



Updates from GFDRR Partners

Early Results of the GFDRR Partnership

In its first year of operation, the GFDRR's primary objective was to strengthen regional, national, and global capacities to reduce disaster risk, build a stronger case for disaster risk reduction as a core dimension of sustainable development, and put in place the tools needed for intelligent planning and preparation. With the goal of targeting all disaster hot-spot countries by 2015, the GFDRR initially focused on five countries: Malawi, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nepal, and Vietnam.² Fiscal year 2008 will see a scaling up of operations as more countries become aware of the benefits of GFDRR involvement. For example, after the recent disasters in Bolivia, Peru, and Bangladesh, the governments engaged the GFDRR to develop disaster prevention and recovery programs, a trend that is expected to continue.

² A sixth country, Peru, requested GFDRR's assistance after it suffered a major earthquake in August 2007.

A Changing Paradigm

The GFDRR is helping to refocus the attention of decision makers and reshape key national policies in Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East. In Central America and Asia, ISDR regional studies and the Bank's national dialogue are encouraging regional cooperation.

In Africa, the GFDRR has crystallized a new mindset among officials in Bank country offices and partner organizations. This is leading to the formal inclusion of vulnerability considerations and disaster risk reduction strategies in the national plans of Malawi and Mozambique, where macro-level economic risk analysis is now a priority. The analysis of droughts and floods is providing benchmarks to measure performance. In addition, the substantial buildup of regional institutions and programs is instilling a new level of confidence in the possibility of financing large basic infrastructure projects.

More Strategic and Efficient Disaster Risk Reduction

In fiscal year 2008, GFDRR support will enable an additional 29 high-risk countries to develop national disaster risk reduction strategies and build their capacity. As important as this demonstrated political will is, there is also a critical need for strong and effective international cooperation at all levels. The GFDRR's contribution to the ISDR system is catalyzing more strategic and efficient disaster risk reduction. A sampling of the results of this partnership has produced:

- a global risk assessment to identify global climatic and disaster risk trends and regularly review progress in the implementation of the HFA;
- the first Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva, Switzerland, in June 2007, which provided renewed impetus and a sense of direction;
- improved coordination and coherence among regional and sub-regional organizations.

More Effective Disaster Recovery Assistance: The Standby Recovery Financing Facility

In February 2007, the Consultative Group of the GFDRR endorsed the establishment of a Standby Recovery Financing Facility (SRFF) as a post-disaster financing window. The SRFF allows risk reduction to be introduced in the disaster recovery phase, when the opportunity is the greatest. Following the endorsement, a draft operations manual was developed, as well as a rollout plan and detailed business strategy.

The SRFF has two mechanisms available: technical assistance to strengthen disaster recovery assessment and planning, and a Callable Fund to finance speedy access to financial resources for disaster recovery. Technical assistance for disaster recovery planning is provided through three sub-tracks:

- Track III-A strengthens global coordination

- Track III-B strengthens global and regional capacity
- Track III-C provides country-level support

The Callable Fund is the primary mechanism for coordinated incremental resource mobilization that can provide speedy results on the ground during the disaster recovery phase. Under the Callable Fund, resources are targeted to the Disaster Recovery and Financing Plan or a similar recovery plan developed by the beneficiary. Funds are quickly and effectively made available for the recovery phase; monitoring and evaluation ensure that the resources are used for the purposes intended.

Since its launch, the following activities have taken place under the SRFF:

- A “dialogue on developing a common framework for post-disaster needs assessment, recovery and reconstruction,” which was jointly sponsored by the GFDRR, the EC, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The dialogue focused on the strengths and limitations of different tools and methodologies available for assessing the impact of disasters, and a common framework for recovery and reconstruction planning. Participants included representatives from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Belgium, Canada, Italy, Finland, the Caribbean Development Bank, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, and the International Recovery Platform secretariat, as well as the World Bank.
- An advisory mission to Ghana to undertake a preliminary assessment of damages and losses after the floods in the northern region in September 2007. The mission included a one-day training seminar for government representatives and nongovernmental (NGO) officials on damage and loss assessment methodologies.
- Terms of Reference for conducting a comprehensive damage and loss assessment for the Ghana floods.
- A concept note and Terms of Reference for conducting a comprehensive damage and loss assessment for Bangladesh Cyclone Sidr.
- Preparation of the financial and fiduciary arrangements for establishing the Callable Fund.
- Preparation of guidance notes for World Bank staff assessing post-disaster damage and losses in selected sectors of the economy.
- Launch of the first Call for Funds (jointly with Denmark, the GFDRR co-chair) to assist Bangladesh with post-Sidr recovery and reconstruction activities.

