



Growing food locally is one way to improve food access. Lorna Antiola, a member of the Women's Food Producers Association of Payatas, checks on her crops in one of the Urban Food Hive locations in Quezon City, Philippines. Credit: Elizabeth Stevens/Oxfam.

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND: OXFAM STATEMENT ON APMCDRR

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The Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2024-2027 for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFRDRR) 2015-2030 recognizes that inequality and discrimination compound each other, creating a new type or level of disadvantage and risk. Eight years into its implementation, the Sendai Monitor for the Asia-Pacific region showed an increase in the comprehensive understanding of risk; a stronger approach to risk governance, including the integration of inclusion and intersectionality; and better preparedness and response, particularly in terms of early warning-early action, or anticipatory action (AA). However, in the 2024 World Risk Index report, six of the top ten most at-risk countries to multiple crises in the world belong to Asia. The Philippines, host of the 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), has topped the list for three straight years even as it is one of the fastest growing economies in Southeast Asia.¹ Economic growth does not amount to increased spending for reducing a nation's risk and exposure to disasters, but should be used as a leverage to invest in DRR—and protect hard-won development gains.

Meanwhile, the Pacific is home to 14 independent island nations that are custodians of more than 155 million square kilometers of ocean—more than a third of the Earth's surface. The Pacific contributes 0.02% of worldwide carbon emissions yet is experiencing devastating climate impacts while being dependent on big-polluter countries for adaptation and mitigation financing.

¹ McKinsey. (2024). Philippines economy in 2024: Stronger for longer. <https://www.mckinsey.com/ph/our-insights/the-philippines-economy-in-2024-stronger-for-longer>



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The current economic system, geared toward amassing ever-greater wealth and profit, is driving us over the precipice. The endless extraction and overconsumption of resources at any cost must end. Our development models should be redesigned and reimaged with a focus on the twin goals of human and planetary flourishing.

Against this backdrop, Oxfam and its partners support the 10th APMCDRR and aim to work side by side with ministers, organizations, and other actors to prioritize the following calls:

1. Promote program-level DRR investments and anticipatory action.

One of the main gaps cited by the Sendai Mid Term Report for Asia-Pacific is insufficient disaster risk financing. The financing is also fragmented: there are various sources with different mandates, project-level outcomes, and reporting frameworks. Pooling resources, having comprehensive and complementary strategic plans, and agencies and actors coordinating and collaborating—these are key to optimizing efforts toward building resilience.

We need to coordinate and rationalize financial investments. Governments should lead with their multi-year disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) programs or plans, and invite donors, private sector, civil society, community members, and other stakeholders to invest in such programs. Further, we need DRR financing for projects that is accessible and gender- and vulnerable sector-responsive, such as microfinance and social protection.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that every \$1 dollar invested in AA gives families a return of \$7 in avoided losses. Preliminary evidence from a recent Oxfam research shows that 55% of crises are predictable; as such, efforts can be made for AA, which is cost-effective and leads to loss of fewer lives and more dignified responses. Through AA, we can prevent predictable shocks from turning into crises, reducing both the human and financial toll.

2. Respect the limits of our finite world.

The Asian continent and the Pacific islands are bordered by coastlines and are home to large rivers beneficial to natural ecosystems and local populations. But this also means rural and urban communities are exposed to frequent and intense cyclones, floods, and sea-level rise, to mention a few. As temperatures rise due to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, those disturbances significantly degrade lands and water sources, putting food production and, therefore, people's quality of life at risk.² National and transborder cooperation for climate resilience is needed to develop and implement strategies to reduce over extraction of resources and help families mitigate and adapt to climate change.

As solutions are being offered to protect and repair some marine and terrestrial ecosystems and their services, those most responsible for this long-term and often irreversible degradation should provide innovative technical and financial support. The new Loss and Damage Fund presents a unique opportunity to design a fund that shifts power and decision-making to people and communities worst affected by climate change.



We should aim for a world where people, regardless of race, creed, gender, or geography, will be protected from disaster impacts no matter what. That is what leaving no one behind means for me.

- Jermaine Bayas
Oxfam Asia Humantiarian
Lead



Disasters are life-shattering for anyone, but their effects are not equal. They are true breaking points for women, children and youth, the elderly and people with disability and those with very low incomes and high levels of vulnerability in the Pacific.

