



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction

Announcements

Gender perspectives: integrating DRR into climate change adaptation

This publication points out the vital nexus between women's experiences of natural resource management, climate change adaptation and DRR, and how they can come together to make whole communities strong and sustainable.



www.unisdr.org/gender_perspectives_drr_climate_change

International Day for Disaster Reduction 8 October: Hospitals Safe from Disasters

The International Day will focus on ensuring health facilities can function during and in the aftermath of a disaster. The new campaign website launches 8 October, featuring campaign news, good practices, resources for health practitioners and health facility managers, and information about the Hospital Safety Index.



Visit: www.safehospitals.info

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To submit an article or inform us of a new publication, web resource or event, please send your input to: isdrhighlights@un.org by the 20th day of each month.

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Highlights

September 2008

Secretary-General calls on Ministers to use DRR for climate change adaptation

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called a special meeting of Ministers in New York, 29 September, urging them to make greater commitments to using disaster risk reduction for climate change adaptation. The Secretary-General called on Ministers to lead the way at Poznan, Poland, in championing disaster risk reduction as a core element of climate change adaptation. He urged Governments to give high priority to implementing disaster risk reduction measures, in order to achieve the goals set by the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015). "We must not delay," said the Secretary-General. "If we are too slow to adapt to climate change, we risk making disasters even more catastrophic than they need to be. We must draw on the Hyogo Framework for Action and disaster risk reduction knowledge to protect the world's most vulnerable populations against climate change." The meeting also urged substantial scaling up of disaster risk reduction funds at national and international levels in order to reduce the vulnerability of the most affected and the poorest.

For more information, please contact Elina Palm, palm@un.org

African drought forum supports stronger networks

Strengthening networks for knowledge management and information exchange on drought such as the African Drought Risk and Development network (ADDN) was a key focus of the 3rd African Drought Adaptation Forum, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 17-19 September. Through the ADDN, knowledge and good practices in drought risk management are being shared between countries and practitioners in Africa. Recent achievements of the network include the Drought Risk Reduction Framework, which guides actions and national and local level to address drought concerns in development. The drought forum itself was an opportunity to directly share information on the latest methodologies, on-going activities, programmes and networking for drought risk assessment, monitoring, mitigation and preparedness. This included group input into revised editions of several publications: such as the revised version of the UNDP-Drylands Development Centre (DDC) publication Mainstreaming Guidelines: Drylands Development, the revised version of the Drought Risk Reduction: framework and practices, and a forthcoming UNISDR collection of good practices on drought. The event was jointly hosted by UNDP-DDC (Nairobi), UN Economic Commission for Africa and UNISDR Africa. The approximately 80 participants included representatives from governments, donor agencies, the World Bank, the African Union Commission and UN organizations.

For more information, please contact Eric Patrick, eric.patrick@undp.org or visit www.undp.org/drylands/

IPCC makes moves towards DRR-adaptation report

At the 29th session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 31 August - 4 September 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland, parties agreed to hold a scoping workshop on the IPCC Special Report on Managing Extreme Events to Advance Adaptation proposed by Norway and the ISDR system with support from Luxembourg. The workshop will be held in early 2009 and recommend to the IPCC's 30th session whether it should carry out the proposal. The proposal seeks to develop a scientifically sound assessment of information and practices on risk reduction and risk management to support policies and programmes for adaptation to climate change.

For more information, please contact Reid Basher, reid.basher@un.org

DRR networking survey at IDRC Davos conference

A survey of 207 participants at the International Disaster and Risk Conference found that networks outnumbered people in the sample surveyed. Prior to the conference, 46 online networks and communities of practice had been identified and promoted via the disaster risk reduction (DRR) community site PreventionWeb, managed by UNISDR. The preliminary survey results identified 288 additional groups - both private and public - for further validation and study. Few people were connected to the same networks, though the majority indicated an interest in joining groups to facilitate their work. The survey, carried out by UNISDR's PreventionWeb team, aimed to identify new networks and to broker connections between people and networks where needed. After validation, the data will be shared with the Penn State University (USA) COHORT project to further analyze the patterns in the DRR environment. One goal will be to continue the study in similar conference environments to measure future connectedness and the impact of brokering connections.

For more information, please contact Craig Duncan, duncanc@un.org

China and Africa meet to discuss drought risk reduction

The Sino-Africa Forum on Drought Risk Reduction, a joint initiative between the Chinese government and UNISDR, was held on 23 September in Beijing. The main objectives were to share information and knowledge on drought risk reduction and explore ways to further cooperate on the issue. Government officials from China and 12 African countries attended, along with representatives from UNISDR, UNDP, the World Food Programme and the Australian Embassy in China. Compared to other types of disasters, droughts have had a larger negative impact on socio-economic development in both China and Africa. Presentations highlighted the need for a paradigm shift from drought crisis management to drought risk management. Mr Mariga from Zimbabwe encouraged China to share its know-how and experience of managing agricultural drought with African countries and used the expression "Don't give us the fish, but teach us how to fish" to emphasize the need to work towards self-sufficiency. At the Forum's conclusion, participants agreed that more effort is needed to make drought risk reduction an integral component of climate change negotiations, and food security and poverty reduction programmes.

