

The SU-SSC created the Regional South-South Unit (RSSU) in UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok. The RSSU has responded to the Tsunami disaster in South and Southeast Asia. The RSSU has been an integral part of the Tsunami response providing advisory services and mobilizing human and financial resources for a speedy recovery of people's livelihoods and the environment. Following this intervention, the RSSU has embarked on a programme called Global Facility for Disaster Risk Management (GFDRM) to include community based disaster risk management. It has decided to widen the scope of its involvement to cover capacity development primarily at the local levels, which include participatory risk assessment; counter disaster planning at the community level and incorporation of these plans at the higher levels of governance; and designing local level solutions and implementing these solutions through participatory approaches.

The Regional South – South Unit seeks partnership with organizations that are already involved in this field to optimize learning, cooperation and resources, such as the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction.

How to apply

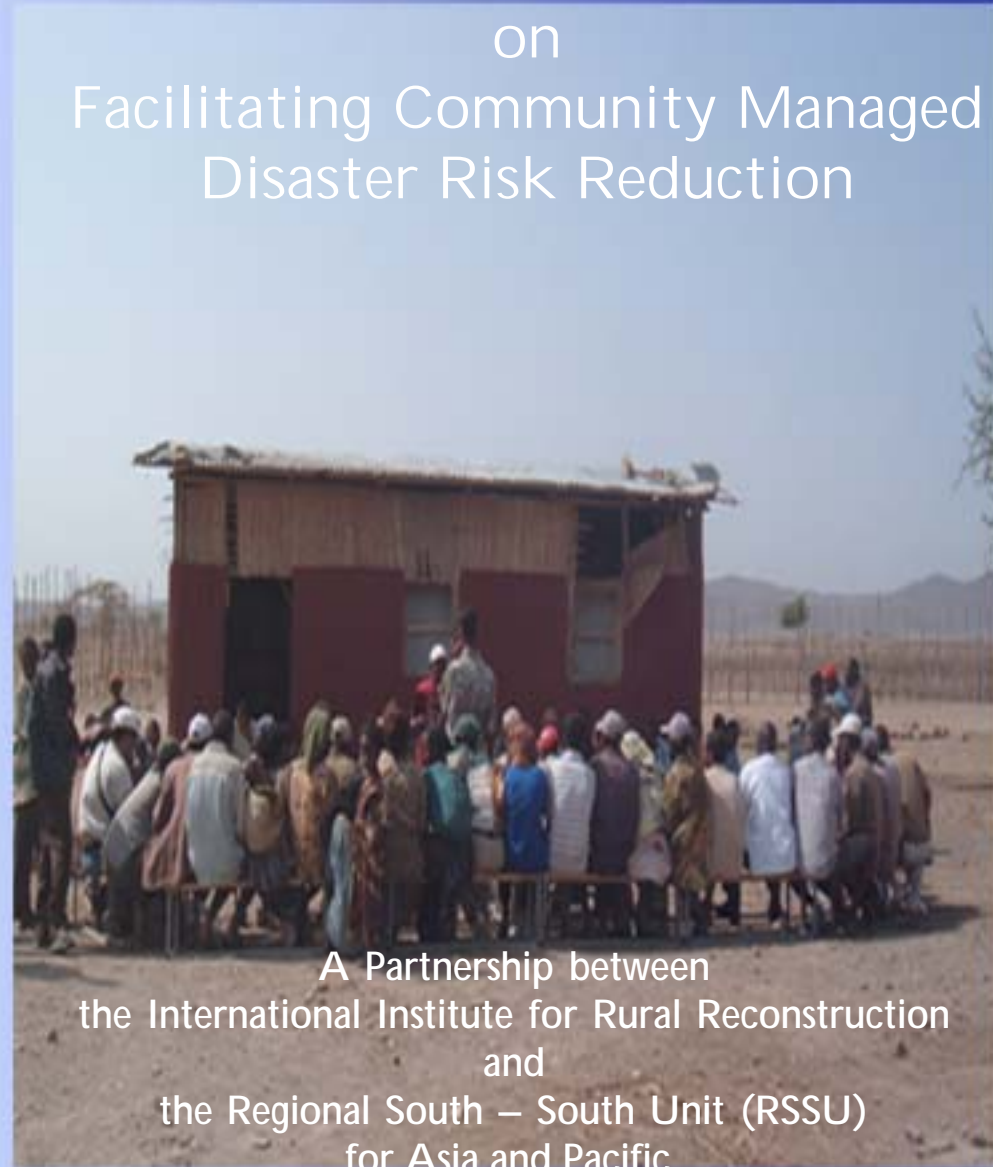
For more information or to receive a course application form for the course, contact:

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2nd International Course on Facilitating Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction



A Partnership between
the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction
and
the Regional South – South Unit (RSSU)
for Asia and Pacific,

UNDP Regional Center in Bangkok

23 October – 4 November 2006

Introduction

Today's world is more frequently experiencing disaster caused by both natural and social hazards. Such condition has resulted to widespread human, material and environmental losses causing destabilization and disruption of society. Efforts and gains towards establishing sustained progress in countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America are facing serious challenges due to the failure of reducing risks from hazards.



