



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

2008-2009

UNISDR Biennial Work Plan
2008 Progress Report



United Nations

Foreword

With the first half of the 2008-2009 biennium completed and the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction successfully concluded¹, it is a good time to take stock of progress on the UNISDR biennium work plan.

Having joined the secretariat at the start of 2009, I have witnessed progress in some areas and recognized work to be done in others. In the main, I am satisfied that the secretariat has made progress on the major aspects of an ambitious biennial work plan. Several advances stand out: regional inter-governmental platforms and processes have been actively supported with strengthened regional capacities; significant policy processes such as climate change adaptation linkages with disaster risk reduction are being tackled; and well-organized advocacy initiatives have been taken to the highest levels. An advanced web-based information system has been implemented, and several foundational information products were published or drafted.

At the same time, I am aware that the scope of the disaster risk issue is growing, and that our achievements inevitably fall well short of the needs of the increasing numbers of actors in Governments and civil society who are looking for more and better guidance and support in their quest to build commitment and action to reduce disaster risk. Despite mature roots, the disaster risk reduction business is at an early stage in its development. Even where national action has been taken, we so far still lack the comprehensive approaches and in-depth experiences and concrete examples of how and how far societies have implemented the full spectrum of Hyogo Framework considerations. To extract and distil this information for replication in other countries will be a major future focus. The biennium also coincides with critically important international negotiations on climate change, where the development of technical and policy advice on disaster risk reduction is urgently needed. We have further learned that we need evidence-based communications that state clearly and precisely what results we have achieved in which areas, and how precisely we can and will make further contributions. When building a partnership, each party looks at the other's capacity to deliver. We cannot expect to win others' trust solely on the strength of a worthy cause. Rather, we are keenly aware that our challenge is to support system partnerships by delivering on our coordination role in ways that are consistent with leveraging investment at all levels towards implementation of the HFA in a changing climate.

The present report is not intended to be comprehensive, but rather a work-in-progress, an overview for those who support the secretariat as partners or donors. The report focuses on main activities and first achievements of the biennial work plan in 2008, some lessons and impact analysis. A wider view is supported by the Summary of Progress Report presented at the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. A full report, covering the biennium, will be presented in 2010. Meanwhile, I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of the UNISDR and to have contributed to its work in 2009, and I thank all of our partners and supporters for your assistance during 2008.

Margareta Wahlström

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¹ Please see Chair's Summary at <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2009/background/documents/GP09-Chair's-Summary.pdf>

List of Acronyms

ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Center	NDMO	National Disaster Management Offices
AIDCO	EuropeAid Cooperation Office (EC)	OCHA	Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation	PEDRR	Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations	PIACC	Plan Iberoamericano de Vulnerabilidad, Impactos y Adaptación al Cambio Climático
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development	PPEW	Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning
CADRI	Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative	RECs	Regional Economic Communities
CAPRA	Central American Probabilistic Risk Assessment	REDLAC	Risk Emergency Disaster Working Group for Latin America and the Caribbean
CAPRADE	Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance	SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
CCA/UNDAF	Common Country Assistance/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks	SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
CDERA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
CEPREDENAC	Central American Coordination Center for Disaster Prevention	UNDG	United Nations Development Group
CRID	Centre of Disaster Information for Latin America and the Caribbean	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
CSD	Commission for Sustainable Development	UNDP/BCPR	UNDP/Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
DIPECHO	Disaster preparedness programme of ECHO	UNDP-GRIP	UNDP/Global Risk Identification Programme
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States	UNDP/SU-SSC	UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation
ECHO	European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization	UNEP/GRID	UNEP/Global Resource Information Database
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
FEMICA	Federación de Municipios del Istmo Centroamericano	UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (World Bank)	UNISDR	Secretariat of the ISDR, United Nations
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action	UNSGAB	United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board in Water and Sanitation
HLEP	High-level Expert Panel on Water and Disasters (of UNSGAB)	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability	WANA	West Asia / North Africa
ILO	International Labour Organization	WHO	World Health Organization
IPCC	Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change		
IRP	International Recovery Platform		
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction		

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UNISDR Mission

Catalyze, facilitate and mobilize the commitment and resources of national, regional and international stakeholders of the ISDR system to build the resilience of nations and communities to disasters through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

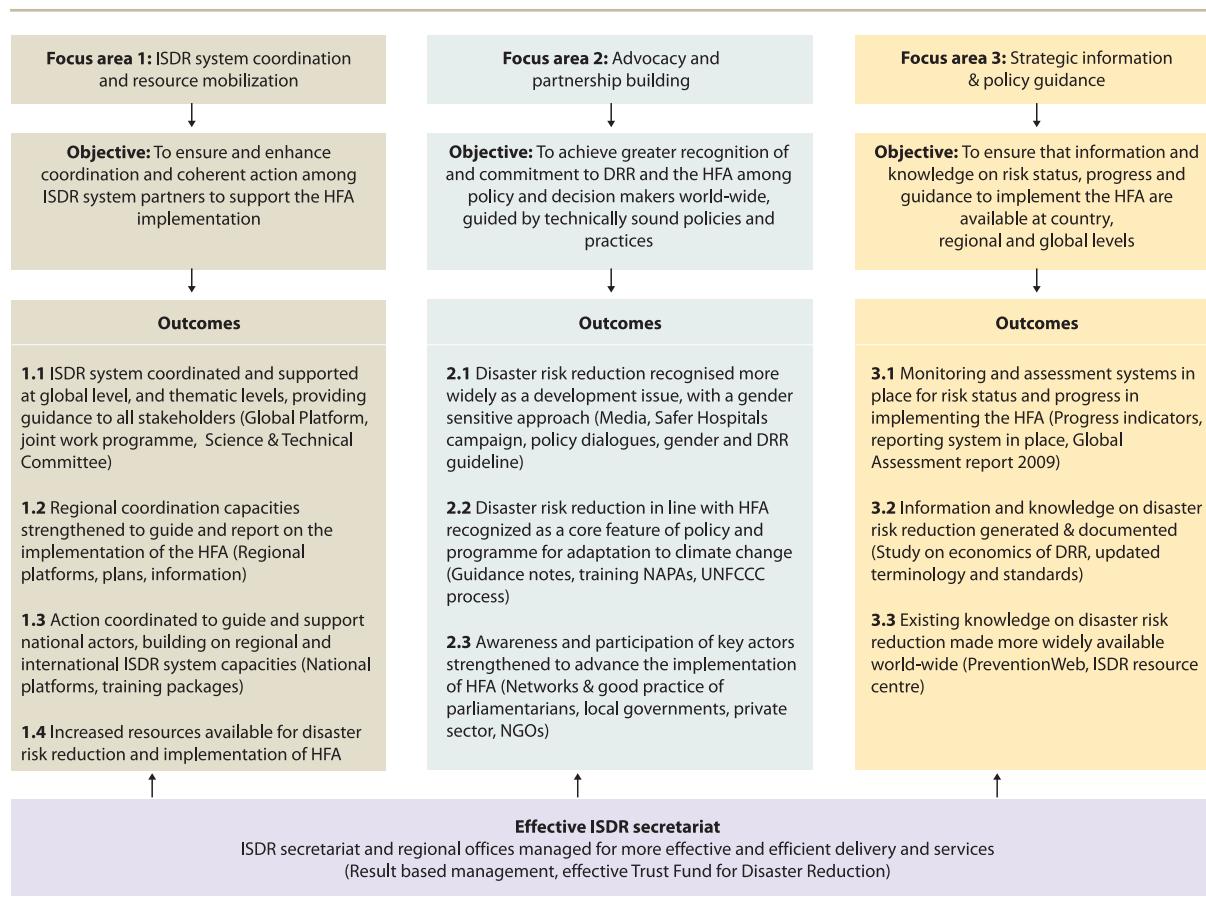
Section 1 Introduction

The 2008-2009 work plan of the UNISDR secretariat has a two-fold objective: to actively mobilize partner commitment to Hyogo Framework priorities and to move forward in line with the guidance provided by the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2007. Building on established experience and lessons of previous biennia, the work plan aims to ensure better coordination and programming processes among ISDR system partners, raise awareness and political commitment at all levels to accelerate the integration of disaster risk reduction into development policies and planning and develop easily accessible, user-friendly knowledge and information systems. The full work plan can be found at <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/un-isdr/secre-work-plan.html>.

The work plan has a framework of three strategic objectives, broadly covering ISDR system coordination, advocacy and knowledge and information, together with an objective on the secretariat’s development. Each objective is further defined by intended outcomes and deliverables, as well as budgetary requirements.

This interim progress report reflects the mid-term status of UNISDR’s work on the main elements of each objective. The report aims to serve as the basis for a review of progress, necessary course corrections, and work planning for the biennium 2010-2011.

Figure 1: 2008-2009 UNISDR workplan overview



Section 2

Financial Situation

The resource mobilization efforts of UNISDR in the first half of the biennium have contributed to increasing levels of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction (the Trust Fund)², the funding instrument for the work of UNISDR and for several partner initiatives in the regions. The overall goal of these efforts has been to ensure adequate resources available for disaster risk reduction and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

UNISDR budget calculations for 2008 was USD 35 million, which included a number of potential activities and partnerships in the regions. UNISDR's total income in 2008 was USD 28.9 million, an increase of approximately 38% on the 2007 income of USD 21.0 million. As is shown in the table below, although there is a gradual expansion of the donor base, both in terms of burden sharing and the number of donors, a small group of core contributors continue to meet the majority of the secretariat's resource requirements. However, the characteristics of many contributions continue to limit UNISDR's ability to plan, ensure sound cash flow and effectively implement its work plan.

Figure 2: The Top 20 Donors to the UN Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction in 2007 and 2008

2007 - US\$ millions			2008 - US\$ millions			Δ in rank
1	European Commission	5.4	1	World Bank	5.0	▲ (2)
2	World Bank	5.0	2	European Commission	4.3	▼ (1)
3	Sweden	2.6	3	Sweden	3.8	-
4	United Kingdom	2.0	4	United Kingdom	3.4	-
5	Japan	1.1	5	Norway	2.6	▲ (6)
6	Norway	1.1	6	Australia	1.4	▲ (14)
7	Canada	1.0	7	Spain	1.3	▲ (new)
8	Germany	0.7	8	Japan	1.3	▼ (5)
9	Luxembourg	0.7	9	Germany	1.2	▼ (8)
10	Denmark	0.5	10	Denmark	1.0	
11.	Finland	0.4	11.	Switzerland	0.84	▲ (new)
12.	ADRC	0.36	12.	Luxembourg	0.74	▼ (9)
13.	Italy	0.34	13.	Canada	0.66	▼ (7)
14.	Australia	0.1	14.	Bahrain	0.6	▲ (new)
15.	India	0.1	15.	Finland	0.47	▼ (11)
16.	Mexico	0.03	16.	UNICEF	0.07	▲ (new)
17.	France	0.02	17.	France	0.06	-
18.	Cyprus	0.01	18.	P.R. China	0.03	▲ (new)
19.	Philippines	0.01	19.	GER + BTRF	0.03	▲ (new)
			20.	Mexico	0.03	▼ (16)

Contribution ranges:

US\$ >4 million p.a.
US\$ 2 - 4 million p.a.
US\$ 1 - 2 million p.a.
US\$ 0.5 - 1 million p.a.
US\$ <0.5 million p.a.

