

DPU MUN 2019

WELCOME TO UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Anticipating constructive provisions to confront natural calamities and preventing sustained fallout

Esteemed participants,

We are the Secretariat of DPU Model United Nations Conference 2019. We feel more than honored to be welcoming you to the 2nd Edition of this ambitious work. Organized under the framework of Model United Nations, in accordance with its vision to familiarize MUN related activities to young people in the country the DPU MUN 2019 is eager to reach wide range of attendants from high schools and universities which are deeply interested in diplomacy, international relations, politics and the United Nations itself while constituting a unique experience of debating and socializing at the same time. This year, the conference takes it a step further as it is composed of 4 committees chosen delicately to the very attention of the mentioned variety of participants holding security, human rights, development programme committees as well as a Rajyasabha simulation. The academic team embraces an understanding of content which concerns actual and urgent problems that the world faces currently in order to create awareness of the facts touched upon over the youth to which it addresses. The academic content and the structure of the committee have been prepared by the respected Secretary-General (Ms. Ketaki Sawant) and Deputy-Secretary-General (Mr. Bharat Patkar). We advise the participants of this well-prepared committee to read the provided guide thoroughly. For any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via mun.dpu@gmail.com. Best regards Ms. Ketaki Sawant (Secretary-General), Mr. Bharat Patkar (Deputy-Secretary-General), Ms. Shruti Shinde (Director-General), Mr. Aman Kumar (Deputy-Director-General) and Mr. David Nathi (Deputy-Director-General) of DPU MUN Conference 2019.

INTRODUCTION

Disasters caused by natural calamities, such as drought, hurricanes or earthquakes, take lives, cause widespread human suffering, cost billions of dollars a year and literally wash away years of costly and hard-earned development gains. Access to education and healthcare, stable employment and livelihoods, safety and security, as well as opportunities for women, are all threatened in countries that are prone to disasters. Costs are incurred during the immediate recovery period, but often it takes decades for a country and its population to recoup the full losses from a disaster. To make matters worse, the vast majority of disasters hit developing countries already struggling to overcome poverty. While no single reason can be given for this, a combination of environmental and socio-economic factors makes people living in poor nations more vulnerable to this kind of catastrophe than those living in developed countries. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which killed hundreds of thousands of people, was a turning point for the international community. This event put disaster risk reduction higher on the list of development priorities. The tsunami made it painfully obvious of the urgent need for more robust measures to protect development achievements from natural hazards. The deadly destruction caused by the event spurred a call to action to better prevent, mitigate and manage disaster risk. One of the immediate steps taken in its aftermath was the adoption by 168 UN Member States of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), committing to a substantial and widespread reduction in disaster losses. But to achieve this ambitious target, action must be taken by a large number of national and international entities to build and sustain risk management capacity. With this in mind, the United Nations General Assembly tasked the United Nations Development Programme with assisting Members States in putting the priorities of the HFA into action. By working with central governments, communities and a wide range of national and international in-country partners, UNDP helps countries to reduce disaster risk and thereby protect their development gains.

Introduction to UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme serves as the global development network of the UN.

The main goal of this body is to forge change and advancement across the globe and to improve the lives of many people all around the world. UNDP offers expert advice, training and monetary aid to developing countries, with particular focus on Least Developed Countries. Right from 1966, UNDP has served as a partner to people from all walks of life, in building nations that are capable of resisting crisis. Today, on the ground, and in more than one hundred and seventy countries and territories, it continues to offer global perspective and local insight to help countries rise from poverty into prosperity. Under the leadership of Kofi Annan, world leaders vowed to work together to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, which includes a crucial task of reducing poverty by fifty percent by the end of this year. It is therefore the responsibility of United Nations Development Programme, to bridge global and national efforts, with the aim of achieving these eight major goals set.

UNDP's mandate is to help countries build and share solutions in four main areas: Poverty Reduction and Achievement of the **Millennium Development Goals (MDG)**, Democratic Governance, Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Environment and Energy for Sustainable Development. While carrying out all its activities, UNDP protects human rights, empowers women, minorities and the poorest, most vulnerable people in society.

