

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.*

Today, disaster reduction is a key component of UNDP efforts in crisis prevention and recovery. UNDP first allocated core resources for disaster preparedness in 1989, with an approved policy framework aimed 'to stimulate the interest and actions needed to create comprehensive disaster preparedness plans, strategies and structures and to promote disaster mitigation activities within the context of development planning and implementation'. The United Nations General Assembly has transferred to UNDP, the responsibilities of the Emergency Relief Coordinator for operational activities concerning natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness. Furthermore, the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) has made considerable progress in developing an implementation framework that adds value to ongoing activities in disaster reduction.

UNDP plays an active and central role in the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). This publication, *Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development*, and the global review of disaster risk reduction, *Living with Risk*, published by the ISDR Secretariat, are two complementary and coordinated initiatives. They are aimed at assisting countries and international organisations to enable communities to become resilient to natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters so economic, environmental, human and social losses can be reduced. UNDP and the ISDR Secretariat are currently working towards a framework of joint reporting on disaster risk reduction.

While much has been achieved, much remains to be done if disaster loss is not to jeopardise the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The humanitarian community has made progress in mitigating the losses and suffering associated with disasters through improved response preparedness and early warning. However, humanitarian actions do not address the development processes that are shaping disaster risk in the first place. The development community generally continues to view disasters as exceptional natural events that interrupt *normal* development and that can be managed through humanitarian actions.

The linkages between development and disaster risk are not difficult to visualize. Any development activity has the potential to either increase or reduce disaster risk. When a school or a health centre is destroyed in an earthquake, we have to remember that this same school or health centre was once a development project, whether funded from national budgets or external development assistance.

When we decided to produce a global report on development and disaster risk, we wanted to highlight these *development choices*. Disaster risk is not inevitable, but on the contrary can be managed and reduced through appropriate development actions. This is the message we want to convey in this Report to our programme countries, our donors, our partners in the United Nations system, regional and international organisations, civil society and the private sector. A great deal of support was provided in preparation of this publication, known as the *World Vulnerability Report* when the process began in 2000, and we acknowledge many generous contributions.

## Contributors

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The technical production of the Report was made by the following team: Mark Pelling (editor), Andrew Maskrey, Pablo Ruiz and Lisa Hall. Yasemin Aysan was responsible for the overall coordination of the Report in its first stages, with critical support from Ben Wisner and Haris Sanahuja.

The preparation of the Disaster Risk Index (DRI) was originally conceived during the meeting of a Group of Experts in 2000 and commissioned to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Resource Information Database (GRID) in Geneva. Main scientific collaborators include Hy Dao, Pascal Peduzzi, Christian Herold and Frédéric Mouton. Maxx Dilley and Haris Sanahuja provided key guidance in concepts and definitions. We would like also to thank those whose work has directly or indirectly contributed to the success of this research, such as Brad Lyon and his colleagues from the International Research Institute (IRI) for Climate Prediction at Columbia University for his methodology on determining physical drought. Regina Below and Debarati Guha-Sapir for EM-DAT databases and Bruce Harper, Greg Holland and Nanette Lombarda for input on tropical cyclones. This work also benefited from the contributions of Stephane Kluser, Antonio Martin-Diaz, Ola Nordbeck, Damien Rochette, Thao Ton-That and Bernard Widmer.

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Peter Gisle, John Handmer, Ailsa Holloway, Jorge Hurtado, Fouad Ibrahim, Amer Jabry, Allan Lavell, Komlev Lev, Paul Llanso, Elisio Macamo, Detlef Muller-Mahn, Elina Palm, Jennifer Rowell, Jahan Selim, Linda Stephen, Brian Tucker and Krishna Vatsa. The Report also benefited from additional initial inputs from Abdul Bashur, Mihir Bhatt, Peter Billing, Charlotte Benson, Christina Bollin, Lino Briguglio, Omar Darío Cardona, Bob Chen, Ian Christopolos, Edward Clay, Michael J. Coughlan, Uwe Diechmann, J. Dobie, Keith Ford, Terry Jeggle, Pascal Girot, Kenneth Hewitt, Julius Holt, Dilek Kalakaya, Charles Kelly, Thomas Krafft, Fred Krüger, Jaana Mioch, Helena Molin Valdes, Mary Otto-Chang, Dennis Parker, Edmund Penning-Rowsell, David Peppiatt, Everett Ressler, Andrew Simms, M.V.K. Sivakumar, Andrej Steiner, John Telford, John Twigg, Juha Uitto, Juergen Weichselgartner, Donald A. Whilwhite and Gustavo Wilches Chaux.

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## Advisory Panel and Consultation Process

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The Report underwent a long consultation process. An advisory panel made up of international experts and UNDP specialists in disaster reduction provided guidance and advice in the finalization of the Report. The panel included Andrew Maskrey (chair), Angeles Arenas, Mihir Bhatt, Thomas Brennan, Omar Dario Cardona, Maxx Dilley, Ailsa Holloway, Kamal Kishore, Allan Lavell, Kenneth Westgate, Ben Wisner and Jennifer Worrell. Additional inputs were received from Terry Jeggle.

The Report benefited from the discussions of the Working Group on Risk, Vulnerability and Impact Assessment of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). A large number of consultations around the conception and preparation of the different components of the DRI were realized in 2002.

The Report was shared with a large number of UN organisations involved in disaster reduction: the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Food Programme (WFP) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The Report was also shared with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Organization of American States (OAS), the ProVention Consortium and the World Bank (WB). Their comments, suggestions and views have been extremely useful during the drafting of the final version of this Report.

## UNDP Readers

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Abdul Hannan, Saroj Jha, Bruno Lemarquis, Santosh Mehrotra, Maxine Olson, Eric Patrick, Jean-Claude Rogivue, Andrew Russell, Ruby Sandhu-Rojon, Mark Suzman and Zhe Yang.

## Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery Support

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## Editing, Production and Translation

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This Report would not have been possible without the many instrumental contributors. We hope that this common effort towards reducing disaster risk will make an important contribution to our main challenge, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

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