Disaster risk reduction makes development sustainable

A CALL FOR ACTION

KEY MESSAGE

The post-2015 development framework offers an unparalleled opportunity to ensure that disaster risk is significantly reduced all over the world, especially for those most vulnerable.

“We must ensure that development strategies and programmes prioritise the building of resilience among people and societies at risk from shocks... Investing in resilience and risk reduction increases the value and sustainability of our development efforts.”

Busan Partnership on Aid Effectiveness

“We recognize the value of Disaster Risk Management tools and strategies to better prevent disasters, protect populations and assets, and financially manage their economic impacts.”

G20

“We need effective adaptation strategies that “…help manage disaster risk now and offer near-term development benefits, while reducing vulnerability over the longer term.”

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

“Disaster risk reduction and building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and, as appropriate, to be integrated into policies, plans, programmes, and budgets at all levels and considered within relevant future frameworks.”

UN General Assembly Resolution on Sustainable Development

“Natural disasters can be a serious impediment to poverty reduction and affect poor and vulnerable people the most, and their impact is on the rise.”

World Bank Development Committee

“We must stop calling events like these [Typhoon Haiyan] as natural disasters. Disasters are never natural. They are the intersection of factors other than physical. They are the accumulation of the constant breach of economic, social and environmental thresholds.”

Yeb Sano, Philippines Negotiator, UNFCCC

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In partnership with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies www.ifrc.org Saving lives, changing minds.
In the last 20 years the impact of disasters has been devastating

4.4 billion people affected

1.3 million people killed

US$2 trillion in economic losses

US$3 trillion

Disasters do not respect borders

Neighbors
In 2008, a breach in the Kosi embankment in Nepal redirected 95% of the river through rural communities, affecting 54,000 people. The same flood forced nearly 3 million people from their homes in India.

Human Impact
The 2004 Indian-Ocean Tsunami killed over 230,000 people in 15 countries, including nationals from a further 46 countries.

Global Supply Chains
The 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake led to a 20% drop in vehicle production in Thailand. The Chao Phrya Thailand floods of 2011 closed 451 Japanese factories in Thailand, as well as other factories in Malaysia, North America and Japan itself.

Disasters come in all sizes

The last 10 years have seen some of the largest disasters on record:

Pakistan floods 2010: 20% of the country underwater; 20 million people affected.

Haiti earthquake 2010: killed more than 200,000 people in seconds.

East African drought 2010-11: worst in decades; caused acute food crisis in six countries; up to 258,000 killed in Somalia alone.

But smaller, localized disasters often go unnoticed:

The attrition of small-scale disasters affects the poorest families, and accounts for significant disaster impact: 54% of houses damaged, 80% of people affected, and 83% of people injured.

The uncounted impact on low-income households and informal businesses, those outside of ‘official’ indexes, could increase total losses by 50%.

KEY MESSAGE
Disasters big and small devastate families, communities and nations.
Inadequate investments in DRR lead to massive levels of emergency response

Over 20 years the international community has spent only one out of every ‘disaster’ dollar before a crisis strikes.

| Response | $69.9 billion | Reconstruction and rehabilitation | $23.3 billion | Disaster risk reduction | $13.5 billion |
RISKS ARE GROWING

KEY MESSAGE

Unless risk is significantly reduced, the impact of disasters will grow and grow. Development must be risk-proofed now, so as to prevent massive losses of life, livelihoods and growth in the future.

DISASTER RISK

Vulnerability remains intractable for billions of people

- 1.29 billion people living on less than US$1.25 a day (2008)
- 1.15 billion people living in slums (2010)
- 925 million people undernourished (2010)

Exposure is Rapidly Increasing

- Population will increase from 7 to 9.3 billion by 2050
- Population living in urban areas will grow from 3.3 billion to 4.9 billion by 2030
- Developing countries will have 80% of the world’s urban population by 2030

Natural Hazards are Global and Increasing

- Global Scale of Hazards
  - 179 different countries saw natural hazards become disasters between 2006 and 2010
- Climate Hazards Intensifying
  - Climate is responsible for ¾ of all disaster events;
  - The Special Report on Extreme Events suggests climate change could result in “unprecedented extreme weather and climate events”

