



Applied Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction II Programme Announcement

BACKGROUND

The **Provention Consortium** is a global partnership of governments, international organisations, academic institutions, the private sector, and civil society organisations aimed at reducing disaster impacts in developing countries. The Consortium functions as a network to share knowledge and to connect and leverage resources to reduce disaster risk.

Research in the field of disaster risk reduction remains dominated and influenced by academic institutions and international scientific organisations from the industrialised world. The advances made by these institutions during the last decades in natural, engineering and social science and technology development have substantially contributed to reducing disaster casualties in both the developed and developing world. However, efforts by Northern academic and scientific institutions to transfer existing technical and scientific knowledge to high-risk countries in the developing world have often been confronted with a wide range of obstacles such as a lack of technological absorption capacity, limited institutional capacity, insufficient qualified staff and absence of linkages and networks to successfully implement the concerned programmes. Furthermore, as disaster vulnerability in these countries is strongly determined by developmental and socio-economic processes, more research on risk, vulnerability and capacity issues is urgently required. Overall, disaster risk management expertise in most developing countries is often scattered amongst different disciplines and sectors, networking between disaster risk management professionals in the South is limited, and financial, material and human resources allocated by national governments and donors to disaster risk reduction research is largely insufficient.

In order to support innovative disaster risk management projects in developing countries, build up local research capacity and encourage young professionals (under 35 years of age) to become more involved in disaster risk reduction, the Provention Consortium in collaboration with the World Bank's Hazard Management Unit (HMU) launched in December 2002 an "Applied Research Grants Programme for Disaster Risk Reduction." Young researchers were invited to propose creative projects in three categories: hazard and risk identification, risk reduction and risk sharing/transfer.

Sixty-five individuals and/or teams from 27 countries were awarded grants of up to US \$5,000. Grantees came from a mix of institutional affiliations: universities, government, local and international NGOs and private sector. Each project was carried out under the guidance of a mentor who is a professional in the field of disaster risk management. The young professionals completed their projects in January 2004. After a series of reviews, fifteen projects were selected as representative of the most innovative and sustainable project activities. Team leaders from these projects presented their findings at the "Global Symposium for Hazard Risk Reduction", July 26-28, 2004 at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC.

NEW FOR 2005

The ProVention Consortium is sponsoring a second round of grants to support research on innovative **disaster risk management** and encourage competent young professionals dedicated to reducing disaster risk in developing countries. Students and young professionals from developing countries are invited to propose creative projects and ideas. These proposals may include research projects, professional internships or professional development programmes. Applications will be screened by a jury of ProVention Consortium partners. Awards will be made to proposals with the potential of making a significant contribution to the field. The selected projects will be awarded a maximum grant of US \$5,000 and must be completed within nine months of award under the guidance of a faculty advisor or mentor who is a disaster professional.

The programme is being implemented and managed by regional partner organisations:

- Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
- Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (DiMP), University of Cape Town
- University of Wisconsin – Disaster Management Center (UWDMC)

PROPOSAL THEMES & OBJECTIVES

Proposals should focus on the links between disasters, development and the environment, and should fall into three general categories: (i) risk identification and analysis, (ii) risk reduction and (iii) risk sharing/transfer, with award preference to be given to activities in the latter two categories. Field work is encouraged, and dissemination of results and community feedback must be part of each project. It is critical that proposals include linkages to relevant local institutions, whether they are non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations (CBOs) or government departments. Proposals may also look at lessons learned from past or ongoing activities and should have a multi-sectoral/multi-dimensional approach.

1. Risk Identification and Analysis

Any effective strategy to manage disaster risk must begin with an identification and analysis of the nature and extent of risk that characterises a particular location. This includes information on the frequency, magnitude and severity of past hazards, data on the degree of exposure of a population and its build environment to such hazards and identification of local capacities and resources to withstand shock and stress. The process also includes analysis of the underlying causes of why these elements are at risk.

Risk identification and analysis informs decision makers on where to prioritise risk management efforts and how to design projects that will effectively reduce the impacts of potential disaster events. A more comprehensive analysis of disaster data and understanding of the economic, financial and social impacts of disasters on a country or community can help to demonstrate the importance of including risk reduction in development plans and programmes. Assessing risk is also a key component of the process of measuring the potential and actual benefits of disaster reduction. Risk monitoring is critical in ensuring that risk reduction programmes effectively reduce risk.

2. Risk Reduction

Risk reduction involves measures to avoid (prevention), limit (mitigation) or take precautions against (preparedness) the destructive and disruptive effects of hazards, thus lessening potential impacts. The implicit focus of risk reduction is vulnerability reduction, which includes a wide range of social, economic, environmental and technical issues. Risk reduction includes a range of structural measures, such as flood defences or safe building design, as well as non-structural measures, such as development of early warning

systems, regulation of land use or sensitisation of populations at risk. In order to be truly effective risk reduction cannot be limited to the realm of disaster risk management but has to be fully integrated in development policies and planning, climate change adaptation efforts and post-disaster recovery processes.

3. Risk Sharing/Transfer

Financial and economic impacts of disasters can be reduced through risk transfer. While these risks can never be completely eliminated, they can be shared. Individuals and groups can transfer the financial risk which they are unable or unwilling to absorb to a larger collective with greater economic means, for instance from an individual household to a community or company, or from a national government or company to the global markets. The most obvious risk transfer tool is insurance, which for low-income households in developing countries is often called micro-insurance. Further arrangements such as informal community pools, social protection funds and innovative schemes based on weather indices are similarly useful for transferring and thus managing the financial impacts of disasters. Risk transfer must also be used to promote risk and vulnerability reduction activities.

CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

Proposals will be reviewed to ensure that they conform to the following criteria:

- 1. Candidate is national of a developing country.** Students studying at international institutions in industrialised countries are not eligible.
- 2. Candidate is 35 years old or younger.** Applicants may apply as a team; however, a team leader must be designated. All team members must be 35 years old or younger, and the team leader must also be a national of a developing country.
- 3. Candidate is student or professional staff member of organisation addressing disaster risk management.** Applicants must be students pursuing a bachelors, masters or doctoral degree from an accredited college or university OR a professional staff member of an organisation working on disaster risk management registered in a developing country. Special consideration will be given to those associated with NGOs or the private sector. Each applicant is required to name a faculty advisor or professional mentor and provide an endorsement letter from that person and his/her administrative supervisor.
- 4. Project has a nine month implementation timeframe.** As the proposals are meant to be pilot activities to "test" an idea or approach, they must entail a time frame for implementation of no more than nine months from the start of the project. At a minimum the final month must include dissemination of results and community feedback. The intent of the grants programme is to encourage the next generation of researchers and practitioners by publicly recognising their potential and providing them with the financial resources for the completion of projects that demonstrate potential solutions to disaster risk management problems.
- 5. Maximum grant award amount.** Awards may vary in size based on the needs of the proposals that are selected. The maximum size of a ProVention Consortium grant award is US \$5,000.
- 6. All applications and project documentation must be submitted in English.**
- 7. Grantees from the first grant programme** may submit an application, but the project subject must be different from the first grant.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Winning proposals will be those which best present ideas that address the ProVention Consortium's priorities in reducing disaster risks in developing countries in a sustainable manner. When creating your proposal keep in mind that the design and implementation components should include the following principles and outcomes:

Design of the idea should be:

- **Innovative:** In what way is your idea innovative or different to existing approaches?
- **Holistic:** To what extent does your idea address the links between disaster risk, development and the environment in developing countries?
- **Sustainable:** Will your idea be sustainable beyond the pilot phase? What characteristics of your proposal would you highlight to suggest this?
- **Relevant:** To what extent has your idea been developed in consultation with institutions?
- **Linked:** Were NGOs, CBOs, and/or government consulted during the development of the proposal? How will these links continue to be fostered throughout programme implementation?

Implementation of the idea should have:

- **Practical results:** How does your idea and implementation plan demonstrate a high potential for practical results?
- **Ownership among a broad community and institutional base:** Can you demonstrate that your idea will be accepted and used by a broad community and institutional base?
- **A learning and dissemination strategy:** How will the results of your idea be conveyed to the end-users and beneficiaries?

Proposals will be evaluated for their innovativeness, feasibility, project design, dissemination plan and utilisation potential. Final decisions may also reflect the need for regional coverage and a desired mix of project types.

The regional centres reserve the right to possibly assign an additional mentor and/or develop projects links with relevant and interested partner institutions within the country of the proposal.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

IN GENERAL

- All proposals must be submitted in English and adhere to the format provided below.
- After the submission deadline, all proposals may be placed in the public domain of the ProVention Consortium, including posting on our web site.
- For more details, please refer to the PROPOSAL OBJECTIVES, CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY and GUIDELINES.
- When printed, proposals must not exceed three (3) pages. Proposals exceeding this length will not be considered.

SPECIFICS

Your proposal outline should cover the following:

1. TITLE of your idea

This will eventually become the project name.

2. APPLICANT information and contact details

Include details on your nationality, date of birth, and a brief summary of your academic background and/or professional experience. If applying as part of a team provide listed information on all team members and indicate the team leader. Please submit proof of citizenship (i.e., copy of passport photo page). Full contact information including email address if available must be provided.

3. GEOGRAPHICAL coverage

Indicate whether the project includes activities in a specific country, several countries (name them), a region or if they are global in scope.

4. FOCUS area

Please indicate one theme which is best addressed by your idea:

- Risk Identification and Analysis
- Risk Reduction
- Risk Sharing/Transfer

5. KEYWORDS

To facilitate future retrieval, please select a maximum of three (3) keywords that are most applicable to your idea.

6. DESCRIPTION of your idea (not to exceed 2 pages or 1000 words)

- Briefly describe the goals and objectives of the idea, as well as the methods and procedures to be used in the project.
- Consult the PROPOSAL OBJECTIVES, CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY and GUIDELINES to ensure that your idea lies within the three focus areas and addresses the relevant Design and Implementation questions.
- Provide a description of the major activities, the expected utility of the project and its intended beneficiaries.
- Any links and consultations with NGOs, CBOs and/or government departments must be clearly listed.

7. Project COST

Provide a brief statement of the idea's need for funding in order to achieve the stated objectives. If the funds are to be leveraged with those from other sources, differentiate between funding requested from the ProVention Consortium and funds coming from others. The budget breakdown should cover these items:

- Direct costs
- Fees
- Travel and subsistence

8. ADVISOR or MENTOR

Each applicant is required to name a faculty advisor or professional mentor and provide an endorsement letter from that person *and* his/her administrative supervisor. There is no requirement that such work be part of a master's thesis or Ph.D. dissertation project, although this is allowable. Please indicate if the work is to be part of a thesis or dissertation project.

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT ANY ADDITIONAL MATERIALS WITH YOUR PROPOSAL.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

The ProVention Consortium prefers receiving proposals via e-mail.

Proposals must be received by 15 May 2005 using the following e-mail address:

dmc@engr.wisc.edu

If you do not have access to e-mail or the Internet and are applying by postal mail, you must allow for additional processing time, so your proposal must be received by 1 May 2005 at this address:

ProVention Consortium Grants
University of Wisconsin – Madison
Disaster Management Center
432 North Lake Street
Madison, WI 53706
USA

Grant awards will be announced on or after 1 August 2005.

This information is also available on our web site at www.proventionconsortium.org