***Crisis risk management: anticipating change / counteracting fragility***.

The range of countries considered conflict affected or fragile is increasingly broad and diverse. At the same time recovery and peacebuilding are now better understood as long-term processes requiring a mix of immediate, medium and long term responses, rather than linear events.

Anticipating the escalation of major crises is a challenge that goes beyond the state level responsibility and has now to be implemented at community and household level with a people-centred approach.

Around 1.5 billion people live in conflict and fragile states / environments, globally. Although the root causes of fragility vary, inequality and social exclusion tend to exacerbate fragile situations.

To manage the risk and anticipate change confronting global challenges is of paramount importance in order to prevent major crisis worldwide, starting at local level ( and not only in fragile contexts).

There is an urgent and growing need to improve emergency preparedness, anticipating change and adapting to it. This is particularly true in countries exposed to recurrent natural hazards and conflicts.

As funding for humanitarian assistance in fragile countries continues to decrease, it will be particularly important to invest in building capacities and strengthening governance to manage crisis risk at all levels of society (household, community, national and regional). Action is needed to tackle natural and human-made risks, reduce the scale and costs of humanitarian interventions and increase their effectiveness.

In parallel, a people-cantered approach should be nurtured helping local governance with bottom-up initiatives and supporting local people needs and aspirations. Working at community level helps reducing vulnerability to disasters and climate change as demonstrated by many successful community level infrastructure rehabilitation programmes and labour intensive investment projects.

A culture of prevention and resilience needs to be fostered at all levels through better education and inter-communal dialogue, embedding a culture of sharing, learning and testing.