

Forensic Investigations of Disasters

(FORIN Working Group)

Introduction

The Forensic Investigations of Disasters (FORIN) project, under the umbrella of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR programme, proposes an approach that aims to uncover the root causes of disasters through in-depth investigations that go beyond the typical reports and case studies conducted post-disaster events. Thoroughly analysing cases, including both success stories and failures, will help build an understanding of how natural hazards do—or do not—become disasters. This is in furtherance of Goal 4 (Reducing risk and curbing losses through knowledge-based actions.) in the **IRDR Strategic Plan (2013-2017)**, to which FORIN’s activities are aligned.

The methodology is built around case studies and, in keeping with the IRDR research objectives, the FORIN case studies will be integrated, that is more than an assembly of different disciplinary approaches.

The Objectives

The fundamental aim of FORIN is to develop, implement and promote a new integrative approach in disaster research through case studies and scenarios. It is intended that this project will lead to a paradigm shift in disaster risk research and promote science-based risk reduction policies and practice.

The diverse range of objectives that could be attained through the effective implementation of FORIN investigations include:

- **Policy:** conduct analyses with inputs from multiple disciplines, stakeholders, and policy makers in order to guide policy and encourage coherence across all key disciplines.
- **Management:** focus attention on the link between research findings and improved policy formulation and application in practice, and develop and maintain a bank of high-quality case studies publicly available through the IRDR website, <http://www.irdrinternational.org/>.
- **Scientific research:** advance methodological diversity and implement science-based results, and build a strong interdisciplinary capacity of young researchers.

- **Development:** substantiate that generic causes have local manifestations, promote a ‘learning culture’ among all stakeholders, and foster wider dialogue between analytical researchers and implementing practitioners, building a common discourse in the process.
- **Disaster risk reduction:** promote sustainable risk management and risk reduction through science-based research, relate the research to the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA), provide wider emphasis on reducing human consequences, and develop case studies that illustrate ‘risk-drivers.’

FORIN’s attributes have been described and published in the IRDR report, [Forensic Investigations of Disasters: The FORIN Project \(IRDR FORIN Publication No. 1\)](#). The report is available for download from the IRDR’s website. Printed copies are also available from the IRDR IPO.

The Expected Outcomes

Through implementation of FORIN research and the conducting of workshops, seminars and trainings, it is expected that the FORIN project will have significant outcomes, including:

- A new approach to investigating disasters;
- A paradigm shift in disaster risk research;
- Wide dissemination of new disaster knowledge and science; and
- Enlightened disaster risk reduction practices and policies.

For more information about FORIN visit the IRDR’s website, www.irdrinternational.org/, or contact the IRDR IPO via email at connect@irdrinternational.org.

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