



Making the case

Why we need an international framework for tackling disaster risk and building resilience

Disasters are having ever greater social and economic impacts. They already drive people into poverty and threaten to reverse human development.

Accordingly, reducing disaster risk is a critical facet of sustainable development and of healthy, wealthy, secure and resilient nations and cities, and as such is reflected in plans for the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The post-2015 agreement for disaster risk reduction (DRR) should be anchored primarily in the development discussion, representing a shift from its foundations in the humanitarian sphere.

Thus, the post-2015 DRR framework is an important operational guide and policy framework for achieving the SDGs and the wider post-2015 development agenda and for securing sustainable growth in a risky world.

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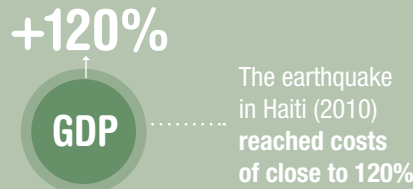
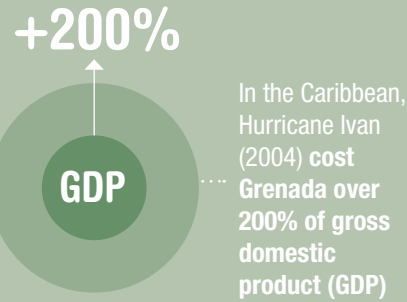
DEVASTATING IMPACTS

Disasters have devastated the lives and livelihoods of billions of people and have caused massive economic loss

The 20-year story¹



Disasters in many countries, developing countries in particular, destroy gains built up over decades, and can have a significant impact on economies



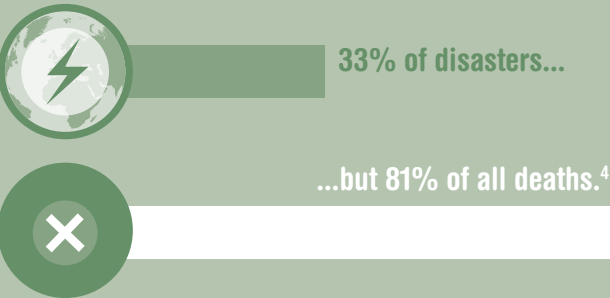
In larger economies, such as Bangladesh or Mozambique,

THE LOSS OF 3–5% OF GDP EVERY 5–10 YEARS

from recurring disasters has a heavy cumulative impact on development.³

Disasters cause the greatest loss of life in low- and lower-middle-income countries

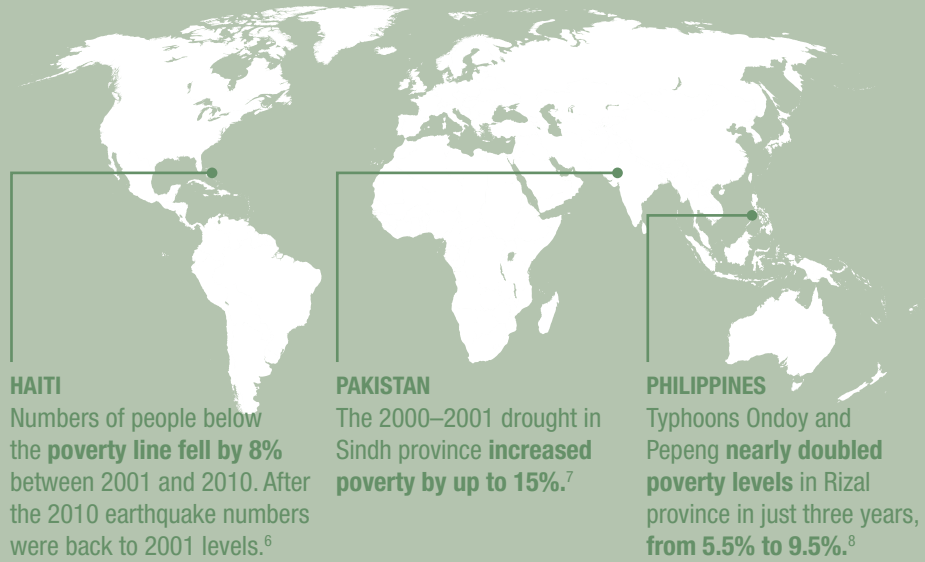
Over the past 20 years, low-income and lower-middle-income countries account for:



