ISDR

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations

2009

Roles, mandates and areas of work of key United Nations entities

ISDR

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations

2009

Roles, mandates and areas of work of key United Nations entities

Introduction

The "Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience for Nations and Communities to Disasters" (HFA) calls upon the United Nations system and other international organizations to undertake concrete tasks within their mandates, priorities and resources. The HFA encourages all organizations to incorporate disaster risk considerations systematically in their own strategies, programmes, advocacy, budgets and internal organization and to participate in International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) initiatives. It emphasises strengthening of the United Nations system to assist disaster-prone developing countries with disaster risk reduction initiatives and to support States' own efforts with technical assistance and capacity development.

Four years on from the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, and with the mid-term review of the Hyogo Framework for Action approaching in 2010, it is timely to take a closer look to what extent the existing mandates and policies of the United Nations entities align with the HFA and what stage the United Nations has reached in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction (often referred to as DRR) into its work.

While this compilation is not exhaustive, it shows an impressive portfolio of services and programmes of the United Nations and the World Bank in support of disaster risk reduction. It brings together the core set of ISDR system partners, the Inter-Agency Group, also listing disaster risk reduction networks and national counterparts, responsible for various areas of work at the country level. These records underline visibly the need for One UN to succeed. All relevant UN agencies were contacted to contribute to this work, and special thanks go to those who responded and ensured that their information was up to date. The detail included in the publication is shown as received from the partners and the content is the responsibility of each organization.

Increasingly since 2005, most UN agencies and UN coordination mechanisms, including the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the United Nations Development Group and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, have taken action on disaster risk reduction and made links with climate change

adaptation. The progress is promising not only at international level, but also regionally. Several regional inter-governmental organizations (not listed in this directory) and UN Regional Economic Commissions have adopted resolutions and realigned their strategies in support of the HFA. At the same time the secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) has increased its regional presence to further develop regional partnerships, support regional and national disaster risk reduction efforts and platforms and develop region-specific information and knowledge products.

I would like to encourage all UN entities and ISDR partners committed to reducing disaster risk to take the opportunity to ensure their information is up to date at www.PreventionWeb.net, the leading public web portal for ISDR system knowledge management.

With this compilation the secretariat of the UNISDR wishes to increase the knowledge of what is on offer and prioritized by the UN and World Bank in support of developing countries needs. We hope this information will promote new partnerships at all levels, and also serve the emerging needs to address risk reduction in the wake of climate change.

Helena Molin Valdés,
Deputy Director,
UNISDR

For updated information and organizations not covered by this publication, please see www.preventionweb.net/go/contacts/

Each organization will be responsible for uploading new information.

A printed Directory will be available every two years at the Global Platform.

Content

Introduction iii

UN working to reduce disaster risks

FAO 1
ILO 7
ITU 17
OCHA 21
UNDP / BCPR 26
UNEP 33
UNESCO 39
UNFCCC 44
UNFPA 51
UN-HABITAT 57
UNICEF 61
UNITAR 65
UN-OHRLLS 68
UNOOSA 72
UNU 76
UNV 80
WFP 84
WHO 90
WMO 98
WORLD BANK 106

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 111
ECOSOC 114
CEB 118
UNDG 120
IASC 123

Key UN system networks in disaster risk reduction 127
National counterparts for disaster reduction 130

ISDR – The Strategy, Secretariat and System 133

Summary Hyogo Framework for Action 136

UN working to reduce disaster risks

FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

General description of the organization

FAO leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information, and helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all.

Core areas of FAO's mandate are to improve agricultural productivity, to raise levels of nutrition, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy.

Disaster reduction goal

FAO helps countries to prevent, mitigate, prepare for and respond to food and agricultural threats and emergencies by focusing on:

- Strengthening disaster preparedness and the ability to mitigate the impact of emergencies that affect food security and the productive capacities of rural populations;
- Forecasting and providing early warning of adverse conditions in the food and agricultural sectors, and of impeding food emergencies including monitoring of plant and animal pests and diseases;
- Assessing needs and formulating programmes for agricultural relief and rehabilitation, facilitating the transition and linkages between emergency relief, recovery and development interventions in food and agriculture;
- Reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience by strengthening local capacities and coping mechanisms for DRR by guiding the choice of agricultural practices, technologies and support services.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

The FAO Strategic Framework includes a corporate Strategic Objective on improved preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agricultural emergencies. The FAO Medium Term Plan (2010-2013) specifically identifies outcomes related to disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation, emergency response and rehabilitation, and transition and linkages to development as the focus for results and interdisciplinary action over the next four years.

Disaster Risk Management (DRM) work at FAO has been guided by an interdepartmental working group since 2005. This working group is comprised of technical and operational experts that aim to mainstream risk reduction into FAO's emergency, rehabilitation and development projects and programmes.

Relief and rehabilitation programmes are managed by the FAO Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division. Emergency coordination units are often established to temporarily manage the Organization's response at the local level. The Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division and FAO technical divisions also work closely together during all phases of emergency and recovery, particularly during implementation of medium-term rehabilitation programmes.

Memberships in key networks

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

International Consortium on Landslides

Fire Management Actions Alliance

Mountain Partnership

Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System

Global Early Warning and Response System for Major Animal Diseases

Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands

National counterpart

Ministry of Agriculture, and/or departments of Forestry, Livestock and Fisheries and related extension services, municipalities and farmers' organizations.

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

FAO focuses on disaster risk reduction as an integral part of sustainable development, applying food and agricultural perspectives as entry point, while placing particular emphasis on the role of local institutions. FAO assists countries in planning long-term disaster risk prevention and preparedness strategies in food and agriculture. These strategies focus on ways to address the root causes of vulnerability of local stakeholders to natural hazards in a demand responsive and sustainable way.

Outcomes include: the design of country specific planning frameworks for DRM (disaster risk management) in the agriculture sectors; development of guidelines for DRM systems analysis to support the identification of institutional and technical capacities needs for DRM at national, district and local levels; exchange of lessons and good practices for DRM in agriculture sector through the Technology for Agriculture (TECA) database, where knowledge related to good practice is maintained, accessed and shared by a network of sources on agricultural technology.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

FAO manages several global information and early warning systems, such as

- The Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) on Food and Agriculture which continuously monitors current food security and provides special reports and alerts on food shortages; crop and food supply assessment missions to disaster-affected countries; and the assessment of emergency food aid requests.
- The Crisis Management Centre (CMC) for the Food Chain continuously analyzes global risk along the food chain, both immediate and longer term; promotes containment and control of the most serious transboundary animal diseases and migratory plant pests, based on the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES); and provides rapid response to animal health, plant health and food safety emergencies and threats.

FAO also supports international initiatives such as the Global Land Cover Network (GLCN), the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) and the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL).

FAO hosts the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS) which supports countries in analyzing peoples' vulnerabilities to food security relates risks and hazards.

FAO also facilitates environmental analysis and poverty mapping, provides remote sensing and other geo-referenced data through GeoNetwork, various agro-meteorological data and software, such as

- The Rapid Agricultural Disaster Assessment Routine (RADAR) methodology that helps evaluate the impacts on agricultural production, immediately after a disaster event, thus providing information to planners for better disaster preparedness and response planning;

RANET (Radio and Internet for the Communication of Hydro-Meteorological and Climate Related Information) which is a cooperative effort of national and international organizations in Africa, addressing improved information access of rural communities.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

FAO supports the development of training materials on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in food and agriculture, often in local languages, such as e-learning tools on climate and flood risk management for training and self learning, DRR components in livelihood assessment toolkits and good practices for DRR in Agriculture tested at the community level.

The Communication for Sustainable Development Initiative (CSDI) supports the design of local communication strategies on climate change adaptation, natural resource management and DRR, including technical assistance to extension services, farmer organizations and field projects.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

FAO helps countries Reducing underlying risk factors in the food, agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry sectors in areas such as:

- animal and plant pests and diseases;
- crop and livestock production;

- agricultural management, marketing and finance;
- forest fires and fire management;
- precautionary measures for fisheries and safety at sea;
- food security information and early warning systems;
- food security and nutrition;
- climate change adaptation;
- land and water management, including land tenure.

Support at country level includes technical advice on land use and rural development planning framework at national and/or decentralized levels, with an aim to address DRR in agricultural sectors as integral part of national planning.

Geographic focus for DRR is also linked to FAO corporate strategy to promote sustainable development, conservation and rehabilitation of fragile ecosystems and areas (dryland, mountain and coastal and marine ecosystems); and FAO assistance in the practical implementation of the associated chapters of Agenda 21 and of international conventions and agreements relevant to fragile ecosystems (such as desertification, mountain development, responsible fisheries).

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

FAO works with governments, civil society organizations, communities and people, to protect the food and livelihood security of those who depend predominantly on agriculture, livestock, forestry or fisheries before, during and after emergencies. FAO focuses on:

- Gathering information (enhancing food security information systems, monitoring of the agricultural season/availability of agricultural inputs and assessing emergency requirements of the agricultural sector);
- Supporting the coordination of field-based agricultural interventions (including standard bearing and elaboration of immediate country post-emergency strategies and programme frameworks);
- Livelihoods recovery interventions (supply of seeds and other agricultural emergency inputs, seed and planting material multiplication, seed voucher and input trade fairs, restoration of livelihoods of local fishing communities, promotion of improved farming practices - such as conservation farming, crop diversification, water management etc.,

vaccination campaigns, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure; support to small-scale agro-processing and income-generating activities).

Key methodologies include: Livelihood Assessment Toolkit (LAT) jointly developed by FAO and ILO to help guide responses in the immediate aftermath of future disasters; the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) developed with a number of partners to provide a set of international guidelines and standards for the design, implementation and assessment of livestock related interventions to assist people affected by humanitarian crises.

Focal point

DRM Group

Climate Change and Bioenergy Unit

Website

www.fao.org

http://www.fao.org/emergencies

FAO has recently developed a website that reflects FAO's work across departments and DRM elements from prevention to building back better.

The website provides a daily update of FAO emergency operations and links to FAO technical publications, guidance, toolkits and websites.

ILO
International Labour Organization

General description of the organization

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency devoted to advancing opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. Its main aims are (i) to promote rights at work, (ii) encourage decent employment opportunities, (iii) enhance social protection and (iv) strengthen dialogue in handling work-related issues.

ILO is the only 'tripartite' United Nations agency in that it brings together governments and representative organizations of employers and workers to jointly shape labour policies and to negotiate agreements by consensus. This unique arrangement gives ILO an edge in advancing the creation of decent jobs and the kind of economic and working conditions that give working people and business people a stake in coping with crisis and in creating lasting prosperity and progress.

Disaster reduction goal

In disaster scenarios, ILO – in partnership with other UN and multilateral agencies - contributes to enhance disaster recovery and risk reduction efforts focusing on employment creation, income generation, disaster risk reduction of vulnerable livelihoods and the promotion of sustainable local development.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

ILO aims to reduce the impact of disasters on the employment and income by promoting risk reduction measures for productive livelihoods and effective and efficient post-disaster recovery efforts. ILO works to respond to HFA priorities by developing the capacity of key institutions, such as economic and labour ministries, workers' and employers' organizations,

in order to (i) support stakeholders for quick recovery in the aftermath of disasters focusing on employment creation, (ii) introduce policies and programmes focusing on preparedness and planning for livelihood recovery, and (iii) implement active measures for reducing livelihood vulnerabilities and risks, in disaster-prone areas.

By mobilizing relevant actors for reconstruction, crises can open a window of opportunity to promote decent work for a better future. The "ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization" adopted by the International Labour Conference in 2008 institutionalizes the Decent Work concept developed by the ILO since 1999. The "Global Employment Agenda" is one of the instruments for the implementation of the Social Justice Declaration. The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) approved a Ministerial Declaration encouraging the UN system to develop a toolkit to promote decent work. Since then ILO has worked closely with other agencies through the Chief Executives Board (CEB) chaired by the UN Secretary General. The final product, the CEB Toolkit for Mainstreaming Employment and Decent Work, is designed to help organizations, throughout the multilateral system, assess and improve employment and decent work outcomes of their own policies, programmes and activities.

"Decent Work Country Programmes" (DWCP), adopted by Governments as a component of the UNDAF and PRSP, constitute the country frameworks for ILO's pre-disaster risk reduction interventions and post-disaster recovery. Within this framework, ILO promotes the participation of its constituents in implementing targeted decent employment recovery and development policies and orienting livelihood risk reduction programs.

In disaster recovery scenarios, ILO works actively with the UN and other multilateral agencies to develop policies and programmes that support the creation of decent employment opportunities as a central plank of efforts to reduce and eradicate poverty, thus helping affected populations avoid becoming dependent on relief aid and fall into a vicious circle of poverty aggravated by shocks and crises. Concurrently, ILO seeks to advocate and raise awareness among disaster actors to place decent employment concerns and local economic recovery strategies at the forefront of national and international efforts in promoting disaster risk management. It focuses on employment and vulnerable livelihoods through a variety of policies and programmes:

- Support to Employment Policies and Social Dialogue

- Rapid assessments of impact of disasters on employment and income
- Implementation and monitoring of livelihood risk reduction and recovery programs
- Employment-intensive Infrastructure programmes
- Targeted support to vulnerable groups and sectors
- Employability development and vocational training systems
- Support to SMEs and micro-enterprises
- Support to micro finance schemes
- Expansion of coverage of Social Security and Safety Nets
- Local Economic Recovery programs
- Establishment/consolidation of Emergency Employment Services, and
- Expert support to Cash Transfer Programs, in the aftermath of disasters.

The ILO Crisis Response and Reconstruction Programme (ILO/CRISIS) is charged with bringing ILO's decent work and socio-economic expertise to bear on pre-disaster livelihood risk reduction and employment recovery of affected economies. Its roles are: prompting, mobilizing and orchestrating the "whole-of-ILO" response to crisis challenges; building the capacities of ILO constituents, partners and field staff, through the provision of tools, training and joint crisis response work; as well as establishing and strengthening partnerships and promoting joint project financing.

The ILO Crisis Response and Reconstruction Programme (ILO/CRISIS) is charged with bringing ILO's decent work and socio-economic expertise to bear on pre-disaster livelihood risk reduction and employment recovery of affected economies. Its roles are: prompting, mobilizing and orchestrating the "whole-of-ILO" response to crisis challenges; building the capacities of ILO constituents, partners and field staff, through the provision of tools, training and joint crisis response work; as well as establishing and strengthening partnerships and promoting joint project financing.

The International Training Centre of the ILO, based in Turin, Italy, provides training and related services that develop human resources and institutional capabilities. In conjunction with ILO/CRISIS, the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC/ILO) is committed to contribute to the ISDR and the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 at the local level. It focuses on disaster risk reduction within the framework of sustainable local development, through three core lines of action:

- Training and capacity building: design, preparation and implementation of training activities (face-to-face and distance learning modalities) on

disaster risk reduction and sustainable local development. A one-year training course in blended modality is currently available for the Americas in Spanish language and an English pilot version is about to be launched at inter-regional level. Short courses and workshops are implemented at country-level.

- Information sharing and knowledge management: creation and management of an effective set of ICT and networking tools and databases at the service of the ISDR system, partner institutions and participants in the training courses.

Advocacy and local level awareness: specialized publications and advocacy tools to increase awareness amongst decision-makers on the importance of including disaster risk reduction in the local development agenda.

Memberships in key networks

International Recovery Platform (IRP). ILO is the present chair of the Steering Committee of the Platform, 2008 – 2009.

IASC-Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery (CWGER). ILO is the convener of the livelihood and economic recovery group.

UNISDR Local Governance Alliance for DRR. The ITC/ILO is member of the Advisory Group since May 2008.

National counterpart

Labour, Economic and Social Affairs ministries, Workers' organizations, Employers' organizations.

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

Support to Employment Policies and Social Dialogue. ILO supports Ministries of Labour in setting up or re-orienting governments' active labour market policies aiming at guiding and facilitating the establishment of mechanisms able to respond with national budget allocations and public programs to the livelihood risk reduction policies needed in disaster-risk areas.

Tripartism and social dialogue at enterprise, sectoral and national levels, are ILO's bedrocks. These elements are key in disaster settings to minimize the risks and the effects of a disaster on productive livelihoods. Strong and solid dialogue helps, on one side, reduce the impact of a crisis, rebuild communities and social networks, and restart the affected productive livelihoods on a sound development path. On the other side, it helps in securing that livelihood risk management becomes a priority in policies and programs.

In disaster prone countries ILO, through its institutional counterpart the Ministry of Labour, promotes and supports the establishment of Inter-institutional Livelihood Risk Management Working Groups. This WG, established within the framework of the National Integrated Disaster Management Platform, includes different institutions and helps in maintaining a broad-based dialogue among the Government, Trade Unions and Employers' organizations, at national, regional and local levels. The main task of this WG is to ensure institutional support to the integration of livelihood risk reduction measures into development policies and planning. The WG also promotes the necessary legislative modifications and facilitates coordination of all livelihood risk reduction and recovery preparedness interventions.

On the basis of the assessment of existing human resource capacities for livelihood risk reduction, ILO develops capacity-building initiatives for its constituents and public officials, at central and local levels as appropriate.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

Rapid employment and livelihood impact assessments. ILO has a consolidated methodology for rapid labour market and livelihood assessments that return information on the extent of the employment situation and opportunities in disaster-risk areas. Recently ILO and FAO have jointly developed a toolkit for a comprehensive livelihood impact assessment (the LAT) that, in combination with hazard mappings and vulnerability assessments, provides crucial information and enable decision-makers to assess the needs for increasing resilience and reducing disaster risk of livelihoods. This assessment also contributes to build up baseline information, on labour markets and the status of livelihoods in at-risk areas, that will be essential to quantify and qualify needed recovery interventions and allow monitoring of recovery programs.

To this aim, ILO in collaboration with other agencies supports the development of common indicators and methodologies for monitoring livelihood risk management and recovery programs. It also develops cost–benefit analysis of the implementation of livelihood risk reduction measures. In collaboration with other relevant agencies ILO uses space-based technologies to support assessment of livelihood risks and vulnerabilities to disasters, particularly for determining potential effects and impacts of disasters on productive livelihoods in at-risk areas. It is also currently developing methods in view of incorporating these tools into decision-making processes.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

ILO, through its constituents and taking into consideration the local culture, supports the dissemination of information on livelihood disaster risks reduction and recovery options, especially addressing workers' and employers' organizations in high-risk areas, with the aim of encouraging and enabling people to take action to reduce livelihood risks and build resilience to disaster shocks. It also promotes the establishment of networks among disaster and livelihoods experts and shares its knowledge on good practices, cost-effective livelihood risk reduction measures, and lessons learned in the field, with all actors involved in disaster risk reduction, through participating in global coordination platforms, such as the CWGER and the IRP.

Through the ITC/ILO training and capacity building initiatives, the ILO is directly contributing to increase the level of information and awareness of local actors in Spanish speaking countries of the Americas, in the field of local strategic planning for disaster risk reduction, pre-disaster preparedness and post-disaster sustainable reconstruction linked to local development processes. The first two editions of the training course have contributed to the creation of a network of multiplier agents and focal points playing a key role in increasing and disseminating information in the region. This peer group of former participants actively contribute to training content validation, creation of bridges to high-risk and difficult target countries, systematization of local development and DRR practices, research and exchange on contents development and new approaches to DRR, advocacy in support of the implementation of the HFA at the local level.

This network, whose members are from the Americas, should be soon attached and provide inputs to the new Local Governance Alliance for DRR initiative promoted by the UN/ISDR Secretariat in Geneva.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

Mainstreaming livelihood risk management. ILO works at incorporating productive livelihoods risk reduction measures into planning policies, post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes and promotes the use of all opportunities to develop local capacities aiming at reducing livelihood risk in the long term. Through the mobilization of its constituents, ILO promotes the establishment of forms of public–private partnerships to better engage the local private sector in livelihood risk reduction activities; and encourages all stakeholders to foster a culture of disaster prevention, putting greater emphasis on pre-disaster risk reduction interventions.

Capacity development on Disaster Risk Reduction within the Framework of Sustainable Local Development. The main objective of the training courses is to contribute to improving individual and institutional capacity in the design, implementation and assessment of sustainable local development strategies that fully integrate disaster risk reduction as a key factor of the sustainable development process.

Incorporating livelihood risk reduction into development planning. ILO collaborates with relevant ministries and agencies to incorporate livelihood disaster risk management into: (i) rural development planning and management; (ii) planning and management of ecosystems, focusing on strategies for reducing livelihood risk and increasing resilience while creating job opportunities in the form of "green jobs"; (iii) programs promoting food security and diversification of agriculture-based livelihoods; (iv) urban planning and slum-upgrading programmes and management of disaster-prone human settlements, focusing on livelihood activities implemented within the house (considering the particular relevance in terms of livelihood risk reduction since many self-employment and livelihood activities are implemented mainly informally and in unsafe conditions in such housing); and (v) health sector programmes, in order to link livelihood risk reduction with programs for Safety and Health at Workplace as a component for promoting decent work practices, consolidate livelihood resilience and reduce risk in case of disaster.