Additional contributions of USD <10,000 were received from the Philippines and Vaisala OYJ in 2008.

² The UNISDR Secretariat also administers the Trust Fund for the Sasakawa Disaster Prevention Award, and the Sub-Account for the Trust Fund for Tsunami Disaster Relief for activities related to contingency planning and early warning mechanisms. Neither fund saw income in 2008, other than that which was generated from interest from the original endowment (in the case of the former) and in the case of the latter, since the last voluntary contribution received in 2008. Full list of voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction are listed in Annex 1.

The percentage contribution of the ten largest donors to the Trust Fund remained constant from 2007 to 2008 (accounting for approximately 88% of total annual income); the five largest contributors accounted for 66% of annual income in 2008 (as opposed to 77% in 2007). Eighteen (18) donors, with an average contribution of USD 1.15 million per donor, accounted for total income to the Trust Fund in the calendar year 2007, and although the number of donors contributing to the Trust Fund increased in 2008 to 22, the average contribution per donor showed only marginal growth, to USD 1.3 million. Nevertheless, noting that in 2008 all Top 10 donors contributed \geq USD 1 million per annum, the secretariat will be seeking to further develop this trend of increasing contributions per donor. For full list of voluntary contributions, please see Annex 2.

However, as demands on the secretariat increase, driven by the expectations of governments and regional entities, the UNISDR will seek to broaden the donor base with more predictable contributions³, secure more timely payments of pledges and seek reduced conditionality in favour of support for core functions and their real costs.

Income and Expenditure Challenges

The growth in income in 2007 and 2008, was mobilized in response to the call for a strengthened secretariat that was capable of undertaking follow-up to the recommendations of the First Session of the Global Platform. The ISDR System partners wanted a stronger regional presence and reinforced monitoring capacity, and that would build the evidence base for DRR through the forthcoming publications of the Global Assessment Report and the Study on the Economics of Disaster Reduction. However, growth by one third over two consecutive years came without improved financing for core costs. The result was lack of human resources to support projects as well as to ensure timely expenditure of project funds.⁴

The need to stabilize the financial base of the secretariat is a challenge. The lack of predictable funding has required UNISDR to dedicate a disproportionate amount of energy to labor-intensive fund raising pursuits, often for relatively small contributions.⁵

Following this progress report, a new financing model will be proposed. This business model will ensure a minimum level of income predictability and sustainable financing in support of the secretariat's core costs. A proposal will be presented to donors in the second half of 2009, with the intention to seek a stable financial platform for the UNISDR through to the conclusion of the Hyogo Framework for in 2015.

Immediate Financial Issues

The three important financial issues that pose immediate challenges for the UNISDR are: the timing and predictability of contributions, and the conditionality of funding.

UNISDR is still entirely dependent on voluntary contributions, with no allocation from the UN Regular Budget. Earmarked contributions account for 54% of all contributions, the management of which incur higher transaction costs and occupy a disproportionate amount of the secretariat's resources. However, an increasing number of donors to the Trust Fund do recognize the secretariat's need for an income profile that facilitates work planning and enables coherent cash flow management. Of the 46% of total income un-earmarked funding in 2008, 71% entailed commitments of a multi-annual nature (from five donors).

Timing of receipts is an issue with over 40% of total annual income in 2008 received in the last quarter of 2008, 60% of income coming in the second half of the year and only 7% received in the first quarter. This is not a new trend, quarter four receipts in three of the

³ In 2008, UNISDR succeeded in generating additional contributions from Australia and Spain in 2008, as well as a first commitment from a Gulf State (Bahrain).

⁴ Successive reports of the UN Secretary-General have identified that this expansion has not come without its challenges to the UNISDR Secretariat. The 2008 report (A/63/351) provides a succinct summary of the nature of the Secretariat's resource challenge:

"...Overall, the current financing provisions for the Strategy secretariat do not assure an appropriate degree of financial stability and predictability, and thus put at jeopardy its key functions. While the Trust Fund should remain the main funding mechanism for the Strategy and partnership activities, it is essential to secure a stable and predictable flow of resources to support the basic performance of the Secretariat's key functions."

⁵ Resolution A/RES/62/192 stressed the importance of disaster reduction and the subsequent growing demands on the Strategy secretariat and the need to review the current methods of financing the secretariat, with a view to stabilizing its financial base, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a proposal for that purpose. The review revealed the continued unpredictability of the volume, conditionality, longevity and timing of the secretariat's income and identified how this renders systematic work planning difficult and impedes the efficient implementation of its work plan, particularly without recourse to the UN Regular Budget or an operational reserve.

last five financial years were all in excess of 40% of total annual income; 2005 being the notable exception (due primarily to the hosting of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe in January 2005). Equally, the timing of payments can be erratic, thus complicating cash flow management, restricting availability of resources at critical moments in the implementation of the work plan and so its ability to expend.

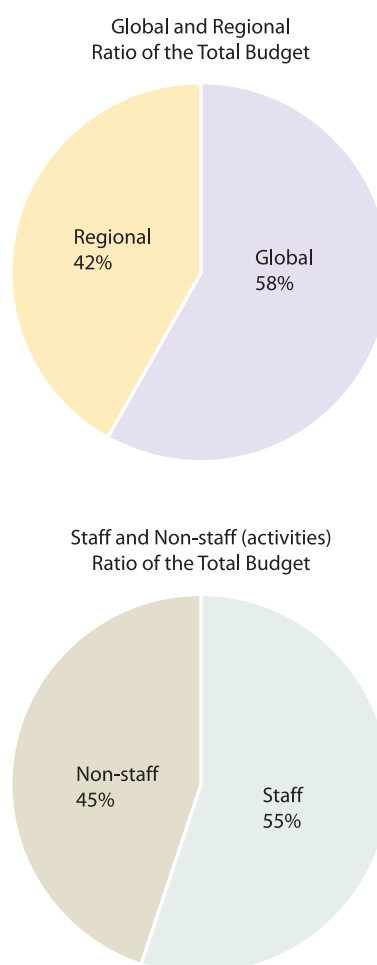
The secretariat's expenditure trends follow income trends and are close to budget expectations. 2008 expenditure of US\$ 24 million represented 83% of the calendar year's income of US\$ 28.9. The expenditure distribution among regional offices, other offices and headquarters is consistent with the estimated global and regional budget distribution for the 2008-2009 biennium work plan, with:

- 39% of the total budget being spent on regional activities, compared to 42% estimated budget expenditure;
- 61% of the budget spent on global activities as compared to the budget estimate of 55%;
- expenditure ratio of 53% and 47% for staff and non-staff costs respectively, compared to budget estimates of 55% and 45% respectively.

The audited Financial Statements⁶ for funds administered by the UNISDR are provided in Annex 1 to this report, detail funds available to the secretariat in 2008. At current levels and with 100% voluntary contributions, the secretariat requires a carry over of at least USD 10 million to ensure salaries can be met for first quarter of the consecutive year, cover commitments, insurance inter alia. The carry over also includes earmarked contributions received in 2007 for implementation through 2008 as well as the mandatory Operating Reserves⁷ (USD 1.6 million) and funds committed to partners. (USD 2.8 million) that are known as Reserves for allocations.

While UNISDR staff expenditure rates are satisfactory, improved efficiency in the utilisation of the resources for programmes should be achieved in 2009.

Figure 3: Global and regional budget distribution between staff and non-staff



Rates of expenditure for the broader secretariat are anticipated to improve through 2009 and 2010, and expenditure through UNISDR Regional Offices is anticipated to account for a larger proportion of the secretariat's overall annual expenditure. Donors are encouraged to support expenditure efficiency by providing timely and efficient funding.

Where non-staff expenditures exceed the secretariat's regional cost plans, it is in the regions where the demand for UNISDR support to countries and ISDR

⁶ The Statement of income and expenditure and changes in reserves and fund balances for the twelve month period 2008 – 2009 ending 31 December 2008.

⁷ Amounts set aside for contingent liabilities and final costs in the event of closure of a trust fund or special account.

system partners is greatest – a demand that will need to be met by a secretariat resourced to do so.

Income for Regional Activities

Funding for regional activities increased in 2008, reflecting a growing focus by donors and the UNISDR on advancing regional and country-focused disaster risk reduction. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the European Commission, the Federal Foreign Office, Germany, and AusAID, Australia have all provided support to UNISDR actions in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific. Improved inter-agency planning and programming is under development in several of the regions and expected to yield further results in 2009. Other successful resource mobilization initiatives include the following.

Africa: Increasing interest from donors to fund disaster risk reduction activities based on increased promotion efforts led to better visibility of the role of the ISDR in Africa. This has led to more partnerships and the submission of a number of project proposals by partners of the GFDRR Track II and South-South cooperation, USAID, the Economic Commission for Africa and the German Government, with support from UNISDR.

Asia Pacific: A three year partnership framework between the UNISDR and AusAID has provided additional reinforcement to the secretariat's forward planning and support to countries, partners in the region. Additionally, a draft agreement with the Government of Republic of Korea was signed for a collaborative centre on disaster risk reduction in the region and support to the core functions of UNISDR from January 2010.

Americas: A two-year agreement was formalized with the Ibero-American Programme on Climate Change, with support from Spain, to support for disaster risk reduction and climate change. This includes a project portfolio for fund raising developed together with stakeholders from regional thematic platforms, including with the Regional Disaster Information

centre (CRID) to which funds were approved from the European Commission (DIPECHO).

West Africa and West Asia (Arab States): Partnerships with the League of Arab States (Economic Sector / Department of Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development) and the Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport were strengthened. The latter is hosting the UNISDR regional Office in Cairo and providing human resources support. Promising initiatives for a Disaster Risk reduction Training and Research centre with the Arab Academy were also developed in 2008.

Investments in coordinated actions of ISDR partners

The UN General Assembly, in its Resolution A/63/414/⁸ called for the international community to systematically invest in disaster risk reduction with a view to implementing the objectives of the Strategy for International Risk Reduction and to provide adequate contributions to the Trust Fund. The ISDR system Joint Work Programme launched in early 2008, was conceptually well supported by donors, but only achieved modest success in generating additional investment for ISDR partners. Contributions of approximately USD 7.6 million were received in the calendar year in support of joint results of ISDR partners – support that contributed inter alia to the development of the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Reduction, which will be published in 2009. The UNISDR will therefore be reviewing in 2009 the nature of the Joint Work Programme with key ISDR partners, as well as the use of the Trust Fund⁹ as a means by which donors can invest in both the work of the secretariat and collaborative actions of ISDR partners in a manner that assures strategic coherence with the HFA.

Nevertheless, the conviction expressed by some donors of the need for coordinated action of ISDR partners and increased support for UNISDR in 2008 was a positive and appreciated trend. The continually growing interest of countries and expectations for guidance and support

⁸ Resolution A/63/414/Add.3 - in which the General Assembly: "Encourages the international community to continue providing adequate voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund in the effort to ensure adequate support for the follow-up activities to the Hyogo Framework for Action"; and "Encourages Governments, multilateral organizations, international and regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, the private sector and civil society to systematically invest in disaster risk reduction with a view to implementing the objectives of the Strategy."

⁹ which is administered by the UNISDR

provide a sure sign that further increases in funding will be needed in the years to 2015.

