Building Resilient Cities and Communities: Smart Solutions for Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Aligned with the Sendai Framework

Paul Rosenberg, UNDRR Kobe Office
Plenary Session 2 – "Smart City: Disaster
Preparedness & Recovery: Advancing the Goals of
the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction"
13 May 2025







Midterm Review of the SFDRR: The Recovery Gap

Deep concern that

BBB Principles

are not being systematically applied.

Most countries lack

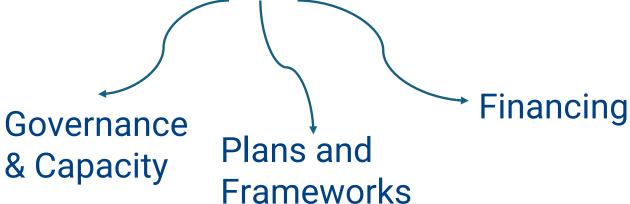
Pre-disaster preparedness

to effectively build back better

Urge continued efforts to

Strengthen inclusivity

to ensure no one left behind





Closing the Implementation Gap

- Building back better is "easier said than done"
- In practice, "the tyranny of the urgent" prevails:
 - Immediate needs overwhelm long-term considerations
 - Limited resources focused on immediate restoration
 - Build back better principles postponed or abandoned

The Way Forward: Recovery Readiness

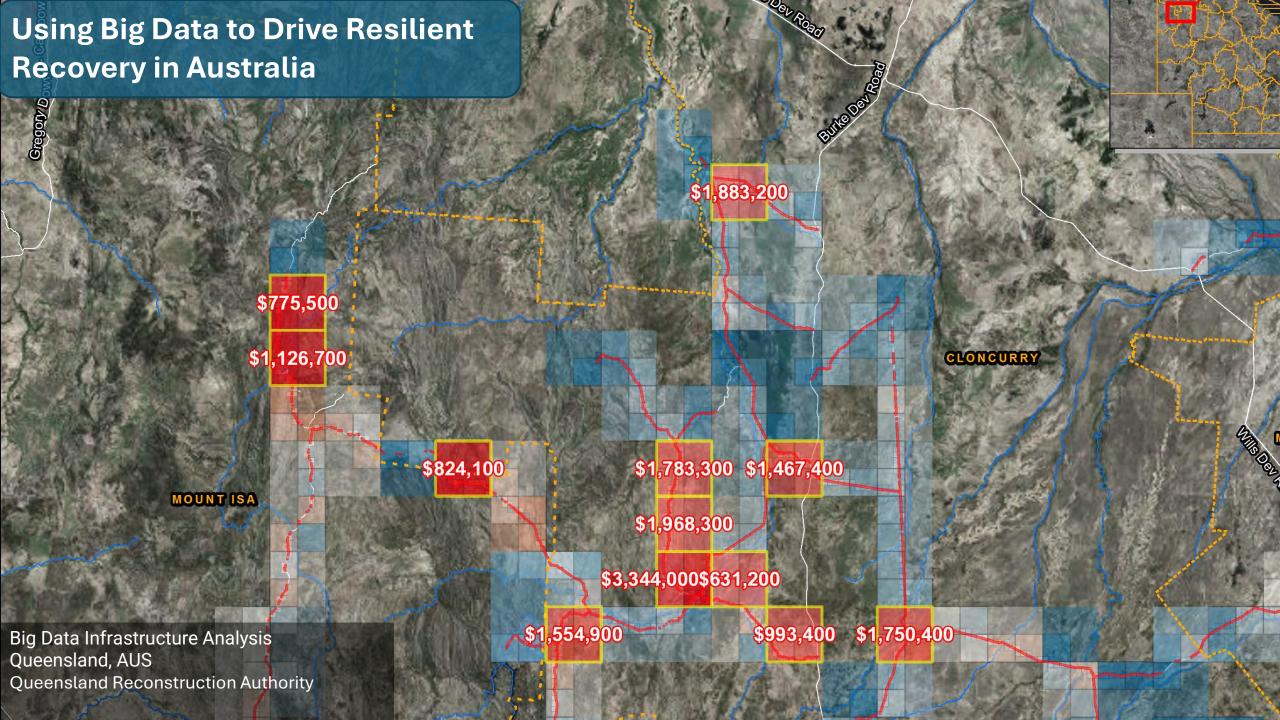
- Need fundamental shift from reactive to proactive approach
 - Efficient recovery processes and workflows
 - Pre-arranged financing mechanisms
 - Inclusive planning and implementation systems
 - Institutional arrangements with clear responsibilities
 - Accessible data and knowledge systems
- In essence: We must be "recovery-ready"



Address Recovery Readiness
Challenges

- Risk Data and Assessment
- Automated planning and financing workflows
- Interoperable platforms for coordination
- Scenario planning and simulation
- Monitoring, evaluation and feedback







•Purpose:

A tool to help governments assess and strengthen their readiness for post-disaster recovery

•What it looks at:

- •Policies: Are recovery policies and plans in place?
- •Institutions: Are roles, capacities, and coordination mechanisms clear?
- •Financing: Are funds, systems, and strategies ready before a disaster?
- •Data & Knowledge: Are there systems to track, learn, and improve?
- •Inclusion: Are all groups—especially vulnerable ones—part of the planning?

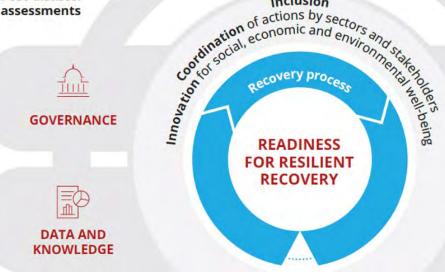
•What it produces:

A *diagnosis* of strengths and gaps in recovery readiness—and actions to address them

- •How it helps:
- Shortens recovery timelines
- •Improves use of resources
- •Enables better outcomes for communities

- Vision and strategy for recovery
- Institutional and legal structures – to lead, monitor, review, and update readiness measures for recovery
- Policies, plans robust, comprehensive and progressive
- Post-disaster assessments

- Mechanisms for financing recovery – strategy for mobilizing finance
 - Instruments ex-ante and ex-post
- Financial management institutional responsibility and readiness for managing financial resources



- Risk information – updated risk data and information
- Resilience assessments – resilience of critical infrastructure and services
- Knowledge management systems – institutionalized systems to learn from past recovery initiatives, including traditional knowledge







DEADINESS DOMAINS

Inclusion

- Human resources -
- institutional and organizational capacities to lead and manage recovery
- Skills and competencies institutional, organizational, and professional capacities for the implementation of recovery
- Tools for efficient post-disaster needs assessments, recovery planning, management, and implementation

Thank you!