

Disasters Avoided

Analysis of action we can take to prevent situations and events turning into disasters

A short overview of our initiative

Initiative owners:

Gareth Byatt (Independent Consultant, urban resilience + industry risk & resilience)

Ilan Kelman (Professor at University College London + University of Agder, Norway)

Ana Prados (Scientist at University of Maryland, Baltimore County)

The Disasters Avoided initiative – an overview

Why we created it

Disasters continue to occur around the world. We believe it is important to show how disasters can be, and are being, avoided, so that more action can be taken to reduce vulnerabilities and avoid more disasters.

What we are delivering

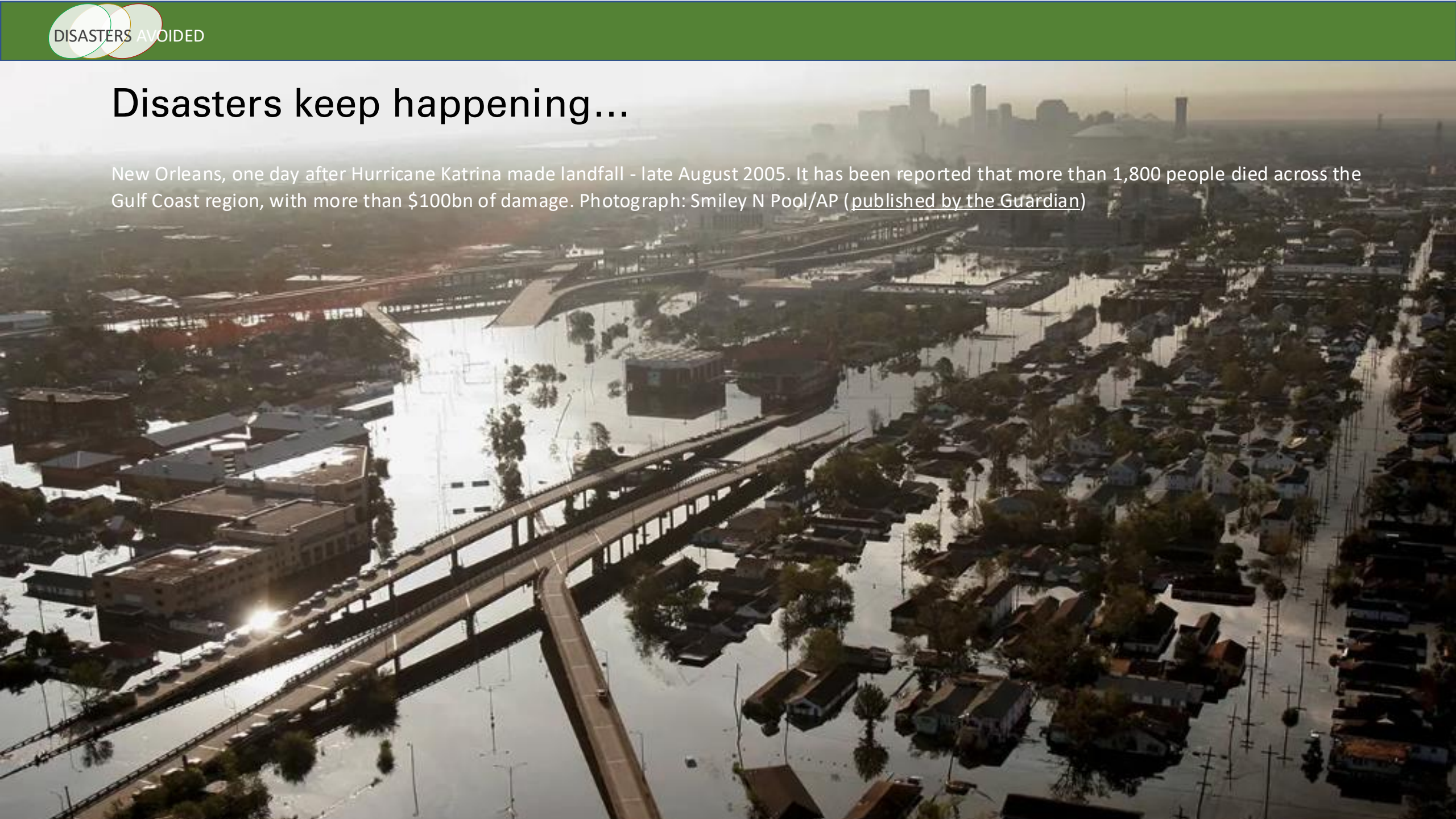
1. The disastersavoided.com website is our portal that stores our published material.
2. Case studies of disasters avoided, supported by open access research and background information.
3. Interviews with people from around the world on aspects of avoiding disasters.
4. A Newsletter.
5. Papers and articles published through various sources.
6. Conference and workshop presentations and interactive sessions.

How we are managing it

1. Continued focus on an agreed scope and outputs.
2. Desktop research on our case studies + interviews with people to learn about what is happening, and being planned, around the world.
3. Continuing to produce outputs for our website and other channels and publishers.
4. Monitoring the value of our outputs and learning and adapting our approach as we continue our work.

