



**DISASTER  
WATCH**

[www.disasterwatch.net](http://www.disasterwatch.net)

**“People, Policy and Partnership for Disaster Resilient Development.”**

Launch of National Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction (NADRR), India. Nov 3-4, 2007, New Delhi



The two day event "People, Policy and Partnerships for Disaster Resilient Development" focused on sharing lessons and building partnerships to scale up community-led disaster reduction initiatives.

Endorsing the National Alliance, policymakers and practitioners arrived at a consensus on the urgent need for a common platform to scale up and sustain effective community driven practices on disaster risk reduction.

It was suggested that the Alliance evolve as a network that expands horizontally with two-way feedback mechanisms that enable communities to lead practice and influence policy.

The NADRR aims to be a common platform to scale up community-led disaster risk reduction initiatives, to enable communities to lead practice and influence policy.

**Read the NADRR report and presentations at:**

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/alliance.htm>



**DISASTER BRIEF**

**Vol. 5 (1) January 2008**

**OUR PRACTICE**

THIS UPDATE IS BROUGHT TO

YOU BY SWAYAM SHIKSHAN PRAYOG

FOR HUAIROU COMMISSION AND GROOTS INTERNATIONAL

**Strengthening community trainers towards disaster risk reduction**

The key focus of this initiative is to develop community leaders from disaster affected communities to translate their learning into clear concepts, strategies, activities and training tools that will assist them in training other disaster prone communities to learn from their experiences.

See the profiles and report:

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/trainersprofile.htm>

**Beyond recovery: empowerment and mobilization through community development**

This report highlights the initiatives by Swayam Shikshan Prayog in tsunami affected villages in Tamilnadu, India.

Read the report:

[http://www.disasterwatch.net/resources/SSP\\_3rd\\_yr\\_tsunamiireport.pdf](http://www.disasterwatch.net/resources/SSP_3rd_yr_tsunamiireport.pdf)

**Community land watch and peer exchange**

On December 6th and 7th women representing community-based organizations in seven countries in Central and South America visited a number of projects that members of the Union of Housing Movements of São Paulo (UMMSP) are currently developing to redress social exclusion, stimulate in urban reform, and ensure all residents have permanent and dignified housing.

Read the full report:

[http://www.huairou.org/knowledge/News/2007/12-07-Brazil\\_exch\\_1.html](http://www.huairou.org/knowledge/News/2007/12-07-Brazil_exch_1.html)

**Creating social markets, building social networks**



This article by Prema Gopalan analyzes the co-created business relationship between a large company, BP Energy India Ltd.,

a development organization linked to Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) and the women's self help groups (SHGs) linked to it. The business relationship was jointly envisaged and structured to deliver household energy products to low income customers.

[http://www.sspindia.org/mf\\_insights\\_sept07.pdf](http://www.sspindia.org/mf_insights_sept07.pdf)

**Grassroots call for accountability on World AIDS day**

In commemoration of World AIDS Day 2007, Home-Based Caregivers and grassroots women united within the networks of GROOTS International and the Huairou Commission re-affirm our statement from our most recent Grassroots Women's International Academy which took place prior to the YWCA's International Women's Summit on HIV and AIDS, July 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya.

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/hiv-grassroots.htm>



## Promising practices for risk reduction

The Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) Project carried out pilot projects in three countries (Ethiopia, Guatemala and Indonesia) to identify models and promising practices for disaster risk reduction based on practical programs.

This report summarizes some of the more significant learnings and promising practices, and highlights some key examples that give ideas for moving forward with risk reduction in other areas.

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/OCHA-77WHKD/\\$FILE/ecb-pilot-oct2007.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/OCHA-77WHKD/$FILE/ecb-pilot-oct2007.pdf?OpenElement)

## New web portal for DRR community

PreventionWeb launched on 15 November, providing for the first time a comprehensive web portal for everyone working in, or simply interested in, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). PreventionWeb can be used to connect and share information at all levels of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, aiming to be a working tool for strengthening connections between DRR professionals, and promoting more understanding of the subject by non-specialists.

