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## Contributions of United Nations Organizations to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Together with the National Committees or entities the different UN-Organizations are cooperating within the framework set up by the Decade. Only a few should be mentioned:

### **High Level Council**

A Special High Level Council consisting of a few internationally prominent persons to promote public awareness and mobilize support for the Decade from public and private sectors.

### **Scientific and Technical Committee**

It is composed of experts appointed by the Secretary-General on the basis of personal capacities and qualifications which will be responsible for developing overall programmes addressing priorities and gaps identified at the national level, for evaluating activities carried out during the Decade.

### **IDNDR - Secretariat within the UN-Department for Humanitarian Affairs (DHA)**

The recently (March 1992) created Department of Humanitarian Affairs covers, apart from the coordination and financing of relief activities,

- the activities of the former United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO)
- as well as the IDNDR-Secretariat, responsible for the day-to-day coordination of IDNDR-activities of the UN

### **UNDRO - United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator within the DHA**

The United Nations Disaster Relief Organization's creation at the start of the 1970s stemmed from concern for the losses and suffering of disaster victims around the world. The aims and purposes of the Decade are congruent with an essential part of UNDRO's *raison d'être*. The IDNDR-Secretariat is in close association established with UNDRO.

### **WMO - World Meteorological organization**

WMO conducts projects which have a direct bearing on the aspirations of the Decade. Approximately 70 per cent of WMO activities are closely related to the main targets of the Decade. WMO is the United Nations specialized agency dealing with meteorology, climatology and hydrology.

### **WHO - World Health Organization**

The scope and magnitude of natural disasters is often measured by the number of casualties and human suffering. The special interest of WHO in the Decade lies in medical training and education tailored to the specific needs of disasters.

### **WFP - World Food Programme**

The WFP was participating since many years in work for food and other projects which can be assessed as measures to mitigate the adverse effects of natural events. In 1989 the World Food Programme was involved in totally 15 projects.

### **UNDP - United Nations Development Programme**

The immediate consequences of natural disasters - material losses and human suffering - very often overshadow the long-term effects of such devastating events on national economies. As the largest multilateral organization in the area of technical co-operation, UNDP has ongoing programmes in more than 150 countries which have a direct bearing on the aspirations for the Decade.

### **UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

As early as 1960, UNESCO had recognized the scientific and technical possibilities for reducing the consequences of natural disasters. Since that time, UNESCO has been involved in several programmes closely related to the main targets of the Decade.

## Resolution 44/236

Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations  
International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

**The General Assembly,**

**Recalling** its resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987, by which it decided to designate the 1990 as a decade in which the international community, under the auspices of the United Nations, would pay special attention to fostering international co-operation in the field of natural disaster reduction, **Bearing in mind** the relevant provisions of its resolution 42/169 and 43/202 of 20 December 1988, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/99, in which the Council recommended that the General Assembly take action to develop an appropriate framework for attaining the objective and goals of the Decade,

**Considering** that natural disasters have adversely affected the lives of a great number of people and caused considerable damage to infrastructure and property world wide, especially in developing countries,

**Recognizing** the importance of environmental protection for the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters,

**Considering** further that the international community as a whole has now improved its capacity to confront this problem, and that fatalism about natural disasters is no longer justified,

**Recognizing** the necessity for the international community to demonstrate the strong political determination required to mobilize and use existing scientific and technical knowledge to mitigate natural disasters, bearing in mind in particular the needs of developing countries,

**Recognizing further** the important responsibility of the United Nations system as a whole for promoting international co-operation in order to mitigate natural disasters, provide assistance and co-ordinate disaster relief, preparedness and prevention,

**Recalling** the specific responsibilities and functions in the field of disaster prevention and preparedness entrusted to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, as set out in its resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971,

**Bearing in mind** the crucial role of professional and other non-governmental organizations, particularly scientific and technological societies, humanitarian groups and investment institutions, whose participation in the implementation of specific programmes planned for the Decade is highly desirable,

**Bearing in mind further** the need for the United Nations system to pay special attention to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries in that regard,

**Emphasizing** that appropriate emergency planning for natural disasters and its integration in national development plans could also be very helpful in preventing, as a consequence, other kinds of disasters, such as those of an industrial or technological nature,

