

DISASTERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Regional Resilience for Sustainable Development



Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2015

Launch of APDR 2015



LAUNCH AND PRESENTATION ASIA AND THE PACIFIC DISASTER REPORTS

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UNDER SECRETARY UNITED NATIONS
AND EXECUTIVE SECRETART
UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
October 27, 2015**

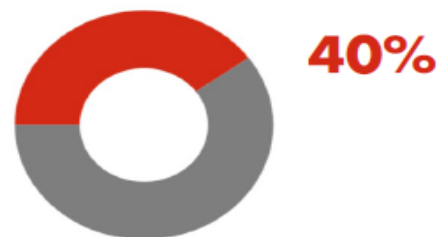
- **Losses and economic damages phenomenal and rising in Asia and the Pacific – building resilience is not a choice, but a collective imperative and key component of sustainable development**
- **Some belts have high risk exposure but low coping mechanism – case in point small islands, low lying areas and cities**
- **Increasing threats from transboundary disasters, be it seismic fault lines, typhoons, droughts, and floods across the region.**
- **Investing in disaster risk reduction is proven effective; but critical areas remain neglected – drought, early warning systems, and information systems**
- **Regional cooperation is critical to address the growing threats of disasters and critical for promoting sustainable development.**

Asia-Pacific: Building resilience is not a choice, but a collective imperative

Over the period of 2005-2014 in Asia-Pacific

 **1,625**
reported disaster
events

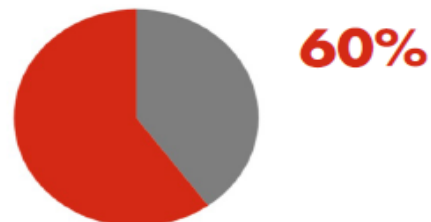
=
accounted for




Global disaster
events

 **500,000**
people lost their lives due
to disasters

=
accounted for




global deaths due
to disasters

 **1.4
billion**
people affected by
disasters

=
accounted for




global population
affected by disasters

 **US 523
billion**
worth of economic
damage caused by
disasters

=
accounted for




global economic
damage caused
by disasters

Economic Damages are rising!

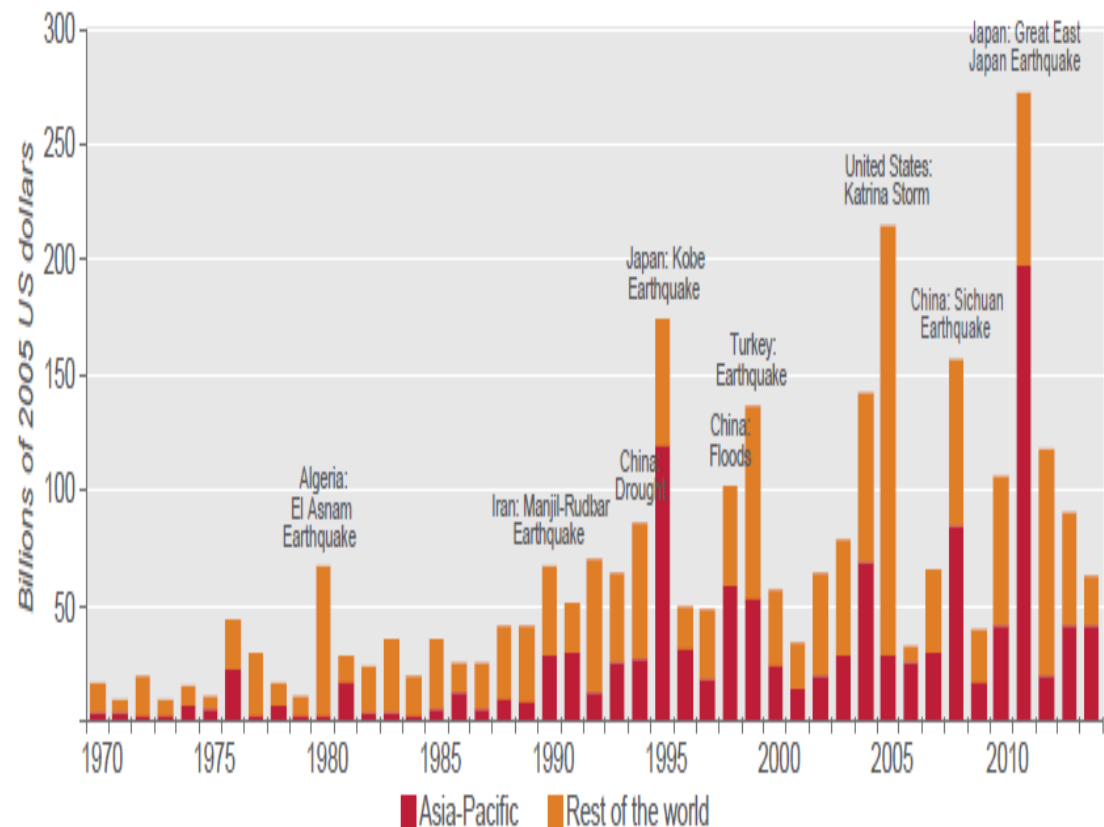
- **Damage from disasters increased from \$52 billion in the 1970s to over \$523 billion in the last decade.**
- **Based on present trends, by 2030, annual losses in the region could average US\$160 billion a year.**
- **Small island economies, least developed countries are disproportionately affected**