Results-Based Management

The GFDRR's results-based management system (RBMS) for disaster risk reduction includes indicators and procedures for monitoring and reporting. Because it is a Web-based system, the RBMS allows interactive, up-to-date assessments of the relevance, efficiency, and effectiveness of disaster risk reduction at project, country, regional, and global levels. Developed in consultation with the Bank's results management thematic group and members of the ISDR system, the RBMS will operate under the overall guidance of the GFDRR's Results Management Council.

At the country level, the RBMS will serve as a planning and management tool showing logical causal relationships (results chains) among outputs, intermediate outcomes, and development results. It includes clear and measurable objectives (results); indicators to measure progress toward each objective; explicit targets for each indicator; performance monitoring systems to regularly collect data as well as analyze and report on actual results; and performance information for internal accountability, learning, decision making, and external reporting to stakeholders and partners.

Making Disaster Risk Reduction a National Priority in Hot-Spot Countries

The GFDRR was established to help developing countries—particularly the 86 countries identified as the most vulnerable natural disaster “hot spots”—enhance their capacity for disaster prevention and emergency preparedness. Working in Mozambique, Malawi, Nigeria, Nepal, and Vietnam, with funding from the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) in fiscal year 2007, the GFDRR focused on helping governments make disaster risk reduction a national development priority.

Malawi, Mozambique, and the Africa Region

In Malawi and Mozambique, a transparent and thorough consultation process on GFDRR programs encouraged buy-in and ownership by the governments and World Bank country offices.

A scoping mission in Mozambique and Malawi in January determined the types of hazards each country faces and the status of their disaster risk reduction plans. A concept note was prepared for each country, outlining the risks and status of disaster management, including policies, legislation, institutional arrangements, initial needs and gaps, and the extent to which disaster risk reduction is mainstreamed. A formal review and decision process helped ensure that the programs were embedded in World Bank work programs and raised internal awareness.



The preparation of the concept note also provided a platform for interaction with the governments, U.N. agencies, NGOs, and other partners. Since the work coincided with preparation of the country assistance strategy (CAS) for each country, the process had the additional benefit of making disaster risk reduction a recognized element of the strategy. Country-based staff have been identified to work with the Bank's task team leaders as a country disaster risk reduction team. In Malawi, the UNDP disaster risk reduction adviser is included in the team, facilitating collaboration with the U.N. family.

The following "first stage" projects were prepared in close coordination with the national agencies. They are now being implemented.

Malawi:

- Hydrological assessment and possible mitigation of flooding in the Lower Shire River.
- Situation analysis of disaster risk management policies and practices.

Mozambique:

- Establishment of a management information system for the National Institute for Disaster Management, Ministry of State Administration.
- Establishment of communications systems for regional emergency operations centers.



In addition, a set of “second stage” projects is being developed into concept notes and Terms of Reference.

Malawi:

- Technical assistance to support the Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs
- Capacity building and training in disaster risk reduction
- Establishment of a national platform to mainstream disaster risk reduction into the development agenda, in collaboration with UNDP

Mozambique:

- Secondment of two senior National Institute for Disaster Management officials to Geneva to increase their experience with disaster risk reduction and interact with the international community.
- Capacity building and training in disaster risk reduction in Malawi. The program will include collaborations with academic institutions in Europe, as well as short courses in Mozambique and Malawi with visiting experts and study tours.

