

# General Program

## Executive Summary

The IFRC, in their report on 'World Disasters 2003', has reported that the Asian region is the most disaster prone area in the world. This was proved by the tsunami 2004, killing a quarter million people in Asia by a single disaster. More evidence for Asia being a 'Disaster Prone' continent, are flooding with recent cyclone 'Nargis' in Myanmar and earthquake in China. As a result of these unfortunate situations, loss of lives and damage to the properties are in ever increasing numbers. The damage to the environment is unrecoverable and seriously affecting the eco-system.

With the high frequency of occurrence, hydro-meteorological disasters result in large scale losses in social, economical, and physical environment of Asian cities. Due to poor preparedness and a lack of adequate mitigation measures in Asian cities, disasters gravely affect cities' development. These effects are interlinked with the Millennium Development Goals and set back the trends of achievement, demanding a proper approach on disaster risk management addressing the key factors of elements at risk.

Looking forward on long-term returns, International Agencies more focus on mitigation and preparedness for disaster risk reduction while researching on holistic approach in dealing with disasters. This trend initiated in early 1990 s with the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). As one of such intervenes, ADPC has implemented the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP) with the donor assistance from USAID/ DCHA/ OFDA. The completion of AUDMP opened up further approaches for urban risk mitigation.

The Program for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia consolidated the AUDMP outcome, and targeted the highly vulnerable secondary cities in South and Southeast Asia. ADPC considers PROMISE as a secondary perspective, addressing the range of factors and processes in risk reduction of vulnerable communities for hydro meteorological disasters concentrating the need of preparedness and mitigation.

## Goals, Objectives and Results of PROMISE

### A. Background

To reduce the damage and destruction due to natural calamities, serious thoughts have been materialized over the last 5-10 years in Asia. Many of these countries being developing countries, struggle to overcome disasters losses and restore lifelines. At the same time, they face challenges over the world economy crisis and civil unrest situations in their own country. Actions still remain at the preliminary status on the hand of decision makers and other stakeholders, awaiting potential inputs to push through the schedules. Cities unprepared to accommodate more migrants, unable to provide public services or resettlement, and lack resources have no alternative to living with risk. In these communities, the acceptable level of risk considered to be higher than that in developed countries.

Communities are at the frontier of any kind of disaster. ADPC believes that community empowerment, strengthened by tools and methods of disaster risk reduction and supported by public-private partnership is the main gateway to mitigate risk in urban areas. The experience during implementation of PROMISE proved that institutionalization and networking of relevant agencies and partners produce effective impact at all levels.

### B. The Program

The Program for Hydro-meteorological Disaster Risk Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia (PROMISE) is designed to address the above concern. It aims at promoting hydro-meteorological disaster preparedness and mitigation activities in selected highly vulnerable secondary cities in South and Southeast Asia in order to reduce the eminent risks of these natural events.

#### Program Goal

Reduced vulnerability of urban communities through enhanced preparedness and mitigation of hydro-meteorological disasters in South and South East Asia.

#### Program Strategy

ADPC adheres to the following strategy for the proposed program: *"Increased adoption of private and public sector mechanisms for community preparedness and mitigation of hydro-meteorological disaster risk in urban areas of South and South East Asia which will measurably alleviate human suffering, prevent loss of life, and reduce the potential for physical and economic damage."*

#### Program Objectives

The proposed project will build on the activities undertaken and strategies developed under the AUDMP for achieving the above goal through:

- Adoption of specific hydro-meteorological disaster preparedness and mitigation measures to manage hydro-meteorological disaster risk by stakeholders in targeted cities.
- Increased stakeholder involvement and further enhancement of strategies, tools and methodologies related to community preparedness and mitigation of hydro-meteorological disasters in urban communities.
- Enhanced coordination with USAID missions to promote sustainability and ensure program activities accord with USAID country and regional strategies.
- Strengthen networks and regional links among relevant risk management institutions/organizations for improving potential and capacity for application and dissemination of lessons learned.

#### Geographic Areas of Activity

The PROMISE program is being implemented in six highly vulnerable cities in Asia namely, Chittagong in Bangladesh, Jakarta in Indonesia, Hyderabad in Pakistan, Dagupan in Philippines, Kalutara in Sri Lanka, and Da Nang in Vietnam.