Damage and loss, 2015

Nepal earthquakes: 33% of GDP

Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu: 64% of GDP

Damage from natural disasters rising, 1970-2014



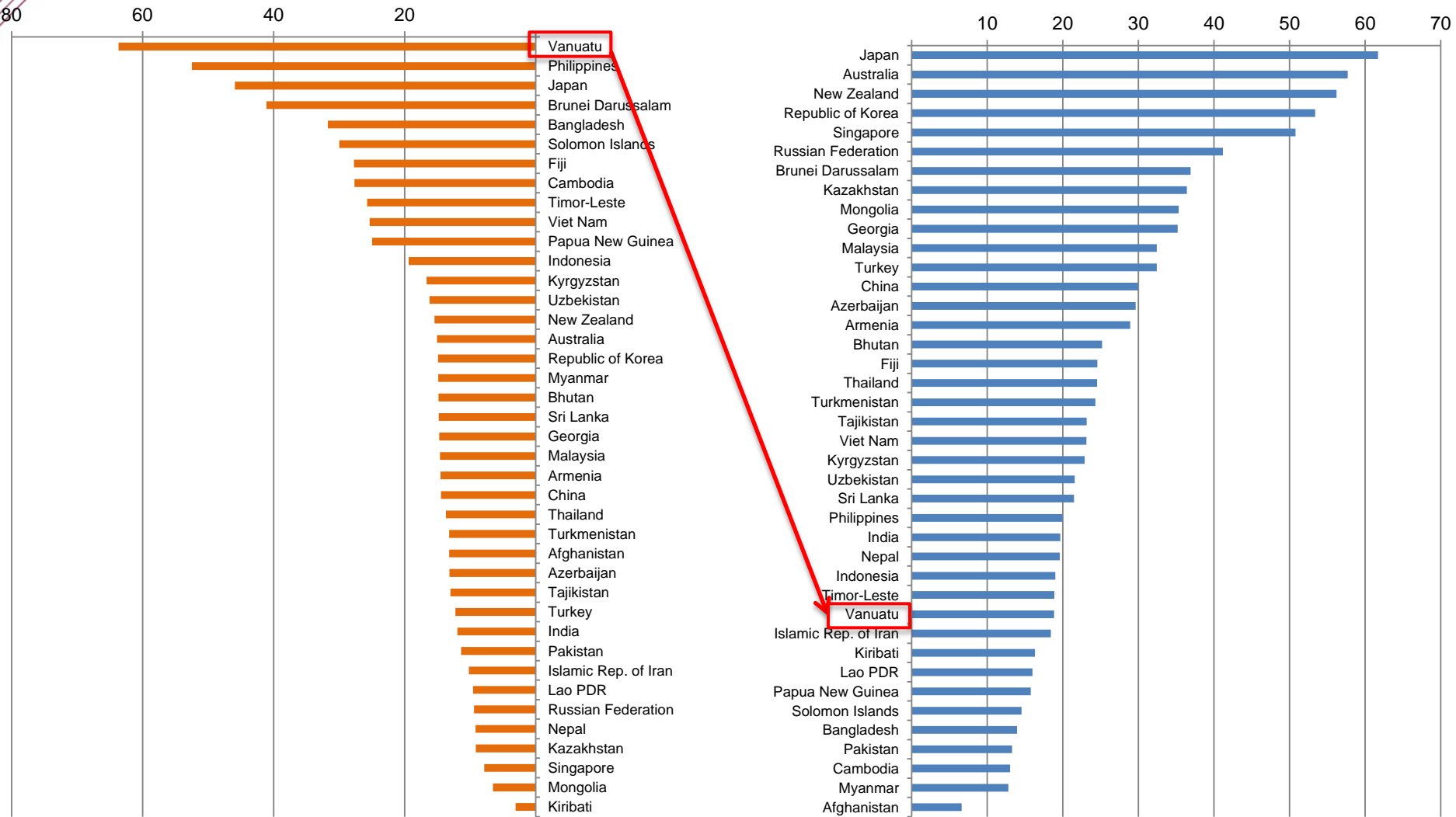
Source: ESCAP based on data from EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database. Available from <http://www.emdat.be/> (Accessed April 2015).

Notes: Labels in the figure show major disasters that contributed to high damage and loss in selected years.

Small islands and LDCs: High risks but low capacity to cope with disasters

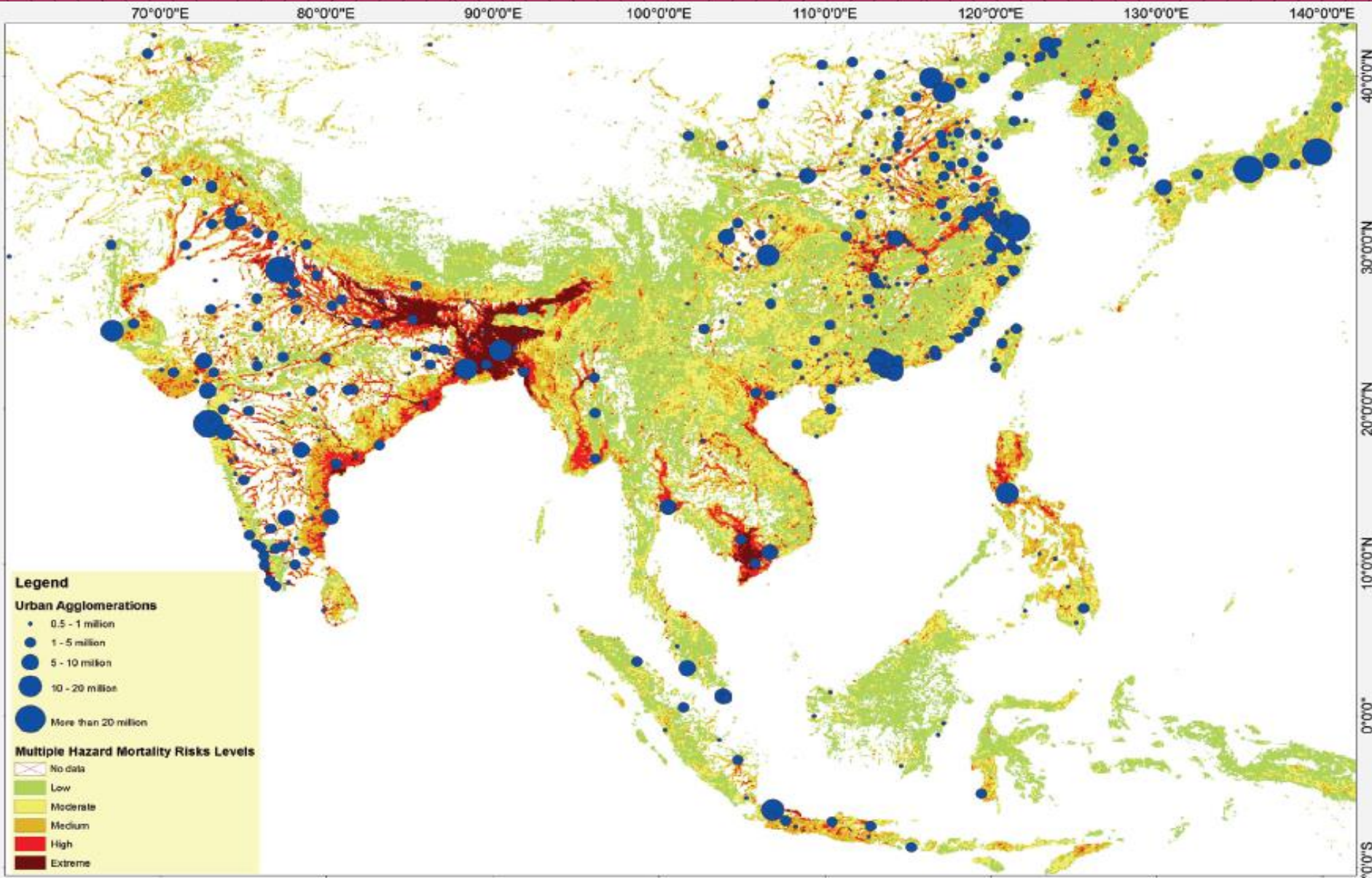
Exposure (%)


