

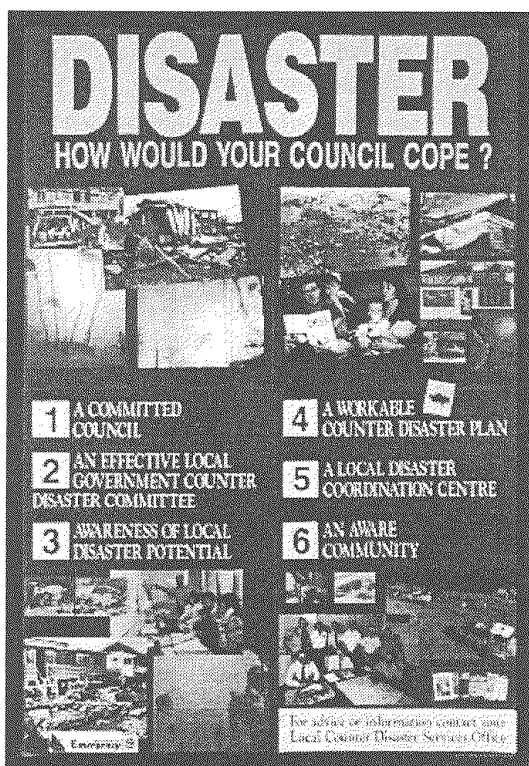
The Ministry of Interior, the Nepal Geological Society and UNDP organized a World Disaster Reduction Day meeting on "Understanding our Physical Environment: Key to Natural Disaster Reduction".

District Disaster Relief Committees organized World Disaster Reduction Day parades with government officials, political leaders, NGOs, students and the general public.

Radio Nepal and Nepal Television broadcast an address by the Minister of the Interior on 9 October and a special feature on World Disaster Reduction Day.

New Zealand

"Cities at Risk" gave New Zealand's Ministry of Defense (IDNDR National Committee) an opportunity to highlight locally-driven Neighbourhood Support Groups and launch new training programmes on World Disaster Reduction Day. "It is at the local and regional level that hazards strike", the Ministry of Civil Defense (National Committee) noted in its newsletter, which highlighted the campaign in several issues.



Pakistan

The Aga Khan Housing Board for Pakistan, working with government officials, schools and NGOs across



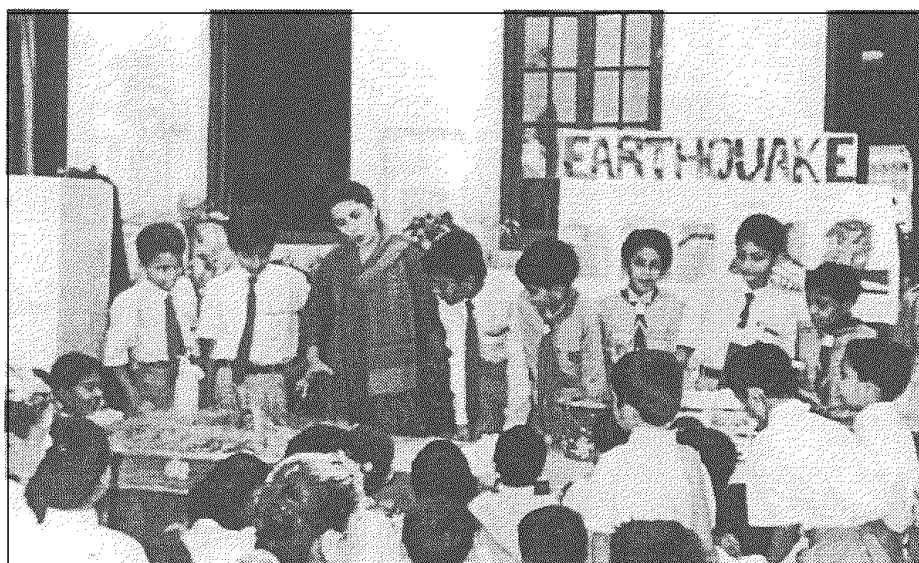
Aga Khan Housing Board for Pakistan

Pakistan, carried out World Disaster Reduction Campaign activities for the first time. They focused on creating awareness about preventive measures for earthquakes, using schools as a channel, and working with national media on the issue of cities at risk to disasters.

"Pakistan is vulnerable to a number of disasters"...The situation in Karachi and other urban centers in Pakistan is central to the thematic concern Cities at Risk", noted the Aga Khan Housing Board.

As part of the collaborative campaign programme, the Aga Khan Housing Board developed a modular lecture for teachers and handouts for students, and distributed these along with the 1995 campaign booklet, *Learning About Disasters*, and 1996 campaign materials on *Cities at Risk*.

"The response from both teachers and students was tremendous," reported the head of the Aga Khan Housing Board.



Karachi schools: Demonstration of the effect of natural disasters using a three-dimensional model

“20,000 school children participated directly. Not only was the participation enthusiastic on World Disaster Reduction Day, but a large number have shown keen interest in continuing programme activities on a regular basis.”

Lectures, class discussions on mitigation practices for specific hazards, essay and poster competitions, skits, and simulation exercises were among the activities carried out in schools.

The Aga Khan Housing Board is compiling evaluations from participating groups to refine further action on education and risk reduction. The experience of the campaign convinced

them that there is a real need to develop national curricula for education of primary and secondary school children about risk reduction. They are looking to IDNDR partner organizations worldwide for further information.

Participating schools were both public and private and were located in Karachi, the capital, and northern Pakistan (highly earthquake prone), southern Pakistan (Thatta and Chitral districts).

