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School safety demonstration during Provention Forum in Istanbul, Turkey.

Source: Marla Petal, May 2009.

Dear Partners,

The end of 2009 marks the milestone of ten years of engagement and contribution to the disaster risk reduction (DRR) sector for the Provention Consortium. Over this time Provention has been widely hailed for bringing greater attention to DRR, particularly by bringing diverse sets of actors together to advance the mainstreaming of DRR into humanitarian and development policy and practice. We have enjoyed the opportunity to work with all of you in seeking to catalyze change in policy commitments and provide access to improved tools and learning for programme design and implementation.

Since its founding in 2000 Provention has played a variety of roles. It has been a network of colleagues interested in DRR; a forum for informal dialogue between various stakeholders to discuss and debate across institutional boundaries; a clearinghouse for critical information on DRR and related topics; and a source of support for innovative projects to advance risk reduction practice. We have sought to keep structures light to maintain the informal tone on which Provention was founded and to allow flexibility and innovation in responding in a rapid manner to critical gaps.

During this time we have seen tremendous progress as your institutions and others in the field have strengthened their own approaches on DRR and formalised links and partnerships with one another. As an indication of this broader trend, the growth in the role of UN/ISDR and the establishment of the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) have institutionalised attention to DRR within the UN system. At the same time groups like the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations on Disaster Reduction, the National Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction in India, and PeriperiU in Africa have provided increased opportunity to NGOs and civil society and academic organizations to share learning on DRR and champion the role of local organizations as change agents for safer and more resilient communities. We hope that Provention through our combined efforts has contributed in useful and meaningful ways to this progress.

While these changes are positive developments, they have also brought significant challenges for an institution like Provention. The same informality that has enabled open and frank discussion within the Consortium has also introduced governance risks and prevented Provention from benefiting from wider shared ownership among its many partners. Mainstreaming successes have also increased competitive pressures and changed the nature of the partnerships underlying the Consortium. After consultations with the founding partners and donors in the latter half of 2009, the IFRC has had to make the hard decision to close out Provention's remaining programme activities.

There still remain significant challenges in bringing the DRR agenda into the mainstream of our daily decision-making. Many partners have commented on the continued need for a Provention-type network and we hope that your inspiration will continue to build on the activities and events that we have shared. We have put together this document to help capture and package key aspects of Provention's legacy that we hope you will have the opportunity to take forward through other initiatives in the future. The document includes a review of Provention achievements over the last 10 years, a short analysis of key lessons and finally an overview of progress on Provention work programme activities in 2009.

We would like to thank all of you for your support and engagement over these 10 years. We also want to especially thank the World Bank for hosting Provention for its first 3 years and the IFRC for hosting Provention over the last 7 years as well as our donors who have provided financial support to undertake the programme activities and maintain the Secretariat.