Urban earthquakes highlight the unequal impacts:⁵

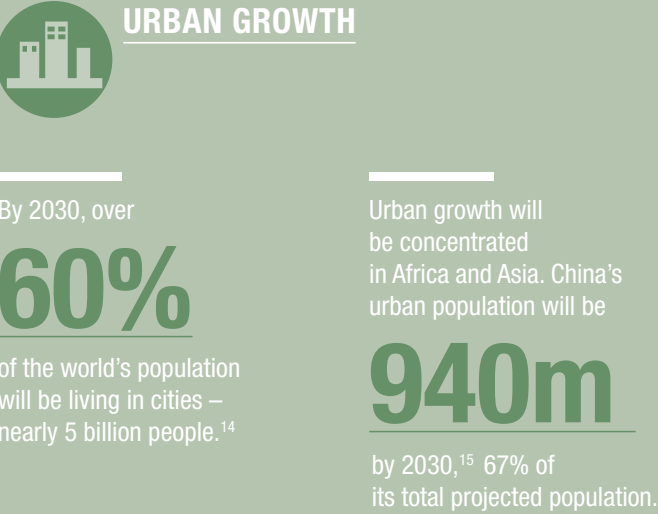
	Size	Urban population	Deaths	Deaths/population	Total damage (\$ billions)
1994, Northridge, USA	M _w 6.7	3,000,000	57	0.0019%	48.0
2011, Christchurch, New Zealand	M _w 6.3	341,500	185	0.054%	15.8
1995, Kobe, Japan	M _w 6.8	1,520,000	6,434	0.42%	155.6
2010, Port au Prince, Haiti	M _w 7.0	900,000	200,000	22%	8.7
2003, Bam, Iran	M _w 6.6	74,000	26,000	35%	0.6

The social impacts of disasters reinforce inequalities and keep the poorest people poor



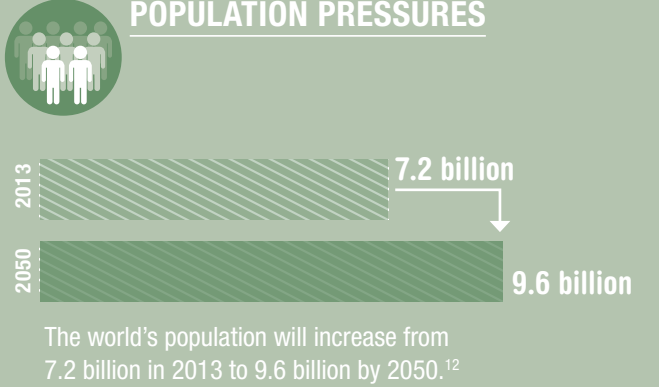
GROWING RISKS

Disaster risks are growing, driven by underlying development processes and a changing climate

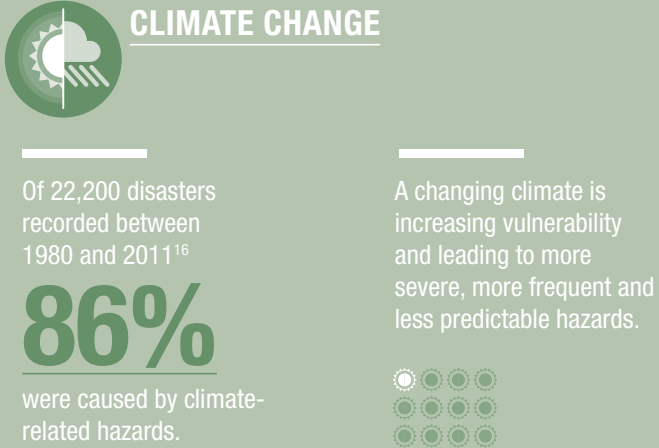


Much urban growth is taking place in areas already exposed to

EARTHQUAKES, FLOODING, STORM SURGES AND TROPICAL CYCLONES.



