University of Geneva

Title of initiative:	Web access of disaster risk reduction databases, updated hazard data, maps and information on disaster risk reduction, tsunami and early warning systems
Countries primarily supported:	-
Duration:	From 1 July 2005 to 31 December 2006

Objectives

The objective of the initiative was to collect, analyze and publish the information concerning natural hazards and disaster risk reduction initiatives including the information which would support the development of an Early Warning System in the Indian Ocean. The information was to be refined and synthesized for subsequent dissemination to a wide range of individual users, partner institutions and national organizations.

The main activities were:

- Develop an on-line version of the ISDR database (DB) on information, contacts, organizations, projects, in particular, development of the background information for the contacts (design of the application, creation of the database, development of the search and update interfaces, second level user support);
- Provide IT specialized services, including a Secure Shell (SSH) connection between UN/ISDR and UNEP/GRID-Europe (for accessing the UN/ISDR database hosted at GRID-Europe), hosting a staging server for the PreventionWeb (temporary) site and other online applications, developing tools such as a mechanism to be used for sending the IDSR Highlights publication to about 6,000 contacts;
- Update hazard and vulnerability information on the PREVIEW-IMS application (fires, tropical cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis) for the period until 2004.

Achievements:

The above mentioned three activities were successfully completed. The University of Geneva, in coordination with UNEP-Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA), the Global Resource Information Database (GRID-Europe) and UN/ISDR, has redesigned and updated UN/ISDR's on-line hazard profiles, maps and vulnerability information worldwide.[79]

- **The UN/ISDR database on information, contacts, organizations and projects was redesigned and improved for an efficient use on the web including search and update functionalities.**
  - The existing MS-Access database of the UN/ISDR has been considerably improved through various modifications.
  - A server dedicated to UN/ISDR[80] for testing and temporarily hosting applications was installed and configured.
  - An on-line application allowing viewing, searching and updating UN/ISDR data was developed.
  - A semi-automatic solution for electronic mailing was implemented to facilitate the dissemination of relevant information such as "ISDR Highlights".[81]
  - The present content is expected to be preserved through continuous updating by the UN/ISDR secretariat and other partners worldwide by using the newly developed web interface.

[79] http://www.unisdr.org/eng/country-inform/introduction.htm
[80] http://www.preventionweb.net
[81] "ISDR Highlights" is a monthly distribution of latest news on disaster reduction.

- **An updated geo-spatial datasets and cartographic application (Preview-IMS) has become operational and ready for further inclusion in the websites of the UN/ISDR and partners. On-line maps with information on natural hazardous events have been updated with the following time series:**
  - 1979-2000 for earthquakes and tsunami (including the Indian Ocean Tsunami in December 2004;
  - 1980-2004 for volcanic activities, cyclones and floods, (tsunamis as well until 2004? The final report says that year 2004 was added for Tsunami);
  - 1980-2001 for droughts;
  - 1997-2003 for wild land fires.

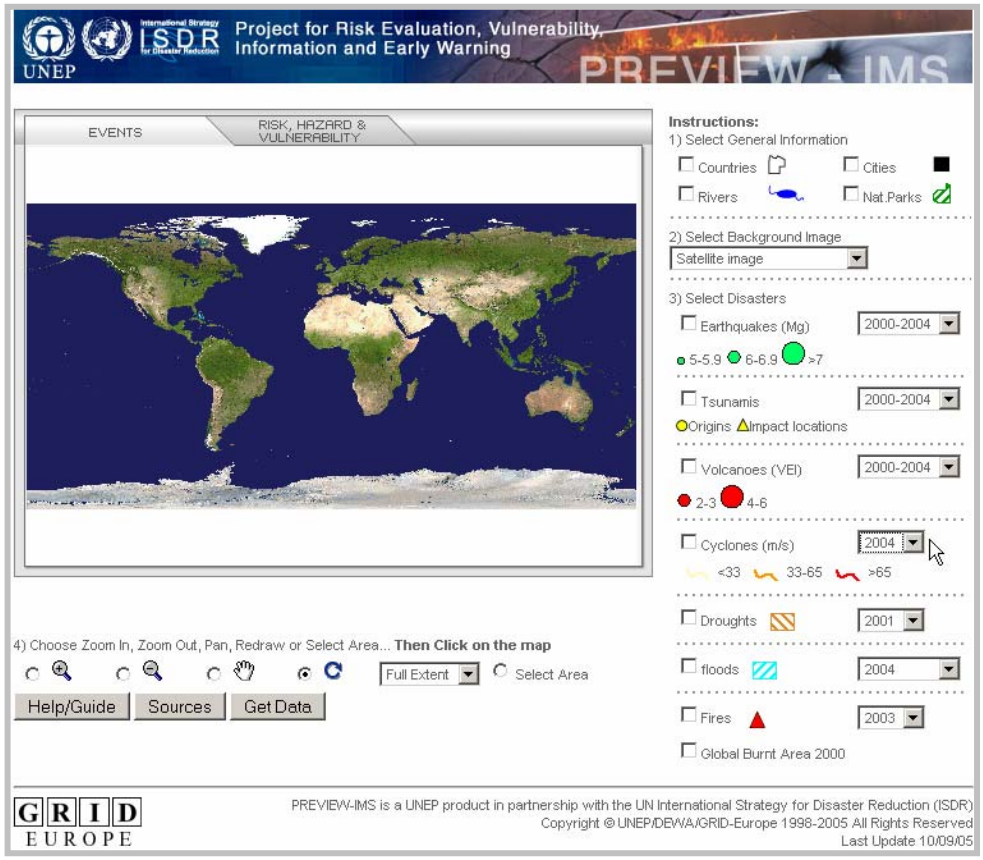

Figure 7: Update hazard and vulnerability information on the PREVIEW IMS application, Source: http://www.grid.unep.ch/activities/earlywarning/preview/

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