



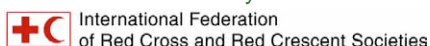
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The ProVention Consortium is a global partnership of governments, international organizations, academic institutions, the private sector and civil society organizations dedicated to increasing the safety of vulnerable communities and to reducing the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

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## ProVention dialogues in Trinidad & Tobago, Guatemala and Panama

On April 8-10, 2008, ProVention hosted its annual Forum in Panama. Held in a different region every year, this year's Forum focused on the theme of how to support bottom-up change related to disaster risk reduction (DRR). Three pre-Forum workshops on climate change adaptation, the role of women and indigenous groups, and a new generation of DRR champions provided a regional perspective that fed into the global Forum.



Forum participants explored the 'Dubaization' of Panama. The above pictures show the evolution of the Punta Pacifica area in Panama City between 2003 and 2008.  
*Photos: Alvaro Uribe.*

## Regional workshops

The organization of the three workshops was led by regional partners, and focused on a number of the sub-themes of the Panama Forum:

- ▶ **Climate Change Adaptation, Development and DRR** - February 19-20, 2008, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

The workshop, a joint initiative of ProVention and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, brought together 50 participants from civil society, national and local governments, academia, regional inter-governmental bodies, media and the private sector to work towards the development of a program of action for strengthening community resilience and local adaptive capacity in a changing Caribbean climate. A range of issues was discussed including future climate scenarios and their impact in the Caribbean related to the economy, food and water security, infrastructure, and health. The workshop highlighted efforts at grassroots, national and regional levels to prepare for climate change and DRR.



Participants at the Port of Spain workshop.  
*Photo: Michele Josling.*

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- ▶ **The role and power of women and indigenous groups in disaster risk management** - March 12-14, 2008, Antigua, Guatemala.



Grassroots women leaders sharing experiences in Antigua.  
Photo: Provention/IFRC.

This workshop was organized by GROOTS International with the support of Fundación Guatemala. It brought together more than 50 grassroots women leaders representing 25 community based, afro-descendent and indigenous organizations. Over the course of three days, women leaders explained how their communities cope with short and long-term impacts of floods, droughts, hurricanes, tropical storms, frosts, earthquakes, and severe environmental degradation and erosion of natural resources. The meeting provided a unique opportunity for regional networking and knowledge sharing, and advocated for increased representation of grassroots organizations in DRR policy in local, national, and regional decision-making.

- ▶ **Developing a new generation of DRR champions: la nueva generación de La Red** - April 6-7, 2008, Panama City, Panama.

The central idea of the “La Red” (Network for the Social Study of Disaster Prevention) meeting was to give voice to a new generation of DRR researchers and professionals from various Latin-American countries. Participants debated and evaluated the overall contribution of La Red to the evolution of the disaster risk research and management in the Americas over the last 15 years. New challenges for research and intervention were identified and formulated in a preliminary plan of action for the future. Thematic discussions revolved around urban risk, climate change adaptation, and participation of women and ethnic groups in risk reduction.

## Panama Forum

Building on the pre-Forum workshops, the Provention Forum 2008 was held in Panama City between April 8 and 10, 2008 and brought together 170 partners from around the world. The central theme of the Forum was *‘From Grassroots to Global: People-Centered Disaster Risk Reduction’*. Gustavo Wilches-Chaux, a Colombian author and founding member of La Red, opened the event with an inspiring keynote address. He identified the importance of culture as a resource to be preserved through risk reduction, and also as a lens that affects the way that individuals and societies perceive risk and vulnerability.

Forum sessions looked at different ways to promote people-centered DRR approaches. A group debated how local perspectives can be integrated more effectively in global and national policy making on disaster and climate risk. Another focused on ways to build upon women’s skills and indigenous knowledge when developing DRR strategies. A Film Festival showcased short videos on community based disaster risk management developed by Provention and partners, and generated discussion on the use of participatory video to directly engage communities in awareness raising and risk assessment. Issues of scale and sustainability of civil society DRR initiatives, as well as different ways to engage young people in the DRR debate were also explored. Another session discussed the role of Public Private Partnerships in bringing together different sets of stakeholders to address resource and economic gaps affecting risk reduction decision-making. Presentations of Provention partner and project initiatives and informal events also raised substantial interest and opportunities for networking.

