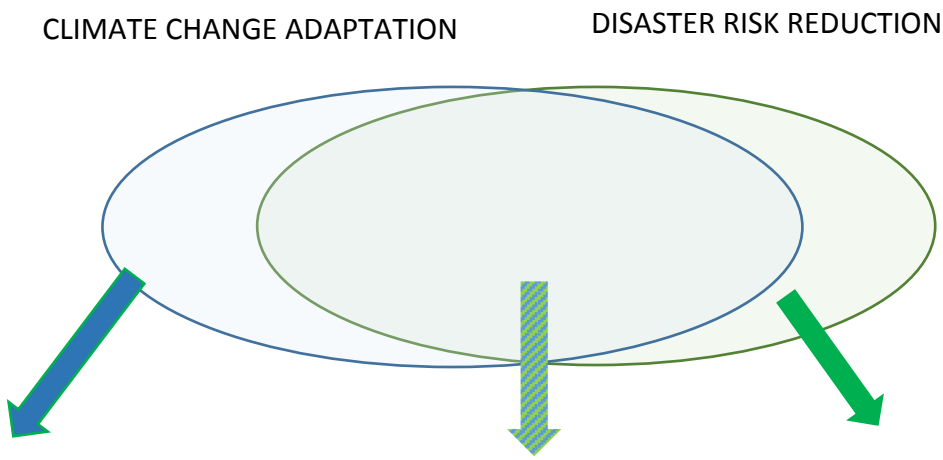
Explaining the links between 2030 Agenda, Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Over the past two decades climate-related events, such as floods, storms, heatwaves, and drought have accounted for 90% of major disasters. These events already exact a huge toll on economic and social development. For less developed countries, average annual losses from disasters equate to over 20% of their social expenditure. In many countries the figure is over 50%. Climate or weather-related disasters globally account for over half of all displaced people each year.

Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of weather-related hazards, significantly impacting on economic and social development, with cascading impacts on poverty, the supply of food and water, urban systems, the spread of disease, people movements and conflict. Reducing exposure to weather-related hazards and the vulnerability of people is therefore a critical shared priority for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and ultimately is essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda.



Climate Change Adaptation measures not directly linked to reducing disaster risk e.g.:

- Increased energy demand for cooling
- heat-proof roads infrastructure;
- prepare for overheating of buildings
- improve water conservation

- 90 percent of major disasters today are climate and weather-related, with frequency and intensity to increase significantly from climate change.
- These disasters exact a huge toll on economic and social development (Average Annual Losses ≈ 20 percent of annual social expenditures in less developed countries). Climate change will have cascading impacts on food and water security, spread of disease, people movements and conflict

Disaster Risk Reduction measures not related to climate change e.g. measures to reduce risk of losses from

- chemical disasters
- nuclear disasters
- earthquakes
- volcanoes

Both Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction…

- Are included in, and are a key focus of international agreements which spell out targets and incorporate accountability mechanisms.
- Recognize that there is no success without a rapid reduction in greenhouse gases (efforts to reduce disaster risk/adapt to climate change will rapidly be overwhelmed by extreme climate warming).
- Are attempts to ensure national planning and investments take account of developments that are uncertain in terms of their nature, timing, and magnitude (and therefore fundamentally rely on science, modelling, historical data, risk analysis and risk profiling).
- Can deliver huge economic benefits through risk informed decision-making and building resilience.
- Call for specific targeted interventions and investments as well as portfolio-wide (capital investments, policies, etc.) risk-proofing.
- Should be imbedded in national budget processes, but often are not, due to relatively weak institutional affiliations (climate change= environment ministry; DRR = disaster management/civil protection authorities; budget planning = finance ministry/treasury).
- Fundamentally require engagement with the private sector and at the community level (e.g. home owners, local government and businesses)—as these are often the owners and managers of the assets at risk.

Next Steps (a practical work plan):

- Baseline assessment of state-of-play in incorporating both DRR and CCA in national planning—(DRR, CCA, Finance Ministries). Including evaluating quality of existing CCA/DRR strategies and budgeting.
- Identify gaps in historical data for baseline and to quantify costs of previous disasters.
- Drawing on regional-scale climate models/ disaster risk modelling, create national risk profile.
- Embed DRR/CCA in national budget processes, line agencies (tools, best practice), including guidance on risk-proofing across portfolios.
- Engage parliaments to establish and monitor regulatory requirements for above steps (to embed them sustainably in the system).
- Engage public sector with private sector and community level in designing solutions, links to budgets and public sector “enabling environment”.
- Insurance sector initiatives—strong overlap between DRR/CCA.
- Build whole-of-society awareness of the need for urgent action to reduce green-house gas emissions, the disaster-risk consequences of not doing so and the huge economic benefits of investing in adaptation/risk reduction.