Mitigation measures for risks associated with geohazards can broadly be classified in six categories:

1. Land use plans
2. Enforcement of building codes and good construction practice
3. Early warning systems
4. Construction of physical protection barriers
5. Network of escape routes and "safe" places
6. Community preparedness and awareness building.

Early warning systems and construction of physical protection barriers have been singled out as specific tasks in the proposed ICG research. Together with the other four categories, they form the backdrop for a mitigation strategy.

The results of hazard and risk mapping and analyses will be used to formulate mitigation strategies to assist decision-making on the need and cost-benefit of hazard mitigation works. Based on such a strategy, protection measures can be developed and their cost-effectiveness and environmental soundness compared.
A mitigation strategy would involve:

1. identification of possible disaster triggering scenarios, and the associated hazard level;
2. analysis of possible consequences for the different scenarios;
3. assessment of possible measures to reduce and/or eliminate the potential consequences of the danger;
4. recommendation of specific remedial measure and if relevant reconstruction and rehabilitation plans;
5. transfer of knowledge and communication with authorities and society.

The strategy developed by ICG and NGI for the tsunami-affected areas of Thailand after the 26th December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami provides a good example of what can be done.

Any mitigation strategy needs to be adapted for different natural hazards and different parts of the world. Especially for developing countries, it is vital to establish and promote proper land-use planning and construction practices to regulate human activities that increase risk to earthquakes, landslides or tsunamis and to prevent settlement of communities in high-risk areas.

The research performed by ICG will be part of the strategy plans and the communication programs. Ensuring that people do not live in "high risk" zones will be included in the decision
process. As for physical protection measures, an "how to" and "do's and don't's" guideline will be prepared, as well as recommendation for "best practice".

Early warning systems
Read more about that here.

Physical protection measures
Read more about that here.

References


/KONTAKTER

Farrokh Nadim
STILLING | Teknisk Direktør
Risiko, Skredgeoteknikk og Klimatilpasning
E | farrokh.nadim@ngi.no
M | +47 975 49 957