

PROGRAM FOR HYDRO-METEOROLOGICAL DISASTER MITIGATION IN SECONDARY CITIES IN ASIA

BACKGROUND

Cities throughout the world suffer significant human and economic losses as a result of recurrent natural hazards such as floods, drought, typhoons and landslides. In many Asian cities, these losses are compounded by high population density and the high concentration of economic assets within hazard-prone areas. In responding to recurrent natural disasters, many countries in Asia are forced to divert precious and scarce development resources to support disaster recovery and reconstruction.

Analyses of natural hazards in Asia indicate that geologically triggered hazards such as earthquakes and tsunamis are responsible for high levels of damage and loss, but have a comparatively low frequency of occurrence. Hydro-meteorological events, on the other hand, occur more frequently and are more widespread throughout South and South East Asia, where major river basins flood on an annual basis, island countries such as Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Philippines experience yearly flash floods and landslides, drought is a recurring phenomenon in India, Pakistan, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand, and typhoons regularly threaten coastal communities in Vietnam, the Philippines, India and Bangladesh. Problems associated with hydro-meteorological events such as water shortages, water contamination and migration of populations, further exacerbate hazard-related stress in urban areas.

In an effort to better prepare communities throughout South and Southeast Asia to deal with and mitigate the effects of recurring natural hazards, ADPC, through funding support from USAID/OFDA, is implementing the Program for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation for Secondary Cities in Asia (PROMISE). PROMISE aims to promote hydro-meteorological disaster preparedness and mitigation activities in selected highly vulnerable secondary cities in the region.

PROGRAM GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The Program will contribute to the goal of sharing lessons from and utilizing technical resources (both human and material) created during the course of the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP).

Program Goal

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

Program Strategy

"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 in order to measurably alleviate human suffering, prevent loss of life, and reduce the potential for physical and economic damage."

Program Objectives

- 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 that accord with USAID country and regional strategies.
- Strengthened networks and regional links among relevant risk management institutions/organizations for improved application and dissemination of lessons learned.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Each component of the program will contribute, through a holistic framework, to the initiation or formalization of improved private and public sector mechanisms supporting community-based preparedness and mitigation of hydro-meteorological disaster risks.

ASIAN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CENTER (ADPC) Implementing Agency

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) is an independent, non-profit, inter-governmental foundation based in Thailand. Established in 1986, ADPC is the leading regional resource centre dedicated to creating safer communities for sustainable development through disaster reduction. ADPC's programs demonstrate a wide diversity in application, address all types of disasters, and cover all aspects of the disaster management spectrum, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, damage and needs assessments, rehabilitation and reconstruction, training and professional development. ADPC's programs cover sub-themes of Climate Risk Management (CRM), Disaster Management Systems (DMS), Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM), Public Health in Emergencies (PHE) and Urban Disaster Risk Management (UDRM).

EXPERIENCE OF THE ASIAN URBAN DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM

PROMISE aims to promote hydro-meteorological disaster preparedness and mitigation activities in selected highly vulnerable secondary cities in South and Southeast Asia by building upon successful elements and past experiences from the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP). AUDMP was the first and largest regional program implemented by ADPC in the area of urban disaster risk management.

AUDMP was launched in 1995, with core funding from USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), and continued through July 2005. The program was developed in response to increased vulnerability to disasters within urban populations, infrastructure, critical facilities and shelters in Asian cities. In environments where good governance and decentralization are high on the political agenda, AUDMP demonstrated the importance of urban disaster risk mitigation as part of the broader urban development planning process.

AUDMP built the capacity of local authorities, national governments, NGOs, businesses and others responsible for establishing public and private sector mechanisms for urban disaster mitigation as part of city management. AUDMP also facilitated knowledge sharing and dialogue between key stakeholders to promote replication of AUDMP approaches in other cities and countries worldwide. The AUDMP approaches have been introduced and sustained by national partner institutions in targeted cities within Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

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Program for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation for Secondary Cities in Asia

CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

The port city of Chittagong, Bangladesh has traditionally been a major centre for trade and commerce, and has a population of more than 5 million. The coastal areas are highly prone to natural disasters such as cyclones, flooding and tidal surges. The lead institute identified to serve as the project's implementing partner in Chittagong is the Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC), a non-governmental organization engaged in disaster related activities such as research, advocacy, strategy formulation, piloting, educational and communication information materials development, post-disaster response planning and interventions, monitoring and evaluation.

DA NANG, VIETNAM

Da Nang, with a population of approximately 600,000, is a dynamic city located in central Vietnam's Key Economic Zone. Situated along the World Heritage Route, Da Nang has tremendous potential for growth in tourism and economic development. The city is highly vulnerable to urban floods and has also experienced two major storms over the past ten years. The lead partner institute, Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI), is one of the leading NGOs in the field of social, economic and environmental development within central Vietnam. CECI has been very active in assisting local government partners, UN agencies, International Organizations and coastal communities in assessing vulnerability and developing community-based solutions for disaster risk management, adaptation to climate change and environmental protection.

