Adapting to Climate Change and Reducing Disaster Risk

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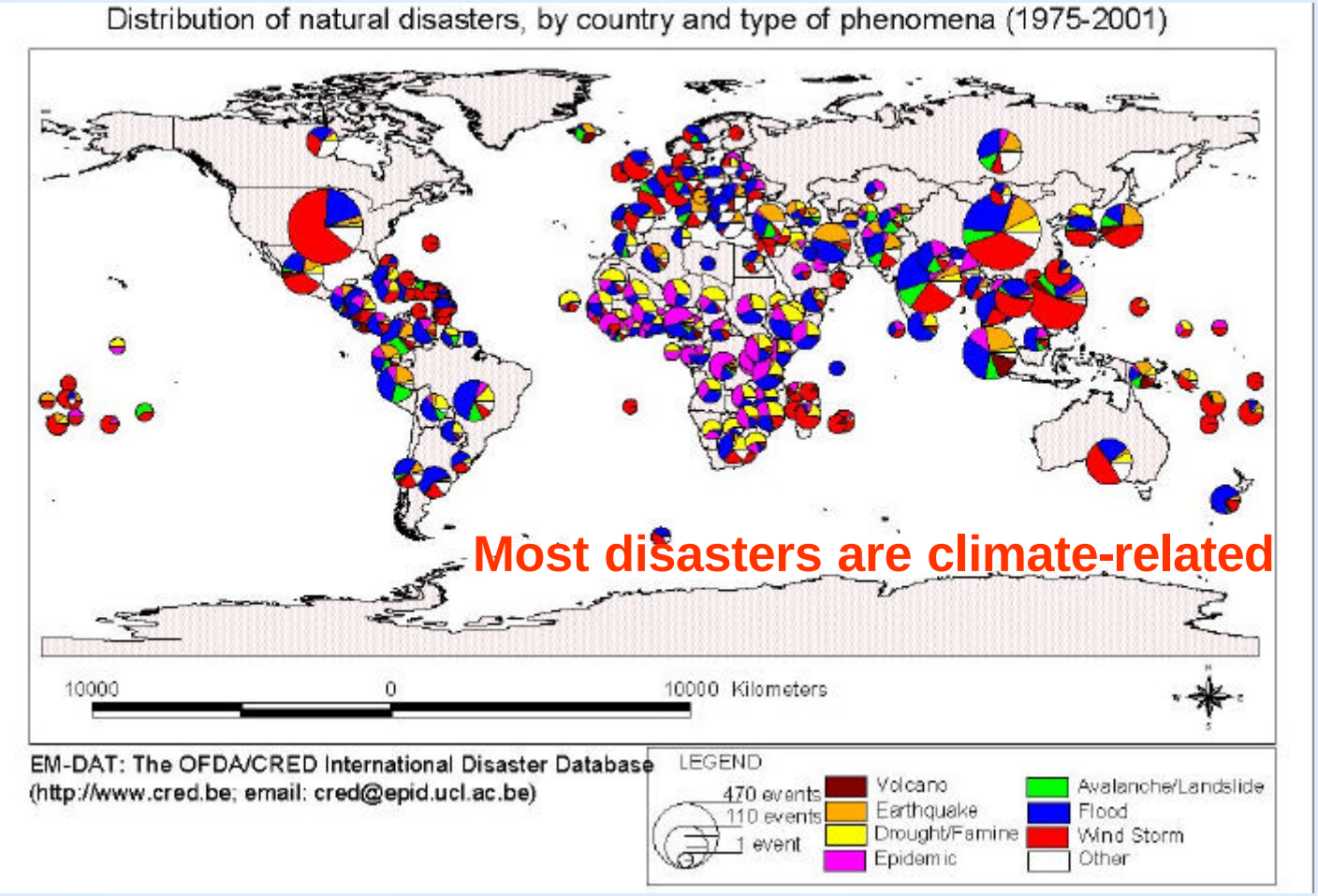
Overview of Presentation

