



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Building a Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction

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Regional Task Force on Urban Risk «Brainstorming Meeting»

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Context

- Local Authorities have a key role to play in making DRR a reality at the local and sub-national levels.
- Building a “DRR Movement” requires the active participation and involvement of Local Authorities.
- Urban Risk Reduction an increasingly high priority BUT...
- Local-level implementation of the HFA requires recognition of both urban and rural dimensions of vulnerability.

→ UN/ISDR secretariat committed to facilitate the development of a Local Government Alliance for DRR

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Opportunities and Challenges...

- Broad consensus reached on the need to engage local authorities in DRR processes.
- Evidence of local administrations incorporating DRR and developing sustainable development practices.
- Tools and resources exist to identify and manage disaster risks (e.g UNOSAT, EMI, etc.).
- Limited resources committed at local levels of responsibility to support DRR.
- Competing priorities and agendas, often challenged by competition for funds..
- Implementation of DRR at local government level relies on decentralized decision-making processes, etc.

Proposed Objectives of the LGA/DRR

- To facilitate knowledge and information sharing between North/South, Urban/Rural local authorities.
- To raise awareness and encourage the active role of LAs in mainstreaming DRR.
- To improve LAs' understanding of central governments (and vice-versa) with respect to DRR strategies and implementation.
- To ensure the coordination of DRR actions in this area among different stakeholders.
- ...

Proposed Strategy for Developing the LGA/DRR

- Taking stock of existing initiatives and drafting a concept note for the LGA/DRR (November-December 2007).
- Building ownership/leadership of a small group of LAs through a consultative process (January 2008 and beyond).
- Establishing an initial “Advisory Group” for the LGA/DRR (April 2008 – Consultative Meeting in Barcelona, Spain).
- Holding a broader meeting to discuss the proposed objectives, governance mechanism, etc. and agree on the way forward (October 2008 – WUF in Nanjing, China).

Consultative Meeting: 9-11 April 2008, Barcelona

- Do we need a Local Government Alliance for DRR?
- What should be its purpose and added value?
- What should be the objectives and activities?
- What should be the incentives for participation?
- How to ensure the sustainability of the LGA/DRR?
- What should be the means to measure its performance?

Expected Outcomes:

- Substantive comments and observations on the LGA/DRR concept put forward.
- Shared understanding of and commitment to the Alliance reached.
- Next steps and joint activities discussed and agreed upon.

Thank you

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