UN and Interventions in Disaster Management

Mrs. Gisa Fuatai Purcell
Head of Division, Least Developed Countries, Small Island Dev. States, and Emergency Telecoms
Lead UN Organizations in DRR & DM

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The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

General description of the organization

• FAO leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information, and helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all.

• Core areas of FAO’s mandate are to improve agricultural productivity, to raise levels of nutrition, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy.
Goals in DRR and DM

- FAO helps countries to prevent, mitigate, prepare for and respond to food and agricultural threats and emergencies by focusing on:
- Strengthening disaster preparedness and the ability to mitigate the impact of emergencies that affect food security and the productive capacities of rural populations;
- Forecasting and providing early warning of adverse conditions in the food and agricultural sectors, and of impeding food emergencies including monitoring of plant and animal pests and diseases;
- Assessing needs and formulating programmes for agricultural relief and rehabilitation, facilitating the transition and linkages between emergency relief, recovery and development interventions in food and agriculture;
- Reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience by strengthening local capacities and coping mechanisms for DRR by guiding the choice of agricultural practices, technologies and support services.
The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency devoted to advancing opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. Its main aims are (i) to promote rights at work, (ii) encourage decent employment opportunities, (iii) enhance social protection and (iv) strengthen dialogue in handling work-related issues.

ILO is the only ‘tripartite’ United Nations agency in that it brings together governments and representative organizations of employers and workers to jointly shape labour policies and to negotiate agreements by consensus. This unique arrangement gives ILO an edge in advancing the creation of decent jobs and the kind of economic and working conditions that give working people and business people a stake in coping with crisis and in creating lasting prosperity and progress.
Goals in DRR and DM

• In disaster scenarios, ILO – in partnership with other UN and multilateral agencies - contributes to enhance disaster recovery and risk reduction efforts focusing on employment creation, income generation, disaster risk reduction of vulnerable livelihoods and the promotion of sustainable local development.
ITU

International Telecommunication Union

• ITU is the leading United Nations agency for information and communication technologies. ITU helps governments and the private sector in three core sectors: radiocommunication, standardization and development. ITU also organizes TELECOM events and was the lead organizing agency of the World Summit on the Information Society.

• ITU is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and its membership includes 193 Member States and more than 700 Sector Members and Associates.
ITU’s goal in disaster reduction is to strengthen emergency communications for disaster prevention and mitigation.

All the elements of ITU’s work are centred on the goal of putting every human being within easy and affordable reach of information and communication and to contribute significantly towards economic and social development of all people. ITU develops the standards used to create infrastructure to deliver telecommunications services on a worldwide basis, manages the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits to help bring wireless services to every corner of the world, and provides support to countries as they pursue telecommunication development strategies.

As the specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for telecommunications/ICTs, ITU is committed to working with other organizations in combating climate change. ITU continues to play a leading role in developing an integrated approach to examining the relationship between ICTs and climate change, focusing on such key issues in the global framework as technology, climate data collection and monitoring, adaptation and mitigation.
OCHA
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

• OCHA’s mission is to mobilise and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies, advocate for the rights of people in need, promote preparedness and prevention and facilitate sustainable solutions.

• OCHA is lead by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, who is also the Chair of the ISDR system as well as the Chair of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.
Goals in DRR and DM

• OCHA’s objective is greater incorporation of disaster risk reduction approaches into humanitarian work and strengthened preparedness for effective humanitarian response.
UNDP
– Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

- UNDP is the UN’s global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP works on the ground in 166 countries, working with countries on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.
UNDP
Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

Goals in DRR and DM

• UNDP supports disaster-prone countries in the development of legislative frameworks, operational systems and coordination mechanisms to ensure the integration of risk reduction into human development, through its Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery.
The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the environmental agency of the United Nations. As such, it has the mandate to both drive the integration of environmental and sustainable principles into the activities of the UN family, and deliver its own specialist programmes on environment, sustainable development, and conflicts and disaster management.
Goals in DRR and DM

• enhanced capacity of Member States in environmental management in order to contribute to natural and man-made disaster risk reduction;
• upon request by Member States to provide early warning on environmental risks, environmental data and expertise on sustainable management of transboundary and shared natural resources;
• to contribute to global policy development by mainstreaming environmental lessons learned and best practice into the relevant policy and planning processes;
• to conduct rapid and reliable post-crisis assessments following conflicts and disasters as requested;
• to contribute to improved environmental management and the sustainable use of natural resources through post-crisis assessment and recovery process.
UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

