

NEWS

PROVENTION
CONSORTIUM

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The ProVention Consortium is a global partnership of governments, international organisations, academic institutions, the private sector and civil society organisations dedicated to increasing the safety of vulnerable communities and to reducing the impacts of disasters in developing countries.

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ProVention News provides a brief update on current ProVention activities, events and recent publications or resources for organisations and practitioners active in disaster risk management. For more information on the ProVention Consortium please visit www.proventionconsortium.org.

Africa fora on local perspectives on Disaster Risk Reduction

Together with partners in West and Central, Southern and East Africa, ProVention has organised three regional fora on local perspectives on disaster risk reduction. Gathering community-based organisations, international NGOs, local government, research and training institutions and the Red Cross / Red Crescent movement, these meetings were intended to highlight from a community-based perspective key aspects for reducing disaster risk in Africa. The findings and recommendations will shape the agenda and influence dialogue at ProVention's Annual Forum taking place in Tanzania in February 2007.



Ms. Mandisa Kalako-Williams, South African National Disaster Management Centre presenting at the Southern Africa regional forum.

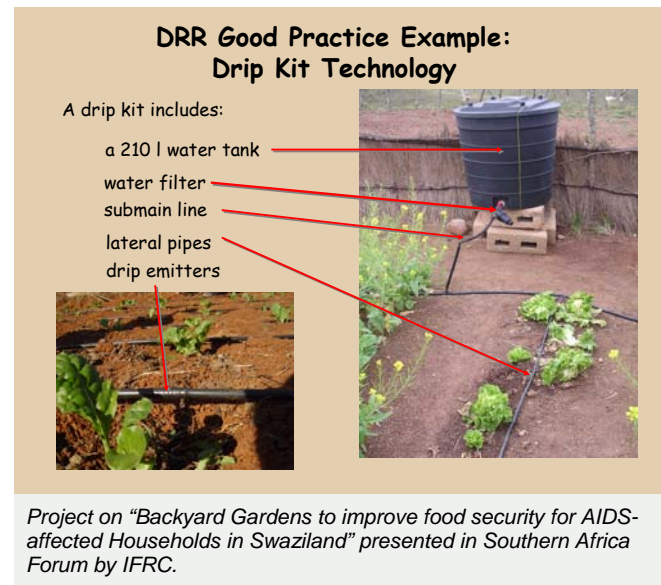
The West and Central Africa Forum was hosted in the Senegalese capital Dakar on 2-3 November 2006 by the NGO ENDA RUP. 35 practitioners coming from eight French-speaking countries in the sub-region highlighted the relationship between natural hazards and human vulnerability. They particularly referred to drought and desertification, locust infestation, and flooding and coastal erosion facing many local communities and resulting in a complex variety of health, sanitation, housing, and food security problems. Much of the discussion focused on ways to maximise participation from all stakeholders to promote and implement a broad culture of prevention, preparedness and mitigation. Participants also pointed out that more needs to be done in particular by national authorities, international organisations and bilateral partners to support risk reduction at local level and to prioritise funding for prevention and mitigation of disasters in national, local authority and NGO budgets. ENDA RUP has set up an e-forum to continue the dialogue. Access to the e-forum can be requested by e-mail to: red-risques@yahoogroupes.fr.

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Africa fora (cont.)

The Southern Africa Forum was hosted on 21-22 November 2006 by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Johannesburg, South Africa. More than 25 participants underlined the primordial role of local communities in defining the hazards and risks they are faced with. They stressed the need to keep a flexible view on risk definition reflecting the evolving African multi-hazard context. Participants also highlighted the slow onset nature of many hazards like drought, flooding and related food insecurity and their link to climate change. They argued for a rapprochement between the climate change and disaster risk communities to fully capture and mitigate the broader implications of chronic vulnerabilities for human security. They pointed out that preventive risk reduction is a crucial element to achieve sustainable local development and should thus be integrated in related frameworks to move away from a culture of emergency response only.