Voluntary contributions from member states are used to fund all the activities of the UNDP in 177 countries. Just like other UN agencies, UNDP has enlisted the voluntary services of quite a few prominent individuals as Goodwill Ambassadors to highlight its causes. They use their fame to amplify the urgent and universal message of human development and the need for countries to cooperate in solving global matters. Their activities have also been extremely helpful in the quest to achieve the MDGs. It is believed that the perspectives of the UNDP in the future are incredibly great. UNDP will continue to work towards making this planet a better place, as it continues to propagate its principles. It believes that collaboration should be at the heart of the climate change question, breaking the corruption chain is a collective responsibility, meaningful reduction in disaster risk requires borderless efforts, and inspiring innovation to meet development challenge is crucial.

In the past ten years, UNDP has worked with national governments in 112 countries, including 50 countries at high risk for disasters, to formulate and implement disaster reduction policies and support recovery activities. UNDP programmes have aimed to strengthen national capacity to prevent as well as respond to natural disasters. In its recovery support, UNDP has focused largely on restoring normalcy following crises for an effective transition to development, using recovery work as an opportunity to 'build back better'. Such efforts have concentrated on strengthening governance structures and policies for better disaster risk management and response.

What is UNDP's strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)?

UNDP's vision is that communities and nations are able to take responsibility for protecting their own lives and livelihoods from the impact of disasters and climate change. Hence they need the motivation and skills to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters. To do this, reducing disaster risk should not be considered a stand-alone endeavour, as it involves a wide range of socio-economic and environmental factors, including poverty, conflict and climate change. To be effective, disaster risk reduction must be pursued comprehensively as a core element of sustainable human development.

In order to achieve this long-term, comprehensive process, three risk reduction components must be addressed:

- 1. Understanding and communicating risk;**
- 2. Reducing risk; and**
- 3. Managing the remaining risk.**

By addressing these three components, countries and communities are able to understand where, how and why they are at risk; take measures to prevent and mitigate the risk; and ensure mechanisms and resources are in place to manage risks that cannot be fully mitigated, by being able to respond when disasters occur. Recognizing that UNDP's efforts are one part of a larger package of international support, UNDP partners with other UN agencies, international finance institutions and NGOs, to support government-led disaster risk reduction and recovery strategies and plans. Even when understanding of risk has improved and is effectively communicated, and when comprehensive risk reduction systems are in place, there is a measure of risk which remains. UNDP helps countries manage this remaining risk through

preparedness measures and pre-disaster recovery planning. Particular emphasis is placed on building preparedness capacity, to ensure that systems for emergency relief, response and recovery are in place before disasters happen.

CONSTRUCTIVE PROVISIONS TO CONFRONT NATURAL CALAMITIES

Building on its expertise in DRR and its presence in countries before disasters occur, UNDP has been mandated by the General Assembly to work on preparedness and anticipate constructive provisions to tackle natural calamities. By providing policy guidance, support to the establishment of regulatory frameworks, and coordination support to preparedness and recovery, UNDP is helping to ensure that the institutional and planning aspects of post-crisis recovery are being addressed before disasters occur. Within the context of disaster risk reduction, UNDP supports governments to develop capacities to efficiently manage all types of emergencies and achieve a smooth transition from the emergency phase through to effective and sustainable recovery. Preparedness is based on analysis of disaster risks and encompasses a wide range of activities – from contingency planning to stockpiling of equipment and supplies; the clarification of institutional responsibilities and mandates; coordination; and recovery financing arrangements. UNDP works with local authorities and communities to ensure adequate planning is in place to deal with disasters. In the Maldives for example, UNDP supported the development of School Emergency Preparedness and Response Guidelines, which are educating school administrators, staff and students, on the procedures to follow during an emergency. In addition, community-based disaster preparedness plans have been developed in 39 islands across seven atolls, while two atolls have conducted simulation exercises. All of these UNDP-supported measures are helping local communities residing in hazard-exposed areas to be better prepared for storms, tsunamis and earthquakes. Similarly, UNDP, in partnership with UNICEF, has also provided support to the Governments of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands in the development of education sector DRR plans. These plans have led to the allocation of national development funds for additional preparedness planning for schools in the Solomon Islands.

