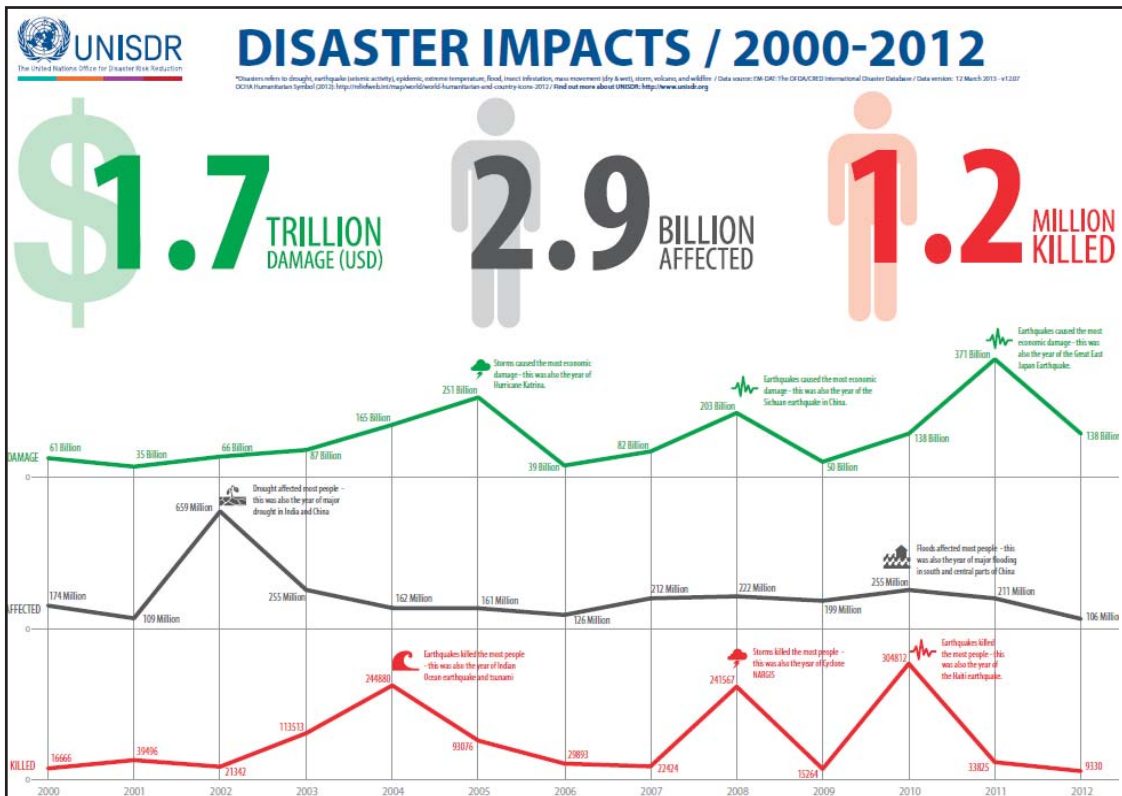




Building disaster resilience

22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum –
 Vienna, 27-28 January 2014

*Paola Albrito,
 Head of the European Regional Office*



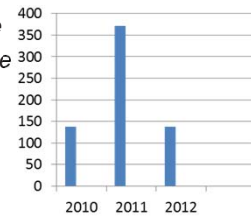
Economic losses in Europe

Three consecutive years: annual economic losses have exceeded \$100 billion globally due to enormous increase in exposure of industrial assets and private property to extreme disaster events.

Europe's 10-year average of disaster losses totaling to **US\$ 13.4 billion** makes it the third most affected region in the world after the Americas and Asia;

The Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction released in 2011 indicates that in OECD countries disaster economic losses tend to grow faster than their average GDP growth;

Most of the damages are due to climatological and hydrometeorological events;
Reduced number of casualties, but high economic losses.



Natural hazards, uNatural Disasters

- A natural hazards such as a typhoon or an earthquake become a disaster when lives and properties are **exposed** and **vulnerable**.
- uNplanned development, uNcontrolled urban planning and expansion, uNmanaged land use and tenure increase our exposure to natural hazards.
- uNsustainable environmental and ecosystem management, uNapplied building codes, uNmaintained drainage systems and key infrastructures increase our vulnerability to natural hazards.



