



# MAKING EVERY DROP COUNT!

The importance of assessing the real cost of disasters

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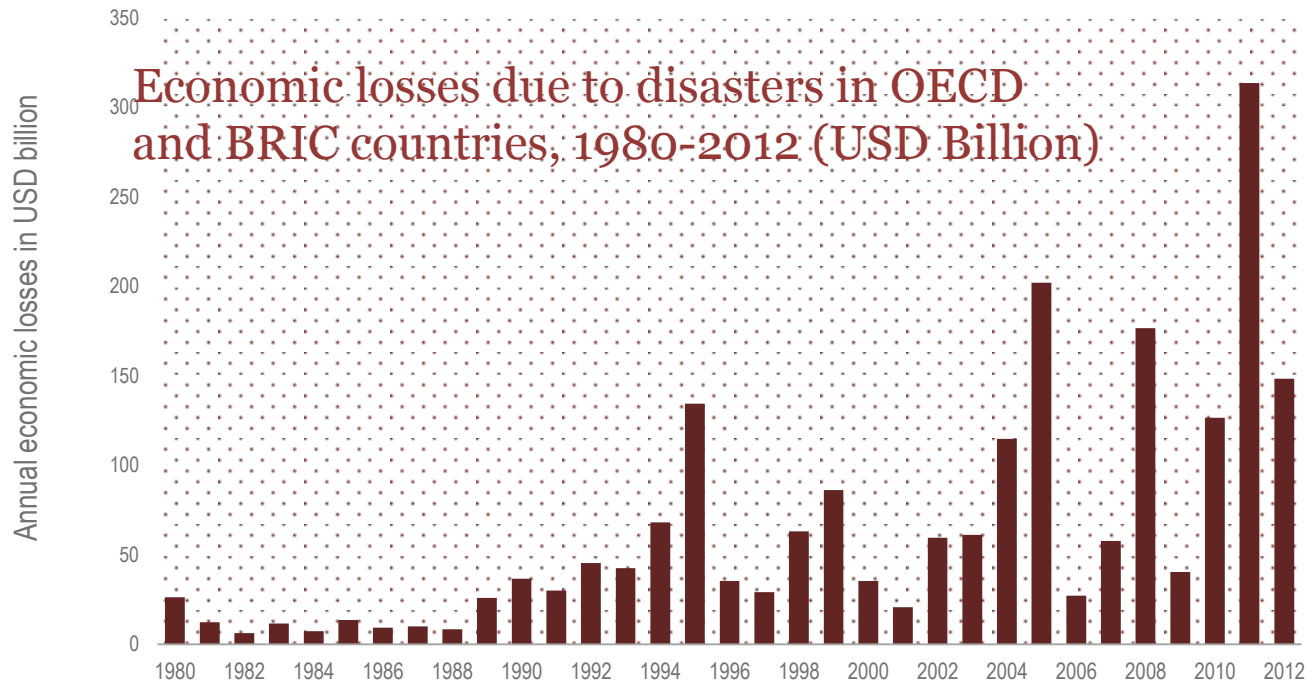
11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water  
and Disasters (HELP)

Geneva, 3-4 May 2018



# Overall costs are increasing : Do we know where and why ?

- Past decade: **USD 1.5 trillion in economic damages** from disasters
- A large mix, but water is a key driver of economic losses



Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database, Université catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, [www.emdat.be](http://www.emdat.be) (accessed 14 November 2013).



# Which alliances to build better evidence ?

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- Increase in economic damages believed to outpace national DRR investments...But where is the evidence ?
- We need standardised information on DRM expenditure and disaster losses to :
  - Support the evaluation and prioritisation of DRR investments and assess the effectiveness of resilience measures.
  - Facilitate cross-country comparisons
  - Provide systematic indicators on global DRR objectives (Sendai Framework, SDG's)



# OECD collaborative project on assessing the real costs of disasters:

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1. Review national and international efforts recording ex-post disaster losses:
2. Assess ongoing national efforts and propose draft framework for assessing public spending for DRM:
3. Multiple partnerships
  - Japan, MLIT JICE
  - UNISDR, OEIWG
  - EU / JRC
  - Placard, UN, WB experts



## Key findings

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- Significant progress in accounting for social losses (fatalities)...
- but estimates of economic losses remain inconsistent
- Integrated political responsibility comes with more integrated information repositories
- Water is the risk for which there is most economic data available
- International agreements (Sendai) offer aspirational frameworks
- The price of political and administrative fragmentation: few multihazard databases.
- Option to build observatories and leverage partnership with the private sector.
- Most countries report only direct damages, although sometimes estimations on indirect losses are made for large-scale disasters



# Assessing disaster losses and damages: country evidence

Many OECD & partner countries collect disaster loss data ...