The East Africa forum was hosted by ActionAid on 6-7 December 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya. Some 30 participants reflected on the major hazards in the region and defined key factors determining the success or failure of disaster risk reduction projects and community based development projects in general. As already mentioned in South Africa, participants stressed the role of disaster risk reduction as a crucial element to sustain development achievements and to avoid further conflict on scarce resources. Participants proposed building upon a



blend of indigenous knowledge and formal research findings in a participatory process involving all stakeholders as the best way forward for reducing risks at local level. This approach would strengthen ownership, respect of cultural traditions and beliefs, while also avoiding superstition and making use of cutting edge technologies.

ProVention and its regional partners plan to publish some of the case studies on their websites. ■

Community Risk Assessment and Climate Adaptation Tools

In collaboration with the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET) and ISET's partners in India and Nepal, ProVention is supporting a new project to document community risk and climate adaptation assessment methods which ISET is using in its programmes in South Asia. These methods together with several case studies will be documented in a major monograph and a methodology handbook.

The immediate result will be to increase access for organisations working on DRR and climate adaptation to methodologies and conceptual frameworks they can use in designing their programme and implementation strategies. The methods will help organisations evaluate basic parameters such as the costs and benefits of specific implementation options. It will also help them identify strategies likely to be effective in different implementation and policy contexts.

Over a longer term, this should result in substantive improvements in the targeting and effectiveness of DRR and adaptation programmes at community, regional and policy levels. The primary audience for the project's products are governments, NGOs, international agencies and the private sector, who are concerned with the design and implementation of development programs on disaster risk reduction and post-disaster recovery.

The project findings, case studies and tools will be integrated in the ProVention Community Risk Assessment toolkit. For more information on this project, see our website on: www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=32&projectid=26 ■

Training and Learning Circles

In collaboration with the UNDP South-South Collaboration Office in Bangkok, ProVention is currently supporting a new learning initiative in South Asia and Southeast Asia aimed at the creation of a network of disaster risk reduction trainers and facilitators. This idea was catalysed in part by discussions at the 2006 ProVention Forum. The main goal of the training and learning circles (TLCs) will be to enhance the quality of the current disaster risk reduction training materials, methods and techniques through increased exchange and joint development of training resources. Promoting exclusively South-South cooperation, particular attention is paid in this first phase to training and learning around community based disaster risk reduction and management.

Several ProVention partners are involved, including the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) which will be responsible for developing these circles in South Asia, and the Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP) in the Philippines which will lead the project with training institutes in Southeast Asia. The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in Bangkok as well as other regional DRR organisations and networks have expressed strong interest in contributing to the TLC initiative. The project will also support the implementation of United Nations Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) at the national level. ■

Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk project update

Drafts of the complete set of 12 guidance notes were presented to the Project Advisory Group at a workshop in May 2006, hosted by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in Barbados as part of a CDB-ProVention Forum on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction. The tools were reviewed by a wide range of ProVention partners, including CDB, IADB, World Bank, CIDA, DFID, GTZ, UNDP, ISDR, ActionAid and Tearfund. The tools were also presented to government representatives of CDB member countries. Based on feedback given at the CDB workshop, final revisions are underway and the complete set of tools is due to be published at the end of the year. Already several of the more complete drafts, such as the notes on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and Environmental Impact Assessments, are being used and adapted.