Designing Country Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Assessments

In consultation with the governments of both countries, a scoping mission is determining the extent to which the economies are at risk from natural hazards, how vulnerable they are to different shocks, and what measures are required to protect the economy. This will primarily be an economic analysis at the macro level and include detailed work on the key

growth sectors. Currently, shocks have the effect of “derailing” or distracting the entire economy, not just the sector directly impacted. These effects often last for months and result in extensive and costly impacts that could be prevented.

A related but separate exercise on contingency planning for predictable impacts will help the World Bank, the governments, and other development partners develop procedures and instruments to better coordinate responses while minimizing the disruptive impacts on existing operations.

Building Momentum in the African Region

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the GFDRR is working to integrate disaster risk reduction in country strategies, in collaboration with regional and national partners such as the African Union, sub-regional organizations, U.N. country offices, and governments. Initial results include regional disaster risk profiles and progress reports; new regional knowledge networks to facilitate information sharing; assessments of toxic, flood, and other risks in Central and Western Africa and the efficacy of measures to address them; and technical and financial support for a joint regional framework on drought risk reduction.

The work of ISDR and the GFDRR motivated the African Union Commission (AUC) to shift from support for post-disaster response activities, through its earlier Special Emergency Assistance Fund, to promoting disaster mitigation and prevention. AUC support includes:

- \$90,000 for the establishment of nationally led, multi-agency disaster risk reduction coordination mechanisms in Malawi and Mozambique;
- assistance to sub-regional intergovernmental agencies for disaster risk reduction strategies in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);
- changing the sub-regional strategy from security to risk reduction in the Southern Africa Development Community.

The first annual risk reduction status report provides a comprehensive description of the region’s current disaster risks, institutional arrangements and capacity for disaster risk management, estimated institutional capacity and financing gaps at the country and regional levels, and recent best practices in disaster risk reduction. The report serves as a benchmark for countries and development partners. Feedback from national authorities reinforced the importance of information sharing about disaster risk reduction within and among countries.

The GFDRR sponsored the participation of 15 African ministers in the first Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Their participation resulted in approval of the sub-regional disaster risk reduction strategy for West Africa, establishment of a full time secretariat in Kenya to implement the HFA in selected countries, and allocations of US\$500,000 for mainstreaming HFA priorities into sectoral programs and budgets in Nigeria, and US\$43,000 for the review of Uganda’s national disaster risk reduction policy.

Experts attending the Africa Drought Forum sponsored by ISDR and the UNDP Drylands Development Centre developed a draft policy framework to tackle drought risks in Africa. Building on this initiative, the African Union, ECOWAS, and the East African Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have proposed a regional disaster preparedness capacity building initiative on flooding in West Africa and drought in East Africa to link GFDRR Track I and Track II resources.

GFDRR-supported initiatives in Africa are contributing to strengthening the ISDR system partnerships. For example, the EC, Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Commonwealth Communications Organization have indicated their willingness to collaborate with the ISDR, within the GFDRR framework.

Nepal and the South Asia Region

With funding from DFID, the GFDRR has launched five disaster risk mitigation activities for Nepal. Priorities include a national hazard risk assessment, scaling up of the existing Earthquake Safety Program, a preliminary study of flood early warning systems, a review of Nepal's emergency response capacity, and specialized surveys for the risk assessment of glacial lake outburst floods. The priorities were established following extensive consultations with the government, UNDP, DFID, OCHA, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the National Society for Earthquake Technology, and others. The work will expand understanding of Nepal's vulnerability, strengthen the country's capacity for emergency preparedness and disaster mitigation, and support initial efforts for assessing specific climate-related risks in the Himalayan region.

Leveraging Regional Cooperation in South Asia

A regional conference on the “Hazards of Nature, Risks, and Opportunities for Development in South Asian Countries: Learning the Lessons from Past Disasters—Preparing for the Future” attracted regional and national academics as well as technical disaster experts. Also participating were experts from Kyoto University, Middle East Technical University, and the University of Madras, which hosts the newly established Center for Natural Hazards and Disaster Studies. With ISDR guidance, the World Bank Institute, Kyoto University, and Middle East Technical University will offer courses on disaster risk management. A draft textbook has been developed and a “Training the Trainers” workshop was held at the University of Madras.

