



Regional dialogue

Governance of critical risks, a strategic investment for the future

MENA-OECD Days

19 June 2019

Movenpick Hotel, Berges du Lac, Tunis



MENA - OECD
Governance Programme



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Why investing in risk governance?

Governments have fundamental responsibilities to provide security and safety to citizens and their property, defend the territorial integrity of the nation, and help sustain well-functioning markets. The complexity of managing major risks has increased dramatically over the past 20 years, which requires governments not only to strengthen their risk management capabilities to fulfil these responsibilities, but also to invest in risk governance.

Natural hazards, health crisis, industrial accidents, cyber and security threats can have wide ranging socio-economic consequences, from losses of lives to impacts on livelihoods, public budgets, business revenues, as well as on trust in governments and public institutions. Increasingly, demonstrating that countries have clearly identified their critical risks and developed capabilities to reduce, prepare, respond and recover from these events is an important factor to their attractiveness.

In the Middle East and North Africa region, there is an increasing trend on the prevalence of disasters caused by natural hazards, with floods, droughts and earthquakes being the most prevalent. The concentration of people and assets in risk-prone areas increase also their vulnerabilities to disasters. With climate change the frequency, severity and duration of climate extremes is expected to increase significantly

A range of interrelated factors contributes to make risk management more challenging, compared to the time when governments were holding most of the policy levers required to manage risks. The increased interconnectedness of critical infrastructure and economic interdependencies create new vulnerabilities, blurring sectoral and national boundaries, across which disasters can cascade and need to be managed accordingly. With waves of decentralisation and privatisation, new actors have emerged with whom central governments need to engage with in risk management, from local governments to private sector, civil society and academia. Citizens' expectations have also increased for governments to be more responsive and transparent in risk-related decision-making. Governments are held accountable when disaster risks are inadequately managed, notably on social media networks, with potential damaging consequences on trust in public institutions.

In this context, effective risk governance is essential to design, implement and continuously improve risk management policies, putting inclusiveness, responsiveness, transparency, and accountability at its core. The *OECD Recommendation on the Governance of Critical Risks* adopted by OECD Council in 2014 was a significant milestone to support countries efforts in this endeavour, offering a structured framework to guide policy action. The importance of risk governance was also subsequently recognised as one of the four priorities of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* adopted by the United Nations in 2015.



AGENDA

19 June 2019

14h00- 15h30

Regional dialogue: Governance of critical risks, a strategic investment for the future

This regional dialogue session will discuss how different countries and institutions are strengthening their risk governance across its various dimensions, from institutional design, to inclusiveness, transparency and accountability. Presentations will highlight good practices and persistent challenges facing the institutions responsible for disaster risk management policies. The objective of the dialogue is to identify how the OECD High Level Risk Forum can support MENA countries efforts to improve their risk governance and increase their resilience to major disasters.

Introduction: Why governance of critical risks is relevant?

The introduction will set the scene on why risk governance is essential to strengthen country's resilience, based in the experience of the OECD High Level Risk Forum.

- ▶ *M. Charles Baubion, OECD Public Governance Directorate*

Roundtable discussion: MENA countries efforts to strengthen risk governance

Government representatives will present and discuss challenges and opportunities to improve risks governance in their respective countries.

- ▶ *M. Mohammed Jarefa, Ministry of the Interior, Morocco*
- ▶ *Amb. Khaled Shamaa, Director of International Relations, Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Egypt*
- ▶ *Mme. Lilia Youns Ksibi, Member of Parliament, Tunisia*

Questions for discussion:

- ▶ *What are the main challenges in disaster risk management in your country?*
- ▶ *How to strengthen coordination in disaster risk management across sectors and levels of government?*
- ▶ *How to foster inclusion, transparency and accountability in risk-related decision-making?*

OECD High Level Risk Forum

The OECD High Level Risk Forum provides policymakers and senior executives in the public and private sectors with a collaborative platform to improve preparation for large-scale shocks to the economy and society. Through the sharing of country experiences, the OECD Secretariat conducts analyses of the latest public policies, tools and practices to address major risks. The aim is to deepen understanding of how to manage complex transboundary risks and help countries in policy design, co-ordination and implementation. Since its adoption of the OECD Recommendation on the Governance of Critical Risks, Morocco has mobilised the expertise of the High Level Risk Forum to support its ambitious reform agenda in this policy area.

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