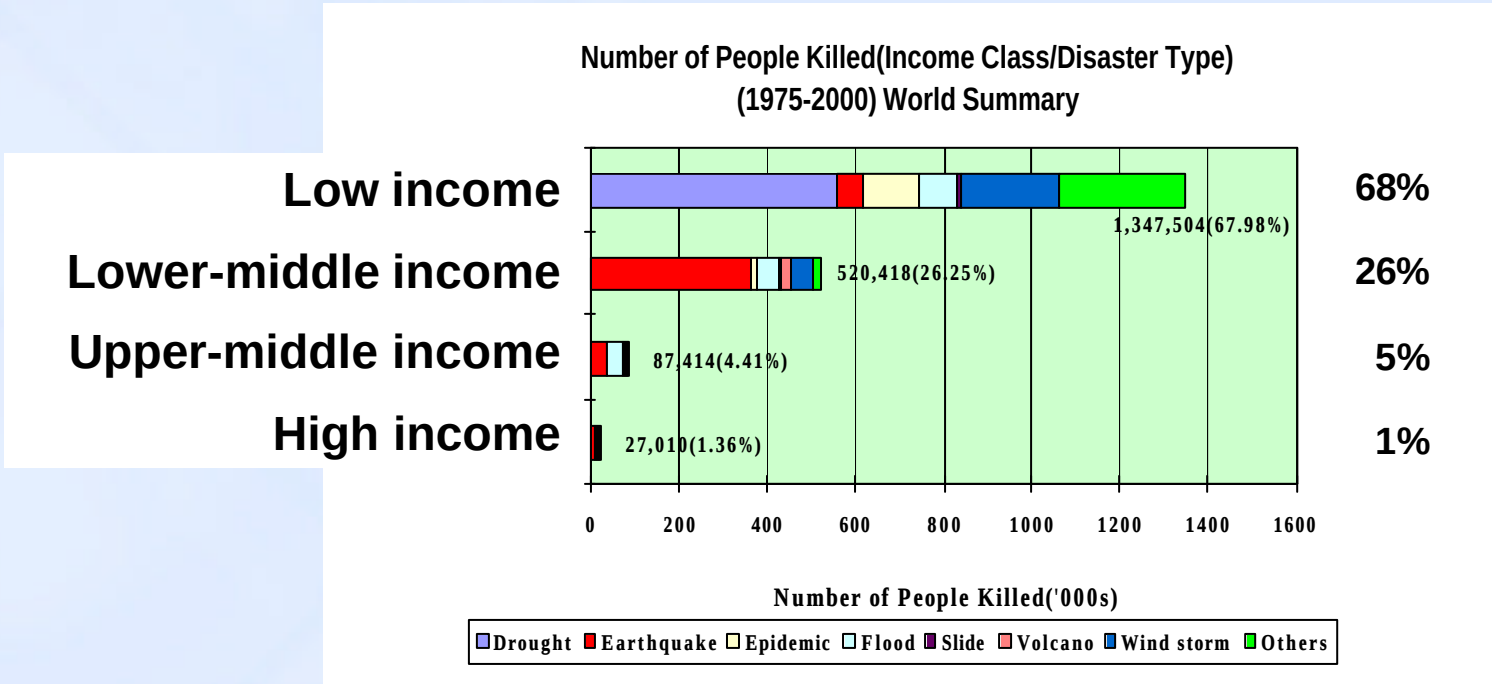
- Links between disaster reduction and climate change
- The Hyogo Framework for Action
- Activities in the region to reduce climate risks
  - Regional
  - National

Disasters: Regional Patterns



Who is Most Affected by Disasters?

The poor: most vulnerable to current hazards and to expected climate change impacts



Source: ADRC, OFDA/CRED

Global Trends (Risk Components)

Hazard x vulnerability= disaster

Natural and human-induced hazards

Climate change: increased intensity and frequency expected

Socio-economic: poverty, unplanned urban growth, lack of awareness and institutional capacities...

Physical: infrastructure located in hazard prone areas ...

Environmental degradation: oil spills, degradation of coasts, watersheds, marshlands, etc.