For more information, please contact Craig Duncan ([duncanc@un.org](mailto:duncanc@un.org)), or visit [www.preventionweb.net](http://www.preventionweb.net). To submit news, initiatives, events or other information to PreventionWeb, please visit: [www.preventionweb.net/english/submit/](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/submit/).

## Risk reduction & emergency preparedness—WHO

WHO Six-Year Strategy for the Health Sector and Community Capacity Development.

This strategy is based on the recommendations of a global consultation held by WHO in February 2006 that brought together experts in emergency preparedness and response from around the world. The consultation was followed by several important activities to discuss the various components of the strategy and to reach consensus on the objectives and key strategic directions.

[http://www.who.int/hac/techguidance/preparedness/emergency\\_preparedness\\_eng.pdf](http://www.who.int/hac/techguidance/preparedness/emergency_preparedness_eng.pdf)

## Links between natural disasters, humanitarian assistance and disaster risk reduction: a critical perspective—

Development aid has always been subject to a protracted debate concerning its effectiveness with arguments given on both sides. A major part of this debate, especially for the period covering the cold war has been to what extent aid to developing countries is enmeshed with political and strategic considerations on the part of donor countries.

Humanitarian aid, referring to aid following disastrous events, has mostly stayed on the sidelines of this discourse, primarily due to the supposedly moral and humanitarian components that are imbedded in it.

<http://reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/AMMF-79R1YU?OpenDocument>

## Chinese Government increases DRR capacity building

The Chinese Government has increased efforts in disaster risk reduction in and outside China since the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, working on information and knowledge exchange, and capacity building, through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. 'To build back better', a training course on post disaster recovery and rehabilitation management is being conducted on 19 November to 3 December 2007.

Government officials from 11 Asian countries are participating. The course includes presentations, case studies, policy and measures on recovery as well as discussions of problems and solutions in post disaster recovery and reconstruction. The course benefited from UN agency input, including from UNICEF, WFP and the UN/ISDR secretariat.

For more information, please contact Guan Yan: [guanyan@ndrcc.gov.cn](mailto:guanyan@ndrcc.gov.cn)

## Defusing disaster reducing the risk

Disaster is unnatural and risk reduction measures diminish the odds of it occurring by doing everything possible before the event to protect life, limit damage and strengthen a vulnerable community's ability to bounce back quickly from adversity. The solutions may lie in simple things like educating children on what to do in emergencies, or planting trees on unstable hillsides to stop those releasing landslides. The more complex include early warning systems, coastal protection, earthquake-safe construction and urban planning.

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/SSHN-77ZCFC/\\$FILE/ifrc-sep2007.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/SSHN-77ZCFC/$FILE/ifrc-sep2007.pdf?OpenElement)

## Among people

Regional Disaster Information Center Latin America and the Caribbean (CRID).

This report is an extensive annotated listing of printed and audiovisual material on community risk reduction. Community organization and the production of emergency plans are some of the topics covered. Also listed are useful tools for communities to design and use their own local risk maps.

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/KKEE-6R2TWW/\\$FILE/CRID.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/KKEE-6R2TWW/$FILE/CRID.pdf?OpenElement)

## INDIA: 11th plan will address preparation to face disaster and relief

Issues of preparing for disasters and post-disaster relief will be addressed in the 11th Plan, Government of India, Vinod Chandra Menon, member, National Disaster Management Authority, said on Thursday.

Stressing the importance of preparation, he said the package, to be incorporated into the Plan, would combine sound theories with practical tools, and would involve community participation. Tackling climate change, a serious issue for policymakers, would involve adopting more people-friendly emission reduction strategies rooted in communities.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/12/22/stories/2007122259760800.htm>

## Disaster risk reduction challenges

This article suggests five ways to achieve these objectives by fine-tuning the current rehabilitation activities namely, incorporating elements of disaster reduction into rehabilitation/ development plans; contributing to the resilience of the community, putting in place an early warning system that works at the last mile, convergence of different activities on field and taking community into the decision-making process.

