


*UN Disaster Reduction Conference, 3 October 2005
Fenella Frost, Disaster Reduction Advisor, DFID*

DFID Department for International Development

BEYOND KOBE: A Donor Perspective

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Some Facts and Figures

- Annual **economic losses** are on the rise:
1960s - USD76billion
1970s – USD138billion
1980s – USD214billion
1990s – USD660billion
- Between 1990-1998 **97%** of disaster deaths occurred in the developing world
- Disasters have a direct impact on **poverty** e.g. 2004 Tsunami

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Where were we at the start of the Decade?

- Despite the International Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction (1990s) disasters still **not** seen as a development issue
- In part reflects the need for the case for **prevention** still to be made
- Efforts on the Millennium Development Goals focused mainly on **positive** investment vs. working to address **stumbling blocks**

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Where were we at the start of the Decade?

- Huge **expertise** and knowledge – particularly of what works at community level
- IDNDR resulted in good **locally owned** initiatives e.g. National Society for Earthquake Technology in Nepal
- **Government** reform & reflection – e.g. India & South Africa

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Where was DFID at the start of the Decade?

- Commitments to DRR existed (e.g. 1997 **White Paper**)
....but not translated into action (2003 NAO Report)
- Disaster risk concerns reflected
 - in DFID **practice** e.g. DFID Environmental Screening Notes
 - in DFID **programming** e.g. support to UNDP & World Bank (ProVention Consortium)....but not consistently addressed

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DFID Supported Programmes

Example 1: Rwanda

- Rwandan Red Cross supported 2001-2002
- Part of a £1.2million global disaster reduction programme (focus: E. Africa & S. Asia)
- Rwandan Context:
 - Risk prone country (volcanoes, floods etc)
 - Vulnerable society
 - Weak infrastructure/institutions

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DFID Supported Programmes

Example 1: Rwanda cont'd

- Main activities:
 - Institutional
 - National society disaster preparedness policy & plan
 - Emergency brigades established/strengthened
 - Risk Assessment/Mitigation
 - National vulnerability assessment
 - Pilot local level vulnerability and capacity assessment in Karaba district leading to micro mitigation activities

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DFID Supported Programmes

Example 2: Bangladesh

- Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme
- DFID support = £6million over 5 years (from 2003)
- Purpose: to support Govt to shift from a response/relief emphasis to a comprehensive risk management culture
- Provides: platform for leadership by Government into which bilateral donor support can be linked i.e. a good vehicle for donor harmonisation

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DFID Supported Programmes

Example 2: Bangladesh cont'd

- Intended Outputs include:
 - better co-ordination between key line-ministries
 - support to community risk reduction strategies
 - strengthened response capacity at district and central level
 - better understanding of the longer-term implications of climate change on disaster risk for Bangladesh.

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DFID's approach leading up to Kobe and beyond

- 2004 – **DFID Study** on links between disasters and development
- 2004-5 – Hillary Benn's **Humanitarian Reform Agenda**
- 2005 – DFID **Policy Statement** on Disaster Risk Reduction & Implementation Plan

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DFID's approach leading up to Kobe and beyond

- Key Drivers/Links -
 - British Government Risk Management Agenda
 - Climate change
 - Food security in Africa
 - Need to use humanitarian assistance more effectively/appropriately
 - Disasters impacts on the poor & MDGs

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Kobe – Reflections on Outcomes

- Preceded by Tsunami = **political attention**
- Hyogo Framework for Action – broad brush & **comprehensive**
- Demonstrated enhanced **consensus** on disaster risk reduction concerns

Challenges:

- Where was **Africa**?
- The role of the **IFIs**
- Engagement with the **Private Sector**

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Other Recent Developments

- Work on **risk identification**: World Bank (Hotspots) & UNDP (Disaster Risk Index)
- 2005 **G8 Commitments** to disaster risk reduction and early warning
- **Government Action/Planning** e.g. Bangladesh, Mozambique and Vietnam Poverty Reduction Strategies
- **UN** (ISDR) reform process

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Where do we go from here?

- The challenge of maintaining **high-level** commitment
- Translating international commitments into **practical action** at the national level
- Need for governments to be more **accountable** to at risk populations

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DFID's forward approach

- New Policy & Plan likely to reflect:
 - Efforts to do more to ensure **country** programmes are risk aware
 - Collaborate with World Bank on influencing **government planning** processes
 - Support to multilateral & **UN reform**
 - Increased support to **civil society** through new Conflict and Humanitarian Fund
 - Better understanding of links between disasters and **climate change**

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THANK YOU

