

# Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

## Disaster Reduction Unit (DRU)



### Project title:

Sub-regional facility for cooperation in disaster reduction among the Arab states

### Project number:

XXXX

### Programme components:

Natural disaster reduction

**Estimated start date:** 1/2/2005  
**Estimated end date:** 1/2/2007  
**Implementing partner:** UNDP CO in Syria  
**Other partners:** Regional bureau for Arab states, CO of participating countries, BCPR (DRU) Geneva  
**Total budget:** 330,000 US\$  
**Beneficiary countries:** Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria

### General background

Arab states share common cultural heritage and regional natural hazard risk scenarios of a transnational nature that fail to respect national boundaries. Common risk issues include earthquakes, droughts and desertification, as well as rapidly expanding urban centres that do not systematically incorporate risk reduction into their overall approach to urban development. Despite similar risk scenarios, there are no adequate intra-regional mechanisms for coordination, research, training and information-sharing, and capacities are quite varied.

### Project summary

The twelve-month project is a sub-regional initiative focusing on information exchange, knowledge-sharing and training, and initiating a regional partnership for disaster reduction as a way of redressing capacity differences and promoting regional cooperation. During the initial stage, the participating countries will be: Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria.

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### Overall and specific objectives

- To strengthen regional and national capacities for disaster risk reduction through the development of a sub-regional facility for knowledge sharing, networking and the development of common approaches to training and capacity building based on good practices;
- To explore the pursuit of disaster reduction issues within the context of a regional strategy supported at the highest political levels.

### Expected results

- Development of a dynamic disaster reduction community of practice for Arab states;
- Facilitation of regional networking meetings and exchanges;
- Development of a regional policy on disaster risk reduction.

### Activities

- Organise a regional capacity and needs assessment to develop a roster of technical disaster risk reduction expertise within the region; identify the needs of participating countries and match needs and resources;
- Establish an electronic network and website to develop and maintain the community of disaster risk reduction practice;
- Support and promote regional networking meetings and training events;
- Convene regional policy forums to increase awareness among policy- and decision-makers about the main issues relating to institutional and legislative systems for disaster reduction within the Arab states;
- Help develop a regional disaster reduction strategy for the Arab states;
- With the support of all participating countries, design a sustainable mechanism to develop the network beyond the duration of the current twelve-month project.