• UNESCO is the United Nations’ specialized agency for education, science and culture. Since its creation in 1945, the Organization has worked to promote knowledge and education worldwide. Its close links with professional and academic communities and other partners in 193 countries put it in a key position to press for action.
UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Goals in DRR and DM
• UNESCO assists Member States in building capacities to withstand and cope with natural events and human induced disasters, including those of a technological nature. UNESCO seeks to harness knowledge and technology and promote education for building effective capacities to foster prevention and reduce vulnerability to all kinds of disasters, particularly affecting poor populations.
In 1992, most countries joined an international treaty -- the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) -- to begin to consider what can be done to reduce global warming and to cope with whatever temperature increases are inevitable. More recently, a number of nations approved an addition to the treaty: the Kyoto Protocol, which has legally binding measures and entered into force on 16 February 2005.

The UNFCCC secretariat supports all institutions involved in the climate change process, particularly the COP, the subsidiary bodies and their Bureau and cooperative action by States to combat climate change and its impacts on humanity and ecosystems. The UNFCCC plays a catalytic role regarding action on climate change, and in particular adaptation, to initiate activities within the UN System to help implement mandated activities, including the Bali Action Plan.
Goals in DRR and DM

• Decision 1/CP.13, or the Bali Action Plan, highlights the significance of disaster risk reduction and risk management as part of enhanced action on climate change adaptation.
UNFPA
United Nations Population Fund

- UNFPA is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.
Goals in DRR and DM

- To ensure adequate emergency preparedness and contingency planning at country level and to improve environmental protection.
UN-HABITAT
United Nations Human Settlements Programme

• UN-HABITAT is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. UN-HABITAT is one of the few international institutions that provides an overall perspective on urbanisation processes and the only one with housing and urban development as its principal mandate.
Goals in DRR and DM

• Increasing investment in disaster risk reduction - redirecting priorities from visible and short-term development projects to abstract long term potential threats and risks.
• Addressing the root causes of disasters - inadequate development practices increase the vulnerability of communities, and more focus on pre-disaster risk reduction needs to be integrated in all development planning.
• Incorporating vulnerability reduction and disaster management into on-going national and local development and poverty reduction plans.
• Redirecting the focus on disaster risk reduction and mitigation rather than preparedness and response related strategies in the human settlements context.
• Building a culture of prevention entails a cross sectoral, multi-dimensional approach integrating participatory analysis of risk, implementation of programmes, and development of policy and legal frameworks with all stakeholders including civil society, private sector, local, national and international government, in a gendered and comprehensive process.
UNICEF
United Nations Children’s Fund

• UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children’s rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

• UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and strives to establish girls and boys rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behavior towards children.
UNICEF
United Nations Children’s Fund

Goals in DRR and DM

• To meet the objectives of the HFA, UNICEF believes it is critical that development work is ‘hazard proofed’, that education facilities are safe and provide an opportunity for children and adults to learn about disasters and that humanitarian action and recovery contribute to a reduction of disaster risk. UNICEF also supports early warning and emergency preparedness facilitating a timely, effective and national authority led humanitarian response.
The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is making concrete contributions to developing the capacities of tens of thousands of people around the world. Since its inception in 1965, UNITAR has built sustainable partnerships acquiring unique expertise and accumulating experience and knowledge to fulfill its mandate. These accomplishments have enabled UNITAR to respond to the growing demand from UN Member States for training for capacity development in the fields of Environment; Peace, Security and Diplomacy; and Governance.
Goals in DRR and DM

• Develop capacities of Member States and their local authorities to reduce disaster risks.
UN-OHRLLS
Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

• UN-OHRLLS, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001, advocates for the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS).

• UN-OHRLLS coordinates and mobilizes international support and resources for the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries 2001-2010, adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Brussels in 2001; Almaty Declaration and Programme of Action for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries; and the Mauritius Strategy, for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted in Mauritius in 2005. It also supports the Economic and Social Council as well as the General Assembly regarding the Brussels Programme.
UN-OHRLLS
Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Goals in DRR and DM

• To strengthen disaster mitigation and preparedness and to promote the sustainable development of the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.
The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) implements the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Subcommittees, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee. The Office is responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and assisting developing countries in using space science and technology.
UNOOSA
United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

Goals in DRR and DM

• Ensure that all countries and international and regional organizations have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information and solutions to support the full disaster management cycle.
UNU
United Nations University

- United Nations University (UNU) is an autonomous organ of the UN General Assembly dedicated to generating and transferring knowledge and strengthening capacities relevant to global issues of human security, development, and welfare. UNU is ‘an international community of scholars, engaged in research, post-graduate training and dissemination of knowledge’ to provide fresh, alternative perspective on sustainable development challenges.