Disasters keep happening...

New Orleans, one day after Hurricane Katrina made landfall - late August 2005. It has been reported that more than 1,800 people died across the Gulf Coast region, with more than \$100bn of damage. Photograph: Smiley N Pool/AP ([published by the Guardian](#))



Disasters keep happening...

People on a beach, having been evacuated due to forest fires find refuge on the beach and look at a fire burning the forest in Bormes-les-Mimosas - July 2017. Photograph: Marion Leflour/AFP/Getty Images ([published by the Guardian](#))



The Disasters Avoided initiative - our approach

WHY

Our Purpose

Inspire action by sharing good-news examples of disasters avoided and a framework for how we can all play our part

WHAT

Research

Outputs

Engagement

Improve

HOW

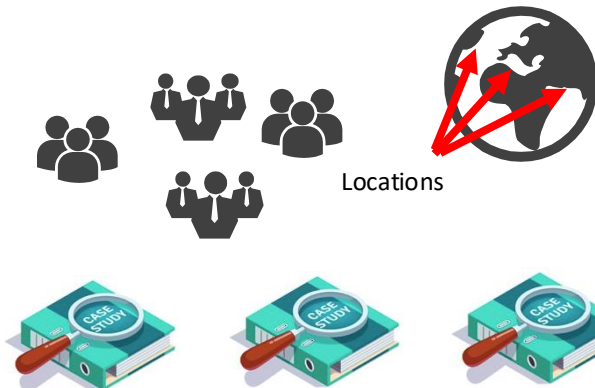
(1) Find examples of good action



(2) Write about good work



(3) Engage with people

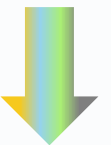


(4) Build and share our framework and model



OUTCOME

SENDAI FRAMEWORK
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030



Achieve Our Vision
Inspire action, from global to local, to avoid disasters.

Examples of areas of focus

Interlinkages and potential correlation between hazards is part of our work (e.g. heat with drought + fires + flooding)

