Summary of survey results on initial draft hazard list

09 October 2019

Questions and dissemination

1. Are there hazards missing from the list that should be included? Yes/ No. Which one(s) and why?

2. Are there hazards currently included in the list that should not be included ? Yes/ No. Which one(s) and why?

3. In your opinion, overall, are the hazards included in the list relevant for reporting progress on national efforts to reduce disaster risk? Absolutely / To a large extent / To some extent / To a limited extent / Not at all / Not sure.

4. Please feel free to make other suggestions on how we can improve the draft list of hazards and ensure its usefulness in the comments box below.

To project newsletter database, IRDR SC and network, Risk KAN, ISC Unions, UNDRR STAGs (≈ over 500 contacts) from 20 Sept – 07 Oct.

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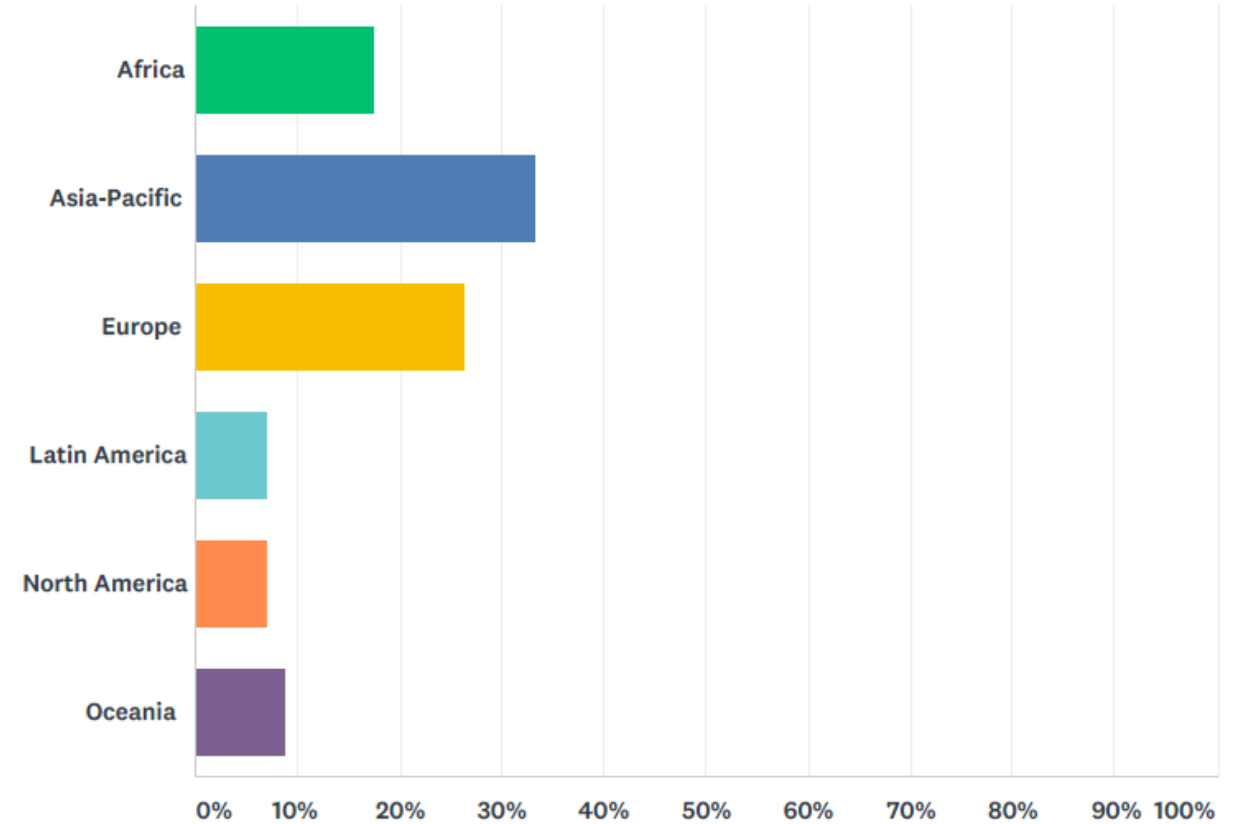
Profile of respondents (1/2)

Q6 Which sector do you work in?

