

# BUILDING RESILIENCE

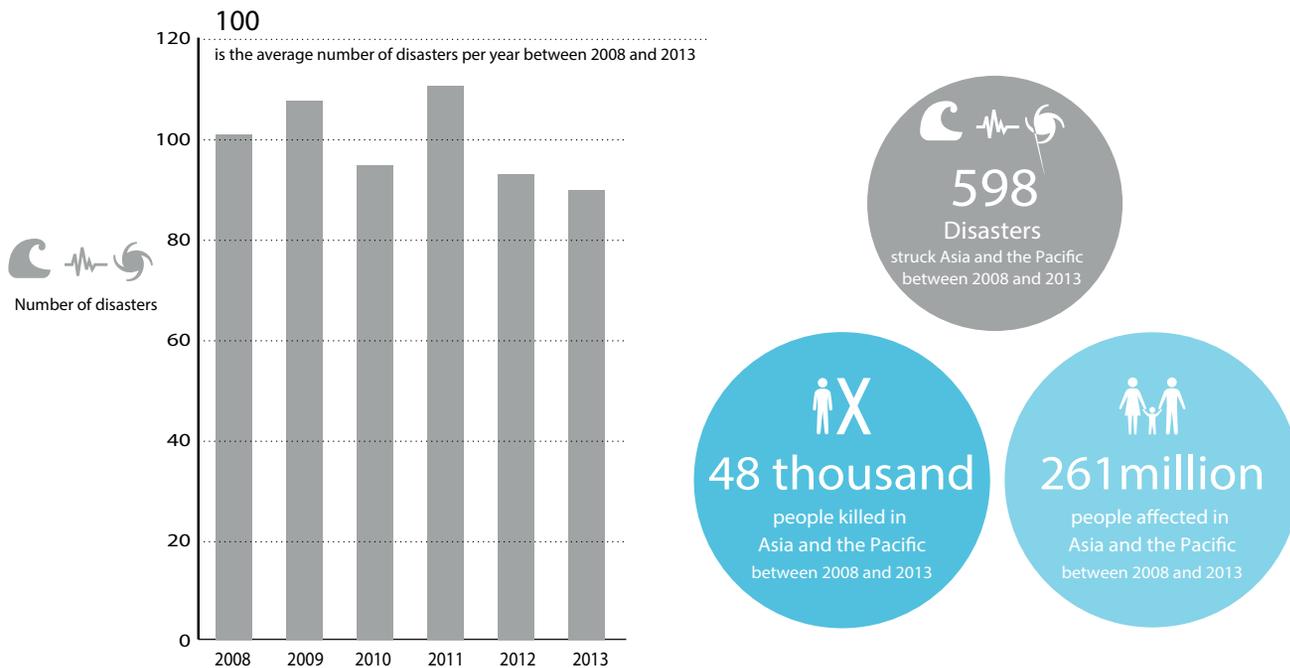
The Asia-Pacific region is paying a heavy price for manmade and natural disasters, which are negatively affecting the region's human development. The average number of people exposed to yearly flooding in Asia has more than doubled between 1970 and 2010, while the population resident in cyclone-prone areas has grown from 71.8 million to 120.7 million.<sup>17</sup> In relative terms, the Pacific Island countries are the most affected, with average annualized losses estimated for Vanuatu and Tonga at 6.6% and 4.4% of GDP respectively.<sup>18</sup> In 2013, the number of deaths caused by natural disasters increased largely due to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and the floods in Uttarakhand, India.<sup>19</sup> In other countries, the number of deaths has shown a declining trend (Figure 11).

Any sudden shocks, including natural disasters or climate change, conflict, or financial and economic crisis, risk pulling down about 1 billion people in the region who live just above the extreme poverty line. With a US\$72 million programme in Asia-Pacific across 16 countries, UNDP supports nations and their people in building resilience to shocks to help ensure that the development gains made are sustained. During 2013, a number of Country Offices have been moving toward a more preventative and long-term approach to helping build resilience, and UNDP contributed to putting risk reduction on the national agenda in countries such as Pakistan and

- ▶ A first-ever Peace and Development Analysis in the post-conflict Autonomous Region of Bougainville of Papua New Guinea consulted over 1,000 men, women and youth at the community level to gauge their priorities for recovery and long-term development. This resulted in a Peacebuilding Priority Plan to be implemented under the UN Peacebuilding Fund starting late 2014, addressing inter-governmental trust building, empowerment of civil society through information sharing, and community social cohesion and security and trauma counselling. Credit Mr. Peter Bauman