Turkey has developed a series of effective and innovative approaches to address seismic risk in the country. These include catastrophic risk insurance pooling, retrofitting of buildings, seismic-resistant engineering techniques, and disaster education. Turkey's experience is helping 23 senior decision makers from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Bhutan, Nepal, and Iran review and strengthen their own earthquake preparedness and mitigation



systems. They participated in the South Asia seismic risk reduction study tour, which focused on lessons learned from earthquake recovery and reconstruction in Turkey. The tour included meetings with governors, mayors, scientists, and NGO representatives who helped develop the country's risk mitigation tools and practices. A regional leadership seminar based on lessons learned from Turkey is being proposed as a next step, in collaboration with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's Disaster Management Centre.

In Tamil Nadu, India, the GFDRR is helping to introduce the disaster reduction agenda into an emergency reconstruction program. In support of the government's efforts to promote early recovery in the tsunami-hit areas of the Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project, the Tamil Nadu vulnerability reduction program for coastal communities focuses on "the strengthening of longer-term disaster preparedness and the reduction of the vulnerability of coastal communities to a range of natural disasters." Expected outcomes include reducing the vulnerability of reconstructed houses, increasing community participation in early warning systems, and improving community access to evacuation routes and shelters.

Throughout the region, there is growing awareness of the importance of factoring disaster risk reduction and vulnerability considerations into development policies, strategies, and plans. The GFDRR is helping fund the *South Asia Regional Study*, which focuses on proactive disaster management strategies. The study will provide:

- a road map for vulnerable countries to implement high-priority risk mitigation programs and enhance their capacity to respond to major catastrophic events;



- a comprehensive framework for the systematic integration of disaster risk reduction at policy and operational levels throughout the region;
- an analytical basis for making disaster risk management a standard feature in relevant country assistance and poverty reduction strategies;
- knowledge sharing about sustainable risk mitigation solutions;
- enhancement of the Bank's internal capacity to respond to catastrophic events and advise countries on the design and management of cross-sector hazard-risk mitigation projects and programs.

By stimulating the demand for risk mitigation and prevention interventions, the study will help increase resilience to disasters while simultaneously decreasing underlying risk factors and vulnerabilities through quantitative risk assessment, country profiles, and regional disaster risk management strategies.

Vietnam and the Southeast Asia Region

Although many countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific are at high risk, their capacity for disaster risk reduction is uneven. In addition, the region is experiencing unprecedented urbanization near low-lying coastal regions. In recent months, the region has made substantial progress in sub-regional cooperation and is looking to the GFDRR for assistance.

In Vietnam, the World Bank and other partners have launched government-led consultation processes to assess the effectiveness of existing mechanisms for risk reduction. They are also spearheading projects to support the government's disaster risk reduction program:

Flood damage insurance. Floods are a natural feature of the Mekong River, and poor and marginalized people suffer the most. The majority of Asians affected annually by flooding have incomes of less than US\$1 a day. Especially hard hit are rice farmers in the Mekong Basin. The GFDRR is supporting the piloting of an index-based flood insurance program for farmers in the region. The goal is to encourage local stakeholders, including administrative agencies and the private sector, to do as much as possible to reduce damage from flooding disasters. The flood insurance project is part of a basin-wide flood management initiative for the Mekong River.

Disaster-proof buildings. In partnership with appropriate government agencies, such as the Ministry of Construction, the GFDRR is supporting an extensive review of building codes and stronger code requirements to make both public and private structures disaster proof. The review will determine if existing codes meet international standards and are being enforced.

Television documentary. To raise awareness of the importance of community-driven development, the GFDRR is helping to fund a television documentary on safer communities and the importance of evacuation plans for local villages. The goal is to give community groups and local governments more control over planning and investment decisions on community-based disaster risk reduction. The project has strong NGO support and will be integrated into the national disaster risk management strategy.