Answered: 57   Skipped: 52
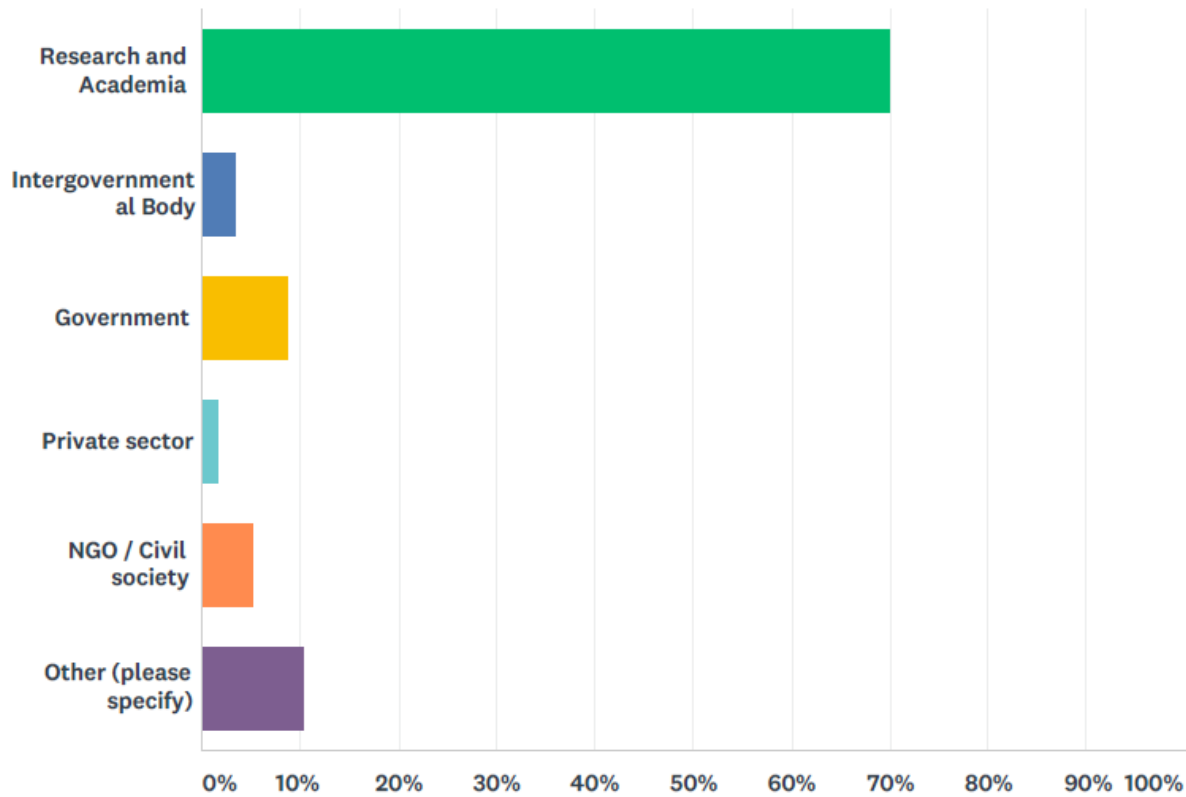
Q8 The region you work in