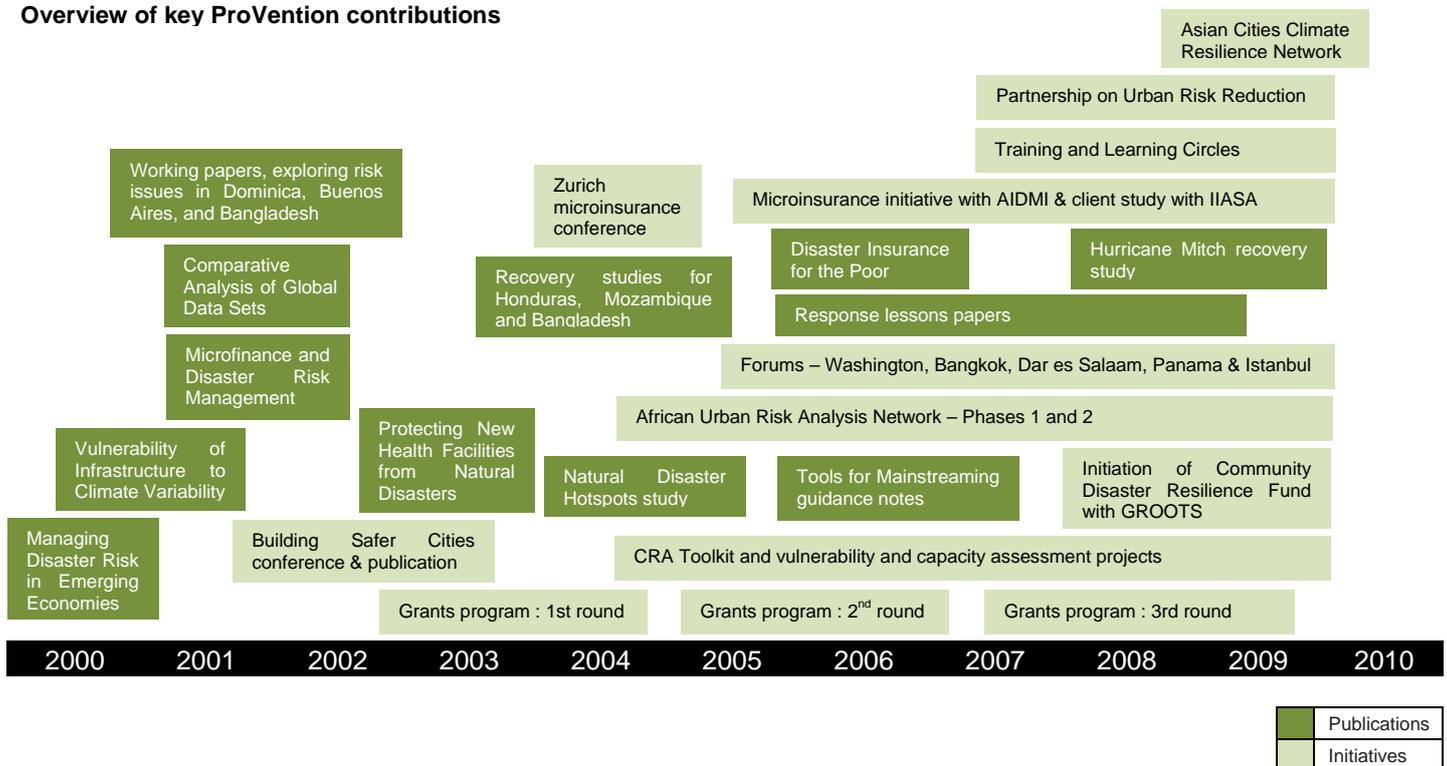
- The Provention Secretariat

Reflections on Provention accomplishments

When Provention was started in 2000, there were few other venues that brought together diverse sets of stakeholders to focus on key issues in disaster risk reduction. Provention strived to fill this gap and provide a neutral space in which donors, UN agencies, NGOs, and academic institutions could engage with one another both to promote dialogue and to advance policy and practice for implementing effective risk reduction at all levels from local community action on up to the highest levels of international diplomacy.

A primary goal was to be light-footed and flexible in order to identify and address gaps as needed over time. Thus over the last 10 years, Provention has supported a wide range of activities targeting various opportunities to improve policy and practice on DRR. The timeline below gives an overview of some of the key Provention highlights. Of course it only captures a part of the overall work programme and related partner activities. Further details on the full set of Provention project activities are available on the Provention website at www.proventionconsortium.org.

Overview of key Provention contributions



When Provention has been working at its best, we have seen that there are several key factors that really drive change on DRR in an effective and consistent manner. These are basically the core of what brought us together through Provention and enabled Provention to add value to the myriad other activities that your institutions and others in the field are already pursuing. These factors include:

- Multi-stakeholder engagement
- Strong commitment to research and innovation
- Broad, cross-programme evaluation for learning
- Open access to data and analysis

Taken in combination, these factors have provided a solid foundation for Provention's initiatives and we hope are factors that can be brought out strongly in successor initiatives.

A number of new networking initiatives have already emerged. These include the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction and UN/ISDR's Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction. These join the large numbers of other networks that have already been established, and we hope that there will be opportunities to carry forward parts of Provention's work into these other fora.

Future of Provention

As mentioned in the letter on the first page, Provention's current programme activities and Secretariat are now in the process of being closed out. However, this does not mean that Provention itself is coming to an end, and Provention's legacy will hopefully continue.

The IFRC will continue to maintain the website and encourage broad access and use of the knowledge resources that have been developed through Provention. Organizations that are interested to adapt these resources for other uses are encouraged to contact the IFRC which will maintain the copyright and trademark protections for Provention. Contact for Provention at the IFRC will be maintained by the Community Preparedness and Risk Reduction department led by Mohammed Mukhier.

