



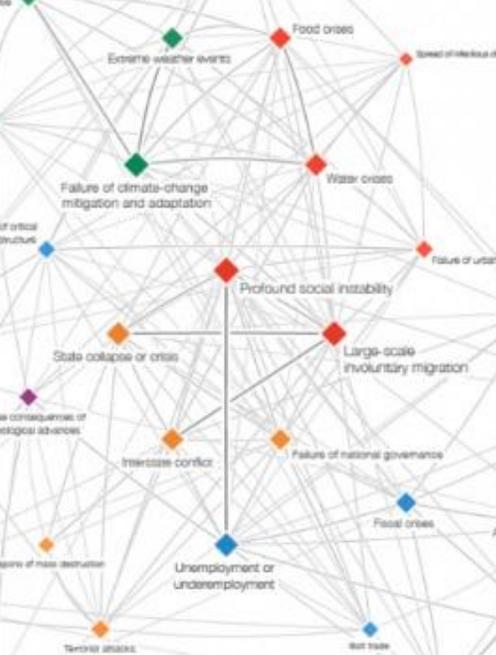
WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

ISTANBUL • 23-24 May 2016

# Risk and Vulnerability Analysis

## SPECIAL SESSION

Core Responsibilities One and Four of the Agenda for Humanity



**“Failure to recognize risk, to institutionally own a response, or to act on risk and analysis has led to numerous examples of governments and the international community moving too slowly, resulting in devastating suffering and loss of life.”**

**Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit**

## CONTEXT

In today’s world of precipitous change nobody is immune to multiple risks and threats. Crises no longer take borders into account. Failure to understand risks, anticipate crises and take early action can allow large-scale disasters to take place causing untold human suffering. These large-scale disasters are complex and costly to address, and challenge regional and global stability: violent conflict, hazard-driven disasters, climate change, man-made environmental catastrophes, food and water crises, global pandemics, the spread of infectious diseases, social instability, failures of national governance, massive involuntary migration, fiscal crises, energy price shocks, cyber-attacks, and the adverse consequences of technological advances.

Decision-makers in every sector struggle to establish a common vocabulary, a common understanding and a shared baseline for addressing heightened volatility and uncertainty. Humanitarian crises cannot be anticipated, planned for and averted in isolation. A shared understanding and analysis of these challenges must be the basis to collectively and effectively address the consequences of rapidly-evolving risks and to increase resilience.

There has been increased attention to and investment in disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation over the past 15 years, reinforced by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. But the nexus between different risks remains poorly understood.



Data gathering and analysis are critical first steps for the change needed to decrease humanitarian action. However, lack of reliable data and evidence has been a major detriment to meaningful risk analysis. In addition, despite a growing number of rigorous risk analysis initiatives, platforms, partnerships and networks, shared multi-stakeholder understanding, analysis and action remain elusive.

The Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity makes a clear call for greater investment in data and risk analysis - including monitoring deteriorating situations, shifting from crisis management to effectively managing prevention and early action. This requires joint knowledge and analysis to understand the complexity, interconnectedness and multi-dimensionality of risks.

## OBJECTIVE

The Session will generate a range of commitments and concrete actions to establish a Global Risk Platform that will map and unite the existing risk, vulnerability and threat analysis initiatives into one global community of practice. A global platform where stakeholders and practitioners can share data, analysis, strategies and resources – human, material or financial – backed by politically supported action is instrumental in building resilience to evolving risks. Such a platform could promote collaboration, transparency and accountability by developing common policies and standards and by enabling open-source data and helping to establish context-specific thresholds. This platform will also enable better risk management, and in turn contribute to improving coordination to predict and prevent future humanitarian crises. An Independent Advisory Group will be created to oversee management, use and evolution of the platform. The Advisory Group will also support donors and partner countries in developing practical solutions to invest in risk and resilience financing, building on the recent analysis done by the Swiss Government, UNDP, ODI, the World Bank and OCHA in April 2016.

The Session will also generate an Action Plan for Nexus of Risks which will:

- Bring together existing risk, vulnerability and threat analysis initiatives onto the Global Platform,
- Initiate sharing of data policy and of information on human, material and financial resource availability,
- Undertake national-level comprehensive, multi-hazard risk analyses in different risk contexts at least five priority countries and regional level in at least one region of the world in the next twelve months.

## BACKGROUND

The first-ever World Humanitarian Summit will take place from 23 to 24 May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey. Following three years of extensive consultations with more than



23,000 people in 153 countries, this will be the moment to answer their overwhelming call for a renewed commitment to humanity. In his report for the World Humanitarian Summit, the United Nations Secretary-General calls upon Member States and other stakeholders to endorse and get behind five core responsibilities. These will ensure that we can deliver more and better on behalf of all those who are suffering and who need assistance. The Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity spells out how this can be achieved.

The Special Sessions respond to the specific calls made during the consultation process. They will focus on launching strategic initiatives underlying the five core responsibilities. These initiatives aim to harness the vision, skills and capacities of stakeholders in each relevant area. Istanbul is the opportunity to demonstrate unity and solidarity with the needy, to prevent and end suffering, and to take all the necessary steps to place our common values of humanity back at the heart of the decision-making process.

The Special Sessions will provide a platform for Member States and other stakeholders to make specific commitments in support of these and as a means of achieving the Agenda for Humanity.

## FORMAT AND STRUCTURE

The Special Session will start with short presentations by three or four speakers, followed by a moderated panel discussion. It will produce a summary document including all the commitments made during the session. This will contribute to the Commitments to Action document from the World Humanitarian Summit.

This Special Session will last for one hour. As there may not be sufficient time for all participants to announce their commitments, they will be asked to share them before or during the Summit.

The Special Sessions will be open to media and webcast live. The time and location for this session will be made known shortly.

## REGISTRATION AND SPECIAL SESSION PREPARATIONS

The focal point will engage with interested stakeholders in the run-up to the Summit to assist in the development of commitments. Please refer any queries related to this session to Rina Meutia at [riskanalysis.session@whsummit.org](mailto:riskanalysis.session@whsummit.org). As part of the online registration process for the Summit there will be the opportunity to register to attend this session. Details on registration will be circulated to all invitees in the coming weeks.