

23 Jan 2009

Natural Disasters:**22 Jan: Storms leave thousands displaced in Madagascar**

Two recent successive storms have left at least one person dead and several thousand people without shelter in Madagascar. The most recent storm, Cyclone Fanele, made landfall on Wednesday (January 21) with winds of up to 90 mph (150 kph) per hour and caused extensive damages to buildings as well as widespread flooding, Reuters news agency reported. "In the town of Morondava, 80 percent of houses have lost their roofing," Dia Styvanley Soa of the state National Office of Disaster and Risk Management was quoted by Reuters as saying. The cyclone season in Madagascar begins in December and runs through April. In 2008, over 100 people were killed after being hit by cyclones Fame, Jokwe and Ivan. Over 340,000 people were affected and 190,000 lost their homes. 2007 was the worst year on record, with six cyclones affecting almost 500,000 people, mainly in the northern and central parts of the island nation.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/EDIS-7NJN46?OpenDocument&rc=1&cc=mdg>

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VDUX-7NJMLW?OpenDocument&rc=1&cc=mdg>

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/doc106?openForm&rc=1&cc=mdg&po=0&so=63>

20 Jan: Floods and landslide in Indonesia

At least 14 people were killed and three others left missing after floods hit Indonesia last week, Jan 16. The floods also displaced some 50,000 people and affected several cities and districts in 13 provinces, including West Nusa Tenggara, Sumatra, Java, Bali, Borneo (Kalimantan) and Sulawesi. "The worst hit areas are in West Sulawesi, West Nusa Tenggara and West Kalimantan. The height of flood waters in West Kalimantan reached 2.5 meters (eight feet) while in West Sulawesi they reached 1.5 meters. On Sunday (January 18), a landslide at a gold mine in the village of Buwung Mas Sekotong, located around 660 miles (1,060 km) east of the Indonesian capital, Jakarta buried at least 20 people. In February 2007, around 50 people died in Jakarta and more than 400,000 were displaced due to some of the capital city's worst floods. Jakarta was also hit by major floods in early February 2008, which left at least three dead and around 100,000 people displaced. Flooding in the city is often blamed on garbage-clogged drains and rivers, overdevelopment and the deforestation of hills south of the city. Indonesia's rainy season typically runs from November to March and peaks from December to February.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MYAI-7NF4UT?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=idn>

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/MUMA-7ND7CY?OpenDocument>

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/01/20/jakarta-hit-heavy-flooding-once-again.html>

News:**UN says over 235,000 killed by natural disasters in 2008**

Last year there were more deaths and economic losses incurred from natural disasters than the yearly average from the period of 2000-2007. In 2008, 235,816 people were killed by 321 disasters, the UN's International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Secretariat jointly reported with the Center for Research and Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED). The death toll in 2008 was three times more than the annual average of 66,812 for 2000-2007 and was due to two major disasters, Tropical Cyclone Nargis, which left 138,366 people dead or missing in Myanmar (Burma), and the earthquake in southwestern China's Sichuan province, which killed 87,476 people, the ISDR reported. The disasters affected a total of

211 million people and cost a total of US\$181 billion. The total number of disasters for 2008 was below the annual average of 398 for 2000-2007. According to ISDR, Asia remained the worst affected continent and nine of the top 10 countries with the highest number of disaster-related deaths were in Asia. The number of people affected by disasters last year was below the 2000-2007 average of 231 million. Floods remained one of the most frequent disaster events last year along with other weather-related events, the ISDR reported. Economic losses last year were twice the US\$81 billion annual average from 2000-2007, mainly due to the Sichuan earthquake, which cost some US\$85 billion in damages, and Hurricane Ike in the US, which cost some US\$30 billion. "The dramatic increase in human and economic losses from disasters in 2008 is alarming. Sadly, these losses could have been substantially reduced if buildings in China, particularly schools and hospitals, had been built to be more earthquake-resilient. An effective early warning system with good community preparedness could have also saved many lives in Myanmar if it had been implemented before Cyclone Nargis," Salvano Briceno, the director of ISDR, was quoted as saying.