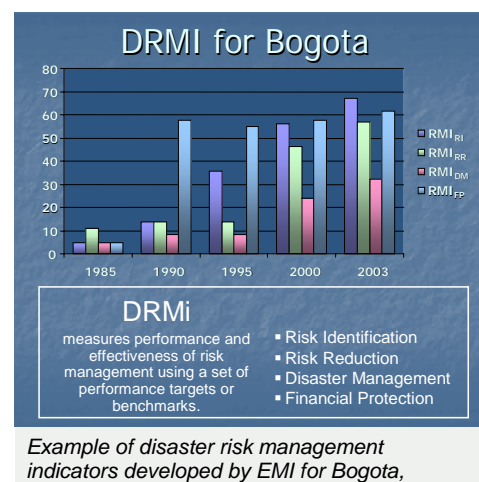
In addition to the set of guidance notes, the project is also developing a Disaster Reduction Monitoring & Evaluation Sourcebook as a resource for methods and tools for evaluating the socio-economic benefits of disaster reduction initiatives. The sourcebook will include detailed guidance on planning and implementing evaluations, the application and value of different assessment approaches and methods, and choice and validity of different indicators. It will also contain case studies of 'good practice' in evaluation and case evidence on the net benefits of risk reduction. The structure and contents of the sourcebook are currently being designed and the final output will be completed by March 2007. ■

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Urban Planning

In November 2006 the Earthquake & Megacities Initiative (EMI) hosted a meeting bringing together EMI's partners in Asia as part of its Cluster Cities Programme. The meeting highlighted recent EMI work supported by ProVention and UNDP on urban risk indicators, the development of an e-learning system for urban planners, and creation of an Urban Risk Forum. It also provided an opportunity to showcase ProVention initiatives and activities to the EMI partners.

For the future ProVention is also planning to work with EMI to develop guidance notes on mainstreaming risk reduction into the urban master planning process to complement the series of guidance notes within the ProVention Tools for Mainstreaming Risk project. Additional activities on e-learning are also planned.

For more details, see www.earthquakesandmegacities.org or www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=32&projectid=2 ■



Risk Reduction Indicators

ProVention has developed a working paper on risk reduction indicators to support the Tsunami Recovery Impact Assessment and Monitoring System (TRIAMS) programme. TRIAMS is an initiative of the governments of India, Indonesia, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, with support from the IFRC, WHO, and other UN agencies to measure the impact of the recovery efforts in response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami. ProVention developed the working paper in order to provide support and guidance to the governments and other partners in selecting appropriate risk reduction indicators, drawing on input from several experts on different aspects of disaster risk reduction to develop a set of suggested indicators and background notes.

The ProVention Secretariat also presented this work on risk reduction indicators at a Vulnerability Expert Working Group hosted by the UN University Institute for Environment and Human Security in October 2006 in Florence, Italy and at a conference on “Disaster Risk Management: Taking Lessons from Evaluation” hosted by the Council of Europe Development Bank and the World Bank in Paris, France in November 2006.

For more information about the TRIAMS initiative or related ProVention activities on risk reduction indicators, please see www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=32&projectid=25 ■

IDRC Conference in Davos, Switzerland



One of many clients of the ProVention booth

The International Disaster Reduction Conference, hosted by the Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research in August 2006, generated strong international interest and was attended by hundreds of participants from around the world. With a wide range of topics, the conference provided good opportunities to showcase ProVention activities and resources.

ProVention supported a number of speakers to contribute to key sessions. Gabriel Kassenga from AURAN partner UCLAS in Tanzania participated in an IFRC-chaired session on stakeholders in disaster risk management to talk about “Higher Education in Disaster Risk Reduction and Applied Research in Tanzania”.



Gabriel Kassenga, UCLAS (Tanzania)

Bruno Haghebaert from the ProVention Consortium Secretariat also presented the ProVention CRA Toolkit project in a session on “Environmental and Social Vulnerability: Emerging Theory and Practice” that was organised by the United Nation’s University Institute for Environment and Human Security.

In addition ProVention used the opportunity to host a feedback session on the ProVention Applied Research Grants programme that included a number of grantees and mentors and highlighted the opportunities that the grants have often created for further scholarship and study.

During the conference ProVention also hosted a session that examined the business case for reducing natural disaster risks in developing countries, building on a recent ProVention study with Maplecroft on the role for business in disaster reduction. The session featured a panel of speakers, including representatives from business, corporate networks, academia and NGOs, to comment on the role of business and debate the opportunities and obstacles for greater private sector involvement.