**Taking note**, with appreciation, of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,

**Expressing its appreciation** for the work done by the International **Ad Hoc** Group of Experts on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, which submitted its report to the Secretary-General in June 1989,

**Bearing in mind** the common position on natural disasters of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade in September 1989,

1. **Proclaims** the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, beginning on 1 January 1990;

**UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme**

The medium-term environment programme of UNEP describes the intended contributions to the Decade. They embrace policies and programmes to reduce the risk potential of hazardous events and means for better disaster preparedness. Furthermore, the risk assessment of natural events, regional and local capacity-building for early warning systems and the development of a general disaster preparedness, are key elements in the programme.

**World Bank**

The World Bank, the largest intergovernmental financing institution also incorporates aims for disaster reduction into its international co-operation activities. Workshops to examine the link between disasters, environment and development have been conducted. The environmental guidelines of the World Bank for project planning contain explicit recommendations for disaster response.

2. **Decides** to designate the second Wednesday of October as an International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, to be observed annually during the Decade by the international community in a manner befitting the objective and goals of the Decade;

3. **Adopts** the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction contained in the annex to the present resolution,

4. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a progress report on the implementation, of the present resolution, including the organizational arrangements made for the Decade, and on the status of existing international protocols and conventions for mutual assistance in cases of disaster;

5. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, intergovernmental organizations, appropriate non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and competent scientific institutions in the field of disaster mitigation;

6. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session an item entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction".

#### **Annex:**

### **International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction**

#### **A. Objective and goals**

1. The objective of the Decade is to reduce through concerted international action, especially in developing countries, the loss of life, property damage and social and economic disruption caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes, windstorms, tsunamis, floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions, wild-

fires, grasshopper and locust infestations, drought and desertification and other calamities of natural origin.

2. The goals of the Decade are:

(a) To improve the capacity of each country to mitigate the effects of natural disasters expeditiously and effectively, paying special attention to assisting developing countries in the assessment of disaster damage potential and in the establishment of early warning systems and disaster-resistant structures when and where needed,

(b) To devise appropriate guidelines and strategies for applying existing scientific and technical knowledge, taking into account the cultural and economic diversity among nations;

(c) To foster scientific and engineering endeavours aimed at closing critical gaps in knowledge in order to reduce loss of life and property;

(d) To disseminate existing and new technical information related to measures for the assessment, prediction and mitigation of natural disasters,

(e) To develop measures for the assessment, prediction, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters through programmes of technical assistance and technology transfer, demonstration projects, and education and training, tailored to specific disasters and locations, and to evaluate the effectiveness of those programmes.

#### **B. Policy measures to be taken at the national level**

3. All Governments are called upon to:

(a) Formulate national disaster-mitigation programmes, as well as economic, land use and insurance policies for disaster prevention, and, particularly in developing countries, to integrate them fully into their national development programmes,

- (b) Participate during the Decade in concerted international action for the reduction of natural disasters and, as appropriate, establish national committees in co-operation with the relevant scientific and technological communities and other concerned sectors with a view to attaining the objective and goals of the Decade;
- (c) Encourage their local administrations to take appropriate steps to mobilize the necessary support from the public and private sectors and to contribute to the achievement of the purposes of the Decade;
- (d) Keep the Secretary-General informed of the plans of their countries and of assistance that can be provided so that the United Nations may become an international centre for the exchange of information and the co-ordination of international efforts concerning activities in support of the objective and goals of the Decade, thus enabling each State to benefit from the experience of other countries,
- (e) Take measures, as appropriate, to increase public awareness of damage risk probabilities and of the significance of preparedness, prevention, relief and short-term recovery activities with respect to natural disasters and to enhance community preparedness through education, training and other means, taking into account the specific role of the news media;
- (f) Pay due attention to the impact of natural disasters on health care, particularly to activities to reduce the vulnerability of hospitals and health centres, as well as the impact on food storage facilities, human shelter and other social and economic infrastructures
- (g) Improve the early international availability of appropriate emergency supplies through the storage or earmarking of such

supplies in disaster-prone areas.

