



Adapting to Climate Change and Reducing Disaster Risk

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)

**UNFCCC Expert meeting on adaptation for small island developing States
Pacific and Indian Ocean SIDS
Rarotonga, Cook Islands
26 to 28 February 2007**

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

- Launched by UN General Assembly in 2000
- **ISDR Secretariat** as an independent entity within the United Nations Secretariat,
 - with a line of accountability to the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs,
 - to serve as “honest broker”, catalyst
 - main focal point within the UN system on disaster risk reduction issues,
 - to continue to promote ownership and commitment to disaster risk reduction with national, regional and international constituencies, and report on progress

- Objective:

Increase public awareness about risk reduction (vulnerabilities and hazards) and achieve commitment from public authorities

Hyogo Framework 2005-2015

Increase the resilience of countries and communities to disasters

HFA = Global blueprint for DRR efforts

Goals = substantially **reduce disasters losses** in terms of lives / social / economic / environmental assets of communities and countries

Priorities =

1. Make DRR a national and local priority
(strong institutional basis for implementation)
2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warnings
(Know the risks and take action)
3. Build understanding and awareness
(Use knowledge, innovation, education to build culture of safety and resilience)
4. Reduce underlying risks factors
5. Preparedness for effective response (strengthen disaster preparedness)

As agreed in the HFA , ISDR Secretariat will work with national, regional and international partners in carrying out support functions to provide coordination and assistance in the promotion of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework.

HFA implementation : Pacific Regional Framework 2005-2015

- Adoption of the **Pacific Regional Framework for Action 2005-2015** by Pacific Summit Leaders in June 2005
 - Fully in line with HFA
 - List and elaborate on the priorities for action that were adopted in this framework
- Framework adopted as a **strategy for mainstreaming DR management** on an all hazard basis across the region to improve the capacity of individual Pacific island nations and communities to reduce their vulnerability and manage disasters when they occur
- Adoption of the Pacific Framework illustrates highest **political commitment** in the Pacific to DRR and to assist Pacific countries develop their **national action plan**
- NP consistent with the Pacific Framework, with particular emphasis on the development of policies and plans for mitigation and management of disasters
- PNG, Marshall Islands, Vanuatu and Samoa are mobilizing efforts to implement disaster risk reduction as part of their national development plan, along the lines of HFA through UNDP and SOPAC, as key implementing partners

Relevant activities in Asia and Pacific

Integration of DRR into development processes like CCA/UNDAF

- Poorest people are the most directly and severely affected by disasters
- Reducing their vulnerabilities and addressing poverty as a root cause of disasters is a key priority identified by HFA
- UN/ISDR to organize [regional workshop on mainstreaming DRR into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and development processes such as CCA/UNDAF](#) (April 2007- UN/ISDR in cooperation with Government of Bangladesh)
- Representatives from Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Development will be invited, together with World Bank country Offices in around 18 countries in Asia and Pacific countries
- More information and invitation letter will be sent in the coming weeks

Relevant activities in Asia and Pacific

Promotion of the theme of education for disaster risk reduction

- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is everybody's business,
- All have a role to play in our daily life to contribute to reducing the vulnerabilities and threats to disasters
- **Shifting mentalities and behaviors towards disasters** will be achieved through a global culture of prevention and more particularly through the education of younger generation on disasters and on how to protect themselves and their communities against disasters
- Education and a global culture of prevention can save lives

Relevant activities in Asia and Pacific

Promotion of the theme of education for disaster risk reduction

- UN/ISDR, in cooperation with UNESCO and UNICEF regional offices for Asia and the Pacific, is organizing a regional conference on education for DRR in the fall 2007
- Inviting Ministries of Education of approx 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific,
- To learn about the experiences of countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam, Philippines and others in mainstreaming DRR into school curricula
- To reach a political commitment at highest level to replicate this mainstreaming process in all countries in the region
- Importance to integrate climate change information in educational materials

