

Forum (Council, Committee, Assembly): SDG 11

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Topic 1: The question of investment in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

I. Introduction to the Topic

Starting in 1970, the United Nations General Assembly initiated recommendations on “...(b) Pre-disaster planning at the national and international levels, including the definition of machinery and contingency arrangements capable of coping immediately with disaster situations”, allowing for the creation of the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO) only a year later. The UNDRO is focused on reducing and avoiding disaster risks and managing residual risks, all of which contribute to the goal of community resilience and, as a result, sustainable development. Specifically, development Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), is a group of policies, strategies, and applications that reduce vulnerabilities and disaster risks throughout society, covering mitigation and preparation in response to disasters, and recovery phases.

Developed countries have increased economic and insurance disaster losses due to weather, climatic, and geophysical phenomena. Developing nations experience greater mortality rates and economic losses as a percentage of GDP (high confidence). The loss of life, psychological impact, displacement from home and community, and social and financial consequences of a disaster, coupled with its disproportionate impact on the already disadvantaged (such as communities in poverty and financial distress), make it imperative to fully implement the best principles and practices of disaster risk reductions. Global interconnectedness and interdependence between economic and ecological systems can have varying consequences, lowering or increasing vulnerability to disasters.

II. Definition of Key Terms & Concepts

Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster risk reduction is defined by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) as those actions that aim to "prevent new and reducing existing disaster risk and manage residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development". Disaster risk reduction includes reducing exposure to risks, reducing the vulnerability of people and property, prudent land and environmental management, and enhancing readiness and early warning for catastrophic occurrences. Currently, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 serves as the main framework for all governmental bodies and the UNDRR to meet the objectives for substantially reducing disaster risks.

Mitigation

As multiple environmental issues increase in prominence so does the need for mitigation. Mitigation is the endeavor to decrease the loss of life and property by reducing the severity of disasters. It involves taking action —before the next disaster—to mitigate human and financial repercussions later (risk

analysis, risk reduction, and risk insurance). Such efforts include raising, moving, or purchasing properties in floodplains and converting them into open space, as well as strengthening structures in earthquake-prone locations.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development aims to balance the social and economic demands of the current and future generations of humans and the necessity of protecting or preventing unnecessary environmental harm. Disaster risks frequently impose catastrophic consequences on society and communities in the form of financial losses, ruined infrastructure, and loss of life. If social and economic progress is to be sustained into the future, disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a crucial component.

Resilience

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction defines resilience as “the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions.” Climate change and urbanization have long-term impacts on hazard and vulnerability profiles, which are often unpredictable. To build resilience for nations and communities is to anticipate and enhance fundamental structures and functions.

III. Key Stakeholders

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

The mandate of the UNDRR has been defined by several United Nations General Assembly Resolutions, the most notable of which is "to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields". It supports the implementation and review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and is based on the framework's four priority areas for action. The organization's work ensures that disaster risk reduction is linked to and coherent with other international frameworks of the 2030 Agenda, such as the sustainable development goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, and other frameworks.

The basis and underlying reason for the UNDRR's participation throughout its strategic objectives regarding the Sendai Framework and others is the monitoring and reporting of disaster risk reduction accomplishment, which hopes to foster a positive loop of information and evidence production and application for better policy and practice. In addition to regular monitoring and reporting on catastrophe loss, risk, and risk mitigation practices, supporting governments, especially less developed countries, in developing risk data and information lays the foundation for the UNDRR's foundation.

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is a worldwide cooperation initiative intended to help developing nations reduce catastrophe risk and adapt to climate change, regulated by a Consultative Group including the World Bank Group, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and numerous other international organizations and governments. GFDRR is a grant-funding

mechanism that allocates finance and provides technical support through theme and country-specific programs, focusing on disaster risk financial protection, resilient infrastructures, cities, hydrometeor services, and access to disaster risk information, along with the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

The GFDRR funds over 120 disaster risk management and interconnected climate risk management initiatives in over 50 disaster-prone poor and middle-income countries. GFDRR contributes to the creation of global knowledge products with significant policy implications for disaster risk reduction, such as the Handbook for Reconstruction after Natural Disasters, "Safer Homes, Stronger Communities, and well-known The Global Assessment Report.

