

exposed to natural hazard shows the scale of connection between disasters and development. Recorded deaths provide a tip-of-the-iceberg measurement of the extent to which past development decisions have prefigured risk.

The medium-term goal of meeting the MDGs and the longer-term goal of moving towards more sustainable pathways for development need to take disaster risk into account. The Recommendations have highlighted a number of emerging agendas in disaster risk management that offer great potential for integrating disaster risk and development planning. They also point at achievable policy and project actions that can be undertaken to reduce risk in development.

Most fundamental is the role of governance at all scales from the local to the global. A balance between equity and efficiency in the distribution of decision-making power and in making decisions will need to be kept. A concern for governance dovetails into more generic development planning policy. Like many of the proposals, the argument is for a change in emphasis and a broadening of development worldviews to take disaster risk seriously, rather than a call for development planning perspectives to be rewritten. While it may be true that core elements of dominant development paradigms are the root causes for development prefiguring risk, this Report has focused on what can be achieved within existing development approaches.

A particular opportunity for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development planning is provided during the reconstruction periods after large-scale disaster events. These are periods where social and political structures as well as physical infrastructure can be rebuilt to enhance quality of life and reduce future disaster risk.

Natural disaster risk reduction can provide a useful basis for adapting to climate change. Bringing the disaster and climate change risk agendas and communities together should be a priority. This will be facilitated by the proactive, adaptive mode of risk reduction championed in this Report, which has much in common with the orientation of policy work on adaptation to climate change.

We live our lives in the context of multiple everyday risks. The periodic nature of natural disaster risk means it is often easily overlooked until it is too late

A Final Word

The aim of this Report has been to map out the ways in which development can lead to disaster, just as disaster can interrupt development. The DRI work has shown that billions of people in over 100 countries are periodically exposed to at least one of the hazards studied, with an average of 67,000 deaths annually (184 deaths each day). The high number of people

and accumulated risk provokes disaster. Local risk reduction will need to be sensitive to the multiple sources of competing risks people face. Governance regimes need to work to reconcile the pressing need to respond to frequent and everyday risks, while avoiding the creeping vulnerability that can lead to disaster risk.

The focus of this report has been on proactive strategies for reducing future risk. However, today we live with the accumulated risk of past development pathways. Disaster preparedness and response should not be seen in any lesser light. Our argument is to compliment compensatory risk management with a prospective or adaptive approach that can support development without building future disaster risks.

The policy agendas supported in this Report require refined and more complete data. Current global efforts signify a substantial step in the right direction towards producing a globally accessible disaster database

with national and sub-national resolution. Equally, the sub-national databases reviewed in this Report provide examples of existing good practice that could be usefully replicated among societies at high disaster risk.

The DRI exercise has contributed by making the first global assessment of disaster risk exposure and human vulnerability. The process of mapping disaster risk as presented in this Report has only just begun. But the message is clear. The work of linking disaster risk reduction to development planning offers great potential for advancing the cause of human development.

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1. Gilbert and Kreimer 1999. "Learning from the World Bank's Experience of Natural Disaster Assistance," Urban Development Division, Working Paper Series 2, World Bank.
 2. ISDR Working Group 3 on Risk Vulnerability and Impact Assessment. *Improving the Quality, Coverage and Accuracy of Disaster Data: A Comparative Analysis of Global and National Datasets*. 24 October 2002.