



From July to September 2010, Pakistan experienced some of the worst floods in its history, affecting approximately 18 million people. UNDP was among the first international organizations to respond.



1

ACHIEVEMENTS IN

Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery

2010 was a devastating year for some of the world's most vulnerable. There were 373 earthquakes, floods, cyclones, volcanic eruptions, and droughts affecting 208 million people. The natural disasters of 2010 led to 300,000 deaths and, according to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, involved losses of US\$ 110 billion, making it one of the most expensive years on record.

Hazards are natural but disasters are not inevitable. Human losses and economic damage can be limited through comprehensive preparedness and risk reduction measures.

UNDP's work in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) has a high payoff. Building national capacities to manage risks significantly decreases mortality and recurrent disaster losses, accelerating post-disaster recovery and protecting development investments

UNDP in Action: Fulfilling Commitments on the Ground

During 2010, UNDP provided support to 78 countries to strengthen their capacity for DRR, Prevention and Recovery. As a member of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), UNDP leads specific technical areas guided by priorities set out in the Hyogo Framework for Action.

UNDP helped governments in 15 high-risk countries create a solid institutional and legal basis to reduce disaster risks. With UNDP support, four high-risk provinces of Papua New Guinea now have fully functioning disaster management offices with well-staffed and appropriately equipped emergency operations centres. Disaster management committees include representatives from Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), women's and

How can disasters affect progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?

MDG	Direct impacts	Indirect impacts
 <p>Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</p>	<p>Damage to housing, service infrastructure, savings, productive assets and human losses reduce livelihood sustainability.</p>	<p>Negative macroeconomic impacts (severe short-term fiscal impacts and longer-term impacts on growth, development and poverty reduction).</p> <p>Forced sale of productive assets by vulnerable households pushes many into long-term poverty and increases inequality.</p>
 <p>Achieve universal primary education</p>	<p>Disasters damage education infrastructure. Population displacement interrupts schooling.</p>	<p>Children, especially girls, are forced to work in household labour rather than going to school. Reduced household assets make schooling less affordable, girls probably affected most.</p>
 <p>Promote gender equality and empower women</p>	<p>As men migrate to seek alternative work, women/girls bear an increased burden of care. Women often bear the brunt of distress 'coping' strategies, e.g. by reducing food intake.</p>	<p>Emergency programmes may reinforce power structures which may marginalise women. Domestic and sexual violence may rise in the wake of a disaster.*</p>
 <p>Reduce child mortality</p>	<p>Children are often most at risk, e.g. of drowning in floods. Disasters damage health and water and sanitation infrastructure. Injury and illness from disaster weakens children's immune systems.</p>	<p>Disasters increase the number of orphaned, abandoned and homeless children. Household asset depletion makes clean water, food and medicine less affordable.</p>
 <p>Improve maternal health</p>	<p>Pregnant women are often at high risk from death/injury in disasters. Disasters damage health infrastructure. Injury and illness from disaster can weaken women's health.</p>	<p>Increased responsibilities and workloads create stress for surviving mothers. Household asset depletion makes clean water, food and medicine less affordable.</p>
 <p>Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</p>	<p>Poor health and nutrition following disasters weakens immunity. Disasters damage health infrastructure. Increased respiratory diseases associated with damp, dust and air pollution linked to disaster.</p>	<p>Increased risk from communicative and vector borne diseases, e.g. malaria and diarrheal diseases following floods. Impoverishment and displacement following disaster can increase exposure to disease, including HIV and AIDS, and disrupt health care.</p>
 <p>Ensure environmental sustainability</p>	<p>Disasters damage key environmental resources and exacerbate soil erosion or deforestation. Disasters damage water management and other urban infrastructure. Slum dwellers/people in temporary settlements are often heavily affected.</p>	<p>Disaster-induced migration to urban areas and damage to urban infrastructure increase the number of slum dwellers without access to basic services and exacerbate poverty.</p>
 <p>A global partnership for development</p>	<p>Impacts on programmes for small island developing states from tropical storms, tsunamis etc.</p>	<p>Impacts on commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction—nationally and internationally.</p>
<p>ALL MDGs</p>		<p>Reallocation of resources—including Official Development Assistance (ODA)—from development to relief and recovery.</p>

Disasters hold back development and progress towards achieving the MDGs. Yet disasters are rooted in development failures. This is the core rationale for integrating disaster risk reduction into development. Source: <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/mdgs-drr/dfid.htm>. Icons: UNDP Brazil.

