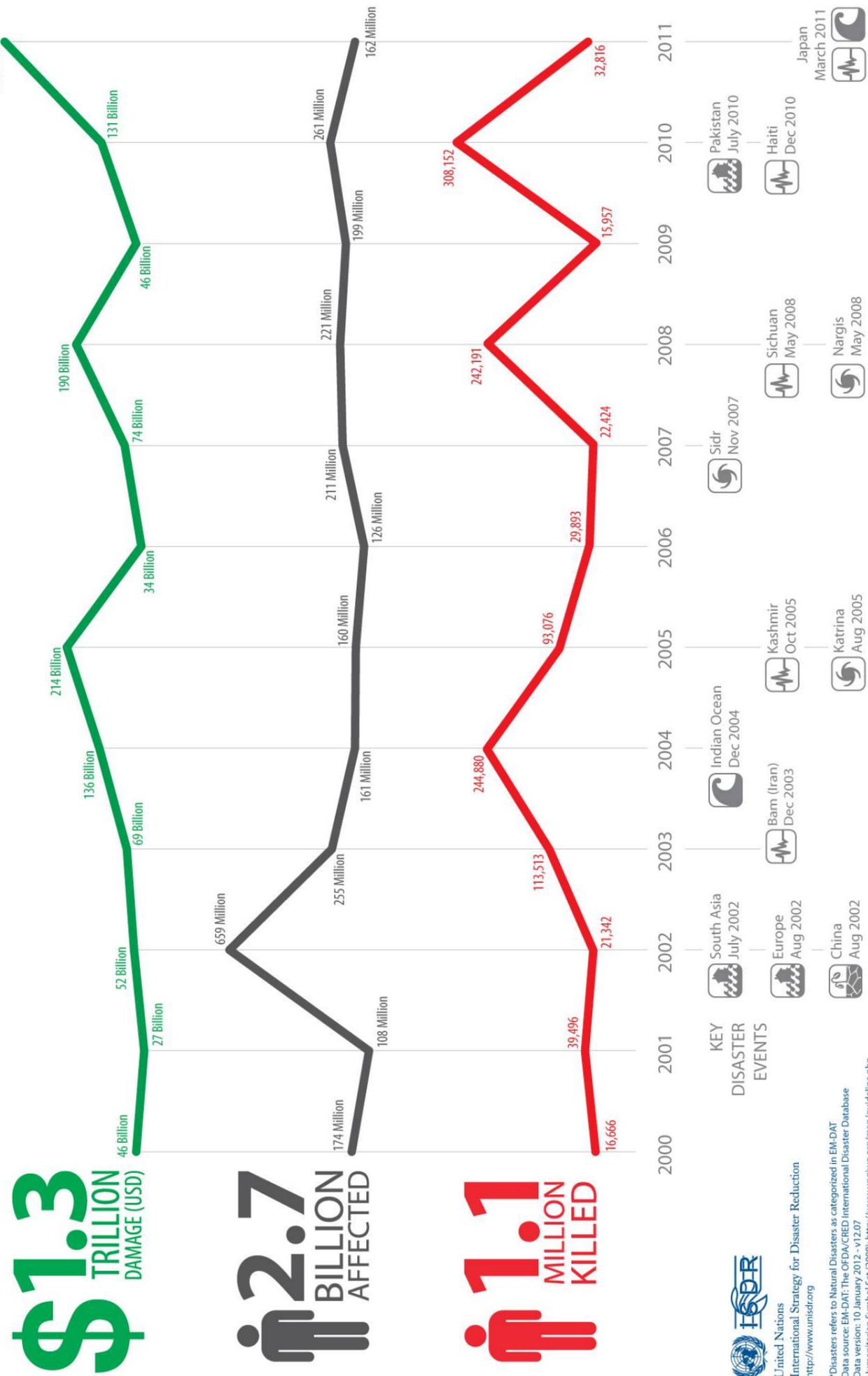


The Economic and Human Impact of Disasters* in the last 12 years



\$1.3 TRILLION DAMAGE (USD)

2.7 BILLION AFFECTED

1.1 MILLION KILLED



United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction <http://www.unisdr.org>

*Disasters refers to Natural Disasters as categorized in EM-DAT Data source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database Data version: 10 January 2012 - v12.07 Humanitarian Symbol Set (2008); <http://www.unisdr.org/map/guideline.php>



United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

EVIDENCE

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Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, shows the HFA at the March 5th noon briefing by the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General in New York (UN Photo / Mark Garten)

MOROCCO MOVES ON DRR PLATFORM

Morocco is taking steps to create a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to support policies for building resilience to disasters. "The future National Platform will help the work of all sectors to converge into one common objective, which is to construct a country that is safer for current and future generations," said Mehdi Chalabi, Director of Surveillance and Prevention of Risk at the Department of Environment. Morocco is one of the Arab region's most hazard-prone countries and the economy is frequently affected by dry spells, floods, landslides and invasion by locusts. Earthquakes are also a threat.