Coping capacities (%)



Source: ESCAP based on data from Alliance Development Works and UNU-EHS, 2014

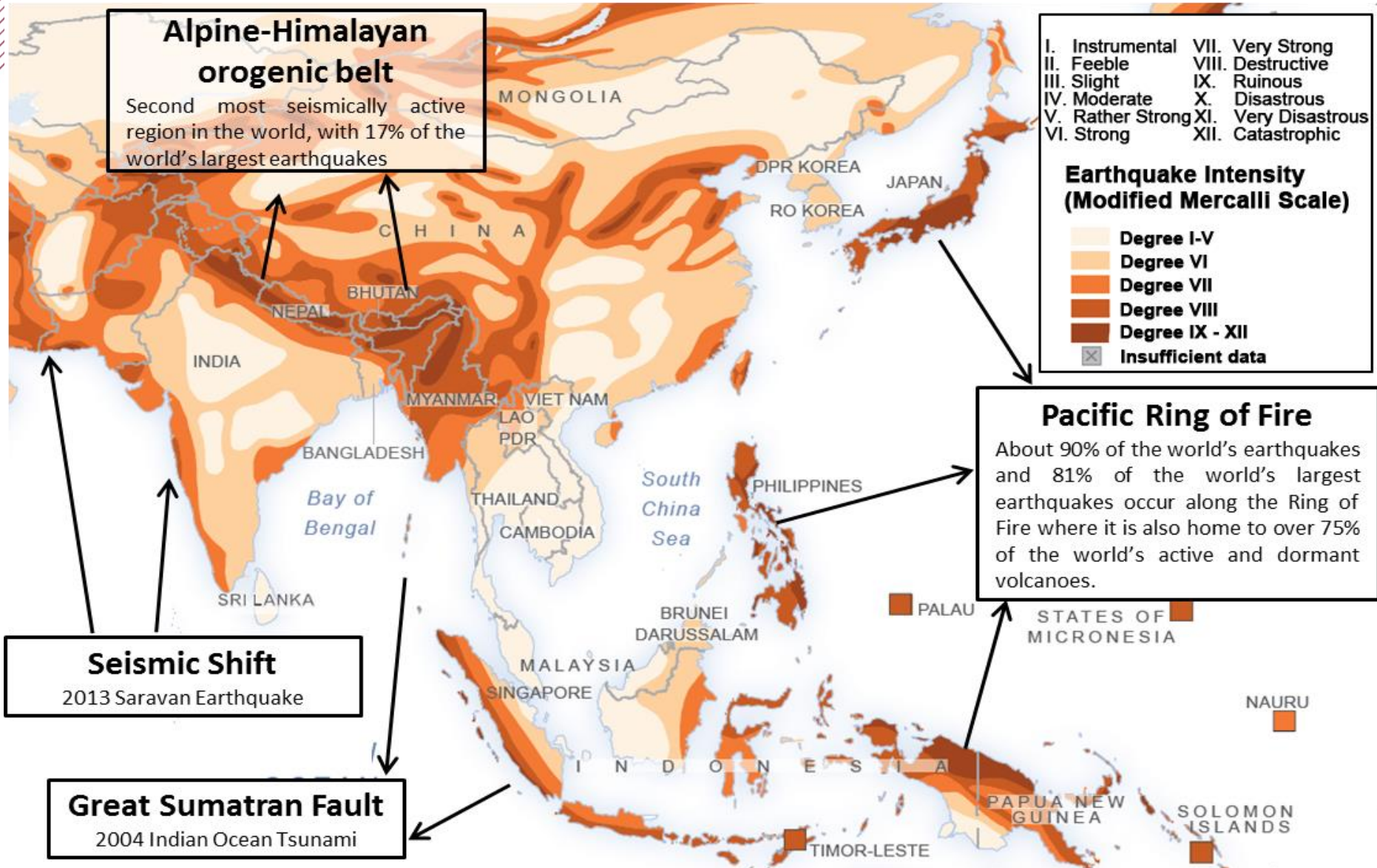
People living are at “extreme to high risk” in cities: predicted to rise from 742 to 980 million by 2030





