Disaster Risk Reduction

disasters are not natural

Photo courtesy of Alberto Bisbal
25 years of international commitment to DRR
Disaster impact in numbers

2015 Disasters in Numbers

346 reported disasters. 22,773 people dead. 98.6 million people affected. US$66.5 billion economic damage

(1): Natural disasters: Epidemic and insect infestations not included
Global Trends

- **The Good News:** Number of *people reported killed* by disasters has been decreasing. (Floods & Tropical Storms)

- **The Bad News:** Number of *reported natural hazards* have been growing.

- **The Bad News:** Number of *people reported affected by natural hazards* has been increasing.

- **The Bad News:** Number of *Estimated damages* (in US $ billion) caused by reported natural hazards have been growing. Direct and indirect *economic disaster losses* have been increasing.
Why reducing disaster risk and building resilience?

Why disaster risk is increasing?

- **Hazards**
  - Increase of:
    - Frequency
    - Intensity
    - New/cascading
  - Cyclical/Climate change

- **Exposure**
  - Concentration in hazardous locations or due to globalization
    - People
    - Assets
    - Economic Activities
  - Increasing

- **Vulnerability**
  - Poor building design
  - Poverty
  - Education
  - Low coping capacities
  - Can either be reduced or increased by development

*Development can reduce vulnerability, but development can also create disaster risk*
Explaining Observed Trends
Rapid Global Urbanization

The urban and rural population of the world. (Source: UN Population Division)

More than 50% of the world’s population now lives in cities or urban areas, and this figure will likely rise to 70% in the next 50 years.

The United Nations expects 6.3 billion people or 68% of the world’s population to be living in urban areas by 2050.

Many of these cities are located on the coast and are threatened by floods, storms, earthquakes and other natural hazards.”

Source: Swiss Re, Mind the Risk: a global ranking of the cities under threat from natural disasters
What are the main drivers explaining disaster risk tendencies?

- Unplanned urban development
- Vulnerable livelihoods
- Ecosystem decline

GAR 2009 refers to the “deadly (trio of) disaster risk drivers, made deadlier by climate change”:

Extensive risk: eroding resilience

Percentage of damage and loss from extensive and intensive disaster events (65 countries, 2 states)

Most disaster impacts in infrastructure are associated with extensive risk

Less progress in managing risks

Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms

Disaster preparedness and contingency plans, training drills

Managing risk in urban environments

Assessing disaster risk impacts of major development projects

"Sustainability starts in Sendai"
- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, 2015
The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

**Intended outcome:**
The substantial *reduction of disaster risk and losses* in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

- Adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction on March 18, 2015
- Endorsed by the UN General Assembly on May 15, 2015.
- 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement with 4 Priorities for Action and 7 Global Targets
- Recognizes that the **State has the primary role** to reduce disaster risk but that responsibilities are to be **shared with other stakeholders including local government and the private sector.**

**Innovations**

- **Shift from** *disaster loss* to *disaster risk*
- **Shift from** disaster management to *disaster risk management*
- **Shift from** “what to do?” to **how to do?”**
- **Focus on** *people-centred* preventive approach to DRR
- **Primary** responsibility of States for DRR
- **Shared** responsibility for DRR with stakeholders
- **Scope** includes slow-onset, man-made and bio hazards
- **Set of global targets**
- **Set of guiding principles**
**7 Global Targets**

- **a** Mortality / global population
  - 2020-2030 Average << 2005-2015 Average

- **b** Affected people / global population
  - 2020-2030 Average << 2005-2015 Average

- **c** Economic loss / global GDP
  - 2030 Ratio << 2015 Ratio

- **d** Damage to critical infrastructure & disruption of basic services
  - 2030 Values << 2015 Values

- **e** Countries with national & local DRR strategies
  - 2020 Value >> 2015 Value

- **f** International cooperation to developing countries
  - 2030 Value >> 2015 Value

- **g** Availability and access to multi-hazard early warning systems & disaster risk information and assessments
  - 2030 Values >> 2015 Values
13 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Responsibility for DRR
- States have primary responsibility
- Shared responsibility with stakeholders

Engagement
- All of society
- All state institutions
- Local government empowerment

Approach
- Regard for human rights
- DRR & development relationship
- Multi-hazard & inclusive
- Local expression of risks
- Post disaster action & resolve underlying risks
- Build back better

Partnerships
- International cooperation & global partnerships
- Support to developing countries

Priority 1 Understanding disaster risk
Policies and practices for DRR should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment.

Priority 2 Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is of great importance for an effective and efficient management of disaster risk.

Priority 3 Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
Public and private investment in DRR are essential to enhance the economic, social, health & cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries, their assets, as well as environment

Priority 4 Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction
Strengthened disaster preparedness for response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction are critical to build back better
Priorities for Action

Sustainable Development

Substantial *reduction of disaster loses*, in lives, in the social, economic and environmental assets of persons, communities and countries

*Prevent* disaster risk creation and *reduce* the existing disaster risk through economic, social, cultural and environmental measures which address exposure and vulnerability and thus *strengthen resilience*

1. Understand disaster risk
2. Strengthen governance and institutions to manage disaster risk
3. Invest in economic, social, cultural and environmental resilience
4. Enhance preparedness for effective response and *build back better* in recovery and reconstruction

Risk sensitive development
From managing disasters to managing risks

Managing risks aligns the disaster risk reduction, climate change action and sustainable development agendas

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Conference of the Parties
Twenty-first session
Paris, 30 November to 11 December 2015

Agenda item 4(b)

Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (decision U.N.17)
Adoption of a protocol, another legal instrument, or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties

ADPTION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT
Disaster Risk Management Process

1. Establish Context......**What are we trying to do?**
2. Identify risks.............**What can happen?**
3. Analyse Risks.............**What effects will they have?**
4. Evaluate risks............**Which are most important?**
5. Accept risk..................**Should we spend resources on this problem?**
6. Treat risk....................**What can we do about this problem?**
7. Monitor/review............**Has it worked, is it still best solution?**
8. Communicate and consult...**Has everyone been involved?**
Australia: Lessons to learn to deal with the ‘creeping disaster’ of drought

Cerberus Media Group, the

While droughts are a natural feature of the Australian environment, the Millennium drought had major social, economic and environmental impacts. A new study has sought to document what is known and unknown about droughts in Australia and to establish new Australia’s scientists and engineers could best investigate those unknowns.

Ethiopia – government aims to curb flooding as new dams planned

The Ethiopian Government is working to mitigate severe effects of recurrent flooding with the planned construction of new dams. The decision to build the dams comes just a few months after flash floods displaced tens of thousands of people in Africa’s driest region, parched savanna.

Modernizing meteorological services boosts climate resilience across Africa

As climate change-induced risks increase, it is critical that African countries modernize hydro-meteorological infrastructure and take practical steps to advance disaster risk management. Technical experts, policy makers, and development partners met in the Turkish...

Cartoon by Chris Britt/SJ-R
Thank you

For more information, please contact…