

Presentation to Mersey-Leven Emergency Management Meeting

12 June 2019

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction – Geneva 13-17 May 2019

The top three takeaways for me were:

1. We have adequate frameworks. How do we translate frameworks into action on the ground? The framework won't mean anything if we don't act. We need to strengthen cooperation at all levels of government. Local government and communities are essential to meet the targets in the Sendai Framework. It will need local leadership at the highest level with local wisdom and knowhow. Strategy is execution and execution depends on competence and leadership.

2. Build Back Better Before to mitigate against damage in the future. Risks do not sit within a neat geographical boundary. They need regional and sometimes State solutions. The local level better understands geography and risks. There is usually capacity constraints at the local level to implement strategies.

Building resilience is everybody's business and we need to plan for the future of coming generations for which we have an obligation to act. The best way to honour the dead is to learn and share lessons from the disaster. Pre-disaster investment is a much better investment than post disaster recovery. The Federal Government needs to be aware of risk hazards so they can prioritise

funding. Local and state governments have a responsibility to develop a shortlist to reduce residual risks in consideration of feasibility, cost-effectiveness, financial resources etc. They then need to obtain consensus with stakeholders and obtain Federal Government endorsement of the developed plan. Switzerland pays 80% from the federal budget for improved flood protection and works at the community level

3. The key to **early warning systems** is to know what to do with the warning. They can only be successful if residents are aware of what actions need to be taken on the information provided. There is a need to strengthen resources to local authorities to undertake this work

Interesting Facts – State of Gira, India

August 2018 floods:

- 453 lives lost
- 280,000 houses lost
- 70,000 kilometres of roads damaged
- **Repair bill - 4.5 billion US dollars**

Interesting Facts – Japan March 2011 Earthquake

A similar earthquake in 869

- 120,000 buildings destroyed
- 15,894 deaths
- Direct damage \$200 billion dollar
- Destroyed 3 storey buildings where people had gathered for safety

Interesting Facts – Japan

- 63 billion US dollars to increase the resilience of infrastructure
- Government is not good at addressing the individual needs
- Rely on NGO's – need to co-ordinate response to assist vulnerable people

260 NGO's meet regularly to co-ordinate activities

- Leave no one behind – should also be leave no one alone as a concept
- People's networks are getting weaker

Recent flood – 51 elderly people found dead in their homes – did not respond to early warning systems

- People do not respond to needs as they believe they can cope by themselves
- Planning from bottom up, addressing their needs – good planning, involvement of the people

Interesting Facts – Lords Prayer – Netherlands

Give us once in a while a good flood to remind people – as they get complacent

Coloured Infrastructure

Grey, green and blue infrastructure

Six outcomes from discussion on Sendai Framework

- Political strong leadership
- Need to strengthen resources to local authorities
- Common understanding of risk
- Strengthen co-operation at all level of Government

Strengthen dialogue between Local and National

- Achieve commitments – financing
- At risk and resilience is about achieving the lives of people