A highlight of the year at the global level was the approval by the World Bank Development Grant Facility to move the UNISDR administered part of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) partnership to Window 1, a shift from the previous 3-year funding scheme to one that is no longer time-bound - and one that therefore allows longer-term work planning by UNISDR. This is a major and very welcome step forward which is hoped to also encourage other donors to the Trust Fund to equally declare longer-term commitments. The Facility continues to develop as a key mechanism for supporting disaster risk reduction. Total pledges by

donors to Track 2 and 3 of the Facility during 2007-2008 exceeded USD 90 million. Track 1 of the Facility provides an annual grant of USD 5 million to support UNISDR's biennial work programme, with a focus on supporting regional capacities. A separate report is available for the achievements in fiscal year 2008 of Track 1 activities.¹⁰

The GFDRR is evidence of how the ISDR has succeeded in nurturing the development of major financing initiatives that are coherent with the Hyogo Framework, and which inform poverty reduction strategies. An outstanding challenge remains how best to ensure the inclusion of disaster risk reduction methods in emerging climate change adaptation funding mechanisms.

¹⁰ See <http://gfdr.org/index.cfm?Page=About%20GFDRR&ItemID=2>

Section 3

Progress on work plan objectives

Strategic objective 1

To ensure and enhance coordination and coherent action among ISDR system partners to support the HFA implementation

This objective is divided into four elements – global and thematic coordination, regional capacities, national mechanisms and support and resource mobilization. On global and regional levels, 2008 saw increasing cooperation and coordination, though mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development policies and plans remained a challenge. Progress has also been made at national level, with the establishment of a number of new national platforms and the strengthening of existing mechanisms; however, the integration of different sectors, including the Finance Ministries, will require further efforts in the future.

Outcome 1.1

ISDR system coordinated and supported at global level, and thematic levels, providing guidance to all stakeholders (Global Platform, joint work programme, Science & Technical Committee)

At the **global level**, significant strengthening of ISDR system mechanisms occurred, reflecting a growing interest by partners in the ISDR system as a facilitating and guiding mechanism. UNISDR supported regular and increasingly well-attended meetings of the Management Oversight Board and the Geneva-based ISDR Support Group, with agendas showing a strong interest in the core issues of climate change, financing of disaster risk reduction, and the organization of the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The ISDR Scientific and Technical Committee was established and met twice. Its initial work programme included the preparation of a report on scientific and technical issues for the Global Platform 2009 and a subcommittee on early warning systems. Overall, these system mechanisms are working satisfactorily and are well-placed to support a much-needed acceleration of effort on implementation.

An ISDR inter-agency group was increasingly used as a sounding board and consultation mechanism for developing ISDR system positions and guidance,

like preparing joint inputs to UNFCCC processes and meetings. The group also assisted in the development of the ISDR system Joint Work Programme, and in the planning and preparations for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2009.

The Joint Work Programme concept has not taken off well, and more thought needs to be given as to how it is designed in response to expressed needs from countries. Nevertheless, among other joint projects the success of the Global Assessment Report project in particular shows the potential for joint work among organizations and thematic partnerships associated with the ISDR system thematic partnerships represent an important but as yet not well-tapped source of expertise and advice on disaster risk reduction. During 2008, a policy note was developed to map the various partnerships and their relationship to the Hyogo Framework. It also sought to clarify their potential role and the mechanisms by which they could more formally contribute to ISDR system objectives as 'thematic platforms'.

A milestone in 2008 was the establishment, under UNEP's leadership, of the new multi-partner Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR). The PEDRR has developed terms of reference and a detailed work plan as a contribution to the Joint Work Programme. Specific funding is needed to carry this important initiative forward. In

the educational sector, UNISDR, in collaboration with the Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education for Disaster Risk Reduction, stimulated the formal recognition of disaster education as a policy issue by Asian Ministers of Education in May 2008. This success was followed up with a special session on disaster risk reduction, held with support from UNISDR at the UNESCO International Conference on Education in Geneva, November 2008, where Ministers of Education and senior national delegates presented their achievements.

Within the United Nations family, several important initiatives on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development have been undertaken the major impact of which was the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction knowledge and tools with inter-agency partners:

- The UN Development Group (UNDG) developed guidelines for disaster risk reduction in the Common Country Assistance/UN Development Assistance Frameworks (CCA/UNDAF) under the leadership of UNISDR and with support of UNDP and a working group chaired by UNDP and UNEP.
- CADRI developed and disseminated training curricula and material to guide UN Resident Coordinators and Agency Heads in their support for national authorities and stakeholders' roles in disaster risk reduction.

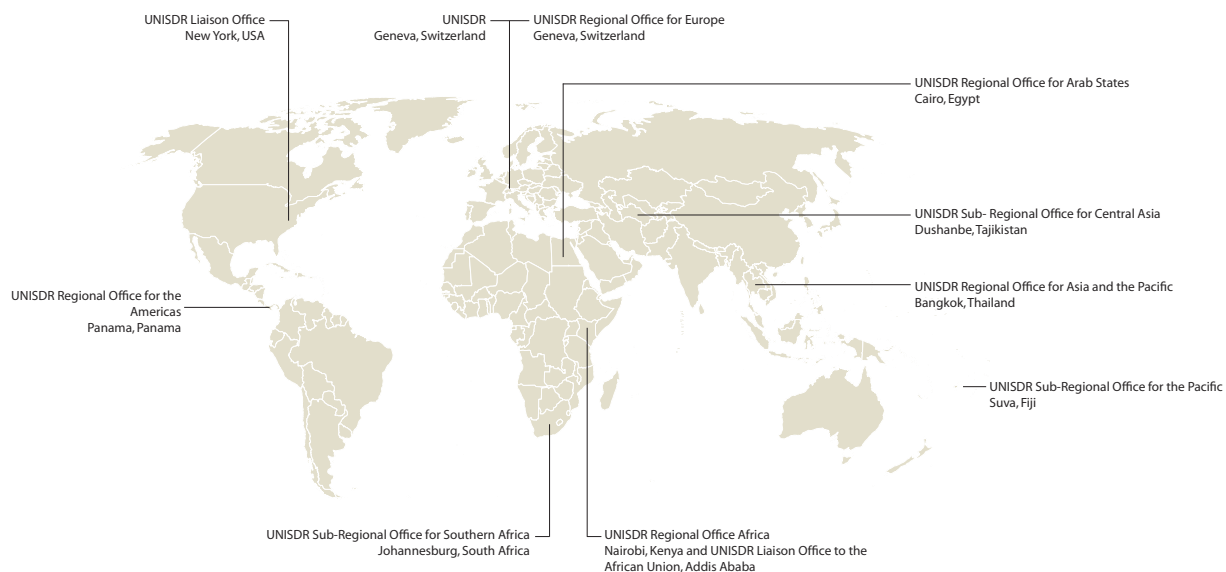
In 2008, the water sector witnessed increasing international political momentum for water-related disaster risk reduction, supported by UNISDR's active involvement in several inter-agency processes on water, including UN Water, the World Water Forum and World Water Development Report preparations, and the High-level Expert Panel on Water and Disasters (HLEP) established by the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Disasters (UNSGAB). As a high-light, the HLEP, co-led by UNISDR, developed and adopted a set of targeted concrete recommendations on water-related disaster risk reduction, which have been widely disseminated and promoted in the first half of 2009.

Outcome 1.2

Regional coordination capacities strengthened to guide and report on the implementation of the HFA (Regional platforms, plans, information)

In recent years the regional level has seen a significant expansion of interest and activity in disaster risk reduction by many partner organizations. In 2008, UNISDR increased its efforts to stimulate and further these developments. In particular, UNISDR regional offices played an important role in catalyzing and mobilizing support for regional and national disaster risk reduction processes. Particularly with GFDRR support, these efforts included a stronger orientation toward building regional alliances with inter-governmental organizations, UN and other ISDR partners, and supporting regional policy dialogues, baseline information and tools for implementation. In addition, in order to broaden the funding base for UNISDR and ISDR partners' work, regional offices also increasingly engaged in identifying new funding opportunities. A UNISDR review of current levels of engagement of regional institutions in disaster risk reduction revealed an increasing level of commitment and political engagement. At the same time, however, the need continues for regional institutions as well as governments to translate these strategies and policies into concretely funded programmes. This challenge and objective will be pursued in 2009 and the coming years`.

In **Africa**, the main focus of UNISDR work in 2008 was to stimulate and facilitate the transition from existing political commitment into action at national level. The regional office pursued closer links to regional organizations, in particular the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa, among others through the placement of disaster risk reduction experts into the African Union, ECOWAS and ECCAS to facilitate the integration of disaster risk reduction awareness into their policies, plans and programmes. These intergovernmental organizations, in coordination with national DRR focal points and other ISDR partners, have been taking the lead to support the Africa Regional Platform and to implement the Africa Programme of Action as the vehicle to implement the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction

Figure 6: UNISDR regional presence

Acknowledging drought risks posed by climate change as one of the main focuses for national level action in the region, regional and UN partners, the Africa Union and UNISDR have been engaged in strengthening the regional network of institutions active in drought risk reduction by introducing strategies and tools developed for drought risk reduction into relevant national adaptation and development processes. The third African Drought Network Forum, organized in collaboration with the GFDRR, UNDP and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, provided an opportunity for information and knowledge exchange.

One of the main events to address the lack of capacity, knowledge and data was a Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Training Workshop on "Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Assessing Disaster Damage and Losses in Development". With support from GFDRR, the workshop was co-organized by UNISDR together with the African Union, UNDP Senegal and Civil Protection Senegal and resulted in the introduction of thirty-seven African countries to the damage and loss assessment methodology, the monitoring of the Hyogo Framework for Action and examples and experience of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into national poverty reduction strategies.

Two main events reflected the growing importance of disaster risk reduction, in particular through

increasing political commitment, coordination and cooperation between key stakeholders, in the Asia and the Pacific region. The first was the creation of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management in October 2008 which will host the three main events on disaster risk management in the region. The second was the third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in December 2008, whose outcomes included a plan of action for the implementation of the deliberations of the Conference, a new initiative on public-private-partnerships, and the appointment of the first Regional Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms Senator Loren Legarda, a Senator from the Philippines. Both events were supported by UNISDR.

In line with the growing interest in disaster risk reduction in the region, the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) continued as a vehicle for increased regional networking, coordination, collaboration and resource mobilization in disaster risk and vulnerability reduction. Through the IAP, UNISDR further developed its partnerships with main actors in the region such as APEC, SAARC, ADRC, ADPC and ASEAN, the latter of which formally endorsed participation in the IAP in 2008. Among the main achievements of increasing cooperation, APEC economies endorsed a Peru-initiated "Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region 2009 - 2015" in August 2008.

A Sida-supported project in the Horn of Africa countries

Donors also acknowledged the growing risk of climate change related drought in Africa and the apparent lack of data and knowledge at the national level. For example, a Sida-funded UNISDR project on drought risk reduction successfully supported national level capacity-building through implementation of the HFA. The project included three national workshops and resulted in the preparation of analyses of drought risk reduction policies and plans in Uganda and Kenya, with other national level analysis of Djibouti, Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia and sub-regional analysis for the Horn of Africa to be finalized and followed up in 2009.

