

Developing Capacities for Risk Management and Resilience



Dr. Kishan Khoday
Regional Cluster Leader
Climate Change & Resilience
UNDP Regional Center in Cairo
(kishan.khoday@undp.org)

Context

As noted by 2014 Human Development Report on “Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience” **2.2 billion people (30% of the world) are poor or near-poor and face persistent vulnerabilities** threatening achieving of development goals. For the poor and excluded in society, vulnerabilities such as climate risks and disasters are seen by many as structural, institutional failings and systemic forms of injustice, discrimination. This applies to both prevention of climate & disaster risks and the nature of the world’s responses to crises.

In the Arab region one sees the long history of how the earliest civilizations have adapted over millennia to shifting climates and risks from droughts, floods, etc. Today, the region is facing serious challenges, as climate change hits unprecedented historic levels. The 2006-10 drought exacerbated vulnerabilities preceding the Arab Uprisings, including rural to urban migrations in places like Syria. More direct impacts are also seen in unprecedented flood events in places like Saudi Arabia and Sudan. With the world’s highest urban growth rates, a particularly important issue is ways to develop capacities in urban governance to manage risk and build resilience.

2013 Aqaba Declaration on DRR in Cities

- Commitment by Mayors and Local Government representatives as members of the Making Cities Resilient campaign coordinated by UNISDR. **Outcome of 1st Arab DRR conference in Aqaba organized by UNISDR, UNDP, League of Arab States, and SDC**
- Calls for set up a dedicated local unit for planning and management of disaster risk reduction strategies, including mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery at city level;
- Recommends issuance of legislation and enforcement of laws/regulations regards: (a) responsibility of stakeholders for DRR, (b) identification of zones for land-use planning to reduce hazard exposure of city infrastructure, (c) enforcing penalties for non-compliance and incentives for compliance to safety standards;
- Allocate 1-5 % of city's annual budget for disaster risk reduction works to be spent on integrating risk reduction measures in all development sectors, strengthen institutional capacities, enhance resilience of infrastructure, improving community preparedness
- Prepare at least one risk assessment report of each city (including public buildings, schools, health facilities, historic old towns, and cultural heritage areas) to guide urban development plans and decisions, and ensure that this information and the plans for city's resilience are readily available to the public;

2013 Aqaba Declaration on DRR in Cities

- Prepare City's Disaster Risk Reduction strategy through consultations with stakeholders to define realistic schemes for risk reduction and link it to national strategy for DRR;
- Implement at least one public awareness campaign to increase understanding of local communities in cities, towns and rural areas on disaster risks and actions to minimize the risks;
- Recommend development of education and training programmes on disaster risk reduction in schools and universities and integration of disaster risk reduction in educational curricula;
- Build or restore at least two infrastructure facilities to reduce disaster risks; a dike, a dam, or a flood drainage system, where needed;
- Set-up a system to monitor the enforcement of building regulations and land use planning;
- Setup a municipal early warning committee to prepare and disseminate disaster warning to high risk communities in urban and rural areas;

UNDP Cooperation

UNDP's vision is that communities and nations are able to protect their own lives and livelihoods from the impact of climate change and disasters, and that the drivers of climate change are mitigated including through more sustainable use of energy. Climate change and risk reduction is not a stand-alone endeavor, but pursued as a core element of UNDPs overarching development vision.

