


UN World Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 Sendai Japan

Social Work Profession and Disaster Risk Management

Pham Thanh Hang
 UNISDR Asia Pacific Regional Office



Why Disaster and Social Work Profession?

Globally at least **66 million**
children are affected by
disasters each year

2.0 million people in Asia-Pacific were
killed during 1970-2010, representing
75% of global disaster fatalities


Impacts of Disasters since the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit

In 1992, the United Nations organized a conference on environment and development in Rio de Janeiro, called the Earth Summit. The purpose of the conference was to rethink economic, growth, achieve social equity and ensure environmental protection.

Twenty years later the UN is organizing Rio+20 a chance to move away from business-as-usual and to end poverty, address environmental destruction and build a bridge to the future. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) plays an important part in the future of sustained development.

Here's a look at the impact of disasters since the Earth Summit, 1992-2012.






4.4
BILLION
AFFECTED

People affected by disasters worldwide



\$2.0
TRILLION
DAMAGE (USD)

World's gross domestic product (GDP)



1.3
MILLION
KILLED

Disasters in 2012 (per 100,000)

Impact by disasters

Impact by top 10 countries

Country	People Affected	Damage (USD)	People Killed
China	2.5 BILLION	150 BILLION	100,000
USA	560 MILLION	500 BILLION	10,000
Haiti	230,675	10 BILLION	230,675

Number of Climate-related Disasters Around the World (1980-2011)

- 3455**
FLOODS
- 2689**
STORMS
- 470**
DROUGHTS
- 395**
EXTREME TEMPS

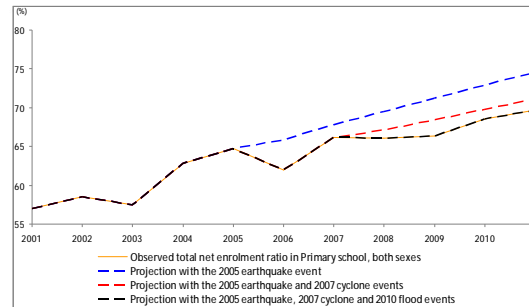
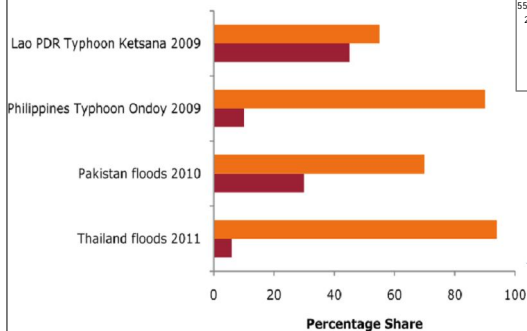


Disaster losses in Asia-Pacific have
increased by **16 times** since 1970 but
GDR grew by only **13 times**



Why Disaster ...

...And it is private sector and citizens who pay the highest price



Earthquakes and floods adversely affected education in Pakistan. Pakistan was also the country with the *world's largest out-of-school population* in 2011 - 5.4 million out of a total of 18 million globally

Why disaster...

“Disaster vulnerability...may very well be the most critical challenge facing development in the new millennium. Rapid population growth, urbanization, environmental degradation, and global climate change are all contributing to an increase in the frequency and magnitude of disasters. And their ***most deadly impact is on the lives and living environment of the poor.***”

James Wolfensohn and Didier Cherpitel

...and Social Work?

Social work profession has long been involved with disaster management (relief and recovery) both through the profession's roots in the provision of wartime relief, and its concern with the physical environment of people (Pryce & Pryce, 2000)

- Social workers have played a tremendous role as:
 - ü Mental Health Practitioners
 - ü Community Organizers
 - ü Social Service Advocates
 - ü Legal/Policy Advocates
 - ü Researchers
 - ü Educators
 - ü Volunteers
- Social workers have foundation training applicable to emergency management
- Some generalist knowledge and skills provided by social work education can be applied to the field of disaster management (MC Hokenstad)



Managing risk vs. Managing disaster



$$\frac{\text{Hazard} \times \text{Vulnerability} \times \text{Exposure}}{\text{Resilience or coping capacities}} = \text{Disaster Risk}$$

“Prevention is Better than Cure”

“Every dollar invested in disaster risk reduction saves seven dollars in recovery efforts”- World Bank 2004

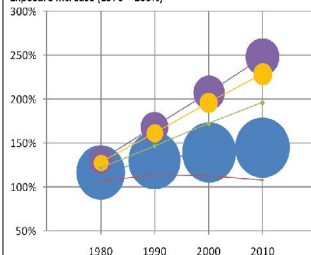
Source: FAO adapted from Wilhite (1999).



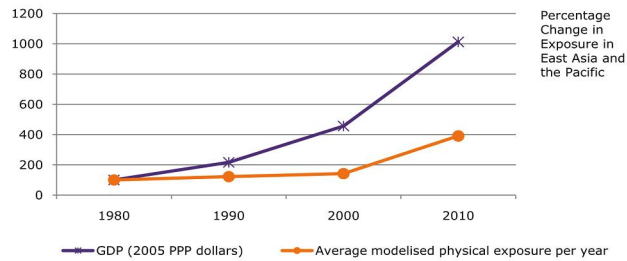
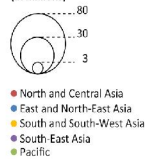
Risk is growing driven by flawed development and climate variability

...more people in Asia Pacific are getting exposed to hazards...

Exposure increase (1970 = 100%)



Population exposed per year (in millions)



Economic exposure growing faster than human exposure. Region represent more than 85 per cent of global economic exposure to tropical cyclones

What is Disaster Risk Management?

