



Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

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Leaders' Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction

Investing in resilience to protect investments and reduce economic loss

Guidance Paper for Heads of States

Focus on resilience of critical infrastructure and housing

Background

Globally, economic losses due to disasters are increasing dramatically. For the first time annual economic losses from disasters have exceeded \$100 billion for five consecutive years. Over the last decade these economic losses have reached almost \$1.4 trillion.

Investing in disaster-resilient infrastructure and housing can be an effective way to reduce risks and economic losses. The inclusion of the knowledge of hazards and risks in economic planning process is an important consideration. In particular, strengthening and enforcing building practices, building codes, and land use plans are important, and their implementation can be improved.

The largest category of disaster economic losses is at the household level. Urban investment will continue to escalate during the coming decade. The public and private sectors have a direct and indirect impact on the quality of infrastructure and housing.

Problem

Current institutional, financial and economic development policy frameworks do not offer sufficient motivation and incentives for more resilient infrastructure and housing. What needs to change, and what is needed to achieve this change?

Discussion Questions

- What are the underlying reasons critical infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals, bridges, airports, dams, telecommunications infrastructure, and housing lack resilience to natural and other hazards ?
- What changes need to be promoted in public policies and programs (land use, codes, tax, economic development, social policies, including the availability of sex and age disaggregated data, and others) to encourage more resilient infrastructure and housing, and to make these improvements more affordable?
- What factors support or undermine efforts by the private sector (finance, insurance, construction, land investment, development, and others) to develop more resilient infrastructure and housing ?
- What public and private sector policies, programs and practices need to change to motivate and incentivize more resilient infrastructure and housing?
- How can international cooperation support both public and private sector efforts to build resilience ?
- How can government and business leaders better collaborate to promote resilience in critical infrastructure and housing?
- What economic losses have the greatest impacts on the most vulnerable?
- What role can civil society play in strengthening political will and capacities for more resilient infrastructure structure and housing? How can governments draw on this support?