4. Scientific and technological institutions, financial institutions, including banks and insurance companies, and industrial enterprises, foundations and other related non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support and participate fully in the programmes and activities of the Decade prepared and implemented by the international community, including Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

#### **C. Actions to be taken by the United Nations system**

5. The organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system are urged to accord priority, as appropriate and in a concerted manner, to natural disaster preparedness, prevention, relief and short-term recovery, including economic damage risk assessment, in their operational activities. The Secretary-General is requested, in this regard, to ensure that adequate means are made available to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator so that it may diligently discharge its specific role and responsibilities in the field of disaster mitigation and response in conformity with its mandate, as contained in General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971.

6. The Secretary-General, in close association with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, in particular through the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, as well as national information authorities, is requested to assist in the formulation and implementation during the Decade of public information programmes aimed at raising awareness of disaster prevention among the general public.

7. The United Nations resident co-ordinators and the field representatives of the United Nations system are requested to work closely and in a co-ordinated manner with Governments to achieve the objective and goals of the Decade.

8. The regional commissions of the United Nations are urged to play an active role in implementing the activities of the Decade, considering that natural disasters often transcend national boundaries.

9. The Secretary-General is requested to designate the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, in accordance with his mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 32/197, as the focal point for oversight and co-ordination of the programmes and activities of the United Nations system referred to above, in close co-operation with the Co-ordinator of the United Nations Disaster Relief office and, as appropriate, in consultation with the Director of the Decade secretariat, mentioned in paragraph 14 of the present annex.

10. The Secretary-General is requested to report biennially to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the activities of the Decade.

#### **D. Organizational arrangements during the Decade**

##### **1. Special Highlevel Council**

11. The Secretary-General is requested to establish, with due regard to equitable geographical representation, a Special Highlevel Council, consisting of a limited number of internationally prominent persons, in order to provide him with general advice with respect to the Decade, take appropriate action to promote public awareness and mobilize the necessary support from the public and private sectors.

##### **2. Scientific and Technical Committee on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction**

12. The Secretary-General is requested to establish, with due regard to equitable geographical representation and covering the diversity of disaster-mitigation issues, a Scientific and Technical Committee on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, consisting of twenty to twenty-five scientific and technical experts selected in consultation with their Governments on the basis of their personal capacities and qualifications, including experts from the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.

13. The role of the Committee is to develop overall programmes to be taken into account in bilateral and multilateral co-operation for the Decade, paying attention to priorities and gaps in technical knowledge identified at the national level, in particular by national committees; to assess and evaluate the activities carried out in the course of the Decade; and to make recommendations on the overall programmes in an annual report to the Secretary-General.

##### **3. Secretariat**

14. The Secretary-General is requested to establish a small secretariat, to be funded by extrabudgetary resources, as follows:

(a) The secretariat shall be established at the United Nations Office at Geneva, in close association with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator with its members drawn, as appropriate, from the international community of disaster reduction experts and other relevant experts, *inter alia*, seconded, from competent United Nations organizations, Governments and non-governmental organizations;

(b) The secretariat shall be responsible for the day-to-day co-ordination of Decade activities and shall provide substantive and secretarial support to the Special Highlevel Council and the Committee, as well as for other related activities.

**E. Financial arrangements**

15. It is recommended that extrabudgetary resources be provided for implementation of the Decade and, therefore, that voluntary contributions from Governments, international organizations and other sources,

including the private sector, be strongly encouraged. To this end, a trust fund shall be established by the Secretary-General, who will be entrusted with its administration.

**F. Review**

16. The Economic and Social Council, will carry out a mid-term review of the implementation of the International Framework of Action during its second regular session of 1994 and report its findings to the General Assembly.