Country	Host institution	Hazards
Australia	No centralized national repository, but various comprehensive databases	Natural
Austria	No centralized national repository, but sectoral repositories for different ministries	Natural
Canada	Public Safety Canada	Natural & man-made
Colombia	Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres	Natural
Costa Rica	Ministry of Economic Policy and National Planning (MIDEPLAN)	Natural
Finland	No centralized national repository, but sectoral repositories for different ministries	Natural & man-made
France	Observatoire national des risques naturels	Natural
Japan	No centralised national repository, but sectoral repositories for different ministries	Natural
Mexico	National Disaster Prevention Centre (CENAPRED)	Natural & man-made
Poland	Ministry of the Interior and Administration	Natural
Slovak Republic	Ministry of Interior and Ministry of the Environment	Natural
Slovenia	Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, Ministry of Defence	Natural
Sweden	Swedish Civil Contingencies	Natural
Switzerland	No centralized national repository, but sectoral repositories for different ministries	Natural
Turkey	Disaster and Emergency Management Authority	Natural & man-made



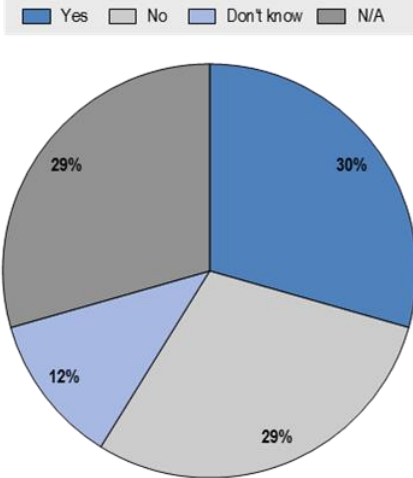
Source: 2016 OECD survey;



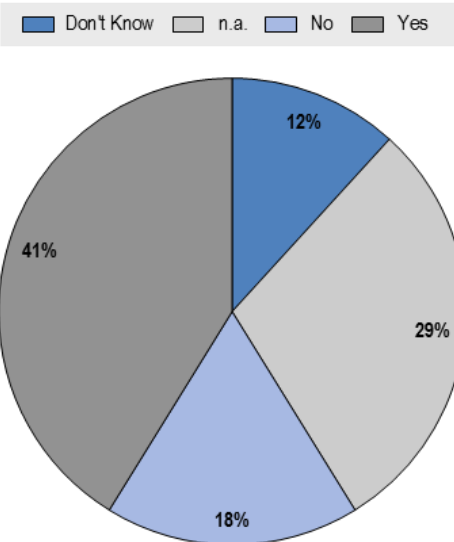
# A lack of a common language and comparability remains limited



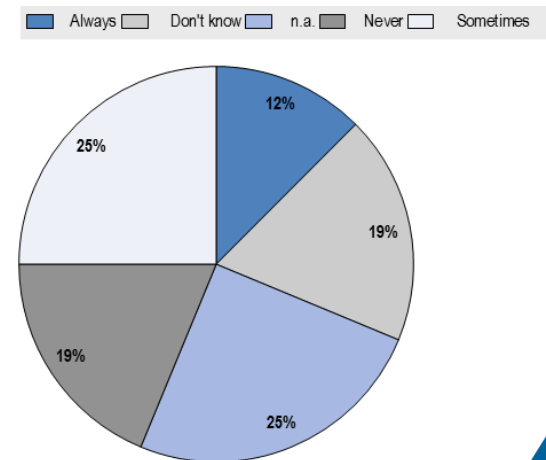
## Thresholds for collecting disaster impact data



## Distinction between publicly and privately accrued damages



## Are direct and indirect losses separately accounted?



Source: 2016 OECD survey; 17 country responses

- Disaster loss data collection lacks common language
- Aggregated disaster loss figures hide the distributional impacts of disasters, hampering effective disaster risk reduction strategies



