

# 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR)

**Start Date:** January 2007

**End Date:** on-going

## **Rationale:**

The Report is the first biennial global assessment of disaster risk reduction prepared in context of the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). The ISDR, launched in 2000, provides a framework to coordinate actions to address disaster risks at the local, national, regional and international levels. The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA), endorsed by 168 UN member states at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan in 2005, urges all countries to make major efforts to reduce their disaster risk by 2015.

The Report was coordinated by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the ProVention Consortium, the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute and a wide range of other ISDR partners.

The Kingdom of Bahrain, the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), UNDP, UNEP, the Government of Norway, the Government of Switzerland, the ProVention Consortium and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) contributed financial resources that enabled the successful development of the Report.

## **Description:**

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) system produced the 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR). The GAR preparation was coordinated by the UNISDR secretariat and developed in collaboration with the World Bank (WB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other ISDR system partners. The GAR was launched by the UN Secretary General in May 2009 to be presented at the second session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (June 2009). The 2009 GAR report was a landmark assessment based on a global risk analysis, a review of achievements and gaps in disaster risk reduction and an analysis of key disaster reduction issues. Following the 2009 report, several recommendations were made in order to improve the risk assessment. For example to see if the methodology can be adapted at more precise scale (e.g.

regional level, or large countries). Improvements were needed on earthquakes as well as on trend analysis. UNEP/GRID-Geneva will participate to this new round of developments as well as updating the existing datasets.

### **Outputs/Results:**

The Report provides hard-hitting evidence to demonstrate how, where and why disaster risk is increasing globally and presents key findings from a global analysis of disaster risk patterns and trends, including where high mortality and economic loss is concentrated. The report analyses the underlying factors that are increasing risk levels and reviews countries progress in achieving the Hyogo Framework for Action, the international framework for reducing disaster risk adopted by 168 governments in 2005.

Using documented best practices from around the world, the Report shows that it is possible to address the underlying factors that are increasing disaster risk and worsening poverty and calls for a renewed national and international commitment to reducing disaster risk, highlights aspects of the Hyogo Framework of Action that need greater attention and provides practical recommendations to assist countries realign their policy and institutional frameworks for disaster risk reduction. The report is a collaborative biennial effort undertaken by UN agencies and partners, member states, the World Bank, regional inter-governmental and technical institutions, civil society networks, academic institutions and other ISDR system partners to guide policy formulation in disaster risk reduction.