Shruti Mehrotra, World Economic Forum

Speakers included:

- Alyson Warhurst, Maplecroft/Warwick Business School
- Terry Jeggle, consultant with UN-ISDR
- Thomas Loster, Munich Re Foundation
- Shruti Mehrotra, World Economic Forum
- David Peppiatt, ProVention Consortium Secretariat

Overall the session provided a lively dialogue and will help catalyse further ProVention initiatives with the business community.



For more details on the IDRC conference, please see www.davos2006.ch ■

A new generation of risk reduction actors

In 2002, the Consortium launched a Programme of Applied Research Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction and repeated it in 2005. Globally, more than 100 small grants (USD 5,000 or less) were awarded for 6-9 months of applied research on risk reduction. The Programme is currently managed by the ProVention Secretariat and the University of Wisconsin-Disaster Management Center (UWDMC) in collaboration with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the University of Cape Town – Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (DiMP).

For the past five years, a Programme website has been maintained for all grantees (past and present) to establish peer-to-peer linkages and share ideas. In 2003-2004, grantees had the opportunity to share findings with colleagues through regional peer review web conferences and 15 grantees took part in a Symposium at the World Bank offices in Washington DC in July 2004.

This year, a regional consultative meeting was convened in Johannesburg with all 13 emerging risk researchers from Africa and the Middle East, together with representatives from universities in South Africa, Algeria and Tanzania, UNISDR Africa, USAID/OFDA, ProVention and DFID's Regional Vulnerability and Hunger Programme in July. Young researchers in Europe & Central Asia and Latin America & the Caribbean had the opportunity to present their projects to their peers through web conferences in October. On 6-8 December, twelve innovative projects were presented by Asian grantees to representatives from a wide array of organisations based in Bangkok including UNDP, ISDR, USAID, ADPC, AIT, NSET, WWF, ETH, the Thai Red Cross Society and the World Bank.



Hadeel Faidi (Westbank/Gaza) and Prossy Namuwulya (Uganda) presenting their projects at the Johannesburg regional meeting in July 06.

Considering the importance of dissemination in local languages, additional small grants will be offered to some grantees in Asia for local publications. National events will also take place in Nepal and India.

A selection of ProVention grantees was invited to publish short papers in *Real Risk*, a global publication from Tudor Rose which was launched at the IDRC 2006 conference in Davos. More project outputs will soon be available on the ProVention website (www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=41) as well as through the three regional centres managing the programme.

This year's experience again clearly identifies emerging risk researchers as a critical human resource for promoting risk reduction in disaster-prone regions. A review, which looks at further improving and developing the Programme is currently underway and a third Applied Research Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction Programme for young professionals will be launched in 2007. For more information on the programme, go to the ProVention Consortium website at: www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=32&projectid=5 ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Academic Programmes 2007

IIASA Young Scientists Summer Programme

Each summer, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) near Vienna, Austria, hosts a selected group of doctoral students from around the world in its Young Scientists Summer Program (YSSP). These students work closely with IIASA's senior scientists on projects within the Institute's three theme areas of Natural Resources & Environment, Population & Society, and Energy & Technology. The application deadline for this Summer Programme (4 June – 31 August 2007) is 15 January 2007. For more information, please visit www.iiasa.ac.at/Admin/YSF/flyer-yssp.pdf?sb=2 ■

Munich Re Foundation & UNU-EHS Summer Academy on Social Vulnerability

Munich Re Foundation and United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security proudly announce the second annual Summer Academy on Social Vulnerability, which will take place on 22-28 July 2007 at the historic Hohenkammer Castle (Schloss Hohenkammer) in the countryside outside of Munich, Germany. This year's programme will focus on the theme "Megacities: Social vulnerability and resilience building". Qualified PhD candidates should apply by 15 January 2007. More information can be found at www.ehs.unu.edu and www.munichre-foundation.org ■

World Disasters Report 2006 - Focus on neglected crises



In 2005, the world responded more generously to people's humanitarian needs than at any time in recent history. Emergency aid reached at least US\$ 17 billion – outstripping any other year on record. Yet millions still missed out on vital, potentially life-saving aid because funds were directed at high-profile disasters, while countless other crises were neglected, according to this year's annual World Disasters Report, launched on December 14th, 2006 by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The report calls on aid organisations, journalists, governments and academics to work together to address the symptoms - and causes - of neglected humanitarian crises.

