



Mozambique

Disaster Management Capacity Building

Disaster Context

Mozambique has suffered from a wide range of natural and man-made disasters. Since 1975 the country has been victim to drought, floods, cyclones, massive war-provoked population displacements, coastal oil spills, erosion and mudslides, epidemics (notably cholera and forest fires).

After successive floods in the Limpopo Valley (1976/1977), the Buzi and Pungue Valleys (1978) and the Zambezi Valley (1979) the Government, taking the lead role in responding to such natural disasters, established a Department for the Prevention and Combat of Natural Disasters (DPCCN) in 1980.

DPCCN became immediately concerned with drought relief (1982/3) and then emergency assistance not only to drought affected people but also to the more than three million Mozambicans that were internally displaced during the civil conflict (1982-1992). With the signing of a General Peace Agreement in 1992, DPCCN and international humanitarian organisations focused on large scale relief programmes through 1995 for the 1.7 million resettling refugees, the 3 million internally displaced and war affected populations as well as close to 100,000 demobilised soldiers and their families.

Over the years it became increasingly evident that Mozambique needed to develop an integrated Disaster Management Policy, which combined prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response in the context of endemic natural disaster conditions of post-war reconstruction and development. Thousands of Mozambicans suffer each year, losing their homes, their crops or their livelihoods when disaster strikes. In addition, as the economy has continued to grow and external investment is increasing, there is a growing awareness of the economic importance of disaster preparedness, prevention and response capacity for

sustainable economic development and growth.

Mozambique is prone to continuing and recurrent natural disaster threats. The lack of an integrated disaster management policy and structure increases the loss of life and exacerbates the vulnerability of the population when disaster strikes. DPCCN has been tasked with the responsibility to develop the policy and make the necessary institutional and legal proposals for Government approval.

Project Title

Capacity Building of the National Disaster Management Authority.

Funding

Since the mid-eighties, UNDP has been supporting the government's capacity to respond to emergency situations. This project is an integral part of the UNDAF strategy and therefore firmly grounded within UN inter-agency initiatives. The UN Disaster Management Theme Group, chaired by WFP/UNDP, has allocated USD 704,700 for the implementation of the project.

Partnerships

- WFP
- DPCCN
- Médecins sans frontières
- Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries, Health, Public Works, National Defence, Interior, Education, Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Planning and Finance, Environment, Social Welfare, Mineral Resources and Energy and various governmental institutes which provide key information and inputs to the planning and response process.

Programme Activities

In the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) signed by UN and the Government of Mozambique (GOM) on May 1998, a UN system's co-ordinated strategy for Disaster Management was developed.

The goal of UN co-operation in this area is to assist and enable the GOM to effectively manage disasters through preventive measures designed to mitigate the threat from and impact of future disasters; increased preparedness in the form of pre-positioned plans, regulations and resources for effective and efficient population when disaster strikes in order to reduce the loss of life.

The primary assistance is to assist the Government to prepare national disaster management policy and the accompanying legislation; assist in putting in place a disaster management information system to inform decision-making, and to support the government to develop and implement its disaster management plan. In addition, the UN Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP) initiative has supported the process in Mozambique.

A DMTP Country Programme Officer (CPO) has been working since January 1998 to support the on-going process of the development and implementation of a disaster management policy by the government. This project has been endorsed by the UN Disaster Management Theme Group.



Nepal

Disaster Reduction Programme

Disaster Context

Nepal is prone to many types of disaster: earthquakes, floods, landslides, droughts, storms, avalanches, hailstorms, fires and epidemics. Although earthquakes are potentially the most devastating to the country, damage due to floods and landslides is likely to increase.

Physiographical, geological and meteorological factors contribute to the high incidence of natural disasters in Nepal. The country lies on an active seismic fault, it is home to the highest mountain range in the world and the monsoons bring high rainfall. This disaster scenario is compounded by pervasive poverty and rapid population growth, leading to environmental degradation and increased encroachment on disaster-prone lands.

Earthquakes of even moderate intensity can have devastating consequences in Nepal, since traditional houses are in many cases too weak to resist the slightest tremor. Most modern housing is also vulnerable, particularly in densely populated urban areas. Building construction has taken place at a rapid rate in urban areas in recent years without proper planning and control. It is said that some 80 percent of the housing in the Kathmandu Valley is at risk if an earthquake of magnitude 6.5 to 7.0 on the Richter scale were to occur.

Project Title

Upgrading Disaster Management in Nepal

Sectors

- Capacity Building
- Risk and hazard maps for disaster planning
- Training
- Standard operating procedures for disaster

Funding

UNDP has committed US\$ 247,000 and counterpart contributions were pledged by the Government of Nepal. Contributions from other sources include the Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance of USAID, the Netherlands Development Organisation and UNICEF.

