



International Day for Disaster Reduction at the World Bank

Disaster Risk Management in the Information Age

October 8-9, 2008

A joint training workshop by GFDRR, GICT, LAC DRM team and infoDev to mark the International Day on Disaster Risk Reduction

Day 1 (Oct. 8) – Room MC13-121

9:00 - 9:30 Opening Session

Chair Welcome & Introduction by Samia Melhem Senior Operations Officer, GICT and Chair e-Development Thematic Group

Opening Remarks by Saroj Kumar Jha, Program Manager, GFDRR; Philippe Dongier, Sector Manager, GICT; Francis Ghesquiere, DRM team leader, LAC Region

9:30 - 10:50 – Session 1: Emerging Trends, Best Practices and Lessons Learned in ICT-Enabled Disaster Risk Management

Between 1980 and 2006, natural disasters killed more than 2 million people worldwide and reported damages totaled \$1.2 trillion. For example, the 2005 Pakistan earthquake caused about \$5 billion damages. There were 5,210 disasters worldwide between 1991 and 2005¹. The consequences of natural and man-made disasters and the vulnerabilities to which populations are exposed can be mitigated if they are targeted proactively. Though one must always remember that it is not always possible to completely eliminate a risk, extensive experience and practice in the past few decades have demonstrated that the damage caused by any disaster can be addressed effectively only through careful planning, mitigation, and prompt action. In this context ICTs can potentially play a pivotal role in disaster risk assessment, prevention, mitigation and management. This panel will provide a strategic overview of the role of ICT in disaster risk management in all its phases (risk assessment, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery), including emerging trends and technologies, good practices and lessons learned. How to make ICT a transformational enabler of better disaster risk management? What are the critical success factors for effective application of ICT in this area? What is the role of open source, mobile and other Web 2.0 tools? What is the role of Public-Private Partnerships?

Session Chair: Francis Ghesquiere, DRM team leader, LAC Region

¹ Source: EM-DAT (www.em-dat.net)

Panel Discussion:

- Chanuka Wattegama, Director, LIRNEasia (ex-UNDP) – keynote presentation
- Alta Haggarty, Deputy Chief, AIMB, UN OCHA – keynote presentation
- Charles Scawthorn, Professor (ret.), Kyoto University - comment
- Hemang Karelia, Information Analyst, GFDRR - comment

Open Discussion/Q&A

Break - 10 min

11:00 - 12:15 Session 2: Information Systems for Disaster Risk Management in World Bank Projects

The World Bank is scaling up disaster risk management in its operational portfolio and analytical work to help client countries assess, mitigate and manage disasters better. What has been done so far in terms of using ICT for disaster risk management in lending projects and AAA activities? What are the emerging good practices and lessons learned? The WB-hosted Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is a long-term partnership established to help developing countries enhance their capacity for disaster prevention, emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. What is the role of ICT in its projects? What is the role of the Global ICT Department and other players in this agenda?

Session Chair: Philippe Dongier, Sector Manager, GICT

Panel Discussion:

- Francis Ghesquiere, DRM team leader, LAC Region
- Uwe Deichmann, Sr. Environmental Spec, DEC/Chair, GIS Thematic Group
- Ramesh Siva, Lead ICT Policy Specialist, GICT
- Reza Firuzabadi, Senior Information Officer, SDNIS

Open Discussion/Q&A

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Partner Event (optional):

12:30 -1:30 pm: BBL on CAPRA, organized by LCSUW in Room MC13-121 (all participants are invited)

Chair: Laura Frigenti, Country Director, Central America, World Bank

Speakers: Francis Ghesquiere, DRM team leader, LAC Region
and Edward Anderson, DRM Specialist, LCSUW

CAPRA - The Central American Probabilistic Assessment

CAPRA is a pilot initiative to set a new standard in risk assessment, supporting a comprehensive approach to disaster risk management. CAPRA applies state-of-the-art probabilistic modeling techniques to the analysis of earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, floods, landslides and volcanoes. Hazard information is combined with exposure and vulnerability data, allowing the user to have a holistic understanding of risk for multiple hazards. Combining innovative Web 2.0 technologies CAPRA embraces an open architecture; this enables mass collaboration, harnessing the knowledge and capabilities of communities once scattered. Its innovative architectural design allows applications to be tailored to a country's specific needs creating an ever-evolving "living instrument," which is application driven. This local, versatile, and advanced probabilistic risk evaluation and communication platform enables a common language to measure and compare risk among cities, regions or even countries. It has an exciting potential to grow and become replicated across the region and beyond.