[http://www.tntrc.org/downloads/CBDRM/Disaster\\_Risk\\_Reduction\\_Challenges\\_Alosyius.pdf](http://www.tntrc.org/downloads/CBDRM/Disaster_Risk_Reduction_Challenges_Alosyius.pdf)

## Why advocate for disaster risk reduction?

Tearfund and World Vision International, have produced a booklet for partners on advocacy and DRR. The booklet is aimed at organisations which are already involved in DRR, but have not yet considered an advocacy approach. It sets out why advocacy on DRR is important, why governments should be held accountable, and how civil society can influence them.

<http://www.tearfund.org/webdocs/Website/Campaigning/Policy%20and%20research/Why%20DRR%20A5.pdf>

## Building disaster resilient communities: Good practices and lessons learned

This publication showcases the essential roles played by NGOs in addressing disaster risks at the local community level. It makes the case for increased community-oriented DRR action, and is aimed to stimulate more interest in the subject from donors, policy makers, as well as other stakeholders.

[http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about\\_isdr/isdr-publications/06-ngos-good-practices/ngos-good-practices.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about_isdr/isdr-publications/06-ngos-good-practices/ngos-good-practices.pdf)

## SDC platform for risk and safety

Practitioners, working in the field of Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), are invited to share their experiences and best practices on this platform and to participate in the network. The dialogue will be fostered by means of a moderated forum. SDC staff in Swiss Cooperation Offices and at the Headquarter as well as their partners are particularly addressed.

The platform provides an overview on concepts and strategies to deal with disaster risks as well as on current activities and trainings in this field. Tools, instruments and relevant publications related to DRR are presented.

<http://www.riskandsafetynet.ch/>

## Institutional donor progress with mainstreaming disaster risk reduction

Tearfund analyses how institutional donors were responding to the issue of disaster risk reduction (DRR). Tearfund interviewed nine key institutional donor organisations to determine the level of priority they gave to DRR within their relief and development programming, and the reasons behind this level of prioritisation.

<http://www.tearfund.org/webdocs/website/Campaigning/Policy%20and%20research/DRR%20donor%20progress%202007.pdf>

## Linking human rights to disaster risk reduction

To explore the potentials of human rights instruments to achieve the goals of disaster risk reduction, issues that link human rights to disaster risk reduction need to be properly examined to estimate the degree to which these issues actually affect the reduction of disaster risk. The Eclipse Magazine is put together by EclipseAfrica Team.

Visit the website at: <http://www.theeclipseafrica.com>

## Disaster risk reduction: global review

The Review defines two main categories of disaster risk, both of which may be exacerbated by climate change, and are closely related to trends in development activity. The Review emphasizes the need for addressing underlying risk factors, through livelihood diversification, environmental management, climate change adaptation, better building practices and settlement planning.

[http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about\\_isdr/isdr-publications/global-review/Global%20Review.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about_isdr/isdr-publications/global-review/Global%20Review.pdf)

## National platforms for disaster risk reduction

APDC and DKKV.

Study on current status of disaster reduction, institutional arrangements and potential for national platforms for disaster reduction in 3 South and South East Asian countries by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Thailand.

The overall objective of the study is to further DRR in countries affected by natural disasters by setting up vital institutions. It addresses its findings to politicians and decision-makers on all levels. Thus, the study analyses the current institutional arrangements and potentials for national platforms for disaster reduction in three South (East) Asian countries, namely Bangladesh, Cambodia and Sri Lanka.

<http://www.dkkv.org/DE/publications/ressource.asp?ID=237>



### National strategies to deal with disasters

Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh has called upon modern societies to come together to deal with manmade disasters – be they industrial or those caused by terror attacks. "The threat of terrorism looms large in our region and could trigger disasters across borders," he said inaugurating the second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction here.

Noting that earthquakes, cyclones, floods and tsunami caused havoc across Asia in the recent past, Dr. Singh said the important aspect was to have "coherent national strategies and national capabilities to handle disasters." "Disasters know no political boundaries and we are all equally vulnerable to them."

