



***A new milestone event for reducing disasters***

# **The World Conference on Disaster Reduction**

**Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005**

**Public Forum- Recovery from disasters  
Tokyo 24 August 2004**

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)  
[www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)

## Overview

**I** The vision of disaster risk reduction: Building resilient communities towards sustainable development

**II** World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005

**III** Priority areas for action - Means to reduce disaster risk

**IV** Way forward

The vision of disaster risk reduction:  
**Building resilient communities towards sustainable development**

**Can sustainable development be achieved without taking into account the risk to natural hazards?**

**Short answer: NO!**

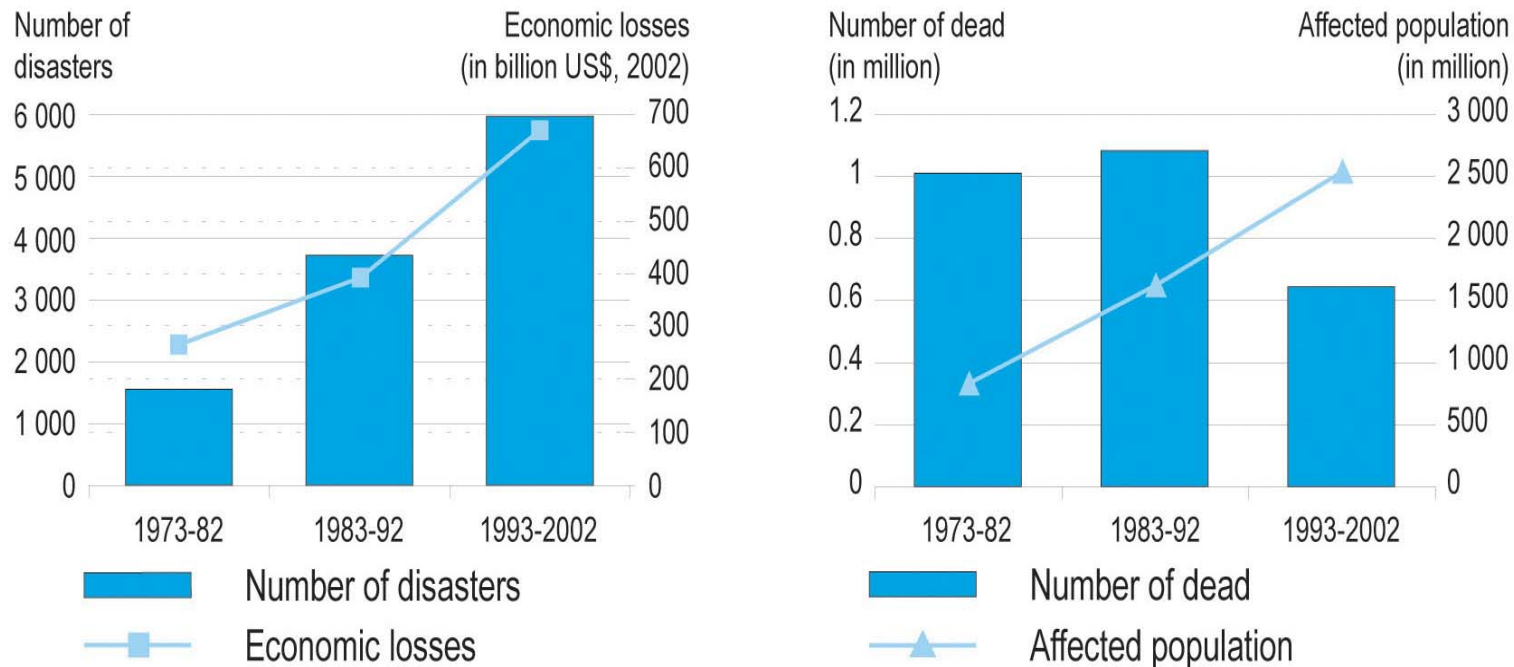
Identification of hazards & vulnerability and management of risk are integral to sustainable development.

