

# Challenges for Disaster Reduction in Asia: An ADB Perspective

Presentation by  
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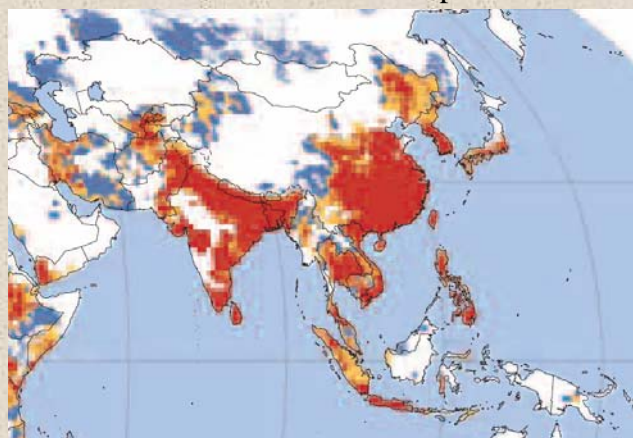
## Disaster Risk Management As an ADB Priority

ADB was one of the first MDBs to incorporate disaster risk reduction into development planning in Asia.

ADB recognizes the major social risk disasters impose on the poor or near-poor<sup>[1]</sup> and the risks from disasters destroying the physical and social infrastructure required for economic growth.

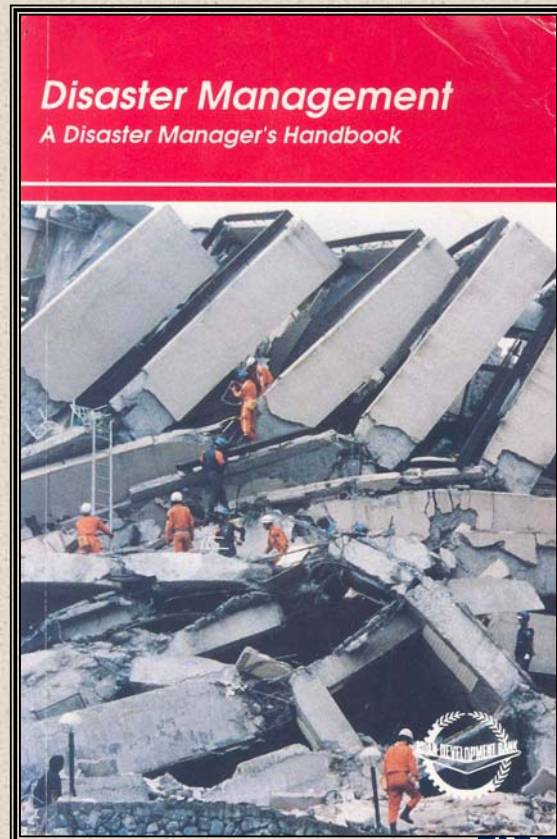
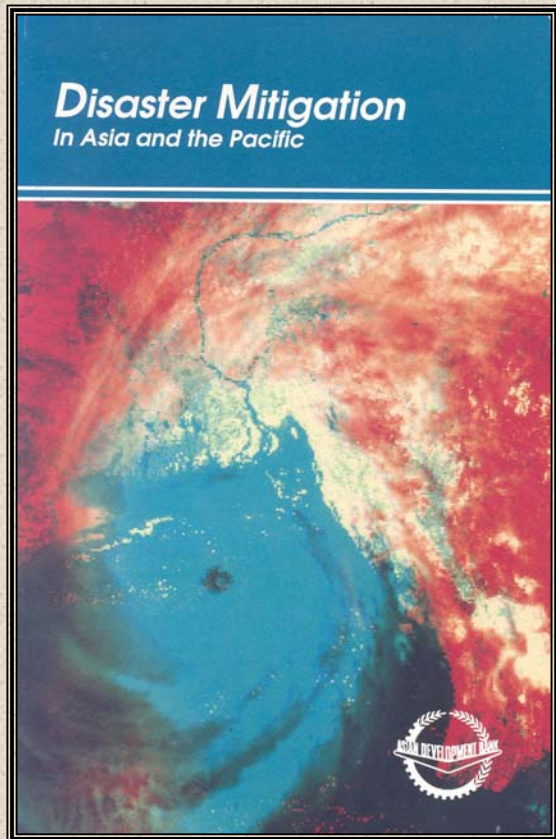
<sup>[1]</sup> ADB. 2001. *Social Protection Strategic Framework*.

Global Distribution of Disaster (Flood)  
Risk Hotspots: (Based on Mortality)  
Red=Top three deciles



Source: Dilley, M. et al. 2005.  
Hotspots. World Bank.





## Selected Disaster experiences and Policy Evolution

- 1982 Tropical Cyclone Isaac (Tonga)
- 1987 Policy for Pacific
- 1988 Floods (Bangladesh)
- 1989 Policy extended
- 2001 Gujarat (India) earthquake)
- New Policy (DEAP)
- 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami
- 2005 Pakistan earthquake; Philippines typhoons, slides; Vietnam typhoons/floods
- 2006 Yogyakarta (Indonesia) earthquake
- 2007 Solomon Islands (earthquake/tsunami)

### Also:

- Conflict assistance: Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan, Timor-Leste
- Health emergencies (SARS, HIV/AIDS)
- Environment emergencies (1997 smoke haze – Indonesia; climate change adaptation)



## **Disaster and Emergency Assistance Policy (2004):**

- Incorporates DRM principles + disaster cycle
- Includes post-conflict + disaster
- Brings in Disaster Risk Management (DRM)
- Maintains DRM is integral to development
- Seeks to minimize DMC disaster risk
- Supports partnerships to maximize synergies
- Better resource utilization for DRR support

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## **Asian Tsunami Fund Guiding Principles**

- Strong national and local leadership
- Community-driven participation
- Transparency in reconstruction
- Coordination and cooperation

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## Challenges from past experiences

Disaster assistance is development *not* relief

Equity issues need to be worked out

Conflict-affected countries open up additional issues

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## Potential of the Community-Based Approach

- Critical for broader stakeholder involvement where community-level implementation is the key
- Intended recipients have greater participation in resource decisions
- Extensive knowledge of local threats, vulnerabilities, and potential solutions
- Best vehicle to mobilize and sustain community DRR involvement
- Greater overall flexibility
- Holistic approach more likely
- Success in mainstreaming DRR more likely if "bottom-up" and "top/down"

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## Specific challenges for Community-Based approaches

- Larger number of actors increases transaction costs
- Problem of gauging efficacy of CBOs currently practicing DRR
- Need for prompt action often requires prior agreements
- Development of selection criteria for acceptable representation mechanism to be established
- CBDRM cannot substitute for strong local government
- Since DRM is inadequately mainstreamed into national planning, local DRR initiatives can be orphaned
- Differences between rural and urban CBOs needs

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## Going Forward/Proactive Measures

- Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction (DRR) into development planning
- Encourage the “bottom-up/top-down” approach so communities and national agencies work together on DRR
- Help ensure the basics are in place:
  - e.g. public awareness programs, disaster legislation, building code compliance, land-use management, vulnerability assessments, risk analysis, etc

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**Thank you.**

