DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

IN OIC COUNTRIES IN SSA

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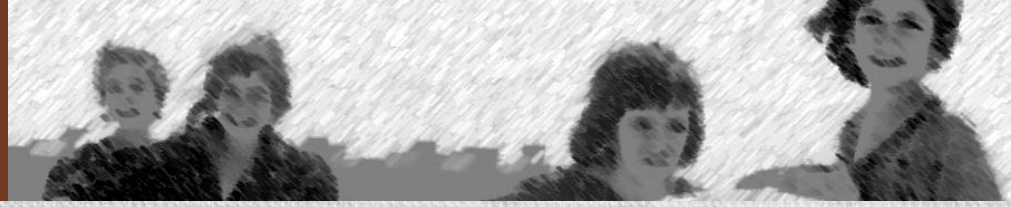
Background

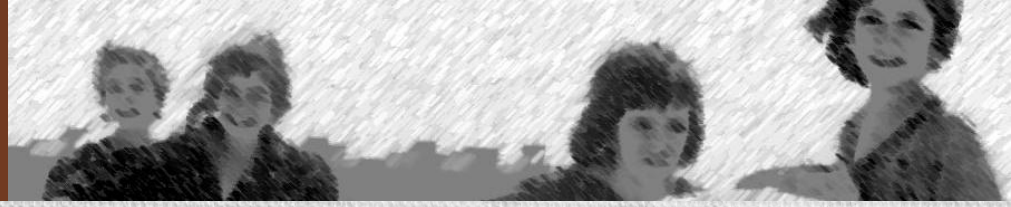


The majority of disasters in Africa are **hydro-meteorological in nature,** with **droughts** still affecting the largest number of people on the continent and **floods** occurring frequently along the major river systems and in many urban areas.

While geological hazards are less pronounced, **cyclones mainly affect Mozambique** and some of the islands.

On the other hand, a higher magnitude and frequency of these **extreme weather events** is expected with climate change.

Background



Disaster profile of SSA is closely connected with its **vulnerability** and exacerbated by **minimal coping capacities**.

Most OIC countries in the SSA region have **limited resources to invest in disaster risk reduction** and **minimal fiscal space to fund relief and recovery** efforts after a major disaster.

Disasters can be a **huge setback for economic growth** of the already struggling economies in the region with limited capacities of DRM.

Critical infrastructure (particularly in transportation, telecommunication and water resource management) are often **inadequate** and not constructed according to solid risk assessments.

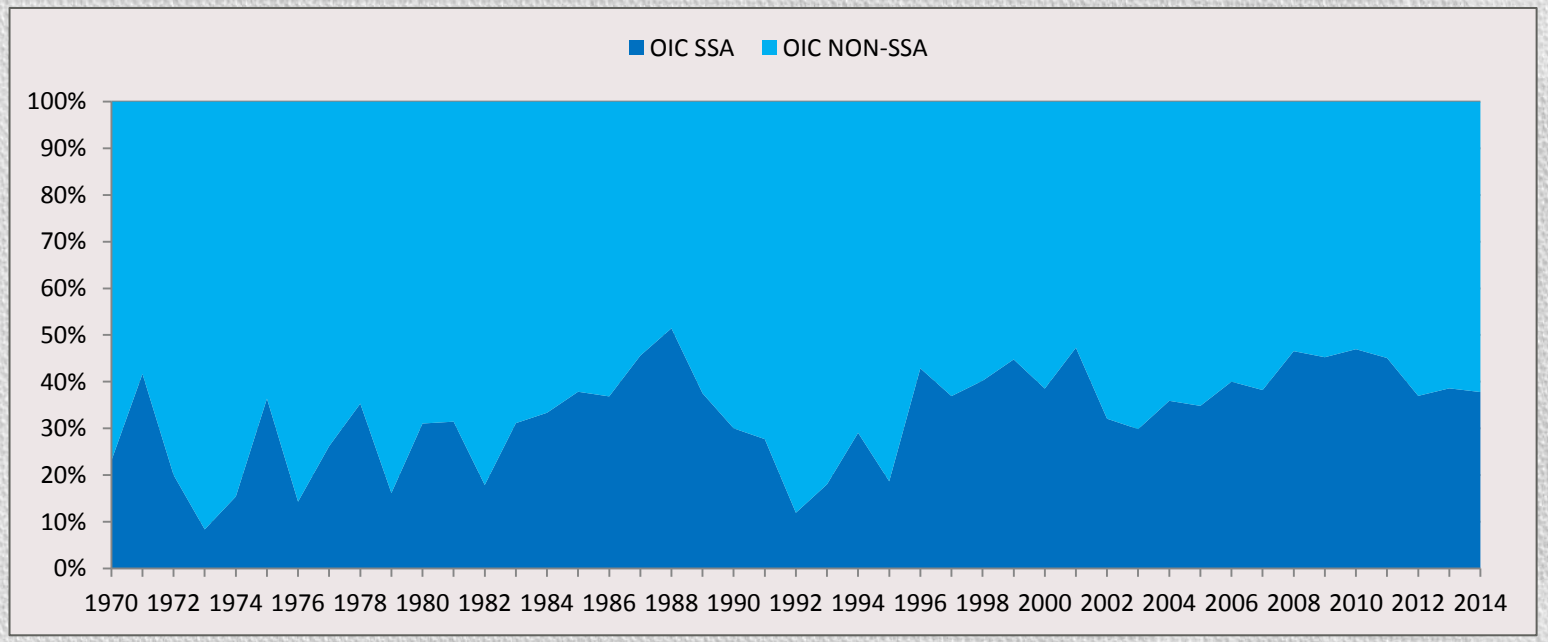
Moreover, a large proportion of the population lives in **informal settlements** often located in areas that are highly vulnerable to disasters.

