



**International Strategy for Disaster Reduction**

**The Millennium Development Goals and Disaster Reduction  
as relevant to the Early Warning Conference II (EWC-II)**

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The UN Millennium Summit gathered in New York in September 2000. A total of 189 world leaders met and adopted the UN Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2). The Summit established eight targets, known as the *Millennium Development Goals (MDG)*, setting a new milestone and providing guiding principles for the international community, national governments and, in particular, the United Nations.

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Improve maternal health
3. Achieve universal primary education
4. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
5. Promote gender equality and empower women
6. Ensure environmental sustainability
7. Reduce child mortality
8. Develop a global partnership for development

Several of the goals have close linkages to vulnerability to natural hazards, such as eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, and ensuring environmental stability and partnerships for development. For example, the goal of improving the lives of millions of slum dwellers living in high-risk areas by 2020, involves poverty eradication, proper land use planning and the improved understanding of vulnerability to disasters in densely populated areas.

Under "Protecting our common environment" the Millennium Declaration resolves "to adopt in all our environmental action a new ethic of conservation and stewardship and, as first steps, resolves...to intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters."

Strategies linked to ISDR for moving ahead on this goal, as described in the "Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration" (Secretary-General Report to GA A/56/326), include:

- Developing early warning systems, vulnerability mapping, technological transfer and training;
- Supporting interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral partnerships, improved scientific research on the causes of natural disasters and better international cooperation to reduce the impact of climate variables, such as El Niño and La Niña;
- Encouraging governments to address the problems created by megacities, the location of settlements in high-risk areas and other manmade determinants of disasters;
- Encouraging governments to incorporate disaster risk reduction into national planning processes, including building codes.