

Making Development Sensitive to Disaster Risk

1. Risk is increasingly being incorporated into development practices rather than being isolated from them. Consistent with current thinking, there is increasing attention in the analysis to the causal link between disaster risk and development, or more precisely the impact of poor development that often creates increased vulnerability that then results in development losses. This touches on a theme of importance to C4i ... how can C4i's emergency and disaster management simulation software (EDMSIM) and other C4i tools be used to assess the risk aspects of various development options. As a case in point, C4i has encountered interest from the energy infrastructure shop at the Asian Development Bank.

Here is an example of the argumentation one finds. Practitioners observe that, at a practical level, the shift from seeing disasters as external shocks to recognising risks inherent in development policies and practices means dealing with the underlying risk factors. Actions required include transforming development to manage risks, sustainably seizing opportunities to strengthen resilience, **maintaining effective disaster response capacities**, and ensuring sustainable development. This will involve sound, risk-sensitive macroeconomic frameworks and policy choices, which consist of ex-ante disaster risk reduction and ex-post response, recovery, and reconstruction to minimize disaster impacts. By shifting the focus to systematically addressing underlying risk drivers and strengthening resilience, a transformation towards risk-sensitive development is achievable. One objective is to **ensure effective preparedness for communities to respond rapidly**, recover better, and remain resilient.

2. Preparedness and risk reduction are seen as being helpful to bridging the gaps between the separate humanitarian and development efforts; this may be an area for C4i to consider the potential of EDMSIM and other tools

The literature observes that the divide between humanitarian and development activities has to be bridged, by **integrating preparedness activities into longer term development processes**. The humanitarian and developmental streams seem quite different and somewhat independent of one another. In C4i's Caribbean experience, this dichotomy arises in that much of the disaster risk reduction (DRR) effort is currently directed through humanitarian agencies such as the Red Cross. While C4i software and services may very well be of value to such agencies, perhaps the stronger market opportunity lies within the developmental side of DRR. The DRR frameworks appear to be supporting increasing relative emphasis on the developmental side.

3. The major development initiatives coalescing in 2015 will place increased world focus on disaster risk reduction and the post-2015 Hyogo framework for action. There has been a reaffirmation of the international commitment to the Hyogo Framework and a call for States, the UN system, international financial institutions, and others to accelerate implementation of the framework. Disaster risk reduction and building of resilience to disasters will be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency.
4. Another possible specific point of relevance for C4i with respect to the post-2015 Hyogo agenda is an anticipated emphasis on **measurable indicators**. EDMSIM may have potential

here. A post-2015 Hyogo working group's concluding recommendation is 18. Sustainable Development Goals are accompanied by targets and will be further elaborated through indicators focused on measurable outcomes

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*C4i Consultants Inc. of Calgary, Alberta, Canada is an information technology and software company active in planning and training for disaster preparedness. C4i provides constructive simulation for emergency response plan preparation. Constructive simulation creates a computerized simulation of man-made and natural disasters and creates a training environment for internal and inter-agency coordination and improvement. All of the products involve the interaction among geography, the human population, agencies, equipment and facilities, and supplies and logistics, providing a holistic planning, training, and analysis toolset that is widely deployed with a number of global customers.
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