Overview

Natural Disasters - I

Occurences

Figure: Total Number of Natural Disasters over Time (1970-2014)



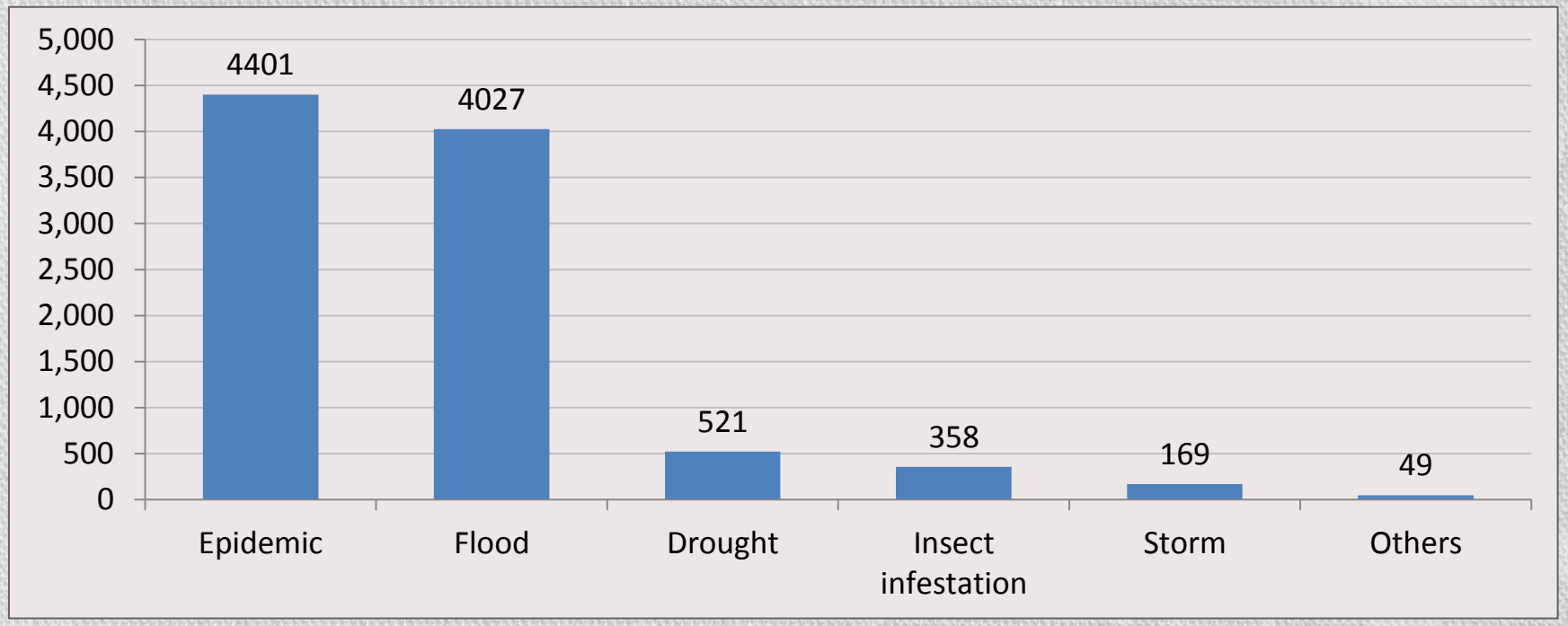
Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database.