VISION



**Combatting
Poverty and
Inequity**

3 AREAS OF WORK



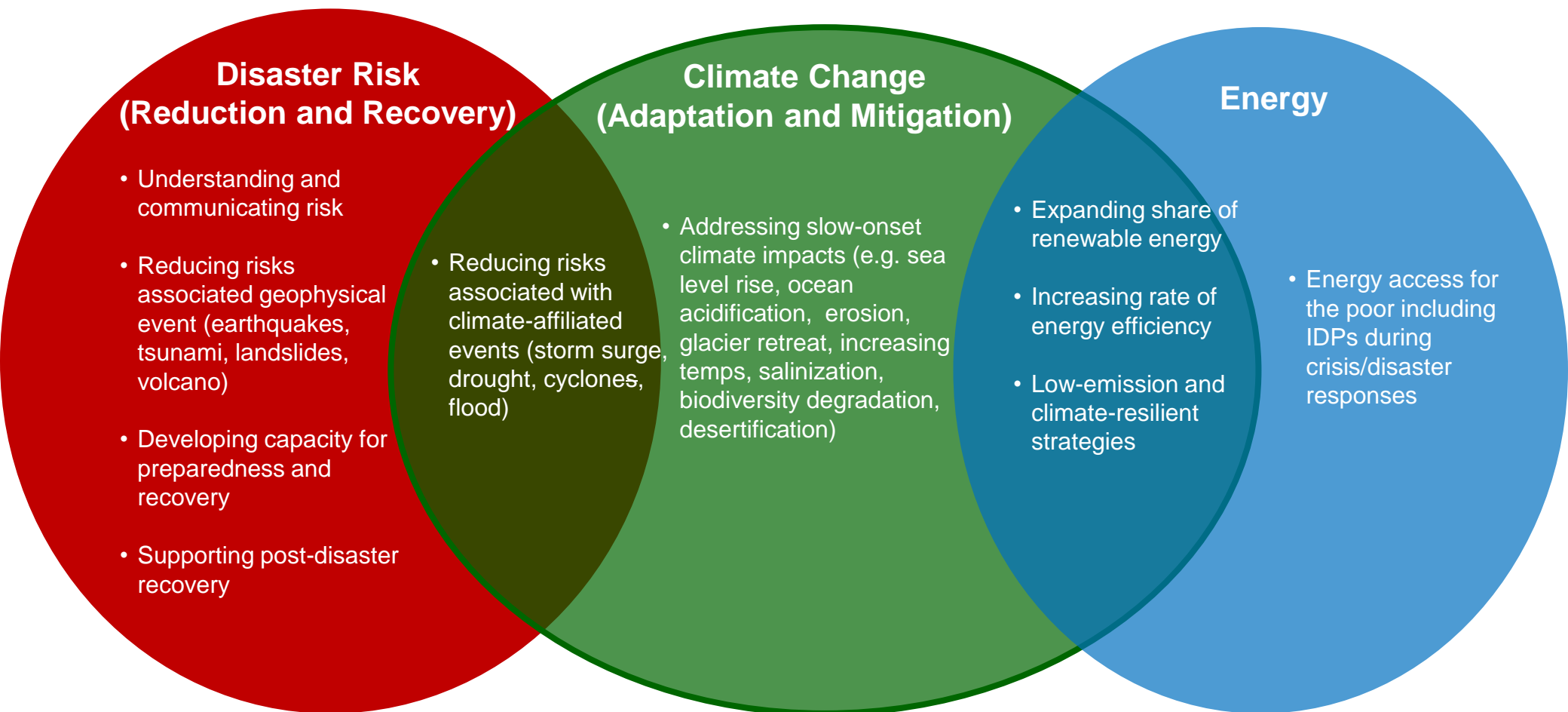
**A) TRANSFORM ECONOMIES TO BECOME
INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE**