The rising price of climate risk

- 2010 69.4 million people
- 1970 32.4 million people
- 2009 122.5 million people
- 1970 65.9 million people

- Flood Exposure
- Cyclone Exposure
- Food Crisis in the Sahel

3 crises in the past 10 years before this, once a decade
### DISASTER RISK REDUCTION DELIVERS ON DEVELOPMENT

Disaster risk reduction saves lives and livelihoods

**Bangladesh**
- **1991**: A category four cyclone made landfall south of Chittagong: 138,000 killed.
  - **Risk Reduction**: Significant investments in embankments and protective mangrove planting; early-warning, risk awareness and contingency planning; and the construction of cyclone shelters.
- **2008**: A category five cyclone struck the low-lying west, resulting in approximately 10,000 killed.

**India**
- **1999**: A category four cyclone struck the state of Odisha. Deaths were as high as 15,000.
  - **Risk Reduction**: Odisha becomes the first state to have a dedicated disaster management agency. It builds cyclone shelters, evacuation routes and coastal embankments. It conducts contingency planning drills every year.
- **2013**: A category five cyclone Phailin, strikes North-East India, 38 deaths recorded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disasters impact on every aspect of life and living targeted by the Millennium Development Goals</th>
<th>Millennium Development Goals</th>
<th>Disaster Risk Reduction protects life and living, and is fundamental to achieving Development Goals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Aceh, the 2004 tsunami is estimated to have increased the proportion of people living below the poverty line from 30 – 50%.</td>
<td>Eradicate poverty and hunger</td>
<td>Better land use planning enhances food productivity and strengthens sustainability.</td>
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<td>The 2008 Sichuan earthquake destroyed 7000 classrooms.</td>
<td>Achieve universal primary education</td>
<td>Only through building earthquake-proof schools can seismic-prone countries and regions protect children and their education.</td>
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<td>61% of those that died in Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, were female.</td>
<td>Promote gender equality and empower women</td>
<td>Participatory DRR puts women at the forefront of protecting and sustaining their communities.</td>
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<td>The 2005-2006 Drought in the Horn of Africa increased child wasting up to 8%, and up to 25% for pastoralist communities</td>
<td>Reduce child mortality</td>
<td>Training schoolchildren in a knowledge of disaster risk, first aid and emergency lives, saves both theirs and adult lives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>During the 2005 Pakistan earthquake, the estimated number of pregnant women in the affected areas was 40,000.</td>
<td>Improve maternal health</td>
<td>Shelters built to protect communities against natural hazards can function as medical facilities or schools in times of disaster.</td>
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<tr>
<td>There were over 17,000 cases of diarrheal disease after flooding in Bangladesh in 2004.</td>
<td>Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</td>
<td>Water and sanitation systems built to hazard-resistant standards, can resist becoming a breeding ground for disease.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyclone Nargis affected about 16,800 ha (41,514 acres) of natural forest and 21,000 ha (51,892 acres) of forest plantations</td>
<td>Ensure environmental sustainability</td>
<td>Switching from traditional trades in woodcutting in drought-prone areas to sustainable agriculture, can both reduce deforestation and provide a more secure form of income.</td>
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THE WAY FORWARD:
MAKE RISK REDUCTION
CENTRAL TO DEVELOPMENT

KEY MESSAGE
Disaster risk reduction is a development issue. Making risk reduction a central component of the future development agenda is the only way to ensure that disasters do not derail development itself.

Messages for Decision-Makers

1. A specific target in the post-2015 framework that calls for the reduction and management of disaster risk will support sustainable and equitable development.

2. Disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting, multi-sectoral challenge and can only be fully realized if it is integrated throughout sustainable development.

3. Sustainable development goals should commit countries to measure risk and account for losses associated with disasters and other extreme events.

4. In order to ensure equity, those most vulnerable to disasters and other shocks – whether due to age, gender or disability – must be specifically empowered and protected.

This document was commissioned by UNDP and prepared by Jan Kellet, with design support provided by Plain Sense.
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