

Stockholm Plan of Action for Integrating Disaster Risks and Climate Change Impacts in Poverty Reduction



THE WORLD BANK



Sida



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction



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Over 200 participants representing national governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies, civil society organizations, experts and researchers gathered in Stockholm and together endorsed a strong message on the need to integrate natural hazard and climate change risks in a more effective way into national development strategies including poverty reduction strategies.

The workshop was organized jointly by Sida, the World Bank and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) under the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).

The workshop emphasized the ongoing and long term risks of climate change and disasters – due both to climate and geological hazards – to economic growth and poverty, in particular in low and middle income countries. Climate change increases for instance communities' social and economic vulnerability, affects livelihoods and settlement patterns and causes political tensions and conflict. Poorer communities are most vulnerable to the impacts of small and large scale disasters as well as climate variations and have less capacity to prevent and prepare for disasters and respond and then recover when they occur.

The workshop took into consideration the outcomes of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 5-7 July 2007 and the recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and in particular the fact that climate change is likely to increase the frequency and intensity of weather events and climate variability.

The workshop recognized the long term, gender sensitive engagement required to address the underlying vulnerability and poverty factors that affect communities' resilience to disaster and climate change risk. This engagement was presented as an important contribution to sustaining progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development.

Participants outlined the challenges and described the successes and benefits of integrating disaster and climate change risk into poverty reduction strategies, with strong emphasis on regional, national and local context. The presentations highlighted the fact that while the global agenda is now strongly driven by climate change; national concerns are grounded in current disaster events and climate variability.

In the context of the above, the following priority actions emerged from the discussions:

1 *Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation cannot be dealt with in isolation.*
Enhanced institutional and policy coordination is needed at the level of individual countries, regions and global institutions on disaster risk reduction and climate change. This includes closer collaboration, research, as well as the development of common strategies for integrating disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and poverty reduction strategies. These efforts should also link to policies and strategies to reduce GHG emissions, which also contribute to reducing disaster risk.

Climate change focal points, representatives of relevant bilateral and multilateral organizations and International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and experts in countries, including from civil society organizations, were encouraged to engage in the meetings and activities of national disaster risk management mechanisms, such as ISDR system national platforms where they exist.

2 *Risks due to disasters and climate change must be known and measured.*
Alongside urgent action to respond to the challenges, continuing and systematic socio-economic and poverty analysis is required making the case for mainstreaming adaptation and disaster risk reduction into development. This includes increased recognition of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction concerns by national Governments, in particular Ministries of Planning and Finance and relevant sectoral Ministries.

Engagement of bilateral and multilateral agencies, as well as research institutions that are working in the national context on development and poverty reduction issues is also required. This should be included, when appropriate, under the Global Facility in its Track II countries (the list of countries is available on the GFDRR website at www.gfdr.org).

Disaster and climate change risk need to be addressed in the context of each country's social political, cultural and institutional specificity. Efforts are required to understand how these and other country characteristics interact with hazard and climate change patterns and affect overall vulnerability, especially of the poor.

Tracking of investments and available resources will further assist in coordinated action and support targeted resource mobilization.

3 *Disaster and climate change risk analysis must be integrated into national planning processes, including the poverty reduction strategy process in each country.*

The output of disaster and climate change risk analyses should be made relevant to and targeted at national development strategies and budgets as well as country owned Poverty Reduction Strategies.

This will require mainstreaming risk of climate change and disasters into core IFI and other donor diagnostic and related country planning and budgeting processes. The outputs should include information on the various options to reduce disaster risk and adapt to climate change.

Links are also required to other relevant national processes. Common country risk analysis should build on and contribute to a country's efforts to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, support post-disaster response and recovery efforts as well as the National Communications and the National Adaptation Programmes of Action for Least Developed Countries as requested under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Common country risk analysis should also allow for identifying national priorities for reducing disaster risk as part of national development plans, including as a basis for Global Facility Track II work plans.

4 *Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are not sectors but need to be factors in all sectors.* Key sectors such as agriculture, energy, health, water resources, urban development, forestry and environment need to be engaged in national risk analysis and the prioritization of risk reduction actions, through multi-sectoral national dialogues on disaster risk as called for by the Hyogo Framework for Action.

5 *Capacity building is required at local, national, regional and global level* again with a focus on Global Facility priority countries that are particularly prone to natural hazards. Major challenge for mainstreaming disaster and climate change risk is raising awareness amongst policy makers and practitioners of the concept and practice of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and ensuring they have access to a regular and consistent flow of information.

The workshop recognized the need to accelerate efforts to reduce disaster risk, as called for by the Hyogo Framework for Action, in countries with high levels of vulnerability to natural hazards and the risks of climate change. Disaster risk reduction is an urgent national agenda to reduce poverty and adapt to climate change. It requires increased investments through international funding, as well as in national and local Government budgets and private sector engagement.

Additional attention must be given to support efforts leading to the post-Kyoto agreement, currently under discussion in the context of the UNFCCC, to ensure that the limited attention to adaptation and associated funding gaps are appropriately addressed, recognizing the important role of disaster risk reduction.

Finally, strong appreciation was expressed to Sida for hosting the event, the speakers and other contributors, support staff, as well as for the co-organizers, the ISDR secretariat and the World Bank.

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