



**“Turning Practice Into Policy”**

# **DONOR POLICY ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

## **TEARFUND RESEARCH FINDINGS**

# Interviewees

- **United Nations**  
Disaster Reduction Unit, UNDP  
Office of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF
- **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**  
Humanitarian Aid Division
- **European Commission**  
ECHO, DIPECHO, DG External Relations (India), DG Environment
- **Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)**  
Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict Management Division
- **World Bank**  
Disaster Management Facility

# Interviewees

- **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**  
Office of Policy Planning  
Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)
- **Inter-American Development Bank**  
Sustainable Development Department
- **UK Department for International Development (DFID)**  
Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department (CHAD), Latin America Department , Overseas Territories Department , Policy Division, 'Climate Change Team'
- **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)**  
International Humanitarian Assistance

# Interviewees

- UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
- ProVention Consortium
- Professor Ian Davis' group of experts

# Purpose....to determine:

- The level of priority donors place on disaster risk reduction within their relief and development policy and practice
- The rationale behind this level of prioritisation

# Research Findings

- The level of prioritisation donors placed upon disaster risk reduction was **low**
- The lack of a systematic integration of disaster risk reduction into policies, plans and practice is at the heart of the problem

# Lack of Knowledge

“The achievement of targets depends on what we are defining as disaster prevention”

## **Recommendations**

- Define terminology
  - Adopt developmental language
- Use case studies
- Promote the use of conceptual models
- Provide practical training exercises

# Lack of Ownership

“Many [development] staff.....assume that [risk reduction] is the mandate of the humanitarian division”

## **Recommendations**

- Demonstrate the link between disasters and development
  - Promote the use of vulnerability (and capacity) assessment tools



# Competition with other issues

“There’s no doubt in our minds that spending money now on good mitigation and preparedness activities more than pays off....the only real limitation is that when push comes to shove are you going to do mitigation or are you going to respond?”

## Recommendations

- Incorporate disaster risk reduction into the context of developmental activities (e.g. PRSPs and country strategies)
- Demonstrate how integration could be achieved within existing development sectors
- Provide evidence of the economic argument for investing in risk reduction (cost-benefit analyses)
- Use a disaster as a window of opportunity to reduce future risks