



ANNUAL REPORT 2012

FOREWORD

At first glance, 2012 was a year which proved that we are making progress on building a culture of resilience. The annual death toll for major reported disasters was just over 9,000 – less than 10% of the ten-year average – which supports the case UNISDR has been making that deaths from weather-related events are on the decline worldwide despite increased exposure.

Even if the numbers of people affected by major reported disasters were down significantly in 2012, no region was spared. The knock-on effects of some of these disasters will be felt by households, communities and governments for years to come. Major drought gripped important agricultural regions across the world during the summer of 2012, including eastern Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, central North America, northern Brazil, New Zealand and parts of China. The drought in the USA is causing more economic losses than Superstorm Sandy. Heat waves sparked wildfires in Australia, while parts of West Africa, the Sahel and southern China suffered serious flooding.

So while the death toll was down for the third consecutive year, the world has experienced direct economic losses surpassing \$100 billion, largely triggered by the “storm of the century” Superstorm Sandy, which hit both the United States and the Caribbean. Thanks to a new global risk model under development by UNISDR and partners, and the increasing number of national disaster loss databases, we know that worldwide economic losses from smaller recurring events were also very significant. While financial losses in middle income and least developed countries may not contribute hugely to insured losses, their impact on national GDP is significant and reverses gains in poverty reduction and economic development.

Disasters are the manifestation of ongoing processes of risk building. Many millions of people experience the “smaller”, almost routine disasters that extensive risk generates. More people and assets are located in areas of high risk. Rapid urbanization is magnifying this exposure to disaster risk. Climate change is accelerating the pace and intensity of extreme weather events.



As you will see from the “Highlights”, it has been an eventful year during which UNISDR has made significant progress hand-in-hand with our many partners. These include national governments, local governments, parliamentarians, mayors, community and business leaders, scientists and other academics. Then there are the international organizations, the UN system, regional organizations, the World Bank and Regional Development Banks, and a diverse range of stakeholders representing women’s interests, people living with disability, children, the elderly, the media... and many more, proving the point that disaster risk reduction is indeed everybody’s business.

In 2012, on the second anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, UNISDR launched the consultations on the content and direction of the post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (“HFA2”). This means that the forthcoming Global Platform is of special significance; it will be an opportunity to take stock of progress in HFA implementation over the last seven years and to assess the challenges going forward. We will continue to focus on the HFA priorities for action while also identifying areas that need greater focus. The intention is to have a draft “HFA2” ready for agreement at the next World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015.

I would like to extend a special word of thanks to our donors, many of whom support us not just with funding, but through their policy and programmatic engagement on disaster risk reduction and resilience. Last but not least, I thank my colleagues at UNISDR for their hard work and tireless commitment to the work of building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters.

Margareta Wahlström,
Special Representative of the Secretary-General
for Disaster Risk Reduction

Acknowledgements

UNISDR wishes to acknowledge the contributions of its committed staff at headquarters and in the field in the preparation of this publication.

Project Coordinator: Gillian Holmes, UNISDR

Author: Hein Marais

Co-Author and Editor: Irina Zodrow, UNISDR

Production: Sarah Landelle, UNISDR

Layout: Neil Menzies

For additional information, please contact:

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

9-11 Rue de Varembé, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 917 89 08

Rights and permissions

The material in this publication is copyrighted. No use of this publication may be made for resale or other commercial purposes without prior written consent of UNISDR. All images remain the sole property of the quoted sources and may not be used for any purpose without written permission from the relevant sources.

For permission to make available online, distribute or reprint any part of this work please contact UNISDR, headquarters at: isdr@un.org

UNISDR/GE/2013/4 – ICLUX – V1 – 1,000

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	4
2012 Highlights.....	5
UNISDR: Who we are and what we do	9
Delivering against the UNISDR Strategic Objectives 2012–2015	11
<i>Lead and coordinate</i>	12
<i>Credible evidence</i>	22
<i>Advocacy and outreach</i>	26
<i>Deliver and communicate results</i>	35
Financial Information	39
Statement of Income and Expenditure 2012	42
Annex 1: Mid-term Outcome Report 2012.....	43
Annex 2: List of 2012 Publications	50
Annex 3: Acronyms and Abbreviations	51



In Guatemala, scrap tyres are used to reinforce erosion-vulnerable roads and embankments. This low-cost risk reduction measure not only protects local infrastructure investments from erosion, but also contributes to solid waste management through reuse and recycling (Photo: UNISDR/Margarita Villalobos).

INTRODUCTION

UNISDR's 2012 Annual Report provides an update on progress midway through the 2012–2013 biennium. In Section 2, 2012 Highlights, UNISDR has selected 7 areas of significant achievement to highlight how UNISDR has contributed to political change, working with new partners ensuring a broad spectrum of actors are committed to reducing disaster risk and shaping the policy dialogue and resulting action to build resilience. Section 3, Who we are and what we do, explains UNISDR in organizational terms and how it works to convince and connect, generate knowledge, advocate and mobilize action. Structured according to UNISDR's Strategic Framework 2012–2015, Section 4 and Annex 1 report in more detail on UNISDR's results and the impact of its activities in countries and communities around the world during 2012. The reporting follows the order of the four strategic objectives, the outcomes, outputs and indicators. The progress made in 2012, along with UNISDR's commitment to strengthened management, provide evidence that UNISDR's vision of a world which acts decisively on the social, political and economic need to reduce disaster risk is within reach.

2012 HIGHLIGHTS

2012 was an important year for disaster risk reduction and for UNISDR. Every region and every country experienced its share of natural disasters – and for the first time disaster risk reduction was recognized unambiguously as an essential element for sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Reducing disaster risk for sustainable development

It was a breakthrough year for addressing the interplay between disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June, disaster risk management was embedded in the outcome document, “The Future We Want”, as an imperative for sustainable development. It included an emphatic endorsement of the need to incorporate the reduction of disaster risk into sustainable development frameworks. “We call for disaster risk reduction and building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and, as appropriate, to be integrated into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and considered within relevant future frameworks”, the Outcome Document declared. This recognition has opened the door to new opportunities and intergovernmental processes to connect disaster risk reduction with sustainable development initiatives.

This result was evidence of the advocacy efforts of UNISDR and its partners in the years before the Conference. Rio+20 was preceded by strong advocacy efforts by the newly created Friends of Disaster Risk Reduction Group, led by the Governments of Australia, Indonesia, Norway and Peru, for the Conference outcome document to include “language that recognizes disaster risk reduction as fundamental to achieving sustainable development and places it at the heart of the future development agenda.”

There was general support also for the interpretation of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development at the second UN General Assembly Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction. The significance of recognizing disaster risk reduction

as a high value cross-cutting activity, which is essential to the achievement of poverty reduction and sustainable development, was further underscored at the 2012 Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in October 2012. At the opening, H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, Global Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction and Co-Chair of the UN High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2012 Sustainable Development Agenda, said: “The Panel viewed that natural disasters and other crises could push millions of people back into poverty. The Panel also underlined that we must safeguard the MDG gains from setbacks caused by natural disasters and climate change”.

Getting serious about the economics of disasters

UNISDR’s advocacy for greater investment to reduce disaster risk got a further boost when its collaboration with the Mexican Presidency of the Group of 20 (G20), and the World Bank, led to an important move by G20 leaders at the Los Cabos Summit in June. They put the disaster risk management agenda under the remit of Finance Ministers and Governors of Central Banks, and instructed them to develop disaster risk reduction tools and strategies to help prevent disasters, protect populations and assets, and manage their financial and economic impacts. UNISDR collaborated with the OECD to produce a key deliverable from this initiative, the G20/OECD Methodological Framework on Disaster Risk Assessment and Risk Financing.¹

The call reflected a growing sense of urgency, and built on the commitment to increase financing for disaster risk reduction from development budgets (national and international), which had been made at the fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Republic of Korea², at the end of 2011. Soon afterwards, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and

1 OECD. Disaster Risk Assessment and Risk Financing: A G20/OECD Methodological Framework. Paris: OECD; 2012.

2 The text on risk reduction and resilience included an explicit call for additional resources to ensure that “development strategies and programmes prioritize the building of resilience among people and societies at risk from shocks”, while noting that “Investing in resilience and risk reduction increases the value and sustainability of our development efforts”.

Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) adopted a dedicated programme of work on disaster risk and resilience as part of development cooperation.

UNISDR and the European Commission's Directorate for Development and Cooperation in 2012 also launched a three-year initiative to support up to 40 countries in risk-proofing their public investments entitled, "Building capacities for increased public investment in integrated climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction: 2013–2015". The year one objective includes beneficiary selection and the creation of 13–15 disaster loss databases in 3 regions, 10–12 national risk assessments and generation of materials to be used in six countries to mainstream disaster risk reduction into public investment, land use planning and climate change adaptation.

Private sector breakthrough

Working with its Private Sector Advisory Group, UNISDR stepped up its efforts to galvanize a global network of private sector companies to safeguard their businesses and investments against disasters. A growing global network of private sector entities active in finance, insurance, building engineering, technology, and consulting sectors took shape in 2012 around a common interest in building disaster resilience. The network now includes 450 companies operating around the world.

In Asia and the Pacific, 30 chief executive officers from leading corporations met in Manila in October 2012 to discuss mechanisms to protect their businesses from disasters, while over 100 companies participated in a simulation exercise organized in collaboration with PricewaterhouseCoopers UK. Those companies are now training key personnel on disaster risk management. This burgeoning recognition of the economic importance of disaster resilience is the theme of the 2013 edition of UNISDR's biennial flagship publication, the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR). It features benchmark research on the economic dimensions of disasters, conducted during 2012 in partnership with global corporations.

Convening and connecting partners at regional level

Regional level commitment to disaster risk reduction went from strength to strength throughout the year. UNISDR's six Regional Offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Americas, Europe,

Central Asia, and the Arab States continued to play key roles in mobilizing regional actors to support change at the national level. Regional Strategies and Action Plans for disaster risk reduction were further developed and implemented in 2012. These included the Arab Strategy for Disaster Reduction 2020, which the Arab Heads of State Summit adopted in Baghdad, in March. The decision reflected strengthened political commitment for reducing disaster risks, and will frame the region's efforts in the years ahead. Elsewhere, the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Care (CAPRADE) developed a sub-regional disaster risk reduction plan, while the disaster risk management guidelines of the Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America's (CEPREDENAC) were adopted nationally by several Member States. In Africa, members of the UNISDR-convened African Advisory Group of Parliamentarians promoted model legislation for disaster risk reduction in the East African Legislative Assembly, with the bill due to pass into law in 2013. In Europe, the European Parliament started work on a Legislative Resolution which, once adopted, will oblige EU Member States to undertake specific disaster risk reduction activities.

Regional Platforms and other high-level gatherings on disaster risk reduction built understanding and stimulated political commitment, buy-in, and action by bringing together diverse stakeholders who otherwise would be addressing the issues in isolation. Regional events included the fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in October 2012 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, which was attended by 2,500 participants from 72 countries. The conference issued a powerful declaration calling on countries to integrate disaster and climate risk management into their national development plans, and to strengthen local risk governance and partnerships. It was accompanied by individual commitments from 11 stakeholder groups expressing what they will do to help reduce the risk of disasters.

Facilitating action in countries

UNISDR facilitated important institutional and governance changes at national level, as a growing number of countries in all regions – from Barbados, Finland and Lebanon to Colombia, the Gambia and Myanmar – adopted or revised their national disaster risk reduction plans and legislation.



No region was spared. In the UK, major floods interrupted life and business for several months with insured losses exceeding £1 billion according to PWC reports (Photo: Flickr/John Barker).

UNISDR put special effort into mobilizing activist parliamentarians to spearhead disaster risk approaches to national planning in countries. By end-2012, the Advisory Group of Parliamentarians involved more than 900 parliamentarians from 124 countries. Their achievements included the Globe Rio +20 Legislator's Protocol (where parliamentarians committed to mainstream disaster risk reduction thoroughly in national policies), and the strengthening of national disaster risk management legislation in Africa, the Americas and Asia.

Legislation and policies are vital, but their implementation can be challenging. National Platforms are key coordinating points for implementing disaster risk reduction commitments and plans in countries. In 2012, UNISDR's Regional Offices facilitated the establishment or upgrading of such national coordination mechanisms in countries in all regions, bringing the total number of National Platforms to 85 – up from 45 in 2008.

Monitoring disaster losses is a prerequisite for proper disaster risk management. In 2012, UNISDR in cooperation with partners such as UNDP and the World Bank supported 61 Governments to create or upgrade national disaster loss databases that serve as inventories of damage and effects. 38 databases, including one regional one, were completed in 2012, covering 56 countries. Another five databases are under development. UNISDR and its partners also added more sophisticated evidence-gathering tools, including multi-hazard hybrid risk models that combine data from national disaster loss databases with probabilistic risk assessments to sharpen the design of cost-effective risk reduction strategies.

Mobilizing action in cities and communities

The Making Cities Resilient Campaign exemplifies the “multiplier effect” of UNISDR’s work. In 2012 the campaign exceeded its targets for mobilizing new members. 389 cities and municipalities joined the Campaign in 2012, bringing the total number of signatories to 1,289 in more than 85 countries since its launch in 2010 – from major metropolises such as San Francisco, Copenhagen, Cape Town and Mumbai to small towns in Austria, Chile and Pakistan. The Campaign has recognized 34 “Role Model Cities” including four new ones in 2012: Canberra, Australia, San Francisco, USA, and the two French cities, Nice and Sommières. Many self-organized assessment missions and city-to-city learning events took place over the year. Many cities have implemented concrete actions in their communities as captured in the Making Cities Resilient Report 2012.

Providing tools and guidance to local actors is a core part of the Campaign’s work. UNISDR developed the Handbook for Local Government Leaders and an accompanying Local Government Self-Assessment Tool which was translated into several major languages in 2012. The Self-Assessment Tool was piloted in 22 cities and was already applied in 30 cities worldwide by the end of 2012³.



Residents in Haiti building rock walls and planting vegetation as ways to save arable land and avoid flooding in lower areas (UN Photo/Logan Abassi).

Over 250 events took place around the world to mark the 2012 International Day for Disaster Reduction. The day focused exclusively on women and girls as a force for resilience in their communities and was actively celebrated in over 80 countries. The International Day also generated a number of high level statements, endorsements and videos from various stakeholders.

Shaping the framework for disaster risk reduction (“HFA2”)

In 2012, the UN General Assembly requested UNISDR to facilitate consultations for the post-2015 successor agreement to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA), the plan that has framed global efforts to reduce disaster risk and build resilience since 2005. In March, the Special Representative of the Secretary General and the Ambassador of Japan to International Organizations in Geneva launched the consultations.

Over 2012, 43 consultations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (“HFA2”) were organized involving a series of meetings and events, an Advisory Group was established, and a number of papers produced and planned around the substantive issues. The culmination of the first phase of the consultations (from March 2012 to May 2013) will be reflected in a synthesis report to be ready for the Fourth Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2013.

Important themes emerged during the 2012 consultations, including the desire for a bottom-up, people-centered “HFA2” that engages all stakeholders and strengthens the resilience of local communities, improves governance, sets standards, integrates disaster risk reduction measures with sustainable development, is action orientated, and includes a stronger repertoire of accountability measures to monitor and track implementation.

3 By 31 March 2012, over 100 cities applied the Local Government Self-Assessment Tool, already exceeding targets for 2013.

UNISDR – WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO



Photo: UNISDR Staff, September 2012

Our role

The creation in 1999 of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) as a dedicated Secretariat was the culmination of action and advocacy during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990–1999). Key outcomes during those ten years included the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World (1994) and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (1999). UNISDR was designated as the focal point in the United Nations (UN) System for coordinating and harnessing the disaster reduction activities of the UN System and regional organizations.¹

In 2005, UN Member States adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA). UNISDR was tasked with

supporting the implementation of this landmark strategy², which frames global efforts to reduce disaster risk and build resilience to disasters.

