

EAST ASIA PACIFIC A REGION AT RISK

East Asia Pacific is the most disaster-stricken region in the world. Many megacities are densely populated, with slums growing fast in high-risk areas.



61%

of global losses from disasters was sustained by East Asia Pacific in the past 20 years.

\$259 billion

is the amount of economic losses from natural disasters in the first 9 months of 2011 – the costliest year on record – which was 80% of the global total.

1.6 billion people

have been affected by disasters since 2000.

40%

of floods worldwide happened in East Asia Pacific between 1980-2011.



DISASTERS HURT THE POOR

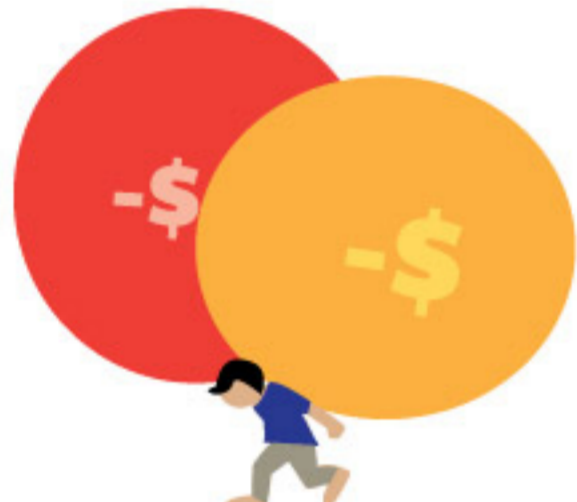
When disaster strikes, the poor and vulnerable – women, children, the elderly and disabled – are hit hardest.

Disasters can set back years of progress in poverty reduction and strain public funds.



70% 

of casualties were women in the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami in Banda Aceh.



Debts Doubled 

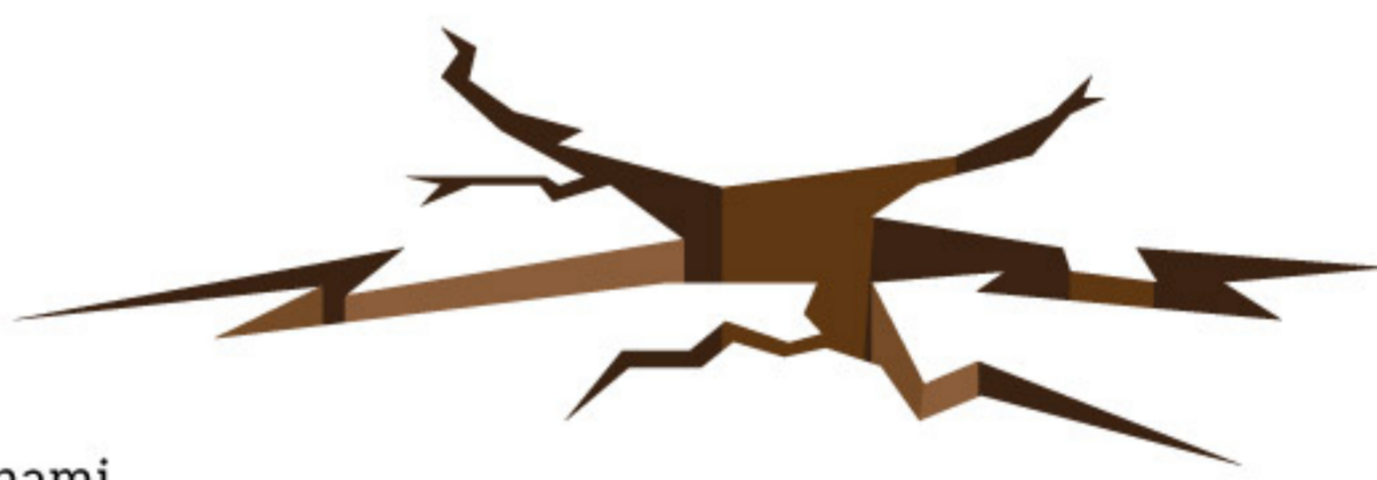
2 years after Cyclone Nargis (2008), debts doubled for Myanmar's laborers and fishermen.

18%



18% or more 

A mega-disaster could cost Cambodia, Laos, and the Philippines 18% of total public funds.



95% 

Losses from the 2007 earthquake and tsunami amounted to 95% of the Solomon Islands' national budget.

BEING PREPARED SAVES MONEY

Investing in disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness makes good economic sense. The right balance of structural measures (like strengthening buildings) and non-structural measures (such as awareness building campaigns) is key.



Preparedness

For every \$1 spent on preparedness, countries save \$3-4 after disaster strikes.



Meteorological Services

In China, strengthening national meteorological services can deliver benefits worth between 35 to 40 times the cost of investment.



Retrofitting

An earthquake preparedness project in Istanbul found that 5-7 schools can be strengthened for the cost of one building – a cost effective solution in risk areas.

Restoring Ecosystems

Protecting 12,000 hectares of mangroves in Vietnam cost \$1.1 million, but reduced dike maintenance costs by \$7.3 million per year – more cost effective than engineered solutions.



THE WORLD BANK

Source: *Strong, Safe, and Resilient: A Strategic Guide for Disaster Risk Management in East Asia and the Pacific*

Learn more at www.worldbank.org/eap