In many countries, UNDP supports community-level emergency preparedness initiatives within broader DRR programmes. To mention one example, in the Dominican Republic, in addition to supporting the development of a degree on health and disaster risk reduction, through a partnership with the OPS (Organización Panamericana de la Salud) and the European Union, UNDP worked with authorities in the North-East region to strengthen preparedness and response capacities. In total, 60 of the most vulnerable communities were identified and supported to develop risk management plans. These included emergency and contingency plans, and operating procedures for preparedness and response. Evacuation routes have also been identified and supported to develop risk management plans. These included emergency and contingency plans, and operating procedures for preparedness and response. Evacuation routes have also been identified, and in partnership with the Dominican Red Cross, emergency simulations have been conducted. Reports from community members, local authorities, partners and government officials document an improvement in the region's DRR capacity following the implementation of the UNDP programmes.

Taking an innovative approach to disaster preparedness and to its work with the private sector, UNDP has partnered with Deutsche Post DHL, the global courier company, under the program getAirports Ready for Disasters (GARD). The program aims to improve the operational capacity of airports in potential disaster-sites. Frequently, airports become an essential lifeline in the aftermath of disasters, acting as the main entry point for international assistance, a communications hub, and evacuation route when needed. Yet as huge volumes of relief goods arrive on an ad-hoc basis, bottlenecks may occur, leading to delays in the delivery of aid. The GARD program focuses on training airport staff, as well as local and government officials, to assess local requirements and create detailed contingency plans.

Through GARD, 15 airports in five different countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lebanon, Nepal and Turkey) have been fully assessed and their staff trained. As well, representatives from 31 local airports have been trained so that they can pass on their knowledge to their airports.

The effectiveness of the GARD trainings will be assessed once participating countries have to respond to large-scale disasters, which have fortunately not occurred to this date.

In southern Mexico, UNDP along with a regional team of experts and NGOs, implemented a local risk reduction program in several indigenous villages. The

program followed a participatory approach, which focused on the development of local risk reduction capacities to cope with disaster risk and included measures to address gender inequality. At the local level, communities and cooperatives conducted risk analysis and prepared emergency plans, damage evaluations, and recovery proposals, all of which differentiated data by sex, allowing for an analysis of gender conditions and needs. Gender-sensitive issues within DRR have been tackled in each village in case-specific ways, responding to local capacities and needs. As a result of the UNDP supported program, women in the communities now receive better quality and timely information about prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, thus reducing their vulnerability and hazard exposure. Women are also reportedly more highly involved in decision making processes and in the negotiation of asset distribution, participating in formal and informal discussions on rehabilitation and recovery plans.

PREVENTION OF SUSTAINED FALLOUT

Despite their devastating consequences, natural calamities offer unique, albeit ephemeral, opportunities for change and transformation, especially for strengthening capacities of DRR. Disasters reveal the inherent vulnerabilities present that must be addressed through the recovery process if future disasters are to be avoided. Hence, recovery processes are key opportunities for increasing resilience. This requires moving beyond a process limited to restoring pre-existing structures and services, towards one that will re-orient or re-align fundamental development processes. This can be challenging since resilient recovery requires careful planning and coordination, whilst in the aftermath of disasters there is an urgency to act quickly and 'get back to normal. Yet evidence has shown time and again the great value added of recovery processes that integrate a transformative mind-set. By mainstreaming DRR into recovery processes, resilience can be increased.

As part of its strategy, UNDP provides post-crisis support to governments for the assessment of recovery needs and for planning, programming and implementing initiatives to facilitate recovery. In addition, UNDP recognizes the opportunity presented by disasters to introduce, through the recovery process, broader DRR programmes. With the memory of the disaster highly present in public and government mind-sets, and the resulting broad public support for DRR in the aftermath, recovery programmes provide an entry point to develop comprehensive DRR programmes and to change what was not working before into resilient development and risk-reducing strategies.

