Climate and disaster risk-informing the Common Country Analysis

SELF STUDY NOTES

This note is part of the learning package on the Guidance Note on Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, the whole of which can be accessed here:

Learning Module: Climate and disaster risk-informing the Common Country Analysis

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<th>Time and Method</th>
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<td>Slide 1</td>
<td>Welcome to this training, which will take approximately one hour. The objective of this training is to ensure that you are aware of why and how the Common Country Analysis should be climate- and disaster risk-informed. It’s a good idea to download the <em>Guidance Note on Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework</em> before starting this training.</td>
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<td>Slide 2</td>
<td>From 2005 to 2015, disasters caused USD 1.4 trillion in damage, killed 700,000 and affected 1.7 billion people globally. Without significant investment in resilience-building, these impacts threaten to not only decelerate but in extreme cases derail progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and realizing the 2030 Agenda. To enhance disaster resilience, prevent climate and disaster-related risks, and protect those left furthest behind, we must move beyond business as usual and engage all of society in climate and disaster risk management. The UN development system has therefore made risk-informed Cooperation Frameworks a priority in the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, and a risk-informed Common Country Analysis is essential to help integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the Cooperation Framework. This training, alongside a <em>Guidance Note on Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework</em>, has therefore been developed to assist UNCTs. The learning goals for this session are:</td>
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<td>• Participants understand how climate and disasters affect SDG progress. • Participants know what sources of evidence can support risk informed CCAs. • Participants know what risk-related questions to ask in each part of the CCA. • Participants can assess whether they have the required risk information available.</td>
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Climate change and disasters can decelerate and even derail progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and realizing the 2030 Agenda, as their impacts reverberate through all aspects of development.

We will use the case of disaster due to natural hazard as an example.

When a disaster caused by a natural hazard – such as a flood or drought – happens, it can cause injury, illness, and death, as well as damage to assets, infrastructure, settlements and ecosystems. These impacts and damages affects progress towards:
- good health and well-being,
- clean water and sanitation, and
- affordable and clean energy for all;

it also
- slows down progress in industry, innovation and infrastructure,
- makes cities and communities less safe, inclusive and sustainable; and
- threatens life below water and on land by damaging ecosystems directly or by triggering industrial/technological hazards.

It particularly negatively affects progress towards targets on SDG 1.5 (reduction in the number of deaths, missing and affected people from disasters, and reduction in direct disaster economic losses) and SDG 11.5 (reduction in direct disaster economic loss in relation, including disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services).

The resulting health impacts, deaths and damages disrupt economic activities, access to basic services, education and in some cases governance functions. This sets back progress towards
- zero hunger,
- quality education,
- gender equality,
- decent work and economic growth, and
- peace, justice and stronger institutions.

To use the example of education: in drought-affected regions in Africa, school enrollment rates declined by 20%, and similar impacts have been found in Asia and Latin America.

The combined impact of these losses and disruptions entrench poverty and inequalities, affecting those already left furthest behind the most severely and deepening inequalities between countries.

Similar impacts are made by slow-onset climate change-related hazards and disasters caused by environmental/ecosystem
degradation as well as technological and biological hazards, including outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics.

Different countries experience varying degrees of risk to these different types of hazards, but as countries urbanize and industrialize, technological and industrial hazards are expected to increase disaster risk and compound climate change impacts and extreme weather events, which can result in so-called “na-tech” disasters.

Urbanization can also encroach on ecosystems and habitats, increasing the risks from biological hazards.

The Guidance Note on Integrating DRR and Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation contains illustrations of the impact paths for these other types of hazards (see pages 12-13).

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<td>Most UNCTs have member agencies with considerable expertise on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, including climate-smart poverty reduction and agriculture, disaster preparedness and recovery, and disaster and climate data.</td>
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There are a number of specialized UN entities present at the regional or global level, whose expertise can also be drawn on to source evidence and analysis for the Common Country Assessment.

This slide shows some of the entities that can bring specialized expertise to the table to understand how climate change and disasters has and can affect the country's progress towards achieving the SDGs:

- UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction supports implementation and reporting on the Sendai Framework, research and risk analysis, and networks for key stakeholders such as the private sector;

- UNOPS works a lot with the resilience of infrastructure and infrastructure systems;

- UNESCO contributes to the Global Alliance for DRR and Resilience in the Education Sector and works with countries on DRR for cultural heritage and the cultural sector;

- UN Women provides guidance and technical support for gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework and leads the Women's Resilience to Disaster Programme contributing to the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, the SDGs and the Samoa Pathway.

- The United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response under UNOOSA can support access to satellite imagery and maps of affected areas.
When establishing the evidence-base for the Common Country Analysis, it is necessary to include

(a) evidence of historical disaster and climate impacts on economic, social and environmental aspects of the country’s development situation; and

(b) projections of future impacts, to help identify and assess risks that can threaten the achievement of the country’s development vision.