Linkages Between Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

- Climate system is fundamental to both issues
- Impacts of climate change on extreme events
- Similar sectoral focus, complexities & challenges, rely on same type of measures and policies
- Both are development issues aimed at enhancing sustainability, resilient societies and human security
- Duality of benefits
  1. Disaster reduction offers readily available no-regrets tools for adaptation, and can deliver quick results
  2. CC mitigation initiatives toward sustainability can reduce vulnerability to disasters

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Launched in 2000 by UN General Assembly Resolution as successor of the International Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction –IDNDR, 1990-1999:

The ISDR aims at building disaster resilient communities by promoting increased awareness of the importance of disaster reduction as an integral component of sustainable development, with the goal of **reducing human, social, economic and environmental losses due to natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters**.

Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015:

Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters

Priorities for action areas:

1. **Governance**
2. **Risk identification**
3. **Knowledge**
4. **Reducing the underlying risk factors:**

   including climate change
5. **Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response**

Climate Change in the Hyogo Framework

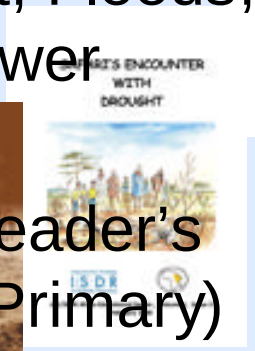
- States agreed to reduce disaster risk posed by climate change:
  - Identify climate-related risk
  - Design specific risk reduction measures
  - Ensure planners, engineers and other decision makers use climate risk info
- Integrate disaster reduction and adaptation to climate change
- To mobilize resources, mainstream disaster risk reduction into development and climate adaptation

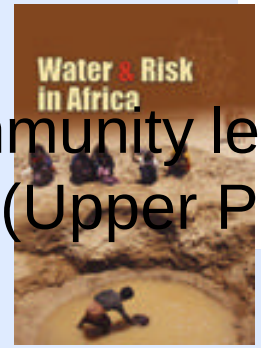
VARG Country Study: Kenya

- European Commission with ISDR, DFID, Red Cross Climate Centre and OECD.
- Are DRR policies and institutions ready to handle climate change?
- Recommendations:
  - –Use DRR National Platform to mainstream CC adaptation, initiate systematic development programmes and enhance national partnership with UN agencies
  - –Improve meteorological networks and ground-truthing (aggregate data for integrated EWS)
  - –Build on existing forums and centres to bring together expertise (e.g. UN-ISDR hosted workshops, ICPAC training forums, invest in ‘translators’, working manuals, media, technical committees) and regional links
  - –Implement the National Disaster Policy with a National Disaster Management Authority to coordinate different stakeholders and initiatives operating at different scales