Answered: 57   Skipped: 52

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Q10 What is your main domain expertise?
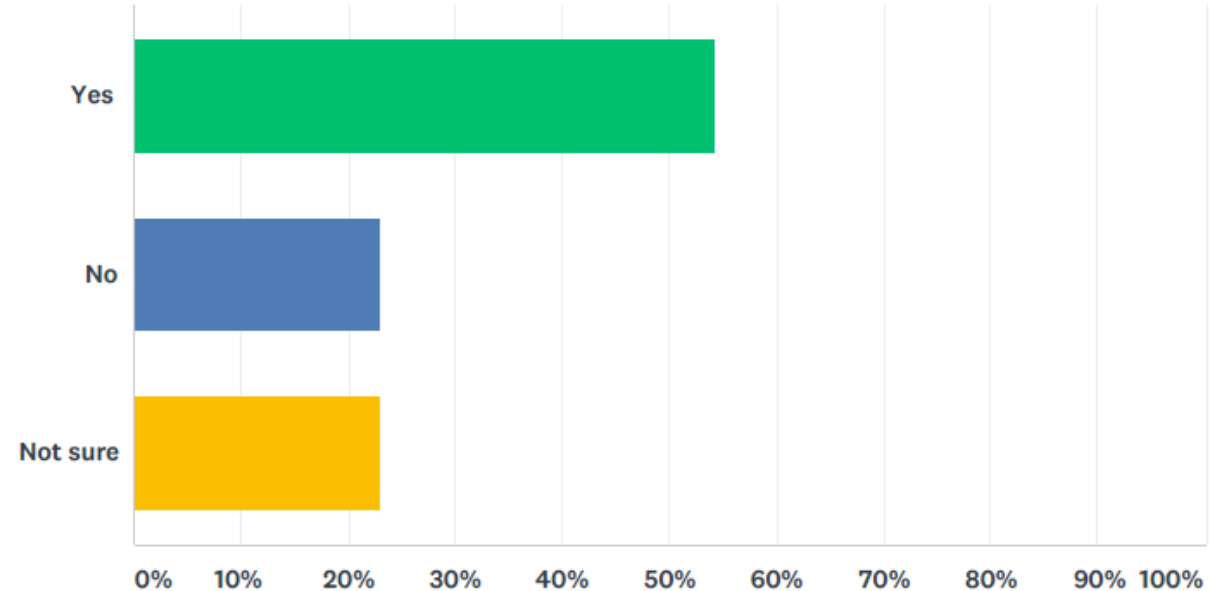
Answered: 55   Skipped: 54
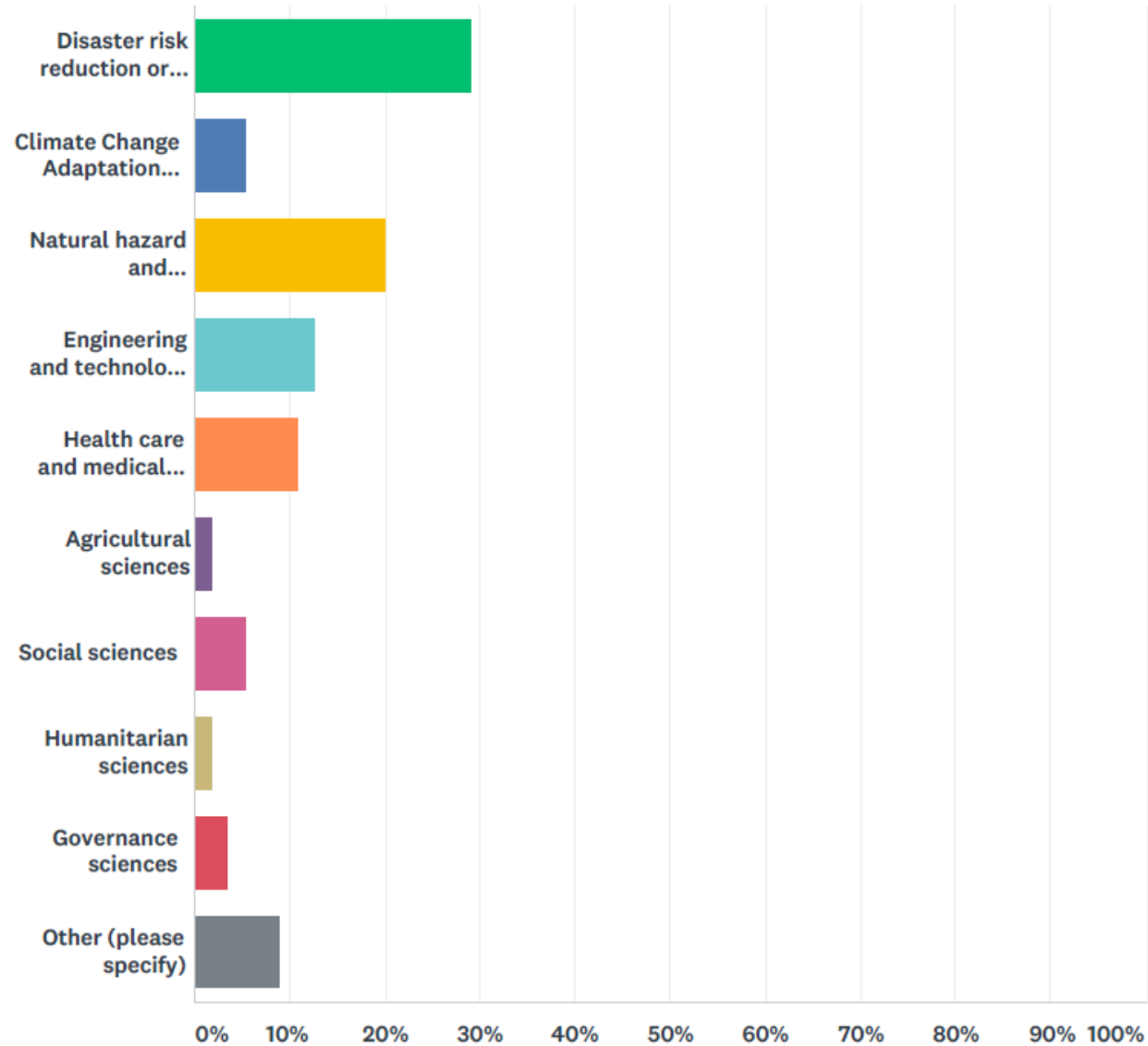
Results