Relevant activities in Asia and Pacific

Global Platform

- In line with the overall restructuring of ISDR as a "movement" or "system" to better serve the objectives of HFA and its implementation at the global level, a "Global Platform" will be set up, led by the USG for Humanitarian Affairs
- To guide Governments, technical and academic institutions, the civil society and NGOs, as well as the private sector, the media and the UN community in implementing HFA at all levels (international, regional and national/local) -
- Regional consultations will take place in Bangladesh in April with key regional stakeholders, led by UN/ISD
- to discuss the most relevant structure and composition of a regional mechanism to be set up to discuss HFA and DRR implementation at the regional level how regional considerations and activities can be best reflected at the first meeting of the Global Platform,(scheduled to be held in Geneva on 5-7 June 2007)

Relevant activities in Asia and Pacific

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)

- World Bank strong commitment to the overall issue of DRR by investing heavily in this area through the [Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery \(GFDRR\)](#) for LDCs
- ISDR is responsible for Track 1 resources which amount up to 600,000 USD for 2007 for the Asia and Pacific region
- A specific workplan has been developed focusing on
 - information management on DRR,
 - mainstreaming process of DRR into development processes
 - strengthening of institutional capacities for DRR at the national level.

Relevant activities in Asia and Pacific

National coordination mechanism for DRR

- **Commitment to develop the necessary institutional framework** to facilitate the implementation of DRR and its mainstreaming at the national level in development plans and key sectors
- Commitment at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (January 2005)
- Call and commitment made by Governments at the First Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR in Beijing (The Beijing Action-sept05) and Regional Consultative Committee (RCC5) in Hanoi (the Hanoi Declaration-2006) to develop and officially designate national coordination mechanisms for DRR ("national platforms")

Relevant activities in Asia and Pacific

National coordination mechanism for DRR

- DRR is **cross-sectoral** by nature and requires the expertise of stakeholders from a wide range of disciplines and from various levels of society.
- Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction at the national level requires a **concerted effort** of decision-makers, key line Ministries, the UN Country Teams and UN Resident Coordinators' offices but also the **active participation and involvement** of all levels of society including NGOs, the civil society, the media, private sector as well as technical and academic institutions.
- To build trust and consensus among all stakeholders to obtain a full ownership and commitment at all levels so that the mainstreaming process is **sustainable**.
- It is important for each **Government to set up or designate officially a national platform for the coordination of DRR** as a key mechanism to guarantee a multi-stakeholder participation in the decision-making process for DRR.

ISDR Activities in Climate Change in Asia & Pacific

- ISDR/IAI Workshop on Climate Change and DRR (December 2006)
- Publication “On Better Terms “ (www.unisdr.org)
Document for discussion of key terms and concepts for both communities
- Document about DRR tools useful for adaptation to climate change
(*to be published*)
- DRR+CC Infolink: continuous production

Linking Disaster Risk Reduction with Climate Change Adaptation offers a win-win opportunity

- Climate system is fundamental for both issues: 75% of all disasters are originated by weather-climate extremes
- DRR and CCA strategies both are aimed at enhancing sustainability, resilient societies and human security
- Similar sectoral focus, complexities & challenges, rely on same type of measures and policies
- DRR offers opportunities for “bottom-up” strategies for adaptation to current climate variability and climate extremes
- DRR can promote early adaptation to CC

How to promote the links between DRR and climate change adaptation?

- Raise **awareness** in both communities about the links between DRR and adaptation to climate change and the need to integrate both in development plans
- Proposal to **include Climate Change Experts in national platforms** to ensure the link between development, disaster risk reduction and climate change
- Strengthen National Platforms including institutions working in climate change
- Include climate change activities in Hyogo Framework Implementation National Report
- Include DRR community in the development of adaptation plans
- Look for **synergies** to develop policies and activities that contribute to the reduction of risks and adaptation to climate change , Early Warning System for example



Thanks for your attention!

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www.unisdr.org

More information will be available through ISDR website www.unisdr.org/asiapacific