Workshop on Gender Equality and Disaster Risk Reduction

Honolulu, 10-12 August 2004
The ISDR – a UN strategy

UN General Assembly Resolution A/54/219 launched the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) in 2000

... building disaster resilient communities by promoting increased awareness of the importance of disaster reduction as an integral component of sustainable development.
How the ISDR is implemented

- Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction
- Inter-Agency Secretariat of ISDR
- National committees / platforms
- Partner institutions and regional centres
PURPOSE STATEMENT
The ISDR Secretariat is a catalyst to advance and facilitate the realization of the ISDR worldwide, striving to mobilize commitment and resources for disaster risk reduction through partnerships at international, regional and national levels.

1. POLICY AND STRATEGY
The development of policies and strategies necessary for the advancement of disaster risk reduction, particularly through collaboration with and support of United Nations bodies and programmes, the ISDR Inter-agency Task Force, and other international and regional bodies, and in response to emerging opportunities for and impediments to disaster risk reduction.

1.1 Framework, targets and programme for disaster risk reduction (DRR)
1.2 Mainstreaming of DRR in UN bodies and as part of SD
1.3 IATF for implementation of ISDR
1.4 Early Warning into policies and drought reduction policies
1.5 Strategies on climate risk & changes
1.6 Coordinated science agenda on DRR

2. ADVOCACY
The communication and promotion of disaster risk reduction concepts and practices to specific target audiences in order to persuade, obtain commitment, and mobilize resources toward the reduction of disaster risk and the development of a culture of resilience.

2.1 Global public awareness
2.2 Regional advocacy capacities
2.3 National advocacy and platforms: LAC, Africa and Asia
2.4 Promotion of education & training in DRR
2.5 Advocacy to special audiences

3. INFORMATION & NETWORKS
The generation and dissemination of information on disaster risk reduction to meet policymaker and practitioner needs, through the collection and synthesis of knowledge, experience and data, the enhancement of access to information products, the development and stimulation of networks of people, and the development of necessary supporting information strategies and technical capacities.

3.1 Synthesised information (IWR - global review, reviews, guidelines, etc)
3.2 Expansion of reference databases (individuals, organizations, programs,)
3.3 Increased networks & exchange of information
3.4 Upgraded ISDR Secretariat websites
3.5 Accessible ISDR library

4. PARTNERSHIPS FOR APPLICATIONS
The engagement in partnerships devoted to projects and activities that stimulate and test specific disaster risk reduction applications, including policy and strategy applications or that develop specialist technical knowledge needed for disaster reduction.

4.1 Regional partnerships for policies and strategies on DRR
4.2 Projects and programmes partnerships for practical application & good practices
4.3 Collaboration with specialist fields

1 The organizational strengthening of the ISDR is also a high priority to ensure the effective implementation of the above framework.

Outcomes linked with the WCDR (high priorities)
Additional priorities
Lower priority
Identified key priorities for ISDR:

• WCDR & policy guidance
  – framework for DRR, policy integration, national reviews
• Regional outreach
  – Asia, Central Asia, Africa, LAC, Pacific, Europe...
• Early warning programme
• Information management system
  – Enhanced web, databases, on-line dialogues, and information products
• Organizational development
  – ISDR secretariat, IATF/DR, UN system for ND management (OCHA, UNDP, ISDR)
Key-achievements POLICY/STRATEGY

- Climate change and DRR- policy paper process (multi-stakeholder, VARG…)
- EWP: Bonn office, network, workshop, dissemination of EWC-II report
- UN mainstreaming of DRR: inputs to CSD & SIDS, UN-WATER, SG Report process (inter-agency), tripartite OCHA-UNDP-ISDR
- WCDR preparation
Key-achievements: ADVOCACY

- **Annual Awareness Campaign:**
  - 2004 on topic of LEARNING - Riskland game

- **World Water Day:** Water and Disasters (22 March) jointly with WMO

- **Flood guidelines:** with UN-DESA & NOAA. Launching events NY, Gva, Bangkok (UN/ESCAP)

- **National platforms:** increasing numbers of officially recognized (20) and through national information/reporting focal points in 50 (awaiting more). Jointly with UNDP (workshops etc)
Key-achievements: INFORMATION

• Living with Risk 2004 version. Launched in NY by USG (14 July 2004), media, translations underway (Sp, Ch)
  – Used as training material in many universities (UK, South Africa, India, Australia/Pacific, etc.)

