Building e-resilience: Enhancing the role of ICTs for Disaster Risk Management (DRM)





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Contact:

ICT and Development Section Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific United Nations Building Rajadamnern Nok Avenue Bangkok 10200, Thailand

E-mail: escap-idd@un.org

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The technical paper has been prepared under the general guidance of Shamika Sirimanne, Director of the ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), and Atsuko Okuda, Chief of the ICT and Development Section of IDD, ESCAP, by LIRNEasia, Sri Lanka.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AADMER ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response

ARRND Agreement on Rapid Response for Natural Disasters

AVP Audio-Visual Presentations

CAM Communication Authority of Maldives

CDR Call Detail Records

DINA Disaster Information for National Awareness

DMC Disaster Management Center

DOST Department of Science and Technology

DRM Disaster Risk Management

DRR Disaster Risk Reduction

EMS Energy Management System

EMA Energy Market Authority

FAiTH Foreign Aid Transparency Hub

GIS Geographic Information System

HFA Hyogo Framework for Action

ICT Information and Communication Technology

IES Intelligent Energy System

IOC Intelligent Operations Center

ISOC Internet Society

ITU International Telecommunication Union

KT Korea Telecom

MNBD Mobile Network Big Data

NCDM National Council for Disaster Management

NDA Non-Disclosure Agreements

NDRMC National Disaster Risk Reduction and Monitoring Council

NOAH Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards

NTU Nanyang Technological University

PSC Parliament Select Committee

SAARC South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

UAV Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

UNDP United Nations Development Program

UNISDR United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

VLR Visitor Location Registry

1. Introduction

Between 2004 and 2013, 41.2 per cent of all the reported natural disasters in the world were in the Asia-Pacific region. While the frequency of natural disasters has stayed relatively constant, when compared with the previous ten years, the death toll increased three-fold during the same period, resulting in economic damage of over USD 560 billion. Within the Asia-Pacific region, South-East Asia, in particular Indonesia and the Philippines were hardest hit. The underlying reasons appear to be unplanned urbanization, poor management of land use and climate change.

Events that cause a state of emergency are, by definition, unexpected. From terrorist attacks to the rapid spread of communicable diseases to natural disasters, they cause disruption and distress. Dealing with the aftermath of any type of a disaster has many aspects. Each group of actors from government entities to the private sector, to community groups and the general public have roles to play. The lack of organized support services and access to infrastructure makes response and recovery a daunting task. For instance, when disasters occur in rural areas where access to transport and communication is poor it is harder to respond in a timely manner, and timely response is critical.

What governments can do is to reduce the risks posed by disasters to the lives and livelihoods of citizens. Generally, the focus is on having policies in place so that when a disaster strikes, the chain of command outlined by the policy is followed and first responders are deployed quickly. The emphasis is on saving lives and providing relief to those affected. With advances made in technology, the sophistication of systems

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