

**Regional Review Webinar on Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM)**  
(Monday, 7 September 2020)

**Minutes of Meeting**

UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) organized a Regional Review Webinar with national Sendai Focal Points in the region on 7 September 2020.

**Main objectives of the webinar:**

1. Review progress of Arab countries on SFM reporting, and
2. Agree on concrete steps to take to ensure increased and enhanced quality reporting on the required data by 1 October.

**Other specific objectives:**

1. Follow-up on Arab states' commitment at the national and regional level to periodically **review the progress made** in the implementing Sendai framework through SFM reporting;
2. Follow-up on SFM reporting on the development and implementation of national and local DRR strategies to achieve **Target E** of the Sendai Framework;
3. Discuss the need for **disaggregation of data** and **reporting on COVID-19 losses on SFM**.
4. Review the SFM status and agree on concrete steps to take to **increase SFM reporting** and **enhance the quality of data** entered before the next reporting milestones.

The countries that were present at the webinar were: Algeria, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Sudan, Tunisia, UAE, and Yemen (refer to annex I for list of participants).

Mr. Sujit Mohanty, Chief of UNDRR ROAS, gave welcome remarks whereby he thanked all Arab states for taking the time to participate amidst the ongoing response and recovery efforts from the COVID-19 and other disaster impacts. In addition, Mr. Mohanty introduced two new National Sendai Focal Points in the region; namely: Mr. Afra Hamid from Algeria and Mr. Mohamed Jarefa from Morocco. Mr. Mohanty also thanked UNDP colleagues for participating at the webinar as observers with the aspiration that UNDRR and UNDP will work closely in the Arab countries to support government's DRR efforts.

Finally, Mr. Mohanty affirmed that the webinar was being organized in advance of the upcoming global SFM milestone of 1 October 2020 to review the progress made by Arab states in SFM reporting and address the gaps to increase reporting and enhance data quality. He underlined the importance of active participation in the group discussion on Target E and data disaggregation to identify challenges and recommend actions to take to address them over the next 6 months and before the upcoming milestone of 31 March 2021.

### **Overview of the status of SFM Reporting in the Arab States as of 31 August 2020**

Ms. Mirna Abu Ata gave a presentation on the status of SFM reporting in the Arab states as of 31 August 2020, detailing the status of reporting on targets A and B for the baseline years of 2005-2014 by country, and the status of reporting on Targets A to G for 2015-2019 by country. The data review showed that 14 out of 22 countries (64%) are reporting on SFM, with the largest amount of data entered being for 2018; which is the year in which the SFM was introduced and many national and regional hands-on trainings were carried out.

For Targets A and B for the baseline years, eight out of 22 countries (36%) are reporting. For Targets A to G for 2015-2019, 14 out of 22 countries (64%) are reporting, whereby seven (7) countries (50% of the reporting countries) have entered data for all targets (A-G) for at least one reporting year. However, there are two common issues observed in the reporting done so far; a) countries report partially on some indicators under any given target, and b) where countries report on all indicators under any target, the data are mostly entered as zero (0). For the latter issue, it is believed that some countries, especially GCC countries, do not consider events or hazards they face as disasters. They only believe they should enter data for disasters that exceed their capacities to respond, thus, require international assistance. UNDRR clarified that the definition of disaster here is not restricted and that damages and losses attributed to small and frequent hazard events should be recorded. UNDRR also stressed the need to consider disaggregating the data at least by hazard and location to enable the analysis of the figure zero (0) whenever it appears on SFM.