IV. Key Issues including Background Information

Lack of participation and knowledge

Because local communities document their experiences with climate change, including extreme weather events in various ways this knowledge can be used to identify community capability and present inadequacies. This serves as the basic foundation for most communities to intake information on adapting and mitigating disaster risks. Regardless, the lack of proper knowledge and training provided by multiple governmental bodies is apparent. Local humanitarian agencies' reliance on external forces like national governments and donors for financing and credibility hampered contextual understandings of catastrophe risk, however many nations overlook such objectives. These not only fail to address the sociopolitical sources of vulnerability in disaster risk reduction, but they also contribute to its exacerbation by maintaining inequitable rural and cross-scalar authority relations. Only over 90% of worldwide DRR money is now focused on disaster response and recovery, rather than future risk management. The majority of this cash goes toward settlements, infrastructure, and service development. Furthermore, only around 0.5% of overall foreign development money is presently spent on disaster risk reduction efforts before a disaster.

There is no doubt that even with the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and multiple intergovernmental frameworks set out for DRR, a lack of proper understanding of universal and resilience metrics persists, which significantly delays support for nations to develop a common understanding and baseline for addressing climate risk in financial terms. It is difficult for citizens, organizations, and governments alike to assess the resilience advantages of projects, establish verifiable objectives, and price externalities, and factor physical climate hazards into capital allocation and risk pricing choices due to the unpredictable nature of natural hazards. Delegates may want to comment on the structural forms of existing metrics and evaluate the efficiency of such based on recent reports of national tactics against disaster risks.

Lack of financial opportunities

There is inequality across nations regarding investment and capital allocation in disaster risk reduction. Developed nations are frequently more financially and institutionally capable of implementing clear policies to successfully respond to anticipated changes in exposure, vulnerability in infrastructure, and climatic extremes than are developing nations. Particular difficulties arise for less economically

developed nations when it comes to supplying public goods linked to disaster risk reduction and offering relief and reconstruction support. Disaster resilience is rarely prioritized in developing nations because it is mistakenly regarded as politically risky - a cost of investment for events that may never occur during a political term, usually due to a lack of obvious and adequately articulated incentives from governments. Therefore, investment in disaster risk reduction for developing nations that experience less frequent disaster risks continues to fall out, increasing exposure and vulnerability for more communities. International financing for catastrophe risk mitigation is also low compared to spending on humanitarian relief, largely due to inadequate coordination and collaboration across these disciplines.

Even small and medium-sized catastrophes, as well as single extreme incidents of disasters, can significantly impair community lifelines such as food distribution, water supply, healthcare, transportation, waste disposal, and communications. One of the important stakeholders which contribute to the issue of lacking capital investment is private businesses and sectors. Disaster risk in urban areas stems from long-term investment and non-investment decisions, making it challenging to assign sufficient stakeholders, with most businesses shy from investing in the first place. Efforts of disclosing a company's financial exposure to climate risk may help investors and creditors assess and manage the risk to their portfolio, however, the significant absence of clear asset-level data, multiple standards, and differing practices across nations have proved to be difficult for such.

Geographic disparities

Poverty is both a cause and a result of catastrophe risk (especially in nations with poor risk governance) since economic constraints lead individuals to dwell in dangerous areas and conditions. Poverty, as well as the other multidimensional factors and forces that contribute to vulnerability, make particular groups more vulnerable to the effects of hazards, such as women, children, the elderly, the disabled, migrants, and displaced people. These communities exist in all nations, regardless of developed or developing status, and therefore governmental bodies must tackle issues such as marginalization, social exclusion, vulnerable rural livelihoods, etc. all of which contribute to increased vulnerability towards disaster risks.

Geographical factors also contribute to the urgency in investment for DRR. Many hazard-prone places, such as beaches, volcanic slopes, and floodplains, subsequently encourage economic and urban growth, provide considerable economic advantages, or hold cultural or religious value for the people who live there. This results in more individuals and assets being exposed to risk concentrations as trends of migration and immigration grow. Simultaneously, social and financial consequences expand as cities grow and economic and urban growth transforms sparsely inhabited areas.

V. Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Date	Description of event
1971	Creation of the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO)
1994	The First World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction adopted the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention,

Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action in Yokohama, Japan

- 1999 The International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) Programme Forum 1999. This featured over 40 subject sessions aimed at natural disaster avoidance.
- 2002 The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), in Johannesburg, South Africa, August-September 2002, and the creation of The Johannesburg Plan of Action.
- 2005 Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction held at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005. The Hyogo Framework for Action was endorsed.
- 2006 The General Assembly notes the proposed establishment of a Global Platform for Disaster Reduction.
- 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.
- 2023 The next step for disaster risk reduction should be better addressed in the Middle East and Central Asia, especially Syria as there was a catastrophic earthquakes that resulted in under-investment in disaster preparedness and prevention.
- 2023 There has been a High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly and the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction on 24 March 2023.