A new phase of UNISDR's work began in 2012 when the UN General Assembly requested the Office to facilitate consultations for developing a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction which has since become known as the Hyogo Framework for Action 2 or, simply, the "HFA2".³

Our structure

UNISDR forms part of the UN Secretariat. Underscoring the increasing urgency of disaster risk reduction, the UN Secretary-General in 2008 created the position of Special Representative

¹ UN General Assembly resolution 56/195

² UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/60/195

³ UN General Assembly resolutions 66/199 and 67/209

of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction to lead UNISDR. The organization manages the UN Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction.⁴

With a staff of 116, UNISDR implements its mandate through its headquarters office in Geneva (Switzerland) and five Regional Offices in Brussels (Belgium), for Europe; Panama City (Panama), for the Americas; Cairo (Egypt) for the Arab States; Bangkok (Thailand), for Asia and Pacific; and Nairobi (Kenya), for Africa. UNISDR also has an office for north-east Asia in Incheon (Republic of Korea), which supports the Global Education and Training Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as a liaison office in New York (United States), and a presence in Kobe (Japan), Suva (Fiji), Bonn (Germany), Almaty (Kazakhstan) and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).

“Reducing disaster risk and building resilience are now recognized as essential to sustainable development and poverty eradication. Now is the time to act.”

—UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, video address for the Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction, New York, 17 September 2012.

Connect and convince

The four Strategic Objectives that form the cornerstones of UNISDR’s Strategic Framework for 2012–2015 embody the ways in which the Office operates.

To “connect and convince”, UNISDR mobilizes and coordinates international efforts on disaster risk reduction through a vibrant network comprising countries, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, financial institutions, technical bodies, business and science partners, parliamentarians and local government officials, UN agencies and civil society. UNISDR relies especially on its Regional Offices to leverage countries’ experience and to generate commitment to reduce disaster risks, and to support those efforts by building partnerships and facilitating technical and other assistance.

A core task for UNISDR is facilitating implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The Office does this by galvanizing and coordinating global, regional and national disaster resilience efforts, and by supporting reporting and assessment of implementation progress. The Global and Regional Platforms for disaster risk reduction – which UNISDR organizes in partnership

with governments and non-governmental organizations to bring together a wide array of stakeholders – are important mechanisms for co-operation and co-ordination. They convene, inform and advocate for the integration of disaster risk reduction in countries’ policies and programmes. The Platforms are invaluable opportunities for building partnerships and networks, and for sharing the ideas, expertise and experiences that are needed to translate global and regional commitments into effective actions in countries and communities. UNISDR also helps countries to set up and manage National Platforms to facilitate inclusive national disaster risk reduction planning.

Monitoring and facilitating progress are central elements of effective planning. As requested by the Kobe Conference in 2005, UNISDR has created and manages a unique online self-assessment tool – the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor – that enables countries to report on progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action. UNISDR has also developed the Local Government Self-Assessment tool which enables reporting to be done at local government level.

UNISDR also generates authoritative evidence, develops and disseminates practical tools, and arranges technical assistance for deploying those tools. Among its flagship products are the biennial Global Assessment Report for Disaster Risk Reduction and Regional Assessment Reports.

UNISDR uses its unique advocacy platform to catalyze political commitment and buy-in from a diverse range of actors – from Ministries to mayors, from local officials to activists, from scientists to business managers. The high-level advocacy of the SRSG, along with growing awareness of the scale of disaster losses, has proved effective for spurring Governments and stakeholders into investing more in disaster risk reduction. UNISDR runs PreventionWeb, a tool for researching, categorizing and sharing disaster risk reduction-related information. It also facilitates global advocacy campaigns, such as the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, to generate energy and commitment for wider and stronger action to reduce the risks of disaster. UNISDR also takes the lead on organizing the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction every year on October 13.

4 UN General Assembly resolution 54/219

DELIVERING AGAINST THE UNISDR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, 2012 – 2015

TOWARDS 2025

Our **VISION** is a world where the social, political and economic imperatives for reducing disaster risk are acted on.

Our **MISSION** is to connect governments and partners; to produce evidence for disaster risk reduction; to mobilize decision and opinion makers; and to support strengthening of the resilience of nations and communities to disasters and the impacts of climate change.

2012-2015 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES: "CONNECT AND CONVINCe"

SO1: LEAD AND COORDINATE

Strengthened support to the implementation and coordination of the ISDR and the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) and improved coherence with climate change adaptation and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

OUTCOME:

Collective and coherent actions agreed and undertaken to reduce risks at global, regional and national levels

SO2: CREDIBLE EVIDENCE

Producing and disseminating credible evidence to strengthen decision making at local, national and regional levels in support of disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation and achievement of the MDGs

OUTCOMES:

National priority setting and planning for DRR informed by accessible and organized information produced through the government-led monitoring and peer review of the HFA

DRR and climate change adaptation reflected in national planning instruments and documents based on improved risk information, including hazards, vulnerabilities & risks

SO3: ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Increased public and private sector investments in DRR and climate change adaptation through advocacy and outreach

OUTCOME:

Increased public demand for and political commitment to local action and budget allocations to DRR and climate change adaptation

SO4: DELIVER AND COMMUNICATE RESULTS

More effective, results-oriented UNISDR to carry out its mandate

OUTCOMES:

Communications and knowledge management tools effectively support UNISDR objectives

Enlarged, sustainable and predictable resource base

Results-focused implementation of UNISDR's strategic priorities

SUMMARY OF OUTPUTS 2012-2015

SO1: LEAD AND COORDINATE

1. Participatory consultations on a post-HFA framework
2. Global Platform in 2013 and World Conference in 2015
3. Guidance to six Regional Platforms and follow-up plans of action
4. Review of roles of National Platforms to improve quality
5. Coherent action by the UN system to reduce disaster risk in countries

SO2: CREDIBLE EVIDENCE

6. Updated HFA Monitor tool
7. Report on ten years of HFA implementation
8. Scaling up national disaster loss databases and loss accounting
9. Facilitate tracking of DRR investment
10. Global Assessment Reports in 2013 and 2015

SO3: ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

11. Making Cities Resilient Campaign (Target: 2,500 local governments)
12. Implementation of Global Platform targets for safe schools and health facilities (Target: 400,000 pledges)
13. Thirty global, regional and local ISDR Champions and other key opinion makers supported for leadership and visibility in scaling up DRR

SO4: DELIVER AND COMMUNICATE RESULTS

14. External communications strategy raises profile for DRR practice
15. Knowledge management tools enhanced, including PreventionWeb
16. Systematic engagement with donors
17. Results Based Management System

UNISDR's work is framed by a vision of a world that acts decisively on the social, political and economic need to reduce disaster risk. Its mission is to connect governments and partners, produce evidence, and mobilize decision and opinion makers to strengthen the resilience of nations and communities to disasters and climate change.

Structured according to UNISDR's Strategic Framework 2012–2015, the next section reports in more detailed fashion on UNISDR's results and the impact of its activities in countries and communities around the world during 2012. The topics and activities are ordered according to the Strategic Objectives to which they relate, with further detail on outcomes, outputs and relevant indicators, reported in Annex 1.



Superstorm Sandy wreaked havoc on parts of the US East Coast after tearing through the Caribbean in October 2012 (Photo: Flickr/Marnie Joyce).

Lead and coordinate

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Lead and Coordinate: Strengthened support to the implementation and coordination of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the Hyogo Framework of Action, and improved coherence with climate change adaptation and the Millennium Development Goals.

OUTCOME 1.1: Collective and coherent actions agreed and undertaken to reduce risk at global, regional and national levels

Leadership and coordination are the key elements of UNISDR's work to strengthen the implementation of disaster risk reduction worldwide. UNISDR in 2012 strengthened the conceptual and practical linkages between disaster risk reduction, poverty alleviation, climate change adaptation and sustainable development. Key achievements included positioning of disaster risk reduction as an imperative for sustainable development. The expanding range of new and strengthened strategies, policies and plans for disaster and climate change show that those crucial links are shaping planning and practices around the world. Leveraging partnerships is key to achieve such a broad spectrum objective, which is why UNISDR mobilizes stakeholders through the global, regional and national platforms, as well as major international processes such as the G20 discussions, climate change negotiations and the "HFA2" consultations.

Facilitating a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (“HFA2”)

“Addressing disaster risk requires engagement with all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society. Taking a multi-stakeholder approach pays development dividends.”

—President of the 66th session of the UN General Assembly, Nassir Abdulaziz al Nasser

Along with enhancing implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, UNISDR in 2012 established the process for the consultations leading to a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (“HFA2”). This followed the request from the General Assembly¹ that UNISDR serve as Secretariat of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, facilitate the development of the “HFA2” and coordinate the preparatory activities in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

The process was officially launched in March 2012 by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Ambassador for Japan to International Organizations in Geneva. UNISDR Advisory Groups are helping ensure a comprehensive consultation process is achieved across sectors, including law (through the Parliamentarian Advisory Group); business (through the Private Sector Advisory Group); economics, finance and risk modeling (through the Global Assessment Report Advisory Group); and science (through the Science and Technology Advisory Group).

The consultation process is broad and inclusive, and spans two phases. The first, “review” phase entails a series of consultations around substantive issues, and will culminate in the submission of a synthesis report to the Fourth Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2013. The second phase of the process will focus on developing, reviewing and strengthening the outline of a new framework. Consultations will conclude at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in early 2015 in Japan, where the final draft of the “HFA2” will be presented. This document will be presented for final discussion and adoption at the 2015 session of the UN General Assembly.

The Regional and Sub-Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Platforms that UNISDR organizes together with host-Governments and partners are key elements of the consultation process, as are national level events – all of which gather diverse stakeholders for substantive dialogue. In 2012, three regional-level meetings were convened: Yogyakarta, Indonesia (for Asia-Pacific, October 2012); Dubrovnik, Croatia (for Europe, October 2012); and Chile (for the Americas, November 2012). The “HFA2” discussions were central to all three events. They were also important forums for providing UNISDR guidance to National Platforms.

There were also consultations on the “HFA2” at the Sub-Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction in New Caledonia (for the Pacific Islands, September 2012), and Douala, Cameroon (for West Africa, October 2012). UNISDR supported consultations organized by partners at the World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku, Japan (July 2012), the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum in Harare, Zimbabwe (August 2012), the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives Conference in Bonn (ICLEI) (June 2012), and the World Urban Forum in Naples (September 2012), which brought together mayors and local government officials.

At national level, the Pacific Island countries held multi-stakeholder consultations, as did many other countries around the world (including India, Senegal and Sweden). UNISDR consulted with faith-based communities in Asia and the Pacific and conducted action research on community priorities in more than a dozen countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Caribbean, in partnership with the Community Practitioners’ Platform for Resilience.

Another source of national insights has been the Hyogo Framework For Action Online Monitor which elicited feedback from Government respondents on future perspectives for “HFA2”. An Advisory Group to guide the SRSG on the consultations and shaping of “HFA2” was established and met several times during 2012. Several working papers related to “HFA2”, for example on governance and land use planning, were instigated in 2012.

1 Resolution A/RES/67/209



Africa yet again suffered from major droughts in 2012. In order to increase their resilience, women in Burkina Faso are building a dyke to contain rain water for cultivation (Photo: European Commission DG ECHO).

UNISDR hosted a first online discussion from 27 August to 7 December through five rounds, each spanning about two weeks. The inputs reflected experiences of practitioners from mid-levels of government, technical institutions, UN agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and thoughtful comment and insights from academics and analysts.

Disaster risk reduction for sustainable development

“Disaster risk reduction is essential to sustainable development. It helps save and preserve the achievements of our development efforts. It helps mitigate the destructive effects of natural disasters on physical materials, as well as social and economic infrastructures.”

—H.E. Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, addressing the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in Yogyakarta, 23 October 2012.

Positioning disaster risk reduction as an essential cross-cutting element of the sustainable development agenda is an important UNISDR objective. The UN Conference on Sustainable

Development (Rio+20) Conference presented a major opportunity. Together with its partners, including the New York-based “Group of Friends of Disaster Risk Reduction” comprising more than 20 Member States, UNISDR succeeded in having disaster risk reduction featured prominently for the first time in a major international policy document on sustainable development. The Rio+20 Outcome Document, “The Future We Want”, includes a strong endorsement of the need to apply a risk management

Disaster risk reduction is vital for sustainable development

Countries participating in the Rio +20 Conference in June 2012 highlighted the critical interplay between disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. In the Outcome Document, they declared:

186. We reaffirm our commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and call for States, the UN system, international financial institutions, sub-regional, regional and international organizations, and civil society to accelerate implementation of the framework and the achievement of its goals [...]

We call for disaster risk reduction and building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and, as appropriate, to be integrated into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and considered within relevant future frameworks [...]

188. We stress the importance of stronger inter-linkages among disaster risk reduction, recovery and long-term development planning, and call for more coordinated and comprehensive strategies that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation considerations into public and private investment, decision making and planning of humanitarian and development actions [...].

—Except from the Rio +20 outcome document “The Future We Want”²

framework to development (see box). This will help to accelerate progress in ensuring disaster risk reduction features in all development planning policies and budgets.

The advocacy efforts of the Mexican Presidency of the Group of 20 (G20), the World Bank, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery and UNISDR led to an important directive from G20 leaders at the Los Cabos Summit, in June 2012. G20 leaders placed the disaster risk management agenda under the remit of Finance Ministries and Central Banks and instructed them to initiate a body of disaster risk reduction work (led by the OECD and the World Bank, with the support of the UN) that would include the development of tools and strategies that can help prevent disasters, protect populations and assets, and financially manage their economic impact. UNISDR collaborated on the key deliverable of this initiative, the G20/OECD Methodological Framework on Disaster Risk Assessment and Risk Financing.³ A report on disaster risk assessment was also produced.⁴

For the second year in a row, there was a UN General Assembly Special Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction where a call was heard for “the incorporation of disaster risk reduction in any future framework for sustainable development.”

UNISDR also increased its advocacy for greater investment in reducing disaster risk in order to boost the impact and sustainability of development efforts. The SRSG launched a new report by Development Initiatives⁵ which highlighted the fact that only 1% of development aid to the 40 top recipients of humanitarian aid was for disaster risk reduction.

3 OECD. Disaster Risk Assessment and Risk Financing: A G20/OECD Methodological Framework. Paris: OECD; 2012.

4 The Government of Mexico and the World Bank. Improving the Assessment of Disaster Risks to Strengthen Financial Resilience. A Special Joint G20 Publication by the Government of Mexico and the World Bank. Washington: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / International Development; 2012.

5 Development Initiatives. Disaster Risk Reduction: Spending Where It Should Count.UK, 2012.

2 UN General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex

Integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change

Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are closely intertwined, and vital for sustainable development. These issues therefore feature prominently across the entire range of UNISDR's activities.

Among the highlights of UNISDR's efforts to strengthen the linkages between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation was the formal launch of the Special Report on Managing the Risk of Extremes and Disasters (SREX) which the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued in May 2012.⁶ The report was first proposed by UNISDR and the Government of Norway in 2008. It demonstrates how integrating expertise in disaster risk management, climate science and climate change adaptation can help reduce and manage the risks of extreme events and disasters.

Along with UN Member States, UNISDR sought to boost the prominence of disaster risk reduction at the 18th Conference of the Parties (COP-18) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, gathering in Doha in December 2012. Participants agreed to explore institutional arrangements to address loss and damage in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. An Adaptation Committee was established and the Guidelines on National Adaptation Plans that were adopted included good references to disaster risk reduction to enable future progress for this agenda.

