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Media Advisory



WorldRiskReport 2015

International launch of the WorldRiskReport 2015 will be live streamed in English at ehs.unu.edu.

When: Tuesday, 17. November 2015, 10.00 am New York/EST, 4:00 pm Berlin/CET

Where: Live streaming on ehs.unu.edu, (no login required), media questions can be posed via chat, [Twitter](#), or [email](#) and will be answered by the experts

Who:

- Dr. Matthias Garschagen, Academic Programme Head, Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), United Nations University
- Mr Peter Mucke, CEO Alliance Development Works and Project Manager for the WorldRiskReport
- Prof. Dr. Jörn Birkmann, Director of the Institute of Spatial and Regional Planning at the University of Stuttgart
- Representative of Alliance Development Works, tbd

Why: The WorldRiskReport 2015 focuses on the relationship between **disaster risk and food (in-)security**. The report places food security within the context of the WorldRiskIndex which systematically considers a country's vulnerability, and its exposure to natural hazards (e.g. flood, storm, earthquake) to determine a disaster risk ranking of 171 countries around the world based. Food insecurity increases disaster risk. A lack of food security can, for example, cause people to move to higher risk areas more vulnerable to natural hazards. Additionally, limited resources hamper peoples' ability to respond effectively to a natural disaster. Globally, 2.5 billion people depend directly on agriculture for their survival. If their harvests, livestock or means of transportation are negatively affected by a natural hazard, their livelihoods are at risk. An investment in food security reduces the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards and conversely an investment in disaster risk reduction has a positive effect on food security. The earthquake in Nepal in 2015 showed, for instance, how the country's food security was severely impacted by the earthquake. On the other hand, conditions of food insecurity help explain the high level of disaster vulnerability in this case. In the remote mountain areas up to 70 per cent of the people were not able to eat or had only very little food in the crises situation. The WorldRiskReport concludes that the international community must invest in countries' food security to reduce their vulnerability to disasters, and it lays out concrete policy recommendations to the international community.

Note to editors

Embargoed media materials and interviews with the experts can be requested by contacting kandel@vie.unu.edu. High resolution photos, maps and other visuals can be requested by contacting media@ehs.unu.edu.

For more information, please contact:

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