Country	Targeted City	Population (approx.)	Types of hydro-meteorological disasters
Bangladesh	Chittagong	5 million	Cyclones, Floods, Tidal Waves
Indonesia	Metro Jakarta	9 million	Typhoons, Floods, Tidal Waves
Pakistan	Hyderabad	1.2 million	Floods
Philippines	Dagupan	150,000	Typhoons, Floods
Sri Lanka	Kalutara	100,000	Floods
Vietnam	Da Nang	600,000	Typhoons, Floods

The selected cities have higher urbanization trend with many living in unprotected flood prone areas. Problems and issues are common for all cities in their respective countries with necessity of strong intervention at city, national and regional levels. These cities have potential economic growth such as tourism, commercial hub, etc, and city managers and elected members are fully corporative in the projects. PROMISE is a good opportunity to apply the 'cluster cities' concept of ADPC in to practice where other cities of the countries can replicate the project activities.

The period of activity of PROMISE spans for 4 years from 2006. Five cities have already completed and Jakarta has commenced project in February 2008. The total establishment budget is US\$ 2,034,156, out of which USAID/OFDA contributing US\$ 1,855,286 and the balance of US\$ 178,870 being the in-kind contribution by Jakarta provincial government.

The program will contribute to achieve the above goal through the following key objectives. These objectives, developed into four components of PROMISE, are shown below:

Objective	Component
Adoption of specific hydro-meteorological disaster preparedness and mitigation measures to manage hydro-meteorological disaster risk by stakeholders in targeted cities	<b>Component 1 – City Demonstration Projects</b>
Increased stakeholder involvement and further enhancement of strategies, tools and methodologies related to community preparedness and mitigation of hydro-meteorological disasters in urban communities	<b>Component 2 – Regional and National Capacity Building</b>
Enhanced coordination with USAID to promote sustainability and to ensure program activities accord with USAID country and regional strategies	<b>Component 3 – Advocacy for Mainstreaming Risk Management in Urban Governance</b>
Strengthened networks and regional links among relevant risk management institutions/organizations for improved capacity for application and dissemination of lessons learned	<b>Component 4 – Regional Networking and Information Dissemination</b>

### C. Components, Expected Results and Activities

PROMISE is designed to implement a set of mutually supportive activities at the spatially identified locations to derive carefully developed positive results as given below.

Components	Expected Results	Targeted Activities
1	1.1 Increased resilience of communities to hydro-meteorological disasters  1.2 Improved capabilities of public and private sector practitioners to apply skills & technologies for community preparedness and mitigation and to manage hydro-meteorological disaster risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 36 small scale community based risk mgt. projects</li> <li>• 6 com. based EWS in five cities</li> <li>• 6 community responder teams with minimum 25 trained members per team with equipment</li> <li>• Two training courses - i. Urban governance &amp; risk mgt. ii. Com. preparedness and mitigation of hydro-meteorological risks</li> <li>• 100 practitioners trained in regional &amp; national courses</li> </ul>
2	2.1 Increased adoption of tools and methodologies for community preparedness and mitigation of hydro-meteorological disasters by stakeholders 2.2 Improved practices (techniques, methodologies & tools) and strategies for hazard mitigation and community preparedness throughout the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 Emergency Response &amp; Mitigation plans</li> <li>• RM with Governance developed and linked with at least 1 national course and institutionalized</li> <li>• 3 new methodologies - i. Flood hazard assessment, ii. Vulnerability assessment, iii. Loss estimation</li> <li>• Establish 6 EOCs and make them functional</li> </ul>
3	3.1 Enhanced coordination and linkages between USAID country and regional offices and program partners at national & regional level to ensure program activities accord with USAID country & regional strategies  3.2 Increased visibility of USAID humanitarian assistance at risk communities in six target countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two new opportunities for mainstreaming disaster risk management in other USAID-funded projects</li> <li>• Six new collaborations with USAID dev. partners (i.e. CARE, World Vision)</li> <li>• 30 communities in selected cities in five countries benefiting from USAID support</li> </ul>
4	4.1 Increased collaboration and partnership among stakeholders at city and national levels  4.2 Increased collaboration and partnership with regional and international institutions for wider dissemination and enhanced capacity for adoption of tools and methodologies for community preparedness and mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New collaborations with national partner institutions</li> <li>• 6 new case studies</li> <li>• New partnerships with national, regional and international institutions</li> <li>• 3 opportunities for sharing experiences and lessons learned for cities, national, regional and international institutions participating in implementing program activities</li> </ul>

Please note that the activities reflect **Indicators** that were developed at the design stage of the PROMISE. These indicators will be used for measuring the achievements of the program as a monitoring tool.

