

Forum: The General Assembly 3

Issue: The question of implementation of an international strategy for disaster relief

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Introduction

The discussion of the international strategy for disaster relief's main focus is on the response after the disaster. It decides whether the countries are necessitating offer assistance of the disaster made or whether the country could offer aid without the assent of the government of the affected state. However, most of the international strategy's focus is on the practical governance issue to help the government implement effect of the disaster relief policy and strategy to prevent more accidents and disaster created. It has been focused internationally to reduce encourage all the countries to risk reduction.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is to try and reduce the damaged made by the natural hazard through ethic of prevention. Natural hazards include earthquakes, drought, floods and more. Usually, Disasters often follow natural hazards. Relating to DRR, a disaster's severity is how much the hazard made an impact on to the society and the environment as a whole in the area.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) helps the countries all around the world to protect the area from disaster risk and they try to protect the area by planning and organizing the area with disaster resistant materials that will keep the area safe enough for people to stay. Also UNISDR promotes to increase awareness of the importance of disaster reduction to people and the country as a whole and they develop the goal in the UN conference to reduce the impacts and losses on human, environmental, economic and social problems. They also try to import more technology to detect the disaster and try to relate to the environmental disaster. Not only the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) helps other countries to be safe and get support from the disaster made. There are groups and organizations like Red Cross, Disaster Relief Emergency Fund, World Vision societies that help the country to recover as soon as possible by funding a lot of money and support on the country. These groups also help on the research and the preparation to disasters and they support as much as the UNISDR which helps the country.

Definition of Key Terms

Building code

A set regulations and associated standards intended to control aspects of the design, construction, materials of structures that are necessary to safeguard human safety and welfare, resistance to collapse and damage.

Disaster

Various disruption of the functioning on the society involving a lot of different various losses like human, economic, environmental and material losses, which surpasses the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.

Disaster risk

The potential losses, in lives, health status, livelihoods, assets and services because of the disaster which could occur to a particular community or a society over some specified future time period.

Disaster risk reduction

The concept of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts. This is to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened exposure of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.

Hazard

A dangerous phenomenon, human activity or condition that may cause loss of life that causes injury or other health impacts as well as property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Mitigation

The limitation of the adverse impacts of hazards and related disasters

Risk

The events negative consequences and the mixture of the probability of an event

Vulnerability

The characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it vulnerable to the damaging effects of a hazard

Preparedness

The information which is developed by the government and the professionals and recovery organizations to effectively respond and to recover from the hazard conditions or events coming up.

History

Organizations devoted to disaster relief and helping the country and people out of dangers began to spring up in the 1800s. Before this, various guilds and mutual aid societies accomplished in a similar way, but it was only to the country and people who were in the organization. International organizations such as Red Cross (This is an international humanitarian movement with about 97 million volunteers worldwide whose is trying to protect human life and health. The group also try to ensure respect for the human being, and to stop people suffering, discrimination based on nationality, race and religious beliefs)the original international relief society, who worked generously for the benefit of everyone in life, are a relatively new innovation.

The Red Cross had been extended to civilians due to the convention. The most important addition was in 1949, ensuring protection from almost every possible disaster, whether military or non-military. Almost every Red Cross country had a disaster relief programs. Due to people introducing to the Red Cross group and as they get known, the international relief society has appeared. Now, most of the countries have a disaster relief program to protect the country and the Red Cross team ready for any danger coming up. This had developed to be The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

Timeline

Date	Description of event
1962	The Buyin-Zara earthquake struck Iran and killed more than 12,000 people
1968	A severe earthquake struck again Iran killing some 10,000 people. The UN GA requests the Secretary-General and heads of specialized agencies, of the funds available, to bear in mind the needs of the Government of Iran with its plans for the reconstruction of the distressed areas when deciding on the services to be provided to Member States
1971	Creation of the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO)

- 1981** Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations
- 1988** There were many disasters in this year with the flooding in Sudan and Bangladesh, typhoons in the Philippines, hurricanes in Latin America and the Caribbean and the GA had thought that they would need to reduce the natural disaster. The Secretary-General went on the plan to prepare for the International Decade for the Natural Disaster Reduction and had requested to work on the action to protect these countries from danger.
- 1999** The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) was formed. The successor to the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, it was established to ensure the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Forum 1999 offered more than 40 thematic sessions in support of natural disaster prevention, including 3 tracks of concurrent sessions as well as a Sub-Forum on Science and Technology organized by WMO and UNESCO.
- 2001** GA supports the implementation of the goals of the Strategy, and endorses the proposal of the Secretary-General to review the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy
- 2005** World Conference on Disaster Reduction on the special session on the Indian Ocean disasters: risk reduction for a safer future. It was held at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005, and recalls the common statement of

Key Issues

The Red Cross

The American Red Cross relies on volunteers to help prevent human suffering when there is an emergency. Volunteers construct over 90 percent of the Disaster workforce and make it possible to respond to nearly 70,000 disasters every year. Disaster volunteers provide preparedness services and information before disaster attacks and assist those who have experienced a disaster with their recovery and support the people who are affected due to the disaster where they need help.