"To say that disasters put hard-fought development gains at risk and limit Millennium Development Goals attainment is an understatement."

—Nassir Abdulaziz al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly, speaking at General Assembly thematic debate, 12 April 2012.⁷

UNISDR's advocacy work, along with the technical support and guidance it provides, bolstered efforts to incorporate disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in regional and national policies, including in Argentina, Bangladesh, and Peru. Similar steps were taken in Australia, Colombia, Ecuador, Japan and the Philippines, where these harmonizing moves were placed under the responsibility of the central Finance

Climate services highlight disaster risk reduction

The linkages between climate change and disaster risk reduction feature strongly in the World Meteorological Organization's new Global Framework for Climate Services. The Framework comprises four priority areas – health, water, food security, and disaster risk reduction (which UNISDR will lead). This prominence is already triggering changes at country level. In Mozambique, for example, the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services are now working more closely with disaster risk managers, the private sector, and with the National and Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.

and Planning Ministries. The 2012 Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management also started development of an integrated regional strategy for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, which Pacific leaders will endorse in 2015.

Convening and mobilizing partners at the global and regional levels

Convened every two years, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction strengthens efforts to reduce disaster risk worldwide by facilitating dialogue, information sharing, network building and coordination among a rich variety of stakeholders. UNISDR's approach is to ensure that the full spectrum of actors from all relevant levels of government and society, are engaged. Preparations for the fourth session of the Global Platform in May 2013 in Geneva have been ongoing since early 2012, including the establishment of a Global Platform website, regular news updates and announcements and the opening of the online registration in October 2012. With a wide range of stakeholders expected to attend – ranging from Heads of State to business leaders to representatives from regional bodies, international organizations, national parliaments, local governments and community organizations – a major focus of the Global Platform in 2013 will be to help shape the "HFA2".

Catalyzing action at the regional level

UNISDR's six Regional Offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Americas, Europe, Central Asia, and the Arab States continued to play key roles promoting and supporting global

⁶ Available at ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/
⁷ <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/ga11225.doc.htm>

processes at the regional and national levels. In addition to their advocacy, partnership-building and coordinating work, they facilitated technical guidance and leveraged political commitment so countries can achieve a comprehensive and systematic approach to disaster risk management. UNISDR's Regional Offices work with UN Resident Coordinators and UN country teams to support and strengthen the UN's work on disaster risk reduction in support of individual countries. Those efforts are boosted by the high-level advocacy of the SRSG for Disaster Risk Reduction. In 2012, she completed 55 advocacy missions to 29 countries and five regions, where she met over 187 Government Officials, including Heads of State, Prime Ministers, Vice-Presidents and Ministers, Parliamentarians, Local Governments, NGOs, community organizations, science and academic groups. In addition, she received numerous high-level visits each month at the UNISDR headquarters in Geneva.

Regional Platforms: Launch pads for action

The Regional Platforms and other high-level regional gatherings again showed their worth as vehicles for building understanding and galvanizing action around disaster risk reduction and development, bringing together diverse stakeholders who otherwise would be addressing the issues in isolation. UNISDR provided substantial policy input and support to three major regional conferences last year and briefed on follow-up to General Assembly resolutions and supported National Platform inputs to these events.

An excellent example of this catalytic impact was the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), in October 2012, which the President of Indonesia opened with a strong call for action. Supported by an array of partners, the Government of Indonesia and UNISDR's Regional Office managed this major event, which was attended by 2,500 delegates from 72 countries. The Conference Declaration called on countries to integrate local-level disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into national development planning, strengthen local risk governance and partnerships, and identify accountability measures for more effective implementation of a post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework.⁸

Organized by UNISDR and the Chilean Government, the Regional Platform for the Americas in November 2012 issued the Santiago Communiqué, which called for strong integration of disaster risk reduction policies in development planning, the incorporation of the private sector efforts in the regional agenda, and the creation of clear targets, along with monitoring and follow-up mechanisms.⁹ A Regional Platform Advisory Council was created, comprising representatives from regional bodies, host countries, donors, UN agencies and other multilateral entities to advise on priorities for disaster risk reduction and follow-up on regional commitments.

In Europe, the third annual meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction reviewed the integration of disaster risk reduction in countries' national climate change plans and policies, while the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management assessed the implementation of existing regional mechanisms for disaster and climate risk management.

The International Recovery Platform focused on the roles of regional and inter-governmental organizations in supporting Member States with recovery and disaster risk reduction planning. UNISDR and the partners in the International Recovery Platform network organized recovery-planning workshops in Europe, Americas, Asia and Pacific. The workshops enabled



In his opening address, at the fifth AMCDRR, the President of Indonesia highlighted the importance and economic benefits of prevention (Photo: UNISDR).

⁸ The full Declaration is available at <http://www.PreventionWeb.net/english/policies/v.php?id=29332&rid=4>

⁹ The Santiago Communiqué is available at: http://eird.org/pr12-eng/documents/RP12_Communique_Santiago_ENG_101212.pdf



Photo: Flickr/Julie G

participants to connect with relevant agencies and coordinate their recovery plans, strengthen local capacities for disaster risk reduction and improve understanding of how to integrate disaster risk management into development planning.

Regional Strategies and Action Plans: Framing national action

Elsewhere, the development and progressive implementation of several Regional Strategies and Action Plans gathered pace. They included the Arab Strategy for Disaster Reduction 2020, which the Arab Heads of State Summit adopted in Baghdad, in March 2012. As an important step forward, the Strategy will frame the region's disaster risk reducing actions in the years ahead. UNISDR's Regional Office for the Arab States is now supporting the design of a framework to implement the Strategy, which will include guidance on implementation and governance options, and performance indicators.

In Africa, the East African Community (EAC) through its Environment Unit of the EAC Secretariat, with technical assistance by UNISDR, developed a climate change adaptation policy, strategy and master plan which integrated disaster risk reduction and climate change practice. UNISDR's Regional Office co-organized with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Climate Prediction and Applications Centre of the

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD/ICPAC) sub-regional Climate Outlook Forums, which brought together stakeholders to translate seasonal forecasts into programmes of action for key development sectors (water, agriculture and health). UNISDR linked specialist units from Oxford University and Columbia University to these Forums. UNISDR also published Drought Contingency Plans and Planning in the Greater Horn of Africa under an ECHO project.¹⁰

The Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction met twice during the year to discuss progress on implementing the Africa Programme of Action and recognized the needs to build capacity across the region and mobilize resources to implement the programme. Supporting the work in countries, the UNISDR Regional Office produced a Toolkit for National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa.¹¹

The growing concern about disaster risk management in the Americas was evident in the plans and policies adopted there in 2012. The Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Care (CAPRADE) developed a sub-regional disaster risk reduction plan, while the Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America's (CEPREDENAC) risk management guidelines were adopted nationally by several Member States (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama). UNISDR's Regional Office facilitated a grant agreement between CEPREDENAC, the World Bank and the Australian Government to support implementation of the Central American Policy on Integral Risk Management. The Office also facilitated a grant agreement with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency for a Comprehensive Disaster Management Framework for the Caribbean.

UNISDR's Europe Office has been instrumental in moving disaster risk reduction center-stage in that region by supporting the updating of disaster-related legislation to include disaster risk reduction elements. In a related development, the European Parliament is finalizing a Legislative Resolution which, once adopted, will oblige EU Member States to implement specific preventive measures (including conducting risk assessments, integrating risk-reducing activities in governance processes, and reviewing insurance and re-insurance arrangements).

¹⁰ Available at http://www.unisdr.org/files/26438_isdrafricainformsspecialissuesondro.pdf

¹¹ Available http://www.unisdr.org/files/18923_africatoolkitfinal.pdf

In Asia and the Pacific, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and United Nations Strategic Plan of Cooperation on Disaster Management was completed and is now guiding cooperation between ASEAN and the UN system around disaster management in the region. The Plan was adopted at the Third ASEAN-UN Summit, in Ha Noi, Viet Nam and builds on existing cooperation between ASEAN Member States and the UN, including UNISDR. In the Pacific, UNISDR is supporting the development of an integrated regional policy framework for disaster and climate change risk management. The framework will set a policy foundation for increased coordination at the regional, national and local levels.

The advocacy efforts of UNISDR and its network of “champions” has placed disaster risk and climate change on the agenda of numerous other sub-regional and regional parliamentary forums and assemblies around the world – including in the European Commission, the Environment and Tourism Commission of the Latin American Parliament; the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States-European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly; the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly; and Regional Economic Commissions in Africa.

Policy guidance to build resilience in countries and communities

A growing list of countries across all regions adopted or revised disaster risk reduction policies and legislation. High-level advocacy by the SRSG and technical support from the UNISDR Regional Office in Bangkok led to Myanmar’s cabinet adopting a new national disaster risk reduction framework. Input from UNISDR contributed to Finland completing its new Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, while Barbados began setting up a Hazard Mitigation Council that will formulate and approve a Hazard Mitigation Policy for 2013–2015. Turkey published a National Earthquake Strategy and Action Plan 2012–2023 that includes a strategy for ensuring that implementation funds are available. Armenia revised its national disaster risk reduction plan to reflect greater attention to capacity building at all levels. Chile, Colombia, the Gambia, and Nepal also adopted policies or legislation for managing disaster risk.

National Platforms are important coordinating points for putting policy into practice. 2012 saw the establishment of such national coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction in Belarus,

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Comoros, Djibouti, Greece, Lebanon, Morocco and Tajikistan, raising the total number to date to 85 (up from 45 in 2008).

UNISDR’s efforts to support national implementation in 2012 also extended to organizing skills-building workshops – in Belarus, Fiji, Honduras, Indonesia, Panama, Serbia and Ukraine, among other countries.

In Brazil, the Centre of Excellence for Disaster Risk Reduction opened in November 2012 and is supporting the development of a joint action plan for disaster risk management in Brazil. It also acts as a platform for south-south cooperation and knowledge brokering around disaster risk reduction in South America.

Enhancing the work of National Platforms

UNISDR’s works to assess the implementation of disaster risk reducing plans, and to devise solutions when weaknesses are found. Following a recommendation in the 2011 Mid-Term Review and the Report of the Secretary-General on the “Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction”¹², UNISDR in 2012 initiated a review of the roles and capacities of National Platforms with a view to improving their effectiveness. UNISDR is facilitating the review process, which is led by a group of seven National Platforms (Ecuador, Germany, Indonesia, Mexico, Philippines, Senegal and Sweden) and is backed by a Reference Group of 20 others from various regions. The Review Report will inform discussions with National Platforms at the 2013 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.

12 A/66/301, 12 August 2011. <http://www.unisdr.org/files/resolutions/A66301E.pdf>

Stimulating action in Pakistan

Pakistan's vulnerability to disasters has been seen repeatedly in the past decade. A major earthquake hit the country in 2005. Massive flooding, in 2010 and 2011, affected 25 million people and required major humanitarian and disaster relief efforts from the Government and international agencies. In years ahead, climate change is expected to aggravate disaster risk in the country.

At the request of the UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, the SRSG for Disaster Risk Reduction visited the country in October 2011 to meet with the President, the Prime Minister and other senior national and provincial authorities. Discussions focused on harnessing existing commitment for disaster risk management to achieve a long-term vision and strategy for building resilience to disaster and climate change shocks. The UN Resident Coordinator requested urgent capacity to help him and the UN Country Team design a comprehensive approach that would serve as the basis for coordinated action. With support from UN-HABITAT, UNISDR seconded a staff member to assist.

Less than a year later, the rewards of linking strong advocacy with focused support were already visible. A joint initiative between the UN Resident Coordinator, the World Bank/GFDRR and UNISDR led to the development of a comprehensive national disaster loss database, which will be finalized in 2013. The UN is now better equipped, through its recently approved development framework, to assist the Pakistan authorities in their efforts to decentralize disaster risk reduction to the provincial and city levels. A full-time disaster risk reduction advisor, sponsored by a donor, will enable the Resident Coordinator to lead UN efforts.

Coherent UN action for disaster risk reduction

As the focal point for disaster risk reduction in the UN System, UNISDR supports key UN agencies at headquarter, regional and country levels to integrate disaster risk reduction across their plans and programmes. In 2012, UNISDR stepped up its efforts to consolidate the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in the UN system. In particular, it acted upon the recommendations of the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action that the UN should converge around a coherent plan of action.

Accordingly, under the auspices of the UN System High Level Committee on Programmes (HCLP), UNISDR led a self-assessment exercise to determine the extent and nature of disaster risk reduction activities in 29 UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies. Almost all reported that reducing disaster risk was either an institutional priority or featured in their work, and more than 60% reported progress towards mainstreaming disaster risk management in their programmes. However,

the review also showed a need for greater coherence and stronger institutional commitment. This prompted an initiative under the aegis of the HLCP for the SRSG to convene a senior management group to prepare a UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience that would embed disaster risk reduction more securely in UN policies and programmes. The Action Plan was developed in the last quarter of 2012 with the active involvement of 29 UN agencies and was endorsed in March 2013. The move is an important step forward, and shows that the UN system is intent on increasing its work on disaster risk reduction, despite many complex and competing priorities.

Closer to the ground, UNISDR (through its Regional Offices) worked with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to integrate disaster and climate change risk management in UN Development Action Frameworks (UNDAF). In 2012, Bolivia, Cameroon, India, Jordan, Moldova, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka,

Sudan and Togo approved new UNDAFs that feature disaster risk reduction as critical for development planning. The number of UNDAFs referencing disaster risk reduction in the Americas has increased from three to ten: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Peru and Jamaica. Since the formal approval by the UN of the operational guidelines for integrating disaster risk management into UNDAFs in 2009, 54 countries have drawn up such plans. Over half of the plans have extensively incorporated disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

As an example of on-going efforts, in Asia, UNISDR's Offices worked with UN Country Teams to develop Strategic Action Plans, review country progress in recovery planning, and refine the UN Strategic Framework in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines and Vietnam, along with a new regional UNDAF in the Pacific, which features key disaster risk reduction elements. Stronger cooperation with UNDP and UN Resident Coordinators proved valuable in Djibouti, Lebanon and Mauritania, where it enabled UNISDR to strengthen disaster risk reduction implementation.

Training takes off in Incheon

Based in the city of Incheon, Republic of Korea, the UNISDR Office for Northeast Asia and Global Education and Training Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction (ONEA/GETI) stepped up its activities in 2012. Some of its most distinctive work involved the Mainstreaming Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction into Development (MADRiD) programme. A four-year initiative, the MADRiD programme aims to strengthen capacities for integrating disaster and climate change risk management in economic and social planning. Three Leadership Development Forums were held in 2012, bringing together diverse teams of professionals from government institutions, and training more than 100 high-level government officials and parliamentarians from 14 countries and 10 international organizations. The overall impact is already evident:

- Armenia used MADRiD material for national training at the State Academy for Disaster Management;
- The Gambia used MADRiD material to brief Permanent Secretaries from government ministries, which led to new commitments to coordinate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;
- In Cambodia, MADRiD dialogues informed the national coordinating committee for climate change and the national planning process for 2014;
- The Russian Academy of Civil Defence requested technical support from UNISDR ONEA/GETI for a prospective new Disaster Risk Reduction Training Centre, which it aims to set up with Government funding.

Taking the Making Cities Resilient campaign forward is another aspect of the Institute's work. In 2012, workshops were held linking city and local government officials with a range of development service providers. They agreed on ways to develop practical guidance for implementing the Campaign in their respective cities, and framed a collaborative platform for city-to-city learning and knowledge sharing.

Credible evidence

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:

Producing and disseminating credible evidence to strengthen decision-making at local, national and regional levels in support of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

OUTCOME 2.1: National priority setting and planning for disaster risk reduction informed by accessible and organized information, in particular produced through the government-led monitoring and the peer review of Hyogo Framework for Action implementation.

