

# Working with the GHA programme: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) aid in Haiti and Pakistan

<http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/working-with-the-gha-program-drr-financing-4507.html>

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0 COMMENTS

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I joined the Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) team in June 2013 as an intern as part of a placement for my MA in International Development at the University of Sheffield. In the 8 weeks I have been an intern for GHA, I have undertaken a variety of tasks, from sourcing pictures for the GHA 2013 report, to helping with the country profile analysis. No two days have been the same.

As part of my placement, I am also researching and writing my dissertation, and GHA's resources have been invaluable. The title of my dissertation is 'Who has the say in aid policies? An examination of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) aid in Haiti and Pakistan between 2004-2011.'

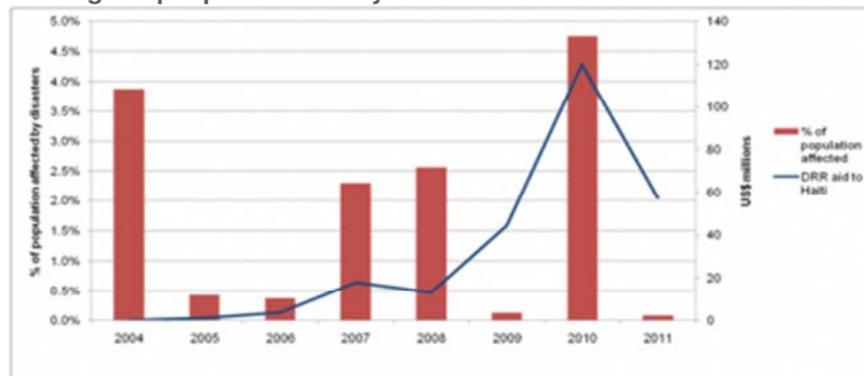
My research is examining whether or not it is the disasters themselves, international bodies, donors or recipients that predominantly shape the type and volume of DRR aid to Haiti and Pakistan, and the implications of this. DRR tries to reduce the impact of disasters, and consequently to improve recovery times and costs. DRR has recently grown in importance, with many organisations and institutions now acknowledging that there is a pressing need to encourage investment in this area.

The Hyogo Framework for Action, which was agreed in 2005 and highlighted the need for DRR for developing countries, has played an important role in DRR investments. Many countries, both donors and recipients – including Haiti and Pakistan – are now writing specific DRR policies and in 2004 a purpose code for one element of DRR, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (DPP), was brought into the OECD DAC's Creditor Reporting System (CRS) database.

It is therefore now an important area to examine. However, DRR is difficult to track in the CRS and requires a more complex coding of project descriptions to identify it. My research aims to fill the gaps in analysis on specific countries and their DRR aid.

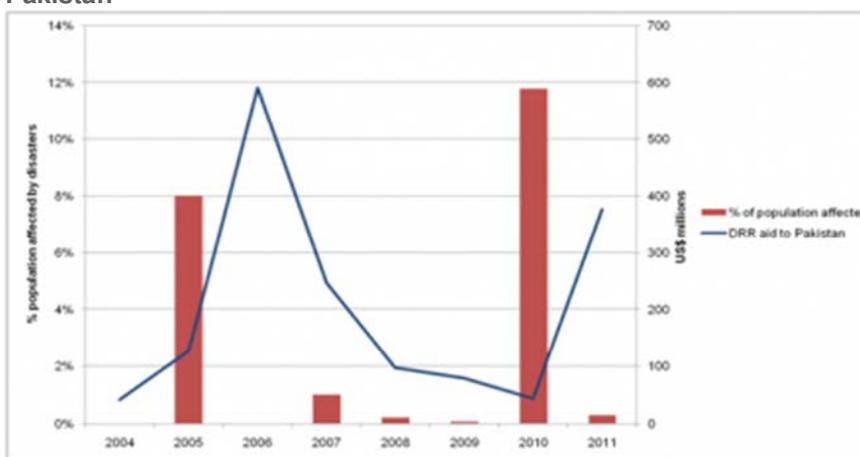
One result of my research is that it is clear that disasters themselves play an important role in the amount of DRR aid that is distributed to both Pakistan and Haiti.