Published annually since 1993, the World Disasters Report brings together the latest trends, facts and analysis of contemporary crises – whether 'natural' or human-made, quick-onset or chronic. For more information, please visit www.ifrc.org/publicat/wdr2006/index.asp ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Risk Assessment and local governments

Ben Wisner and Bruno Haghebaert will present the Community Risk Assessment Toolkit as part of a workshop sponsored by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability to assess the usability of existing disaster risk management tools by local governments.

ICLEI is an international association of more than 475 local governments and national and regional local government organisations committed to sustainable development. Through its Resilient Communities and Cities Initiative, ICLEI aims to help its members reduce their vulnerability to extreme events in order to increase their long-term sustainability. ■

Impact Assessment Workshop

Together with the IFRC and World Bank, ProVention is planning a workshop in Panama to take place at the end of January 2007 to share experience and ideas for strengthening the social analysis components in post-disaster rapid impact / vulnerability assessment. The workshop will focus in particular on assessment in the first 1-4 weeks after a disaster, drawing on the knowledge and experience of a range of international and regional organisations. The goal is to strengthen the rapid assessment process in order to improve the transition from relief to recovery and increase the attention to risk and vulnerability reduction from the outset in disaster response operations. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to highlight relevant experience within the CRA Network and explore opportunities for strengthening participatory approaches with the post-disaster assessment process.

This workshop is being planned within the context of a larger initiative being led by UNDP, ILO, the International Recovery Platform, and ECLAC to develop an improved methodology for Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). The planned ProVention workshop will feed into this larger PDNA initiative, providing some interim, very practical solutions for improved situation analysis in rapid impact / vulnerability assessment. ■

RECENT PUBLICATIONS



Natural Disaster Hotspots Case Studies (World Bank)

Edited by Margaret Arnold, Robert S. Chen, Uwe Deichmann, Maxx Dilley, Arthur L. Lerner-Lam

These case studies complement the earlier work of *Natural Disaster Hotspots: A Global Risk Analysis* published in April 2005. Three case studies address specific hazards: landslides, storm surges and drought. An additional three case studies address regional multi-hazard situations in Sri Lanka, the Tana River basin in Kenya, and the city of Caracas, Venezuela.



Disaster Insurance for the Poor? A review of microinsurance for natural disaster risks in developing countries (IIASA / ProVention)

By Reinhard Mechler and Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer with David Peppiatt

This study provides an in-depth review of microinsurance by analysing a range of case studies and examining the benefits and limitations of microinsurance. The results of the study show clear evidence of the value and potential of microinsurance in transferring risk and protecting low-income households and businesses against disaster losses.



ProVention Forum 2006 - Incentives For Reducing Risk, A reflection on key themes, issues and ideas on risk reduction raised at the 2006 ProVention Forum

By Mark Pelling, King's College, London

The 2006 ProVention Forum focused on the theme of 'Incentives for reducing risk'. The Forum was held in Bangkok and brought together more than 100 partners. The aim of this Forum report is to highlight the most innovative ideas, the greatest challenges and any emerging trends for disaster risk reduction that came out of the formal workshop discussions and more informal discussions between participants during the meeting.



Disaster prevention: a role for business? (Maplecroft / ProVention)

By Alyson Warhurst

This study was commissioned by the ProVention Consortium to examine the business case for reducing natural disaster risks in developing countries. The study explores a corporate social responsibility (CSR) perspective on disaster prevention and addresses, in particular, the potential for establishing partnerships between the private sector and the humanitarian system. It is intended to stimulate dialogue and help catalyse new ideas and collaborative initiatives involving the business community.