A vital dimension of UNISDR's work entails developing, refining and disseminating bodies of evidence to advance and support disaster and climate risk management activities in countries. These data and analyses strengthen understanding of the importance of disaster risk reduction for the development of societies, and help guide and orient efforts to plan and implement effective strategies. The review of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) implementation through the Hyogo Framework for Action Online Monitor is an important element of such evidence gathering, analysis and reflection. It is also a good example of UNISDR's work model, which is designed to promote, facilitate and support disaster risk reduction activities that countries and communities themselves undertake.

Reviewing progress under the Hyogo Framework for Action

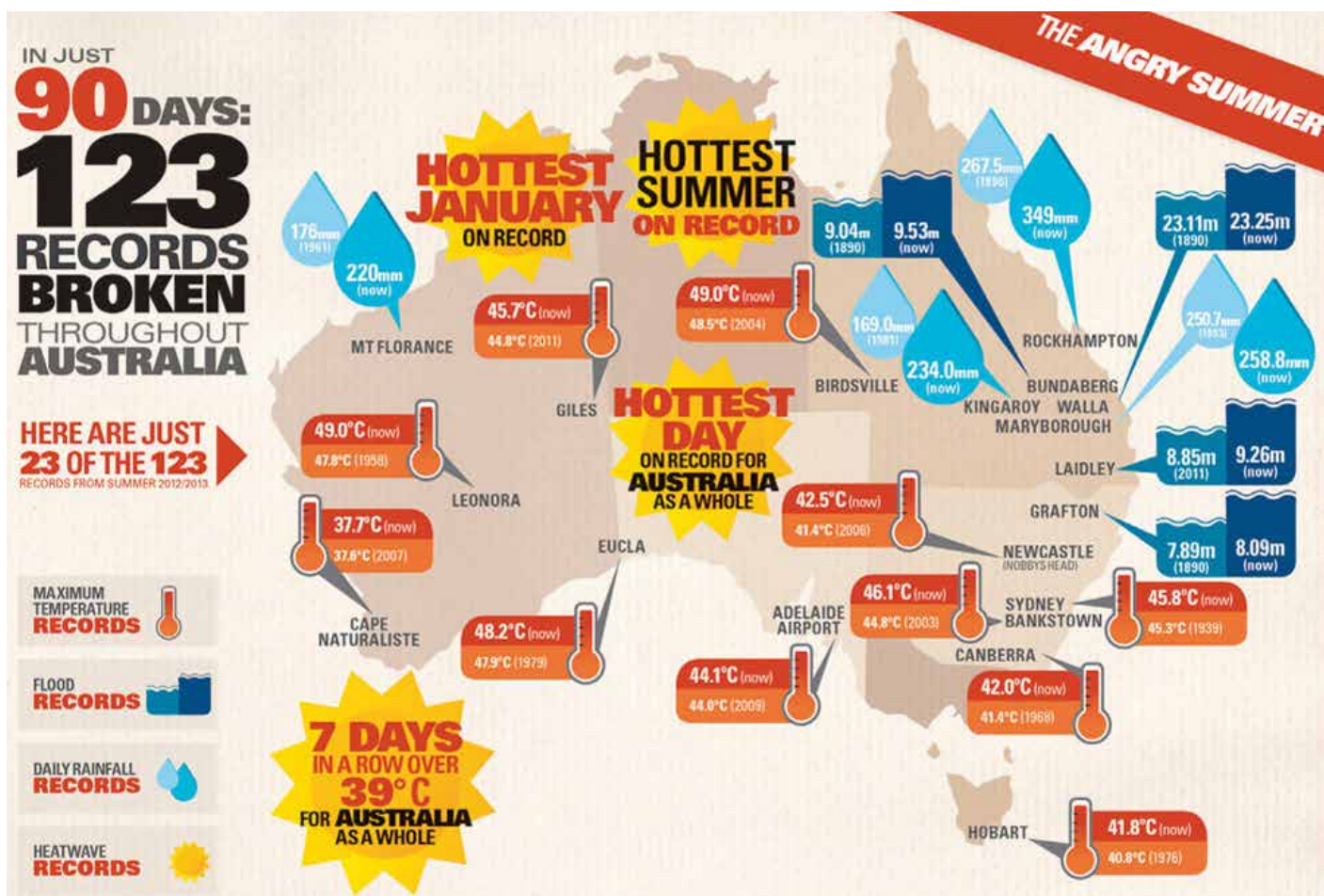
The Hyogo Framework for Action Online Monitor, developed by UNISDR in 2006 on request from the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, has proved to be a valuable assessment tool. Designed to be inclusive, the tool also enables non-governmental actors and community leaders to track progress, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability. UNISDR has also rolled out a similar self-assessment tool for use at the local level, as part of the Making Cities Resilient campaign.

By end-2012, 77 countries had submitted their national progress reports and 30 cities had provided local reports¹. Seven intergovernmental organizations were participating in sub-regional progress reviews of the Hyogo Framework for Action, including ASEAN, the African Union, the Comité Andino para la Prevención y Atención de Desastres, the East African Community, the European Commission, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SOPAC).

UNISDR delivered vital support to these efforts. In the Arab States, UNISDR led the development of an Arabic Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor, which became available in June 2012. It also organized national trainings for its use in 15 Arab States. In Africa, the Monitor was used to assess implementation of the Africa Strategy and Programme of Action for disaster risk reduction, maintain up-to-date country profiles, and to develop the Africa Status Report. In the Pacific, UNISDR provided financial support and technical assistance to 14 countries to organize their national HFA consultations as part of the current progress review cycle. In Central Asia and the Caucasus, UNISDR gave guidance and instructions to eight countries for developing their national HFA progress reports.

Analysis of the reports shows steady, albeit uneven, progress in implementing the five HFA priorities for action during the 2011–2013 cycle.² The most significant gains at country level have been around risk identification and early warning; building knowledge, innovation and education; and reducing underlying

1 By 31 March 2012, 128 countries had submitted reports through the HFA Monitor, and over 100 cities applied the Local Government Self-Assessment Tool.
2 UNISDR. Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action: Advances and challenges since 2005. Geneva: UNISDR; 2013 [forthcoming]



Record-breaking temperatures, bush fires as well as major floods cost many lives and caused millions of Dollars of economic damage in Australia (Photo: Australia Climate Commission).

risk factors. As a major achievement, 77% of countries which have reported to date state that disaster risk is taken into account in public investment and planning decisions related to climate change policy and strategy. There has been improvement in countries' preparedness and response but governance and institutional arrangements have stayed largely unchanged. While political commitment for disaster risk reduction is growing, it is not yet sufficiently penetrating fiscal and budgetary decision-making systems. Overall disaster trends show that loss of life due to weather-related disaster events is on the decline in most parts of the world but economic losses are on the rise.

Seeking to leverage the Hyogo Framework for Action review process, the United Kingdom (UK) invited UNISDR (along with the European Commission and the OECD) to develop a

methodology for a peer review of its progress in implementing the Framework for Action. The aim was to identify state-of-the-art approaches for each of the Framework for Action priorities, along with gaps and good practices, and to develop recommendations for further progress. Finland, Italy and Sweden formed the peer review group, with UNISDR participation.

OUTCOME 2.2: Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation reflected in national planning instruments and documents based on improved risk information, including on hazards, exposure and vulnerabilities

Enabling countries to undertake national disaster loss accounting and plan and track disaster risk reducing investments

Risk assessment and analysis are critically important for managing disaster and climate risk effectively and in sustainable ways. However, the review of national Hyogo Framework for Action reports in 2011 and 2012 highlighted significant challenges in monitoring loss and damage, assessing risk, and integrating disaster risk reduction into national, local and sector planning and development. Few countries reported substantive integration of their frameworks for disaster and climate risk management, and few identified dedicated resources in their national budgets.

Incomplete understanding of the damage disasters inflict on societies has been identified as a major barrier blocking consistent integration of disaster risk into public and private sector planning, investments and day-to-day operations. Countries lack a comprehensive picture of the damage done to livelihoods, food production, business activities, infrastructure, essential services and their overall developmental prospects. National loss databases are a low-cost, high-impact tool for filling these knowledge gaps. Translated into fiscal or economic losses, these data support public policy and decision-making that can take account of disaster and climate risks.

In 2012, UNISDR supported 61 Governments to create or upgrade national disaster loss databases using “DesInventar” (available at www.desinventar.net)³, a tool for compiling national disaster inventories and databases. 38 databases, including one regional one, were completed, covering 56 countries. Another five databases are under development. Using funding from the European Commission’s Development and Cooperation, and other donors, UNISDR, together with the World

Bank and GFDRR, will extend this support to up to 40 more countries in 2013 and beyond.

UNISDR and its partners also added more sophisticated elements to the existing array of evidence-gathering tools, to enable countries to factor disaster risk priorities into public financing decisions. Especially noteworthy was the development of hybrid risk models in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru and Venezuela in 2012. They combine data from national disaster loss databases with probabilistic risk assessments (for floods, cyclones, landslides, droughts and other climate-related hazards; and for geological-origin hazards, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis). The models are then used to estimate the full range of risk in countries, thereby providing reference points for reviewing public investments and designing cost-effective risk reduction strategies. UNISDR facilitated planning workshops with the Colombian Government to explore applying the hybrid risk model in that country’s national development planning process.

“If national public investment systems truly account for disaster risk, they can reduce losses at a scale impossible to achieve through stand-alone disaster risk management.”

—Global Assessment Report for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2011.

After reviewing the legal framework for disaster risk reduction, Brazil’s Congress in early 2012 approved a new law of civil protection that incorporates disaster risk reduction criteria. Brazil also allocated an estimated USD 9 billion to support disaster risk management plans and activities over the next 2–3 years. Other significant developments in the Americas included the adoption of the San Cristobal Road Map, a three-year plan supported by the Government of Mexico and UNISDR that is aimed at developing and standardizing criteria and methodologies for incorporating disaster risk reduction into national investment plans and tracking disaster risk reduction investments in the Americas. The region is also establishing financial instruments for risk transfer – such as insurance and reinsurance (in the Caribbean), catastrophic bonds (Mexico), and contingency credits with multilateral banks (Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama and Peru).

Several partnerships have been created to extend these innovations. UNISDR and the European Commission Directorate for Development and Cooperation in 2012 started a new, three-year initiative to support up to 40 countries in risk proofing their

3 DesInventar is a methodological tool for generating databases of damage, losses and other effects of disasters.

public investments and deepening the integration of climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction activities. Along with the UK Department for International Development (DFID), UNDP and the World Bank, UNISDR also began identifying effective disaster risk management experiences in public investment planning (in Costa Rica, Peru and Pakistan, among others).

With UNISDR advocacy and technical support, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru in 2012 began incorporating methodologies for tracking their investments in disaster risk reduction as a step towards doing cost benefit analyses of those investments. In partnership with the Asian Development Bank, it supported similar exercises in Asia (in India, Indonesia and the Philippines). The studies will be presented in the 2013 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, as part of the wider effort to establish classifications and codes for national accounts and investment tracking. They revealed significant challenges in identifying the disaster risk management and reduction expenditures that may be embedded in various sectors, and in determining actual budget allocations for disaster risk reduction.

A further innovation is the continued development of the multi-hazard global risk model, which is capable of generating state-of-the-art pictures of global disaster risk, along with information and metrics for risk-sensitive investment planning for governments and business, as well as for analysts and forecasters. This model will be presented in the 2013 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction. The combination of this global risk model, national disaster loss data bases and a new approach for modeling direct economic losses based on those data, will permit the most complete estimation to date of the actual cost of disasters.

Producing the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction

The biennial Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR) is one of UNISDR's flagship programmes. Since its first edition in 2009, the GAR has established itself as a global reference document for improved disaster risk reduction and risk-proof development planning. During 2012, UNISDR was involved in follow-up discussions on GAR11 with Colombia, Lebanon, Mexico and the Philippines. Among other, this supported the initiation of a revision of national legislation in Colombia (Law No 1523), which led to a new national policy on disaster risk reduction, as well as a national system for risk management.

Work began in earnest in 2012 on the GAR13, which focuses on the economic dimensions of disasters and disaster risk reduction, analyzing the ways in which businesses and the private sector in general, drive and manage risk. The theme is in line with UNISDR's increased engagement with private sector companies and small- and medium-sized enterprises, as it seeks to boost disaster resilience.

“There is no doubt that the peer review has considerably raised the profile of the Hyogo Framework for Action at ministerial level and among senior civil servants.”

—Steven Barnes, representing the UK Civil Contingencies Secretariat.

GAR13 pulls together contributions from 35 collaborating institutions that coordinated, developed and supported research studies, workshops and peer reviews as well as 181 contributors and authors. Inputs were also drawn from leading private sector companies. In partnership with Pricewaterhouse Coopers, workshops were held with 14 global corporations to explore current approaches to disaster risk management, and identify challenges and opportunities (see box “Supporting disaster risk management in the private sector”). A survey of businesses in six cities in the Americas that are highly vulnerable to disasters (Bogota, Kingston, Miami, San Jose, Santiago and Vancouver) provided additional data and insights. A set of case studies were also developed to examine the challenges in developing insurance markets that can promote risk-sensitive business investment. GAR13 will present the findings from that research, along with an overview of new business practices that are beginning to transform disaster risk management in the private sector.

Regionally, UNISDR and UNESCAP published the 2012 edition of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report, titled “Reducing vulnerability and exposure to disasters”⁴ The report, which serves as an important evidence base for regional stakeholders, focused on people's exposure and vulnerability to disasters in that region. It featured powerful evidence of shifts in disaster risk exposure, and showed how targets can stimulate investments in disaster risk reduction. It also detailed the potential of ecosystem management, land-use planning, supply chain management and disaster recovery to reduce exposure.

4 Available at http://www.unisdr.org/files/29288_apdr2012finalowres.pdf

Advocacy and Outreach

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:

Increased public and private sector investments in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation through advocacy and outreach

OUTCOME 3.1: Increased public demand for and political commitment to local action and budget allocations to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

The impact of UNISDR's work stems from the actions it promotes, mobilizes and supports in countries and communities. That requires building a strong knowledge base for disaster risk reduction, identifying and convening stakeholders, and then supporting the initiatives they decide to implement. UNISDR levers action through advocacy, focused partnerships and collaboration, and ready-to-use tools and guidelines. The Making Cities Resilient Campaign and the UNISDR Champions initiative exemplify this approach and its extensive impact.

Mobilizing cities to reduce risks and build resilience

UNISDR launched the Making Cities Resilient Campaign "My City is Getting ready" in 2010, the year in which the world's urban residents for the first time outnumbered those living in rural areas. A great deal of urban growth is taking place in locations that are prone to earthquakes, droughts and floods – vulnerabilities that will worsen as climate change continues. Cities that protect themselves against disaster impacts will thrive and be able to protect the wellbeing of their inhabitants; the Making Cities Resilient Campaign was developed to help cities and municipalities do just this.

In 2012, the Campaign exceeded its annual targets for recruiting new members, role models and partners, with 1,289 local

governments in 85 countries now part of the Campaign, ranging from major cities such as Mumbai and Cape Town to small towns in Austria, Chile, Pakistan and beyond. 80 cities in the Americas joined in 2012, as did more than 200 cities and municipalities in Lebanon, as well as 10 cities in Iran's northeastern and disaster-prone Khorasan Razavi Province. San Francisco, California, became the first major city in the United States of America to sign up, and joined 33 other "Role Model Cities" in the Campaign. In addition, 60 "champions" and advocates were involved in popularizing and rolling out the campaign around the world during 2012.