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/LSGZ-](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/LSGZ-7NJKJV?OpenDocument)

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21 Jan: Indonesian officials warn of diseases following monsoon floods

Indonesian officials are preparing themselves for a wave of flood-related diseases as monsoon rains continue to affect areas across the archipelago, including the capital, Jakarta. At least 13 provinces were affected. Officials are anticipating outbreaks of diarrhea, skin diseases and leptospirosis. Flooding in the city is often blamed on garbage-clogged drains and rivers, overdevelopment and the deforestation of hills south of the city. Indonesia's rainy season typically runs from November to March and peaks from December to February. <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MYAI-7NH3L9?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=idn>

20 Jan: Fiji says flood damages exceed US\$30 million

Economic damages due to recent heavy flooding in Fiji have gone over US\$30 million, Fiji's government said on Monday (January 19). The flooding was the worst ever, surpassing floods in the country in 1956, 1972 and 1999. The floods, which began January 8, left at least 11 people dead and displaced almost 12,000 people. The western area of the main island of Viti Levu was the worst hit. Half of the economic damages were in the agriculture sector, particularly the sugar industry. Damage to roads, water and the sewer system accounted for most of the rest.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/MYAI-7NG39M?OpenDocument&rc=5&cc=fji>

Summer academy on social vulnerability

Munich Re Foundation and United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human security proudly announce the fourth annual Summer Academy on Social Vulnerability. The theme of 2009 Summer Academy will be "Tipping Points in Humanitarian Crises". Qualified PhD candidates who have an interdisciplinary focus and are working on dissertations related to environment, social vulnerability, disaster risk reduction, resilience and institutional management and change are invited to apply for the 2009 Summer Academy by 31 January 2009. Most participants are expected to be PhD students, ideally in their second or third year. However, a few places will be reserved for practitioners who wish to take a step back from their operational work to engage with young researchers on this strategic issue. Applications are submitted online at www.ehs.unu.edu.

Events:

2nd International Conference on GIT4NDM & Rehabilitation

30-31 January, 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

<http://e-geoinfo.net/git4ndm.html>

Workshop on Practical humanitarian team defusing after a critical event

Geneva on 20 February 2009, Geneva

www.humanitarian-psy.org/default.asp?lang=en&pag=formations.asp

Global Health and Innovation Summit: A Conference Presented Annually by Unite For Sight

18-19 April 2009, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

<http://www.uniteforsight.org/conference>

Central Asia GIS Conference: GISCA 09

The 3rd Central Asia GIS Conference will be held 27-28 August in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The theme is *GIScience for Environmental Emergency Management in Central Asia*. The event is being organised by the Kyrgyz State University of Construction, Transportation and Architecture, Salzburg University, Austria.

<http://www.aca-giscience.org/gisca09>

FOSS4G Climate Change Integration Plugfest

A Climate Change Integration Plugfest organised by the Open Geospatial Consortium, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, and the Open Source Geospatial Foundation will be launched at the FOSS4G conference, 20-23 October 2009. The CCIP will demonstrate standards-based interoperability between geospatial applications based on a climate change scenario.

<http://www.asmmag.com/news/foss4g-climate-change-integration-plugfest>

Information Resources:

Articles:

MDGs in bad times...was it a priority in the first place? At the point of writing this article, the countdown to the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was at 6 years, 345 days, 23 hours, 3 minutes and 32 seconds. Now more than midway to the target date of 2015, a UN high-level meeting in late September last year revealed that very few countries will meet all the targets set by the MDGs to reduce poverty and tackle other challenges related to environment and HIV and AIDs and other issues by 2015, and that rising food and energy prices have wiped away much of the progress made so far.

http://www.csr-asia.com/weekly_detail.php?id=11588

The meltdown of the Himalayan glaciers: Data from glaciers around the world indicates that the average rate of melting and thinning more than doubled from 2004-2005 to 2005-2006. At the earth's so-called "third pole" in the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau the situation is particularly critical. The region is a climate-change hotspot. http://www.csr-asia.com/weekly_detail.php?id=11587

How companies can get started in addressing the emerging water crisis

There are now strong signals that water is emerging as an issue of strategic importance to business. With experts predicting a severe crisis in water supply brought on by a global population boom and more severe weather patterns, businesses who fail to develop water conservation and contingency plans today are at high risk. Climate change is altering the patterns of freshwater availability in complex ways that can lead to more http://www.csr-asia.com/weekly_detail.php?id=11587

Websites:

The **Learning for Sustainability** site brings together resources to help address and manage the social and capacity building aspects of emergency management and other sustainability issues. This resource has been substantially revised and updated over the past month as a guide to on-line resources for researchers and practitioners interested in supporting social learning and collective action. <http://learningforsustainability.net>

The CIDRAP's Promising Practices website: The site has good health-related information, with translations that may be of use in community outreach. www.CIDRAPpractices.org

Toolkits:

A guide for monitoring and evaluation of Avian Influenza programs in Southeast Asia: How to monitor and evaluate national avian influenza programmes

As the world enters its sixth year of responding to the challenges posed by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), the international community has recognized the need to move from an emergency mindset to a mid- to long-term perspective. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems form a critical element in these longer-term approaches. They provide decision-makers with access to timely, high-quality, relevant data for program design and management. This guide responds to the need for countries to measure progress in their efforts to reduce the risk of the emergence of an influenza pandemic by assisting national programs in their efforts to design and execute strong M&E systems in support of short-, mid-, and long-term objectives.

