

Regional  
**Mangroves Planting For Gender Equality**

194 words

26 October 2012

Manila Bulletin

MABULL

English

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MACTAN, Cebu International humanitarian child-centered community development organization, Plan International recently organized a mangrove planting and kayaking clinic for girls in line with its global campaign for gender equality, dubbed 'Because I am a Girl.'

The mangrove planting was conducted in Olango Island, a famed bird sanctuary and disaster-prone area in partnership with Globe Telecom, Be Resorts and Kayakasia Philippines. The event was also in celebration of the first ever International Day of the Girl and the 2012 **International Day for Disaster Reduction** (IDDR).

'Like women and children, and girls in particular, mangrove trees have an important but oft-ignored role in protecting people against hazards, such as strong winds and typhoons,' said Mary Candice Ramos, Miss Philippines Eco Tourism 2012, who joined the activities.

For her part, Lydia Domingo, Gender Advisor of Plan International Philippines said, 'It's important that we focus on girls' abilities to protect their communities from disasters. In Plan's experience, we've seen girls lobbying for the relocation of their school to a safer place and speaking in national and international conferences on disasters.'

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Document MABULL0020121025e8aq0001c

Local

**Overnight facility for women vendors**

Felix Chaudhary

247 words

22 October 2012

Fiji Times

NLFIJI

English

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WOMEN vendors from the highlands and remote areas who sell their produce at the Rakiraki Municipal Market now have a place to stay.

The country's newest town opened its overnight facility for women vendors, launched the Millennium Market Learning Centre, and also celebrated **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, International Day for Rural Women, International World Food Day and International Day for Poverty Eradication last week.

Rakiraki's interim special administrator Seini Raiko-Vunivutu said the opening of the overnight accommodation marked a significant step in Rakiraki's development in terms of infrastructure and the empowerment of women vendors at the market.

"We started the project in June and it was recently completed at a cost of \$60,000 with funding from the Department of Housing," she said.

"The overnight accommodation has 24 beds furnished by United Nations Women valued at \$23,000 as part of their Partners Improving Markets program."

Mrs Raiko-Vunivutu said studies conducted in 2009 showed that women vendors from the highlands often returned to their homes without completely selling all their produce or root-crops.

"That's when the decision was made to build accommodation for the women vendors. We'd like to acknowledge UN Women for their continued support and also acknowledge the UN Development Program for their assistance in the Millennium Market Learning Centre which is putting in place strategies to help small town markets achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)," she said.

Document NLFIJI0020121022e8am0001d



## Women, Girls, and Disasters [opinion]

by Margareta Wahlstrom

607 words

22 October 2012

07:38

All Africa

AFNWS

English

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Oct 22, 2012 (The Independent/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- More than 100 million women and girls are affected by disasters each year:

Every year, more than 200 million people are affected by natural disasters. Many will bear the brunt of recurring floods, storms, or droughts, and the majority of them will be women and girls. Most of those affected by recurring disasters survive. In fact, in all but the poorest and most poorly run countries, deaths resulting from weather-related disasters are on the decline.

What is not on the decline, though, is our exposure to risk and the high price that we pay in terms of lost jobs, destroyed or damaged homes, and disruption to education, health services, and transport infrastructure.

Just as the most expensive hospital is the one that collapses during an earthquake, so the most expensive disaster-management plan is the one that fails to tackle the root causes of recurring disasters. A combination of inept urban planning and ignorance of the true economic cost of such events can all too easily allow valuable community assets to be swept away.

There are two approaches to building resilience to disasters. The most visible is the structural approach, which invests money wisely in flood protection, drainage, preservation of wetlands and forests, and remedial action - based on sound risk assessment - to protect valuable infrastructure.

The other, non-structural approach focuses on early warning systems, public policy, legislation, insurance, knowledge, education, training, and community participation. It should also focus on issues that make particular groups of people vulnerable because of their gender, age, religion, or poverty.

Ignoring the female voice in a disaster context is foolish in the extreme. We know that some of the most powerful recovery programs in the wake of disasters are driven by women who have survived the worst.

Countries that do not actively promote the full participation of women in education, politics, and the workforce will struggle more than most when it comes to reducing risk and adapting to climate change. Gender equality is thus an essential element of our work in building resilience to disasters and reducing the risk to lives, jobs, and property. It is also, literally, a matter of life and death if women and girls are not empowered to participate fully in disaster management and planning.

This year, on the **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, we want to shine a light on women and girls, and to recognise what they are already doing to build their communities' resilience in places where gender is not a barrier to their full participation in public life. We need to appreciate what women and girls are achieving by putting their experience and knowledge to good use in designing disaster plans and identifying areas for improvement in urban planning and early warning systems.

More than 100 million women and girls are affected by disasters each year. They all have a right to be equipped for survival, and they all have a right to contribute to keeping their communities safe from harm.

We need more women volunteering at the community level, and we need more women in senior positions as disaster managers. A world in which exposure to disaster is growing exponentially - and causing ever-higher economic losses - needs all the female help that it can get.

Margareta Wahlstrom is the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). The **International Day for Disaster Reduction** is observed each year on October 13. UNISDR is observing it on October 12 this year.

Document AFNWS00020121022e8am0001n

Opinion  
**Big One (Part III)**

517 words  
22 October 2012  
Manila Bulletin  
MABULL  
English

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PERHAPS it's the 'bahala na' syndrome that makes us Pinoys take with cavalier attitude any hint that a disaster is forthcoming. We are loath to be seen overly distressed preparing for such a calamity.

Well, the country recently received the not flattering rank as the third country whose people are most at risk from disasters, per the United Nations' **International Day for Disaster Reduction**.

'Among the 15 countries with the highest risk worldwide, eight happen to be island states including Vanuatu, Tonga, and the Philippines at positions 1 to 3,' the World Risk Report 2012 said.

Enough said.&nbsp;

We already know that we are vulnerable to earthquakes and now, we have to choose what to prepare simply, instead of having a whole Costco warehouse at our disposal.

Remember that we are doing this alone or with members of our family. We will surmise that those who would assist us are either victims of disaster themselves or that there is so much devastation that the one of the first things to go is the power supply. There is no electricity, telephone, radio station, or television.

The following would come in handy: Flashlight and extra batteries, first aid kit and manual, emergency food and water, nonelectric can opener, essential medicines.

In case family members are separated from one another during an earthquake (this is true when people are at work during the day while children are at school), develop a plan for reuniting after the disaster.

Protect yourself from further danger by putting on long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes, and work gloves to protect you from further injury by broken objects.

Use battery-powered lanterns or flashlights to inspect your home. Kerosene lanterns, torches, candles, and matches may tip over or ignite flammables inside.

Take pictures of the house and its contents for insurance claims.

Consider seriously the possibility of spending some weeks in your province.

Of course you'll have to wait until it is safe to sail or take the airplane. With a little cash on hand, it is easy to survive on so little in the province. Or you can engage in gardening, planting what you need and eating the earth's produce. Fishing would be a welcome enterprise. All of these are good for the heart and the atrophied muscles.

Of course, those who have large houses and have accumulated all kinds of material things would be loath to leave, knowing well that thieves would have a field day when owners have abandoned their abode.

But then we have to ask. Who do we really expect to look after our homes when we have to flee for our lives? We have to be philosophical and say that it pays to have as little possession as possible.

That is small comfort to those who have amassed things beyond their needs.

Above all these, we leave everything in the hands of the Deity, the last recourse, knowing full well that after we have done the best we could, there is nothing more that we can do.

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Opinion  
**Int'l Day For Disaster Reduction**

711 words  
20 October 2012  
Manila Bulletin  
MABULL  
English

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(Privilege Speech on the **International Day for Disaster Reduction** 2012, Senate Session Hall, October 16, 2012.)

AN African proverb says, 'If you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate a family.'

Last October 13, the world celebrated the **International Day for Disaster Reduction**. Allow me to highlight the theme of this year's celebration: Women & Girls - The [in]Visible Force of Resilience.

This is not to say that women are invisible but instead are unrecognized stalwarts in the struggle towards disaster-resilient communities. It is time to usher a new phase where women and girls are no longer portrayed as victims but heroes.

Women and girls account for 52% of the world's population. Over 100 million of which are affected by disasters annually.

As they bear the impact of disasters, it is important that we pay attention to their experience and knowledge.

A starving mother carrying her ailing child is often the public face of famines and food shortages.

In times of disaster and economic stress, women are the primary caregivers. They bear the burden of caring for the sick. They also carry out much of the household workload after a disaster.

Women have distinct nutritional needs that make coping with disasters tougher and harsher.

Even disaster rescue efforts discriminate against women. In the 2006 tsunami that killed scores in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, male survivors outnumbered its female counterparts in a 3 to 1 and 4 to 1 ratio.

Despite these, women have been silently and effectively at the frontline of disaster prevention and climate change adaptation efforts.

We take inspiration from the work of the late Professor Wangari Maathai, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate in 2004. The Green Belt Movement, which she founded, has planted over 51 million trees in Kenya and empowered communities, especially women and girls, to promote environmental protection at the grassroots level.

The Philippines can be proud of similar initiatives that are based on local realities. A group of women farmers in Montalban, Rizal started to practice agroforestry to adapt to the prolonged wet season. A group of women fisherfolk in Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur reforested over a hundred hectares of mangrove areas to protect their settlements from storm surges and secure an additional source of food for their families.

In the Municipality of San Francisco in Camotes Island, Cebu, which is one of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction's 29 model communities worldwide that are exemplars in disaster risk reduction and management, 90% of officers in charge of environmental protection and disaster prevention programs in each and every purok are women, since most of the male residents are focused on making a living for their families. The Purok System focuses on mobilizing local resources in creating local and practical solutions based on the vulnerability and unique needs of every community. The program includes the 'no trash segregation ' no collection' policy.

I am certain that behind the success of other model LGUs such as Makati City, Albay, and Bulacan are thousands of women actively involved in community leadership and decision-making. Makati City and Albay also received international recognition for their best practices by the UN while Bulacan was recently awarded as the Best Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in the National Gawad Kalasag 2012.&nbsp;

Mr. President,

Let us fully engage women in vulnerability assessments, tap their knowledge of environmental resources, and work with women's community organization.

I echo the call of Margareta Wahlström, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, on the importance of putting 'women and girls' experience and knowledge to good use in designing disaster plans and identifying areas for improvement in urban planning and early warning systems.'

I fully agree that 'countries that do not actively promote the full participation of women in education, politics, and the workforce will struggle more than most when it comes to reducing risk and adapting to climate change.'

Mr. President,

Let us recognize and empower women, who are agents of solutions, indispensable holders of valuable knowledge and skills, and able leaders from the grassroots level to the global stage.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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## **NADMO Observes World Disaster Reduction Day**

388 words

17 October 2012

18:00

All Africa

AFNWS

English

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Oct 17, 2012 (Ghanaian Chronicle/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The Eastern Regional office of the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), on Friday, observed the celebration of the 2012 World Disaster Reduction Day, with serious concentration on women and children during disasters.

The **International Day for Disaster Reduction** (IDDR) was started in 1989, with the approval by the United Nations General Assembly as a way to promote a global culture of disaster reduction.

The IDDR aims to raise awareness about the importance of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and the most widely observed day for raising awareness and mobilising the wider public to get involved and take ownership of the process to create disaster resilience.

This year's celebration was under the theme "Women and Girls - The (in)visible Force of Resilience."

Speaking at the programme, the Eastern Regional Coordinator of NADMO, Mr. Ransford Owusu Boakye, said human beings had been at the mercy of natural disasters since the beginning of time.

According to him, most often, the images of suffering women and children during disasters were popular, and normally portrayed, because women have less access to resources and influence among others, which were essential to disaster management.

He acknowledged that his office had taken note that disaster reduction programmes which did not include women and children leads to the overlooking of their needs and concerns.

He said the building of institutional capacity should involve women and girls in Disasters Risk Reduction (DRR), so that they would not be extremely vulnerable during and after disasters strike in the country.

"We have taken note that disaster reduction programmes which do not include women and girls participation, means that their particular needs and concerns, and their potential contributions are overlooked during disaster preparedness, response, and reconstruction."

There is a critical shift in the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into DRR, from the women- focused approach to a gender focused one, based on the premise that the roles and relationships of women and men in disaster risk reduction should analyzed within the overall gendered socio-economic and cultural context.

This has, therefore, changed the strategic focus of disaster management, from reactive disaster response to long-term proactive disaster risk, and vulnerability reduction and resilience building, where gender and DRR are considered necessary to achieving sustainable development.

Document AFNWS00020121017e8ah00105



## Disaster Reduction - Red Cross Advocates Construction of Dams

174 words

14 October 2012

12:43

All Africa

AFNWS

English

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Oct 14, 2012 (Daily Trust/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The Nigeria Red Cross Society, Lagos State chapter yesterday called on the Federal Government to construct more dams in order to check the rising spate of flood disasters in the country.

Mrs Ijeoma Nweke, the Branch Secretary to the society, gave the advice in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos. It was part of activities to mark the 2012 **International Day for Disaster Reduction**.

Nweke described Nigeria as a country blessed with wonderful natural habitat devoid of disasters, compared to many other nations worldwide.

She noted that the recent floods that were overwhelming some parts of the country and destroying lives and properties worth billions of naira, could be averted if the right infrastructure was put in place.

According to her, though flooding is a natural disaster, the intensity and frequency it occurred is largely due to the dumping of refuse in gutters, canals and construction of buildings on waterways.

Document AFNWS00020121014e8ae0009x



Flora & Fauna

**Nirma University students carry out green rally to create awareness for environment**

Parth Shastri

216 words

14 October 2012

The Economic Times

ECTIM

English

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AHMEDABAD: Students and faculty members of Disaster Management, Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering, Urban Planning and Management participated in Green March organized by Nirma University on Saturday to mark **International Day for Disaster Reduction**.