Breakthroughs in 2012 included the launch of a capacity development programme with UN-Habitat in Latin America, tested in Chile and Nicaragua a partnership with ECHO to extend training and campaign launches, collaboration with UNDP in countries such as Mauretania, Lebanon and Jordan to extend training and technical cooperation to the cities, and an official partnership with the 3,000-member Ibero-American Union of Municipalities (Unión Iberoamericana de Municipalistas), which now integrates disaster risk reduction and resilience-building in its training and capacity-building programmes. United Cities and Local Governments, CITYNET and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability also adopted the Campaign and have made urban resilience a priority in their activities.

Rolling out of technical tools and guidance

Two products – the Handbook for Local Government Leaders: How to Make Cities More Resilient (translated into English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Farsi, Mandarin, and Russian) and the Local Government Self-Assessment Tool (translated into Spanish, Portuguese and Swedish, with more languages to follow) – were launched and have been widely used by campaign cities. The municipality of Siquirres, Costa Rica, for example, used the handbook to guide a series of risk reducing interventions that have prevented customary annual flooding.¹

¹ The city implemented a few simple engineering interventions, such as reinforcing the banks of a flood-prone creek, and enlarging and burying roadside pipes. The visibility of these projects subsequently helped galvanize community support for other longer-term disaster risk reduction activities.

The Self-Assessment Tool was piloted in 22 cities and was being applied in 30 cities by the end of 2012 (over 100 cities applied the tool by the end of March 2013, already exceeding the target for 2013). Cities such as Moshi in Tanzania, Cape Town in South Africa, and Santa Fe in Argentina used the tool to strengthen their understanding of urban risk reduction across departments and sectors. Telica, Nicaragua, was among the cities using the Ten Essentials guidelines to incorporate risk management into municipal land-use planning, and to develop a risk management system that compiles up-to-date information about the financial and human resource that are available during emergencies.

“There’s now an understanding of how we need to integrate with each other. The Making Cities Resilient Campaign has given people the opportunity to understand the role of disaster risk management and how they can make a change in doing bottom-line risk reduction.”

—Charlotte Powell, Director, Public Awareness and Preparedness, Disaster Risk Management Centre, Cape Town, South Africa.



To defend Venice against floods a number of structural measures have been adopted: the best known is the mobile tidal barrier system (MOSE) which will allow to close the inlets in case of high tide (Photo: Flickr/Roberto Trm).

Setting “multiplier effects” in motion

Argentina, Indonesia, Lebanon, the Philippines and Sweden are among the countries that are promoting the Campaign’s objectives and tools directly among local governments through their disaster management offices and National Associations of Municipalities. Beirut, for example, has been using the Campaign’s toolkit as a reference point to allocate a budget for disaster risk reduction, develop a risk database, conduct risk assessments and develop a disaster risk reduction master plan. South Korea also revised its existing local government assessment tool to harmonize it with the Campaign’s assessment tool, and is introducing the new tool across the country’s 220 local governments in 2013. Indonesia’s National Disaster Management Agency is applying the tool in eight provinces and cities, while Quezon City (Philippines) has adapted it for use in all Barangay, the most decentralized level in the country’s administrative system. The city also mainstreamed disaster risk reduction into existing city plans and has earmarked a new Socialized Housing Tax to help fund disaster risk reduction activities.

In Europe, the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities adopted Resolution 339 (2012) in March,

The difference the Making Cities Resilient Campaign makes

- Strengthens local level leadership and political will for disaster risk reduction;
- Responds to local demand for support to implement tangible disaster risk actions;
- Encourages national authorities and parliamentarians to decentralize mandates and mobilize resources;
- Broadens access to reliable disaster risk information and tools;
- Improves capacity and understanding of local-level disaster risk reduction (through the Local Hyogo Framework for Action Self-Assessment Tool and city-to-city learning); and
- Facilitates partnerships between local governments, national authorities, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders.

—Except from the Making Cities Resilient Report 2012



UNISDR SRSG Margareta Wahlström presents the Mayor of Sendai, Erniko Okuyama, with a certificate of recognition on the importance of political leadership in building disaster resilient societies (Photo: UNISDR).

which called on mayors and local authorities to integrate the Campaign's "Ten Essentials" into local risk reduction plans. The European Commission created a three-year project (the Academic Network for Disaster Resilience to Optimize Educational Development, or ANDROID), to boost disaster preparedness in European cities. UNISDR assisted in developing the project proposal.

The Making Cities Resilient Report 2012: A Global Snapshot of How Local Governments Reduce Disaster Risk² prepared by the International Institute for Environment and Development, was launched in September at the World Urban Forum in Naples, Italy. Based on self-assessments, research documentation and interviews with mayors and city managers from around the world, the Report marked the first comprehensive and independent review of local government actions for reducing Campaign achievements highlighted in the report included stronger political leadership by local governments to make their cities safer, often despite limited financial resources:

- In Mauritania, the Campaign enabled Abdel Malick, Mayor of Teveragh-Zeina, a municipality in the capital, Nouakchott, to introduce disaster risk reduction measures in a city that is flood-prone and threatened by rising sea levels. She drew 24 other cities and towns into the campaign, linking them into a national network.
- Baofeng, in China, went a step further and assigned a budget for disaster risk reduction, and is maintaining up-to-date information on potential risks, and investments in critical infrastructure.
- The Portuguese city of Amadora developed an implementation strategy for disaster risk reduction that incorporates the Hyogo Framework for Action priorities.

Safeguarding schools and hospitals

Protecting essential services and infrastructure such as schools and health facilities against disasters is a vital aspect of disaster risk reduction. At the global level, the UNISDR Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education successfully promoted a common agenda on school safety that led to the development of a Global Baseline Study on School Safety, which was completed in 2012. Partnering with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's Disaster Management Centre and UN-HABITAT, UNISDR developed a set of tools for assessing

Averting the unimaginable in Nepal

Twelve of the world's 15 largest cities are in the developing world. With risk and vulnerability increasing rapidly, chances are increasing that a massive seismic event will one day hit a city that has doubled in size in a few generations, and where planning and building regulations were flouted and disaster risk management was avoided.

If such a catastrophe is to be avoided, risk reduction needs to be aligned with governance reforms and other adjustments. The Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium includes UNISDR alongside humanitarian and development partners with financial institutions and the Government of Nepal. The Consortium comprises five flagship programmes that mirror the Hyogo Framework for Action priority action areas (focusing on safe schools and hospitals, flood risk management, community-based disaster preparedness, and strengthening policy and institutions). Fully 71 of Nepal's 75 districts now have finalized disaster preparedness and response plans, and a flood forecasting and meteorology service is being launched in 2013. A next step is to create a national disaster management agency.

school and hospital safety for multi-hazards in South Asia. The toolkit is being used in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Training-of-trainer programmes involving Health and Education Ministries, and local architects and builders' associations are underway in those countries to support use of the toolkit.

Engaging legislators, leaders, and other citizens

A great deal of UNISDR's impact flows from its ability to leverage the authority, influence and links of key individuals and partner institutions. The leveraging of disaster risk reduction actions through several UNISDR stakeholder networks, including with Parliamentarians and the private sector, show the success of this approach.

² http://www.unisdr.org/files/26462_handbookfinalonlineversion.pdf

UNISDR's engagement with Parliamentarians has been built over the past five years. Parliamentarians' involvement in setting state policies and norms, crafting legislation and creating enabling environments for risk reduction prompted UNISDR to put special effort into mobilizing them to act on disaster risk management. It set up an Advisory Group of Parliamentarians to facilitate that work, which by end-2012 involved more than 900 parliamentarians from 124 countries. Achievements in 2012 included:

- The Summit of Legislators, held during the Rio+20 Summit, produced an outcome document, the Globe Rio+20 Legislator's Protocol, in which parliamentarians from around the world committed to mainstream disaster risk reduction more thoroughly in policy making;
- Chile, Colombia and Vietnam (see box) revised their national legislation on disaster risk management, and began developing new national policies. In Bangladesh, parliamentarians mustered all-party support behind Government efforts to reduce disaster and climate change risks.
- Members of the African Advisory Group of Parliamentarians (from Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) advanced model legislation for disaster risk reduction in the East African Legislative Assembly. The bill is due to pass into law in 2013.
- Member of the Advisory Group from the EU parliament promoted disaster risk reduction and made disaster risk reduction one of the priority areas of the Development Committee of the EU Parliament.
- Member of the Advisory Group from Bangladesh contributed to the informal thematic debate at the UN General Assembly and also brought disaster risk reduction on the agenda of the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Climate Change – The Dhaka Declaration,
- In Central Africa, a regional policy on disaster and climate change risk management was adopted at ministerial level in June 2012, along with a plan of action that is linked aligned with the Hyogo Framework for Action planning cycle.

“In Bangladesh alone, we lose 3 per cent of GDP on account of disasters. This could be the difference between the country coming out of poverty or remaining mired in it.”

—Saber Chowdhury, founding member of UNISDR's Parliamentarian Advisory Group for Disaster Risk Reduction³

3 http://www.pacificdisaster.net/pdnadmin/data/original/UNISDR_2012_parliamentarians_focus.pdf

Concerted action in Vietnam

Following high-level advocacy from UNISDR and partners, including the World Bank and AusAID, the Prime Minister's Office in Vietnam approved the creation of the National Platform on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in 2012. The Platform functions under the umbrella of the newly established National Committee for Climate Change, which is headed by the Prime Minister. Two ministries (Agriculture and Rural Development, and Environment and Natural Resources) were tasked with taking this work forward. They are preparing a national SREX report, with support from UNDP and other development partners to serve integrated disaster and climate change risk management planning.

UNISDR, along with the UNDP and other partners, supported an extensive lessons-sharing exercise in disaster risk reduction law making for National Assembly representatives in early 2012 to support the appraisal of Vietnam's first Disaster Risk Management law. The representatives then staged a series of consultations with communities, local governments and fellow National Assembly members. UNISDR also facilitated exchanges with Bangladesh and Indonesia to support the assessment of Vietnam's law, which was extensively revised. The National Assembly is expected to pass the new version in mid-2013.

Engaging the private sector

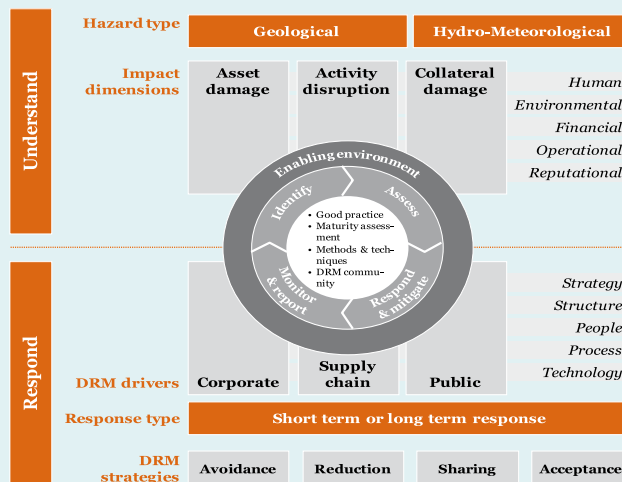
Working with its Private Sector Advisory Group, UNISDR increased its efforts to galvanize a global network of private sector companies to safeguard their businesses and investments against disasters in 2012. A growing global network of private sector entities, active in finance, insurance, building engineering, technology, and consulting sectors has joined forces around a common interest in building disaster resilience. The network now includes 450 companies, compared with 207 a year ago.

Six major companies (including Glaxo Smith Kline and SM Prime Holdings) signed up to the “Five Essentials for Business in Disaster Risk Reduction”, joining the 29 existing signatories (which include multinational corporations, such as AECOM and

Supporting disaster risk management in the private sector

Global consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers and UNISDR are collaborating on a global initiative to better understand and support disaster risk management in the private sector. 14 companies with a global footprint and therefore increasing risk exposure participate in the initiative, including ABB, ARUP, British Gas, Citigroup, General Electric, Hindustan Construction Company, HIRCO, Hitachi, InterContinental Hotels Group, Nestlé, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, Roche, Shapoorji Pallonji & Co. Ltd and Walmart. 11 risk management workshops with the companies took place in 2012. Results and findings of the workshops will be published in the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2013.

PwC worked with UNISDR to create a Disaster Risk Management Framework (DRM-F, as pictured) to serve as the basis for the initiative. The DRM-F was developed and tested with large multinationals to determine whether such a framework could help create a common understanding of disaster risk management across industries and sectors, and formalize the way knowledge is captured and structured.



In addition to the DRM-F, a disaster risk management maturity assessment tool was developed to help companies evaluate their level of preparedness in five key areas: strategy, structure, process, people, and technology.

By establishing a platform for the private and public sectors to collaborate on disaster risk management, the initiative aims to create active societies that work on disaster resilience issues relevant to their industry sector and locality. The private sector will play a critical role in driving innovative thinking and defining how risk exposure can be managed collaboratively, and communicated to public sector bodies. In 2013 and 2014, the platform will be tailored to the needs of companies facing disaster risks. The focus will be on actionable tools, practical insights and links to competent partners in the public sector.

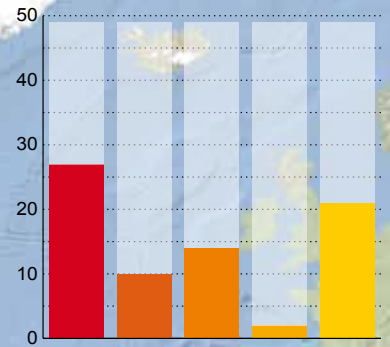
Marsh S.A.). Together the signatories comprise the Disaster Risk Reduction Private Sector Partnership, which expanded its work in various regions.

In Asia and the Pacific, 30 chief executive officers from leading businesses gathered in Manila to share experiences of business continuity management in an effort to safeguard their businesses against disasters. Over 100 companies participated in a business continuity management simulation exercise organized in collaboration with PricewaterhouseCoopers UK. Those companies are now training key personnel on disaster risk management. The private sector was also active at the Fifth Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in

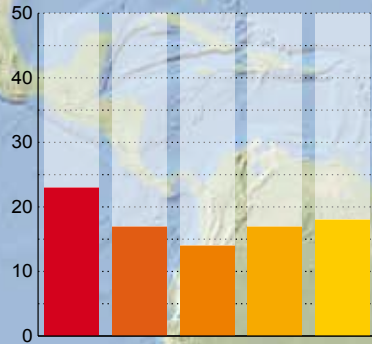
Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and prepared an annex to the Outcome Declaration in which they committed to continuous engagement in disaster risk reduction.

In South-Eastern Europe, UNISDR assisted Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia in developing a comprehensive risk-based regulatory framework for catastrophe insurance and reinsurance. Working in partnership with the World Bank, UNISDR also stepped up its support to the South-Eastern Europe and Caucasus Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility through the European Commission-funded project, "Building Resilience in the Western Balkans and Turkey".