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Partner Event (optional)

2- 6 pm: Workshop organized by GFDRR and others in Room MC13-121 (all participants are invited)

The World Bank's Expanding Role in Disaster Risk Reduction

Building on the momentum of the International Day for Disaster Reduction, this High Level Session will focus on new instruments introduced by the Bank to integrate risk reduction and climate change adaptation in national policies and poverty reduction strategies, and accelerate the transition from recovery to development in disaster-stricken countries. A reception will be held immediately after the session.

Details: www.gfdr.org

Day 2 (Oct. 9) – Room MC 4-800

9:00 - 10:20 Session 3: ICT, Disaster Risk Assessment, Mitigation, and Reduction

Disasters are uncertain as to their occurrence and their impacts; however, professionals now can draw upon a substantial body of experience on how best to react when faced with a crisis. While it is practically impossible to prevent most natural hazards (earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis etc) methodical planning and preparation can significantly minimize the risk of those hazards turning into disasters causing damages to human lives and property. Therefore, important steps towards reducing disaster impact

are to correctly analyze the potential risk and identify measures that can prevent, mitigate or prepare for emergencies. ICT can play a critical role in highlighting risk areas, vulnerabilities and potentially affected populations by collecting statistical data or producing geographically reference analysis through geographical information systems (GIS), for example. Disaster assessment is thus critical to assess the country risk exposure to natural disasters, design mitigation strategies, and ultimately designing a catastrophe risk financing strategy. This session will discuss specific ICT tools and relevant case studies and analyze the technology options and solutions available in disaster risk assessment, mitigation and reduction. What are the emerging technologies, good practices and lessons learned? What is the role of Public-Private Partnerships?

Session Co-Chairs: Trond Vedeld, DRM Team Leader, Africa Region and David Gray Knowledge and Learning Coordinator, LAC Region

Panel Discussion:

- Carmelle Terborgh (ESRI)
- Inderjit Claire (RMSI)
- Andrew Levy (IBM)
- Gisli Olafsson (Microsoft)
- Eric Rasmussen, InSTEDD

Open Discussion/Q&A

Break 10:30 - 10:40

10:40 – 12:20 Session 4: ICT, Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery

The role of ICTs is critical in case of ‘rapid onset’ natural disasters – where there is a time gap of ½ hour – 6 hours between the occurrence of hazard (e.g. earthquake creating a tsunami) and its impact on population (e.g. tsunami hit). ICTs are vital for communication within this short but extremely crucial period, where the population can be evacuated to safer areas. Another extremely difficult period of a disaster is the immediate aftermath. This period calls for prompt action within an exceptionally short period of time. Disaster recovery has to start as soon as the initial disaster cleanup has taken place. This is also a very complex endeavor, requiring a huge array of skill sets and thorough knowledge. For disaster preparedness, response and recovery there is an ever-increasing variety of ICT tools and solutions available. The panelists will address the role of ICT in preparation, response and aftermath of a disaster as well as in the long-term recovery process and will present case studies that illustrate how ICT can be used effectively to address such problems. What are the emerging technologies, good practices, and lessons learned?

Session Chair: Rosanna Nitti, DRM Regional Coordinator, Middle East and North Africa

Panel Discussion:

- Gianluca Bruni, Chief, OMI Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch UN World Food Program, via VC from Rome
- Paul Margie, Telecom Sans Frontiers
- Chanuka Wategama, LIRNEasia, formerly with UNDP
- S. Rangarajan, World Space
- John C. Scott, Center for Public Service Communications

Resource points/discussants:

- Sanjaya Bhatia, GFDRR, on secondment from Government of India
- Ken Zita, Network Dynamics Associates

Open Discussion/Q&A

12:20 - 12:45 Closing Session

Roundtable: “How to Move Forward on the Operational and Analytical Agenda for Disaster Risk Management in the Information Age”

Panel Discussion:

- Saroj Kumar Jha, Program Manager, GFDRR
- Philippe Dongier, Sector Manager, GICT
- Francis Ghesquiere, DRM Team Leader, LAC Region
- Valerie D'Costa, Program Manger, infoDev

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Partner Event (optional)

1:00 - 2:30 pm - BBL organized by LCSUW, MC 4-800 (all participants are invited)

Chair: Francis Ghesquiere, DRM Regional Coordinator, LAC

Speaker: Bill Gail, Director of Strategic Development within the Public Sector Product Group, Microsoft

Applying Microsoft's Geospatial Technologies to World Bank Initiatives

Abstract: "Over the last several years, technological advances in online mapping (such as Virtual Earth) have made mapping and geospatial technologies far easier to use and much more effective. Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) are no longer just the domain of specialists - the result is that governments can make far more effective use of their geospatial data for far less money. Microsoft has a variety of tools designed to leverage low-cost IT infrastructures within government agencies. Potential application of these tools to developing world needs will be the focus of the talk."