Climate change is interacting with – and exacerbating – many of today’s global issues: ecosystem fragility, rapid urbanization, mass displacement, and protracted crisis. As a result, the human, economic and environmental impact of disasters – whether triggered by natural or human-made hazards, including pandemics and biological hazards – is on the rise, lasting longer and hitting harder. Disasters are not felt uniformly – gender, income inequality, geography, age, and other socio-economic factors determine how people are impacted.

Development gains cannot be sustained over time if disaster risk reduction considerations are not fully integrated into development planning and investments. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) believes this can be turned around. In addition to “building back better”, we need to do better to start with, by addressing the systemic nature of risk through a more integrated and inclusive approach to development. This also requires upholding the universal values and principles of the broader sustainable development agenda by promoting a human rights-centered approach, leaving no one behind, achieving gender equality and empowering women.

The UN Development Reform and the Decade of Action represent unique opportunities to foster the integration of disaster risk reduction across the UN’s work, including UN Resident Coordinators’ efforts on the ground, to accelerate progress towards the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals and risk-informed development.

A total of US$ 5.2 billion spent on disaster risk reduction represents 3.8% of the total humanitarian financing between 2005 and 2017 – less than US$ 4 for every US$ 100 spent.

And humanitarian needs are only growing. Could we reduce these if we funded risk reduction up front?

1 https://gar.undrr.org/
UN System reform and DRR

The UN Development System reform supports UN Resident Coordinators (UNRCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to deliver context specific results backed by clearer and more robust lines of accountability, both nationally and within the UN system. In line with the UN Secretary-General’s prevention agenda that prominently features disaster risk reduction as a priority across the UN System, UNRCs are being urged to take “a preventive approach and to identify and mitigate risks to the achievement of the SDGs”.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is a core element of sustainable development, and should be considered in all aspects of planning, investment and implementation across sectors. It is a good entry point for multilateral cooperation with national governments, as it brings together a range of different agencies and actors to support risk reduction activities across many sectors, including housing and urban development, infrastructure, environment, energy, agriculture, health, education, governance, and sustainable development planning.

UNDRR is committed to working closely with UNRCs/ UNCTs and other UN organizations in country to better support governments to develop and implement national and local DRR strategies to reduce disaster and climate risk.

UNDRR is committed to reducing the burden placed on national and local governments to respond to multiple global policy agendas, and promotes a practical approach to building coherence, including how to integrate (i) DRR and climate change adaptation as part of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and Common Country Analysis (CCA); (ii) climate risk as part of national DRR strategies; and, (iii) DRR aspects into National Adaptation Plans.

UNDRR is also a firm believer in the relevance of a systemic approach to disaster risk reduction. This era of compound and consecutive disasters, including COVID-19, has indeed highlighted the importance of a multi-hazard approach to disaster risk reduction, and bringing stakeholders from across the UN system and beyond together to take actions to reduce risks as guided by the Sendai Framework.

This briefing package sets out how UNDRR can better support UNRCs and UNCTs to deliver sustainable development benefits at a country level from a DRR angle. The options proposed here can be adjusted to meet the needs of the regional UN development system architecture. This package includes an information checklist, support tools and information that UNDRR has developed to support national governments and UN partners to reduce risks and losses as guided by the Sendai Framework.
1. About UNDRR

UNDRR is the focal point within the UN system for DRR and resilience building. UNDRR advocates and supports governments to ensure their development efforts are risk-informed. UNDRR works with stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels to build political momentum and commitment to prevent the creation of new and reduce existing risk.

The Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) is the roadmap to a resilient, sustainable future. Alongside the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework supports and protects progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Sendai Framework’s targets and indicators contribute to measuring disaster-related targets and indicators of the SDGs, in particular SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), SDG 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts).

**SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE**

A. Substantially reduce global disaster mortality
B. Substantially reduce the number of affected people
C. Reduce direct economic loss in relation to global GDP
D. Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services

**E.** Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020
F. Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries
G. Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk reduction information assessments

**SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE**
2. Ways in which UNDRR can support UNRCs and UNCTs

UNDRR is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It has five regional offices (Bangkok covering Asia-Pacific, Panama for the Americas and the Caribbean, Nairobi for Africa, Cairo for Arab States, and Brussels for Europe and Central Asia) and a range of smaller liaison offices (Bonn, New York, Kobe) and sub-regional offices in Suva, Incheon and Addis Ababa. UNDRR is also hosting the Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) that provides capacity development support from Incheon, Republic of Korea.

As a non-resident agency, UNDRR supports the political leadership and advocacy of UNRCs to promote the Sendai Framework and DRR initiatives with their host governments. UNDRR, through its regional staff, endeavors to mobilize regional assets in support of UNCT members’ expertise on the ground for DRR training and capacity development, formulation of national DRR strategies, as well as monitoring and overall reporting on progress towards achieving the Sendai Framework’s seven global targets and four priorities for action. Whenever feasible and based on their capacity, UNDRR regional offices engage in the UNCTs’ work upon UNRCs’ request, including in the development of national development plans and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) as the cornerstone of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs, more generally referred to as CFs).