## Phases in Disaster Prevention, Disaster Relief and Reconstruction

Hazard Management					
Pre-Disaster...	Mid-Disaster...				Recovery...
Risk Assessment	Prevention and Mitigation	Preparedness Monitoring and Prediction	Early Intervention Measures and Warnings	Emergency Operations	Rehabilitation
<p>1) Hazard Assessment: identification of location, intensity, and frequency, and potential of dangers. Results in hazard zoning and mapping.</p> <p>2) Vulnerability Assessment: identification of location and distribution of population, infrastructure, vital economic activities, evacuation routes, critical facilities.</p> <p>3) calculation of expected loss (risk) from hazard and vulnerability. Leads to risk mapping, priority setting, and cost/benefit analysis.</p>	<p>Includes: structural measures e.g. special building codes, resistant structures, dams, dikes, retaining walls, refuge mounds; and, non-structural measures e.g. legislation and land-zoning, property acquisition, public awareness, economic incentives, insurance, land use planning, relocation.</p>	<p>To get local communities and national authorities ready to respond quickly and efficiently. Plan of actions in case of a disaster includes contingency planning, shelter and evacuation planning. Development of disaster prediction methods and establishment of warning systems and simulation exercises.</p>	<p>Actual warning and evacuation, and other activities, such as tying down of roofs and other flying objects, sand bagging, and construction of canals to limit damage.</p>	<p>Involves search and rescue operations, provision of shelter, food, medical care, removal of debris.</p>	<p>Restoration of basic functions of the society, reestablishment of communications and transport using temporary measures.</p>
					<p>Construction of new buildings and infrastructures leading to full resumption of the pre-disaster state, including economic activities, plus modernisation and preventive measures.</p>





## **Publications and Information Material which can be obtained from the German IDNDR Committee:**

- Newsletter by the German IDNDR Committee (6 issues per year)
- Brochure of the German IDNDR Committee "Campaign for Disaster Prevention" (German and English; October 1992)
- Natural Disaster and Disaster Prevention. Comments and Recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Board of the DFG for the German IDNDR Committee. 1991
- The Challenge for the German Scientific Community by the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) - Framework for a Research Program May 1992
- Projects supported by governmental and non-governmental organizations of the Federal Republic of Germany in the field of disaster prevention in developing countries. Operative Advisory Board of the German IDNDR Committee. September 1992, Summary in German and English
- Famine in Africa - extent, causes, disaster relief and prevention, German IDNDR Committee, June 1992 (only German)
- The Economic, Political and Ethical Dimension of Disaster Prevention. German IDNDR Committee, September 1992 (German and English).
- Documentation on the conference "German development policy and disaster prevention" (24/25-6-1992), German IDNDR Committee.
- Background and priorities in the work of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. March 1992, German IDNDR Committee.
- Reports on IDNDR relevant conferences. International Documentation on natural disaster prevention by international organizations.
- International IDNDR Journal (English) "STOP Disasters"
- Disaster, Planning and Development: Managing Natural Hazards to Reduce Loss. Published by the Department of Regional Development and Environment. Executive Secretariat for Economic and Social Affairs. Organization of American States. Washington D. C. 1990.
- Mary B. Anderson: Analysing the Costs and Benefits of Natural Disaster Responses in the Context of Development. Published by The World Bank. May 1990.
- Heyman, Davis, Krumpke: An Assessment of Worldwide Disaster Vulnerability. Published by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance Agency for International Development. Washington D C. June 1991.
- List of National Committees for the IDNDR and/or responsible persons nominated by countries.

Bonn, April 1994

**Summary of most important activities  
of the German IDNDR-Committee  
since 1992**

**1. Strengthening of the Committee**

- Increase of the budget of the Committee (1992 - 1993)
- Location of a new office for the secretariat of the Committee (1993)
- Nomination of new Committee-members (GeoForschungsZentrum, Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources, Institute for Climate Impact Research Potsdam and different scientists and a journalist) (1993)
- Initiation of an IDNDR-working group of reinsurance companies (1992)

**2. Promotion of scientific activities in fields related to natural disaster reduction**

- Publication of a state of the art report by the Scientific Advisory Board of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft for the German IDNDR-Committee "Natural Disasters and Disaster Reduction" (550 pages), prepared by 44 scientists (1993)
- Establishment of the "German Task-Force-Committee Earthquake" (Chairman: Prof. Zschau, GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam) for investigations immediately after the occurrence of an earthquake (1993)
- Elaboration and publication (as a book) of an inventory of current German research projects in fields related to natural disaster reduction (1993/94)
- Preparation of an interdisciplinary research programme which are focused on "Natural Hazards and Risk Assessment" (linked with the international IDNDR-Pilot-Project "Comprehensive Risk Assessment/WHO") (1993/94)
- Support for various research projects
- Démarches for the establishment of an "university chair for disaster management" (1993/94)
- National report on "Floods"

