

Special Session [Human Rights in Local DRRM, with Focus on Built Environment]

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Forced Displacement

Oct 11, 2022 (Tue) 16:00-18:30 KST

Organizers: Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI),
Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)

Background

Increasing numbers of local and regional authorities across the world are struggling to cope with climate and weather-related disasters and displacement, that in several places, particularly in the global south, have grown increasingly frequent and forceful.

One clear factor deciding the impacts of such disasters in terms of mortality, but also of destruction of for instance hospitals, water cisterns, housing, and key livelihoods, is risk awareness in planning the built environment.

On the other hand, poverty, marginalization, lack of safe lands and housing or early warning systems that do not reach (or are not known by) all sectors of the population, are important factors that increase the risks of mortality and serious/long term impacts for people living in the affected areas.

Furthermore, the decisions and processes surrounding the planning and management of the built environment at the different stages of its lifecycle can impact human rights in various ways. From land use policies, through planning and finance, design and construction, to demolition and redevelopment, there is an increased risk to deepening existing vulnerabilities to the community and the built environment.

Risk reduction and management, with inclusive, participatory planning and response, is necessary to protect human rights, including rights to life, health, and shelter, in the face both of existing threats, and of the scenarios that are forecasted in the latest IPCC reports.



Objectives

1. Illustrate, with local examples, the importance of a holistic vision in local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM), that considers rights and that (to the highest extent) leaves no one behind.
2. Illustrate, with local examples, the important role of city planners, and of processes around the built environment, to establish DRRM that includes the whole population and that considers varying degrees and factors for exposure to risk.

Main agenda

1. Human Rights Based Approaches in local DRRM, including disaster displacement.
2. Human Rights Based Approaches in local planning and management of the built environment, including with relation to DRRM.



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