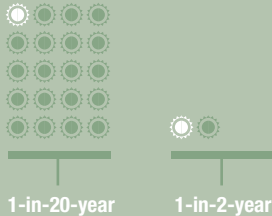
The population of the 49 least developed countries is projected to double in size from around 900 million in 2013 to 1.8 billion in 2050.¹³



Climate-related disasters will affect poor people in developing countries the most: in some countries, particularly those in sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty could be well over

50% by 2013.¹⁸

By 2100, a 1-in-20-year hottest day now is likely to become a 1-in-2-year event in most regions.¹⁷



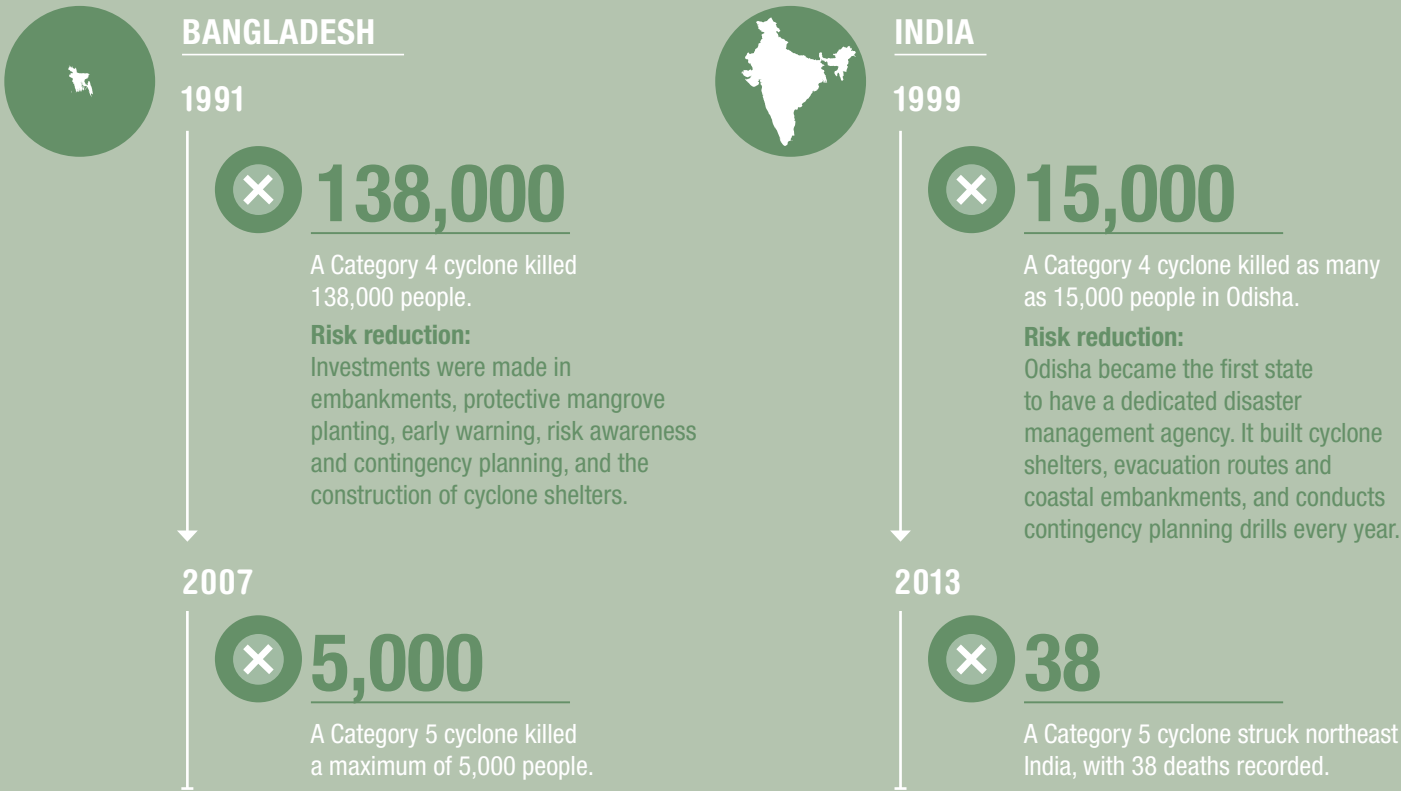
TRANSFORMATION THROUGH RISK REDUCTION

Evidence consistently shows that investing in DRM saves lives and money in the long run