**3. Promotion of development cooperation in the field of disaster prevention and preparedness**

- Elaboration of an inventory of development projects in the field of disaster reduction, supported by governmental and non-governmental organizations in Germany (1992)

- Initiation of a Working Group "Humanitarian Assistance" of private and semi-governmental relief organizations aiming at harmonizing their disaster relief activities (1992)
- Elaboration of a study about integration of German Armed Forces in humanitarian aid activities abroad and organization of a symposium on the same issue concluded by the adoption of common thesis (1992/93)
- Integration of disaster prevention in development cooperation of governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGO)
  - \* organization of a workshop on this issue (1992)
  - \* two studies (governmental and non-governmental organizations (1992/93)
  - \* adoption of a committee statement on this issue after intensive consultation of different NGO (1993)
  - \* talks between the chairman of the German IDNDR-Committee and the Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development and the Director of European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO); hearing in the parliamentary committee for development cooperation; different discussions with these institutions on working level (1993)
- Initiation of a workshop organized in November 1993 by German Agro Action and German Space Agency about "Scientific Technics and Disaster Management"
- Elaboration and publication (as book) of an inventory of development cooperation projects in the field of disaster reduction, supported by German organizations (publication combined with a corresponding inventory of research projects) (1993/94)
- Initiation of different cooperation projects in the field of disaster reduction in developing countries (see annex)
- Promotion of partnerships with Nicaragua, Kyrgyzstan/Uzbekistan, Algeria/Tunisia/Morocco in the field of disaster prevention
  - \* elaboration of a partnership concept (1992)
  - \* establishing of contacts with interested organizations (1992-1994)
  - \* initiation of partnership seminars for representatives of organizations in the field of disaster prevention and preparedness (1993/94)
  - \* joint elaboration of proposals for partnership projects (1993/94)
  - \* starting of cooperation projects (1994) (see annex)

#### **4. Public relations activities**

- Publication of a two monthly newsletter
- Preparation of several press conferences
- Interviews
- Preparation of a poster for the exhibition at the "World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction", Yokohama, Japan 23 - 27 May 1994
- Publication of brochures ("Campaign for Disaster Reduction", "The Challenge for the German Scientific Community by IDNDR"), articles

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# I. GREAT NATURAL DISASTERS, in terms of CASUALTIES (approx.1000 and more)