"The march was organized as part of societal concern initiative of the institute. The march started from Gandhi Ashram and culminated at Income Tax crossroads. Students and faculty members tried to create awareness about the environmental issues and strategies for disaster risk reduction. The steps for disaster reduction include reduction in use of plastic waste, curbing deforestation, minimising the use of paper, stopping open burning of waste, saving electricity, saving fuel, and do's and don'ts at the time of natural calamities," said a university official.

Students and their faculty members displayed messages and information through placards and banners in order to create mass awareness on these critical issues of societal concern. It was the first time that the rally was carried out, said officials. The students felt that for environmental and disaster risk mitigation; technological and community based solutions need to be worked out comprehensively and in a complimentary manner so as to maximise the benefits to society.

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Document ECTIM00020121013e8ae0000g

Economia

**Ambiente: nel 2011 morte 27 mila persone a causa dei disastri naturali (2)**

221 words

12 October 2012

16:24

Adnkronos - General

GENNEW

Italian

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(Adnkronos) - Il ruolo della prevenzione diventa allora cruciale anche in termini economici. L'Organizzazione meteorologica mondiale ha evidenziato come per ogni dollaro investito nella prevenzione se ne potrebbero risparmiare circa 7 in assistenza umanitaria e ricostruzione. Nonostante questo ad oggi sui primi 40 paesi beneficiari di assistenza umanitaria, solamente l'1% degli aiuti viene destinato alla riduzione dei rischi da disastro.

Nel 2005 la Piattaforma Globale per la Riduzione del Rischio, creata durante la conferenza di Hyogo, ha proposto un piano decennale per rafforzare la resilienza di città, comunità e nazioni, riducendo in modo significativo le conseguenze dei disastri. Nel 2009, tra le varie misure adottate, i rappresentanti della Piattaforma hanno lanciato un appello per destinare il 10% degli aiuti umanitari a programmi di Disaster Risk Reduction .

"Un obiettivo che purtroppo resta assai distante dalla realtà, soprattutto in Italia" conclude Marco Bertotto che aggiunge: "Agire si fa portavoce di questa istanza, unendosi all'appello internazionale di Step Up per l'**International Day for Disaster Reduction** e invitandovi a sottoscrivere la richiesta indirizzata al ministero degli Affari Esteri e al ministero della Cooperazione e dell'Integrazione affinché anche in Italia si punti al tetto del 10% di investimenti umanitari in programmi di riduzione del rischio".

(Ler/Ope/Adnkronos)

Document GENNEW0020121013e8ac000hk

## Myanmar VP calls on people to participate in disaster risk reduction

yangon

233 words

13 October 2012

07:31

Xinhua News Agency

XNEWS

English

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YANGON, Oct. 13 (Xinhua) -- Myanmar Vice President Dr.Sa Mauk Kham has called on

people to participate in the disaster awareness program, saying that preparedness and preventive measures should be enhanced and speed up, official media reported Saturday.

Addressing at the ceremony of the **International Day for Disaster Reduction** 2012 in Nay Pyi Taw Friday, Dr.Sa Mauk Kham urged all departments and organizations concerned to implement the short-, the medium-, and the long-term projects on the disaster risk reduction, said the New Light of Myanmar.

He stressed "since the national development and disaster risk reduction are inseparable, every development project being undertaken in the country should be reflected from the disaster risk reduction perspective."

He underlined that the local government have to respond immediately to the overarching impact of the natural disasters that is going to affect local people.

Myanmar had established Disaster Preparedness Committees at all administrative levels to implement the disaster risk reduction strategies.

Myanmar is one of the signatories of the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Center).

Myanmar government carries out disaster risk reduction activities with various stakeholders and foreign organizations in the wake of Cyclone Nargis in 2008, Cyclone Giri in 2010, Tahlay earthquake and the flash flood in Magway Region in 2011.

01

Document XNEWS00020121013e8ad00209

## **Mongolia holds disaster drills as international disaster reduction day comes**

shiyongchun

230 words

12 October 2012

15:41

Xinhua News Agency

XNEWS

English

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ULAN BATOR, Oct. 12 (Xinhua) -- Mongolia held on Friday a series of disaster prevention drills one day before the **International Day for Disaster Reduction**.

The capital city's emergency authorities conducted a fire drill at an office building in downtown Ulan Bator to better train the staffs working inside how to safely and quickly escape when a fire breaks out.

Meanwhile, the local emergency body also held a number of earthquake drills at many of the capital's middle schools, kindergartens and hospitals.

These emergency exercises, which would be held many times every year, were designed to educate the public on the knowledge of disaster prevention, self-protection and rescue.

Burin Mandakh, director of a local hospital, said his hospital has more than 220 medical workers, yet they have to deal with the medical problems of over 100,000 residents living in the district.

He added that more of such drills were badly needed, especially for patients.

Some hospital staffs also said that these drills could help them provide necessary services when an emergency erupts so that the affected people could suffer less.

The 64th session of the U.N. General Assembly held in 2009 adopted a resolution that dedicated the day of Oct. 13 in every year since 2009 as the **International Day for Disaster Reduction**.

Enditem

03

Document XNEWS00020121012e8ac0050m

## **WOMEN AND GIRLS RECOGNISED AS UNSUNG HEROES OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

392 words

12 October 2012

Australian Government News

HTAUGN

English

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CANBERRA, ACT, Oct. 12 -- Nicola Roxon, Attorney-General for Australia and Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for the Status of Women issued the following joint media release:

Women and girls are being recognised as the unsung heroes of local communities in preparing for, and recovering from disasters on this year's **International Day for Disaster Reduction**.

The United Nations has declared that in 2012, the theme "Women and girls - the (in)visible force of resilience" will reinforce that women and girls are powerful agents of change.

"Women make a valuable contribution to our communities during times of crisis," Attorney-General and Minister for Emergency Management, Nicola Roxon said.

Women play an important role in all aspects of emergency management - from front-line recovery and operational decision making to long-term national policy development that will shape Australia's future resilience.

This year's Women and girls theme is the perfect opportunity to say thank you to those women who are working as we speak to prepare their communities for the upcoming disaster season.

"One of the key messages of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience recognises that connected communities are resilient communities - and women and children strengthen community connectedness," Ms Roxon said.

"The Australian Government is committed to supporting initiatives that highlight and promote the role of women in disaster preparedness," Minister for the Status of Women, Julie Collins said.

The National Women's Alliance Program has received Government funding for two important projects due for completion this year.

The National Rural Women's Coalition will release Weather the Storm - Developing disaster resilient rural communities, a toolkit that helps women in remote communities take the lead on disaster preparedness.

The economicSecurity4Women Alliance is also developing a report to look at the economic impact of disasters on women. The report - Voices from the Flood Plains - uses disaster affected areas in Queensland and Victoria to discuss the specific needs of women in recovery.

"Both these projects recognise the unique role that women have to play in preparing for and recovering from disasters, and today is a good opportunity for us to reflect on just how important that role really is," said Ms Collins.

Document HTAUGN0020121012e8ac00009

**Media Release: The Nature Conservancy**

434 words

12 October 2012

AAP MediaNet Press Releases

AAPMPR

English

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AAPMEDIA RELEASE PR51007 Environmental Degradation Increases the Risk of Disasters Worldwide

BRUSSELS, Oct. 12, 2012 /PRNewswire-AsiaNet/ --

Environmental degradation is a significant factor that reduces the capacity of societies to deal with disaster risk in many countries around the world. This is the key message of the World Risk Report 2012, presented today in Brussels, Belgium by the German Alliance for Development Works (Alliance), United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and The Nature Conservancy.

The report examines the risks of and solutions for natural disasters. The record for the decade 2002 to 2011 is alarming: 4,130 disasters, more than a million deaths and an economic loss of at least 1.195 trillion dollars.

The report's WorldRiskIndex, developed by UNU-EHS in cooperation with the Alliance, determines the risk of becoming the victim of a disaster as a result of natural hazards for 173 countries. The Pacific Island states of Vanuatu and Tonga have the highest disaster risk. Malta and Qatar face the lowest risk. Australia ranks 117th and is therefore in the lowest of the risk categories.

"This report illustrates the powerful role that nature can play in reducing risks to people and property from coastal hazards like storms, erosion and floods. Coral reefs, oyster reefs and mangroves offer flexible, cost-effective, and sustainable first lines of defense" said Dr. Michael Beck, Lead Marine Scientist at The Nature Conservancy.

The Conservancy's Drs. Beck and Christine Shepard, co-authors of the WRR, found that there are 200 million people who may receive risk reduction from coral reefs alone - which can reduce wave energy by more than 85 percent

Australia ranks 27th in the countries with the greatest number of at-risk people who may receive risk reduction benefits from reefs (people living below 10m elevation and within 50km of coral reefs). The top countries are Indonesia and India (> 35 M people each); followed by the Philippines (>20M); China (> 15 M); Brazil, Vietnam and the USA (all > 7M).

The report comes just before the UN's **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, October 13.

-- NOTE: The full report, maps, illustrations, expert quotes and a factsheet are available at <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/habitats/oceanscoasts/howwework/2012-world-risk-report.xml>

The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Visit The Nature Conservancy on the Web at <http://www.nature.org>.

SOURCE: The Nature Conservancy

CONTACT: Geraldine Henrich-Koenis

ghenrich-koenis@tnc.org

+1-703-314-1137

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## **Nepal to mark Disaster Reduction Day**

THT ONLINE

Distributed by Contify.com

156 words

9 October 2012

Himalayan Times

ATHIMT

English

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KATHMANDU: Nepal Government in collaboration with DPNET Nepal and Jagaran Media Centre are all set to mark 12th **International Day for Disaster Reduction** with much fanfare in the Capital on October 12.

Conducting a press meet organised by Reporters Club in the Capital on Tuesday, Laxmi Prasad Dhakal, Under Secretary at the Home Ministry, said the government has adopted a policy to include women and children in the disaster management task.

Chairman of DPNET Nepal Dr Min Bahadur Paudel Chhetri said the press meet has been called to build a safe community through the right to information.

Board member of DPNET Nepal, Mridula Sharma said we are observing 12th **International Day for Disaster Reduction** on October 12 to inform women and children on how we can save our lives from earthquake and other natural calamities.

Images, graphs or charts, if any, have been removed

Document ATHIMT0020121009e8a90008d

# PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NATIONAL

**NIDM invites proposals from schools on safety plans**

184 words

9 October 2012

Press Trust of India

PRTRIN

English

Copyright 2012. The Press Trust of India Limited.

New Delhi, Oct 9 (PTI) The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) has invited proposals from schools to develop their own safety plans for creating awareness among students, teachers and other stakeholders on school safety.

"15 selected plans across the country will be awarded Rs 25,000 to each as prize along with certificates," an official release said.

The move is part of the NIDM's effort to create awareness about safety plans for each school and to spread the message across the country.

The effort is in line with the UN International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction which is annually observed to raise public awareness on issues related to disaster risk reduction.

The NIDM is observing **International Day for Disaster Reduction** tomorrow which will be attended by Minister of State for Home Mullappally Ramachandran besides others.

NIDM, New Delhi, constituted under an Act of Parliament, is an apex national institute with the nodal responsibilities for human resource development, capacity building, training, research, documentation, public awareness and policy advocacy in disaster management. PTI ACB ZMN

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Regional  
**BEST C.I.D.G.**

566 words

17 October 2012

Manila Bulletin

MABULL

English

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CAMP TOLENTINO, Bataan Bataan's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), headed by Chief Inspector Melchor &nbsp;B. Cantil, was adjudged as 'Best Provincial Office' of the CIDG in terms of performance for the month of September. Based on the performance evaluation conducted by the CIDG regional office 'Bataan CIDG was adjudged as Best provincial office (PO) for obtaining highest rating in the performance evaluation' conducted by the regional office headed by Sr. Supt. Elmo Francis Sarona. The selection of the Bataan CIDG as best provincial office came after a thorough evaluation of POs at Camp Olivas in relation to the CIDG's 'Oplan Pagtupad.' (Mar T. Supnad)

LOREN CITES&nbsp;ROLE OF WOMEN

VIGAN CITY, Ilocos Sur The government was urged to ensure the provision of avenues for women and girls to participate in building the disaster-resilient communities all over the country. Senator Loren Legarda made her preposition in relation to the world's celebration of **International Day for Disaster Reduction** &nbsp;last October 13, with the theme 'Women and Girls: the [in]Visible Force of Resilience.' Legarda said women and girls account for 52 percent of the world's population and over 100 million of them are affected by disasters annually. 'As they bear the impact of disasters, it is important that we pay attention to their experience and knowledge,' she said. (Freddie G. Lazaro)

NUTRITION GOALS

ANTIPOLO CITY, Rizal The 120-day feeding program to address malnutrition in children in this city has ended with fruitful results, the city government revealed. Dr. Antonio Reillo, Jr., head of the City Health Office here, is set to announce today the gains that the study-based Malnutrition Reduction Program (MRP) has brought here since its launching in May this year. The MRP's culminating activity in Barangay Cupang will be attended by representatives from the Food Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and 1-Sagip Partylist Representative Rodante Marcoleta, and local community health and nutrition workers. (Nel B. Andrade)

FARMERS AWAIT&nbsp;JACKY'S P5-M VOW

ABUCAY, Bataan Farmers in the province are now excited as they await the carabaos committed to them by Cagayan Rep. Jacky Enrile. Earlier, Enrile pledged to grant a total of 120 high-breed carabaos worth P5 million that will be distributed to the province's 11 towns and one city to boost the farmers' income. This came after Provincial Board Member Dexter Dominguez, more popularly known as 'Teri Onor,' said that the congressman had approved the P5 million to be sourced from the fund of his father Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile. (Mar T. Supnad)

BRAVE FRONT

IMUS, Cavite The Cavite Police Provincial Office (PPO) is putting up a brave front against crime by intensifying its drive to arrest the recent rash of robberies, shooting and stabbing incidents in the province. Senior Supt. John C. Bulalacao, PPO director, ordered his officers to conduct day and night operations to check the incidents, particularly in the neighboring cities of Bacoor, Imus and Dasmariñas. At least four fatal stabbing and shooting incidents and four robberies were reported in the province during the last three days. One of the fatalities was one Yolanda Untal, 40, a caretaker, who was killed last Sunday &nbsp;at the Parish Pastoral Council-Immaculate Conception Shrine in Naic. (Anthony Giron)

Document MABULL0020121016e8ah0001d

General News

**Vietnam: Women tackle climate change**

582 words

16 October 2012

Thai News Service

THAINS

English

(c) 2012 Thai News Service

Section: General News - Women in Vietnam should be recognised for their contributions to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, a conference heard on October 12.