KALUTARA, SRI LANKA

Kalutara is a medium size urban coastal city in Sri Lanka with a population of more than 100,000. The city has recorded tremendous growth and possesses strong economic development potential as a rapidly developing satellite town in close proximity to Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo. Kalutara is prone to frequent natural disasters including riverine floods and rain-induced landslides. It was also affected by the December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. The lead local partner institute, Sarvodaya Sramadana Society, is the largest national NGO network in Sri Lanka. Over the course of its 48-year history, Sarvodaya has focused on introducing sustainable development in rural, semi-urban and urban environments. Its development activities are implemented through a network of over 4,000 Sarvodaya Societies covering almost 15,000 villages.

DAGUPAN, PHILIPPINES

Dagupan City, the Philippines, with a total population of approximately 150,000, is a sub-regional centre for trade and commerce, finance, health and education services in the Northern Luzon Region. Frequent perennial floods in the city's low-lying coastal delta areas cause regular damage to public infrastructure, private property, agricultural crops, fishponds, and other urban economic activities. The project implementing partner, Centre for Disaster Preparedness (CDP), is one of the leading advocates of Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) in the Philippines. CDP's work illustrates how CBDRM works through community partnership and the support of government and other stakeholders. Activities include building the capacity of local community leaders and development workers in government and private sector institutions.

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF ACTIVITY

Five highly vulnerable secondary cities in Asia have been selected as target cities for implementation of city demonstration activities under PROMISE. The selected cities include: Chittagong, Bangladesh; Hyderabad, Pakistan; Dagupan City, the Philippines; Kalutara, Sri Lanka; and Da Nang, Vietnam. These cities are rapidly growing urban areas that have been significantly impacted by hydro-meteorological disasters in the recent past.

HYDERABAD, PAKISTAN

With a population of 1.3 million, Hyderabad is the second largest city in Sindh Province, and the eighth largest in Pakistan. The city serves as the government seat for the district of Hyderabad and is the meeting point of two of Pakistan's largest highways. Hyderabad is vulnerable to floods, drought, extreme temperatures, heat waves and windstorms. The local partner, Aga Khan Planning and Building Services (AKPBS), was established in 1980 as part of the Aga Khan Developmental Network in Pakistan. Disaster mitigation and management is one of AKPBS's key program initiatives, with planned and ongoing Habitat Risk Management initiatives in several provinces.

1 Component 1 CITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS:

ADPC selected the five candidate cities through an analysis of numerous secondary cities in South and Southeast Asia, which have recently been subjected to hydro-meteorological hazards. The five cities are all currently undergoing rapid urbanization and the likelihood that these cities will be exposed to hydro-meteorological hazards in the future is very high. The activities that will be implemented in these cities under PROMISE include hazard vulnerability and risk assessment, action planning workshops at the city level and community level, projects for enhanced preparedness and mitigation of hydro-meteorological events, community based end-to-end early warning mechanisms, risk-based urban land-use planning, capacity building for search and rescue (SAR) teams and medical first responders (MFR) at community/city levels, formation of neighborhood networks of community-based organizations, launching of campaigns for raising public awareness and disaster safety day events at the city level, and development of a network of local practitioners for experience and best practice sharing.

2 Component 2 REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING:

The Program will develop two new training courses and will conduct two capacity building programs at the regional level:

- Urban governance and risk management
- Hydro-meteorological risk management and community preparedness

The two new courses developed under PROMISE will be formalized at the national level in selected training institutions. Other capacity building activities at national level will strengthen the capacity of state and local government entities, NGOs and private sector institutions to ensure that practitioners and decision-makers possess the tools and methodologies needed to prepare for, respond to, and develop plans for long and short-term mitigation of hydro-meteorological disasters.

3 Component 3 ADVOCACY FOR MAINSTREAMING RISK MANAGEMENT IN URBAN GOVERNANCE:

This component will involve activities such as the development of guidelines, study tours, the convening of regional workshops for parliamentarians and representatives of urban sector policy implementation institutions, and the development of national level workshops for stakeholder groups to promote risk based urban planning and appropriate construction practices in hazard-prone areas.

4 Component 4 REGIONAL NETWORKING AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION:

A large part of the success of this program will be measured by the ability to replicate the outcomes of the demonstration projects in other vulnerable cities and areas within the target countries and the region. Replication activities can be implemented through direct interventions and adoption of similar practices by other institutions, including regional and national networks, local and international NGOs, and national and international educational institutions, with the goal being that some of these institutions will become coalitions, which promote improved urban development practices and standards for construction and land-use planning.