodology for cities in collaboration with UNISDR, based on the primer of East Asian Cities. The rapid risk assessment exercise of the primer in the Middle East considered five priority cities (Alexandria, Amman, Damascus, Sana’a, and Tripoli/Lebanon); the main output of the exercise was a pilot application of the primer in those cities to draw lessons on the adaptability of this urban tool to different cities and in a regional context. City managers from the five selected cities were involved in identifying vulnerabilities and risks and proposed recommendations for improvements of the primer for further application in other cities of the region.

**Impact on country institutions** The establishment of National Platforms in Bahrain and Egypt stand as an illustration



of how regional processes impact on national developments (Track I/Track II). In both countries the process began through regional consultations, with the government's commitment to create a participatory national forum with all key stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector. UNISDR supported the process with preparatory workshops and seminars.

**Sector development** In the area of communication and advocacy on disaster reduction, a website in Arabic was established by UNISDR in 2008. Workshops for the media were organized in Cairo and Amman. A

number of other events such as a Regional Workshop for Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (Cairo, June 2008), the development of an educational kit on disaster reduction for children, in cooperation with UNESCO as well as an information kit for the 2008-2009 World Disaster Reduction Campaign on Hospital Safety (translated and printed in Arabic) with support from WHO and the Arab Academy (a Regional Workshop for Safe Hospitals was held in Cairo, June 2008), and a booklet on Disaster Risk Reduction and Environmental Conservation (in English), in partnership with the Arab Network for Environment and Development.

## Europe

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**Awareness in disaster** reduction With the support of GFDRR Track I, UNISDR and the World Bank, with national, regional and international partners and institutions, including WMO, UNDP, EU/EC, the Swedish Civil Protection, DPPI and RCC, launched an initiative to reduce the vulnerability to disaster and enhance knowledge of vulnerability to disasters in South Eastern Europe. Through a series of specific publications and reviews (Risk Assessment Desk Review, Strengthening the Capacity of the Hydromet in SEE, Mitigating the Adverse

Financial Effects of Natural Hazards on the Economies of South Eastern Europe, Civil Protection Structure, Role and Mandate in disaster reduction), the initiative developed a wide programme to address disaster reduction. The participatory approach to these reviews was reflected through workshops, meetings and events to exchange information and know-how at the national and regional levels on gap areas to be addressed by the South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme. The SEEDRMAP focuses on three main areas: (i) hydro

meteorological forecasting, data sharing and early warning; (ii) coordination of disaster mitigation, preparedness and response; and (iii) financing of disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery, and of disaster risk transfer (disaster insurance). Countries parts of the initiatives are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, and Serbia.

**Using regional organizations** At the Sofia Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (April 2008), one of many high level meetings and events supported by Track I in the region, the SEE countries committed to strengthen efforts towards disaster management and to the development of a two-year work plan. Track I has contributed to strengthening coordination and collaboration among partners, through the organization of events, meetings and the sharing information with partners, rationalizing the use of resources and collaborating towards common objectives. The reviews undertaken for the preparation of the SEEDRMAP were used to develop the EC DG Enlargement's Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative. Similarly, collaboration in the development of concept notes for those reviews has contributed to common use and feedback of findings. Cooperation between CADRI/UNISDR Europe and DPPI (Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative) on the training component of the DPPI work plan has proved useful in avoiding duplication of efforts, building on existing regional actors engaged in disaster reduction. These efforts include supporting the training component of the organization's activities, engaging potential donors, and providing expertise.

The SEEDRMAP preparatory reviews have permitted the engagement and resources of national, regional, and international actors

**Enabling Track II** Track I supported the creation of SEEDRMAP and allowed for the development of a programme component related to Albania, while the World Bank is in the process of finalizing collaboration mechanisms with Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldavia, Macedonia and Serbia. In the case of Albania the projects, implemented through World Bank loans, cover disaster risk management and preparedness, Hydromet, building codes, catastrophe insurance. Italy will be supporting Albania in the framework of SEEDRMAP, through the strengthening of civil protection and the development of a National Platform. In another area, the Hydromet Review has provided elements for Finnish support to Moldova Hydromet Institute.

in addressing disaster reduction issues in SEE. In the EU/EC, through DG Enlargement, the Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative was launched to cover SEE countries with a budget of €6 million over three years. The implementation started in 2009 with the possibility of extension for another 2 years, with WMO and UNDP/BCPR, as implementing agencies in the initiative. Italy, Sweden, Denmark have agreed to join the SEEDRMAP objectives through the strengthening and/or development of national platforms, the provision of technical expertise, regional capacity development and training. These activities are undertaken within the existing regional organisations mainly DPPI and RCC (Regional Cooperation Council). Track I has allowed for the support of DPPI activities towards the development of a regional database to facilitate sharing of information, activities and contacts; support of existing regional organisations in addressing disaster reduction issues is an important achievement of GFDRR Track I.

**Expansion** The SEEDRMAP has drawn interest from donors with additional funding for activities in Albania, and is at a stage of replication with countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia, with additional funds sought from Track I. The process of enabling the development of the SEEDRMAP, and now supporting its implementation, has reached key objectives identified both in Track I and as part of UNISDR and World Bank core objectives.

**Sector development** The SEEDRMAP provides financing for investment priorities in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at the regional and national levels through Track II and WB Financing Instruments. The regional approach of the SEEDRMAP allows for needs to be met and gaps to be filled with activities implemented at the national level, while saving on resources. For instance, the Hydromet review has underlined that important economies can be made by using a regional approach in purchasing expensive equipment: a regional radar will allow for the collection in one country of data shared by others in the region.



