

# Introduction

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# INTRODUCTION



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The basis for this second volume is the juncture of two separate trends identified in Volume 1: (i) all countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and East Asia face increased risk from a full range of known natural disasters and previously unknown hazards such as climate change; and (ii) disaster consequences are having greater adverse effects on food security and the natural resources environment.

Therefore, governments, the private sector, and communities must take action to prepare for and to mitigate the effects of natural and climate-induced disasters. However, despite even their best efforts, the fury of nature or the folly of economic activities regularly will result in disastrous climate events that overwhelm not only local response capacities but also those of entire nations or regions. When this happens, the full range of players, from policy-making communities, international actors, and local societies, is called upon to intervene. This requires integrated risk management and the development of adaptation responses.

The regional response to disasters and climate change is convoluted, at times chaotic, and always complex. Every country has its own risk profile based on vulnerability fluctuations, evolving or deteriorating emergency management systems, cultural, economic, political and institutional characteristics all playing a part in adapting to risk. Each of these qualities influences the interaction of policy or decision makers with local, national, and international agencies.

Disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, and resilience—as an integrated practice as well as a profession—is rapidly expanding and improving at the regional and country level. Such a change is driven by the evolving capacity building needs of governments and non-governmental organisations, as well as the international community, in one or more of the four phases of disaster risk management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

The second volume of this book is written to serve as a guideline for practitioners, policymakers, local decision makers, and anyone interested in disaster risk reduction and developing adaptation roadmaps. Volume 2 provides the reader with essential introductory information, principles for effective practices, guidelines for action in a range of sectors and settings, case studies, and links to useful tools and resources for the application of an integrated approach to resilience. This volume is not intended to replace individual country or organisational policies on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation; rather, it seeks to foster complementary practices and coordination between multiple actors working towards a common goal.

This volume is organised into three parts. The chapters in Part I outline the case for tackling vulnerability and investing in resilience along with the key gaps, obstacles, and opportunities for such investments in adaptation roadmaps. Part II presents four country case studies and sectors of focus, therein identifying potential policy, capacity, and investment instruments that can be applied to address disaster risk management, climate risk reduction, and residual risk management for achieving food security. Part III presents a policy framework to ensure a resilient future based on identifying critical steps that can help jump-start greater actions on climate information, human resources development for enhanced decision-making capacity, and financing sectoral actions over the next decades.

Chapter 1 provides the background to the impact and management of disasters and climate change on food security. Included in this discussion is the vulnerability of countries and sectors as well as the evolving practices of reactive and planned adaptation. Several of the issues unique to Southeast Asia are touched upon, while in-depth coverage is included in the later chapters.

Chapter 2 addresses the current policy strengths and weaknesses, and defines actions and strategies to deal with the impact of climate change and disasters. Varying levels of capacity are identified, and adaptive solutions are discussed in detail. Where applicable, the foundations of resilient development are illustrated.

Chapter 3 examines the existence of structural and non-structural adaptation measures and risk management practices and assesses their efficacy. Disparity in the adoption of best practices between countries in relation to their vulnerability is discussed in detail, as is climate or disaster risk perception—an important and influential component of building adaptation roadmaps.

Chapter 4 covers the mitigation of disaster risk and climate vulnerability through institutional innovations. A critical overview of preparedness through extension systems is followed by several practical topics including communication, social networking, training, early warning systems, and preparedness obstacles.

Chapter 5 addresses the financing issues related to adaptation roadmaps. The need for regional cooperation is explained, followed by a description of market-based instruments such as insurance, as a mitigation option. Finally, various obstacles to effective financing models are identified and explained.

Chapter 6 examines actions needed to strengthen resilience through the development of integrated disaster risk management framework strategies, so combining climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness, post-disaster relief, disaster risk financing goals under a single framework and pursuing them through joint initiatives.

Chapters 7 to 10 discuss the various players involved in climate change and disaster risk management through the presentation of adaptation roadmaps for Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, and Viet Nam. These include coordinated action amongst governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations, and various international organisations to develop an effective response system and shorten the recovery period when disasters occur in the future. The components of adaptation roadmaps addressed include opportunity factors, the economics of resilience, and other coordination-related issues.

Chapter 11 concludes by presenting guidelines and specific points that must be considered in the management of climate risks and disaster resilience. These include policy coordination, minimum standards for climate information, enhancing decision-making capacity, equality in funding, and the future of regional cooperation. The guidelines seek to encourage readers to integrate investments in adaptation and resilience into their areas of work; and to promote, incentivise, and support parallel actions on the part of public and private sector actors over the next 15 years (2020–2035). They focus on the steps required to ensure that adaptation actions and resilience investments happen and that this occurs as an integral part of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030.

Through this volume, we aim to provide a composite structure, integrated approach, and ideas for critical reflection. We invite readers to consider how we can ensure that the actions we know are required to strengthen disaster resilience, climate change adaptation, and food security are taken. This volume cannot serve as a manual or handbook, and does not present all the answers. Instead, when read as a companion to Volume I, it can encourage policymakers and decision makers to envisage what a resilient future is, and equips them with a framework and ideas to identify practical actions that will result in the realisation of that vision. It seeks to effect change, identifying ways to overcome key information, decision-making, and financing gaps and obstacles to turn existing rhetoric and commitments on strengthened resilience into responsibilities, accountability, and targeted actions that can be undertaken within the context of a sustainable future.