Speaking at the conference on the occasion of **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, Nguyen Thi Tuyet, vice president of the Vietnam Women's Union, said women took part in most disaster preparedness activities, including preparing food and drinks, harvesting, repairing houses, packing and finding safe places for valuables and having plans for evacuation.

However, limited understanding and stereotyping of women and their roles prevented them from gaining new skills to cope with natural disasters.

"Women have been seen as victims instead of crucial actors in disaster management. They have little chance to make decisions. Thus, households led by females tended to be those with the lowest resilience after natural disasters," Tuyet said.

Louise Chamberlain, United Nations Development Programme country director, said women and girls hardly voiced their needs or talked about their skills and experiences in protecting their families and communities in disaster situations.

"This is equally true in Vietnam because each woman and man, girl or boy, living in flood areas has made significant contributions in raising awareness and building safer communities," she said.

According to United Nations-Oxfam's policy brief on gender equality, Vietnamese women were rarely involved in making decisions on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in local governments, such as the Committee for Flood and Storm Control and Search and Rescue Committees.

They simply accepted tasks of food distribution and first aid.

In Vietnam, a project on enhancing women's capacity to cope with natural disasters had been implemented in central Phu Yen and Binh Dinh provinces in 2010-11 by the Vietnam Women's Union .

In Binh Dinh Province's coastal Phuoc Son commune, a flood-prone area with 2,600 people living on aquaculture and agriculture, local women knew how to build riverside embankments, move livestock to higher places, store clean water and other necessities seven days before a storm and stamp out epidemics after floods.

Phan Thu Trang, a disseminator and head of Phuoc Son commune's Women Union, said local women are more active and know exactly what to do before, during and after floods and storms to regain their life. More and more husbands are agreeing to let their wives join disaster prevention work.

As a result, the women's union had become a permanent member of the provincial Committee for Flood and Storm Control and had had their own voice over natural disaster prevention and control, she said.

At the meeting, experts suggested basic skills, such as learning how to swim, should be boosted for those in affected areas.

The Vietnam Women's Union and other women's organisations could be mobilised and co-ordinated to give support to humanitarian work through their networks. This would also boost the decision-making of women at all levels, they said.

Vietnam should have a law that included provisions to ensure taking disaster risk reduction measures were the responsibility of both sexes, they said.

Figures from the United Nations showed that between 1990-2010, Vietnam ranked sixth among countries suffering the biggest losses from disasters with 445 deaths and damages worth 1.8 billion USD every year.

Seven storms, accompanied with prolonged heavy downpours, had occurred since early this year, leaving about 200 dead and missing and causing total losses of 4.4 trillion VND (211 million USD).-VNA

Document THAINS0020121015e8ag0000f

## International Disaster Reduction Day

F.P. Report

260 words

14 October 2012

The Frontier Post

ASFROP

XXVII

English

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In order to commemorate the International Disaster Reduction Day, Rescue 1122 organized a special function in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and PDMA at Emergency Services Academy, Lahore on Saturday.

The Director General, Punjab Emergency Service (Rescue 1122) Dr Rizwan Naseer while addressing the rescuers from all the Districts of Punjab and other provinces asked them to ensure disaster reduction through community participation to create disaster resilient communities. He said the **International Day for Disaster Reduction** is a day to celebrate how people and communities are reducing their risk to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of DRR.

He further said, "Today, the citizens of Pakistan have been provided with the basic right to timely emergency care by Rescue 1122, in case of accidents, emergencies and disasters". After achieving the target of saving lives, it was the mission of Rescue 1122 to change minds so that we could promote a culture of safety where the loss of life and property due to accidents, fires, and disasters can be prevented.

In this regard, Rescue 1122 has launched several programs in order to create awareness about the importance of disaster reduction, as this day encourages every citizen and government to take part in building more disaster resilient communities and nations. At the end of the ceremony, a special dua was offered by all rescuers to remember the victims of October 2005 Earthquake, floods victims, and victims of the recent back-to-back fire incidents, which took place in Lahore and Karachi.

Document ASFROP0020121015e8ae0000e

## **International Day for Disaster Reduction today**

207 words

13 October 2012

Frontier Star

NBFSTA

English

© 2012 Asianet-Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The world is celebrating the **international day for disaster reduction (IDDR)** today. The focus of this year's IDDR is "Women and Girls: the [in] visible Force for Resilience".

The observance of IDDR is seen as a way of promoting a global culture of disaster reduction, including disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness, started in 1989, with the approval of the UN General Assembly.

The aim behind celebration of the widely-observed day is to show how people and communities are reducing their risk to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of disaster risk reduction.

The observance of the day is important in creating social demand and mobilizing the wider public to get involved and take ownership of the processes to create disaster resilience.

The International theme for IDDR 2012, 'Women and Girls -The [In] visible Force of Resilience', draws attention to the fact that women's contributions to protect and rebuild their communities before and after disasters are often unrecognized.

The aim of this year's celebration is to acknowledge and appreciate the millions of women and girls who make their communities more resilient to disasters and climate risks and thus reap the benefits of and protect their development investments.

Document NBFSTA0020121015e8ad00013

## **International Day for Disaster Reduction observed in dists**

411 words

13 October 2012

The Financial Express (Bangladesh)

FNEXBD

English

Copyright 2012. The Financial Express

KHULNA, Oct. 13 -- **International Day for Disaster Reduction-2012** was observed in Khulna as elsewhere in the country amid rallies, discussion meeting and procession on Saturday (today).

This year, the theme of the day is "Durjog Sahansheel Desh Gori: Sohayak Shakti Balika O Nari".

To mark the day, Khulna district administration brought out a colourful procession from Khulna Circuit House which paraded through the main roads of the city and concluded in front of DC office. A good number of government and non-government officials, political leaders, NGO personalities, civil society members, city elites, journalists and a large number of city dwellers participated in it with placards to create awareness among the people about how to reduce disaster risk.

A discussion meeting was also held at DC's conference room where Khulna City Corporation (KCC) mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque was present as the chief guest. Deputy Commissioner of Khulna Mezbah presided over the function.

Khulna district relief and rehabilitation officer Md Matiur Rahman delivered the welcome address. Executive director of NGO, Asshroy Foundation Mamotaz Khatun, M.A Baten of CSS and Moley Kanti Biswas addressed the function among others.

Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque said the south-western part of Bangladesh is one of the disaster prone zones of the globe owing its geographical location as well as natural reasons. He strongly believed that the active participation of children and youths will make the nation stronger for combating disaster risk in all aspects of lives. He urged the civil society, non-government agencies and the private sector to join hands in government's efforts for increasing national disaster resilience. He also urged to all to follow the government has prepared Disaster Management National Plan 2010-2015 and 'Cyclone Shelter Construction, Maintenance and Management Policy-2011'.

Our Tangail Correspondent reports: **International Day for Disaster Reduction** was observed in Tangail yesterday Saturday as elsewhere in the country.

The slogan of the day was "Women and Girl, the Invisible Force of Resilience".

Elaborate programmes were chalked out by government and non- government organisation in observance of the day. A colourful rally was brought out from Shaheed Smreety Pouro Uddyan and it paraded through the main road of the town. ADC general Mahabub Alam led the rally. Published by HT Syndication with permission from The Financial Express.

Document FNEXBD0020121015e8ad0000e

# The Jakarta Post

## Women, girls, and disasters

548 words

13 October 2012

The Jakarta Post

JKPOST

6

English

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Margareta Wahlström, Geneva

Every year, more than 200 million people are affected by disasters. Many will bear the brunt of recurring floods, storms or droughts, and the majority of them will be women and girls. Most of those affected by recurring disasters survive.

In fact, in all but the poorest and most poorly run countries, deaths resulting from weather-related disasters are on the decline.

What is not on the decline, though, is our exposure to risk and the high price that we pay in terms of lost jobs, destroyed or damaged homes, and disruption to education, health services and transportation infrastructure.

Just as the most expensive hospital is the one that collapses during an earthquake, so the most expensive disaster-management plan is the one that fails to tackle the root causes of recurring disasters. A combination of inept urban planning and ignorance of the true economic cost of such events can all too easily allow valuable community assets to be swept away.

There are two approaches to building resilience to disasters. The most visible is the structural approach, which invests money wisely in flood protection, drainage, preservation of wetlands and forests, and remedial action -- based on sound risk assessment -- to protect valuable infrastructure.

The other, non-structural approach focuses on early warning systems, public policy, legislation, insurance, knowledge, education, training, and community participation. It should also focus on issues that make particular groups of people vulnerable because of their gender, age, religion, or poverty.

Ignoring the female voice in a disaster context is foolish in the extreme. We know that some of the most powerful recovery programs in the wake of disasters are driven by women who have survived the worst.

Countries that do not actively promote the full participation of women in the workforce, education, and politics will struggle more than most when it comes to reducing risk and adapting to climate change.

Gender equality is an essential part of our work in building resilience to disasters and reducing risk to lives, jobs and property. It's also a matter of life and death if women and girls are not fully involved in disaster management and planning.

This year, on the **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, we want to shine a light on women and girls, and to recognize what they are already doing to build their communities' resilience in places where gender is not a barrier to their full participation in public life. We need to appreciate what women and girls are achieving by putting their experience and knowledge to good use in designing disaster plans and identifying areas for improvement in urban planning and early warning.

More than 100 million women and girls are affected by disasters each year. They all have a right to be equipped for survival, and they all have a right to contribute to keeping their communities safe from harm.

We need more women volunteering at the community level, and we need more women in senior positions as disaster managers. A world in which exposure to disaster is growing exponentially needs all the female help that it can get.

The writer is the UN Secretary-General's special representative for disaster risk reduction and head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

Document JKPOST0020121015e8ad0000r

## Women should hold their own in disasters-UN

425 words

14 October 2012

Philippine Daily Inquirer

AIWPHI

English

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MANILA, Philippines—Saying that “gender equality is an essential element in building resilience to disasters,” United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s special representative on disaster risk reduction has urged women to take a more active part in disaster management and planning in their communities. Margareta Wahlstrom, head of the Geneva-based UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, issued the call on Oct. 13, designated by the UN General Assembly as the **International Day for Disaster Reduction** (IDDR). Women and Girls: The (In)Visible Force of Resilience” is the theme of this year’s IDDR celebration.

In a statement, a copy of which was furnished the Inquirer by the UN International Strategy on Disaster Reduction regional office in Bangkok, Wahlstrom said, “We need more women volunteering at the community level and we need more women in senior positions as disaster managers.” “A world in which exposure to disaster is growing exponentially and causing higher economic losses needs all the female help it can get,” she stressed. According to Wahlstrom, “Ignoring the female voice in a disaster context is foolish in the extreme.” “We know that some of the most powerful recovery programs in the wake of disasters are driven by women who have survived the most,” she said. Countries that “do not actively promote the full participation of women in the workforce, education and politics will struggle more than most when it comes to reducing risk and adapting to climate change.” “Gender equality is thus an essential element of our work in building resilience to disasters and reducing the risk to lives, jobs and property. It is also literally a matter of life and death if women and girls are not empowered to participate in disaster management and planning,” said Wahlstrom. For his part, Ban Ki-moon said in a statement that “vulnerability to disaster is growing faster than resilience.” “Disaster risk reduction should be an everyday concern for everybody. Let us all invest today for a safer tomorrow,” he added. Last year, the Philippines topped the list of countries affected by natural disasters, according to the UNISDR. “A total of 33 natural disasters ravaged various parts of the country in 2011, resulting in the death of scores of people and the destruction of millions of pesos worth of agricultural produce, key infrastructure and property,” it said, noting that “the worst disaster was Tropical Storm “Sendong” which hit (northern) Mindanao on Dec. 17 and took the lives of 1,430 people.”

Document AIWPHI0020121015e8ae00034



News

**Rescue 1122 observe International Disaster Reduction Day**

Staff Reporter

263 words

13 October 2012

Plus News Pakistan

PMPLUN

English

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RAWALPINDI: In order to commemorate the International

Disaster Reduction Day, Rescue 1122 organized a special function in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and PDMA at Emergency Services Academy, Lahore on Saturday.

The Director General, Punjab Emergency Service (Rescue 1122) Dr Rizwan Naseer while addressing the rescuers from all the Districts of Punjab and other provinces asked them to ensure disaster reduction through community participation to create disaster resilient communities.

He said the **International Day for Disaster Reduction** is a day to celebrate how people and communities are reducing their risk to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of DRR.

He said "today the citizens of Pakistan have been provided with the basic right to timely emergency care by Rescue 1122, in case of accidents, emergencies and disasters". After achieving the target of saving lives, it was the mission of Rescue 1122 to change minds so that we could promote a culture of safety where the loss of life and property due to accidents, fires, and disasters can be prevented.

In this regard, Rescue 1122 has launched several programs in order to create awareness about the importance of disaster reduction, as this day encourages every citizen and government to take part in building more disaster resilient communities and nations.

At the end of the ceremony, a special dua was offered by all rescuers to remember the victims of October 2005 Earthquake, floods victims, and victims of the recent back-to-back fire incidents, which took place in Lahore and Karachi

Document PMPLUN0020121014e8ad00088

## Bangladesh 5th most disaster-prone country

955 words

14 October 2012

The Financial Express (Bangladesh)

FNEXBD

English

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Bangladesh, Oct. 14 -- Lack of adequate mangrove forests and absence of coastal embankment, Bangladesh is the fifth most natural disaster prone country in the world, according to the World Risk Report prepared by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF).

The latest storm with water surge that had hit southern coast of Bangladesh on Thursday last took a toll of some 30 lives, according to local district administrations.