As a result of the 2005 UN humanitarian system review, UNDP was designated the Cluster Lead for Early Recovery (ER) reflecting a shared understanding of the close link between humanitarian, recovery and development interventions. At the global level, UNDP leads the Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery, which focuses on providing guidance to the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN system as a whole defining and coordinating early recovery work not covered by other clusters, such as governance and DRR, and providing guidance for the integration of early recovery into the work of other clusters.

As part of its responsibilities, UNDP is charged with supporting national authorities in initiating early recovery and transition activities - from short-term, post-crisis recovery to longer-term development. By January 2011, Early Recovery (ER) coordination mechanisms had been established in 37 countries and nearly 100 ER deployments had been completed, backed up by the Early Recovery Team led by UNDP. These included the deployment of ER Advisors, who provide inter-agency support to the UN humanitarian system; Cluster Coordinators, who support UNDP-led clusters; and ER Specialists, who support UNDP Country Offices in program implementation. Lastly, as the global lead for the ER cluster, UNDP is responsible for influencing the global policy agenda on humanitarian financing, civilian capacities, and strategic planning; to strengthen the potential for, and impact of, early recovery within international crisis response and recovery efforts.

In addition to this role in inter-agency coordination, UNDP works at the country level through three inter-connected and mutually supportive components:

- (i) Strengthened post-crisis governance, which includes support to reinforce national policy and planning processes and local level implementation capacity;
- (ii) (ii) Effective local level early recovery, where UNDP facilitates early recovery programmes at the local level, founded on local government coordination and management;
- (iii) Coordinated Early Recovery Planning, strengthening the capacity of the Office of Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator to undertake systematic assessment, analysis, coordination, and planning for early recovery activities, to enable a coordinated approach to early recovery and the establishment of a foundation for a long-term recovery.
- (iv) Through **Early Recovery Programmes**, UNDP is able to develop and strengthen synergies with existing programmes implemented in affected countries, building on existing development processes.

For example, in Bangladesh UNDP has set up an Early Recovery Facility to help generate self-sustaining, nationally owned, resilient processes for recovery. It does so by providing policy and programmatic support for local and national level recovery, and by promoting the introduction of development oriented interventions in post-disaster situations that promote equity, social inclusion and transparency.

For example, as part of the early recovery response to floods in 2007, UNDP worked with communities to construct 3,962 family houses in five affected districts in Bangladesh, as well as assisted community restoration by providing cash for work opportunities for 40,000 men and women. Cash for work initiatives help to immediately reduce the vulnerability of disaster victims by providing them with income, while placing communities at the centre of rebuilding their own infrastructure and shared community resources. In consultation with the Government, other UN agencies, and NGOs, the Early Recovery Facility supported the establishment and effective functioning of an Early Recovery Cluster in Bangladesh, facilitating a more coordinated approach to post-disaster risk reduction.

When disasters occur, they also provide opportunities for undertaking broad reviews of organizational structures, policies, processes, strategies, etc. When acute phases of disaster recovery are over, and priority shifts once again to development programmes, UNDP is ready to continue supporting disaster risk governance using information drawn from PDNAs, as well as studies made on the impact of a disaster on the attainment of the MDGs, as a stepping stone for the design and revision of disaster risk reduction plans and structures. UNDP works closely with national authorities to ensure that medium and long-term recovery needs are integrated into the planning and implementation of relief response.

For example, in the aftermath of tropical storms Olga and Noel, which hit the Dominican Republic in late 2007, UNDP worked with the National Civil Defence to establish 5 provincial and 23 municipal Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response Committees. These committees are tasked with overseeing all DRR work in their areas. Through this support, disaster response coordination was greatly improved in comparison to previous years. Subsequently, UNDP continued to support the creation of these coordination mechanisms across the country, building their capacity to conduct local risk and capacity assessments, and to develop municipal emergency response and risk management plans.