Partnerships

- Ministry of Home
- Water-Induced Disaster Prevention Technical Centre of Nepal
- Japan International Co-operation Agency
- Lutheran World Service

Programme Activities

During Nepal's historic floods in 1993, the government asked the UN Resident Coordinator to co-ordinate the international response to the disaster and later requested that Co-operation continue to help the country prepare for and respond to any future disasters. In response to this request, a Disaster Management Secretariat (DMS) was established in the UNDP Country Office and a project document for UNDP SPR funding was drafted and approved.

The project focused on developing standard operation procedures that could be quickly implemented whenever disaster struck. These procedures were set down in disaster response implementation manuals produced by working groups established to deal with the sectors of food, health and logistics. The working groups met regularly to ensure that a pool of trained personnel from the government and international community is readily available despite rapid staff turnover in both communities.

Baseline data on the country was assembled and resource databases and a GIS were established. All baseline data and a comprehensive document database on disaster in Nepal

were compiled in electronic format for distribution on CD-ROM. Training in disaster management is regularly organised.

At the local level, three villages in each of two disaster-prone districts were chosen to implement disaster mitigation projects based on indigenous technologies. A hill district subject to landslides and a district in flood plains were chosen to respond to a variety of hazard types. Community groups formed for this purpose managed all mitigation activities and management and disaster-related training was provided. Special emphasis was given to the participation of women in all project activities. Frequent exchange visits between participating communities took place to encourage the exchange of ideas, experience and best practice.

By working at both the community and the central level and ensuring communication between the two, the project has helped to build a more coherent response to natural disasters in Nepal. The project acted as a test and prototype for a programme currently being developed in the UNDP Country Office. This programme will focus on the development of a set of disaster management tools and processes that can be incorporated into a variety of local-level development projects.



Pacific Island Countries

Strengthening National Capacities for Disaster Prevention and Management

Disaster Context

Pacific islands may look like paradise on the postcards but, like so many other countries, they are increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters. Increased urbanisation, population growth, deforestation, the fragility of island environments, their narrow economic base, the small size of the scattered and isolated communities, the degradation of traditional coping mechanisms and, for some Pacific Island Countries (PICs), political instability are all factors heightening their vulnerability. The development process itself is also a cause. The Pacific region is so vast and the islands so remote not only from other countries, but also from other islands within the same country, that delivery of relief or development assistance is usually delayed and is very expensive.

Coastal areas tend to be particularly disaster-prone, as the population, infrastructure and economic and commercial activities concentrate there. The impact of disasters on small islands is often disproportionately high; devastating the entire country and causing such damage that recovery is often long and difficult. This places considerable stress on their economies and severely disrupts development efforts.

PICs are exposed to a large number of natural catastrophes, including:

- Tropical cyclones with accompanying storm surges and salt water sprays
- Droughts and floods which are either seasonal or El Niño induced
- Earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions
- Landslides caused by heavy rainfall and earthquakes
- Sea-level rises leading to flooding, especially in the atoll countries

Project Title

South Pacific Disaster Reduction Programme (SPDRP)

Sectors

- Capacity building through disaster management training activities
- Community vulnerability reduction
- Support to disaster mitigation projects
- Development of training courses and materials
- Public awareness campaigns
- Production of technical support materials
- Risk and vulnerability assessment
- Development of national disaster plans
- Provision of mechanisms for regional and national co-ordination

Funding

Since SPDRP started in 1994, UNDP has allocated US\$ 1 million for Phase I (1994 –1997) and US\$ 500,000 for Phase II (1998 – 2000). Since 1994, other donor contributions have included AusAID (US\$ 510,000), NZODA (US\$ 332,335), France (US\$ 55,087), UK/DFID (US\$ 700,000), USAID/OFDA (in-kind US\$ 1.2 million), PRC (in-kind US\$ 82, 268). In 1998-99, UNDP began funding office overheads through DFID and its own fund of US\$ 137,500.

