



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND ITS ROLE IN IMPROVING ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF URBAN AREAS

Climate Resilience in built environment
The GRIHA Summit 2015



Disaster risk reduction

Efforts to analyze and reduce the causal factors of disasters

- Reducing exposure to hazards, reducing vulnerability of people and property
- Efficient management of land and environment
- Improving preparedness and early warning for adverse events

"The more governments, UN agencies, organizations, businesses and civil society understand risk and vulnerability, the better equipped they will be to mitigate disasters"

Adaptation



Anticipating the adverse effects of climate change and taking appropriate action to prevent or minimize the damage they can cause, or taking advantage of opportunities.

- Using scarce water resources more efficiently
- Adhering to building codes required to face extreme weather events
- Building flood defences
- Developing drought-tolerant crops
- Enhancing level of preparedness to handle extreme events

Urbanization mirrors economic growth, but..



- Usually characterized by highly unequal access to urban space, infrastructure, services and security
- Low-income households are forced to occupy hazard-exposed areas with low land values, deficient or non-existent infrastructure and social protection, and high levels of environmental degradation
- Multiplicity of administrative institutions
- Inadequate attention to mitigation and prevention
- High concentration of people, lack of enforcement of building codes, unsafe structures, and lack of economic and social equity make cities unequipped to deal with disasters

Such segregated urban development generates new patterns of both extensive and intensive disaster risk

Cities in India



- Urban population in India grew from 285 million in 2001 to 377 million in 2011, likely to touch 533 million by 2025
- 70% of the urban population resides in Class 1 (more than 100,000 population) cities
- Most of the cities face urban flooding almost on a regular basis and a number of coastal cities are hit by cyclonic storms
- In India large investments are expected to flow into urban development in the coming decades
- The assets being created cannot be sustained if they are not risk sensitive

Global Framework for Action



2005-2015

- Awareness about disaster risk has increased
- Substantial progress has been made on preparedness and response (priority 5) and on Policies and institutional arrangements (priority 1).
- Good progress on building awareness and knowledge (priority 3) and on risk identification and early warning (priority 2).
- Progress on reducing underlying risk (priority 4) needs improvement.

Progress in adoption of policies, norms, standards and regulations to manage and reduce risk in various sectors has been modest. Similarly, there has been very little systematic engagements with private sector, except through the lens of CSR

Emerging trends



Review and consultations on the experience of countries in implementing HFA have highlighted the need for:

- Innovations in areas of risk governance, risk knowledge, cost-benefit analysis and accountability.
- While dedicated structure to prepare for and respond to disasters will have to continue, disaster and climate risks in development need to be approached through strengthened governance arrangements –in various sectors at national as well as sub-national levels.

This would entail appropriately managing risks in new investments, reducing the existing stock of risk, and strengthening resilience at all levels

Suggested Actions



- Assess risks, including that are likely to be influenced by Changes in Climate
- Translate risk information to actionable points for different users (Risk knowledge) to ensure that development is risk informed and sensitive – mainstreaming/ training/funds
- Strengthen Early Warning Systems
- Develop multi-hazard city DM and sectoral Plans – response, preparedness, mitigation (existing and new), strengthen enforcement capacities
- Develop specialized teams to undertake variety of response functions – training/funds/ equipment
- Ensure safe and secure critical facilities/ infrastructure
- Use/develop knowledge platforms and networks
- Address specific requirements of the vulnerable people
- Strengthen coordination and partnership with non-Government development partners