



## *Topical Issues On*

### **DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT**

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#### ***Disaster Risk Management Begins With Information***

### **ABOUT GLOBAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT EFFORTS**

The Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) held in Japan in March 2015 ushered in the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030. This framework builds on concerted efforts since the 1990s. These efforts were evoked by global humanitarian concerns on the unacceptable rising disaster losses against a background of available in-depth scientific knowledge and expertise that could be applied to reduce disaster impacts.

Consequently, the United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/236 of December 22, 1989 launched the 1990's as the decade dedicated to reducing the impact of natural disasters and save human lives.

All countries had to meet three main principles by 1999 in a bid to achieve sustainable development. These being:

- Conducting national risk assessments from natural hazards. Results of the assessments were to be integrated into development planning.
- Development of mitigation plans at national and sub national levels taking into account long term prevention and community awareness.
- Increased accessibility to global, regional and local early warning systems as well as dissemination of this information.

A mid decade review was conducted at a conference in Yokohama in 1994. The conference set out a strategy and action plan for a safer world. Despite these

endeavours the decade witnessed a sustained increase in disaster incidence and losses. In the thirty years ending in 1999, the decade accounted for all the 10 most costly disasters and 4 of the most deadly disasters over that period.

At the end of the decade an Inter Agency Task Force was established to ensure continuity through the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to accomplish four main objectives namely

- Increased public awareness to understand risk, vulnerability and disaster reduction.
- Promotion of commitment by governments to risk reduction
- Expansion of risk reduction networks by stimulating multi disciplinary and inter sectoral partnerships
- Increased research on causes of disasters and their impact on society and its environment.

A review of the Yokohama Strategy gave rise to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015 with 4 priorities:

- Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
- Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
- Reduce the underlying risk factors.
- Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

While disasters continued to exact a heavy toll on populations HFA achieved some measure of success in reducing mortality to some hazard impacts. It confirmed that reducing risk is a cost effective investment and provided useful insights to its successor the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030.

SFDRR seeks to reduce disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, social, physical, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries. over the next 15 years. Seven global targets have been set:

- substantially reduce global disaster mortality to lower the average per 100 000 between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015
- Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally to lower the average per 100 000 between 2020 - 2030 compared to 2005 -2015
- Reduce disaster economic losses in relation to global gross product by 2030
- Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services such as health and education through developing their resilience by 2030
- Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies
- Substantially enhance international co operation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this framework by 2030.

The priorities for action for SFDDR have been identified as:

- understanding disaster risk
- strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
- Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
- enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to build back better

in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

This elaborate strategy is in place for regional, sub - regional bodies and countries to contribute towards the global goal to ***prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery and thus strengthen resilience.***

Remember our war cry, be a good citizen, reduce the risk to disaster! Take the necessary measures to avoid hazards related to the month of July. The Meteorological Services describe the month of July as the end of the cool season. Occurrences of ground frost (0.0°C) are high. Maximum temperatures average 22.1°C and about 7.6°C at night time.

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