Partnerships

SPDRP's funding partners are listed above. Implementation partners include key government departments, selected NGOs and regional organisations, scientific and technical agencies, and UN agencies

Programme Activities

The SPDRP aims to improve the islands' disaster management capacity through human resource development. While continuing to build and strengthen past achievements, the main focus for the future is on community vulnerability reduction. The following describes the SPDRP activities at present:

Community Vulnerability Reduction

- Develop national strategies that identify needs and priorities for community vulnerability reduction
- Set up in-country mechanisms for planning, co-ordination and implementation of community activities in disaster management
- Provide relevant support material to communities and participating bodies
- Assist in the identification and implementation of community-driven project activities
- Increase the capacity of communities to raise disaster awareness and preparedness at their local level

Disaster Management Training

- Assist the development of trained instructors capable of undertaking disaster management training activities
- Develop modules to suit a wide range of disaster management training
- Conduct disaster management training workshops and courses
- Assist the development of national training programmes and policies
- Integrate disaster management training into educational and training institutions
- Establish mechanisms for co-operation and exchange of expertise and trainers

Disaster Mitigation

- Provide an inventory of hazard-specific mitigation measures for various sectors
- Incorporate disaster mitigation measures into developing planning
- Improve the understanding of disaster mitigation and vulnerability reduction at national and community levels
- Assist governments and communities to identify and implement disaster mitigation activities

Regional and National Co-ordination

- Provide a co-ordination mechanism with regional and national disaster manage-

ment programmes and assistance providers

- Conduct regional disaster management meetings annually
- Assist the development and implementation of national disaster management programmes
- Promote national disaster plans through training and public awareness activities

Achievements

The achievements since 1994 have been considerable, such as:

- Establishing full- and part-time national disaster management offices (NDMOs)
- Reviewing and, where necessary, rewriting national disaster plans
- In conjunction with OFDA:
 - ✓ establishing a team of trainers through training for instructors (TFI) courses
 - ✓ adapting and developing disaster management (IDM) training courses and conducting the training region-wide
 - ✓ development of training materials
- Conducting other relevant disaster management training courses
- Carrying out disaster mitigation pilot projects in various locations
- Producing technical support materials and manuals
- Conducting education and awareness programmes and producing relevant materials
- Assisting in the formulation of national disaster management programmes
- Conducting emergency response missions under OCHA through the UNDAC system

SPDRP's beneficiaries are the people of the 15 PICs¹ participating in this regional programme, which provides a common approach to disaster management. The regional activities are complemented by individual country programmes and are implemented through the South Pacific Applied Geo-Science Commission (SOPAC), an important point for local "ownership" and sustainability. At the country level, the programme is implemented through the NDMOs, with its working group comprising government departments, NGOs and the private sector. The aim is for country activities and regional technical support to be sustainable.

¹ Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu



Peru

Support to El Niño Reconstruction Executive Committee (CEREN)

Disaster Context

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), commonly known as "El Niño" is an oceanographic phenomenon consisting of the extensive warming of the upper layer of the ocean in the tropical eastern Pacific off the north-western coast of South America (Ecuador and Peru). This phenomenon disrupts the normal weather pattern producing heavy rainfall and high temperatures, thus causing massive floods and landslides with direct impact in the coastal and Andean regions. "El Niño" is a recurrent phenomenon, with an estimated periodicity of every four years and has an average duration of 12 to 18 months.

El Niño has adversely affected Peru in several occasions. Despite descriptive reports drafted by the first Spanish settlers that go as far as the 16th century, only in the last 40 years, both the Government and civil society, are more conscious of the nature of this phenomenon and its impact on the local population and economy. During 1982-83 El Niño hit Peru and neighbouring Ecuador, causing massive destruction and casualties in the affected areas. As a consequence, in 1983 the Peruvian GDP dropped to -13%. The latest El Niño (1997-98), which had a similar destructive magnitude, had a lesser impact in the Peruvian economy, with a modest growth of the GDP calculated in 0.7% in 1998.

Project Title

Support to the El Niño Reconstruction Executive Committee (CEREN) " PER/98/018

Sectors

- Capacity building through training
- Rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes
- Preparation of training materials

- Support to mitigation programmes
- Co-ordination with the government, UN agencies and other donors

Funding

The Government of Peru allocated US\$3,094,489 as cost sharing funds

Partnerships

- El Niño Reconstruction Executive Committee (CEREN) is constituted by the following ministries: Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Transport, Communication, Housing & Infrastructure; Ministry of Fisheries; Ministry of the Presidency; Ministry of Women Promotion & Human Development.
- Multi-sectoral Committee responsible for studying El Niño -ENFEN- conformed by: SENAMHI; Defensa Civil, Instituto del Mar del Peru, Instituto Geografico Nacional, and the Peruvian Navy
- Local governments

Programme Activities

Aim:

To assist the Government of Peru, through a comprehensive capacity building at CEREN, in order to manage the design and organisation of reconstruction plans during the post-El Niño stage.

Objective:

Contribute to the institutional consolidation of CEREN and strengthen its organisational capacity to deal with strategic planning, co-ordination, execution, monitoring and evaluation of projects and other related actions oriented to the reconstruction of zones affected by "El Niño".

