RECOVERING FROM COVID-19:

LESSONS FROM PAST DISASTERS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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SYSTEMIC RISKS: WHAT IS IT AND HOW IS IT CHANGING THE NATURE OF DISASTERS

The novel coronavirus is adding to existing risks in Asia and the Pacific, already the most disaster-prone region in the world

- From 2011-2015, 45 per cent of global disasters occurred in the region and annual economic losses are estimated at 2.4 per cent of the region's GDP
- 2019 witnessed a relentless sequence of disasters in several countries causing significant damage, loss and displacement
- Risk drivers are contributing to exposure and vulnerability, reducing capacity and increasing fragility
- Risks are not local and unique to exposed elements but can cascade to other parts of the "system"
- Cascading effects of COVID-19 on the economy have created new poor and new vulnerabilities





Caught Unaware:

Countries need to anticipate and plan for pandemics and disasters

- Not all countries have disaster risk reduction strategies
- And even less include biological hazards





Health First:

A faster and stronger health response is critical to contain pandemics

- Viet Nam increased investments in public health infrastructure after the SARS outbreak
- That supported the country's aggressive response to contain COVID-19





Preventing a Socio-Economic Crisis:

Rapid funding is pivotal to protect the most vulnerable

- In the Republic of Korea, the MERS outbreak cost US\$2.6 billion in economic loss
- When COVID-19 hit, the Government was swift to make emergency relief payments to support low income households





Get the Evidence:

Data and Assessments must guide recovery

- The post disaster needs assessment after the 2015 earthquake in Nepal estimated recovery needs at US\$6.9 billion
- 60% of which was pledged by international donors





Show me the Money:

Diverse financing arrangements help to sustain long term recovery

- From budget re-allocations to donor funding, insurance bailouts to tax incentives
- Countries must commit funding for COVID-19 recovery





Be the Leader:

Dedicated national leadership is essential to achieve effective recovery

- In Malaysia, a strong team conducted the COVID response, led by the National Security Council and
- Supported by the National Disaster Management Agency and the Health and Economic Council





Stronger Together:

Engaging local governments and community for inclusive response

- In Indonesia, the network of Disabled People's Organizations conducted a COVID-19 rapid needs assessment
- The Government agreed to use the assessment to improve policy on disability inclusion for COVID-19 response and recovery





Build Forward:

Greener, Smarter, Better!

- Every disaster is an opportunity to improve upon pre-disaster conditions
- Towards a world that is more inclusive, sustainable and resilient





Use the Data:

Disaster data can help countries deal with changing riskscapes

 Sri Lanka has developed disaster databased that can help in identifying COVID-19 hotspots by the Government plan for response and recovery





Innovate, Innovate, Innovate!

- A feasibility study by UNDP Bangladesh on Universal Basic Income for COVID-19 recovery
- Showed that income support of US\$29 per month to every household for six months will cost less than 2 percent of the country's 2019 GDP





RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COVID-19 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY

- International and regional cooperation
- Governance
- Social Protection
- Green Economy
- Digital disruption and innovation
- Funding to reduce multiple risks

