

INTRODUCTION

In 1987, the then Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator, UNDRO (today UNDHA), and the National Office for Risk Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness (later the National Department for Disaster Prevention and Relief, DNPAD, today being transformed by legal warrant into the Special Administrative Unit for Disaster Prevention and Relief), with financing from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), formulated a series of activities together making up the first phase of a risk mitigation programme for improving disaster prevention and relief in various parts of the country.

Work began in 1988 with the basic objective of making a preliminary evaluation of several disaster scenarios before they occurred, so that action could be taken to mitigate the risk. These efforts, including scenarios based in cities such as Cali, Bogotá, Ibagué and Tumaco and the northern region of Boyacá, continued uninterrupted until 1991.

Given the growing importance of risk mitigation in Colombia and the results obtained, but above all given the processes set in train in the various regions and districts, it was agreed that the Programme should proceed to phase II, initially concentrating on scenarios found to be critical or revealing in phase I, and including others that met the same criterion ●