



# **Emergency Preparedness For Effective Response:**

## Strengthening Institutional Capacities in the UN World Food Programme



World Conference on Disaster Reduction Kobe, Japan

18-22 January 2005

### The Yokohama Review

- The need for greater tangible international & national commitment to disaster risk reduction.
- The need to adopt comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategies.
- The need for policy commitments at the highest levels.
- Importance of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into policy & programming.
- Greater investment of resources to disaster risk reduction.
- More partnerships.

## Who is World Food Programme?

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food aid arm of the United Nations.

WFP feeds 90 million hungry poor people in more than 80 countries, including 15 million school-aged children.

On a yearly basis, WFP assists 30-40 million people affected by natural hazards.



### **Natural Disasters**

- The number of people negatively affected by natural disasters has grown significantly: each year in the 1990s an average of 211 million people were killed or affected by natural catastrophes (IFRC).
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2001) projects that extreme weather events such as droughts, floods and tropical storms will increase in number and intensity in most parts of the developing world.



## Steps to Institutionalizing **Mainstreaming Emergency Preparedness** In the UN WFP

### **Defining Emergency Preparedness**

Emergency Preparedness consists of actions, arrangements and procedures taken in anticipation of an emergency to ensure a rapid, effective and appropriate response that may save lives and livelihoods.

### A Framework for Preparedness

#### **Information Preparedness**

#### **Baseline Information**

Logistics Capacity Assessments (LCA)

VAM Vulnerability Profiles
Baseline Surveys

#### **Public Information**

Public Information Strategies
WFP News Service

#### **Early Warning**

UN Framework Team
GIEWS (FAO)

Regional Early Warning Reports
Alert Matrix

#### **Information Management**

Situation Room

**Emergency Preparedness Web** 

#### **Stand-by Capacities**

#### Food

Ready to Eat Foods (i.e. in UNHRD)
Regional Reserve Food Stocks

Operational Reserves and Contingency Stocks

Prearranged Loan or Purchase Agreements

#### Equipment

Operational Support/Rapid Response NFI Stocks in UNHRD

Operational Support Equipment in Regional Reserves

Long-term Agreements (LTAs)

#### **Human Resources**

WFP Emergency Response Roster Stand-by Arrangements (SBAs)

Temporary Duty Assignments (TDY)

#### Cash

Immediate Response Account (IRA)
Complex Emergencies Revolving
Fund (CERF)

#### **Transport & Logistics**

Trucking Fleets/Aircraft on contract
Logistics Service Pakcages
UN Joint Logistics Centre Concept
MCDA

#### Planning

#### **Contingency Planning**

WFP Contingency
Planning

Inter-agency contingency planning

#### **Response Mechanisms**

#### Internal Mechanisms EMOP

PRRO SO

#### **External Mechanisms**

CAP
CHAP
UNDAC
UNDMT
Security Management Team

#### **Training**

#### **Internal Training**

WFP Emergency Response Training WFP Contingency Planning Training Security Awareness

#### **External Training**

UNHCR Emergency Preparedness and Response Training UNDAC Training ICRC Training UN-CIMIC Courses

The Main Elements of WFP Preparedness

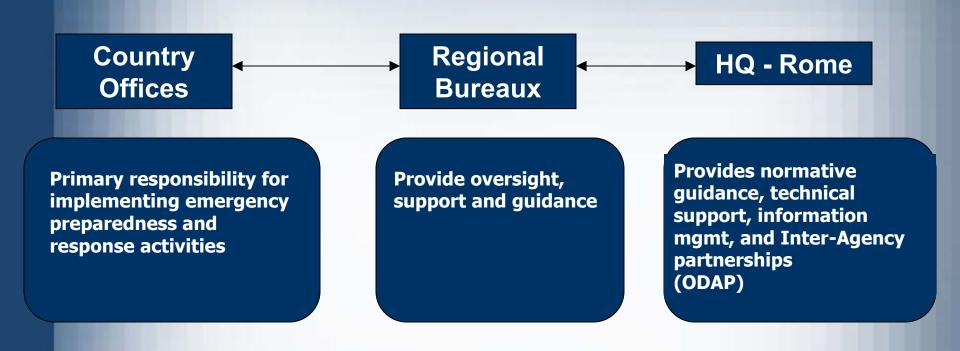
### **Making it a Corporate Priority**

- ✓ Establishment of a unit dedicated to emergency preparedness (ODAP).
- ✓ Investing in Human Resources: integrating technical expertise.
- **✓ Preparedness Officers in Regional Bureaux.**
- ✓ Inclusion of emergency preparedness in the organisation's strategic & management plans.