Q2 Are there hazards missing from the list that should be included?

Answered: 61   Skipped: 48

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	54.10%	33
No	22.95%	14
Not sure	22.95%	14
TOTAL		61

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Examples of hazards to add?

- Saltwater encroachment

- Pluvial flood

- Post-conflict environmental damage, and damaged infrastructure (e.g. damaged roads and bridges)

- Marine heatwaves

- Contamination of water supply

- Atmospheric rivers (narrow corridor of concentrated moisture in the atmosphere)

- Industrial fires

- Household fires

- Hazards related to use of radiation in medical environments

- On technology, impact of social networks and AI

- Corruption

- Urban related hazards could be further detailed

- Replace human-animal conflict by wildlife encroachment

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Examples of hazards to add?

- The IPCC definition for hazard (from the SR1.5, 2018) The potential occurrence of a natural or human-induced physical event or trend that may cause loss of life, injury, or other health impacts, as well as damage and loss to property, infrastructure, livelihoods, service provision, ecosystems and environmental resources. This **includes not only events** (such as a thunderstorm or drought) **but also trends** in weather/climate related variables, such as sea level, temperature, precipitation, wind, etc.

- Under biological/**infectious** hazards, add : sexually transmitted diseases, neglected tropical diseases, multi-drug resistance bacterial infections as they cause substantial health impact (inclusion criteria)

- Some important **social hazard** are **missing** e.g. inequalities, discriminations, abuse including child abuse, human trafficking, substance abuse et

- Classification of various **types of violence** needs to be discussed: by method (shooting, stabbing, etc.) or health outcome (homicide, suicide, assault, abuse, etc.), or victim (children, adult, elderly people, infants). 'Mass suicide' may also be a form of violence rather than 'Mental Health Hazards' as it is often the result of mass indoctrination/cult-mentality

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Examples of suggestions

On the exclusion criteria:

- Unclear why some **slow moving disasters** (such as those posed by carcinogenic chemicals that could damage a community) are excluded while other slow moving disasters (like climate change) are included. This is particularly perplexing when diseases (like syphilis) are included that seem to have the same kind of disaster potential as carcinogens.