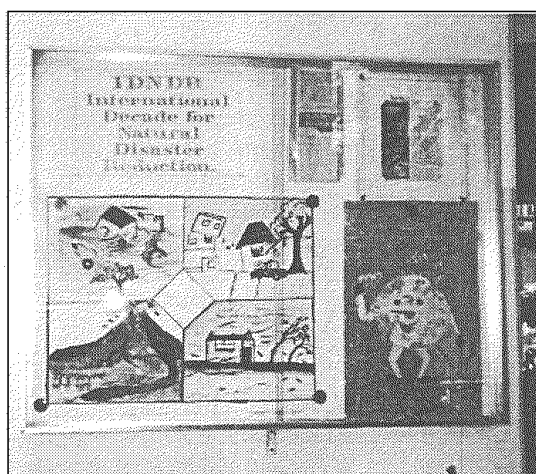
Sindh Agriculture and Village Environment

Reformers, an NGO working to protect development of rural areas, also reported that it participated in the activities catalyzed by the Aga Khan Housing Board. Working with education officials in the districts of Badin and Thatta, they prepared course materials, gave lectures and arranged for speakers, reaching 2,000 children. They plan to continue urban disaster mitigation work in cities in Pakistan, focusing on education and public awareness programmes.

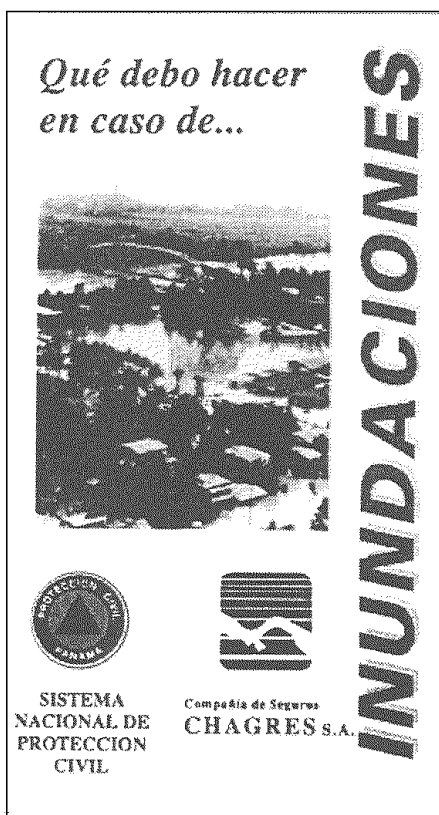
Several English and Urdu newspapers reported on the issue of cities at risk, based on IDNDR Secretariat materials adapted by the Aga Khan for Pakistan. Newspapers also reported on activities in schools and NGOs across Pakistan as part of the campaign.

Panama

Panama has declared the whole month of October as for Risk Reduction and Civil Protection since the beginning of the Decade. Most activities were directed under the global theme “Cities at Risk”, starting with a public contest for proper slogan on that theme. The winning slogan was in Spanish (rhyme) “Si ciudades en riesgo querrmos disminuir, las gufas de prevencion debermos seguir” (If we want to reduce cities at risk, we should follow the prevention guides).



Karachi schools: Poster competition



For the Day a press release was sent out to media. A parade was carried out Panama City, with ten schools, NGOs and governmental institutions participating. An official commemorative meeting was held on October 9th, with civil protection volunteers, private companies and "White helmet" volunteers. During this meeting the volunteers took a vote to follow the rules of civil protection. Recognition was given the private sector that supports measures to reduce the risks in the Panamanian cities. The Panama International Unit of Response, Search and Rescue, "White Helmets" was officially presented to the press. This unit may be quickly mobilized in case of major national or international disaster and is made up of volunteers from the private and public sector. This Day activity ended with folklore and sport.

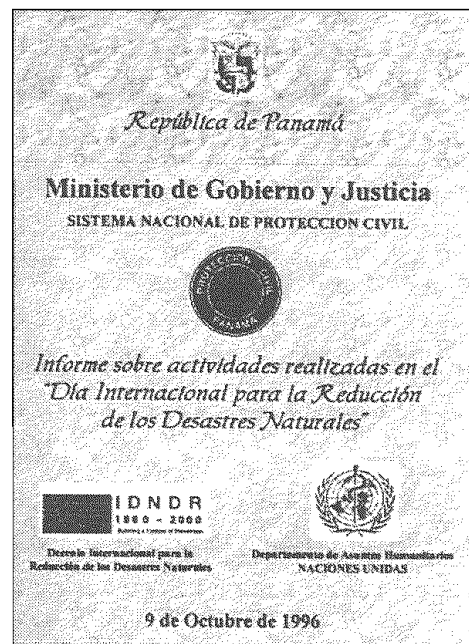
During the Lottery the Press release on Cities at Risk was read by Civil Protection volunteers.

During the month of October two seminars were held with the allusion to Cities at Risk: One workshop on "Causes,

consequences and actions related to disaster reduction", organized by the Ministry of Health, CEPREDENAC and Civil Protection, another workshop was held in Paya Gorgona 17-18 October to review the civil protection plans related to urban risk reduction.

In November a two day Central American preparatory meeting was held among all active organizations in the area to outline a regional disaster reduction strategy for Central American Cities. IDNDR Regional Office, DHA, CEPREDENAC, PAHO, OAS, Central American Municipality Federation, Red Cross Federation, MSF, OFDA-USAID among other participated.

Ten schools participated in the disaster reduction parades in the Capital city during the Day. Civil Protection also made public delivery of two baby carriers and beds to the first born boy and girl during the World Disaster Reduction Day, October 9, 1996.



Panama: The first child born on IDNDR Day, 9 October 1996 receives two baby carriers and a bed.