Millennium Development Goals:
What are the threats posed to them by natural disasters?

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MDG-Based poverty reduction strategies

Scaled-up plan to achieve the Goals based on country needs assessments

Poverty reduction strategy aligned with MDG needs assessments

Slow or no progress to date

Source: UN Millennium Project 2005, Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millenium Development Goals, New York, Figure 4.1 An MDG-based poverty reduction strategy, page 57
Paths to attending MDGs: with/without DRR

Unsustainable path to MDGs: floods, droughts, cyclones push livelihoods below poverty line, destroy school, hospital, divert resources to relief undermine MDG efforts

Source: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
Example of disaster impacts on effort to meet the MDGs
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

**Direct impacts**
- Damage to housing, service infrastructure, saving, productive assets and human losses reduce livelihood sustainability.

**Indirect impacts**
- Negative macroeconomic impacts including severe short-term fiscal impacts and wider, longer-term impacts on growth, development and poverty reduction.
- Forced sale of productive assets by vulnerable households pushes many into long-term poverty and increases inequality.
2. Achieve universal primary education

• Direct impacts
  – Damage to education infrastructure.
  – Population displacement interrupts schooling.

• Indirect impacts
  – Increased need for child labour for household work, especially for girls.
  – Reduced household assets make schooling less affordable, girls probably affected most.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women

• Direct impacts
  – As men migrate to seek alternative work, women/girl bear an increased burden of care.
  – Women often bear the brunt of distress ‘coping’ strategies e.g. by reducing food intake.

• Indirect impacts
  – Emergency programmes may reinforce power structure which marginalise women.
  – Domestic and sexual violence may rise in the wake of a disaster.
4. Reduce child mortality

• Direct impacts
  – Children are often most risk, e.g. of drowning in floods.
  – Damage to health and water and sanitation infrastructure.
  – Injury and illness from disaster weakness children’s immune systems.

• Indirect impacts
  – Increased number of orphan, abandoned and homeless children.
  – Household asset depletion makes clean water, flood and medicine less affordable.
5. Improve maternal health

• Direct impacts
  – Pregnant women are often at high risk from death/injury in disasters.
  – Damages to health infrastructure.
  – Injury and illness from disaster can weaken women’s health.

• Indirect impacts
  – Increased responsibilities and workloads create stress for surviving mothers.
  – Household asset depletion makes clean water, food and medicine less affordable.
6. Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases

• Direct impacts
  – Poor health and nutrition following disasters weakens immunity.
  – Damages to health infrastructure. Increased respiratory diseases associated with damp, dust and air pollution linked to disaster.

• Indirect impacts
  – Increased risk from communicable and vector borne diseases, e.g. malaria and diarrhoeal diseases following floods.
  – Impoverishment and displacement following disaster can increase exposure to disease, including HIV and AIDS, and disrupt health care.
7. Ensure environment sustainability

• Direct impacts
  – Damage to key environment resources and exacerbation of soil erosion or deforestation. Damage to water management and other urban infrastructure.
  – Slum dwellers/people in temporary settlements often heavily affected.

• Indirect impacts
  – Disaster-induced migration to urban areas and damage to urban infrastructure increase the number of slum dwellers without access to basic services and exacerbate poverty.
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

- Direct impacts
  - Impacts on programmes for small island developing states from tropical storms, Tsunami etc.
  - Impacts on commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – nationally and internationally.
All MDGs

• Indirect impacts
  – Reallocation of resources – including Official Development Assistance (ODA) – from development to relief and recovery.
What does risk reduction look like?
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• Sustainable institutional structures and good governance.
• Risk identification, monitoring, early warning and public awareness.
• Technical and physical risk mitigation
• Building resilience, promotion of innovation, knowledge and education.
• Risk sharing and risk transfer.
• Preparedness, effective response and sustainable recovery.
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