Floods and Droughts: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

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Climate Change and Water

- The world has plenty of water but 97,5% is saltwater => the mankind depends on the remaining 2.5% of which only fraction is accessible surface and groundwater. Precipitation is the ultimate source of freshwater.

Climate Change

- is increasingly altering hydrologic cycles leading to rising temperatures and sea levels, increased intensity of flooding and storms in some areas, drought in others.

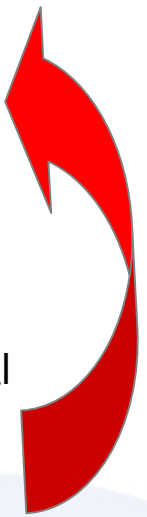
- influences freshwater systems in complex ways with respect to both long-term average availability as well as variability of water supplies.

- can also influence on water quality, as higher water temperatures, increased rainfall intensity and longer periods of low water levels complicate various forms of water pollution.

Adaptation to Climate Change - Water Adaptation!

- Water is the primary medium through which early climate change impacts will be felt by people, ecosystems and economies.
  - For example, the functions and operations of existing water infrastructure and water services will be affected.

- Climate Change adaptation is water adaptation – and urgent in many areas.
  - "Water" involves public sector => planning, decisions and action is needed
    - Political commitment and involvement of authorities / public entities are required to focus on the adaptation (… maybe not the fastest player in the game…)
  - New water management thinking is required (esp. in hot spot areas)
    - Water resources and access to water are not for granted.
    - Paradigm shift from "avoiding or building against" to "living with climate".
    - "Thinking outside the water box".
  - New technological innovations in water sector are needed in order to find practical tools for adaptation.
    - How to implement the new solutions that researches and private enterprises are developing in their R&D projects?



- Adaptation is an enormous process, a lot is being done, "everybody" is acting
  - Yet, a lot remains to be done in order to direct the planning and development results of numerous projects towards common goals.


Thank You!
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