Training. A GFDRR training session for disaster management practitioners has resulted in increased appreciation of the value of damage and loss assessments for risk reduction and recovery. The government is putting in place a framework and allocating budgetary resources to ensure that such assessments are an integral part of recovery efforts if a disaster strikes.

The GFDRR projects are helping to fill a critical gap in ongoing disaster risk management work. New tools for disaster risk reduction, including risk financing, will be introduced at the provincial level to complement ongoing national efforts.

Strengthening Regional Capacity

The GFDRR is helping to strengthen the region's preparedness through training programs, improved technical resources, and a regional roster of disaster experts available for rapid advisory services for sustainable recovery operations. In the Bank's East Asia and Pacific Region, the Urban and Water Unit now officially includes disaster risk reduction as a core function. Several training seminars are improving coordination across sectors within the region.



The Baseline Status Reports on Disaster Reduction in Asia & Pacific, being developed with GFDRR support, cover more than 30 countries in East Asia and the Pacific, West and Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia. A collaborative effort of the ISDR, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), it features an analysis of regional data on hazards, vulnerabilities, and disaster risk reduction measures.

A series of *Technical Notes on Hazard and Disaster Risk Management* will help policy makers integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into their decision making. The notes are being spearheaded by the ISDR Secretariat in Asia and the Pacific, in partnership with Kyoto University and the ADPC.

In Indonesia, the preparation of strategic local action plans for disaster risk reduction in three districts affected by the May 2006 earthquake is considered the first attempt in the region to implement the HFA priorities at the local level. With GFDRR support, ISDR, the UNDP country office in Indonesia, and the provincial and district/city planning agencies are jointly facilitating local action planning in the province of Central Java and the Special Region of Yogyakarta. The goal is to bring together key local government officials, civil society organizations, the private sector, and other stakeholders to link disaster risk reduction directly with socioeconomic development planning and policies.

ISDR is working on a regional knowledge network for disaster risk reduction, in close coordination with PreventionWeb and other partners of the ISDR Asia Partnership. In collaboration with OCHA, draft country profiles on disaster risk reduction and a database featuring disaster risk reduction initiatives are being developed.

Nicaragua, Peru, and the Latin American and Caribbean Region

Latin American and Caribbean countries are among the most advanced in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction. Mexico and Colombia have contracts with catastrophic risk insurance companies, while national and municipal governments in the region are using probabilistic risk assessments. A major initiative is the pooling of catastrophic risks among Caribbean island states for affordable risk insurance, including the use of a World Bank grant for the annual dues of Haiti. Regional cooperation is also well advanced in Central America and among the Caribbean island states whose economies are too small to shoulder the hurricane risks that lead to major annual losses.

The Andean countries, which are particularly susceptible to earthquakes and landslides, have also developed substantial regional cooperation programs. These innovative advances, however, do not address the uneven and sometimes largely unmet needs for mainstreaming risk management in critical policy and regulatory areas. Few countries have systems in place to enhance technical capacity, accountability, and governance at national and local levels. Originally, Nicaragua was the only Andean country scheduled for GFDRR intervention last year, but following the 2007 earthquake, the Peruvian government requested GFDRR assistance.

A Central American Probabilistic Risk Assessment (CAPRA) study in Nicaragua will rely on advanced catastrophic risk modeling techniques to identify and evaluate the potential material and financial losses expected from natural disasters. The study will eventually be expanded to all Central American countries. The first phase of CAPRA is underway and will provide risk profiles for each country, including types of assets, risks, and regional locations. Losses will be modeled according to investments in disaster risk reduction. The information will allow decision makers to quantify and prioritize investments.

Peru's earthquake disaster assistance program is characteristic of how the Andean countries approach risk management. A major earthquake struck Peru in August 2007, resulting in significant loss of life and structural damage to the Ica Province. In response, the government of Peru established the *Fondo para la Reconstrucción del Sur (FORSUR)* to coordinate the reconstruction program. GFDRR funding is being used to establish FORSUR's organizational structure and provide coordination and monitoring support, fiduciary management and control systems, damage assessments, and sector-specific technical assistance for risk reduction.