First Consultative Meeting with Parliamentarians on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

In December 2008, Senator Loren Legarda, was instrumental in advocating for the adoption of the Manila Call for Action of Parliamentarians on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation at the First Consultative Meeting with Parliamentarians on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, Manila, October 2008. She was thereafter appointed the first Asia and Pacific Regional Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction. Following her appointment, she undertook a series of high-level meetings where she repeatedly urged legislators to take a pro-active role in advancing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and to strengthen their political commitment by developing legal and institutional frameworks conducive to disaster risk reduction. Acknowledging her key role in the region, several governments (Timor-Leste, Kingdom of Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Republic of Indonesia and Republic of Korea) immediately invited her to assist in their advocacy efforts during 2009 on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

ISDR system work at country level – enhancing partnerships in Nepal

Next to strengthening regional cooperation, UNISDR also actively engaged in supporting ISDR system partners' work at national level. In Nepal, UNISDR together with partners aimed at enhancing the catalytic role of the ISDR as a partnership at country level to foster political commitment at the highest level to reduce disaster risks and improve preparedness, facilitate coordination among the UN, international and civil-society organizations, and support resource mobilization and joint work planning processes. Activities and products included close cooperation with the UN Resident Coordinator, a desk study and survey "landscape-mapping", and consultations among more than thirty national-based entities and ministries, UN and international organization representatives. As a result, a report was developed on current vulnerability and risk profiles within the existing institutional and policy environment that focused on the status and progress of disaster risk reduction, the involvement of the stakeholders and the gaps, challenges and deficits in implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. This report will serve as the basis for the development of a common approach to support the implementation of a National Strategy and the establishment of a multi stakeholder coordination platform supported by UNISDR in 2009.

One of the highlights in the region was the launch of the publication *Climate Resilient Cities: A Primer on Reducing Vulnerabilities to Climate Change Impacts and Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in East Asian Cities* by UNISDR and the GFDRR on 14th July 2008 at the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific Congress in Pattaya. The Primer is a tool for city governments in the East Asia region to better reduce vulnerabilities by planning for climate change impacts and possible disasters through sound urban planning. The Primer received world-wide attention,

and was number two in downloads from the World Bank website in the first two weeks after its launch. Expanding its outreach, it is now tested in various locations world-wide.

In **Europe**, disaster risk reduction is widely understood and partly applied at national level, but often without linkages to other actors at national and regional levels. As a consequence, UNISDR focused on stimulating collaboration among partners and maximizing knowledge exchange in the region. Priority was given

to strengthened partnerships with main partners, such as the World Bank, Council of Europe and European Commission, and facilitating exchange among the National Platforms, including through a number of regional and sub-regional meetings.

Cooperation with the World Bank/GFDRR played a particularly important role in fostering political commitment and programmatic action in South Eastern Europe. A main outcome of joint efforts was the agreement on the development of a two year work plan to address disaster risk management in South Eastern Europe at the regional Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Management in Sofia (April 2008) which led to the establishment of the South-Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme. The Programme aims to reduce the vulnerability to hydro-meteorological and other hazards in the region through capacity development, preparedness plans and risk sharing. As part of the Programme, participants of the South Eastern Europe Conference on Insurance and Disaster Risk Reduction agreed to raise funds from European Member States to develop a Central Europe Disaster Risk Catastrophe Insurance scheme.

As the result of another significant activity, the European Union and European Commission with UNISDR support undertook a series of initiatives towards coherence and new policies on disaster risk reduction, such as the adoption of a European Commission communication on Western Balkans: enhancing the European perspective, and the development of two draft communications on development cooperation and disaster risk reduction. Triggered by the joint efforts of the World Bank and UNISDR, the Commission's Directorate General Enlargement initiated a programme of over 3 million Euros for 2008-2013 as part of the Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative for South Eastern Europe. Equally, the European Union is financing an initiative by Italy together with UNISDR, France and Egypt, which seeks to link risk reduction efforts of Mediterranean countries through the Euromed Programme on Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters.

As in other regions, the work of the regional office in **Latin America** also focused on increased collaboration with key regional partners, namely, CEPREDENAC,

CAPRADE, CDERA and the Association of Caribbean States. An important result of this collaboration was the establishment of a regional platform under the leadership of the Organization of American States. The success of the joint efforts of regional partners to increase political commitment was further reflected in the adoption of the Santo Domingo Declaration by 21 Heads of States in 2008 and the recognition of the Saint Marc Plan of Action for Disaster Reduction of the Association of Caribbean States in 2008. Aiming at the integration of climate change and disaster risk reduction agendas into national policies and plans, a significant agreement was concluded between UNISDR and the Spanish Cooperation Agency concerning the implementation of the Ibero-American Program of Adaptation to Climate Change (PIACC). Efforts were made to ensure that trends in disaster risk reduction-related institutional capacities were incorporated into the regional evaluation report prepared ten years after Hurricane Mitch in Central America (REDLAC Mitch +10).

UNISDR also engaged in the support of various thematic partnerships in the region together with the World Bank/GFDRR in providing assistance and guidance to assist the development of an Urban Risk Platform, a network of experts and local governments from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Central American Probabilistic Risk Assessment (CAPRA) tool on methodologies for hazard and risk evaluation. Similarly, a new inter-agency partnership between the ILO International Training Centre's DelNet programme, UNOSAT, the Federation of Municipalities in Central America (FEMICA) and UNISDR aims to provide targeted capacity development at local levels including the provision of free satellite data organized by DelNet.

In **West Asia and North Africa**, regional activities among Arab states have expanded since the establishment and start-up of the regional office for Arab States in Cairo, Egypt in mid-2007. Close cooperation with regional inter-governmental organizations, in particular the League of Arab States and the region's Economic Cooperation Organization, focused on consolidating and securing political commitments and engagement of policy makers to include disaster risk reduction in key regional policies on climate change, environment and disaster management coordination mechanisms. These efforts

contributed to the commitment by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment at the 20th session in December 2008 to reduce disaster risk and increase cooperation and coordination with UNISDR by ensuring implementation and follow-up of the Hyogo Framework through establishment of national platforms or committees for risk reduction across the region.

In partnership with the World Bank/GFDRR, joint efforts were made to ensure the necessary basis to respond to growing political commitments for technical capacity development on risk assessment and disaster risk reduction. These efforts included specific projects and initiatives for capacity-building and knowledge management such as a regional database on hazards and risks implemented by the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport and a regional workshop on risk assessment. In Central Asia and the ECO region, initiatives and partnerships on disaster risk reduction targeted the education sector, poverty reduction strategies and development planning, and disaster preparedness and response capacities.

Outcome 1.3

Action coordinated to guide and support national actors, building on regional and international ISDR system capacities (National platforms, training packages)

At the national level, efforts of national actors and Focal Points, supported by UNISDR, led to a growing number of national platforms, with 48 now established worldwide. In Latin America four new platforms were launched: Argentina, El Salvador, Dominican Republic and Jamaica. As an important step in Central Asia, Kazakhstan became the first country in the region to launch a national platform. In Asia, UNISDR increased its interaction with National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) and other national and regional disaster risk reduction stakeholders, including through the placement of UNISDR local resource persons in India, Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka (based in UNDP). These efforts resulted in the establishment of National Platforms in Sri Lanka and Indonesia in early 2009. Multi-stakeholder dialogues were initiated in Bahrain and Egypt to assist understanding and collaboration with a view to the establishment of

Capacity building at national level

An example of successful national level development is the joint UNISDR/European Commission project "Building Resilience to Tsunamis in the Indian Ocean" which will conclude in 2009. Substantially strengthening national capacities, the initiative:

- Connected 16 partner-organizations in 4 countries, thus facilitating regional cooperation and coordination.
- Developed 49 training modules for capacity building which were used to train national and local authorities and other stakeholders.
- Launched 19 awareness raising campaigns targeted at national and local authorities, as well as the general public, to regional risks and ways to reduce them.
- Trained 146 Government officials in disaster risk reduction measures, and 66 stakeholders including government authorities, on Coastal Zone Management.
- Trained 60 primary school teachers, 83,869 community members and local leaders, and 191 construction workers to promote and incorporate disaster risk reduction in their specific field of work.
- Developed 8,750 local actions plans, which are now getting implemented.
- Issue and disseminate 25 reports on good practices locally and nationally to raise awareness and promote action.
- Established 27,662 functional local community groups for disaster resilience.

future National Platforms. National platforms were also launched in Senegal, in the African region, and Italy, in Europe.¹¹

In order to strengthen existing national platforms and other national coordination mechanisms as drivers of national level development, UNISDR developed guidance information products for national level

use, including a good practice guide for National Platforms, and a training package and toolkit together with CADRI. Other outputs of UNISDR work included regional meetings to enhance cooperation and information exchange, and the development of web-based portals and profiles on PreventionWeb (<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/>) and the UNISDR website (www.unisdr.org).

Strategic objective 2

To achieve greater recognition of and commitment to Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action among policy and decision makers world-wide, guided by technically sound policies and practices

This objective is divided into three focus areas – high level advocacy, climate change, and selected partnerships. UNISDR work in all areas contributed to increasing awareness and action from international to local communities. In particular, the link between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction has developed into a major theme at all levels. However, much more needs to be done. In order to ensure the momentum, UNISDR will continue its efforts in all three areas in 2009 and beyond.

Outcome 2.1

Disaster risk reduction recognised more widely as a development issue, with a gender sensitive approach

High-level **advocacy** aimed at increasing strategic awareness of the importance of disaster risk reduction is a main priority for UNISDR. In 2008, efforts included the dissemination and promotion of disaster risk reduction messages at briefings and side events at UN Headquarters in New York during the meetings of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the General Assembly as well as on the International Day for Disaster Reduction. UNISDR also supported well over 100 Member States' meetings at the level of Secretary-General, and organized numerous bilateral meetings, briefings and side events to develop new partnerships and political commitments on disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework.

UNISDR efforts have been central to the momentum disaster risk reduction is gaining in many high-level settings, including at United Nations Headquarters and among Permanent Missions in New York. Evidence of the impact of advocacy efforts is clearly reflected in the numerous high-level statements that now refer to disaster risk reduction, the Hyogo Framework, the ISDR system and UNISDR. The interest and leadership of the UN Secretary-General has further helped to promote disaster risk. His first op-ed piece on disaster risk reduction "Time for a new path out of disaster", was published 20 July 2008 and disseminated worldwide through 22 media outlets in 20 different countries.

UNISDR also targeted other stakeholders, including the general public, through increased **media** coverage of disaster risk reduction issues. The Global Media Network played an important role in this process, which aimed at changing the focus of the media from pure event focused reporting to a "disaster-risk-reduction-process" orientation.

¹¹ The establishment of effective National Platforms still faces a number of challenges. In many countries, national focus remains trained on emergency preparedness and response rather than on the prevention and mitigation aspects of disaster risk reduction. Often, too, there is lack of comprehensive partner involvement and little integration of civil society and academics. In particular, climate change adaptation focal points are mostly not involved. Though developments in 2008 saw an increased political space created for disaster risk reduction since 2007, an outcome confirmed at the Second Session of the Global Platform, partners and governments agree that inadequate awareness and political support for disaster risk reduction by the key control Ministries remain a major problem for successful integration of disaster risk reduction into national policies and plans. Last but not least, limited resources are often the biggest obstacle to the establishment and maintenance of effective national coordination mechanisms.