Such evidence can be found in a number of places:

- Hazard, exposure, vulnerability and risk assessments and maps show which areas, sectors, and people are at risk;

- Climate change impact models and projections help identify which areas, sector and people are facing climate risks;

- Disaster and epidemiological morbidity, loss and damage records provide information about loss of life, health, assets and productivity due to shocks and disasters;

- The national plans and legal frameworks for DRR, emergency response, health emergencies and climate change adaptation give an overview over national priorities and who are the duty-bearers;

- SDG financing assessments can give information about DRR and adaptation investment and investment gaps;

- National reporting on the SDGs, Sendai Framework, NDCs, NAPs and the International Health Regulations 2005 provide information about national targets, capacities and capacity gaps for climate and disaster risk management.

As part of the UN system commitment to the principle of Leaving No-One Behind, the CCA team should seek out sources of evidence on the hazard exposure, disaster and climate vulnerability, and risk to specific groups

- men, women, boys and girls;
- the elderly and people with disabilities;
- indigenous people and minorities;
- people affected by previous disasters, conflict and violence; and
- refugees and migrants.
Important sources of such information includes the National Statistics Office, specialized UN entities such as UN Women, IOM and UNHCR, humanitarian documents and plans, NGOs such as Humanity and Inclusion and Save the Children, as well as the indigenous people's organization, people with disabilities' organizations, and other community-based organizations.

We will now go through the entry points for climate and disaster risk-informing the Common Country Analysis. It covers the content on pages 23 to 27 in the Guidance Note.

When working on the assessment part of the CCA, keep in mind that the Sendai Framework and Paris Agreement are integral parts of the 2030 Agenda. Assessment of progress toward fulfilling the 2030 Agenda should include assessment of national capacity to fulfill and report on Sendai Framework targets and indicators and the NAP or national adaptation strategy.

Conversely – assessment of the SDG financing landscape should take into account
- disaster and climate change loss and damage and their impact on the economy;
- the state of funding streams contributing to building climate and disaster resilience; and
- whether climate and disaster risks act as barriers to fostering an investment-grade business environment.

The Multi-Dimensional Risk Analysis is the central point in the Common Country Analysis process to identify probability, impact and priority of existing, emerging and future risks related to natural, biological, technological and slow-onset climate change-related hazards - and describe their most likely impacts people and systems driving development.

Not not only contextually “typical” disasters, but also
- low-probability events,
- accumulation of climate change impacts, concurrent hazards and disasters, and
- interactions between sudden- and slow-onset events can significantly change the development situation and threaten sustainable progress towards the 2030 Agenda and Leaving No One Behind. Mention COVID-19 as an example.

The Cooperation Framework Companion Package has noted that high quality Common Country Analyses include early warning indicators.
Since the Common Country Analysis will be updated annually, it provides an opportunity to annually update the Multi-Dimensional Risk Analysis and early warning indicators related to the critical risks. These indicators should provide indications of negative changes in a country's development situation, to enable UN action to help prevent crises.

For climate and disaster risks, examples of such information can include (but are not limited to):
- changes in economic activity, migration or social cohesion in areas affected by disasters and climate change;
- changes in desert locust habitats;
- rainfall records; and
- water quality in areas close to chemical plants.

The Guidance Note contains more examples of early warning indicators for the Common Country Analysis.

The mandatory analyses in the Common Country Analysis should also be risk-informed.

We will go through the main entry points for risk-informing these analyses.

The bolded-out text on the next few slides refer to the analysis steps described in the Cooperation Framework Companion Package consolidated annex number five. These points are described more thoroughly in the Guidance Note.

Within the Economic Transformation Analysis, important climate and disaster risk questions to answer include:
1. Are any areas of high economic productivity/key transport and energy networks also at risk from climate change or natural hazards? For example: do important highways go close to flood-prone rivers or through areas at risk of earthquake?

2. What do climate and disaster risk management budget analyses and expenditure reviews say about the level of investment in climate/disaster risk management? For example, is there adequate allocation of public funding to local disaster management?

3. Which key productive sectors are vulnerable to external climate and disaster shocks (i.e. risks from transboundary risks or risks to value chains or travel)? For example, is tourism an important economic sector and how would a lack of tourists affect the economy? Are there any industries which rely on inputs imported from another, at-risk country?

4. Are any economic policies contributing increased risk of disasters from natural or man-made hazards? For example, are economic zones
being developed in flood-prone areas? Is there legislation in place on industrial use of chemicals?

5. Does development planning incorporate risk screening of new projects and programmes?

Similarly, a climate and disaster risk-informed Social Exclusion Analysis will help identify inequities and vulnerabilities which - if addressed - can help prevent unnecessary loss of life and reverse intergenerational poverty. Important questions to answer are:

1. Are there areas characterised by exclusion, social conflict or declining social cohesion which overlap with areas exposed to climate and disaster risks? For example, are rural areas or areas of conflict affected by natural hazards such as drought or floods?

2. Does legal status or stigmatization hinder specific groups from accessing risk mitigation infrastructure? For example, are religious minorities or LGBTQI people accepted in cyclone shelters?