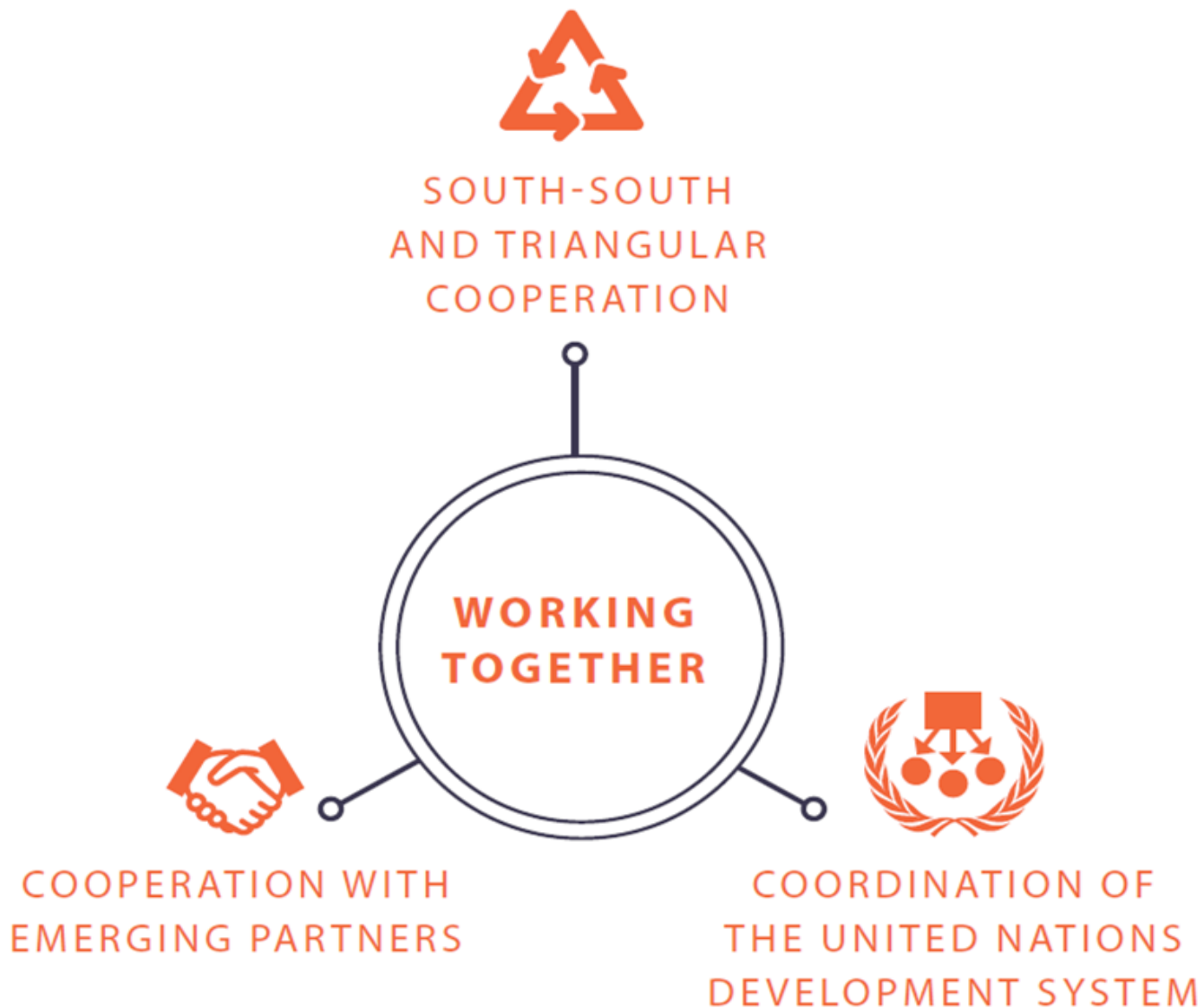
**B) ENABLE DEMOCRACY TO DELIVER
DEVELOPMENT DIVIDENDS**



C) MANAGE RISKS TO BECOME RESILIENT



\$1.2billion of programming in >140 countries



UNDP & Resilience in the Arab Region

Climate Adaptation and DRR: portfolio of over \$30million of country-led projects in the Arab region focused on managing risks and building resilience to food/water security and sea level rise. Analyzing the vulnerabilities in the Levant sub-region from climate and newly emerging drought cycle - converging crises, with conflict. In concert with an *Arab Cities Disaster Resilience Initiative* regional initiative to develop capacities of cities to achieve Aqaba Declaration.

Climate Mitigation and Energy: portfolio of over \$30million of country-led projects in the Arab region focused on renewable energy, energy efficiency in industry/buildings, sustainable urban transport. Sustainable energy solutions for host communities to respond to refugee and IDP flows in response to Syria and Iraq crises. In concert with an *Arab Climate Resilience Initiative (ACRI)* to support country capacities for global climate negotiation, south-south exchange, support to regional bodies to implement Arab League strategies on climate change and energy.

Arab Cities Disaster Resilience Initiative

Phase 1: Jan 2014-Dec 2015
Budget: \$200,000 (Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation)
Partners: UNISDR, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation
Local Partners: Ain Dhraham, TUNISIA, Khartoum, SUDAN, Saida, LEBANON

Goals:

- To mobilize local and national authorities to implement Aqaba declaration;
- Facilitate stakeholder participation to implement Aqaba Declaration;
- To acquire financial commitments from governments for longer-term implementation of Aqaba goals
- To promote good practices on city level DRR from the region

Outputs:

- DRR Focal Points at the city level
- Multi-sectorial DRR Coordination Committees;
- City level Action Plan to implement Aqaba Declaration;
- Government financing for DRR at city level;
- Publishing good practices on Urban DRR for wider sharing

Arab Cities Disaster Resilience Initiative

Activities to Date:

- Project start up activities including recruitment of staff
- Publication of brochure and Aqaba Declaration;
- City selection completed;
- Regional training workshop for city authorities;

Activities Upcoming:

- City level Action Planning (consultative process with local and national stakeholders)
- Study tour by city officials to a DRR model city;
- Implementation of the City Action Plans;
- Publication of good practices booklet

Planning Phase 2: 2016-17 building on successes to scale up to 6 cities

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