### DRR begins at preschool in Slovenia

Slovenia's philosophy is that disaster risk education should start as early as possible in a child's life. Disaster education authorities engage with nurseries as well as primary school, including children aged 3 and over in their mandate. Two of the Civil Protection and Disaster Relief Training Centre's most popular projects have been free children's books, and an engaging puppet show, both targeting children aged 4-10 and featuring a hedgehog who deals with earthquakes, fire, drought, and dangerous situations. The books contain activity sheets, and the style of the puppet show means children can learn safety and prevention through play.

For more information, please contact Nataša Poje Jovicic ([natasa.poje.jovicic@urszr.si](mailto:natasa.poje.jovicic@urszr.si))

### Sasakawa award honours two innovative pioneers

The work of the two joint Sasakawa Laureates announced on the International day for Disaster Reduction showcases the importance of the two year Campaign 'Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School', and the potential of the 2008-2009 Campaign to make 'Hospitals Safe from Disaster.' Professor Yoshiaki Kawata, a prominent professor in the field of disaster risk reduction at Kyoto University, was awarded for his work towards increasing awareness and deepening research about past disasters, particularly the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake (Kobe Earthquake).

Jointly receiving the Laureate Award was Tony Gibbs, a national of Grenada and Barbados who is advisor to the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) Disaster Mitigation Advisory Group on hospital safety. A pioneer in promoting safe architectural and engineering designs resistant to natural hazards, particularly for hospitals and health facilities, his innovative work has influenced building standards around the world. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/sasakawa/2007/sk-2007-description-eng.htm>

### Capacity for disaster reduction initiative

The new website of the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) is an online database on disaster risk reduction academic courses worldwide. Currently the database contains more than 70 entries and will continue to expand. CADRI is a joint initiative of the UNDP, OCHA and the ISDR.

Please contact [cadri@un.org](mailto:cadri@un.org) to add programmes to the database.

### Call for reducing risk on disasters in Asia. "Delhi Declaration". November 7-8. 2008

The second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) concluded here on November 8, 2007 evening after adopting the Delhi Declaration on DRR that contains 26 action points. The Declaration calls upon national governments and other stake-holders to take specific measures for reducing risks on disasters in Asia and its different sub regions. It also →

calls for taking action along the following themes — Hyogo Framework for Action, Mainstreaming DRR, Early Warning & Preparedness, Climate Change, Integration of DRR into recovery & reconstruction, Partnerships and Regional Mechanisms.

See the full text at: <http://www.amcdrrindia.com/declaration.asp>

### Call for good practices on Gender, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

The UN/ISDR secretariat in collaboration with IUCN and WEDO has issued in Bali today a call for good practices and lessons learned that link disaster risk reduction as a key tool for reducing the impact of climate change, with a gender perspective.

We are seeking examples of projects and initiatives across humanitarian, environmental and development sectors that: promote positive changes to how women and men's capabilities are used to build community resilience to climate change; and which integrate a gender perspective in natural resource management, environmental protection and climate change adaptation policies. The resulting publication will potentially prove valuable for addressing gender gaps in disaster risk reduction.

Contributions that fulfill the criteria of selection will be reviewed by a UN/ISDR secretariat gender officer and submitted to a voluntary board of gender professionals of the ISDR Systems working in the fields of Environment, Climate Change, Development, and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Do not hesitate to contact me at [thorlund@un.org](mailto:thorlund@un.org), should you have any questions on this subject. All contributions should be sent by 11 February 2008.

### Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world. Human development report-2007/2008

The Human Development Report 2007/2008 shows that climate change is not just a future scenario. Increased exposure to droughts, floods and storms is already destroying opportunity and reinforcing inequality. Meanwhile, there is now overwhelming scientific evidence that the world is moving towards the point at which irreversible ecological catastrophe becomes unavoidable. Business-as-usual climate change points in a clear direction: unprecedented reversal in human development in our lifetime, and acute risks for our children and their grandchildren.

As the Human Development Report 2007/2008 argues, climate change poses challenges at many levels. In a divided but ecologically interdependent world, it challenges all people to reflect upon how we manage the environment of the one thing that we share in common: planet Earth. It challenges us to reflect on social justice and human rights across countries and generations. It challenges political leaders and people in rich nations to acknowledge their historic responsibility for the problem, and to initiate deep and early cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. Above all, it challenges the entire human community to undertake prompt and strong collective action based on shared values and a shared vision.

