

A POST-2015 WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

ISSUE BRIEF: Strengthening Resilience through Disaster Risk Reduction



Why Disaster Risk Reduction is a critical component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Shocks – including disasters, armed conflict, epidemics, economic downturns and food price hikes – are eroding rights and impeding sustainable development. Stresses – including violence, unplanned urbanization, rapid population growth, climate change and environmental degradation – are compounding vulnerability, reducing resilience and increasing the impact of shocks. Strengthening the resilience of children, families, communities and systems to shocks and stresses must be a priority for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including through the new climate treaty¹ and the Post-2015 Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.²

Disasters and disaster risk are on the rise. The number of people affected globally by disasters has been increasing by an estimated 50,000 to 60,000 per decade since the early 1970s, with 250 million affected per year over the last decade.³ As the effects of climate change become more visible and extreme, they are adversely affecting the lives of children and adolescents all over the world. Over 99% of deaths already attributable to climate-related changes occur in developing countries – and children make up over 80% of those deaths.⁴

Disasters negatively impact children's and women's rights, disproportionately affect poor countries and erode development gains. While disasters exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and inequalities, girls and boys also have unique capacities that contribute to preventing and reducing risk. As disasters are a function of hazard, vulnerability, exposure and capacity, they are both a humanitarian and a development concern.

Suggested Target

- Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, with special attention to households, women, children and those with disabilities, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Targets for the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Given the close relationship between poverty and disaster risk, UNICEF advocates for the above target to sit within a poverty goal. In further advancing disaster risk reduction, UNICEF together with its partners, Save the Children, Plan International and World Vision is proposing the following tentative targets/indicators to be included in the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction or "Hyogo Framework 2" (HFA2):

- All targets under the HFA2 are achieved for all girls and boys of different age groups, ethnicity and abilities
- Increase access by the most vulnerable children and risk prone households to quality social services, including education, health, WASH and protection, developed on the basis of an analysis of risk

- No child dies due to disaster in a school built after 2017 or modified after 2030
- The number of school days missed as a result of shocks or stresses is reduced by 50%
- The number of children living outside family care as a result of shocks and stresses is reduced by 50%
- Children and youth are supported to meaningfully participate in national and local level DRR and development planning processes

DRR DATA SNAPSHOT

Disaster Risks are Growing

Vulnerability remains intractable for billions of people

- 1.29 billion people living on less than US\$1.25 a day (2008)
- 1.15 billion people living in slums (2010)
- 925 million people undernourished (2010)

Exposure is Rapidly Increasing

- Population will increase from 7 to 9.3 billion by 2050
- Population living in urban areas will grow from 3.3 billion to 4.9 billion by 2030
- Developing countries will have 80% of the world's urban population by 2030

Natural Hazards are Global and Increasing Global Scale of Hazards

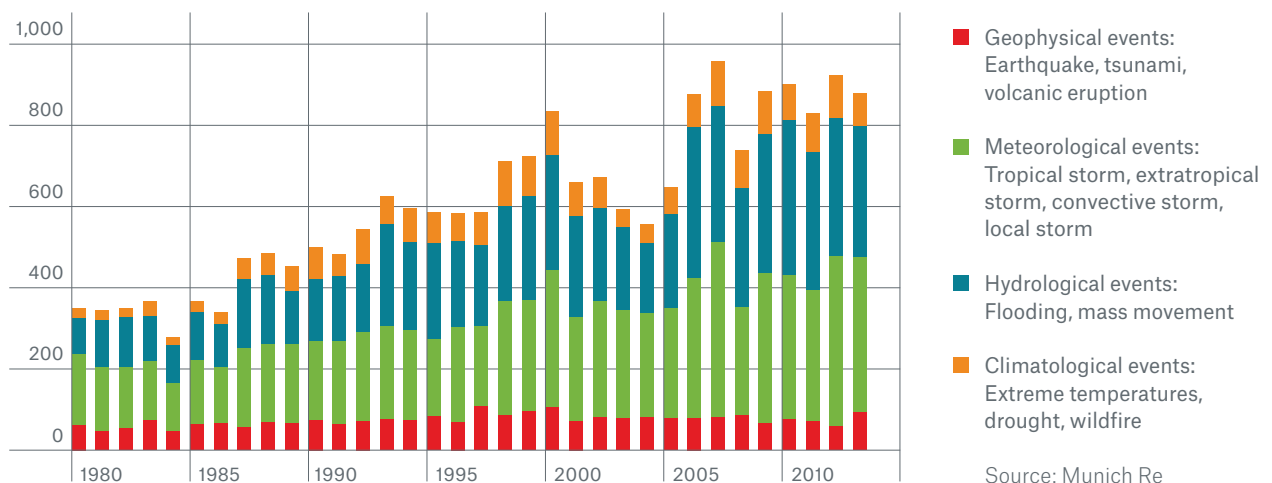
- 179 different countries saw natural hazards become disasters between 2006 and 2010

Climate Hazards Intensifying

- Climate is responsible for $\frac{3}{4}$ of all disaster events
- Over 99% of deaths already attributable to climate-related changes occur in developing countries – and children make up over 80% of those deaths

The IPCC Special Report on Extreme Events suggests climate change could result in "unprecedented extreme weather and climate events"

Figure 1 Number of loss events 1980–2013



For more information

Please see UNICEF's webpage on Children and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: <http://www.unicef.org/post2015/>

¹ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

² United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*.

³ Webster, Mackinnon et al. *The Humanitarian Costs of Climate Change*, Tufts University, December 2008.

⁴ Kumar, Sandhya, *Children Most Vulnerable to Climate Change*, UN Earth News, 22 April 2012.