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/KvXNM>



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HFA II PROCESS STARTS

The UN Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlström, and HE Yoichi Otabe, the Japanese Ambassador to the International Organizations in Geneva, announced the start of consultations on a new international blueprint for reducing disaster losses in advance of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction which the Japanese government is proposing to host in 2015. The new framework will build on the success of the *Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities* in spreading a culture of disaster prevention around the globe.

Ms. Wahlström said: "The learning from the Great East Japan Earthquake will be a vital contribution to preparing the world to meet the challenges of disaster risk in the urbanized, globalized world of the 21st century where a natural hazard can trigger a chain of catastrophic events." HE Yoichi Otabe said: "The Great East Japan Earthquake has provided us with further confirmation of the importance of disaster risk reduction as a critical global issue in the 21st century. Development is too often sidetracked and at times even reversed by disasters, so investing in disaster risk reduction and resilience supports sustainable development." **For more information, visit:** <http://goo.gl/puV7l>

WATER FORUM DRR PLEDGE

The Sixth World Water Forum resulted in a Ministerial Declaration that "we intend to develop and strengthen national and trans-boundary disaster prevention and response strategies." UNISDR acting Director, Helena Molin Valdes, told a High Level Forum debate that water management must be at the heart of any new development framework after 2015, the year when the world's international blueprint for disaster risk reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action, and the Millennium Development Goals are due to be replaced. **For more information, visit:** <http://goo.gl/eNmgi>

QUAKE PROSECUTIONS IN CHILE

The Chile Attorney General's Office announced in February that eight people including National Emergency Office staff are to be prosecuted for "criminal negligence...for their participation in decision-making by technical agencies charged with issuing and disseminating tsunami warnings to the population."

On February 27, 2010, south-central Chile was struck by an 8.8 magnitude earthquake. The earthquake and resulting tsunami together killed 523 people, at least 156 people died from the tsunami alone.

According to the Attorney General's office, no warning was issued to the general population in time to prevent the disaster. An alert was issued but then deactivated only to be re-activated when it was too late for many communities along the affected coastline. Some 220,000 homes, 3,700 schools, 17 hospitals and 212 bridges were destroyed according to official figures. The economic losses to the country are estimated at \$30 billion or 18% of Chile's gross domestic product.