- Since 2000, more than 600 disasters have been recorded in OIC countries in the SSA region (21 countries).
- These countries account around 40% of all disasters recorded in OIC after 2000.

Overview

Natural Disasters - II

Occurences by Disasters

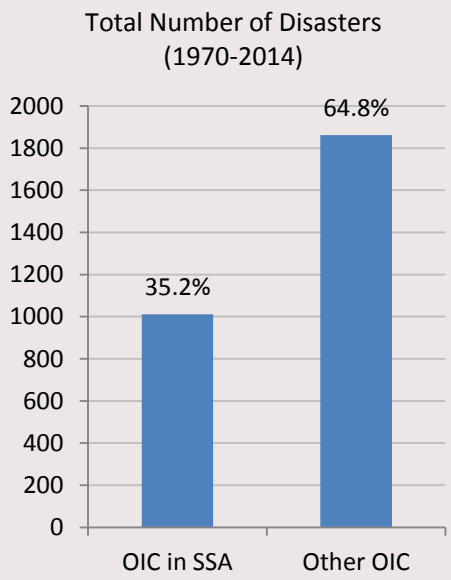


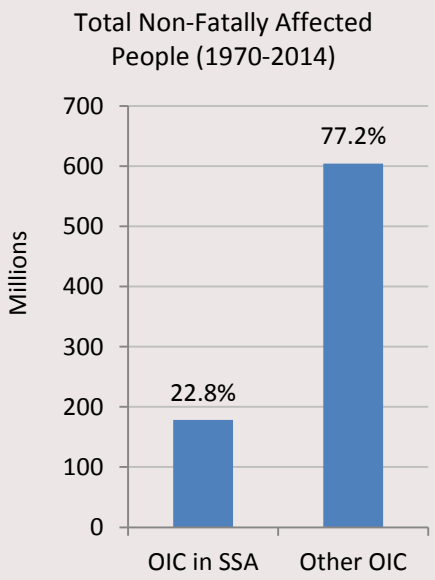
- Two most frequently observed types of disasters are epidemic and flood.
- They together account for 88% of all disasters in OIC-SSA.

