AND THE CIRCLES, THEY GO ROUND AND ROUND...

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON
2011
GLOBAL FACTS

• Humanitarian budget 1990-2010 increase 12 fold (OECD DAC data).
• All databases, despite incompleteness, show a rise in natural hazards.
• Little disasters or mundane events have greater cumulative impact than large scale events.
• The rise in natural hazards dominated by climatic events, particularly flood and drought.
• Rule of thumb: a flood at 10% of the impact of drought gets equal media coverage – August 2010 Pakistan floods, 2000+ dead and rising, Niger drought 400,000 severe malnutrition.
RELIEF OPERATIONS

The humanitarian aid given to people in distress by individuals, organisations, or governments with the core purpose of preventing and alleviating human suffering.

The Principles of Humanitarian Aid

• Impartiality: no discrimination
• Neutrality: do not take sides
• Independence: retain autonomy
INCREASING DISASTERS

Natural Hazards: 2000-2009 there were 385 natural disasters an increase of 233% since 1980-1989 and 67% increase since 1990-1999.

- Increased climatic variability
- Increased population pressures
- Environmental (???) refugees
Deaths shrink Asia and the Americas—but expand Africa

Note: Areas reflect cumulative deaths from disasters for 1970 to 2010 (February).
Source: World Bank staff based on EM-DAT/CRED.
Damages shrink Africa but expand middle-income countries

Note: Areas reflect cumulative damage from disasters scaled by GDP for 1970 to 2008.
Source: World Bank staff based on EM-DAT/CREM.
• Characterized by breakdown of government and internal or external conflict
• 1975-1985: 5 Complex emergencies worldwide
• By 1995: 50 Complex emergencies worldwide
• Conflict has taken over from drought as the primary cause of famine!
• 740,000 people die each year as a result of conflict
• In 2009 there were more IDPs from conflict than any point since the mid 1990s
# Humanitarian System

**Four Main Actors**
- Donor Governments
- United Nations
- ICRC
- INGOs

**The UN Division of Labour**
- OCHA: Policy & Planning
- WFP: Food delivery & logistics
- UNHCR: Refugees & IDPs, Shelter
- UNICEF: Child health, education, nutrition and WASH
- FAO: Emergency agriculture
- ICRC & MSF: Health
- WHO: Policy & programming

On-the-ground management and effective coordination remains the weakest link.
FUNDING

• The CAP (established 1991) is the main tool for coordination, strategic planning and programming.
• Since 1992, over 100 donor countries have donated over US$42 billion to more than 50 countries and regions.
• Aid peaked in 2005 at US$13.1 billion and humanitarian aid budgets have continually increased since the 1980s.
• Despite increasing aid budgets humanitarian sectors remain grossly underfunded.
• In 2005, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), a UN relief fund, was established. Its aim is to address the gaps, and delays of aid contributions
Disasters receive about a fifth of total humanitarian assistance

Note: Humanitarian aid is “an intervention to help people who are victims of a natural disaster or conflict meet their basic needs and rights,” while official development assistance (ODA) is “money spent on development (education, health, water supply and sanitation, agriculture, and so on) and humanitarian assistance by members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee.”

Source: World Bank staff based on data from the Financial Tracking System (FTS) of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
## Humanitarian Appeals

Humanitarian Consolidated & Flash Appeal Requirements Met Per Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter &amp; NFIs</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water &amp; Sanitation</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GLOBAL INTERPRETATIONS

• Vulnerability associated with underdevelopment; resilience associated with development

• Under globalisation, a different level of risk
GLOBAL INTERPRETATIONS

- The erosion of entitlement; the collapse of pre-capitalist coping mechanisms
- Understanding pre-capitalist and capitalist modes of production
Total “Well-Being” greater but insensitivity leads to recurring disaster

Traditional Coping Mechanisms: sensitive but not necessarily resilient to outside pressures
The Developed World Context

- Policy Driver is the Risk Society (Beck, 1992; Giddens, 1991)
- In 21st century the more specific driver is the Security Agenda
- Complex Emergencies
- Policy outcome is a drive to resilience
- Resilience is focused on First Responders “Blue Light” services
- Community is there to be protected, but not involved, despite being the real First Responder
- Bounce-Back Ability is only focused Business and Responder Continuity
THE LIMITS OF CAPITAL AND RISK

Scale

Market

Refused by Market

Private Capital

Social Capital

Beyond Market

Losses ($)
Big Issues

• Humanitarianism as a right???
• Dunant Vs Wilson
• Majority of the humanitarian aid recipients are Muslim (Hyder, 2007)
• Oligopoly of INGOs
• Tsunami as an exception
• LRRD or DRR?
• Where does adaptation feature?
CLIMATE ADAPTATION

• The Green Climate Fund promises $100 billion p.a. by 2020 – where will this come from?
• In 2007 UNFCCC estimated the total funding needed for adaptation by 2030 could amount to between $49-171bn per annum globally, of which $27 and 66bn would accrue in developing countries
• Will the new humanitarianism become adaptation?
CONCLUSION

• Consider where we are now: DRR/CC/MDGs or MDGS/CC/DRR
• Much is beyond the market, both the event and the definition of vulnerability
• As academics we have confused the arguments by trying to incorporate everything into risk models (people, technology and hazards with all their attendant histories)
• To serve vulnerable people well we must concentrate on addressing the issues of vulnerability
• We must again un-package the paradigm of risk
THANK YOU

Prof. Phil O’Keefe
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Dr. Janaka Jayawickrama


O’Keefe, P. and Rose, J. (2008), Humanitarian Aid, Companion to Development Studies, Chapter 9.4, Hodder Education