Progress in the Region

A high-level conference on “Risk Reduction, Mitigation, and Recovery from Natural Disasters in the Greater Caribbean” helped increase political commitments to a disaster risk reduction action plan. The Caribbean Platforms Programme is a practical and results-oriented initiative to advance national capacity as well as regional and international disaster risk reduction agendas in the wider Caribbean. Objectives include integrating disaster risk reduction into sustainable development planning and policies in the subregion.

In Central America and the greater Caribbean subregion, academic institutions and regional and national resource centers have increased their capacity to collect and analyze regional data on hazards, vulnerabilities, and disaster risk reduction measures. They presented their first regional report, as well as a comprehensive risk and action matrix, to the Global Platform. A longer-term methodology for gathering and analyzing information will allow the matrix to be effectively updated.

In the Andean countries, a workshop on “Financing Strategies for Disaster Risks” provided training and served as a public awareness tool to promote the use of financial planning principles in national disaster risk management.

With GFDRR support, ISDR and the Pan American Health Organization have developed a program on “Encompassing Disaster Risk Reduction and Human Health Resilience in Environmental Security and Peace Studies.” The program is part of the Master’s Programme on Environmental Security and Peace at the U.N.’s University for Peace. Between 20 and 30 students are expected to enroll every year.

The application of free satellite data to disaster risk mapping was the topic of a weeklong workshop organized by ISDR, ILO/DELNET and the U.N. Operational Satellite Applications program in Nicaragua. Decision makers and technical experts from 12 countries participated, including municipal officials from Nicaragua, Cuba, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. The workshop was part of a broader initiative to develop local capacity on risk management. The objective is to foster strategic planning using geographic information systems with high-technology satellite imaging support. This interagency partnership is also linking key partners in the region to address issues of urban risk.

The first high-level ministerial conference on disaster reduction in the greater Caribbean was held in Saint-Marc, Haiti. Ministers adopted a five-year plan of action to guide the work of the Association of Caribbean States’ Special Committee on Natural Disasters.



Europe

The World Bank, ISDR secretariat, and international partners have initiated the disaster risk mitigation and adaptation initiative for South Eastern Europe as the foundation for investment priorities in early warning, disaster risk reduction, and financing. The initiative includes hydrometeorological forecasting, data sharing, and early warning; coordination of disaster mitigation, preparedness and response; financing of disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery; and disaster risk insurance

A series of studies has been undertaken to assess the region's progress in each focus area. These include *Risk Assessment in South Eastern Europe*, *Strengthening of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in South Eastern Europe*, *Meteorological and Hydrological Information Sharing—Status, Needs, Capacity Building* (in close collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Finnish Meteorological Institute) and *A Study of Catastrophe Risk Financing Options Mitigating the Adverse Financial Effects of Natural Hazards on the Economies of South Eastern Europe*. Reviewers included the WMO, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), EU/EC, UN, DPPI, CMEP, the national HFA focal points, ISDR, and the World Bank.

Middle East and North Africa

The World Bank and the ISDR sponsored the first regional workshop in Cairo, Egypt, to finalize a risk update for the Middle East region and discuss opportunities for future collaboration. As a follow-up, the Arab Academy for Science & Technology and Maritime Transport, a specialized body of the League of Arab States, has agreed to cooperate with the ISDR on research, training, and assessments of disaster risk reduction and management; translation and publication of materials on disaster risk reduction; developing disaster risk reduction terminology in Arabic; and developing regional networks, databases, and related tools on disaster risk reduction.

Positioning Disaster Risk Reduction at the Center of Global Efforts to Reduce Poverty

Even though natural disasters are a global phenomenon, people living in poverty are affected the most because they lack the resources to cope. A balanced and realistic poverty strategy has disaster risk reduction as its centerpiece.

The GFDRR's global activities focus on accelerating implementation of the HFA through the exchange of good practices, progress reviews, and strengthening the economic and social case for disaster risk reduction.

Priorities include expanding innovative partnerships, standardizing and harmonizing risk management methodologies and practices, enhancing regional cooperation, and documenting best practices and lessons learned.