## Figure 11: Number of People Affected and Killed by Disasters in Asia-Pacific

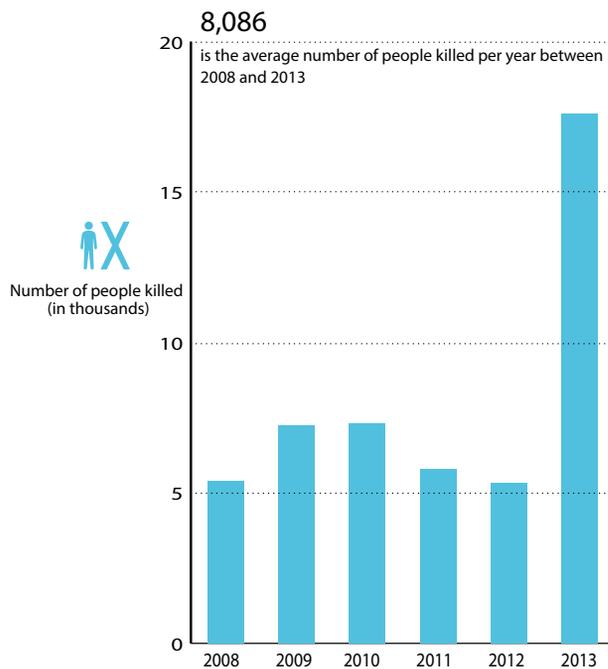
Data does not include China and Myanmar



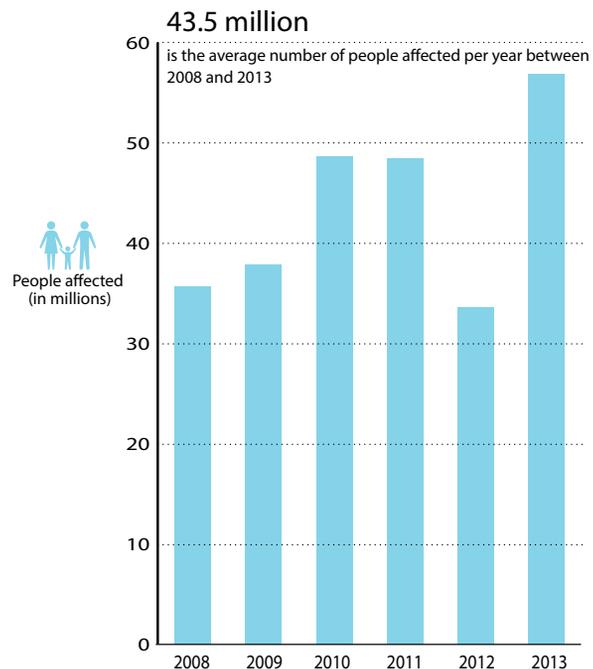
Bangladesh. This also is opening the way to an issues-based approach by helping to integrate community development, recovery, income generation, disaster preparedness and support to livelihoods into more coherent programmes. National-level outcomes to which

UNDP contributed include the development and implementation of gender-sensitive disaster risk management policy frameworks, systems and skill-sets. Support to development of a comprehensive risk reduction system in Bangladesh facilitated the taking of refuge by

1 million people in nearly 4,000 shelters within 24 hours before tropical storm Mahasen hit in 2013, so that only 17 lives were lost, a figure significantly below the toll in similar disasters. Similarly, the Government of India achieved a major success when a super-



The increase in deaths in 2013 is due to the high numbers killed in Typhoon Haiyan in Philippines and the Uttarakhand floods in India. In other countries, the number of deaths has shown a declining trend. Deaths from Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar are not included in this graph and number over 138,000.



Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database [www.emdat.be](http://www.emdat.be), Universite Catholique de Louvain, Bursseis, Belgium.

cyclone which struck Odisha and Andhra Pradesh states of India, and caused less than 50 deaths due to evacuation of more than a million people. A cyclone of comparable intensity had caused more than 10,000 deaths in 1999. For over a decade, UNDP has been supporting

the government of Odisha, India, in strengthening systems for disaster risk reduction, working on early warning, community-based disaster management, institutional strengthening, and recovery issues.

UNDP also helped to strengthen capacities of federal-, provincial- and district-level disaster management authorities, including technical support to 48 Pakistani authorities that enabled these institutions to conduct risk assessments in 490 villages.

## IN 5 CRISIS OR POST-CRISIS COUNTRIES

in the Asia-Pacific region (Myanmar, Pakistan, Nepal, Afghanistan, Philippines), UNDP supported the creation of **jobs and livelihood opportunities** for 477,000 people.

## IN 16 COUNTRIES

in the Asia-Pacific region, UNDP supported building **resilience to shocks** to help ensure that the development gains made are sustained, in 2013.

The share of budget resources earmarked for environmental sustainability, disaster risk management, and climate change adaptation and mitigation increased in several countries; at the same time, the share of population with sustainable access to improved water sources and to renewable energy also increased. In turn, coverage of environmentally protected areas and communities with reduced disaster risk significantly rose. Conflict analysis was mainstreamed in government policymaking processes and approaches in at least two countries.

