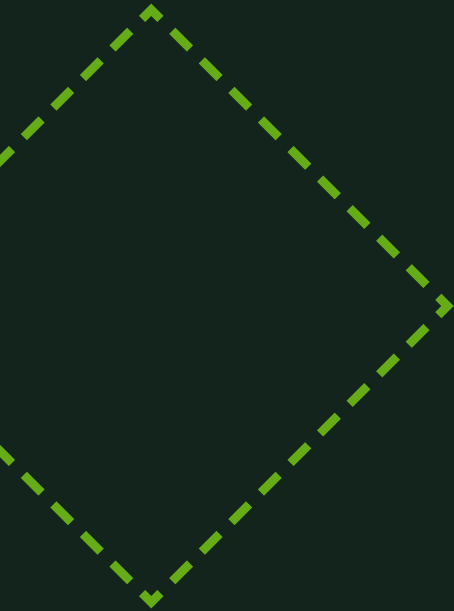


**Munich Re  
Foundation**

From Knowledge  
to Action



## From Knowledge to Action

Whoever covers risks worldwide has to find the answers to tomorrow's questions today. Whoever is involved in the task of predicting risks as accurately as possible has to make knowledge about the causes and background of these risks the very core of that business.

Munich Re has been handling global risks for 125 years. Today, it possesses expertise and know-how in all fields of competence connected with the subject of risk. Contacts in over 150 countries form the basis of an exceptional knowledge network.

Whoever is in possession of this level of knowledge also has a certain responsibility: a responsibility to constantly examine and re-examine, not merely to accumulate information and data. And acting responsibly means sharing that knowledge.

The Munich Re Foundation enables Munich Re to fulfil this responsibility. And if, according to Einstein, "progress lives from the exchange of knowledge", then knowledge lives from the exchange between specialist disciplines and experts throughout the world. The Munich Re Foundation will do much to further this exchange – worldwide.

**Environmental  
and climate change**  
Climate change,  
a slow-moving  
process with fatal  
consequences,  
is one of  
the greatest  
challenges  
of the century.



## From Knowledge to Action

### Urbanisation and megacities

In 2007, for the first time in history, there will be more people living in cities than in the countryside. Currently, there are worldwide 20 megacities each with over ten million inhabitants. Most of these megacities are located in developing countries and are all too quickly becoming megarisks for mankind.

Knowledge is the crucial raw material of our age. The more we network this knowledge, the more chance we have of solving the global challenges we face. From climate change and extreme poverty to the protection of our natural resources. Because all these topics are interrelated and interconnected, there is no simple solution. And once solutions have been found, action must follow. Minimising life's risks means working together.

For as complex as the challenges are and as meagre as our knowledge may sometimes appear, we are understanding more and advancing further with each day that passes. Knowledge and understanding thus form the basis for innovative solutions. Finding these solutions and converting knowledge into action is the abiding principle and objective of the Munich Re Foundation.



## Minimising risks throughout the world

People are ultimately at the core of what the foundation's work is all about. The foundation's task is to minimise the risks to which they are exposed. It clarifies issues and provides support, also in developing countries.

At the same time, the foundation is a kind of market place for ideas and visions. It is a network and a cooperation partner. It provides a forum for exchange and dialogue.

The foundation team carries out these tasks in a consistent and integrated way: from dialogue forums, international symposiums and educational campaigns to direct help and support for people in the areas concerned.

### Population development

Every year, the world population grows by about 80 million people. The developing countries account for the largest growth, whereas in industrialised countries societies are gradually ageing.





## The foundation's activities



### Water as a resource and risk factor

Water is indispensable to mankind, and access to clean drinking water is essential for a future worth living. At the same time, water is a risk factor, the number of floods rising dramatically in recent years.

### Knowledge accumulation and implementation

Promoting innovation and research

### Clarification and sensitisation

Symposiums, presentations, dialogue forums, campaigns, exhibitions

### Networking

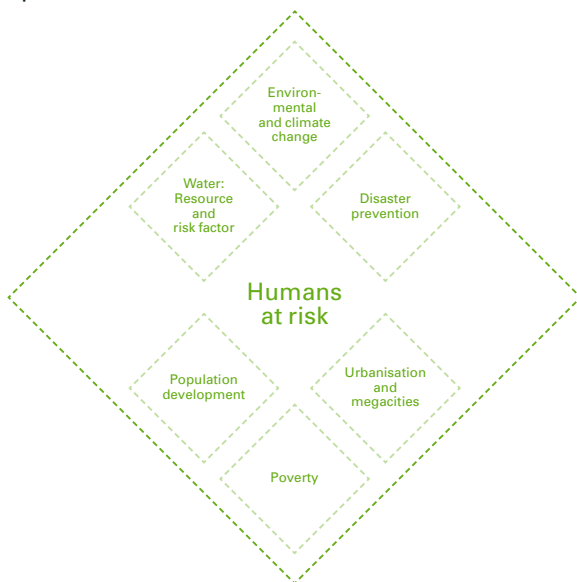
Establishing and developing expert networks on risk topics

### Direct support

Supporting people in risk situations

## Topics

The topics that the foundation's work deals with are as complex and varied as the background and causes of risks. Questions concerning population development, for example, are inseparably linked to the element of water: on the one hand a valuable resource and on the other a risk factor. This is equally true of the link between current issues in the field of environmental change and climate change or catastrophe prevention and poverty relief. The foundation seeks to provide answers to overarching questions from a variety of perspectives in order to find sustainable solutions in the area of risk prevention.



### Humans at risk

Natural catastrophes have increased in number and intensity in the past few years. The inhabitants of developing countries are often completely at the mercy of these disasters.

### Information

If you have any questions about the work of the Munich Re Foundation or would like more information, please get in touch with us!

## How to contact us

### Thomas Loster

Chairman of the Foundation  
tloster@munichre-foundation.org

### Dirk Reinhard

Vice Chairman of the Foundation  
dreinhard@munichre-foundation.org

### Anne Wolf

Project Management, Media and  
Public Relations  
awolf@munichre-foundation.org

### Angelika Boos

Team Assistant  
aboos@munichre-foundation.org

Munich Re Foundation  
Königinstrasse 107  
80802 München, Germany

Telephone +49 (0)89/38 91-88 88

Fax +49 (0)89/38 91-7 88 88

[info@munichre-foundation.org](mailto:info@munichre-foundation.org)

[www.munichre-foundation.org](http://www.munichre-foundation.org)

Letters: 80791 München, Germany