Most of the coast line has no embankments or mangrove forests and the coastal villages were directly hit by a sudden storm that triggered a low-key water surge, rescuers said.

The World Risk Report published on Thursday last said the Pacific Island states of Vanuatu and Tonga have the highest disaster risk while Malta, in the southern Europe in the Mediterranean, and Qatar on the northeasterly coast of the Arabian Peninsula, face the lowest risk among 173 countries on which the report was prepared.

The report said out of top 15 countries most were at risk of natural disasters, eight were island states, many of them in South-East Asia and the Pacific. Due to their proximity to the sea, these countries are especially at risk of cyclones, flooding and sea-surge, the report that was launched to coincide with the **International Day for Disaster Reduction** on Saturday, said.

Besides, the countries in the entire regions of Central America, Oceania, the Southern Sahel and South-East Asia are also vulnerable to disasters.

The report said lack of or deforestation of mangrove forests, absence of or destruction of embankments and coral reefs in South-East Asia had led to worsening soil erosion and the exacerbation of storms, floods and landslides.

In Bangladesh, deforestation and levelling of hills trigger deadly landslides almost every year killing hundreds of people, especially during monsoon, according to disaster management officials.

Nearly 200 people were killed in landslides in southeastern Chittagong region in July, this year. Unplanned urbanisation and deforestation are the main cause of hill-slides in the region, according to the officials at the ministry of food and disaster management (MoFDM).

The report, released on Thursday by the German Alliance for Development Works, the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security and the Nature Conservancy, dwelt on the risks of and solutions to natural disasters and determine the risk of becoming the victim of a disaster as a result of natural hazards.

"Disaster prevention [methods] taking 'green solutions' into account should become a fundamental part of international development negotiations," said Peter Mucke, director of Alliance Development Works, at the launch of the report in Brussels.

Evidence shows that intact ecosystems can significantly reduce disaster risk, the report says, but these insights have been given "too little attention by politics and science".

There is now a need to "identify places where conservation and restoration of ecosystems represent particularly good solutions for risk reduction". And there is a need for better data and the integration of local studies into international disaster-preparedness plans.

"The new World Risk Report gives us a vivid picture of how environmental destruction on a global scale is increasingly becoming a direct threat to human beings as well," said Mucke.

The report blamed environmental degradation as a significant factor that reduces the capacity of societies to deal with disaster risk in many countries around the world.

As the environmental degradation was faster in the past decade until 2011 there were 4,130 incidents of natural disasters across the world killing more than a million people and causing economic losses worth \$1.20 trillion, the report said.

"This report illustrates the powerful role that nature can play in reducing risks to people and property from coastal hazards like storms, erosion and floods," said Dr Michael Beck, Lead Marine Scientist at The Nature Conservancy.

"Coral reefs, oyster reefs and mangroves offer flexible, cost-effective, and sustainable first lines of defence, as well as other benefits like healthy fisheries and tourism that sea walls and breakwaters will never provide," Dr Beck said.

The Conservancy's Drs Michael Beck and Christine Shepard, co-authors of the WRR, found that there are 200 million people who may receive risk reduction from coral reefs alone or may have to bear higher costs of disasters if the reefs are degraded.

These are people in villages, towns, and cities who live in low, risk prone coastal areas (below 10m elevation) and within 50 km of coral reefs.

Where the most people could benefit from these natural systems is often where their impacts and loss have been the greatest.

The countries with the highest number of at-risk people who may receive risk reduction benefits from reefs (people living at elevations below 10 meters and within 50 kilometers of coral reefs) are Indonesia and India, with more than 35 million people in danger in both nations.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday urged for building more cyclone shelter centers in the coastal areas to protect people during cyclonic storm and tidal surge.

Bangladesh, a low lying country with 34 percent people living in coastal areas, needs more cyclone centers for the people in the backdrop of rise in intensity and frequency of cyclones and water surges, she said.

"So, we have to build all infrastructures in coastal areas capable to give shelter to people," she said while addressing the inaugural programme of the **International Day for Disaster Reduction** in Dhaka.

The country has so far built some nearly 400 shelters in the coastal districts, officials at MoFDM said. Published by HT Syndication with permission from The Financial Express.

Document FNEXBD0020121014e8ae00003

## State and District Disaster Management Plans need to be put in place: Vohra

820 words

13 October 2012

Kashmir Images

HTKASI

English

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SRINAGAR, Oct. 13 -- N. N. Vohra, Governor Jammu and Kashmir, Saturday stressed the high importance of putting in place State and District Disaster Management Plans on urgent basis and forging effective partnerships for reducing the earthquake risks and promoting mitigation and preparedness measures in the State.

The Governor, as Chief Guest, was inaugurating a 3-day Workshop on "Urban Earthquake Disaster Risk Reduction" at the Kashmir University here today. This Workshop has been organized by the Kashmir University in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The Governor observed that as no reliable scientific tools have so far been developed for accurate forecasting of an earthquake, the best option available is to ensure most effective preparedness to mitigate the consequences of any natural or manmade disaster. In this context, he stressed the vital importance of enlarging awareness about all aspects of disaster preparedness on a continuing basis.

Vohra observed that the entire North West Himalayan Region was seismically vulnerable and J&K State was in seismic zones IV and V while Srinagar was itself in Zone V which has witnessed several earthquakes in the past. The 2005 Uri earthquake had resulted in over 76,000 killed and over a lakh injured on both sides of the LoC, besides considerable loss of property. He said that to meet future disasters it is necessary for taking every required step to remain fully prepared. He called for organizing area-wise training workshops by involving students, Scouts, Guides, NCC Cadets, Civil Defence volunteers, engineers and the society at large to cope with any arising situation in the future.

The Governor while congratulating Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Kashmir University, and his colleagues for timely organizing this Workshop on a most relevant subject, suggested to the Vice Chancellor to organize more such workshops in different areas to enlarge the awareness all across the Valley. He added that the Kashmir University and its various scientific departments have to play a great role in this effort.

The Governor thanked the NDMA for their support and help in imparting training to the personnel who manage the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and Shri Amarnathji Shrine pilgrimages in the various aspects of disaster management. Referring to the installation of three Advanced Warning Systems in the Amarnathji Shrine area by the Meteorological Department during this year's Yatra, the Governor said that this provided better and more accurate weather reports. He hoped that the Doppler Radar would also be soon established at Srinagar, which will provide a huge facility for more accurate weather prediction in the Kashmir Valley.

Later, the Governor inaugurated an Exhibition of the sophisticated life saving disaster response equipments put up by the 7th National Disaster Response Force under the aegis of NDMA at the University Campus. He took keen interest in the equipments and stressed for adequately training the personnel in using this equipment to the best advantage.

In his Presidential address, M. Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman, NDMA, addressing the inaugural session of the Workshop, dwelt on the various initiatives being taken by the NDMA to enlarge awareness about the preparedness and mitigation vis-a-vis earthquakes. In this context, he said that NDMA has taken the initiative to launch first ever Multi State Earthquake Preparedness Campaign. He also stressed for safe construction standards of buildings, particularly in earthquake vulnerable States like J&K. He thanked the Governor for inaugurating the Workshop.

Dr. Harsh Gupta, Member, NDMA, said that the UN General Assembly has decided to designate 13th October as **International Day for Disaster Reduction** and expressed happiness that organizing of this Workshop coincides with this important Day. He said that J&K should be made as earthquake free as possible.

Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad, Member, NDMA, emphasized on the construction of earthquake-resistant buildings and training of engineers and masons in the State.

Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Secretary, Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, threw light on the measures being taken and approaches developed in regard to understandings about earthquakes as well as preparedness and mitigation aspects thereof.

In his welcome address, Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Kashmir University, gave details of the topics to be discussed during the technical sessions of the Workshop. He also dwelt on the aims and objects of this Workshop, adding that 2000 students of the University, various colleges and schools would be trained during this scientific event through lectures, technical talks and demonstrations.

Prof. Nilofer Khan, Dean Students Welfare, University of Kashmir, presented a Vote of Thanks.

The Deans, Heads of Departments, Faculty members, students of the University and delegates participating in the Workshop were present on the occasion. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Kashmir Images.

Document HTKASI0020121014e8ad00035

News

**Int'l Day for Disaster Reduction**

Staff Reporter

210 words

13 October 2012

The Financial Daily

PMFIND

English

Copyright © 2012. The Financial Daily.

ISLAMABAD: The world is celebrating the **international day for disaster reduction** (IDDR) today. The focus of this year's IDDR is "Women and Girls: the [in] visible Force for Resilience".

The observance of IDDR is seen as a way of promoting a global culture of disaster reduction, including disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness, started in 1989, with the approval of the UN General Assembly.

The aim behind celebration of the widely-observed day is to how people and communities are reducing their risk to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of disaster risk reduction.

The observance of the day is important in creating social demand and mobilizing the wider public to get involved and take ownership of the processes to create disaster resilience.

The International theme for IDDR 2012, 'Women and Girls -The [In] visible Force of Resilience', draws attention to the fact that women's contributions to protect and rebuild their communities before and after disasters are often unrecognized.

The aim of this year's celebration is to acknowledge and appreciate the millions of women and girls who make their communities more resilient to disasters and climate risks and thus reap the benefits of and protect their development investments.

Document PMFIND0020121013e8ad00045

National  
**Int'l Day for Disaster Reduction today**

UNBConnect

477 words

13 October 2012

United News of Bangladesh Limited

UNIBAG

English

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Dhaka, Oct 13 (UNB) - The **International Day for Disaster Reduction** is being observed in the country as elsewhere across the world on Saturday to address the consequences of disasters through mass awareness.

This year's theme of the day is 'Women and Girls: The invisible force for Resilience'.

Marking the day, the Disaster Management Ministry has chalked out various programmes, including rally, discussion, workshop, seminar, art competition, essay competition and demonstrations on earthquake.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the day at a function at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city in this (Saturday) morning.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the occasion.

In his message, the President said: "Half of the country's population is women... women, children and senior citizens are the worst victims during any disaster. So, this year's theme of day is a time-befitting one."

The Prime Minister, in her message, said disasters affect the women and men equally, but due to social limitations, the vulnerability of women is more during disaster.

She hoped that women's participation will be strengthened and wider awareness will be raised in disaster risk reduction initiatives by observing the **International Day for Disaster Reduction**.

Hasina said they enacted the Standing Orders on Disaster in 1997 and revised it in 2010 to make it more time-befitting. "The government also adopted the National Plan for Disaster Management 2010-2015 and the Cyclone Shelter Construction, Maintenance and Management Policy, 2011."

Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat on Friday, Disaster Management and Relief Minister Abul Hasan Mahmud Ali said that his ministry will organise a rally in the city on Saturday morning.

He said the rally will begin from the Central Shahid Minar premises and will terminate after reaching in front of the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

AH Mahmud Ali said the women and girls may play an important role in reducing disaster risk and can help cope with its adverse consequences.

He said this year's theme of the day -- 'Women and Girls: The invisible force for Resilience' -- focuses on women and girls who can work as an associate force to reduce disaster risk.

The Minister said Bangladesh has been identified as a disaster-prone country due to its geographical location, huge population and poverty.

"The natural disasters are the common phenomena in the country. Flood, cyclone, erosion, landslide, drought, erratic rainfall, flash flood, water logging, and salinity hit the country every year."

He said the intensity of the natural disasters is increasing in the country due to global climate change and as Bangladesh is located in seismic zone, it is also vulnerable to earthquake.

Disaster Management and Relief secretary Dr M Aslam Alam and director of Bangladesh Meteorological Department Arjumand Habib also spoke at the press conference.

Document UNIBAG0020121013e8ad0000i

## Disaster reduction: UN highlights key role of women

India Blooms News Service

Distributed by Contify.com

676 words

13 October 2012

India Blooms News Service

ATIBNS

English

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Washington, Oct 13 (IBNS) Marking the **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, United Nations officials have called for women and girls to be at the forefront of reducing risk and managing the world's response to natural hazards.

"Across the world, women and girls are using their roles within families and communities to strengthen risk reduction," said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his message for the Day, which falls on 13 October.

The General Assembly designated 13 October as the **International Day for Disaster Reduction** in 2009, replacing an earlier version of the Day. Its objective is to raise awareness of how people are taking action to reduce their risk to disasters.

The theme of for this year's Day is 'Women and Girls: the [in]Visible Force of Resilience' - an estimated 200 million young people are affected by reported disasters each year and thousands of them are killed and injured.

In his message, Mr. Ban stressed that women's leadership in this area is increasingly valuable as climate change intensifies and the world struggles to cope with extreme weather.

"In Bangladesh, women organized themselves to prepare for and respond to floods by teaching other women how to build portable clay ovens and elevate houses," Mr. Ban said. "In South Africa, marginalized adolescent girls have been empowered to help design plans to reduce the impact of drought and severe wind storms."

The Secretary-General also noted that women and girls are a force of resilience and that encouraging them to take on leadership roles on disaster risk reduction will benefit entire communities.

"The best disaster recovery programmes in the world involve women who have survived such events. If we are to build true disaster resilience we need to put the emphasis on their greater involvement before disasters strike," said Margareta Wahlstrom, the Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the part of the UN responsible for the issue, as well as the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Ms. Wahlstrom added that women's efforts to build resilience to disasters often go unrecognized, and the Day would help raise awareness of their key role in communities where they are many times in charge of decisions such as securing food, water and energy.

In her message for the Day, the Director-General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Irina Bokova, emphasized that women are "disproportionately affected by disasters because of social roles, discrimination and poverty," and recalled that a gender perspective had been integrated into the design and implementation of all disaster reduction policy in the "Rio+20 Outcome Document" of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this year.

"Discrimination is a violation of human rights - it is also bad policy," she said, adding that women should not be discriminated and instead must be "powerful agents of change," to ensure a sustainable future.

"This is why we are committed to empowering girls and women through education - to allow them to take charge of their lives and those of their families and communities," Ms. Bokova said. "Women must participate fully in planning and implementing all disaster risk reduction measures."