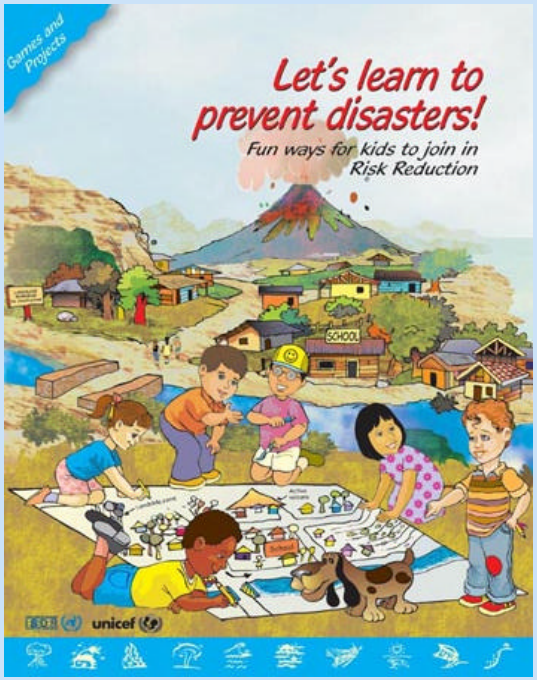
Regional Activities

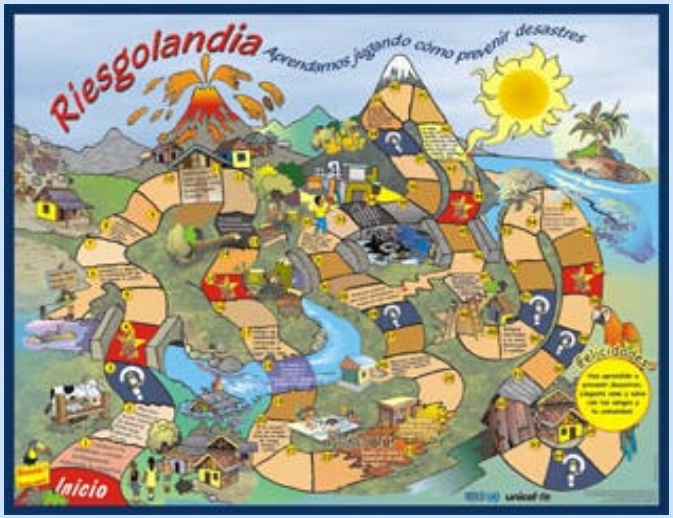
- Education: “Safari’s Encounter with Drought, Floods, Landslide” booklet collection for children (lower primary) - ISDR with partners.
- Awareness raising: Booklet for community leader’s guide on water, booklet for student (Upper Primary) on water and risks in Africa
- Inter-governmental coordination:
  - (UN ISDR Africa and UNDP Dryland Development Centre organized the first drought forum in 2005 and will organize the second next month in Nairobi)
- Capacity building:
  - (IGAD Secretariat carried out training for disaster managers on disaster risk reduction)





Education in schools





Riskland: a game for children to learn about reducing disaster risk

National Activities

- Many Countries are addressing disaster risk reduction in many ways by
- Establishing multi stakeholders forum on DRR (National committee or national platform)
- revising the national strategy,
- integrating DRR into PRSPs and school programmes,
- Carrying out training for local authorities

- Etc....