In the presentation, Ms. Abu Ata reiterated the importance of benefiting from SFM as an administrative tool that can help governments;

1. Assess trends and patterns of natural and man-made hazards at national, regional and global levels;
2. Develop disaster risk reduction strategies (Target E);
3. Make policy decisions based on an understanding of risk and, thus,
4. Allocate the necessary material and financial resources to prevent the emergence of new disasters and reduce the risks of existing disasters, and
5. Track the country's progress in disaster risk reduction

UNDRR referred to two instances where UNDRR faced challenges in using the data entered on SFM by the Arab States as they are:

1. Following the 31 March 2020 milestone, UNDRR Bonn and UNDRR Cairo office conducted **data check and cleaning** before submitting the data to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) - to feed into the Global Sustainable Development Report presented at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in July 2020. While checking the data, some metadata had to be verified with some Arab states and some loss and damage data were identified as outliers and had to be double checked with some Arab states before their submission to UNDESA.
2. UNDRR Cairo has also been working with regional UN and non-UN partners on the development of the **Regional Assessment Report on DRR** and attempted to assess trends and patterns of losses attributed to disasters using SFM data since 2005. However, this was unfortunately not possible.

**UNDRR identified the following problematics with data entry that contributed to the above challenges at the time:**

1. Some countries don't fill the currency, exchange rate and Nominal GDP correctly in the metadata. It should be noted that:
  - Currency is "name of your local currency".
  - Exchange rate is the value of your local currency against 1 USD.
  - Nominal GDP must be entered as a full figure without decimals or words. Example: "6657456780" is correct, but "6.6 billion" is wrong.
2. Countries leave some indicators blank if there are no losses incurred. However, blank does not mean zero. Blank means there are no data available.
3. Countries report inconsistently on SFM. (A country reports on some targets in one year, but not the same targets in another year, etc.) which hinder proper trend analysis.
4. Some countries that have drafted, developed or endorsed their national DRR strategies do not report on Target E on SFM.
5. Some countries report 100% alignment of their national DRR strategies with Sendai Framework; this percentage seems illogical, especially when no national strategy is reported to be in place.
6. Only few countries validate their data on SFM. Without validation, countries will not be able to benefit from the Analytics Module on SFM.
7. No country so far reports disaggregated data by hazard or location or sex or income or disability.
8. All GCC countries report zero (0) losses or damages almost for all indicators, while some Arab countries report zero on a large number of indicators.

### **Status of SFM Reporting on Target E:**

Ms. Mirna Abu Ata presented an overview of the status of SFM reporting on Target E per country. The review of reporting showed that six countries are not reporting on Target E although they had previously confirmed having drafted or finalized or endorsed their national DRR strategies. Overall, 10 out of 22 countries (45.5%) are reporting on Target E, but not necessarily on both indicators or for consecutive years, including for 2019. Ms. Abu Ata highlighted the gaps in reporting and certain errors in data entry for each of the countries reporting. Among the 10 countries reporting, three countries do not have a National DRR Strategy in place but report on E-1, and two other countries report zero (0) on E-2 although they have local DRR strategies in place.

Since Target E calls for a substantial increase in the number of countries with national and local DRR strategies by 2020, UNDRR stressed the need for countries to ensure reporting on Target E for the year 2019; being the cut off year where SFM data for Target E will inform the global report on the achievement of Target E.

**Action 1:** UNDRR requested all countries that have a National DRR Strategy (draft, final, endorsed) to report on Target E (both indicators E-1 and E-2) on SFM for the year 2019 and notify UNDRR when completed and latest by 30 September 2020.

### **Disaggregation of Data on SFM:**

Ms. Mirna Abu Ata presented a comparison table showing the countries that were entering and updating data on their national disaster loss databases -whether DesInventar or a nationally-adapted database- for the baseline years 2005-2014 and their status of reporting on SFM for the same baseline. The comparison found that six countries that had been updating their DesInventars until 2012 or 2013 have not yet reported on SFM targets A and B for the same years (baseline data). These countries were strongly encouraged to extract the required data from DesInventar and enter the figures on SFM under targets A and B, while disaggregating the data per hazard and per location at a minimum; as such data are disaggregated accordingly in their DesInventars.

UNDRR highlighted that, although Yemen is facing tremendous challenges in collecting the required SFM data at the national level due to the impact of the conflict on the governance arrangements, it can initiate SFM reporting by entering the data that were updated on DesInventar until 2013.