- Disagreement to exclude from the list infectious diseases which can be treated with medication and do not pose a high epidemic risk". The fact that a disease can be treated with medication certainly does not imply that it always will, in all countries in the world.

Q3 Are there hazards currently included in the list that should not be included ?

Answered: 61   Skipped: 48
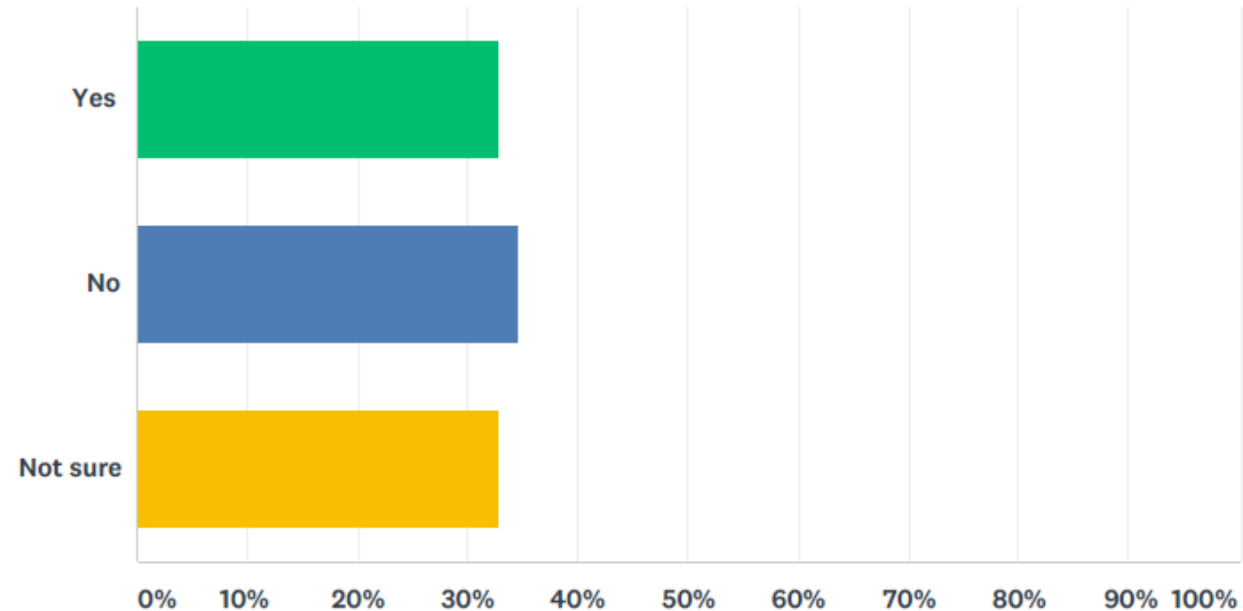
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	32.79%	20
No	34.43%	21
Not sure	32.79%	20
TOTAL		61

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Examples of hazards to remove

- **Conflict**: SFDRR does not include Conflicts, all types of conflicts   Also **should not be included hazards that does not produce a disaster** as defined in SFDRR

- **Trade disputes** - seems a bit of a stretch for DRR. It does provide a context, but is it really a hazard. Using the same argument, financial shock/crisis would also fall out here as well.

- **Financial hazards, some of the infectious** could be eliminated as they would be covered by other institutions in country such as public health services, trade and economic departments, etc.

- Why adding « Tectono-seismic hazard » while earthquake is already there. **Tectonic movement** is slow and **does not cause harm but causes hazards** (earthquakes): « Mentioning it specifically would be a bit like adding "The sun" to the weather hazards list since it drives the weather." Tectonic movement and tectono-seismic hazard should not be mentioned alone Gale and wind should be removed as already wind storm

- For **geophysical** hazards, need to redefine the **clusters** : earthquake, volcanic eruptions, landslides/mass movements, and environmental. Tsunami could either be a cluster (of one) or cited as a hazard or sub-hazard under earthquake, volcano, and landslide, and meteorite/asteroid.