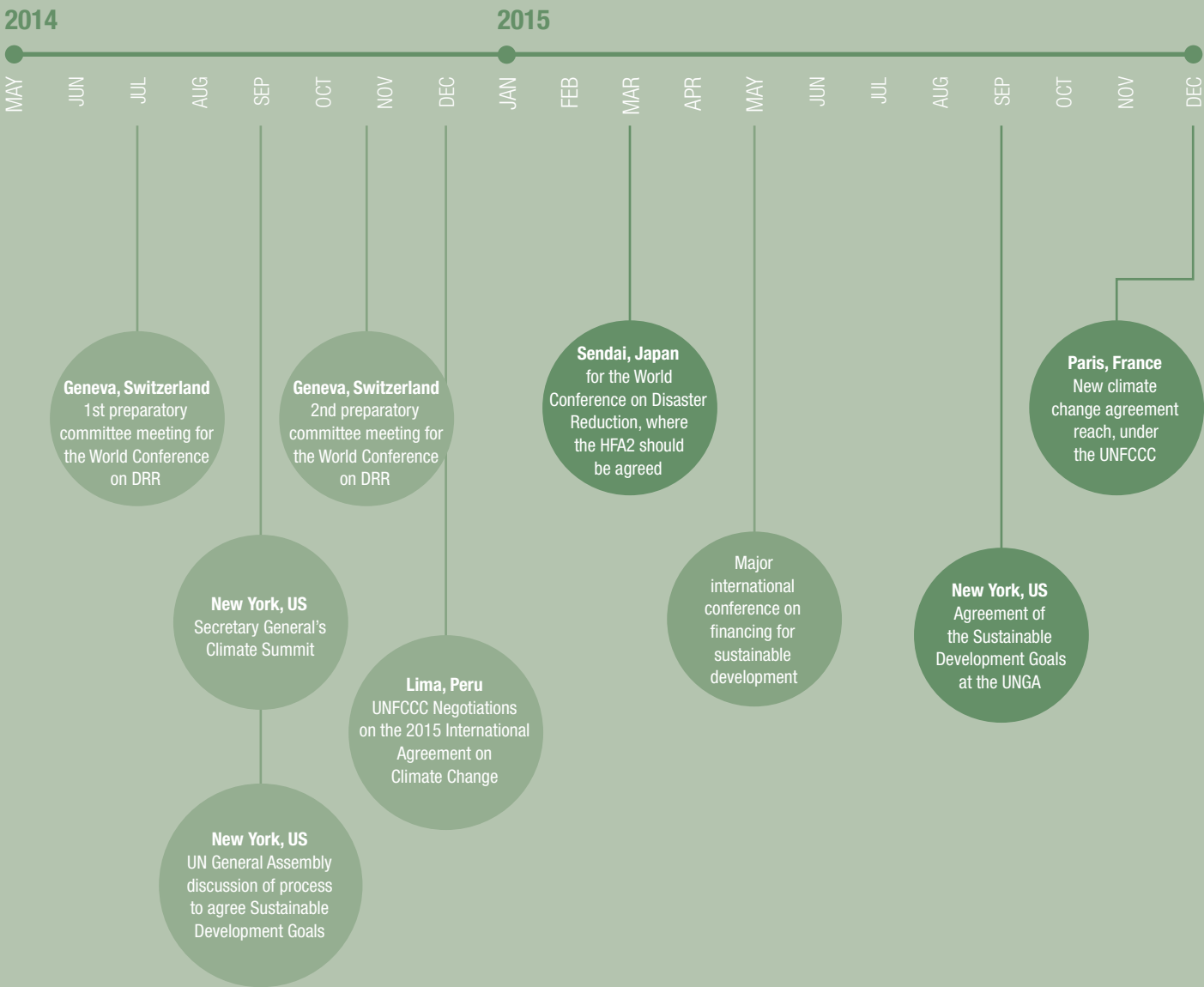
FINANCE



MORTALITY²²



This is an almost unique opportunity, with key risk and development frameworks likely to be agreed in the same year



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- Making risk reduction a central dimension of the future development and climate change agendas is a key way of ensuring that disasters do not derail development progress and that development does not inadvertently create new risks.
- HFA2 has an important role to play as part of this new development agenda, but must work together in partnership and support other international frameworks to be agreed in 2015.
- The outcomes, targets and indicators of HFA2 should be directly aligned with the position and framing of DRR in other key frameworks.
- HFA2 must focus on the dimensions of DRR that cannot be achieved at local and national levels without an international agreement. Consequently, the agreement should focus on:
 - setting standards
 - guiding priorities
 - establishing an accountability framework
 - outlining targets and indicators
 - developing protocols for sharing knowledge
 - setting out the need for financial resources and the way in which incentive structures need to be aligned
 - describing approaches to governing risk across borders
 - detailing capacities to support national and sub-national levels were necessary, providing scientific advice, implementation support, capacity building and other services where state capacities are insufficient.