National Platforms

EUROPA

- Bulgaria
- Czech Republic
- France
- Germany
- Spain
- Suiza
- Hungary

AMERICA

- Canada
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- USA

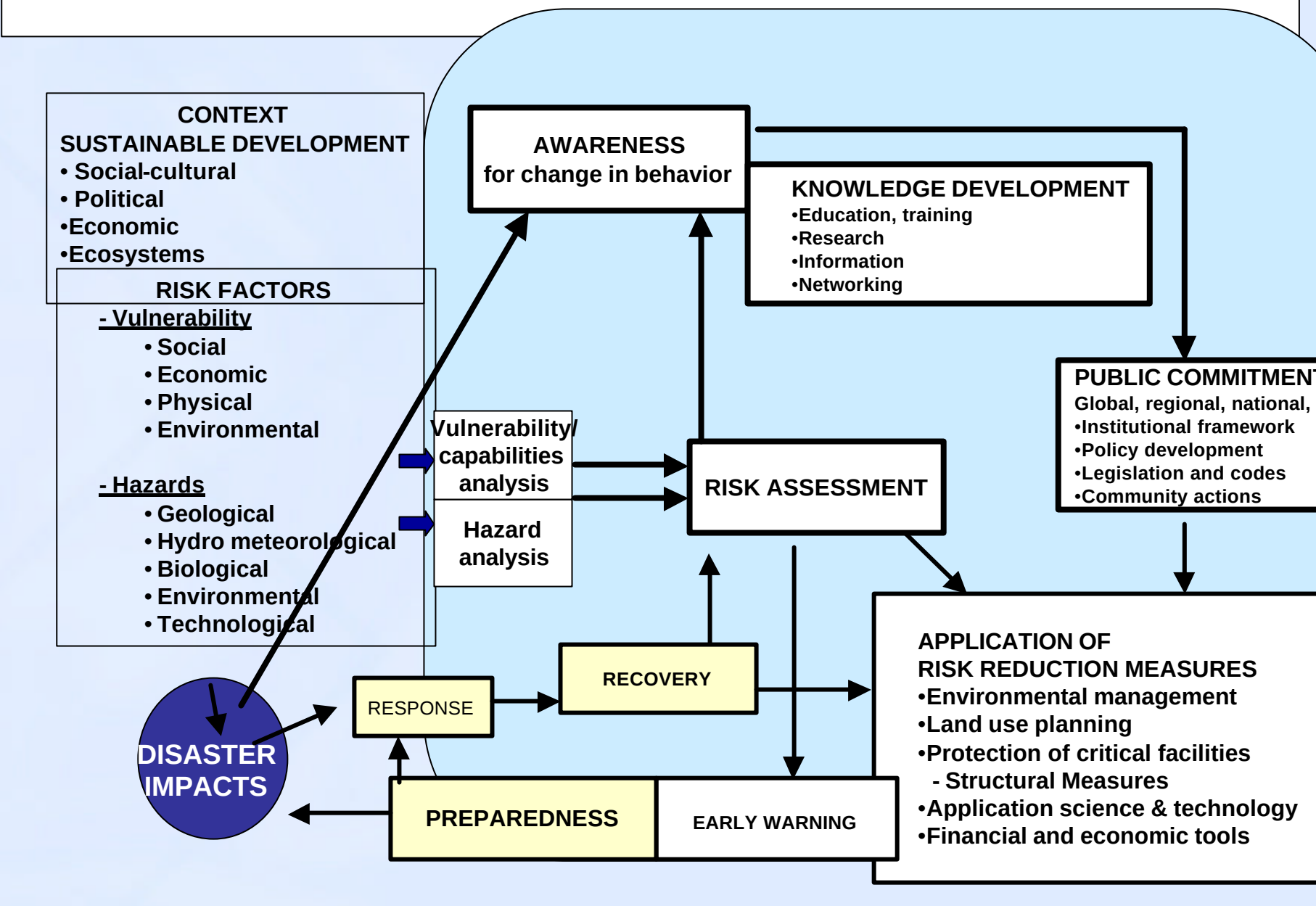
ASIA

- China
- Iran
- Japon
- Philippines
- Rusia

AFRICA

- Botswana
- Comoros
- Djibouti
- Gabon
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Republic of Congo
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Ghana
- Seychelles
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Mali
- Tanzania

DRR Framework



Gaps and Needs

- Climate information doesn't reach farmers; need to improve knowledge sharing and to have a better communication strategy for information flow to farmers and local communities;
- Lack of awareness on best practices on drought management;
- Funds needed for integrated water management activities;
- International funds should prioritise drought risk reduction;
- Africa should focus on adaptation funding because doesn't have resources to adapt

Recommendations

- Raise awareness among CC and DRR practitioners to integrate measures in national, sub regional and national development plans
- Develop CC adaptation plans with DRR practitioners
- Ask DRR practitioners for info to produce National Communications, comment on IPCC reports, etc
- Include CC adaptation activities in national report of HFA implementation
- Invite CC focal points to join DRR national platforms
- Develop joint activities to reduce climate risk, such as develop early warning systems for drought
- Collaborate on education, awareness raising and training
- Develop joint work programmes and seek funding for activities that reduce climate risks

Conclusions

- Taking action to reduce disaster risk now offers win-win opportunities for climate change adaptation

- DRR tools cover:
  - political and institutional dimensions
  - risk assessment, monitoring and early warning
  - knowledge management and education
  - reducing risk from harmful practices
  - Strengthening preparedness and response to disasters when they strike

" More effective prevention strategies would save not only tens of billions of dollars, but save tens of thousands of lives. Funds currently spent on intervention and relief could be devoted to enhancing equitable and sustainable development instead, which would further reduce the risk for war and disaster. Building a culture of prevention is not easy. While the costs of prevention have to be paid in the present, its benefits lie in a distant future. Moreover, the benefits are not tangible; they are the disasters that did NOT happen. "

Kofi Annan, "Facing the Humanitarian Challenge: Towards a Culture of Prevention", UNGA, A/54/1