## Status report

### A. Overview

The Program for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia (PROMISE) aims for reducing risks of hydro-meteorological disasters by adapting specific preparedness and mitigation measures, increasing stakeholder involvement, enhancing strategies, applying tools and methodologies, enhancing coordination with USAID and development partners, strengthening networks and regional links. Targeted cities of Chittagong, Da Nang, Dagupan, Hyderabad, Metro Jakarta, and Kalutara focus on developing tools and skills for risk reduction, integrating into urban planning process and applying structural and non-structural measures. In this process, government institutions of disaster related activities, NGOs, community, volunteer organization etc. have actively participated at all stages. A range of such actions are involved in city demonstrated projects, regional and national capacity building, advocacy of mainstreaming risk management in urban governance and regional networking and dissemination.

### B. Status

Except Jakarta, a new addition to the program, other cities have completed their projects. City authorities consider the risk management as one of their priorities due to social, economical and physical losses and damages which severely affect their city development process. While seeking solutions for problems created by rapid urbanization, these cities are compelled to face challenges of hydro-meteorological disasters.

#### 1. City Demonstration Projects

Through a group of exercises with the community and stakeholders five cities have completed hazard vulnerability and risk assessment. As a result, areas of high vulnerability, types of potential disaster prone groups, existing physical structures vulnerable for disasters were able to identify and maps were prepared. This study was used to approach strategies for preparedness and mitigation. Accordingly, cities have developed their action plans and validated after conducting city level workshops.

Further, End to End Early Warning systems were established at selected highly vulnerable locations. Flood gauges were installed; community members were trained for gauge readings, monitoring alert levels and information dissemination at the local level. In 2008, Dagupan and Kalutara were able to test the EWS mechanism at real situations. Further, Dagupan has conducted a flood simulation exercise. At par with these exercises, the Community-Based Emergency Response Course was conducted in five cities. Local Red Cross chapters, volunteer health organizations, CARE etc. have provided assistance during the training. Disaster safety day in Dagupan and Kalutara were a successful way of raising community awareness by exhibiting display boards, performances, slogans, academic and art competitions, and public marches which were functioned at community level.

For mitigation actions, small-scale disaster mitigation projects were identified, planned and implemented at community-level. Communities in the project sites focused mainly on improvement to drainage systems; 80% of projects are on improvements to drainage systems. Other structural mitigation activities are for providing water and sanitation facilities to the communities, improving access roads on evacuation routes, improvements to dykes road culverts, consolidating structures and providing basic facilities to buildings such as schools used as temporary shelters during disasters.

Micro-credit is an activity of Kalutara city. Under this scheme, ten people living in disaster-prone areas of Kalutara were provided with loans for income generation. Most

grantees are single mothers, and the scheme will continue as a revolving fund. In addition, Dagupan has introduced a system for alternative livelihood to reduce vulnerability due to economic disruption

EOCs were established in Dagupan, Da Nang and Kalutara. Sets of emergency equipment and tools such as generators, life saving jackets, emergency torches and boats for EOC at Da Nang and Dagupan were distributed.

Focusing on future generations who can effectively disseminate messages to their peers, school safety programs were carried out successfully. Children were made aware on preparedness and response through poster, slogan and essay competitions and they were provided with first aid training and skills to handle situations when they are not with the guardians.

## **2. Capacity-building**

A series of local training courses were conducted at the community and official levels. They are: community-based disaster risk management, training of trainers, community emergency management. The trainers trained were able to increase the number of trained people of their communities. Capacity building was also extended on safer construction and participants were house owners, carpenters, masons, building contractors and local authority technical officers. Printed guidelines for safer constructions are a product of PROMISE in Vietnam.

Two regional courses on governance and disaster risk reduction were carried out in 2006 and 2007. The third course is expected in September 2008.

## **3. Advocacy for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction**

The Philippines and Sri Lanka have initiated Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in multi-sectoral development planning process at national level. Through a series of consultative meetings, both cities have developed strategic plan and ready for endorsement of the local government.

## **4. Regional information and networking**

In 2006 and 2008, Working Group Meetings were held to monitor progress, discuss issues and share experiences of partner cities. Coordinators meeting were held in 2007 to provide a broad understanding on roles and responsibilities of coordinators to accelerate the PROMISE activities. Further, a special session on initiated Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction was dedicated at the ADPC Regional Consultative Council annual meeting held in Colombo 2008.

Partners were on cross visits to Kalutara and Dagupan to visualize the progress of PROMISE activities. Printed and online publications of Safer Cities were continued, illustrating experiences and case studies of partner cities. The last case study printed is #21. Information on PROMISE activities are in online publication of *Disaster Mitigation in Asia*, the monthly e-newsletter of ADPC. Under PROMISE, Integrated Flood Risk Management in Asia was published, and guidebooks on disaster risk management for municipal authorities will be the next step.