[http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/hdr\\_20072008\\_en\\_complete.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/hdr_20072008_en_complete.pdf)



### The Red Cross/Red Crescent climate guide on climate change and disaster preparedness

This guide describes the experiences of more than 30 National Societies, who have in the last five years started to address climate change in their work. The Guide also provides advice to National Societies on how to systematically include climate considerations in their activities. It contains a specific chapter on Community Risk Reduction, which suggests three options to integrate climate change into CBDRM and local risk assessments.

The publication can be downloaded from:

[http://www.climatecentre.org/index.php?page=news\\_ext&pub\\_id=85&type=4&view=more](http://www.climatecentre.org/index.php?page=news_ext&pub_id=85&type=4&view=more)

### Special report on UN Climate change conference Bali, Dec 07

Managing climate risks for adaptation and mitigation: New initiatives in South East Asia.

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/climatechange/enbots1232e.pdf>

### South Asia speak out on climate change adaptation

Action Aid & IDS, 07.

This report shows, poor women in Bangladesh, India and Nepal are struggling to protect their lives, homes, assets and livelihoods from weather-related hazards.

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/climatechange/we-know-what-we-need.pdf>

### The 100 nations most vulnerable to climate change: critical list

Saleemul Huq, IIED, and Jessica Ayers, London School of Economics.

The harsher, more frequent natural disasters that are predicted could tip them over the edge into chronic famine or forced migration. Yet these are also the countries that have contributed least to climate change. It is vital that their voices and views be heard in the negotiations to determine the post-Kyoto climate regime. Equally importantly, the countries emitting the most greenhouse gases must redress the balance by establishing robust mitigation programmes.

<http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/17022IIED.pdf>

### Climate change threatens to fight to end poverty

Rajendra Pachauri.

Climate change is likely to add to several stresses that already exist in the poorest regions of the world and affect the ability of societies in these regions to pursue sustainable livelihoods. By 2020 between 75 million and 250 million people are projected to be exposed to an increase in water stress due to climate change in Africa.

<http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/10/15/4551/>

### Working with the winds of change

The **Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET)** recently published "*Working with the Winds of Change. Towards Strategies for Responding to the Risks Associated with Climate Change and other Hazards*", which provides initial insights from an ongoing disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation initiative in three South Asian countries. The publication is aimed at both a DRR and climate adaptation audience: it introduces vulnerability and capacity assessments to the CBA community and explains the basic climate change mechanisms and climate modelling in South Asia to a lay DRR audience.

[http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/winds\\_of\\_change.pdf](http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/winds_of_change.pdf)

### Stopping the slow wave of destruction

World environment journalists, Dec. 07

Now another devastating wave is threatening the lives and livelihoods of people globally - from the fringes of the Arctic to the Caribbean and the scattered islands of the South Pacific. This wave of global warming also brings devastation in its path, but it is moving so slowly that some people fail to recognize its destructive power. Arctic regions and small islands around the world are being hit hardest.

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/climatechange/wave.pdf>

### Climate change and disaster risk: ISDR recommendations for action now and post-2012

The ISDR underlines that to reduce the risk of extreme climate events, action is required on twin policies: to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change, and to reduce the vulnerability of societies to inevitable climate change impacts.

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/climatechange/recommendations-for-Bali.pdf>

### Intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC): Full report

This Synthesis Report is based on the assessment carried out by the three Working Groups of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It provides an integrated view of climate change as the final part of the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report (AR4).

Full report at: <http://195.70.10.65/ipccreports/ar4-syr.htm>

### Bangladesh: megaphone save thousands

A simple early warning system that used local volunteers shouting through megaphones to warn people about the impending cyclone saved thousands of lives when Cyclone Sidr hit Bangladesh last week, and the system proved so effective that it might even become a model for other countries.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=75470>

**ELDIS—community based adaptation change**

CBA-X is a shared resource supporting the exchange of up-to-date and relevant information about community based climate adaptation. If you are a working in CBA and would like to share your own learning lessons, methodologies, case studies or good practice, please contact: [cba-x@ids.ac.uk](mailto:cba-x@ids.ac.uk).

