



CHINA

Disaster Management Programmes

Disaster Context

China's complex climate and varied geological conditions result in a multitude of natural hazards. Floods, droughts, earthquakes, blizzards and typhoons cause the greatest economic losses.

On average, approximately 200 million people are affected and several thousand people are killed in disasters every year. Annual economic loss accounts for 3 percent to four percent of GDP. There are various laws directly or indirectly related to disaster management, and several ministries share responsibility for disaster mitigation, early warning, and response.

UNDP has been assisting the government of China in emergency relief and rehabilitation since the early 1990's. UNDP's largest support in the 1990's was following the floods in Anhui Province where more than \$ 20 million was raised for various relief and rehabilitation projects.

Project Titles

- Capacity Development for China Disaster Reduction Actions (CPR/01/606)
- Flood Control Along the Yangtze River
- Capacity Development in Flood Disaster Predication and Assessment
- Disaster Information Management in Beijing and Hubei
- Emergency Response Capacity-Building at the Community Level

Sectors

- Capacity-building
- Information management

Funding

- UNDP contributed \$200,000 from TRAC 1.1.3 funds and \$55,000 from government cost sharing
- UN Environment Programme contributed \$554,000

- The World Bank provided \$700,000
- The French Government contributed 20 million French francs (about \$2.8 million)
- UNICEF provided \$300,000

Partners

- UN Disaster Management Team (UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, etc.)
- Government of China, National Committee for International Disaster Reduction (consists of 13 ministries and agencies)
- Line research institutions
- International NGOs and regional agencies
- UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat

Programme Activities

The overall objective is to decrease property damage and loss of life caused by natural disasters. The various projects aim to achieve this objective by:

- Policy and legislation formulation and implementation at the national and local level
- Capacity-building in the areas of early warning, emergency response, training and monitoring of major disasters
- Addressing root causes of existing disaster risks and vulnerabilities through innovative approaches
- Strengthening existing partnerships in disaster management in China
- Integrating disaster mitigation into the development programmes
- Assessing barriers and needs in developing an economic and efficient disaster information management system

Specific project activities include:

- Creation of a Disaster Information Management System. Currently, each agency is working on its own information system that will provide a platform to connect all the systems.
- Assistance to government development of a National Disaster Reduction Plan. Since the implementation of the plan was not concrete, UNDP would assist by building partnerships with international donors. UNDP provided an action programme framework where the national and international ministries could work together. UNDP also helped the government to develop an action plan to implement the National Disaster Reduction Plan.
- Raising public awareness. The project has a series of training activities to target local community leaders, educational institutions, and rural women. UNDP assisted in the development of training activities and participated in disaster simulations.
- The Flood Control Project carried out studies along the Yangtze River on the risks of flood disasters and on strategies to restore ecosystems along the river basin.
- The World Bank-funded project on Capacity Development in Flood Disaster Predictions and Assessment supported institutional building relating to the newly established China Flood Disaster Reduction Centre.
- The Disaster Information Management project focuses on improving capacity in disaster information management in Beijing and Hubei.
- The Emergency Response Capacity Building at the Community Level project serves to assist in country risk assessment and disaster preparedness for children at the community level.