A key feature of the Forum was an “Urban Risk Charrette” (an intensive workshop tool used in city planning), which engaged participants in field visits throughout Panama City and workshops for developing solutions to urban risks. Through these field visits and case studies, participants developed stronger real-world links between international, national, and local practitioners, looking at risks of fires, floods, and urban violence in informal settlements, as well as risks emerging from what has been called the ‘Dubaiization’ of Panama – the dense construction of high-rise buildings.

The first lady of Panama closed the Forum with an address that brought together the core themes of people centered disaster risk reduction and highlighted the need for a commitment to local priorities.

For a copy of the Forum report, presentations and workshop papers, as well as videos from the pre-Forum workshops, please visit: [www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=85](http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=85).



## Provention at the IDRC in Davos

The third annual International Disaster and Risk Conference (IDRC) will unfold in Davos, Switzerland August 25-29, 2008. Provention is working with a number of partners to contribute to the event through several activities, including:

### Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of Disaster Risk Management

This two-day workshop organized by Provention, the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group (IEG), and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) will gather about 80 evaluators, disaster risk management (DRM) experts, and policymakers to assess developments and identify lessons from M&E efforts in the field of disaster risk management. The workshop is a follow-up event to a 2006 conference on *Disaster Risk Management: Taking Lessons from Evaluation* which was organized in Paris by IEG, the CEB and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). That conference was the first time ever that evaluators joined together to discuss the evaluation of natural disaster risk management. The event developed key messages for policymakers to ensure that recommendations emerging from evaluation are adopted, and identified future areas of cooperation for conference participants. One recommendation from the 2006 event was to organize a follow-up forum in two to three years time to continue the dialogue on evaluation results and disaster risk management. The M&E workshop at the IDRC therefore aims to:

- ▶ gather evaluation and disaster risk management professionals to network and share experience on monitoring and evaluation for disaster risk reduction;
- ▶ promote a network of M&E for DRR professionals for continued sharing of learning of perspectives;
- ▶ assess progress and developments in the field of M&E for DRR since the 2006 Paris conference; and,
- ▶ identify further actions for collaboration by the group.

The workshop will be a closed event by invitation only, and the outcome will be reported back to the plenary session of the IDRC on Integral Risk Management, which takes place on Thursday, August 28, 2008.

### Adapting to Climate Change through Disaster Risk Management: Exploring the Costs and Benefits of DRR

This special session, organized by Provention, ISET, and IIASA, will present current research being conducted by ISET and IIASA with regional partners from South Asia on the costs and benefits of flood and drought disaster reduction at present and under projected climate change scenarios. An open discussion with participants will follow. The core objectives are: (1) to highlight many of the very tangible issues that tend to be glossed over when DRR strategies are advocated as part of climate adaptation; (2) to evaluate the role economic analyses, including cost-benefit analysis can play in the evaluation and decision-making of alternative strategies; and (3) to move discussions on DRR and Climate Adaptation away from broad generalities and toward the types of location and context specific factors that influence their effectiveness and policy relevance.

### Harmonization of Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

Provention is leading the organization of one of three special sessions on this topic with Sahba Chauhan from Oxfam Hong Kong and the Harbin Alliance. The session on *Good practices in community based climate risk management* will showcase good practices and learning from integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction programs. In both adaptation and disaster risk reduction, there is an implicit acknowledgement that risk is part of everyday life, and thus social development plays a vital role. However, although adaptation and disaster risk reduction both focus on society-risk dynamics, they do so through different actors and with different time horizons, policy frameworks and patterns in mind. The Harbin Alliance is a worldwide partnership of NGOs, UN, research organizations, and intergovernmental bodies committed to harmonization of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Its members, which include Provention, are joining forces to examine the relationship between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, in order to create stronger synergies between the two approaches and advance knowledge and action on an area that is currently unclear for both communities of practice.