For more information, please contact Feng Min Kan, kanf@un.org

WEB RESOURCES

OIKOS City risk management game

www.e-oikos.net

OIKOS City is an interactive online game designed to educate secondary students about disaster risk reduction, raising awareness of how disasters affect people every day and how very simple measures can save lives. Players become mayor of Oikos City and must manage city development while facing six natural hazard risks.



Papers and presentations from the 4th International i-Rec Conference

www.resorgs.org.nz/irec2008/i-rec2008_papers.shtml

i-Rec, a web-based international network focused on the study of reconstruction after disasters, held its fourth international conference in May 2008. The focus was 'Building resilience: achieving effective post-disaster reconstruction.' Over 50 online conference papers and presentations cover a broad range of post-disaster reconstruction issues, such as stakeholder participation, policy frameworks, urban planning and education.



National Child Traumatic Stress network

www.nctsnet.org/ncts

Disasters are stressful for all involved, but children are especially vulnerable to the psychological trauma of large-scale events. The National Child Traumatic Stress Network has compiled a wealth of information in various languages for disaster planning and preparedness that is focused on children who fall victim to natural hazards. The site includes a hurricane assessment tool and psychological field guides in English and Chinese.



Clean up the World campaign

<http://activities.cleanuptheworld.org/>

Clean up the World is a global campaign that aims to inspire communities to clean up, fix up and conserve the environment. Held in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme, it mobilizes an estimated 35 million people across 120 countries. Participants are able to map and promote their organizations and clean up activities on the campaign website. Resources are also available to help participants plan and organize activities.



Education alliances for DRR growing in the Americas

A workshop on "Building Alliances for the Strengthening of the Education Sector in Disaster Risk Reduction" was held in Lima, Peru, from 9 - 11 September. Participants included representatives from the regional Education Ministry, agencies and NGOs. The workshop identified a list of joint activities to be undertaken with the aim of building regional alliances for strengthening education sector capacity in disaster preparedness, risk reduction and response. The group supported the UNISDR proposal to set up a thematic platform on Education and Disaster Risk Reduction in the region. Work will be ongoing to formalize this commitment and define the platform structure. UNICEF, Prevention and Mitigation in the African Community (PREDECAN), USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, Save the Children, the Intermediate Technology Development Group and UNISDR co-organized the workshop.

For more information, please contact Julio Trelles, jtrelles@eird

University of Capetown plans DRR training

In collaboration with UNISDR Africa, the University of Cape Town plans to organize short practical training courses on Disasters and Development, and on Community Based Assessments. The courses will be targeted at national focal points for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and other DRR stakeholders. UNISDR Africa will be seeking support from Resident Coordinators and Humanitarian Coordinators. National focal points are encouraged to engage with the courses. USAID will be providing support to the University. The next course is planned for 13 November - 4 December.

For more information, please contact Martin Owor, martin34@un.org

Meteorological services conference on natural hazards impact mitigation

The Regional Scientific and Technical Conference on the Role of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Hazards Impact will be held in Moldova from 9 - 10 October. The Conference, hosted by the Government of Moldova, is intended to be a multidisciplinary event at the European level and an important step towards concrete regional cooperative efforts for disaster risk reduction capacity building.

For more information, please contact Paola Albrito, albrito@un.org

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit these weblinks:

Africa: www.unisdr.org/africa
 Asia & the Pacific: www.unisdr.org/asiapacific
 Europe: www.unisdr.org/europe
 Latin America & the Caribbean: www.eird.org
 West Asia and North Africa: www.unisdr-wana.org

Sasakawa Award for DRR open for nominations

Nominations are now open for the 2009 Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction. Nominees should be individuals and institutions from around the world who have contributed to building the resilience of nations and communities to natural hazards through innovative practices and outstanding initiatives. Nominations must be sent to isdr-sasakawa@un.org by 18 March 2009.

For more information, please visit www.unisdr.org/sasakawa2009

International Day for Disaster Reduction events planned worldwide

New York, USA: The global event will be a high level panel in New York featuring representatives of countries that have suffered major disasters, including China, and that have since focused closely on protecting critical infrastructure such as health facilities and schools.

Contact: Tze Ming Mok, mokt@un.org

Bangkok, Thailand: UNISDR with the ASEAN Secretariat will hold an Award Ceremony for a regional drawing competition called Safer Community - Hospital, School and House of My Dream, and organize a roundtable discussion on the issue.

Contact: Christel Rose, rosec@un.org

Cairo, Egypt: UNISDR and WHO will hold a multi-stakeholder event and launch the Campaign's regional framework, a regional version of the Hospital Safety Index and a Public Service announcement.