How does the case for disaster risk reduction feature in the HFA?

Para 2: ‘Disaster loss is on the rise with grave consequences for the survival, dignity and livelihood of individuals, particularly the poor, and hard-won development gains. Disaster risk is increasingly of global concern and its impact and actions in one region can have an impact on risks in another, and vice versa. This, compounded by increasing vulnerabilities related to changing demographic, technological and socio-economic conditions, unplanned urbanization, development within high-risk zones, under-development, environmental degradation, climate variability, climate change, geological hazards, competition for scarce resources, and the impact of epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, points to a future where disasters could increasingly threaten the world’s economy, and its population and the sustainable development of developing countries. In the past two decades, on average more than 200 million people have been affected every year by disasters.’

Para 3: ‘Disaster risk arises when hazards interact with physical, social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. Events of hydrometeorological origin constitute the large majority of disasters. Despite the growing understanding and acceptance of the importance of disaster risk reduction and increased disaster response capacities, disasters and in particular the management and reduction of risk continue to pose a global challenge.’

Para 4: ‘There is now international acknowledgement that efforts to reduce disaster risks must be systematically integrated into policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development and poverty reduction, and supported through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including partnerships. Sustainable development, poverty reduction, good governance and disaster risk reduction are mutually supportive objectives, and in order to meet the challenges ahead, accelerated efforts must be made to build the necessary capacities at the community and national levels to manage and reduce risk. Such an approach is to be recognized as an important element for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.’

Para 5: ‘The importance of promoting disaster risk reduction efforts on the international and regional levels as well as the national and local levels has been recognized in the past few years in a number of key multilateral frameworks and declarations.’

How do statements and consultations on the successor to the HFA present the overall case for DRR?

Elements paper

Para 24: ‘In the consultations, countries and stakeholders have indicated that the post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction needs to: build on the experience from Hyogo Framework for Action, be practical and action oriented, strengthen accountability, be relatively short, and capable of addressing future natural and technological risk scenarios, hence far reaching.’

Para 25: ‘The post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction should also build on the experience and the principles enshrined in the preceding frameworks, namely the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster

Reduction, the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World, and the Strategy “A Safer World in the 21st Century: Disaster and Risk Reduction” (ISDR). As such it may not be necessary to repeat their content, but rather simply refer to and recall the past instruments.’

Para 32: ‘The principles enshrined in previous and existing frameworks remain, and may be complemented by the following:

- The sustainability of development and resilience of people, nations and the environment depend on sound risk management, which needs to guide private and public planning and investments. It goes beyond the reduction of existing risk and includes the prevention of new risk accumulation.
- Natural and technological hazards are within the scope of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.
- Prevention and reduction of disaster risk are an international legal obligation and constitute a safeguard for the enjoyment of human rights.
- The increasingly trans-boundary and global characteristics of risk drivers require further cooperative efforts in their assessment and management.
- The availability of open source and open access science-based risk information and knowledge is instrumental to cost-benefit analysis, transparent transactions, accountability, and the development of partnerships across public, private and other stakeholders.’

Para 33: ‘The reduction of disaster loss and damage per se, as an outcome of the existing HFA, reflects a vision of disasters as external events and disaster risk reduction as a sector that protects development. The expected outcome of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, therefore, should not be described only in terms of reduced loss but rather in positive and aspirational terms such as secure, healthy, wealthy and resilient nations and communities. This would create a direct and mutually reinforcing link to the SDGs and specific targets. At the same time, it would increase the political and economic imperative for managing disaster risks, changing the perception of investment in risk management as an additional cost to one of an opportunity to create shared value.’

RECOMMENDED READING

For how public regulation and private investment shape disaster risk, see: UNISDR (2013) Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction. UNISDR, Geneva.

For the intersection of disasters, climate and poverty, see: ODI (2013) The geography of poverty, disasters and climate extremes in 2030. ODI, London.

For the intersection of DRR and adaptation to climate, see: Swedish Climate Change Commission (2009) Closing the Gaps: Disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change in developing countries. Commission on Climate Change and Development, Stockholm.