The Challenge of Too Much Water

Melissa Opryszko, PhD MPH
Sr. WASH Advisor
USAID/OFDA
USAID/OFDA

• Coordinate and lead USG humanitarian response

• Proactive
  – Disaster Risk Reduction

• Reactive
  – Identify needs, set priorities for USG assistance
  – Provide aid through NGOs, UN and other partners
Impacts on Health

Massive destruction
- Traumatic injuries, drowning
- Waterborne & water-related diseases
- Chronic diseases
- Loss of access
  - Water
  - Sanitation
  - Hygiene materials
  - Healthcare

Philippines 2013
Most at Risk: Densely Populated, Low Income

Philippines 2013
Lost Livelihoods: Agricultural Fields

Peru 2017
Loss of Shelter: Floods, Landslides

Bosnia 2014
Challenges

• Logistics
• It’s not just infrastructure
  – Upheaval of daily life and environment
• Long term recovery
  – Settlements, livelihoods, health
  – Linking with development

Philippines 2013, Delivering Relief Commodities