

# ProVention's links within the international disaster risk reduction system

Effective risk reduction requires multi-faceted solutions drawn across the mandates and boundaries of the different organisations contributing towards the broader international disaster risk reduction system. Since 2000, ProVention has sought to provide an informal forum for dialogue among diverse partners and to both drive and ground the debate with focused initiatives to establish the evidence base for effective risk reduction measures.

At the same time ProVention also seeks to strengthen the roles and capacities of its partners and other organisations in promoting and sustaining attention and action to disaster risk reduction. Looking to support the growth of system-wide capacities and mechanisms, ProVention has worked to engage proactively with a number of initiatives under way to strengthen key aspects of the international disaster risk reduction system.

*The UN/ISDR 2006–2007 World Disaster Reduction Campaign focuses on disaster risk education and safer schools.*



Eliita Jafar/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## UN/ISDR system

ProVention, and many of its partner organisations, are active participants in the UN/ISDR system and strong supporters of the commitments embodied in the Hyogo Framework for Action. At a strategic level, ProVention's goals and objectives harmonise with those of UN/ISDR, sharing a common purpose to reduce the human, social, economic and environmental losses due to natural hazards.

The activities, outputs and outcomes of the ProVention Consortium work programme are intended to benefit the ISDR system directly and contribute to realising UN/ISDR's mission and objectives and the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. To this end, ProVention has crafted its Strategic Work Plan and reports on its work programme of activities to indicate the expected outputs and outcomes of the Consortium towards the implementation of the Hyogo Framework (see overview on next page).

At an institutional level, ProVention participated as a member of the Reference Group for the UN/ISDR Programme Advisory Committee that was charged with drafting and outlining the newly reformed architecture of the global ISDR system. ProVention also helped plan several stakeholder and thematic platforms evolving within the Global Platform that will be hosted by UN/ISDR, including the education platform, the NGO platform (initiated in November 2006), a potential research and universities platform and the ongoing planning for a Business Alliance.

## Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) was established in 2006 as a major new initiative of the World Bank in support of the Hyogo Framework for Action. ProVention welcomed this project to prioritise support for global and regional initiatives, strengthen funding mechanisms to country-level risk reduction programmes and increase the attention and funding to risk reduction in the context of post-disaster recovery programmes.

The GFDRR's first track, in particular, parallels many areas in which ProVention is already active. This track will be coordinated by UN/ISDR and will focus on global and regional efforts in the field of advocacy, partnerships and knowledge management as well as standardisation of hazard risk management tools, methodologies and practices. In preliminary discussions with the GFDRR and UN/ISDR, ProVention highlighted the Consortium's past achievements and ongoing initiatives in areas prioritised by GFDRR, including mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development planning, insurance, tools and methodology development, risk assessment, partnerships with private sector and universities, etc. Looking forward to 2007 and beyond, ProVention will continue to work in close consultation and coordination with UN/ISDR and other stakeholders in the GFDRR to outline common objectives and collaborate in programming initiatives.

1

Ensure risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

**Key components:**

- Strengthening national institutional and legislative frameworks.
- Developing *resources* for risk management policies and programmes.
- Promoting community participation.

2

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.

**Key components:**

- Strengthening national and local risk assessments.
- Establishing institutional and community capacities for effective *early warning*.
- Developing capacities for effective data collection and hazard analysis.
- Cooperation for analysing *regional and emerging risks*.

3

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.

**Key components:**

- Strengthening mechanisms for *information management and exchange*.
- Promoting risk reduction in school and community *education*.
- Research on cost–benefit analysis for risk reduction.
- *Public awareness* to engage media and community interest.

4

Reduce underlying risk factors.

**Key components:**

- Integrating environmental and natural resource management with risk reduction.
- Strengthening safety-nets by improving *social and economic development practices*.
- Incorporating risk management into land use planning and other measures.

5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

**Key components:**

- Strengthening *institutional capacities* and learning.
- Strengthening contingency and preparedness planning.
- Promoting community participation.

Mainstreaming risk reduction into development policy decision-making and planning:

- Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction project including risk assessment and risk reduction measures in development tools and practices.
- Link to UNDP–UN/ISDR Global Mainstreaming Project.
- AURAN project and EMI Disaster Risk Management in Megacities project for urban plan applications (ProVention–UNDP).
- Dialogue with key partners in the IFIs and private sector.

Addressing challenges of risk identification and analysis:

**Global data sets**

- Global Risk Identification Programme (ProVention–UNDP).

**Community risk assessment**

- Community mitigation pilot in Americas by OAS and IFRC.
- CRA Toolkit.
- Dialogue with UNDP and Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Change Centre to integrate climate change factors into community risk trend analysis.
- Guidance on risk reduction indicators within TRIAMS initiative.

Incorporating knowledge sharing and expansion of research and learning into all activities to forge partnerships, promote key policies and encourage innovative practice:

- Highlighting activities of Consortium partners on the ProVention website and in updates through the *ProVention News e-zine*.
- Regional forums for the ProVention Applied Research Grants Programme, the regional AURAN network and an evolving community of practice on community risk assessment.

Catalysing new ideas and approaches in risk reduction:

- Initiatives in risk transfer/microinsurance, community risk assessment and action planning and integration of risk reduction into development planning at all levels.
- The Applied Research Grants Programme supporting young researchers in exploring new areas of risk analysis and practice.
- Dialogue with corporate sector to promote disaster risk management on corporate social responsibility agenda.

Supporting long-term learning in risk preparedness and planning:

- Community-oriented disaster activities, including local-level preparedness through ProVention's partnership with IFRC.
- IFRC–OAS partnership in Central America in community participation and action learning through community-based vulnerability and capacity assessment.