* Though data are scarce, a number of studies suggesting a surge in domestic and sexual violence against women in the wake of disasters are cited in, for example, Pan American Health Organization (2004), Emergency Information Infrastructure Partnership (1998), Wisner et al. (2004:16), possibly resulting from heightened intra-household tensions.

In 2010, UNDP's Global Risk Identification Programme provided technical support to 20 high-risk countries to assess their disaster risks by identifying and mapping factors that cause disasters.

youth groups, and religious and civil society organizations. In **Kyrgyzstan**, UNDP provided technical assistance to incorporate DRR into the ongoing decentralization process. In **Syria**, UNDP successfully advocated for inclusion of DRR in the 11th National Five Year Plan while providing technical assistance in drafting the chapter on DRR. In **Georgia**, UNDP successfully advocated for incorporating DRR in the five-year regional development strategy for the Shida Kartli region. **Indonesia** also included DRR as a national priority in its National Mid-term Development Plan 2010-2014.

In **Ethiopia**, UNDP helped the Ministry of Agriculture to formally approve a comprehensive, integrated DRR programme in May 2010 and implementation began in June 2010. Since its adoption, the programme, along with other actors, has supported the integration of DRR issues into the new national development strategy and the establishment of the new Federal Disaster Risk Management Council (chaired by the Prime Minister) as an institutional mechanism for DRR. Creation of this top decision-making body signifies a shift from stand-alone emergency management to an integrated risk management approach. In support, the Government has initiated multiple programmes to mitigate food insecurity and climate risk through safety nets, weather and risk insurance, public works and cash transfer.

UNDP helps governments respond to a disaster by assessing needs, formulating plans, and implementing early recovery and longer-term programmes. As part of its support for rebuilding capacities, UNDP helps countries integrate risk reduction considerations into national plans and programmes. In 2010, UNDP's technical support and policy advice included:

Capacity assessments for risk reduction and recovery planning

Capacity assessments identify institutional gaps and technical skills that need to be improved for

disaster risk management. They also engage key stakeholders by clarifying institutional mandates and improving planning. For example, in **Armenia** UNDP supported the Ministry of Emergency Situations to produce a Capacity Development Action Plan. This now guides the national DRR framework. The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Programme in **Dominican Republic** aims to improve the country's prevention and recovery capacities in light of the disaster in Haiti, in close partnership with five governmental and non-governmental organizations. The UNDP Country Office and the Regional Capacity Development Cluster supported a capacity assessment and provided training on results-based management.

A workshop reviewed the findings leading to the creation of plans of action for each organization in the programme. In **Lebanon**, the Capacity Assessment exercise by UNDP produced an analysis on the institutional weaknesses of the High Relief Committee and prepared a blueprint for its revamping in order to make it a fully functional institution that has capacity to undertake disaster risk reduction initiatives.

Risk assessments

Improved risk assessment is a basic part of effective long-term disaster risk reduction and prevention. In 2010, UNDP's Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP) provided technical support to 20 high-risk countries to assess their disaster risks by identifying and mapping factors that cause disasters. National Disaster Observatories were started in four countries: **Armenia, Bosnia, Moldova and Mozambique** where a historical disaster loss database is already operational with data for the last 30 years. National Risk Assessment was completed in **Lao PDR** and similar assessments were initiated in six countries: **Bosnia, Lebanon, Liberia, Mozambique, Syria and Tajikistan.**

UNDP Egypt and Syria also supported the national authorities in developing disaster impact databases for a 30-year period, providing a historical analysis of risks.

In addition, three assessments on the status of disaster risk were developed in Chile, Dominican Republic and Uruguay during 2010 in collaboration with UN agencies, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Organization of American States. These assessments represent a real and widespread effort of these countries to integrate DRR in the management of public policies and their political will to advance disaster risk reduction according to the Hyogo Framework for Action.