Emilia earthquake, Italy 2012




Floods in Germany, 2013


Reducing disaster losses is achievable through coordinated efforts from the international to the local level:

The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters (HFA)

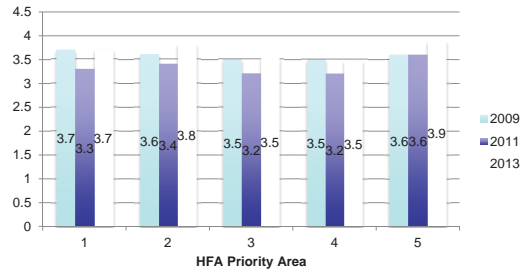
- World Conference on Disaster Reduction 2nd WCDR, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005.
- HFA Overall Objective: *"..to substantially reduce disaster losses, in lives, social, economic and environmental assets..."*
- HFA 3 Strategic goals:
 - The integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning.
 - The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards.
 - The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.
- HFA 5 Priorities of Action: *from policies to practices.*



Average Progress in Each Priority Area - HFA Europe, some comments




Average Progress in Each Priority Area



HFA Priority Area	2009	2011
1	3.7	3.3
2	3.6	3.4
3	3.5	3.2
4	3.5	3.2
5	3.6	3.9

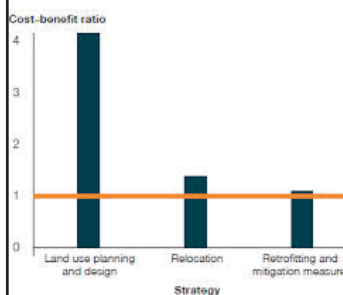
- Progress has been made but challenges become greater every year with more frequent disasters.
- Integrate sectoral and DRR plans into national policies and programmes.
- Risk identification up-to-date and more effective people-centered EWs.
- Science and knowledge for DRM.
- Increase resources for DRM at local level.
- Further develop public-private partnerships for DRR.

Priority 4: Reducing the underlying risk factors remain challenging for several European countries. This is especially due to the **difficulties and costs of restoration of environmental and ecosystem assets deteriorated by unsustainable development practices.**



Lessons learnt in 10 years of HFA implementation in Europe

- Disaster prevention and risk reduction – as documents by the GAR – is a cost effective investments for national and local governments. The most cost effective measure is good planning of land use and infrastructure development, which bring a cost benefit ratio of 1 (invested) to 4 (return) (*source ERN-AL 2011*).
- Vulnerabilities to disasters are due to multiple factors of social, political, economic and most of all **environmental** nature. Hydrological disaster are the costliest disaster for European countries. Most of them are caused by degradation of the hydro-geological conditions due to soil sealing.
- Disaster Risk Reduction needs coordination and synergy at multiple level of governance (international, national and local) and disciplines (civil protection, defense, environment, health, education, agriculture, etc.)



ERN-AL 2011



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Emerging trends globally – Global Assessment Report 2015 (GAR15)

Disaster risks → globalising :

- ✓ Need to reduce generation of new risks.
- ✓ Promote economic advantage of investing in DRR/M.

Urbanising risk :

- ✓ Need to enhance urban risk management and develop resilience.
- ✓ Undertake structural and non structural measures to reduce disaster risk, e.g.: including housing and land use management with DRR considerations.

Risk governance and translation of policies to practices:

- ✓ Still a challenge to factor DRR into public investment, development and social policies.
- ✓ Still lack of coordination and advocacy for public-private partnership and translate policies into practices.





The way to the World Conference 2015 and beyond

- As outlined in the UNGA resolution for 2013 the process will include regional consultation through mechanisms like the European Forum, and intergovernmental preparatory committee meetings
- Outcomes of the World Conference include
 1. Assessment and Review the Implementation of the HFA;
 2. Agreement on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction with Enhanced Monitoring System and established Periodic Review Process ;
 3. Voluntary commitments of stakeholders – albeit not a negotiated part of the new framework – will be important contribution.
 4. A Political Declaration of the World Conference to provide context for the new framework
 - ✓ Political Declaration to take into consideration the deliberations of the Regional Platforms (for Europe, the EFDRR).



