



NDYS in Action, Newsletter

Natural Disaster Youth Summit Monthly News

<http://ndys.jearn.jp/> ndys@jearn.jp

Vol # 36
June 30, 2009

The VOICE of YOUTH is NEEDED!

Editor: Daniel Paz,
Salta, Argentina



Topics
Wisdom in the world on Disaster Reduction
Information for everybody is needed.

Information for everybody is needed

Under-resourced media are failing rural people in developing countries, who are most vulnerable to climate change and in greater need of information to protect themselves from more intense cyclones and longer droughts, according to a new study.

"Journalists need resources and support from their editors to access rural areas to find out how people ... are coping and adapting to climate change - these stories might be relevant to people living in another part of the world," said Mike Shanahan, press officer for the London-based International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), who contributed to the study, *Climate Change and the Media*.



Non developed countries are suffering climate changes more than other countries.

"The general picture painted by the most recent research is that while coverage of climate change in non-industrialized countries is increasing, the quantity and quality of reporting do not match the scale of the problem," he wrote. There was a reliance on Western news agencies rather than locally relevant news, although Indian newspapers were an exception. "This, coupled with sparse coverage of adaptation, has implications for the world's poor, who urgently need information to prepare for the impacts of climate change." According to the World Bank, three out of four poor people in developing countries live in rural areas.

Some Mozambican farmers viewed climate change as a punishment from God or a consequence of the 16-year civil war, Shanahan said, citing a study by the Panos Institute Southern Africa, an independent regional information and communication organization which interviewed the farmers.

Editor: Daniel Paz,
Salta, Argentina

Topics

Wisdom in the world on Disaster Reduction

Information for everybody is needed.

An examination of Vietnamese media in 2006 found no investigative reporting on climate change and no mention of vulnerability or adaptation. "The reports did not relate climate change to local settings or the everyday lives of Vietnamese people, and they explained the science poorly," the study commented. "The consequence will be that when the impact of climate change gets worse, it will come as a big surprise to the people," said Shanahan.

"It is a tragedy that media organizations are unable to cover climate change, which is having a tremendous impact on the livelihoods of people in developing countries," said Foster Dongozi, president of the Southern African Journalists' Association. "Lack of information and training forces journalist to shy away from it, and editors will often prioritize political or sports stories rather than climate change stories," he said.

IIED's Shanahan commented: "The perception that climate change was just an environment or science story has to change - it now encompasses the economy, health, security and more; it is now a major political story."

Source: www.irinnews.org

Editor: Daniel Paz,
Salta, Argentina



Topics

Wisdom in the world on Disaster Reduction

Illegal housing and storms.

Illegal housing and storms



Bad conditions for living and lack of preparation are things people have to deal with the majority of the time.

After storms killed at least seven and displaced hundreds in flood-prone areas in the Ghana capital of Accra, officials are confronted with the consequences of unregulated housing.

Authorities are analyzing information from a recent inter-ministerial assessment following a 19 June storm, according to National Management Disaster Organization (NADMO) spokesman Nicholas Mensah.

Flooding destroyed homes, shops and cars in the western part of Accra, including the neighborhoods of Kaneshie, Malam, Mataheko, Sakaman and Darkuman – places where large groups of slum dwellers call home.

"City authorities have failed these victims," said Mensah. "These houses [were] built in waterways and in unapproved locations...without the city planning authorities knowing [anything] about them. City authorities have simply failed to monitor and prevent these illegal structures from coming up."

Editor: Daniel Paz,
Salta, Argentina



NAMDO has pledged to take people living in illegal housing to court to force them out of high-risk areas. But without affordable housing options, people are not likely to leave, according to International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) disaster response manager for West and Central Africa Norbert Allale. "It is not enough to tell people they need to move. They need to be given land and help to rebuild their homes. There is real need for government and partners to provide political engagement in a joint effort," he said. But NADMO's Mensah said that the state cannot reward an illegal act, even if city authorities are partly responsible. "If it is an illegality then the state cannot be burdened with providing alternative accommodation or land for affected persons."

IFRC reinforced construction of more than 300 homes in northeast Ghana in 2007. Allale said these homes withstood 2008 flooding and provide an example of how communities can withstand annual rainstorms. In a recently published profile of Ghana's urban areas, UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) noted that despite the country's halving of its overall hunger and poverty rates since 1990, urban poverty remains.

With an annual urban population growth rate in Ghana of 3 percent over the past two decades, the UN estimates that more than half of the country's 21 million people live in cities – with 45 percent of them living in slums in 2003. Ghana's 2009 UN-Habitat urban profile noted that the failure to adopt "adequate" urban land and land management practices is a major cause of urban poverty. "Poor living conditions found in these urban centers include...shortage of essential facilities, disregard for approved land allocation regulation and a haphazard housing development structure."

Source: www.irinnews.org

Editor: Daniel Paz,
Salta, Argentina



Topics

Wisdom in the world on Disaster Reduction

El Niño is a threat for food and climate change causes more changes.

El Niño is a threat for food and climate change causes more changes

Rising sea surface temperatures across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean herald El Niño, which could disrupt the rains in major cereal producing regions, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has warned.

"Typically, an El Niño has the potential to disrupt the rainy seasons and cause lower rainfall in India, Australia, Southeast Asia - Philippines and Indonesia - southern Africa and Central America," said Robert Stefanski, a WMO scientific officer who works on agriculture-related weather and climate issues. "In past El Niño events, droughts have occurred and lowered food production in many of these regions."

Editor: Daniel Paz,
Salta, Argentina



In contrast, La Niña is the cooling of sea surface temperatures; both El Niño and La Niña are part of the normal climate cycle in the Pacific Ocean and occur once every four to seven years.

A coming El Niño should be taken as an "early warning to potential problems related to food security, and this information is useful for agricultural decision-makers to plan for the upcoming season," said Stefanski. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology's National Climate Centre warned in early June that "the odds of an El Niño are now thought to be above 50 percent, which is more than double the normal risk of an El Niño in any year."



Droughts caused by El Niño in the Ring of Fire region.

The main impact of El Niño events usually occur in the second half of the year, when eastern, northern, and parts of southern Australia would face an increased risk of below-average rainfall and above-average daytime temperatures, the Bureau said. Australia is the world's fourth largest exporter of wheat. "Any impact on food production will be noticed after December 2009," said Liliana Balbi, a senior economist at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Global Information and Early Warning System.

The monsoons are late in India, the world's third largest wheat producer. "Historically, there has been a link between El Niño and the Indian monsoons," said Stefanski. Studies have shown that sea surface temperatures also affect this critical rainy season. The tardy monsoon in parts of Southeast Asia has raised alarms of "potential food emergency problems, for example, in India," said Balbi. "In Pakistan, rains for the secondary rice season are also delayed." However, Sri Lanka has had a good harvest.

Source: www.irinnews.org



Comments: It is a fact that information must be provided to even the last corner of the world if thousands of lives depends on it. Governments and associations working in risk areas have to complete their missions because many families are waiting for them. Without communication many lives can be saved, but another point to list is the way we should give the information, because not everybody understands it the same.

I invite everybody to pray for our brothers in the Ring of Fire region and Australia and all the people who can be affected by El Niño effects.

■ **For more information please contact** ■

ndys@jearn.jp <http://ndys.jearn.jp>

NDYS Committee Office: c/o JEARN Office / NGO support center/ Hyogo International Plaza 5-1, 1-chome,
Wakinohamakaigan-dori Chuo-ku, Kobe, Hyogo 651-0073, JAPAN



"Communication saves lives!"