



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

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. Effective water disaster preparedness is essential for combating impact from climate change and 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. Robust and sustainable water resources management will mitigate negative impact of disasters and 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 minimize impact on socio-economic development.
- Support Ecosystem Based Adaptation relying on natural infrastructure in order to reduce disaster risk and build resilience.
- Improve individual and institutional capacity to mitigate impact of water-related disaster risks, and thereby adapt to climate change.
- Support institutional coordination when putting in place operational plans and actions, to mitigate the impacts of extreme climate driven events.
- Improve access to water and sanitation particularly for relief in post-disaster situations.
- Adopt integrated disaster risk management which include an appropriate mix of structural and non-structural approaches and technologies, to reduce mortality and economic losses from water-related disasters.
- Implement people-centered early warning systems for communities at risk to water-related disasters.



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### **SIWI comments to the draft text for Post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction**

SIWI acknowledge the need for enhanced actions on Disaster Risk Reduction and the need for global commitment through time bound targets to realize political leadership at every level and in every country.

With water-related disasters being the most economically and socially destructive and by far the most frequent disasters worldwide, SIWI suggest the following inclusions in the Post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

**Guiding principles:** In addition to the listed items the guiding principles needs to build on solid water risk assessments. The development, revision and implementation of relevant national and international policies, plans and practices needs to aim at coherence and coordination with water laws, policies and Integrated Water Resources Management Plans.

**Priorities for Action:** SIWI suggests a stronger emphasis on water risk in the prioritized action areas

#### *Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk*

With water-related disasters being the most economically and socially destructive, identifying and assessing water related risks needs to be of high priority, supporting planning of mitigation measures and thereby building resilience. The assessment shall have a holistic approach identifying water risks to all sectors. This will include assessing all aspects of physical water related risks such as the degradation of water quality and the risk from extreme floods, and draughts especially those likely to arise by climate change. Disaster risk management should build on the concept of integrated water resources management, thus supporting and complementing DRR efforts.

#### *Priority 2: Strengthen governance and institutions to manage disaster risks*

Given the predominance of water disasters worldwide, governance systems particularly needs to include good water governance with the following key elements;

- Equity and efficiency in water resource management, services allocation and distribution
- Catchment planning for water administration including integrated water resources management approaches with the need to balance water use between socio-economic activities and ecosystems.
- Formulation, establishment and implementation of water policies, legislation and institutions.
- Clarification of the roles of government, civil society and the private sector and their responsibilities regarding ownership, management and administration of water resources and services

#### *Priority 3: Investing in economic, social, culture and environmental resilience*

Sustaining and restoring natural infrastructure such as wetlands and swamps to mitigate floods, coastal vegetation to mitigate tsunamis, tides and storm surges, and ensuring natural flow regime in rivers will reduce disaster risk. Infrastructure need to be climate proof, strong enough to mitigate floods and flash floods, and thereby able to minimize impact on socio-economic development.