Recognizing the link between disaster and development has become crucial. 'Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR)' is now being recognized as an important approach to bridging disaster and development. CMDRR refers to a process of disaster risks reduction in which communities are actively engaged in the identification, analysis, treatment, monitoring and evaluation of disaster risks in order to reduce peoples' vulnerabilities and enhance their capacities to overcome difficulties brought about by disasters. This means that the people are at the heart of decision making and implementation of disaster risk reduction activities. Over the last two decades the discourse and texts of disaster response has made a gradual shift from 'relief and rehabilitation' to preparedness with a central focus to community participation. There has been a growing

realization that the top-down approaches to disaster management does not adequately address the local needs of vulnerable communities nor harness the potential of local understandings, resources and capacities towards establishing a sustainable process.

While the 'Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction' paradigm emphasizes the community's central role in program implementation and management, it also underscores the importance of the 'facilitating role' of development practitioners. The current lack of capacity among development practitioners to effectively assume this role constrains the application of CMDRR. Responding to the growing needs of learning and capacity building opportunities on the CMDRR approach to disaster

management, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) and the Regional South-South Unit in UNDP Regional Center in Bangkok designed this course to enable participants to adapt this approach in their programs.

Learning Objectives

This two-week course is designed to increase the learners' ability to facilitate Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction process. At the end of 2 weeks, the participants will have:

- Explained concepts of community managed risk reduction and facilitation;
- Demonstrated facilitation skills to conduct participatory vulnerabilities, capacities and needs assessment based on the identified priority hazards pattern within the community;
- Examined use of selected tools for CMDRR centered participatory planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning ;
- Considered approaches to sustainability of the CMDRR process;
- Prepared an action plan to initiate or promote CMDRR in his/her own work settings.



Course modules

The course has five modules:

Module 1: Overview of CMDRR and facilitation: This module focuses on the concepts of disaster, and its link to development. Discussions on the concept, process, approach to CMDRR and its link to the role of facilitation provides clarity on the basic conceptual foundation of the course, both in terms of content and the process.

Module 2: Facilitating participatory assessment and planning for CMDRR: Involving a practicum approach, this module equips participants with the tools and methodologies needed to help communities assess and plan CMDRR.

Module 3: Facilitating community self-monitoring, evaluation and learning for CMDRR: This module equips participants to facilitate self-monitoring, evaluation and learning in CMDRR. Participants are provided with appropriate methods and tools to facilitate processes that will help communities and their organizations design and conduct self monitoring, evaluation and learning activities.

Module 4: Sustaining CMDRR process: This module enables participants to assist community organizations in integrating the sustainability framework within CMDRR process cycle.

Module 5: Action planning: Synthesizing lessons from previous modules, this module guides each course participant to develop an action plan for implementation. The plan will be critiqued by course facilitators and other course participants. Participants are urged to explore with their supervisor the focus of their action plan prior to their attendance to the course. This would help ensure that the action plan will be in line with organizational, program or project thrusts and would increase the chances for successful implementation.

Learning methodology

The course will be based on the concept of 'experiential learning', the bridging of theory and practice. Using a framework for critical analysis and learning, participants are encouraged to reflect upon their own experiences guided by the inputs provided during the course. The course follows both a sequential flow of contents and iterative reflections.

The synthesis of learning by the participants - both individually and in teams - helps them generate concepts based on their own context.

The self-assessment and action plan that is prepared by each participant helps undertake active analysis.

The course uses a variety of methodologies including literature review, individual and group exercises, field project and practicum, task specific work groups, informal setting reflections, case study and role-plays.



Trainers/facilitators

The team for this course is composed of IIRR trainers and facilitators. It is a team of professionals with both academic and field experience/practitioner skills. The facilitators from the IIRR faculty have been involved in implementing projects that aims to build the capacities of communities in managing their own projects and reducing their vulnerabilities and risks in the face of disasters. They have a full grasp of the subject, a wealth of experience and skills in partnering with local actors. The IIRR team will be complimented by a resource from the Regional South-South Unit in UNDP Regional Center in Bangkok.

This multicultural trainers' team presents a range of skills needed to facilitate multicultural learning.

Who should attend?