#### **Expanding to Central Asia and the Caucasus**

In collaboration with international partners and partnership with CAREC (Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation), GFDRR, the World Bank and UNISDR have initiated a Central Asia and Caucasus Disaster Risk Management Initiative (CAC DRMI) aimed at reducing the vulnerability to disaster in countries of that region. The CAC DRMI incorporates three focus areas, with the possibility to include new activities: (i) coordination of disaster mitigation, preparedness, and response; (ii) financing of disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery, and disaster risk transfer instruments such as catastrophe insurance and weather derivatives, and (iii) hydro-meteorological forecasting, data sharing and early warning. This initiative would form the foundation for regional and country specific investment projects in the areas of early warning, disaster risk reduction and financing. While the initiative would at first focus on non-structural measures, it could in a subsequent phase support structural investments aimed at protecting assets, lives and livelihoods of communities in disaster-prone areas. Funds could also be provided for adaptation to climate change and streamlining adaptation activities into countries' development programmes. The initiative will build on existing cooperation in the region, consolidating activities of the IFIs, the EU, the Council of Europe, the UN, notably UNDP, OCHA, UNICEF, WMO, regional cooperation institutions such as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), bilateral development organizations such as the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

A new approach to insurance As part of the SEEDRMAP focus area (iii), the World Bank, UNISDR and the Regional Cooperation Council have facilitated the creation of the South Eastern and Central Europe Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (SECE-CRIF). The proposed facility will be established as a regional catastrophe risk pool owned by countries and managed by the private sector and will greatly contribute to the development of a catastrophe insurance market in South Eastern and Central Europe. It could reduce government post-disaster budgetary outlays on reconstruction. Regional risk diversification and extensive donor assistance would promote a growing private market for catastrophe insurance, which would in turn provide homeowners and SMEs with the opportunity to purchase affordable insurance coverage. Switzerland has supported the initiative with US\$ 2.5 m. for technical work.

# Conclusion



Since its inception, GFDRR Track I has had a considerable impact on the progress of disaster risk reduction in all regions of the globe. Its innovative approach, combining a variety of business lines fully integrated in the ISDR system, has led to a remarkable increase of awareness of disaster reduction issues as well as contributed directly to significant results in numerous countries. Through the regional approach, Track I has underlined the importance of joint understanding of common hazards and of cross border cooperation, and at the same time, triggered front line results with direct ownership by national and local authorities. The regional approach has also demonstrated the economic value of sharing resources and developing policies along models adopted by a large number of countries potentially affected by the same hazards. The ISDR system as a whole, with all its governmental and non-governmental components, has truly benefited not only from the methodology and practice initiated by Track I, but also for its direct and indirect impact on additionality of resources. As the secretariat of the system, in its coordinating and centralizing role, UNISDR looks forward to the continuation of the close collaboration with the World Bank, and to the continued impact that the GFDRR, in all its components, has on the worldwide implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

# Acronyms

ACS	Association of Caribbean States	ESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Center	EU/EC	European Union/European Commission
ADRN	Arab Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Network	GAR	Global Assessment Report
ADRRN	Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network	GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation	GP/DRR	Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations	GSHAP	Global Seismic Hazard Assessment Programme
AU	African Union	GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Technical Cooperation)
BCPR	Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (UNDP)	HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
CADRI	Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (UNDP, OCHA, UNISDR)	IAP	ISDR Asia Partnership
CAPRA	Central American Probabilistic Risk Assessment	IFIs	International Financial Institutions
CAPRADE	Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Relief	IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation	ILO	International Labour Office
CAS	Country Assistance Strategy	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
CC	Climate Change	IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development (East Africa)
CDERA	Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Response Agency	ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
CEPREDENAC	Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres Naturales Coordinating en América Central (Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America)	LAS	League of Arab States
CG	Consultative Group (of GFDRR)	NAPA	National Adaptation Plan of Action
COP	Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC)	NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development (AU)
CPP	Caribbean Platforms Programme	NGDC	United States National Geophysical Data Center
CRED	Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters	NP	National Platform (for disaster reduction)
DDC	Drylands development Centre (UNDP)	OAS	Organization of American States
DesInventar	Sistema de Inventario de Desastres (Disaster Inventory System)	OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
DGF	Development Grant Facility (World Bank)	OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
DPPI	Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative	OFDA/USAID	Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (US Agency for International Development)
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	PAHO/WHO	Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States	PIC	Pacific Island Country
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council	PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
ECOWAS	Economic Commission of West African States	PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
		RCC	Regional Cooperation Council (South Eastern Europe)

RC/HC	UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator	UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
REC	Regional Economic Community	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific
SADC	Southern African Development Community	UNESCO	United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization
SEE	South Eastern Europe	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
SEEDRMAP	South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme	UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
SOPAC	Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission	UNISDR	Secretariat of the ISDR, United Nations
SRFF	Standby Recovery Financing Facility (GFDRR Track III)	UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework	UNOSAT	UNITAR Operational Satellite Applications Programme
UNDG	United Nations Development Group	WB	World Bank
UNDOCO	United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office	WCDR	World Conference on Disaster Reduction
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	WHO	World Health Organization
		WMO	World Meteorological Organization



THEWORLD BANK

The World Bank  
1818 H Street, NW Washington  
DC 20433 USA  
Tel.: 202-458-0268  
Fax: 202-522-3227  
drm@worldbank.org  
www.worldbank.org



United Nations  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

UNISDR Geneva  
Tel. :+41 22 917 8908/8907  
isdr@un.org  
www.unisdr.org

Postal Address:  
Palais des Nations, CH-1211  
Geneva, Switzerland