### **Making Financial Investments**

- Generous support of DFID in strengthening WFPs institutional capacity.
- Allocation of resources from WFPs core budget.
- Establishment of emergency Preparedness Fund.

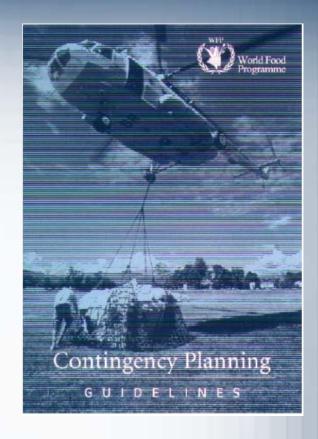
### **Decentralized Functions**



**Emergency Preparedness Officers in all Regional Bureaux** 

### **Normative Guidance**

- Best practice reviews.
- Guidelines for contingency planning.
- Defining early warning & its guiding principles.
- Guidelines for disaster mitigation.
- Mainstreaming emergency preparedness into field operations handbook.

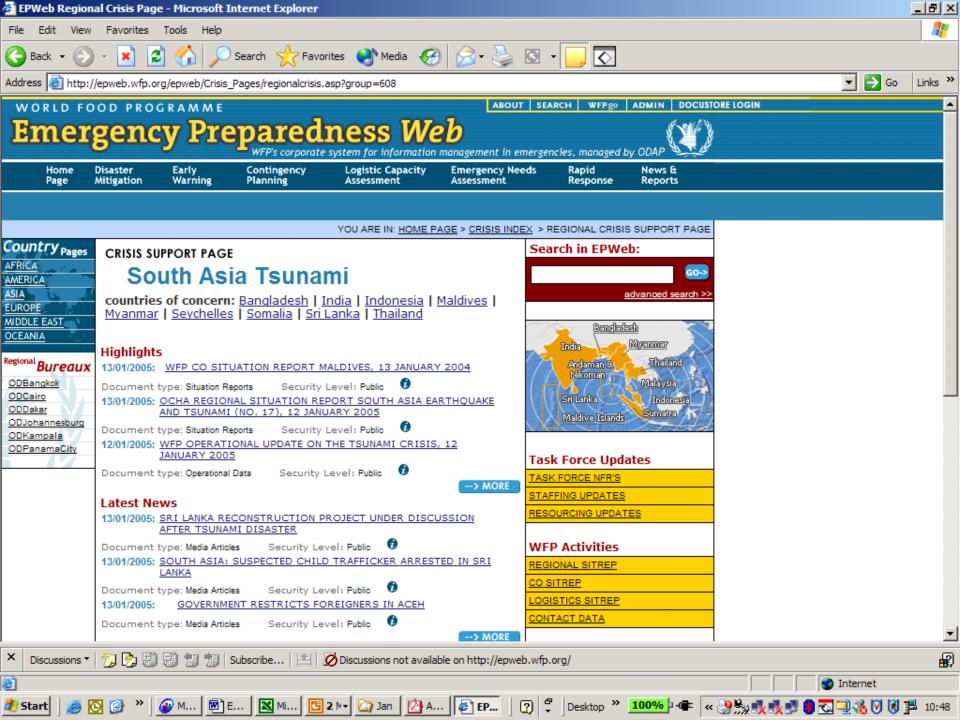


### **Tools for Emergency Preparedness**

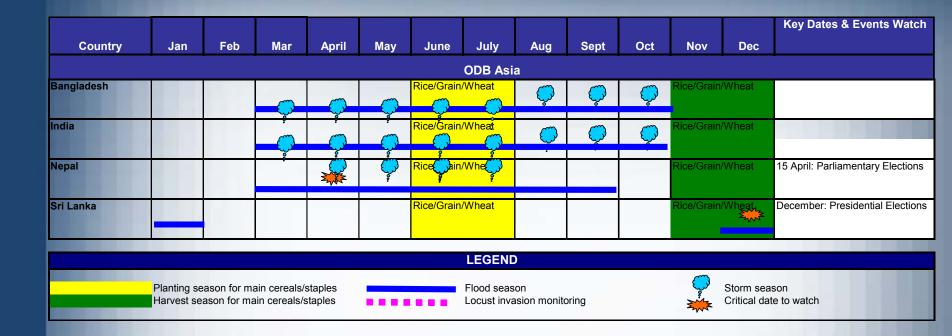
- •To facilitate access to relevant EP information.
- To translate technical information into practical language.
- To facilitate planning.
- To systematize existing knowledge.
- To facilitate management decisionmaking.
- To facilitate early action.



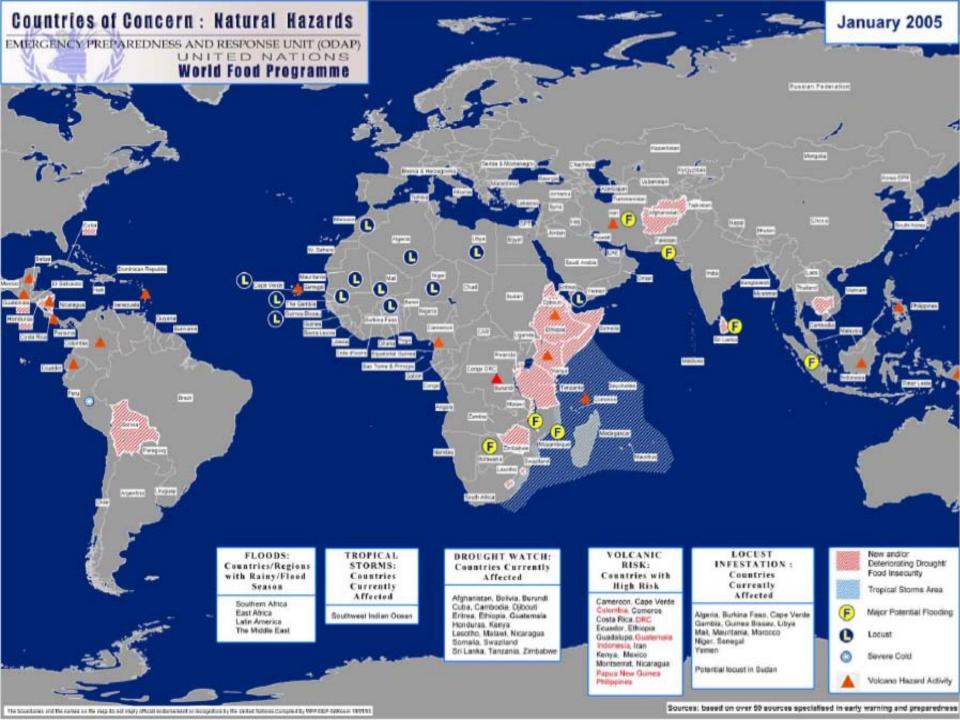




### **Hazard Calendars**



Many Natural Hazards are Seasonal –should not be surprised!

