

DRR related terminology in other disciplines – example of UNECE work

UNISDR technical briefing on terminology (4 September 2015, Geneva)

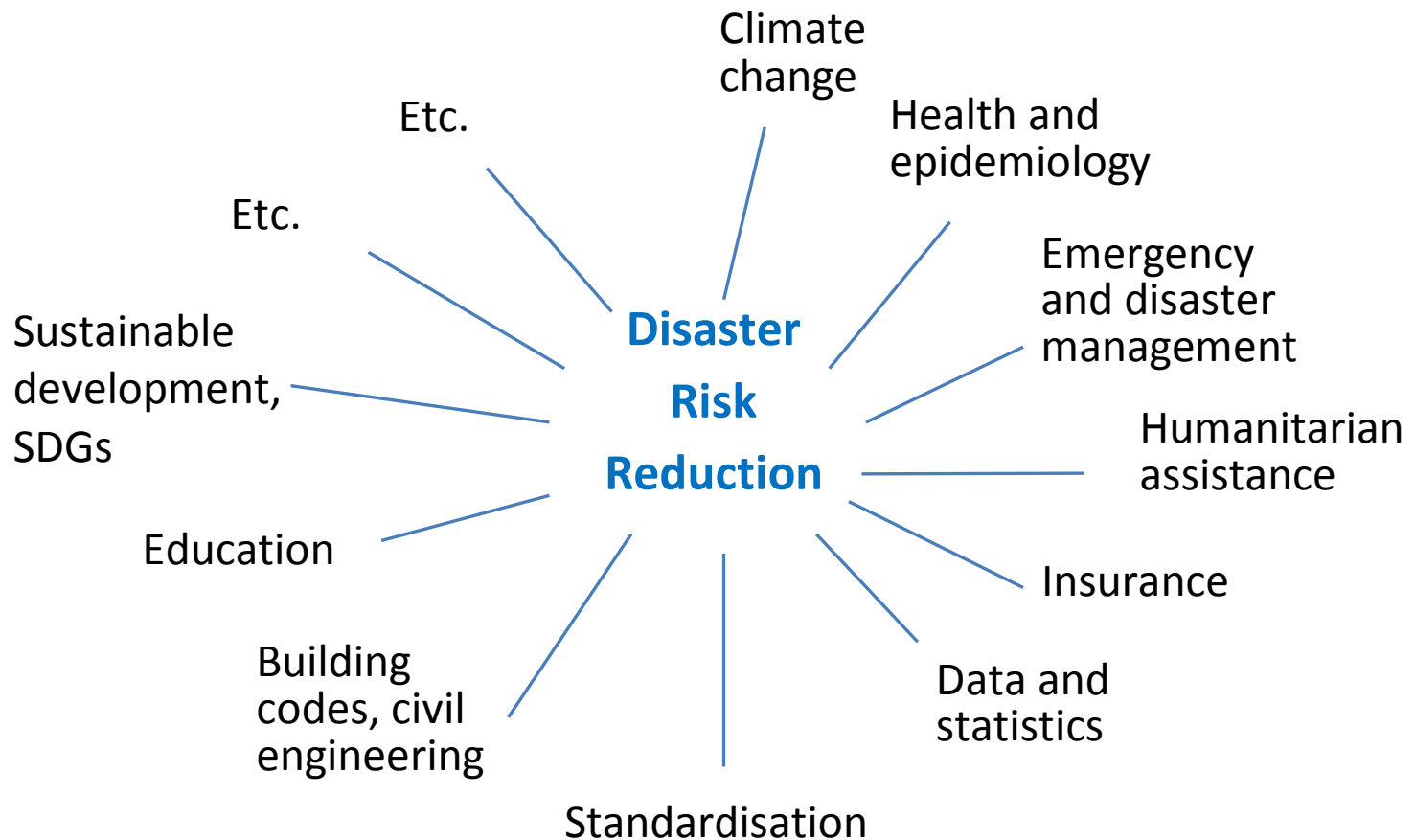
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UNECE

Disaster risk reduction and other disciplines



UNECE activities related to DRR

- Housing and land management policies for resilient communities
- **Standards and regulatory frameworks for DRR**
- Environmental assessments
- Access to information (Aarhus Convention)
- Industrial accidents
- **Measurement of extreme events and disasters**
- Forests

For more information, see:

<http://www.unece.org/sustainable-development/disaster-risk-reduction/unece-drr.html>

Standards and regulatory frameworks: UNECE work in risk management

- Raise awareness of how standards & regulations help address all kinds of risks
- Develop recommendations on
 - how risk management can contribute to the design of regulatory systems
 - how RM tools can be used in planning, developing, implementing regulations, especially as relates to disaster risk



Risk management standards help regulatory activity & public policy beyond disasters...

- Risk management is the root of legislative action in key sectors and in many countries:
 - Food safety
 - Environmental safety
 - Occupational health & safety
- Implementation and enforcement



Milestones of the UNECE work on risk management

- International Conference (Nov. 2009)
- Group of experts on Risk Management (Nov. 2010)
- Two recommendations:
 - Risk Management in Regulatory Systems
 - Crisis Management in Regulatory Systems (Nov. 2011)
- Publication «Risk management in regulatory framework» (2012) – based on ISO terminology

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Risk Management in Regulatory Framework

Towards a better management of risks



UNITED NATIONS

Upcoming work

- UNECE and UN/HABITAT are the co-conveners of a task force
- Under ISO TC 292 on «Security and resilience»
- To assess needs for standards in the implementation of the Sendai framework



Measurement of extreme events and disasters

- Heads of national statistical offices made an in-depth review of measuring extreme events and disasters in October 2014 based on a paper by Mexico
- Outcome of the review: lack of common definitions and classifications of disasters and extreme events for statistical purposes is one of the main issues
- Task Force on measuring extreme events and disasters set up in February 2015
 - Clarify the role of official statistics in providing data on extreme events and disasters
 - Identify practical steps how NSOs can support disaster management and risk reduction

Statistical terminology on extreme events and disasters

- Countries use different terms and identify different kinds of disasters
- No common typology of disasters
- Specific requirements for the definitions for statistical purposes – have to be operational

Some differences in DRR and statistical terminology

- Categories/types of disasters
- UNISDR
 - Natural hazards: geological, hydrometeorological, biological
 - Man-made hazards: environmental degradation, technological
 - Socio-natural hazard
- ECLAC (based on an earlier version of UNISDR)
 - Geo-physical (inside the earth, on earth surface), meteorological and hydrological, biological
- WHO-CRED EM-DAT database
 - Natural: geophysical, meteorological, hydrological, climatological, biological, extraterrestrial
 - Technological: industrial accident, transport accident, miscellaneous accident

Conclusions

- Terminology is a tool allowing to work together
- Accommodate different lines of action, be action oriented
- Promote and raise awareness about the DRR terminology
- Communicate with involved people from different areas
- Harmonize, ensure consistency between terms used in different areas

Thank you!

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