- United Nations University’s mission was set as: to contribute, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States. For more than three decades, UNU has engaged global network of researchers to work on global problems. Research, capacity building and knowledge sharing are the three key pillars of the UNU with a specific focus on addressing pressing challenges of developing and emerging economies.
UNU
United Nations University

Goals in DRR and DM

- Knowledge generation, capacity development, knowledge transfer, and networking are the four cornerstones guiding philosophy and work at UNU. The overarching goal of the UNU is to provide useful knowledge about, and effective training on, important issues related to human-environmental-climate security, peace and development - where social systems act with ecological systems in a sustainable manner, with all individuals having fair and reasonable access to environmental goods and means to address crises and conflicts.
The United Nations Volunteers programme is the UN organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. Volunteerism is a powerful means of engaging people in tackling development challenges, and it can transform the pace and nature of development. Volunteerism benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer by strengthening trust, solidarity and reciprocity among citizens, and by purposefully creating opportunities for participation.

UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for recognition of volunteers, working with partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing an increasing number and diversity of volunteers, including experienced UNV volunteers, throughout the world. UNV embraces volunteerism as universal and inclusive, and recognizes volunteerism in its diversity as well as the values that sustain it: free will, commitment, engagement and solidarity.

UNV directly mobilizes around 8,000 UNV volunteers every year, of which one third volunteer within their own countries. Almost 80% of UNV volunteers come from developing countries.
UNV
United Nations Volunteers

Goals in DRR and DM

• To mobilize volunteers and strengthen volunteerism initiatives in support of disaster risk reduction and management, especially to strengthen community capacity to respond to and prevent disasters.
WFP
World Food Programme

• As the food assistance arm of the UN, WFP uses its food to: meet emergency needs and support economic & social development and promote world food security. WFP also provides the logistics support necessary to get food to the right people at the right time and in the right place. WFP heads the Logistics Cluster in order to provide common service to the humanitarian community in emergency interventions. WFP works to put hunger at the centre of the international agenda, promoting policies, strategies and operations that directly benefit the poor and hungry.
Goals in DRR and DM
• Within its own capacity and resources, WFP strengthens the capacity of affected countries and local communities to prevent, prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises. With its new Strategic Plan, WFP aims at preventing acute hunger by investing in disaster preparedness and mitigation measures.
WHO, as a specialized agency of the United Nations, is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. WHO’s Constitution came into force on 7 April 1948.

WHO is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.
World Health Organization

Goals in DRR and DM

• To support countries in building national capacity in risk reduction and emergency preparedness, and to assist the health sector in Member States in reducing the adverse public health consequences for communities in terms of mortality, morbidity, disability and damage to health care delivery services resulting from emergencies, disasters and other crises.
WMO
World Meteorological Organization

- WMO is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 188 States and Territories. It originated from the International Meteorological Organization, which was founded in 1873. Established in 1950, WMO became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1951.
- The vision of WMO is to provide world leadership in expertise and international cooperation in weather, climate, hydrology and water resources and related environmental issues and thereby contribute to the safety and well-being of people throughout the world and to the economic benefit of all nations.
Goals in DRR and DM

- To enhance the contributions of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, in a more cost-effective, systematic and sustainable manner, towards the protection of lives, livelihoods and property, through strengthening of capabilities and cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction at national to international levels.
THE WORLD BANK

• Since inception in 1944, the World Bank has expanded from a single institution to a closely associated group of five development institutions. The mission has evolved from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development as facilitator of post-war reconstruction and development to the present day mandate of worldwide poverty alleviation. The five institutions are the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

• The World Bank’s projects and operations are designed to support low-income and middle-income countries’ poverty reduction strategies. It does so within each country’s specific socio-economic context, adapting programmes to country capacity and needs. The Bank provides low-interest loans, interest-free credits and grants to developing countries for a wide array of purposes that include investments in disaster recovery and risk mitigation, education, health, public administration, infrastructure, financial and private sector development, agriculture, and environmental and natural resource management. Although the Bank has traditionally played a key role in post-disaster recovery and reconstruction, recently it has increased its involvement in longer term disaster risk reduction.
Goals in DRR and DM

• The overarching objective is to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in country development strategies, such as Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSP), Country Assistance Strategies (CASes), United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), to reduce vulnerabilities to natural hazards. This is done through providing analytical, technical and operational support to countries for disaster risk reduction.
Thank you