Expanding Innovative Partnerships

A host of partnerships has been established to enhance global advocacy, partnership, and knowledge management.

The *Private-Public Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction*—a joint effort of the Bank, ISDR, and the World Economic Forum—recognizes the integral role of the private sector in risk reduction. Among its major achievements are:

- strong participation by private sector representatives and disaster experts;
- a study, “The Case for Business to Undertake Disaster Risk Reduction Activities,” which analyzes the process by which losses occur and identifies opportunities for private sector intervention;
- a series of global workshops to raise regional awareness, provide insights, and cement commitments to long-term partnerships for disaster risk reduction, particularly in Africa and India.

The *Media Network on Disaster Risk Reduction* aims to raise the profile of disaster risk reduction in the news media. The network has more than 50 members, including journalists and news services from different regions. Among the major achievements:

- Expanded media appreciation of the importance of disaster risk reduction. For example, David Astley, secretary-general of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, has encouraged all members to boost coverage of risk reduction in their broadcasts.
- Increased understanding of long-term disaster risk reduction. Network members now look beyond the humanitarian crisis and request interviews with disaster experts.
- Media workshops in Dakar, Senegal, Washington, DC, and Geneva. Journalists had the opportunity to learn about the scale and diversity of investments needed for effective disaster risk reduction.
- Specialized media materials, targeted to executive producers. The packets, which focus on the arguments for disaster risk management, will be available at the second Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2009.
- Increased and more accurate media coverage of disaster risk reduction. Network members now report on more disasters and generate higher-quality stories on causes and mitigation. For example, a BBC Earth Report, “Sink or Swim,” was produced under the auspices of the GFDRR and the ISDR. It aired in more than 140 countries and territories around the world.

Building a Living Library of Stories

With GFDRR support, the ISDR secretariat is establishing a film library to promote good practices on risk reduction and management. Two documentary films were produced in Madagascar to illustrate how a country can organize a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and a field library. More than 1,500 copies of the video, in English, French, and Spanish, have been sent to HFA focal points and ISDR system partners.

The Global Partnership of Universities, Academic Institutions, and Research Organizations for Disaster Risk Reduction is a joint initiative of the World Bank Institute and the ISDR secretariat. The partnership, with participants from North and South, promotes disaster risk reduction education, training, research, and knowledge sharing to overcome gaps in training and information resources.

Among the major achievements:

- A survey of worldwide networks, consortia, and associations conducted by the Consortium of Universities for Research in Earthquake Engineering. The survey is helping to identify partners that can provide expertise or are recipients of support



- A strategic plan for the Global Partnership, based on the survey findings
- A database of existing inventory resources and programs for PreventionWeb

A *Global Network for Drought Risk Reduction* is being developed by the GFDRR and the ISDR secretariat. The goal is to strengthen capacities and support regional and national drought risk reduction activities, particularly in Africa and other areas where drought is a major threat. Among the major achievements:

- A special partnership with the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to identify key information, tools, and good practices. Discussions are also underway with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the WMO, OCHA-EPS, the WFP, the FAO, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the World Bank, the European Commission, and regional centers.
- Establishment of the International Centre for Drought Risk Reduction. The centre is a collaboration with the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs and the National Committee for Disaster Reduction. The objective is to improve international and regional coordination, capacity building, and knowledge sharing.
- A set of policy guidelines, *Drought Risk Reduction Framework and Practices: Contributing to Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action*. The guidelines document drought statistics and definitions, identify vulnerabilities, and provide other valuable information, tools, and practices.

Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into the Health Sector

One of the main tools for implementing the HFA is the biennial World Disaster Reduction Campaign, which is supported by the GFDRR and jointly led by the ISDR secretariat and the WHO. The 2008 – 09 campaign theme will be *Hospitals Safe from Disasters: Reduce Risk, Protect Health Facilities, Save Lives*. The campaign aims to protect the lives of patients and health workers by emphasizing the structural resilience of health facilities; ensuring that health facilities and health services are able to function in the aftermath of emergencies and disasters, when they are most needed; and improving the risk reduction capacity of health workers and institutions, including emergency management. The campaign was launched at the 2008 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Governments, international and regional organizations, NGOs, the private sector, research institutions, and individuals are participating.