• Website increase in users: 511,000 hits May 2004, 400,000 Jan 2004 (150,000 hits in Jan 2003)
  – MAY main visits to: On-line dialogue on Framework for DRR, Living with Risk, Flood guidelines
Key-achievements: PARTNERSHIPS for APPLICATION

Regional:

• **Africa**: African Strategy for DRR, by AU/NEPAD and UNDP, information and education products (water, environment, climate change, governance) & gender study: with AU, WMO, UNEP, UNDP, UN-Habitat...others... (Germany, Norway)

• **Asia**: Environment and DRR, ADPC-ADRC-UNDP-UN/ESCAP partnership (Sweden)
  Central Asia new- with UNDP and OCHA (Norway)

• **LAC**: Public awareness innovative products with UNICEF, UNDP, PAHO, ACS, CEPREDEMAC, CDERA, CAF... (Sweden, Canada)

• **Pacific**: SOPAC, Yokohama review, WCDR prep, public awareness (Australia, New Zealand)
1 The ISDR Secretariat work plan has four areas: Policy and strategy support; Advocacy & public awareness; Information and networking; and Partnerships for application.
2 Regional programmes cover activities in all four areas, and Partnerships for application are cross-cutting.
3 This post is shared with OCHA
4 Programmes in Asia, the Pacific and Europe are under development and currently managed from Geneva.
5 This post is shared with OCHA
6 Associate Expert from Norway (as of 12 August 2004) in support of the Central Asia programme, hosted by UNDP
7 Funded by UNEP.
8 Associate Expert from Norway (as of 1 August 2004)
9 General Coordinator of CRID, contribution of the ISDR to the inter-agency Regional Center on Disaster Information (CRID)
Strengthening of ISDR Information Management System and Website on Disaster Reduction

Project report
Period: November 2003 to June 2004

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United Nations, Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland
Website: www.unisdr.org
Tel: +41-22-917 2776
Fax: +41-22-917 0563
Access database now
SQL Server later
Tables are inter-connected

** Manual import now without a database, in the future: view on database

Documents (word, excel, pdf) for programs & initiatives

UN/ISDR website Located at

Internal DBs (Non-public)

Contacts
Organizations
Impacts
Programs & initiatives
Countries
Bibliographic

UN/ISDR website Located at

National platforms
Programs & initiatives
Search engine for data**

Extract**

Extract**
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

www.unisdr.org
### Number of people killed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disaster</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Killed</th>
<th>Disaster</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Earthquake</td>
<td>23-Dec-1972</td>
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<td>1,000</td>
<td>Wind Storm</td>
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<td>Volcano</td>
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<td>Flood</td>
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<td>Wind Storm</td>
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<td>Flood</td>
<td>May-1990</td>
<td>106,411</td>
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### Number of people affected

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3. Hazard and vulnerability maps (UNEP/DEWA/GRID)
World Conference on Disaster Reduction
WCDR

Overview
• Why the conference
• Objectives
• Expected Outcome
• Format
• Preparatory Process

www.unisdr.org/wcdr
www.unisdr.org/ wcd-dialogue
Why the Conference?

- Disaster impacts continuing to grow, related to development
- UN Millennium Development Goals (2000)
WCDR objectives

- Review progress on the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action of 1994
- Raise awareness of importance of disaster reduction
- Identify concrete steps for risk reduction in poverty eradication and development, for 2005-2015
- Share knowledge on best practices and lessons learned
WCDR objectives (contd.)

• Promote political commitment toward reducing risk and vulnerability

• Elaborate specifics - targets, indicators and a framework for guiding disaster risk reduction

• Enhance the strategy - update the Yokohama Strategy and strategic vision and guidance for disaster reduction for 2005-2015, to respond to MDG and WSSD objectives
Expected Outcomes

- Increased political commitment and practitioner motivation
- Enhanced Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action
- Specific targets and indicators and framework for guiding disaster risk reduction
- New and strengthened partnership proposals
Format of conference

1. Intergovernmental process:
   adoption of strategy and programme of action – 2005-2015

2. Thematic segment:
   exchange among experts and decision makers on key issues and good practices

3. Public Forum:
   to raise awareness and disseminate public info
Preparatory process

General Assembly resolution (A/RES.58/214):

• **Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) and its Bureau:** Intergovernmental process to decide substantive and organizational preparations

• **ISDR secretariat is the Conference secretariat:** Supports the PrepComs, drafts papers, promotes and facilitates participation of partners, coordinates with host country

• **IATF, Member States, UN bodies, main stakeholders:** Active participation, provision of inputs and advice
IDNDR, ISDR
Yokohama 94
Review of progress since Yokohama
National reports
Progress in particular fields
Millennium Dev. Goals
WSSD and JPoI

WCDR
Greater awareness
Political commitment
Updated strategy
Programme of action
Specific targets
Partnerships launched

A halfway point in 20-year effort

Gender and Disaster Reduction
Why do we need to promote gender mainstreaming into disaster risk reduction?

- Gender equality is crosscutting many sectors relevant to reducing risk and vulnerability to natural hazards
- Increased effort in promoting gender equality in Africa for disaster reduction by ISDR and partner organizations (AU, NEPAD, UNDP, UNEP…)
- Women in Africa are increasingly participating and acquiring responsibility, however, number of women remains limited in the field of disaster risk reduction
- Women are still largely disadvantaged in access to policy-making, information and knowledge development related to disaster risk reduction
- Many of the existing policies on disaster management are gender-blind and women’s needs and concerns have been largely overlooked both at policy-making process and programmes implementation which means that half of the African population remains less informed of disaster risks and less active in disaster risk reduction.
Why do we need to promote gender mainstreaming into disaster risk reduction?

