



Risk and Vulnerability Analysis

SPECIAL SESSION SUMMARY

Core Responsibilities One and Four of the Agenda for Humanity



“It is like asking “why is air necessary?” Tackling complex and interconnected risks is important. These risks are putting humanitarian aid under pressure. It is critical to understand that crisis in one place would have an impact in other areas.”

Doug Frantz, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD

I. Overview

Risk analysis and management is at the core of the Secretary-General’s Agenda for Humanity: the call to better invest in data and analysis of risk, including monitoring deteriorating situations and investing in prevention and early action is strongly featured in Core Responsibilities One and Four.

This Special Session aimed to mobilize commitments towards the establishment of a [Global Risk Analysis Platform](#) to serve at-risk and donor country governments and peace, humanitarian and development communities. The creation of the Global Risk Platform responds to one of the central calls from the WHS consultative process.

The session brought together key stakeholders to discuss the immediate shifts needed in the way donors and partner countries invest in risk management and resilience-building. The discussion stressed the need to deepen our collective understanding of the complexity, interconnectedness and multi-dimensionality of risks, and aimed to mobilize resources to anticipate, prepare for and prevent future crisis, strengthen resilience, and address the root causes of fragility.

II. Key outcomes/themes

Participants in the special session agreed that a failure to understand the interconnectedness of risks can deepen and widen humanitarian crises, and leave development gains unsustainable, particularly in fragile contexts. A common understanding of context and risks can provide a better basis for joint humanitarian, peacebuilding and development efforts. Yet assessments are most often done after a crisis has occurred. Panelists agreed that addressing the underlying risks requires collective understanding and analysis, that connects and goes beyond existing initiatives, and that is translated into action by all actors.

The session highlighted that risks are increasingly complex and multidimensional – incompatible with an international system which works in silos. The key drivers behind the increasingly interconnected nature of risks include demographic shift, environmental degradation leading to increasing competition for resources, an erosion of trust and reduction of social cohesion, and emerging and hybrid threats on a scale which have not been witnessed before. At the country level, the multiplicity of risks has created a new level of threats. In Honduras, recurrent disasters combined with environmental degradation, drug trafficking from neighbouring countries, as well as poverty which constitutes around 60% of the population, are affecting the country's economy and the communities' livelihoods. In Mali, weak governance compounded by limited natural resources and low capacities exacerbates the ability of communities living in deprived regions to face risks.

All these risks need to be tackled simultaneously. It was agreed that the best approach to addressing multi-dimensional risks is to form partnerships across sectors by bringing stakeholders from the development, humanitarian, security and peacebuilding communities to share information over the long term. Shared analysis is an important tool in scanning the horizons to see various risks and how they are connected.

Participants from the global insurance industry highlighted that it is vital for the insurance industry to understand the underlying drivers of risks in order to offer instruments/tools for the humanitarian sector to help address risks, including cases when a refugee crisis is triggered.

Women are at the forefront of the management of these risks. To build their resilience, training and education for women must be prioritized. Furthermore, women need to be empowered at economic, political and institutional levels. Women's voices must be heard to allow meaningful participation in the making and taking of decisions.

Panelists agreed that a joint platform of risk analysis is a way to ensure that complex and interconnected risks are understood and that this understanding is translated into action. UNDP, OECD, World Bank, ISDR, ECHO, WHO, Willis Re and member states such as Honduras, Mali, Timor-Leste and Switzerland are committed to take forward

discussions on establishing a Global Risk Platform to map the complexity of interconnected risks and vulnerabilities, and to develop necessary capacity and expertise, as the basis for creating one global community of practice.

III. Way Forward

As the champion of this initiative, UNDP will continue to work with key partners who have expressed their commitments to support the establishment of the Global Risk Platform. The first post-Summit meeting on this initiative will be hosted by the World Bank office in Paris in July 2016.

The platform will build upon existing initiatives and processes through six interconnected areas:

- Networking: A global multi-disciplinary networking platform will be created, bringing in a range of partners beyond the 'traditional' including the private sector, technology and science/research.
- Senior-Level Advice: Bringing expertise from different regions and sectors to assess all risks in key contexts, both short term and long-term horizon scanning, with a special focus on informing decision-making at the highest levels.
- Multi Hazard Risk Analysis: Existing investigations into risk will be synthesized into high-quality open-source, multi-risk analyses available to the entire humanitarian and development community, national and international, that can be appropriately applied in different risk contexts.
- Evidence: Products and tools will be developed to underscore the importance of risk-informed decision-making, with specific emphasis on turning analysis of all-risks into long-term development planning and programming.
- Strategic Horizon Scanning: looking at the potential new and colliding risks that could have a major humanitarian impact in the future ranging from conflict, security, economic, health, migration, environmental, agricultural, energy, other risks and their combinations.
- Decision-Making: Processes and systems will be created to inform decision-making at all levels, from humanitarian action through to long-term development. These will include concrete recommendations for developing countries and donor partners for achieving delivering development that is risk-informed and therefore sustainable.

Actors from the Global South must be owners of and full partners in the Global Platform. It is recommended that any institutional host of the Platform, of its IT infrastructure or of its secretariat, be located in the Global South.

IV. Speakers

Moderator and Panel Speakers:

- Ms. Karen Allen, BBC Foreign Correspondent
- Mr. Espen Eide, Managing Director, World Economic Forum, Key Note Speaker
- Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme
- Ms. Fatimata Toure, Head of GREFFA, Mali
- Mr. Doug Frantz, Deputy Secretary-General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- Mr. Ivo Menzinger, Client Executive and Managing Director, Global Partnerships, Swiss Reinsurance Company
- Mr. Xanana Gusmao, Minister of Planning and Strategic Investments, Timor-Leste
- H.E. Mr. Lisandro Rosales, Minister of the Permanent Commission of Contingencies, Honduras

Additional Speakers:

- Ms. Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director Strategy Policy and International Cooperation, European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
- Dr. Bruce Aylward, Executive Director, Outbreaks and Health Emergencies Director-General's Special Representative for the Ebola Response
- Mr. Arno Wicki, Deputy Head of Swiss Humanitarian Aid and Head of Multilateral Division, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Colin Bruce, Senior Adviser, Office of the World Bank Group President and Designated IASC Principal
- Dr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of UNISDR
- Mr. Efren P. Carandang, Deputy Administrator, National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, the Philippines