**Action 2:** UNDRR requested the countries with DesInventar or a National Disaster Loss Database to report on Targets A and B for the baseline years (2005-2014), disaggregated by hazard and location (at a minimum), and notify UNDRR when completed and latest by 30 September 2020.

### Preparations for COVID-19 Reporting on SFM by 31 March 2021:

Ms. Mirna Abu Ata reminded the countries of the need to report on losses and damages attributed to COVID-19 and other disasters or hazards such as the Lebanon port explosion and ongoing Sudan floods and Jordan fires by the next milestone of 31 March 2021. UNDRR reminded that the additional data needed by 31 March 2021 are all indicators under Targets A to E for the year 2020. To achieve this, UNDRR proposed the below steps and timeline to countries:

Sr.	Steps to take	Timeline
1	Organize preparatory meeting with all users of SFM.	October 2020
2	Map the owners and contributors of the data for each Target or Indicator (Targets A to D).	October 2020
3	National Coordinator to set up the disaggregation <u>by hazard</u> on SFM by adding “pandemic/COVID-19” under setup.	November 2020
4	National Coordinator to set up the owners and contributors of the data for each target or indicator (Targets A to D).	November 2020 – December 2020
5	Contributors to enter data on losses and damages due to COVID-19, disaggregated by hazard, location, sex, income, disability (to the extent possible)	January 2021 – 31 March 2021
6	National Coordinator to coordinate the data entry on COVID-19 with all contributors.	January 2021 – 31 March 2021

### Status of implementation of the recommendations made at the Regional Review Workshop held in Cairo in August 2019:

In the Regional Review Workshop of August 2019, countries put forward the following recommendations to address the key challenges faced in reporting on SFM.

Challenge	Recommendation
<p><b>High turn-over of Sendai FPs.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Define a clear mechanism to minimize the possibility of focal point turnover</b>, whereby an agreement is made with their institutions that when they are trained, they should stay for a known period to continue data entry and transfer the training to their peers;</li> <li>• <b>Appoint a focal point and an alternate from each institution</b></li> <li>• <b>Support for capacity building of the technical staff; focal point turnover</b> (leaving after receiving training);</li> </ul>
<p><b>Data challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coordination with institutions to collect data,</b></li> <li>• <b>Collecting data in conflict/post-conflict settings,</b></li> <li>• <b>Delays in data collection,</b></li> <li>• <b>Unavailability of data,</b></li> <li>• <b>Absence of national disaster loss database</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Raising awareness on importance of updated database</b> not just incident reports that are not employed to reduce disasters;</li> <li>• <b>Coordination between local and national level</b> so that the info collected from local level reaches national level;</li> <li>• <b>Raise awareness on importance of data collection in rural areas;</b></li> <li>• <b>Standardize data collection timeframe in line with global milestones.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Absence of a finalized national DRR strategy and relevant legislations</b></p>	<p><b>Develop and endorse legislation</b> to define roles and responsibilities in collecting data, guide the national coordination mechanism and the appointment of focal points;</p>
<p><b>Lack of Financial Resources</b></p>	<p><b>Priority is to allocate budget for DRR from the national budget</b> (Direct support of the state); <b>then reaching out to the private sector; then to external partners and organizations.</b></p>

### Group Work:

Following the UNDRR presentation, countries were invited to work in groups to discuss challenges and recommend actions for initiating the data disaggregation and for reporting on COVID-19 on SFM, in addition to reviewing the achievements made in implementing the recommendations of the August 2019 Regional Review Workshop.

The countries were divided into three groups, each to run the discussion in one of the three languages (English, Arabic and French). Each group was supported by two UNDRR staff members. Each group was requested to identify a facilitator, rapporteur and presenter and work for 45 minutes on the above topics.

Below is the configuration of the groups:

- Group A (Arabic): Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Qatar and Yemen.
- Group E (English): Lebanon, Sudan, UAE.
- Group F (French): Comoros, Djibouti, Morocco, Tunisia

The three groups had to answer the questions on their group work sheet and re-send it to UNDRR after the webinar. The outcome of the three groups was presented at the end of the webinar as follows:

**1. Disaggregation of Data on SFM: by hazard, location, sex, income, disability (15 minutes)**

- Why are you not entering disaggregated data?
- Recommend actions to initiate disaggregation of data on SFM by 1 October 2020 and beyond.

