

Disaster Prevention
Awareness is the key

Wednesday summary and key issue

Munich Re
Foundation
From Knowledge
to Action

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Symposium Goals

Wednesday, Day 1 1. Identify the needs

- Examine needs of people at greatest risk to natural disasters - challenges for political sector, donor organisations and financial sector

1. Political Sector Challenges

1. **Supporting scaling up and coordination with community-based disaster risk reduction** (DRR, including mitigation, prevention, and preparedness activities)
 - NGOs or social movement projects are crucial but not enough, governments are needed
 - Institution building crucial but avoid too much bureaucracy, sharpening the focus - but: must be controlled by social movements
 - Communities should be part of coordination (poor are not the targets but are the partners)
 - Coordination of work with donor community

1. Political Sector Challenges (cont.)

2. **Removing incentives for for maladaptive policies and practices** (e.g. unsustainable land use, poverty and economic short-termism, land degradation)
3. **Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction** (mitigation, prevention, and preparedness) into the planning process (long-term development planning, poverty reduction process, or national strategy for sustainable development)
 - for big projects disaster risk assessment should be an integral part of planning process (recommendation)

1. Political Sector Challenges (cont.)

- need for requesting country/donor recipient country to have a coherent DRR approach (disaster management cycle) when asking for funding from donor community
- need to find entry points that coordinate incentives for longer-term goals (DRR) with political-cycle-term-length goals (4 year cycles) - e.g. disaster risk reduction activities a means to an end towards security goals

2. Donor community challenges

- 1. Overcoming internal communication barriers** (interdepartmental communication; DRR broad in scope, no one is really responsible for DRR, wide range of terminology)
- 2. Building synergetic strategies to overcome competition of issues** (in parts of the donor community) and to reduce the difficulty to get money for pre-disaster activities and much easier to get money after the disaster for emergency relief and reconstruction.

2. Donor community challenges (cont.)

- 3. Develop an integrated approach** to make sure that activities throughout disaster management cycle complement each other, rather than competing (recommendation);
- 4. To meet their main objectives**, it is in the interest of *both* development *and* humanitarian assistance organizations to integrate disaster risk reduction into core activities and create appropriate incentives (OECD DAC reports, measure amount of resources dedicated to DRR (recommendation))

3. Financial services sector challenges

- 1. Developing general awareness** and literacy about risk (risk management options, risk and vulnerability assessment, risk transfer and insurance. Identify and document the trade-offs of these risk management options for sustainable development (recommendation)
- 2. Challenge is to reach the people and groups** that need appropriate risk transfer alternatives (e.g. mutuals, micro-insurance ...)

3. Financial services sector challenges (cont.)

3. **Building strategic public private community alliances** (for transferring and reducing risk —
 - to set incentive for minimizing risk (mitigation)
 - to design affordable insurance-related instruments that fit those who are unable to pay premiums ("the uninsurable")
 - to set incentives for behavior of other private sector partners
 - to support pilot projects and dialogue

Key Issues

Supporting scaling up and coordination with community-based disaster risk reduction (DRR, including mitigation, prevention, and preparedness activities)

- Governments within their development policy must support building institutions but this must be controlled by social movement

Key Issues (cont.)

- Donor organizations should build synergetic strategies to overcome competition of issues (in parts of the donor community) and use an integrated approach to make sure that activities throughout disaster management cycle complement each other.
- Insurance / Finance sector should actively support building strategic public private community alliances to come up with risk managing solutions which set incentives for minimizing risk (mitigation) and are affordable for the most vulnerable people.