

Objectives of the Cluster Group

- Networking and sharing of ideas, activities and perspectives between different Swedish actors within the field of Water and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- Analysing how Swedish research, programming and resource use in Water and DRR can be improved, e.g. through different strategies, better integration and cooperation with areas of climate adaptation, humanitarian assistance, environmental management, development and conflict management etc.
- Identifying key areas of recommendations in terms of policies and practices to target audiences.
- Mapping of Swedish actors and their best practices in Water and DRR, both within Sweden and at international level, relevant for international activities.



Photos: Dave Gostisha/www.sxc.hu



Join Us

Are you working with water and disaster risk reduction and want to contribute to the development of the cluster group? If so, please contact: ase.johannessen@swedishwaterhouse.se

The group is hosted by the Swedish Water House (SWH), a networking initiative for Swedish actors working with water, sustainability and development. SWH cluster groups are small, interdisciplinary networks established around a water related theme to strengthen understanding and linkages among ongoing international processes and networks.

For more information about upcoming activities, seminars, projects and publications, visit www.swedishwaterhouse.se

Some of the Water and Disaster Risk Reduction Cluster Group members are representatives from the following organisations:



INTERNATIONAL
AID SERVICES



LUND UNIVERSITY

Church of Sweden 



SwedishRedCross



CENTRE FOR
GENDER RESEARCH
CROSSROADS OF KNOWLEDGE



SEI STOCKHOLM
ENVIRONMENT
INSTITUTE



diakonia
PEOPLE CHANGING THE WORLD



WaterAid
Sverige



The Swedish Water House is part of SIWI

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SWEDISH



Cluster Group

Water and Disaster Risk Reduction



Disasters Are Human Made

Natural hazards do not necessarily lead to disasters. Extreme rainfall, floods and earthquakes translate to disasters only to the extent to which human society is unprepared for them; when infrastructure and planning has not been designed to withstand or buffer against them, and if society cannot respond adequately. Human action or inaction therefore determines the level of robustness or resilience of human society to the impact of natural hazards.

Disasters can be reduced, if not prevented. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) refers to “systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters, including reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness”.



Photo: SIWI

A Forgotten Cross-Over Topic

Society frequently responds to humanitarian disasters and conflicts, but we often forget how to work to prevent or reduce these disasters. Focus has been on the cure rather than on the prevention, and there is now a need to increase awareness of the role of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). A lot of progress can be done by mainstreaming DRR into development activities. One example is increased risk awareness in ecosystem management and planning of urban development by securing critical functions and using robust designs, such as ‘green infrastructure’. Land use management upstream can reduce flood risk downstream, where cities often are located. Also, putting in robust systems of drainage, water and sanitation in urban areas reduces risk for disease outbreaks and epidemics. But often development instead increases risks by not adequately considering the likelihood of extreme events. Although society increasingly sees the benefits of and linkages to disaster risk reduction, it is a challenge to prioritise DRR - especially in poor societies with sparse resources and lack of transparency.



Photo: Nurettin Kaya/www.sxc.hu

The Cluster Group

The Water and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Cluster group at the Swedish Water House was initiated in 2011 with a membership of about 20 Swedish and international organisations based in Sweden. It meets regularly, invites international experts, organises seminars and publishes recommendations and findings.

DRR is an emerging topic, with strong links to water management. Disasters are happening now, and climate change will only make things worse. The aim of the cluster group is therefore to facilitate the adoption and integration of water-related DRR into current policy and planning, and thus enabling real progress on the ground by practitioners and managers.

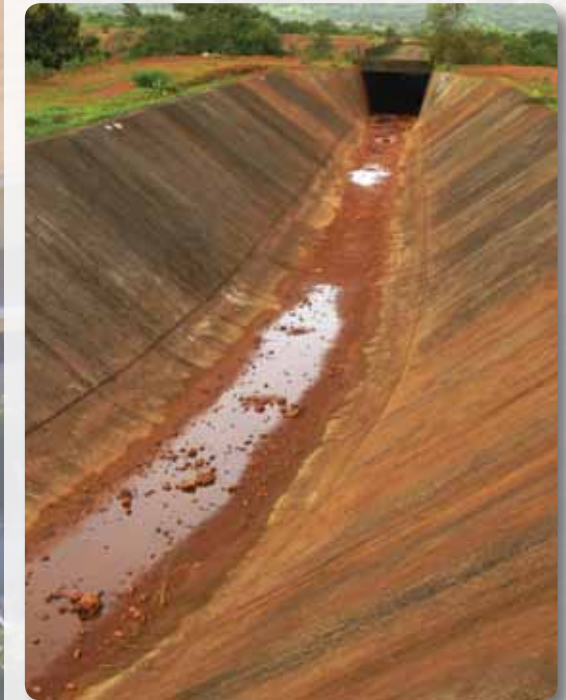


Photo: www.sxc.hu