



Name of Event: [Side Event] Integrated Drought Risk Side Event

Date of Event: May 10, 2011

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Organizers: UNISDR, World Meteorological Organisation

Speakers:

- Margaret Hiza Redsteer, USGS
- Richard Choularton, World Food Programme
- Hartmut Brühl, Global Water Partnership

1) Outline

Governments need to get a stronger handle on the integrated drivers that combine to configure drought risk. Drought risk is not exclusively a problem of precipitation deficits: emphasis on the economic, political and social factors that configure drought risk. Measures that reduce communities' underlying vulnerability to drought also reduce their vulnerability to other hazards while bolstering development gains. Mismanaged water use is manufacturing drought risks all over the world, in both developing and developed countries alike. The impacts, however, are chiefly borne by the poorest countries and communities, often those who depend on subsistence agriculture.

2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations

Recommendation: In order to shift away from a response-dominated approach, we need to prioritize robustness over efficiency.

3) Conclusion

An integrated approach to drought risk management seems most likely to be effective if one wants to avoid short-term solutions that create long-term vulnerabilities.