Global Risk Identification Program (GRIP)

A summary outline

Background and rationale

Accurate, comparable and appropriately scaled information on disaster losses, hazards, vulnerabilities and risks is fundamental for designing and implementing effective policies and programs that reduce disaster risk. Risk identification provides the evidence base for disaster risk management applications and decision making.

Significant progress has been made by the international community in recent years in improving the quality and accuracy of global disaster data collection and in developing indicators and indexes of disaster risk. Important initiatives have been launched, both within the framework of ISDR Working Group III and with the support of the ProVention Consortium, involving a wide range of international and regional organisations and academic institutes. These include the UNDP/UNEP Disaster Risk Index, ProVention World Bank/Columbia University Disaster Risk Hotspots Project, Inter-American Development Bank Indicators of Disaster Risk Management in the Americas, the Global unique disaster identifier number (GLIDE) initiative and the ongoing development of global and national disaster loss databases, such as CRED EM-DAT and DesInventar.

Organisations active in disaster risk identification have collaboratively decided to establish an inter-institutional framework to support and coordinate activities to promote systematic improvement and application of risk information. A global program has been created for assessing, identifying and analysing information on disaster risks and losses, the Global Risk Identification Program (GRIP).

Objective and activities

The main objective of GRIP is an improved evidence base for disaster risk management to enable the application and prioritisation of effective disaster risk reduction strategies at the national, regional and global scales. The program will add value to, and improve coordination between, a number of ongoing international initiatives, providing an active network where international organisations and UN agencies, international financial institutions and donors, governments, regional organizations, research institutes, the private sector and NGOs can share knowledge, information, expertise and resources.

The GRIP provides a framework to support and guide two key parallel programs of activities: 1) *Loss Estimation* to provide a more comprehensive and accurate accounting of disaster-related costs and losses (e.g. economic losses; relief costs, GLIDE implementation; disaster databases); and 2) *Risk Estimation* to improve the availability of information and analysis on disaster risks and risk factors (e.g. hazard characterisation and data; vulnerability assessment; risk indexes). Resulting data, methods and analyses will be made available through a coordinated knowledge management program intended to inform the design of disaster risk management and capacity building activities in high-risk countries.

Next steps

The concept and potential application of GRIP has attracted wide interest and support. The ProVention Consortium, therefore, has agreed to undertake a preparatory phase during 2005-2006 to design a program framework and outline of activities, identify participating partners and ascertain a feasible and appropriate governance and management structure for such an ambitious inter-institutional program (figure, next page). The preparatory phase is being implemented through a UNDP project supported by ProVention, UNDP and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. A number of key organisations, including the World Bank, IADB, Columbia University, CRED, UNEP, OCHA Relief Web, the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, ADRC and LA RED, have been major contributors in taking forward the GRIP idea to establish a formal program and network.

Next steps include formation of a Program Steering Committee and technical committees, synthesis of methodologies for risk and loss assessment, and consultations with high risk countries to strengthen the evidence on risks and losses to support risk management planning. In addition to initial outputs in the above areas, the preparatory phase will deliver a design for a five year program.

Global Risk Identification Program (GRIP)

Goal: Reduced natural hazard-related losses in high risk areas

Program

Objectives: Improved evidence base for disaster risk management
Increased adoption of disaster risk management as an alternative to emergency management

Elements: Global scope, with focus on high risk areas
Coordinated sub-programs and projects (see below)
Coherent risk assessment theory, data and methods
Multiple scales and hazards
Linked databases using the GLIDE
Open access to data and results
Technical assistance -- globally, regionally and nationally

Sub-program

1) Loss estimation
Objective: More comprehensive and accurate on-going accounting of disaster-related costs and losses

2) Risk estimation
Objective: Greater availability of evidence on disaster risks and risk factors

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3) Applications
Objective: Demonstrated use of risk and loss information for risk management planning in high risk areas

Project areas (projects to be defined, with objectives, products, implementing organizations, timetables, resource requirements)

Estimation of economic losses
- methods
- assessments
- data capture

Estimation of relief costs
- methods
- assessments
- data capture

GLIDE implementation

Improvement/establishment of disaster and loss databases
- global
- national

Linkage, inter-comparison and validation of loss estimates
- global
- national

Hazard characterization and data
- drought
- floods
- landslides

Data on elements at risk and characterization of vulnerabilities
- infrastructure
- population characteristics (e.g. poverty)
- land use

Multi-scale, multi-hazard assessments to identify risk levels and factors
- static
- trends
- dynamic (early warning)

Inter-comparison and validation of risk assessment methods and results
- global
- regional
- national

Outputs — Mutually reinforcing risk information, tools, capacity and applied results

1) Multi-tiered loss and risk information system
- loss and risk data
- static and dynamic loss and risk results
- methodologies
- global and selected national-level reports

2) Knowledge management system
- tools, manuals and curricula
- best practices and lessons learned
- training courses
- qualified experts

3) Risk identification applications
- demand-driven country assessments
- evidence base for risk reduction and transfer
- evaluation of application results
- feedback into 1) and 2)

Steps towards implementation (2005-2006)

- √ Foundation created by ISDR Working Group 3 and ProVention (Hotspots, Reducing Disaster Risk, Risk Indexing for the Americas, GLIDE, loss databases)
- √ Consultations with donors and stakeholders during 2004/5 in Oslo, Geneva (IATF), Manizales, Washington and Kobe
- √ ProVention agrees to prepare a program
- √ UNDP mobilizes preparatory assistance (including coordinator, risk identification expert plus program director)

Project formulation

- √ 1) Organization of governance and technical oversight
- √ 2) Organize work on improved global hazard and loss data sets
- √ 3) Review of linkages to country-level initiatives and other risk management programmes

Nov/Dec 4) Synthesis of risk index methods and initiation of multi-tiered risk information system plans
Jan 5) Programme Steering Committee meeting
Feb/Mar 6) Tools and training for national level loss estimation and documentation, GLIDE
Mar/Apr 7) Country planning meetings to assess and support risk and loss identification analyses
May/Jun 8) Design for full, five year program

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