Provention will also have an information booth in the IDRC exhibition hall to disseminate information on our activities and those of our partners. Please stop by to see us!

For more information on any of these activities, please contact [provention@ifrc.org](mailto:provention@ifrc.org).



## The Oslo Policy Forum – Changing the Way We Develop: Dealing with Disasters and Climate Change

Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is jeopardized by current levels of disaster risk. Climate change is a major contributing factor in increased phenomena such as heatwaves, floods, droughts, the intensity of tropical cyclones, and higher sea levels. Vulnerability to these hazards is also increasing, due to continuing poverty and social vulnerability, poorly planned urbanization, environmental degradation, and population growth. Despite mitigation efforts, certain levels of climate change due to the greenhouse gases already emitted are inevitable. Climate change adaptation is therefore not an option but a requirement. These impacts fall disproportionately on developing countries and in particular the poorest. Nonetheless, the development process in many countries is not reducing vulnerability to natural hazards. In fact, in many cases new forms of vulnerability are emerging, impeding efforts to reduce poverty and promote growth.



People repair a fence damaged by Cyclone Nargis on a road near Yangon, May 2008.  
Photo: REUTERS/Stringer.

The Oslo Policy Forum, which was held February 27-29, 2008, was organized by the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Provention Consortium and UNDP as a platform for high level government and agency representatives to discuss how they address the challenges surrounding the political economy of disaster risk reduction, and to explore what constitutes an enabling environment for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development practice. Practical country experience was also shared regarding the processes as well as the successes and

challenges related to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction. The host of the conference was the Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jonas Gahr Støre, who highlighted Norway's commitment to bring together DRR, climate change adaptation and conflict management. Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Colombia University and Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General, stressed the need for the climate and development agendas to come together in order to obtain an agreement at COP-15 in Copenhagen, as a failure to follow through on aid commitments would prevent any agreement in Copenhagen.

The main objective of the event was to exchange experience, and as a result obtain a greater understanding of progress and challenges in:

- ▶ mainstreaming DRR together with efforts to address climate change within international development organizations;
- ▶ promoting DRR mainstreaming within development programs, with a particular focus on promoting mainstreaming in developing country governments/ systems;
- ▶ establishing a fruitful dialogue among the different actors promoting DRR and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The main target audience of the event was international development organizations, including bilateral donors, international financial institutions, research institutions, UN agencies and representatives of governments in the South, which are considering or are in the process of integrating disaster risk reduction and climate risk management into their programming. Representatives were invited from beyond the "disaster" units of the invited organizations in order to look at how disaster risk reduction is being integrated into specific areas of development; and to explore linkages with the development, climate change adaptation, and humanitarian assistance communities.

Additional information on the forum, including the full agenda, list of participants and background documents can be found at: [www.oslopolicyforum.no](http://www.oslopolicyforum.no).

## IFI trainings in Asia and the Americas

Flawed development practices and processes are often at the heart of disaster risk and therefore risk reduction measures are most effective when integrated into the development. Hence, a central concern for Provention is to expose and address natural hazard risk within the development context and ensure that development policies, projects and programs, particularly in high-risk countries, do not unwittingly create new forms of vulnerability. A set of 14 guidance notes entitled *Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction:*

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*Guidance Notes for Development Organisations*” was published in English and Bahasa Indonesia in 2007, and is currently being translated into Arabic, French and Spanish. Several partners have started to use and adapt the guidance notes to their particular institutional context and needs. In addition, a web-based Monitoring and Evaluation Sourcebook was also developed and posted on the ProVention website.

The Consortium is also providing support to IFI partners for the development of disaster risk management (DRM) training programs. A first workshop was organized with the South Asia and the East Asia and Pacific regions of the World Bank in Bangkok, Thailand April 28-30, 2008. Over 40 Bank staff participated from country offices in Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. In addition, representatives from AusAid and the regional Bangkok office of UN-ISDR were also present. Salient issues identified during the workshop will serve to advance the risk management agenda in both regions. This workshop also provided participants a forum to share experiences and lessons, and provide feedback to colleagues in their respective units and country offices on how task teams can engage client governments in a dialogue on strengthening disaster risk management policies and capacities, and on adapting these to increasing threats resulting from climate change. ProVention also provided technical assistance for a second World Bank training event in Bangkok on a forthcoming toolkit for the integration of DRM into community driven development projects and social investment funds, which gathered 70 participants from governments, international agencies and the World Bank.