The Community Based Adaptation Exchange is produced in collaboration with IIED.

<http://www.cba-exchange.org/>

**Adaptation and post 2012 framework. Tearfund**

To date, the focus of the international climate effort under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has been on addressing the cause of climate change. Adaptation to its inevitable effects has been treated largely as a separate, and secondary, issue. With no legally binding obligation on developed countries to fund adaptation, desperately needed finance for adaptation programmes in vulnerable communities has not materialised.

<http://www.tearfund.org/webdocs/Website/Campaigning/Policy%20and%20research/Post%202012%20web.pdf>

**Rigorous road to rehabilitation**

In the 'village of widows' near the Line of Control, women had become accustomed to living off aid and alms. But in 2001, a group of women, part of Athwaas, decided to try to make things better, and something that was impossible to contemplate even six years ago, has now happened.

<http://www.indiatogether.org/2007/oct/wom-roadrehab.htm>

**Socio-economic and gender analysis for emergency and rehabilitation programmes**

by Pierre Bessuges, Gretchen Bloom, Turi Fileccia, Angus Graham and Ilaria Sisto. FAO and WFP.

<http://www.fao.org/sd/seaga/downloads/En/EmergencyGuidelinesEn.pdf>

**Natural disaster reduction: lessons on empowering women**

By Kathambi Kinoti - - Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

There has been an increase in the occurrence of natural disasters in the past two decades. That women are disproportionately affected by these disasters has long been acknowledged but their role in preventing and mitigating the effects of natural disasters is less well explored. What lessons can we learn from past disasters about the role of women?

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/resources/awid.pdf>

**Slow onset of disasters: drought and food and livelihoods security**

*Learning from previous relief and recovery responses. Provention Consortium and Alnap, 2007*

This briefing paper provides a synthesis of key lessons learnt from evaluations of relief and recovery responses to past slow-onset disasters – particularly drought, and food and livelihoods insecurity. The paper is intended for people working in relief and recovery operations for slow-onset disasters – those who have to decide if, when and how to intervene. It is part of a series focusing on lessons learnt in relief and recovery, developed by ALNAP <http://www.alnap.org> and the Provention Consortium <http://www.proventionconsortium.org>.

[http://www.odi.org.uk/ALNAP/publications/pdfs/ALNAP-Provention\\_lessons\\_on\\_slow-onset\\_disasters.pdf](http://www.odi.org.uk/ALNAP/publications/pdfs/ALNAP-Provention_lessons_on_slow-onset_disasters.pdf)

**Ensuring a fair deal for the world's poor in Bali**

While poor people suffer worst and first, climate change will affect all populations and will result in increased insecurity for all. Mass migration, driven by the perennial search for livelihoods and security, will follow once harvests fail and droughts and floods put intolerable pressure on scarce land and water resources. Christian Aid, Tearfund and Practical Action, 2007.

**UN calls for \$10 mn to help women in wars and disasters**

U.N. crisis expert Kathleen Cravero who heads the U.N. Development Programme's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, is spearheading a major new campaign to help women and girls affected by conflicts and natural disasters. The UNDP launched an appeal this week for \$10 million to set the ball rolling.

<http://www.alertnet.org/db/blogs/19216/2007/10/9-132020-1.htm>

**Women most at risk in Bangladesh disasters**

by Georgina Cooper

Women are severely marginalised all over Bangladesh, but the problem is magnified in coastal areas where life is more conservative and women are fairly house-bound and don't mix with men outside the family. Men are the heads of the families and take responsibility in community matters but this leaves women disempowered and extremely vulnerable.

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/resources%20links/bangladesh.pdf>

**Tsunami Update, No.10, December 26, 2007**

*Three years after: Grassroots women build resilience*

This newsletter highlights the practical action by women and communities towards the better future after the tsunami.