-  Total number of countries in the region
-  Number of countries participating in Regional Platforms
-  Number of HFA Monitor Reports submitted
-  Number of National Plans that address HFA priorities
-  Number of National Loss Databases in 2012
-  Total number of National Platforms

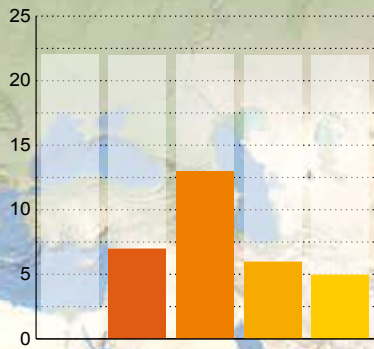


EUROPE

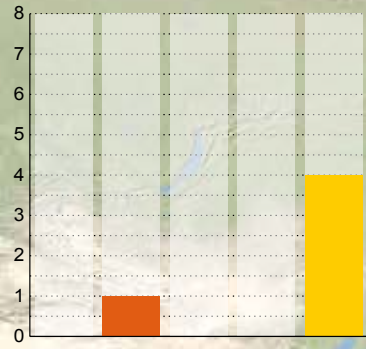


THE AMERICAS

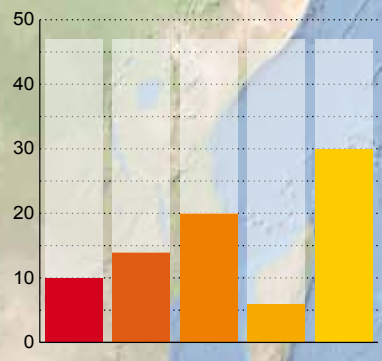
Reducing disaster risks worldwide 2012



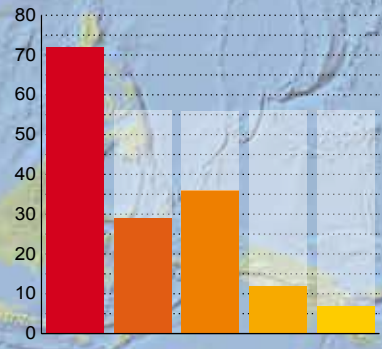
ARAB STATES ⁽²⁾



CENTRAL ASIA ⁽²⁾



AFRICA ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾



ASIA AND PACIFIC ⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾ This graph reflects the 10 ECCAS Member States participating in the Sub-Regional Platform for West Africa in 2012.

⁽²⁾ The Regional Platforms for the Arab States and Africa, and a Regional Meeting in Central Asia took place in early 2013 and are not reflected in this graph.

⁽³⁾ 72 countries participated in the AMCDRR and 22 countries in the Pacific Sub-Regional Platform.



There are many ways that messages can be spread. In some cases, it could be the difference between life and death. Strong action is required from governments and communities on early warning and contingency planning, so people understand their risk and know what to do when the alarm is raised (Photo: Amir Jina).

Deliver and communicate results

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: More effective, results-oriented UNISDR to carry out its mandate

OUTCOME 4.1: Communications and knowledge management tools effectively support UNISDR objectives

Over the past five years, UNISDR has created an increasingly rigorous system to improve its strategic planning and management, improve programme monitoring and ensure accountability. UNISDR is committed to learning from external evaluations of programme performance. A series of independently commissioned reviews and strategic planning exercises have provided useful roadmaps to strengthen communications, resource mobilization and programme management.

Using a wide range of communication tools to support UNISDR objectives

In 2012, UNISDR put considerable effort into sharpening its communications and knowledge management tools in support of the Office's overall objectives. A communications strategy was presented to senior management and is being acted upon. It is designed to support full implementation of the Strategic Framework 2025, with the immediate focus on communicating outcomes from the "HFA2" consultations and the Post-2015 development agenda; raising the profile of GAR13 through the development of a communications package and media plan; demonstrating local impact by highlighting achievements through the Making Cities Resilient Campaign; reporting on major legislative/policy changes whether at global level (Rio+20) or at regional, national and local level; and reporting on how the UN system is moving towards becoming more strategic in integration disaster risk reduction across all its activities.

Producing and disseminating information that advances disaster risk management for reducing risk is an important part of UNISDR's work. UNISDR produced a large volume of

original content to service practitioners and media outlets, and to strengthen knowledge of disaster risk reduction in the UN System, and among partners and donors. During 2012, UNISDR utilized many forms of media, ranging from hard copy publications to the worldwide web (principally via the www.unisdr.org and www.PreventionWeb.net websites), media releases and, increasingly, new social media (such as Facebook, Twitter, Youtube and Flickr).

UNISDR's website, www.unisdr.org, attracted a 51% increase in unique visitors in 2012 (the number reached 346,418). Overall, the website received 566,592 visits during the year, with an average 47,200 visits each month. Its news section accounted for 13% of page views.

The PreventionWeb website continued to grow in usage and popularity in 2012, with over 600,000 unique visitors and 2.3 million page views – a 30% increase since 2011. The site published 4,480 new content items and 675 information sources in 2012. The PreventionWeb email subscription services distributed over 250,000 emails per month to subscribers.

An independent evaluation of PreventionWeb was published in 2012. The evaluation examined the effectiveness, impact and ability of the website to meet the information needs of disaster risk reduction stakeholders. It concluded that PreventionWeb had established itself as the pre-eminent global portal for disaster risk reduction, providing an extensive range of resources for a broad constituency. The main recommendation was to add more value through active "knowledge brokering". Following the evaluation, an extensive user needs analysis was undertaken with over 60 interviews and more than 800 replies to an online survey. In the survey, 79% of respondents reported that PreventionWeb had improved their understanding of disaster risk reduction, and 50% said that PreventionWeb services had increased their engagement around disaster risk reduction issues.

The evaluation and user needs analyses were presented to UNISDR senior management in late 2012, and five design directions were proposed. They included packaging certain types of risk knowledge content to make it more accessible,

branding to improve the awareness of the relationship between PreventionWeb and UNISDR, developing orientation packages for specific topics and specific user groups, and increasing interactive networking and collaboration services for the disaster risk reduction community. Other proposals involved improving access to risk data by using visualization functions. This analysis will help to strengthen UNISDR's overall digital strategy. A PreventionWeb redesign proposal is currently being developed and implemented in 2013.

UNISDR generated 157 news stories and 38 press releases during 2012, on par with the previous year. The independent media monitoring system, Factiva, reports an upward trend in UNISDR-related news reports. UNISDR was mentioned specifically in 345 news articles (compared with 332 in 2011), while "disaster risk reduction" received 3,476 mentions (2,849 in 2011), and "climate change adaptation" was mentioned 2,852 times (2,557 in 2011). References to UNISDR have almost doubled since 2010. UNISDR produces a monthly newsletter, "Evidence", which targets a variety of audiences including donors, embassies and other stakeholders with an "at a glance" approach to UNISDR news.

The SRSG continued to serve as a powerful advocate for disaster and climate risk management; her public statements were widely quoted. She featured in 315 news reports in 2012, and was active in new social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. The SRSG's missions were extensively covered in host country media thanks to collaboration with UN Resident Coordinators and National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The International Day for Disaster Reduction, which UNISDR initiated, has evolved into a global, high profile event. For the 2012 edition, UNISDR and a wide range of partners focused attention on the roles of women and girls in building resilience in communities; the theme formed part of the four-year "Step Up for Disaster Risk Reduction Campaign". Held in October, the International Day was marked in 80 countries, where more than 250 events were staged by over 400 organizations.

Social media were used very effectively to engage participants around International Day, and received some 27 million views and over 5,000 tweets. A collaborative website created by UNISDR for the Day was visited over 40,000 times in the run-up to the events and afterwards.

Internal knowledge management

UNISDR launched a redesigned Intranet to enhance internal communication and knowledge-sharing among staff. Features include an automated travel and mission report system, development of comprehensive person profiles, an online correspondence registry, internal blogging feature and personalized pages for all staff. Integrated country profiles aggregate available information including contacts, mission reports, correspondence, policy, and events to make mission and programme planning more efficient. All administrative and staff support sections were completely re-written in a wiki format, which staff can easily update.

OUTCOME 4.2: Enlarged, sustainable and predictable resource base.

Building a predictable and sustainable resource base

UNISDR is funded by voluntary contributions. Since 2006, contributions to the UNISDR Trust Fund have increased by an average of 20% in each biennium. In the 2010–2011 biennium, total income amounted to USD 53.9 million. In 2012, UNISDR continued to work on enlarging its resource base. In order to support global efforts behind disaster risk reduction and resilience, and to finance the consultations for the "HFA2", the UNISDR Secretariat established a budget target of USD 64.9 million for the 2012–2013 biennium. This target was shared with donors in April 2012.

UNISDR designed a Resource Mobilization Strategy in 2012 to help secure these funds. UNISDR has made good progress in implementing this Strategy. In order to engage key donors more systematically, the SRSG and the Resource Mobilization Team visited a number of partner countries in 2012 (including Belgium, Denmark, Japan, Luxembourg and Switzerland). It also engaged with Permanent Missions in Geneva and New York, and reached out to potential new donors to broaden the donor base.

In November 2012, the Government of the Netherlands hosted the UNISDR Annual Donor Meeting. This was held back-to-back with the Global Fund for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) Consultative Group meeting to maximize

engagement and ensure a more strategic dialogue with the World Bank and donors. In a cooperative effort, UNISDR and the GFDRR reviewed achievements under GFDRR Track 1 as a basis for strengthened cooperation. An independent evaluation of the Development Grant Facility funding to UNISDR through the GFDRR will also help shape the joint Partnership once this funding ends at the end of 2013.

Flexibility and sustainability

A key aim of UNISDR’s Resource Mobilization Strategy is to secure increases in non-earmarked funding from donors, and, where possible, to secure those commitments on a multi-year basis. This is critically important to avoid shortfalls in programme delivery.

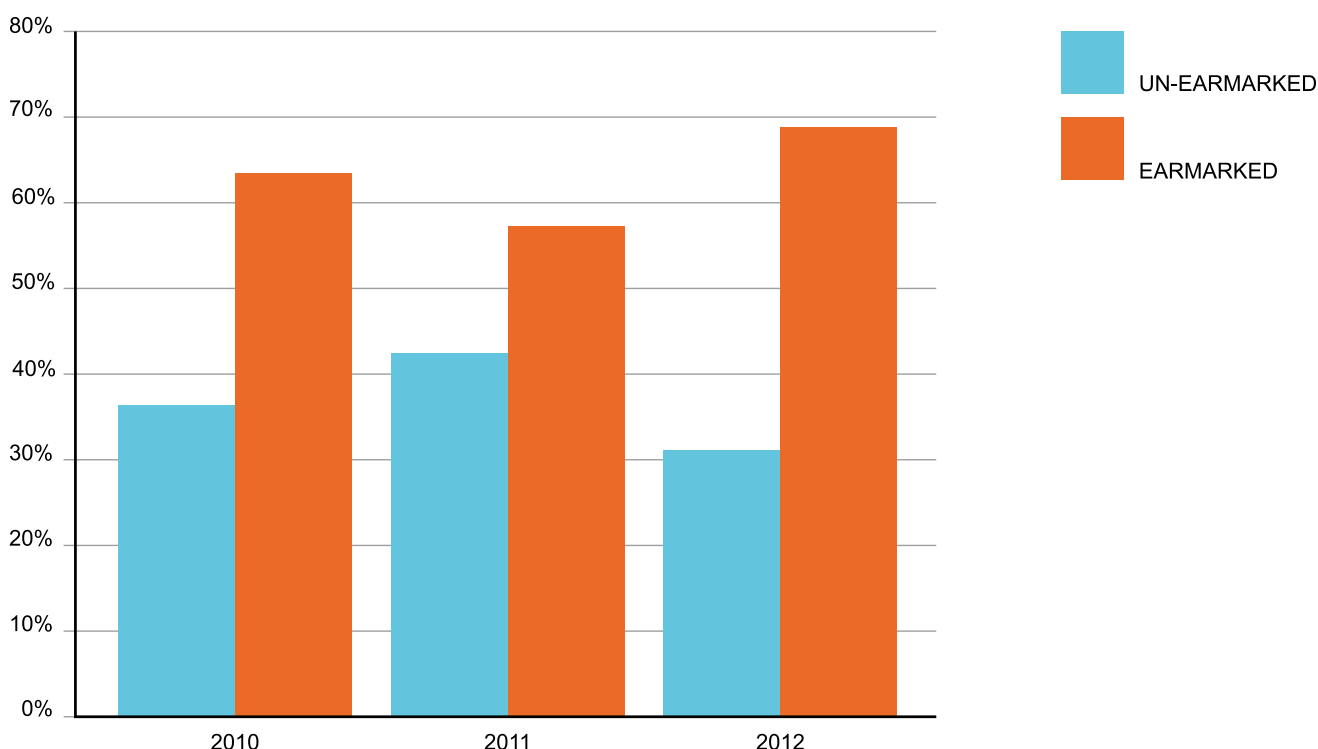
In 2012, UNISDR negotiated or implemented multi-year funding agreements with the Governments of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Finland, Luxembourg and Switzerland. These agreements place UNISDR’s income on a more predictable footing. However, efforts to improve programme delivery and streamline

cash management were partially impeded by the fact that over two-thirds of UNISDR’s income was earmarked to specific projects (up from 62% in 2011, and 58% in 2010).

OUTCOME 4.3: Results-focused implementation of UNISDR’s strategic priorities

In line with the Office’s commitment to continuous improvement of organizational performance, UNISDR successfully implemented recommendations issued from several reviews and evaluations in 2011 and 2012. A special priority for UNISDR in 2012 was to improve resource management and programme reporting, in particular through its results-based management system. By the end of 2012, UNISDR was on track to meet its biennial goal of rolling out its results-based management, monitoring and reporting system across all programme units. The system currently supports global monitoring of results-oriented workplan outputs, while enhanced financial modules are being commissioned to automate the linkages between programme implementation and financial reporting.

UN-EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS VS EARMARKED





Bangkok, Thailand, suffered from severe flooding in 2011 and 2012, prompting the Government to commit to the development of new floodways and other preventive measures (Photo: Flickr/bluemonkey).

The implementation of institutional and organizational decisions and processes resulted in improved administrative rigor across the organization. First, the decision by the UN Controller's Office granting financial authority to UNISDR in 2011 resulted in a 30% organizational efficiency improvement in processing and implementation of contribution agreements with donors, resource programming and the issue of grants. Efficiencies in reporting were improved by the introduction of standard operational procedures and guidance for workplanning, process turn-around (such as travel, workshops, grant administration), financial planning and reporting, human resources and administration. In line with the UN change management plan, whose focus is organizational efficiency and accountability improvements, partnership agreements and service provision arrangements were closely coordinated to ensure "value for money". Finally, as a result of senior managers' efforts to strengthen the effectiveness in resource programming, a Programme and Finance Committee was established with the objective of optimizing resource allocation, most importantly to support improved coherence between regions and headquarters.

Based on a Functional Review that focused on optimizing staff-function ratios, UNISDR improved its organizational structure through the establishment of a Strategic Leadership Group tasked with steering strategic direction and an Operations Management Group and the above mentioned Programme and Finance Committee for coordinating and monitoring programme management. Following on the Functional Review, staff were

redeployed for more effective distribution of skills and function. UNISDR also strengthened management with the addition of Director and other senior staff. In order to improve performance and strengthen staff competencies, staff training focused on leadership, accountability and results. The UNISDR set of values adopted by the organization were regularly reinforced, being a standing item on the monthly all-staff meetings.

To further support staff development, UNISDR organized an Office Retreat in September 2012 under the theme "Working Together: Delivering to 2015". The Retreat focused on professional development, strategic planning and programme review exercises, with a view to enhancing programme delivery. The Retreat achieved a better sense of UNISDR's role as a knowledge broker, a set of clear priorities and messages for the next three years, training on results-based budgeting and management and on the multi-stakeholder HFA review process.

As part of its mid-biennium review and in the spirit of continuous management improvement, senior management revisited the Strategic Framework and Work Programme 2012–15 to see how it could be adjusted to respond to calls by donors to be more results-oriented and shift the emphasis from outputs to results reporting. At the time of publication of this report, there is a need to update the Strategy to take account of developments since its drafting, such as to accommodate new UN directives and demands. The proposed adjustments would not alter commitments to agreed deliverables.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

As the end of 2012 is the halfway point in the biennium, UNISDR is presenting a financial snapshot of the status of income and expenditure. A more detailed financial analysis will be provided at the end of the biennium.