Participants at the Bangkok training, April 2008.  
Photo: ProVention/IFRC.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is developing a DRM training program for its own staff with ProVention's help. The program consists of a series of learning modules aimed at different audiences within the IDB. The courses aim to increase awareness among staff of IDB's disaster risk management agenda, and to enhance knowledge and skills among technical staff in the application of guidelines for the routine incorporation of disaster management in country programming, project preparation and post-disaster response. The first two-hour sensitization module on “Natural Hazards, Vulnerability and Disaster Risk Management in Latin America and the Caribbean” was delivered on July 8, 2008 in Washington DC. It was designed to increase general awareness among staff of the significance of DRM in the context of the IDB's risk management and development effectiveness framework. The two training sessions gathered about 60 participants in Washington DC as well as staff from country offices (by video) in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Uruguay, and Venezuela. ■

## Catastrophe insurance in Bulgaria: Key challenges and opportunities

On May 27, 2008 the World Bank, the Bulgarian Catastrophe Insurance Initiative (BCII), and the Bulgarian government hosted a workshop in Sofia to explore potential catastrophe insurance solutions for Bulgaria.

The workshop was the culminating activity in a ProVention sponsored project exploring the feasibility of a catastrophe insurance pool for Bulgaria. Locally the project was led by BCII which is an NGO formed in 2007 with representatives of the Bulgarian private insurance industry, academia, construction industry, and disaster risk reduction specialists, for the purpose of promoting more effective risk management and risk financing at the national level.

Striving to further broaden the dialogue between the government and the insurance industry on modalities for a catastrophe insurance pool in Bulgaria, the workshop included representatives from the Bulgarian government, various insurance companies, academic institutes, and the media. Florian Fichtl, World Bank Country Manager in Bulgaria, and Margaret Arnold from the ProVention Secretariat gave opening remarks at the workshop and highlighted the need for effective disaster risk management for sustainable development. Chaired by Eugene Gurenko from the World Bank, the workshop then introduced the main pros and cons for the creation of a national catastrophe pool, compared lessons from similar efforts in other countries, reviewed preliminary actuarial pricing models for earthquake risk developed in the project, and examined various options that have been put forth for the development of such a scheme by the World Bank, BCII, and Allianz.

The event received significant press coverage and was quite successful in further raising the issue of insurance coverage on the national agenda.

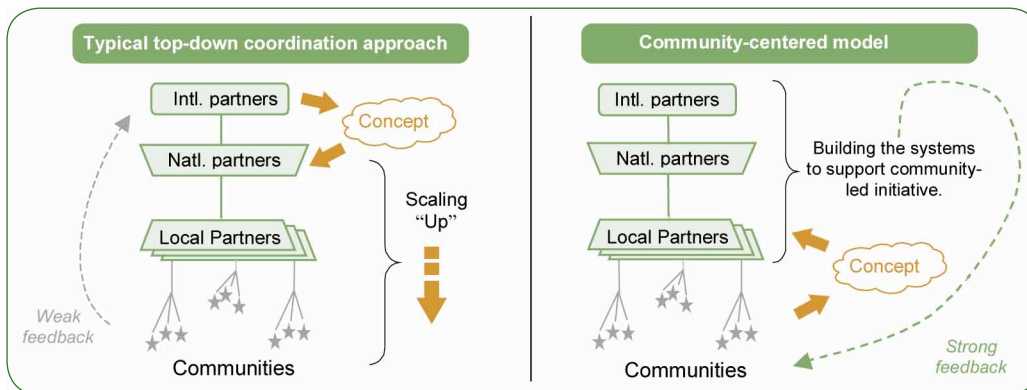
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Building on the experience from the Turkish Catastrophe Insurance Pool (TCIP), it is hoped that this project will serve as a learning platform for developing a model of assistance to catastrophe risk transfer programs potentially applicable in other disaster prone countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines and countries of South Eastern Europe.

A full report from the project and workshop will be published later this year by the World Bank. In the meantime copies of the presentations at the workshop are available on the Provention website at [www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=32&projectid=31](http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=32&projectid=31).

## Community Disaster Resilience Fund



Community centered grant model of the CDRF.

Since the Global Platform meeting in June 2007, Provention has been exploring the establishment of a Community Disaster Resilience Fund (CDRF) to provide small grants for strengthening community-led disaster risk reduction. The focus of the CDRF will be on seeding successful models for disaster risk reduction and scaling them up to promote safer communities.

The CDRF will also provide a mechanism for donors to provide significant support to community-level action on risk reduction in a way that complements the traditional programming activities of NGOs, governments, and international organizations.

The CDRF is planned as a broad multi-partner initiative, involving a variety of civil society, governmental, and private sector partners in program advisory, project selection and implementation roles. Initial planning and development of the concept has been led by Provention, GROOTS, and the Huairou Commission.

A field test of the CDRF is currently being initiated by GROOTS and the National Alliance of DRR NGOs in India. A further test with the Red Cross is planned later in the year. In addition the Provention Consortium is initiating a series of further feasibility studies to analyze the “trickle-down” of existing international resources to community actors and to test donor interest.

## Urban risk activities

Provention has been working to strengthen its reach to urban risk actors, especially local governments and civil society organizations, on a number of related fronts:

- ▶ As mentioned in the article on the Provention Forum on page 2 of this newsletter, urban risk was the theme for the charrette workshop at the Panama Forum in April 2008 and a number of local governments participated in the Forum.
- ▶ Provention has supported the initiation of a Partnership for Urban Risk Reduction (PURR) with UCLG, ICLEI, Metropolis, CITYNET, and EMI and development of an

initiative for Local Action on Disaster Risk Reduction. This initiative is intended to provide a base for 1) launching global awareness campaigns about disaster risk and local action for disaster risk reduction, 2) building capacity at the local level to foresee and manage risks, and 3) developing a global framework for local authorities and their partners to build and promote a sustainable strategy for disaster risk reduction. Read more about PURR and the Local Action on Disaster Risk Reduction initiative at [www.emi-megacities.org/purr/index.html](http://www.emi-megacities.org/purr/index.html).

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- ▶ ProVention also recently participated in a workshop organized by UN-ISDR and the Catalan Regional Government on the development of an alliance of local governments. The presentations and results from this workshop are available on Prevention Web at [www.unisdr.org/eng/partner-netw/local-government/local-government.html](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/partner-netw/local-government/local-government.html).
- ▶ ProVention is working with a variety of partners to plan activities for the World Urban Forum to be held in Nanjing, China in October 2008. UN Habitat, UNDP, the Huairou Commission, and ProVention are jointly planning a pre-forum workshop on urban risk reduction that will take place in Bangkok, Thailand the week before the World Urban Forum. ProVention is also working with the African Urban Risk Analysis Network (AURAN) to launch a new AURAN publication with Earthscan, "Disaster Risk Reduction: cases from urban Africa" in Nanjing and to organize a meeting of African mayors on urban risk. More information about the World Urban Forum is available on the UN Habitat website at [www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=535](http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=535). ■

## Local Government Network profiles

**UCLG** – United Cities and Local Governments arose from the merger of two previous networks, IULA and UTO, and is focused on promoting strong, effective democratic local self-government throughout the world. UCLG has members in 136 countries, including over 1000 local governments and most Local Government Associations in the world. [www.cities-localgovernments.org/uclg/index.asp](http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/uclg/index.asp)

**Metropolis** – The World Association of Major Metropolises promotes international cooperation and exchange among its membership of 90 metropolitan cities, each with more than 1 million inhabitants. [www.metropolis.org](http://www.metropolis.org)