- This is mainly because majority of women and men still living in rural areas where the traditional concept on gender roles and responsibilities are still very strong.
- Men and women have different access to power such as policy and decision-making and to natural resources such as water and land.
- There are, therefore, different vulnerabilities between men and women to disasters.
- To advance disaster reduction, women need to become more actively involved.
- To change the current gender inequality in disaster risk reduction, we need women’s access to policy-making, information and knowledge on disaster reduction, and women’s active participation in the implementation of policies and decisions regarding disaster reduction.
How can we mainstream gender into disaster risk reduction?

- Mainstreaming gender into disaster risk management requires institutional development and capacity building - in policy, legislation, organizational development, as well as awareness, training and education -, leading to changes in values, attitudes and behavior in women and men.

- It requires development of enabling environments, - in government offices, community organizations, family, media, etc., that facilitate women’s empowerment and men’s awareness of the need for gender equality in disaster risk reduction.

- Information exchange, networking and knowledge enhancement, including research and technology development are needed for disaster risk reduction.

- Advocacy and awareness-raising programmes should focus on why we need to develop gender-sensitive policies and strategies on disaster risk reduction, providing specific data on social and economic impact of disasters as well as benefits of investing in risk reduction (more resources for development) and opportunity for women to influence policy and decision-making processes.
How can we mainstream gender into disaster risk reduction?

- Women’s full participation in disaster risk reduction benefits themselves (greater self esteem), and thus, their families, communities and societies.

- Focus should be not only on gender-balanced access to information, knowledge and decision-making on risk management, but also on public understanding of the issue and validation of women’s contribution to risk reduction, raising visibility of women’s concerns and needs.

- To start with, we need to document experiences and good practices on how women’s participation in disaster risk reduction makes a difference.

- Also important to develop a checklist for integration of the gender concerns into disaster risk reduction policies and practices, sort of gender impact assessments similar to the EIAs.
What are the best practices and successes that we can draw upon for mainstreaming gender into disaster risk reduction?

- Case studies in Kenya and Madagascar show that women’s participation in decision-making is crucial to mainstreaming gender in disaster risk reduction.

- In communities where women’s participation is active, women’s needs and concerns are likely to be reflected in the decisions and activities related to disasters.

- Madagascar case study revealed that women and their families hardly benefited from men-dominate rehabilitation activities, such as road repairs.
What are the constraints for mainstreaming gender into disaster risk reduction?

Factors that affect mainstreaming of gender into disaster risk reduction differ from one country to another, but those listed below are common in Africa. They are:

- Traditional practices, norms and habits that limit women’s participation in policy making process and programme implementations in disaster risk reduction, for example, women considered only as family caretakers and not allowed to take charge or make decisions;
- Disaster risk reduction and disaster management considered fields largely dominated by men (based on disaster response practice), therefore women have less access to policy and decision-making on disaster reduction both at national and community levels;
- Women’s limited access to information and knowledge related to disaster risks in the communities where they live;
- Women and NGOs are more active in socio-cultural or specific economic activities (e.g., agriculture but not financing…) and less active in managing risk, understanding hazards and vulnerability and therefore women’s voice hardly heard for risk reduction at policy and decision-making processes and women’s concerns and needs hardly considered.
What needs to be done in order to promote gender concerns and address gender needs in disaster risk reduction?

- Launch a global campaign on disaster reduction in which gender is fully mainstreamed and, at the same time, promoting support to women’s active participation in policy and decision-making processes for disaster risk reduction;
- Empower women and men with the same (balanced) amount of knowledge and information on disaster risk reduction;
- Urge Governments (national and local) to develop or amend national policies and strategies to introduce gender-balanced approaches addressing both women and men’s concerns and experiences;
- Establish focal points for promoting gender-balanced approaches in disaster risk reduction at all levels, international, regional, national and local;
- This workshop is expected to provide specific objectives and targets for each of the above and other possible objectives under the proposed programme of action for disaster reduction 2005-2015 to be adopted at the WCDR, Kobe, Hyogo, 18-22 January 2005.
How can we promote institutional commitments to gendering risk reduction, in particular for the WCDR?

• Engage and lobby delegates representing countries and observer organizations at the WCDR, at the higher possible level, to explain and promote that integrating gender balanced approaches (in particular empowering women) into the WCDR programme outcome is essential to achieving the objectives of the WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals.

• Develop specific advocacy materials for dissemination at the WCDR and beyond to show how women’s active participation in disaster risk management policy and decision making processes helps to reduce the impact of disasters on households & communities;

• Advise on indicators and mechanisms for monitoring the success of institutional commitments to gendering risk reduction and set up monitoring and reporting system at international level.
"More effective prevention strategies would save not only tens of billions of dollars, but save tens of thousands of lives. Funds currently spent on intervention and relief could be devoted to enhancing equitable and sustainable development instead, which would further reduce the risk for war and disaster. Building a culture of prevention is not easy. While the costs of prevention have to be paid in the present, its benefits lie in a distant future. Moreover, the benefits are not tangible; they are the disasters that did NOT happen."

Kofi Annan, “Facing the Humanitarian Challenge: Towards a Culture of Prevention”, UNGA, A/54/1