In China, when an earthquake struck the Sichuan region in early 2008, UNDP responded to the Government's request for support to strengthen coordination efforts, conduct rapid assessments and initiate early recovery frameworks. With UNDP's support, the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development developed a plan to support the Government in early recovery and DRR. Assessments and policy studies were conducted at the national level by the National Disaster Risk Reduction Centre of China, with a focus on poor rural communities. Based on the findings, UNDP helped build leadership and capacity at the local level through a series of workshops for Government officials and community leaders. Direct technical assistance was also provided to communities for the development of contingency plans and the conducting of exercise drills. As a result of the recovery program, one of the pilot villages was recognized by the Ministry of Civil Affairs in China as a model community for comprehensive DRR. Another pilot village, which was flooded in July 2010, was able to utilize knowledge and capacities acquired from previous trainings and exercises to improve the response.

For the first time in China, UNDP introduced the methodologies of participatory vulnerability analysis, which was broadly applied in post-earthquake assessment and planning. UNDP's promotion and analysis of participatory, community-based disaster risk reduction pilots, contributed toward a policy shift in China in this direction. This was reflected in China's Five-Year National Plan for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction and the first National Guidance Note on Strengthening Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction in China. Also, for the first time DRR was incorporated in the new national poverty alleviation strategy (2011-2020), as a key approach to reduce the vulnerabilities of the 1.5 million poor residing in disaster-prone rural China.

In Tajikistan, UNDP initiated an Early Recovery-oriented Communities Programme focused on local government capacities and infrastructure to address the effects of recurrent disasters. The program has assisted local populations in recovering critical public facilities, improve food security and livelihoods, restore infrastructure, and improve DRR and sanitation. The project led to important results, namely the approval of the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy, which included clear recognition of recovery as a major pillar of the DRR process. As well, DRR has also been integrated in the pilot government guidelines for district development planning. These achievements directly contributed to prompt and efficient responses to the Vanj Earthquake in 2010 and the flash floods in Kulyab in May 2010.

UNDP also played a catalytic role in shelter recovery following major disasters in India, through the provision of technical assistance with an emphasis on community-driven construction of safer houses. After the devastating Kosi floods in 2008, when nearly 3.3 million people across five districts of Bihar were severely affected, UNDP supported the state Government in instituting an owner-driven reconstruction programme. The support provided to the Government of Bihar through the Owner Driven Reconstruction Collaborative (ODRC), a consortium of NGOs, contributed to technical guidelines for multi-hazard resistant housing, the establishment of social facilitation centres at community level, and institutional capacity building programmes at the panchayat and district levels for recovery implementation. UNDP-ODRC piloted the shelter reconstruction process by undertaking reconstruction of 170 households in affected villages.

Subsequent to the success of the pilot, UNDP provided technical and operational support for scaling up a government/World Bank-funded programme, which enabled 100,000 families to take the lead role in building their own disaster-resistant houses.

In addition to the institutional support provided in the aftermath of disasters, UNDP works closely with affected communities to identify and restore local livelihoods. The employment generation programmes led by UNDP in the aftermath of disasters represent one of several effective response options available in the early phase of recovery and helps generate quick wins for affected populations. These livelihood activities complement humanitarian interventions and provide a bridge from relief to recovery. Cash for work programmes also have the advantage that they can be integrated into more comprehensive safety net programmes and linked to wider social protection schemes.

In Haiti for example, the tremendous impact of the 2010 earthquake extended the relief and early recovery phase for over two years. Under the early recovery cluster and working closely with national authorities, UNDP is leading efforts to accelerate the transition towards recovery with the largest job creation programme it has in the world. Since the earthquake, over 300,000 people, over 40 percent of them women, were temporarily employed through more than 230 projects implemented by UNDP in partnership with other UN agencies, local authorities and civil society organizations.

Income-generation activities in Haiti are not an isolated disaster response intervention, but part of a holistic approach which seeks to tackle DRR as well.

By clearing water canals, sewage systems and roads from debris, the risk of spread of communicable diseases is reduced and potential future disasters averted. Also, through an initiative of UNDP and the Government of Haiti, Community Support Centers, known locally by the French acronym CARMEN, have been empowering quake-affected communities in Port-au-Prince and the western town of Léogâne to directly take charge of house repairs, backed with engineering assessments and safe construction trainings. Through the project, 5,000 participants have been trained in construction techniques and over 2,000 damaged houses were evaluated. In addition, over 1,000 Haitians received a US\$500 grant to buy certified quality local construction materials through the project's innovative mobile-money transfer scheme, which takes advantage of mobile phones- the first ever for large scale post-disaster housing recovery efforts.