To this end, UNESCO's Global Partnership on Women and Girls' Education has been training young women in disaster-prone countries such as Haiti, Myanmar, Pakistan and Indonesia on how to reduce their vulnerability to disasters and increase their resilience, the cultural agency's chief added.

A wide range of events are taking place around the world this week to mark the Day, including tsunami drills in Myanmar, a workshop on gender-based violence in Vanuatu, community work in Rwanda, a poster and



essay contest in the Philippines, a panel discussion at George Washington University in the United States, an education seminar in Nicaragua, and a seismic risk discussion in Greece, among others.

Photo Courtesy: UNICEF

Images, graphs or charts, if any, have been removed

Document ATIBNS0020121013e8ad0005o

## Over 800 mln Chinese disaster victims aided in last decade

wangxiaopeng

195 words

13 October 2012

12:47

Xinhua News Agency

XNEWS

English

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BEIJING, Oct. 13 (Xinhua) -- About 855 million people affected by natural disasters have received assistance from the government over the last decade, according to data from the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Emergency aid and reconstruction for major natural disasters that occurred over the last decade has been completed, the ministry said Saturday, which is also the 23rd **International Day for Disaster Reduction**.

Government investment in disaster reduction allowances jumped from 2.4 billion yuan (about 390 million U.S. dollars) in 2002 to 8.6 billion yuan last year, officials with the ministry said.

The amount of the allowances was also raised during the period, with those who lost their homes due to natural disasters receiving 10,000 yuan per household, up from 300 yuan per household, the ministry said.

The government also established 18 storage depots for relief supplies, with a network of depots extended to the township level, the ministry said.

Multiple droughts, earthquakes and floods have hit several parts of China over the last decade, including severe earthquakes that struck Sichuan and Qinghai provinces in 2008 and 2010, respectively.

Enditem

01

Document XNEWS00020121013e8ad004jx

## Hell's angels

865 words

13 October 2012

Republica

HTREPB

English

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Nepal, Oct. 13 -- HARI KRISHNA NIBANUPUDI

Like many people living in the expansive alluvial fan of the Koshi River, Samitra Devi is part of a poor farming family. Until four years ago, life was hard, but not desperate. She and her family, none of whom had received an education or developed skills of use outside the farm, were able to produce enough food from their small land holding to sustain their needs. That was until August 18, 2008, when the Koshi River broke through its embankment in Kusaha, submerging several districts in Nepal and much of Bihar, India. In four of the most affected VDCs in Nepal, the flood displaced over 70,000 people and swept away 5,000 hectares of fertile land, including Samitra Devi's, next to the East-West Highway in Sunsari District. After the flood receded, Samitra Devi was left with sedimented, uncultivable land, bringing her daily farming activities to a grinding halt. Her only source of livelihood had been washed away.

Using compensations provided by the government, Samitra Devi's family rebuilt their home and sent their son to Saudi Arabia for work. Not having realized that his earnings would be inadequate, his work duties would be unbearable, and his treatment would be cruel, her son returned within months. Without the skills or education to pursue off-farm work, Samitra Devi and other women from her village stayed home, dependent on the income male family members earned as seasonal laborers in Indian towns just over the border, although even these earnings were not always sufficient or sustainable. During this time, Samitra Devi and the other women in her village were extremely vulnerable and struggled to protect young girls from lurking traffickers.

Left with no options and realizing that the removal of sediment-which requires long-term engineering strategies and substantial financial resources-would not be an option to reclaim the land, Samitra Devi took the land's revival into her own hands. "This land gave us life and our livelihood, and now it's our turn to bring life back into the land," she said. Samitra Devi motivated other women in the village and together they initiated collective vegetable cultivation plots in portions of the sedimented soil. After four years, much of the flooded land remains barren, yet through the hard work of these women, patches are coming back to life. Samitra Devi is now able to harvest some produce from the land, bringing dignity and a sense of normalcy back to her family.

This is the story of thousands of women in Nepal affected by floods, forced to take on new roles as household heads and rebuild their families after men temporarily leave home in search of income. While taking on new tasks, these women must still attend to their usual responsibilities, made even more grueling and protracted in the aftermath of flood. However, even as they take on more activities and greater responsibilities, most institutions undervalue their contributions to the economy, whether through agricultural work, domestic work, or home-based livelihoods and small businesses, because key decision making power usually rests in the hands of men.

Furthermore, existing disaster relief frameworks often fail to recognize and support the contributions of women, which, as in the case of Samitra Devi, are crucial not only to their families' survival, but also for the farm ecology and food security of their communities.

There is no dearth of eye-witness accounts of women, especially those from poor communities, who have shown enormous resilience despite the disproportionate amount of challenges they face after disasters. However, just because they are resilient does not mean they should be left to fend for themselves. In the absence of an overarching international legal framework that protects the rights and dignity of disaster-affected populations, the fate of millions of disaster-affected women around the world depends on the discretion of local authorities, the capacities of humanitarian agencies, and existing disaster management policies and practices.

Common models of post-disaster intervention have yet to adequately recognize women-specific needs and vulnerabilities in the aftermath of disaster, which include a greater risk for abuse and trafficking, lack of compensation for the loss of home-based livelihoods, and maternal and reproductive health care requirements that are often ignored. They have also failed to capitalize on women's unique capacities in risk reduction and disaster recovery.

Every October, countries around the world commemorate the **International Day for Disaster Reduction**. This year's theme, 'Women and Girls: The Invisible Force of Resilience', is meant to remind us of the strength

and value that women and girls like Samitra Devi bring-both in reducing the impact of disasters, for example by preparing their own families and communities, and in disaster recovery. Although their contributions are often overlooked and they experience disproportionate challenges after catastrophic natural disasters, women have a key role in bringing families and communities back to normalcy, and it is time that their potential be better recognized and utilized. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Republica.

Document HTREPB0020121012e8ad0015u

Opinion

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION**

350 words

13 October 2012

Manila Bulletin

MABULL

English

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**INTERNATIONAL Day for Disaster Reduction** (IDRR) is a celebration of how people reduce their risk to disasters and their effort to heighten public awareness about the importance of disaster risk reduction in contrast to reactive or disaster response. More lives can be spared and damage to property can be better avoided through this strategy.

With the aim of highlighting the potential and significant partners in disaster risk reduction (DRR), a Step Up initiative was started in 2011 so that thereafter, each year would focus on a different group of partners leading up to the 2015 World Conference for Disaster Reduction. Last year, the focus was on children and young people; this year it is on women and girls; in 2013, the ageing population; and in 2014, people with disabilities. The theme of this year's celebration is 'Women and Girls: the [in]Visible Force of Resilience,' seeks to draw attention to the fact that their invaluable contribution to the protection and rebuilding of their communities are often unrecognized and their ability to contribute is hindered by lack of inclusion and poor understanding of gender inequality.

Women and girls are neither helpless nor passive; Philippine experience can attest to this. While they too fall victims to tragedies and disasters, they endeavor to transcend such state, and contribute what they can to respond to emergencies and address the immediate needs of family and community members. They are endowed with unique knowledge and skills that are crucial in managing disaster risks.

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was originally celebrated every second Wednesday of October by virtue of UN General Assembly Resolution 44/236 dated December 22, 1989. The Assembly, through Resolution 64/200, on December 21, 2009, later designated October 13 as the date to celebrate the IDRR.

We greet the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction led by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction Margareta Wahlstrom on the occasion of the 2012 **International Day for Disaster Reduction**. CONGRATULATIONS AND MABUHAY!

&nbsp;

Document MABULL0020121012e8ad0000o

## Environmental Degradation Increases the Risk of Disasters Worldwide

The Nature Conservancy; PR Newswire

414 words

12 October 2012

03:00

PR Newswire Asia

PRNASI

English

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BRUSSELS, Oct. 12, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- Environmental degradation is a significant factor that reduces the capacity of societies to deal with disaster risk in many countries around the world. This is the key message of the World Risk Report 2012, presented today in Brussels, Belgium by the German Alliance for Development Works (Alliance), United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and The Nature Conservancy.

The report examines the risks of and solutions for natural disasters. The record for the decade 2002 to 2011 is alarming: 4,130 disasters, more than a million deaths and an economic loss of at least 1.195 trillion dollars.

The report's WorldRiskIndex, developed by UNU-EHS in cooperation with the Alliance, determines the risk of becoming the victim of a disaster as a result of natural hazards for 173 countries. The Pacific Island states of Vanuatu and Tonga have the highest disaster risk. Malta and Qatar face the lowest risk. China ranks 78th and is therefore midway in all risk categories.

"This report illustrates the powerful role that nature can play in reducing risks to people and property from coastal hazards like storms, erosion and floods. Coral reefs, oyster reefs and mangroves offer flexible, cost-effective, and sustainable first lines of defense" said Dr. Michael Beck, Lead Marine Scientist at The Nature Conservancy.

The Conservancy's Drs. Beck and Christine Shepard, co-authors of the WRR, found that there are 200 million people who may receive risk reduction from coral reefs alone – which can reduce wave energy by more than 85 percent.

China ranks 4th in the countries with the greatest number of at-risk people who may receive risk reduction benefits from reefs (people living below 10m elevation and within 50km of coral reefs). The top countries are Indonesia and India (> 35 M people each); followed by the Philippines (>20M); China (> 15 M); Brazil, Vietnam and the USA (all > 7M).

The report comes just before the UN's **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, October 13.

-- NOTE: The full report, maps, illustrations and factsheets are available at

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/habitats/oceanscoasts/howwework/2012-world-risk-report.xml>

The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Visit The Nature Conservancy on the Web at <http://www.nature.org>.

SOURCE The Nature Conservancy

Document PRNASI0020121012e8ac00001



## International Day for Disaster Reduction

386 words

10 October 2012

11:48

All Africa

AFNWS

English

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Oct 10, 2012 (United Nations Development Programme/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- In the last decade, almost one million people have been killed by disasters and more than one trillion dollars have been lost. Yet only 1% of international aid is spent to minimise the impact of these disasters.

[Learn more about UNDP's work on Disaster Risk Reduction](#)

Our Stories:

[Reducing the risk of disaster in Armenia](#)

Hovhannes Arakelyan has witnessed hundreds of floods in his remote village of Sipanik, in Western Armenia. "I have seen smashed roads, houses, and crops, and disasters more

[Wounaan women lead recovery from deadly floods](#)

Torrential rains ravaged much of Colombia in 2011, killing hundreds and making thousands homeless. But the women of the indigenous Wounaan people on the Pacific coast more

[Haitian women rebuild their lives one brick at a time](#)

The main driving force for earthquake-damaged house rebuilding in Haiti is not the government, the private sector, NGOs or international organizations. Families and communities have been more

View More:

[Women break ground to rebuild villages in Pakistan](#)

Until last year, 21-year-old Shahzadi worked the land like most people in her remote, rural community in southern Pakistan. But today she's breaking ground in a more

Latest news:

[Cameroon community to return home after lake explosion](#)

Nearly 1,700 people died in 1986 when Cameroon's Lake Nyos suddenly released deadly levels of carbon dioxide into the air, following a build-up of the gas in the lake. Another 10,000 people were uprooted and 3,000 heads of livestock were also lost. "I lost more than 21 members of my family and more

[Supercities face high quake risk:](#)

New York - More than half of the world's supercities, with populations of 2-15 million, are at future risk of being affected by nearby magnitude seven or greater earthquakes, warned Eric Calais, Haiti-based seismologist with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A significant number more

[Helping Haitians prepare for the future:](#)

Cap Haitien, Haiti -- The Government of Haiti and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the first prevention plan to reduce vulnerability to seismic threats. The new plan aims to reduce impacts in earthquake-prone areas by improving resilience of infrastructure and reducing risks more

[previous](#)

[next](#)

Document AFNWS00020121010e8aa000fs





## Heroines of the Floods

by Mabvuto Banda

1,160 words

16 October 2012

11:01

All Africa

AFNWS

English

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Nsanje, Oct 16, 2012 (Inter Press Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- For many women in Malawi's disaster-prone southern district of Nsanje, resilience is essential to survive the cyclical flooding.

Twenty-four-year-old Chrissie Davie, a mother of four, saved two of her three children from drowning when water filled her house as she slept early this year.

About 6,157 families lost their property, over a thousand hectares of crop fields were ruined and 343 houses were destroyed in a matter of minutes when tropical cyclone Funso from the Mozambican channel landed on southern Malawi in January. The region is hit annually by high rainfall around this time of year.

"Water came so quickly that by the time I woke up, it was too late for Chimwemwe, my youngest son," she told IPS.

Chimwemwe was already dead when she reached to pull him out of the floodwaters.

He was only 18 months old.

Davie used an empty drum to float her two remaining children, four-year-old Saulos and two-year-old Moses, to safety.

She reached Chikoje, one of the schools in Traditional Authority Mbenje, southern Malawi.

But within hours, she, together with the others who sought safety there, abandoned the school when the floodwaters rose. They walked for hours to reach a Malawi Defence Forces emergency camp called Nyatwa.

Sandram Chale recalls how in 2003 his wife saved him when flash floods hit their village in Nsanje.

"My wife firmly gripped my right hand and dragged me out of the water that had filled our house as we slept ... I was too drunk, too weak to swim," Chale said. He was talking about the flooding caused by two weeks of torrential rains that destroyed thousands of homes in eight districts, leaving 300,000 people destitute, eight people dead and several missing.

Dorothy Chale did not only save her husband. She also saved her four children from drowning when raging waters crashed into their home after the banks of the Ruo and Shire rivers burst.

These are some of the untold stories of extraordinary bravery by women in this part of the country. But they are not the only ones coping in times of disaster here.

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), this landlocked, resource-poor southern African nation is vulnerable to a wide range of shocks and disasters, including yearly flooding and drought once every three to five years.

"Although the likely impact of climate change cannot yet be specified for Malawi with a high level of confidence, forecasts for southern Africa indicate that it is likely to face some of the most extreme climate changes," the UNDP says.