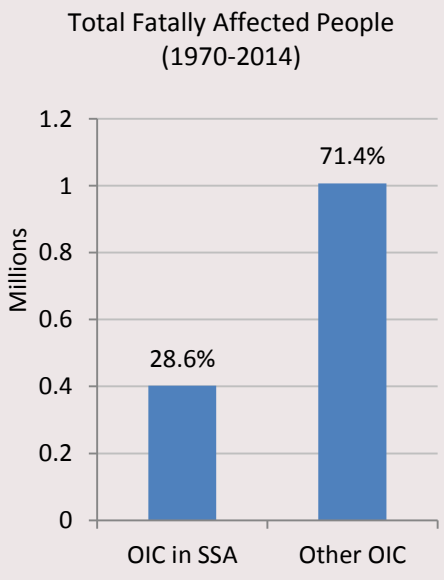
Overview

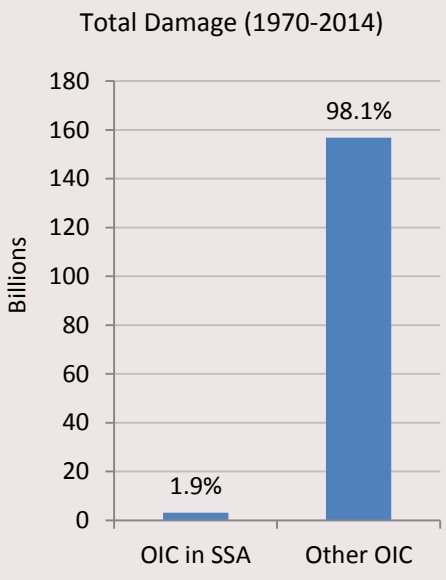
Natural Disasters - III

Impacts







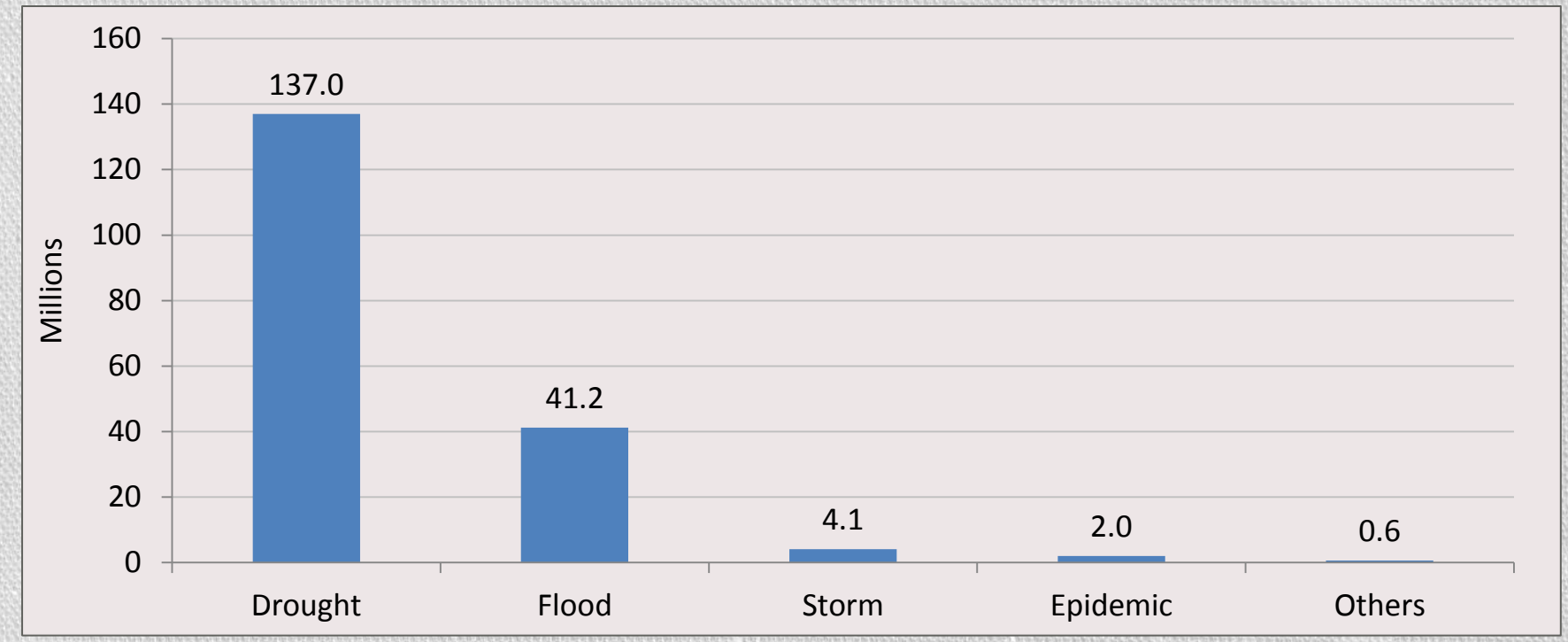


- 35% of all disasters recorded in OIC countries were experienced in SSA.
- 22.8% of non-fattally affected people were living in SSA.
- 28.6% of fatally affected people were living in SSA
- Only 1.9% of total damage recorded in OIC counries were in SSA.