Duration:

2 years (1998 -1999)

Activities/Results:

1. Preparation and monitoring of a national reconstruction strategy.
2. Preparation and monitoring of suitable guidelines to identify and prioritise reconstruction projects.
3. Elaboration, update and monitoring of a database with infrastructure planned and/or developed during the reconstruction phase.
4. Set-up and monitoring of a technical evaluation system for reconstruction projects.
5. Design of CEREN's organisational and functional structure

This project has contributed to provide the Government of Peru with a reinforced institution, capable of undertaking the organisation of the post-El Niño reconstruction process.



Peru

Disaster Prevention and Management

Disaster Context

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), commonly known as "El Niño" is an oceanographic phenomenon consisting of the extensive warming of the upper layer of the ocean in the tropical eastern Pacific off the north-western coast of South America (Ecuador and Peru). This phenomenon disrupts the normal weather pattern producing heavy rainfall and high temperatures, thus causing massive floods and landslides with direct impact in the coastal and Andean regions. El Niño is a recurrent phenomenon, with an estimated periodicity of every four years and has an average duration of 12 to 18 months.

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New technological advances in Meteorology have lead to the development of accurate early warning systems capable of identifying El Niño at its formation stage in the western Pacific, well ahead of its arrival into the Peruvian and Ecuadorian coasts. This allowed planning ahead for the emergency, disaster and mitigation activities thus working coherently to reduce possible damages

Project Title

Prevention, Mitigation and Management of El Niño - PER/97/031

Sectors

- Capacity building through training

- Public awareness campaigns
- Risk and vulnerability assessment through satellite and electronically developed maps
- Ad-hoc (emergency) legislation
- Rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes
- Preparation of training materials
- Support to mitigation programmes
- Co-ordination with the government, UN agencies and other donors

Funding

UNDP allocated US\$382,900 (TRAC1.1.3)
The Government of Peru allocated US\$97,000 as cost sharing funds

Partnerships

- El Niño Reconstruction Executive Committee (CEREN)
- Multi-sectoral Committee responsible for studying El Niño conformed by: SENAMHI, Defensa Civil, Instituto del Mar del Peru, Instituto Geografico Nacional, and the Peruvian Navy
- Local governments

Programme Activities

Aim:

To assist the Government of Peru in managing emergency actions in prevention of expected negative effects attributed to El Niño.

Objective:

Strengthen the preparation and response capacity of the public authorities and local community to floods and landslides, caused by El Niño through the implementation of a prevention programme, based on information man-

agement, communication systems, and adequate organisation at both communal and Government levels.

Duration:

3 years (1997 -1999)

In 1997 and due to a timely international forecast of El Niño and its magnitude, the Government requested UNDP' assistance. A project document was jointly drafted and submitted to UNDP headquarters for approval.

The following activities were conceived and developed:

1. Preparation of Risk Maps in 1997 earmarking zones of high vulnerability *via-a-vis* maps of 1982-83 (period when El Niño had catastrophic effects in Peru) prioritising actions for disaster mitigation / preparedness;
2. Provision of technical assistance to mitigate the impact and reduce the risks in areas of high vulnerability;
3. Special measures for community training, assisting local population to deal with emergency situations thus assuring adequate and timely distribution of aid to those directly affected by the event;
4. Implementation of a prevention strategy with suitable information systems, capable of managing emergency related situations and their potential social and economic implications. This involved both public and private institutions operating a network of diverse information / materials on the subject and its dissemination in support of civil society;
5. Support emergency management at the national, regional and local levels to achieve organisational strengthening in actions where appropriate co-ordination levels were required among ministries, regional authorities, local authorities and civil society.

This project has contributed to provide the Government of Peru with relevant technical information and capacity building, at various levels, to manage this recurrent phenomenon and other natural disasters



South Africa

Building Capacity of the National Disaster Management Authority

Disaster Context

Although South Africa is generally not regarded as a country at high risk of disasters, it is beset by many risks and hazards both natural and human-made such as floods, drought, bush fires, household fires, mine accidents, risks from the transportation of hazardous materials, traffic accidents, civil strife in isolated parts of the country and recently the frequent occurrence of tornadoes. The majority of South Africa's population is living in fragile and vulnerable conditions as a result of high levels of poverty, low standards of living, high levels of unemployment, lack of access to resources, unequal patterns of asset ownership and distribution, environmental degradation and slow economic growth.

The institutional arrangements and capacities to respond to these disasters were very limited in the past and in some parts of the country are still very minimal more especially in the underdeveloped former homelands where poverty is more prevalent while resources are scarce.