**GROWING FREQUENCY OF DISASTERS
AND
WITH TRANSBOUNDARY IMPLICATIONS
HENCE, REQUIRE REGIONAL RESPONSE!**

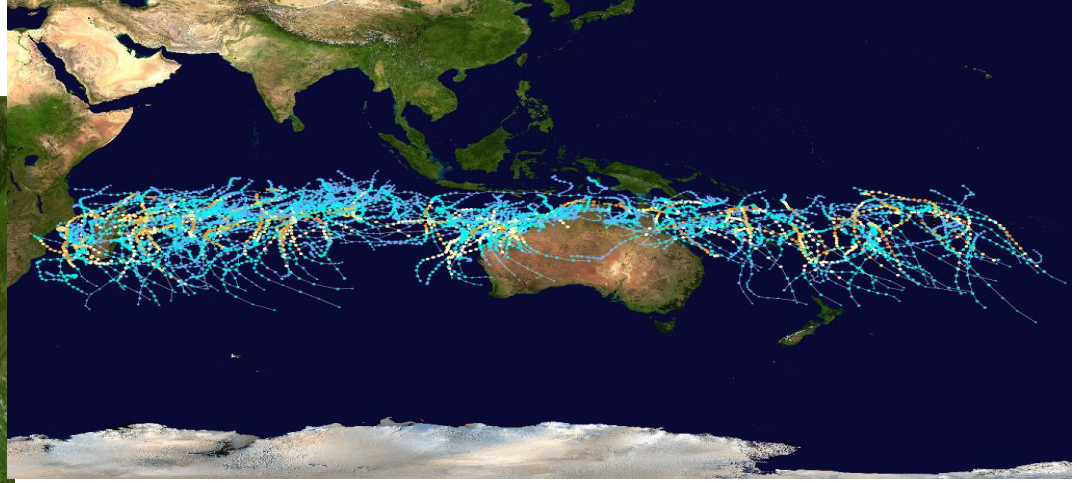
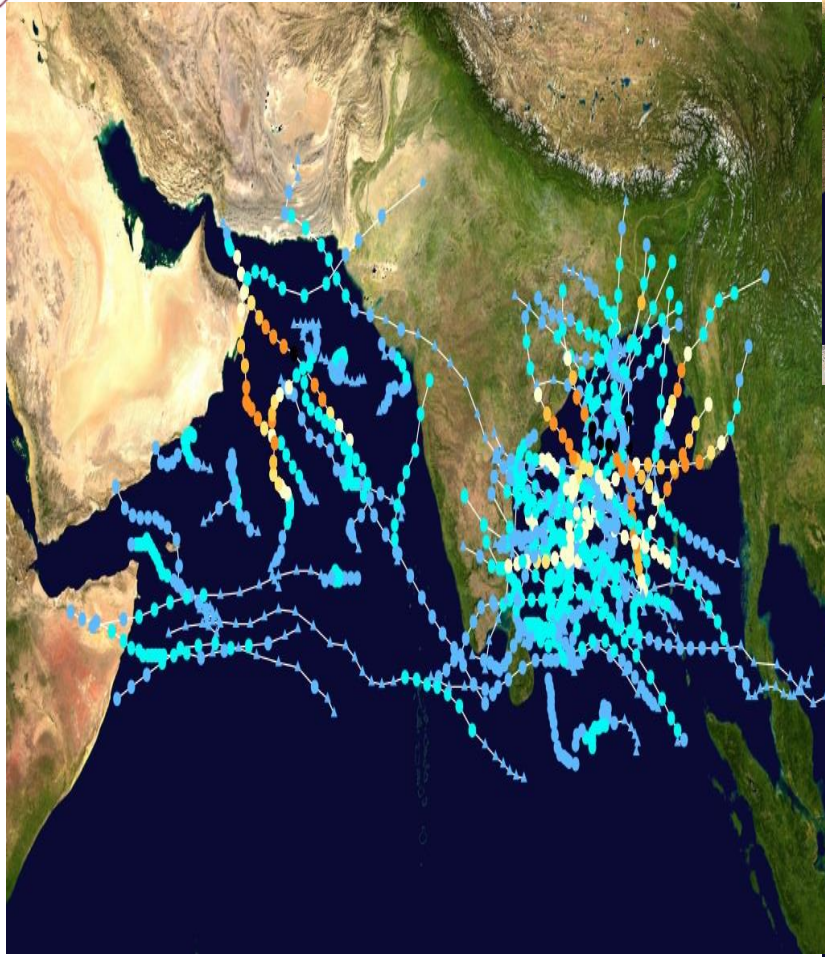
Transboundary seismic active faultly lines: the Pacific Ring of Fire and the Alpine-Himalayan orogenic belt



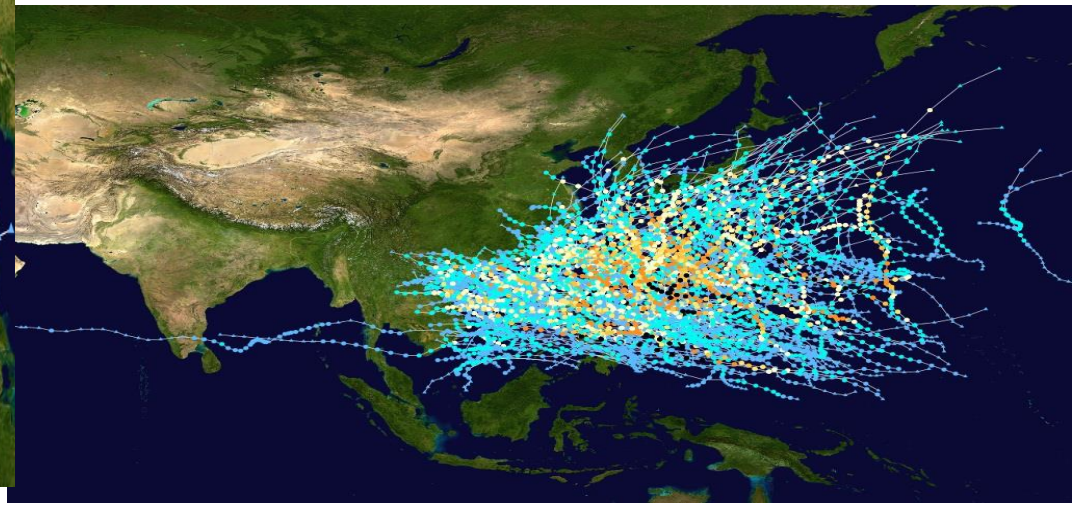
Transboundary tropical cyclone: Of 86 tropical cyclones globally every year, 50 to 60 occur in the three Asia-Pacific ocean basins



Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea



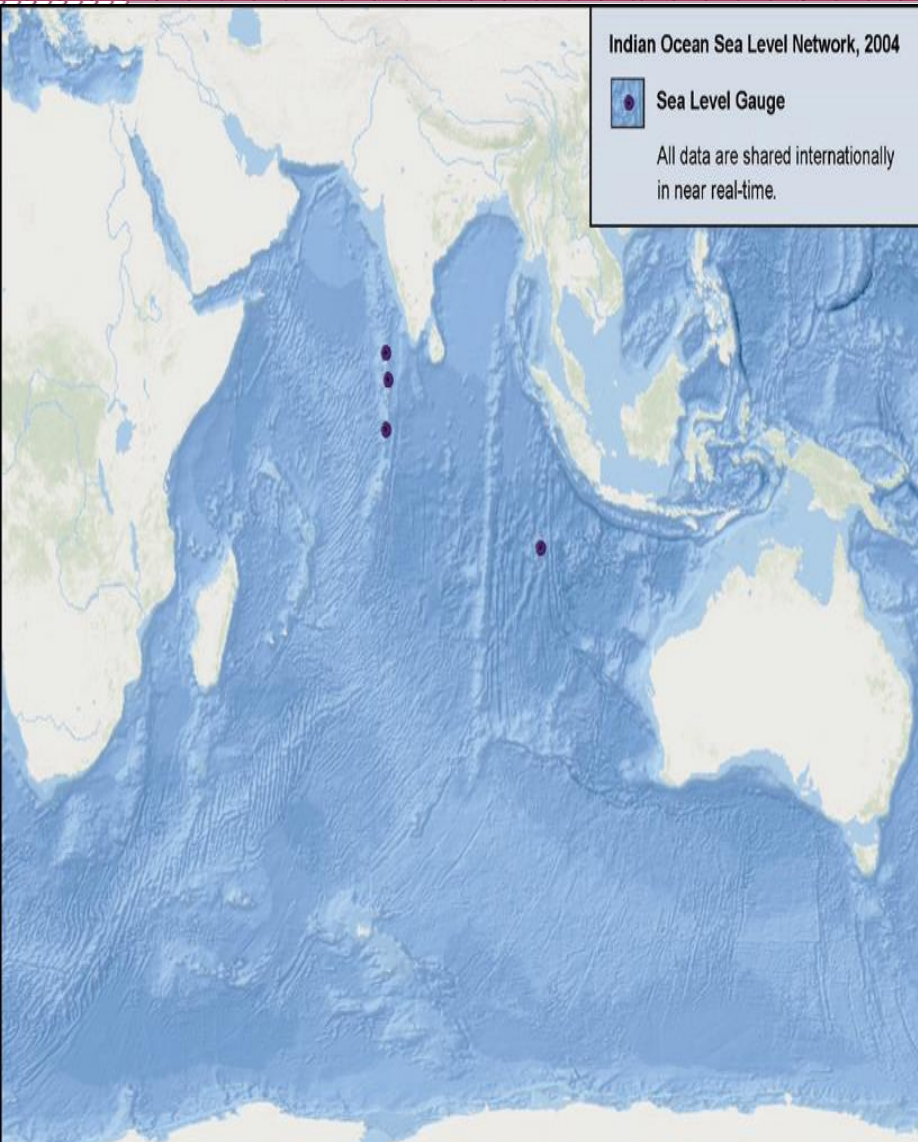
South-West Pacific Ocean



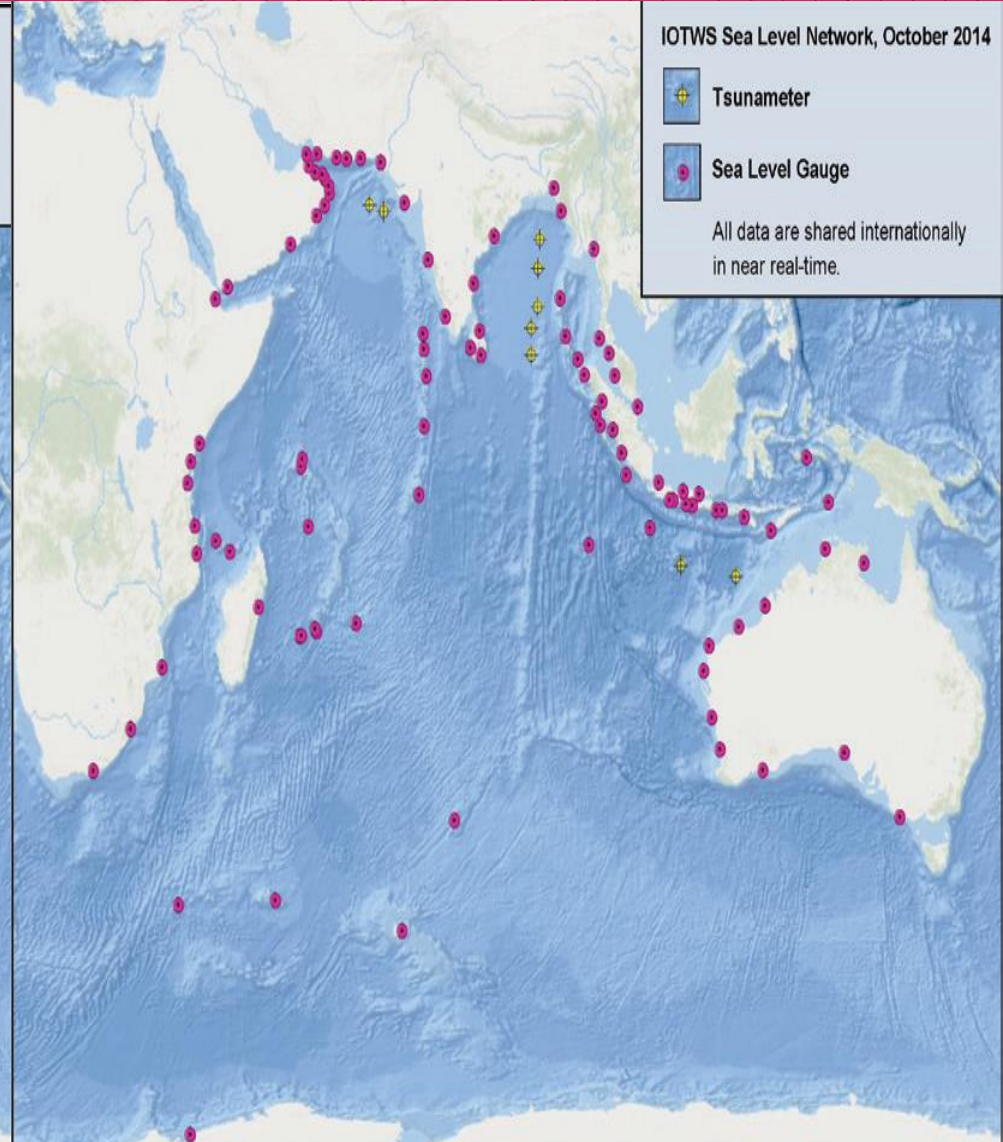
Western North Pacific Ocean & South China Sea

Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (EWS) Saves Lives

--Since Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004, EWS strengthened but gaps remain in the "last mile" for ESW

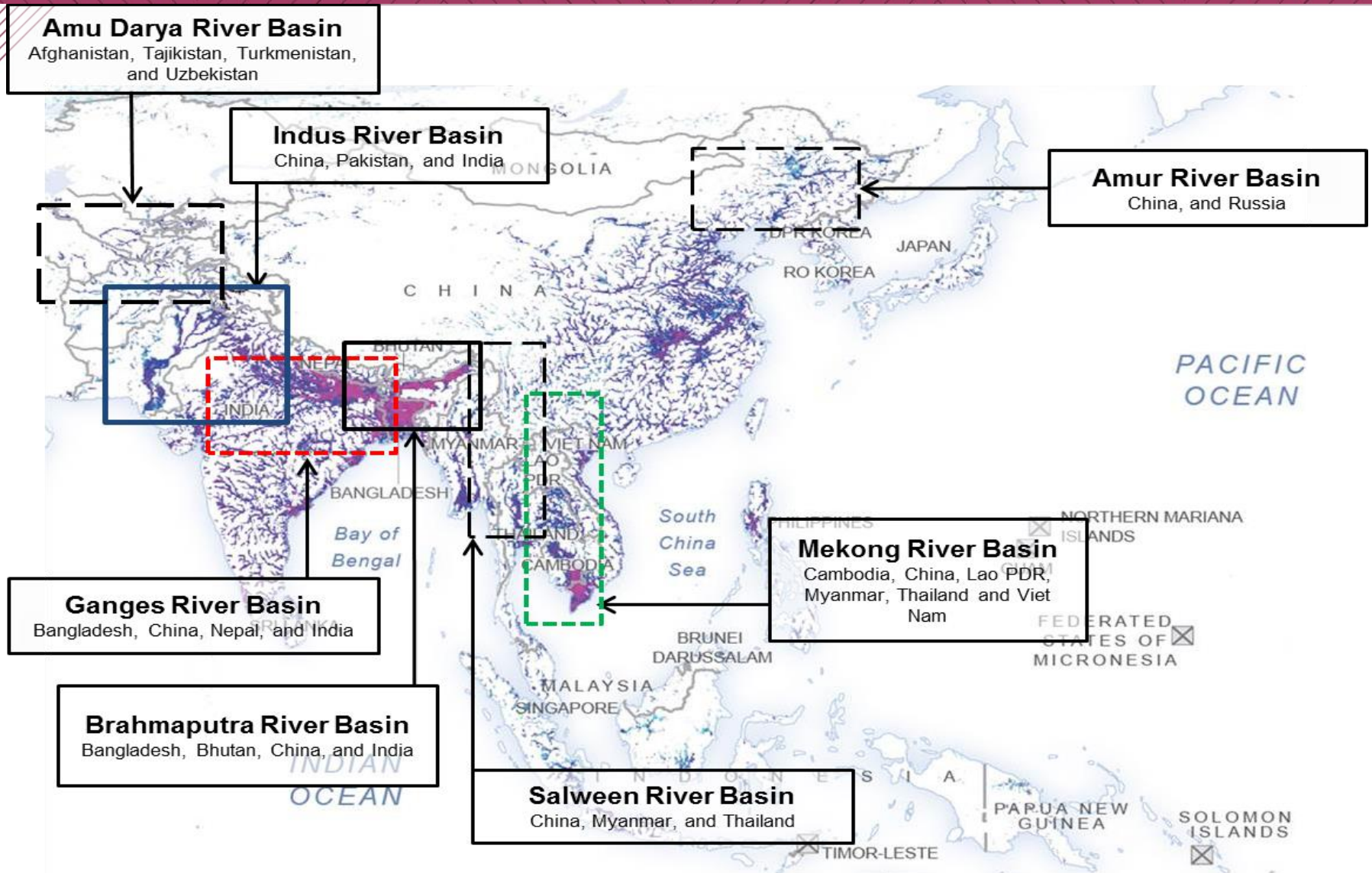


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



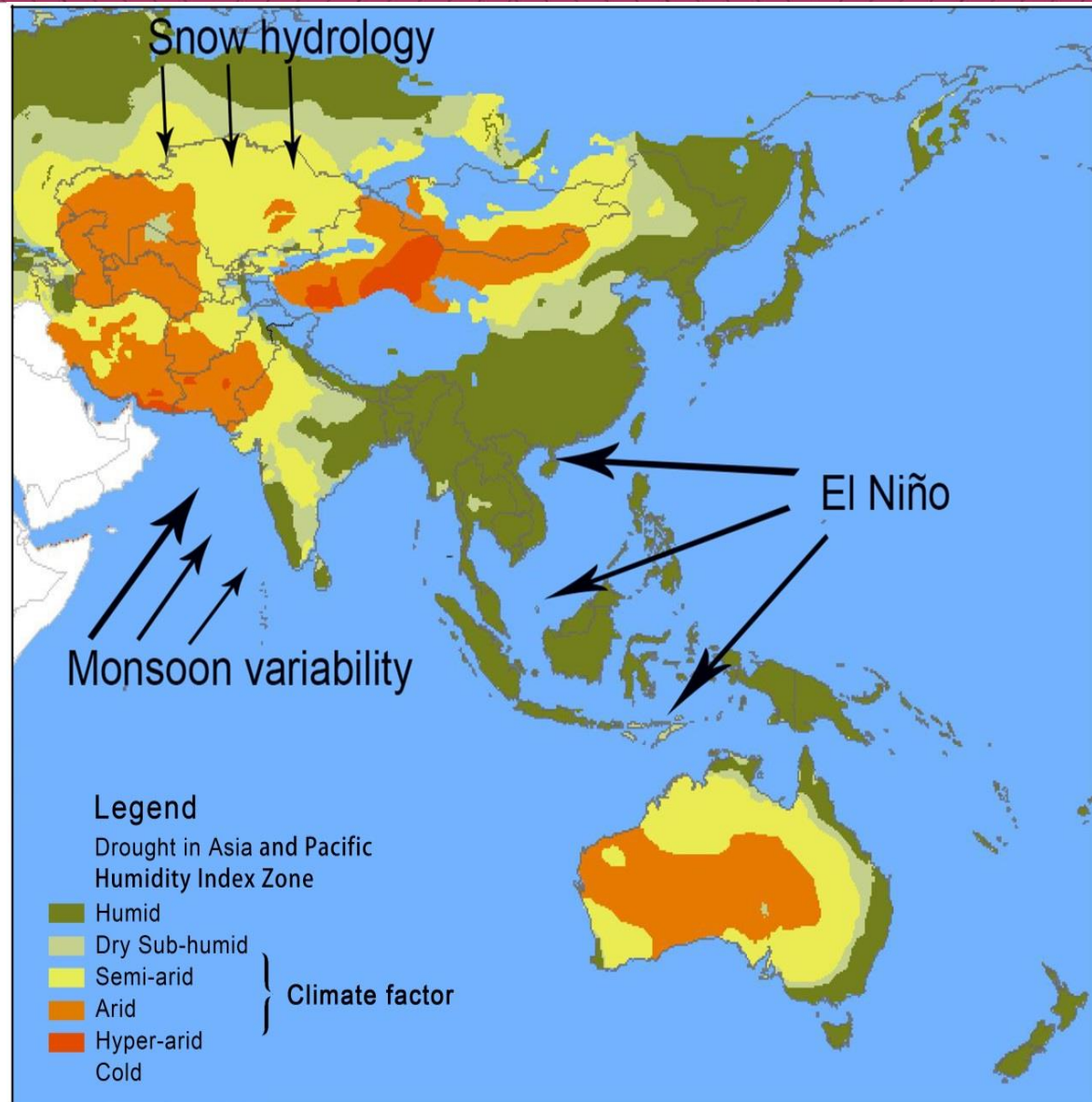
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Transboundary Floods: predicted to be the biggest cause of disaster losses by 2030 as major river basins are shared among many countries