- Risks will always remain
- Address root-causes to vulnerability: social, economic, environmental, technical-physical factors



## The vision of disaster risk reduction: Building resilient communities towards sustainable development

### Economic and human impacts of disasters\*, 1973-2002

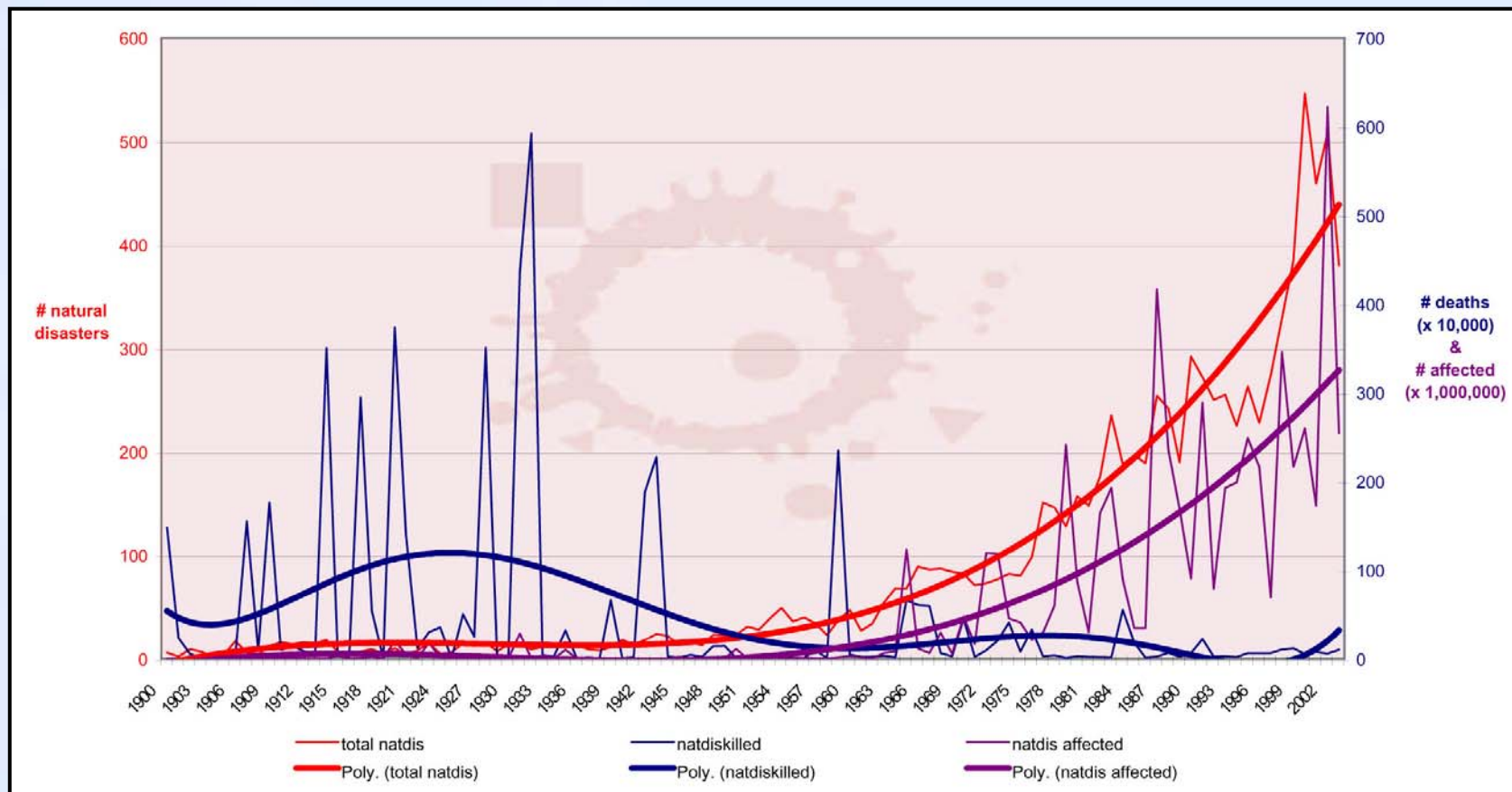


**Source:** CRED International Disaster Database, 2003

**\*Note:** Includes drought, earthquake, epidemic, extreme temperature, famine, flood, industrial accident, insect infestation, miscellaneous accident, slide, transport accident, volcano, wave/surge, wild fire and wind storm.

The vision of disaster risk reduction:  
Building resilient communities towards sustainable development

**Natural disaster: Trends in events, deaths & people affected.  
World 1900 - 2003**

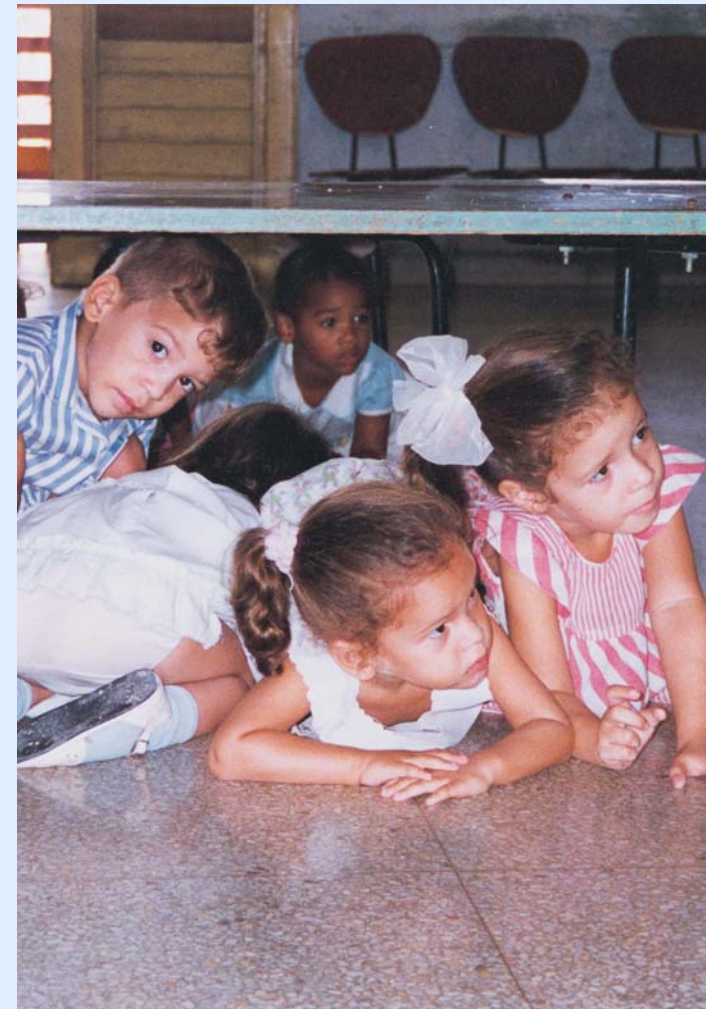


Source: EM-DAT: The OFDACRED International Disaster Database; [www.em-dat.net](http://www.em-dat.net) – Université catholique de Louvain – Brussels – Belgium

## The vision of disaster risk reduction: Building resilient communities towards sustainable development

I

- Reducing risk is everyone's business!
- All sectors have a responsibility- can increase or reduce risk depending on decisions or actions
- It is a "cross-cutting" & holistic issue requiring mainly a gender balanced and community development approach
- It needs sustained commitments and institutional development to build capacities – political, professional, individual
- It also requires close collaboration at international and regional levels as many organizations are involved



The vision of disaster risk reduction:  
Building resilient communities towards sustainable development