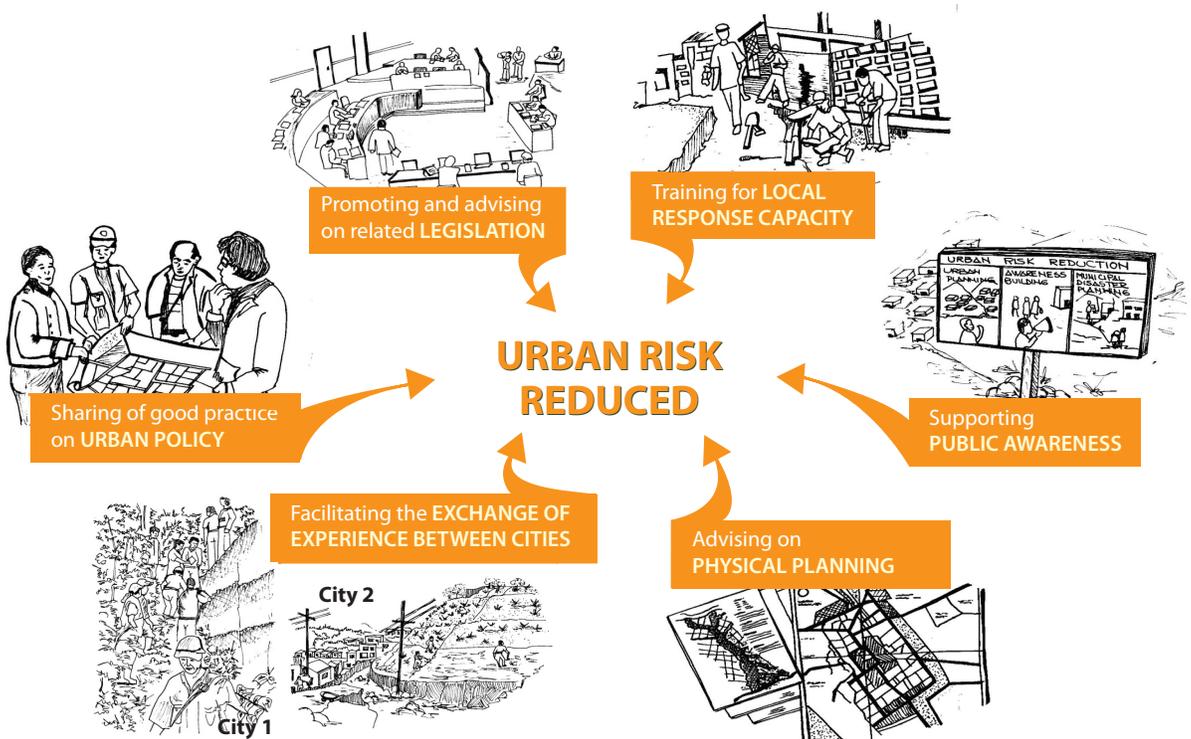
Urban Risk Management

With fast-rising world population levels, and with the world’s urban population now exceeding its rural population, reducing urban risk is another

growing key priority for disaster risk reduction. Reducing disaster risks in urban settings is closely linked to urban planning and governance. With UNDP support, earthquake risk, vulnerability and capacity assessments for selected urban areas were conducted in Bangladesh, India, Jordan, Nepal, and Pakistan. With support from GRIP, urban risk assessments were implemented in cities in Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal and Peru. UNDP promoted South-South regional alliances and exchange of knowledge among municipalities. For example, in collaboration with the European Commission, UNDP supported the local and metropolitan governments of five capitals of the Andean Region—Bogotá, Caracas, La Paz, Lima, and Quito—to collectively promote DRR and preparedness through sharing of best practices.

A Regional Urban Risk Programme for Central America was implemented in Costa Rica,

How does UNDP support capacities of local authorities and communities to achieve disaster-resilient urban environments?





Local Risk Management Committee volunteers in a UNDP-supported training exercise transferring injured people to a tent offering first aid in Mozambique.

El Salvador and Guatemala. The interest expressed by other countries led to the inclusion of Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Honduras. The programme allowed these countries to share urban risk reduction experiences, practices and tools.

Climate risk management

The Climate Risk Management Technical Assistance Support Project encompasses 20 high-risk countries worldwide in which UNDP promotes sustainable human development while accounting for impacts of climate related hazards and variability—droughts, floods, sea-level rise and extreme temperatures—in areas such as agriculture, water management, food security and health. Reflecting the regional dimension of climate change, UNDP launched in 2010 the Central Asia Multi-country Programme on Climate Risk Management (involving Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

and Uzbekistan), to pilot and scale up innovative approaches to climate risk management at the local level, while working at the national and regional levels to assess risks, elaborate strategies, and develop capacities.