Droughts transboundary in nature too

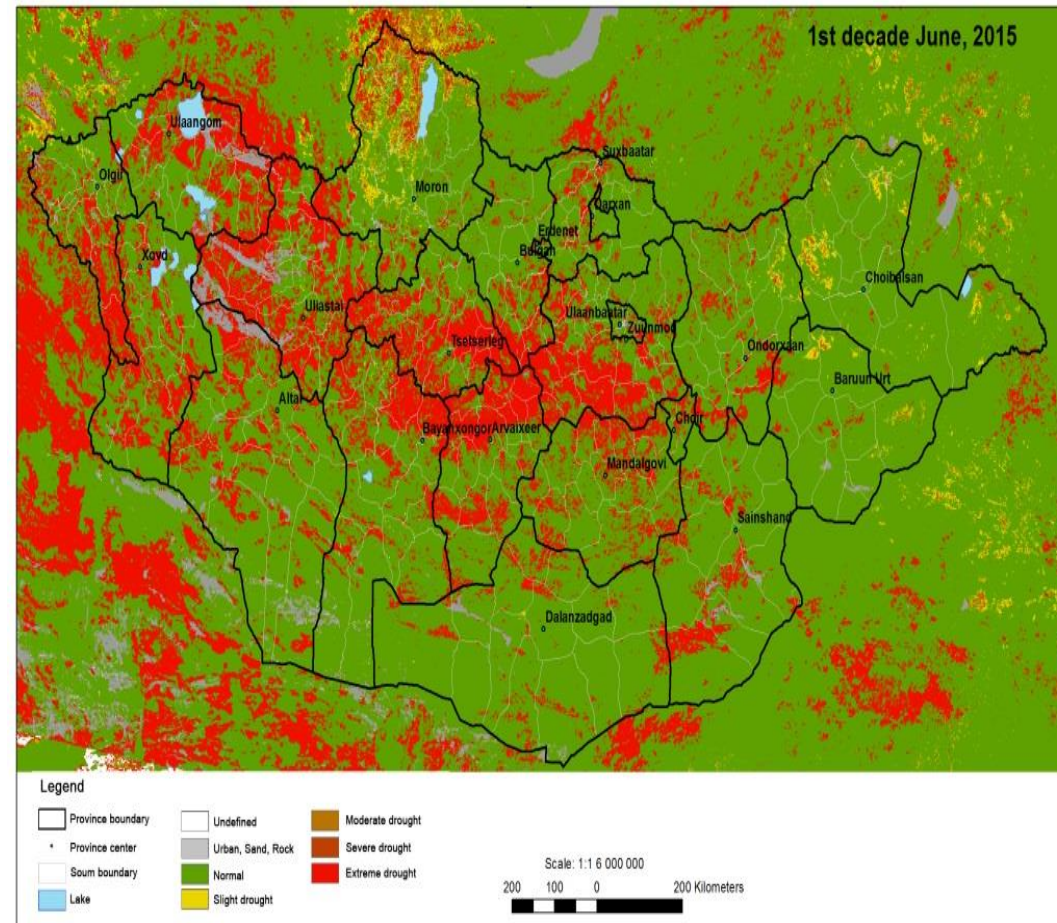
- Unlike other regions in the world, drought manifests differently in Asia-Pacific and is often forgotten - irregularities in the monsoon season, reduced snowfall or glacial runoff, or winter droughts like the *dzud*.
- Drought exacerbates poverty - more than 1.6 billion people affected by drought since 1970s.
- Land and water constraints and changing climate patterns will increase the risk.