I

## International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

*The ISDR aims at building disaster resilient communities by promoting increased awareness of the importance of disaster reduction as an integral component of sustainable development, with the goal of reducing human, social, economic and environmental losses due to natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters*



The vision of disaster risk reduction:  
Building resilient communities towards sustainable development

**The six  
principles of  
sustainability**





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## Objectives of the World Conference

- Conclude the review of the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action updating the guiding framework for disaster reduction
- **Commitment to enhanced and more effective action!**
- Facilitating implementation of WSSD objectives and the Millennium Development Goals
- Increase awareness of importance of reducing risk
- Share information on good practices, shortcomings and obstacles



Photo: IFRC

### 1. Intergovernmental process

To ensure the adoption of programme outcome

- Preparatory meetings and a Bureau in Geneva

### 2. Thematic segment

Thematic policy discussions focusing on implementation, good practices & partnerships

- Organized by interested organizations

### 3. Public forum

To raise awareness to a wider public

- Exhibits, NGO forum, cultural activities



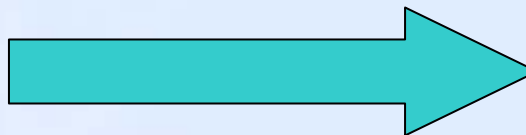
## Thematic areas of the WCDR

- Governance: institutional and policy frameworks for disaster risk reduction  
(UNDP, ProVention Consortium, UN-HABITAT, UNV)
- Risk identification, assessment, monitoring and early warning  
(WMO, UNU, EC/JRC)
- Knowledge management & education- building a culture of resilience  
(UNESCO, IFRC, UNICEF)
- Reducing the underlying risk factors (including recovery practice-sustainable solutions)  
(UNEP, WHO, UNCRD)
- Preparedness for effective response  
(OCHA, WFP)

## Preparatory process

### Yokohama Review

- Living With Risk and other relevant reports
- Regional and thematic consultations
- Compilation of national findings