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNISDR, 2012			
2011		2012	
Donors	USD	Donors	USD
World Bank / DGF*	4,250,000	European Commission	5,774,828
Sweden*	4,228,362	Sweden*	4,981,110
European Commission*	3,890,053	World Bank / DGF*	4,300,000
Australia*	2,170,400	Australia*	3,005,093
Norway	1,535,228	Republic of Korea*	2,499,978
Republic of Korea*	1,500,000	Norway	1,672,090
Denmark	1,284,851	Switzerland*	1,586,620
Switzerland*	1,246,055	Germany	1,569,748
Netherlands	1,100,000	Netherlands	1,428,571
Japan	1,045,044	Japan	1,341,178
Germany	904,508	Finland*	1,310,616
Finland*	824,176	Denmark	883,045
Brazil*	500,000	Ireland	789,610
Luxembourg*	340,599	Brazil*	614,779
People,s Republic of China	300,000	ESCWA	316,682
Kazakhstan	149,975	Luxembourg*	310,559
United States of America	118,579	People,s Republic of China	300,000
Argentina*	50,000	United States of America	171,000
Mexico	40,000	Kazakhstan	150,000
Hungary	11,268	Argentina*	46,512
Chile	5,000	Mexico	35,000
Philippines	1,800	France	13,280
		Hungary	9,804
		Asian Development Bank	6,052
		Philippines	1,980
TOTAL 2011	25,495,896	TOTAL 2012	33,118,134
22 DONORS		25 DONORS	
* Multi-year agreements			

Income snapshot at the end of 2012

In 2012, donors increased their funding to UNISDR from USD 25.5 million to USD 33.1 million. Twenty-five donors (23 States plus the European Commission and the World Bank) contributed to the UNISDR Trust Fund in 2012, up from 22 in 2011. As a result, UNISDR was successful in mobilizing more than half of its biennial budget target of USD 64.9 million, a strong signal of donor confidence in UNISDR’s strategic direction and enhanced programme delivery.

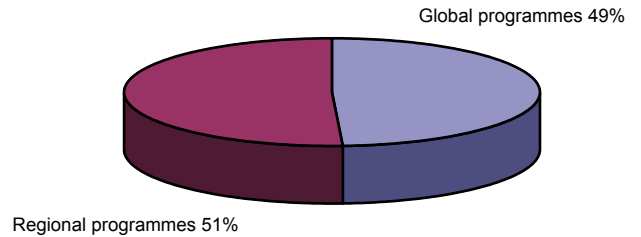
In addition to the USD 33.1 million in voluntary contributions from donors, UNISDR received funding for a D1 post from the UN’s regular budget. The Office also benefitted from a range of in-kind contributions from donors and private sector partners, to the tune of USD 1.24 million. The Government of Switzerland seconded a disaster risk reduction expert to UNISDR’s Regional Office for the Arab States, while the Governments of Australia and the Netherlands provided a junior programme officer to the UNISDR’s Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the New York Liaison Office respectively. Australia also supports UNISDR with a youth ambassador for UNISDR’s Regional Office for Africa.

UNISDR also benefited from other contributions from the wider risk reduction community. For instance, the 2013 Global Assessment Report was supported by several private sector companies, as well as by countries, UN agencies, civil society organizations, academics and other collaborators. Many of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign’s launches, training workshops and seminars were co-financed or fully sponsored by partners.

Expenditure snapshot at the end of 2012

At the end of 2012, UNISDR is midway towards meeting its planning objectives for the 2012–2013 biennium.

ALLOCATION OF EXPENDITURE BETWEEN GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAMMES *(Indicative)*:



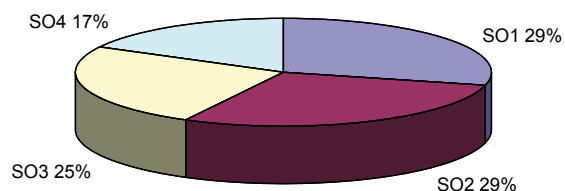
	GLOBAL	REGIONAL
2012–2013 Target	48	52
End 2012 (Midterm)	49	51

(all figures in %)

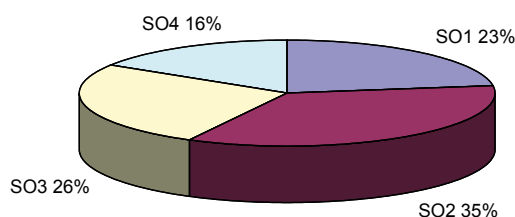
Total expenditure was distributed between Global vs. Regional Programmes* at a ratio of 49:51 at the end of 2012, in line with the target for the biennium.

* Regional programmes include all Regional Offices + Regional Programmes Support Section+ Incheon Office + Bonn office + IRP Kobe office

TOTAL EXPENDITURE BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (SO) AT END 2012 *(Indicative)*



GLOBAL PROGRAMMES: EXPENDITURE BY SO



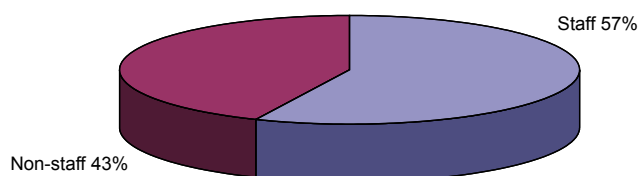
The pie chart shows how the expenditure on Global Programmes was spread across the four Strategic Objectives. Again the development of the GAR publication has a visible impact on the proportion of SO2.

	SO1	SO2	SO3	SO4
2012–2013 Target	34	26	26	14
End 2012 (Mid-term)	29	29	25	17

(all figures in %)

Strategic Objective 2 is a little higher than the end biennium target due to expenditures on the Global Assessment Report (GAR) 2013. Production of this publication requires substantive funding in the first year of each biennium. Strategic Objective 4 is also slightly inflated because UNISDR recruited temporary staff to assist with the preparation of the Global Platform 2013 and because of increased cost of living allowances for staff working in Geneva.

EXPENDITURES ON STAFF AND NON-STAFF COSTS *(Indicative)*

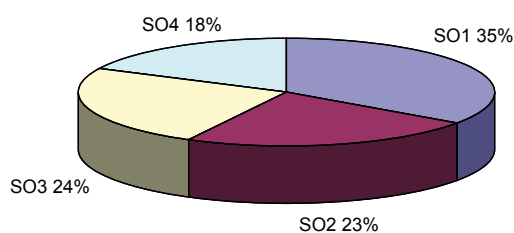


	STAFF	NON-STAFF
2012–2013 Target	53	47
End 2012 (Mid-term)	57	43

(all figures in %)

The pie chart represents what UNISDR allocates to staff and non-staff expenditure. As a knowledge based organization, UNISDR discharges its mandate through its staff and hence an investment in staff is an investment in outputs. The 4% deviation in this ratio from the figures planned for the biennium is a result of the short term recruitments undertaken in preparation for the Global Platform and at least five major regional events such as ministerial conferences and Regional Platforms in different parts of the world.

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES: EXPENDITURE BY SO



This pie chart shows how the expenditure on Regional Programmes was spread across the four Strategic Objectives. Expenditure under Strategic Objective 1 reflects investments in regional meetings and Regional Platforms in 2012.



TRUST FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION
Statement of income and expenditure and changes in reserves and fund balances
for the twelve-months of the biennium 2012-2013 ending 31 December 2012
(expressed in United States dollars)

	Sche. 7.4.14	Sche. 7.4.29	Sche. 7.4.15	
	Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction	Sub-account for Trust Fund for Tsunami Disaster Relief for activities related to contingency planning and early warning mechanisms	UNDRO Sasakawa Disaster Prevention Award Fund	
	DXA	TNB	DLA	TOTAL
INCOME				
Voluntary Contributions	38,459,458	-	-	38,459,458 1/
Received under Inter-Organization arrangements	316,682	-	-	316,682
Interest income	118,389	3,564	14,741	136,694
Miscellaneous income	672,520	29,219	4,050	705,789 2/
TOTAL INCOME	39,567,049	32,783	18,791	39,618,623
EXPENDITURE				
Staff and other personnel costs	17,616,332	-	-	17,616,332
Travel	3,958,913	-	-	3,958,913
Contractual services	1,436,599	-	-	1,436,599
Operating expenses	1,412,116	-	-	1,412,116
Acquisitions	115,053	-	-	115,053
Fellowships grants and other	3,347,096	-	-	3,347,096
Programme support costs (Agency)	302,029	-	-	302,029
Total Direct expenditure	28,188,138	-	-	28,188,138
Programme support costs	2,892,056	-	-	2,892,056
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	31,080,194	-	-	31,080,194
Excess (shortfall) of income over expenditures	8,486,855	32,783	18,791	8,538,429
Prior period adjustments	(400)	-	-	(400) 3/
NET EXCESS (SHORTFALL) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURES	8,486,455	32,783	18,791	8,538,029
Transfers (to) from reserves and other funds	-	-	-	-
Refund to donors	-	-	-	-
Savings on prior period' obligations	1,858,940	-	2,004	1,860,944
RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES: BEGINNING OF PERIOD	13,465,198	546,979	2,242,705	16,254,882
RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES: END OF PERIOD	23,810,593	579,762	2,263,500	26,653,855

Statement of assets, liabilities, and reserves and fund balances as at 31 December 2012
(expressed in United States dollars)

ASSETS				
Cash and term deposits	-	-	-	-
OAH Cash Pool	18,309,257	575,621	2,247,120	21,131,998
Pledged contributions receivable	15,373,225	-	-	15,373,225
Inter-fund balances receivable	102,531	4,141	16,380	123,052
Other accounts receivable	168,238	-	-	168,238
Other assets	110,957	-	-	110,957
Operating funds provided to executing agencies	2,305,813	-	-	2,305,813
TOTAL ASSETS	36,370,021	579,762	2,263,500	39,213,283
LIABILITIES				
Inter-fund balances payable	-	-	-	-
Other accounts payable	35,473	-	-	35,473
Unliquidated obligations	3,942,876	-	-	3,942,876
Contributions/payments received in advance	8,581,079	-	-	8,581,079
TOTAL LIABILITIES	12,559,428	-	-	12,559,428
RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES				
Operating Reserves	2,818,814	-	-	2,818,814
Reserves for allocations	2,325,421	-	-	2,325,421
Endowment Fund	-	-	2,000,000	2,000,000
Cumulative surplus (deficit)	18,666,358	579,762	263,500	19,509,620
TOTAL RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES	23,810,593	579,762	2,263,500	26,653,855
TOTAL LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCES	36,370,021	579,762	2,263,500	39,213,283

1/ The contributions received are all in convertible currencies.

2/ Includes gain on exchange for fund DXA of US\$160,465, for fund TNB of US\$909 and for fund DLA of US\$3,789.

3/ Represents adjustment for fund DXA relating to write-off of irrecoverable amount of US\$400 (RCNL 4305).

ANNEX 1: MID-TERM OUTCOME REPORT 2012

Please note that the indicators cover the full period of the work programme 2012–2015. As such, some of the indicators (marked with*) are not applicable for 2012 and will be reported against at a later stage.

Strategic Objective 1: Lead and Coordinate

Strengthened support to the implementation and coordination of the ISDR and the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) and improved coherence with climate change adaptation and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

OUTCOME	OUTCOME INDICATOR	PROGRESS ON OUTCOME AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2012
Outcome 1.1: Collective and coherent actions agreed to reduce risk at global, regional and national levels	Number of countries adopting a post-HFA framework*	n/a for 2012.
	Increase of 20% by 2013 and 40% by 2015 in the number of countries reporting the implementation of national action plans for disaster risk reduction	By end of 2012, 77 countries reported in their National HFA Reports 2011–2013 the implementation of national action plans for disaster risk reduction, up from 59 countries in 2011. 77% of countries report that disaster risk is taken into account in public investment and planning decisions of climate change policy and strategy.
	Evidence of community resilience to disasters through increased lives saved and consideration of economic loss documented through the HFA monitor	The Local Self-Assessment tool launched and piloted in 2012 By the end of 2012, 30 cities had submitted reports to be analyzed as part of the GAR15 and Resilient Cities Report 2015.
	References to the application of disaster risk reduction in the UN system and outcomes of the UNFCCC Cancun Adaptation Framework, Rio+20, and the review and implementation of the MDGs and implementation of national action plans for disaster risk reduction	Disaster risk reduction featured as a key element in the Rio+20 negotiations and outcome document, in COP18 in Doha and consultations for the post-2015 development agenda consultations. At the national level 13 countries integrated Climate Change Adaptation in their National Disaster Risk Reduction Plans.

OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	PROGRESS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2012
1. Established process for the consultations leading to a postHFA framework	2012–2013: Number of regional, sub-regional and global consultations with technical and partnership organizations	By end 2012, 43 consultation events organized globally, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Regional and Sub-Regional Platforms (Asia, Pacific, the Americas, Europe, Central Africa). • Consultations at Rio+20 in Rio, the World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Japan, COP18 in Qatar, the World Urban Forum in Italy
	A draft post-HFA framework presented at the 2013 Global Platform	A synthesis of the consultations and key issues for the post-HFA is under development for input to GP13.
	2014–2015: A post-HFA Framework in place*	n/a for 2012.

<p>2. One Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2013 and World Conference in 2015</p>	<p>2012–2013: Chair's Summary of the Fourth Session of the Global Platform disseminated*</p> <p>2014–2015: World Conference outcome drafted and disseminated*</p>	<p>n/a for 2012, but: Preparations for the GP13 well underway. Announcement of the host country Japan by the Secretary-General during the General Assembly in September 2012.</p>
<p>3. Policy guidance and follow-up of Global Platform Chair's Summary, General Assembly Resolutions and National Platform inputs provided to six Regional Platforms</p>	<p>2012–2013 and 2014–2015: Number of preparatory and outcome documents related to Regional Platforms for which UNISDR provides substantive policy input</p>	<p>UNISDR with partners prepared a number of strategic and analytical papers, including the 4 outcome documents for the Regional Platforms in 2012. Documents included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asia-Pacific disaster report 2012: Reducing vulnerability and exposure to disasters • Disaster reduction in Africa: ISDR Informs, special issue on drought risk reduction, 2012 • Drought contingency plans and planning in the Greater Horn of Africa • Overview of National Platforms in Europe • Criteria and Guidelines for the application of criteria for prioritizing programmatic actions for disaster risk reduction (LAC) • Disaster risk and poverty trends in Jordan, Syria, Yemen: key findings and policy recommendations • Understanding Existing Methodologies for Allocating and Tracking DRR Resources in 6 Countries in the Americas: (Colombia), Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru. (Orihuela, Jose Carlos; Commissioned by UNISDR). • Understanding Existing Methodologies for Allocating and Tracking Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Resources in India (Chakrabarti, Dhar: Commissioned by UNISDR). • Preliminary examination of Existing Methodologies for Allocating and Tracking National Government Budget for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Philippines (Jose, Susan Rachel G)1. • Preliminary examination of Existing Methodologies for Allocating and Tracking National Government Budget for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Indonesia. Unpublished Asian Development Bank Report (Darwanto, Herry)2. • Disaster Risk Assessment and Risk Financing – A G20 / OECD Methodological Framework (OECD) • Outcome document from the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (5AMCDRR). • "The Santiago Communiqué" from the 3rd session of America Regional Platform. • Outcome document from the 3rd Session of the European Forum for DRR. • Outcome document from the Pacific Platform
<p>4. Policy guidance to national coordinating bodies for enhanced disaster risk reduction, including through the review of the role of National Platforms</p>	<p>2012–2013: Number of National Platforms that receive UNISDR guidance</p> <p>Review of the role of National Platforms completed and endorsed by the 2013 Global Platform</p> <p>2014–2015: Number of National Platforms that implement review recommendations*</p>	<p>By end of 2012, 85 countries had formed National Platforms/ Mechanisms for disaster risk reduction with support from UNISDR, compared to 73 in 2010 and 41 in 2008. New Platforms established in 5 countries.</p> <p>National Platform Review initiated, facilitated by UNISDR, and led by a group of 7 National Platforms.</p> <p>n/a in 2012.</p>

5. Coherent action by the UN system to reduce disaster risk in countries	2012–2013: Recommendations from the HFA Mid-Term Review study on the UN are addressed	UNISDR facilitated the development of a UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience for endorsement in 2013.
	Number of consultations with UN Resident Coordinators organized in regions	In 2012, UNISDR worked with RCs and UNCTs in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines Djibouti, Lebanon and Mauritania. Bolivia, Cameroon, India, Jordan, Moldova, Nepal.
	Reflection of practical application of disaster risk reduction in Climate Adaptation Framework, and sustainable development (through Rio+20 process)	Of the total of 54 UNDAFS developed since 2009, 39 address disaster risk reduction and over half incorporate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
	2014–2015: HFA Final Report indicating support provided by the UN system towards progress achieved against the three HFA Strategic Goals	Disaster risk reduction features strongly in the Rio+20, G20 and COP18 documents.
	Disaster risk reduction reflected in the review and implementation of the MDGs*	n/a in 2012.