- 1900-1993 -

year	disaster	country	casualties	year	disaster	country	casualties
1900	Hurricane	USA	6.000	1972-75	Drought	Sahel countr.	250.000
1900	Drought	India	1.250.000	1974	Hurricane "Fifi"	Honduras	8.000
1902	Volcanic eruption	Martinique	29.000	1975	Earthquake	Turkey	2.400
1902	Volcanic eruption	Guatemala	6.000	*1976	Earthquake	Guatemala	22.778
1906	Typhoon	Hong Kong	10.000	*1976	Earthquake	Italy	978
1906	Earthquake	Taiwan	6.000	*1976	Earthquake	China	242.000
1906	Earthquake/fire	USA	1.500	1976	Earthquake	Philippines	3.564
1908	Earthquake	Italy	75.000	1976	Earthquake	Turkey	3.626
1911	Volcanic eruption	Philippines	1.300	1977	Earthquake	Rumania	1.387
1915	Earthquake	Italy	30.000	*1977	2 cyclones	India	20.000
1916	Land slide	Italy	10.000	1978	Earthquake	Iran	20.000
1919	Volcanic eruption	Indonesia	5.200	*1979	Hurricane "David"	Caribees/USA	1.400
1920	Earthquake/Land slide	China	200.000	*1980	Earthquake	Algeria	2.590
1921	Drought	USSR	1.200.000	*1980	Earthquake	Italy	3.114
1923	Earthquake/Fire	Japan	143.000	1982	Earthquake	Yemen	3.000
1928	Hurricane/Flood	USA	2.000	1983	Earthquake	Turkey	1.346
1930	Volcanic eruption	Indonesia	1.400	1984	Typhoons "Ike"+"June"	Philippines	1.000
1932	Earthquake	China	70.000	1985	Cyclone	Bangladesh	11.000
1933	Tsunami (=Sequake)	Japan	3.000	1984-85	Drought/War	Ethiopia, Sudan, Chad more than 500.000	
1935	Earthquake	India	60.000	*1985	Earthquake	Mexico	10.000
1938	Flood	China	500.000	1985	Volcanic eruption	Columbia	23.000
1939	Flood	China	20.000	1986	Volcanic eruption of gas	Cameroon	1.736
1939	Earthquake/Tsunami	Chile	30.000	*1986	Earthquake	El Salvador	1.000
1942	Drought	India	1.500.000	1987	Earthquake	Ecuador	1.000
1943	Famine	Bangladesh	1.900.000	1987	Heat wave	Greece	1.000
1945	Flood/Land slide	Japan	1.200	*1987	Floods	Bangladesh	1.600
1946	Tsunami	Japan	1.400	*1988	Floods	Bangladesh	3.000
1948	Earthquake	USSR	100.000	*1988	Earthquake	USSR	25.000
1949	Flood	China	57.000	1989	Typhoon "Gay"	Thailand, India	1.000
1949	Earthquake/Flood	USSR ca	18.000	*1990	Earthquake	Iran	36.000
1951	Volcanic eruption	Papua NG	2.900	*1990	Earthquake	Philippines	1.660
1953	Storm surge flooding	Germany	1.800	*1991	Cyclone, Tidal wave	Bangladesh	140.000
1954	Flood	China	40.000	*1991	Floods	China	3.074
1959	Typhoon	Japan	4.600	1991	Earthquake	India	1.600
-----				1991	Trop. storm "Thelma"	Philippines	5.000
1960	Earthquake	Maroc	13.100	*1992	Drought/war	Somalia more th.100.000	
1960	Earthquake	Chile	3.000	1992	Floods	Pakistan/India	2.500
1963	Volcanic eruption	Indonesia	3.870	1992	Floods	Afghanistan	3.000
1963	Earthquake	Yugoslavia	1.070	1992	Tsunami/Earthquake	Indonesia (Flores)	2.000
1963	Hurricane "Flora"	Haiti	5.100	1992/93	Drought	Brasilíia(North-East) ?	
1965-67	Drought	India ca.	1.500.000	*1993	Floods	Himalaya Region: Nepel, India, Bangladesh	4.300
1970	Earthquake	Peru	67.000	1993	Floods	China	1.000
1970	Cyclone	Bangladesh	300.000	1993	Earthquake	India	10.000
1972	Earthquake	Iran	5.400				
1972	Earthquake	Nicaragua	5.000				

Source: Different statistics; the statements on drought-casualties are based on rough estimations; epidemic diseases are not covered

\* from 1960 on all disasters, which can be classified as great disasters in terms of casualties as well as in terms of damages (18 of 53), are marked with a \*.