UN Secretary-General Op-Ed on Disaster Risk Reduction, 20 July 2008

“Our capacity to cope with natural disasters is, in fact, much greater than we realize. Almost as dangerous as the cyclones or earthquakes themselves is the myth that the destruction and deaths they cause are somehow unavoidable, the inevitable result of natural calamity. True, we cannot prevent the events themselves. But we can determine our response—and, through our actions, either compound disasters or diminish them. The difference is preparedness and prevention. This may be a hard truth, for it emphasizes foresight and advance planning, and not merely the emergency relief that dominates headlines when crisis hits. By taking the right steps, in advance, we can save lives and livelihoods that would otherwise be lost. We know what to do. All countries, from the richest to the poorest, should build disaster risk reduction into their development and poverty reduction plans.”

Successes on the ground: The World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009 in the Middle East

UNISDR-WANA and WHO Eastern Mediterranean Office in Cairo worked with health officials and regional partners in developing a hospital safety index, a checklist for hospital and health system preparedness and developed a Public Service Announcement that was broadcast on television to promote the essential role of risk reduction in saving hospitals hence saving lives. In addition, several publication and public information materials were produced and disseminated in Arabic, Russian and Farsi languages to promote knowledge and awareness of disaster risk reduction. A media workshop provided training for journalists on disaster risk reduction and how best to understand and convey media messages to influence policies and national strategies on disaster risk reduction. As a result of the workshop, several articles were published in regional print media which helped to raise the profile of disaster risk reduction in the region.

The use of media, in particular mass media, is particularly useful in the regions, as the knowledge and information amongst policy makers and the general public on how to reduce vulnerabilities and risk is not widespread. Despite obstacles such as funding limitations and language barriers, regional offices have successfully increased their public outreach through frequent media briefings, the development of a media briefing kit, training, regional communication strategies and the establishment of a network of journalists. A workshop organized by UNISDR WANA for journalists on disaster risk reduction and how to better understand and convey media messages to influence policies and national strategies resulted in several articles in the regional print media which helped to raise awareness of stakeholders and the general public in the region.

2008 also witnessed important steps being taken in sensitizing stakeholders on **gender** issues in disaster risk reduction. As a main output on the link between gender and natural resource management, environmental protection and climate change, UNISDR together with IUCN conducted a Workshop for Development of Policy Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender into Disaster Risk Reduction. In addition, draft

supporting documents on gender risk assessment, gender indicators for disaster risk reduction and gender early warning were prepared. Good practices on gender, climate change and disaster risk reduction were published and widely disseminated. To further spread the message, UNISDR also strengthened its partnerships with global and regional actors, such as the Gender Global Climate Change Alliance, and co-organized the first large international conference on gender in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, the Third International Congress on Women in Politics: Focus on Gender, Climate Change and disaster risk reduction in October 2008.

Health is a key issue in disaster risk reduction and central to the World Disaster Reduction **Campaign** 2008-2009: “Hospitals Safe from Disasters” which was launched at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2008, followed by several regional launches throughout the year. The campaign is led by WHO with UNISDR assistance and is sponsored by the World Bank/GFDRR. While hospitals serve as the thematic entry point, the campaign aims at integrating disaster risk reduction planning into the entire health sector, in particular through WHO’s networks. UNISDR has promoted the campaign in the disaster risk reduction

community through the ISDR partner system. The partners have shown strong commitment to ensure a successful campaign. To this end, WHO committed to promote “the construction of hospitals and health facilities that can survive the impact of natural disasters, including high-intensity earthquakes and tropical storms” (Ms Chan, WHO Director General, 2008 WHO Annual Health Assembly). Several additional efforts stand out: the World Bank has taken steps to integrate disaster risk reduction concerns into World Bank projects, including through a guidance note for staff. Among a number of activities, a user-friendly “Safe Schools and Hospitals” tool was developed and widely disseminated to support policy and decision makers, while on the regional level, a number of multi-stakeholder partnerships have been established with WHO and health sector partners aimed at the adoption of regional frameworks on disaster risk reduction.

Outcome 2.2

Disaster risk reduction in line with HFA recognized as a core feature of policy and programme for adaptation to climate change

The integration of disaster risk reduction into **climate change** policies and programmes is a high priority for the biennium, especially because this period coincides with the negotiations for a new international agreement on climate change. The three areas of focus are UNFCCC processes, information and tools, and country level support

In 2008, UNISDR has continued to actively promote disaster risk reduction as an adaptation policy and to build close working relationships on the topic with

the Parties and the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This has contributed to a wider recognition of the importance of disaster risk reduction for the climate change adaptation agenda. Of particular note is a special workshop on risk management and insurance that was requested by the Parties and held at the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP14) in Poznan, Poland, in December 2008. The workshop was the first time that an event on disaster risk had been held in UNFCCC’s history, and UNISDR was invited as the first external UN agency to provide one of the two non-Party presentations. An interagency process convened by UNISDR developed the substance of the presentation as well as a formal written submission on disaster risk reduction, risk management and insurance. Further information and submissions were provided to UNFCCC processes including for the Nairobi Work Programme. As part of efforts to help link climate change and disaster risk reduction agendas and processes at national levels, UNISDR arranged for and supported the participation of a number of national disaster risk reduction advisors in the delegations of a number of Parties. This enabled negotiators to have direct access to country relevant experiences and needs in disaster risk reduction.

With a view to providing an authoritative basis of factual information on climate-related disaster risk and methodologies for reducing and managing risks, UNISDR initiated a proposal for the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to produce a special report on managing the risk of extreme events to advance climate change adaptation. Norway collaborated to develop the proposal and to formally introduce it together with Luxembourg to the IPCC.

Study on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Viet Nam

In Viet Nam, one of the top ten disaster-prone countries in the Asia and Pacific region, the UNISDR regional office undertook a study of the institutional and policy landscapes of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction to provide a basis for the implementation of disaster risk reduction measures and facilitate harmonization and policy dialogue. The study recognized that the two agendas have different concerns and policy processes. Most importantly, however, the results revealed a wealth of commitment and action on the ground, including great opportunities to increase the effectiveness of, and synergies between, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction through considerable overlaps between the two agendas and broadening acknowledgement of these overlaps.

Climate change related events and initiatives are growing rapidly in both national and regional settings and there is heavy demand for disaster risk reduction information and advice from UNISDR regional units. A wide range of activities and contributions have been undertaken, some of which are reported in earlier sections.

Outcome 2.3

Awareness and participation of key actors strengthened to advance the implementation of HFA

In addition to ongoing work with the ISDR media and gender networks, particular effort was made to expand the understanding and commitment to the Hyogo Framework among three **specialist groups** - parliamentarians, local governments and civil society.

Parliamentarians have an important strategic role to play and can help bridge gaps in disaster risk reduction between national governments and local authorities. UNISDR has encouraged a growing number of parliamentarians to champion disaster risk reduction among their peers and to foster regional parliamentarian hubs for disaster risk reduction. The aim is to build ownership and leadership, as well as to promote political will and to enhance political accountability and encourage financial investment in disaster risk reduction. An initiative launched under the theme "Making Disaster Risk Reduction a Tool for Climate Change Adaptation" has quickly grown to a world-wide movement now engaging 116 parliamentarians from 66 countries and several existing parliamentarian's networks around the world. The movement has led to parliamentarian advocacy initiatives, including: a statement at the 2008 G8 meeting, and steps toward new legislation and action plans in several countries. In the Asia Pacific region, related efforts by UNISDR led to the announcement of the first Asia and Pacific Regional Champion for

Disaster Risk Reduction, Senator Loren Legarda, Philippines. (For further details see Outcome 1.2)

Like parliamentarians, **local governments** are key drivers for the translation of political commitment at regional and national level into local action. Acknowledging the importance for local action, elements for a "Local Hyogo Framework for Action" were discussed in some regions and UNISDR has put increasing focus on promoting and supporting local governments. Activities in 2008 included initiatives with the United Cities for Local Governments in association with ProVention Consortium, the Earthquake Megacities Initiatives (EMI), ICLEI and CityNet as well as thematic platforms in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia. Preparatory work has been undertaken with the Government of South Korea to launch a training centre for urban risk management. A major meeting is planned by UNDP's Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (UNDP/SU-SSC) and UNISDR for August 2009 in Incheon Metropolitan City, South Korea, to bring relevant partners and initiatives together to develop a strategic partnership and to plan the next ISDR global campaign on Urban Risk and Safer Cities.

In 2008, the Global **NGO Network**, which was launched with UNISDR involvement in 2007 and counts over 600 members today, renamed itself the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction, and started functioning as an independent entity under the guidance of a Chair and Steering Group. The Network, which continues to work closely with UNISDR, is now independently managed and funded and is likely to have increasing influence at national and local levels in future. Work in 2008 included the publication of an annual compilation of Good Practices and Lessons Learned by NGOs in Disaster Risk Reduction and the organization of two regional NGO consultative meetings in Bangkok and Cairo to strengthen representation of NGOs in Asia and WANA respectively.

Strategic objective 3

To ensure that information and knowledge on risk, progress and guidance to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action are available at country, regional and global levels

UNISDR's work under this objective covers three focus areas: monitoring and reporting, development of policy guidance, and information tools and dissemination. Good progress is being made in all three areas. At the same time, the demand for guidance, in terms of guidelines, tools, methodologies, statistics and standards, is growing rapidly as countries move to initiate, implement and scale-up systematic efforts on disaster risk reduction.

Outcome 3.1

Monitoring and assessment systems in place for risk status and progress in implementing the HFA

Systems are now in place for **monitoring and reporting** on risk status and progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework. The continuous monitoring of progress is intended to strengthen the capacities of countries to identify needs and gaps and to guide their disaster risk reduction planning and institutional capacity building. It also contributes to assessments such as the Global Assessment Report whose aim is to influence and promote regional and international action. The key product of the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor system, which was launched in May 2008, is an online tool for institutions to periodically enter data and to assess and report on progress made in Hyogo Framework implementation. Based on the goals and priorities of the Hyogo Framework and generic indicators developed by UNISDR, the HFA Monitor is accessible through PreventionWeb for designated national authorities or HFA focal points. Access is password protected for national official focal points and other organizations, but following review and consultation, most of the information can be made public.

The reporting framework and requirements were circulated to national and regional partners, followed by various regional and national training and review workshops. Over the year, UNISDR also provided ongoing support to national review processes where required. In Asia, the UNDP Regional office and UNISDR cooperated to help develop the capacity of eight countries, with the coordination and reporting of disaster risk reduction progress being set up within the contribution that UNDP provides through the Regional Programme for Capacity Building in Risk Reduction and Recovery in Tsunami-Affected Countries.

Over the course of 2008, the HFA-Monitor tool was accepted and used by countries. By February 2009, 99 countries were in the process of reporting and 62 national reports were submitted online and available for everyone. Analysis of the information is included in the 2009 Global Assessment Report and was available at the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2009. Moreover, based on the available reports in Asia and Pacific, a Regional Synthesis Report was prepared and tabled at the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference in December 2008. Other regions are expected to conduct similar exercises.

The substantive work on the **Global Assessment Report** was completed over 2008, with a consultative draft ready at the end of December. The report was launched in Bahrain in May 2009, followed by several regional and national launches throughout the following months. Of particular note is the strongly collaborative nature of the project, which involves active engagement of UN agencies, the World Bank, Member States, regional inter-governmental and technical institutions, civil society networks, academic institutions and other ISDR system partners. See Key Findings and Recommendations from the GAR in Annex II.