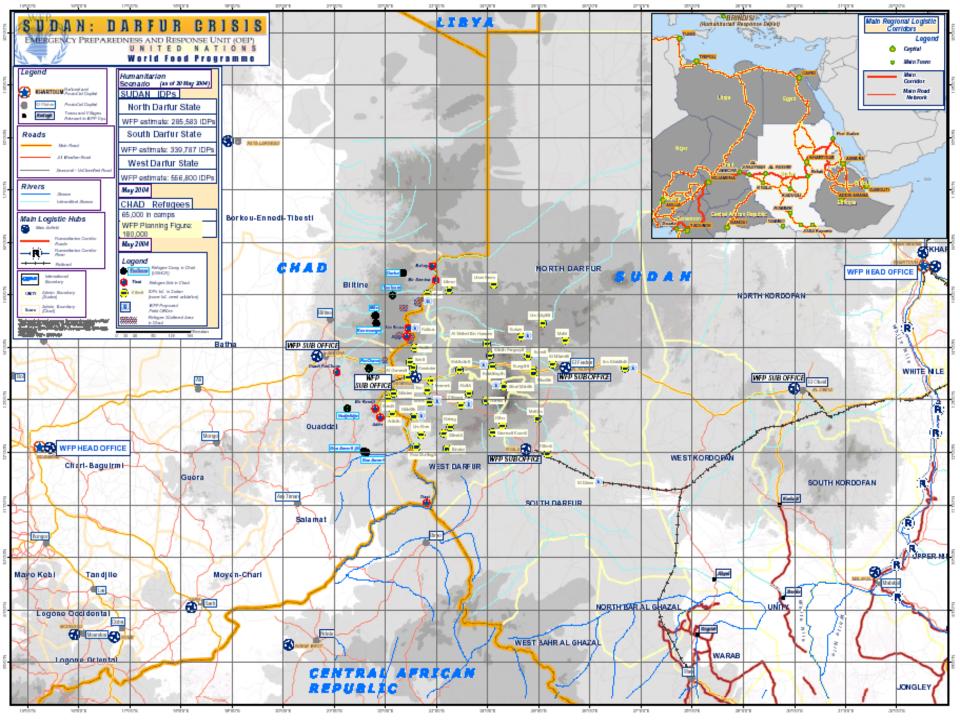


### **Institutional Culture**

✓ Contingency planning now largely practiced by the organization at the country & regional levels.

Globally, strengthened capacity to anticipate & plan ahead of new, potential emergencies.

Early warning & emergency preparedness now a household term often used in WFP.



### **Logistics Preparedness**

- Logistics Capacity Assessments.
- Regional Hubs.
- Dubai Humanitarian
   City –Worldwide
   supply chain.
- Standby Capacities.

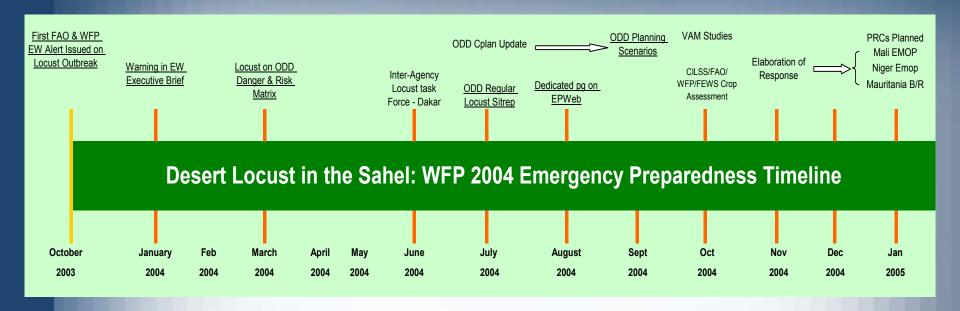




### The Link to Early Action

- EW: system for anticipating crises.
- Contingency planning.
- Information management.
- Standby partners.
- Integration of early warning-early action on agenda of senior management meetings.

### **Taking Stock of Good Practice**



### **Partnerships**

- WFP & UNICEF Co-Chair the IASC Sub-working Group on Emergency Preparedness & Planning.
- UNJLC Humanitarian Response Network.
- Partnerships with technical institutions specializing in early warning (USGS, TSR).
- MoUs with IFRC, UNHCR, NEPAD.
- Support to governments.
- Linking with private sector (i.e. TPG)
- Standby partners.
- HEWSweb as an global inter-agency EW partnership.

### Some Challenges & Lessons

- Accountability: from an organisational point of view, the starting point for reducing disaster risk is at home.
- Comprehensive Approach: consistent effort in a comprehensive institutional approach that encompasses a strategy and framework, policy, programming, financial investments, human resources.
- Action: Better understanding of translating preparedness into management action.

# Some Recommendations For Priority Actions:

- Building on what exists, strengthen overall capacity of the United Nations (specialised agencies) in emergency preparedness.
  - Support current UN systems and tools
  - Lessons
  - Best practices
  - Development of frameworks, strategies, tools.
  - Dialogue & exchange
  - Donor support: resources

Develop international standards for humanitarian emergency preparedness (i.e. sphere project). Develop systems for accountability in emergency preparedness. (donors, agencies, etc)



### Thank You!

**Comments & Questions**