Similarly if there is interest to continue some of the Provention initiatives, the IFRC would like to encourage partners to explore opportunities to take those initiatives further forward. With this in mind we would like to highlight a few initiatives that have been developed with support from Provention that we hope will find support and backing to continue. These include the following:

Initiative	Status
Research & Action Grants	Having completed the third round of grants in 2009, the Research & Action Grants programme now has a core set of partners managing the grants in five regions around the world. These partners have already started to explore other regional opportunities to continue funding for the grants programme, but there may be other models as well for linking support for grants to young researchers with ongoing programme initiatives in your and other institutions.
African Urban Risk Analysis Network (AURAN)	The AURAN network includes academic and NGO partners in five cities in Africa. The partners are just completing a second phase of project activity that has focused on engaging other actors in local risk analysis in those cities. Opportunities to connect the AURAN partners to the UN/ISDR Resilient Cities campaign are currently under discussion and several of the partners are already linked to activities of PeriperiU being coordinated by the University of Cape Town.
Community Disaster Resilience Fund	GROOTS and the Huairou Commission in collaboration with the National Alliance for DRR in India have completed a test of the (CDRF) in India. They have also initiated preliminary CDRF activities in Central America in partnership with CEPREDENAC. The CDRF is a promising model for channelling funding to community organizations that we hope will find continuing opportunities to scale up. In reality there are few multi-stakeholder funding mechanisms that directly target and support the work of local actors.
Partnership for Urban Risk Reduction (PURR)	PURR is a partnership anchored by leading networks of local government organizations to promote effective risk reduction and resilience in cities. Partners include United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Metropolis, CITYNET and the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative. PURR is also collaborating with the UN/ISDR Resilient Cities campaign and will provide an ongoing mechanism for encouraging further learning and development on DRR among local authorities.
Training and Learning Circles (TLC)	TLC partners in India and the Philippines are leading a series of activities in South and Southeast Asia to share learning resources on DRR and adaptation among training and academic centres. Response to the initiative from civil society partners in particular has been very positive and enthusiasm is high among the partners to continue the initiative.
Community Risk Assessment (CRA) Toolkit	The CRA toolkit has been widely hailed as a clearinghouse for practical information on using local risk analysis as the basis for any DRR or adaptation measures. A variety of partners have contributed methodologies, tools, and case studies to the toolkit and interest has been expressed by the Global Network of Civil Society organisations on Disaster Reduction and other partners to help to continue to maintain and update the toolkit.

Highlights of key lessons

One of the hopes of the IFRC and other partners was that there would be a dedicated evaluation to identify lessons from the Provention experience. Unfortunately the resources for such an evaluation are not available at the moment. However the following section outlines a number of lessons drawn from the reflections of the Secretariat and from comments shared over the years by various Provention partners.

Outward looking lessons

1) There remains a substantial need for informal dialogue among diverse stakeholders.

The most frequent feedback coming to the Provention Secretariat was the value of events – like the Provention Forum and the many smaller workshops and meetings that Provention organised – to bring together a broad range of DRR actors in a multi-stakeholder environment.

This is something that we acknowledge as a goal so often, yet we find ourselves time and again speaking to audiences of our immediate colleagues and peers. Building in multi-stakeholder engagement should be a key ingredient for any activity striving for broad impact.

2) Bringing local actors and perspectives ‘to the table’ adds significant value to both international dialogue and programme/portfolio planning.

Again this is something that we plan more often than we do. What is needed really is long-term engagement with local actors and targeted strategies for engaging local actors through the networks and associations through which they organize.

Inward looking lessons

3) A strong governance foundation is critical to anchoring the institution.

Solid, formal governance is needed as ballast to ensure stability in any organization. Provention flirted several times with the need to formalize its governance however each time stopped short of initiating the kinds of changes that were required.

A more formal governance structure that identified key partners as joint owners of the initiative and defined key commitments from those partners to support Provention would have provided a more solid base from which to work. Such a structure would have ensured greater partner commitment and provided greater support as well as checks and balances to the Secretariat.

Institutions like Sphere and ALNAP have similar relationships with a hosting organization but more formal structure to their governance. These

institutions would probably offer a good model to other organizations seeking to engage a broad set of core partners.

4) Regular and independent evaluation is vital to ground strategic direction.

Several evaluations of the Provention work programme and management were conducted over the last 10 years, particularly during the period of the transition of the hosting from the World Bank to the IFRC. These produced useful insights and flagged a number of issues that continued to challenge Provention in the years ahead.

More attention should have been given to these evaluation results and to ensuring that independent evaluations were conducted on a regular basis to guide development of the Consortium. Evaluation, and particularly broad cross-programme evaluation, has proved to be such a useful tool for analyzing the effectiveness of DRR measures that we need to ensure that we also use such tools to hone internal processes as well.

5) Substantiating ‘value added’ is critical to long-term sustainability.

There is no intrinsic sustainability for an organization like Provention. By choosing to focus on gaps and to catalyse action by other organizations, the options for establishing a viable self-sustaining business model are virtually non-existent. Thus the value being added must be clearly identified and packaged for donor support.

