

Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Disaster Reduction Unit (DRU)



Project Title:

Assessment of Socio-Economic Impacts of Disasters in Asia

Project number:

00033241

Programme Components:

Mainstreaming disasters into development policy & planning, risk reduction tools

Estimated Start Date:	1/9/2003
Estimated End Date:	31/08/2004
Implementing Agency:	UNESCAP
Partners:	ECLAC, Governments
Total Budget:	168,774 US\$
Project Site:	Bangkok, Thailand
Beneficiary Countries:	Asia Region

General Background:

Against a backdrop of severe population pressure, uneven economic development and extreme poverty, Asia suffers more from natural disasters than any other region of the world. The region is particularly vulnerable to hydro-meteorological hazards, such as floods, cyclones, and droughts. Hydro-meteorological disasters have the greatest impact on the poorer segments of Asia's populations - 75% of the populations in Bangladesh, India and Nepal live below the poverty line of \$2 per day -, while the increasing frequency and severity of these disasters virtually assures that those populations will remain impoverished. In response to the threat posed by hydro-meteorological hazards, the approach of disaster management practitioners and agencies in Asia has gradually evolved to integrated disaster risk management, incorporating a broad range of anticipatory, compensatory and reactive measures into national economic development policy and programmes. Progress toward achieving this integration, however, has to date been limited, in large measure because the negative impact of disasters on economic and social development have not been readily appreciated.

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Project Summary:

The preparatory assistance will introduce and adapt to countries in Asia a methodology for assessing the socio-economic impact of hydro-meteorological disasters, and will support a small number of pilot/demonstration assessments and the presentation of the assessment results to national planning and development agencies. The overarching goal is to assure an appreciation for the linkages between disaster vulnerability and poverty in target countries and a consequent integration of advanced economic impact assessment methodologies into the national economic development planning.

Overall and Specific Objectives:

To contribute to the integration of disaster reduction into socio-economic development process in Asia by identifying and introducing methodologies to assess the impact of disasters on national/sub-national economic development and on specific social and economic groups.

Expected Results:

- Selected countries absorbed the methodology for assessing the socio-economic impact of hydro-meteorological disasters into their national development planning process on a pilot basis.
- National Poverty Assessments in selected countries take into consideration vulnerability to hydro-meteorological disasters.

Activities:

- Support a workshop to adapt the socio-economic impact assessment methodology of UN-ECLAC to the Asia-Pacific region.
- Technical assistance to undertake assessments in four pilot countries (Vietnam, India, Bangladesh, and Cambodia).
- Organize a national level workshop in each pilot country at which the findings & the implications for national economic development policy will be identified and discussed.
- Identification of the required steps to disseminate the findings, and to promote the replication of the socio-economic impact assessment methodology in other countries.