Intelligent action to avoid wildfires / minimise their impact



Intelligent action to avoid disasters / minimise the impact of heat



Intelligent action to avoid disasters / minimise the impact caused by flooding

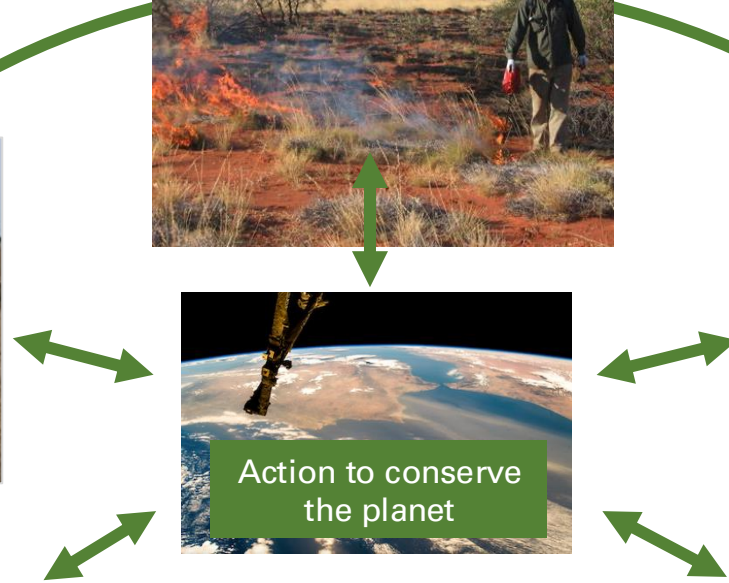


Action to conserve the planet

Intelligent action to avoid disasters / minimise the impact of earthquakes

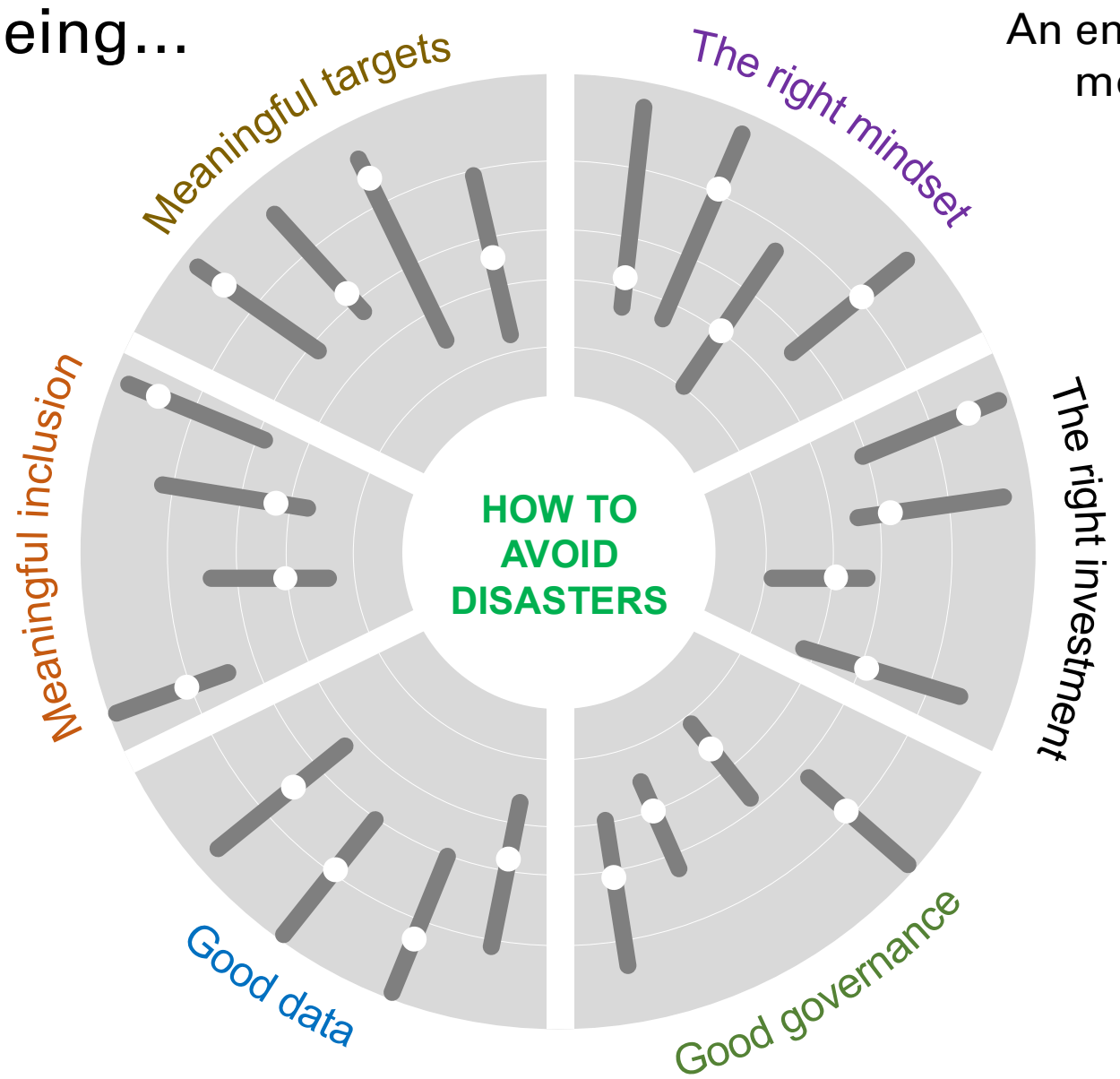


Intelligent action to avoid disasters / minimise the impact of microbial pathogens (infectious diseases)



Common factors we are seeing...

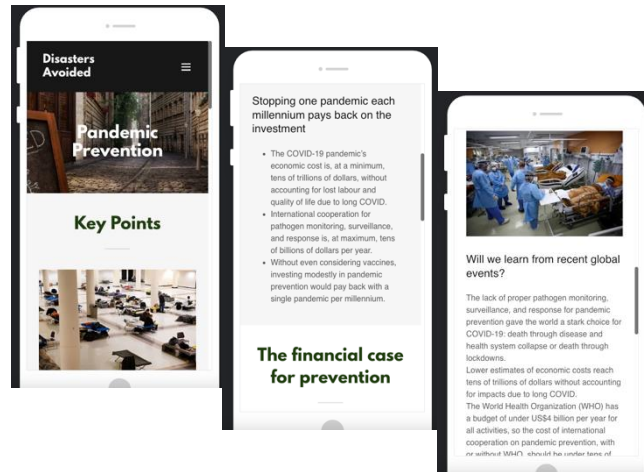
1. The right mindset – reduce risk, prevent and prepare, learn
2. The right investment - the right amount, with the right benefits and socio-economic payback
3. Good governance - well-informed + enforced
4. Good data - from good sources
5. Meaningful inclusion - act together (some decisions are hard)
6. Meaningful targets - agree what to strive for



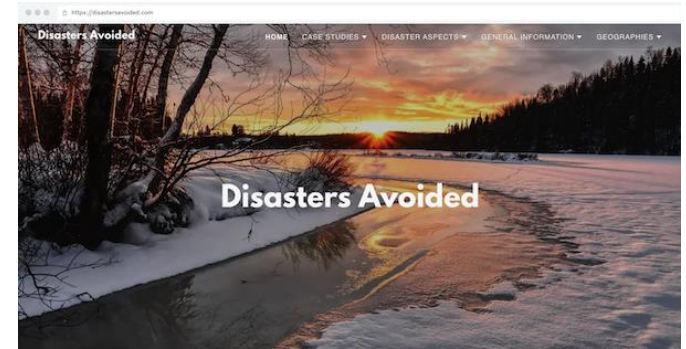
An emerging model

We are contributing to global and local efforts...

Case studies on avoiding disasters, with supporting information, are published along with other material on our website.



Our framework and model for avoiding disasters is continually being tested and shared with others for use and application in the real world.



Connecting it all to action on the ground with multi-level leadership

Bangladesh flood resilience