Because 65 percent of the country's population live below the poverty line, with an overwhelming large percentage of Malawi's 16 million people located in rural areas and dependent on maize for their livelihoods, there is a need to "elaborate a national disaster risk reduction strategy and integrate it in government policies and programmes," according to the UNDP.

Malawi began prioritising risk reduction in 2009, and the country's Department of Disaster Management Affairs was allocated about 99,000 dollars to raise awareness for disaster risk management in the 2011/2012 budget.

About 3.2 million dollars is set aside for responding to disasters, according to a joint report by the Malawi Economic Justice Network, Christian Aid and the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy. However, this is retained by the Treasury and not the disaster management department.

"The Department of Disaster Management Affairs needs to have its own vote with adequate resources for their activities other than waiting for the same from the Treasury. This would enhance their programming as some of the disasters have actually become very predictable of late," stated the report titled "2011/2012 Draft National Budget Analysis with Focus on Climate Change".

Agnes Chembe, 25, has learned through bitter experience the devastating consequences of these "predictable" disasters.

"My house used to be close to the river, but it was swept away during the last floods. It was destroyed," she told IPS.

She is now living in a grass house about a kilometre from the Shire River.

It is the third time she has been forced to move because of flooding. Like most of the villagers in Nsanje, she now uses local knowledge to prepare for the next floods.

"I know for instance that the coming rainy season will not bring devastating floods like last year's," she said.

"But I am already preparing to move upland before disaster strikes," said the mother of three who lives alone with her children. Her husband, she said, works in Blantyre, the country's commercial capital, and only returns home once every six months.

District Commissioner for Nsanje Rodney Simwaka described the women in this region as invisible heroines.

"We always look at them as the victims and ignore their resilience in surviving these disasters because most of these women are home alone, their husbands are in town working when floods hit," he told IPS.

"In most instances it is a woman who makes plans to move some property to another house on the high land, it's a woman who uses local knowledge on how to survive and save her children first," said Simwaka.

James Chiusiwa, of the Department of Poverty Management and Disaster Preparedness, agreed.

"What these women do is extraordinary, especially when you look at the fact that they are the most vulnerable in such situations. They survive the floods, continue to feed the family, and sustain the household all the time," he told IPS.

On Oct. 13 the **International Day for Disaster Reduction** focused on highlight the need for women and girls to be at the forefront of reducing risk and managing the world's response to natural hazards. Cyclical natural disasters are not a new phenomenon and it is not uncommon for rivers in this part of Malawi to burst their banks.

However, a recent increase in the frequency and intensity of floods has made the area both dangerous and difficult to farm, according to group village headman Osiyina

"We used to have floods every five years, but now they come almost every year," he told IPS. "They are also a lot more violent and bigger than before and are now a serious threat to the livelihood of our villages, especially the women and children."

Davie knows that her village is in a disaster-prone area and she always prepares for the worst. But she breaks down when she remembers how her child died, because she blames herself for being unable to save him.

"This is what I fear most all the time. I cannot afford to lose another child to floods and that in a way is my motivation to stay strong and to be always ready to survive against all odds when disaster strikes," she said.

Document AFNWS00020121016e8ag000bn

General News

**Vietnam: Danang supports Int'l Day for Disaster Reduction**

202 words

16 October 2012

Thai News Service

THAINS

English

(c) 2012 Thai News Service

Section: General News - A meeting to support **International Day for Disaster Reduction** was held in the central city of Danang on October 13.

Delegates confirmed that women and girls are a resilient force who can help mitigate the risks of natural disasters, and encouraged them to support their families and communities in coping with these disasters.

After the meeting, more than 300 Red Cross volunteers, women and students paraded through the city's main streets to disseminate information on minimizing damages caused by disasters in the community.

Deputy Head of the city Red Cross Society, Nguyen Thuan, said, in addition to the meeting, there is a photography exhibition showcasing all the efforts to mitigate the impact of natural disasters.

Women and girls play a vital role in these activities by carefully preparing food before the disasters occur, he added.

Over the years, the Red Cross Society has cooperated with organizations in the city to run training courses on risk management for coastal people face from natural disasters, as well as drills for evacuation, search and rescue. It has also provided life-jackets and warning systems for schools and the community. - VOV

Document THAINS0020121015e8ag0001q

## Q&A: DISASTER RESILIENCE STARTS WITH GRASSROOTS WOMEN

By Julia Kallas

1,051 words

15 October 2012

Inter Press Service

IPRS

English

(c) 2012 Global Information Network

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 13, 2012 (IPS/GIN) - Women and girls can be powerful agents of change, but they are disproportionately affected by disasters because of social roles, discrimination and poverty.

The **International Day for Disaster Reduction** on Saturday this year celebrates the theme of *Women and Girls – the Visible Force of Resilience*.

IPS correspondent Julia Kallas sat down with three women – Josephine Castillo, grassroots community leader and organizer with DAMPA in Manila, Philippines; Haydee Rodríguez, president of the Union of Women's Cooperatives, Las Brumas, in Jinotega, Nicaragua; and Violet Shivutse, leader and founder of Shibuye Community Health Workers in Kenya – to talk about the importance of girls and women as actors and leaders for resilience.

Q: You all come from very different backgrounds and contexts. Can you briefly talk about the main challenges you face in regard to building resilience in the community you live in?

JOSEPHINE CASTILLO: I am one of the board directors of my community's association. It is a homeowner's association, we have 421 community members and everybody owns their land since 1995. This is due to a successful programme that our association made with the national government, which provided women with mortgages to buy their houses.

We have programmes that bring our community together in case a disaster hits us. We train quick response teams with the collaboration of our local government and our resilience programmes have also a partnership with the Huairou Commission and GROOTS International.

In August, people affected by the floods in Manila were brought to our resettlement sites, which rescue families affected by flooding and earthquake. Natural disasters are happening more often because of climate change so we need to have climate adaptation, disaster mitigation and resilience programmes.

HAYDEE RODRIGUEZ: I am the president of the Union of Women's Cooperatives, Las Brumas in Jinotega, Nicaragua, and we have created 20 grassroots women's cooperatives with a total of 1,200 associated women and other 960 that are indirectly associated.

In our community we are facing a lot of difficulties with climate change and land ownership allocation. So through our resilience work we created a programme to cultivate food and medicine plants in the houses of our community as well as a programme to help build a better dialogue between community and government.

We have also succeeded in inserting grassroots women to participate in governmental parties. The next elections, which will take place on the 4th of November, have the involvement of 14 grassroots women inside of the parties.

VIOLET SHIVUTSE: When I used to work in an office that registered farmers, I came across lots of working pregnant women who were having problems giving birth. Most of them died during delivery, others had complicated births when the child died or the women had been sick for a long time after.

The main problem was to help and ensure that these women reached the local hospital, because the distance and the high cost of the services did not encourage them. Then I started thinking how we could help these women who are very important for the community. So that is how I started getting involved with community work and women's health issues.

HIV/AIDS funds, food security, periods of draught and flooding are the biggest problems in my community. Water, sanitation and hygiene are also big problems for children in schools. When I realised these problems were rising, I brought grassroots women together to work on the development of our community. We started a community-based organization called the Shibuye Community Health Workers, which today brings together 2,036 grassroots women in Kenya who work on these issues.

Q: Why is it important to focus on women and girls in the context of disaster reduction?

JC: Because women and girls are the most affected when it comes to disaster. They need to be prepared and trained. We don't like to say that we are vulnerable, but we are. When we talk about resilience work we are not only talking about natural disaster. Lack of education also means disaster. Woman and girls cannot get jobs if they are not educated. That is also why women need to be involved in international conferences, to show our needs and fight for our rights.

HR: Women resilience work is important because we need to work for our lives and the lives of our community. Women need to work in resilience because if we do not take care of water, for example, there will be no cultivation and if there is no production, there is hunger.

VS: We believe that resilience starts with women. They are the ones taking care of the rural communities because men migrate to the urban areas to find jobs. So the impact of disaster for women and girls is very high. We encourage women to work in groups so they can understand how to build resilience. Resilience means having food in their houses, resilience means establishing food storages, resilience means identifying natural resources and protecting them. We also believe that it is important to teach our girls the importance of resilience work so when they become adults and mothers they can help their communities.

Q: What is the road to building efficient women-led resilience projects?

JC: It is important to have collaboration and partnerships with local government, institutions and organizations around the world. Also, local to local dialogue is very important. Organizations have to focus on more than one issue, because focusing in only one issue can burn them out, and if that issue is solved you have nothing else to work on. Our programmes came from our people, not from our funders.

HR: I believe we need to work on encouraging women to able to participate of decision making and leadership positions. Organizations should support and encourage women innovations by providing them with resources .Also, grassroots women should share their work and projects with other communities in order to help others developing resilient work too.

VS: First, we need to educate women and girlsà because if they are not educated they cannot get involved in community work. Second point is to make women stronger politically and economically. Give them more value and equality within the work environment.

Document IPRS000020121015e8af0000a

## **For International Day for Disaster Reduction, UN highlights key role of women and girls**

699 words

12 October 2012

M2 Presswire

MTPW

English

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Marking the **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, United Nations officials have called for women and girls to be at the forefront of reducing risk and managing the world's response to natural hazards.

"Across the world, women and girls are using their roles within families and communities to strengthen risk reduction," said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his message for the Day, which falls on 13 October.

The General Assembly designated 13 October as the **International Day for Disaster Reduction** in 2009, replacing an earlier version of the Day. Its objective is to raise awareness of how people are taking action to reduce their risk to disasters.

The theme of for this year's Day is ' Women and Girls: the [in]Visible Force of Resilience ' — an estimated 200 million young people are affected by reported disasters each year and thousands of them are killed and injured.

In his message, Mr. Ban stressed that women's leadership in this area is increasingly valuable as climate change intensifies and the world struggles to cope with extreme weather.

"In Bangladesh, women organized themselves to prepare for and respond to floods by teaching other women how to build portable clay ovens and elevate houses," Mr. Ban said. "In South Africa, marginalized adolescent girls have been empowered to help design plans to reduce the impact of drought and severe wind storms."

The Secretary-General also noted that women and girls are a force of resilience and that encouraging them to take on leadership roles on disaster risk reduction will benefit entire communities.

"The best disaster recovery programmes in the world involve women who have survived such events. If we are to build true disaster resilience we need to put the emphasis on their greater involvement before disasters strike," said Margareta Wahlström, the Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the part of the UN responsible for the issue, as well as the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Ms. Wahlström added that women's efforts to build resilience to disasters often go unrecognized, and the Day would help raise awareness of their key role in communities where they are many times in charge of decisions such as securing food, water and energy.

In her message for the Day, the Director-General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ( UNESCO ), Irina Bokova, emphasized that women are "disproportionately affected by disasters because of social roles, discrimination and poverty," and recalled that a gender perspective had been integrated into the design and implementation of all disaster reduction policy in the " Rio+20 Outcome Document" of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this year.

"Discrimination is a violation of human rights — it is also bad policy," she said, adding that women should not be discriminated and instead must be "powerful agents of change," to ensure a sustainable future.

"This is why we are committed to empowering girls and women through education — to allow them to take charge of their lives and those of their families and communities," Ms. Bokova said. "Women must participate fully in planning and implementing all disaster risk reduction measures."

To this end, UNESCO's Global Partnership on Women and Girls' Education has been training young women in disaster-prone countries such as Haiti, Myanmar, Pakistan and Indonesia on how to reduce their vulnerability to disasters and increase their resilience, the cultural agency's chief added.

A wide range of events are taking place around the world this week to mark the Day, including tsunami drills in Myanmar, a workshop on gender-based violence in Vanuatu, community work in Rwanda, a poster and essay contest in the Philippines, a panel discussion at George Washington University in the United States, an education seminar in Nicaragua, and a seismic risk discussion in Greece, among others.

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Document MTPW000020121015e8ac001gx

## **On International Day for Disaster Reduction, UN highlights key role of women and girls**

699 words

13 October 2012

M2 Presswire

MTPW

English

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Marking the **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, United Nations officials have called for women and girls to be at the forefront of reducing risk and managing the world's response to natural hazards.

"Across the world, women and girls are using their roles within families and communities to strengthen risk reduction," said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his message for the Day, which falls on 13 October.

The General Assembly designated 13 October as the **International Day for Disaster Reduction** in 2009, replacing an earlier version of the Day. Its objective is to raise awareness of how people are taking action to reduce their risk to disasters.

The theme of for this year's Day is ' Women and Girls: the [in]Visible Force of Resilience ' — an estimated 200 million young people are affected by reported disasters each year and thousands of them are killed and injured.

In his message, Mr. Ban stressed that women's leadership in this area is increasingly valuable as climate change intensifies and the world struggles to cope with extreme weather.

"In Bangladesh, women organized themselves to prepare for and respond to floods by teaching other women how to build portable clay ovens and elevate houses," Mr. Ban said. "In South Africa, marginalized adolescent girls have been empowered to help design plans to reduce the impact of drought and severe wind storms."

The Secretary-General also noted that women and girls are a force of resilience and that encouraging them to take on leadership roles on disaster risk reduction will benefit entire communities.

"The best disaster recovery programmes in the world involve women who have survived such events. If we are to build true disaster resilience we need to put the emphasis on their greater involvement before disasters strike," said Margareta Wahlström, the Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the part of the UN responsible for the issue, as well as the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Ms. Wahlström added that women's efforts to build resilience to disasters often go unrecognized, and the Day would help raise awareness of their key role in communities where they are many times in charge of decisions such as securing food, water and energy.

In her message for the Day, the Director-General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ( UNESCO ), Irina Bokova, emphasized that women are "disproportionately affected by disasters because of social roles, discrimination and poverty," and recalled that a gender perspective had been integrated into the design and implementation of all disaster reduction policy in the " Rio+20 Outcome Document" of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this year.

"Discrimination is a violation of human rights — it is also bad policy," she said, adding that women should not be discriminated and instead must be "powerful agents of change," to ensure a sustainable future.

"This is why we are committed to empowering girls and women through education — to allow them to take charge of their lives and those of their families and communities," Ms. Bokova said. "Women must participate fully in planning and implementing all disaster risk reduction measures."