VI. Possible Challenges & Solutions

Equitable investing opportunities

Effective technology transfer and collaboration are crucial for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation efforts. As mentioned, multiple notions exist where the current capability for risk analytics in less developed countries (LDCs) does not necessarily allow for effective preventative and predictive actions. On an international scale, multiple organizations such as the UNDRR itself provide charitable aid and funds to those marginalized communities, but the role of developed nations in cooperating and assisting in both the development of resource and recovery finances is unclear in most cases.

Unfortunately, this results in many governments struggling to measure their DRR spending due to dependence on developed nations for political income. The predicted expenditures for climate adaptation in underdeveloped nations range from \$215 to \$387 billion per year (up to 2030). DRR and climate adaptation have comparable aims and techniques, and governing bodies have similar duties, including pressing for more funding to address climate threats. Therefore, increased involvement from bilateral donors, development banks, and financial institutions in DRR should also increase and even be monitored

by governmental bodies, allowing for more foundation from private companies and sectors. Such results of regulations could allow investors to avoid cities or areas that do not prioritize catastrophe risk reduction efforts, encouraging local and national regions to reconsider the allocation of funding towards disaster risk reduction policies. If investments had to be aligned with climate change adaptation plans, investors would be encouraged to lobby for necessary policies to be enacted by Member States and relevant agencies.

Increase political commitment

To successfully manage disaster risk, countries should incorporate it into their national development and sector plans, as well as implement climate change adaptation policies that target vulnerable areas and populations. An increase in integrating disaster risk reduction into all policies and strategies for productive capacity development, such as industrial and agricultural development, commodity diversification, and trade and supply chains, will possibly ensure resilience to current and future shocks and hazards, including the detrimental effects of climate change. The significance of DRR urgently needs to be improved to achieve the goal of sustainable development and substantial reduction in consequences of disaster risks globally. Another suggestion for policy implementation is to involve structural transformation strategies that decrease catastrophe risk, including addressing the underlying economic, social, and environmental causes of exposure and susceptibility such as climate change, migration, etc.

Investment in local knowledge and understanding

All nations should encourage more local engagement, focusing on discussion and further education on community-based adaptation to better manage catastrophe risk and climate extremes. Improving access to human and financial resources, as well as tailored disaster risk and climate information for local stakeholders, can boost community-based adaptation efforts. When adopting disaster risk reduction initiatives, governments seldom "consider the needs and desires of communities" or solicit community feedback. Such examples of other measures that governments need improvement on are low-regrets policies that offer advantages under present and future climate change scenarios, providing a starting point for addressing expected trends in exposure, susceptibility, and climatic extremes. Utilizing better observation and research through the development of technologies and resilience infrastructure can also address knowledge gaps, minimize uncertainty, and improve risk management techniques. All stakeholders must understand how existing structures respond to prospective hazards, such as ground shaking from earthquakes and wind from tropical storms. Community volunteers contribute critical resources to recovery operations, including communication, search and rescue, supply distribution, shelter and food provision, and technology help.

VII. Recommendations for Resolution Writing including Research

Delegates should have a comprehensive understanding of the policies and actions that their countries adopt when addressing catastrophe adaptation and mitigation before drafting a resolution on the subject. Nations that are more prone and vulnerable to such natural hazards should then discuss potential improvements or drawbacks to the current frameworks, as well as suggestions for international and national funding efforts while keeping in mind the objectives that should be met when investing for

development in disaster risk reduction. More economically developed nations should have a clear awareness of their progress and commitment to disaster risk reduction, as well as discussions about the prospect of engaging in global cooperation and providing aid to other national authorities.