UNDRR, through its regional offices, supports UNRCs and UNCTs in:

2.1. Strengthening policy coherence

a. **Integrate DRR as part of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (CF) and Common Country Assessments (CCAs)**
   
   and secure the government’s full buy-in and political and financial commitment to implement. In particular, based on their respective capacity, UNDRR regional offices:

   • Attend selected UNCT meetings to introduce guidelines on how to integrate DRR and Climate Change Adaptation into the CF cycle.
   
   • Attend selected UNCT prioritization retreats to provide guidance and wording to integrate DRR into the planning process of CFs and CCAs.
   
   • Participate in existing regional Issues-based Coalitions linked to DRR, such as those focusing on themes related to climate change, resilience and environmental sustainability.
   
   • Advocate for DRR through the regional UN development system.
   
   • Facilitate UNRCs’ support to Governments in the development, endorsement and implementation of risk-sensitive CFs by mobilizing the National Sendai Framework Focal Point and the National Platform for DRR (or its equivalent) to promote a coherent ‘UN approach’ and advocacy around DRR and its linkages with climate change and sustainable development.

b. **Provide normative guidance, a suite of tools and technical assistance**

   to enable a comprehensive risk management approach to disaster
risk reduction and climate change adaptation and to foster coherence across DRR, climate change (CC) and sustainable development at national and local levels. The aim is to integrate risk-centered approaches into National Adaptation Plans, and adaptation and climate information into disaster risk reduction strategies.

c. **Facilitate and support the development, implementation and monitoring of national and local DRR strategies** that are gender-responsive and leave no one behind:

   • Support national governments with the development, review and implementation of national DRR strategies towards the achievement of the Sendai Framework Target E through a systematic mobilization and engagement of UNCT members from their respective areas of expertise. These should be based on a comprehensive analysis and assessment of prevailing natural and human-made hazards as well as biological, technological and environmental hazards and risks. These should also address the root causes of vulnerability and the gendered nature of risk through an intersectional and inclusive approach that helps to redress the tendency to victimize people from marginalized groups.

   • Work with local governments to assess the resilience of cities, develop and implement local DRR strategies to strengthen urban resilience by using the guidance and tools of the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative, including by providing access to technical support from service providers.

d. **Improve DRR coordination mechanisms:***

   • Support the establishment and/or revitalization of multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms for DRR (e.g. National DRR Platforms) and mobilize national Sendai Framework Focal Points to ensure inclusive and effective DRR coordinated action at the national level and linkages with the local level as appropriate, through the mobilization of key stakeholders including the private sector, communities and key technical experts.

   • Establish linkages between National DRR Platforms and SDG Platforms as a core mechanism for building coherence at national level in close cooperation with UNDP and other key partners.

   • Promote an inclusive, multi-hazard and multi-stakeholder approach to DRR by sharing the contacts and activities of in-country stakeholder groups engaged in DRR such as ARISE (UNDRR’s global private sector network), parliamentarians, mayors and local governments, children and youth, science and technology actors, women’s networks, disabled persons organizations, etc.

e. **Support the implementation and monitoring of the UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience.**

f. UNDRR Regional Offices could also facilitate broader support to UNCTs as follows:

   • Participate and support UNCTs in the development of specific programmes and actions in support of national DRR efforts.

   • Provide expert advice on the incorporation of DRR into relevant joint

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5 [https://www.preventionweb.net/files/49076_unplanofaction.pdf]
programmes.

• Support the identification and analysis of national lags and propose recommendations for the integration of DRR into national strategies, programmes, policies, plans and legislation.

2.2. Improving data collection and analysis for better decision-making

a. **Facilitate risk assessment processes**, in particular those related to the collection, analysis and use of climate, disaster risk and disaster impact data and related **disaggregation by sex, age, disability and income** to promote risk information, support anticipatory action and risk-informed development and humanitarian actions, and effectively influence inclusive DRR and disaster risk management policy processes.

b. **Build Governments and partners’ capacity to report on DRR progress through the Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM) and improve the collection of disaggregated disaster and climate data to inform DRR activities and decision-making.** Disaster-related damage, loss information and progress data on implementing the Sendai Framework priorities and targets provide substantial insights on how disasters impact sustainable development pathways and how the country is addressing climate and disaster risk to their sustainable development agendas.

c. **Support the establishment, development, upgrade and institutionalization of disaster loss databases**, including through **DesInventar disaster information management system** – a web-based tool sponsored and hosted by UNDRR ([www.desinventar.net](http://www.desinventar.net)). This tool helps governments collect, analyze and provide access to evidence-based disaster loss and damage data that underscore disaster risk reduction and national adaptation planning. This information can also be used to inform Common Country Analysis and multi-dimensional risk analysis, as well as humanitarian and development planning and programming. The data and analyses from these databases will also contribute to reporting on the SFM and the SDG Monitor.