It is:

- Helping people and communities prevent bad things from happening
- Helping to prepare for very bad things happening
- Helping to minimize the impact of those bad things.
- Helping them to recover rapidly from it and bounce forward
- And helping them to adapt!

Adapted from Andrew Steer, WB

The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015

Hyogo Framework for Action priorities for action

3 Strategic Goal Areas:

- § The more effective *integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development* policies, planning and programming
- § The development and strengthening of *institutions, mechanisms and capacities*
- § The systematic *incorporation of risk reduction* approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs

1 Make Disaster Risk Reduction a Priority

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation

2 Know the Risks and Take Action

Identify, assess, and monitor disaster risks - and enhance early warning

3 Build Understanding and Awareness

Use knowledge, innovation, and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

4 Reduce Risk

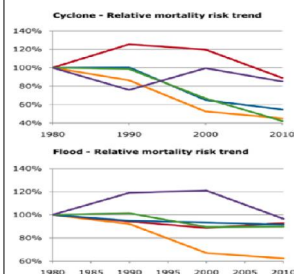
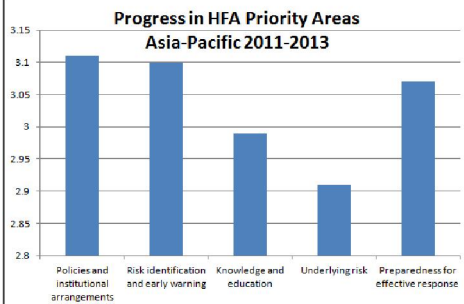
Reduce the underlying risk factors

5 Be Prepared and Ready to Act

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

The HFA Learning

Progress in HFA Priority Areas
Asia-Pacific 2011-2013



Mortality risks to hydro met hazards are decreasing, less people are dying...

- Dedicated legislation and policies;
- The establishment of institutions;
- Increased devolution of authority to local levels
- Increased multi-stakeholder engagement through National Platforms.
- Strengthened early warning systems including regional multi-hazard early warning systems
- Increased awareness-raising and school education on disaster risk reduction
- Improvements in preparedness and response systems
- **But** addressing the *underlying risk factors* (vulnerability, social marginalization, inequity, risk insensitive development interventions...) is *progressing the least*



The HFA Learning

There is urgent need to shift from seeing disasters as external shocks to recognizing risks inherent in development policies and practices

Sustainable development will not be possible without managing disaster and climate risk as integral part of development



How Can Social Work Profession Manage Disaster Risk?

Assessing vulnerabilities and risks

- ü Help community and families identify hazards, vulnerabilities, the probability of hazard turning to disaster and impacts on people
- ü Assess community capability to manage disaster
- ü Research into vulnerabilities and risks and how social work profession (meeting human needs, developing human potential, ensuring human rights and social justice) can make positive contributions to disaster risk management

- **Reducing existing risks, Preventing new risks**

- ü Organize community to develop plan and undertake actions to reduce risks through i.e. food security, livelihoods and social protection
- ü Advocate for local risk-sensitive development practices: in land use planning, managing natural resources and building physical infrastructure with focus on the impacts on the poor and marginalized groups
- ü Organize the community to cope with potential emergencies



How Can Social Work Profession Manage Disaster Risk?

Strengthen resilience

- ü Shift from reducing vulnerability to building resilience as a vital and no-regrets strategy
- ü Promote accessibility (to information, to services, etc) and inclusion for meaningful participation, especially of vulnerable people
- ü Advocate for gender inclusion, women empowerment and women leadership

- **Improve disaster preparedness**

- ü Planning services for vulnerable people
- ü Training volunteers
- ü Developing community support groups



How Can Social Work Profession Manage Disaster Risk?

Ensure risk-sensitive recovery and reconstruction

- ü Rebuild social and physical infrastructure
- ü Empower citizens and communities through social development
- ü Reintegrate internally-displaced people into the community
- ü Promote grassroots social development in rebuilding communities and social networks

- **Promote stronger accountability frameworks**

- ü Increase public awareness and advocate for rights to information
- ü Promote oversight mechanisms that involve and empower citizens and communities to hold institutions and individuals accountable for disaster losses
- ü Strengthen social worker role as intermediate between government and communities for community development





Disaster Risk Management Post-2015

- Current global blueprint – the Hyogo Framework for Action - is approaching end of its timeframe
- UN General Assembly Resolutions decided to convene the **World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 with the purpose to:**
 - ü Review the implementation of the HFA
 - ü Consider experiences gained at regional and national levels.
 - ü **Adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).**
 - ü Identify modalities of cooperation based on commitments to implement the post-2015 framework.
 - ü Determine modalities for period review.



Asia-Pacific Region Inputs to HFA2 and WCDRR

- Recognize the importance of people-centered development models
- Call on all Governments and stakeholders to
 - ü Enhance resilience at local levels;
 - ü Improve public investments for disaster and climate risk management;
 - ü Strengthen Public-Private Partnership;
 - ü Promote the use and further development of science, technology, and innovation. Strengthen higher education on disaster risk management
- 10 Stakeholder Groups (including Science, Technology and Academia) made Voluntary Commitments
 - ü E.g. Strongly promote multi-disciplinary disaster risk reduction in university education as well as professional training. This will ensure human resource development in the DRR field



**The UN World Conference
on Disaster Risk Reduction**
14-18 March 2015,
Sendai, Japan

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- The UN General Assembly Resolution: **all DRR stakeholders are welcome**
- To attend the WCDRR you must register under one of these categories:
 1. States
 2. Inter-Governmental Organizations
 3. UN System
 4. Major Groups (**Science, Technology and Academia as one**)
 5. Media



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Thank you
and

**We look forward to welcome you
at the WCDRR in March 2015!**

<http://www.wcdrr.org>