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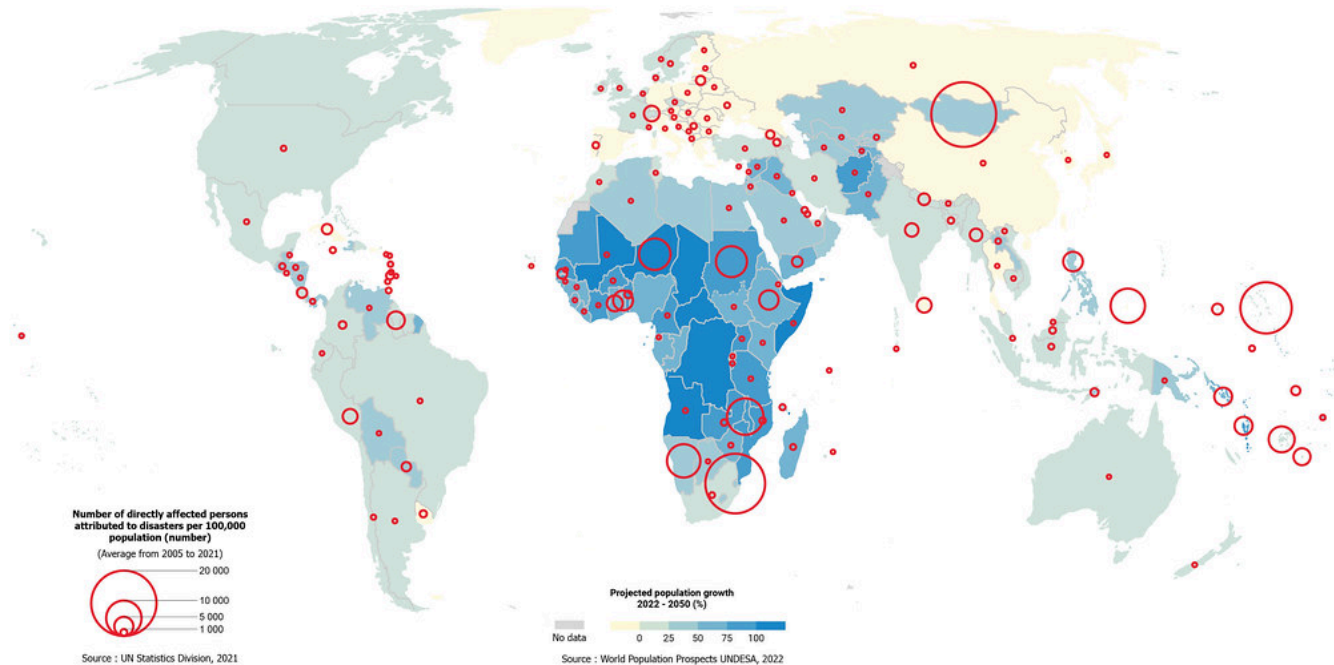
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IX: Additional Resources



PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DISASTERS AND POPULATION GROWTH

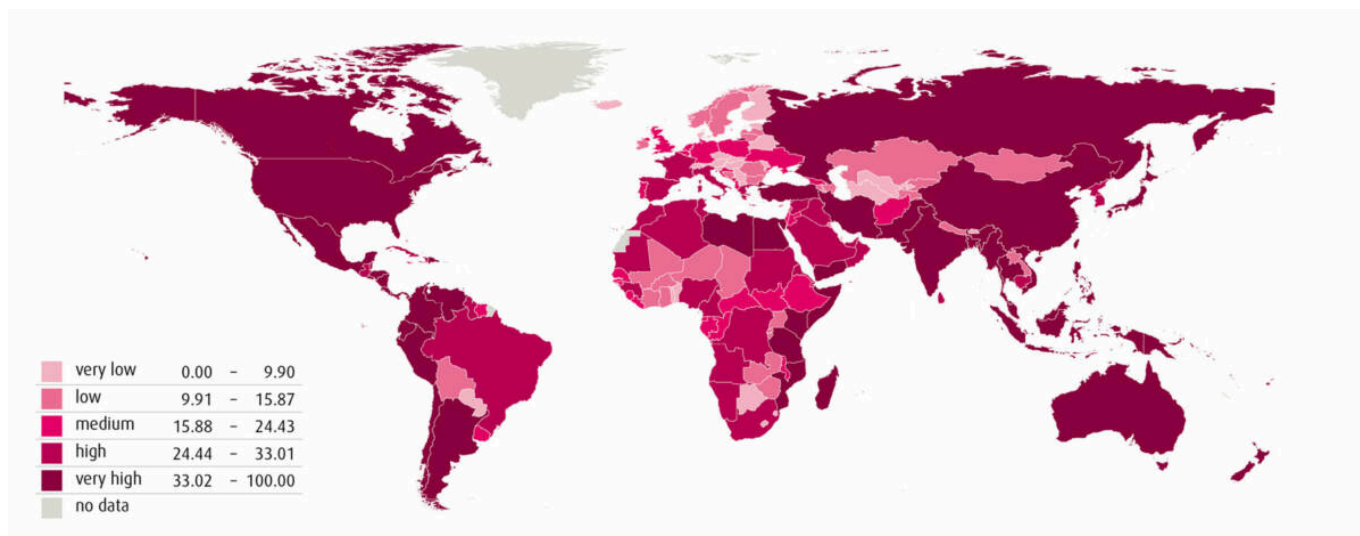
Average number of people directly affected by disasters between 2005 - 2021 and relative change in total population between 2022-2050



