Drought Risk & Resilience
Global and Regional Trends and Debates

2nd Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum

Rhea Katsanakis
UNISDR Regional Office for Africa
Nairobi, Kenya
www.unisdr.org/africa
Disaster Risk & Resilience in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

Disaster risk and resilience received insufficient emphasis in the original Millennium Development Goal agenda, despite the relationship between disasters and development.

Universal acceptance that disasters can erode and destroy development gains, but limited recognition of the role that development plays in creating or increasing vulnerability.

Reducing the risks of disasters through prevention, preparedness, and early warning systems, helps to protect both human and economic assets.
Disaster risk reduction and resilience require more central consideration in the post-2015 development agenda if the objectives of sustainable development are to be achieved.

Since 1970, the world’s population has grown by 87 per cent, proportion of people living in flood-prone river basins increased by 114 per cent and on cyclone-exposed coastlines by 192 per cent.

More than half of the world's large cities, with populations ranging from 2 to 15 million, are located in areas of high earthquake risk. Rapid urbanization will increase exposure to natural hazards, especially in coastal zones.

*From UNISDR Global Assessment Report 2011: Revealing Risk, Redefining Development*
Disaster Risk & Resilience in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

We expect climate change to increase the frequency and intensity of the most severe weather related hazards over the next decades.

In addition to climate change, the main drivers of risk are poorly planned and managed urbanization, environmental degradation, poverty and weak governance.

In larger LDC economies, such as Bangladesh or Mozambique, the loss of 3 to 5 per cent of GDP, due to disasters, every five to ten years has a cumulative impact on development.
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The post-2015 development agenda, climate change negotiations as well as the consultations on the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction will shape the future on reducing the risks of and building resilience to disasters.

Given current trends in disaster impacts and increased exposure to risk, the incorporation of disaster risk reduction and resilience into development work through public and private sector strategies and planning for development and growth, must be a priority.
Ongoing Drought Discourses, globally and regionally

Drought impacts most visibly on agricultural production, with significant losses spilling over into other economic sectors.

Globally, drought is still a hidden risk, as it affects mainly the poor and maybe more than any other disaster risk, drought risk is constructed by economic decisions and social choices.

Compared to other hazards, risks associated with drought remain poorly understood and badly managed. Meteorological drought is a climatic phenomenon rather than a hazard per se. It only becomes hazardous when it is translated into agricultural or hydrological drought, depending on factors other than just rainfall.

From UNISDR Global Assessment Report 2011: Revealing Risk, Redefining Development
Ongoing Drought Discourses, globally and regionally

With no systematic data or a credible global drought risk model, it is impossible to provide a world-wide assessment of patterns and trends in drought risks.

Available evidence, however, provides a good indication of interrelatedness of impacts on mortality and well-being, rural livelihoods, food security, agricultural production, economic and urban development, migration, conflict, the environment and public spending.

Thanks to improved early warning, preparedness and response, the massive mortality from sub-Saharan African droughts in the 1970s has not been repeated. However, the social and economic impacts of drought are still disproportionately concentrated on poor rural households that depend on rain-fed subsistence agriculture.
In contexts with rapid economic growth, inappropriate water management threatens the sustainability of regional economies and their urban centres. Nonetheless, only a few countries systematically document drought losses or have a national policy to address risks, meaning that drought is a largely invisible risk despite its significant impacts on agricultural production, rural livelihoods, and urban and rural economies.

For example, recent droughts saw agricultural yields reduced by 20–40 percent in the Caribbean, losses of US$2.34 billion in Australia, and 75 percent of farmers suffering total crop failure in the Syrian Arab Republic in one season.
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Drought is rarely included within broader policy and institutional frameworks for disaster risk management (DRM).

Meteorological agencies may be well equipped to provide increasingly accurate hazard assessments and warnings, but they are not responsible for addressing other drivers of risk such as land use, water management, urban development and social protection.

Such drivers are increasing vulnerability and exposure. Therefore, strengthening drought risk management as an integral part of risk governance is fundamental to sustaining the quality of life in affected countries.
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Mexico: Recent impact of drought on the indigenous populations of Chihuahua, Mexico.

UNISDR noted that while the Mexican Early Warning System for cyclones has proven to be a powerful tool to reduce the loss of lives, there are yet no appropriate early warning systems for other extreme hydro meteorological events such as drought, hail storms and flash floods.

Indigenous people are among the most vulnerable as “climate change added to their current socioeconomic condition, can transform drought into a chronic, widespread and irreversible disaster for these communities.” There is a need for the establishment of credible drought risk models to create resilience.

*Press Release (UNISDR LAC, 14 August 2012)*
Ongoing Drought Discourses, globally and regionally

USA: Weakness of National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)

Council or Western Governors' Association may potentially congressional reauthorize the NIDIS. Seasonal to inter-annual drought prediction capability is a high priority for Western water managers, and a subject presently lacking a focused federal research effort.

The impacts of this summer's unexpected severe drought in the Midwest highlight how valuable predictive capability would have been.

Source: http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/28400
Ongoing Drought Discourses, globally and regionally

Severe heat waves have swept across Europe and Russia in recent years; and strong hurricanes have caused large economic losses in the USA and the Caribbean. Environmental degradation and climate change contribute to the increasing occurrence of disasters linked to natural hazards.

No country is immune, regardless of the level of economic and social development. However, the vulnerability of communities and societies to disasters caused by natural hazards is closely and inversely related to the level of social and economic development.

Sound disaster risk management has been recognized as an area deserving greater attention on the global sustainable development agenda.

Source: Rio 2012 Issues Briefs
http://www.unccd2012.org/content/documents/225ib8.pdf
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The droughts this year have made many farmers lose their crop, especially in the main grain producing and exporting countries of the world, such as the United States, Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. The multiple severe droughts that are being felt around the globe will affect everyone as the world’s biggest exporters of wheat, barley, corn and other staple crops will face much lower than average yields this harvest.

None of these countries have so far announced plans to implement grain export bans. However, a lower harvest and soaring grain prices in the global markets have already pushed up internal and export prices both in Russia and Kazakhstan.

To mitigate the impact of food prices’ increase on poor household’s income, special measures to protect and support food security vulnerable households in the upcoming autumn and winter should be implemented in Central Asia’s grain importing countries.

Source: http://europeandcis.undp.org/aboutus/show/13DFD57D-F203-1EE9-B1EBDB55D84FDCFB
Ongoing Drought Discourses, globally and regionally

WFP supporting Kenya with 1 million USD through African Development Bank to increase farmers efforts in crop farming. They should produce enough food that they will even sell to the neighbouring countries, as per WFP Country Director. The Government will focus on promotion of rain harvesting technologies and rehabilitation of degraded lands to enhance community resilience.

According to the Kenya Red Cross Society drought mitigation should focus on addressing vulnerability factors through activities such as dam construction and investments in irrigated farming in marginal areas.

Action Aid Kenya complains about a lack of a coordinated approach by civil society organizations and government in addressing drought-related issues at all levels.

Source: www.irinnews.org
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Some Conclusions

- Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience are important elements in achieving sustainable development
- Drought should be included within broader policy and institutional frameworks for disaster risk management (DRM)
- Need for systematic data or a credible global drought risk model
- Need to address drivers of risk such as land use, water management, urban development and social protection

“Resilience of a community to drought is determined by the degree to which the community has the necessary resources and is capable of organizing itself both prior and during times of need”
Thank you

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
Tel: +41 22 917 8908/8907
Fax: +41 22 917 8964
isdr@un.org