- "**Climate change**/related" is a very general statement and does not relate to any specific hazard. I would not include it in the list.

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Examples of hazards to remove

- Derecho is a class of severe (supercell) thunderstorms which is only described in the continent of the USA. Not familiar with this term being used elsewhere in the world.

- **Too much detail on the infectious diseases**. Could scale the number back.

- **Repetitions and overlapping hazard** (e.g. vector borne disease should be only mentioned as a hazard type / cluster, same for viral disease ; debris flow was classified in meteorological and hydrological hazards but it again appear in terrestrial and geophysical hazards.)

Q4 In your opinion, overall, are the hazards included in the list relevant for reporting progress on national efforts to reduce disaster risk?

Answered: 61   Skipped: 48
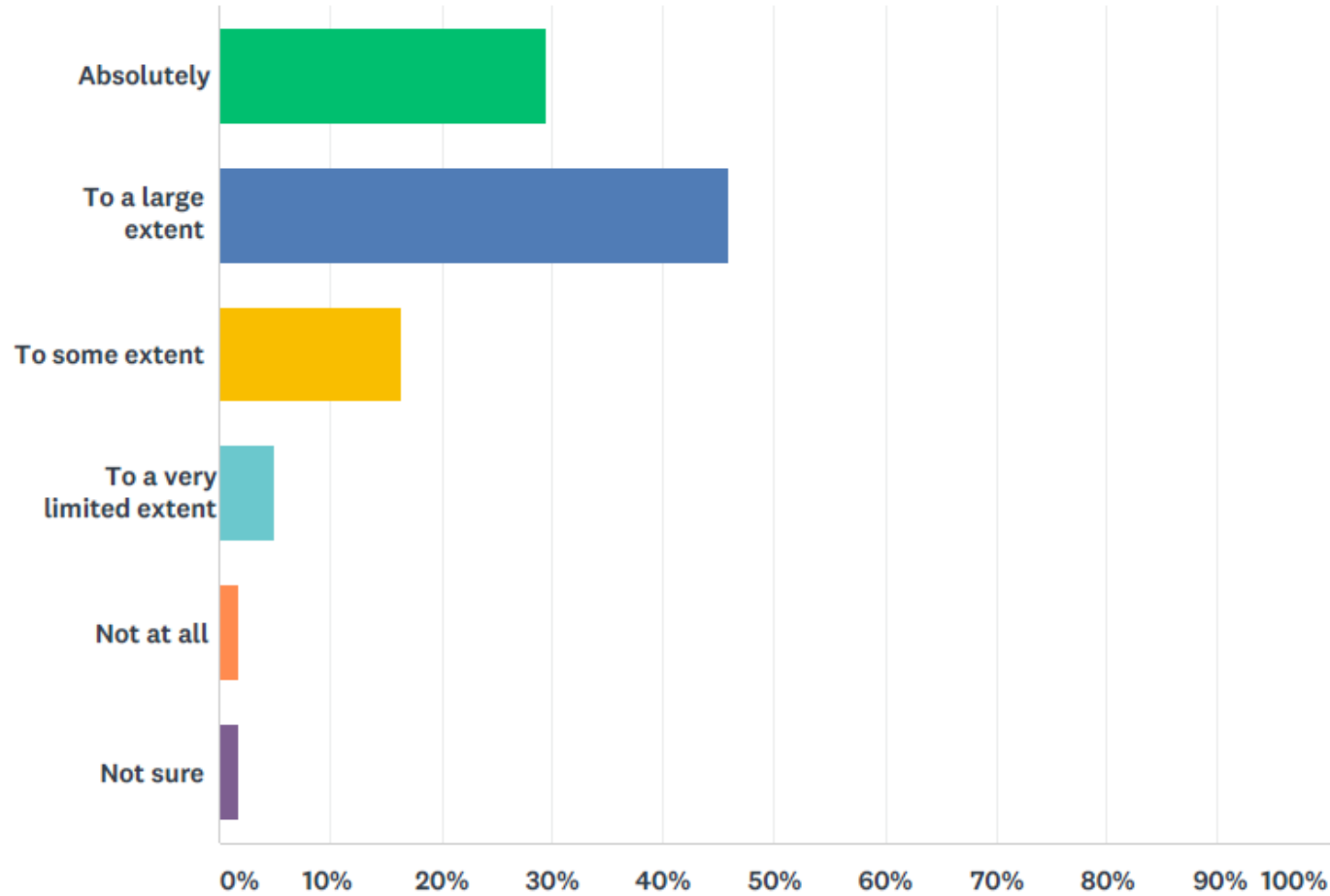
Q4. Additional comments