Real Risk (Tudor Rose)

REAL RISK is a fully illustrated 150-page book with over 50 authors relating their work in natural risk reduction at international, regional, national, municipal and local levels of activity. Their commentaries draw upon experiences around the world reflecting how people are living with natural and related environmental and technological risks, and making their own efforts to reduce their exposure to disasters. REAL RISK is intended to act as an updated companion publication to its larger predecessor KNOW RISK.

The publication includes 10 articles by grantees from the Applied Research Grants programme and a paper on microinsurance resulting from the ProVention-IIASA study.

ProVention publications are available for download at www.proventionconsortium.org/publications and also as a collection of publications and resources on a new ProVention CD-Rom.

PROVENTION PARTNER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ProVention News includes a profile of different partners of the Consortium. This edition focuses on ENDA RUP, a programme of the Dakar-based non-profit organisation Environment and Development Action in the Third World (ENDA-TM) and a key partner in the ProVention and UNDP supported AURAN initiative.



Enda Third World

Created in 1983 to promote innovation in sustainable development, ENDA's RUP programme on participatory urban development targets better village and city management in order to improve the conditions of deprived and vulnerable populations.

Following the Millenium Development Goals, aimed at reducing poverty by half by 2015 and ensuring that the most deprived benefit from fundamental rights (such as education for all and access to basic infrastructures such as drinkable water and adequate sanitation), RUP supports activities to identify alternative development models in the fields of poverty, disaster risk reduction and governance that strengthen the dialogue between civil society and local and governmental authorities. RUP targets three fields in particular:

- urban development and human settlement
- participatory processes at local, national, regional and international levels
- good city governance

Work Axes

RUP strives to support innovation in how service needs are being met in "peri-urban" areas, focusing on both methodology and technical tools. RUP's work programme includes activities in five main areas:

- Sanitation and research in urban agriculture
- Disaster risk prevention and management
- Promotion of political vision among community leaders through dialogue between civil society and local authorities
- Good governance and decentralisation
- Networks for brainstorming and knowledge-sharing among NGOs, community groups, and key decision-makers.

RUP supports programme activities both nationally in Senegal, such as the PADE (Urban Environment Sustainable Improvement Process) Programme, and regionally, in Burkina Faso and Cameroon in current programme initiatives.

Networking and partnerships

In addition to participating in the ProVention-supported AURAN initiative, RUP also serves as a focal point for French-speaking African countries in various networks including "Réseau de la Société Civile sur l'Eau en Afrique" (ANEW), "Réseau Habitat et Environnement Durable" (HSEN), "Réseau sur les évictions forcées" (AGFE), and "Observatoires de développement local" (OAVF).

Building on the partnership with ProVention in the AURAN initiative, ENDA has also started to develop a new programme to mainstream local disaster risk prevention practices and approaches into humanitarian and development agendas in Africa. This programme has the following objectives:

- To develop awareness-raising activities on disaster risk reduction and prevention among communities and decision-makers at all levels of society
- To promote cohesion among the different disaster risk reduction actors such as NGOs, community organisations, local researchers, and the media
- To create an electronic forum ("red-risques") and website for knowledge sharing
- To identify national and regional focal points and support lobbying of disaster risk prevention as a national priority.
- To strengthen capacities for information / awareness-raising and promote community networks of "animators" for disaster risk prevention.

RUP project activities are initiated as the result of social requests, expressed either by communities or local authorities or both. All the actions taken by RUP are oriented towards a common objective: implementing innovative processes for more concerted and effective city management. Further by using different entry points, RUP seeks to ensure that these activities are linked with one another – from their design to their realisation.

More information on ENDA RUP's activities can be found at http://rup.enda.sn/index_ang.html ■