



# Reducing and managing disaster risk: our approach

Recent decades have witnessed a marked rise in the number, severity, and impact of disasters from natural hazards, and this trend is expected to accelerate in the coming years.

At the midpoint of the Sendai Framework, much more is needed to ensure better and stronger systems to support people, communities, and countries prepare for, mitigate, and respond to disasters.

## Key issues

- » In the **governance** arena, governments need capacity to rapidly implement the policies and investments required at all levels to support vulnerable women, men, and children to adapt to the effects of climate change and build resilience to disasters.
- » In the **economic** sphere, Covid-19 has left governments and budgets in urgent recovery mode. In the face of a global recession, countries need to identify opportunities that simultaneously support disaster protection, adaptation, and low-carbon growth.
- » In disaster **financing**, having a plan and funding agreed pre-disaster allows a cheaper, swifter, and more effective response. It is vital for countries to develop a range of financing options to respond to disasters at different scales.

Oxford Policy Management is a global policy consultancy with extensive experience in the design, review, and implementation of effective policies and actions for reducing and managing disaster risk.

Working across different regions, we design, implement, and evaluate policies and strategies that provide for disaster preparedness, risk

reduction, response, and recovery, and help governments understand and implement risk financing measures.

Our disaster risk projects focus on diverse areas including flood management, vulnerability assessment, early warning, emergency cash transfers, and disaster insurance.

# Selected major projects

## 1. Building Resilience in Ethiopia (BRE)

Ethiopia is increasingly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate-induced disasters and other human-made factors which are a major development challenge for the country. **Building Resilience in Ethiopia – Technical Assistance (BRE-TA)** is a three year (2019-2022) project managed by Oxford Policy Management for the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office and co-funded with USAID.

BRE-TA is helping the Ethiopian government strengthen their shock-response systems to anticipate and respond to recurrent climatic and humanitarian shocks and resulting acute needs. This includes updating the overarching Disaster Risk Management policy and sector governance, strengthening regional public health preparedness and response, developing a national disaster risk financing strategy, reforming the early warning system, and making the social protection system (cash and food) more shock-responsive.

This long-term support is complemented by more urgent technical assistance and capacity building for responding to the worst drought in 40 years to affect pastoralists, the Covid-19 response, and training in the provision of emergency nutrition during humanitarian crises.

## 2. Policy and Institutions Facility (PIF) in Nepal

Nepal is highly vulnerable to many types of disasters including the impacts of climate change, as more than two thirds of the country's economy depends on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture and tourism. As such, the Government of Nepal is highly engaged across all levels in building capacity and policies to effectively address these challenges.

Through the **Policy and Institutions Facility (PIF)**, Oxford Policy Management is supporting the Government in developing policies and institutions for tackling climate change and strengthening disaster risk reduction and resilience. The facility aims to ensure that its work contributes to climate change management and disaster resilience for the most vulnerable communities, including women, children, and people with disabilities.

## 3. Assessment of the African Risk Capacity

Launched in 2012, the **African Risk Capacity (ARC)** is an innovative African Union initiative which combines the concepts of early warning, disaster risk management, and insurance, to create an African-owned disaster response system that enables African governments to better meet the needs of people affected by disasters.

The UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office commissioned Oxford Policy Management to undertake a ten-year independent evaluation of ARC, tracking ARC's progress and impact over time. This will support lesson learning and enable improvements in effectiveness which will have direct impacts on ARC as well as the broader disaster risk financing sector, including other regional risk pools.

## About Oxford Policy Management

Oxford Policy Management is committed to helping low- and middle-income countries achieve growth and reduce poverty and disadvantage through public policy reform. We seek to bring about lasting positive change using analytical and practical policy expertise. Through our global network of offices, we work in partnership with national decision makers to research, design, implement, and evaluate impactful public policy. We work in all areas of social and economic policy and governance, including health, finance, education, climate change, and public sector management. We draw on our local and international sector experts to provide the very best evidence-based support.

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