<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/manuals-and-toolkits&id=41278&type=Document>

Gender sensitive disaster management: a toolkit for practitioners: How to incorporate gender mainstreaming in disaster response and preparedness

The risks and vulnerabilities that people face from natural disasters are as much a product of their social situation as their physical environment. Vulnerabilities and capacities of individuals and social groups evolve over time and determine people's abilities to cope with disaster and recover from it. Social networks, power relationships, knowledge and skills, gender roles, health, wealth, and location, all affect risk and vulnerability to disasters and the capacity to respond to them. There is enough evidence that in any disaster disproportionately large number of women are affected more severely relative to men. This toolkit provides a guide to incorporating a gender perspective in the overall planning and practices of disaster management. The tools are intended for use by all those engaged in the disaster management, i.e., policy makers, donors, NGOs and researchers in their efforts to build resilient and gender-just communities. <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/manuals-and-toolkits&id=41276&type=Document>

Video quiz: Education for hazards has a new video quiz testing knowledge of what to do before and during a wide range of natural hazard events. http://www.edu4hazards.org/edu4hazards_quiz.html

Research Digest, the Natural Hazards Center quarterly compilation of the most recent research abstracts, is now available online at <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/rd/>. With over 24 different topic areas, Research Digest provides easy access to complete references and abstracts for current research from more than 35 peer reviewed publications.

Profile: Commander Philippe Besson, a French commander in fire and rescue and founder of the NGO PomPiers De L'Urgence Internationale, is doing free earthquake preparedness programs with an earthquake simulator and training program in Pakistan, Turkey and France. To find out more about his organization or to contact him, visit www.pompier-urgence.org.

The **Mary Fran Myers Scholarship** Committee is now accepting applications for 2009 scholarship awards. Scholarship recipients will receive financial support allowing them to attend the 2009 Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop in Broomfield, Colorado, July 15-18. Scholarships can cover part or all of transportation, meals, and Workshop registration costs. For more information on past scholarship winners and how to apply, visit the Mary Fran Myers Scholarship page at the Natural Hazards Center Web site at <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/awards/myers-scholarship.html>. Applications must be received by March 30.

The Delhi International School has a guidance website to help students accomplish their required **social science project on disaster management**. The website lists topics and projects the students can do, ranging from preparing pocket guides on first aid, performing skits on disaster management for students and slum community residents, to preparing a disaster contingency plan. The site may provide engaging ideas for teachers and DRR community practitioners.

Resource book on good practice: This resource book aims to strengthen the capacity of organisations working with older people in planning and implementing age-sensitive responses to disasters. It highlights good practice in utilising Older People's Associations for community-based disaster risk reduction. <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/MCOT-7MEK4W?OpenDocument>

Document: Considering the Media's Framing and Agenda-Setting Roles in States' Responsiveness to Natural Crises and Disasters

In this document, the role of the media in both creating images of the developing world and choosing where to focus public attention, particularly during times of crisis is discussed. There is need for development agencies to "think more innovatively and more strategically about their goals" and how to reach those goals, particularly in choosing media, including new technology, to communicate with the public.

New publication: All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)'s Institutionalizing Disaster Risk Reduction in Schools: Lessons for South Asia with the following topics:

- Institutionalise Disaster Risk Reduction in Schools
- Protecting and Education Children in India: A Safer Schools Campaign
- Stakeholder Perspectives on School Safety and Needs
- Working Together for the Elimination of Child Labour
- Do Safe Schools Interest Insurers?
- Inclusion of Disaster Management in School Curricula: Lessons for South Asia
- Understanding and Mitigating Disasters the Community Level through School Safety

To receive a copy, write to bestteam@aidmi.org

For archived DRM updates:

ADPC Website:

<http://www.adpc.net/v2007/IKM/EVENTS%20AND%20NEWS/DISASTER/2008/DISASTER-NEWS-2008.asp>

Note: The information has been collated from publicly available information. Although the sources are deemed reliable, the information reported here are topical and are subject to change.

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