Labour-intensive programs. ILO promotes the use of labour-based/labour-intensive methods in strengthening, retrofitting and re-building critical public facilities and other physical infrastructure. In a post-disaster setting, labour-friendly activities benefit affected communities by generating jobs and income quickly while rebuilding damaged infrastructure. They

are also an important bridge between immediate needs and longer-term reconstruction and development.

Enhancing employability through vocational training. ILO invests – in the aftermath of a disaster – in upgrading the employability of job-seekers to facilitate their absorption in the labour market. In post-disaster situations training can help affected individuals and households in restarting their livelihoods and reducing dependence from relief aid. In addressing this challenge, ILO has developed a solid expertise, including in the non-formal or unorthodox approaches sometimes needed to launch adapted training services in at-risk areas or badly damaged post-disaster economies.

Support to SMEs and micro-enterprises. ILO promotes the diversification of household income options for populations in high-risk areas in order to reduce their vulnerability to hazards and ensure that their income and assets are not undermined by behaviours that increase their vulnerability to disasters. Through the expanded use of well tested training packages, such as Start and Improve Your Business, the Women Entrepreneurship Progamme and other tools, ILO supports enterprises to consolidate their position into the formal or informal market, provides advisory services to governments, employers' organizations and workers' associations on policies and programmes to facilitate finance for SMEs, as well as advice on tools and approaches for responsible restructuring of sectors, value chains and enterprises. To this aim, ILO also works at enabling the local environment for enterprises, developing value chains, and enhancing local economic development and the performance of the small and micro enterprises.

Support to Microfinance Schemes. In order to contribute to livelihood disaster risk reduction and increase resilience of employment and income, ILO - through its microfinance programme - promotes the development of financial risk-sharing mechanisms, particularly insurance and reinsurance against disasters, as appropriate. It also promotes alternative and innovative financial instruments for addressing livelihood disaster risk. ILO's intervention tools include expert support for micro-scale informal activities and micro-credit schemes, materials, marketing advice, guidance, and training to microfinance lenders and micro- and small-scale enterprises, including cooperatives.

Targeted support to vulnerable groups and sectors. By supporting the government in implementing special programs targeted to vulnerable people and sectors, such as, introducing temporary youth employment programs, ILO contributes to the aim of diversifying livelihoods and

increasing the resilience of the household by reducing the risks related to the complete loss of job and income in the event of a disaster. ILO also works to ensure that programmes for displaced persons take into consideration the employment creation needs and do not increase livelihood risk and vulnerability to future hazards. Through its Combating Child Labour Programme – ILO works to raise awareness of the families and target psychological damage of vulnerable populations, particularly children, in the aftermath of disasters. Furthermore, ILO collaborates with the relevant ministries and agencies engaged in strengthening the implementation of social safety-net mechanisms targeting the poor, the elderly and the disabled and other vulnerable populations, as a means of reducing disaster vulnerabilities and risks.

Social Security and Safety Nets. ILO provides specialized expertise in support to relevant Ministries for programs aiming the extension of the coverage of the Social Security to the poor and most-vulnerable, including those working in the informal sector in at-risk areas. It also supports the dissemination of information on the role of Safety and Health at the Workplace and social security and safety nets in mitigating the effects of natural shocks on the household.

The *Local Economic Recovery/Development* programmes (LER/D) are an effective holistic approach that ILO applies in crises scenarios for harmonizing and enhancing the package of different measures needed for reducing livelihood disaster risk or for the recovery of affected local economies. The LER/D approach seeks to support the increasing of local business capacity and stimulating endogenous dynamics through consensus-based action. ILO has used LER/D strategies in crisis operations since the early 1990s. This approach combines tailored tools and methodologies in such areas as business promotion, employability training, social finance, employment-intensive investments, and social dialogue.

Emergency Employment Services. In post-disaster situations, ILO's expertise in this area helps government revitalize or establish "employment services" and orient them toward current needs of job seekers and local employers. ILO works to support governments establish or reorient information exchanges to meet specific post-disaster needs, including evaluating the volume and type of job seekers, and the skill requirements of humanitarian and reconstruction operations. This also contributes to livelihood disaster risk reduction in view of future natural events. ILO works with the World Association of Public Employment Services (WAPES) to collect and share good practices and tools for crisis response.

Cash Transfer programs. In post disaster situations, ILO provides to government its specialized expertise in strengthening income maintenance measures for affected people who lost their job, through various measures, including complementary cash transfer programs.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

ILO - through its "Pre-disaster Recovery Planning for Livelihoods" (Pre-DRP/L)" initiative - helps governments and other constituents to consider, ahead of time, how best to identify vulnerabilities in the productive livelihoods of the people living in areas at-risk, promote livelihood risk reduction measures and increase livelihood recovery preparedness before disasters strike, thus also contributing to reduce extreme poverty in those areas.

The Pre-DRP/L is specifically designed to provide key stakeholders with a guiding document to help quickly and effectively restore and enhance livelihoods and economic activity and to introduce livelihood risk reduction measures thus increasing employment resilience in view of future disasters.

ILO has recently developed a first edition of specific "Pre-DRP/L Guidelines" to orient decision makers and technical practitioners in supporting the implementation of livelihood risk management and quick livelihood recovery measures.

Focal point

ILO/CRISIS – ILO Geneva

ITC/ILO – Delnet EMLD (Turin, Italy)

Website

http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/crisis/index.htm

This website provides information on ILO/CRISIS operations and links to ILO's technical publications and websites.

http://www.itcilo.org/delnet

This website provides information on the ITC/ILO training initiatives and links to the Delnet Local Development platforms.

ITU

International Telecommunication Union

General description of the organization

ITU is the leading United Nations agency for information and communication technologies. ITU helps governments and the private sector in three core sectors: radiocommunication, standardization and development. ITU also organizes TELECOM events and was the lead organizing agency of the World Summit on the Information Society.

ITU is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and its membership includes 191 Member States and more than 700 Sector Members and Associates.

Disaster reduction goal

ITU's goal in disaster reduction is to strengthen emergency communications for disaster prevention and mitigation.

All the elements of ITU's work are centred on the goal of putting every human being within easy and affordable reach of information and communication and to contribute significantly towards economic and social development of all people. ITU develops the standards used to create infrastructure to deliver telecommunications services on a worldwide basis, manages the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits to help bring wireless services to every corner of the world, and provides support to countries as they pursue telecommunication development strategies.

As the specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for telecommunications/ICTs, ITU is committed to working with other organizations in combating climate change. ITU continues to play a leading role in developing an integrated approach to examining the relationship between ICTs and climate change, focusing on such key issues in the global framework as technology, climate data collection and monitoring, adaptation and mitigation.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

One of ITU's objectives within the purview of the Telecommunication Development Sector is to support the implementation of global, regional and other relevant initiatives and projects, including those relating to underserved areas, indigenous communities and small island developing states, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, highly indebted poor countries, countries recovering from conflicts, countries and territories under occupation, regions with special needs as well as conditions that pose severe threats to the environment such as natural disasters, which will facilitate the deployment and operation of telecommunication/ICT networks and services with a view to fostering their secure, sustainable and affordable access and use at national, regional and global levels.

ITU assists countries in drafting and adopting appropriate ICT policies, regulations and guidelines that facilitate the use of ICT for disaster risk reduction to include Geographical Information Systems, Remote Sensing which are critical for disaster preparedness and early warning.

At the global level ITU promotes and provides assistance to stakeholders in the ratification and implementation of the Tampere Convention on the provision of telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations. The treaty provides the legal framework for the use of telecommunications in international humanitarian assistance, reduces regulatory barriers, and protects providers of telecommunication assistance while safeguarding the interests of the host country.

Memberships in key networks

National counterpart

Government Ministries for Telecommunications and Telecommunications Regulatory Agencies

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau works globally with Governments on the establishment of regulatory frameworks that require operators to include disaster reduction features in their licensing regime.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

Assist countries in designing and implementing early warning systems.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

Design and develop guidelines, publications and websites that are used to train and raise awareness on disaster risk reduction issues. International, regional and international workshops are also held for these purposes.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

Development and implementation of technical cooperation to assist developing countries to use ICTs to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. ITU Study Groups develop technical and spectrum specifications that provide best practices in this area to include: rresilient telecommunications installations that allow the installation and deployment of rugged telecom network plants and a Handbook on Outside Plant Installations, prioritization of calls, inter-operability of networks, and harmonization of frequency bands.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

The Telecommunication Development Sector has published guidelines and best practice books on disaster management through the use of information and communication technologies. It has also designed and ran national, regional, and international training and awareness raising events

on enhancing preparedness for effective response. Over 20 partnership agreements were negotiated and signed resulting in equipment and financial resources being contributed to the ITU's ongoing effort to contribute to disaster risk reduction.

Radiocommunications Sector, ITU-R, has developed a number of guidelines (known as Recommendations), used to identity appropriate systems for public protection and disaster relief, and requirements for disaster communications related to amateur and amateur-satellite services including the use of transportable fixed radiocommunications equipment for relief operations.

The Telecommunications Standardization Sector has produced technical standards that provide call preference schemes for the PSTN and for systems based on Internet Protocol. It is also developing message broadcasting specification using IP technologies, and is paying special attention to support of emergency and alert services in Next Generation Networks. ITU-T has approved a telecommunication security architectural framework which is applicable to TDR/EW systems (ITU-T Rec.X.805), and a Supplement on emergency services for third-generation mobile networks. ITU-T has prepared an Action Plan to accelerate the standardization work of the technical groups in support for Telecommunications for Disaster Relief and Early Warning, and has appointed one of the groups to act as focal point for the activities. These are instrumental specifications that will be used as a basis for implementation by manufacturers and telecom network operators of facilities supporting emergency communications.

Focal point

Emergency Telecommunications

Website

www.itu.int

OCHA

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

General description of the organization

OCHA's mission is to mobilise and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies, advocate for the rights of people in need, promote preparedness and prevention and facilitate sustainable solutions.

OCHA is lead by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, who is also the Chair of the ISDR system as well as the Chair of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

Disaster reduction goal

One of OCHA's objectives is greater incorporation of disaster risk reduction approaches into humanitarian work and strengthened preparedness for effective humanitarian response.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

OCHA, in cooperation with UNISDR, developed a Guidance and Indicator Package for Implementing Priority 5 of the HFA, Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response. This tool provides guidance on disaster preparedness strengthening as set out in Priority 5 of the HFA. It aims primarily to assist governments, local authorities and other stakeholders and expands upon the disaster preparedness and response components of the ISDR guidelines "Words into action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action".

The revised Inter-Agency Contingency Planning Guidelines for Humanitarian Assistance aim to assist the United Nations Country Teams in preparing to respond to potential emergencies with appropriate humanitarian assistance and protection.

OCHA plans to draft a policy instruction on Emergency Preparedness (Disaster Preparedness). The purpose of the policy instruction is to provide guidance on OCHA's role in disaster preparedness and to identify linkages among OCHA sections and units that are carrying out preparedness activities. It will address key elements of emergency preparedness, with a focus on disasters, and OCHA's partnership in the wider context of disaster risk reduction, in the framework of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Memberships in key networks

Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its subsidiary bodies

ISDR System Inter-Agency Group (IAG)

Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI)

OCHA/UNDGO/UNDP-BCPR Joint Initiative on Recovery Coordination

International Recovery Platform

UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit

National counterpart

National Disaster Management Offices/Ministries

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

OCHA promotes greater incorporation of disaster risk reduction approaches and strengthened preparedness in humanitarian response. In responding to the emerging need for adapting to climate change and other humanitarian concerns, OCHA is increasingly focused not only on operational preparedness, which includes building the emergency response capacity of the humanitarian community through preparedness planning and capacity development, but also on supporting institutional preparedness through engagement with national governments, strengthened legal frameworks and resource mobilization initiatives.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

OCHA is involved as one of the ISDR system partners (UNESCO-IOC, WMO, UNOCHA, WB, UNDP, UNEP, IFRC) in strengthening national capacities for tsunami early warning and response systems in the Indian Ocean. Technical assistance and support covers capacities in policy design and planning, institutional and operational infrastructure for national disaster preparedness, within the context of regional early warning and response systems.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

CADRI (Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative) was created in March 2007 and launched in June 2007 at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to succeed to the UN Disaster Management Training Programme (UN DMTP) which trained United Nations, government and civil society professionals for their disaster roles, between 1990-2006. CADRI is an inter-agency initiative between UNDP/BCPR, OCHA and UNISDR. CADRI aims at advancing knowledge and practices for the development of sustainable disaster risk reduction capacities in high-risk countries for Governments and the UN system and serves as the vehicle through which UNISDR, OCHA and UNDP/BCPR can achieve a more synergistic approach to disaster risk management.

OCHA administers ReliefWeb, the world's leading on-line gateway to information (documents and maps) on humanitarian emergencies and disasters. An independent vehicle of information, launched in 1996 and designed specifically to assist the international humanitarian community in effective delivery of emergency assistance, it provides timely, reliable and relevant information as events unfold, while emphasizing the coverage of "forgotten emergencies" at the same time.

IRIN (The Integrated Regional Information Networks) provides news and analysis about sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia for the humanitarian community. The networks target decision-makers in relief agencies and host and donor governments, among others, and strive to ensure that affected communities can also access reliable information.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

OCHA leads and facilitates a number of inter-agency consultations on the humanitarian implications of climate change, including the discussions in the IASC. It also maintains the "special focus" section on ReliefWeb dedicated to the humanitarian implications of climate change.

OCHA launched a Climate Change Campaign in December 2008 to highlight the humanitarian impacts of climate change and call for a system-wide shift of attention, resources and expertise to improve disaster preparedness, within the wider disaster risk reduction approach.

OCHA promotes to ensure continuity and predictability in coordination support throughout the recovery period in cooperation with UNDGO and UNDP/BCPR. It supports and advocates for "building back better" through the shelter guidelines it publishes in cooperation with major international relief providers.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

At the headquarters level, OCHA coordinates the promotion of disaster preparedness for effective response in close cooperation with relevant entities such as UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNISDR, the World Bank, IFRC, donors, and humanitarian agencies in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), including the support to the IASC Task Force on Climate Change.

Within the Emergency Services Branch, the Emergency Preparedness Section works in collaboration with other OCHA entities to promote the implementation of the HFA Priority 5. It supports OCHA's Regional and Field Offices in coordinating, providing technical advice and ensuring consistent disaster preparedness work across geographical regions. In addition, Pandemic Influenza Contingency (PIC) convenes the UN inter-agency humanitarian pandemic group and develops simulation packages and other preparedness tools for the pandemic contingency.

Moreover, OCHA promotes effective response preparedness with the humanitarian partners in such areas as promotion of inter-agency contingency planning, strengthening of international response tools (UNDAC, INSARAG), implementation of the Cluster Approach, HC/RC

strengthening, information management and humanitarian financing system (CERF, CAP, Flash Appeals). At the field level, OCHA assists promotion of disaster preparedness in disaster-prone countries and regions, through its network of Regional and Field Offices as well as Regional Disaster Response Advisors (RDRAs) and National Disaster Response Advisors (NDRAs).

Specifically, OCHA assists RC/HCs and UNCTs in disaster-prone countries in conducting contingency and preparedness planning and promoting functioning inter-agency coordination structures. It provides technical advice to national governments in elaborating national contingency and preparedness plans, including related practical measures such as customs facilitation measures and pre-positioning of relief items. It also strengthens regional collaboration in disaster preparedness with various regional organizations.

Focal point

Emergency Preparedness Section (ochaeps@un.org)

OCHA Regional Offices

CADRI Team (UNDP/OCHA/ISDR) at the UNISDR

Website

ochaonline.un.org

www.reliefweb.int

www.unisdr.org/cadri

UNDP

United Nations Development Programme –
Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

General description of the organization

UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP works on the ground in 166 countries, working with countries on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.

Disaster reduction goal

UNDP supports disaster-prone countries in the development of legislative frameworks, operational systems and coordination mechanisms to ensure the integration of risk reduction into human development, through its Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

The UNDP Strategic Plan (2008-2011) urges UNDP in its strategic coordinating role of behalf of the United Nations to support the coordination and assistance for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, in the increasingly urgent area of disaster risk reduction.

The Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) has developed a 2007-2011 strategy, which identifies two outcome areas: 1) prevention and risk reduction, 2) recovery.

In 1998 the United Nations General Assembly decided to, "transfer to UNDP the responsibilities of the Emergency Relief Coordinator for operational activities for natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness, with the understanding that the resources for this task will be separate and additional to the resources of the UNDP for development activities and

that they will be provided by a grant from the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/RES/52/12B, para 16)."

In 2001 UNDP's Executive Board recognized, "that crisis prevention and disaster mitigation should be integral parts of sustainable human development strategies and […] that UNDP has some relevant operational experience in crisis and post-conflict situations (DP/2002/2)." This resulted in the creation of BCPR "to enhance UNDP's efforts for sustainable development, working with partners to reduce the incidence and impact of disasters and violent conflicts, and to establish the solid foundations for peace and recovery from crisis, thereby advancing the MDGs on poverty reduction". Crisis Prevention and Recovery is one of five UNDP core practice areas.

In 2007 BCPR made disaster reduction a bureau-wide function supported by three clusters dealing with strategy and policy, programmes and operations, and technical advisory services. The technical advisory services cluster includes a 16-person Disaster Reduction and Recovery Team (DRT). The DRT's mandated functional areas of responsibility include leading policy formulation, managing personnel networks, contributing to knowledge management, developing practice tools, advocating globally for CPR, providing technical support for programme design and formulation, and managing global programs.

UNDP focuses on the national and sub-national levels, where UNDP assists the national and local governments in implementing disaster risk reduction activities. BCPR has created positions for full-time senior regional disaster reduction advisors (RDRA) on all five regions in which UNDP operates. The RDRAs help provide coherence to UNDP programme portfolio, promote exchange between countries, provide technical advice and advocate for implementing new ideas at the national and sub-national levels. The RDRAs work closely with the Disaster Reduction Team of BCPR and their respective regional teams.

BCPR also funds 15 National Disaster Reduction Advisors in UNDP offices in high risk countries (12 more planned for 2009). In addition to providing technical advice and support to the National Governments at a high level, the NDRA also works as a resource to the ISDR system.

Based on the demand for UNDP support emanating from countries a number of key thematic areas have emerged. UNDP has formulated the following global initiatives in these thematic areas with the purpose of

maximizing on the regional and global knowledge in providing high quality support to UNDP programme countries:

- The Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP),
- Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI),
- Climate Risk Management,
- Urban Risk Management,
- International Recovery Platform (IRP),
- Global Mainstreaming Initiative (GMI) and
- Gender Sensitive Disaster Reduction and Recovery.

Memberships in key networks

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

Inter-Agency Group

Joint Initiative on Recovery Coordination (OCHA, UNDOCO, UNDP/BCPR)

National counterpart

National Governments (Disaster Management/Preparedness, Planning, Construction)

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

UNDP promotes efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction into national development programmes.

UNDP launched a Global Mainstreaming Initiative in 2005 to strengthen the capacity of governments to integrate disaster risk reduction and other core development priorities such as human rights, good governance, climate risk management and food security in national development planning and programmes. The complex interface of disaster with conflict and political instability is also an essential consideration. Key activities include:

- Integrating disaster risk reduction into other UNDP priority areas (energy and environment, poverty reduction and democratic governance) as well as other central cross-cutting issues, including climate change and gender.

- Building capacities to integrate disaster risk reduction at the national level through the development of tools, such as tailored training packages and practical case studies.
- Promoting harmonization of disaster risk reduction approaches with key partners, including the World Bank, the ISDR and the ProVention Consortium.

UNDP is undertaking the design and development of a training course on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development which is aimed at government counterparts, UNCT members and UNDP staff. UNDP is undertaking a series of pivotal pieces of analytical work aimed and strengthening understanding of DRR governance and mainstreaming. UNDP also played a key role in the UNDG-ISDR Task Team on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into to CCA-UNDAF processes.

UNDP has stressed urban disaster risk reduction as an important area of engagement and undertaken a series of activities to mainstream DRR into urban development processes using global advocacy, regional partnership and local implementation together with ECHO, the Earthquake and Megacities Initiative, UNISDR, International Institute for Environment and Development, UN-Habitat and ProVention Consortium.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

UNDP has established a risk identification programme (GRIP - Global Risk Identification Programme) officially launched as the Official Platform for Risk Identification, that works with international and local expert institutions and authorities in five main aspects of risk and loss assessment. Project activities have an early emphasis on capacity development. GRIP creates an improved evidence base for disaster risk management, including Risk Analysis, the formation of a global Loss Database and global standards as well as regular updates on Global Risks. It also develops and enhances national capacities through training and the formation of communities of practice.

1. Demonstrations – GRIP demonstrates in a few countries that information on disaster risks and losses can be applied to improve risk management decisions and development outcomes.
2. Capacity development – GRIP works to develop capacity by local partners to undertake risk assessments and apply the results. Activities include the development and promotion of standards and the training of national actors and institutions in disaster risk analysis.