- Melaia Kubuabola
Vatubua- Monitoring,
Evaluation and Learning
PIANGO

² United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2023). GAR Special Report: Measuring Resilience for the Sustainable Development Goals. Geneva. [file:///C:/Users/mcabanes/Downloads/gar-special-report-2023-mapping-resilience-for-the-sustainable-development-goals%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/mcabanes/Downloads/gar-special-report-2023-mapping-resilience-for-the-sustainable-development-goals%20(1).pdf)

3. Promote global South leadership, especially by leveraging robust CSOs.

Promote solidarity, and shift power, expertise, and resources to the global South. There are existing and active networks of organizations in Asia-Pacific which could capitalize on each other's strengths. Global South civil society organizations (CSOs), government agencies, and community groups as first "anticipators" of and "responders" to climate-induced hazards should be supported by global North actors, to jointly formulate preparedness and response strategies to protect the lives and assets of their communities. Asia Pacific should emphasize strengthening partnerships with CSOs as essential actors in DRR and climate resilience efforts, ensuring that they have the resources and capacity to assist in planning, advocacy, and implementation at both local and national levels. Collaborating with CSOs is not only inclusive but also leverages insights and capacities of these CSOs, ensuring that responses and strategies are contextually relevant and community-driven.

4. Strengthen DRR accountability.

Evaluating the effectiveness and impact of DRR initiatives and actively sharing findings can improve practices and accountability. There should be a report card, and we can assess how multiple projects feed into it. This will enable citizens to track progress and hold governments and other stakeholders to account and ensure they deliver on their commitments at all levels—local to global. It is important to ensure risk disclosure and communication to relevant stakeholders in public and private transactions.

We should encourage the integration of accessible and locally relevant technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and other mobile applications, with clear data protection measures, to address community needs, providing real-time data and risk assessments. This will empower local decision-making and strengthen multi-hazard preparedness.

5. Work on intersectionality for inclusive DRR participation and leadership.

Beyond women's participation, the active participation or leadership of diverse members such as women, youth, specific ethnic and/or religious groups, LGBTQI+ members, elders, and people with disabilities is important to hear and integrate their priority needs into anticipatory preparedness and response plans. DRR spaces with mixed representation are not only beneficial for planning, but also for providing DRR capacity strengthening and joint learning opportunities across villages, district, provinces, and the nation. Local governance should support communities in collecting detailed disaggregated data for their information management systems.

Further to gender analysis recommended in the UNDRR's 2023 Review of the Gender and Sendai Framework³ Oxfam advises applying a feminist lens to crisis and disaster management by recognizing, giving authority, providing funding and technical skill development to local humanitarian leaders and volunteers. These frontliners of emergencies include women and LGBTQI+ members who provide first aid and care, and solidify the social cohesion among diverse sociodemographic groups.



Battered by super typhoons, tsunamis, earthquakes, heat waves, and other shocks and stresses, the people of Asia-Pacific have been molded by their experiences in the DRR field, and thus have the right to take a stand for a disaster-resilient region.

**–Mayfourth Luneta,
Deputy Director for
Operations, Center for
Disaster Preparedness**

³ UNDRR. (2023). A Review of Gender and the Sendai Framework, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).



Sea-level rise: A boy in Vanuatu juggles a ball where there was once a playing field. “We used to play football here,” says a community member. Credit: Elizabeth Stevens/Oxfam.

6. Protect food and water systems and livelihoods.

In 2020, Oxfam alerted the world to a “hunger virus”. This year, over 281 million people are suffering from acute hunger according to the Global Report for Food Crises (GRFC) 2024. Supplies of food staples are under strain in Asia-Pacific due to unpredictable weather and basic commodities suffer inflationary hikes, making them inaccessible to the poor. Overall warming coupled with extreme weather events have a devastating impact on crop yields and livestock⁴ and on the fisheries sector; they curb water supply, reduce hydro energy generation, and lead to decreased labor productivity and to a drop in tourism traffic and other economic activities. Asia-Pacific is home to 60% of the world’s total population based on UNFPA data in 2024. Dependency on exports and industrial agriculture can be risky. Instead, the region could explore reverting to local and organic food production informed by science and tried-and-tested indigenous knowledge for more sustainable, healthier, and climate-resilient food and water consumption habits.

7. Push for strategic partnerships and regional cooperation.

Regional responses to extreme hazards are vital to helping countries rebuild communities. Local and foreign government agencies working side by side civil society are vital. Equally important to regional cooperation is the involvement and contribution of the private sector, which has a big environmental and social footprint, but also has vast resources at its disposal. The sector constitutes a considerable part of the Asia Pacific economy, which is not spared by climate-induced disasters. Therefore, there is a need to form strategic partnerships to increase the participation and investments of businesses in preventing fiscal, human, economic, and social losses. They can participate in planning and coordination, and financing mechanisms must be tailored to meet their specific abilities and encourage their potential to provide DRR-related products and services.

⁴ OECD. (2024). “Macroeconomic challenges and risks in Emerging Asia”, in Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India 2024: Developing amid Disaster Risks, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/fs28075a-en>.



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