**Open-ended  
intergovernmental  
process**

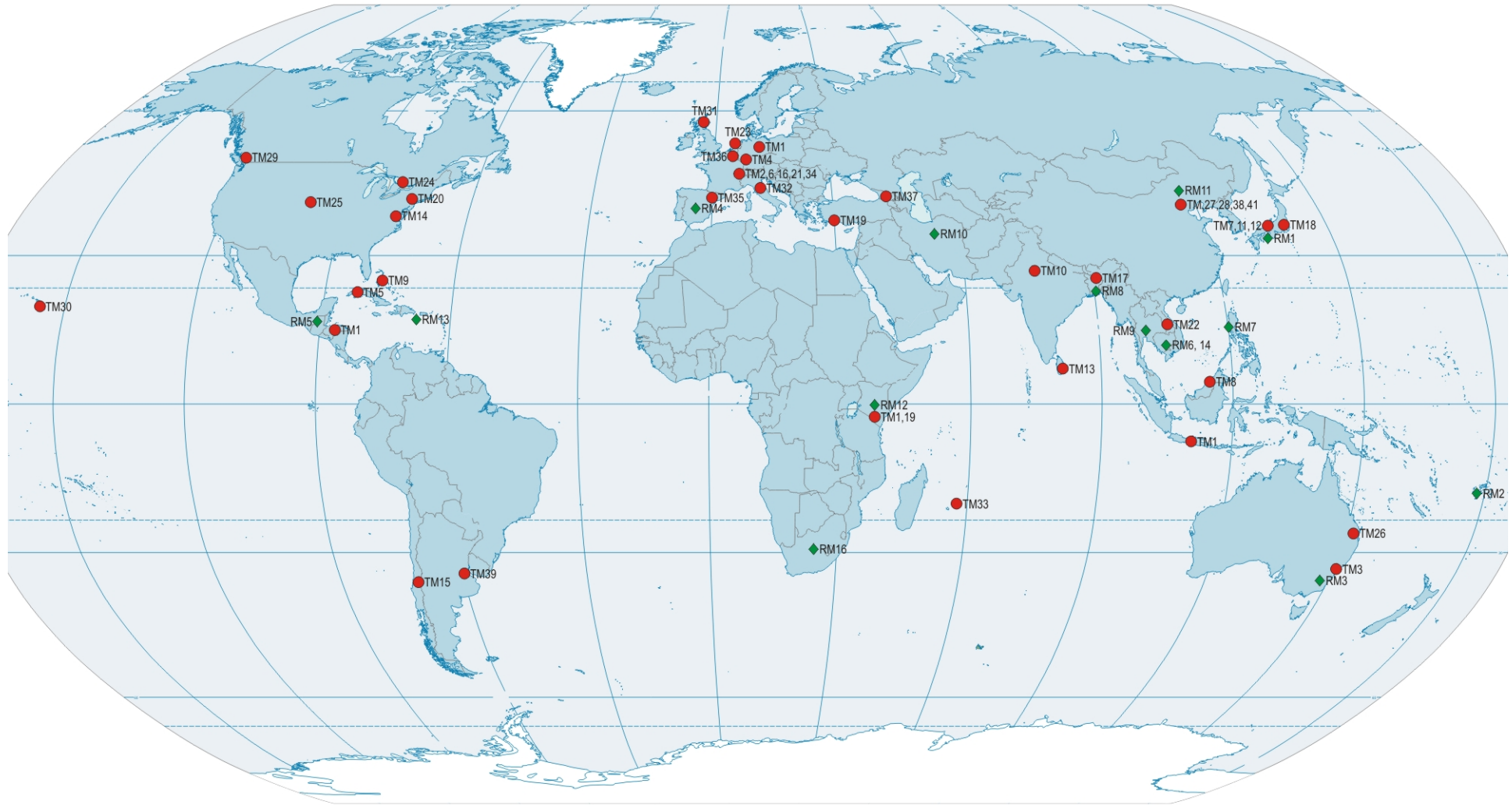
### Conference Outcomes

- Strategy Documents

- Programme for 2005-2015 including objectives and priority areas for action. Implementation mechanism

- List of partnerships to support implementation

# Regional and Thematic Meetings 2003-2004



Legend    ● Thematic Meetings    ◆ Regional Meetings

Additional meetings contributing to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction - venues to be confirmed (TM32-33)

## Expected Impact of the World Conference

- Increased political commitment at all levels -local, national, regional and international-
- Specific direction and action priorities for the next ten years, including targets, indicators, and framework for guiding disaster risk reduction
- Launching of initiatives & partnerships for implementation



## Timetable 2004

- **End of July (still receiving in August):**  
National information to ISDR, Geneva
- **15 June - 20 July:**  
On-line consultation on priority areas for action and WCDR outcome:  
[www.unisdr.org/wcdr-dialogue](http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr-dialogue)
- **7 - 8 October:**  
Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction, 10<sup>th</sup> session Geneva
- **11 - 12 October:**  
WCDR Preparatory Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, Geneva
- Drafting group for programme outcome and declaration....