The **report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/63/351)** on the 'Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction' concluded that 'the world is not on track to achieve the Hyogo Framework's sought-after outcome of a substantial reduction in disaster losses by 2015' and called for a major and urgent scaling up of efforts and resources. In its subsequent resolution on the ISDR, Resolution A/RES/63/216 of 25 February 2009, the General Assembly welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework, and called on the international community, Member States

and other stakeholders to increase their efforts and to make greater investment in disaster risk reduction. Recognition was given to specific sectors, such as climate change, gender and national and local capacity building. The General Assembly encouraged donors to make adequate voluntary, multi-annual and un-earmarked financial contributions to the Trust Fund in an effort to ensure adequate support for the follow-up activities to the Hyogo Framework for action. Noting the increased responsibilities of the secretariat, it also requested the Secretary-General to explore all means of securing additional funding to ensure predictable and stable financial resources for the operation of the secretariat.

Outcome 3.2

Information and knowledge on disaster risk reduction generated & documented

A number of important foundational or specialized guidance products were produced or advanced over 2008, in addition to the Global Assessment Report. In response to a request in the Hyogo Framework for guidance on generic indicators of risk reduction, and drawing on previous years work, the report *Indicators of Progress: Guidance on Measuring the Reduction of Disaster Risks and the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action* was published and subsequently used in the HFA Monitor process. An associated report comprising guidance and an indicator package for priority 5 (Disaster preparedness for effective response) was coordinated by OCHA and jointly published with UNISDR.

Other projects included: full revision of the UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction which was made available at the Global Platform in 2009 in all UN languages, the release of the Briefing Note on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (referred to earlier), and cooperation with the World Bank/GFDRR on the preparation of a report on the economics of disaster risk reduction (due for completion late 2009). For a full list of 2008 publications see Outcome 3.3 below.

Outcome 3.3

Existing knowledge on disaster risk reduction made more widely available world-wide

The UNISDR's main engines for supporting knowledge sharing on disaster risk reduction and dissemination of information are PreventionWeb, the library and publication function.

PreventionWeb was launched in October 2007 as the supporting website of the ISDR system, with the twofold aim of facilitating the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and becoming a virtual information hub for risk reduction experts. In its first year of operation, it published over 4,500 disaster risk reduction relevant articles in 12 content collections, within an online-searchable database, and was visited by over 22,000 individual visitors globally in 2008. Content includes news from partners, information on initiatives, event calendars, online discussions, contact directories, policy documents, reference documents, training events, job vacancies, terminology, country profiles, fact sheets as well as audio and video content.

Further information was made available by the new Virtual Library for Disaster Risk Reduction, which contains the largest ever body of selected disaster risk reduction materials worldwide and is closely linked to PreventionWeb.

In addition to publications already mentioned, a special effort was made in 2008 to document, publish and disseminate good practices and lessons learned:

- Indigenous Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction: Good Practices and Lessons Learned from Experiences in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- Gender Perspectives: Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into Climate Change Adaptation.
- Good Practices and Lessons Learned Towards National Resilience - Good practices of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Linking Disaster Risk Reduction and Poverty Reduction - 2008 Good Practices and Lessons Learned - A Publication of the Global Network of NGOs for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Other technical publications include

- A bibliographic compilation, ISDR-Biblio 3: Health and disaster risk, which was prepared in support of the Global Campaign for Hospitals Safe From Disasters

- Strengthening the Hydro-meteorological Services in South Eastern Europe South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme (WMO, World Bank, Finnish Meteorological Institute)
- South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Programme (with World Bank)
- Mitigating the Adverse Financial Effects of Natural Hazards on the Economies of South Eastern Europe: A Study of Disaster Risk Financing Options (with World Bank)
- Environment and Disaster Risk: Emerging Perspectives (with UNEP)
- Building Resilience to Natural Disasters: A Framework for Private Sector Engagement; World Economic Forum in cooperation with World Bank and UNISDR

Enabling objective 4: Strengthening UNISDR Secretariat

Outcome 4.1

ISDR secretariat and outreach offices managed and enhanced for more effective and efficient delivery and services

A highlight of the ongoing strengthening of the Secretariat has been the leadership and advocacy support of the UN Secretary-General. In 2008, the UN Secretary-General provided political leadership at the top of the international system, notably by approving a higher level post at the Assistant-Secretary-General level to lead the UN's work on disaster risk reduction, and by backing initiatives to link disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation reflecting a shift from a reactive approach to disasters to one that is more process and consensus based and focussed on risk reduction.

The new post is Assistant-Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The new post-holder is Margareta Wahlström whose appointment was announced in November 2008.

Based in the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (UNISDR) in Geneva, the post is supported by voluntary funds with the stated purpose of overseeing UNISDR and leading the broader ISDR system of partnerships. The intention behind the creation of the post was to improve strategic and operational coherence of the UN system and other organizations and to ensure that disaster risk reduction is integrated in environment, development and humanitarian plans and programmes. An immediate priority is to promote coherent action and agreements

between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction stakeholders.

In line with its commitment to further improve its management and organization, UNISDR adopted an internal monitoring and evaluation framework to enhance effectiveness, learning and accountability in the implementation of its biennial work plan. An online internal monitoring system captures information on progress of results and ensures accountability of those responsible for implementation. A region-specific system is being developed by the Asia/Pacific regional office and will be considered for use in other regions in 2009.

In further efforts to ensure an efficient organization, external evaluations were commissioned on the impact of the programme to support the development of tsunami early warning systems in the Indian Ocean (following the tsunami in 2004) and on the impact of the Asia/Pacific office in Bangkok of regional disaster risk reduction. The results of these evaluations will be fully taken into account for the planning of the new biennium 2010-11, as well as to adjust work plans in 2009.

Communication is central to building and sustaining partnerships. In 2008, UNISDR employed an external firm to help revise its communication of key messages and services. A survey among 15 key ISDR partners provided important feedback. Among other things, the findings of the survey provided clearer elements for better positioning of the secretariat, including for the secretariat's vision, target audience, promises, core value, and internal mission. It also served as basis for a revised communications strategy in 2009. Some

verbatim remarks by ISDR partners in the survey demonstrate a new appreciation of the secretariat's role:

UNISDR is critical to strengthening and further developing a robust, multi-stakeholder system.

UNISDR's status as a multi-agency process is a rare and very useful thing. They make it possible for us to sit down with other international agencies, in a neutral space, and discuss, learn, prioritize. This role needs to be strengthened.

UNISDR has recognition among the UN community for being a true Secretariat and when they knock on the door, they are welcome.

The Secretariat needs to act as one: convening, facilitating at the highest levels, not parachuting into projects.

UNISDR Efforts to Reduce its Carbon Footprint

UNISDR efforts to ensure a carbon-neutral secretariat involved the following initiatives:

UNISDR issued a policy note on "Greening UN/ISDR, Climate Neutral UN/ISDR - Preliminary strategy and action plan" in May 2008 which lays out several steps for greening the ISDR operations and eventually becoming climate neutral by the end of 2009. The regional Asia/Pacific office in Bangkok played a lead role in showing continued commitment to reduce its carbon footprint in organizing a team trip to plant 1000 mangroves in the area of Klong Kohn to off-set all carbon emissions from staff travel and office appliances. As a result of this exercise, the regional office achieved to again be carbon-neutral in 2008. UNISDR headquarters continued its GHG inventory exercise started in 2007 in order to create a baseline for future emission cuts. For 2009, UNISDR staff committed to fly economy class where possible to further reduce UNISDR carbon footprint. Efforts have been undertaken to ensure a green and fully offset second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, including a 'Green Desk' with information material.

Section 4

The Immediate Future: Prospects and Priorities

The first year of the biennium has seen satisfactory progress on many of the underpinning aspects of the work plan, such as development of the mechanics of the ISDR system and increasing the secretariat's capacities in line with its coordination role. It has also witnessed some significant successes in specific outcome areas, such as climate change adaptation/mitigation, regional inter-governmental commitments, the monitoring and reporting process, the Global Assessment Report process, PreventionWeb development, and the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The task now is to capitalize on these achievements and focus clearly on the next important goal – to obtain agreed targets and commitments through substantially expanded mechanisms for scaled-up country level action to reduce risk and to implement the Hyogo Framework. The available evidence shows a quantum leap is needed, in attention, funding and capacities, if the growth in disaster losses is to be arrested.

A core theme for the secretariat over the second half of the biennium will therefore be gearing up at country level to support the acceleration of risk reduction initiatives among ISDR partners. The significance of the ISDR system lies in the network or system of adherents to the international strategy for disaster risk reduction, among a wide range of diverse stakeholder organizations in Governments and civil society from community to international levels. It is increasingly clear that the strategy's participants want more from the system and the secretariat and are ready to participate in building the agendas and mechanisms that are required to make disaster risk reduction a global reality.

Climate change will grow as a major driver of the global agenda for some years to come. It is a formidable global challenge, while at the same time a rich opportunity for reducing disaster risk. Global awareness of the climate change threat will boost interest and efforts to reduce disaster risk and will

provide new sources of funds and other support to scale up action. The ISDR system provides the motivational and technical space to address and support this movement. UNISDR therefore will continue to articulate the technical and institutional linkages between climate change and disaster risk reduction and carry out sustained advocacy on these, especially to high-level strategic decision-makers. It will support the development of information tools and methodologies and will facilitate necessary country assistance. It will give particular attention to financial mechanisms, to ensure coordination and coherency between the needs of adaptation and disaster risk reduction. These efforts will always be considered in the context of all hazards, both climatic and geological.

A natural outcome of successful advocacy for disaster risk reduction is the demand from key actors for practical services, tools and expertise, particularly for sector programmes and local community action. The ISDR system, with its multiple networks of specialist expertise, is uniquely placed to link knowledge and management of disaster risk, and contribute to the development of policy and technical tools. Together with ISDR system partners, UNISDR is already developing a number of foundational knowledge products – the indicators' report, the Global Assessment report, the new terminology, and the economics of disaster risk reduction study, and these will be brought to fruition over 2009, where not already completed. PreventionWeb will continue to provide the main global internet-based information platform for the field. Further effort will be put into how to expand the ISDR system-wide efforts to facilitate knowledge sharing between countries. This will mean making better use of thematic and other partnerships, including communities of practice, and encouraging South-South exchange. These activities will be closely informed by the experience and demands from countries for practical help to implement disaster risk reduction programmes. The Hyogo Framework monitoring and online reporting

tool will be consolidated and its use further promoted to provide a standard tool for monitoring and reporting at the country level.

With regard to the UNISDR, the secretariat's budget has increased thanks to greater support from donor governments, but this has not proven sufficient or reliable enough to meet the growing demands of Governments and partners. The unpredictability of financial contributions to the Trust Fund remains

a concern, as it impedes longer term planning and efficient delivery of services. UNISDR appreciates the significant efforts made by donors to support its work in disaster risk reduction, and bearing in mind the constraints placed on donor budgets with the global financial and economic crisis, it will be particularly stringent in its planning and budgeting processes over 2009. To the extent possible, additional staff and resources will support activities at regional and national levels.

