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FACTSHEET

Safer Development Planning and Implementation

Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development

With high rates of economic growth and urbanization across Asia-Pacific, the face of the region is changing quickly. India's urban population, for example, is expected to grow from 379 million in 2010, to 606 million by 2030 and 875 million by 2050. With this type of growth it is not surprising that Asia-Pacific hosts over half of the global population, albeit on 30 percent of the world's land area.

Over the past 30 years, 45 percent of the world's natural disasters occurred in the Asia-Pacific region. The region also suffers disproportionately in terms of disaster losses – it produces 25 percent of the global GDP, but endures 42 percent of total economic losses, and 85 percent of human deaths and casualties. In 2011 alone, for example, Asia-Pacific lost USD 294 billion, 80 percent of the year's global disaster-related losses.

These impacts are likely to increase, unless concerted action is taken. With climate change driving stronger storms and cyclones, and likely to cause sea level rise and storm surges, coastal towns and cities are increasingly vulnerable. The majority of the region's cities are located on or close to the coast.

In Focus

Since 2004, ADPC has partnered with national governments under the Regional Consultative Committee's Mainstreaming Disaster Risk into Development Program. Through this program, ADPC has provided technical assistance to national and local governments in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, and Sri Lanka to mainstream disaster risk into development planning processes.

ADPC has also adapted numerous development instruments, as well as trained over 400 development planners and policy makers from across the region on how to mainstream disaster risk management.



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As governments across the region pursue development goals, and as people in the region demand more and better opportunities from their leaders, transformations are taking place. However, there is a growing need for development planners and policy makers to consider disaster risk and climate change and ensure that new development is adequately protected. This calls for commitment to risk-sensitive development policy and planning in key sectors such as infrastructure and housing, health, education, agriculture, and industry.

Risk-sensitive development may seek to shift future construction of schools and hospitals into safe areas, prepare sectors such as infrastructure, roads, or housing to factor disaster risk into their projects, or elaborate curricula for school children that transmit important messages of disaster risk reduction and better disaster response.

Building the technical capacity of government planners and policy makers

ADPC works with governments to integrate principles, concepts and practices of disaster risk reduction into

national and sub-national or local development policy and planning. Such plans and policy include national medium-term development plans, sectoral development policy, urban development plans, land-use plans and spatial development policies. These are the instruments which guide development, and by integrating disaster risk management and climate change into these instruments, ADPC and governments can help to ensure resilient development takes place.

ADPC runs workshops and trainings with government officials in order to sensitize them to the way that floods, earthquakes and other disasters can set back hard-earned development gains, and to enable them to take proactive steps towards ensuring that development happens safely.

For this to occur, development planners and policy makers must work alongside officials from national and local disaster management agencies. Through training, ADPC fosters dialogue, a common language and a common understanding of the connections and linkages between disasters and development, as well as the key steps development officials can take to reduce disaster impacts, and what the disaster management officials need to provide for this to happen. Both agencies have a specific role to play.



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