

# THE IMPACT OF DISASTERS

#### IS INCREASING

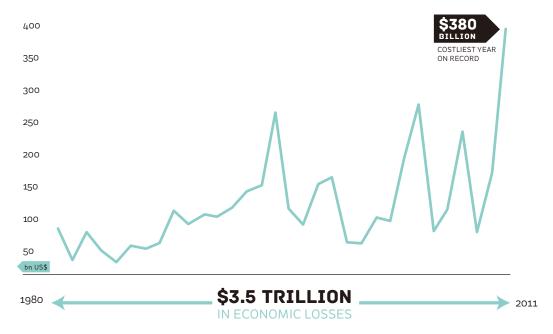
Every day, the growth of urban populations drives exposure to natural hazards ever higher. Unplanned urban expansion, coupled with poor resource management, destroys natural ecosystems, such as mangroves, wetlands, and forests, that have protected communities for generations.

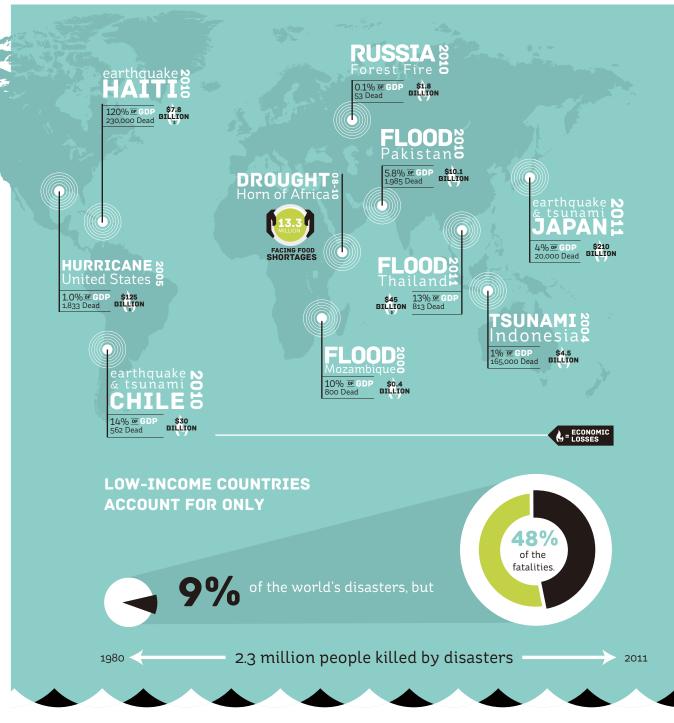
Climate change is exacerbating the danger. Today's once-in-20-years extreme temperatures are expected to occur annually by the century's end, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

It is the poor and vulnerable - women, children, the elderly, marginalized groups, and those recovering from conflict - who often are most exposed to the dangers. When disasters strike, their homes in fragile and often low-lying environments often take the brunt of the storms, and their lives feel the greatest pressure when droughts send food prices soaring. The damage exacerbates existing social and economic inequity, which can further marginalize people and stoke civil unrest and conflict.

# **DISASTERS** affect everyone

but they impact the poor and vulnerable the most.





## **UNDERSTANDING RISK**

IS ESSENTIAL





**2050**,

THE URBAN POPULATION EXPOSED
TO STORMS AND EARTHQUAKES
ALONE COULD MORE THAN DOUBLE TO

1.5 BILLION.

No country can fully insulate itself from disaster risk, but every country can reduce its vulnerability. Success depends heavily on how well cities are managed. City planners play important roles through risk-based territorial planning, enforcement of building codes, early warning systems, and emergency response plans. Governments and donors can help cities build this capacity and the knowledge for managing risks.

Anticipating the hazards and assessing the vulnerabilities of populations and infrastructure is at the core of disaster risk management. Disaster prevention, climate change adaptation, and the importance of inclusive green growth are becoming ever more intertwined. By understanding the risks, leaders and individuals can make informed decisions and set priorities for development.



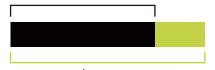
OF THE 22,200 EXTREME EVENTS RECORDED BETWEEN 1980 AND 2011, 17,400 WERE CAUSED BY WEATHER EXTREMES.

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# WEATHER-RELATED DISASTERS

ACCOUNT FOR US \$2.6 TRILLION OF THE US \$3.5 TRILLION ECONOMIC LOSSES RECORDED BETWEEN 1980 AND 2011.

US \$2.6 trillion



US \$3.5 trillion

Mainstreaming disaster risk management in development planning can reverse the current trend of rising disaster impact.

#### Risk Identification

Risk assessments (community-based, probabilistic modeling); risk mapping; information campaigns; public outreach; etc.

#### Risk Reduction

Structural and non-structural measures; land use planning; policies and regulation; infrastructure retrofitting; etc.

#### Preparedness

Civil protection systems; pre-positioning emergency response equipment; early warning systems; contingency planning; etc.

#### Financial Protection

Assessing and reducing contingent liabilities; budget appropriation and execution; ex-ante and ex-post financing instruments; etc.

#### Resilient Reconstruction

Resilient recovery and reconstruction policies; ex-ante design of institutional response mechanisms; etc.



**DISASTER RISK** 

**MANAGEMENT** 

#### **ACTION MUST GO**

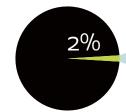
# **BEYOND RESPONSE**

Too often, international financing has been dominated by disaster response after the damage is done rather than prevention and preparedness. Between 1980 and 2009, US\$ 91.2 billion in international aid went to disaster-related activities; just US \$3.3 billion of that was for prevention and preparedness. The rest included US \$63.7 billion for emergency response, US \$22.6 billion for reconstruction and rehabilitation, and US \$1.5 billion for a combination of purposes.

How donors channel aid matters. Financing dedicated to mainstreaming disaster risk management can enhance overall development effectiveness and help prevent

humanitarian assistance growing year on year at a time when donor financing is stretched. Development assistance, both technical and financial, can supply seed funding for national programs, grant technical support to key risk-related areas, and give momentum to comprehensive risk management.

Natural hazards need not turn into disasters. By investing in disaster risk management rather than merely responding to disasters, we can save lives, property, and the expense of rebuilding.



US \$91.2 billion

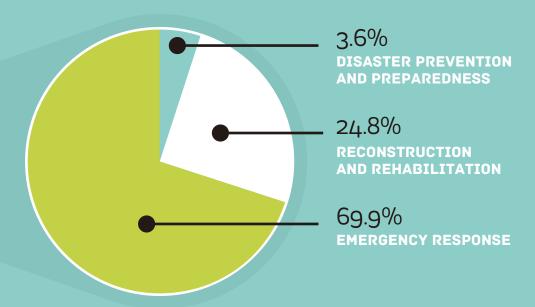
# **BETWEEN 1980 AND 2009**

ABOUT 2% OF TOTAL
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
was allocated to disaster-related
activities. Of this, the smallest
share went to disaster prevention.

## **WE NEED A**

# CULTURE OF PREVENTION

### International Disaster Financing



2015 presents an opportunity to make disaster risk management a development priority: The Millennium Development Goals and the Hyogo Framework for Action reach their target dates that year, a new climate change treaty is anticipated, and the Sustainable Development Goals proposed at Rio+20 are due by 2015.





