

7. Investing in the future

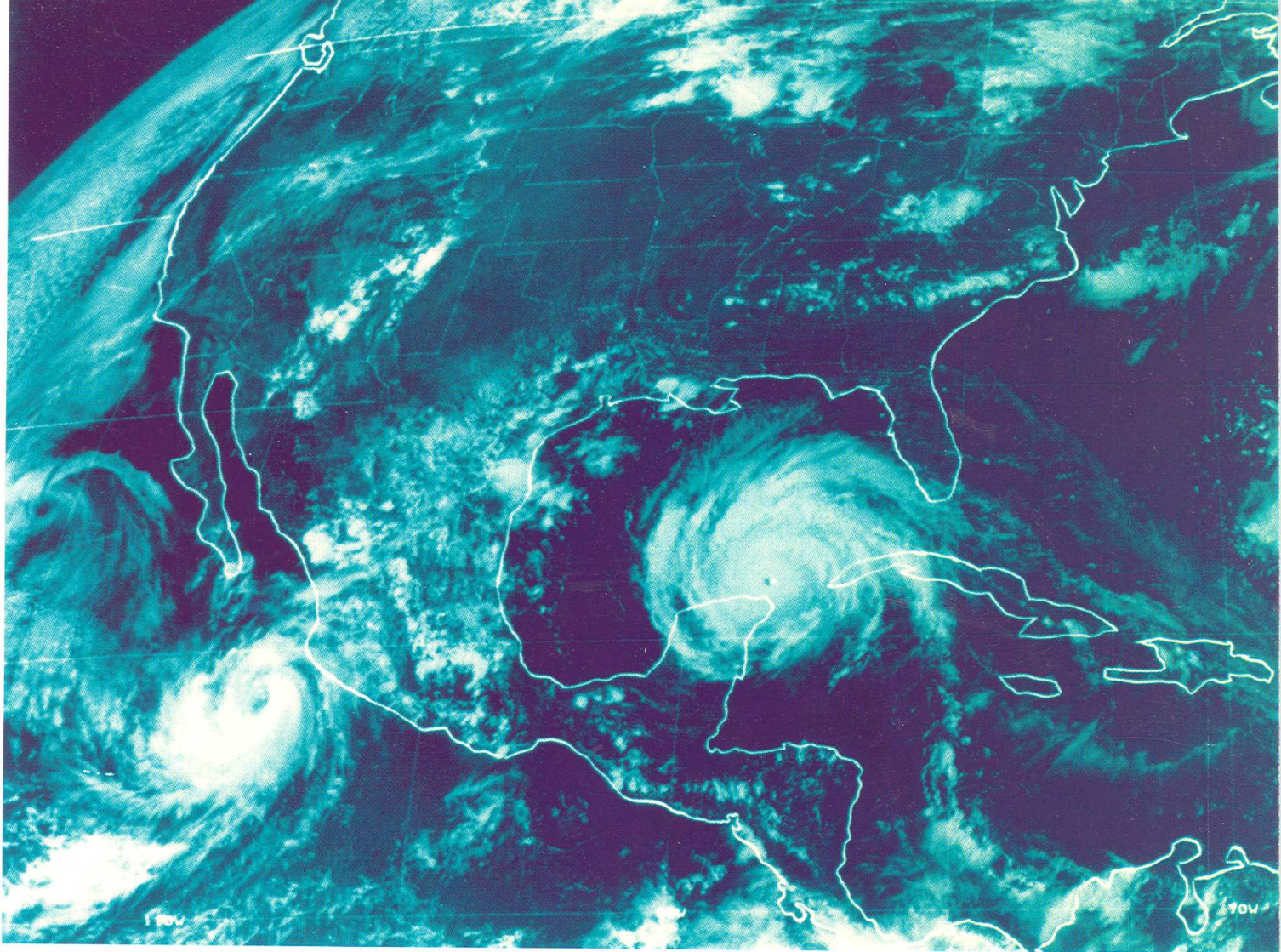
For the future, WHO aims to use its emergency programmes as a springboard for long-term development of the health sector. Its strategy will include:

- reinforcing existing national health resources, rather than duplicating them as so often happens;
- training health personnel in disaster-vulnerable countries, so as to build up their technical expertise;
- providing appropriate technical assistance, drugs and supplies in emergencies, in order to counter the waste and inefficiency that results from uncoordinated and inappropriate assistance from the international community;
- coordinating WHO emergency management activities with all partners, again to avoid waste and inefficiency;
- reconstructing the health infrastructure based on strong disaster mitigation legislation at the national level;
- using post-disaster assistance as an opportunity to underline the “lessons learned” and to sensitize national and local health authorities to the value of emergency preparedness;
- initiating community-level preparedness programmes, based on the primary health care approach, to work towards WHO’s declared goal of Health for All by the Year 2000. □

**Cyclone shelter
in Bangladesh gives
local communities
year-round
protection.**

Photo: Red Cross





The dreadful beauty
of a Caribbean
hurricane seen from
space. At ground
level, people are
suffering.

Back cover: An uncertain
future faces this child,
victim of chronic famine
in the Sahel.

Photo: UN/WHO/J. Isaac

Published by the Division of Emergency Relief Operations
World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland