

Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction: a tool for development organisations¹

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Introduction

Hazards are having an increasing impact on society as a result of rising levels of human vulnerability. In this respect disasters are not isolated events, but a manifestation of the deficiencies and weaknesses within society, induced by human-determined paths of development. As a relief and development NGO working in many disaster-prone

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us...talk about this, but in practice I think very little is done in terms of integrating these issues into development planning'.

Through the research three key issues were identified which act as barriers to mainstreaming risk reduction into development: lack of knowledge and understanding of the subject within development sectors; lack of ownership

discovered that the organisation is *between* levels, where it has progressed significantly beyond one stage without achieving the next. This mid-stage should be recognised and recorded as it may represent significant progress. An organisation may also have made *uneven* progress, where it is strong when measured against some targets/indicators and weaker when measured against others.

Secondly, the targets and indicators are generally broad, providing a template for organisations which can adapt them to suit their own context. Users can re-shape targets/indicators to relate to individual agency decision-making processes and culture as long as the underlying *purpose* of a given indicator or target is understood. Organisations may find it more appropriate to relocate some to different levels. New levels can also be created to increase the number of levels overall.

The following table shows targets and indicators for measuring mainstreaming in the area of geographical planning.

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The organisation has little or no awareness of the need to consider disaster risks within geographical planning.

There is widespread understanding of the disaster-risk-vulnerability relationship at relevant geographical levels, and of the impact of disasters on the organisation's work in a given geographical area.

There is widespread understanding of the need to apply policy commitment to risk reduction within geographical planning (including Direct Budgetary Support mechanisms).

The organisation is considering how existing geographical planning tools⁷

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