



Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
Second Session, Geneva, Switzerland
16 – 19 June 2009



Tel. : +41 22 017 8828
Fax : +41 22 917 8964
globalplatform@un.org
www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform

International Environment House II
7-9 Chemin de Balexert
CH 1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland

HIGH LEVEL PLENARY PANEL 1

Concept Note

“Increasing Investment for Risk Reduction”

Tuesday, 16t June 2009
15:00-16:30

Context and rationale

Four years have passed since adoption of the Hyogo Framework and, while progress has been made, there is broad consensus that its implementation must be accelerated with scaling-up of effort at all levels. Participants at the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva in June 2007, issued a call for action: *substantial reduction in disaster losses by 2015....Investment in risk reduction needs to be substantially increased.*¹

What does it mean to invest in disaster risk reduction (DRR)? How have countries designed their investments in risk reduction? What are some experiences that can be shared in budgeting, monitoring, tracking and results from risk reduction investments? Can we collect and make available some practical experiences and recommendations for local and national government decision making when it comes to choices and options for determining such strategies

In practice it appears that DRR has evolved into a series of investment streams:

- i. “Stand-alone” sectoral DRR investments.
- ii. Vulnerability-reducing investments which may not be directly labeled as DRR investments.
- iii. DRR mainstreaming can constitute a third distinct category, and is one which does not necessarily imply additional investment for DRR, instead it may involve acknowledgement of the DRR implications of any development investment.

At the global level, “stand-alone” DRR investments have enabled awareness-raising of the need to invest in DRR and have stimulated important financial commitments towards such activities as developing emergency management capacity, early warning and disaster preparedness, retrofitting of infrastructure, etc., which in turn are important to show results and initiate larger mainstreaming work. However, significant focus must be given to the more complex and challenging task of mainstreaming, or integrating disaster risk as an integral part of development investments in critical sectors.

There is evidence that progress is being made in recent years towards mainstreaming DRR in country development strategies (*Source: GFDRR, World Bank study*), wherein DRR is emerging as an integral component, and in some cases, a key development goal for respective countries. That being said, although mainstreaming at a strategy and policy level has resulted in greater investments in DRR in some contexts, much more has to be realized in implementing a ‘disaster-sensitive’ development strategy.

Objectives and structure of the High Level Panel

In line with the overall intended outcomes of the Global Platform, this Panel will present some examples of national initiatives to reduce risk, explore the challenges related to increasing investments in national risk management, and discuss how international institutions can support up-scaling investment, as relevant.

The Panel will capture expertise and experiences gathered by National Governments who have made major investments in disaster risk reduction in their National Development plans.

The Panel aims to:

1. Discuss experiences and mechanisms in securing dedicated budgets for disaster risk reduction at all levels of Government.
2. Identify key issues related to risk reduction financing as guidance for governments that are now starting to manage risk through national planning instruments.

¹ *Acting with Common Purpose: Proceeding of the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, 5-7 June 2007* (Chair’s summary) (ISDR/GP/2007/7). The Chair’s Summary also noted that: “*International funding should be better coordinated and tracked to ensure that development projects do not inadvertently increase risks, as well as to monitor the volume of investment in risk reduction and to measure the performance of investments in reducing risks.*” (http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/first-session/docs/session_docs/GP-Acting-with-common-purpose.pdf)

3. Exchange experiences related to the definition of investments e.g. stand alone versus multi-purpose [cross-cutting] versus mainstreaming; capturing investments in retrofitting; capturing investments in different sectoral budgets.
4. Explore how to track and monitor progress of investment categories as agreed for national use, and discuss experiences with differing approaches.
5. Discuss experiences in establishing and using baseline data using agreed indicators and investment definitions; at the national level, and as relevant, at the international level.

The bulk of investment in disaster risk reduction needs to take place in the context of sustainable development by making risk sensitive investments in all sectors. Development investments all too often fail to take disaster risk into account, resulting in an inefficient use of scarce resources.

Specific issues which may be addressed in the Panel discussion include:

- What are the key trigger factors – economic, social, political - for countries to decide to invest more in risk management?
- How can national governments ensure that disaster risk reduction is taken on board as a cross-sectoral consideration and integrated into planning and budgeting? How are priorities to be set for DRR investment (current vulnerabilities vs. future)?
- What are the constraints to adopting and implementing DRR as a risk management approach?
- What suggestions are there for incentivising increased investment in DRR by public and private sector?
- What training, capacity building, policy development will be required to achieve this?
- How do we classify, measure, and account for investments which have risk reducing impact but are not clearly labeled as DRR investments?
- How can the performance of DRR investments be measured to determine impact? What are the principles or criteria that determine the adequacy of such investment?
- How can international funding mechanisms addressing a range of development sectors and issues take fully into account disaster risk reduction? What policies need to be developed to ensure that disaster risk reduction is fully integrated into all development programs?
- How can disaster risk reduction investments be leveraged in the context of humanitarian action and early response/ recovery? How can agencies involved in reconstruction be encouraged to mainstream disaster risk reduction into their programs?

Outcomes.

The identification of key actions required for the period 2009 - 2011 by ISDR partners, and particularly countries and the international community, in respect of:

- determining lessons learned and good practices in decision chains from countries having successfully secured budgetary allocations for disaster risk reduction.
- advocacy and guidance for governments seeking wider integration of risk reduction in national development planning and climate change adaptation.
- determining critical data sets and indicators required by governments to support internal developments for risk reduction financing.

PANELISTS

Country / Organisation	Name	Title
Panelists:		
The Republic of Haiti	Jean Max Bellerive	Minister of Planning and External Cooperation
The Republic of India	M. Ramachandran	Minister of State, Home Affairs
The Republic of Indonesia	Harry Azhar Azis	Co-Chairman of the Budget Committee, House of Representatives
The Republic of Kiribati	Anote Tong	President
The Republic of Yemen	Sadeq Amin Aburas	Deputy Prime Minister for Internal Security
Moderator:		
The World Bank	Zoubida Allaoua	Director, Finance, Economics and Urban Department, Sustainable Development Network