

## Topic #1: Curbing economic impacts of extreme weather events

### I. Background information

Extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, floods, droughts, and wildfires, cause serious and often long-lasting damage to the infrastructure of affected areas. These bring huge financial challenges for governments and individuals. The costs of recovery can generally be split into two main categories: immediate relief efforts and long-term recovery.



The term immediate relief refers to the critical period right after the disaster, or even while it is still happening just a few miles away. This phase is all about acting quickly to save lives, prevent further destruction, and support those in urgent need. Governments usually call upon state material reserves. Firefighters, paramedics, and rescue teams are sent in to help people escape dangerous situations, provide medical care, and contain risks like fires or chemical leaks. Temporary shelters are set up in the buildings of public service (gymnasiums, schools, etc.). Food, drinkable water, and other basic human needs are distributed to the people who need them.

Help from neighboring countries or international organizations often plays a big role in this phase. Financial or material aid may come from allied nations, while humanitarian groups, like the Red Cross, bring in teams and supplies. The main focus during immediate relief is to limit the loss of life, restore basic services, and stabilize the situation as quickly as possible.

The second category, long-term recovery, is far more expensive and takes much longer to complete. This phase starts after the initial danger has passed and focuses on rebuilding what has been lost or damaged. Infrastructure repairs are a big part of this process.



Damaged bridges, railroads, and highway cause the economy to slow down or even stop, which brings less money to the economy and it is repeating. This problem can be only solved by prompt government intervention. Public buildings like schools and hospitals often need major repairs to make them safe to use again.

Businesses in the affected areas also face big challenges. Many lose equipment, stock, or their entire premises due to extreme weather. Governments sometimes offer financial help, like grants or loans, to help these businesses recover, but the process is often slow and complicated. A region's overall recovery depends heavily on how quickly businesses can get back on their feet and restart operations.

Responding to extreme weather events is a complex challenge that requires careful planning and cooperation. Governments and potential NGOs have a role to play in making sure both immediate relief and long-term recovery are effective.

## II. Involvement of the UN:

The UN involves itself quite a lot. As the summary of its involvement could be stated the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**.

*„The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and provides Member States with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster. „*

[-UNDRR website](#)

The UN also establishes **The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**, which main goal is to help governments find a way to invest as much money as possible to crisis prevention and crisis infrastructure.

*„As the lead agency with the UN system for the coordination of disaster risk reduction, we use our authoritative expertise and presence in five regional offices to build and nurture relationships with national and local governments, intergovernmental organisations, civil society and the private sector.„*

[-UNDRR website](#)

## III. Questions to consider:

1. What is the general stand of your country facing the problem of extreme weather and the following impacts on the economy?
2. How are the weather conditions in your country and its region? Does it frequently face these types of weather-related events?
  - o If so, does your country seek any kind (material or financial) of aid from other countries? Is your country open to finding new international approaches to this help?
  - o If not, is your country upkeeping its critical infrastructure to a level that would be possibly able to sustain the needs of the damaged region?
3. Is your country involved in any international help and aid actions in case of extreme weather conditions? Is your country historically familiar with offering help to the needing countries?
4. In the mean of public contracts following the urge to rebuild the damaged infrastructure: Is your country offering its domestic companies a sustainable environment for them to remain able to compete in the market?
5. Are your domestic companies offering their products and services to damaged regions in your country or more to those abroad regarding the reconstruction of the impacted areas?
6. Is your country seeking the products and services of domestic companies or the ones from abroad in the matter of the following reconstruction of the impacted areas in your country?

- o Does your country's system prioritize domestic companies over foreign ones in tenders for reconstruction work?
- 7. Which buildings are prioritized in your country to be reconstructed and set to the operation-able stage after the disaster is over? Does your country have a strict system for that?

#### **IV. Useful Sources:**

- [Oxera's Report on the Economic Cost of Extreme Weather](#)
- [CBS News | 1 in 4 U.S. homeowners is financially unprepared for costs of extreme weather, report finds](#)
- [WeatherSource | The Rising Financial Toll of Extreme Weather in 2024](#)
- [EEA, official EU site | Economic losses from weather- and climate-related extremes in Europe](#)
- [Climate.gov, official USA government site | 2023: A historic year of U.S. billion-dollar weather and climate disasters](#)
- [Insurance Council of Australia | New data shows long-term cost of extreme weather](#)
- [World Economic Forum | This is the economic cost of extreme weather](#)

**Me and Karin are looking forward to seeing you all in Prague very soon. Don't forget to check the second synopsis as well, see you in January!**