Up until recently, disaster management in South Africa was purely a re-active response system of a traditional civil protection structure that was geared towards protecting the white establishment and its economic systems. The disparities between South Africa's society led to the majority of its population being cast off from accessing national resources which would make them better prepared for disasters.

Project Title

Building Capacity of the national Disaster Management Authority for South Africa

Sectors

- Public awareness, training and sensitisation
- Policy development
- Disaster preparedness and mitigation
- Institutional strengthening

Funding

UNDP contributed US\$250,000. The government of South Africa made contributions in kind.

Partners

- Department of Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development.
- Disaster Management Association of Southern Africa
- Technikon Southern Africa
- Cranfield Disaster Management Centre, UK

Programme Activities

It was only after the historic elections of 1994, ushering in the first era of a truly representative democracy in South Africa's history that the Government applied for and received recipient status within UNDP. As a result of consultations with government, the first Country Co-operation Framework (CCF) for South Africa was agreed upon, which covers the period 1997 - 2001. It is during this process that UNDP's support in the area of disaster management was identified as one of the priorities.

Between 1997 and 1998 the following activities were undertaken:

- National policy development. Development of a green paper subsequently followed by the White Paper and Cabinet approval.

- Establishment of a National Disaster Management Centre. A business plan and proposal was prepared and submitted to Parliament for approval.
- Training and capacity building. One-day provincial workshops were held in eight of the nine provinces to raise awareness and sensitise government officials to the new developing disaster management paradigms, identify training needs as well as identifying focal points in the provinces.
- A four-week comprehensive training course was planned and implemented for 29 government officials, some NGO and academic institutions. The course contents included hazard, risk and vulnerability assessment, disaster mitigation, disaster preparedness, disaster response, linkages between disasters and development, site management, technological hazards, training of trainers, etc

South African case studies, some regional and international ones were included as part of the training material. Evaluation methods used included completing two assignments, presentations and seating for an examination.

- A programme of community awareness and preparedness was launched in October 1998 in all the nine provinces as a fire risk reduction strategy.



Sudan

Capacity building for Disaster Management

Disaster Context

Sudan is one of the countries considered to be in special development situations. The current socio-economic status characterised by low standards of living, wide spread poverty, prolonged civil conflict of almost 40 years have contributed to the current fragile state of affairs in Sudan.

Since 1985, frequent droughts in certain parts of the country have caused severe shortages of food, social disruption, and widespread health and nutritional problems. Heavy rains provoking flash floods and flooding along the Nile and its tributaries causing large-scale displacement of communities, loss of crops and damage to infrastructure. Outbreaks of epidemics as a result of natural disasters and conflict have reached alarmingly high proportions. In additions, all indicators suggest an increase in the level of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Sudan. Livestock has also been besieged by diseases such as rinderpest, septicaemia, anthrax, black quarter, parasitic diseases, poultry diseases, etc.

The capacity of national institutions managing disasters is low. Difficulties to retain trained, qualified personnel is one major reason for the recurrent negative impacts of disasters, another being the absence of an effective early warning system and co-ordination among the agencies concerned.

Project Title

Capacity Building for Disaster Management in the Sudan

Sectors

- Capacity building
- Risk and vulnerability assessment
- Development of training materials
- Support to mitigation programmes
- Co-ordination

Funding

UNDP has allocated the sum of US\$ 550,000 for this project. The Sudanese Government is providing contributions in kind.

Partnerships

- The Humanitarian Aid Commission
- The Civil Defence Organisation
- The National Programme Unit (government bodies, academic institutions, NGOs, etc.) for Disaster Management Training Programme
- The Higher Council for Civil Defence
- The United Nations Disaster Management Team

Programme Activities

The overall objective of this project is to enhance national capacity in the development and implementation of a national framework for a disaster management system in the country.

For the past few years, the UNDP Country Office in Sudan has been paying special attention to reducing the impact of disasters. Two projects, strengthening the Ministry of Health and support to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, are designed around capacity building. There are also various projects and programmes in the areas of environment and combating desertification.

The Disaster Management Training Programme was initiated in 1998 with the following objectives:

- To build national capacity in terms of both human resources and governance structures and mechanisms for disaster and emergency management
- To strengthen the link between effectively managing the promotion and the implementation of sustainable human development.

The guiding philosophy of this programme is to instill national ownership in the initial stages of the programme. The National Programme Unit (NPU) for the DMTP was therefore established with focal points from various national institutions involved in disaster management. In July 1998, a workshop targeting senior officials of line ministries was held. The aim of the workshop was to increase policy commitment to the preparation of a framework for the design of a disaster management strategy.