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/UMkg5>

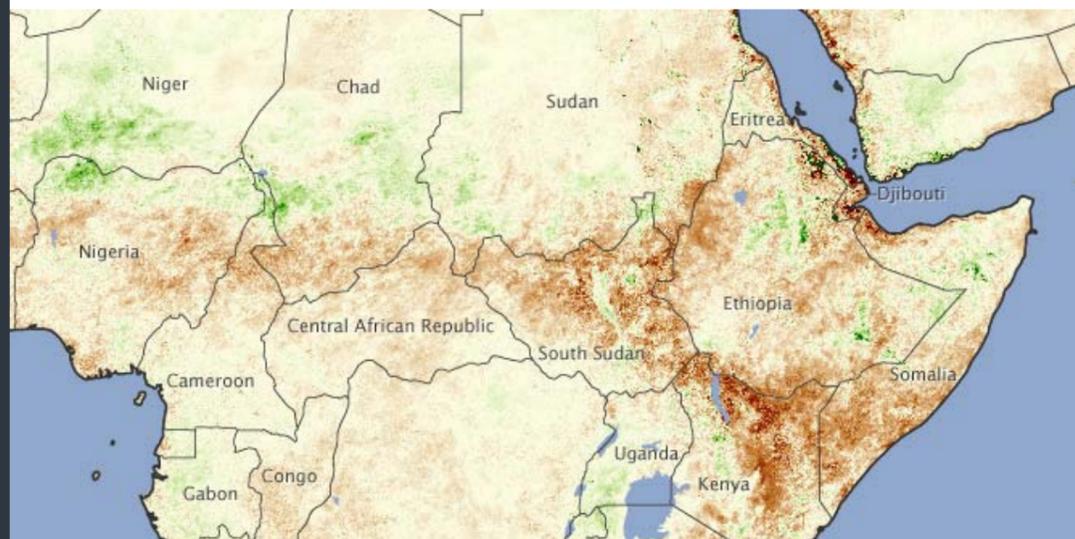
PRIVATE SECTOR'S RISK REVOLUTION

The business world is on "the cusp of a major revolution" in its understanding of disaster risk reduction as insurance industry demands force a shift from traditional accounting-based management to risk-based management, according to Rowan Douglas, CEO Global Analytics at Willis Group. Speaking in Geneva at the second joint meeting of the UNISDR Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) with diplomats from the UNISDR Support Group, he said this new form of financial management will soon begin to have an influence on company behaviors as assets are valued with closer reference to their exposure to risks. He said that the UNISDR PSAG is still in its infancy and "the challenge ahead is to integrate the awareness of risk into the economic system in order to make countries and populations resilient." **For more information, visit:** <http://goo.gl/cNVXY>

DROUGHT ON THE HORN

The March to May rainfall season in the Greater Horn of Africa is likely to result in "near normal to below normal rainfall" over much of the region, according to a statement from the 30th Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF30). This rainfall outlook applies in particular to areas plagued by drought in recent years including much of Somalia; Djibouti; eastern and northern Kenya; southern, eastern and north-eastern Ethiopia. UNISDR's Deputy Regional Coordinator, Youcef Ait-Chellouche, said: "This is not good news for farmers in areas which have been affected by agricultural drought in recent years. We must plan for the probability that rainfall will be erratic and there will be long dry spells which will impact on crop production and food security. People's resilience and coping capacity has been eroded by the last two difficult years especially in Somalia so it's clear that we must act now. The general consensus from this meeting is that the Horn of Africa is still very much at risk."

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/xTusQ>



This 2011 image shows plant growth during the growing season for the crop normally harvested in June and July. Where there were more leafy photosynthesizing plants than average, the image is green. Brown indicates that plants were sparser or growing less than average. (Source: NASA Earth Observatory)



A Japanese performer at a special commemorative concert at the UN in New York marking the anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami which struck the country one year ago (UN Photo/Mark Garten)

KIRIBATI'S 'CLIMATE CHANGE INSURANCE'

Following a recent decision by its Cabinet to buy land in Fiji as 'climate change insurance' for its population, Kiribati President, Anote Tong has called on the international community to address the effects of climate change that could wipe out the entire Pacific archipelago.

While the governments of both the Pacific island nations are currently in talks about the nearly 6,000 acres of fertile land on Fiji's main island, Viti Levu, which is being offered by a church group for \$9.6 million, President Tong hopes that it will never be necessary for the 103,000 people of Kiribati to leave. The move comes three years after President Tong took centre stage at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to implore the international community to take effective action against climate change before it became too late for Kiribati and other small island developing states of the Pacific.

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/JEy7t>

UNISDR RECRUITS IN MEXICO

Disaster risk reduction was at the top of the agenda in March for over 2,000 mayors and municipal leaders in Vera Cruz, Mexico, attending the *Conferencia Anual de Municipios 2012* at which the keynote address was delivered by UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström.

She warned against the rising cost of disasters to cities. "Population statistics tell us that the segment of the population that has the highest rate of growth is the urban poor who have no access to safe land and frequently settle in marginal areas that are highly exposed to natural hazards." She urged more cities and municipalities throughout Mexico to join the UNISDR campaign *Making Cities Resilient- My city is getting ready!* which was launched in 2010 and now has almost 1,000 members around the world including 118 cities in the Americas.

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/9rsne>

"There can be no doubt that the toll of 15,854 killed and 3,203 missing would have been much higher among the 600,000 or more people at immediate risk in the affected areas if people had not responded to the early warnings. Let us not forget this great achievement when discussing all the other things that could have been done better."

Margareta Wahlström on the first anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/OoeHR>

CITIES FAILING CHILDREN

UNICEF'S flagship report, *The State of the World's Children 2012: Children In An Urban World*, urges governments to put children at the heart of urban planning and finds that for millions of children urban poverty is intensified by exposure to cyclones, floods, mudslides, earthquakes and other disasters. Nearly eight million children died in 2010 before reaching the age of five.

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/O88Cy>