Challenges	Recommendations
1. Data are gathered from news sources and are not disaggregated by income or disability (e.g. Lebanon).	1. Work with regions and sectors to gather data on monthly basis, thus making it easier to reflect them on SFM.
2. Data are considered confidential and sensitive prior to their validation or approval in some countries (e.g. UAE).	2. Collaborate with concerned ministries / agencies to guarantee access to the data.
3. Absence of National Disaster Loss Databases that host disaggregated data by sex, income and disability in some countries (e.g. Sudan, Tunisia).	3. Coordinate with UNDRR to provide support to the establishment of national disaster loss databases in countries where they are absent.
4. Weak coordination between institutions and with partners and line ministries to collect essential disaggregated data. Example: In Morocco, response efforts are conducted by a certain entity while the recording of losses is done by a different entity.	4. Enhance coordination between institutions and with partners and sectors to collect disaggregated data.
	5. Mobilize resources to conduct necessary assessments to enable the collection of disaggregated data.
	6. Djibouti: For the data already collected, it would be extremely challenging to disaggregate; however, for the future, data

Challenges	Recommendations
<p>5. Lack of resources to conduct relevant assessments that enable disaggregated data collection (e.g. Sudan).</p> <p>6. Absence of a regular or periodic data collection processes in countries. (e.g. Morocco, Djibouti)</p> <p>7. Lack of adequate and trained human resources (e.g. Tunisia).</p> <p>8. Data collection scorecards designed at national level in Djibouti do not require entry of disaggregated data.</p> <p>9. Lack of a standard methodology at country level to attribute losses to cascading hazardous events (e.g. Morocco).</p> <p>10. Data provided by other institutions are not disaggregated, therefore it is not possible to enter disaggregated data on SFM (e.g. Iraq).</p> <p>11. In Yemen, there are challenges in forming a monitoring team from the concerned institutions in view of the current governance arrangements in the conflict-affected country. Lack of financial resources to train a monitoring team once formed is another challenge.</p>	<p>collection scorecards will be further discussed at national level to rectify the methodology and modify the scorecards to enable the collection of disaggregated data.</p> <p>7. There is need to balance the disaggregation requirement and the timeline of the next milestone of 1 October. Therefore, priority should be to enter the required data against the targets by the next milestone, while addressing the disaggregation in the future especially that disaggregation is optional on SFM.</p> <p>8. Facilitate training of monitoring teams in countries affected by conflict (e.g. Yemen).</p> <p>9. Organize a number of meetings with senior government officials to advocate the importance of data collection and seek their commitment to the process.</p> <p>10. Present the best practices in disaggregating data by those countries or entities that are advanced in this field to achieve data integration and quality.</p> <p>11. Give adequate time for reporting and do not restrict reporting to a defined timeline.</p>

**Requests addressed by countries to UNDRR ROAS:**

1. UNDRR to support in training countries on data collection methods via webinars.
2. UNDRR to support countries in addressing issues faced with DesInventar and establishing



national disaster loss databases in some countries.

## 2. **COVID-19 Reporting (15 minutes)**

- Define 3-4 key challenges in reporting on COVID
- Recommend actions to address the above challenges in reporting on COVID by 31 March 2021

