

“The Role of International Support in Building Regulatory Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction in Low and Middle-income Countries”

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Abstract

Disaster losses have been steadily growing, particularly in urban areas and particularly in developing countries. Several factors have contributed to this growth: urbanization, globalization and climate change. While there have been changes in hazard exposure, the most important factor has been increased vulnerability of human settlements due to unsafe location and construction practices. In the developed world building and land use practice has evolved over several centuries to protect population health, safety and welfare. In the developing world these institutions have not kept pace with rapid growth of urban populations. A recent study by the World Bank has examined the options for correcting this deficit. A key contribution can be made by the experienced building Regulatory institutions of the developed world can make key contributions to disaster risk reduction in low and middle-income countries. This contribution included the adaptation of regulatory processes as well as products and the elaboration of an integrated regulatory ecology.