Contact: Tine Ramstad, tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org

Dushanbe, Tajikistan: Coordinating with UN Country Teams, UNISDR West Asia North Africa will plant trees and encourage tree planting by other UN Country Teams across the region to fight desertification, drought and climate change.

Contact: Goulsara Pulatova, goulsara.pulatova@unisdr-wana.org

Islamabad, Pakistan: Pakistan will hold its National Conference on Disaster Management and a two-day expo on disaster risk reduction, organized by the National Disaster Management Authority with the support of the South Asian Resources Centre.

Contact: Abdul Karim Nayani, nayani@un.org

Mpumalanga and West Cape, South Africa: The Government of South Africa will hold celebrations culminating on 16 October in Mpumalanga with a street parade and drama competitions. The Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa is holding a major conference near Cape Town on 8-9 October.

Contact: Martin Owor, martin34@un.org

Panama City, Panama and Washington D.C, USA: UNISDR and the Pan American Health Organization will be launching a photography contest on safe hospitals, and planning outreach activities with regional hospitals and health facilities to commemorate the day.

Contact: Margarita Villalobos, margarita.villalobos@eird.org

Tehran, Iran: The 3rd Economic Cooperation Organization Conference on Disaster Risk Management will be held 7-8 October, supported by UNISDR. There will also be a knowledge fair and media training.

Contact: Seyed Mohammad Sadatinejad, mohammad.sadatinejad@unisdr-wana.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Conferences, Trainings and Events
October 2008 - November 2008

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
October		
7 - 8	Tehran, Iran	3rd ECO international conference on disaster risk management Economic Cooperation Organization
8	Worldwide	International Day for Disaster Reduction
8 - 11	Kocaeli, Turkey	3rd international workshop on gender and disasters Kocaeli University
9 - 10	Chisinau, Moldova	Regional scientific and technical conference on the role of NMHSs in prevention and mitigation of natural hazards impact World Meteorological Organization
10 - 14		Distance learning program on natural disaster risk management World Bank Institute
12 - 17	Beijing, China	14th world conference on earthquake engineering International Association of Earthquake Engineering
14 - 15	London, UK	International disaster and emergency resilience conference 2008 International Disaster and Emergency Resilience
19-22	Manila, Philippines	3rd congress on women in politics and governance: focus on gender, climate change and disaster risk reduction, CAPWIP
21 - 23	San'a', Yemen	2nd Middle East and North Africa regional conference on disaster risk management and reduction Government of Yemen
November		
3 - 4	Cheltenham, UK	Floodfighters conference and workshops University of Gloucestershire
4 - 7	Mainla, Philippines	Asia Pacific conference on climate change adaptation Centre for Initiatives and Research on Climate Adaptation
5 - 9	St. John's, Canada	5th Canadian risk and hazards network symposium Canadian Risk and Hazards Network
12 - 14	Bali, Indonesia	International conference on tsunami warning: towards safer coastal communities Ministry of Research and Technology
12 - 13	Los Angeles, USA	Los Angeles international earthquake conference City of Los Angeles
18 - 21	Tokyo, Japan	1st world landslide forum International Consortium of Landslides

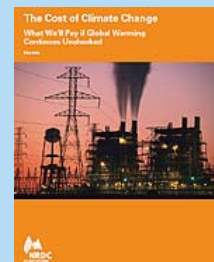
Source: PreventionWeb.net
www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events

Library Corner

Cost of climate change: what we'll pay if global warming continues unchecked
Natural Resources Defense Council
2008, 42 pages

<http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/cost/contents.asp>

This report focuses on a "business-as-usual" future in which the world continues to emit heat-trapping gases at an increasing rate. The effects of climate change will be felt in the form of more severe heat waves, hurricanes, droughts, and other erratic weather events - and on the economy's bottom line. A new model is used to provide a comprehensive picture of the cost of global warming to the US economy - including economic losses, noneconomic damages and increased disaster risks.



From grassroots to global: people centered disaster risk reduction

ProVention Consortium
2008, 28 pages

http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/Forum_2008_report.pdf

The ProVention Consortium forum was held in Panama City 8-10 April and brought together ProVention partners from governments, international organizations, private sector and civil society to share experiences and views on key challenges facing DRR work worldwide. This forum report presents a review and discussion of key themes, challenges and potential contributions to be made by ProVention in promoting DRR.

Role of environmental management and eco-engineering in DRR and climate change adaptation

ProAct Network
2008, 68 pages

<http://proactnetwork.org/index.php/global-initiatives/climate-change/environmental-management>

Recognizing the potential benefits of intact or well-managed ecosystems as buffers against natural hazards is slowly gaining recognition. Forests of a certain age, for example, play a vital protective role on steep slopes, protecting against potential landslides. This report discusses several such examples where sound environmental management has a positive impact on reducing the scale and occurrence of certain hazards.