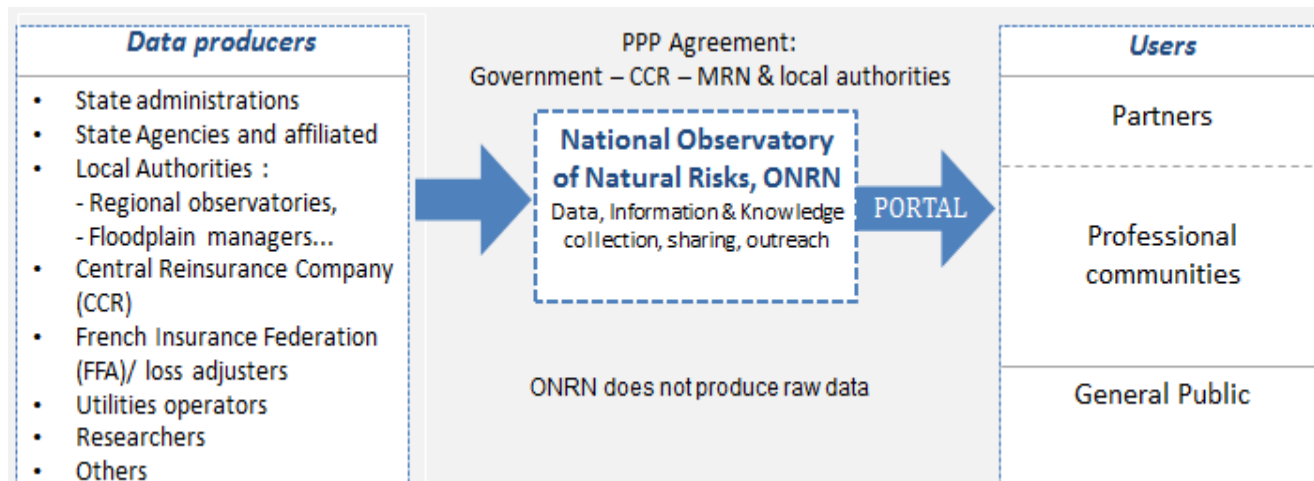
# Improving disaster loss and damage assessments: the value of public private partnerships



## Sharing data collected by non-government agencies

- Data on insured losses often more comprehensive, systematically recorded
- Can provide a basis for estimating overall economic losses
- Public-private partnerships as an innovative way to improve information sharing between public authorities and private organisations

### Example: National Observatory of Natural Risks (ONRN)





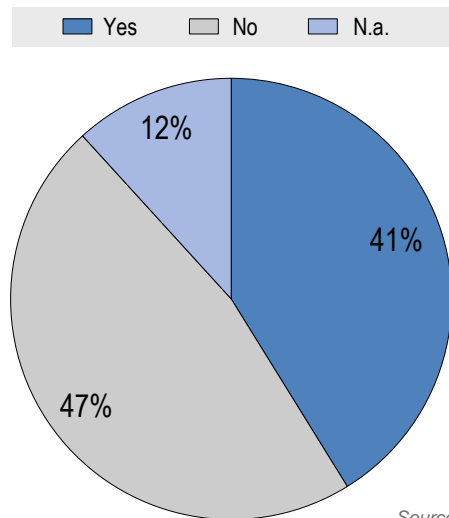


# Expenditure on DRM: How much do countries spend ?



... policy makers rely on an incomplete picture of their country's spending on disaster risk management

Is information on expenditure collected?



Source: 2016 OECD survey; 17 country responses

- Available data focuses predominantly on specific spending categories & central government spending
- Disaster risk management expenditure not always earmarked in public accounts/ budgets
- Embedded disaster risk management expenditure across many government sectors



## Assessing public (and private) expenditure for DRM: the need for increased comparability

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- ✓ Reviews that exist are result of specific project to retrieve DRM expenditure information from national accounts and sectoral budgets
- ✓ Usually one-off efforts (although some include historical data)
- ✓ Some focus on distinguishing expenditure along the DRM cycle (e.g. preparedness vs. response spending), others gather information on specific hazards
- ✓ Objective is to find a way to obtain such information from governments in a comparative way on a continuous basis



## CONCLUSION

### AN UNFINISHED AGENDA

WATER IS ONE OF THE AREAS WITH GREATEST NEEDS

Thank you

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High Level Risk Forum