To this end, UNESCO's Global Partnership on Women and Girls' Education has been training young women in disaster-prone countries such as Haiti, Myanmar, Pakistan and Indonesia on how to reduce their vulnerability to disasters and increase their resilience, the cultural agency's chief added.

A wide range of events are taking place around the world this week to mark the Day, including tsunami drills in Myanmar, a workshop on gender-based violence in Vanuatu, community work in Rwanda, a poster and essay contest in the Philippines, a panel discussion at George Washington University in the United States, an education seminar in Nicaragua, and a seismic risk discussion in Greece, among others.



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Document MTPW000020121015e8ad000mb

ANDHRA PRADESH

**Create awareness on protection during calamities, State urged**

Staff Reporter

195 words

14 October 2012

The Hindu

THINDU

English

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VIJAYAWADA, ANDHRA PRADESH There is a need for awareness among people on how to protect themselves and their property during calamities, said the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) Director Kotla Shiv Shankar Rao.

Speaking at a programme on the occasion of **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, he said people, who were living near water bodies, were at risk of such losses. The government enacted a law in 2005 for protection of the common man in such situations, but there was a lack of awareness about it, said the MEPMA Director.

Basic facilities provided to people living near to the shore must be improved and they should be constantly updated about information regarding natural disasters, Mr. Shiva Shankar Rao said.

At the same time awareness must be created among people on how to protect themselves and their property during a calamity, he added.

People should also take precautions to protect them and their families, said Mr. Shiv Shankar. They should equip themselves with a disaster kit that contains essentials such as medicines, drinking water, torch light, food etc., he said.

Document THINDU0020121014e8ae0002w

## **The Health Protection Agency: International Day for Disaster Reduction**

Distributed by Contify.com

320 words

12 October 2012

India Pharma News

ATPHAM

English

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New Delhi, Oct. 12 -- The Health Protection Agency is flagging tomorrow's United Nations **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, which has as its theme this year Women and Girls-the [in]Visible Force of Resilience. The aim of the day is to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions that women make towards making communities more resilient to climate risks.

Last year the HPA, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, published a fact sheet on the impacts of disasters on sexual and reproductive health. This was because reproductive health services can be disrupted by disasters, and this can lead to a range of adverse public health outcomes. The fact sheet is aimed at those involved in disaster recovery efforts.

Professor Virginia Murray, head of Extreme Events and Health Protection at the HPA, said: "Evidence shows that women and girls are often among the most affected by disasters as gender inequality puts them in greater danger when natural hazards strike. Evidence also indicates that women are powerful agents of change in disaster risk reduction and have a central role in creating resilient communities. It has been demonstrated that women prepare their families for disasters and are integral to the recovery process following disasters. Household climate change adaptation measures are more likely to be implemented if women are involved in the entire process, and women should always be part of planning, policy and implementation processes.

"It is vitally important that we celebrate the contributions of women to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. There are countless examples from around the world of women's efforts to make their communities more resilient, and these actions inspire us all to become more aware of our changing climates and how we can work together to achieve greater resiliency in the face of disasters."

Images, graphs or charts, if any, have been removed

Document ATPHAM0020121013e8ac000ej

Esteri

**Clima: Agire, nel 2011 27mila morti per disastri naturali e 380 mld di dollari di danni (2)**

162 words

12 October 2012

19:11

Adnkronos - General

GENNEW

Italian

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(Adnkronos) - L'Organizzazione Meteorologica Mondiale ha evidenziato come per ogni dollaro investito nella prevenzione se ne potrebbero risparmiare circa 7 in assistenza umanitaria e ricostruzione. Ad oggi sui primi 40 paesi beneficiari di assistenza umanitaria, solamente l'1% degli aiuti viene destinato alla riduzione dei rischi da disastro. Nel 2005 la Piattaforma Globale per la Riduzione del Rischio, creata durante la conferenza di Hyogo, ha proposto un piano decennale per rafforzare la resilienza di città, comunità e nazioni, riducendo le conseguenze dei disastri.

Nel 2009 i rappresentanti della Piattaforma hanno lanciato un appello per destinare il 10% degli aiuti umanitari a programmi di Disaster Risk Reduction. "Un obiettivo -conclude Bertotto- che purtroppo resta assai distante dalla realtà, soprattutto in Italia. Agire si fa portavoce di questa istanza, unendosi all'appello internazionale di Step Up per l'**International Day for Disaster Reduction**".

(Vab/Ope/Adnkronos)

Document GENNEW0020121013e8ac000qv

## Women tackle climate change

579 words

13 October 2012

Vietnam News Agency Bulletin

VIETNA

English

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Hanoi, Oct. 13 (VNA) - Women in Vietnam should be recognised for their contributions to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, a conference heard on October 12.

Speaking at the conference on the occasion of **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, Nguyen Thi Tuyet, vice president of the Vietnam Women's Union, said women took part in most disaster preparedness activities, including preparing food and drinks, harvesting, repairing houses, packing and finding safe places for valuables and having plans for evacuation.

However, limited understanding and stereotyping of women and their roles prevented them from gaining new skills to cope with natural disasters.

"Women have been seen as victims instead of crucial actors in disaster management. They have little chance to make decisions. Thus, households led by females tended to be those with the lowest resilience after natural disasters," Tuyet said.

Louise Chamberlain, United Nations Development Programme country director, said women and girls hardly voiced their needs or talked about their skills and experiences in protecting their families and communities in disaster situations.

"This is equally true in Vietnam because each woman and man, girl or boy, living in flood areas has made significant contributions in raising awareness and building safer communities," she said.

According to United Nations-Oxfam's policy brief on gender equality, Vietnamese women were rarely involved in making decisions on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in local governments, such as the Committee for Flood and Storm Control and Search and Rescue Committees. They simply accepted tasks of food distribution and first aid.

In Vietnam, a project on enhancing women's capacity to cope with natural disasters had been implemented in central Phu Yen and Binh Dinh provinces in 2010-11 by the Vietnam Women's Union.

In Binh Dinh Province 's coastal Phuoc Son commune, a flood-prone area with 2,600 people living on aquaculture and agriculture, local women knew how to build riverside embankments, move livestock to higher places, store clean water and other necessities seven days before a storm and stamp out epidemics after floods.

Phan Thu Trang, a disseminator and head of Phuoc Son commune's Women Union, said local women are more active and know exactly what to do before, during and after floods and storms to regain their life. More and more husbands are agreeing to let their wives join disaster prevention work.

As a result, the women's union had become a permanent member of the provincial Committee for Flood and Storm Control and had had their own voice over natural disaster prevention and control, she said.

At the meeting, experts suggested basic skills, such as learning how to swim, should be boosted for those in affected areas.

The Vietnam Women's Union and other women's organisations could be mobilised and co-ordinated to give support to humanitarian work through their networks. This would also boost the decision-making of women at all levels, they said.

Vietnam should have a law that included provisions to ensure taking disaster risk reduction measures were the responsibility of both sexes, they said.

Figures from the United Nations showed that between 1990-2010, Vietnam ranked sixth among countries suffering the biggest losses from disasters with 445 deaths and damages worth 1.8 billion USD every year.

Seven storms, accompanied with prolonged heavy downpours, had occurred since early this year, leaving about 200 dead and missing and causing total losses of 4.4 trillion VND (211 million USD)/.



## Call for Women Inclusion in Disaster Management

by Evaline Namuwaya

478 words

13 October 2012

07:02

All Africa

AFNWS

English

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Oct 13, 2012 (The New Times/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- TO reduce risks during disasters and build resilience through personal safety, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs, has developed guidelines to mainstream gender issues into disaster risk management.

Jean Baptiste Nsengiyumva, Director of Research and Public Awareness in the ministry, said these guidelines are at a final stage and once finalised they will be implemented.

"In a recently developed disaster management policy that is before cabinet for approval, gender perspective was taken into account," Nsengiyumva said.

The guidelines are in line with the conclusions of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro earlier this year.

The Rio+20 Outcome Document calls for integrating a gender perspective into the design and implementation of all disaster reduction policy.

The world will commemorate the **International Day for Disaster Reduction** today. But the national event was marked yesterday in Rwamagana district.

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, in her message said women and girls must be seen as powerful agents of change.

Adding women must fully participate in planning and implementing disaster risk reduction measures.

"This is why we are committed to empowering girls and women through education - to allow them to take charge of their lives and those of their families and communities," she said.

According to the UN, women are disproportionately affected by disasters, because of social roles, discrimination and poverty.

Yet, their concerns are not sufficiently recognised.

Nor do their role and capacities get the emphasis they require. The message indicates need to strike a new balance in risk reduction.

They also believe that discrimination is a violation of human rights and an indication of a bad policy.

"In our disaster awareness messages, we encourage women initiatives in disaster management. Besides, majority first disaster responders' team are girls and women. We are also planning, together with the Ministry of Gender, to integrate disaster risk management in all existing plans," Nsengiyumva explained.

For the UN, women and girl empowerment is one of the key paths towards more resilient societies.

As the number and impact of disasters increase, girls and women must be more than visible and they must be actors and leaders for resilience.

According to the International Monetary Fund, the number of people affected by natural disasters around the world is rising. Over the past two years, 700 natural disasters were registered worldwide, affecting more than 450 million people.

A new study by the IMF indicates damages in disasters have risen from an estimated \$20 billion on average per year in the 1990s to about \$100 billion per year during 2000-10.

This upward trend is expected to continue as a result of the rising concentration of people living in areas more exposed to natural disasters, and climate change.

Document AFNWS00020121013e8ad0005r



National  
**Int'l Day for Disaster Reduction tomorrow**

UNBConnect

478 words

12 October 2012

United News of Bangladesh Limited

UNIBAG

English

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Dhaka, Oct 12 (UNB) - The **International Day for Disaster Reduction** will be observed in the country as elsewhere across the world on Saturday (October 13) to address the consequences of disasters through mass awareness.

This year's theme of the day is 'Women and Girls: The invisible force for Resilience'.

Marking the day, the Disaster Management Ministry has chalked out various programmes, including rally, discussion, workshop, seminar, art competition, essay competition and demonstrations on earthquake.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the day at a function at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city on Saturday morning.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the occasion.

In his message, the President said: "Half of the country's population is women... women, children and senior citizens are the worst victims during any disaster. So, this year's theme of day is a time-befitting one."

The Prime Minister, in her message, said disasters affect the women and men equally, but due to social limitations, the vulnerability of women is more during disaster.

She hoped that women's participation will be strengthened and wider awareness will be raised in disaster risk reduction initiatives by observing the **International Day for Disaster Reduction**.

Hasina said they enacted the Standing Orders on Disaster in 1997 and revised it in 2010 to make it more time-befitting. "The government also adopted the National Plan for Disaster Management 2010-2015 and the Cyclone Shelter Construction, Maintenance and Management Policy, 2011."

Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat on Friday, Disaster Management and Relief Minister Abul Hasan Mahmud Ali said that his ministry will organise a rally in the city on Saturday morning.

He said the rally will begin from the Central Shahid Minar premises and will terminate after reaching in front of the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

AH Mahmud Ali said the women and girls may play an important role in reducing disaster risk and can help cope with its adverse consequences.

He said this year's theme of the day -- 'Women and Girls: The invisible force for Resilience' -- focuses on women and girls who can work as an associate force to reduce disaster risk.

The Minister said Bangladesh has been identified as a disaster-prone country due to its geographical location, huge population and poverty.

"The natural disasters are the common phenomena in the country. Flood, cyclone, erosion, landslide, drought, erratic rainfall, flash flood, water logging, and salinity hit the country every year."

He said the intensity of the natural disasters is increasing in the country due to global climate change and as Bangladesh is located in seismic zone, it is also vulnerable to earthquake.

Disaster Management and Relief secretary Dr M Aslam Alam and director of Bangladesh Meteorological Department Arjumand Habib also spoke at the press conference.

Document UNIBAG0020121012e8ac0001f

## **UNISDR chief calls for women to take lead in disaster management**

Wu Chen

214 words

12 October 2012

17:25

Xinhua News Agency

XNEWS

English

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GENEVA, Oct. 12 (Xinhua) -- The Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) called on Friday for women and girls to take leadership in disaster management for better disaster reduction.

Margareta Wahlstrom, also Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, said emphasis should be put on the greater involvement of women and girls before disaster strike to build true disaster resilience.

She said the focus of this year's **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, which is on Saturday, is on women and girls whose efforts to build resilience to disasters often go unrecognized, with the theme "Women and Girls -- the (in)Visible Force of Resilience."

"Women are responsible for many of the key strategic decisions of daily life. In many parts of the world this includes securing food, water and energy. They have real impact when they are fully involved in community planning for disaster risk reduction," Wahlstrom said.

She urged the international communities and national authorities to empower more women and girls to engage as volunteers and develop careers in disaster management.

Also on Friday, Wahlstrom honored Yingluck Shinawatra, the Prime Minister of Thailand, as a leading woman figure in disaster management.

Enditem

04

Document XNEWS00020121012e8ac0060p



News

**Women and children first? To die, it seems**

AIDAN RADNEDGE

245 words

12 October 2012

Metro

METRO

1; National

36

English

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WHEN disaster strikes, rescuers get the orders to save women and children first.

But they are 14 times more likely to die than men in catastrophes such as earthquakes, tsunamis and floods.

Four in five victims of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami were female and Cyclone Nargis, in Burma, four years ago, killed twice as many women as men.

Inferior physical strength is one factor to blame, but there are many reasons.

'In some cultures, boys are routinely taught how to swim but girls aren't,' said Dr Kate Crowley, of aid agency Cafod. A lack of education also causes problems.

'Women are less likely to be able to read information about what to do during an emergency,' said Dr Crowley.

The United Nations hopes its **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, held tomorrow, will put pressure on political leaders to tackle the disparity.

Issues it will highlight include better protection for women from sexual assaults, which tend to rise in the aftermath of disasters.

Giving women high-profile community roles in fire and flood-threatened regions will also be encouraged.

'We can't stop hazards but we can make sure women have a say in how communities plan for them,' said Dr Crowley. Some 200million people each year have their lives disrupted by disasters.