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/tsunamiupdatedec07.pdf>

### Countries urged to create disaster warning systems

Governments in rich and poor countries should focus more on investing in early warning systems that can save lives in natural disasters, a United Nations expert said.

Following the December 26, 2004, tsunami that killed some 230,000 people around the Indian Ocean, aid poured in to help in setting up warning systems, and countries in other parts of world became alive to the problem. "But a lot of the interest that was aroused by the tsunami has dried up," said Golnaraghi. "We are hoping it is not going to take another tsunami to raise it again."

### Kashmir rises from the ruins of earthquake

Today, however, the story is refreshingly upbeat. More than 150,000 houses have been rebuilt, 200,000 more are under construction and all of the planned 600,000 will be finished by the middle of next year, according to officials from Pakistan and the UN. They describe this as one of the world's most successful reconstruction operations — outstripping the efforts after the 2004 tsunami — and a model for the response to future disasters.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article2592086.ece>

### World disaster report—2007: Focus on Discrimination

The *World Disasters Report 2007* looks at discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, age and disability, and asks key questions such as: How does discrimination affect the vulnerable in an emergency? How can we spot it? What can we do about it? Not only does already-embedded discrimination put vulnerable individuals at greater risk in a crisis, but sometimes governments and aid agencies themselves are guilty of discrimination, albeit unintentional.

<http://www.ifrc.org/Docs/pubs/disasters/wdr2007/WDR2007-English.pdf>

### Enhancing southern capacity: Rhetoric to reality

Forced Migration Review, No.28

Forced Migration Review provides a forum for the regular exchange of practical experience, information and ideas between researchers, refugees and internally displaced people, and those who work with them. It is published in English, Spanish, Arabic and French by the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/AMMF-74YGL3?OpenDocument>

### India has 240 mn buildings, but few are quake resistant

India has over 240 million buildings, both residential and commercial, but few are built to be quake resistant, warns a top official of India's apex body for disaster management. And disasters - in case of strong earthquakes - are waiting to happen.

"Estimates suggest that the country has over 240 million buildings but the scary part is that most of them are not quake resistant nor can withstand high intensity tremors," N.V.C. Menon, a senior member of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), told IANS.

[http://www.kalingatimes.com/national\\_news/news1/20071126-quake-resistant.htm](http://www.kalingatimes.com/national_news/news1/20071126-quake-resistant.htm)

### Disaster management guidelines with health perspective

India's Minister for Health and Family Welfare Anbumani Ramadoss on Wednesday released the National Disaster Management Guidelines—Medical Preparedness and Mass Casualty Management, drafted by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Releasing the comprehensive document, the Minister said that India like any other nation in the world has its own share of vulnerability, risk and its capacity to respond to the disasters.

<http://www.igovernment.in/site/india-release-disaster-management-guidelines/>

### Indian tsunami warning system goes live

The Union Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Kapil Sibal on Monday inaugurated the National Tsunami Early Warning System set up at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) in Hyderabad.

<http://www.igovernment.in/site/indian-tsunami-warning-system-goes-live/>

### National disaster management guidelines: Management of earthquakes. NDMA, Government of India, 2007

These Guidelines consist of three broad sections: (a) the context and approach to the management of earthquakes in India; (b) an outline of the specific Guidelines; and (c) a broad overview of the DM plans to be prepared by the central ministries and departments, state governments, other stakeholders and nodal agencies.

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/resources%20links/Earthquake.pdf>

### ADPC Regional Training course on Disaster Management.

The purpose of the course is to provide comprehensive disaster management knowledge and skills to enhance the capabilities of executive managers who have key disaster management responsibilities. Application Form is available on the ADPC homepage, <http://www.adpc.net>, and can be submitted by 1 February 2008 by mail, fax or email. More information:

<http://www.adpc.net/v2007/TRG/TRAINING%20COURSES/Special%20Courses/2007/DMC-37/DMC-37.asp>

### World Urban Forum IV. October 13-17, 2008, Nanjing, China

The Huairou Commission will organize a grassroots academy and work closely together with local women's organizations, such as the Nanjing Women's Federation of China. A delegation representing the Huairou Commission will be travelling to Nanjing from November 29 to December 1st 2007 for further planning meetings on our participation at WUFIV.