Maintaining a steady focus on strategic direction proved to be one of the key challenges in keeping the vibrancy at the heart of Provention, particularly as the institutional environment evolved and gap areas changed. Ultimately Provention may have ended up exploring too many paths without going far enough down any of them. It is important to maintain flexibility in the strategy to adapt to and take advantage of opportunities, but strategic focus and opportunism need to be balanced and informed by regular analysis of the context and environment.

Provention performed well on this for many years but needed to keep greater distance in refining and redefining its niche over time.

Further partner reflections

"There is little doubt that Provention's work has been invaluable. By its own choice, the Provention Consortium was an attempt to overcome the absence of a diverse set of significant stakeholders carrying on a dialogue and providing critical analysis on enabling environments, tools and resources, and persistent gaps in policy and practice from the international to the community level in disaster risk management.

The context of how the international development and humanitarian assistance communities view risk in development, and how they have constructed over time - in a way little anticipated - a response to addressing risk in development has changed. The context has revealed the often parallel view of development and disasters held by individual institutional partners and donors. Recent disasters have brought to light that not a single sector, development agency or humanitarian assistance entity claims success in dealing with the underlying natural hazard risk to social and economic infrastructure and related populations in any of the impacted countries. There remains, I believe, an underlying need for a Provention Consortium-like institutional entity to be committed to its own policy and practice review purposes on an informal basis, capable of first and foremost adding value to its own individual efforts by collectively contemplating and acting on what it may not or cannot do alone."

Stephen Bender, formerly with OAS, now independent consultant

"While the establishment of the HFA generated a structured way of conceptualizing and organizing the work of the DRR community, Provention has during the last decade functioned as a key provider of high-quality research and practical guidance for various stakeholders, including donors, in common efforts to enhance HFA implementation. Having appreciated a fruitful partnership with Provention for some years it is indeed sad to realize that this has now come to an end. Considering the increasing demand of guidance on DRR and climate change adaptation, the need for linking policy to practice and local to global is as significant as ever and it is Sida's hope that partners in the DRR community will continue to foster and develop the important accomplishments of Provention."

Patrick Kratt, SIDA

"We are unbelievably grateful for all the support from Provention ... and the fact that it has quietly 'jump-started' so many under-recognised initiatives. The 'core' membership of Periperi U is an outgrowth of the AURAN and CRA processes ... and I honestly don't know how Africa would have progressed without the benefit of the Provention grantees."

Ailsa Holloway, DiMP, University of Cape Town

"As a catalyst for the highest quality research, for advocacy and in building community practices across numerous overlapping domains including most recently DRR and climate change Provention has been a stand out example of good practice. Indeed at a time when boundary organisations like Provention are being sought after its loss is a great shame. However, though sad it is also fitting that the organisational form should dissolve at a point when its key original messages have now been accepted into the mainstream. The field of DRR owes much to Provention."

Mark Pelling, King's College London

"For a decade, Provention has provided the developing world and development partners with invaluable and irreplaceable insights into the management and reduction of disasters that no-one else would or could. Regrettably, this unique experience has come to a premature end, probably not to be replaced. We all benefited while it was with us: let us hope that some of us be wiser following its demise."

Dr Neil Britton, ADB disaster focal point

"With Provention's support, the Special Unit for South-south Cooperation in UNDP, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, the Center for Disaster Preparedness and the All-India Disaster Mitigation Institute were able to identify gaps and develop knowledge products on community based DRR and organize a group of trainers and learners from communities, CSOs and universities through the Training and Learning Circle project. TLC triggered the coming together of DRR advocates as a network to lobby for enactment of a DRR bill in the Philippines and has paved the way for more dynamic institutionalization of DRR in higher education and training institutions in India. Now partners say 'we will continue to nurture the seed we planted, initially watered by Provention, to make it bloom for more flowers' and contribute to the making of disaster resilient communities."

Zenaida Delica Willison, UNDP

"Provention has played a leading role in making DRR a top item on the agenda of key UN and bilateral agencies in a short time. Using multi-stakeholder sources and multi-level experience, Provention developed and shaped the DRR discussion and debate year to year. Provention's support to and learning from local organisations has been unending. I have been associated with Provention from its launch and in almost every activity in one or another and have found the energy of the team, creativity of efforts, and originality of thinking impressive."

