

Examples of disaster impacts on efforts to meet the MDGs

MDG	Direct impacts ¹	Indirect impacts ¹	Examples of what risk reduction can contribute ²
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to housing, service infrastructure, savings, productive assets and human losses reduce livelihood sustainability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative macroeconomic impacts including severe short-term fiscal impacts and wider, longer-term impacts on growth, development and poverty reduction. Forced sale of productive assets by vulnerable households pushes many into long-term poverty and increases inequality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster risk reduction and MDG1 are interdependent. Reducing livelihood vulnerability to natural hazards is key both to eradicating income poverty and improving equity, and to improving food security and reducing hunger. Reducing disaster impacts on the macro-economy will promote growth, fiscal stability and state service provision, with particular benefits for the poor. Disaster risk reduction and MDG1 share common strategies and tools: this overlap means that giving development more security from natural hazard can be very cost effective.
2. Achieve universal primary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to education infrastructure. Population displacement interrupts schooling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased need for child labour for household work, especially for girls. Reduced household assets make schooling less affordable, girls probably affected most. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In hazard-prone areas, the case for building schools and encouraging attendance becomes much stronger if buildings are safe and students and teachers are trained in emergency preparedness. Promoting safer structures may encourage better maintenance even in non-disaster times. Reduced vulnerability will allow households to invest in priorities other than mere survival. Education is often a high priority. Girls (as 60% of non-attendees) may benefit disproportionately.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As men migrate to seek alternative work, women/girls bear an increased burden of care. Women often bear the brunt of distress 'coping' strategies, e.g. by reducing food intake. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency programmes may reinforce power structures that marginalize women. Domestic and sexual violence may rise in the wake of a disaster. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better risk reduction will help protect women from disproportionate disaster impacts. Collective action to reduce risk by households and communities provides entry points for women (and other marginalized social groups) to organise for other purposes too, providing a catalyst for economic and social empowerment.
4. Reduce child mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children are often most at risk, e.g. of drowning in floods. Damage to health and water & sanitation infrastructure. Injury and illness from disaster weakens children's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased numbers of orphaned, abandoned and homeless children. Household asset depletion makes clean water, food and medicine less affordable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster risk reduction will help protect children from direct deaths and injuries during hazard events, and will lower mortality from diseases related to malnutrition and poor water and sanitation following disasters. Health infrastructure and personnel in hazard-prone areas will be better protected. This may also promote better maintenance of infrastructure.
5. Improve maternal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pregnant women are often at high risk from death/injury in disasters Damage to health infrastructure. Injury and illness from disaster can 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased responsibilities and workloads create stress for surviving mothers. Household asset depletion makes clean water, food and medicine less affordable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster-related illness and injury will be reduced. Improved household livelihood and food security will lower women's workloads and improve family nutrition. Health infrastructure and personnel in hazard-prone areas will be better protected. This may also promote better maintenance of infrastructure.
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor health & nutrition following disasters weakens immunity. Damage to health infrastructure. Increased respiratory diseases associated with damp, dust and air pollution linked to disaster. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased risk from communicative and vector borne diseases, e.g. malaria and diarrhoeal diseases following floods. Impoverishment and displacement following disaster can increase exposure to disease, including HIV/AIDS, and disrupt health care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public health risks, e.g. from flood waters, will be reduced, and nutrition and health status improved, boosting resistance to epidemic disease. Fewer disasters will free up social sector budgets for human development. Livelihood security will reduce the need to resort to work in the sex industry. Community organisations and networks working in disaster risk reduction are a resource for family and community health promotion, and visa versa.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to key environmental resources and exacerbation of soil erosion or deforestation. Damage to water management and other urban infrastructure. Slum dwellers/people in temporary settlements often heavily affected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster-induced migration to urban areas and damage to urban infrastructure increase the number of slum dwellers without access to basic services and exacerbate poverty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced disaster-related migration into urban slums and reduced damage to urban infrastructure will improve urban environments. An emphasis on governance for risk reduction and more secure livelihoods will help curb rural and urban environmental degradation. Risk reduction partnerships that include community level actors and concerns will offer more sustainable infrastructure planning, and enable expansion of private sector contributions to reducing disasters. Housing is a key livelihood asset for the urban poor. Disaster risk reduction programmes that prioritise housing will also help preserve livelihoods.
8. Develop a global partnership for development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on programmes for small island developing states from tropical storms, tsunamis etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction—nationally and internationally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating an international governance regime to reduce risk from climate change and other disasters will help overcome disparities in national negotiating weight. Efforts to build equal global partnerships for risk reduction will have particular relevance for small island developing states and HIPC.
ALL MDGS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reallocation of resources – including ODA – from development to relief and recovery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing disaster impacts will free up resources, including ODA, to meet MDGs.

¹ UN/ISDR

² Disaster risk reduction: a development concern. A scoping study on links between disaster risk reduction, poverty and development, DFID, 2005