

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
16-19 June, 2009

Special event on
Financing Disaster Risk Reduction

Organized by
ProVention Consortium

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Context and scope

Government disaster risk financing strategies need to ensure that public expenditure levels on risk reduction are sufficient relative to the levels and nature of risk faced, the expected economic and social returns to risk reduction and the reasonable responsibilities and obligations of government; and that there are adequate financial arrangements to manage the residual risk in the form of post-disaster relief and recovery expenditure.

Natural hazards pose indirect threats both to planned activities and levels of public funding available for recurrent and capital spending in future years. They can also result in considerable loss of existing investment and related economic activity if sufficient risk reduction measures are not in place. The threats to human life and well-being due to inefficiencies related to poorly designed financing measures and missed development opportunities are considerable.

In reality, although many hazard-prone developing countries undertake some planning for disasters, none has a comprehensive disaster risk financing strategy. Instead, arrangements focus primarily around limited regular budgetary allocations for humanitarian relief and preparedness and, in a few cases, some use of risk transfer tools. Additional resources are obtained on an ad hoc basis in the aftermath of disasters, primarily via budgetary reallocations and international community grants and loans. Meanwhile, rational decisions around the appropriate balance and nature of risk reduction and post-disaster expenditure are rarely made. Risk reduction is often viewed as a somewhat separate activity, focused primarily around project-based, often piecemeal, investments in structural mitigation by relevant line agencies or (less frequently) through local government.

Expected results and links to the GP09 outcomes

This session will provide a snap shot of the historical evolution of disaster risk financing practices in developing countries and the strengths and weaknesses in the current system. It then poses a series of questions on potential ways forward, some of them deliberately provocative, aimed at moving towards the development of a more integrated, comprehensive approach, centred on risk reduction.

Inputs will be sought to frame a bigger research initiative that would provide useful inputs to the mid-term review of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

The session also complements the High Level Panel on disaster risk financing to take place during the Global Platform. It provides an opportunity to delve into more depth with some of the issues raised, and develop recommendations to take forward from the Global Platform.

List of Partners involved

ProVention, World Bank, others to be confirmed

Format of the discussions and tentative list of speakers / panelists (if available)

The session will kick off with a presentation of a consultation brief prepared by ProVention and partners on the state of disaster risk financing in developing countries. A number of questions will be laid out, to which a few discussants will provide initial responses and then the dialogue will be broadened to engage the wider audience.

Identified speakers will include Ian Christoplos and Charlotte Benson, independent consultants and renowned experts on disaster risk management issues. Discussants are to be confirmed.

Names of: Chair, Moderator and Rapporteur (if available)

To be confirmed

Equipment required (to be covered by Organizers)

Powerpoint projector, laptop, microphones

Expected number of participants (for room allocation)

60-70

Supporting document and expected printed material to be brought by the organizer(s) to the event (optional)

Consultation brief on disaster risk financing

Preferred date and time –

Ideally the same day as the High Level Panel on risk financing, however, it must be coordinated to avoid other special events with ProVention involvement.