Strategic Objective 2: Credible Evidence

Producing and disseminating credible evidence to strengthen decision making at local, national and regional levels in support of disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation and achievement of the MDGs

OUTCOME	OUTCOME INDICATOR	PROGRESS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2012
Outcome 2.1: National priority setting and planning for disaster risk reduction informed by accessible and organized information produced through the government-led monitoring and peer review of HFA implementation	Number of reviews by countries, IGOs and local governments and self-assessment progress reports through the HFA Monitor tool and guidelines	With UNISDR support, 77 countries submitted reports through the HFA monitor by end 2012. Further reports are expected in 2013. Seven (7) IGOs participating in regional assessment and 30 cities using the LGSAT.

OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	PROGRESS UPDATE 31 DECEMBER 2012
6. Updated HFA Monitor online tool for local, national and regional reporting available and guidance provided to governments, UN Country Teams and IGOs	2012–2013: Number of countries receiving support on HFA monitor including through UN Country Teams and Regional Organizations	Support provided to countries and local governments for the use of the HFA monitor and LGSAT, including training on HFA monitor for 15 Arab countries. Similarly, UNISDR provided technical support and advice to 14 countries in the Pacific, and 8 countries in Central Asia.
	Percentage of HFA Reviews submitted based on multi-stakeholder consultations	The first national Peer Review conducted in the UK. Peer reviewers were Italy, Finland and Sweden. Results to be published in 2013.
	2014–2015: Steering function, plus peer review operational*	n/a in 2012.

7. Analysis of HFA report data developed and made available to decision-makers across development sectors (including the MDGs)	<p>2012–2013: HFA Monitor Analysis Report published in 2012 and 2014*</p> <p>2014–2015: Final HFA Review produced through in-depth and multi-stakeholder analysis at national, regional and international level*</p>	<p>The HFA Monitor Report was developed in 2012, for publication in 2013. Regional synthesis reports of HFA implementation developed in 2012 for publication in 2013.</p> <p>n/a in 2012</p>
--	--	--

OUTCOME	OUTCOME INDICATOR	PROGRESS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2012
Outcome 2.2: DRR and climate change adaptation reflected in national planning instruments and documents based on improved risk information, including hazards, vulnerabilities and risks	Number of disaster loss databases in use in countries	Support provided to 61 countries for development and improvement of national loss databases.
	Evidence based support for DRR public policy and strengthened risk governance discussed by governments, civil society, private sector and international organizations	In 2012, DRR was discussed in major meetings such as the G20 and APEC Summit, as well as 4 regional and sub-regional platforms.

OUTPUT	OUTPUT INDICATORS	PROGRESS UPDATE 31 DECEMBER 2012
8. Advice and support to countries and partners provided to implement disaster loss databases and loss accounting systems	<p>2012–2013: Number of countries provided with substantive advice and support to implement a disaster loss database and accounting system (target: 15)</p> <p>2014–2015: 75 country disaster loss databases supported*</p>	<p>Support provided to 61 countries for development and improvement of national loss databases.</p> <p>n/a in 2012.</p>
9. Advice and support to partners and countries on methods for tracking investments in DRR and on incorporating DRR into national planning	<p>2012–2013: Investment tracking pilot methodology available</p> <p>2014–2015: Investment tracking methodology tested and refined in 10 countries*</p>	<p>New global risk model developed and applied. Publication in GAR 13 Case studies for 8 countries in the Americas and Asia examining methodologies for tracking and budgeting for DRR in national public investment</p> <p>n/a in 2012.</p>
10. Global Assessment Report on DRR in 2013 and 2015 produced, including background papers and regional and national assessment reports (note: the latter on demand)	<p>2012–2013 and 2014–15 Global Assessment Reports published in 2013 and 2015*</p> <p>Number of events and briefings at national, regional and local level where GAR is discussed</p> <p>Number of inputs to conferences, meetings and dialogues on climate change adaptation, environment and development which discuss the Global Assessment Report</p>	<p>The development of GAR13 was well underway by the end of 2012, in close cooperation with over 220 partners, including 181 contributors and authors, 14 global corporations, and 35 collaborating institutions.</p> <p>GAR11 discussed and used by Governments of Colombia, Laos, Lebanon, SPC member countries, Mexico, and Philippines, Colombia and Mexico are revising their disaster risk management plans.</p>

Strategic Objective 3: Advocacy and Outreach

Increased public and private sector investments in Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation through advocacy and outreach

OUTCOME	OUTCOME INDICATOR	PROGRESS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2012
Outcome 3.1: Increased public demand and political commitment for local action and budget allocations to DRR and climate change adaptation	Percentage increase in the number of local and national governments making DRR budget allocations	58 local and national governments made DRR budget allocations, up from 20 in 2011.
	Increased number of Heads of State, Parliamentarians, UN Resident Coordinators, local government, private sector, media, civil society leaders, youth, gender networks and community based organizations championing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation	98 individual champions promoted DRR over the course of 2012, up from 49 in 2011.

OUTPUT	OUTPUT INDICATORS	PROGRESS UPDATE 31 DECEMBER 2012
11. Making Cities Resilient Campaign implemented with local governments committed and providing resources for action on risk reduction	2012–2013 and 2014–2015: Number of local governments participating in the Campaign and taking action in line with the Ten Essentials	By end of 2012, 1,289 Local Governments participated in “My City is Getting ready” campaign 34 Role Model Cities identified 30 cities submitted their self assessment reports, through the LGSAT
	Number of city-to-city learning events facilitated through the Campaign	22 City-to-City Learning Events organized
	Number of partnership agreements reached to support Campaign objectives	More than 230 representatives from National/Local governments and organizations around the world trained 39 Partnership agreements made to support “My City is Getting ready” campaign objectives
12. Partnerships mobilized and consolidated towards implementation of the Global Platform targets on safe schools and health facilities	2012–2013 and 2014–2015: Number of pledges received in the “One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals Campaign”	With 189,513 pledges received from institutions and 1,520 from individual pledgers, the Initiative is now moving from pledging to action:
	Number of countries and local governments provided with substantive guidance, through UNISDR engagement with partners, to undertake assessments or develop action plans for school and hospital resilience	A set of tools for the “Assessment of School and Hospital safety for Multi-Hazards in South Asia” was developed in partnership with SAARC Disaster Management Centre and UNHABITAT and used in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Nepal supported in assessment for schools retrofitting

13. UNISDR Champions and other key target individuals provided with substantive advice and opportunities to advocate for disaster risk reduction, including as part of sustainable development and climate change	2012–2013: Number of DRR Champions and opinion leaders identified and supported globally	98 individual “champions” drawn from parliamentarians, UN Resident Coordinators, representatives of National and Local Governments, Media, Civil Society, and other stakeholders promoting DRR across the world. The 2012 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on “Women and girls: The (in)visible force for resilience” celebrated in 80 countries, with more than 250 events staged by over 400 organizations. 450 companies signed up to the global network of private sector entities, up from 207 in 2011.
	2014–2015: Number of Summits and media coverage reflecting result of work by Champions and awareness-raising activities*	n/a in 2012.
	Number of companies as members of the DRR Private Sector Partnership and implementing the “Five Essentials for Business in DRR”*	n/a in 2012.

Strategic Objective 4: Deliver and Communicate Results

More effective, results-oriented UNISDR to carry out its mandate

OUTCOME	OUTCOME INDICATOR	BASELINE
Outcome 4.1: Communications and knowledge management tools effectively support UNISDR objectives	Number of external users accessing information and replicating messages	Continued growth of usage of PreventionWeb: Over 600,000 unique visitors and 2.3 million page views in 2012 – a 30% increase since 2011. 4,480 new content items and 675 information sources published and email subscription services distributed over 250,000 emails per month.

OUTPUT	OUTPUT INDICATORS	PROGRESS UPDATE 31 DECEMBER 2012
14. External communications strategy adopted and implemented	2012–2013 and 2014–2015: Percentage increase in the use of communications material and UNISDR websites by stakeholders	Continued growth of usage of PreventionWeb: Over 600,000 unique visitors and 2.3 million page views in 2012 – a 30% increase since 2011. 4,480 new content items and 675 information sources published and email subscription services distributed over 250,000 emails per month. UNISDR Website further developed. UNISDR management response and implementation plan developed in response to an external evaluation of Preventionweb conducted in the beginning of 2012.
	All UNISDR key deliverables supported by an effective communication plan Percentage increase in number of news articles featuring disaster risk reduction	Communications strategy presented to senior management and acted upon. 157 news stories and 38 press releases generated during 2012, on par with 2011. Using the media monitoring system, Factiva, news articles in 2012 that mentioned the term “disaster risk reduction” increased by 22% from 2011 to 2012. Key peaks throughout the year coincided in March with the first anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and the release of the 2011 disaster statistics by EM DAT, and in October with the International Day for Disaster Reduction and Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. While the concept of disaster risk reduction is broad, researched into the monitoring system also showed that references in articles to “disaster risk” increased by 24% from 2011 to 2012.

15. Knowledge management strategy developed and implemented	2012–2013 and 2014–2015: Percentage increase in levels of satisfaction and participation for disaster risk reduction stakeholders	See above Output 14. Revamped intranet for improved internal knowledge management.
16. Systematic engagement with donors and improved understanding of donor context and priorities	2012–2013: Fully-funded Biennial Work Plan 2014–2015: Increase in partner cost-sharing arrangements and number of donors to UNISDR*	\$33.1 million in the trust fund by end 2012, half of resource mobilization target of \$64.9 million for 2012–2013 biennium. 25 donors contributing to UNISDR (up from 22 in 2011). One new multi-annual funding agreement concluded in 2012. Three staff and a volunteer supported by donors. Instituted annual donor meeting n/a in 2012
17. Enhanced programming and organizational performance through improved administrative efficiencies and fully operational Results Based Management (RBM)	2012–2013: Number of relevant Standard Operating Procedures developed and effectively implemented to support RBM as monitored quarterly 2014–2015: Monitoring and evaluation framework reviewed and implemented*	New online e-Management Tool implemented. Improved turnaround of contribution agreements with donors, resource programming and grant issuance by an estimated 30%. Grants and Programme and Finance Committees established for more rigorous screening, administration and monitoring. 23 grants approved in 2012 (9% of total expenditure). New standard operational procedures and other relevant guidance adopted for travel, workshops, grant administration, financial planning and reporting, human resources administration, and change management. n/a in 2012

ANNEX 2: LIST OF 2012 PUBLICATIONS

A resilient future: UNISDR and IOM statement on zero draft of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) “The future we want”
Source: IOM; UNISDR NY

A resilient future: UNISDR statement on zero draft of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) “The future we want”
Source: UNISDR NY

Building resilience to disasters in Western Balkans and Turkey (Brochure)
Source: WMO; UNISDR EUR

Children’s action for disaster risk reduction: views from children in Asia
Source: Plan Intl; UNISDR AP

City resilience in Africa: a ten essentials pilot
Source: UNISDR

Coherent action by the UN System to reduce disaster risk and build resilience
Source: UNISDR

Comunicado Santiago de Chile: Investing in resilience, accelerating the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in the Americas
Source: UNISDR-AM; OAS; Chile – gov

Country document for Bolivia, 2012
Source: UNISDR-AM; Oxfam Intl; WFP; FAO; WVI; Ayuda en Acción; ECHO; ACF; UNDP Bolivia; FUNDEPCO; CARE Poverty, Environment, and Climate Change Network

Country document for Dominican Republic, 2012
Source: UNISDR-AM; Caritas Internationalis; Plan Intl; PAHO; ECHO; CNE, Dominican Republic – gov; UNDP – Regional Cent

Country profile Saint Lucia, DIPECHO 2012
Source: UNISDR-AM; ECHO; Saint Lucia – gov; UNDP – Regional Cent

Criteria for prioritizing actions for disaster risk reduction at the national level in the Americas and the Caribbean
Source: UNISDR-AM; CRID; ECHO

Dipecho América del Sur 2011–2012: boletín informativo, tercera edición, agosto del 2012
Source: UNISDR-AM; ECHO

Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the Pacific: an institutional and policy analysis (2012)
Source: UNDP; UNISDR

Disaster risk and poverty trends in Jordan, Syria, Yemen: key findings and policy recommendations
Source: UNISDR ROAS

Drought contingency plans and planning in the Greater Horn of Africa
Source: UNISDR AF

GFDRR track I: Strengthening regional and global partnerships for disaster risk reduction – A five year retrospective, 2007–2011
Source: WB; UNISDR; GFDRR

Guidelines for the application of criteria for prioritizing programmatic actions for disaster risk reduction
Source: UNISDR-AM; CRID; ECHO

How to make cities more resilient: a handbook for local government leaders
Source: UNISDR

In-depth study on the role of the United Nations contribution to the implementation of the HFA
Source: UNISDR

Latin American forum on disaster risk reduction in higher education
Source: UNISDR-AM; OFDA, USAID

Laying the groundwork: towards a safer Asia-Pacific
Source: UNISDR AP

Linkages between population dynamics, urbanization processes and disaster risks: a regional vision of Latin America
Source: UNISDR-AM; UN-HABITAT; UNFPA

Making cities resilient report 2012
Source: UNISDR

Overview of National Platforms in Europe
Source: UNISDR EUR

Proceedings of the joint workshop: the role of hydrometeorological services in disaster risk management
Source: WB; WMO; UNISDR; GFDRR

Reducing vulnerability and exposure to disasters: Asia-Pacific disaster report 2012
Source: ESCAP; UNISDR AP

Safari’s encounter with coastal and marine hazards
Source: ICPAC, IGAD; UNISDR AF

Strengthening disaster risk reduction in climate change adaptation related agendas at COP18, Doha, Qatar
Source: UNISDR

Towards a Palestinian strategy for disaster risk reduction: workshop report
Source: UNISDR ROAS; NNU

Towards a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction
Source: UNISDR

Yogyakarta declaration on disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific 2012
Source: UNISDR AP; BNPB, Indonesia – gov

3rd annual meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction: summary
Source: EFDRR

12 Issues of “Evidence, monthly UNISDR newsletter”
Source: UNISDR

ANNEX 3: ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AusAID	Australian Government Overseas Programme
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAPRADE	Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention
CEPREDENAC	Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America
COP	Conference of the Parties
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
G20	Group of 20
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters 2005–2015
“HFA2”	Post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
IGAD/ICPAC	Climate Prediction and Applications Centre of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development
HLCP	(UN) High Level Committee on Programmes
IPCC	Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECD/DAC	OECD Development Assistance Committee
SOPAC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SREX	Special Report on Managing the Risk of Extremes and Disasters
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary General
UNDAF	United Nations Development Action Frameworks
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

NOTES



9-11 Rue de Varembe
CH1202, Geneva
Switzerland

www.unisdr.org