- Most are relevant, but many are not in their current form. **This list needs to be informed by use cases, definitions and some form of hierarchical structure/taxonomy.** With this structure, it should be possible to group related hazards and to allow users to provide data that may or may not be perfectly aligned with the list. There is still **confusion between hazard sources, hazards, vulnerability, exposure and risk**.

- It provides an **essential element** for establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework which can be used for reporting on national efforts to reduce disaster risk. Of concern would be the **capacity to report on all hazards given data constraints** in many countries. I would also consider how governments **transitioning to an "all-hazards" approach impacts the reporting mechanisms**.

- Will **assist in defining which hazards** nations are already prepared for, needs updating, or identify new hazards which have previously not been made aware. However, the entire hazards list may be **overwhelming** and difficult to identify priorities, especially for those with limited funding/infrastructure. It is good to allow for more **detailed** approaches to mitigation however, it might be a hinderance to smaller countries who need to address the **basic hazards** that we are currently facing.

- I am not sure what a list like this does to help national efforts. Without a sense of the **scale of impact and the likelihood of impact**, a list like this does little to help direct resources. **Not all hazards are relevant** to every country (how to adapt and make it useful at country level)

"A hazard is of no import unless there is exposure and the risk created depends on resilience and sensitivity, the nature and strength and length of exposures.
A long list of theoretical hazards (and **anything can be a hazard under some conditions**) is both **overwhelming** especially for LMICs and is **not necessarily contextually relevant**. At best it can serve as a **checklist** for what really needs to be done (a risk register.

A **national risk register** which must be accepted by the policy community but is appropriately developed in context with extensive expert input. A risk register consider the various categories of hazard, the likelihood of the hazard having impact, the severity of the impact and the implications for risk reduction (for likely risks) and identified responsible agencies in the event of the risk eventuating.

Risk registers are the critical tool for DRR and all countries need to have one and maintain it, alongside scientists and systems who are briefed, trained and able to respond in emergencies."

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Q4. Additional comments

- Progress will develop on whether there are **relevant indicators** and if they are properly reported on.

- A small problem is the nature of disasters. We rarely manage to think of the next 'unusual' or extremely rare hazard. Include a reflection **black swan events**. An instance could be an unusual scale of one of these hazards that delivers an impact that elicits a new hazard descriptor.

- This more inclusive list of hazards is essential to establish the hazards comprised under the three global frameworks. I am very pleased to see the **inclusion of conflict and violence**, which were conspicuously missing from previous lists, because they impede progress on national efforts to reduce disaster risk.

- Maybe it would be helpful to rethink the way the different types of hazards are categorized and clustered. Some hazards are of **natural origins** - other hazards are **man-made**. Some hazards are **triggered** by another initial hazard.

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Q5. Please feel free to make other suggestions on how we can improve the draft list of hazards and ensure its usefulness.

- Detailed explanation of the list, its purpose and its **intended use** missing at the outset.

- It is better to **collect good and robust data** on a smaller set than poor and incomplete coverage on the larger. I would also **focus on those hazards where the response is from emergency managers or civil protection services** and where the **impacts are directly felt locally**. This may help separate some of the hazard/disaster contextual information from "events" themselves.