Drought Response: Key Components

- **Long-term risk management:** addressing drought through comprehensive risk management
- **A livelihood approach while maintaining ecosystems:** supporting poverty eradication
- **Multisectoral coordination:** involving many government ministries and other stakeholders
- **Using science and technology:** space applications, hydrology, meteorology, climate risk models
- **Index-based parametric insurance and social safety nets:** to support those in need
- **Regional cooperation:** ESCAP Regional Drought Mechanism

Drought indexing for Mongolia



ESCAP Drought Mechanism Pilot: a synthesis of indices using ground and space based observations, June 2015

Five priorities for early warning

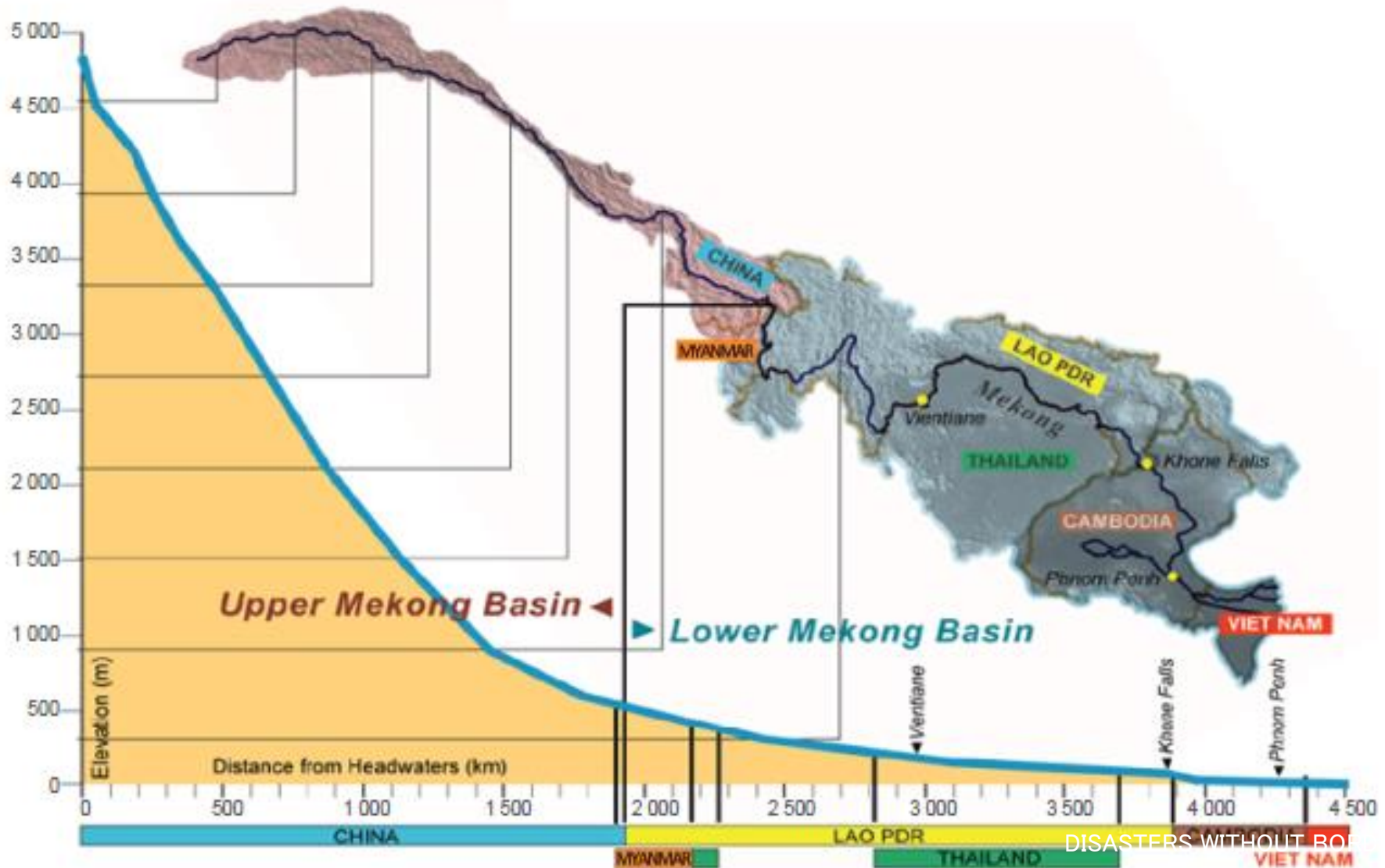
- 1. Integrate the ‘early warning as a public good’ in the national planning, policy and decision-making and secure long term funding**
- 2. Make early warning systems (EWS) multi-hazard and people-centered, keeping in mind the “last mile” response requirements**
- 3. Increase the lead time forecast of EWS yields multiple benefits including risk resilient and livelihood opportunities.**
- 4. Forecasters to be mindful of the needs of the end users of different types of EWS and information, and tailor products and services accordingly.**
- 5. Strengthen regional cooperation in ESW, going beyond coastal hazards to include hazards such as transboundary river basin floods.**

Providing right information, to right people, at the right time saves lives

Key Elements of The APFDR: Roadmap for achieving effective and resilient information management

- **Develop policies for**
 - Real time data flows and information sharing
 - Ensure information sharing for transboundary disasters
 - Develop information sharing capacity for its use
 - location-based information services and decision support tools
 - Coordination among agencies, cross boundary too
- **Ensuring ICT management systems that offer understanding, assessment and access of information of risks:**
 - Define what is at risk, what was lost, and what could be our future losses?
 - Promote access to reliable disaster information.
 - Ensure it helps to improve finance and insurance
 - Risk information offered in a coordinated manner

Regional cooperation in Information sharing critical for transboundary risk management – illustrative case of the Mekong river profile from headwaters to mouth



Key Messages of APDR 2015

Analysis of disasters and impacts over the past decade show:

- **Rising exposure of economies, cities, infrastructure and people to disaster risk.**
- **Small islands, least developed countries (LDCs) are most at risk and lack the capacity to cope when a disaster strikes.**
- **Increasing threats from transboundary disasters across the region.**

Investing in disaster risk reduction is proven effective; but critical areas remain neglected – drought, early warning systems, and information systems

Regional cooperation is critical to address these growing threats.

Disaster response critical for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



- **Political commitments made at global forums have to be matched by actions and finance.**
- **Many countries need to follow consistent and coherent approach to addressing disasters—with the focus on response to be accompanied by disaster risk reduction**
- **International assistance need to go beyond emergency response to risk preparedness, prevention and mitigation**
- **Efforts to strengthen resilience effective only when integrated into overall strategies of sustainable development**
- **Just as every sector can be affected by disasters, so every sector needs to consider how to make its activities disaster resilient**
- **Regional cooperation is critical to addressing disasters in Asia and the Pacific**
- **Asia-Pacific cannot achieve the SDGs without building resilience to disasters.**

Thank you!