

Closing the Protection Gap for Natural Catastrophe Risk

RenaissanceRe Holdings Ltd. Kevin J. O'Donnell November 29, 2017

Q3 2017 – Reminder that natural catastrophes occur





Sources: Weather Predict Consulting, Aon Benfield Analytics, National Hurricane Center, various media outlets

This year is on track to be one of the largest loss years ever...

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"2017 will be the third year having more than \$100B of insured losses over the previous 15"



Sources: VJ Dowling (IBNR), RNR Holdings Ltd Earnings Call Q3 2017, modelling agencies, PCS

Historical Annual Insured Losses



Responding to natural catastrophes

- Natural catastrophes are unavoidable
- Impact of natural catastrophes include:
 - Economic loss
 - Can be quantified monetarily
 - Theoretically insurable
 - Social impact loss of life, displaced families, etc.
 - Difficult to quantify monetarily
 - Insurance not a perfect substitute (e.g., post-disaster emigration)
- Knowing that there will be natural catastrophes, society makes tradeoffs between:
 - Investing in physical resilience (mitigation, land usage, building codes, etc.)
 - Ex ante risk financing (insurance, reinsurance, risk transfer, etc.)
 - Ex post risk financing (debt, govt. assistance, unintended self-insurance, charity, etc.)

Mitigation and risk transfer reduce impact of catastrophes





Significant protection gap

Harvey, Irma and Maria highlight the extent of the insurance "Protection Gap"; the industry is striving to close this gap by growing the insurable pool of risk...

Estimate of 3Q Cat Losses & Source of Claims Payment



Sources: Moody's, AIR, RMS, PCS, FEMA, FHCF, Artemis, Q3 Financials, etc.



The protection gap is even greater in the developing world...





Uninsured Losses as % of Economic Losses ('07 – '16)

Source: Insurance Development Forum, Lloyd's

Cost of the protection gap – effect on GDP

- Ex post financing results in significant decrease in GDP post-disaster
- Ex ante financing (insurance) results in permanent increase in GDP postdisaster



Source: BIS Working Paper No 394, Unmitigated disasters?

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Example of Protection Gap - 2015 Nepal Earthquake

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- Magnitude 7.8 earthquake
- Economic cost \$6B
- Social impact 9,000 fatalities, extreme displacement of families
- Insufficient mitigation and ex ante risk financing
 - Mitigation Most of population live in unreinforced masonry buildings
 - Risk Transfer P&C Insurance penetration .5% of GDP



Why is there a protection gap?



Economic losses must be absorbed - Why chose ex post financing?

Developing countries

- Ex ante funding may not be economically feasible
- Lack of awareness of risk
- Underdeveloped insurance market/regulatory framework
- Poor construction/weak building codes

Developed countries

- Government crowding out "Why should I buy insurance if the government will bail me out?"
- Political incentives to defer recognition of costs budgets are tight
- Time inconsistency of preferences
 - Politicians will spend any insurance surplus on more pressing needs
- Impossibility of governments to save for natural catastrophes

Proprietary and Confidential Information

Role of public/private partnerships in closing the protection gap - , Flood Re

- Private reinsurance transforms ex post government insurance to ex ante financing
 - Makes government part of the solution
- Government transfers contractual duty to save to private insurer, which cannot ex post finance – shrinks protection gap
- Reduces many drawbacks of ex post financing
- Flood Re is a great example of how the public/private approach can work to close the protection gap





NFIP – recognizing the value of reinsurance

- NFIP historically dependent on ex post funding
 - Demonstrated by its \$30B+ of unfunded losses (*i.e.*, taxes)
- Purchasing private reinsurance is a step towards real ex ante financing and decreasing the protection gap
- Anticipate full limit loss on \$1 billion reinsurance purchase
- Strong private market appetite for flood





Closing the protection gap - collaboration and alliances are key...

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Lloyd's Disaster Risk Facility

- Solutions to help developing economies tackle underinsurance and improve their resilience against the economic impact of natural catastrophes
- Emerging economies across Latin America, Africa, and Asia currently contribute 40% to global GDP, yet represent only 16% of global insurance premiums
- \$445 million of capacity from 8 syndicates



Summary

- Every society must make tradeoffs between mitigation, ex ante risk financing and ex post risk financing
- Many of these tradeoffs are difficult, and can result in a protection gap
 - Especially in developing countries
- In developed countries, the protection gap is often a function of political reality and inappropriate incentives
- Private risk transfer can help close the protection gap
 - Flood Re example of effective public/private partnership
 - NFIP strong private market demand for flood risk
 - Lloyds' DRF helping to address the protection gap in emerging markets



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- University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography

Nepal earthquake: social impact on children

"We don't know when we will have a new house."

"We don't have safe drinking water."

"We are living in a tent and cannot sleep at night."

"I'd like to go to school just like before."



Many children continue to live in temporary shelters after the earthquake destroyed their homes.

RAJAN ZAVERI/SAVE THE CHILDREN



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