3. Enhanced global disaster loss data – The GRIP expands and improves the evidence base on disaster related losses. Work in this outcome area includes development and promotion of tools and standards for damage and loss assessment. It also promotes the systematic organization of loss data into databases for analysis and use.
4. Risk analyses for management decision-support in high-risk countries create additional opportunities to convene, facilitate and provide technical support to national crisis risk analysis exercises. As with the demonstration cases above, governments and local institutions are the key partners, supported by international agencies as appropriate.
5. Global risk update is a periodically-issued compilation of risk analyses generated through the GRIP. The update will be widely distributed, and contribute to a common understanding of disaster risk patterns and their causes globally. The risk update will be increasingly based on high resolution analyses contributed by local, national and regional partners. The first publication of the Global Risk Update will be presented in June 2009, after which the report will be published regularly every two years.

UNDP is developing a Capacity Development portal including a Risk Assessment toolbox, training modules and a community of practice at www.gripweb.org. It also establishes National Disaster Loss Data Observatories for the systematic and sustainable collection, analysis and interpretation of disaster losses n about 20 high-risk countries in Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

National Risk Atlases to understand magnitude, distribution and causes of risk as well as to evaluate effectiveness of disaster risk reduction strategies are being prepared in five countries in Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

The Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) was conceived in 2007 as an inter-agency programme of UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (UNDP/BCPR), the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). CADRI is the successor to the UN Disaster Management Training Programme (UN DMTP).

CADRI serves as a vehicle through which the three organizations can maximize their ability to "deliver as one" for disaster risk reduction, focusing on capacity development. CADRI works with the UN system and governments at the country level and supports the broader ISDR system

to make capacity development a cross-cutting element for disaster risk reduction. Services include: training and facilitation, materials development and dissemination, capacity development advisory services, knowledge exchange and networking.

The BCPR has a full-time disaster reduction advisor focused on the gender sensitive disaster reduction and recovery. This advisor administers a fund that can be allocated to country offices for the purpose of ensuring that UNDP's disaster reduction programmes are based on sound analyses of the capacities and needs of both women and men and that these are enhanced and addressed in the resulting programmes.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

UNDP's Climate Risk Management (CRM) programme assesses the risks associated with climate variability and change. The Climate Risk Identification Technical Assistance Global Project started in September 2008. The results feed into set of selected country programmes as well as inform the practice of climate risk management in general. The project seeks to address an important gap in the institutionalization and implementation of appropriate CRM policies and strategies at the national, regional and global levels.

The project also entails working with national governments, recognizing their priorities, and helping them build the necessary capacity to manage climate risk. By undertaking a stakeholder-driven assessment of risks posed by climate variability and change, based on historical data, observable trends and predictions, the project generates evidence-based convergence on risk management priorities for each country based on the best scientific evidence available.

The project is one vehicle for operationalizing the BCPR-BDP (UNDP Bureau for Development Policy) joint work plan and provides a unified service on climate change matters to national governments. The joint work planning framework between BCPR and BDP/EEG envisions joint work in approximately 35 countries.

The International Recovery Platform (IRP) focuses on mainstreaming a culture of prevention, mainly by supporting and facilitating the adoption of appropriate recovery practices by disaster-affected populations and their governments with a particular focus on high risk/low capacity countries.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

In 2006, UNDP launched its Immediate Crisis Response Initiative (known internally as 'SURGE') to enhance its institutional ability to respond more quickly and effectively in the recovery phase following a conflict or disaster. UNDP can deploy SURGE Advisors on very short notice. It has Standard Operating Procedures for immediate crisis response, which have been tested, refined and officially adopted, and a toolkit has been developed with an extensive roll-in phase planed for all UNDP country offices for 2009.

Focal point

Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery/ Disaster Risk Reduction Team

Bureau for Development Policy

Website

www.undp.org

www.gri-p.net

www.unisdr.org/cadri

UNEP
The United Nations Environment Programme

General description of the organization

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the environmental agency of the United Nations. As such, it has the mandate to both drive the integration of environmental and sustainable principles into the activities of the UN family, and deliver its own specialist programmes on environment, sustainable development, and conflicts and disaster management.

Disaster reduction goal

UNEP's objective under its Subprogramme 2 for Disasters and Conflicts is "to minimize environmental threats to human well-being from the environmental causes and consequences of existing and potential natural and man-made disasters." UNEP seeks:

- enhanced capacity of Member States in environmental management in order to contribute to natural and man-made disaster risk reduction;
- upon request by Member States to provide early warning on environmental risks, environmental data and expertise on sustainable management of transboundary and shared natural resources;
- to contribute to global policy development by mainstreaming environmental lessons learned and best practice into the relevant policy and planning processes;
- to conduct rapid and reliable post-crisis assessments following conflicts and disasters as requested;
- to contribute to improved environmental management and the sustainable use of natural resources through post-crisis assessment and recovery process.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

The work on risk reduction focuses on countries identified through assessments as vulnerable to natural hazards and human-made disasters from environmental factors. UNEP supports the development of responsive strategies, capacity building and the implementation of pilot projects to reduce identified risks, as well as assists countries to secure GEF financing to support their work in disaster risk reduction. UNEP also disseminates best practice on how natural resource management can contribute to the reduction of risk from natural hazards and man-made disasters.

Some expected outputs include:

- Early warning and risk assessments delivered, and communicated widely, at global, regional and national levels;
- Policy toolkits and education modules demonstrating best practices in reducing risks through improved environmental management taken up by UN agencies and Member States;
- Policy support and pilot projects in vulnerable countries to catalyze practical action towards reducing risk from natural hazards and human-made disasters;
- National preparedness to respond to and to mitigate acute environmental risks caused by emergencies improved through capacity-building measures and risk information;
- Integrating environment and disaster risk reduction into the recovery process;
- Risk reduction for industrial accidents enhanced by strengthening capacity on preparedness at national and local levels, including through legal frameworks.

Memberships in key networks

Inter-Agency Group

Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR)

On-going collaboration with the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit; various UN agencies and international organizations

UNEP, in partnership with key UN and other international organizations, has proposed to develop a Global Climate Change Adaptation Network to support developing countries to better prepare for climate change impacts and probable disasters through supporting governments, communities and other users with knowledge, technology, demonstration and capacity

building for their adaptation policy setting, planning and practices, as well as cross-sectoral and cross-scale cooperation.

National counterpart

National and local authorities responsible for Environment; Planning; Disaster Management & Preparedness; Coastal Zone Management

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

One of the high-level outcomes of the UNEP-coordinated Partnership on Environment for Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) is to scale-up capacity building, so that governments and implementing organizations are better able to develop and implement integrated disaster risk reduction, ecosystem management and livelihood policies, plans and projects. Another priority of this partnership is to make science-based knowledge and guidance relevant and usable for governments and appropriate institutions. The PEDRR promotes better access to data and information, so that international and national communities are able to understand and start to incorporate ecosystem management and the livelihoods approach into disaster risk reduction policies, plans and practices.

UNEP helps vulnerable countries and regions build key adaptive capacity to cope better with expected adverse impacts of climate change, and climate related disasters.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

The Project of Risk Evaluation, Vulnerability, Information & Early Warning (PREVIEW), collects data to model hazards, computes human exposure and incorporates socio-economic and physical factors into risk identification to produce risk maps and indexes. It allows users to visualise and download data on hazard, exposure and risk for tropical cyclones, droughts, floods, earthquakes, forest fires, landslides, volcanoes and tsunamis.

Since 2007 DEWA-Europe is involved in the ISDR system Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR). Main focus from DEWA-Europe is on Global Risk Assessment. For this project DEWA-Europe played a key

role by modelling global flood and cyclones distribution (including storm surges) using very detailed data such as elevation at 90 m resolution. Computing human and economical exposure for cyclones, floods, earthquakes, drought, landslides and tsunamis. Using a new methodology, DEWA-Europe also derived human vulnerability and for three hazards, thus producing a new risk index for comparing countries. DEWA-Europe will host the Global Risk Data Platform which is supported by three institutions (UN/ISDR, UNDP/BCPR and UNEP/DEPI). Data will include tropical cyclones, floods, drought, earthquakes, landslides and tsunamis. With computation of exposure and risk at different levels (national and raster at 1x1 km).

UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) facilitates access to relevant environmental data for decision-making through monitoring, analyses and reports on the state of the global and regional environment and trends, producing such publications as the Global Environment Outlook (GEO). While UNEP/DEWA does support early warning for typical disasters such as hurricanes, floods, droughts, etc., the primary focus is on longer-term warning of "emerging environmental threats."

The Post-Conflict & Disaster Management Branch (PCDMB) has a focus on disaster risk reduction with environment and ecosystem factors, and works to prevent and combat future environmental threats based on early assessments.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

UNEP produces many environmental risk assessments, as well as good practices and lessons learned initiatives, which help to build awareness, and therefore resilience.

The Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) works with international and national partners, providing technical assistance and advisory services to strengthen environmental management capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The Ecosystem Services Economics Unit under DEPI promotes sustainable management of ecosystem services, following up on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, liaising with relevant partners including Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and donors to support their decisions. The Ecosystem Services Economics Unit promotes the idea that accurate valuation of ecosystem services can lead to better decision-making when disaster risk reduction is included.

The International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) promotes and implements environmentally sound technologies, including management systems for disaster prevention, production and consumption, and water and sanitation.

UNEP highlights adaptive water resource management to minimize projected stresses of too little or too much water induced by climate change for disaster reduction, conflict prevention and the realization of the MDGs through knowledge-based policy, technology and finance interventions.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

UNEP's Post-Conflict & Disaster Management Branch (PCDMB) works to prevent and combat future environmental threats by characterizing "emerging environmental threats" in the early stages.

PCDMB and DEWA have a joint project on "Integrating ecosystem and climate change factors into disaster risk assessments and associated planning processes," aiming at incorporating projections of "change in risk" from environmental and climate change trends in order to identify emerging areas of high risk.

UNEP focuses also on climate-proofing low-lying coastal zones and glacier mountain regions. UNEP assists, in particular, South-East Asia, Africa, and Small Island Developing States to respond better to both the disastrous threat of sea level rise and more frequent floods down-streams from large rivers. UNEP supports policy interventions, land use planning, technology transfer, creation of ecological buffer zones and building key infrastructure.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) is a programme developed by UNEP in conjunction with governments and industry with the purpose of minimizing the occurrence and harmful effects of technological accidents and environmental emergencies. The strategy of the APELL approach is to identify and create awareness of risks in an industrialized community, to initiate measures for risk reduction and mitigation, and to develop coordinated preparedness between the industry, the local authorities and the local population.

Focal point

UNEP - Post-Conflict & Disaster Management Branch (PCDMB)

Website

www.unep.org

http://postconflict.unep.ch/

www.gripweb.org/

www.unep.org/dewa/

www.unep.org/depi/

www.unep.or.jp/

UNESCO

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

General description of the organization

UNESCO is the United Nations' specialized agency for education, science and culture. Since its creation in 1945, the Organization has worked to promote knowledge and education worldwide. Its close links with professional and academic communities and other partners in 193 countries put it in a key position to press for action.

Disaster reduction goal

UNESCO assists Member States in building capacities to withstand and cope with natural events and human induced disasters, including those of a technological nature. UNESCO seeks to harness knowledge and technology and promote education for building effective capacities to foster prevention and reduce vulnerability to all kinds of disasters, particularly affecting poor populations.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

In its 34th session, the General Conference of UNESCO included contributing to disaster mitigation and preparedness among the fourteen Strategic Programme Objectives in the Organization's Medium Term Strategy for 2008-2013 and Programme and Budget for 2008-2009.

UNESCO provides intergovernmental coordination, advice to governments and policy support for the establishment and operation of monitoring networks and early warning and risk mitigation systems for natural hazards, with particular emphasis on earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, and landslides. It also promotes joint multi-stakeholder strategies for enhancing disaster education and awareness as an intrinsic element of the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (UN DESD) led by UNESCO, especially in communities at risk located in Africa, LDCs and SIDS.

Integrated approaches and synergies between the natural sciences, the social sciences, culture, education and information systems lay the basis for interdisciplinary platforms to manage disaster risks.

Memberships in key networks

Inter-Agency Group

ISDR Thematic Platform for Knowledge and Education

Coalition for Global School Safety and Disaster Prevention Education (GOGSS-DPE)

International Consortium on Landslides

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

International Flood Initiative (IFI)

International Platform for Reducing Earthquake Disaster (IPRED)

Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS)

Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)

World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)

National counterpart

National Commissions of UNESCO; National committees of water, oceanographic and earth sciences; Ministries of Education, Construction and Meteorology and related extension services.

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO coordinates the establishment of tsunami early warning systems in the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, the Caribbean and the Mediterranean and

Northeast Atlantic Ocean and connected Seas. The IOC work includes complementary and sustained activities in tsunami and other sea-level related hazard risk assessment, tsunami warning training, emergency response, and preparedness as part of the comprehensive tsunami and coastal inundation mitigation programmes. IOC is cooperating with and assisting several Member States in strengthening their national end-to-end tsunami and other ocean-related hazards warning systems as part of the ongoing ocean-wide coordination processes. Besides the instrumentation networks, redundant communication channels, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and preparedness programmes are the key to effective early warning and thus DRR.

It also promotes the end-to-end concept for early warning systems, in partnership with the UNISDR and WMO. The IOC has established intergovernmental tsunami early warning coordination groups for the Indian Ocean, Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean, and Caribbean Regions in 2005. The Pacific Tsunami Warning System has been established as early as 1965.

UNESCO is an active partner in the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS) which seeks to provide a comprehensive framework to harmonize the common interests of the major space-based and in-situ systems for global observation of the Earth. UNESCO promotes the geohazards component in the IGOS.

The International Flood Initiative (IFI) is based on the integrated flood management policy and aims to ensure that end-to-end process of flood management is put in place, balancing development needs and flood risks, considering structural and non-structural measures, as well as positive and negative impacts on floods by stimulating research, improving training in both informal and academic settings, and networking information.

UNESCO also strengthens international and regional networks on knowledge sharing and capacity-building for earthquake risk mitigation. An international platform regarding earthquakes and tsunamis has been developed in cooperation with the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, including a research and training platform for earthquake disaster reduction based on seismology and earthquake engineering.

The International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) has paved the way for the organization of a World Landslide Forum. UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme has been particularly concerned with drought and

combating desertification and has produced and disseminated training and educational materials in this area.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

UNESCO plays a pivotal role in the ISDR Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education. UNESCO stimulates regional partnerships and networks devoted to the collection and dissemination of relevant information and knowledge on hazards, vulnerabilities and risk mitigation capacities. It disseminates, promotes and advocates guidelines, good practices and tools for proactive policies to reduce vulnerabilities and to promote integrated assessment and mitigation of disaster risks.

UNESCO pays particular attention to gender-sensitive and socioculturally relevant approaches and to the promotion of local and indigenous practices for risk reduction, to the use of formal and informal channels to mobilize and sensitize community leaders, women, youth and children, and to the dissemination of guidelines for the protection of schools and cultural heritage sites at risk.

Integration of disaster risk reduction is an intrinsic element of the UNESCO-led United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UN DESD). One of the key objectives is to integrate disaster risk reduction into school curricula and promote guidelines for school safety and preparedness programmes. The World Disaster Reduction Campaign "Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School" (2006-2007), jointly coordinated by UNESCO and UNISDR, created a global momentum for strengthening disaster risk education and ensuring school safety. UNESCO also collects and makes information available over the internet on disaster risk reduction educational materials.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

Focal point

Section for Disaster Reduction

IOC's Tsunami Unit

Website

www.unesco.org

www.unesco.org/disaster

www.ioc-tsunami.org

UNFCCC SECRETARIAT

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat

General description of the organization

In 1992, most countries joined an international treaty -- the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) -- to begin to consider what can be done to reduce global warming and to cope with whatever temperature increases are inevitable. More recently, a number of nations approved an addition to the treaty: the Kyoto Protocol, which has legally binding measures and entered into force on 16 February 2005.

The UNFCCC secretariat supports all institutions involved in the climate change process, particularly the COP, the subsidiary bodies and their Bureau and cooperative action by States to combat climate change and its impacts on humanity and ecosystems. The UNFCCC plays a catalytic role regarding action on climate change, and in particular adaptation, to initiate activities within the UN System to help implement mandated activities, including the Bali Action Plan.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the "supreme body" of the Convention; it is the highest decision-making authority. It is an association of all the (192) countries that are Parties to the Convention. The COP meets every year, unless the Parties decide otherwise.

The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) is the "supreme body" of the Kyoto Protocol. It is an association of those Parties to the Convention that have also ratified the Kyoto Protocol. The CMP meets every year during the same period as the COP.

The Convention established two permanent subsidiary bodies: the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI). These bodies give advice to the COP and the CMP, and each has a specific mandate. The SBSTA and the SBI

traditionally meet in parallel, at least twice a year. Both bodies carry out activities on adaptation and include inputs on disaster risk reduction in their work.

At COP 13, the Conference of the Parties, by its decision 1/CP.13, (the Bali Action Plan), launched a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012. This process is being conducted under a temporary subsidiary body under the Convention, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA). The AWG-LCA shall complete its work and present the outcome to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session (December 2009).

Disaster reduction goal

Decision 1/CP.13, or the Bali Action Plan, highlights the significance of disaster risk reduction and risk management as part of enhanced action on climate change adaptation.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

The Nairobi Work Programme of the SBSTA identifies 'climate-related risks and extreme events' as one of the work area. Activities under this work area are implemented with a view to Promoting understanding of impacts of, and vulnerability to, climate change, current and future climate variability and extreme events, and the implications for sustainable development. Another work area of the work programme, adaptation planning and practices addresses issues in integrating practices, tools and systems for climate risk assessment and management and disaster risk reduction strategies into national policies and programmes.

Under the Convention, all Parties are required to report, known as a "national communication", on the steps they are taking to implement the Convention. National communication includes reporting on vulnerability assessment, expected impacts of climate change and adaptation measures.

The UNFCCC Parties have recognized that existing knowledge and capacities for coping with extreme weather events must be harnessed to adapt to climate change. The Bali Action Plan highlights, in paragraph 1(c), the significance of disaster risk reduction as part of enhanced action on climate change adaptation. The Bali Action Plan's directions for enhanced action on adaptation includes the consideration of:

- "Risk management and risk reduction strategies, including risk sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance;
- Disaster reduction strategies and means to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change." (FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1, paragraph 1(c) (ii) and (iii))

Also, enhanced action on adaptation in the Bali Action Plan includes other elements that are highly relevant to reducing disaster risk, such as vulnerability assessments, capacity-building and response strategies, as well as integration of actions into sectoral and national planning.

Memberships in key networks

ISDR Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

National counterpart

National climate change focal points.

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

As of March 2009, the UNFCCC secretariat had received 39 National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPAs), consisting of 437 priority projects. The priority projects vary among countries according to their specific vulnerabilities and the adverse effects of climate change variability and extremes that they are experiencing. Projects have been identified as cross-sectoral projects as well as those applicable to individual sectors including: food security, agriculture and livestock; coastal zones and marine ecosystems; disaster management; early warning and forecasting; education and training; energy; fisheries; forestry; health; infrastructure; insurance; terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity; tourism; and water resources.

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

The Nairobi Work Programme of the SBSTA compiles and disseminates knowledge in "integrating practices, tools and systems for climate risk

assessment and management and disaster risk reduction strategies into national policies and programmes". The UNFCCC prepared a technical paper, and held a technical workshop in March 2009, in collaboration with UNISDR Secretariat, on this topic.

Decisions 5/CP.7 (FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.1) and 1/CP.10 (Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures) (FCCC/CP/2004/10/Add.1) call for implementation of various adaptation actions, many of which are relevant and cross-cutting to all HFA priorities, e.g.,

- Integrating climate change considerations into sustainable development planning;
- Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national and regional systematic observation and monitoring networks (sea-level rise, climate and hydrological monitoring stations, fire hazards, land degradation, floods, cyclones and droughts);
- Supporting capacity building, including institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness of disasters relating to climate change, including contingency planning, in particular, for droughts and floods in areas prone to extreme weather events;
- Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing early warning systems for extreme weather events in an integrated and interdisciplinary manner to assist developing country Parties, in particular those most vulnerable to climate change;
- Supporting education and training in, and public awareness of, climate change related issues, for example through workshops and information dissemination;
- Supporting capacity building, including institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness and management of disasters relating to climate change, including contingency planning, in particular, for droughts and floods in areas prone to extreme weather events.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

The UNFCCC Secretariat has undertaken efforts to build capacity on risk assessment through workshops, and share knowledge and information on risk assessment, including through publications.

Through the Nairobi Work Programme of the SBSTA, Parties and organizations share knowledge and information on methods and tools, data and observations, socio-economic information, climate-related risks

and extreme events, climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling, and adaptation planning and practices. These efforts are informed by a wide range of organizations and stakeholders, including by ISDR System.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

A series of regional workshops were undertaken under Decision 1/CP.10 to ascertain Parties' vulnerability to future climate change; current adaptation plans, strategies and actions; and future adaptation options (For further details on the regional workshops under decision 1/CP.10, please see http://unfccc.int/2535.php). The UNFCCC Secretariat summarized findings from these workshops, National Communications, National Adaptation Programmes of Action and other sources in the publication, Climate Change: Impacts, Vulnerabilities and Adaptation in Developing Countries. The book reports on countries' interest in linking disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts.(This book is available on-line at: http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/impacts.pdf)

To promote knowledge sharing in adaptation, the UNFCCC Secretariat developed a local coping strategies database and adaptation practices interface. The former intends to facilitate the transfer of long-standing

coping strategies and knowledge from communities which have adapted to specific hazards or climatic conditions, to communities which may just be starting to experience such conditions as a result of climate change. (For more information on the Local coping strategies database, please see <http://maindb.unfccc.int/public/adaptation/)

The latter is a gateway to information on adaptation practices worldwide. It provides a summary of adaptation practices by a large range of organizations, agencies and businesses, along with descriptions and relevant links and publications. Information is searchable by various work focus and disciplinary, including disaster risk reduction.(For more information on the Adaptation practices interface, please see <http://unfccc.int/4555.php)

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

UNFCCC Secretariat is the convener of international negotiations on climate change. As awareness among Parties' has grown that countries will need to adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change, adaptation has gained

importance in the work under the UNFCCC and in the negotiations. As such, adaptation is one of the pillars of the Bali Action Plan and an important area of negotiations under the AWG-LCA.

The Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change is mandated by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). The five-year programme (2005-2010), which has completed its first set of mandated activities and is now undertaking further work, aims to help all countries improve their understanding and assessment of the impacts of climate change and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures. It is an international framework implemented by Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, communities and other stakeholders.

The National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) provide an important way to prioritise urgent adaptation needs for least developed countries (Article 4.9). They draw on existing information and community-level input to identify adaptation projects required now in order to enable these countries to cope with the immediate impacts of climate change.

The National Communication (NCs) provide information on the steps Parties are taking to implement the Convention. Reporting in the National Communication includes on vulnerability assessment, expected impacts of climate change and adaptation measures.

Support for Adaptation: Developing countries require international assistance to support adaptation (Articles 4.4, 4.8 and 4.9). This includes funding, technology transfer and insurance as well as resources to reduce the risk of disasters and raise the resilience of communities to increasing extreme events. Least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) need particular consideration due to their extreme vulnerability.

Funding for adaptation is provided through the financial mechanism of the Convention, currently operated by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Funding opportunities include:

- the Trust Fund, including the Strategic Priority on Adaptation and support for national communications including vulnerability and adaptation assessments.
- the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) under the Convention
- the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) under the Convention

A further source of funding is the Adaptation Fund (AF) under the Kyoto Protocol managed by the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB).

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

Focal point

UNFCCC Secretariat: Adaptation, Technology and Science Programme

Website

http://unfccc.int/adaptation/items/4159.php

UNFPA
United Nations Population Fund

General description of the organization

UNFPA is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

Disaster reduction goal

To ensure adequate emergency preparedness and contingency planning at country level and to improve environmental protection.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

UNFPA's three-year institutional strategy for emergency preparedness, humanitarian response and transition and recovery includes various measures to strengthen technical and institutional capacities to incorporate population, reproductive health and gender concerns into overall emergency preparedness, response, transition and recovery. UNFPA supports national capacity-building in emergency preparedness as an integral part of regular country programme activities. Various UNFPA programmes have been strengthened to be adequately prepared on the basis of scenario planning and risk assessment which also take into account early warning systems.

UNFPA is actively engaged in emergency preparedness and contingency planning through (1) ongoing efforts to collect, analyze and monitor basic population data; (2) building the capacity of national counterparts to implement the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive

Health in Crisis Situations, and (3) the pre-positioning of reproductive health supplies such as reproductive health emergency kits as well as dignity kits.

UNFPA supports the work in the following three focus areas:

1) provision and/or organization of reproductive health and emergency obstetric care, including distribution of safe delivery kits to field hospitals and rape kits for women in shelters and assembly points;
2) promotion and protection of women's rights and dignity in areas vulnerable to or affected by disasters, including monitoring and prevention of sexual violence, including follow-up of reported cases; and
3) special attention to the rights of marginalized groups, including people living with HIV/AIDS, sex workers, street youths, and persons with disabilities, using community networks as direct vehicles for the distribution of emergency commodities and vital supplies.

UNFPA works for securing essential supplies – from contraceptives to HIV testing kits to equipment for emergency obstetric care – so that the right to reproductive health can be fully exercised. UNFPA takes a lead role in reproductive health commodity security, coordinating the process, forecasting needs, mobilizing support and building logistical capacity at the country level.

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) emphasized that "efforts to slow down population growth, to reduce poverty, to achieve economic progress, to improve environmental protection, and to reduce unsustainable consumption and production patterns are mutually reinforcing." Mobilizing the resources needed to implement the ICPD Programme of Action is therefore a key action to protect the environment, as well as to promote women's rights and sustainable development.

The 2001 UNFPA State of the World Population Report on Population and Environmental Change stressed the close and complex relation between population and the environment. Similarly it was recognized that climate change would have a serious impact including increased storms, flooding and soil erosion, accelerated extinction of plants and animals, shifting agricultural zones, and a threat to public health due to increased water stress and tropical disease. These conditions could increase environmental refugees and international economic migration. UNFPA, at an institutional level, is increasingly studying how to adapt its programming processes to better incorporate DRR both in development programmes as well as in emergency preparedness.

Memberships in key networks

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and its subsidiary bodies

Inter-Agency Working Group for Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations

National counterpart

National Disaster Management Councils/Units of line ministries in framework of existing contingency plans in some countries

Global MOU with IFRC and MOUs at national level in some countries

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

UNFPA considers disaster risk reduction in its environmental scanning and strategic planning work. UNFPA has been involved in modeling methods for population and environmental dynamics which have helped governments highlight key population, economic and environmental relationships. (Threshold 21 (T21) model)

UNFPA has participated through UNDG into adopting indicators for monitoring the balance between population growth and development, including environmental impacts, which are now part of the Common Country Assessment procedures.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

UNFPA addresses both population and environmental concerns, by incorporating reproductive health information and services into existing environmental protection efforts, or including environmental education in reproductive health or population education programmes.

UNFPA supports research on mapping the connections between a number of variables—increasing environmental stress caused by climate change, fertility patterns, voluntary or forced migration, urbanization, women's health and education status, and the push/pull effects of economic decisions.

In 2007 and 2008, UNFPA carried out a series of regional capacity building workshops for UNFPA staff as well as government and NGO partners in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, South and West Asia and the Pacific Region. These workshops provide skills to be better prepared for humanitarian preparedness as well as response and recovery interventions. Focus is increasingly put on climate change related disasters.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

UNFPA recognizes that limited land availability can lead poor people to settle in fragile areas. UNFPA supports constructive policies that will make the most of opportunities, avoid limits and promote equity. It also pursues an integrated approach to defeating poverty and protecting the environment building on national ownership of development initiative as well as local control and respect for local knowledge at community level. UNFPA pays attention to the voices of women, who are responsible for food, water, fuel and other household resources.

UNFPA advocates for climate and environmental policies to address the geographical distribution and movement of people. The combined effects of population growth and climate change could produce regional resource shortages, which in turn could result in the exploitation of environmentally sensitive areas such as hillsides, flood plains, coastal areas and wetlands. These conditions will also increase environmental refugees, international economic migration and associated socio-political challenges.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

UNFPA is committed to assisting and protecting women, men and youth made vulnerable by disasters caused by natural hazards, armed conflict, and other causes. This includes refugees, internally displaced persons, and people made homeless or vulnerable by disaster.

Within the coordinated, inter-agency response to disasters, UNFPA takes the lead in providing supplies and services to protect reproductive health, with an emphasis on the special needs and vulnerabilities of women and young people. Priority areas include safe motherhood; prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV; adolescent health; and gender-based violence. UNFPA also supports various data collection activities, including censuses to provide detailed information for planning and rapid health assessments to allow for appropriate, effective and efficient relief. UNFPA encourages the full participation of women and young people in efforts to rebuild their societies.

UNFPA protects the reproductive health of communities in crisis. It also provides assistance to stricken communities as they move beyond the acute crisis and enter the reconstruction phase and supports various data collection activities, including censuses to provide detailed information for planning and rapid health assessments to allow for appropriate, effective and efficient relief.

Reproductive health supplies, equipment and medicine are organized and stored by UNFPA in preparation for immediate distribution when an earthquake, flood, violent conflict or other crisis arises. A rapid-response fund enables UNFPA to mount a quick response to emergencies, especially in the initial stages. The Fund can ship out supplies of condoms and other commodities within a few days of receiving a request. Once an emergency situation stabilizes, the procurement of reproductive health materials becomes a regular part of a more comprehensive health care programme.

Quick response saves lives, which is why UNFPA ships pre-packaged supplies directly to emergency situations (Pre-packaged Supplies Speed Response). These supplies help to implement the Minimum Initial Service Package – a set of objectives and activities for achieving certain minimum requirements in an emergency. The MISP was developed by the Inter-Agency Working Group for Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations, of which UNFPA is a founding member.

Reproductive health needs in the early phase of an emergency include:

- Safe delivery for births with and without skilled help
- Condoms to prevent STI transmission and unwanted pregnancy
- Contraceptives and family planning support
- Rape prevention and management
- STI prevention and drugs for treatment
- HIV/AIDS prevention

- Care after miscarriages and unsafe abortions
- Sutures and surgery for Caesarean sections and bleeding
- Safe blood transfusions and instructions on universal precautions
- Referrals for more advanced care

UNFPA is also increasingly providing "dignity kits" with basic commodities such as soap, sanitary napkins, underwear, tooth brush/tooth paste to allow crisis affected populations to maintain their dignity, and access services which they would otherwise not be able to reach.

Focal point

Humanitarian Response Branch

HRB@unfpa.org

Website

www.unfpa.org/emergencies

UN-HABITAT

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

General description of the organization

UN-HABITAT is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. UN-HABITAT is one of the few international institutions that provides an overall perspective on urbanisation processes and the only one with housing and urban development as its principal mandate.

Disaster reduction goal

UN-HABITAT's main goals related to disaster risk reduction are:

- Increasing investment in disaster risk reduction - redirecting priorities from visible and short-term development projects to abstract long term potential threats and risks.
- Addressing the root causes of disasters - inadequate development practices increase the vulnerability of communities, and more focus on pre-disaster risk reduction needs to be integrated in all development planning.
- Incorporating vulnerability reduction and disaster management into on-going national and local development and poverty reduction plans.
- Redirecting the focus on disaster risk reduction and mitigation rather than preparedness and response related strategies in the human settlements context.
- Building a culture of prevention entails a cross sectoral, multi-dimensional approach integrating participatory analysis of risk, implementation of programmes, and development of policy and legal frameworks with all stakeholders including civil society, private sector, local, national and international government, in a gendered and comprehensive process.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

The Habitat Agenda (Istanbul 1996), which details its mandate, calls upon the agency to assist member states in disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness, and post-disaster rehabilitation capabilities in human settlements.

In 2007, a Strategic Policy on Human Settlements in Crisis was adopted starting from UN-HABITAT's Sustainable Relief and Reconstruction Framework which includes the Hyogo Framework for Action and aims at:

- Reducing the vulnerabilities of human settlements and strengthen their capacities for managing disasters at all levels;
- Responding to immediate needs in the aftermath of crises that are linked to Agency mandated interventions supporting sustainable human settlements.

The Disaster Management Programme (DMP) has been tasked to fulfill this mandate through supporting national governments, local authorities and communities in strengthening their capacity in managing disasters. This applies both to the prevention and mitigation of disasters as well as the rehabilitation of human settlements. DMP also creates awareness among decision makers and communities on mitigation methodologies and adequate rehabilitation in human settlements. It bridges the gap between relief and development by combining the technical expertise, normative understanding and lessons learned through UN-HABITAT field operations.

DMP provides a combination of long term technical and normative support through ongoing partnerships within and outside UN-HABITAT with a surge facility to allow for the provision of immediate support during emergency phases. This combination ensures that DMP is able to impact all phases of post-conflict and disaster management cycles to promote sustainable human settlements development within situations of crisis with maximum effect.

Memberships in key networks

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

National counterpart

Local Authorities, Ministries of Housing, Urban Development, Land and Resettlement

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

UN-HABITAT is working through its operational and normative programmes towards the adoption of disaster mitigation, environmental planning and management policies and strategies, in particular at the city level. This is part of its broader focus on promoting participatory urban planning, management and governance.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

Vulnerability assessment and risk mapping are a priority element of the Disaster Management Programme. Understanding vulnerability and risk is central in the development of disaster management models that will promote self-reliance and long term reduction of the impact of disasters on human settlements. In partnership with the Global Risk Identification Programme, UN-HABITAT is developing tools for integrated risk assessment, with a particular focus on flood and earthquake related risks.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

Disaster risk reduction is one aspect that will be highlighted in UN-HABITAT's Global Campaign on Sustainable Urbanisation (2008 - 2013). UN-HABITAT intends to improve its monitoring of Human Settlements and Crisis and to develop a Global Risk Atlas for urban areas.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

DMP has a broad range of experiences on vulnerability reduction and disaster mitigation through regional consultations in Central America and the Caribbean, the development of vulnerability reduction tools, support for national/regional initiatives on flood mitigation in Asia, and through DMP's ongoing partnership with UNISDR.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

The Disaster Management Programme provides support to national governments, local authorities and communities by:

- Developing techniques and tools for the management of disaster prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation;
- Designing and implementing training programmes, as well as supporting training activities executed by other agencies and field projects;
- Promoting horizontal cooperation by networking institutions, experts and experience on disaster related activities in human settlements;
- Design, implementation and backstopping of projects at local, national, regional and global level;

Strengthening coordination and networking among communities, NGOs, governments and external support organizations in addressing disaster-related activities.

Focal point

Disaster, Post-Conflict and Safety Section

Disaster Management Programme

Website

www.unhabitat.org

The Disaster Management Programme's specific site focusing on risk assessments (www.disasterassessment.org)

UNICEF
United Nations Children's Fund

General description of the organization

UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and strives to establish girls and boys rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behavior towards children.

Disaster reduction goal

To meet the objectives of the HFA, UNICEF believes it is critical that development work is 'hazard proofed', that education facilities are safe and provide an opportunity for children and adults to learn about disasters and that humanitarian action and recovery contribute to a reduction of disaster risk. UNICEF also supports early warning and emergency preparedness facilitating a timely, effective and national authority led humanitarian response.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

UNICEF is currently refining its global framework for disaster reduction, which focuses on protection and risk reduction for those who are most vulnerable to disasters: children and women. Children and women suffer the heaviest burden from disasters, including loss of life, psychosocial trauma, disruption of education and impact on livelihoods. Therefore, awareness, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery measures need to be adapted to their specific capacities and vulnerabilities.

UNICEF is committed to sustaining and enhancing its support of national risk reduction efforts, specifically, those most directly related to threats to children, both in non-crisis and emergency situations. UNICEF sees risk reduction as an integral part of all sector activities.

UNICEF encourages a comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction from prevention, mitigation, preparedness and early warning through to response and recovery. UNICEF holds that in all aspects of risk reduction, the specific needs of women and children should be integrally addressed, their capacities enhanced, and their participation encouraged and facilitated. UNICEF believes that disaster risk reduction cannot be fully effective without the full contribution and participation of women and children, through family and community mobilization, training, and utilization of the educational system. Underpinning this child focused approach is a belief that its efforts should enhance capacities of families, communities, governments, national institutions and civil society organizations.

Memberships in key networks

Inter-Agency Group

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

The Sub-Working Group of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Early Warning and Contingency planning (UNICEF co-chairing with WFP)

Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies

ISDR System Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education

National counterpart

National and local government including Education, Health, Environment, and Social Welfare Ministries as well as national Disaster Management bodies. UNICEF also partners with national and international NGOs.

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

UNICEF fully engages in national level development processes as well as in UN country planning (CCA/UNDAF). Where possible it seeks to ensure DRR is mainstreamed into government development policies and that national platforms are established. UNICEF also advocates for a strong representation of civil society, especially children, in the processes at local and national level.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

UNICEF country programmes are based on a regular assessment of disaster risk. In order to ensure a better understanding of sub-national disaster risk, UNICEF is working to strengthen its capacity and that of its partners in vulnerability and capacity assessment.

UNICEF has developed its own organizational early warning system and plays a lead role in early warning within the IASC Sub Working Group on Preparedness and Contingency Planning (including co-drafting the IASC Early Warning / Early Action report).

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

UNICEF works to ensure that all children realize their right to a quality basic education. It focuses on, amongst others, the most excluded and vulnerable children: girls, the disabled, ethnic minorities, rural and urban poor, those who are affected by war and disasters, and those affected by HIV and AIDS.

UNICEF works with its partners to ensure learning facilities are safe and that basic preparedness and mitigation measures are included in the school curriculum. In humanitarian action and post-crisis recovery, UNICEF works on quickly restoring education and protection services by setting up safe learning spaces for children. In particular, UNICEF seeks to promote education services and facilities that ensure the security, privacy, dignity and full equality for children and women. UNICEF provides basic facilities and supplies for quality learning. UNICEF believes this provides a platform to help countries get children back to school, to rebuild sustainable education systems and to reduce future risk.

As an example, UNICEF and UNISDR have produced an educational kit for children called "Let's learn to prevent disasters!". It includes the board game "Riskland" whereby players learn about what they can do to reduce disaster impacts by answering questions and advancing along the board's winding path. The kit and game may be adapted according to the different hazards communities face, and translated into multiple languages.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

UNICEF addresses the underlying causes of vulnerability and risk through its core programmes and through the technical areas of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Health and Nutrition, Education, HIV & AIDS and Child Protection. Through its leadership and engagement in the humanitarian clusters, it also endeavors that wherever possible its humanitarian response and recovery work is cognizant of the underlying causes of risk.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

UNICEF protects the rights of children in its emergency response. It deploys technical and material resources, in coordination with the UN partners and humanitarian agencies, to guarantee access to basic needs and services for affected families. It also makes its facilities for rapid response available to its partners to relieve the suffering of children and those who provide their care. UNICEF has strengthened emergency support functions at all levels and has mainstreamed emergency preparedness and contingency planning throughout the organization.

UNICEF also seeks to advance disaster risk reduction through the humanitarian clusters. UNICEF is the IASC cluster lead in the areas of WASH and nutrition; it also co-leads the Education Cluster with Save the Children Alliance. UNICEF is the sub-lead in the area of emergency datacoms (within the emergency telecoms cluster) and sector lead in the area of child protection (within the larger protection cluster).

Focal point

Recovery and Risk Reduction Section, Office of Emergency Programmes (New York and Geneva)

Early Warning and Preparedness Section, Office of Emergency Programmes (Geneva)

Website

www.unicef.org

UNITAR

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

General description of the organization

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is making concrete contributions to developing the capacities of tens of thousands of people around the world. Since its inception in 1965, UNITAR has built sustainable partnerships acquiring unique expertise and accumulating experience and knowledge to fulfill its mandate. These accomplishments have enabled UNITAR to respond to the growing demand from UN Member States for training for capacity development in the fields of Environment; Peace, Security and Diplomacy; and Governance.

Disaster reduction goal

Develop capacities of Member States and their local authorities to reduce disaster risks.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

UNITAR's aim is to develop Member States and their local authorities' capacities to cope with disaster and benefit fully from concrete tools to identify risks, to develop DRR strategies as part of their development plans, and to implement those strategies.

Different programmes of UNITAR contribute to these goals in facilitating exchange of experiences and good practices, in supporting the design of mitigation and adaptation strategies to address the challenges posed by climate changes, and in developing the access to satellite technologies and geographic information system.

Memberships in key networks

International Charter Space and Major Disasters

Integrated Flood Management Helpdesk

GEO – Group on Earth Observations

National counterpart

Various ministries, local authorities, universities, civil society and private sector

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

Support to national and local actors in mainstreaming DRR into their development plans.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

UNITAR operational satellite applications programme develops training for national and local actors in the use of satellite imagery and geographic information system to assess risks and to set up plan to reduce their vulnerability to disasters.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

Through its network of training center for local actors (CIFAL), UNITAR organizes awareness raising workshops that enables peer learning and exchange of knowledge and of best practices among local actors within a region or internationally.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

UNITAR ensures that the wealth of geographic information provided during the immediate response phase to a disaster is at the disposal of the national

authorities and other UN agencies to support the implementation of their recovery and long term development plans.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

UNITAR accompanies Member States in setting up geographic information system allowing them to develop contingency planning and to have timely access to up-to-date information about the situation on the ground in case of disaster.

Focal point

Climate Change Programme, Local Development Programme, and Operational Satellite Applications Programme UNOSAT

info@unitar.org

Website

www.unitar.org

UN-OHRLLS

Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

General description of the organization

UN-OHRLLS, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001, advocates for the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS).

UN-OHRLLS coordinates and mobilizes international support and resources for the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries 2001-2010, adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Brussels in 2001; Almaty Declaration and Programme of Action for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries; and the Mauritius Strategy, for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted in Mauritius in 2005. It also supports the Economic and Social Council as well as the General Assembly regarding the Brussels Programme.

Disaster reduction goal

To strengthen disaster mitigation and preparedness and to promote the sustainable development of the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

The Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries aims at improving human conditions of the population of the LDCs and provides a framework for partnership between LDCs and their development partners "to accelerate sustained economic growth and sustainable development in LDCs, to end marginalization by eradicating poverty, inequality and deprivation in these countries, and to enable them to integrate beneficially into the global economy".