The Disaster Management Programme of the UNDP Country Office in Sudan is based on building the capacity of national institutions to be better equipped for reducing the impact of disasters. The programme aims to assist national institutions develop contingency disaster mitigation plans both at the national and local levels. The programme also aims to enhance the effectiveness of the early warning system. In achieving these aims, the programme pays special attention to facilitating the establishment of an effective co-ordination mechanism between the relevant institutions, as well as linking up disaster management policy to the overall development plans of the country



Swaziland

Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods

Disaster Context

Although Swaziland is prone to a number of natural and man-made disasters, they affected the country only sporadically before the 1980s. Since that time, however, the trend seems to be more disasters, occurring more frequently. It started with a drought in 1981-82, followed by Cyclone Domonia which devastated the country in 1984 and then extended periods of severe drought, which afflicted the whole of Southern Africa in 1991-92, and again in 1995-96. The droughts of the 1990s affected almost 50 percent of Swaziland's population. Disasters bring death to the inhabitants of the country, destroy property and infrastructure, degrade the environment and have an overall negative effect on the economy. As far as man-made disasters are concerned, the current rate of HIV/AIDS infection has assumed such alarming proportions that the pandemic has been declared a national disaster.

An estimated 46 percent of the population is classified as living in absolute poverty and poverty is on the increase. Over 70 percent of Swazis live in rural areas and, in common with other countries, they are the most at risk and very vulnerable to disaster. Food insecurity, high population growth and declining employment opportunities add to the population's vulnerability. These factors also increase pressure on land and the use of natural resources resulting in environmental degradation particularly in areas of pervasive poverty. Swaziland's growing potential for disasters is exacerbated by changes in the overall development profile, particularly industrial expansion and growth of infrastructure.

So far, Swaziland has only been able to respond to these catastrophes on an ad hoc, reactive basis, dealing as and where it can to immediate problems and rehabilitation. It has no disaster management policy or preparedness framework, the sole existing structure is the National Disaster Task Force, a temporary

forum with no authority established after the 1992 drought.

The Government of Swaziland is well aware that something must be done to reduce the vulnerability of the population to disasters. Steps have been taken to institutionalise disaster management in the country and to integrate it into the long-term development process, by incorporating it, for example, in the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme.

Project Title

Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods in Swaziland

Sectors

- Capacity building for the formulation of a National Disaster Preparedness and Management Policy
- Promulgation of legislation for disaster management
- Environment (soil and water conservation)
- Public awareness campaigns
- Training
- Vulnerability/risk mapping for early warning systems

Funding

UNDP has allocated US\$ 451,000 for the implementation of the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme. US\$ 185,000 has been earmarked for the Disaster Management component. Contributions from other sources include US\$ 30,000 from UNSO for the vulnerability/risk mapping exercise.

Partnerships

- Disaster Secretariat in Deputy Prime Minister's Office
- The National Disaster Task Force
- Consortium of NGOs

- National Early Warning Unit
- Rural Water Supply Branch
- National Meteorological Service
- Cranfield Disaster Management University, UK
- UNHCR
- European Union
- UK
- Republic of Taiwan

Programme Activities

UNDP has been involved in disaster response in Swaziland since 1992, when it co-ordinated the distribution of water to drought-stricken areas of the country and later carried out a nutritional assessment of the drought's impact on children under five and their mothers. As the focus gradually shifted from relief to mitigation, further assistance was provided for community-based drought rehabilitation and mitigation activities on soil and water conservation. Throughout Swaziland, UNDP continued providing assistance for the drilling of boreholes in drought-stricken areas, as well as constructing rural water supply schemes

1998 was a year of major achievements. These include:

- A national workshop for parliamentarians, held in October 1998, to sensitise them on the impact of disasters on development. This resulted in increased awareness and support at policy level to the commitments of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (held in Yokohama), with a corresponding shift of focus from emergency response to disaster prevention and preparedness planning.
- As a result of the intensive advocacy and awareness raising on the implication of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, focus has also shifted from drought management to a holistic perception of disasters including epidemic diseases.
- Enhanced collaboration and cost sharing with UNDO as part of the National Action Plan to combat desertification.

In the wake of some disasters, the authorities found it difficult to ensure that the most needy received necessary assistance and so, as part of the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme, a national vulnerability mapping exercise was undertaken to determine how vulnerable people are to hunger when their livelihoods are under strain (for example, in the aftermath of a

natural disaster). As a result, eight food-economy zones have been identified in Swaziland. The government will be able to use this information when called upon to make decisions on food security in rural areas and to target the beneficiaries of relief operations. It will also help decide the best course of action to be taken to improve on a sustainable basis the lives of the rural poor.