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.
Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.
A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

UNITED NATIONS Geospatial
Map No. 4673.1
Jun 2023

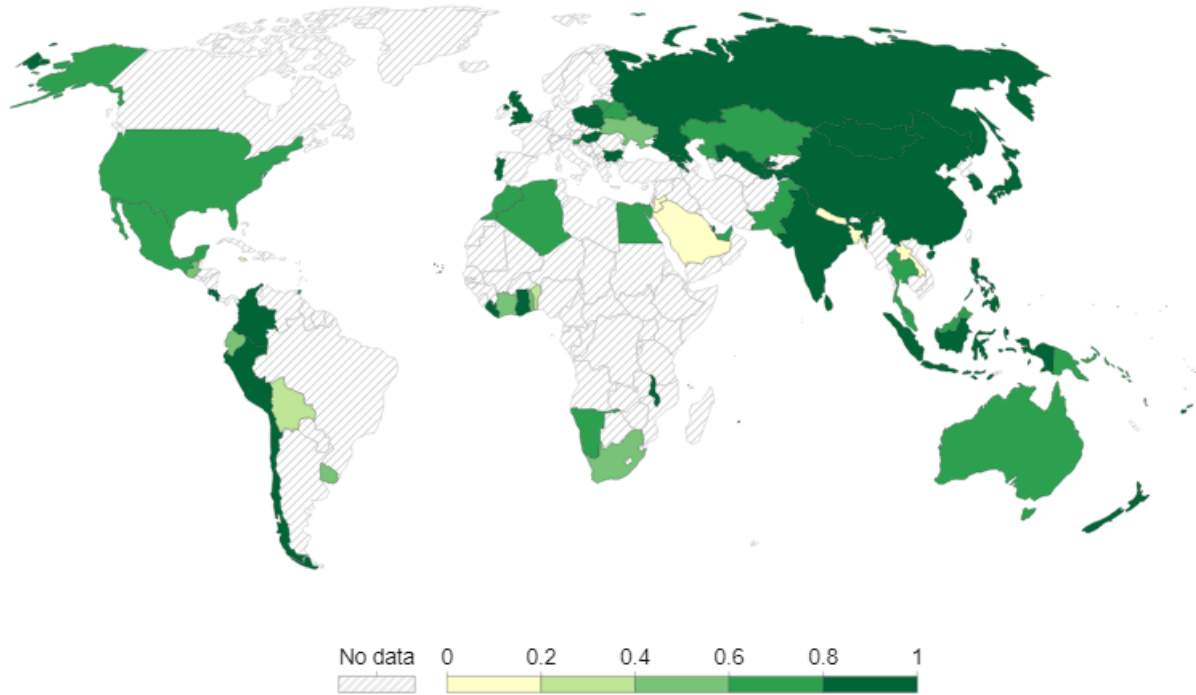
Global Assessment Report On Disaster Risk Reduction Special Report (2023)



World Risk Index. Countries at most risk when facing natural disasters. (2022)

