Impact of Disasters

• Direct economic losses from disasters so far this century are 50 percent higher than previous estimates: USD 2.5 trillion

• Total direct losses in 40 low and middle income countries amount to USD 305 billion over the last 30 years

• Impact in Africa:
  • 1970 to 2012, 0.7 million lost lives and economic damages of USD 26.6 billion
  • In 2012, over 37 million people in Africa were directly affected by a total of 147 recorded disasters
  • 13 million people in Horn of Africa and 16 million in the Sahel suffered from droughts during 2011-12
Does disaster affect all equally?

- **Hurricane Katrina (2005)**: 75 percent of those who died were aged over 60 (even though this age group comprised only 16 percent of the local population)
- **Japanese tsunami (2011)**: 56 percent of those who died were 65 and over, despite this age group comprising just 23 percent of the population

**Populations are ageing most rapidly in developing countries:**
- Currently home to 60 percent of the world’s older people
- Projected to rise to 80 percent by 2050
People aged 60 or above constitute 11 percent of global population.

Proportion of Population aged 60 or Above

Source: HelpAge International
The global ageing population

People aged 60+ constitute 22 percent of global population – 2 BILLION PEOPLE

Proportion of Population aged 60 or Above

- 0-9%
- 10-19%
- 20-24%
- 25-29%
- 30+
- No data
What makes older persons more vulnerable to disasters?

- Ageing: physical decline including poor health, mobility, sight and hearing
- Lack of provision of adequate services, both on a regular basis as well as emergency situations
- Social exclusion of older persons and discrimination associated with age
- Higher poverty levels, exacerbated by lack of social protection and livelihood opportunities
Older Persons an Asset for DRR

Older persons have a lifetime of experience, knowledge and skills

- Store-house of indigenous and traditional knowledge: A valuable source of information of disasters and risk management
- Acting as community champions for DRR
- Strong agents of change for the next generation

HelpAge International (2014), Disaster Resilience in an Ageing World’
IDDR – A Momentum for Older Persons

• Survey of older persons and governments on issues related to ageing and DRR
• Charter 14 for Older People in Disaster Risk Reduction
• Social Media:
  • Twitter - https://twitter.com/unisdr #IDDR
  • https://www.facebook.com/UNISDR?ref=hl

www.unisdr.org/2014/iddr
Preliminary Results from the Survey
(15-31 August 2014)

Perceptions of older persons
• Climate-induced disasters the greatest threat (floods 62%, cyclones 46%/typhoons 36% and heat waves 37%)
• Challenges: Mobility and Capacity; resources for preparedness; Awareness
• Capable but need social support system (70% wish to explain to disaster planners about the special needs and vulnerabilities of older persons

Perception of Governments and Decision-Makers
• Earthquakes and landslides bigger threats to older persons
• Challenges: Mobility; Eyesight and hearing; Lack of access to information; and Low income
• Need for improved and disaggregated data collection to better understand special requirements of older persons
Thank you for your attention!