Early in 1999, participatory discussions were held to formulate a disaster management policy and plan. As a result, a draft National Disaster Management Policy Framework has been produced and submitted to the Cabinet for approval. The policy will serve as the basis for the legal framework of disaster management in the country, while the plan aims to meet the immediate needs of communities vulnerable to disasters, and to increase the capacity of Swazi society as a whole to prepare, prevent and mitigate the effects of disaster.

The project will last three years (1998-2000) and aims to fight poverty, working at grass-roots level, particularly with women, the poor and other disadvantaged groups of people. It will help them make their lifestyles more productive and teach them how to take advantage of new opportunities for training, participating in local decision making and increasing their access to productive assets.



Uganda

Capacity Building for Disaster Management

Disaster Context

Although large parts of Uganda now enjoy peace and growing prosperity, man-made and natural disasters continue to affect large parts of the country. Violence and insecurity, particularly in the northern and western districts of the country, affect entire communities. The decade-long Lord Resistance Army (LRA) rebel activities in the north have displaced more than 400,000 people in Gulu and Kitgum districts. In the western districts, Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) have intensified attacks on the civilian population resulting in further mass displacement and destruction of properties.

Periodic drought and famine, crop failure floods and landslides in the eastern and western parts of Uganda further exacerbate these appalling conditions, which continue to have detrimental effects on both human livelihoods and the country's hard-earned economic progress.

Project Title

Capacity Building for Disaster Preparedness and Management in Uganda

Sectors

- Capacity building for line ministries and districts
- Disaster management survey and training at central and local levels
- Formulation of draft disaster management policy, plan and legislation to establish the National Commission for Disaster Preparedness and Management

Funding

UNDP allocated US\$ 310,000 for the implementation of the disaster management capacity building project. In 1997, US\$ 200,000 were allocated to enhance the government's co-ordinating role in response to the floods, landslides and related cholera outbreak in the country, during the El Niño rains.

Partnerships

- Ugandan Government
- Ministry of disaster Preparedness and Refugees
- Line ministries
- UN agencies
- Ugandan Red Cross/IFRC and NGOs
- District authorities

Programme Activities

Under the project for capacity building for disaster management, a review of existing documentation on the disaster situation in Uganda was undertaken and draft reports on disaster vulnerability analysis were prepared.

UNDP facilitated transportation and distribution of relief and medical supplies to the affected populations and logistical support to the inter-ministerial task force on cholera campaigns. Emergency communication equipment was installed in remote hard-hit districts to enhance reporting on disaster events.

Among the major objectives achieved in the capacity building for disaster preparedness and management project were:

- Surveys were carried out in 22 of Uganda's 45 districts. The different geographical zones of the country were extensively covered during the survey

- Draft documents on national legislation, policy and planning were completed and comments and recommendations from the districts were incorporated
- Institutional arrangements for effective implementation of the national disaster preparedness and management plan were proposed
- Training sessions have been proposed for key government ministries and institutions, and training needs assessments were carried out in certain districts

The project supporting a co-ordination role for the government achieved the following:

- Adequate logistical support was procured for transportation of relief supplies to affected populations
- Necessary arrangements (emergency communication radios) for rapid information sharing on disaster threats were set up
- Further threats from the cholera epidemic were contained.



Viet Nam

Disaster Reduction Programme

Disaster Context

Water is the lifeblood of the people of Viet Nam. Much of what constitutes Vietnamese society emerged from centuries of struggle to capture the annual rains to irrigate paddy rice. At the same time, water is the most destructive force in Viet Nam. In the space of a few short months, the monsoon rains saturate the earth, flood the rivers, and spill over the banks to flow onto the broad plains of the river deltas. Coupled with seasonal typhoons that batter the coasts before moving inland, flooding is an annual occurrence.

As a result, Viet Nam is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. With a long coastline backed by high mountains on the one hand and broad, flat flood plains on the other, over 70 percent of Viet Nam's population is at risk from typhoons, floods, storm surges, flash floods, landslides and mudflows.

Non-water-related disasters, while less common, are having an ever-greater impact on the country. Viet Nam's remarkable economic growth during the past ten years has increased the risk of technological accidents. Population growth and industrialisation have put severe pressure on forests. Climate change and deforestation have led to drought for the first time, increasing the incidence of forest fire.

Over the past 25 years, more than 13,000 people have been killed by disasters.

