Challenge of Bam Earthquake –

Role of the UN System in Recovery and Reconstruction

Kamal Kishore, RDRA, UNDP/BCPR

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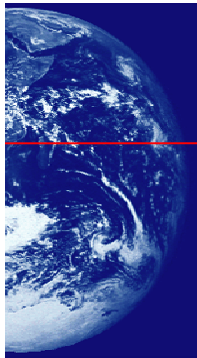
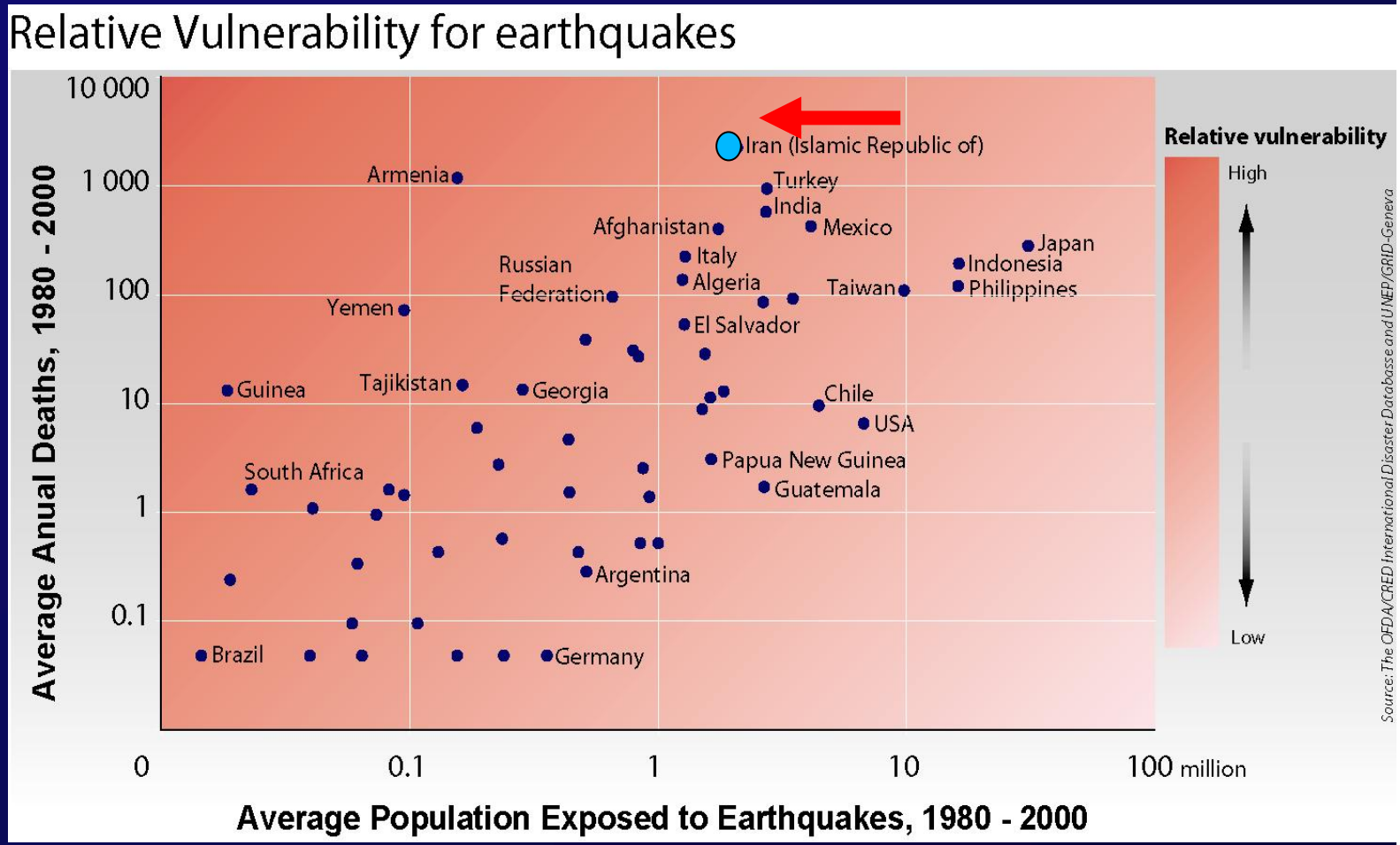


Outline

- Earthquake Risk in Iran
- The Bam Earthquake
- UN's role in Response & Recovery
- Challenges in Long term Recovery
- Lessons & Road Map for Safer Communities

Earthquake Risk in Iran



Source: Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development, UNDP, 2003.

The Bam Earthquake

Quick facts:

26 December 2003

6.5 on the Richter Scale

Damage:
-30,000 dead,
-75,000 homeless.
- 85% of buildings severely damaged or destroyed.
- 2,500 year-old historic citadel of Bam *(Arg-e-Bam)*, an internationally known heritage site, almost completely destroyed.

The Bam Earthquake

Damaged Arg-e-Bam

60% of deaths from natural disasters worldwide in 2003 were in Bam (OFDA/ CRED International Disaster Database)

UN's role in Response & Recovery

Supported short-term relief to address urgent needs and lay foundations for long- term recovery

Conducted Rapid Needs Assessment (UNDAC)

Provided rescue and relief support to government

UN's role in Response & Recovery

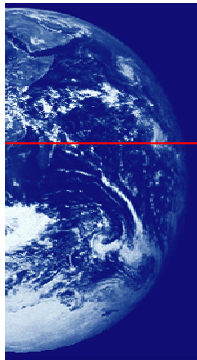
Launched a Flash Appeal to meet the urgent and immediate needs for the first six months after the earthquake

UN's role in Response & Recovery

From Emergency Humanitarian Assistance to Reconstruction and Risk Management

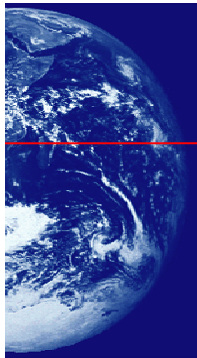
- *U N Strategy for Support to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the Bam Earthquake: Short, medium and long term*

- *Lessons Learned from large-scale reconstruction programmes in Japan, India and Turkey International workshop* (Tehran 25-26 February 2004).



Challenges in long-term Recovery

- Setting up appropriate institutional arrangements for the management of large scale reconstruction programmes
- Using recovery programme as an opportunity to enhance standards of earthquake safety in not only Bam but other vulnerable areas of Iran
- The issue of site selection – where to rebuild Bam? In the same location or on another site?
- Introducing building technologies that are not only earthquake resistant but also cost-effective, locally appropriate, employment generating and sustainable



Challenges in Long term Recovery

- Ensuring that the local initiative and the resources and capacities of the affected people are fully utilized
- Using reconstruction as a means of revitalizing the local economy by focusing on both the pre-existing micro-enterprises and creating new livelihood options
- Capturing and institutionalising the lessons learned from Bam
- Developing synergies between reconstruction activities in different sectors such as health, infrastructure, public services and shelter

UNDP

Lessons & Road Map for Safer Communities

- Translating policies into practice at the local level
- Strengthening capacities on all aspects of disaster risk management at the local and intermediate levels
- Building a knowledge base on existing and emerging patterns of disaster risk (good information on natural hazards alone is not enough)
- Build capacities to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development processes.

Bam Earthquake Recovery and Reconstruction

- Link disaster management at local, provincial and national levels.
- Use Bam experiences and lessons to reduce risk in other vulnerable parts of Iran and the region.

Thank you