Challenges Faced by Countries	Recommended Actions by Countries
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Data are considered confidential and sensitive at national and global level in some countries (e.g. UAE).</li> <li>2. Lack of adequate COVID-19 testing centres in some countries adds challenges to the collection of accurate and disaggregated data (e.g. Sudan).</li> <li>3. Challenges in gathering data from sectors not directly concerned.</li> <li>4. Protracted crises in some countries make it difficult to report data on SFM in a timely manner (e.g. Sudan and Lebanon).</li> <li>5. Most data are already available to the public and are recorded by the Ministry of Health. However, the total death toll is recorded as a total figure without disaggregation (e.g. Morocco and Djibouti).</li> <li>6. Difficulties faced in calculating the number of persons who lost their jobs or livelihoods.</li> <li>7. Challenges faced in view of the volume of data and the multiple nationalities contracting the virus.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enhance coordination with sectors involved in the response to COVID-19 on data collection and disaggregation.</li> <li>2. Develop and disseminate daily situation reports in partnership with media. Daily situation reports to include a matrix with indicators by sector.</li> <li>3. Coordinate with relevant ministries to verify the data disaggregation for COVID-19 losses for potential entry of such data on SFM by 31 March 2021.</li> <li>4. Define and divide the roles between the concerned institutions to ensure data entry by one single entity in the country.</li> <li>5. Give adequate time for data collection.</li> <li>6. Pay attention to infrastructure systems in data collection and in emergency, crisis and disaster management.</li> </ol>

Challenges Faced by Countries	Recommended Actions by Countries
<p>8. Difficulties in coordinating with concerned institutions to enter data that are within their specialization noting that the data could be common across sectors but require segregation/unification.</p>	

**Requests addressed by countries to UNDRR ROAS:**

1. **Morocco** requested UNDRR to provide guidance on how to enter data on COVID-19 losses on SFM. Morocco also requested UNDRR to send an official letter to facilitate the work of the Sendai Focal Point in reaching out to the other line ministries to coordinate the required data collection.
2. **Djibouti** requested UNDRR to organize a national training workshop / webinar gathering all line ministries to launch the process of SFM reporting while informing them of the prevailing challenges and opportunities.
3. **Review progress in implementing recommendations of the Regional Review Workshop held in August 2019**
  - List the achievements done since August 2019.
  - Steps to take by 31 March 2021

Due to time limitation, Group F was not able to discuss the third question. However, UNDRR will follow up with countries to verify the progress in implementing the recommendations of the Regional Review Workshop held in 2019 over the course of the next month. Please refer to the below outcome of the discussions held in Groups A and E.

Recommendations	Achievements since August 2019	Steps to Take by 31 March 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Define a clear mechanism to minimize the possibility of focal point turnover</b>, whereby an agreement is made with their institutions that when they are trained, they should stay for a known period to continue data entry and transfer the training to their peers;</li> <li>• <b>Appoint a focal point and an alternate from each institution</b></li> <li>• <b>Support for capacity building of the technical staff; focal point turnover</b> (leaving after receiving training);</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lebanon has assigned a national and technical Sendai Focal Point.</li> <li>2. Focal points from participating institutions have been appointed in some countries to work on SFM. (Sudan has a well-defined and well-trained Sendai Working Group from all concerned ministries that can be nominated in the absence of a focal point).</li> <li>3. Concerned staff have been trained and their capacities built in data entry and the skills transferred to them to upgrade the level of SFM reporting in some countries.</li> </ol>	<p>UNDRR to write officially to the DGs to clarify the role of the Sendai Focal Points and stress its importance in addition to requesting the nomination of alternative focal points while stressing its importance.</p> <p>(UAE to nominate an alternative focal point and activate local focal points.)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Raising awareness on importance of updated database</b> not just incident reports that are not employed to reduce disasters;</li> <li>• <b>Coordination between local and national level</b> so that the info collected from local level reaches national level;</li> <li>• <b>Raise awareness on importance of data collection in rural areas;</b></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participating sectors have been urged to upgrade their databases in line with Sendai Framework for DRR.</li> <li>2. Coordination between institutions is underway to unify and segregate the data and ensure they are not duplicated.</li> <li>3. Participating institutions are being alerted to the global milestones for SFM reporting.</li> <li>4. Sudan has established good collaboration for the gathering of data.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish local and national disaster loss databases to be used for DRR and SFM reporting to avoid duplication of data between sectors, while defining the role of each institution.</li> <li>2. UAE and Lebanon to implement the recommendations.</li> <li>3. Sudan to establish a National Disaster Loss Database.</li> </ol>

