

The Munich Re Foundation

To coincide with its 2005 company anniversary, Munich Re is setting up a foundation to help people in different risk situations. This is further proof that non-profit commitment at Munich Re not only ranks high but also looks back on a long tradition.

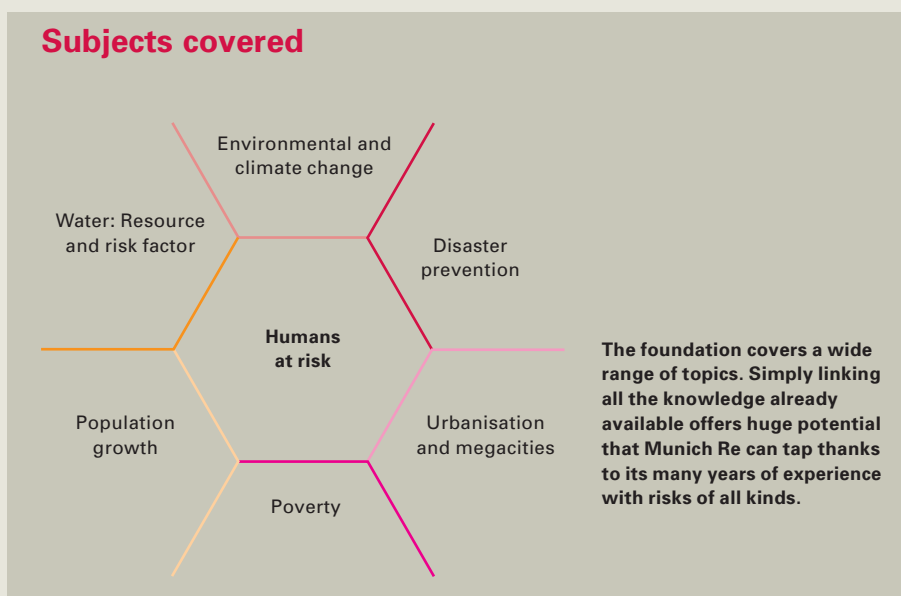
The "Munich Re Foundation – From Knowledge to Action" focuses on subjects that are concerned with humans in risk situations. The benefactor's core competency will ensure that the work bears ample fruit. The aim of the foundation is to utilise the knowledge available within the company and also to allow people not living in functioning insurance markets to have a share in that knowledge.

Every bit as varied as the subjects covered is the approach: for example, we want to bring together experts so as to create the prerequisites for effective public-private partnerships (PPPs). The generation of new knowledge and also educational and training work, which is of particular importance for risk prevention and risk response, will play a leading part in this. Direct, straightforward help for people in specific risk situations will round off the range of services on offer.

Here are some of the projects the foundation will be working on in the months ahead:

- Following on from the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, which was held in Kobe at the beginning of the year, the Munich Re Foundation's first big trade symposium in November 2005 will be devoted to the question of how **disaster prevention** can be optimised. The aim is to bring together the needs of countries affected by natural disasters and the help on offer from donor countries. Leading experts from the fields of business, science and politics will be dealing above all with sustainable development in emerging countries.
- The United Nations has declared 2005 to be the "Year of Microfinance". In a workshop that is to be held in October, the foundation will therefore discuss questions about "micro-insurance". In recent years the "granting of microloans" has proved to be an effective way of **combating poverty** and contributing to a country's developing. In order to devise workable insurance solutions, the state and the business community must work closely together in public-private partnerships.
- For **people in risk situations** the foundation will be building up new knowledge by funding a Chair at the "Institute for Environment and Human Security" at the United Nations University in Bonn. There, international scientists carry out research in association with the global UN training network. The "Munich Re Foundation Chair" will be occupied on a rotating basis by outstanding young scientists who are involved with loss susceptibility and disaster prevention in different cultural circles. After their time at the UN University, the scientists will return to their home countries, where they will take up central posts in the area of disaster prevention. In this way, the foundation's guiding principle of "From Knowledge to Action" will be put into practice.
- An important task of the foundation is to raise the awareness of the general public and experts with respect to important topics. One example of this are the "Water Dialogue Forums" that were set up jointly with the Hypo Foundation for Culture in Munich. As part of an interdisciplinary exhibition "Water as myth and natural force" in the Hypo Art Gallery in summer 2005, experts will discuss the various facets of **water as a resource and risk factor** – for example, water as a commodity, conflicts over water, inadequate water quality, water shortages and flooding.

- In order to encourage risk prevention, a model project is being lined up in a country that is regularly afflicted by natural disasters. Training courses and support with setting up a warning system should give the general population better protection against natural hazards. A disaster fund for unbureaucratic direct help that will be built up progressively rounds off the work in the foundation's inaugural year.



Girls' school in India: Education in developing countries is a privilege enjoyed by only a very few daughters.



These first projects show how the foundation is cautiously approaching the most varied topics. However, the full variety of foundation initiatives will only emerge after a number of years and projects. By then it should have become apparent how the activities in the various fields and areas of action fit together like a mosaic.

www.munichre-foundation.org

Anne Wolf, a geographer and specialist in German studies, has headed various projects related to the Foundation's topic areas since 2004.

Projects

(extract from the Munich Re Foundation's Articles of Association)



**Munich Re
Foundation**
From Knowledge
to Action

- start with knowledge and lead via “people and risks” to action.
- are groundbreaking and exemplary, provide the necessary impulses and are open to emulation.
- tap into potential for sustained development in global change.
- indicate long-term solutions.
- prepare people for risks and improve their living conditions.

Projects can be regional, national or international. Preferential support will be given to projects that have model character and can be replicated.

Proposed projects will be scrutinised as to their feasibility and chances of success subject to our project guidelines. Projects will be evaluated during and after their performance (transparent controlling). Our project partners aim for sustained success. They offer a clear perspective for the period after the project has been financed and supported.

The foundation will also offer straightforward, on-the-spot support to people who find themselves in actual or imminent risk situations.