Natural disasters have affected 4.4billion people in the last 20 years - 64 per cent of the world's population.

Document METRO00020121012e8ac0006j

## Environmental Degradation Increases the Risk of Disasters Worldwide

The Nature Conservancy; PR Newswire

426 words

12 October 2012

05:30

PR Newswire Europe

TWOTEN

English

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BRUSSELS, Oct. 12, 2012 /PRNewswire/ --Environmental degradation is a significant factor that reduces the capacity of societies to deal with disaster risk in many countries around the world. This is the key message of the World Risk Report 2012, presented today in Brussels, Belgium by the German Alliance for Development Works (Alliance), United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and The Nature Conservancy.

The World Risk report examines the risks of and solutions for natural disasters. The record for the decade 2002 to 2011 is alarming: 4,130 disasters, more than a million deaths and an economic loss of at least 1.195 trillion dollars.

The report's WorldRiskIndex, developed by UNU-EHS in cooperation with the Alliance, determines the risk of becoming the victim of a disaster as a result of natural hazards for 173 countries. The Pacific Island states of Vanuatu and Tonga have the highest disaster risk. Malta and Qatar face the lowest risk. India ranks 73rd and is therefore midway in all risk categories.

"This report illustrates the powerful role that nature can play in reducing risks to people and property from coastal hazards like storms, erosion and floods. Coral reefs, oyster reefs and mangroves offer flexible, cost-effective, and sustainable first lines of defense" said Dr. Michael Beck, Lead Marine Scientist at The Nature Conservancy.

The Conservancy's Drs. Beck and Christine Shepard, co-authors of the WRR, found that there are 200 million people who may receive risk reduction from coral reefs alone – which can reduce wave energy by more than 85 percent.

India ranks 2nd in the countries with the greatest number of at-risk people who may receive risk reduction benefits from reefs (people living below 10m elevation and within 50km of coral reefs). The top countries are Indonesia and India (> 35 M people each); followed by the Philippines (>20M); China (> 15 M); Brazil, Vietnam and the USA (all > 7M).

The report comes just before the UN's **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, October 13.

\*NOTE: The full report, maps, illustrations and factsheets are available at

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/habitats/oceanscoasts/howwework/2012-world-risk-report.xml>

The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Visit The Nature Conservancy on the Web at <http://www.nature.org/>.

Document TWOTEN0020121012e8ac00001



## Vanuatu named worst for disaster risk

365 words

11 October 2012

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) News

ABCNEW

English

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The United Nations' University's 2012 World Risk Report names Vanuatu as the country with the greatest risk of natural disaster.

Vanuatu has been named the country with the greatest risk of natural disaster in the United Nations University's 2012 World Risk Report.

The report, released in the lead-up to **International Day for Disaster Reduction** on October 13, takes into account both the potential strength of natural disasters and social and economic conditions within the country.

Senior program officer with aid agency CARE Australia, Stefan Knollmayer, said they have been working closely with Vanuatu's National Disaster Management Office to help prepare for disasters.

"We work at the national and provincial level, to build their skills and knowledge in running simulations, drills in schools and working with communities to have disaster plans in place," Mr Knollmayer told Radio Australia's .

The 83 islands of Vanuatu lie in the Pacific Ocean's Ring of Fire and cyclone belt, and are vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters.

Mr Knollmayer said that while the remoteness of some of the islands makes it difficult for them to operate their programs, the people there are often more self-sufficient.

"[They] have a great ability to take up these messages and act on them very practically and as a result, these messages are often used and made very sustainable by the communities," he said.

Mr Knollmayer cited the example of the last Japanese earthquake and tsunami warnings, when community members who had received training were able to be pro-active and help their communities move to higher ground.

He also said the role of women in protecting and rebuilding their communities often goes unrecognised, and so the theme of this year's **International Day for Disaster Reduction** - 'Invisible Force of Resilience' - is intended to highlight how women's ability to contribute is sometimes hindered by lack of inclusion in public life.

"Women and girls are up to 14 times more likely to die during a disaster and that's often purely the result of inadequate access to education and awareness messages," he said.

"It's very important to try and change that."

Document ABCNEW0020121011e8ab000jh

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT OBSERVES DISASTER REDUCTION DAY ON OCT. 10**

339 words

9 October 2012

Indian Government News

HTINGN

English

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NEW DELHI, Oct. 9 -- The government of India issued the following news release:

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) is observing **International Day for Disaster Reduction** tomorrow at India International Centre, New Delhi. Disaster Reduction Day is observed on the second Wednesday of October to raise the awareness about disaster risk reduction. It also encourages people and governments to participate in building resilient communities and nations.

Disaster Reduction Day offers an opportunity to focus national attention on this important issue and to create awareness about disasters and their management. This is in line with the United Nations' (UN) International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction which is annually observed to raise public awareness on the issues related to disaster risk reduction.

The occasion will be graced by Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Mullappally Ramachandran, Special Guest Shri A.K. Mangotra, Secretary (BM), MHA and Guest of Honour Dr. Muzaffar Ahmed, and Shri. T. Nanda Kumar, Members, NDMA. A special talk on the occasion will be delivered by Shri. B.K. Sharma, Former Principal, Ludlow Castle School, Delhi on Safe Schools: Journey of Ludlow Castle School. A book on 'Safeguard of Environment for Disaster Risk Reduction' will also be released by the Chief Guest.

NIDM had invited proposals from schools to develop their own "School Safety Plans," with an objective to create awareness among students, teachers and other stakeholders about school safety. Out of the overwhelming response received from schools, 15 selected plans across the country will be awarded Rs. 25,000 to each as prize along with certificates.

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), New Delhi, India, constituted under an Act of Parliament, is an apex National Institute of Government of India with the nodal responsibilities for human resource development, capacity building, training, research, documentation, public awareness and policy advocacy in disaster management.

Document HTINGN0020121010e8a90000d

## **Disaster Week Draws Attention to Women and Girls**

by Eric Didier Karinganire

463 words

8 October 2012

15:01

All Africa

AFNWS

English

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Oct 08, 2012 (Rwanda Focus/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- This year's **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, to be celebrated on Thursday, will focus on the role of women and girls' in protecting and rebuilding their communities before and after disasters, Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs Minister Marcel Gatsinzi has said.

This year's theme "Women and girls - invisible and visible force of resilience" was chosen so as to recognize the role of women and girls in disaster management.

"They (women and girls) often play a crucial role in rebuilding their communities after disasters, but their contribution is not often recognized," Gen. Gatsinzi said during the launch of the week-long campaign on Friday. He added that this will be a good occasion to recognize them and talk about their potential.

He therefore noted that there will be public mobilization to bring about changes for the socio-cultural understanding that often make women and girls lag behind when it comes to disaster management.

In this context, there will be public talks in some girls' schools and women's association to increase the understanding of gender concerns in disaster risk reduction. The Minister noted that this is in line with Rwandan government policy to include women in implementing all national programs for a faster development.

"In Rwanda, women are catalysts of national development; the reason why they should also play key role in disaster management," he said.

On the other side, statistics indicate that consequences resulting from disasters have been increasing over the years.

"Women and girls often play a crucial role in rebuilding their communities after disasters, but their contribution is not often recognized."

For instance, the ministry registered 60 deaths due to different types of disasters between January and September. In the same period, 1,920 houses have been demolished, and 2,387ha of rice, beans, maize, banana and potatoes ruined.

Statistics from the ministry also indicate that in the same time, 19 classrooms, 11 roads, 8 church buildings, 5 bridges and 4 governmental offices were also destroyed by various disasters such as floods, fire, landslides, man-made disasters and lightning among others.

Most of the cases have been reported in the north-west part of the country mainly in Nyabihu, Rubavu and Musanze districts due to high rainfall in the area. Nyamagabe, Nyamasheke and Rutsiro districts have also reported some cases though not as bad.

Officials of the ministry noted that the ministry of education has been assigned to conduct a thorough research on the reason behind a big number of disasters related to lightning; since many lives have been lost due to the catastrophe.

The **International Day for Disaster Reduction** will be celebrated in Rwamagana district.

Document AFNWS00020121008e8a8000p5

## **UN Friday focuses on International Day for Disaster Reduction**

189 words

6 October 2012

Uzbekistan Daily

UZBDAY

English

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Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- UN Information Office in Uzbekistan in cooperation with the UNDP project "Strengthening the capacity of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Disaster Risk Management" held another UN Friday event, which was dedicated to **International Day for Disaster Reduction**.

Nobody is secured from national disasters and catastrophes such as earthquake, flood or drought. Persons should be ready to such emergency situations. **International Day for Disaster Reduction** was announced to inform people on measures to decrease danger of natural disasters.

UN Fridays started with a presentation of doctor Amir Ali Khan, an advisor of the project "Strengthening the capacity of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Disaster Risk Management". The presentation briefed the participants with management of emergency risks. He noted that preventive measures can decrease danger of risks.

After the presentation, the participants, including students of the International Journalism Faculty of the Uzbek State World Languages University discussed issues related to disaster reduction.

Young journalists noted that they learnt a lot on disaster reduction and said they are ready to inform people on disaster reduction through publications and trainings.

Document UZBDAY0020121007e8a60000a



## Be prepared

966 words

1 October 2012

Philippine Daily Inquirer

AIWPHI

English

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One of the most cherished memories of my childhood include the fun and empowering Girl Scout activities such as first aid training, camping, games and the shared camaraderie with new friends. The trainings instilled in me not just the member's sense of pride in helping other people, the school and the community but also helped shaped my character. From these arsenals of learning exposures sprung the values of discipline, leadership, respect, confidence and a strong sense of responsibility that is ideally embedded in a Girl Scout. Each Girl Scout can be and is an agent of change in the society. "Be prepared" is the Girl Scout's timeless motto that is especially apt in the current era of climate, social and economic uncertainty that we all face. We are most vulnerable, as the 2011 World Risk Index considers the Philippines as the third most disaster prone country in the world.

Preparedness for disasters and significant disruptive changes entails long-term planning and effective coordination and collaboration among stakeholders. It requires time, sincere efforts, dedication and human and financial resources and, of course, more catalysts of change. Women and young girls have proven that they are. Two weeks before his death, former Interior and Local Government secretary Jesse Robredo, a strong champion of participatory governance, signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) national president Dr. Salud Bagalso for the GSP "to encourage municipalities and barangays to organize girl scouts community-based troops that can help the government's environmental and disaster preparedness efforts" ([www.dilg.gov.ph](http://www.dilg.gov.ph)). This is a laudable move that would attain the goals of saving lives, properties and bolstering the capacity of our people to prepare for and bounce back from disasters. It is equally heartening that more organizations are involved in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) programs. The Philippine Guidance and Counseling Association (PGCA), Inc. Cebu Chapter had its 10th General Assembly and Seminar-Workshop on Sept. 27 to 28 at Cebu Normal University with the theme "Trauma and Disaster Management : Capacity Building for Counseling Practitioners." It was a great honor to speak before and share insights with the officers and members of PGCA led by the dynamic national president Dr. Benedicta O. Lascano, Cebu Chapter president Marivic G. Diwa, vice President Portia Dacalos and the president of the host university, Dr. Marcelo P. Lopez. We look forward to more endeavors with PGCA and CNU related to environmental protection and resiliency building for our citizens. \* \* \* Oct. 13 is the **International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR)**. This year's theme is "Women and Girls--the [in]Visible Force of Resilience." As the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction website emphasizes, "The theme for IDDR 2012 does not imply that women and girls are invisible." The theme was conceived for the following reasons: 1. It is about drawing attention to the fact that their efforts to protect and rebuild their communities before and after disasters are often unrecognized and that invisibility is a socio-cultural construct. 2. It is about highlighting that their ability to contribute is hindered by lack of inclusion and poor understanding of gender inequality. 3. It is about celebrating the contribution women and girls are making before, during and after a disaster. 4. It is about moving beyond the tendency to view and portray women and girls as victims. And even though women and girls feature disproportionately among the casualties of disasters they are 'active victims'. 5. It is about stories of action and initiative by women and girls, and it also seeks to shed light on the obstacles that prevent them from participating in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. (<http://www.unisdr.org/2012/iddr/about.html>) The IDDR12 logo can be downloaded from the UNISDR website, <http://www.unisdr.org/2012/iddr/resources.html>. Here are suggestions in planning events that are in accord with the 2012 IDDR theme: 1. Submit news, events, stories, images, and videos of outstanding action by women and girls in disaster prevention, recovery and risk reduction or by someone whose accomplishments you wish to spotlight. 2. Showcase what women and girls are doing to contribute to disaster resilience. 3. Organize public events to increase understanding of gender concerns in DRR processes. 4. Lobby national and local governments as well as community leaders and decision makers, academia, and international organizations to 'Step Up'. 5. Mobilize the public at large to demand changes to the socio-cultural/political framework that exacerbates the exclusion of women and their vulnerabilities. 6. Encourage men and boys to get involved. 7. Think Big - Gender equality and risk reduction principles must guide all aspects of disaster mitigation, response and reconstruction. 8. Get The Facts - Gender analysis is needed to direct aid and plan for full and equitable recovery. 9. Nothing in disaster work is "gender neutral." 10. Work With Women - Women's community organizations have insight, information, experience, networks, and resources vital to increasing disaster resilience. 11. Resist Stereotypes - Base all initiatives on knowledge of difference and specific cultural, economic, political, and sexual contexts, not on

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false generalities. Respect and develop the capacities of women and girls. We agree that “Gender inequality puts women, children and entire communities in danger when natural hazards strike. The weakest link can mean the destruction of the entire chain. Gender inequality is a weak link - strengthening that link strengthens resilience.” ([www.unisdr.org/2012/iddr/about.html](http://www.unisdr.org/2012/iddr/about.html)) Each of us can facilitate, promote and commemorate IDDR with meaningful activities that will hopefully open the minds and hearts of our people and authorities in mainstreaming a culture of safety and prevention through DRRM and integrating gender equality in the various plans and programs, as pathways for building resiliency.

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