Deadline for submission of Networking Events is February 15, 2008. For more information visit:

<http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?typeid=19&catid=535&cid=5030>

### Annual Hazards and Disaster Student Paper Competition

**Deadline: March 14, 2008**

The Natural Hazards Center is pleased to announce its fourth annual Hazards and Disasters Student Paper Competition.

Papers may present current research, literature reviews, theoretical arguments, or case studies. Paper topics may include, but are not limited to, floods/floodplain management, Hurricane Katrina, earthquakes, climate change, warning systems, hazard mitigation, emergency management, vulnerability, or other topics relevant to the social/behavioral aspects of hazards and disasters.

Example Paper Topics: floods/floodplain management, Hurricane Katrina, earthquakes, climate change, warning systems, hazard mitigation, emergency management, vulnerability, or other topics relevant to the social/behavioral aspects of hazards and disasters.

**Call for papers:**

<http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/awards/paper-competition/2008%20Call%20for%20Papers.pdf>

**Submission form:**

<http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/awards/paper-competition/2008SPSubmissionForm.doc>

**Competition Contacts:**

Ali Jordan ([alexandra.jordan@colorado.edu](mailto:alexandra.jordan@colorado.edu))

Brandi Gilbert ([brandi.gilbert@colorado.edu](mailto:brandi.gilbert@colorado.edu))

### National Disaster Management Conference. March 5-6, 2008

The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), Kingston, Jamaica, presents the fifth installment of the National Disaster Management Conference (NDMC) to be held March 5-6, 2008. In cooperation with several non-government agencies and private companies, the 2008 Conference will address two very important areas of risk management and risk reduction: landslides and earthquakes. These have been identified as two of the most critical subject areas in the national, regional and international disaster management dialogue.

The NDMC is an annual event that addresses issues of grave concern to disaster management practitioners and governments across the Caribbean region and worldwide.

We welcome submissions from all interested persons within the themes of the Conference. Please feel free to pass this CFP along to your colleagues and associates.

**Contact:**

Kerry-Ann Morris

Information Officer

Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM)

12 Camp Road, Kingston 4

Tel: (876) 928-5111-4 \* Fax: (876) 928-5503 \* Email:

[kmorris@odpem.org.jm](mailto:kmorris@odpem.org.jm)

[http://www.odpem.org.jm/NDMC\\_Conference\\_2008/Index.htm](http://www.odpem.org.jm/NDMC_Conference_2008/Index.htm)

### International Disaster and Risk Conference Davos, Switzerland, 25-29, August 2008

The conference motto for IDRC Davos 2008 is: Public-private partnership – key for integral risk management and climate change adaptation.

IDRC Davos 2008 will address global problems and attract participants from all over the globe. We expect more than 1300 participants from 130 countries.

If you are willing to present a paper or to (co-)organise a special session, please send an abstract or proposal as soon as possible.

For detailed information, I invite you to visit our web-site <http://www.idrc.info>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us ([info@idrc.info](mailto:info@idrc.info)).

### Gendering disaster workshop - Call for papers

**July 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, Wellington, New Zealand**

This is the 3rd annual Gendering Disaster workshop held as part of the Australasian Natural Hazards Management Conference.

The workshop is now accepting submissions for presentations relating to gender and disasters. The scope of topics is broad and all applications will be considered provided they are relevant to the study of gender and disasters.

Intended audience is students, policy-makers, academics, planners, and government and nongovernment welfare agencies.

Submission deadline is 29 February, 2008 For more details, or to submit an application, please contact Rosalind Houghton: [Ros.Houghton@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Ros.Houghton@vuw.ac.nz)

Disaster Brief E-newsletter from **Disaster Watch**, an initiative of **Huariou Commission** and **GROOTS International** to support grassroots women to build community resilience.  
Co-ordinated by Swayam Shikshan Prayog, India

If you want to unsubscribe to this newsletter, please send a blank email to: [disasterwatch@gmail.com](mailto:disasterwatch@gmail.com) with the subject "unsubscribe".



Huariou Commission

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