



# United Nations, Disaster Management & Climate Change

---

## Workshop Report

**By:**

**UNOCHA - Tehran, Iranian Sarv Association and University  
of Tehran**

**On:**

**18 - 19 May 2008**

**At:**

**University of Tehran**

## INTRODUCTION:

*UNOCHA Tehran*, with cooperation of the *Faculty of Environment of Tehran University* and *Iranian Sarv Association* (NGO) organized a two day workshop on “United Nations, Disaster Management and Climate Change” (18-19 May) at Tehran University. It engaged a wide variety of actors drawn from civil society, academia and the United Nations in Iran.

Iran and the other countries in the region should cope with the impacts of climate change, which may be aggravated by increasing vulnerability resulting from unsound environmental system, increasing urbanization, demographic changes and economic short-comings. While the worst long-term effects may still be avoided if greenhouse gas emissions are drastically reduced, global climate change is here to stay – and will accelerate. The potential implications of these climatic changes are massive, not only from the perspective of disaster risk reduction but also with regards to regional development.



It is therefore necessary to link climate adaptation strategies with development, poverty reduction and disaster risk reduction efforts in the region. A multi-stakeholder approach, involving civil society, national and local governments, regional bodies, media and the private sector is required to deal with climate risks in an integrated manner.

## PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP:

The objective of the workshop was to improve Disaster Management tools and Climate Change policies by presenting ways for strengthening community resilience and local adaptive capacity in a changing climate and the role OCHA plays in between; which was done through a combination of brief presentations, working groups and plenary discussions.

## **HIGHLIGHT OF THE PRESENTATIONS:**

### **Resource Person:**

Dr. Ali Ashraf Mojtahad Shabestari, Head of UNOCHA - Tehran

Dr. Gholamreza Nabi Bidhendi, Dean of Faculty of Environment at Tehran University

Dr. Mahnaz Mazaheri Assadi, Biotechnologist, Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST)

Dr. Farahsadat Halak, Researcher, Institute for the study of Material and Energy

Dr. Mohmaad Solatnie, Professor, Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, Sharif University of Technology & National Climate Change Project Manager  
Department of the Environment

Mr. Seyed Mohammad Sadatinejad, ISDR – Iran, Special Coordinator

Mr. Amir Abolahpour Makouei, UNOCHA – Tehran, Humanitarian assistant/protection

Ms. Negin Tahvildari, UNOCHA –Tehran, Humanitarian assistant/advocacy

### **Highlights of the First Day:**

After a welcome note, Dr. Nabi made a brief presentation of the faculty of Environment and referred to the current climate change situation in Iran and the whole world, he also mentioned the importance of holding such workshops.

Dr. Shabsatri started his presentation by referred to some news on the current situation of climate change and global warming worldwide. He then expressed his deepest concern on current situation of climate change in the country. He continued his speech by introducing some UN agencies, mainly the ones involved in DRR and DRM.

Ms. Tahvildari gave a brief presentation on Millennium Development Goals and the impact DRR and DRM could have on the way to achieve each goal.

After a short break Dr. Shabesatari continued the second part of his speech by presenting OCHA activities, objectives and tools.

Dr. Mazheri gave a lecture on the impact of biotechnology on environment and, in particular, climate change.

### **Highlights of the Second Day:**

Mr. Makouei made a presentation on Disaster Management and Environmental Management. In the second part of his speech he went through the principles of CBDRM.

Dr. Halak talked about the role of the usage of Bio- fuels in reducing green house gases.

ISDR Special Coordinator Mr. Sadatinejad emphasized on the importance of DRR and effect of climate change on the earth.

Dr. Soltanie gave a lecture on climate change and its impacts on causing natural hazards



## CONCLUSION:

Considering the importance of this issue, other dimensions of climate change adaptation need to be debated in the region, with adequate attention to local perspectives and experiences in order to influence national and regional policies. Hence, UNOCHA Tehran has had initial consultation with Iranian Meteorological Organization, MoI, other related government organizations, UN agencies and NGOs to organize a regional W/S (in close collaboration with RO) during early 2009 on the impacts of CC on ND.