## II. GREAT NATURAL DISASTERS, in terms of DAMAGES (approx. 1 billion US \$)

- 1972-1994-

German IDNDR-Committee 15.02.1994

year	disaster	country	Economic- damage Mio US \$	Insured losses Mio US \$ (at prices of 1991)
1972	Hurricane "Agnes"	USA	2.100	98
*1972-75	Drought	Sahel countries,		
1974	Tornados	USA	1.000	430
1974	Cyclone "Tracy"	Australia	1.000	300
1976	Winter storm	Europe	1.300	500
*1976	Earthquake	Guatemala	1.100	55
*1976	Earthquake	Italy	3.600	
*1976	Earthquake	China	5.600	
*1977	2 cyclones	India	1.000	
1979	Earthquake	Yugoslavia	2.700	
*1979	Hurricane "David"	Caribees/USA	2.000	250
1979	Hurricane "Frederic"	USA	2.300	752
1980	Hurricane "Allen"	Caribees/USA	1.500	58
*1980	Earthquake	Algeria	3.000	
*1980	Earthquake	Italy	10.000	40
1982	Winter storm	USA	1.000	345
1983	Hurricane "Alicia"	USA	1.650	1.275
1983	Floods	Spain	1.250	433
1983	Winter storms	USA	1.800	880
1984	Hailstorms	Germany	1.000	500
*1984/85	Drought/War	Ethiopia, Sudan, Chad	?	
1985	Earthquake	Chile	1.200	90
1985	Hurricane "Elena"	USA	1.100	543
*1985	Earthquake	Mexico	4.000	275
1986	Floods	China	1.210	
1986	Drought/Heat wave	USA	1.500	
*1986	Earthquake	El Salvador	1.500	75
1986	Floods	Iran	1.560	
*1987	Floods	Bangladesh	1.300	
1987	Winter storm	Great Britain, France	3.700	3.100
1988	Floods	Sudan	1.000	
*1988	Floods	Bangladesh	1.200	
1988	Hurricane "Gilbert"	Jamaica, Mexico	2.000	800
*1988	Earthquake	USSR	14.000	
1988	Locusts	Sahel, North Africa	?	
1989	Hurricane "Hugo"	Caribees, USA	9.000	4.500
1989	Earthquake	USA	6.000	900
1989	Earthquake	Australia	3.200	870
1990	Winter storms	Europe	15.000	10.000
*1990	Earthquake	Iran	7.000	100
*1990	Earthquake	Philippines	2.000	20
*1991	Cyclone, Tidal wave	Bangladesh	1.400	
*1991	Floods	China	15.000	410
1991	Hurricane "Bob"	USA	1.000	620
1991	Typhoon No. 19	Japan	6.000	4.800
1991	Wood-fire	USA	1.500	1.200
1992	Hurricane "Andrew"	USA (Florida/Louis.)	ca.20.-30.000	ca.12.000
*1992	Drought/war	Somalia	?	
1992	Floods	Pakistan	?	
1992	Hurricane "Iniki"	Hawai (USA)	3.-5.000	1.500
1993	Floods	USA (Mississippi)	12.000	100
*1993	Floods	Nepal/Indien		
		Bangladesh/Pakistan	?	?
1993	Floods	China	7.000	
1993	Floods	Iran	10.000	
1993	Winterorkan/Tornado	USA and Cuba each	1.000	
1993	Floods	Italy	1.000	
1993	Floods	Germany, west. Europe	ca. 2.000	
1994	Earthquake	USA	13. - 20.000	

Source: different  
references

\* the disasters, marked by a \* (20 of 58), can be classified as great disasters in terms of casualties as well as in terms of damages

# GERMAN COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

- 1 -

SUMMARY OF DISASTER-PREVENTION-PROJECTS, INITIATED BY THE GERMAN IDNDR-COMMITTEE AND ITS MEMBERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SINCE 1991  
(IDNDR: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction)

April 1994

Donor organisation	Country	Counterpart-Organisation in developing countries	Volume of German contribution	Duration of German assistance	Project-type	Project-advancement
PIK and others	Maghreb	Scientific a. governmental institutions in the water sector	ca. 5 Mio DM	since 1994/95	Climate change impact on the water balance of the Maghreb	Project in phase of preparation
DARA i. coop. with Dornier, Univers. Hannover	India	University Madras	0,4 Mio DM	1992/93	Applicability of ERS-1-Data for the control of coastal and tidal processes in Tamil Nadu	Financing secured, project in phase of preparation
KfW i. coop. with Red Cross	India	open	5 Mio DM	since 1992/93	Construction of multi-purpose shelters against cyclones in Andhra-Pradesh	Financing secured, project in phase of preparation
GTZ	Andean Countries	Centro Regional de Seismologias para America del Sur / Catholic University of Lima	0,5 Mio DM	1993	Development and dissemination of stabilization methods for adobe-houses against earthquakes	Project in phase of evaluation, basic approval
GTZ	Nicaragua	Instituto Nicaraguense de Estudios Territoriales and other governmental organizations	1 Mio DM	1993/1994	Technical assistance in geophysics, meteorology and antiseismic building and preparation of a long-term phase	financing secured
ECHO, IDNDR-Committee	Nicaragua	GO's and NGO's	0,08 Mio D'M	1994	Seminar about disaster-management in Germany for representatives of GO's and NGO's from Nicaragua	financing requested
GFZ	Nicaragua	Instituto Nicaraguense de Estudios Territoriales		1994	Seismic hazard analysis, improved seismic hazard maps as basis for a new seismic building code	Project proposal
DSE	South-East-Asia, Central Asia	Public authorities for disaster relief and reduction	0,6 Mio DM	1992 1993, 1994	Three workshops in Ahrweiler and Berlin/Germany for disaster relief managers from South-East Asia and Central Asia	realized in Oct. 1992 and Nov./Dec. 1993, prepared for 1994
DSE	international		0,6 Mio DM	1989, 1991, 1994	2 International Round-Tables: preparation and mid-term review of IDNDR (1991 and 1994) in Berlin and a Conference for disaster mitigation policies in Manila/Philippines for senior officers of South-east Asian countries	
GTZ	Algeria	Ministry of the Interior	0,2 Mio DM	1993/1994	Study of improvement of assurance coverage against disaster damages	Financing secured
German IDNDR-Committee	Kirgistan/Usbekistan		0,115 Mio DM	1994	Coproduction of a film about earthquake risks and possibilities of self-protection by the population	Financing secured
PIK	Usbekistan/Kasachstan	Central Asian Regional Hydrometeorological Institute in Taschkent			Impact of Climate Change in the region of the Aral Sea	Project Proposal