Annex I

TRUST FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION
Statement of income and expenditure and change in reserves and fund balances
for the twelve-month period of the biennium 2008-2009 ending 31 December 2008
(expressed in United States dollars)

	Sche. 7.4.14 Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction	Sche. 7.4.29 Sub-account for Trust Fund for Tsunami Disaster Relief for activities related to contingency planning and early warning mechanisms	Sche. 7.4.15 UNDRO SASAKAWA DISASTER PREVENTION AWARD FUND	
	DXA	TNB	DLA	TOTAL
INCOME				
Voluntary Contributions	28,738,191	-	-	28,738,191 1/
Received under Inter-Organisation arrangements	73,890	-	-	73,890
Interest Income	502,182	27,126	77,180	606,488
Miscellaneous income	249,444	33,940	6,424	289,808 2/
TOTAL INCOME	29,563,707	61,066	83,604	29,708,377
EXPENDITURE				
Staff and other personnel costs	11,943,570	58,290	13,338	12,015,198
Travel	2,509,849	35,289	-	2,545,138
Contractual services	1,902,723	85,256	1,001	1,988,980
Operating expenses	946,220	2,515	242	948,977 3/
Acquisitions	725,156	251,465	-	976,621
Fellowships, grants and other	3,350,028	-	-	3,350,028
Programme support costs (Agency)	263,506	22,303	-	285,809
Total Direct expenditure	21,641,052	455,118	14,581	22,110,751
Programme support costs	2,317,999	36,936	1,895	2,356,830
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	23,959,051	492,054	16,476	24,467,581
Excess (shortfall) of income over expenditures	5,604,656	(430,988)	67,128	5,240,796
Prior period adjustments	-	-	-	-
NET EXCESS (SHORTFALL) OF INCOME COVER EXPENDITURES	5,604,656	(430,988)	67,128	5,240,796
Transfer (to) from reserves and other funds	-	-	-	-
Refund to Donors	(693,786)	-	-	(693,786) 4/
Savings on prior period obligations	664,531	15,576	2,788	682,895
RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES BEGINNING OF PERIOD	15,289,743	1,413,306	2,275,416	18,978,465
RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES END OF PERIOD	20,865,144	997,894	2,345,332	24,208,370

Statement of assets, liabilities, and reserves and fund balances as at 31 December 2008
(expressed in United States dollars)

ASSETS				
Cash and term deposits	-	-	-	-
OAH Cash Pool	20,137,523	598,777	2,358,485	23,094,785
Pledged contributions receivable	6,511,344	-	-	6,511,344
Inter-fund balances receivable	-	-	-	-
Other accounts receivable	55,804	1,355	-	57,159
Other assets	753,150	-	-	753,150
Operating funds provided to executing agencies	3,977,953	437,159	-	4,415,112
TOTAL ASSETS	31,435,774	1,037,291	2,358,485	34,831,550
LIABILITIES				
Inter-fund balances payable	99,010	2,948	11,613	113,571
Other accounts payable	316,467	-	-	316,467
Unliquidated obligations	364,3809	36,449	1,540	3,681,798
Contributions/payments received in advance	651,1344	-	-	6,511,344
TOTAL LIABILITIES	10,570,630	39,397	13,153	10,623,180
RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE				
Operating Reserves	2,143,425	7,369	1,458	2,152,252
Reserves for allocations	5,493,305	516,997	-	6,010,302
Endowment fund	-	-	2,000,000	2,000,000
Cumulative surplus (deficit)	13,228,414	473,528	343,874	14,045,816
TOTAL RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES	20,865,144	997,894	2,345,332	24,208,370
TOTAL LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES	31,435,774	1,037,291	2,358,485	34,831,550

1/ The contributions received are all in convertible currencies

2/ Including gain on exchange of \$431 for fund TNB and of \$6,061 for fund DLA

Including related programme support costs adjustment of \$72,160 for fund DXA; of \$2,025 for fund TNB and of \$363 for fund DLA

3/ Including loss on exchange for fund DXA of \$206,804

4/ Refund to Germany of \$693,786

United Nations' accounting is done on a biennial basis. UNISDR budgets and reports on the use of voluntary donor contributions are done on an annual basis.

The financial table contains data that has been prepared for the United Nations Financial Report and Audited Financial statements for the bienniums 2008-2009, 2007-2006, 2005-2004, 2003-2002, and 2001-2000. It shows the financial status, income and expenditure for the Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction. The presentation of the data has been made in order to make UNISDR's financial position as clear and as transparent as possible.

Definitions:

The **opening balance** is the total amount of funds on 1 January. It is also the carry-over balance from the previous year.

The **closing balance** is the balance at the end of the one year which is carried over to the next. Closing balances are reflected in end-of-year financial statements, but the total amounts can only be determined after the previous year's accounting is closed on 31 March.

Adjustments refer to accounting adjustments made to income (reflecting changes in contributions or other miscellaneous income) or expenditure incorrectly or incompletely reported in the previous year.

Income from voluntary contributions comprises amounts that have been credited to UNISDR's trust fund as well as unpaid written pledges.

A **pledge is a written commitment** by a donor to provide a monetary contribution to UNISDR activities. It is recorded as income at the time of receipt of the written commitment; however, funds associated with the pledge cannot be allocated until the actual cash is received. If the pledge is in a currency other than the United States dollar its value is converted according to the prevailing United Nations rate of exchange at the time of receipt of the pledge. The United States dollar value of the pledge varies with the rate of exchange for as long as the pledge remains unpaid, and foreign exchange gains or losses may arise at the time of receipt of cash.

Transfers, refunds and savings include: refunds to donors and savings from the prior period's unused obligations.

Other funds available include funds received under Inter-Organisation arrangements, interest income and miscellaneous income.

Total funds available are the sum of the year's opening balance, adjustments, total voluntary donor contributions and other income.

Expenditure refers to the disbursements and obligations recorded for the year.

Headquarters activities describe those activities that are undertaken in fulfilling UNISDR's mandate - primarily coordinating and servicing the ISDR system. As set out in the Secretary General's report A/54/497, the functions and responsibilities of the ISDR secretariat are:

- To serve as the focal point within the United Nations system for the coordination of strategies and programmes for natural disaster reduction, and to ensure synergy between disaster reduction strategies and those in the socio-economic and humanitarian fields;
- To support the inter-agency task force in the development of policies on natural disaster reduction;
- To promote a worldwide culture of reduction of the negative effects of natural hazards, through advocacy campaigns;
- To serve as an international clearing house for the dissemination and exchange of information and knowledge on disaster reduction strategies; and
- To backstop the policy and advocacy activities of national committees for natural disaster reduction.

Operating Reserves are amounts set aside for contingent liabilities and final costs in the event of closure of a trust fund or special account. This is mandatory for UN secretariat entities.

Annex II – UN Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction Financial and Budgetary Overview for the calendar year 2008

	“Cost Plan”	Expenditure	“Voluntary Contributions”
Global (GVA and NY)			
Global Level Work Programme:			11.74 a
New York Liaison Office	0.76	0.23	
Office of the Director	1.25	1.46	
Programme, Planning and Monitoring (incl. preparatory work for Global Platform 09)	2.20	0.77	
External and Donor Relations	0.68	0.55	
Information Management	2.62	2.16	
Global Assessment Report	0.92	0.56	0.60
Policy	2.57	2.10	0.06
Advocacy and Networking	2.56	1.93	0.07
Sub-Total	13.57	9.76	12.47 b
Regional			
Regional Work Programmes:			5.87 c
Regional Coordination and Support	0.23	0.01	0.06
Africa	1.90	1.62	0.13
Asia/Pacific	3.32	3.53	2.47
Americas	2.20	1.28	2.09
West Asia / North Africa (Arab States)	1.50	1.34	0.00
Europe	0.69	0.56	0.00
Sub-Total	9.85	8.34	10.61
ISDR System			
Building Resilience to Tsunami in the Indian Ocean region	5.81	3.00	3.11 d
Early Warning Platform (PPEW)	1.70	2.08	0.91
Indian Ocean Consortium ¹	3.67	0.26	1.58
International Recovery Platform	0.44	0.32	0.17
Sub-Total	11.63	5.66	5.77
Total	35.06	23.75	28.85 e

a At the global level the UN Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction (Trust Fund) received voluntary contributions of USD 11.74 million. The following countries provided unearmarked support: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, Public donations, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom. Remaining contributions were earmarked to global level outputs including the Global Platform, the Global Assessment Report, the Study on the Economics of Disaster Reduction, inter alia. The following donors provided earmarked support: Bahrain, Switzerland, The World Bank, UNICEF

b Unearmarked contributions to the Trust Fund were expended at both Global and Regional levels.

c Voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund earmarked for collective or individual regional work programmes or for specific actions at the regional level totalled USD 10.61 million. These contributions were provided by the following donors: Australia, Canada, European Commission, Germany, Japan, P.R. China, Public Donation, Spain, Sweden, The World Bank

d Additional voluntary contributions of USD 5.77 million were made to the Trust Fund for specific actions of ISDR partners for which the UNISDR secretariat played a brokering, coordinating, facilitating or supporting role. These contributions were made by: European Commission, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom

e Expenditure data for this table is sourced from internal UNISDR accounting and for which the total differs by USD 206,805 with the audited Statement of income and expenditure and changes in reserves and fund balances at 31 December 2008 (see Annex) – this is due to expenditure undertaken in 2008 but which was not liquidated in time for inclusion in the audited Statement.

1 Following preparatory work in 2008, main implementation of this initiative will take place in 2009.

Annex III – Contributions/Written Pledges (in USD) as at 15 May 09

Donor	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	TOTAL	Donor
Asian Disaster Reduction Center		1,118,655			311,995	200,752		355,879		987,281	ANEM 1/ (France)
ANEM 1/ (France)	10,093								1,438,650	10,093	ANEM 1/ (France)
Australia			12,942	14,251	13,255			104,612		1,543,262	Australia
Austria									600,000	40,448	Austria
Bahrain	99,714				269,348			1,038,609		600,000	Bahrain
Canada f)						200,000			30,000	2,065,476	Canada f)
China (People's Republic of)			8,369		7,140			8,090		23,599	China (People's Republic of)
Cyprus		254,511								23,599	Cyprus
Denmark							786,682		1,046,748	2,599,680	Denmark
European Commission		60,784		191,834	132,626	3,041,457	1,052,559	5,365,368	4,304,613	13,763,997	European Commission
Finland k)						1,606,667	248,447	403,226	467,290	3,110,874	Finland k)
France					66,313	67,843		20,170		219,093	France
GER & BTRF m)		228,260	543,976	854,249	969,649	1,512,892	830,690	701,882	1,195,447	6,837,046	GER & BTRF m)
Germany			5,000							5,000	Germany
Iceland								100,000		100,000	Iceland
India					7,320		7,480			14,800	Infoterra Limited UK
Infoterra Limited UK										14,800	Infoterra Limited UK
Ireland			148,662	117,371	54,326			337,838		54,326	Ireland
Italy h)	242,483					120,482				966,836	Italy h)
Japan a) c) e)	300,000		300,000		2,208,006	4,535,752	605,683	751,551	1,292,620	9,993,612	Japan a) c) e)
Luxembourg								657,895	739,645	1,397,540	Luxembourg
Madagascar						20,000				20,000	Madagascar
Mexico								25,000	25,000	50,000	Mexico
Netherlands						367,225				367,225	Netherlands
Norway b)	252,966		274,360		395,812	1,860,984	811,227	1,079,342	2,588,554	7,263,246	Norway b)
Philippines		7,624		4,450	1,619	1,875	9,195	6,265	1,738	32,767	Philippines
South Africa	15,006				7,414	16,846	15,689			54,956	South Africa
Spain									1,295,337	1,295,337	Spain
Sweden j)	896,683		377,749	526,286	869,192	2,417,234	2,938,373	2,576,095	3,769,732	14,371,343	Sweden
Switzerland d) l)	97,956	161,180	616,696	697,446	1,407,406	590,551	806,055		844,503	5,221,792	Switzerland d) l)
UNDP g)	13,000	2,000		15,000		60,000	72,000			132,000	UNDP g)
UNEP										30,000	UNEP
UNICEF									65,000	65,000	UNICEF
United Kingdom	125,000		1,428,571	1,191,693	1,870,392	1,293,659	1,821,946	1,994,068	3,393,930	13,119,260	United Kingdom
United States					400,000					400,000	United States
Vaisala OYJ									4,673	4,673	Vaisala OYJ
WMO			19,017		3,390					22,407	WMO
World Bank							5,000,000	5,000,000		15,000,000	World Bank
TOTAL	2,052,901	833,014	3,735,342	3,612,579	9,055,203	17,854,221	15,006,027	21,037,629	28,852,022	102,038,937	