In Commitment 6 of the Brussels Programme of Action (Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment) LDCs and their developments partners committed to alleviate vulnerability of these countries to natural shocks. This commitment sets out the programme's agenda for protecting the environment and addresses a wide range of issues related to loss of biological diversity, drought, desertification, etc.

The Mauritius Strategy underscores that Small Island Developing States are located among the most vulnerable regions in the world in relation to the intensity and frequency of natural and environmental disasters and their increasing impact, and face disproportionately high economic, social and environmental consequences. It calls for increased commitments to reduce the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States, due to their limited capacity to respond to and recover from disasters.

Memberships in key networks

National counterpart

Brussels Programme of Action: LDCs National Focal Point

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

SIDS have undertaken to strengthen their respective national frameworks for more effective disaster management.

In the Mauritius Strategy, Member States committed to: strengthen "the ISDR and related SIDS regional mechanisms as facilities to improve national disaster mitigation, preparedness and early warning capacity, increase public awareness about disaster reduction, stimulate interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnerships, and support the mainstreaming of risk management into the national planning process".

In the Brussels Programme of Action, developments partners of LDCs have committed themselves to give "priority attention to the LDCs in the substantive programme and institutional arrangements for implementing the new International Strategy for Disaster Reduction".

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

In the Brussels Programme of Action, LDCs committed to: strengthen "disaster mitigation policies and mechanisms, with a particular focus on the poor, especially women and children, and with the involvement of local communities and NGOs in disaster mitigation, early warning systems and preparedness and relief efforts;" and to pursue or intensify "efforts to strengthen national early warning and forecasting mechanisms," implement preventive measures and "sensitize relevant parts of the population to the benefits of disaster preparedness and prevention".

Their development partners committed to support "LDCs' enhancement of capacity to effectively participate in and benefit from regional and international early warning and disaster mitigation and response networks, including through satellite-driven technologies".

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

In the Mauritius Strategy, Member States committed to: strengthen "the ISDR and related SIDS regional mechanisms as facilities to (…) increase public awareness about disaster reduction, stimulate interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnerships, and support the mainstreaming of risk management into the national planning process".

In the Brussels Programme of Action, development partners of LDCs committed to share "operationally useful disaster information, including satellite data, as widely as possible within the international disaster relief community, through appropriate programmes such as the UN web site ReliefWeb."

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

The Brussels Programme of Action states that: "Post-emergency action, using effective and flexible mechanisms, must ease the transition from the emergency phase to the development phase, promote the socio-economic reintegration of the parts of the population affected, remove as far as possible the causes of the crisis and strengthen institutions and ownership by local and national actors of their role in formulating a sustainable development policy. Both LDCs and development partners should

encourage the involvement of the private sector, inter alia in the areas of disaster mitigation and disaster preparedness."

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

In the Mauritius Strategy, Member States committed to augment "the capacity of SIDS to predict and respond to emergency situations, including those affecting human settlements, stemming from natural and environmental disasters."

In the Brussels Programme of Action, LDCs committed to develop and implement "comprehensive disaster mitigation and preparedness, policies and actions. Such policies should also respond to prolonged disasters with a slow onset such as drought, which often has very severe economic, environmental and social impacts"; and to consider "the creation of innovative financial instruments, such as special insurance schemes, to facilitate post-disaster reconstruction with a view to maintaining standards of living and productive capacities in the LDCs."

Their development partners committed to provide "assistance for disaster mitigation, at the request of affected countries, as well as for improving the capacity of LDCs to identify mitigation scenarios and establish protective measures and contingency plans".

Focal point

Policy Development and Coordination

Monitoring and Reporting Unit

Small Island Developing States Unit

Website

http://www.un.org/ohrlls

UNOOSA

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

General description of the organization

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) implements the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Subcommittees, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee. The Office is responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and assisting developing countries in using space science and technology.

Disaster reduction goal

Ensure that all countries and international and regional organizations have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information and solutions to support the full disaster management cycle.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

In its resolution 61/110 of 14 December 2006 the United Nations General Assembly established the "United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response - UN-SPIDER" as a United Nations programme, with the following mission statement: "Ensure that all countries and international and regional organizations have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle".

UN-SPIDER is the first global initiative to focus on the need to ensure access to and use of space-based information and solutions during all phases of the disaster, including the risk reduction phase, which contributes to an increasing reduction in loss of lives and property.

UN-SPIDER is being implemented as an open network of providers of space-based solutions to support disaster management activities. Besides

Vienna (where UNOOSA is located), the programme also has an office in Bonn, Germany and will also have an office in Beijing, China. Additionally, Algeria, the I.R. Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, South Africa, Ukraine and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) are setting up UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices.

Memberships in key networks

International Charter Space and Major Disasters (Cooperating Body)

United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) Co-Chair 2009-2010

Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (Secretariat and Coordination)

GEO – Group on Earth Observations

National counterpart

Space agencies and institutions using space-based information and solutions.

National Focal Points (NFPs) nominated by their respective government for UN-SPIDER are being established in Members States to strengthen national disaster management planning and policies and the implementation of specific national activities that incorporate space-based technology solutions to support disaster management.

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

The UN-SPIDER Programme supports the establishment of national disaster management planning and policies by:

- Contributing, at the request of the relevant national focal points, to the definition of disaster management planning and policies with regard to the use of space-based technologies.

- Collecting information on relevant national disaster management plans that build on space-based technology solutions as well as examples of national disaster management policies that include the use of space-based technology solutions.
- Carrying out technical advisory missions to those countries and contribute to the development of national disaster management planning and policies.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

The Office provides support to the improvement of scientific and technical methods and capacities for risk assessment, monitoring and early warning, through research, partnerships, training and technical capacity- building. This work is carried out by the UN-SPIDER Programme and also through the United Nations Programme on Space Applications which directly support the academic activities of the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education (Affiliated to the United Nations).

Additionally the UN-SPIDER Programme promotes the application of in situ and space-based earth observations, space technologies, remote sensing, geographic information systems, hazard modelling and prediction, weather and climate modelling and forecasting, communication tools and studies of the costs and benefits of risk assessment and early warning. The information will be made available in the Knowledge Portal which when implemented will be accessed through the Programme's webpage.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

The UN-SPIDER Programme promotes the use, application and affordability of recent information, communication and space-based technologies and related services, specifically space-based information, to support disaster risk reduction, particularly for training and for the sharing and dissemination of information among different categories of users.

This information is disseminated through monthly updates and newsletters as well as thematic publications and official reports

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

The UN-SPIDER Programme works to ensure the incorporation of space-based solutions used during the recovery phase are made available to develop capacities that reduce disaster risk in the long term, including through the sharing of expertise, knowledge and lessons learnt.

The Programme also works to incorporate space-based solutions in disaster risk assessments, specifically for urban planning and management of disaster-prone human settlements, in particular highly populated areas and quickly urbanizing settlements.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

The UN-SPIDER is focused on ensuring that authorities, individuals and communities in hazard-prone areas are well informed and have access to space-based information to support their preparedness needs. Key activities include:

- Strengthen policy, technical and institutional capacities in regional, national and local disaster management, specifically with regard to using and accessing space-based information and solutions, including those related to technology, training, and human and material resources.
- Support exchange of information and coordination among early warning, disaster risk reduction, disaster response, development and other relevant agencies and institutions at all levels, with regard to accessing and using space-based information.

Focal point

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

UN-SPIDER

E-mail: un-spider@unoosa.org

http://www.unspider.org

Website

www.unoosa.org www.unspider.org

UNU
United Nations University

General description of the organization

United Nations University (UNU) is an autonomous organ of the UN General Assembly dedicated to generating and transferring knowledge and strengthening capacities relevant to global issues of human security, development, and welfare. UNU is 'an international community of scholars, engaged in research, post-graduate training and dissemination of knowledge' to provide fresh, alternative perspective on sustainable development challenges.

United Nations University's mission was set as: to contribute, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States. For more than three decades, UNU has engaged global network of researchers to work on global problems. Research, capacity building and knowledge sharing are the three key pillars of the UNU with a specific focus on addressing pressing challenges of developing and emerging economies.

Currently, United Nations University system has the UNU Centre – Tokyo as the headquarters location with 13 research and training centers/programs (RTC/Ps), located in 13 UN Member Nations around the world (Belgium, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, Japan, Jordon, Malaysia, Netherland, USA, and Venezuela). In addition, UNU also have recognized 21 renowned academic institutions as 'Associated Institutions' to promote innovative and quality research.

Disaster reduction goal

Knowledge generation, capacity development, knowledge transfer, and networking are the four cornerstones guiding philosophy and work at UNU. The overarching goal of the UNU is to provide useful knowledge about, and effective training on, important issues related to human-environmental-climate security, peace and development - where social systems act with ecological systems in a sustainable manner, with all individuals having fair and reasonable access to environmental goods and means to address crises and conflicts.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

UNU proactively persuades "risk management" focusing on both the "hazard" component of the natural environment and the "vulnerability" component of the social systems. The disaster risk management programme supports regional and global programmes on floods and landslide risk reduction, forced migration, land degradation, urban vulnerability and risks and vulnerability assessment methodologies. These programmes are closely linked and conducted in support of international programmes on risk reduction, with research and capacity development components.

UNU is committed to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015, and plays a constructive role for the second and third priority areas, namely "Risk assessment and early warning systems", and "Education, information and public awareness" respectively. The following are UNU's main programmes on disaster risk reduction:

UNU-EHS: UNU created the Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) to address risks and vulnerabilities that are the consequence of complex - both acute and latent - environmental hazards. The Institute spearheads research, capacity building and policy-relevant advisory activities relating to the broad interdisciplinary field of 'risk and vulnerability' and explores threats to human security arising from natural and human-induced hazards.

International Flood Initiative: UNU is an advisory committee member of this global programme on flood risk reduction. In association, UNU HQ has developed training modules for flood inundation forecasts and loss assessment to support designing of appropriate risk reduction strategies. Training programmes have been conducted so far in Asian and will expand to cover other developing countries in the future.

International Programme on Landslides: UNU is an advisory committee member of IPL. UNU hosted the 1st World Landslide Forum at UNU HQ from 17 to 21 November 2008, in which UNU was a co-chair of the conference and responsible for the organization of a number of sessions.

Asia Urban Regional Task Force: UNU with a number of international partners and UNISDR supported the launch of a Taskforce for Urban Risk Reduction in Asia. UNU is a lead organization in the knowledge management and capacity development components of the programme.

Post graduate student supervision in disaster risk reduction: UNU, with partner organizations, supervise post graduate studies on disaster risk at a number of UNU and partner institutes, on a range of topics, notably related to water related disasters.

Research projects: UNU has a number of ongoing research programs with networks of research universities around the world funded by governments as well as private sector.

Memberships in key networks

International Flood Initiative (IFI),

International Programme on Landslides (IPL),

Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM),

Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP),

Global Environment Fund (GEF),

International Council for Science (ICSU),

International Consortium of Landslides (ICL)

In the year 2007 alone, UNU worked with almost 50 UN system partners.

National counterpart

National universities, research institutions, ministries, depending on the system of governance and focus of the activities.

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

UNU provides training to national institutions in the developing countries involved in disaster risk reduction on use of risk assessment methodologies, tools and applications.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

UNU develops the risk assessment capabilities of the beneficiary countries by organizing training workshops on coping with extreme floods and vulnerability assessments. In addition, UNU develops and conducts research programmes on early warning, related to floods, landslides and tsunamis.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

UNU supports capacity development through short and long duration training, degree-oriented studies, research fellowships/internships, online learning, engagement with print and digital media, public events and public outreach programmes.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

UNU aims at academic excellence, in particular through its Centre in Bonn, in principal priorities of its programme:

(i) Vulnerability assessment, resilience analysis, risk management & adaptation strategies within linked human-environment systems;
(ii) Internal displacement and trans-boundary migration due to environmental push-factors,

UNU considers the major drivers, such as land degradation, desertification, natural hazard events, gradual man-made and natural environmental and climatic change and variability including water depletion and quality deterioration in most of its programmes. UNU supports the strengthening of human security through its focus on preparedness, adaptation and response.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

Focal point

UNU-HQ, Tokyo

UNU-EHS, Bonn

Website

http://www.unu.edu

UNV
United Nations Volunteers

General description of the organization

The United Nations Volunteers programme is the UN organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. Volunteerism is a powerful means of engaging people in tackling development challenges, and it can transform the pace and nature of development. Volunteerism benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer by strengthening trust, solidarity and reciprocity among citizens, and by purposefully creating opportunities for participation.

UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for recognition of volunteers, working with partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing an increasing number and diversity of volunteers, including experienced UNV volunteers, throughout the world. UNV embraces volunteerism as universal and inclusive, and recognizes volunteerism in its diversity as well as the values that sustain it: free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity.

UNV directly mobilizes around 8,000 UNV volunteers every year, of which one third volunteer within their own countries. Almost 80% of UNV volunteers come from developing countries.

Disaster reduction goal

To mobilize volunteers and strengthen volunteerism initiatives in support of disaster risk reduction and management, especially to strengthen community capacity to respond to and prevent disasters.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

UNV mobilizes and places national and international UNV volunteers in response to requests from UN entities and government partners. UNV also works with partners to integrate volunteerism into programming for disaster risk reduction and management. UNV works in disaster response,

risk reduction, crisis prevention and community-based adaptation to climate change.

The Hyogo Framework for Action adopted at the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction explicitly recognized volunteer contributions in disaster risk reduction and the need of the strategic management of volunteer resources at all levels of DRR, with particular attention to its role in strengthening the community level. Accordingly, UNV has intensified its work in disaster risk reduction and management, together with partners, especially in strengthening community capacity to respond to and prevent disasters.

UNV was awarded a United Nations Sasakawa Certificate of Merit for its achievements in mobilizing university graduates to support disaster reduction initiatives in Guatemala in 2002.

Memberships in key networks

National counterpart

At the country level UNV is officially represented through the UNDP Resident Representative. In approximately 100 countries UNV has a Country Office Team (COT), which is part of the UNDP Country Office. Volunteers could be placed with all UN entities and with government counterparts.

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

UNV works with governments on developing national volunteer infrastructure, which could include supporting the development of specific volunteer legislation and national volunteer schemes. In some countries UNV has specifically worked on developing volunteer infrastructure for disaster risk reduction and management that could support for example the mobilization of volunteers, coordinate the activities of volunteer involving organizations, promote good volunteer management, advocate for the value of volunteerism, and develop a database of volunteers.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

UNV supports the creation of early warning systems through the establishment of disaster management teams and taskforces, and ensuring community participation by training a large number of volunteers in local and rural communities. UNV builds expertise in coping capacity in a number of countries such as India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Brazil.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

UNV volunteers assist the mobilization of individuals ensuring wide dissemination of information, public awareness and strong community voluntary action. UNV supports the production of village and provincial disaster risk management plans ensuring full ownership of communities.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

UNV volunteers provide a vital link between governments and affected communities, empowering them to participate actively in rehabilitation and sustainable livelihoods. UNV supported community reconstruction in tsunami-affected areas through the involvement of national and international UNV volunteers.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNV is developing a strategy to strengthen the role of volunteers in sustainable risk reduction and recovery programmes in a number of countries. These national projects focus on:

a) increasing the capacities of volunteers and Volunteer Involving Organizations (VIOs) to better respond to disasters;
b) integrating volunteers and VIOs in Disaster Risk Reduction strategies;
c) piloting emergency plans with the involvement of VIOs. This project also aims to identify best practices and lessons learned at the regional level.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

UNV volunteers support the roll-out of disaster management plans and build community knowledge and resources, such as village-specific maps,

evacuation plans and contingency strategies, and help identify and develop the capacities of local authorities and volunteer taskforces.

UNV contributed to 'Communicating Disasters – An Asia Pacific Resource Book' co-published by the UNDP-Bangkok Regional Centre and Television for Education – Asia Pacific. The book, developed after the 2006 stocktaking exercise of tsunami media coverage, leverages the reach of media to better inform citizens and save lives.

Focal point

The Office of the Executive Coordinator and Coordinator of the UNV

UNV Environment Team

Website

www.unvolunteers.org

www.WorldVolunteerWeb.org

www.OnlineVolunteering.org

WFP
World Food Programme

General description of the organization

As the food assistance arm of the UN, WFP uses its food to: meet emergency needs and support economic & social development and promote world food security. WFP also provides the logistics support necessary to get food to the right people at the right time and in the right place. WFP heads the Logistics Cluster in order to provide common service to the humanitarian community in emergency interventions. WFP works to put hunger at the centre of the international agenda, promoting policies, strategies and operations that directly benefit the poor and hungry.

Disaster reduction goal

Within its own capacity and resources, WFP strengthens the capacity of affected countries and local communities to prevent, prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises. With its new Strategic Plan, WFP aims at preventing acute hunger by investing in disaster preparedness and mitigation measures (Strategic Objective 2).

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

The policies governing the use of WFP food aid are oriented towards the objective of eradicating hunger and poverty.

The consolidated framework of WFP policies emphasizes the mitigation of the effects of recurring disasters in vulnerable areas as one of the five priority areas under programming principles. WFP assesses measures to prevent and mitigate disasters that pose threats to food production or livelihoods as part of country programming in areas subject to recurring disasters.

WFP works with local, national and international partners to incorporate disaster prevention and mitigation activities in Country Strategy Outlines, Country Programmes and Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations.

WFP develops standard procedures jointly with government counterparts for borrowing from and replenishing national food stocks and seeks donor flexibility to use donations, especially directed contributions, for disaster mitigation.

WFP Executive Board has endorsed the new DRR strategy in February 2009. The new strategy aims at strengthening WFP's compliance with the Hyogo Framework and mainstreaming DRR at all levels within the Organization. The next step will be the dissemination of a technical guidance tool to all WFP country offices and the roll-out of a DRR training course at regional level.

The following principles underlie WFP's evolving approach to disaster preparedness and mitigation:

I. In countries prone to recurrent disasters, development activities and emergency interventions need to be linked.
II. Disaster prevention, preparedness, contingency planning and responses need to be integral parts of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).
III. Disaster mitigation depends on structural and non-structural solutions in several sectors at various levels of national economies.
IV. Mitigation should be a principal objective of projects in disaster-prone areas.
V. Targeting must focus on those who cannot cope with recurrent disasters, not just those who live in disaster-prone areas.
VI. Understanding gender relations in the context of natural hazards is important in disaster-mitigation strategies.
VII. Preservation of livelihoods must be a central goal of disaster-mitigation measures.

Memberships in key networks

Inter-Agency Group

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

The Sub-Working Group of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Early Warning and Contingency planning (WFP co-chairing with UNICEF)

ISDR Global Drought Risk Reduction Platform (Co-lead)

National counterpart

Governments (Agriculture) and the United Nations Country Teams.

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

WFP integrates risk assessment and vulnerability analysis and mapping into its early warning and preparedness systems. Improved disaster risk mapping supports early targeting systems for populations at risk.

The Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping unit (VAM) of the WFP establishes the basis for conclusions on why and where food security and vulnerability exist in any given country. VAM also identifies potential priorities for the targeting of WFP programmes, the appropriate role of food aid in addressing food security problems and potential sectors for WFP intervention. These same elements are also key inputs into the WFP Country Strategy Outline, where the WFP country office describes its development strategies and programmes.

Early warning systems focus on tracking the status of regularly occurring hazards to food security such as drought, floods, El Niño and market prices over time. WFP uses this information to predict the potential onset of a crisis that could affect the food security status of groups of people within a country or region. Where there is no organized early warning capability within a country or region, WFP and partners (Governments, NGOs, or regional organizations) work to establish such a mechanism. The Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping unit may play a key role in assisting with the design and implementation or data collection or reporting for early warning activities through monitoring activities.

WFP has developed partnerships with institutional and academic institutions in order to improve its access to real-time information. The aim is to improve early warning systems. One example is the ITHACA programme, launched in February 2007 as a joint initiative with Italy's Polytechnic

University of Turin. The programme was conceived to provide WFP with remote sensing-based applications in order to accurately predict and assess the impact of disasters on communities and infrastructure.

In collaboration with partners such as NASA and the European, Italian, Canadian and Japanese Space agencies, ITHACA combines remote sensing data with historical natural hazard analysis and WFP's own vulnerability assessment mechanisms to produce models that assist forecasting and impact assessment. ITHACA applications have successfully supported WFP response to a range of major emergencies. The programme has provided analysis of the impact of severe flooding on the African continent, hurricanes in Central America and cyclones in South and Southeast Asia. ITHACA also delivers round-the-clock information on the location and depth of snow coverage across Central Asia, which is a key to WFP logistics planning in challenging mountainous environments like Afghanistan and Nepal.

The IASC Humanitarian Early Warning Service (HEWSweb) is an inter-agency partnership project aimed at establishing a common platform for humanitarian early warnings and forecasts for natural hazards. The service has been developed by WFP who is responsible for coordinating and managing the overall information content, design, and organization of HEWSweb on behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its members.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

WFP undertakes preventive/vulnerability reduction/preparedness measures in the context of development plans and programmes. WFP intends to include these measures in post-disaster recovery programmes and emergency operations when social awareness of disaster vulnerability and risk is high. In all contexts, WFP aims at comprehensive disaster mitigation strategies based on an analysis of disaster-related risks and the possibilities to reduce those risks, especially for poor people who are food insecure or particularly vulnerable in the event of a crisis or disaster.