In Ecuador, UNDP supported a process of resilient recovery following the eruption of the Tungurahua Volcano in 1999. As volcanic ash spewed onto surrounding villages and deteriorated grazing pasture, damaged agricultural land and suffocated planted crops, UNDP worked closely with the local municipality to help diversify livelihoods. Farmers were given the opportunity to learn new skills and supported as they began new income-generating activities, such as raising small animals, meat processing, production of animal feed, and shoe-making, amongst others. Thanks to the diversification of livelihood options and the sustained support provided by UNDP to the municipalities, the inhabitants of Cevallos improved their socio-economic status and as a result, were not forced to seek disruptive livelihood alternatives or migrate to other areas of the country. Most importantly, villagers were able to increase their resilience to the continuing eruptions of the volcano, as their reduced dependency on agriculture meant the threat to their livelihoods has decreased.

In Mongolia, UNDP worked with national authorities to address the impact of the 2009-2010 dzud, a continuous condition during winter and spring when livestock lack pasture and water resources, losing weight, and perishing in large quantities. This particular dzud led to 8.4 million livestock deaths. Through a UNDP early recovery programme, support was provided for the removal of livestock carcasses, building capacity for alternative livelihoods, strengthening early recovery planning, and implementing a disaster prevention grants programme. Through a livelihoods programme, over two million carcasses were removed and buried, whilst alternative livelihood programmes were implemented for a targeted 1,000 herders affected by the dzud.

In Honduras, a gender sensitive early recovery project was developed at the local level, including an online course on gender and DRR. In total, 10 national counterparts were trained in the use of these gender-sensitive recovery guidelines and were able to apply this methodology for planning the response to storm Agatha in 2010.

As a result of the implementation of this methodology, 40 percent of the cash-for-work days have directly benefited families headed by women, while specific work activities were designed to allow the access of women to resources.

As illustrated by these examples, resilient recovery needs to be grounded in a demand-driven, nationally-owned disaster needs assessment, in order to avoid rebuilding risk through reconstruction and recovery efforts. It also requires local level planning and piloting of small innovative initiatives, led by communities and local governments that are part of larger reconstruction plans. In addition, coordination mechanisms need to be established, ideally before disasters occur, to adequately assign roles and responsibilities, avoid overlap, promote more efficient use of resources, and define clear lines of accountability.

UNDP has assisted dozens of countries and hundreds of communities in better understanding and communicating the risks they face, through public awareness, local level risk assessments and the establishment of early warning systems.

As a case in point, in Jordan UNDP worked with the General Directorate of Civil Defense to assess and identify the risk of potential human and physical losses should an earthquake occur in the Amman region. This was achieved by evaluating the earthquake hazards, exposed assets, and social and physical vulnerabilities for each neighborhood. Similarly, as a result of urban risk assessments and follow up conducted by UNDP, the city of Aqaba (Jordan) is now making informed decisions on land allocation for commercial and housing projects, reducing their exposure to seismic hazards. The city is now recognized by UNISDR as the first Model City for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab states.

To help nations better understand the risk they face from disasters, UNDP has helped governments to develop disaster loss databases in 23 countries. These record disaster losses on an event-by-event basis and provide one way of measuring the success or failure of risk reduction measures. UNDP helped introduce these lost databases in five of the countries most affected by the

2004 Indian Ocean tsunami: India, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Early warning systems are a practical and effective life saving tool for countries exposed to disaster risk and have become a priority for UNDP and its country partners. These systems allow at-risk populations to be forewarned and thus prepared before hazards occur. In recent years, early warning systems have begun to make use of innovative technology, such as mobile phones, to increase their reach.

For instance, in Bangladesh, warning messages are collected from the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre, which UNDP helped establish, as well as the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, and are then disseminated through the delivery of text-messages.