Overview

Natural Disasters - IV

Impacts by Disasters

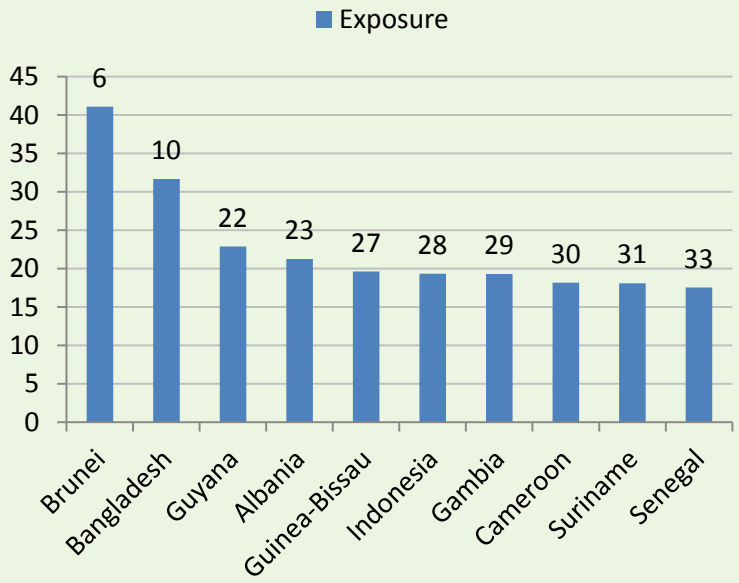


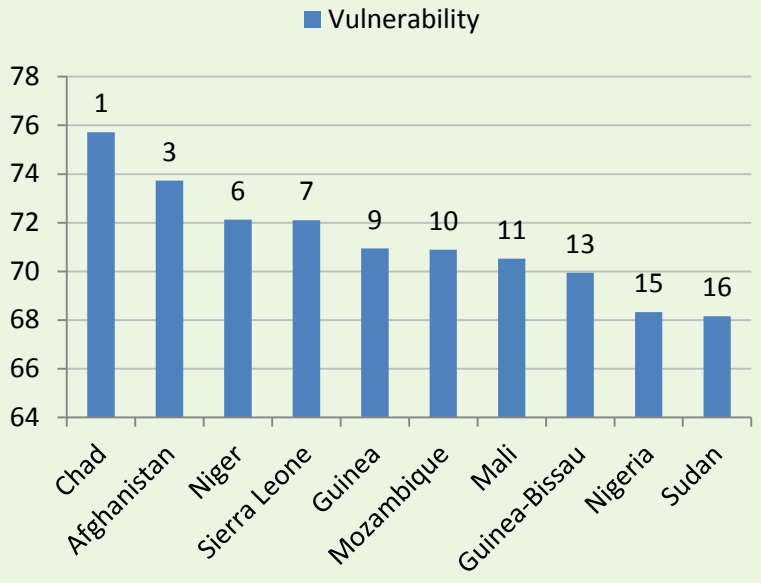
- However, drought affects more people that any other types of disasters.
- Floods also affected more than 41 million people in OIC-SSA.

Risks and Vulnerabilities - I

Exposure to Natural Hazards

Figure: Top OIC Countries based on World Risk Index





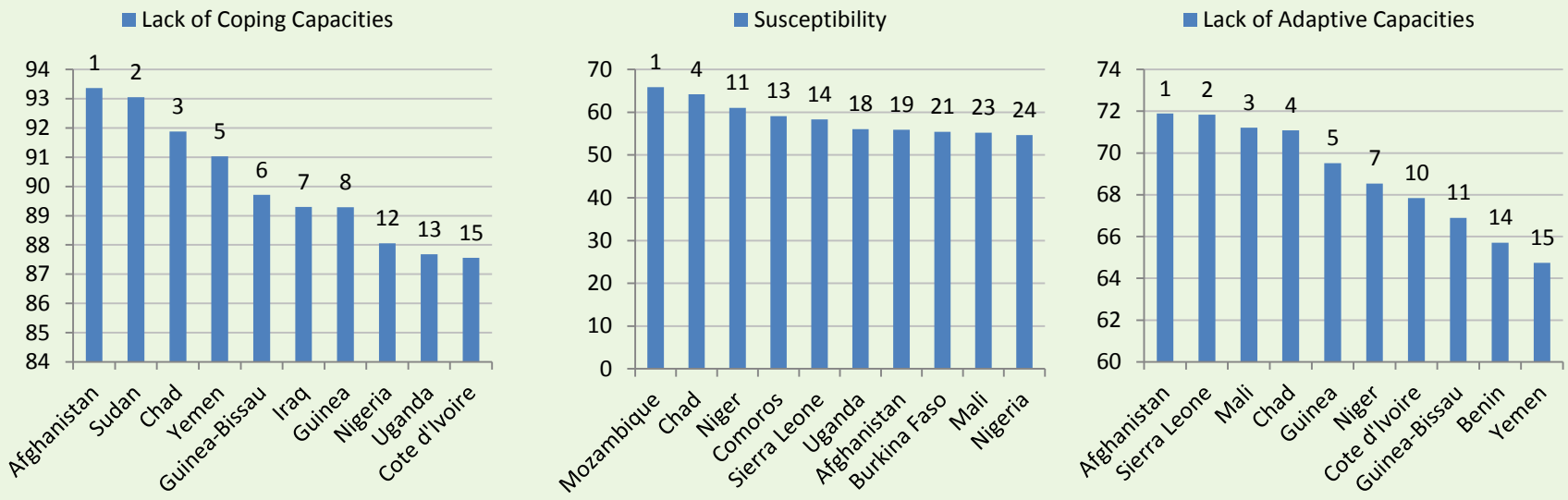
Source: UNU-EHS, 2014.

