

ASSESSING DISASTER IMPACTS: CHALLENGES AND ACTIONS

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OUTLINE

- Why is this important?
- Challenges
- Actions in Risk Assessment
- Actions in Information Management
- Actions in Regional Cooperation

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Fundamental to DRR: $R = H \times V$
- Capacities: strong tradition in hazard analysis, weak on social and economic vulnerability; often lack tools to deploy ICT
- Proxy for V (economic losses, fatalities, etc.): difficult to identify precisely in socioeconomic, environmental, governance, and other terms
- All planning, targeting, messaging, etc. proceeds from this information

CHALLENGES

- **Changing risk patterns:** increased climate variability and change; migration
- **Vulnerability GIGO:**
 - EM-DAT is unreliable: captures mainly major disasters, and this inaccurately; most disasters in ECIS are minor
 - Databases of national agencies cover mainly physical damages; economic loss information usually reflects only compensation provided
- **Information dormancy:**
 - Fragmented among agencies, outdated assessment/collection/storage methods
 - Enabling environment: in some countries, stills reflects an active or inherited system of strict control over risk information; political issues reinforce this.
 - Application following collection/storage/dissemination is well below potential
- **Lack of a bottom line** for MinFin: capacities and tools for cost-benefit analysis lacking, i.e. national planners impressed only by life-saving
- **Regional cooperation weak:** hazards transboundary, but little capacity for managing risks at this scale.

RISK ASSESSMENT ACTIONS

- **Climate risk assessment** (Central Asia, Moldova, Armenia, FYR Macedonia):
 - How to create a workable model on a modest project budget?
 - Climate parameters x disaster impacts/risk perception survey/livelihoods framework indicators
 - Methodologies for national and local level (several brands, including VCA-based)
- **Disaster risk assessment:**
 - Methods and tools + on-the-job capacity development
 - PDNA/recovery frameworks: improve information from the outset
 - Economic assessment (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan): direct loss methodology in progress; indirect loss methodology forthcoming in 2014; coordinate with WB/DALA.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- **Enabling environment:**
 - Specific acts related to information collection and flows, standards
 - Linkage with National DRR Platforms
- **Nuts and bolts:** data analysis, digitization, storage and handling
- **National Disaster Observatory** (Armenia):
 - Centralized database + accompanying institutional arrangements
 - Stages: inventory/design/enabling environment -> establishment and on-the-job training -> institutionalization and application -> expansion
 - Command center concept: risk assessment + support to rapid analysis and decision making; linked to monitoring systems
- **ICT**
 - Mobile phone apps: beyond "sexy" to embedding in an end-to-end EWS
 - Using big data and other alternative sources of information

REGIONAL COOPERATION

- **Central Asia Regional Resilience Alliance (CARRA):**
 - DRR Work Plan + National Platforms + CDRRR
 - IASC Regional Task Force for Central Asia: IM Working Group
 - Mandate of national partners in 2012 and 2013 to strengthen risk assessment and information mgmt (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan)
- **Center for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction (CDRRR):**
 - Regional Information Platform: UNDP/OCHA/ISDR
 - Regional database and risk assessment/EWS function envisioned
- **Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC):**
 - Strong alignment of coordination modalities
 - Inter-agency perspectives and mandates: holistic, forward looking approaches
 - Focus upon and experience with managing regional/transboundary risks

Thank You!

Questions?

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