Project Title

- Support to the Disaster Management System in Viet Nam
- Disaster Management Unit
- Sea Dyke Engineering Services

Sectors

- Capacity building

- Early warning systems
- Disaster communications technologies
- Training
- Structural disaster mitigation
- Grass-roots disaster preparedness campaigns

Funding

UNDP allocated US\$ 250,000 of Special Project Resources and US\$850,000 of the country programme for the first phase of the Disaster Management Unit Project. UNDP funds for Unit's second phase total US\$ 1,537,234 with an additional US\$ 280,500 in co-funding from the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO). UNDP has allocated US\$ 1,113,635 for technical assistance (TA) in building 815 km of sea dykes from the Chinese border in the north to Quang Nam Province in Central Viet Nam. This TA was in support of US\$ 39,750,687 spent by the World Food Programme for the actual construction. The UNDP TA received US\$ 287,790 of co-funding from AusAID.

Partnerships

- Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Department of Dyke Management and Flood and Storm Control)
- National Committee for the IDNDR
- Viet Nam Red Cross Society
- Central Committee for Forest Fire Prevention and Suppression
- General Department of Hydro-Meteorology
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- World Food Programme

Programme Activities

In 1992, UNDP and the UN Department of Development Support and Management Services, in association with the then Vietnamese Ministry of Water Resources, the National Committee for the IDNDR and OCHA, organised an

International Workshop on Flood Mitigation, Emergency Preparedness and Flood Disaster Management in Hanoi. The outcome of this workshop was the production, in 1994, of a comprehensive national *Strategy and Action Plan for Mitigating Water Disasters in Viet Nam*.

Based on recommendations of the workshop and contributions received from provincial and national government bodies, the plan addresses the water disasters that most affect Viet Nam:

- River floods
- Flooding from the sea
- Increased runoff
- Erosion and siltation of river beds
- Slope instability, mudflows and landslides
- Torrential rains in combination with strong winds
- Failures of water-retaining structures
- Sea water intrusion into ground water.

The Strategy and Action Plan has since served as the principal framework in Viet Nam for mitigating disasters. The Strategy has three main task areas: forecasting and warning systems, preparedness and mitigation, and emergency relief.

Each task area is further divided into physical solutions – which focus on structures, equipment and materials – and non-physical solutions, which are predominantly to do with organisations, institutions, laws, procedures, investigations and training.

UNDP Disaster Management Unit (DMU)

Another important outcome of the Strategy and Action Plan was the establishment by UNDP of a Disaster Management Unit (DMU) within the Standing Office of the CCFSC. Since 1994, the DMU and CCFSC have worked together to link Vietnamese ancestral knowledge acquired over 1,000 years of protecting the land from floods with 21st century western technology and know-how. The DMU has provided disaster management, communications and assessment training programmes for provincial and district officials throughout the country, set up a reference centre and central database on disaster management with the use of Internet and Geographic Information System technologies; and also provided funding and expertise for the establishment of a nation-wide disaster communications network, which links all 61 provinces of Viet Nam to the Standing Office of the CCFSC in Hanoi. This disaster management communication system is now the official channel for conveying disaster damage and

needs assessments from provincial offices to the Standing Office.

The DMU-CCFSC is currently preparing a new Master Strategy for mitigating all types of natural disasters in Viet Nam. The DMU will also assist national and local officials to streamline Vietnamese damage reporting and assessment procedures. In 1998-99, the DMU-CCFSC is developing a community-based grass-roots disaster preparedness training programme for school children. This programme will build on the existing disaster preparedness experience of the Viet Nam Red Cross Society, with the assistance of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and with funding from ECHO.

Finally, with the UNDP DMU's assistance, the Standing Office of the CCFSC has devoted great efforts to non-structural solutions in a number of areas.

UNDP Sea Dyke Engineering Services

Another major effort supported by UNDP in Viet Nam in the 1990s has involved the rehabilitation of more than 800 km of sea dykes in the 12 coastal provinces, which are hit almost yearly by typhoons and floods. Without the protection of sea dykes, such storms can bring lasting negative effects to areas that are already poor. For example, if sea water floods an area, the land may not support crops for several years, unless fresh water can quickly flush salt water from the land.

Thus, linked with two larger World Food Programme (WFP) projects that are providing direct support for dyke rehabilitation and construction, UNDP has helped the government establish a system of quality control to ensure that the reconstructed dykes stand the test of time. The UNDP project has introduced new designs, construction methods and quality-control procedures in Viet Nam. Through these efforts, UNDP and WFP have provided 830,000 people with better protection from natural disasters. The improved dykes help to protect property and other infrastructure, such as roads, and increase agricultural production and productivity. Increased protection from floods gives rural farmers the opportunity to plant and harvest several times a year, resulting in higher yields and increased food security for populations at risk. An additional 28,000 hectares of land can now be cultivated because of the protection provided.