Outcomes and goals of the new framework

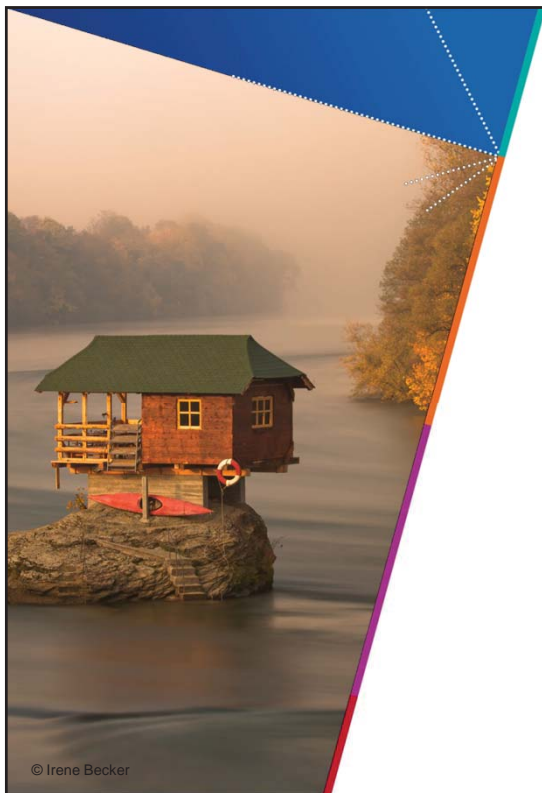
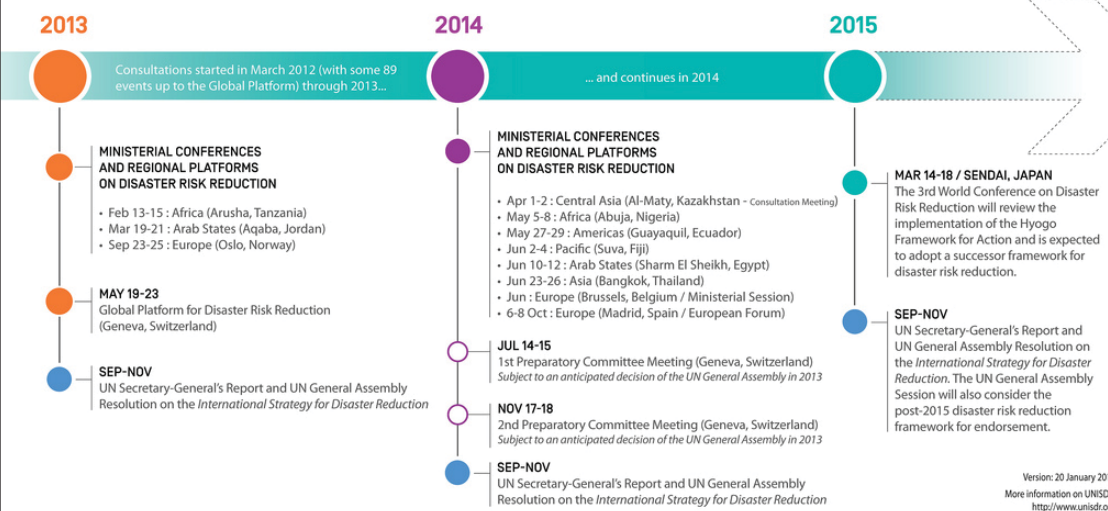
- The overall outcomes shall look not only at reducing disaster losses and damages but also to be positive and aspirational in creating societies that are secure, healthy, wealthy and resilient. Risk Management shall be perceived as investment rather than a cost.
- Three complementary goals:
 - ✓ Risk avoidance – pursuit of a development path that minimize risk accumulation
 - ✓ Risk reduction – reducing existing accumulated risks
 - ✓ Resilience – nations and communities that can absorb losses, minimize impacts and bounce forward

The three goals have a correspondence with existing processes within UNFCCC: CC Mitigation, CCA and climate loss and damage



Towards a post-2015 DRR Framework

- Requested by the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/66/199 - Modalities agreed in A/RES/68/211
- UNISDR is facilitating consultations that engage a full range of actors from Member States to civil society.
- Consultation events include the Global and Regional Platforms, national and local events, and targeted events of stakeholders, partners and networks.
- Builds on the *International Framework for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction of 1989*, the *Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action of 1994*, the *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction of 1999*, the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA)*, and the *Mid-Term Review of the HFA (2010-2011)*.
- Expected to be adopted at the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2015.



*We look forward for continued collaboration
to reduce disaster impacts in Europe,
Thank you for your attention*

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