Recommendations	Achievements since August 2019	Steps to Take by 31 March 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Standardize data collection timeframe in line with global milestones.</b></li> </ul>		
<p><b>Develop and endorse legislation</b> to define roles and responsibilities in collecting data, guide the national coordination mechanism and the appointment of focal points;</p>	<p>There are national DRR strategies and action plans in some countries.</p>	<p>Update the national DRR strategy and action plan</p>
<p><b>Priority is to allocate budget for DRR from the national budget</b> (Direct support of the state); <b>then</b> reaching out to the <b>private sector; then to external partners and organizations.</b></p>	<p>No allocated budget for SFM reporting process.</p>	<p>Allocate budget for SFM reporting process.</p>

### Annex I: List of Participants

Ser	Country	Name	E-mail
1	Algeria	Mr. Afra Hamid	afra_hamid@yahoo.com
2	Comoros	Mr. Hamidi Soule Saadi	soulehamid@gmail.com
3	Djibouti	Mr. Radwan Aden	radwan-aden@hotmail.fr
4	Egypt	Mr. Tarek Mohamadein	thafez@idsc.net.eg
5		Mr. Ahmed Adel	aakotb@idsc.net.eg
6	Iraq	Mr. Osama Ibrahim	osama_ibraheem81@yahoo.com
7	Jordan	Mr. Mohamed Rousan	disa_dpt@cdd.gov.jo
8	Lebanon	Ms. Karine Zoghby	karine.zoghby@undp.org
9		Mr. Malek Al Jebaei	malek.al-jebaei@undp.org
10	Morocco	Mr. Mohamed Jarefa	jarefamohammed@gmail.com; mjarefa@interieur.gov.ma
11	Palestine	Mr. Mohamed Odeh Qasrawi	qm.odeh@gmail.com
12	Qatar	Mr. Mubarak Al Mohannadi	malmohannadi@moi.gov.qa; qatari2007@hotmail.com
13	Sudan	Ms. Hafsa Ahmed	hafsareal@gmail.com
14	Tunisia	Mohamed Ben Saeed	bensaid_1999@yahoo.com
15	UAE	Mr. Ahmed Al-Katheri	AKatheri@ncema.gov.ae
16	Yemen	Mr. Jameel Saeed	jamil.saeed@yahoo.com
17	UNDRR ROAS	Sujit Mohanty	mohanty@un.org
18		Fadi Jannan	jannan@un.org
19		Rania Hammad	rania.hammad@un.org
20		Saira Ahmed	Saira.ahmed@un.org
21		Mirna Abu Ata	abuata@un.org
22		Camilo Tellez	camilo.tellezrobayo@un.org
21		Aliaa Hamed Elsayed	aliaa.hamedelsayed@un.org

## Annex II: AGENDA

Time	Monday, 07 September 2020
11:00 – 11:10	<p><b>Welcome to the Webinar and setting the scene</b> <i>(Sujit Mohanty, Chief of UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States)</i></p>
11:10 - 11:40	<p><b>Reporting on progress made against Sendai global targets on Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the status of reporting by the Arab region on SFM since December 2019: <i>(Mirna Abu Ata, Sendai Monitoring Officer, UNDRR ROAS)</i></li> </ul>
11:40 - 12:30	<p><b>Problematics in data entry and reporting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SFM reporting on Target E;</li> <li>• Disaggregation of data for enhanced analysis;</li> </ul> <p><b>Arrangements to report on COVID-19 losses on SFM by March 2021.</b></p>
12:30 - 13:15	<p><b>Group Work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disaggregation of data,</li> <li>• COVID-19 reporting, and</li> <li>• Progress in implementing recommendations of regional review workshop of August 2019</li> </ul>
13:15 - 13:30	<p><b>Presentation of Group Work Outcomes</b></p>
13:00	<p><b>Way forward until 1 October 2020 (next milestone) and beyond</b></p>