

UNDHA

The United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, UNDHA (formerly the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator, UNDRO), is represented in developing countries by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representatives. Its fundamental purpose is to support countries subject to disasters caused by natural or man-made phenomena with a view to preventing or mitigating their catastrophic effects.

The Department's main functions include:

- Technical assistance in the development of disaster mitigation processes and programmes;

- Coordination of international assistance in the event of disasters;
- Consciousness-raising, information, communications and training.

The period from 1990-2000 has been designated by the United Nations as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) (General Assembly resolution A/42/169), and it has been recommended that special attention should be paid to the following:

- Incorporating disaster prevention and mitigation into planning and development;
- Introducing integrated disaster management at the prevention, mitigation, relief, recovery and rehabilitation phases;
- Actively involving the general public in the processes of risk prevention and mitigation;
- Creating programmes to inform and alert the public to the catastrophic effects of disasters;
- Improving and expanding technical and scientific knowledge of natural and man-made events; and
- Bringing active participation by the public and private sectors to the process of disaster mitigation and management ●