Mihir Bhatt, All-India Disaster Mitigation Institute

Update on recent results

Risk analysis

CRA Toolkit

The Community Risk Assessment (CRA) toolkit has been one of Provention's most heralded projects. Over the past year the methodology and case study sections of the CRA Toolkit have been further expanded and now contain more than 30 methodologies and 50 case studies. In addition the guidance notes have been updated for the following 8 case studies:

- ▶ Cuba - Weathering the Storm: Lessons in Risk Reduction
- ▶ El Salvador - Program for Prevention and Mitigation of Flood Disasters in the Lower Lempa River Basin
- ▶ Pakistan - Becoming a Model: Community Managed Flood Preparedness Project
- ▶ Peru - Capacity Building Workshop in Disaster Prevention and Risk Management for Communities of Caylloma District affected by the 2004 Cold Wave
- ▶ Turkey - Umraniye Women's Outreach Community Disaster Preparedness Project
- ▶ Vanuatu - Participatory methods of incorporating scientific with traditional knowledge for volcanic hazard management on Ambae Island
- ▶ Zambia - Vulnerability Capacity Assessment: Sinazongwe District
- ▶ Zimbabwe - Beating Hunger: The Chivi Experience

For more information about the CRA Toolkit, visit: http://www.proventionconsortium.org/CRA_toolkit.

Community-based Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment in the Americas

Through this project Red Cross national societies in Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Honduras have tested and refined approaches for working with communities to conduct vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) and design community action plans and micro projects for local risk reduction. A number of these micro projects have subsequently been supported with funding from the Finnish Red Cross.

The methodologies and related guidance have been captured in 14 VCA and "Better Be Ready" manuals which have also been translated into English and Portuguese for wider application in the Americas.

For more information on this project, see <http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=32&projectid=9>.



AURAN partner Khady Diagne was invited to give concluding remarks on behalf of NGOs at the World Urban Forum.

Source: Provention, November 2009.

African Urban Risk Analysis Network (AURAN)

AURAN is an initiative of leading universities and NGOs in urban areas across Africa that has been developed with support from UNDP and Provention.

A compendium of AURAN case studies was published by Earthscan in 'Disaster Risk Reduction: Cases from Urban Africa' in December 2008. The book was launched at the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China and has been widely distributed to academic institutions, libraries, and other organizations throughout Africa with the assistance of Book Aid, the African Studies Centre in the Netherlands and other partners. In addition the publication is available for sale worldwide through the Earthscan website.

In 2009 AURAN partners in Accra, Ghana; Algiers, Algeria; Bamako, Mali; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Niamey, Niger have been busily implementing a second round of projects, looking in particular at opportunities to explore urban risk reduction solutions in multi-stakeholder partnerships.

For more information, please visit the AURAN project page on the Provention site at <http://www.proventionconsortium.org/AURAN>.



AURAN partners exchanging local knowledge during a break in the activities at the World Urban Forum.

Source: Provention, November 2009.

Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP)

GRIP, led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), supports a broad set of projects to develop national risk atlases and disaster loss observatories in numerous countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. ProVention’s links with GRIP trace back to the 2005 ‘Natural Disaster Hotspots: A Global Risk Analysis’ study by ProVention, the World Bank, and other partners which identified countries at greatest risk of human and economic losses due to six major types of natural hazards. In 2009 GRIP has completed two projects which were supported by ProVention.

The first was the development of a GRIP web portal to support capacity building for risk identification at the national level. The web portal includes an online toolbox and communities of practice for risk analysis experts in different countries and has facilitated the expansion of GRIP activities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

ProVention also supported risk research and data analysis used by UN/ISDR as a core component of the Global Assessment Report (GAR) on Disaster Risk Reduction, which focused in this first edition on the interface between poverty and disasters. As a further contribution to the GAR, ProVention also led the development of a practice review on innovations in risk financing for disaster risk management. The GAR was released in May 2009.

For more details see the GRIP resource page at <http://www.gripweb.org>.

Mainstreaming

Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network

To promote the development of urban solutions for climate change adaptation, the Rockefeller Foundation is supporting a set of 10 cities in India, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam to explore potential adaptation solutions through the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN). Partners include ISET, Arup, ICLEI Oceania, APCO, TARU, GEAG, Challenge to Change, NISTPASS, Mercy Corps Indonesia, URDI the Thai Environment Institute and ADPC.

ProVention has led on donor outreach and risk financing in the ACCCRN programme and in 2009 spearheaded preparation for the COP-15 meeting in Copenhagen, including planning and execution with ICLEI of a ‘Cities and Resilience Dialogue’ held as part of the COP-15 preparatory meetings in Bangkok in September 2009.

More information on the ACCCRN programme is available on the Rockefeller Foundation website at <http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/what-we-do/current-work/developing-climate-change-resilience/asian-cities-climate-change-resilience/>.