2.3. Scaling up DRR capacity

a. **Provide hands-on capacity development and training opportunities** for UNRCs and UNCTs on:

  • Integrating inclusive, accessible and gender-responsive DRR into sustainable development and climate change adaptation plans.

  • Implementing the guidance note on ‘Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks’⁶ (CFs) and its accompanying training package that is modular, flexible and designed to offer short workshops to UNRCOs and UNCTs at key phases of the CF cycle.

  • Scaling up DRR in humanitarian action and planned support in

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⁶ The Guidance Note on ‘Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Framework’ outlines the impacts of climate and disaster risks on progress towards achieving the SDGs and suggests appropriate action for each phase of the Cooperation Framework life-cycle to make them risk-informed.
enhancing risk information for humanitarian planning and response.

• Supporting national efforts for monitoring progress in disaster risk reduction through the SFM that contributes to selected SDG targets and indicators. This includes engagement with other UN entities such as FAO, WHO, WMO, UN-Women and UNICEF on sector-specific reporting for agriculture, health, early warning systems and education, gender equality and women’s leadership and with other agencies on disaggregated information. UNDRR also facilitates linkages between national DRR organizations and National Statistical Offices (NSOs) on disaster-related statistics.

• Assessing DRR and CCA capacity at the country level including through cooperation with the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) Partnership.

• Integrating climate and disaster risk in multi-dimensional risk analysis, development and regular updating of Common Country Analysis, CFs and its monitoring and evaluation.

b. Organize a DRR retreat with UNRC’s office, UNCT and representatives of the national government to enable a better understanding of DRR as a cross cutting theme across the SDGs and climate action.

2.4. Leveraging advocacy opportunities

a. Ensure regular interaction between UNDRR regional offices and UNRCs’ offices to provide and support joint advocacy communication assets, compelling case studies and impact stories that demonstrate the difference a risk-informed, gender-responsive and multi-hazard DRR approach has had in a country or region.

b. Build opportunities to reinforce the DRR message and enhance advocacy for a coherent approach around country visits of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for DRR.

3. Supporting tools and information

3.1. DRR knowledge platform

UNDRR manages the world’s only DRR knowledge platform: www.preventionweb.net, that provides information to more than 1.2 million unique users each year, most of whom are from developing countries and work in policy advice, advocacy or DRR implementation for national governments. It is an easily-accessible gateway to refer country counterparts to: contribute to the platform, join online working groups and benefit from a range of resources including practical how-to guides, training events and cutting-edge information from the world’s leading institutes.

3.2. Specific guidance and DRR tools

Specific guidance and DRR tools include:

• Guidance note on Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and
Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and related Training Package

- Recommendations and Checklist on Scaling-up DRR in Humanitarian Actions

- Words Into Action (WIA) Guides:
  - Implementation Guide for Local DRR and Resilience Strategies
  - Developing National DRR Strategies
  - Man-made/technological hazards
    https://www.undrr.org/publication/words-action-guideline-man-made/technological-hazards
  - National disaster risk assessment
  - Integrated national financing frameworks for sustainable development - First module on Risk Assessment and Diagnostics to help policy-makers bring a risk-informed perspective to financing policy decision-making in support of the national development objectives achievement
  - Local Governments’ Handbook, Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities for local-level implementation of the Sendai Framework
    https://mcr2030.undrr.org/resilience-roadmap/stage-b#diagnostic-kills
  - Reducing Risk and Building Resilience of SMEs to Disasters
    https://www.undrr.org/publication/resilience-smes
    including COVID-19 resilience and recovery toolkit for SMEs

4. Core Reference Documents

- Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030
  https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sf

- Sendai Framework Monitor
  https://sendaimonitor.undrr.org/
  and related training resources:
https://sendaimonitortraining.undrr.org/, and
https://courses.adpc.net/courses/course-v1:UNISDR+SFM001+2019Y1/about

- **DesInventar disaster information management system**
  https://www.desinventar.net/index.html
  and its training site:
  https://training.desinventar.net/DesInventar

- **UNDRR’s Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy: in support of a fully participatory and multi-stakeholder engagement in implementing the Sendai Framework**
  https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/partners-and-stakeholders

- **United Nations Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience**
  https://www.preventionweb.net/files/49076_unplanofaction.pdf

- **Global Assessment Report (GAR)**
  https://gar.undrr.org

- **UNDRR COVID-19 engagement strategy**

- **Hazard definition and classification review**
  https://www.undrr.org/publication/hazard-definition-and-classification-review
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