Why We Have A Problem Thinking About The Unthinkable

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Impaired Thinking

• “If I had predicted a year ago that Merrill Lynch and Citigroup would sink into the red and have to be bailed out by sovereign funds of the developing world, people would have wondered what I had been smoking”  Lord Levene- Chairman Lloyds of London- 2008
We Have A Problem With the Cascade
We Have A Problem Connecting
WE HAVE A PROBLEM - In Our Overconfidence
We Have A Problem With – TOO BIG

DUE Today!

I'M TOO BIG TO FAIL!

AIG
We Have A Problem- With Too Little
We Have A Problem With Our Purpose
But The Two Biggest Problems - The Wrong Tools
When We Need A Tool That Looks Like This
Total event occurrences for the selected region. Mouse over graph to view numbers.

**Southern Africa: Floods - Jan 2011**

Show/Hide Impact Info

GLIDE number: FL-2011-000007-ZAF
Buckets That Influence Risk

- Government Structure and Maturity (political)
- Religious/Cultural/Tribal Influences
- Health Care Maturity (trends, access to medicine)
- Business Infrastructure (regional, national)
- Access to Resources (financial, natural)
- Human/Livestock Footprint (population density)
And The Wrong Math

"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."
There Is No Average Event

- Start with the value of life (human and livestock)
- Add the immediate economic loss (business and government)
- Multiply by the value of on-going loss 2 years out
- Mitigate by the value of being prepared (economic value of rebuild and infrastructure improvement)
- Understand the range of events from best to worse
The Way Ahead- Must Be:

- Able to see interdependencies and event scale
- Backward and forward looking
- Spatial and Temporal
- User friendly
- Always on
- Able to help find the root causes of crisis
The Right Models Create A New Thinking
THE CORE Of Assisted Thinking Risk Understood

- Designed to Build Trust Across Borders
- EVAI To Build Metrics of Action
- Lead to a behavioral change
- Through local and global collaboration
- To Serve As A Model For Others

Risk Understood
Questions

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