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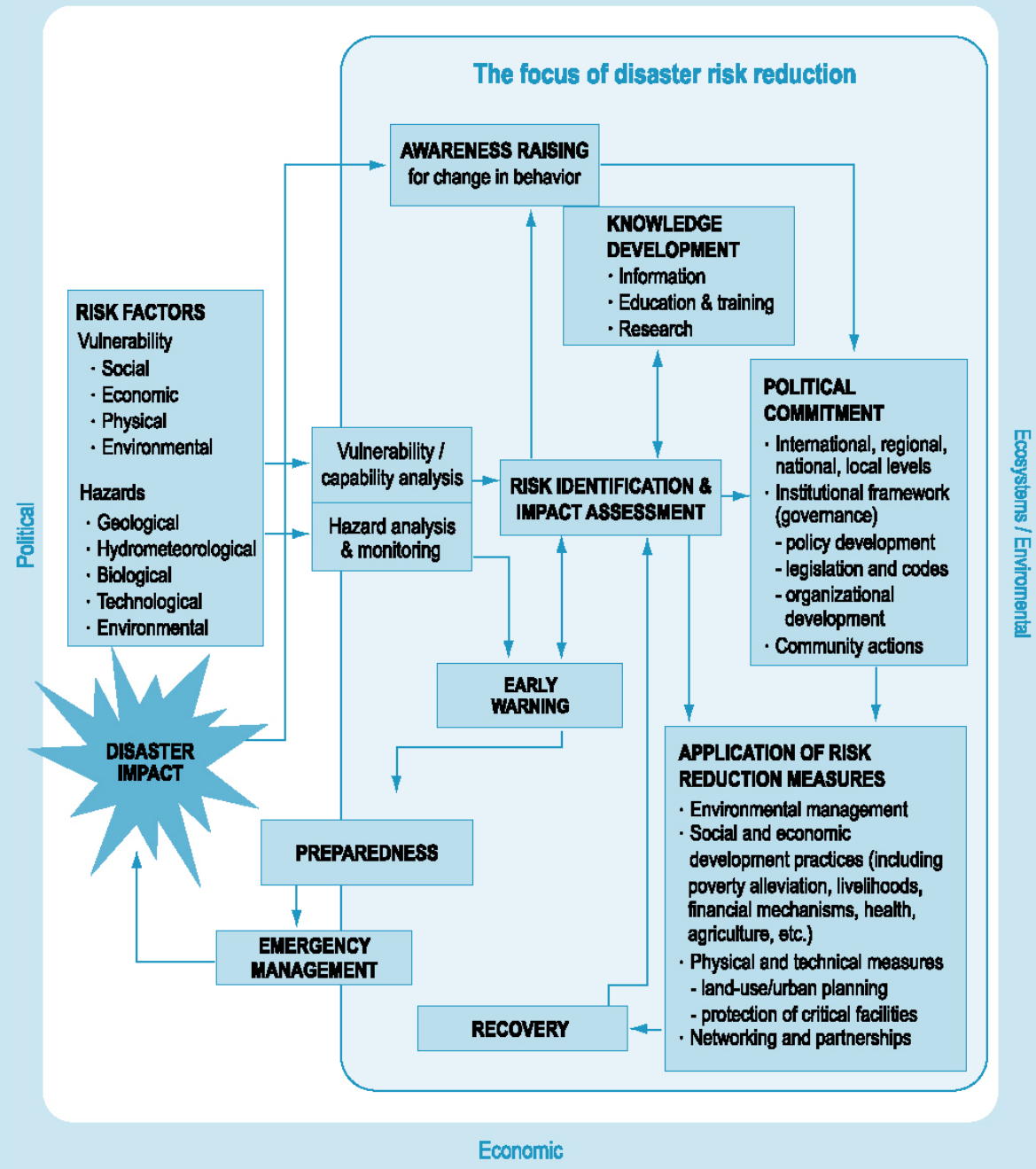
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# Sustainable development context

Socio-cultural



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## Governance: Institutional and Policy Frameworks

*Countries that have embraced DRR, have responded to a recognition of strong and dynamic CHANGE within their societies (rather than more simply 'reacting' to a disaster threat).*

Commitment: Make an investment in protection of resources and assets for national benefit and public good.

