

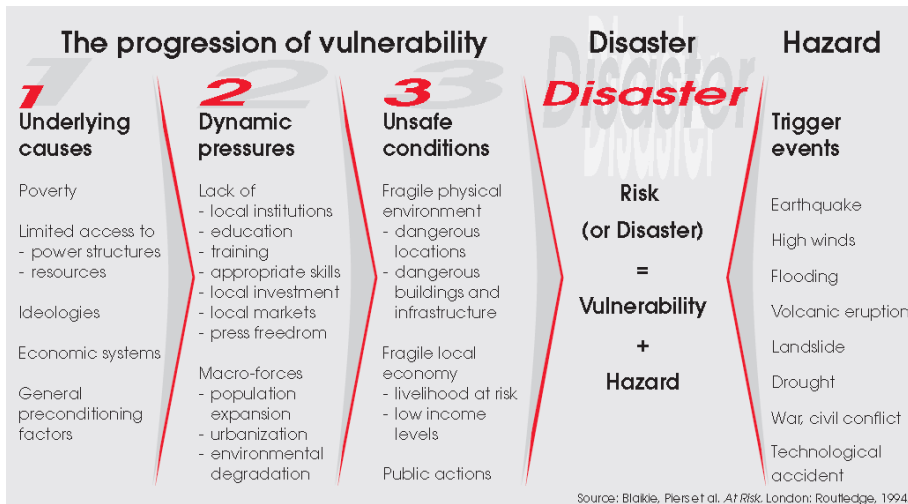


# The Role of Lifesaving Organizations in Disaster Management

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## Hazards, Vulnerability & Disasters



# Aquatic disasters



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# 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami



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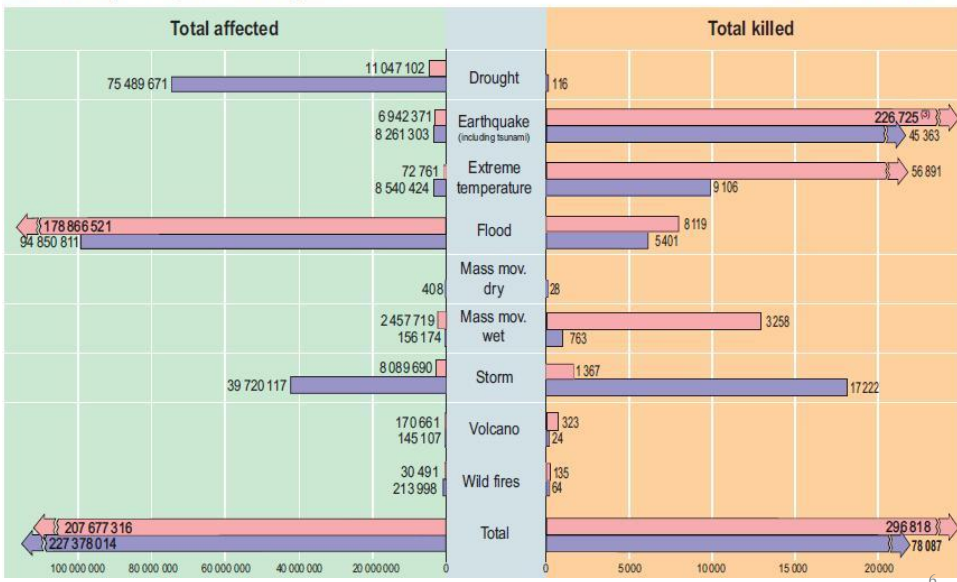
# 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami



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## Human impact by disaster types

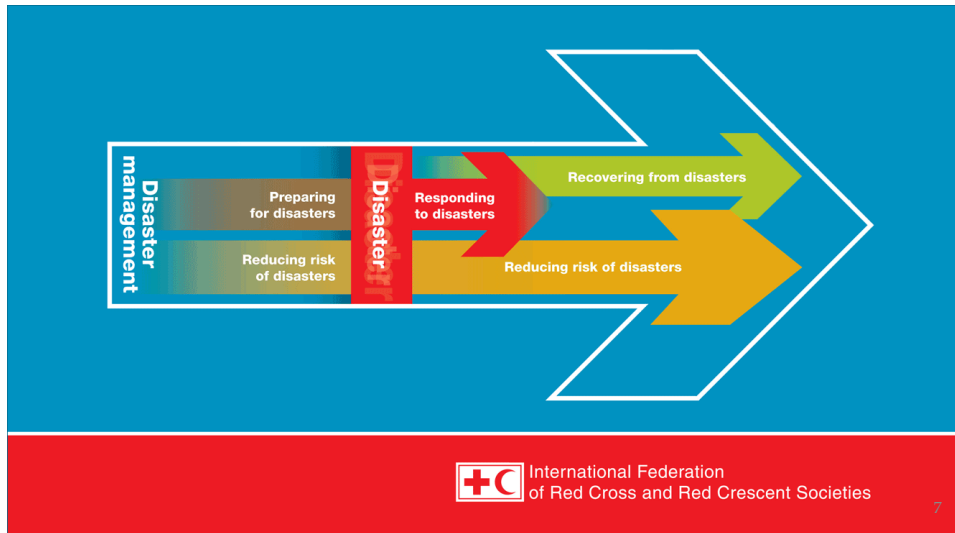
Average 2000-2009 2010



[Source: UNISDR, USAID, CRED, 2011. 2010 disasters in numbers]

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## Disaster management



## Lifesaving Organizations

- Are organized safety-oriented groups
- Work on the interface between land and water
- Have unique local knowledge, networks and skills
- Predominantly voluntary organizations

*The International Life Saving Federation (ILS) and Member Organizations serve as the global authority on drowning and water related injury prevention.*

## Traditional lifesaving

- Focus on education, prevention and rescue in non-disaster situations.
- Lifeguards inherently a part of any water safety activity
- Prevention is the most effective risk reduction approach.
- Education and prevention are powerful tools in the management of aquatic disasters.
- Basic skills are the same in disaster and non-disaster situations!
  - e.g. swimming, self-rescue, hazard identification

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## Lifesaving organizations in disasters

- Lifesaving Organizations are variably involved in their national disaster management mechanisms
  - Some “strong” ILS Member Federations generally well involved
  - Others not integrated
- Roles:
  - Public education (e.g. water safety skills; citizen preparedness)
  - Preparedness (e.g. emergency planning)
  - Rescue operations (e.g. flood rescue; mass rescue operations; technical assistance)



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## Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015



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## Volunteers in disaster management

### Benefits:

- Real need for help
- Knowledge and skills
- Increased effectiveness of emergency response
- Closer to the community

### Challenges:

- Lack of standards in training
- Lack of command skills
- Limited availability during working hours
- Limited volunteer motivation and recognition
- Cooperation between paid staff and volunteers
- Large numbers of volunteers are difficult to manage
- Safety and security

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## Aquatic disaster trends???

- Climate change is already happening
- Na-Techs
- Higher risk in urban areas
- Better statistical coverage
- Diversification of humanitarian relief actors
- New technologies

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Thank you for your attention!!!

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