A woman in Da Nang, Vietnam steps over debris from houses damaged during a recent storm.

Source: ProVention, September 2009.

Translation of Tools for Mainstreaming into Arabic, French, and Spanish

Since 2007, over 2,500 hard copies of the English version of *Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction* have been distributed to development agencies and government representatives.

At the request of a number of stakeholders, ProVention translated this publication into Spanish, French and Arabic in 2009 and has partnered with UN/ISDR offices and other Consortium partners to disseminate these translated versions copies. In addition the Dutch NGO HIVOS, in collaboration with its local Indonesian partners, also translated the publication into Bahasa and Oxfam has translated it into Dari and Pashtu for broader dissemination in Afghanistan.

Electronic copies of these new translations are available on the ProVention website at <http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=37&publicationid=132#132>.

Review of mainstreaming progress in the Philippines

At the beginning of 2009 ProVention released a case study that documents experience to date and challenges ahead in mainstreaming disaster risk into development in the Philippines. The study aims to identify the factors that contribute to or detract from the creation of an enabling environment and support country-level efforts to get disaster risk reduction mainstreaming put into practice.

This publication is available on ProVention's website at <http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=37&publicationid=161#161>.

Megacities: Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management

Since 2007 ProVention has supported the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI) to develop disaster risk management tools and resources for the use of local actors to guide city-level implementation of risk reduction and adaptation measures. In 2009 much of the work in this project has focused on finalizing testing of a municipal disaster risk indicators systems in Istanbul and the development of new online courses for local authorities and community organizations.

In addition city-to-city sharing has been promoted through regional Megacities Forums in Mexico City and Mumbai to provide an opportunity for city officials and practitioners to share experience in developing and adopting sound DRR practices.

For more details, see ProVention's project page at <http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=32&projectid=2> or the EMI webpage at <http://www.emi-megacities.org/>.

Local Action for Disaster Risk Reduction

Over 2008-2009 ProVention has also provided support for the establishment of the Partnership for Urban Risk Reduction (PURR). Partners involved in the initiative include United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI), Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Metropolis, and CITYNET. Preliminary activities of the partnership have focused on strengthening the attention and commitment to disaster risk reduction within the participating networks, such as the adoption of a declaration on DRR by UCLG's World Council.

For more information, please visit the PURR programme page on EMI's website at <http://www.emi-megacities.org/purr/index.html>.

Community Disaster Resilience Fund: India test

Recognizing the lack of international development funds that can be accessed by local community organizations to support local risk reduction and adaptation measures, ProVention has collaborated with

GROOTS and the Huairou Commission to develop a Community Disaster Resilience Fund (CDRF) to catalyze and resource community-led DRR initiatives through community grants.

The CDRF is a multi-stakeholder mechanism that enables the direct flow of resource and support from national and global donors to local actors. The CDRF operates through a lead partner in each country who convenes interested partners for joint management of the fund and facilitates the grant mechanism at the core of the project. The CDRF also encourages peer-to-peer knowledge sharing among the community organizations that are grant recipients.

This test project in India was developed in collaboration with the National Alliance on Disaster Risk Reduction, a coalition of NGOs in India working on this topic, and endorsed by the Government's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

In 2008-2009 the test provided grants to community organizations in 7 states in India and similar grants were initiated to indigenous Garifuna and Mayan communities in Honduras & Guatemala in collaboration with CEPREDENAC.

For more details see Huairou Commission's website at <http://www.huairou.org/campaigns/resilience/cdrf.html>.

Reducing risks in recovery

Lessons for urban response

Together with the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP), ProVention has developed a paper on lessons for urban response based on experience in previous relief and recovery activities. This paper is intended for operational decision-makers and programme managers working relief and recovery efforts in urban environments. Previous papers have been developed for relief and recovery operations after earthquakes and floods and for slow onset disaster and drought situations.

The paper is available on ProVention's website at <http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=37&publicationid=167#167>.

Learning from recovery after Hurricane Mitch

ProVention has just released a new study which explores longer-term recovery trends and impacts on vulnerability in Nicaragua over the past decade since Hurricane Mitch. The study was completed by Ian Christophos and colleagues from Nitlapán, at the University of Central America in Managua, and the Stockholm Environment Institute.

The study explores the broader trends that have driven recovery, looking in particular at household, community and government initiatives and the wider economic

context and how these have been supported or affected by the aid response. There are four main areas of focus:

- ▶ The return of the state and civil society.
- ▶ Poverty, livelihoods and economic recovery.
- ▶ Rebuilding the social fabric and community development.
- ▶ Reduction of risks from natural hazards and conflict.