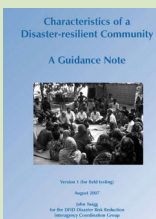
**ICLEI** – ICLEI is an international association of more than 815 local governments and their associations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. [www.iclei.org](http://www.iclei.org)

**CITYNET** – CITYNET is a regional network of local authorities for the management of human settlements with 107 members in Asia-Pacific, including city governments and NGOs. [www.citynet-ap.org](http://www.citynet-ap.org)

**EMI** – The Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative has a membership of 20 of the largest cities in world and academic and professional institutions and focuses on the delivery of scientific and technical knowledge to local government officials, policymakers, and disaster management personnel. [www.emi-megacities.org](http://www.emi-megacities.org)

## New web resources

### New webpage on "Characteristics of a Disaster Resilient Community"



The development of the "Characteristics of a Disaster-Resilient Community" was commissioned by a group of six agencies – ActionAid, Christian Aid, Plan UK, Practical Action and Tearfund, together with the British Red Cross/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, with

support from the UK Department for International Development (DFID). These agencies, when discussing how to monitor the success of the implementation of the HFA at the local level, found that there existed no effective tools or methods to measure its impact at the community level.

Following a meeting in November 2006, John Twigg and a support team were commissioned to identify basic characteristics of community resilience. A first version of the

Characteristics of a Disaster Resilient Community guidance note was completed in August 2007. Agencies were invited to field test the methodology and share their individual experiences with others. ProVention was approached to host a webpage where the Characteristics resources could be posted and examples of the field testing could be documented.

This webpage ([www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=90](http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=90)) contains the English, Spanish and Bahasa Indonesia versions of the Characteristics Guidance Note, other project outputs (such as powerpoint presentations on the Characteristics), and a number of case studies from Asia and Africa. For further information on the project, questions about the 'Characteristics' and advice on field testing, contact: Dr John Twigg, Benfield UCL Hazard Research Centre, University College London, [j.twigg@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:j.twigg@ucl.ac.uk).

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## DRR and climate change adaptation harmonization portal

The disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation communities are placing greater effort on learning from each other and collaborating conceptually, practically and in the field of policy development. A new ProVention “harmonization” portal aims at documenting this dialogue and provides an overview of the key websites and resources which relate to these integration efforts.

Intended users of the portal are disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation actors who want to explore linkages between both fields in their policy and programs. These actors include governmental agencies at national and local level, inter-governmental agencies, international NGOs and their partner organizations, researchers and community based organizations active in developmental, environmental and/or humanitarian work.

The portal contains information on key actors, conferences and workshops, publications, country case studies, academic courses, discussion forums and audiovisual material and can be accessed from: [www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=95](http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=95).

## ProVention YouTube Channel



The film “Dean’s Domino Effect”, as well as a collection of community-based DRR videos from partner NGOs, are available on ProVention’s YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/ProVention](http://www.youtube.com/ProVention).

Visual media are some of the most powerful communications tools in today’s world. The potential application of visual media in fostering disaster risk reduction efforts has increasingly been recognized by ProVention and its partners. In March a ProVention YouTube Channel ([www.youtube.com/user/ProVention](http://www.youtube.com/user/ProVention)) was set up. The channel serves several purposes: it provides an overview of video material which has been developed with ProVention support (such as “Dean’s Domino Effect” and the interagency video “Local Voices, Global Choices”), it contains a visual impression of ProVention workshops (such as the workshops that took place in the lead up to the ProVention 2008 Forum) and serves as a platform for video material on specific topics developed by ProVention partners. A first initiative in this respect is the creation of a database of video material on community based disaster risk management, which contains around 40 videos from 15 NGOs involved in disaster risk management. Finally, ProVention also plans to post brief video interviews of key DRR experts and practitioners on strategic topics in the current DRR debate. ■