Managers, planners, trainers, as well as development practitioners from government, development organizations, donor agencies and consulting organizations will find this course valuable. They should have:

- At least three years professional work experience in development
- Ability to communicate and interact in English
- Undergraduate degree (exception may be made for candidates with extensive professional experience)

When and where

The two-week course on "Facilitating Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction" will be held from October 23 - November 4, 2006 in Kampala, Uganda, Africa. Participants are expected to arrive one day before the start of the course.

Course fees

The course fee is **US\$ 2,500**. This includes tuition, course materials, course-related local travel, accident insurance, and room & board (accommodations are on a double occupancy basis; single room accommodation can be provided for an additional fee of US\$10 per day). The course fee does not include international airfare, laundry, or other personal expenses (we suggest a minimum pocket allowance of \$200 for incidental and personal expenses).

Applicants are encouraged to secure financial support from their organizations or donor agencies.

Partner Organizations

International Institute of Rural ReconstructionThe International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) works with the rural poor in developing countries to improve their lives by building on their unique assets and strengths. IIRR achieves this through field research, training, publications and field programs with poor communities and in partnership with other development organizations. Rural reconstruction is a development strategy first advanced by Mass Education and Rural Reconstruction Movement founded by Dr. Y.C. James Yen in 1923. IIRR has 40 years of experience in offering international training courses where it draws from its 80 years of experience working with the rural poor. IIRR is a recipient of various awards in recognition of its contributions to development. Among these is the Alan Shawn Feinstein's 1995 World

Hunger Award in recognition of “IIRR’s exceptional work to provide opportunities for small rural farmers throughout the developing world to prevent and reduce hunger and malnutrition in their communities.” It has also received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding, an award considered to be the “Nobel Prize of Asia”.

Working in Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction

While working with rural poor communities for sustainable development in Asia, Africa and Latin America, IIRR has recognized the threat that disasters pose to livelihood, food security, health and nutrition. Over the years, IIRR has added the dimension of disaster risk reduction to existing expertise in capacity building of development practitioners and communities, documenting case studies of best practices and preparing training manuals. An international training course on facilitating community managed disaster risk reduction for development practitioners was held recently in Latin America in 2005. The Institute has demonstrated its expertise in the area of Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction through specific regional initiatives such as the following:

- 2.1 In Asia**, disaster risk reduction was integrated into the IIRR-assisted project in the Bicol region following a major volcanic eruption in the early 80s. More recently, in the watershed management project in Bicol, community members and local government officers have been trained to more effectively assess their problems and needs for coping with disasters caused by typhoons and volcanic eruptions.
- 2.2 In Africa**, IIRR has worked with Cordaid on drought cycle management in the Greater Horn region since 2003. The project involves capacity development work with local NGOs in Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan and Tanzania to strengthen their work with communities affected regularly by droughts. Through this initiative, IIRR Africa office has documented drought experiences in the Greater Horn of Africa Region into a manual called Drought Cycle Management (DRC). Building from this initiative, IIRR is providing capacity support to Cordaid partners in mainstreaming Gender, HIV/Aids, documentation and monitoring and evaluation in organizational and community level activities.
- 2.3 In Latin America**, IIRR has been working on community managed disaster risk reduction since September 2004 with funding support from Lutheran World Relief (LWR). This work has focused on capacity development at three levels: LWR

country level staff, local partner organizations of LWR, and the communities with whom they work. This three-tiered approach has been successfully undertaken in Peru and Bolivia.

Regional South-South Unit (RSSU) for Asia and Pacific (SU-SSC) in the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Regional Center in Bangkok

The UN Special Unit for South – South Cooperation was created within UNDP by the UN General Assembly in 1974. It was tasked by the General Assembly to promote technical cooperation amongst developing countries. When the General Assembly in 1976 called for the Buenos Aires Conference, the Special Unit was the focal point of the preparatory process and it was strengthened later to deal with follow-up actions. The High – Level Committee on South– South Cooperation at its fourteenth session reaffirmed the validity and continued relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. It also recognized that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing South – South Cooperation.

During the first regular session of the Executive Board of the UNDP and UNFPA (20-28 January, 2005), it endorsed the Third Cooperation Framework for South – South Cooperation (2005-2007). In endorsing the document, Executive Board members also requested the Special Unit for South -South Cooperation to include disaster risk management in the implementation of the Cooperation Framework

Working on Disaster Risk Reduction

The recent World Conference on Disaster Reduction (January 2005) provides a framework, (the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015) for building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. The framework aims to integrate disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning; to develop and strengthen institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards; and, to incorporate risk reduction approaches into emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes. Most developing countries have developed their disaster risk reduction plan and some have highlighted the roles of communities.