UNDP has continued to support social cohesion and conflict sensitive development. Four conflict development analyses were completed in Myanmar, Cambodia, PNG and Afghanistan during 2013-14 to feed into and national and UN

planning and programming efforts. In response to inter-communal tensions in Myanmar's Rakhine State, UNDP has been building confidence between communities and improving people's lives in 63 villages, through establishing inter-community planning mechanisms and facilitating joint inter-village cash-for-work and training schemes. Since the signing of the Framework Agreement in Philippines in October 2012, UNDP through a joint UN-World Bank facility extended technical support to the Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front for creating the new autonomous region of Bangsamoro. More recently UNDP has supported the drafting of the Basic Law under which Bangsamoro will be established. As part of UNDP's support to the implementation of the peace accord in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, UNDP responded

to a flare up in communal conflict in Taindong with support for recovery and reconciliation. A joint Government-UN effort was mobilized in 2013-14 ensuring that all the people who had fled their homes could return to more durable re-built homes with means to support their livelihoods, and in so doing, reduced their vulnerability to future violence.

UNDP contributed to early recovery and rapid return to sustainable development pathways in post-conflict and post-disaster settings, with the delivery of US\$81 million in Asia-Pacific across four Country Offices. For example, after Typhoon Haiyan – the strongest recorded storm ever to hit land – struck Philippines, UNDP responded by both taking action to fulfil urgent needs and initiating measures to reduce risks and vulnerabilities over the long run (Case Study 6).



# CASE STUDY 6

## Recovery in Action in Philippines

UNDP scaled up a massive relief and recovery operation in Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan hit, killing more than 6,000 people and affecting 14 million, and assisted 54 of the hardest-hit municipalities. Nearly 65,000 people cleared the typhoon debris, including potential hazards such as medical waste and animal carcasses, earning incomes for their families and injecting much-needed cash into local economies. Within two months, access to 14 hospitals and more than 700 schools and day care centres had been restored, and nearly 1,000km of roads had reopened. UNDP also supported jobs for thousands more people by helping to set up 10 mobile sawmills to cut fallen trees into lumber for reconstruction, and by training 1,800 of the poorest people as carpenters, masons and electricians to assist rebuilding. By sharing recovery experiences from Indonesia after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, UNDP has stimulated both national and local governments in Philippines as well. As a result, preparations are under way to establish a national system in Philippines that will track allocated disaster funds, report on outputs and encourage accountability.

UNDP cash-for-work beneficiaries clearing debris in one of the most affected neighborhoods in Tacloban. Immediately after the Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines, UNDP employed 245 women and men in cash-for-work projects. Workers are paid 260 pesos a day to manually clear targeted zones of the worst affected communities. The wages help to jump start the local economy, while the cleared roads allowed easier access for humanitarian aid to reach isolated communities. (Photo: RU Mitra/UNDP)

# 2013

Figure 12: Timeline: Key advocacy events and publications produced in 2013-2014



February 7, 2013

RBAP scaling-up fund launches to promote achievement of broader impact amongst 14 winning initiatives.



September 10, 2013

UNDP, UNFPA, UNWomen and UNV launch a 'Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia Pacific', collecting data and adopting a methodology used in several countries of the region.



September 20, 2013

The Regional Asia-Pacific MDGs Report, 'Asia-Pacific Aspirations: Perspectives for a Post-2015 Development Agenda' prepared in partnership between UNDP, ESCAP and ADB presents the Asia-Pacific perspectives on the Post-2015 development agenda and makes recommendations for a post-2015 development framework.



January 16-17, 2014

The Guardian Activate Summit in Singapore holds a panel discussion on tech-led innovation in public services.



January 31, 2014

Launch of RBAP Innovation Fund to support country offices to experiment with new ways to tackle complex development issues.



June 8, 2014

Saving our Tuna documentary produced by UNDP and Discovery Channel and shown across Asia and the Pacific on World Oceans Day, contributes to UN advocacy on sustainable fishing, in the run up to the 3rd UN international conference on SIDS.



July 20-25, 2014

UNDP with partners win the Robert Carr Prize for an innovative multi-partner, multi-country research on violence against sex workers. The award recognizes the innovation of the project and the diverse number of stakeholders involved in the process to advance human rights-based policies and practices.



September 1-4, 2014

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Apia, Samoa brings global attention to sustainable development in the Pacific.



September 15, 2014

A symposium on Poverty in Asia organised jointly by UNDP/RBAP and Asian Development Bank discusses new methods and challenges to measuring poverty in Asia-Pacific.



December 16-18, 2014

UNDP, jointly with the Government of Nepal and UNOHRLLS, convenes a ministerial meeting of Asia-Pacific LDCs on Graduation and Post-2015 Development Agenda to identify key drivers of graduation and design a support framework.

2014