## Publications

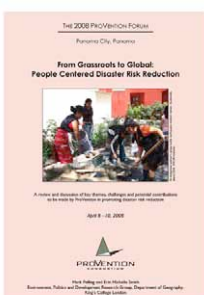


### Responding to earthquakes 2008 - Learning from earthquake relief and recovery operations

Published by ALNAP and the ProVention Consortium

Languages: English and Chinese

This briefing paper provides a distillation of learning from thirty years of response to earthquakes, looking at preparedness, relief and recovery. The paper is intended for operational decision-makers and program managers working relief and recovery efforts after earthquakes. [[Download document](#)]



### Provention Forum 2008 - From Grassroots to Global: People Centered Disaster Risk Reduction

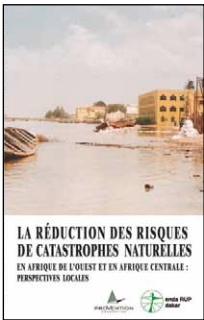
By Mark Pelling and Erin Michelle Smith, King’s College London, published by the ProVention Consortium

Languages: English

The 2008 ProVention Forum was held in Panama City between April 8 and 10, 2008 and brought together 170 partners. The ProVention Forum is designed to allow free talking and frank exchange of ideas, challenges and innovation on disaster risk reduction. The aim of this forum report is to record the energy, ideas and views resulting from discussions and presentations in the formal sessions and also in the corridors of the event. [[Download document](#)]

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**Disaster risk reduction in West and Central Africa / La réduction des risques de catastrophes naturelles en Afrique de l'Ouest et en Afrique Centrale**

*Published by ENDA Tiers-Monde and the ProVention Consortium*

*Languages: French and English*

The purpose of this bilingual publication, conceived within the framework of the partnership between the Relay for Participatory Urban Development – Third World Environment and Development (ENDA RUP, an NGO based in Senegal) and the ProVention Consortium, is to promote DRR initiatives undertaken by the international community and the programs and projects implemented in West and Central African countries to strengthen capacities to deal with floods, desertification, coastal erosion and desert locust plagues. [[Download document](#)]



**The Oslo Policy Forum on Changing the Way We Develop: Dealing with Disasters and Climate Change**

*By Ian Christoplos, published by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNDP and the ProVention Consortium*

*Language: English*

This report summarizes the discussions and conclusions of the Oslo Policy Forum on Changing the Way We Develop: Dealing with Disasters and Climate Change, held February 27-29, 2008 in Oslo. Additional information on the Forum, including the full agenda, list of participants and background documents can be found at: [www.oslopolicyforum.no](http://www.oslopolicyforum.no). [[Download document](#)]



**Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation, Development and Disaster Risk Reduction - Strengthening Community Resilience in the Caribbean Region**

*Published by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies / the ProVention Consortium*

*Language: English*

In February 2008, the ProVention Consortium and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' Regional Caribbean Office hosted a workshop on Climate Change Adaptation, Development and Disaster Risk Reduction in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The workshop brought together 50 participants from civil society, national and local governments, academia, regional inter-governmental bodies, media and the private sector in order to work towards the development of a Program of Action for strengthening community resilience and local adaptive capacity in a changing Caribbean climate. [[Download document](#)]



**ProVention annual report 2007**

*Published by the ProVention Consortium*

*Language: English*

Spurred by tragic catastrophes, active lobbying, and global attention garnered by the issue of climate change, the disaster risk reduction agenda continues to build momentum. The ProVention Consortium made significant contributions to the DRR agenda in 2007, supporting critical research studies and evaluations, developing new risk reduction tools, and organizing workshops and other forums to extend the risk reduction dialogue. [[Download document](#)]



**Flood disasters: Learning from previous relief and recovery operations**

*By Khurshid Alam, published by ALNAP and the ProVention Consortium*

*Language: English*

This briefing paper synthesizes key lessons from evaluations of relief and recovery/humanitarian response to flooding in the last 20 years from Africa, Asia and the Americas. The paper is intended for people working in relief and recovery operations for floods – those who have to decide if, when and how to intervene. The paper covers lessons for key topics which may be relevant in various ways and at different times for flood preparedness, relief and recovery. [[Download document](#)]

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