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GROWING NEED OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN DRR

Abstract

The losses of lives and physical properties due to the disasters are rising mostly in developing countries. The impact of a disaster in a particular country or region can have an effect on another country or region. Disaster risk is global in nature. Disasters cause human life losses, property damage, and long-term impacts on productivity, growth, and the economy. In view of the above situation, preparedness and preventive measures are highly desirable to reduce losses. In addition, effective and efficient response and rehabilitation capabilities and mechanisms are also equally important to minimize and redress the disaster losses and damages. Hence, the need and importance of cooperation and coordination among the national and international organizations and countries are pertinent particularly in the field of the development of humanitarian assistance. At the national level, such cooperation and coordination may vary from community level to local, village, municipality, district/province, and/or region. While at the international level, it varies from regional to global. NGOs like TIEMS have a vital role to play in international cooperation and collaboration while it has a wide connection with a number of experts and international organizations.

Keywords: disaster risk reduction, Sendai Framework, cooperation, preparedness



NÖVEKVŐ NEMZETKÖZI EGYÜTTMŰKÖDÉSI IGÉNY A KATASZTRÓFAKOCKÁZAT CSÖKKENTÉSÉBEN

Absztrakt

A katasztrófák elsősorban a fejlődő országokban veszélyeztetik leginkább az emberi életet és az anyagi javakat. A katasztrófák nem ismernek határokat, ezért ezek akár egyszerre több ország területét is érinthetik. A katasztrófák nem csak emberi áldozatokat és anyagi károkat követelhetnek, hanem hatással lehetnek az adott ország gazdaságára. Ennek következtében a hatékony felkészülés és a megelőző intézkedések rendkívül fontosak a károk mérséklése érdekében, akár csak az eredményes beavatkozás vagy a helyreállítás. Épp ezért fontos a nemzetközi szervezetek és a különböző együttműködések a humanitárius segítségnyújtás területén. Ez az együttműködés helyi, területi, nemzeti és nemzetközi szinten is változó. Az olyan civil szervezetek, mint a TIEMS, kulcsfontosságú szerepet töltenek be a nemzetközi együttműködésben, hiszen szoros kapcsolatot ápolnak számos szakértővel és nemzetközi szervezettel.

Kulcsszavak: katasztrófakockázat csökkentése, Sendai katasztrófakockázat-csökkentési keret, együttműködés, felkészültség

1. WHY DISASTERS ARE INCREASING?

Developed media reporting (social media as the first reporter); increased population and density (population growth particularly in developing countries); cities in high-risk areas (64 of the largest cities in the world are in seismic zones and a number of large cities are on the seashore or on the bank of huge rivers); rapid and unplanned urbanization (people abandon rural areas and live in the cities); global warming (increased storm activity; and climate change); increased technologies (mass transport, chemical industrialization, and transport of dangerous goods); economic stress (urban slums in dangerous environments); armed conflict (Terrorism) and



unexpected crisis (e.g. COVID-19) are some of the major causes of disasters. Sadly, disasters have serious effects on water security; food security; livelihood security; health security; and energy security. All these results in the economic, social, political, and survival issues that are intensely associated with poverty.

2. ISSUES OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

In the event of catastrophes, outrageous damages by disasters have overshadowed development works in most countries of the world. Likewise, terrorism, conflicts, political instability, poor governance, lack of efficient service delivery, and poverty has already exacerbated human development. In fact, poverty is not based solely on a lack of income, but also on a lack of capacities, opportunities, and good governance. Disasters are levelling off the meagre gains accumulated over the decades which have mostly affected the marginalized and poor people living in vulnerable areas. So far, in many countries particularly in developing countries, less attention has been given to disaster governance. The quality of governance at all stages is another big challenge for disaster governance (Chhetri 2021). In this way, we are paying the cost of disasters by precious human life losses, injuries, illness, and grief. At the same time, enormous loss to physical properties occurs in the time of disaster.

3. PROSPECTS IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Stakeholder involvement has been a major requirement for effective, efficient, and fair risk governance. Since risk management includes uncertain outcomes that affect different parts of the population to different degrees it is essential to integrate the knowledge, values, and interests of stakeholders into the risk policy making process. (Renn 2015).



Profound scientific knowledge is required in risk governance, especially with regard to dealing with complexity. This knowledge has to be assessed and collected by scientists and risk professionals who are recognized as competent authorities in the respective risk field. The systematic search for the „„state of the art“” in risk assessment leads to a knowledge base that provides the data for deliberation. At the same time, however, the style of deliberation also should transform the scientific discourse and lead the discussion toward classifying knowledge claims, characterizing uncertainties, exploring the range of alternative explanations, and acknowledging the limits of systematic knowledge in many risk arenas. This can be done in any country, independent of political system, or governmental structure. Stakeholder involvement and public participation have been used and successfully implemented in many developing countries and threshold countries such as China (Grimble and Chan 1995; Tang et al. 2005).

4. IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN DRR

Regional cooperation and coordination are very necessary among the regional countries that have common problems, as a country's disaster situation may affect the others as well because disasters have trans-boundary effects and have common problems e.g. Covid-19. Hence, there is the need for international collaboration and cooperation for effective management of disasters in short term as well as long term. Additionally, disaster management is a multi-sectoral activity and it needs a wide range of contacts. An individual or organization can't meet disaster management requirements. Working in isolation may result in poor output. Therefore, Cooperation and coordination are unavoidable for disaster management. Common relations and cooperation among countries are very important but if any disputes or problems arise they can be solved easily by making different agreements. Mutual understanding and support are the solutions to bringing development. International cooperation plays a vital role in enhancing the role of local communities to protect their environments and encouraging states and other actors as well to fulfill their duties for conservation initiatives.



It is an established fact that countries that work together are able to put their resources together and then they can develop faster. Collaboration, cooperation and coordination within countries and across regions are crucial for effective disaster risk reduction. Hence, in order to reduce vulnerabilities, we need to network our capabilities and assets, share available resources, knowledge and expertise. Therefore, to find more effective ways to forecast risk, to better manage the response and develop organizational resilience to interruption and different types of crisis and disasters - international, continental and global cooperation and coordination also are very imperative. Working together, a proactive plan could be formulated for future disaster management activities among the countries. Regular, effective communication among these different groups, before, during, and after disaster "events" can greatly enhance those relationships.

5. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (2015-2030)

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 has called all countries to give priority to strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risks because it is very important at the national, regional and global levels for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation. It is also highly necessary to foster collaboration and partnership to cover a range of DRR-related governance reforms, structural and non-structural mitigation measures, significant enhancement in preparedness and response capacities across government and international humanitarian actors for a major disaster, and enhancement of response and early warning capacities at the community level.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 is an ambitious agreement that sets out the overall objective to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities, and countries. SFDRR expects countries to follow



up on the four priorities for action set out in the Sendai Framework. The four priorities are 1. Understanding disaster risk; 2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; 3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience; and 4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. Apart from the four priorities, there are 7 strategic goals, 13 guiding principles, and 38 indicators for measuring progress on reducing disaster risk and losses. The 38 indicators of SFDRR align with the implementation of the Sendai Framework with the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

6. APPROACHES TO ENHANCE THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION?

Respective countries can enhance cooperation and collaboration by making links; doing things in an organized way; clarifying objectivity; establishing goals; analyzing their requirements; assessing and developing skills; infrastructure; facilities and resources. Besides, there should be strong commitment, dedication; honesty and timeliness are other prerequisites to enhance relationship among nations. However, it is to be understood that a multitude of collaborations, interactions or decision making actions are carried out by a wide range of stakeholder participants (national/local governments, local communities, residents groups, business groups, and NGOs). These interactions operate through various types of multifaceted networks and organizations with which most of the stakeholders are vertically or horizontally associated. These networks and organizations do not necessarily engage in formal or institutional coordination. Rather they work mostly as informal or non-institutional interactions in both vertical and horizontal ways, while each maintains its independence and uniqueness. (Ikeda and Nagasaka 2008)



7. WHAT NEXT?

Integrating disaster risk reduction into development policy and practice is crucial. It needs to be ensured that disaster risk reduction is included in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and development plans and programs. On the other hand, better systems for the collection, analysis and dissemination on disaster impacts and links with climate change, health, livelihoods and governance developing performance targets and indicators to assess progress in integrating disaster risk reduction into both humanitarian and development policies are also essential.

To accomplish the above objectives, each country must have a national institutional mechanism in order to trigger and support the process of DRR, decentralize the responsibility, involve and engage all stakeholders and coordinate the actions nationally at all levels – from the community to the level of the national government. At the same time, the organization should have the authority as well as the capacity to integrate DRR into the national governance and development efforts and facilitate program-level synergy and coordination. The coordination is not restricted among the government departments, it has also a significant implication to the non-government organizations and other relief- based organizations. A total coordination center needs to be set up at the provincial level, which should be linked to the central coordination center in the upper level, and municipal coordination point, as the lower governance structure. The one-point coordination is of utmost importance to avoid misunderstanding. On the other hand, sector-based approach is preferred based on past experiences, such as shelter, health, education, livelihood, etc. In this way, working in close cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among the concerned stakeholders covers a range of DRR-related governance reforms, structural and non-structural mitigation measures, significant enhancement in preparedness and response capacities across government and international humanitarian actors for major disasters, and enhancement of response and early warning capacities at the community level.



8. CONCLUSION

Disasters should be viewed as issues of development and governance. States should be made receptive, profound, and accountable to the demands, needs, and rights of disaster-prone communities, areas, and affected populations. This is high time to bring together the organizations and elements to ensure an effective response, mainly concerned with systematic acquisition and application of resources in accordance with threat or impact. To attain the strategic goals and indicators of SFDRR, it is essential to build up a network of partnerships among the countries, which includes governmental organizations, NGOs, academic institutions, and community members. It is to be noted that coordination is for mutual benefit through the give and take policy.

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