



United Nations  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction  
Secretariat, Geneva

## **Call for Contributions**

### *“Poverty Alleviation and Disaster Risk Reduction: Good Practices and Lessons Learned”*

#### **Background**

At the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR) ([www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform](http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform)), the emerging “Global Network of NGOs for DRR” launched its first publication on Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction. The publication, entitled: *“Building Disaster Resilient Communities – Good Practices and Lessons Learned”* was intended to make the case for increased community-oriented DRR action, and to stimulate more interest in the subject from donors, policy makers, and other stakeholders (for more information on the process leading to the publication visit: [www.unisdr.org/ngos](http://www.unisdr.org/ngos)).

Following up on this joint effort, the 2008 publication of the “Global Network of NGOs” will explore the linkages between **poverty reduction and disaster risk reduction**. In particular, the publication will highlight projects and initiatives implemented by NGOs that will demonstrate **how DRR can be integrated into poverty reduction initiatives**, and how it can contribute to **reducing the vulnerability of the poor and safeguarding development gains**.

Disaster risk and poverty reduction have also been chosen as the theme of the **2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR)** that will be produced by the ISDR system for the second session of the GP/DRR. In view of the above, some of the case studies submitted by NGOs through this call will also feed into the 2009 GAR, and will contribute to the analysis of the disaster risk/poverty interface that will be carried out in the Report.

#### **Linking Poverty Reduction and DRR**

Disasters lead to social, economic and environmental losses. It is often the cumulative impact of frequent but “small” or “medium-scale” disasters that cause the most losses, particularly to the poor. Poor communities often struggle to meet their own daily needs. They have **little to no financial and human capacity to address the vulnerabilities and risks they are exposed to**, and hence do not recover easily from small, cumulative losses. **Poverty is also a major factor increasing disaster risk**, by increasing a community’s vulnerability to disasters and reducing its coping capacity. Poverty and disaster form a “negative feedback” cycle - if a disaster strikes, the level of poverty in the community increases, leading to increased vulnerability and disaster risk.

On the other hand, **poverty reduction can help reduce disaster risk** where it has an active, in-built focus on disaster issues. The integration of risk reduction into poverty reduction initiatives does not only help vulnerable communities to build resilience to disasters, but is also **a safeguard to protect development gains and ensure the sustainability of poverty reduction initiatives**. Finally, risk reduction measures can promote poverty reduction by helping the less poor avoid the impoverishing effects of disasters.

#### **Guidelines for Submission**

The UN/ISDR secretariat is currently looking for original contributions to this publication, which will highlight good practices and lessons learned in linking DRR to poverty reduction programmes and initiatives.

Guidelines for submitting relevant case studies are as follows:

- Fill in the template below, by providing an answer to each and all of the questions listed (in particular the “how?” questions);
- Attach any relevant picture(s) that can help illustrating your case study (pictures should be in high-resolution, with a brief caption of max. two lines);

- Submit a high-resolution logo of your organisations (this will be included in the publication);
- Provide your contact details (including name, title, organisational affiliation and e-mail address), for future correspondence.

All contributions should be sent by e-mail to Michele Cocchiglia ([cocchiglia@un.org](mailto:cocchiglia@un.org)), by Friday 14 December 2007. If you have any questions or want to discuss an idea for submission, please contact Michele Cocchiglia by e-mail or at +41 (0)22 917 8840.

Content Finder	Description	Please fill-in this column
<b>Title</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Please give the case study a very brief and, if possible, catchy and attractive title.</li> </ul>	...
<b>What?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What type of project/initiative is this?</li> <li>▪ What were its major goals and objectives?</li> <li>▪ What has been its impact?</li> </ul>	...
<b>When?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ When was the project/initiative started?</li> <li>▪ Is it still ongoing?</li> <li>▪ If not, when was it completed?</li> </ul>	...
<b>Where?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Where was the project/initiative implemented (country + village, town, district, province, with geographical location, etc.)?</li> </ul>	...
<b>Who?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Who was involved (accurate rendering of people, institutions, etc.)?</li> <li>▪ Who and how many people were targeted?</li> <li>▪ Who implemented, funded, sponsored or supported the project/initiative?</li> </ul>	...
<b>Why?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Why is this good practice?</li> <li>▪ What have been the key success/failure factors of this initiative?</li> </ul>	...
<b><u>How?</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>How has poverty contributed to the scenario of disaster risk documented in the case study?</u></li> <li>▪ <u>How have disaster outcomes affected poverty levels?</u></li> <li>▪ <u>Have disaster outcomes reinforced chronic poverty or have they temporarily pushed families and communities into poverty?</u></li> <li>▪ <u>How was the community(ies) in question coping with the disaster risk-poverty scenario identified?</u></li> <li>▪ <u>What kind of strategies did it use to minimise and manage risks?</u></li> <li>▪ <u>How did this project/initiative contribute to reducing poverty and disaster risks and vulnerabilities?</u></li> <li>▪ <u>What approach has been adopted to ensure the integration of disaster risk reduction into poverty reduction (or vice versa)?</u></li> <li>▪ <u>To what extent did the integration of DRR into poverty reduction help reducing the vulnerability of the poor?</u></li> </ul>	...
<b>Lessons Learned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What is (are) the key lesson(s) learned from this practice?</li> <li>▪ What have been the major challenges of this project/initiative and how were they overcome (if they were)?</li> <li>▪ How to improve similar projects/initiatives in the future?</li> </ul>	...
<b>Potential for Replication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How easy would it be to replicate this practice elsewhere?</li> <li>▪ How could the practice be replicated in a different context?</li> <li>▪ What would be the economic and political constraints for scaling-up?</li> </ul>	...
<b>Acronyms &amp; Abbreviations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Full expansion of acronyms and abbreviations used</li> </ul>	...

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