WFP has two approaches to Disaster Mitigation, the anticipating approach and the recovery approach. The former indicates programmes and projects aiming at longer term mitigation activities to reduce the vulnerability to the risk of disasters. The recovery approach indicates the inclusion of mitigation elements in WFP's general recovery programmes and projects, such as making sure that houses that are being constructed after a hazard are built with the technique and/or material needed for them to resist a future shock.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

WFP has strengthened emergency support functions at all levels and mainstreamed emergency preparedness throughout the organization. Contingency planning and operational planning are used as strategic planning tools. WFP has also improved its capacities to prepare for and respond in emergencies through the upgrading of its assessments via the Strengthening Emergency Needs Assessment Capacity (SENAC) project.

WFP is the leader of the global logistics cluster and co-leader of the emergency telecommunications cluster. As cluster leader, WFP ensures efficient, reliable and predictable logistics and ICT services to the humanitarian community. WFP's Aviation Branch, its Shipping Branch and the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) Network are among initiatives that have proved crucial in serving both WFP's and the broader humanitarian community's needs. WFP's strategy of pre-positioning emergency food and support equipment through the UNHRD Network relies on five strategically located depots providing the humanitarian community with a global footprint that will drastically reduce the cost of deploying relief items, decrease response time and, most importantly, save lives.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch is the focal point for technical aspects of disaster preparedness; Logistics Services leads design and implementation of logistics work that promotes disaster preparedness and mitigation in WFP and for the United Nations system. Headquarters-based Policy, Planning and Strategy units dealing with risk reduction and disaster mitigation, social protection and livelihoods service and the emergencies and transitions support country offices in programme design and implementation. These include Food For Work (FFW), Food For Assets (FFA) and cash or voucher based initiatives to moderate the effects of recurring disasters initiatives. These interventions help households and

communities to shift to sustainable livelihoods, improve productivity and prevent loss or degradation of assets; they include support for shifts to sustainable natural-resource management and stabilization of areas subject to resource degradation.

WFP uses food assistance to encourage people to take steps that increase the yields from their natural resources, such as terracing, tree planting and soil and water conservation. Food aid can help avert an emergency before it turns into a full-fledged crisis. WFP mitigates disasters, such as a flood or a drought which can destroy the livelihoods of the hungry poor in a matter of hours.

WFP's development activities include contingency planning to enhance its ability to respond to emergencies in countries plagued by disasters. WFP plans to use its existing and new tools to improve the resilience of vulnerable populations and comprehensively manage risk in addition to responding to disasters, such as weather insurance. Weather Risk Transfer Tools transfer weather related disaster risk from vulnerable populations to public or private risk takers guaranteeing beneficiaries' timely, objective, predictable and transparent disaster assistance. These tools enable contingency financing for emergency operations to help WFP better fulfill its role as de-facto "insurer" against food insecurity.

Focal point

Risk Reduction and Disaster Mitigation Policy Unit

Website

www.wfp.org

WHO
World Health Organization

General description of the organization

WHO, as a specialized agency of the United Nations, is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. WHO's Constitution came into force on 7 April 1948.

WHO is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

Disaster reduction goal

To support countries in building national capacity in risk reduction and emergency preparedness, and to assist the health sector in Member States in reducing the adverse public health consequences for communities in terms of mortality, morbidity, disability and damage to health care delivery services resulting from emergencies, disasters and other crises.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

WHO Six-Year Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness Strategy for Health Sector and Community Capacity Development was released in 2007. The priority areas identified in the strategy include:

- Baseline assessments on the status of risk reduction and emergency preparedness in the health sector at regional and country levels;
- Institutionalizing emergency preparedness and risk management in ministries of health; and
- Establishing an effective all-hazard/whole-health programme for this purpose;

- Encouraging and supporting community-based emergency preparedness and risk management; and
- Improving knowledge and skills in health emergency preparedness and response, and risk management.

All-Hazard approach entails developing and implementing emergency management strategies for the full range of likely risks and emergencies (natural, biological, technological and societal). A Whole-Health approach emphasizes that emergency planning processes, overall coordination procedures, surge and operational platforms should be unified under one emergency preparedness and response unit so that the plans of the health sector can then be effectively coordinated with other sectors as well as with the designated.

Drawing on experiences and lessons learned from major crises in recent years and taking stock of the outcomes of the World Disaster Reduction Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe in 2005, the World Health Assembly, at its 58th Session in May 2005, adopted resolution WHA 58.1. The Resolution urged Member States to make their best efforts to engage actively in collective measures to establish global and regional preparedness plans that integrate risk reduction into the health sector and to build capacity to respond to health-related crises. It also requested Member States to formulate national emergency preparedness plans that give due attention to public health, including health infrastructure, in order to mitigate the damage and loss of function associated with events related to hazards and to improve the effectiveness of responses to crises and contributions to the recovery of health systems.

In 2006, the resolution (WHA59.22) reiterated the importance of action needed to build national capacities in emergency preparedness.

Resolutions have been passed by every Regional Committee over the past 20 years to reinforce the mandate given to WHO at global level and to strengthen initiatives in the area of emergency preparedness and response in Member States.

WHO has developed a global work plan based on the objectives set out in WHO's Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) for 2008-2013. Strategic Objective 5 of the MTSP is: "To reduce the health consequences of emergencies, disasters, crises and conflicts, and minimize their social and economic impact." The 2008-2009 biennial global work plan recognizes the crucial importance of supporting countries in the areas of health sector risk

reduction and emergency preparedness, and building institutional capacity in WHO for emergency preparedness and response.

International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) came into force in June 2007. The agreement provides a new framework for the coordination of the management of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concerns, and will improve the capacity of all countries to detect, assess, notify and respond to public health threats.

The Global Health Cluster has recently endorsed a Guidance Note which promotes the need for a coordinated approach of Global Health Cluster partners in support of health emergency preparedness and risk reduction at national and local levels, and recommends that the roll-out of country-level Health Clusters should take fully into account of national arrangements and existing capacities for emergency preparedness and response.

Memberships in key networks

Inter-Agency Group

Interagency Standing Committee, including task forces

WHO-AMRO Disaster Mitigation Advisory Group (DiMAG)

National counterpart

Ministry of Health

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

WHO develops health-related standards and guidelines and provides technical assistance to national health authorities for the development of risk reduction and emergency preparedness capacities in countries at risk. WHO supports Member States in identifying policy options, strategies and enabling legislation required for enhancing the levels of health risk reduction and emergency preparedness, including prevention, preparing for and responding to the health effects of climate change.

WHO works to ensure that health dimensions are addressed within the context of global and regional risk reduction frameworks, including support

for ISDR system and the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and integrates disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness across WHO's programmes.

WHO-AMRO/PAHO has had a long-standing Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief Programme (PED) and over the years, AMRO/PAHO's Directing Council also has passed a number of Resolutions calling on 35 Member States in the Western Hemisphere to strengthen their emergency preparedness and response capacity and to focus attention on health facilities in their national risk reduction policies. Other Regional Offices have been steadily increasing their efforts to support capacity building in terms of national emergency management systems building, mass casualty management, safe hospital construction and training.

WHO-SEARO has developed a set of benchmarks, standards and indicators, with the objective to fully integrate the health sector risk reduction strategies in the health system of Member States, which can catalyse action and monitor progress on risk reduction and emergency preparedness.

WHO-EMRO has developed an Optimum WHO Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness Package which has identified elements for country risk reduction, readiness and response to emergencies.

WHO has conducted a Global Assessment of National Health Sector Emergency Preparedness and Response, which is intended to inform strategies for assisting Member States in developing and strengthening national approaches to health emergency preparedness and response. A second global assessment will be conducted in the next biennium.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

WHO supports Member States in assessing and monitoring baseline information on the status of risk reduction and emergency preparedness in the health sector at regional and country level. Technical assistance has been requested by the Member States on environmental health, surveillance mechanisms and the development of surge capacities and capabilities. WHO has also developed capacity assessment tools that can contribute to capacity assessment of health emergency systems for risk reduction and emergency preparedness

WHO-EMRO has developed the e-Atlas of disaster risk for the Eastern Mediterranean Region: Exposure to natural hazards, Volume 1. The Atlas uses geographic information systems and various disaster models to assist disaster management decision-makers to reduce health risk to vulnerable populations. Subsequent volumes which are still under development will focus on vulnerability and risk and capacity assessments, in order to improve risk reduction and emergency preparedness in the health sector.

WHO has established the Vulnerability and Risk Analysis and Mapping (VRAM) platform within the WHO Mediterranean Centre for Health Risk Reduction (WMC) in Tunis. The objective of the VRAM platform is to support countries in developing the capacity to assess health risks (mortality, morbidity and disability) and incorporate the results in emergency and response preparedness planning. As its knowledge base grows, VRAM's goal is to become a network of excellence in assessing health-related vulnerabilities and risks supported by a technical unit whose expertise can be utilized effectively by various partners (governments, UN and research organizations, NGOs or others) at an affordable cost. VRAM activities include partnership with organizations such as WFP.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

WHO works with Member States and other partners to improve skills and knowledge in risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response in the health sector. The work focuses on two main areas: (1) Developing and updating guidelines, standards and sound technical information on emergency preparedness and response; and (2) Promoting the development of sound and credible training and educational materials and the organization of courses, workshops, simulations, other mechanisms of transfer of knowledge, and platforms where health emergency managers can share experience and material at local, national, regional and international levels.

Extensive work by all WHO Regional Offices and WHO-HQ has resulted in a number of guidelines and tools for emergency preparedness and response, available on the websites of WHO/HAC and the Regional Offices:

- Community Emergency Preparedness: A Manual for Managers and Policy-Makers; Mass Casualty Management Systems: Strategies and guidelines for building health sector capacity; and Older People in Emergencies: Consideration for Action and Policy Development.

- In Latin America and the Caribbean, Member States with strong and sustained support by WHO/PAHO and the governments of the U.S. (USAID) and Canada (CIDA), multilateral and non/governmental organizations, have produced a large body of technical publications and guidelines over more than 20 years, including the Health Library in Disasters (HELID) and tools such as the Hospital Safety Index, a tool for countries to assess risk and vulnerability in health facilities.
  - The Regional Disaster Information Center (CRID) has published a CD-ROM with a large collection of documents from different agencies regarding climate change, disasters and health available at
- WHO-EURO has produced guidance on management of health crises in the region entitled Towards Health Security.
- WHO-SEARO has developed extensive information on emergency preparedness and response, including case studies on recent emergencies in India, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The Region has developed Hazard Profiles and Disaster Preparedness in SEAR Countries. A report of a regional consultation on Emergency Preparedness and Response: From Lessons to Action contains updated information and recommendations for action for the countries in the region.
- WHO-WPRO has developed a number of emergency guidelines and tools, including a pocket emergency manual which contains a section on preparing for emergencies. It has also produced Field Manual for Capacity Assessment of Health Facilities in Responding to Emergencies.

Training focuses on awareness raising, advocacy and sensitization on risk reduction and emergency preparedness health issues, planning processes, needs assessment in emergencies, inter-sectoral emergency management and standardizing and building technical skills within all health disciplines involved in emergency preparedness and response:

- WHO-SEARO and WPRO have a Public Health & Emergency Management in Asia-Pacific Programme with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) which provides training courses at bi-regional and national levels for the development of health system capacities to prepare for and respond to emergencies. EMRO have a similar programme - Management of Public Health Risks - which has been conducted at regional and national levels, while EURO have conducted a regional PHEM-EURO course.
- WHO-HQ and Regional Offices organizes Public Health Pre-deployment Training courses which prepare health professionals to work effectively in providing health programmes to populations affected by emergencies, disasters and other crises.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

The World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009 "Hospitals Safe from Disasters: Reduce Risk, Protect Health Facilities, Save Lives" aims at building the resilience of hospitals and other health facilities to disasters, both structural and functional, so that they would still be functional under emergency situations and on making sure health workers are prepared for natural hazards striking. This global campaign is a joint effort by WHO and the UNISDR, with support from the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery of the World Bank.

WHO will dedicate World Health Day 2009 to the key theme of health facilities in emergencies. WHD 2009 will promote the safe design, building and operation of all types of health facilities so they (and their staff) can withstand any type of emergency and the emergency preparedness of health facilities to provide health care services during the emergency and in their aftermath.

The campaign provides a platform for strengthening of hospitals, health facilities and systems in the context of risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response. The campaign provides also visibility and platform for advocacy on risk health reduction and emergency preparedness at global, national and community levels.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

WHO promotes the establishment or strengthening of a risk reduction and emergency preparedness unit in each Ministry of Health reporting directly to the highest relevant authority. This unit works as the focal point for the designated national emergency management agency and for other sectors involved in emergency preparedness and response. WHO advocates that proper preparedness requires improvement and protection of the baseline capacities including health care facilities, services and skills.

WHO assists Ministries of Health to integrate emergency preparedness into existing community structures. The strategy to support all-hazard emergency preparedness for the communities includes joining forces with UNISDR, World Bank and partners in the promotion of health facility resilience and emergency preparedness as the main disaster reduction message in 2008-2009.

WHO is the designated lead of the Global Health Custer, the role of which is to build global capacity for humanitarian health action by developing global guidance, standards, tools and resources to inform, enhance and facilitate the implementation of the Cluster Approach at the country level as well as to improve surge capacity, access to trained technical expertise and material stockpiles to improve response operations. The strengthening of the preparedness capacity of countries and communities particularly at risk before emergency strikes is a major part of the cluster approach.

Focal point

Department of Emergency Preparedness and Capacity Development, Health Action in Crises Cluster, WHO, Geneva (HAC/EPC)

Emergency and Humanitarian Action, WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO)

Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief, WHO Regional Office for the Americas/Pan American Health Organization (AMRO/PAHO)

Emergency Preparedness and Humanitarian Action, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO)

Disaster Preparedness and Response, WHO Regional Office for Europe (EURO)

Emergency and Humanitarian Action, WHO Regional Office for South-east Asia

Emergency and Humanitarian Action, WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO)

Website

www.who.int/hac

http://www.afro.who.int/hac/index.html

http://www.emro.who.int/eha/

http://www.euro.who.int/emergencies

www.paho.org/disasters

http://www.searo.who.int/en/Section1257/Section2263.htm

http://www.wpro.who.int/sites/eha/

http://safehospitals.info

WMO
World Meteorological Organization

General description of the organization

WMO is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 188 States and Territories. It originated from the International Meteorological Organization, which was founded in 1873. Established in 1950, WMO became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1951.

The vision of WMO is to provide world leadership in expertise and international cooperation in weather, climate, hydrology and water resources and related environmental issues and thereby contribute to the safety and well-being of people throughout the world and to the economic benefit of all nations.

Disaster reduction goal

To enhance the contributions of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, in a more cost-effective, systematic and sustainable manner, towards the protection of lives, livelihoods and property, through strengthening of capabilities and cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction at national to international levels.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

"WMO Strategic Plan 2008-2011 and beyond", approved by the Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress 2007, describes the programmes and activities of the Organization aimed at protecting life and property, safeguarding the environment and contributing to sustainable development, all for the enhanced wellbeing of the peoples of the world. The Plan also reflects WMO's responsibility to ensure that effective international cooperation in the fields of meteorology, operational hydrology, and related disciplines contribute to the benefit of society, in support of the purposes of the Organization.

The successful implementation of the Plan contributes to national disaster risk management, by facilitating and strengthening contribution of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services through provision of meteorological, hydrological and climate-related information, for (i) hydro-meteorological risk identification with in the context of changing climate, (ii) risk reduction, through provision of meteorological, hydrological and climate related information for sectoral planning and early warning systems and (iii) financial risk transfer for weather related risks such as droughts, tropical cyclone and floods.

WMO is committed to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015, and plays a lead role for the second priority area, namely "Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning", in relation with meteorological, hydrological and climate-related hazards, while contributing to other priority areas. HFA has been mainstreamed within WMO through the establishment of the strategic priorities and implementation of WMO's DRR programme. Through extensive consultations across WMO network, HFA was analysed to identify activities to which National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and WMO provide lead and contributing support. Five strategic priorities where derived from these analysis and have been approved by WMO Congress. Specifically,

- Development, improvement and sustainability of early warning systems, in particular related to scientific and technical infrastructures, systems and capabilities for research, observing, detecting, forecasting and warning of weather-, water-, climate-related hazards;
- Development, improvement and sustainability of systems, methods, tools and applications of modern technologies such as geographic information systems for recording, analyzing and providing hazard information for risk assessment, sectoral planning and other informed decision-making;
- Development and delivery of warnings, specialized forecasts and other products and services that are timely, understandable to those at risk, and driven by requirements of disaster risk reduction decision processes and operations;
- Stimulate a culture of disaster preparedness through strengthening of capacities for better integration of NMHSs' products and services in disaster risk reduction, and continued public education and outreach campaigns;
- Strengthen WMO and NMHSs cooperation and partnerships for implementation of disaster risk reduction in national, regional and international mechanisms and structures.

The WMO Disaster Risk Reduction programme builds upon and leverages the following capacities and resources including coordination among:

1) Nine other international programmes, including,
   i. World Weather Watch,
   ii. World Climate Programme,
   iii. Atmospheric Research and Environment,
   iv. Applications of Meteorology,
   v. Hydrology and Water Resources,
   vi. Education and Training,
   vii. Technical Cooperation,
   viii. Regional Cooperation,
   ix. Space.
2) Its co-sponsored programmes, including, World Climate Research Programme, Global Climate Observing System, and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
3) WMO coordinated operational networks, including:
   1. WMO Integrated Global Observing System,
   2. Global Data Processing and Forecasting System,
   3. Global Telecommunication System and WMO Information System.

These are further complemented with partnerships with international and regional agencies, for implementation of national and regional projects that enhance capacities of Members to manage disaster risks.

Memberships in key networks

Inter-Agency Group

International Flood Initiative (IFI)

Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM)

Five Regional Tropical Cyclone committees managed by Tropical Cyclone Programme (TCP):

- Hurricane Committee,
- Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South-West Indian Ocean,
- Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South Pacific and South-East Indian Ocean,
- Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South Pacific and the South-East Indian Ocean,

- WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, and ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee.

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's Intergovernmental Coordination Groups for Tsunami Warning Systems

Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM)

World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), (WMO is a co-sponsor with ICSU and UNESCO)

ISDR Platform for Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW)

ISDR System Thematic Cluster/Platform on Knowledge and Education,

Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP)

OECD High Level Panel on International Network on Financial Management of Large Scale Catastrophes

International Research Centre on El Niño (CIIFEN)

International Council for Science (ICSU)

WMO has established a cooperation model with GFDRR, UNISDR, UNDP on development of comprehensive DRR programmes, first cases has been demonstrated in Southeast Europe and being expanded to other regions.

+ 40 specialized meteorological and climate centers (e.g. 6 tropical cyclone forecasting centers, 4 drought management centers, etc.)

Six Regional Network of Meteorological Services

Consultative Group of the Space Agencies, EUMETNET

National counterpart

National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, National committees of water, oceanographic and earth sciences, Coastal Zone Management

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

WMO, in collaboration with other agencies such as UNDP and the World Bank, is working through concrete projects to ensure effective planning and

legislation for comprehensive DRR strategies, particularly focusing on the role and socio-economic benefits of National Metrological and Hydrological Services in supporting different components of disaster risk management, such as risk assessment, early warning systems and sectoral planning.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

Risk Assessment:

WMO conducted a country-level fact-finding survey on DRR in 2006, which provided a benchmark on Members' capacities, requirements and priorities in disaster risk management. It indicated that droughts, flash and river floods, strong winds, severe storms, tropical cyclones, storm surges, forest fires, heat waves, landslides and aviation hazards were the top ten hazards of concern to all Members. The survey confirmed that over 90% of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services needed guidance on standard methodologies for monitoring, archiving, analysis and mapping of hazards and early warning systems with a multi-hazard approach.

WMO through its Hydrology and Water Resource Programme and Agricultural Meteorology Programmes and in collaboration with Global Risk Assessment Programme (GRIP) supports NMHSs in maintenance of hazard data and analysis for national risk assessments. Initiated projects aim at developing standard guidelines for maintaining databases, metadata and mapping methodologies for floods and droughts. Other initiatives are underway for standardization of hazard information for other meteorological hazards.

Early Warning Systems:

WMO plays a lead role in strengthening national and regional capacities in early warning systems. WMO hosted First Experts' Symposium (May 2006) on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS-I), convened by WMO and co-sponsored by six international agencies. Based on these components, MHEWS-I identified criteria for "good practices" in early warning systems (EWS), further discussed major gaps within these components, as revealed by the Global Early Warning Survey, and identified a number of such good practices in early warning systems.

WMO has initiated in collaboration with other key partners the following EWS projects which demonstrate National Meteorological and Hydrological Services' institutional cooperation and coordination with disaster risk

management agencies and other stakeholders. Furthermore, these projects determine whether economies and synergies could be achieved through a multi-hazard approach.

1) WMO in collaboration with the NMHS and their national partner ministries and agencies has initiated multi-hazard EWS projects in China (Shanghai) and France. WMO together with partners is documenting these good practices, including those in Cuba and Bangladesh, with specific focus on the role of NMHS in EWS including their operational coordination and cooperation with other technical and disaster risk management agencies from national to local levels;
2) WMO has initiated a number of technical capacity projects to assist NMHS in several regions in the development of capacities in severe weather forecasting, flash flood guidance systems, drought monitoring and forecasting, sand and dust storm forecasting, and with IOC, storm surge forecasting;
3) WMO works with ISDR system partners including the World Bank GFDRR, UNDP, IFRC and UNISDR on the modernization of NMHS and to facilitate national early warning system projects aimed at strengthening operational coordination and cooperation among the NMHS, disaster risk management agencies and other key stakeholders such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (RCRC). These projects address requirements of disaster risk management agencies for warnings and information, development of EWS concept of operations and a feedback mechanism for improving the coordination and operations among the NMHS and their stakeholders. First set of such pilots are being initiated in Central America.
4) WMO convened a Second Experts' Symposium on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems with a focus on the Role of National Hydrometeorological Services (MHEWS-II) in France on May, 2009. It also aims at sharing of experiences and lessons learnt and providing guidelines to support capacity development.

Flood Management:

The Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) is a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization and the Global Water Partnership. It promotes the concept of Integrated Flood Management (IFM) as a new approach to flood management.

The Integrated Flood Management (IFM) HelpDesk is a facility that provides guidance on flood management policy, strategy and institutional development related to flood issues to countries that want to adopt

the Integrated Flood Management (IFM) concept. It is based on close partnership with the country and tailored to their specific needs, with the aim of assisting in IFM implementation.

The objectives of the IFM HelpDesk are to:

- Provide quick access to relevant flood management information;
- Provide guidance and momentum for reform in favour of IFM in countries or river basins in developing long-term flood management policies, strategies and institutional arrangements;
- Serve as a link between flood management practitioners and decision-makers and multi-disciplinary scientific expertise and best practice in various fields such as hydrology, river engineering, legal and institutional development, ecology, sociology and development economics;
- Provide a continuous and sustainable capacity development mechanism in support of IFM implementation.

The target audience of the HelpDesk includes the following groups:

- National, provincial and local government agencies involved in decision making charged with a role in flood management (policy makers, flood management practitioners, development planners, disaster managers;
- National Hydrological and Meteorological Services, etc.;
- River Basin Organizations;
- Bi- and Multi-lateral Organizations involved in Technical and Financial Cooperation;
- Non-Governmental Organizations, in particular those working with flood affected communities;
- Voluntary Organizations and Community-based Organizations; and
- Universities.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

WMO through its sponsored and co-sponsored Research Programmes coordinates the development of technical and scientific knowledge on meteorological, hydrological and climate related hazards, their predictability and forecasting, and linkages to climate change and climate variability.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

Through its new Global Framework for Climate Services, WMO is launching a new initiative to facilitate the provision of relevant climate information to support climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. WMO is also developing, through expert teams, guidelines on utilization of meteorological, hydrological hazard analysis and historical climate information and forecasts as input to urban and infrastructure planning, land use management, etc.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

WMO ensures through the projects launched with other ISDR system partners in Early Warning Systems that feedback is provided for improving emergency planning and response operations.

WMO is developing capacity development and training programmes between national meteorological agencies and emergency preparedness and response agencies.

WMO has established a partnership with WFP and World Bank to support the development of financial risk transfer and weather risk management markets, systematically, through facilitating participation of NMHS for provision of meteorological and hydrological data.

Focal point

DRR Programme

Website

http://www.wmo.int/disasters

THE WORLD BANK

General description of the organization

Since inception in 1944, the World Bank has expanded from a single institution to a closely associated group of five development institutions. The mission has evolved from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development as facilitator of post-war reconstruction and development to the present day mandate of worldwide poverty alleviation. The five institutions are the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

The World Bank's projects and operations are designed to support low-income and middle-income countries' poverty reduction strategies. It does so within each country's specific socio-economic context, adapting programmes to country capacity and needs. The Bank provides low-interest loans, interest-free credits and grants to developing countries for a wide array of purposes that include investments in disaster recovery and risk mitigation, education, health, public administration, infrastructure, financial and private sector development, agriculture, and environmental and natural resource management. Although the Bank has traditionally played a key role in post-disaster recovery and reconstruction, recently it has increased its involvement in longer term disaster risk reduction.

Disaster reduction goal

The overarching objective is to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in country development strategies, such as Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSP), Country Assistance Strategies (CASes), United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), to reduce vulnerabilities to natural

hazards. This is done through providing analytical, technical and operational support to countries for disaster risk reduction.

Policies and programmes in disaster risk reduction

The World Bank is the largest provider of development assistance for disaster recovery and risk mitigation. Disaster assistance has accounted for nearly a tenth of the World Bank Commitments since 1984. The IDA alone committed about US$ 12 billion dollars to disaster assistance to low income countries between 1996 and 2007. Increasingly the focus of the World Bank is on disaster risk reduction, not just reconstruction.

The World Bank's ex-ante work in integrating disaster risk reduction in development is carried out primarily through the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). Together with major donors and the UN, the World Bank in 2006 launched GFDRR to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and thereby address the needs of vulnerable countries and provide coherent approaches globally and regionally to risk reduction and recovery by using the ISDR system.

The GFDRR is managed by the World Bank on behalf of the participating donor partners and other partnering stakeholders. It offers a unique business model for advancing disaster risk reduction based on ex ante support to high risk countries and ex post assistance for accelerated recovery and risk reduction after a disaster. This partnership has been successful in raising the profile of disaster risk reduction for sustainable development.

GFDRR works to reduce disaster risks in countries through three–track operations. Track I Working in partnership with the UNISDR, the main objective of this track is to enhance the capacities of regional inter-governmental organizations. Track II provides technical and financial assistance to low and middle income countries to mainstream disaster risk reduction into their country assistance and poverty reduction strategies. Track III catalyzes greater cooperation between the humanitarian and development actors for accelerated recovery and risk reduction.

The World Bank has recently established a Global Expert Team (GET) for Disaster Risk Reduction to provide high quality rapid advisory support to Governments in disaster risk assessments, risk reduction, risk transfer and insurance products, post-disaster needs assessment and recovery and reconstruction operations. GET consists of World Bank staff and

experts from its partner organizations with global expertise in disaster risk management.

Memberships in key networks

Inter-Agency Group

National counterpart

National Governments

Areas of work (to correspond with HFA priority areas 1-5)

HFA Priority for Action 1
Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening

The World Bank supports the development of effective institutional, governance, legislative and financing frameworks for disaster risk reduction. It also supports the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in national development strategies such as the Country Assistance Strategies, the Poverty Reduction Strategies and the sectoral strategies.

The World Bank and the UN are jointly conducting the first-ever assessment on the economics of disaster risk reduction with the aim of evaluating economic arguments related to disaster risk reduction through an analytical, conceptual, and empirical examination of the following themes: ex-ante v. ex-post disaster risk management, longer term impacts of disasters, benefit-cost analysis, disasters and conflicts and urbanization of disasters. The findings are intended to influence the broader thinking related to disaster risk and occurrence, raise awareness of the potential to reduce disaster costs, and provide guidance on the implementation of disaster risk reduction investments. The planned launch of the report is in the fall of 2009.

HFA Priority for Action 2
Risk assessment and early warning systems

The World Bank provides technical and financial assistance for developing appropriate instruments for risk assessments and early warning systems.

The World Bank has developed a number of tools and methodologies, which include: Mitigation and Risk Identification System (MIRISK), Common

Country Risk Assessment (CCRA), Probabilistic Risk Assessments; Climate Change Primer for City Managers; Drought Adaptation Plan; Vulnerability Tracking Initiative.

HFA Priority for Action 3
Education, information and public awareness

The World Bank supports the documentation and dissemination of good practices on disaster risk mainstreaming, facilitates exchange of lessons and experiences; promotes need-based research and transfer of low-cost risk reduction solutions.

It trains Bank teams in the methodologies to assess risks, damages, economic losses and financial needs for recovery and reconstruction; and disaster risk mitigation and financing.

It also promotes exchange and co-operation in disaster risk reduction: The South–South Cooperation Programme launched by GFDRR in 2008 catalyses cooperation in disaster risk reduction by supporting public, private, and civil society partnerships between institutions and organizations in low-and middle-income countries.

HFA Priority for Action 4
Reducing underlying risk factors

The World Bank provides technical and financial assistance for developing appropriate instruments for risk mitigation such as in climate change adaptation projects, municipal planning and coastal zone management. It also provides input for incorporating disaster risk reduction into planning/implementation across different sectors and develops toolkits for safer school and hospital buildings which provide a step by step guide on integrating disaster resilience in such investment.

It provides technical and financial assistance for developing appropriate instruments for risk financing: These include promoting Contingent Loans, such as the Catastrophe Risk Deferred Drawdown Options (CAT DDO), and providing access to international catastrophe reinsurance markets on competitive terms such as the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), Insurance Linked Securities such as Cat bonds, Property Catastrophe Insurance Programs such as the Turkish Catastrophe Insurance Pool (TCIP), and Agriculture Insurance Programs such as Index-Based Livestock Insurance and weather Based Crop Insurance.

HFA Priority for Action 5
Preparedness for effective response

The World Bank provides Emergency Recovery Loans to countries in the aftermath of a major disaster and helps countries coordinate the post-disaster damage, losses and needs assessment for an efficient and risk reducing recovery.

It bridges the gap between humanitarian assistance and longer term recovery in the event of a disaster: GFDRR established the world's first global disaster recovery fund - the Standby Recovery Financing Facility (SRFF) for this purpose. The Fund can be activated when a disaster strikes to provide assistance for recovery and reconstruction activities, and also to support damage and loss assessments. The SRFF includes two financing windows: a Technical Assistance Fund, to support damage loss, needs assessment and planning; and a Callable Fund, to provide speedy access to financial resources for disaster recovery.

The World Bank can establish and operationalise a Quick Reaction Team (QRT) which is a small, mobile group of highly-trained and experienced staff who in the event of a disaster provide rapid assistance to country teams and also directly to the governments of disaster-affected nations.

Focal point

GFDRR Secretariat, Washington D.C., USA

Website

www.worldbank.org

www.gfdrr.org

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General description

Established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Comprising all 192 Members of the United Nations, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter. It also plays a significant role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law. The Assembly meets in regular session intensively from September to December each year, and thereafter as required.

The Main Committees of the General Assembly discuss the items, seeking where possible to harmonize the various approaches of States, and present their recommendations, usually in the form of draft resolutions and decisions, to a plenary meeting of the Assembly for its consideration. The six Main Committees are as follows:

- First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee);
- Second Committee (Economic and Financial Committee);
- Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee);
- Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee);
- Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary Committee); and
- Sixth Committee (Legal Committee).

Role in disaster risk reduction

General Assembly resolution A/RES/56/195 of 21 December 2001 (after review of the first 2 years of functioning of ISDR, as set out in the founding resolution of A/RES/54/219) stressed that "the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy should be consolidated and enhanced to perform its functions effectively, in particular to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster-reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields;"

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction is considered under Second Committee agenda item 49 on sustainable development. Sustainable development deals also with the following issues relevant to disaster risk reduction:

- Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
- Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
- Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;
- Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;
- Convention on Biological Diversity;
- Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth special session.

Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one annual resolution on disaster risk reduction: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and two biennial resolutions: Natural disasters and vulnerability, and International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon.

In 2008, the General Assembly resolution on International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/RES/63/216) took note of the Ministerial Meeting on Reducing Disaster Risks in a Changing Climate, noted the risk management and risk reduction workshop to be held in Poznan, and recognized the importance to coordinate adaptation to climate change with relevant disaster risk reduction measures.

It also expressed satisfaction with the work carried out by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery of the World Bank (GFDRR), encouraged UNISDR to continue to develop improved methods for predictive multi-risk assessments, including on the economic of disaster risk reduction, and socio-economic cost-benefit analysis of risk reduction actions at all levels. It also welcomed the upcoming second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Geneva in June 2009, which would serve to initiate the midterm review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework, expected by 2010.

The resolution acknowledged the importance of the work of the United Nations in disaster risk reduction and the growing demands on UNISDR and the need for increased, timely, stable and predictable resources for the implementation of the Strategy. It encouraged Member States to make multi-annual, unearmarked contributions to the UN Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction, as early in the year as possible, stressed the importance of disaster risk reduction and subsequent increased responsibilities of the secretariat of the ISDR, and requested the Secretary-General to explore all means of securing additional funding to ensure predictable and stable financial resources for the operation of the secretariat.

Issues related to International Strategy for Disaster Reduction are also referred to in the humanitarian resolutions of the Third Committee:

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development; and

Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster

The General Assembly resolution on United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2) decided the following:

" We resolve therefore to adopt in all our environmental actions a new ethic of conservation and stewardship and, as first steps, we resolve:

To intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and manmade disasters."

The UNISDR participates into and organizes side events during the general debate of the General Assembly and in relation to thematic debates throughout the year.

Website:

www.un.org/ga

ECOSOC

Economic and Social Council

General description

ECOSOC was established under the United Nations Charter as the principal organ to coordinate economic, social, and related work of the 14 UN specialized agencies, functional commissions and five regional commissions. The Council also receives reports from 11 UN funds and programmes.

ECOSOC serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the United Nations system. It is responsible for:

- promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress;
- identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems;
- facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation; and
- encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Role in disaster risk reduction

ECOSOC endorsed the founding documents of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction: the Geneva Mandate and "Strategy for A SAFER WORLD in the 21st CENTURY: Disaster and Risk Reduction" in 1999 (99/63). International Strategy for Disaster Reduction was considered under ECOSOC agenda item on Economic and environmental questions until 2001.

ECOSOC Resolution E/2001/35 on ISDR reiterated the resolution 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: successor arrangements", and recognized the ISDR as the international platform for disaster reduction issues, and urged the international community to provide the necessary resources to the ISDR to promote the dissemination of the disaster reduction message in view of a successful implementation of the ISDR. It invited the General Assembly to give full consideration to the report of the Secretary General at its fifty sixth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

ISDR is not formally discussed at the ECOSOC. However, ISDR related issues are considered in the humanitarian segment of the ECOSOC, and UNISDR organizes side events during humanitarian and/or general segments. In 2008, there was a panel discussion during humanitarian affairs segment on "Building capabilities and capacities at all levels for timely humanitarian assistance, including disaster risk reduction".

ECOSOC Functional Commissions most relevant to disaster risk reduction:

The Commission on the Status of Women (CWS) is a functional commission of ECOSOC dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) in 1946. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide.

CWS addressed environmental management and the mitigation of disasters caused by natural hazards at its 46th session in 2002. In its fifty-second session in March 2008, it considered "Gender perspectives on climate change" as the emerging issue.

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established by the UN General Assembly in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit.

The Commission is responsible for reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; as well as providing policy guidance to follow up the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) at the local, national, regional and international levels. The JPOI reaffirmed that the CSD is the high-level forum for sustainable development within the United Nations system.

The CSD meets annually in New York, in two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on clusters of specific thematic and cross-sectoral issues, outlined in its multi-year programme of work (2003-2017) (E/CN.17/2003/6).

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) includes commitments

Trelated to disaster and vulnerability reduction under chapter IV: Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development.

The 11th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (2003) adopted the themes of disaster management and vulnerability to be reviewed in its fifth cycle (2014-2015) in the CSD's multi-year programme of work. Risk management and vulnerability have also been examined in the context of other thematic clusters of CSD, such as water, sanitation and human settlements (2004-2005) and drought and desertification (2008-2009). Poverty eradication, protecting and managing the natural resource base, sustainable development of SIDS and sustainable development for Africa, in particular land, drought and desertification related issues, are very relevant to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

UNISDR participates into the CSD and usually organizes one side event together with its partners during the CSD session.

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) was established in October 2000, by ECOSOC resolution 2000/35 as a subsidiary body with the main objective to promote "… the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end…" based on the Rio Declaration, the Forest Principles, Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the IPF/IFF Processes and other key milestones of international forest policy.

The outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2006/INF/2/Add.1) expressed its concern about continued deforestation and forest degradation and its adverse impact on the livelihoods of over a billion people (including many of the poorest and most vulnerable), and about the need for more effective implementation of actions to facilitate the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

ECOSOC Regional Commissions are working actively in disaster risk reduction:

- Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

ECOSOC Expert bodies, such as the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues discusses issues relevant to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Website:

www.un.org/ecosoc

CEB

The Chief Executives Board

General description

The Chief Executives Board (CEB) furthers coordination and cooperation on a whole range of substantive and management issues facing United Nations system organizations. CEB is the successor body to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). CEB brings together on a regular basis the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system, under the chairmanship of the Secretary General of the United Nations.

In addition to its regular reviews of contemporary political issues and major concerns facing the UN system, on the basis of recommendations from bodies reporting to it, CEB approves policy statements on behalf of the UN system as a whole.

CEB is supported by three High Level Committees, HLCP, HLCM and UNDG. The division of responsibilities between the three bodies can be summarized as follows:

HLCP: Promotion of global policy coherence, including the development of common policy tools, including toolkits, in addition to its work on global policy and programme issues and global public goods.

The High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), established by CEB in 2000, is the principal mechanism for system-wide coordination in the programme area. It is chaired by the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and is composed of senior-most programme managers of the organizations of the system.

In addition to providing the forum for inter-agency dialogue in the development and launching of new programme initiatives, HLCP advises CEB on issues of strategic planning, policy and programme development and implementation, and on other areas that require priority attention in response to the challenges facing the UN system and the global community. HLCP holds its regular sessions in the spring and fall of each year, and undertakes consultations on a continuing basis.

HLCM (High Level Committee on Management): Harmonization of business practices across the system, including general management issues, thus ensuring overall management coherence from global to country level.

UNDG (United Nations Development Group): Promotion of coherent and effective oversight, provision of guidance and capacity building with country level partners, coordination of UN development operations at country level, addressing policy guidance issues related to country level operations, including the implementation of the TCPR resolutions, and support to the Resident Coordinator (RC) system.

Role in disaster risk reduction

HLCP discussed disaster risk reduction in its sixteenth session in September 2008. The policy paper on Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction throughout the UN System: Proposal for Mainstreaming and Programmatic Coherence (CEB/2008/HLCP-XVI/CRP.6) provided the rationale and proposed action for the UN system to more coherently address the increasing losses to disasters, through mainstreaming well-developed disaster risk reduction policy tools and practical measures through the entire UN system.

HLCP has taken forward, through a Working Group on

Climate Change led by its Vice-Chair, the development of a system-wide approach to address climate change and to support the process for a global agreement for the post-2012 period. The HLCP Working Group on climate change prepared a report Acting on Climate Change: The UN Delivering as One, on UN system actions on climate change for the COP-14 in Poznan in December 2008. The document provided a mid-term progress report to Member States meeting in Poznan in December 2008, as work continued toward the development of a common framework for presentation at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties meeting in Copenhagen in 2009. CEB has also produced a complementary on-line inventory of UN system activities on climate change.

Website:

http://ceb.unsystemceb.org/

UNDG

The United Nations Development Group

General description

The UN Development Group (UNDG) unites the 33 UN funds, programmes, agencies, departments, and offices that play a role in development. The group's common objective is to deliver more coherent, effective and efficient support to countries seeking to attain internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Established by the Secretary-General in 1997 as an instrument for UN reform, the UNDG designs system-wide guidance to coordinate, harmonize and align UN development activities. The group strengthens the UN development system at the country level, prepares it to meet future challenges and ensures that operations are conducted in accordance with mandates from UN governing bodies such as the General Assembly.

By strengthening the UN Resident Coordinator System and helping UN organizations work together in new and better ways, the UNDG generates synergies and efficiencies that increase the impact of UN programmes and policy advice. Coordinating development operations promotes more strategic support for national plans and priorities, makes operations more efficient and reduces transaction costs for governments. This helps the UN to be a more relevant and reliable partner for governments.

The UNDG is one of the three pillars of the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB), which furthers coordination and cooperation on a wide range of substantive and management issues facing UN System organizations. The CEB brings the executive heads of UN organizations together on a regular basis under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General. Within the CEB structure, the High-Level Committee on Management works on system-wide administrative and management issues, the High-Level Committee on Programmes considers global policy issues, while the United Nations Development Group deals with operational activities for development with a focus on country-level work.

The Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) chairs the UNDG. The UNDG Chair reports to the Secretary-General and the CEB on

progress in implementing the group's work plan, and on the management of the Resident Coordinator System.

UNDG members include: ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, FAO, IFAD, ILO, ITU, OHCHR, OSAA, SRSGCAC, UN DESA, UN DPI, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNIFEM, UNODC, UN-OHRLLS, UNOPS, UNWTO, WFP, WHO, and WMO. The observers include: the World Bank, UNFIP, OCHA, the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, and the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General.

The UN Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO) (formerly the Development Group Office) is the technical support unit for the UNDG. DOCO provides the link between UNDG discussions at headquarters and the work of the UN development system at the country level, and helps the group prepare system-wide agreements, policies and guidelines for country offices.

Much of DOCO's work focuses on supporting and strengthening the Resident Coordinator System with funding, policy guidance and training. DOCO advises RCs on how to make country programmes more efficient, effective and aligned with national priorities, and work to streamline coordination mechanisms.