Drawing on an extensive literature review and field work with intensive focal group and individual interviews, the study examines the role that Hurricane Mitch has played as a 'backdrop' to the current Nicaraguan national discourse on disaster risk management.

The study is available on ProVention's website at <http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=37&publicationid=170#170>.

Risk transfer and private sector involvement

Research study on microinsurance for natural disaster risks

AIDMI and IIASA have been leading a multi-partner evaluation of existing micro-insurance schemes that is due to be completed in early 2010. This evaluation builds upon the earlier ProVention-supported review by IIASA of 10 microinsurance schemes which looked at contributions to risk reduction, financial robustness, affordability, and governance. The current study focuses more specifically on identifying the benefits and other impacts of micro-insurance schemes for the insurees and their families and analyzing the viability of the schemes for both insurance companies and intermediary partners.

As part of the study, AIDMI has recruited five partner organizations offering micro-insurance services in Asia to conduct both a survey of their current clients as well as an institutional survey to gather information about the administration of their schemes and the enabling environment in which they operate.

Final results from the study will be shared on ProVention's website at <http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=32&projectid=14>.

Risk financing

As a contribution to UN/ISDR's 2009 Global Assessment Report (GAR) on Disaster Risk Reduction, ProVention contributed a practice review on 'Innovations in Finance for Disaster Risk Management'. This background paper reviewed the experience and potential of four financing tools – microfinance, social funds, microinsurance and catastrophe pools – to support effective disaster risk management and provide incentives for disaster prevention. The paper is

available with the other components of the 2009 GAR at <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar>.

Expanding risk reduction research

Research & Action Grants

The 3rd round of the ProVention Research & Action Grants programme made awards to projects in 40 countries, chosen from among 261 grant applications that were received from 52 countries in July 2007. A full listing of the selected projects is available at www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=41.

Project implementation started in December 2007 and continued through 2008 with grantees disseminating their project results between September 2008 and February 2009. Throughout the programme, an asynchronous online community website was made available to all grantees, enabling them to ask questions, promote dissemination and scholarship opportunities and share knowledge with their peers and programme staff.

The University of Cape Town organised a regional workshop in Uganda in May 2009 for young researchers to present their findings to colleagues across Africa. The workshop provided an opportunity to strengthen the quality of the final reports and the dissemination of the findings and a platform for emerging risk researchers to identify teaching, learning and applied research priorities.

In early 2009, several regional centres also ran a bonus round for the most deserving projects and have organised additional regional events, webconferences and regional publications.

Former and current grantees have also contributed to the 2008 ProVention Forum in Panama – particularly to the session on "Developing a new generation of disaster risk reduction champions" – and helped organize a series of field visits that was part of the 2009 ProVention Forum in Istanbul.

For more information on the grants programme, visit: http://www.proventionconsortium.org/research_and_action_grants.

Training and Learning Circles

The Training and Learning Circles (TLC) initiative is developing a support system for trainers and educators on disaster risk reduction in South and South-East Asia. The initiative is a collaboration between the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), the ProVention Consortium, the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), and the Centre for Disaster Preparedness (CDP) in the Philippines.

Using a methodology developed in a workshop organised in December 2007 together with the United

Nations Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) and PACT USA, TLC partners from six Asian countries have mapped key community-based disaster risk management training agencies and networks in South and Southeast Asia.

Over the last year AIDMI and CDP have created strong national networks of training institutions and individual trainers in India and in the Philippines and ADPC has collected and reviewed a wide range of community-based disaster risk reduction training manuals and

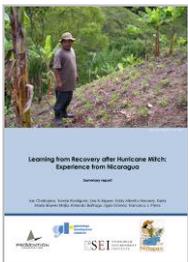
materials. Based on these activities, the three partners have been developing joint training tools specifically targeted at trainers and AIDMI and CDP have additionally approached academic institutions to explore the development of guidelines for mainstreaming community-based disaster risk reduction into their curricula.

For more information on the TLC initiative, please visit <http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=32&projectid=32>.

Latest publications

Provention has continued to generate new knowledge and resources aimed at organizations and practitioners active in disaster risk management. The Provention website remains the primary mechanism for the Consortium to share its messages and promote key resources. Statistics have shown a steady increase in the number of hits over time, with an average of 46,147 hits per month in 2004 to 338,728 hits per month in 2009. Going forward the Provention website will be maintained by the IFRC to ensure that the various resources developed by Provention continue to be available and accessible.