The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) responds to the disaster and tries to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and the impacts of the disaster. It checks the disaster for a long period of time and adequate financial support to the international Federation of Red Cross Crescent Society (IFRC)

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) was created in 1999. It was formed by the successor to the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. Its aim was to establish to ensure the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

UNISDR pursues partnership with other businesses to take the lead in to ensure the safety of the long term investments which is by improving commercial risk to check the changing of the climate, referring and developing risk transfers options for disaster resistance communities and industries. UNISDR also plans to protect industries and societies from disasters, preventing economic disruptions and assuring business continuously. They also help to invest more people and technology and financial resources to help the country to save lives and livelihoods and prevent dangers created and to mitigation of disaster risk to public utilities and infrastructure. By the funds of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction team, it will help the nations and communities, partnering the communities, local and national government. To make this happen they will go through core business arrangement, philanthropy and corporate social responsibility.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction reviewed the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which was adopted by the third UN world conference. It was on Disaster Risk Reduction on March 18th 2015 which took in Sendai, Japan. The Sendai Framework is a voluntary of 15 years, non-binding agreement that is a broad worldwide where people could approach to disaster risk reduction. It was succeeding in the 2005-2015 Hydro Framework for Action. There are four priorities for actions to set out in the Sendai Framework. These are to understanding the disaster risk, to strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, for resilience invest in disaster risk reduction and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to build better and stronger infrastructure by rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG) is leading the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). It has over a 100 staff located on its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, 5 regional offices. In Africa: Nairobi, the Americas: Panama City, Arab States: Cairo, Asia-Pacific: Bangkok and Europe: Brussels and on the field presences in Addis Ababa, Almaty, Bonn, Incheon, Kobe, New York-UN Headquarters, Rio de Janeiro and Suva.

The UNISDR coordinates international works in the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and guides the country. They monitor as well as they need to report regularly on the process. Presently, they are researching and looking to monitor as much of the implementation of the Sendai Framework to the Disaster Risk Reduction, following the Hydro Framework for Action. It works as a global platform on the Disaster Risk Reduction (the DRR) with the leaders who are spread out on the world and makes decisions to advance risk reduction. They come up with policies that would limit disasters and supports the institution of the regional, national and the thematic platforms.

Disaster Mitigation

Disaster mitigation measures the people that try to reduce or eliminate the impacts and to reduce the risk of the hazard on the area by the measures that is taken before the emergency and the disruption that is made on the area.

One of the best well known examples of investment in disaster migration is the Red River Floodway. The building of the Floodway and this was to protect the city of Winnipeg also to reduce the impact of flooding in the Red River Basin. It costs \$60 million to build in the past and since they made that, when there was flooding it had been used over 20 times.

Disaster Mitigation assesses various hazards like earthquake, floods and other hazards and researches the area they are identified in. Within the area that is assessed, each hazard is posed a risk in the population. They research and try to risk the probability and the level of impacts of a specific hazard. Disaster Mitigation said that the hazard in accordance to the population is vulnerable to disaster or a danger which is shown by the risk of the population. This organization check the population size and see whether the disaster occurred in the area previously or how recent the last disaster was and how much the government aid is put on the disaster or how much is spent on the preparation.

Preparedness

In this preparedness phase, the emergency managers would develop plans and actions when the disaster assaults. This phase could include communication of plans with easily understandable words and command, terminology and practice that could help people or other people to be prepared and to get ready. There could also be training of emergency service which is very important. In the area there will be emergency shelters and evacuation plans, warnings that would help the people in their survival. This is measured in the emergency operation centre (EOC) which combines with the region to make the evacuation more successful.

Example on the country and outcomes to the disaster

Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan

There was a disruption in Japan called the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011. There was an earthquake which also leads to tsunami in the area causing massive problem in the country region. As it was recorded on the 4th of April 2011, there were 12,344 people dead and 15,237 people missing. It was hard for the people to live and there was a really big impact on the living standard of the country. The government had to construct 4,000 temporary housing units which is much lesser than required number. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) was cooperating with the housing companies to provide housing for people to stay since there were 163 displaced people.

Due to this great earthquake that hit Japan, there were a lot of building that collapse and so it block the road hampering the delivery of the people to the evacuation centre and the emergency group to arrive as fast as possible for the assistance in the area. The government had to prepare full scale recovery on to rebuilding and to reconstruct the area. This tragic cost of the loss of damaged building and infrastructure costs about 16 to 25 trillion yen.

From this accident, the incentives of the government are to prepare some bills where the economy could build to recover the damage. The money should be sent on reconstruction and establish new institutions to be responsible for recovery. Also The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) had decided to relocate the resident to have earthquake resistant buildings and to build in the higher ground areas that are suitable for tsunami accidents. Not only the housing, they are planning to build an evacuation centre where people can come and stay when there is an accident. It will be built in the area where there are a lot of tsunami attacks. The government has said that they would plan out and help the local businesses for the disaster-hit where they are trying to assist the people for the accident to help their business.

Possible Solution

There are a lot of possible solutions to the implementation of an international strategy for disaster relief and these solutions could be implementing GIS mapping system and frequently collecting data. With data collection, they could see the changes made on the area and predict what will come out so that the country could get prepared for the disaster. However, GIS (Geographic Information System) is also an analytical, data management and visualization tool. GIS mapping can help NGOs to detect and help the country for detection on the map to find flooding areas, areas that is facing climate change and areas to detect natural resources to help the country.

To reduce disasters, they are able to reconstruct the area with disaster resistance materials in the area. One of these examples is in Japan where the buildings are made to earthquake resistance buildings that are able to protect the area. This would decrease the amount of danger and they will prevent losses made in the country. More developed country (MEDCs) could help the less developed countries to import technologies so that they are able to detect and find solutions to these disasters that are made in the region.

Governments should tell the local people where the evacuation centre is so that when there is a problem, people could be safe and so that they would be rescued quickly. This would prevent the lives of people causing less damage in the country. Engineers and architects have worked for many years to provide the safe place for emergency homes for disaster relief since there were thousands of people losing home due to flooding, earthquakes and cyclones.

In case of the disaster, emergency kit, food, water should be ready for people so that they are able to survive before other country comes to help for aid. They would to be ready and the government should provide with this and also the local people to be prepared for the kit.

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