Improving Standardization and Harmonization

PreventionWeb is a virtual clearinghouse—an information portal on disaster risk reduction that seeks to standardize and harmonize relevant information. A project of ISDR system partners, it was launched to facilitate the work of disaster risk reduction professionals and promote better understanding among non-specialists.

Among the major contributions are:

- documenting lessons from national experiences;
- providing a basis for disaster risk reduction processes such as the Global Platform and joint interagency work;
- providing networking tools at national and regional levels;
- supporting user groups (PreventionWeb publishes simple listings of events and jobs, as well as an initiatives list and the HFA contact list);
- developing information systems for the International Recovery Platform and Disaster Reduction Hyperbase projects;
- conducting needs analyses to ensure that services are relevant for target audiences.

The Disaster Risk Reduction 2007 Global Review provides an overview of current trends and patterns in global disaster risk. It also documents the progress countries are making to reduce risk through implementation of the HFA. The findings are based on national progress reports and studies on identifying and assessing global disaster risks by the World Bank, the UNDP, the UNEP, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) and the ISDR. The report identifies key issues and challenges that are priorities for the ISDR system and offers a preview of elements that will be assessed in more detail in the first biennial *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*.

Among the *Global Review's* findings:

- Partner institutions must be identified to further develop current global risk updates and analyses, including comparative case studies of how risk trend analysis can be usefully applied to inform decision making at the policy, programming, and implementation levels.
- A more in-depth analysis on how implementation of the HFA impacts poverty trends and development gains is needed. The concept outline for this analysis is being drafted in consultation with ISDR system partners, NGOs, and universities.
- Reporting gaps evident in the 2007 review highlight the need for systematic assessments at all levels, and across sectors of activity. This will require the clarification of reporting mechanisms and basic indicators. Global, national, and regional partners are reviewing benchmarks against which HFA progress can be measured.

Building on Established Good Practices

Environment: The ISDR secretariat is working with the UNEP, the World Conservation Union, and regional partners to strengthen national capacities to apply environmental tools and services for risk reduction. A joint issue paper, “Environment and Vulnerability—Emerging Perspectives,” was developed in consultation with the ISDR environment and disaster working group. It provides guidelines for leveraging environmental and sustainable policies and practices for disaster risk reduction. The paper was distributed at the first Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Climate Change: A key goal is building the capacity of least-developed countries that have prioritized the development of early warning systems in their National Adaptation Programmes of Action. ISDR, the UNFCCC secretariat, and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group are providing training to selected countries, including on how to develop early warning systems and effective funding proposals.

HFA Implementation Guidelines: The revised guidelines give practical advice on how to manage 22 selected tasks grouped around the five priorities for action. Each chapter also includes a set of suggested indicators. In addition to national governments, HFA focal points and national platforms for disaster reduction received copies. The guidelines have also been adapted for wider application at international, regional, and national levels.

Scientific and Technical Committee: A workshop on Science Mechanisms and Priorities for the ISDR system focused on the HFA requirements for risk assessments, early warning systems, and reducing underlying causes of risks. The workshop emphasized the need for independent scientific and technical advice, including:

- an assessment of the gaps and needs for scientific and technical inputs to disaster risk reduction and the ISDR system

- establishment of clear priorities, such as economic studies on disaster risk reduction, mega-city risk assessments, assessments of early warning and response mechanisms for different hazards, comprehensive vulnerability studies, and risk assessment studies of rare but massive events
- procedures for establishing the ISDR scientific and technical advisory mechanism.

Enhancing Regional Cooperation

Improved coordination and coherence among regional and sub-regional organization reinforces national government efforts to address vulnerability and the impact of disasters on poverty reduction, investments, and sustainable development. In addition to leveraging additional resources, the support can facilitate national government reporting on progress in implementing the HFA and establishing national, sub-regional, and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction as part of the ISDR system.