- Commit to multiyear, multidisciplinary integration of vulnerability and risk reduction into development planning and policies
  - ❖ National strategies and legislation
  - ❖ Institutional capacities and national platforms/committees
  - ❖ Decentralization of responsibilities and resources (local authorities and communities)

## Risk Assessment and Early Warning

Fundamental starting point to know, accept what the relative hazards, vulnerabilities and risks are

- Basis to build a coherent strategy, setting of priorities
- Dependent upon data needs, information use, shared resources, dialogue
- Need for determining “acceptable” risks- political decision.
- Monitoring of emerging risks (e.g. climate change related, epidemics and HIV/Aids...)
- Early warning and risk monitoring: High return value on investment, if organized and tied to public information, awareness and preparedness



## Knowledge Management and Resilient Communities

Information management systems and networking, essential 'nervous system' for DRR

- Information for advocacy and understanding, public awareness
- Schools as a focal point of building capacities through education
- Advanced study and research, cross-cutting approaches
- Community action through NGOs/CBOs, direct involvement
- Consolidation, application of traditional wisdom, local experience



## Risk Management Applications: Reducing underlying risk factors

*Sectoral implementation – and linking to sustainable recovery*

- Linkages to environmental management and protection endeavors and actors (e.g. wetland & mangrove protection)
- Planning and land use commitment, especially compliance to regulations and codes
- Locally applicable insurance or related financial instruments, variations of micro-finance and micro-credit tied to DRR protection efforts. Addressing the uninsured and poorly insured
- Livelihood and agriculture based on risk assessment and known hazard resistant practices
- Urban risk management and plans (mega-cities...)



## **Risk Management Applications: Reducing underlying risk factors**

*Matter of  
governance,  
and public  
participation, if  
to be valid and  
sustained*

- Wider infrastructure protection – techniques are known and professional resources available. As much a governance issue as a technical one
- Invest in human capital: improved recovery capacities and safety nets
- Applying existing advanced technologies, can focus on local scales, too (e.g. GIS applications, telecommunications systems, remote sensing)



## Strengthening Disaster Preparedness and Contingency Planning

- Relate risk, vulnerability awareness and monitoring responsibilities into existing disaster management and contingency planning
- Benefit of more balanced resource allocations between prior prevention/preparedness vs. emergency assistance and recovery
- Expanding contingency –risk reduction– outlooks to slower onset conditions, such as environmental hazards, climate change implications, drought, rapid urban growth, including awareness and policy development for bridging “Relief to Development”



## **Regional and International Support for Disaster Reduction at National and Local Levels**

Regional support emerges as crucial to enhance national capabilities and motivation

- Crucial information sharing, clearing-house function
- Shared technical, material resources
- Consolidated education, training, organizational relationships
- Collective and shared political commitments among neighboring countries
- Serves as a momentum of interest throughout a region
- Facilitates coherence between international agendas and interests with individual country needs and priorities.
- Allows a better managed and unified approach to common or shared problems (e.g. SIDS)

## Guiding and reporting on accomplishments in disaster risk reduction

- Strong demand for economic, cost-benefit, and other demonstrations of success
- Responsive to local needs and conditions, but sustained commitment
- Nationally determined criteria, indicators, targets necessary
- Time bound objectives & priorities, baseline for measurement of accomplishment – or modification, based on experience



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## In the context of preparation of WCDR....

- **Sound institutional basis for effective governance:** opportunity - national information- to promote national committees or platforms (where not existing)
- Within individual countries encourage **inclusion of environmental, climate and public health, urbanization as “emerging risks”**
- **Identify gaps in implementation:** integrating risk reduction into development programmes and projects – within resources
- **Window of opportunity provided by recovery to introduce risk reduction culture...** national and donor policies to be enhanced – how to persuade?

*" More effective prevention strategies would save not only tens of billions of dollars, but save tens of thousands of lives. Funds currently spent on intervention and relief could be devoted to enhancing equitable and sustainable development instead, which would further reduce the risk for war and disaster. Building a culture of prevention is not easy. While the costs of prevention have to be paid in the present, its benefits lie in a distant future. Moreover, the benefits are not tangible; they are the disasters that did NOT happen. "*

**Kofi Annan, "Facing the Humanitarian Challenge:  
Towards a Culture of Prevention", UNGA, A/54/1**