Donor organisation	Country	Counterpart-Organisation in developing countries	Volume of German contribution	Duration of German assistance	Project-type	Project-advancement
THW, INDR-Committee	Kirgistan Usbekistan Kasachstan Tadschikistan	State Committee of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan on Extreme Situations	0,08 Mio DM	1994	Regional Seminar for central Asian countries about "search and rescue" technologies in case of disaster	In phase of preparation financing secured
DFG	International	in the context of the international INDR-project "Comprehensive Risk Assessment"		from 1993	Elaboration of a disaster risk map for some regions of Germany, later on extension to foreign countries	in the phase of drafting
GFZ	International	in cooperation with Geo-Research-Centres of other countries		1993	Contribution to the international INDR-pilot-project of "Global seismic hazard assessment", elaboration of a world stress map	project proposal
GFZ	International	International cooperation under the "Open Partial Agreement" of the European Council	6-7 Mio DM (Investment costs)	1993	Creation of a Disaster-Task Force for worldwide rapid missions of scientists and technicians in case of natural disasters	In the phase of planning
GFZ	International Turkey	cooperation under International INDR-project and "Open Partial Agreement" of the European Council	10 Mio DM (own resources of GFZ and external contribution)	1993	Multidisciplinary studies in earthquake and volcanic regions in order to analyse and promote promising prospects of earthquake prediction	In the phase of preparation
GFZ	International Turkey	multidisciplinary cooperation with seismologists building-engineers, local authorities, computer experts etc..)	8-10 Mio DM (contribution of computer and communication industry)	1993	Development and testing of early-warning systems for earthquakes, stationary for the region of Istanbul, mobile for the Disaster-Task-Force	in the phase of preparation
GFZ and others	International	in cooperation with scientific organizations from developing countries and with UNESCO		for several years	Interdisciplinary scientific task-force "earth-quake" for post-disaster evaluation	first mission in India 1993
DGEB/German INDR-Committee	Latin-America		0,021 Mio DM	1991	Revision and translation into Spanish of an instruction book for earthquake-resistant construction	distributed to different organizations in Latin-America
University of Kiel	International	[VACE]	0,01 Mio DM	1992	Production of a video-film on volcano risks	realized
--- GFZ: DARA: KfW: GTZ: DFG: DSE: DGEB: IVACEI: BMZ: BGR: PIK: THW: ECRO:	Geoforschungszentrum = Geo-Research-Centre Deutsche Agentur für Raumfahrtangelegenheiten = German Space Agency Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau = Reconstruction Loan Cooperation Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit = German Agency for Technical Cooperation Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft = German Science Foundation Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Entwicklung = German Foundation for International Development Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erdbeningenieurwesen und Baudynamik = German Society of Earthquake-engineering and Structural Dynamics International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of The Earth's Interior Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung = Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe = Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources Potsdam Institut für Klimafolgenforschung = Institute for Climate Impact Research - Potsdam Bundesanstalt Technisches Hilfswerk = Federal Institute for Emergency Relief European Community Humanitarian Office					