

WATER DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ARE KEY ELEMENTS FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

INPUT TO THE PREP COM MEETING ON FOR THE WCDRRR 2015 NOVEMBER 17-18, 2014 IN GENEVA

Water-related disasters such as floods, flash floods and droughts are by far the most frequent calamities worldwide. They are also the most economically and socially destructive. Since the original Rio Earth Summit in 1992 floods, droughts and storms have affected 4.2 billion people (95% of all people affected by disasters) and caused USD 1.3 trillion of damage (63% of all damage)¹. Therefore, effective water hazard preparedness and management is essential for securing resilience and combating adverse impact from climate change and thus a key element in disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, in post-disaster situations, lack of access to safe water is a main reason for increased number of casualties. Therefore, to have robust and sustainable water resources management in place, will contribute to mitigate the negative impact of disasters and thus need to be an inherent part of disaster preparedness.

THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FRAMEWORK SHOULD

- Focus on disaster prevention and preparedness, and support climate adaptation, as this is less costly than relying on emergency responses.
- Address the need for climate proof infrastructure, potent enough to mitigate floods and flash floods, and thereby able to minimise impact on economic and social development.
- Support Ecosystem Based Adaptation relying on natural infrastructure in order to build resilience and reduce disaster risk.
- Improve individual and institutional capacity to mitigate impact of water-related disaster risks, and thereby adapt to climate change.
- Address the need for institutional coordination when putting in place operational plans and actions, to mitigate the impacts of extreme climate driven events.
- Strengthening institutions to improve access to water and sanitation particularly for relief in post-disaster situations.
- Adopt integrated disaster risk management approaches based on the concept of integrated water resources management, which include an appropriate mix of structural and non-structural approaches and technologies, to reduce mortality and economic losses from water-related disasters.
- Increase knowledge-sharing with respect to communities at risk to hydro-climatic disasters. Adopt monitoring and implement people-centred early warning systems for communities at risk to water-related disasters.
- Apply disaster preparedness to hydro-climatic disasters that sees the full needs of communities and include stakeholder involvement.

¹ Water and Disaster Risk, a contribution by the United Nations to the consultation leading to the Third World Conference in Disaster Risk Reduction, 2014