The levels of exposure to hazards in OIC countries are not necessarily high compared to other countries. However, the levels of vulnerability are very high and 10 OIC countries are among the most vulnerable 16 countries in the world.

Risks and Vulnerabilities - II

Exposure to Natural Hazards

Figure: Top OIC Countries based on World Risk Index



Source: UNU-EHS, 2014.

Lack of coping capacities: *7 OIC countries are among the top 8 countries in the world.*

Susceptibility: *Mozambique is the most vulnerable country in the world.*

Lack of adaptive capacities: *7 OIC countries are among the top 8 countries in the world.*

Disaster Risk Management Challenges

Critical Challenges of DRM in OIC-SSA

1. Limited fiscal resources and low resilience of economies
2. Limited infrastructure
3. Weak governance and institutional capacities
4. Limited knowledge base

Critical Challenges of DRM in OIC-SSA - I

Limited fiscal resources and low resilience of economies

- Public spending on **investments in DRR** competes with **other demands**, such as health, infrastructure, defense, and debt service.
- Additionally, the fiscal resources of many governments **cannot cover any relief and reconstruction efforts**.
- They face **shortages of funds**, as emergency funds are often not immediately available, and have difficulties accessing additional financing.
- Most countries in Africa depend fully or partly on **external aid and relief operations** following a major disaster event.

Critical Challenges of DRM in OIC-SSA - II

Limited Infrastructure

- **Infrastructure** to buffer against hydro-meteorological events is **fairly limited** compared to other continents.
- **Average water storage capacity** is very limited compared to developed countries.
- **Transport infrastructure, schools and hospitals** need to be constructed and maintained according to **minimum standards to resist** certain earthquakes, cyclones, or flood events.
- **Building codes and standards** are often not enforced and may result in higher costs for construction and the costs for reconstruction of extensive infrastructure networks can be a major burden for these economies.

Critical Challenges of DRM in OIC-SSA - III

Weak Governance and Institutional Capacities

- **Governance challenges** in SSA includes
  - **poor staffing and skills,**
  - **weak analytical and implementation capacity,**
  - an **unclear institutional and policy framework** addressing DRM across various ministries and agencies, and
  - **weak partnerships** with other agencies and academia, NGOs, and the private sector.
- In most countries, DRM policy and legislation follow an **ex-post responsive approach** to disasters and are often not equipped with the right strategies and instruments for an **ex-ante approach to risk reduction**.
- Even well-equipped national DRM authorities often lack **critical resources to invest** in communications, early warning systems, or vehicles.
- **Funding** for DRM authorities **at sub-national and local levels** is particularly limited.

Critical Challenges of DRM in OIC-SSA - IV

Limited Knowledge Base

- The capacities of a large number of DRM organizations in Africa are limited, not only due to lack of equipment, but more importantly due to a **lack of trained officials**.
- Graduate **courses for DRM specialists** to improve the knowledge base are rare in most countries.
- Widespread deficiencies in observing networks, telecommunications, and informatics system and **low capacities in data management** related to hydro-meteorological services.
- The knowledge base to assess other hazards (for example, geological equipment and experts to monitor earthquakes) is even more limited.
- For that reason, **planning for DRR** is generally not informed by a **comprehensive risk analysis** and thus it may not address the priority needs for effective disaster risk management.

Thank you for your attention!

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