Key resources published in 2009 include:

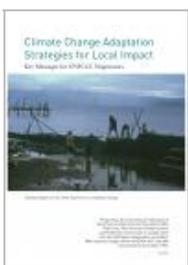


Learning from Recovery after Hurricane Mitch: Experience from Nicaragua – summary report

By Ian Christoplos, Tomás Rodríguez, Lisa Schipper, Eddy Alberto Narvaez, Karla Maria Bayres Mejia, Rolando Buitrago, Ligia Gómez and Francisco J. Pérez. Published by the Provention Consortium, Gelmminge Development Research, Nitlapán, and the Stockholm Environment Institute.

Language: English.

This study is a review of how Nicaragua has recovered from Hurricane Mitch over the past ten years. The focus is on how relevant the assumptions and claims that were made for ‘transformation’ in the initial recovery planning have been in light of subsequent development.



Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for Local Impact: Key Messages for UNFCCC Negotiators

Prepared by the IFRC, Red Cross / Red Crescent Climate Centre and Provention Consortium in collaboration with Ken Westgate, independent consultant. With input and support from UN OCHA, ACT and IOM.

Language: English.

This technical Paper was prepared by for the IASC Task Force on Climate Change in May 2009. It argues that the involvement of local authorities and community based organizations in the development of adaptation strategies will be crucial. Risk reduction and risk management are key elements of adaptation, and humanitarian organizations bring decades of experience in working with local actors to lead adaptation measures to protect their communities against impending climate risks.



Responding to Urban Disasters: Learning from previous relief and recovery operations

By Ian O'Donnell, Kristin Smart, with Ben Ramalingam. Published by ALNAP and the Provention Consortium.

Language: English.

Disaster response in an urban environment presents a wide variety of challenges. This paper draws on experience from the responses to number of urban disasters. It

highlights key lessons to guide a wide variety of stakeholders in approaching the specific challenges of addressing and responding to disaster risks in urban environments.

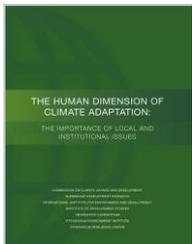


ProVention Forum 2009 – Risk and Governance: Bridging National Enabling Environments and Local Action

By Ian Christoplos. Published by the ProVention Consortium.

Languages: English.

Organised in partnership with ISDR and the World Bank, the 2009 Forum fostered cross-disciplinary and cross-regional linkages and learning by bringing ProVention partners and relevant stakeholders together from around the globe. Participants focused on three topics: how national governments are creating an enabling environment for successful risk reduction and climate change adaptation; how communities can work together through local and meso-level governance processes; and how inclusive processes can better connect these two levels. For presentations and other documentation from the Forum, please visit www.proventionconsortium.org.



The Human Dimension of Climate Adaptation: The Importance of Local and Institutional Issues

By Ian Christoplos, Simon Anderson, Margaret Arnold, Victor Galaz, Merylyn Hedger, Richard J.T. Klein, and Katell Le Goulven. Published by: The Commission on Climate Change and Development, Glemminge Development Research, International Institute for Environment and Development, Institute of Development Studies, ProVention Consortium, Stockholm Environment Institute, Stockholm Resilience Centre.

Language: English.

This paper was developed by a sub-set of the Expert Group for the Commission on Climate Change and Development in which ProVention participated. It presents a conceptual framework on mainstreaming adaptation, with understanding and respect for autonomous adaptation as the starting point for a new agenda to manage the human dimensions of climate change.

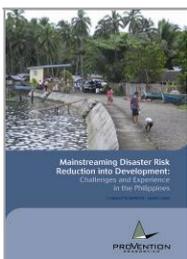


Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction: Guidance Notes for Development Organisations

By Charlotte Benson and John Twigg, with Tiziana Rossetto. Published by the ProVention Consortium.

Languages: English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia.

This publication provides a series of 14 guidance notes for use by development organizations in adapting programming, project appraisal and evaluation tools to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development work in hazard-prone countries. In 2008-2009, ProVention translated this publication into Spanish, French and Arabic. Hivos and Circle Indonesia also translated it into Bahasa Indonesia. Oxfam is now planning to translate it into Dari and Pashtu for broader dissemination in Afghanistan.



Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development: Challenges and Experience in the Philippines

By Charlotte Benson. Published by the ProVention Consortium.

Language: English.

This paper documents experience to date and challenges ahead in mainstreaming at a country level. The paper focuses on the first two, and arguably most difficult, steps in mainstreaming – awareness-raising and the establishment of a sufficient, stable enabling environment.

ProVention publications are available for download at www.proventionconsortium.org.