



NDYS in Action, Newsletter

Natural Disaster Youth Summit Monthly News

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The VOICE of YOUTH is NEEDED!

Editor: Daniel Paz,
Salta, Argentina



Topics
Disaster Reduction and Climate Change
Pakistan was shaken by an earthquake.

Pakistan was shaken by an Earthquake



Since 2005, many houses are still destroyed and the government has received strong critics.

They are only sad memories what people have from the region that includes Muzaffarabad city. In 2005 a big earthquake killed almost 73,000 people, 10,000 of this amount were children. Now an earthquake (5.8 Richter scale magnitude) shocked the city causing panic among people who started running through streets. There were no deaths reported but 40 houses resulted damaged by the tremors. Two Children were injured by some pieces of building in a school.

According to the US-based Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), which sent a team to survey damage to buildings soon after the 2005 quake, 17,000 schools had been damaged or destroyed beyond repair.

It also noted there was a higher proportion of "catastrophic damage" to government-owned buildings. Other studies bore out these findings, but it is feared the lessons have not been learnt.

Many people are still waiting for the government to help them since 2005. They affirm they received some materials and worked by their own to rebuild houses but lack of solid structures is a crescent fear among them.

Source: www.irinnews.org

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Topics

Disaster Reduction and Climate Change

Take a look about what is happening with natural disasters

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Researchers from the [Feinstein International Centre](#) of the US-based Tufts University have presented a report about what are the most expensive disasters and what is the future going to be like. Peter Walker, director of the centre and one of the researchers, said the point of the report was not to say, "This is what the future will be ... rather it is to say, 'Stop making wild and sensationalist predictions and admit the real problem is that we have been negligent in the data we collect, and so have placed ourselves in a situation where we are hard-pressed to say anything meaningful about what the future will look like.'"

It is amazing when we realize that u\$s2,7 trillion has been spent on international responses to floods, cyclones and droughts in the most affected regions: East Africa, South-East Asia, India and its surrounding areas and Central America.

Natural disasters by number of deaths 2008

■ Cyclone Nargis	Myanmar	138,366
■ Earthquake	China	87,476
■ Floods	India	1,963
■ Extreme winter conditions	Afghanistan	1,317
■ Typhoon Fengshen	Philippines	644
■ Hurricane Hanna	Haiti	529
■ Mudslides	China	277

Surprising numbers is what we can find by researching about past disasters.

The future is "inherently unpredictable", and aid agencies have "to let go of their old comfortable linear models of change" and become "adaptive, flexible, and open to acting upon feedback", said Walker. The Feinstein report said the likely increases in spending could range from a 32 percent, taking into account changes in the frequency of disasters, to 1,600 percent when other criteria, such as intensity, were also taken into account.

There are three problems with all of this: "Predicting forward 20 years is a very short time in climate change terms; many scientists are reluctant to give any sort of prediction for such a short time period," wrote Walker.

"Second, the differences between the maximum-change models and the minimum ones are large - we have no idea which prediction is more true," he noted.

"Finally, the climate models predict the extreme climate events. We then have to project how you get from a drought to a famine, from a hurricane to a hurricane that causes damage, from a flood to flooded homes; there are huge areas of uncertainty here."

Source: www.irinnews.org

Walker concluded that agencies have to "be more concerned with the rigorous and systematic gathering of data".

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Topics

Climate Change and disaster reduction

The situation continues in Tartagal – Salta city

The situation continues in Tartagal - Salta City



This is Noemí Cruz taking a look around the devastated area. People in here are still in pain, and help is something essential.

This is a resume of what Noemí Cruz, the Coordinator in the Greenpeace's Campaign for the Woods in the North region of Argentina, said as a testimony about the situation of Tartagal town, located in the Oran Department, Northern Salta, Argentina.

"I saw this area and the first I thought was a terrible pain. People, who are wearing the same clothes they had the day of the tragedy, fight every time against mood. There are hungry mosquitoes and dead animals. We all were barefooted and specialists told us to leave the area because of snakes.

Also they recommended me to leave the river surrounding areas because of explosives that were washed away by the river, which could even be activated by a cell phone. Special teams found and dismantled some but there are more.

Our goal was to show up how the absence of trees turn things in a bad way. Illegal operations made by oil companies are guilty of this disaster. Lack of environmental controls, bad urbanization planning and the weak way of organization the wood areas presented by the government are things will facilitate another situation like this.



Comments: I have to say that I saw some cases in which people seem not to learn the lection. Maybe this should be taken as a warning for Pakistan people.

It is amazing to read what happened in the world, how many people died cause of disasters and the amount of money that all of this costs.

I am in pain too because the river that killed many people and destroyed hundreds of houses touched my people. I felt the same that Noemi felt watching all the disaster. I wicsh my best to my people in the area and tell them not to give up!.

■ **For more information please contact** ■

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"Communication saves lives!"