**Figure 1: Percentage of people affected by disasters in Haiti and volume of DRR aid to Haiti**



Source: OECD DAC CRS data and EM-DAT data

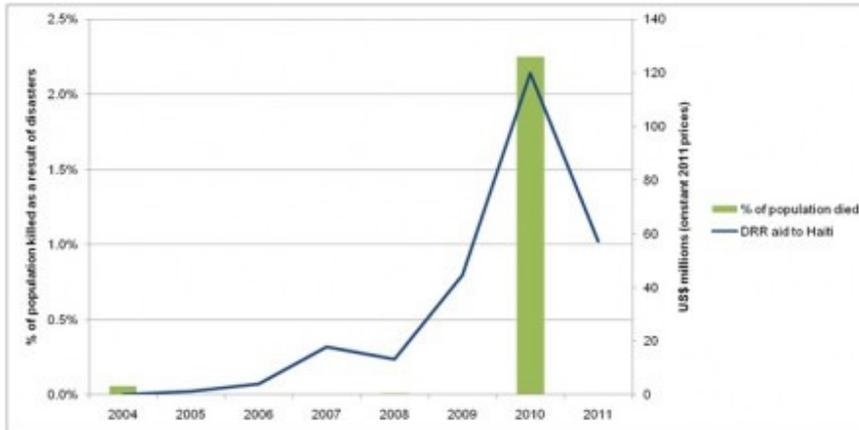
**Figure 2: Percentage of people affected by disasters in Pakistan and volume of DRR aid to Pakistan**



Source: OECD DAC CRS data and EM-DAT data

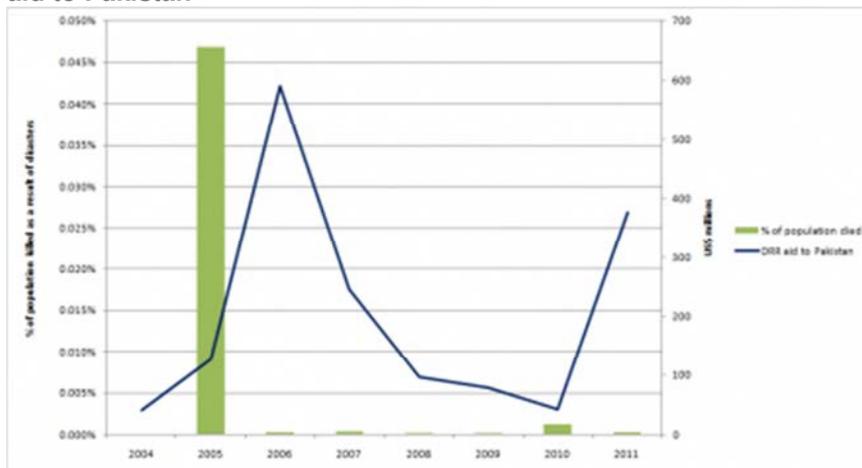
Figures 1 and 2 show the total amount of DRR aid given to Haiti and Pakistan, as well as the percentage of the population affected by disasters per year in each country. It is clear that, as the percentage of people affected in Haiti increases, so does the total amount of DRR aid that year. Whereas in Pakistan there appears to be a more delayed reaction; it seems that a year after the percentage of people affected by disasters increases, the total amount of DRR aid will then increase.

**Figure 3: Percentage of people killed as a result of disasters in Haiti and volume of DRR aid to Haiti**



Source: OECD DAC CRS data and EM-DAT data

**Figure 4: Percentage of people killed as a result of disasters in Pakistan and volume of DRR aid to Pakistan**



Source: OECD DAC CRS data and EM-DAT data

Figures 3 and 4 show the amount of DRR aid given to Haiti and Pakistan, alongside the percentage of people who have died as a result of disasters there. Here, the same patterns seem to emerge as those seen in Figures 1 and 2. This may indicate that disasters themselves can have an important role in the amount of DRR aid that a country receives – the more people a disaster affects or the more people who die in a disaster, the more DRR aid Haiti or Pakistan receives. Add to this the fact that Pakistan has a much higher percentage of people affected and dying as a result of disasters than Haiti, and as a result the total amount of DRR aid is higher.

It is clear, however, that investments in DRR is still short term, especially in Pakistan where the amount changes dramatically every year. DRR aid in Haiti, conversely, has been gradually increasing, although it did decline in 2011. DRR is discussed as a long-term objective within debates amongst donors, recipients and international bodies, yet this does not seem to be the reality in Haiti and Pakistan. Both receive fluctuating amounts, suggesting that it is not a long-term

objective for donors. Rather, it still seems to be used as a short-term response to disasters, which goes against the design of DRR— rather than being significantly implemented before a disaster can occur, it is still seemingly being used as a response.

This analysis addresses only a small part of my research; it does not show where the investment in DRR is going, which sectors it is being invested into, or whether it is employed in line with recipients', donors' or international bodies' policies. Furthermore, it is also important to examine whether DRR is addressing disasters that are particularly relevant to the country, or whether it is purely based on what donors and international bodies see as important. I aim to address these questions and others in my dissertation.