Role in disaster risk reduction

The Common Country Assessment (CCA) is a common instrument of the United Nations system to analyse the national development situation and identify key development issues with a focus on the Millennium Declaration / MDGs, and other internationally agreed treaty obligations and development goals. One of the five expected results from the UN Country Team's (UNCT) analytical contribution to country analysis is the recognition of the risks of crises and disasters, as well as capacities for crisis prevention and disaster preparedness.

A key function of the CCA is to support and strengthen the national development framework which may include planning mechanisms such as: a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), sector programmes, or a joint assistance strategy (JAS), and may also involve direct budget support. The CCA may also assist in a Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) or a transition strategy, where they are developed. One of the results of the CCA process is a contribution to developing measures and building capacity for crisis prevention and disaster preparedness; and where applicable to mitigation

plans, post-conflict/disaster recovery and rehabilitation, and planning the transition from relief to development.

The UNDG Working Group on Programming Issues endorsed a Guidance Note on Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into the Common Country Assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework in November 2008. The guidance note was revised and updated by a joint UNDG/ISDR Task Team on Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction over the course of 2008. The guidance note was approved by the UNDG in January 2009 after which it is being made available to UNCTs and relevant parties.

Website:

www.undg.org

IASC

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee

General description

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is a unique inter-agency forum for coordination, policy development and decision-making involving the key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners. The IASC was established in June 1992 in response to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/182 on the strengthening of humanitarian assistance. General Assembly Resolution 48/57 affirmed its role as the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance.

The following are the primary objectives of the IASC:

- To develop and agree on system-wide humanitarian policies;
- To allocate responsibilities among agencies in humanitarian programmes;
- To develop and agree on a common ethical framework for all humanitarian activities;
- To advocate for common humanitarian principles to parties outside the IASC;
- To identify areas where gaps in mandates or lack of operational capacity exist;
- To resolve disputes or disagreement about and between humanitarian agencies on system-wide humanitarian issues.

According to General Assembly Resolution 46/182, the IASC should be composed of "all operational organizations and with a standing invitation to the ICRC, IFRC, and IOM. Relevant NGOs can be invited to participate on an ad hoc basis." In practice, no distinction is made between "Members" and "Standing Invitees" and the number of participating agencies has expanded since inception of the IASC in 1992.

Members of the IASC include: FAO, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO.

Standing Invitees of the IASC include: ICRC, ICVA, IFRC, InterAction, IOM, OHCHR, RSG on Human Rights of IDPs, SCHR and the World Bank.

Together with Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA), the IASC forms the key strategic coordination mechanism among major humanitarian actors.

The Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, ECHA, is one of the four Committees created by the Secretary-General in the framework of the UN reform with the aim of enhancing coordination among UN agencies. Chaired by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, ECHA meets on a monthly basis in New York. ECHA's membership, notably with the participation of UN Departments, adds a political and peacekeeping dimension to humanitarian consultations.

Role in disaster risk reduction

Disaster preparedness

IASC Working Group requested at its 61st meeting in June 2005, to OCHA and UNISDR secretariat to consult with all IASC members on the most appropriate mechanisms by which the IASC can give effect to its obligations on the Hyogo Framework for Action follow-up taking into account existing IASC and other mechanisms dealing with preparedness issues, time and resources. Based on this request, UNISDR and OCHA developed a Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response - Guidance and Indicator Package for Implementing Priority Five of the Hyogo Framework, published in 2008. The tool provides strengthened guidance to facilitate the implementation of Priority Five of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and aims to assist governments, local authorities, and other stakeholders develop and measure preparedness for response capability at the international, regional, national and local level.

Inter-Agency Contingency Planning Guidelines for Humanitarian Assistance were prepared by the IASC Reference Group on Contingency Planning and Preparedness in 2001 and updated in 2007 by the IASC Sub-Working Group on Preparedness and Contingency Planning. Guidelines were designed to provide a common inter-agency methodology for contingency planning and to ensure effective response to humanitarian needs at the onset of a crisis.

The IASC Humanitarian Early Warning Service (HEWSweb) is an inter-agency partnership project aimed at establishing a common platform for humanitarian early warnings and forecasts for natural hazards. The service has been developed by WFP who is responsible for coordinating

and managing the overall information content, design, and organization of HEWSweb on behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its members.

Climate change

The IASC Working Group at its 71st meeting in June 2008 requested IFRC with support from OCHA, WFP and IOM to convene a Task Force of relevant IASC organizations to lead the preparation of inputs to the UNFCCC process leading to the Copenhagen Conference (COP-15) in December 2009 and to provide guidance to the IASC on related issues. This informal IASC Task Force on Climate Change and UNISDR made a joint submission in November 2008 to the UNFCCC Ad hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action on Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and Risk Management Practices: Critical Elements for Adaptation to Climate Change to highlight the disaster risk reduction and humanitarian implications of climate change to the UNFCCC Parties. The IASC with its Task Force on Climate Change organized a COP-14 Side Event on the Humanitarian Response to Climate Change: Early Warning – Early Action.

Moreover, an informal group convened by IOM, in collaboration with UNHCR and the RSG on Human Rights of IDPs and other interested IASC organizations produced a working paper on Climate Change, Migration and Displacement: Who will be affected?, which was submitted to the UNFCCC.

Early recovery

As part of ongoing efforts to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of the humanitarian response, IASC has embarked upon an initiative to strengthen leadership and accountability in nine key "clusters" of the humanitarian response. Among these is the cluster for "early recovery" — a complex area that is critical in linking immediate responses to disasters with medium and long-term recovery efforts. UNDP was designated as the lead agency for this cluster. Working with 17 humanitarian and development partners, UNDP has identified critical gaps in early recovery and priority actions and resource requirements, in order to improve capacities and apply the cluster approach to crisis situations.

Gender

International humanitarian, human rights, and refugee law share a common goal in aiming to prevent and relieve suffering, and to protect the rights and freedoms of women, girls, boys and men. While there has been emphasis by the IASC on promoting gender equality in all aspects of its work, real-time evaluations conducted in 2005-2006 of the crises in Darfur, the Tsunami and Pakistan earthquake point to clear gaps in promoting gender equality. To address this gap,

The IASC issued in 2006 The IASC Gender Handbook, Women, Girls, Boys and Men: Different Needs – Equal Opportunities which provides field-friendly guidance on how to deliver humanitarian protection and assistance based on the different needs, capacities and vulnerabilities of women, girls, boys and men.

IASC policy statement on Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action was approved by the IASC Working Group in June 2008.

Website:

http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/

Key UN System Networks in Disaster Risk Reduction

Inter-Agency Group (IAG)
FAO, OCHA, UNDP, ILO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, WMO, World Bank (and IFRC)

ISDR Platform for Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW)
UNISDR, WMO

ISDR Platform for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP, UNISDR

ISDR System Thematic Cluster/Platform on Knowledge and Education
UNESCO, UNICEF, WMO

ISDR Global Drought Risk Reduction Platform
WFP

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)
FAO, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, WFP, WHO (UNHCR)

IASC Sub-working group on early warning and contingency planning
OCHA, UNICEF, WFP

IASC-Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery (CWGER)
ILO

Global Early Warning and Response System for Major Animal Diseases
FAO

Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI)
OCHA, UNDP, UNISDR

Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR)
UNEP

International Consortium on Landslides (ICL)
FAO, UNESCO, UNISDR, UNU, WMO

International Programme on Landslides (IPL)
UNU

Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA)
FAO

Fire Management Actions Alliance
FAO

Mountain Partnership
FAO, WMO

Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System
FAO

World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)
UNESCO, WMO

International Flood Initiative (IFI)
UNESCO, UNISDR, UNU, WMO

Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM)
UNU, WMO

Integrated Flood Management helpdesk (IFM helpdesk)
WMO, Cap-Net/UNDP, UNISDR, UNESCO-IHE, UNOSAT, UNITAR

Tropical Cyclone Programme (TCP)
Hurricane Committee, Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South-West Indian Ocean, Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South Pacific and South-East Indian Ocean, Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South Pacific and the South-East Indian Ocean, WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, and ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee. WMO, ESCAP

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
UNESCO, WMO

IOC's Intergovernmental Coordination Groups for Tsunami Warning Systems
UNESCO, WMO

Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM)
WMO, UNESCO

Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)
UNESCO

Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS)
UNESCO

Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP)
UNDP, UNU, WMO

Global Environment Fund (GEF)
UNDP, UNEP, WB, FAO, UNIDO

OECD High Level Panel on International Network on Financial Management of Large Scale Catastrophes
WMO

International Research Centre on El Niño (CIIFEN)
WMO, UNISDR

International Platform for Reducing Earthquake Disaster (IPRED)
UNESCO

International Council for Science (ICSU)
UNESCO, UNU, WMO

International Charter Space and Major Disasters
UNITAR, UNOOSA

United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG)
UNOOSA

Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities
UNOOSA

GEO – Group on Earth Observations
UNOOSA, UNITAR

Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies
UNICEF

Coalition for Global School Safety and Disaster Prevention education (GOGSS-DPE)
UNESCO

WHO-AMRO Disaster Mitigation Advisory Group
WHO

Joint Initiative on Recovery Coordination
OCHA, UNDOCO, UNDP/BCPR

International Recovery Platform
OCHA, UNISDR, UNDP, ILO, WB, ADRC, IFRC

Inter-Agency Working Group for Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations
UNFPA

National Counterparts for Disaster Reduction

Counterpart Ministries and local authorities with related extension services responsible for:

Agriculture:
FAO, WFP
Departments of Forestry, Livestock and Fisheries and related municipalities and farmers' organizations.

Disaster Management/Preparedness:
OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF

National committees of water, oceanographic and earth sciences, Coastal Zone Management:
UNEP, UNESCO, WMO

Environment:
UNEP

Planning:
UNEP, UNDP

Land and Resettlement:
UN-HABITAT

Housing:
UN-HABITAT

Construction:
UNESCO, UNESCO

Urban Development:
UN-HABITAT

Education:
UNESCO, UNICEF, UNU (Universities/Research Institutions)

Health:
UNICEF, WHO

Social Welfare:
UNICEF

Meteorological and Hydrological Services:
WMO (meteorological and hydrological), UNESCO (meteorological)

Space:
UNOOSA

And various agency specific counterparts, such as
National Commissions of UNESCO,
National Climate Change Focal Points
National Focal Points for UN-SPIDER,
Brussels Programme of Action/LDCs National Focal Points

ISDR

The Strategy – Secretariat – System

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

General description

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) was adopted by United Nations Member States in 2000 and is owned by local, national, regional and international organizations (A/RES/54/597, A/RES/56/195). The secretariat to ISDR is UNISDR, an entity within the United Nations Secretariat. UNISDR is led by an Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and overseen by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, who also serves as the Chair for the wider ISDR system of partnerships. The mandate of UNISDR is to act as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure that disaster risk reduction becomes integral to sound and equitable development, environmental protection and humanitarian action.

The mission of UNISDR is to be an effective coordinator and guide for all the ISDR partners, globally and regionally, and to:

- Mobilize political and financial commitments to disaster risk reduction and Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA);
- Develop and sustain a robust, multistakeholder system;
- Provide relevant knowledge and guidance.

Core functions of UNISDR include:

- Inter-agency and stakeholder coordination for disaster risk reduction policy development, reporting, information sharing and support to national efforts, at regional and global level;
- Monitoring the implementation of HFA and reporting on progress (core indicators), including publishing the biennial Global Assessment Report, organizing regional platforms and managing the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;

- Coordinating preparation of policy guidelines for the HFA priority areas, in particular linking disaster risk reduction to the climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- Conducting advocacy, awareness campaigns and media outreach;
- Providing information services and practical tools, such as virtual libraries, and assembling databases of good practices, country profiles, events calendar, electronic workspaces;
- Promoting national multi-sector coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction (national platforms) and advising UN Resident Coordinators and ISDR system partners.

UNISDR administrates the UN Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction and is partner to the World Bank in the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. UNISDR headquarters is based in Geneva, Switzerland, with a liaison office in New York. It works through regional and sub-regional offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Americas and Europe and supports the thematic platforms on recovery (in Kobe) and early warning (in Bonn).

ISDR system

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) is a system of partnerships with the overall objective to generate and support a global disaster risk reduction movement to implement HFA, which was endorsed by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2004 and by UN General Assembly (A/RES/60/195) and serves as the overall framework for implementing disaster risk reduction. These partnerships comprise a broad range of actors, all of which have essential roles in supporting nations and communities to reduce risk. ISDR partners include Governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions, scientific and technical bodies and specialized networks as well as civil society and the private sector

In addition to the secretariat outlined above, ISDR mechanisms include:

- The biennial Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as the main global forum for continued and concerted emphasis on disaster reduction. Open to all States and the complement of ISDR stakeholders, it serves primarily to assess progress made in the implementation of the HFA, enhance awareness of disaster risk reduction, share experiences and learn from good practice, also identifying remaining gaps and necessary actions to accelerate national and local implementation.

- Regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, including ministerial meetings, led by regional inter-governmental organizations.
- An Inter-Agency Group that acts as a venue for ISDR system joint work programming among the participating organizations (currently FAO, IFRC, ILO, OCHA, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, WMO and the World Bank) and to improve coherence thus better supporting countries in their implementation of the HFA. Thematic platforms led by UN specialized agencies or technical institutions, provide knowledge products, and help to report on developments (for instance early warning, recovery, education, risk identification). The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs also convenes a Management Oversight Board with his peers (from OCHA; UNDP representing UNDG; the World Bank; WMO; UNEP; and IFRC). This Board supports the Chair in providing UN system-wide leadership and high-level advocacy for disaster risk reduction.
- Several stakeholder groups and networks associated to ISDR – among them a Scientific Technical Committee, Global NGO Network for DRR, Gender-and-Disasters and Media groupings and an emerging Parliamentarian Network.
- Member States, which participate actively in ISDR, are called upon in GA and HFA resolutions to establish multistakeholder national platforms for disaster risk reduction to facilitate coordination across sectors. A self-organized ISDR Support Group is an informal body open to all States that convenes in Geneva. Frequent briefings in New York and initiatives linked to the General Assembly (GA) and ECOSOC keep Member States abreast of developments. The Secretary-General reports every year to GA on the implementation of ISDR in the Second Committee.

Website:

www.unisdr.org

www.preventionweb.net

SUMMARY of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015:
Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters

Expected outcome, strategic goals and priorities for action 2005-2015

Expected Outcome
The substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.

Strategic Goals

- The integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning.
- The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards.
- The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.

Priorities for Action

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.	2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.	3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.	4. Reduce the underlying risk factors.	5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.
Key Activities				
• DRR institutional mechanisms (national platforms); designated responsibilities; • DRR part of development policies and planning, sector wise and multisector; • Legislation to support DRR; • Decentralisation of responsibilities and resources; • Assessment of human resources and capacities; • Foster political commitment; • Community participation.	• Risk assessments and maps, multi-risk: elaboration and dissemination; • Indicators on DRR and vulnerability; • Data and statistical loss information; • Early warning: people centered; information systems; public policy; • Scientific and technological development; data sharing, space-based earth observation, climate modeling and forecasting; early warning; • Regional and emerging risks.	• Information sharing and cooperation; • Networks across disciplines and regions; dialogue; • Use of standard DRR terminology; • Inclusion of DRR into school curricula, formal and informal education; • Training and learning on DRR: community level, local authorities, targeted sectors; equal access; • Research capacity: multi-risk; socio-economic; application; • Public awareness and media.	• Sustainable ecosystems and environmental management; • DRR strategies integrated with climate change adaptation; • Food security for resilience; • DRR integrated into health sector and safe hospitals; • Protection of critical public facilities; • Recovery schemes and social safety-nets; • Vulnerability reduction with diversified income options; • Financial risk-sharing mechanisms; • Public-private partnership; • Land use planning and building codes; • Rural development plans and DRR.	• Disaster management capacities: policy, technical and institutional capacities; • Dialogue, coordination and information exchange between disaster managers and development sectors; • Regional approaches to disaster response, with risk reduction focus; • Review and exercise preparedness and contingency plans; • Emergency funds; • Voluntarism and participation.

Cross Cutting Issues

- Multi-hazard approach
- Gender perspective and cultural diversity
- Community and volunteers participation
- Capacity building & technology transfer

Contributing to the achievements of the internationally agreed development goals (including the MDGs).

DRR: disaster risk reduction

Implementation and Follow-Up

In order to achieve the strategic goals and act upon the priorities for action, the Framework identifies the following tasks for implementation and follow-up by States, regional and international organizations in collaboration with civil society and other stakeholders. The ISDR partners, in particular the Inter-agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR)* and secretariat, are requested to assist in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action.

General Considerations

- Implementation by different stakeholders, multi-sectoral approach; participation of civil society (NGOs, CBOs, volunteers), scientific community & private sector is vital.
- States primarily responsible; an enabling international environment is vital, incl. strengthened regional capacities.
- Build multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- Particular attention to:
  - Small island developing States: Mauritius Strategy;
  - Least developed countries;
  - Africa.
- States, regional and international organizations to foster coordination among themselves and a strengthened International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).
- Follow-up integrated with other major conferences in fields relevant to DRR; reviews as appropriate.

Actors

Critical tasks

States

- Designate national coordination mechanisms for the implementation and follow up, communicate to the ISDR secretariat;
- National baseline assessments of the status of DRR;
- Publish and update a summary of national programme for DRR including international cooperation;
- Develop procedure for reviewing national progress including systems for cost benefit analysis and ongoing monitoring on risk;
- Consider acceding to, approving or ratifying relevant international legal instruments and make sure they are implemented;
- Promote the integration of DRR with climate variability and climate change into DRR strategies and adaptation to climate change; ensure management of risks to geological hazards.

Regional Organizations and Institutions

- Promote regional programmes including for technical cooperation, capacity development, the development of methodologies and standards for hazard and vulnerability monitoring and assessment, the sharing of information and effective mobilization of resources;
- Undertake and publish regional and sub-regional baseline assessments;
- Coordinate and publish reviews on progress and support needs, and assists countries in preparation of national summaries;
- Establish specialized regional collaborative centers;
- Support the development of regional mechanisms and capacities for early warning, including for tsunami.

International Organizations (including UN System and IFIs)

- Encourage the integration of DRR into humanitarian and sustainable development fields;
- Strengthen the capacity of the UN system to assist disaster-prone developing countries in DRR and implement measures for assessment of progress;
- Identify actions to assist disaster-prone developing countries in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework, ensure integration and that adequate funding is allocated; assist in setting up national strategies and programmes for DRR;
- Integrate actions into relevant coordination mechanisms (UNDG, IASC, RCs and UN Country Teams);
- Integrate DRR into development assistance frameworks such as CCA/UNDAF, PRSP;
- In collaboration with networks and platform support: data collection and forecasting on natural hazards and risks; early warning systems; full and open exchange of data;
- Support States with coordinated international relief assistance, to reduce vulnerability and increase capacities;
- Strengthen international mechanisms to support disaster stricken States in post-disaster recovery with DRR approach
- Adapt & strengthen inter-agency disaster management training for DRR and capacity building.

ISDR (Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction and secretariat)

- Develop a matrix of roles and initiatives in support of follow-up to the Hyogo Framework;
- Facilitate the coordination of effective actions within the UN system and other international and regional entities to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework, identify gaps, facilitate processes to develop guidelines and policy tools for each priority area;
- In broad consultation, develop generic, realistic and measurable indicators. These indicators could assist States in measuring progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework;
- Support national platforms and regional coordination;
- Register relevant partnerships with Commission on Sustainable Development;
- Stimulate the exchange, compilation, analysis and dissemination of best practices, lessons learnt;
- Prepare periodic review on progress towards achieving the objectives of the Hyogo Framework and provide reports to the UNGA and other UN bodies.

Resource Mobilization: States, Regional and International Organizations

- Mobilize resources and capabilities of relevant national, regional and international bodies, including the UN system;
- Provide and support the implementation of the HFA in disaster prone developing countries, including through financial and technical assistance, addressing debt sustainability, technology transfer, public-private partnership and North-South and South-South cooperation;
- Mainstream DRR measures into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes;
- Provide adequate voluntary financial contribution to the UN Trust Fund for DR to support follow-up activities to Hyogo Framework; review usage and feasibility for the expansion of this fund;
- Develop partnership to implement schemes that spread risks, reduce insurance premiums, expand insurance coverage and increase financing for post-disaster reconstruction, including through public and private partnerships. Promote an environment that encourages a culture of insurance in developing countries.

Source: Outcome of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005

* The IATF/DR was replaced in 2007 by the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

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

UNISDR Liaison Office, New York
palm@un.org

UNISDR Africa, Nairobi
isdr-africa@unep.org
www.unisdr.org/africa

UNISDR Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok
isdr-bkk@un.org
www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

UNISDR the Americas, Panama
eird@eird.org
www.eird.org

UNISDR Europe, Geneva
isdr-europe@un.org
www.unisdr.org/europe

UNISDR West Asia and North Africa, Cairo
info@unisdr-wana.org
www.unisdr.org/wana

Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow

UNISDR-21-2009-Geneva

This publication is printed on recycled paper