Work with the private sector

By engaging with the private sector, UNDP increases the coverage and effectiveness of its risk reduction programmes. UNDP collaborates with Deutsche Post DHL to develop a disaster preparedness capacity building programme, Get Airports Ready for Disaster (GARD). The GARD Programme prepares airports and relevant staff to better respond to disaster relief surges, to train local people, and to assist local disaster relief agencies to plan and coordinate recovery efforts. In Nepal, the assessment and training at four regional and one international airports were completed in September 2010.

The epic floods that affected 18 million people across one fifth of Pakistan in July, August and September of 2010 were the worst ever recorded. UNDP was able to rapidly launch an early recovery programme to help communities in the worst-affected areas start to rebuild their lives while supporting government institutions in their efforts to respond to the urgent needs of the crisis.

The effort was supported by the Government and other humanitarian agencies. The results of the assessment and the training have been integrated within the airport emergency plans and adopted by the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal as part of its regular emergency preparedness plan.

Supporting post-disaster needs assessment and sustainable recovery

A Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) is a government-led exercise, with integrated support from the United Nations, the European Commission, the World Bank and other national and international actors, that pulls together information into a single, consolidated report, on the physical impacts of a disaster, the economic value of the damages and losses, the human impacts as experienced by the affected population, and the resulting early and long-term recovery needs and priorities. It is the basis for identifying, ranking, and implementing options

for humanitarian and development responses. A key focus is reducing disaster risks so as to promote resilience. UNDP is the coordinator of the UN system for post-disaster recovery planning. In this role, it has been collaborating with the World Bank and the European Commission to integrate tangible risk reduction commitments into PDNAs and Recovery Frameworks.

The largest and most complex PDNA in 2010 was organized in the aftermath of the earthquake in **Haiti**. It was essential in formulating the Government of Haiti's recovery and reconstruction strategy. Following **Chile's** 8.8 magnitude earthquake, UNDP supported an assessment of that disaster's impact on the nation's MDGs. Post-disaster assessments in **Pakistan** focused on the effect of the floods on MDG achievement as well as physical damage and economic losses. PDNAs were also conducted in **Indonesia** in response to a volcanic eruption, tsunami and earthquake, and in **Benin and Moldova** in response to floods.

UNDP's Involvement in PDNA of Merapi Volcano Eruption

From 26 October until 5 November 2010, Indonesia's Merapi Volcano erupted killing 340 people, destroying homes and livelihoods, and damaging forests and public infrastructure in five districts in Yogyakarta and Central Java. UNDP, through BCPR, provided post-disaster technical assistance to the National Disaster Management Agency to conduct a Human Recovery Needs Assessment. By partnering with the local governments and a consortium of local NGOs, UNDP helped mobilize a team of 50 facilitators to conduct over 500 household surveys, interviews and focus group discussions to assess the impacts and people's recovery needs. The resulting HRNA formed the basis of the national action plan for reconstruction and post-disaster recovery, fostered cooperation among various actors responding to the disaster, and elicited resources from the national budget.

DRR and recovery

While it is difficult to anticipate the full nature and scope of disasters, DRR sets the stage for recovery by creating or identifying the required national capacities. UNDP implemented recovery programmes in 25 countries in 2010, as part of immediate response or pre-disaster recovery planning—Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, the Former Yugoslav Republic (FYR) of Macedonia, Mexico, Montenegro, Pakistan, Serbia, Suriname, Tajikistan and Yemen. To illustrate, UNDP helped Ecuador establish a National Meteorological Service station and equip situation rooms in four flood-prone districts with back-up high frequency radio systems to safeguard the uninterrupted transmission of data, monitoring of information and early warnings on flood risk. Together with other legislative and institutional developments, this ensures that disaster risk reduction is addressed comprehensively as a key development issue and not as a standalone emergency management effort. In the past four years more than 400,000 people, or 5 percent of the population in Honduras has been directly affected by disasters, including two earthquakes (2007 and 2009), two tropical storms (2008 and 2010) and a drought (caused by la Niña in 2009). Already the third poorest country in Latin America, these disasters intensify poverty. Supported by UNDP in 2010, the national government has now approved a legal framework to promote recovery from disaster and the Ministry of Planning includes recovery and risk reduction into regular development planning.

To improve recovery efforts worldwide, UNDP supported the International Recovery Platform (www.recoveryplatform.org). This is a virtual workspace for recovery planning. The Platform and its partner organizations have developed sector-specific recovery tools and guidance notes emphasizing lessons learned and good practices from global recovery operations.

UNDP implemented Disaster Risk Reduction recovery programmes in 25 countries in 2010, as part of immediate response or pre-disaster recovery planning.