1/ Association Nationale des Elus des montagnes (ANEM)

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

- a Government of Japan: one Associate Expert - JPO (Jan 2004) part-time, shared with WMO
 - b Government of Norway: two Associate Experts - JPO for Central Asia and Africa; contribution to NGI for Global Risk Update (GRU) & trend analysis
 - c Nippon Foundation: funding for the Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction
 - d In-kind contribution from the Government of Switzerland in support of ISDR organizational development
 - e In-kind contribution for preparatory mission (WCDR) from Japan in January 2004 (US\$ 40,000)
 - f In-kind contribution from Canada for the translation of Living with Risk into Spanish (through Fundacrid)
 - g In-kind contribution from UNDP - Senior Programme Officer (Sept 04 to Feb 06) / Senior Advisor in 2007
 - h Government of Italy: one Associate Expert - JPO for Geneva for 2 years
 - i World Bank contribution through UNOPS
 - j Government of Sweden: one Associate Expert - JPO Bonn, Germany in 2006 and Bangkok, Thailand in 2007
 - k Government of Finland: one Associate Expert - JPO for Geneva in 2007
 - l In-kind contribution from Switzerland linked to the 1st session of the Global Platform for Disaster Reduction: CHF 173,425
 - m by Global Eco-Rescue Limited Ogier Corporate Services (GSY)
- Contributions are subject to UN Operational Exchange rates at the time of receipt.

Annex IV – Progress on Indicators

Objective 1 (Coordination and Resource Mobilization): To ensure and enhance coordination and coherent action among ISDR system partners to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action		
Indicators:		
1) Increased capacity and resources of the ISDR system partners to guide global, thematic, regional and sub-regional processes, to support Governments and national platforms on Disaster Risk Reduction for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action		
2) Expanded donor support for the ISDR system manifested in increased levels of investment in the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction and related instruments, including for the Joint Work Programme		
Status of Progress		
1) Increasing capacity and resources for 2008; however, lack of funding for Joint Work Programme		
2) Increasing donor base, including in the regions; lack of funding for the Joint Work Programme		
Outcomes	Indicators	Status of progress
1.1 The ISDR system is well coordinated, supported at global level, and able to provide guidance to all stakeholders	Positive comment on the general functioning of the ISDR system in inter-governmental proceedings (particularly the UN General Assembly) and through the specific organization, delivery and reporting of the 2nd session of the Global Platform in June 2009	Increased coverage at high-level (GA, CSD, ECOSOC); SG commitment and leadership; GPII confirmation of UNISDR key role
	> by the number of national and thematic platforms established and that are reporting progress of HFA implementation through the PreventionWeb hub as part of the GAR process	Increasing number of NPs (48 by 31.12.2008); TPs on urban risk, CAPRA, DelNet; various NP meetings at regional level; 99 HFA reports in development, 62 reports submitted.
	S&T documents and essential messages widely disseminated through GA and Global Platform processes	S&T committee established including TOR and draft work programme
	> by the number of countries that incorporate HFA/DRR into UNDAF/CCA processes and poverty reduction strategies	UNDAF training module; UNDG guidance; RC training
1.2 Regional coordination capacities strengthened to guide and report on the implementation of Hyogo Framework and disaster risk reduction regional strategies.	> by the number of regional and thematic platforms established and that are reporting progress of HFA implementation through the PreventionWeb hub as part of the GAR process.	Increasing number of regional and thematic platforms, e.g. Africa, Pacific Platforms; CAPRA, DelNet, environment, urban risk, education, etc
	> by the number of networks established around sector or DRR professional issues with website information available on membership and activities	Active engagement of parliamentarians, NGOs, water, media, local government, gender and environment networks

1.3 Action coordinated to guide and support national actors, building on regional and international ISDR system capacities.	Toolkit for National Platforms published	Draft toolkit developed
	> number of national coordinating mechanisms that fulfill the characteristics of multi-stakeholder National Platforms on DRR	Increasing number of NPs
	Periodic consultations on joint regional work programme conducted among partners	Regional platform meetings and other regional consultations
	Leadership Development Programme to orient Resident Coordinators/ Representatives on their roles and work in Disaster Risk Reduction established	RC training; UNDAF training module; UNDG guidelines
1.4 Adequate resources available for disaster risk reduction and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.	100% funding of the ISDR Biennial Joint Work Programme 2008-2009 met by end 3rd qtr 2009	Overall disappointing, lack of funding; positive: joint work by ISDR partners undertaken
	Private sector coalition set up to fund DRR projects/programmes	Good practice document on Public-Private-Partnerships developed and published; Study on PPP presented at IAP for endorsement; talks initiated with several private sector companies –further achievement limited by lack of funding.
	The GFDRR becomes a sustainable partnership (window 1) to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.	Move to the long-term agreement (Window 1) of World Bank development grant facility support to GFDRR
	Comprehensive guidelines for DRR eligibility in ODA developed and subsequently adopted	Advocacy; strong support for increased ODA DRR funding at GPII
<p>Objective 2</p> <p>Advocacy and Partnership Building: To achieve greater recognition of and commitment to disaster risk reduction and Hyogo Framework among policy and decision makers world-wide, guided by technically sound policies and practices</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increased number of States, United Nations organizations and inter-agency processes and initiatives incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction in their development planning policies and strategies with emphasis on health and climate change 2) Increased number of diverse targeted partnerships engaged in advancing the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in particular those supported by the Joint Work Programme <p>Status of progress</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increasing number of UNDAFs including DRR; IASC and Inter-agency group process on Climate Change; internal WTO note to staff on health-related disaster risks 2) Increasing number of partnerships on DRR; however, Joint Work Programme starting problems 		

Outcomes	Indicators	Status of progress
2.1 Disaster risk reduction recognised more widely and understood better as a development integrated into national and international policies and programmes, with a gender sensitive approach	Member States indicate support to the ISDR through their statements and negotiations in the GA, ECOSOC and other intergovernmental entities.	DRR statements by MS in all high-level fora
	Increased coverage of DRR related issues by the media at all levels	Media network; increased publications worldwide
	GAR analysis on why and how to adopt development oriented approaches to reduce disaster risks in light of risk trends and progress	GAR developed and launched
	Training module reflecting gender and DRR developed and tested and rolled out in Asia, the Americas, Europe	Gender guidelines, advocacy, good practice publication as basis for future training
2.2 Disaster risk reduction and Hyogo Framework better recognized as a core feature of policy and programmes for adaptation to climate change.	Disaster risk reduction included in climate change high-level speeches, texts and publications, press reports and negotiation instruments (such as that for the post-Kyoto regime).	DRR set part of UNFCCC negotiations - COP14 DRR events and recognition; SG buy-in; high-level statements
	Training modules developed and rolled out by the Inter-American Institute for Global Change for DRR and climate change in one region	Not started
	Capacity of LDCs built to incorporate early warning into climate change and development planning	Regional climate change activities, e.g. study on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Viet Nam, review of climate change strategy in the Latin American region, climate change and drought work in Africa, launch of the Primer on Urban Risk and Climate Change in Asia Pacific.
2.3 Awareness and participation of key actors strengthened to advance the implementation of Hyogo Framework, particularly at local level.	Private sector network functional with roundtables organised in China, the Philippines, Russia and Panama	Good practice document on Public-Private-Partnerships developed and published; draft strategy paper on PPP; talks initiated with several private sector companies
	Parliamentarian Networks advocate and provide recommendations for mainstreaming DRR at the local level	Increasingly active parliamentarian network; Announcement of first Asia Pacific Regional Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

Objective 3

Strategic Information and Policy Guidance: To ensure that information and knowledge on risk status, good practice and progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework are available at country, regional and global levels.

Indicators:

- 1) Informative, updated and substantive information in all fields related to Disaster Risk Reduction, Hyogo Framework and ISDR system available and publicly accessible
- 2) A major global report on Disaster Risk Reduction and progress towards implementation of the Hyogo Framework is published and available by 2nd quarter of 2009.
- 3) Study of the economics of Disaster Risk Reduction published and available by 2009.

Status of progress

- 1) Number of publications by UNISDR and development of PW
- 2) GAR produced and launched
- 3) Economics study on track

Outcomes	Indicators	Status of progress
3.1 Monitoring and assessment of progress on implementation of Hyogo Framework undertaken and reported	Global risk update completed - baseline on global disaster risk against which progress in DRR will be assessed;	Global risk update as part of GAR
	GAR published and distributed on the International Day for Disaster Reduction 2009	GAR developed and launched in May 2009
	Annual SG Report delivered on time	SG report 2009
3.2 Information and knowledge on disaster risk reduction generated and documented.	Economics and DRR Report prepared with strong engagement of experts and ISDR partners	Study in development; to be published in 2009 (World Bank)
	Current terminology on disaster risk reduction translated and reviewed in all UN official languages.	Revised Terminology published at GPII
	Permanent mechanism/process established for continued validation and improvement of data and knowledge.	PreventionWeb as a common tool for information and experience exchange and collaboration
3.3 Existing knowledge on disaster risk reduction made more widely available world-wide	PreventionWeb has greater functionality, increased usage (access stats) and feedback by users showing satisfaction with usability, content and scale of information	Increased usage of PW; improved and extended functions
	Partnerships and resource exchange agreements developed with other DRR information centres	Numerous DRR partner links on PW

Objective 4:

To strengthen capacities of ISDR secretariat to effectively support the ISDR system and facilitate the implementation of Hyogo Framework (Effective Secretariat)

Indicators:

- 1) Financing requirements of the secretariat are met by the 3rd quarter of 2009 including increased number of multi-year commitments to core functions from donors
- 2) Deliverables of the secretariat are produced by the end of 2009.

Status of progress

- 1) Increasing funding 2008; GFDRR move to long-term funding tool; new donors
- 2) M&E system in place; internal work planning monitor

Outcomes	Indicators	Status of progress
4.1 ISDR secretariat and outreach offices managed and enhanced for more effective and efficient delivery and services	No specific indicators developed	M&E system, including work plan monitoring tool; regular meetings of key bodies such as MOB and ISDR Support Group; regular Project Review Committee meetings.



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