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

61% of all disaster-related damage was caused by East Asia Pacific in the past 20 years.

$259 billion
in the death toll of economic loss due to disasters globally from 1980 to 2017.

1.6 billion people
have been affected by disasters since 2003.

40%
of the world’s disasters happened in East Asia Pacific over 1980-2017.

70%
of casualties were women in the 2014 Indian Ocean tsunami in Indonesia.

18%
or more
of homes destroyed in the Philippines’ 2013 typhoon Bopha.

95%
Losses from the 2007 earthquakes and tsunami are estimated at 15% of the intergovernmental 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 $4 for disaster relief.

Meteorological Services
In China, strengthening national meteorological services can deliver a 30% reduction in disaster losses for a cost of investment.

Retrofitting
An earthquake-resistant project in Bolivia showed that just 5-7 out of 100 buildings can be strengthened for the cost of new building—a cost-effective solution in risk zones.

Restoring Ecosystems
In Bangladesh, a mangrove forest protection project cost $2 million, but reduced flood losses by $24 million per year—cost less effective than engineering solutions.