Adoption and implementation of policies to reduce disaster risk, 2022

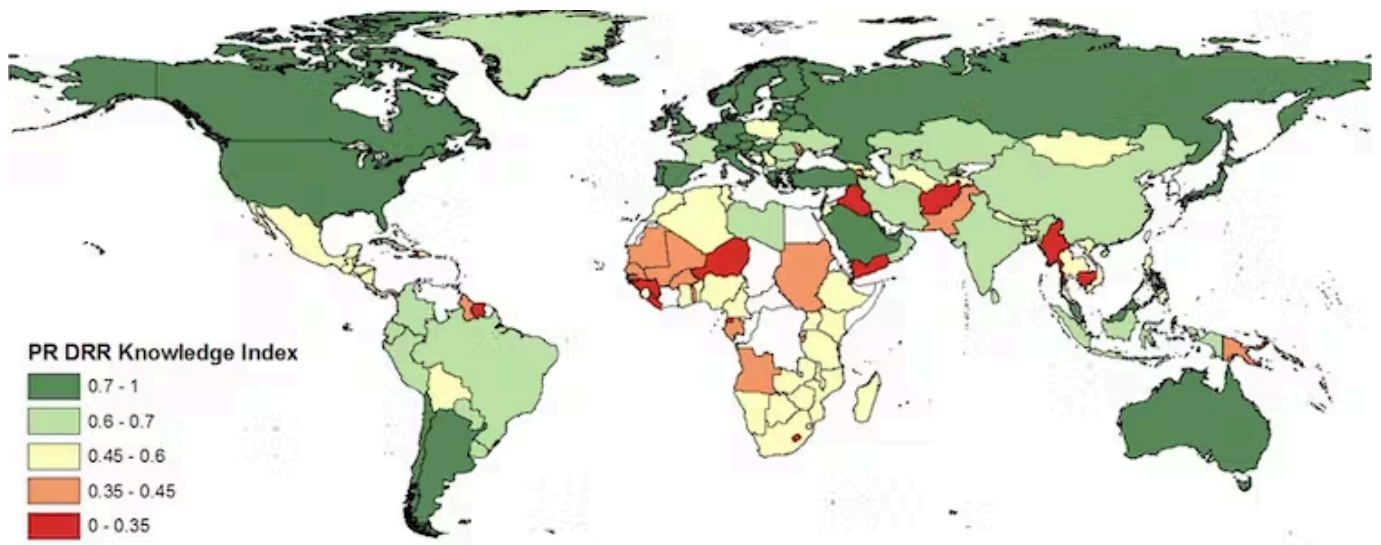
The index measures the extent to which countries have established disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies; given as a score between 0 and 1. A higher value indicates more DRR policies have been adopted and implemented.



Data source: UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

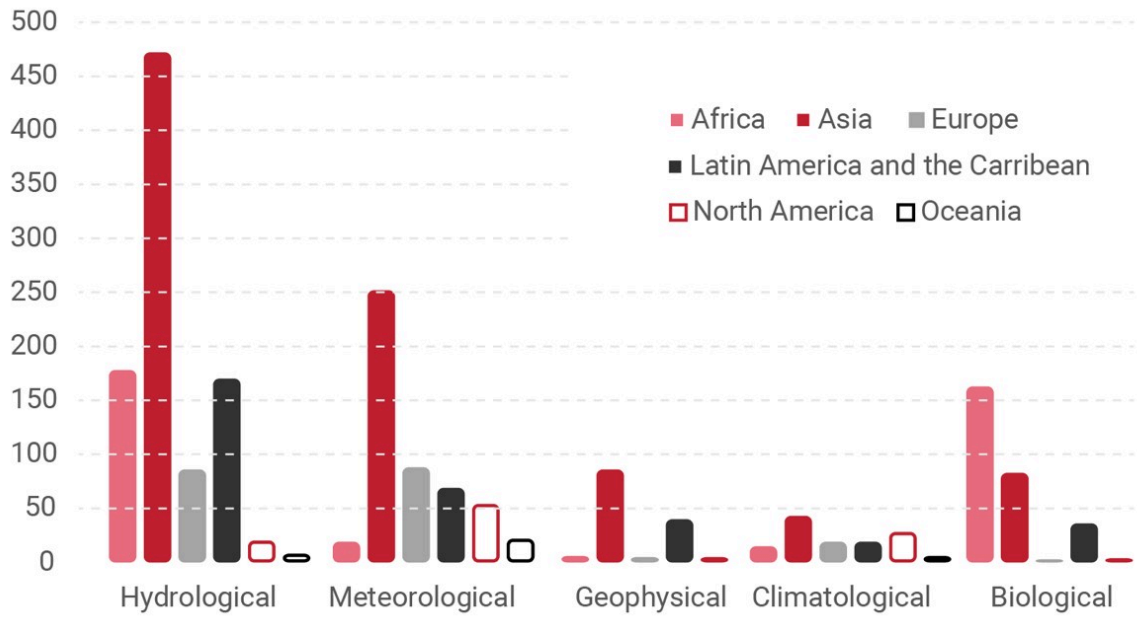
OurWorldInData.org/natural-disasters | CC BY

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Number of Urban Areas with populations over 750,000 affected by disasters (1985 -2015)



Local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans in urban areas.