3. Do any groups face legal, spatial, social, technological, language and literacy barriers for accessing risk information and early warning, social safety nets, emergency health services, and life-saving water and sanitation infrastructure? For example can immigrants understand government-issued epidemic risk information?

4. Are people migrating out of areas affected by disasters and climate change?

5. Do morbidity, mortality, loss and damage figures indicate disproportionate disaster impacts on any particular group? For example, do women and girls make up the majority of disaster deaths? Are minorities at higher risk of COVID-19?

6. Are multidimensional poverty levels higher in climate and disaster-affected areas?

The Environment Analysis is an important analysis to risk-inform considering the threat of climate change to ecosystems and food production globally. Say that important questions to ask include:

1. What are the impact of disasters and climate change been on environmental assets/natural capital been? What do data on natural capital loss and damage say?

2. What have been the impacts of disasters and climate change on health, land use, water scarcity, food and energy security? In what ways do environmental conditions and environmental/ecosystem management contribute to increase or reduce the risk of disasters?
3. Are there areas of the national environmental management frameworks that support implementation and reporting towards the Sendai Framework and/or Paris Agreement?

The Governance and Institutional Capacity Analysis is of critical importance to identify existing national resilience capacities to build on and capacity gaps to help fill.

1. Which responsible parties and duty-bearers* and what rights are outlined in different risk management frameworks?

2. Are DRR, climate change, health, civil protection and other relevant sectoral frameworks (e.g. environment, agriculture, water, urban planning, infrastructure etc) integrated or siloed?

3. Are climate and disaster risks addressed in national development plans/policies?

4. What impacts have disasters had on human rights?

5. Does a national DRR platform exist? Does a national platform for civic participation in climate change adaptation exist? Are they inclusive?

6. Do government research institutions, information systems and risk management duty-bearers have the capacity for producing high-quality risk data and analysis?

7. What are the capacity gaps of climate and disaster risk management duty-bearers with regards to international commitments, environmental agreements, and treaties and regulations?

8. What are the capacities for inclusive, gender-responsive action?

Shocks and stresses related to climate change and disasters can threaten national overall resilience and should therefore be considered as part of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. This includes considering:

- Climate, disaster and health risks to peace and stability,
- Climate, disaster and health risks to implementing human rights commitments, the Global Compact on Refugees, and the Global Compact on Safe and Orderly Migration,
- Climate and disaster risks to refugees and people affected by crises and conflicts
- Impacts of conflict on disaster risk governance and institutional risk management capacity
It is now time to do a practical exercise to determine how well your team is placed to start climate- and disaster risk-informing the Common Country Analysis.

The duration of this exercise is 20 minutes if you are doing it with a group, but might be quicker if you are doing it on your own.

You will get a template to fill out and have four tasks:

1. Using your own knowledge, list the natural, biological, technological and climate-related slow onset hazards relevant to your country context.

2. Go through the listed sources of evidence, and check off whether the Common Country Analysis team has collected this document yet or not.

3. If a document has not been collected, brainstorm or use online sources to download the document or determine where it can be collected from.

4. Looking at the list of documents, identify any additional consultations the Common Country Analysis team should do to ensure that the climate and disaster risk analysis is inclusive of those left furthest behind.

This is the worksheet, including the:

- Space to fill in the known hazards on the top
- Space to put in the title of documents already collected in the middle column.
- Space to note the name of institution/organization that can provide the document

If you are listening to a recorded version of this training, pause the training here and re-start it when you have finished the exercise.

In conclusion, please note that:

Climate and disaster risks can

- Affect all sectors and interact with different vulnerabilities
- Be generated, increased or reduced by development choices
- Be managed with institutional and community risk management capacities
Multiple disciplines research and manage climate and disaster risks, including:

- Multiple government counterparts, frameworks and research institutions
- In-country and specialized UN entities can contribute

Identifying climate and disaster risks, resilience capacities and capacity gaps in the Common Country Analysis is critical to formulate a risk-responsive Cooperation Framework.

We hope that this exercise has been useful and that worksheet can be of use to the Common Country Analysis process. If you find yourself with many missing documents or new questions that you do not know the answers to, consider contacting colleagues in the Resident Coordinator’s Office and ask their help to connect with:

1. climate and disaster specialist colleagues from any of the UNCT members agencies and entities;
2. climate, disaster or environment-specialized UN entities not in the UNCT (through the UNDCO).

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Thank you for your time.

If the UNCT is interested, there are additional in-depth training and workshop modules on climate and disaster risk-informing the Cooperation Framework theories of change, results framework, and LNOB analysis. The range includes modules appropriate for groups as well recorded modules that can be taken at individual pace. If the UNCT is interested, they should contact (insert appropriate agency/IBC contact here).

The Guidance Note is available for download by any interested party on the UN Sustainable Development Group website.
Climate and disaster risk-informing the Common Country Analysis  Self-study notes
part of the learning package on the Guidance Note on Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

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For orientations and training queries on the Guidance Note, contact your UNDRR Regional Office:

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