- Perhaps have the list in its entirety but highlight **the most important and basic ones for smaller island countries** to target and follow up first before they go into details on the others that they might not have the **capacity** or capability to address. Those other targets can then be put down as areas that are needed for further development or help from other countries or UNDRR and others who can help.

- It is an interesting exercise to try to collate the hazards across the three UN agreements of 2015, but how is such a list to be used? Thinking through the use could help **tighten the list's contents** and presentation. Some hazards clearly **overlap** categories-- e.g. ocean micro plastics are both an ocean hazard and a pollution hazard. Should it be listed twice? Does not listing it in the ocean section make it invisible for ocean policy? This gets back to the question of what the list is for.

Q5. Please feel free to make other suggestions on how we can improve the draft list of hazards and ensure its usefulness.

- The **level of detail** seems very uneven, list is too long (e.g. volcanic hazards, mass movement very detailed while others could be expanded such tsunamis (strong currents, onshore inundation, scour/erosion; doughts (meteorological, soil moisture and hydrological drought)

- A definition of each hazard should be included. The list is comprehensive but the definitions of each and how they are framed within existing policy is **context-dependent**.

- Provide a clear **definition of each types of hazards**.

- Would it be possible to **link or connect certain hazards together** as many of them do not occur as a singular event e.g. floods often follow storms/typhoons but rather in concert. Include a cascading events category (ex: rural drought produces a chronic suicide hazard over a protracted period)

- The main operational purpose for classification is to help in risk profiling. therefore, we need to look at the hazards **classification from the consequence/impact point of view** e.g. for floods do we need to have all these sub-class or many of them will pose the same impact?

Q5. Please feel free to make other suggestions on how we can improve the draft list of hazards and ensure its usefulness.

- Some of the **hazards are misclassified**.   e.g. 'Fire hazards' and 'Terrestrial hazards' are not 'Meterological' hazards.   'GEOPHYSICAL HAZARDS' is too narrow a classifier to include many of the hazards in both the 'Geophysical hazards' or any of the 'Other geophysical hazards' clusters. Most of these hazards are 'geotechnical' or 'geological', not 'geophysical'.

- Climate change is included under temperature-related hazards. there needs to be a clearer distinction of if climate change is **a hazard in itself, or a driver** of a hazard. I would lean toward **integrating the climate change related hazards across all categories** e.g. sea-level rise is also a marine hazard; and permafrost loss is also a temperature-related hazard. I think be separating some of the climate change related hazards into environmental change hazards, it runs the risk of continuing the parallel discussions of climate change risks and disaster risks.

- El Niño/ La Niña is not a temperature-related hazard (for sure not related with air temperature). It is much more complex, involving changes in ocean currents and atmospheric patterns. It would better fit under "Marine hazards" or "Other hazards"(**classification**). El Nino/La Nina: **natural phenomenon**, not a hazard

- Differentiate between **chemicals elements**, and **hazards** that they can cause when use by man.

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Q5. Please feel free to make other suggestions on how we can improve the draft list of hazards and ensure its usefulness.

- The differentiation between the **biological and the infectious clustered hazards** types are not clear as there seems to be substantial overlap and **repetition** in hazard cluster types and hazards.

- The violence and conflict categories are overlapping (for example, civil unrest is typically a form of internal conflict that is in a stage of escalation) and need more distinction. Recommend streamlining the types of conflict included by borrowing from established categories (such as ACLED database). Perhaps a category of political and **state-based conflict and violence** (e.g., civil unrest, internal armed conflict, international conflict); as well as a category of non-political conflict and violence (e.g., inter-clan or inter-tribal violence, violence against women and gender-based violence, violence against children, interpersonal violence including homicide, and self-violence including suicide).

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"Thank you so much for your hard-working. This is such an incredible and significant work you are doing, and I am so glad I can be involved in.   Hope everything goes well."

… and 26 volunteers to review hazard templates!