UNDP has also established similar mechanisms in both Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. Within minutes of a 9.0 earthquake off the coast of Japan on 11 March 2011, more than 120,000 people living in an exposed coastal community in the Philippines were alerted to a possible tsunami through messages received on their mobile phones. While the Philippines' province of Albay suffered only non-destructive waves, some 108,000 people in 150 coastal districts were nonetheless evacuated as a precaution, an excellent example of early warning in action.

In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uzbekistan, UNDP has supported the design of mobile phone apps which allow users to receive updates on hazards and disasters as they happen. With a touch of the map, users can find out, receive tips on staying safe, explore past hazard events, and access key contact information, such as emergency services.

Early warning systems can be tailored to reflect most natural hazards and to correspond to community needs and capacities. In Bhutan and Nepal, UNDP has helped strengthen existing early warning systems to monitor glacial lakes that are at risk of bursting and flooding. Due to this system a particularly hazardous glacial lake in Bhutan was lowered by more than 3.6 meters, averting a predicted glacial lake outburst in 1994 released 20 million cubic meters of water, damaged more than 1,700 acres of land and killed 22 people.

In Mozambique, through income-generation and food security-related projects, combined with extensive advocacy and public awareness, UNDP has encouraged the resettled communities not to return to flood prone areas. While only one compound of a much larger intervention, the initiative did contribute

to a reduction in flood related mortality in 2010, which was less than 25 percent of the 10 year average.

Beyond understanding risk, UNDP is also supporting countries to reduce the risks they face. UNDP achieves this by helping governments to allocate resources for disaster risk reduction at both national and local levels. This often involves UNDP providing support to draft, update and amend policies, laws, and overall governance arrangements for disaster risk reduction.

For example: in Peru, UNDP helped the Government to draft and pass a state policy that makes it mandatory to integrate disaster risk reduction into development projects. So far, 157 municipalities (and seven million people) have benefited from hazard maps undertaken through the Sustainable Cities Project, which assesses urban environmental degradation and informs proposals on building plans.

In the Dominican Republic, with UNDP's support the country now boasts a national seismic risk reduction plan and a national fund for disaster prevention, mitigation and response. Moreover, the National Development Strategy 2010-2030, incorporates risk reduction as both a crosscutting issue and as one of its main pillars. These initiatives integrate disaster risk into development and ensure that future projects are sensitive to it.

Similarly, in Pakistan, a country prone to earthquakes, a safe construction programme has led to the building of over 500,000 earthquake resistant houses. The design of these houses and the safer construction methods employed has now been permanently incorporated into national building codes - protecting millions of people.

In Mexico, integration of disaster risk reduction in local development programmes significantly contributed to sustaining development investments at the local level. Similar attempts are evident in Bangladesh to strengthen disaster risk management capacities at the local level, and disaster risk reduction is addressed as a governance issue in Honduras. But a large number of other country programmes have not made explicit links between disaster prevention and other development programming. Over the last three years, increased support has been provided to address climate change as a development issue, largely through the environment portfolio of UNDP. Although a correlation can be found between many disaster risk reduction and climate change objectives, the evaluation indicates limited integrated programming to date in these two areas. A notable exception is the Maldives, where the nexus of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation has

been well established. A recent series of agreements among UNDP policy and practice bureau to explore and define the nature of cooperation on climate change adaptation may provide opportunities for closer integration in the future.

CONCLUSION

UNDP plays multiple roles in post-disaster situations. The post-disaster recovery process involves rebuilding following the losses and damages that occur during a disaster. This period also represents an important opportunity for change. Using the post-disaster period as an entry point, UNDP encourages steps to reduce the risks of future disasters thorough the recovery process.

UNDP short-term micro-level livelihood activities and shelter construction, United Nations coordination, and providing longer-term recovery support for strengthening administrative systems and improving government capacities.

In the coming years UNDP will remain actively engaged in the global debates on the post 2015 agenda, advocating for increased focus on disasters. UNDP's commitment and continued support to disaster risk reduction and recovery meets a growing demand from the countries.