

DEDICATED TO REDUCING  
GLOBAL DISASTER DEATHS

# Avoidable Deaths

## Translating Sendai's Global Target One Into Action

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# Structure of My Presentation

- Introducing avoidable deaths and their connection to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Introducing Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN).
- Requesting audience participation.



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# Disasters and Deaths

- Hazards: Potential to cause harm and human loss.
- Types of disaster deaths: direct (primary), indirect (secondary), missing person.
- Examples of human loss: Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004), The Triple Disaster in Japan (2011), Typhoon Haiyan (2013), and Cyclone Idai (2019).
- Disproportionate numbers of deaths between developed and developing countries.





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# Avoidable Deaths / Our Publications

- Deaths are no longer 'act of God'
- Avoidable deaths are preventable deaths (Galtung, 1969; Glantz, 2009; DLR, 2013).
- Some deaths are unavoidable.
- >10 deaths is considered unavoidable in many disaster scenarios.
- <10 however, is likely avoidable. However, this target can vary (Ray-Bennett, 2017, 2018; CRED, undated).
- Ray-Bennett N.S. and Shiroshita, H. 2019. Hiroshima Landslide 2014, Global Assessment Report 2019
- Ray-Bennett, N.S. 2017. Avoidable Deaths Springer. <https://www.springer.com/gb/book/9783319669502>
- Ray-Bennett, N.S. 2017. Disasters, Deaths and the Sendai Goal One: Lessons from Odisha, India. World Development. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.10.003>
- Ray-Bennett, N.S. 2016. Learning from Deaths in Disasters: MAP Bulletin. <http://www.mei.edu/content/map/learning-deaths-disasters-case-odishaindia>



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# Avoidable Deaths

- Avoidable Deaths are ‘stupid deaths’ (Farmer, 2004) and when they continue to occur they become ‘violence’ (Galtung, 1969).
- Avoidable deaths are ‘intolerable injustice’. Deaths in disasters are a case for violation of justice (Sen, 2009; Ray-Bennett, 2017a, 2018).



‘Etegami for Disaster Victims’

© Picture Letter Group at Denbara and Gion West Community Centers, Hiroshima, Japan.





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## How could justice be apportioned for human lives in disasters?

- Acknowledging human deaths as a matter of justice.
- Introducing a 'goal' to reduce human deaths at any cost.
- Social realisation and promoting accountability amongst actors and responders.

(Sen, 2009; Ray-Bennett, 2017, 2018)



'Etegami for Disaster Victims'

© Picture Letter Group at Denbara and Gion West Community Centers, Hiroshima, Japan.



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# UN's Efforts to Address Avoidable Deaths

## The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

The Sendai Framework adopted seven Global Targets, of which the first two Targets are:

- a) “Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015;
- b) Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.”.



UN World Conference on  
Disaster Risk Reduction  
2015 Sendai Japan



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# UN's Efforts to Address Avoidable Deaths

## The Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030

There are 17 Goals, of which the most relevant to the avoidable deaths are:

- Goal 1 (No Poverty);
- Goal 2 (Zero Hunger);
- Goal 3 (Good Health and Well Being);
- Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation);
- Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities);
- Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).







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# Realising Avoidable Deaths through Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN)

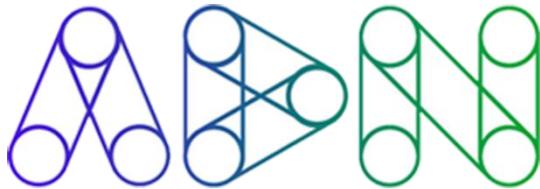
- Close connection between the Sendai's first goal and avoidable deaths: a new scientific field.
- Disaster death is a 'wicked problem'.
- Decentralised decision making due to multi-sectoral approach in disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management.
- Interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach and partnerships wherever possible, is required to avoid disaster deaths.



UN World Conference on  
Disaster Risk Reduction  
2015 Sendai Japan



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## The Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN)

A diverse, dynamic, inclusive and innovative global membership network of experts, practitioners and researchers interested in avoiding human deaths from natural hazards, naturally triggered technological hazards and human-made disasters in low- and middle-income countries.

# The Launch of the ADN

- The ADN was officially launched at the 4th Summit of Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI) at Kyoto University, Japan on 12 March 2019.





# ADN

- **ADN's mission:**

- To find theoretical and practical solutions to reducing avoidable deaths.

- **ADN's mottos:**

- “No day shall erase you from the memory of time.” – Virgil
- “*Ut Vitam Habeant*” - So that they may have life (University of Leicester)
- “Gaku no Jitsuge (学の実化).” – Theory into practice (Kansai University)



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# What do we do?

- Host an open space to share, discuss and disseminate international, regional, national and local news, research and innovative solutions to avoidable deaths;
- Promote state and non-state collaboration through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in order to advance the agenda of avoidable deaths;
- Advocate the agenda of mainstreaming avoidable deaths at the heart of all disaster and development activities in low and middle-income countries;
- Publish a bi-annual newsletter; and
- Actively solicitate and secure private and public funds to promote the above activities.





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# How can I join ADN?

You can join the ADN via our website ([www.avoidable-deaths.net](http://www.avoidable-deaths.net)) as an:

- Affiliate
- Organisational Partner
- Volunteer/Intern





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# Gathering multiple perspectives on avoidable deaths

- To advance knowledge on how to avoid disaster deaths, my presentation also includes seeking your participation.
- Ethics approval has been sought from the University of Leicester's Ethics Sub-Committee for School of Business for this data collection.
- Please complete the short questionnaire:  
[https://ulsm.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3aX5myM7RCKEsrH](https://ulsm.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3aX5myM7RCKEsrH)



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# Questions

- 1) Do you believe it is possible to achieve Global Target A of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction?
- 2) Do you believe it is possible to achieve Global Target B of the Sendai Framework?
- 3) In one sentence, what, in your view, is the most effective way to bring about a global reduction in avoidable deaths from disaster events?
- 4) In your view, which type of organizations should take the lead in a country's effort to reduce disaster deaths?
- 5) Are you aware of any good practices to reduce disaster deaths? List their titles or 4-5 word descriptions.