

Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Disaster Reduction Unit (DRU)



Project Title:

Reducing Disaster Risk Report

Project number:

00015730

Estimated Start Date: 1/11/2001
Estimated End Date: 31/06/2004
Implementing Agency: UNDP/BCPR/DRU
Partners: ISDR
Total Budget: US\$ 413,352.66
Project Site: Bangkok, Thailand
Beneficiary Countries: Asia Region

General Background:

The Report: *Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development* was launched 2 of February of 2004. This Report looks at disasters through a "human development" lens. The Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) has drawn up this global report, in collaboration with other UNDP Bureaus and several international organizations, NGO and academia, with the aim to shed lights on the linkages between development and disaster.

Project Summary:

The project supported the preparation of the RDR. Some key information presented in the Report are:

Some 75 per cent of the world's population lives in areas affected at least once by earthquake, tropical cyclone, flood or drought between 1980 and 2000. Over the past few decades, **economic** losses associated with disasters have risen steadily from an average of US\$ 75.5 billion in the 1960s per annum to US\$ 659.9 billion in the 1990s. However, whereas the majority of the economic losses are concentrated in the developed world, lesser-developed and poor countries suffer higher levels of relative loss. In addition they bear the enormous burden of *human lives and livelihood losses*. This Report demonstrates that development processes intervene in the translation of physical exposure into natural disaster events: while only 11 per cent of the people exposed to natural hazards live in low human development countries, they account for more than 53 per cent of total recorded deaths.

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The Disaster Risk Index (DRI) presented for the first time constitutes the centrepiece of the Report as it provides the first global assessment of disaster risk factors through a country by country comparison of human vulnerability and exposure to earthquake, tropical cyclone and flooding and the identification of development factors that contribute to the risk.

Overall and Specific Objectives:

The Report shows, in quantitative and qualitative terms, how unnatural disasters origins really are. The Report argues that disaster risk is in fact not inevitable and proposes ways to reduce risks through sound development policies and strategic interventions. By doing so, the Report intends to make a significant contribution towards factoring in natural disaster risk into human development.

Expected Results:

In February 2004, the Report *Reducing Disaster Risk: a Challenge for Development* was successfully launched. The Report was launched in *by the UNDP Administrator in Washington (global)* and in Quito (for Latin America), in Geneva (for Europe, jointly with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (ISDR), as well as Nairobi (for Africa). At the national level the RDR was launched in *20 countries at risk around the world*.

All these launches have substantively contributed to increase the awareness around disaster reduction issues at the global, regional and national level. These efforts should be a major contribution in order to bring disaster and development together.

Activities:

- Preparation of the Disaster Risk Index;
- Review of other existing risk indicators
- Review of national and regional best practices in disaster reduction;
- Drafting of the first version of the RDR;
- Consultative process with experts and institutions;
- Preparation of a final draft of the RDR,
- Translation to French and Spanish
- Editing, printing and distribution,
- International and national launches of the RDR.

