EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Disaster Risk Reduction Mapping
Eastern and Southern Africa

UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), is planning to conduct a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) mapping in the region, and is seeking expression of interest of consultancy firms/ institutions to support the highest quality possible mapping exercise. The work will be done through an institutional contract with a consultancy firm/ institution that has considerable knowledge/expertise in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), humanitarian policies, emergency programming as well as extensive experience in research. The institution should also have the technical human resource capacity to support this extensive piece of work.

Background

Studies of disaster trends and the likely consequences of climate change suggest that each year 175 million children are likely to be affected by climate-related disasters alone. The number of natural disasters is rising substantially, in particular those associated with the effects of severe storms, floods, cyclones and drought. The Eastern and Southern Africa region is increasingly facing recurrent disasters that have significant impact on heavy burdens of poverty and food insecurity. This further exacerbates the effects of conflict, political instability and public health emergencies including HIV/AIDS and cholera. In 2008, in Southern Africa, climate change is attributed to having contributed to the worst flood and cyclone season in recent history. At the end of 2009, over 20 million people in the Horn of Africa required emergency assistance, representing an increase of some 6 million people over the 2008 figure and almost triple the figures from 2006, the last major drought crisis in the Horn of Africa. With the escalating frequency of disasters, those most affected tend to have increasingly less opportunity to recover between events.

Although there are several models for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in eastern and southern Africa region, the general consensus among stakeholders is that much remains to be done to manage emergencies and address chronic vulnerabilities. In particular, the impact of environmental degradation on microclimates, flooding, landslides and desertification has been largely overlooked, although climate change is beginning to be appreciated as a causative factor in natural disasters. At the country level, UNICEF sector programming builds partnerships at the national and community levels alike. UNICEF core programs, including health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection, and HIV and AIDS provide ideal vehicles to prepare for, prevent and mitigate disaster risk. A July 2007 UNICEF multi-stakeholder consultation on disaster risk reduction confirmed that “enhanced risk reduction efforts should be integrated into every UNICEF programme sector in both development and emergency programming”.

1 In the Face of Disaster, Save the Children, UK, 2008
2 “Towards the development of a draft disaster risk reduction strategy”, draft report, July 2007
call, UNICEF has redoubled its commitment to meeting the needs and rights of children through its Core Commitments for Children (CCCs), which have been updated to include preparedness and early recovery.

Given increasing levels of disaster risk in ESA region and the impact this is already having on national development and on children’s rights, a proposal to undertake a baseline mapping of country experience in DRR programming was proposed to and endorsed by the November 2009 ESAR Regional Management Team (RMT). With such a profiling of the status of UNICEF country-level DRR programs compiled, UNICEF will be better positioned to strengthen and broaden its program approach in this area, consistent with national commitments and that of the UN system. Moreover, the results of the baseline mapping review will also inform a regional approach to responses to climate change in which DRR is seen as a key adaptation strategy in countries where community vulnerabilities are highest and the need for safety and resilience is greatest. UNICEF is also advocating for the right of girls and boys to participate in climate change adaptation.

**Purpose & Objectives:**

The purpose of the exercise is to conduct a review to achieve a critical level of observation, analysis and interpretation of UNICEF’s experience to date in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programming in eastern and southern Africa and as such, what may bear replication for more accelerated, scale-based approaches for the region as a whole. In addition, the exercise is expected to capture a basic assessment of disaster risk faced by children. The desired output is to inform UNICEF country offices’ capacities in eastern and southern Africa to better meet organizational commitments to achieve ‘the resilience of nations and communities’ as set out in the HFA and UNICEF’s DRR draft conceptual framework.

**Main Objectives:**

1. **To assess UNICEF’s engagement in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) at country level.**

   UNICEF’s mandate and country programs, in addition to its continuous presence in countries are ideally suited to reducing disaster risk. UNICEF core programs provide ideal vehicles to prepare for, prevent and mitigate disaster risk. In emergencies, UNICEF’s specific commitment to meeting the needs and rights of children is further addressed in its Core Commitments for Children (CCCs), spanning preparedness to response and early recovery. Within the DRR framework, UNICEF country programs in ESAR have been active in the area of Disaster Preparedness (HFA priority 5). This includes the annual country emergency preparedness and response planning process and related inter-agency contingency planning and preparedness, and the Early Warning/Early Action system. In recent years UNICEF has begun to significantly advance its work in DRR, both through its development and humanitarian programs, (Education, Health, Nutrition, WASH and Child Protection).

2. **To assess wider national progress in in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), beyond UNICEF programmes**

   While most UNICEF Country Offices in ESAR regularly report on and monitor (their own) emergency preparedness actions, there exists no coherent analysis of wider DRR programming. In order to inform current and future strategies for UNICEF support to national efforts for disaster risk reduction, including climate change adaptation, it’s
important to provide a succinct overview of national government and key stakeholder achievement and commitment to advance the HFA.

3. Identify key opportunities and strategies for UNICEF to advance its work in in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) at national and regional level.

Scope of Work

With 20 countries in ESAR, it is recognizably difficult to establish a common baseline of country-level DRR experience within a fairly short period of time. Therefore, the exercise will focus on a maximum of 12 countries. The selection of countries will be made by UNICEF ESARO on the basis of the geographic sub-region (Horn of Africa, Great Lakes and southern Africa); level of disaster risk (some high, some low); scale of ongoing humanitarian action and status in terms of UNDAF renewal.

Expected deliverables and timeline:

Work is expected to start 25 May with the following milestones:
1. Finalize the methodology, tools and workplan– 5 June 2010
2. 1st Progress report- 10 July 2010
3. First draft report – 10 August 2010
4. Final version of report- 17 August
5. Submission of final “Emerging Practices Guidance Note” to ESARO- 30 August

Management & technical guidance by UNICEF

The consultancy firm(s)/ institution(s) will be hired by UNICEF ESARO’s Regional Emergency Support Unit (RESU) and will work under the supervision of the Regional Emergency Sp. in Johannesburg (Lana Wreikat), in close collaboration with members of the Emergency Core Group in Nairobi and the EMOPS’s Recovery and Risk Reduction Section in Geneva.

Requirements

Only those consultancy firm(s)/ institution(s) who satisfy the following requirements will be considered as potential candidates:
1. Registered as legal entity in the country of origin
2. Have a proven record in conducting high quality data collection, research and analysis and delivering support services to development organizations, and demonstrate sufficient managerial and technical capacity to undertake this assignment, with a particular expertise around humanitarian policy, disaster risk reduction/ management, emergency programming and climate change adaptation.
3. Extensive professional expertise on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).
4. Demonstrated sufficient managerial technical capacity to undertake the assignment.
5. Prepared to accept UNICEF’s General Terms and Conditions
6. Copies of statement of annual budget and annual reports of the previous 5 years
7. Copy of two latest audited reports
Interested firms and institutions who meet the above requirements are requested to submit: their profile, detailing in not more than three A4 pages: Their approach and capacity to deliver the above stated services. The profile should be supported by documentary evidence, such as CVs of personnel who will be involved, reference of similar services rendered and projects, names of clients and their contact details.

Only short-listed firms/ institutions from this expression of interest will be invited to bid.

Submissions: Company profile together with all relevant documents should be e-mailed to: Lana Wreikat (email: lwreikat@unicef.org), with a copy to Timothy Wasilwa (twasilwa@unicef.org)

The closing date of submissions is Monday, 26 April 2010