Module 1

DRR Fundamentals & Frameworks

This module is part of the learning package on the Checklist: Scaling up disaster risk reduction in humanitarian action, the whole of which can be accessed here: https://www.undrr.org/publication/scaling-disaster-risk-reduction-humanitarian-action
Learning Objectives

By the end of this module, participants should be able to:

1. Use key DRR terms / concepts in discussing risk-informed humanitarian response

2. Explain importance and value of strengthening cooperation between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding (HDP) actors to enable long-term reduction of vulnerabilities

3. Understand Sendai Framework’s aims of reducing risks and strengthening resilience and its links to the SDGs, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Agenda for Humanity and its “New Way of Working”

4. Understand the concept of systemic risk and the aims of comprehensive risk assessment and the use of the GRAF
Fundamentals
Disaster Risk

The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed/damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity
Hazard

A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation; may be natural or anthropogenic in origin.

Which hazards are the most common in your country?

Extraterrestrial?
Environmental?
Chemical?
Biological?
Geophysical?
Hydrometeorological?
Technological?
Others?
Exposure

The situation of people, infrastructure, housing, production capacities and other tangible human assets located in hazard-prone areas

Which populations are highly exposed to hazards in your country?

What are the conditions that leave them exposed?
Vulnerability

The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards.

What are the conditions that render populations vulnerable to hazards in your country?
Disaster Risk
A function of...

Exposure

Hazard

Vulnerability
Capacities

The combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within an organization, community or society to manage and reduce disaster risks and strengthen resilience.

What are some of the capacities that enable populations in your country to manage and reduce disaster risks?
Developing capacities  Resilience

The ability of individuals, households, communities, cities, institutions, systems and societies to prevent, resist, absorb, adapt, respond and recover positively, efficiently and effectively when faced with a wide range of risks, while maintaining an acceptable level of functioning without compromising long-term prospects for sustainable development, peace and security, human rights and well-being for all.
Risk-Informed Humanitarian Response

Conducting risk analysis:

• expands focus from acute and urgent needs to chronic vulnerabilities and likely exposure to future shocks and stresses

• helps integrate reduction of extreme vulnerability into humanitarian action to facilitate recovery of the affected and to decrease future risks, to strengthen community resilience

“Working together so that key child rights stakeholders can share a better understanding of risk [and] close the arbitrary gap between humanitarian and development work.”

UNICEF Guidance on Risk-Informed Programming, page 3
“Systemic” Risk

- The potential for a hazard to propagate disruptions to connected parts of a complex system.
- The possibility that an event at the micro level (e.g., an individual bank or insurance company or laboratory) could trigger instability or even cause collapse of an entire industry...or global economy.

The risk of a breakdown of an entire system rather than simply the failure of individual parts.
Addressing systemic risk...the need?

- Transitioning from managing hazards in isolation to recognizing the systemic nature of managing risk
- Improving our understanding of the dynamic interactions implicit in systemic risk
- Thinking systemically

Traditional, linear thinking

Systems thinking
Thinking systemically: What does this mean?

- Examining the interrelatedness of forces; seeing them as part of a common process; recognizing patterns
- Clarifying how entities influence one another within a whole

Requires:
- a holistic view
- foresight into how interconnected system components (e.g., climate changes, inequity, poverty, economic volatility, capabilities) can influence the overall system, its outcomes, eventual impacts on communities

Examples of Systems With interconnected parts
- The global economy
- The environment
- The financial system
- The insurance industry
- The internet
- The society you live in
- Any city
- Any country
- The world
Disasters “cascading” from Systemic Risks

- Likely differ from more traditional crises (hazard history may be less of a guide)
- Low reliability of risk assessment / high risk of uncertainties
- May have cascading effects: environmental, ecological, economic, social, cultural, political
Question for reflection

What examples of systemic risk can you identify?
Frameworks

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030
Priority 1: Understand disaster risk

Priority 2: Strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

Priority 3: Invest in DRR for resilience

Priority 4: Enhance disaster preparedness for effective response; *Build Back Better* in recovery, rehabilitation, reconstruction

All dimensions: vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazards, environment; apply knowledge in disaster risk assessment, prevention, mitigation

Governance at all levels; key for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, rehab; offers opportunities for collaboration

Public/private investment in risk prevention/reduction for economic, social, health, cultural resilience of communities, countries, assets, environment

Need to enhance preparedness, anticipatory action, response capacities; opportunities to build back better and integrate DRR in development efforts
2030 Sustainable Development Goals: Clear links to DRR

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
1.5 ...build resilience of the poor/vulnerable; reduce exposure/vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other disasters

Goal 11. Make cities & human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable
11.b ...increase number of human settlements implementing mitigation/adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters; implement in line with Sendai - holistic disaster risk management

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters
The Paris Agreement on Climate Change
A Framework for Mitigation

Recognizes need to address climate change effects and role of sustainable development in reducing risk

 Calls for:

• financial assistance to vulnerable countries for mitigation and adaptation
• technology development/transfer to enhance resilience to climate change
• climate-related capacity-building for developing countries

“The international community needs to support all nations...to develop national adaptation plans and to integrate climate change and DRR fully into their development objectives...

The world requires an integrated approach to DRR and tackling climate change.”

from Op-ed by UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa and Mami Mizutori. UN SGSR for DRR & head of UNISDR
"New Way of Working" calls for humanitarian and development actors to:

- transcend the humanitarian-development divides/move beyond traditional silos
- work with a greater diversity of partners toward collective outcomes to meet humanitarian needs, reduce people’s risk and vulnerability in support of 2030 Agenda
Understanding Inter-connected and Systemic Risk
Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF)

Aims:

“...improve understanding and management of current and future risks

...help manage uncertainties; transcend traditional linear risk analysis

...foster transdisciplinary systems thinking; reveal interlinkages, dependencies of multiple risks and actors across systems to build a shared understanding and enable decision-makers to act”
GRAF Offer

• A country-driven initiative to improve access to risk data and understanding of inter-connected, systemic risk to support resilient development and humanitarian planning, public and private investment, decision-making in UN member states

• Capacity building across the nexus on risk data and analysis of inter-connected, systemic risk

• Creation of partnerships among experts in risk, science, investment, policy making, communication
4 Pillars of GRAF

1. Access & Quality
   - Strengthen access to a minimum level of quality risk data to enable decision makers to work across sectors; break data silos; analyse cross-sectorally

2. Innovative Analysis
   - Apply innovative risk analyses for development & humanitarian action; deepen understanding of inter-connected, systemic risks, of cascading effects across sectors

3. Technical Support
   - Develop tools and provide technical support to strengthen capacity of in-country stakeholders to reduce risk drivers

4. Collaboration
   - Increase collaboration, finance, mutual learning across governments, UN, humanitarian and development actors, global insurance, risk experts, public/private finance organizations
So...how do we operationalize all of this?
“The Checklist on Scaling up DRR in Humanitarian Action”

Based on aims of Sendai Framework, the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, Agenda for Humanity, and HDP collaboration:

• A list of recommendations aiming to sensitize various stakeholders (humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, DRR actors; donors; government officials; private sector entities) to the potential for integrating DRR actions into humanitarian planning and programming

• A list of suggestions for DRR collaboration

• Be sure to visit Module 2 for more...
Tools to enhance your learning...

For definitions of terms common to risk-informed indicators, see the Sendai Framework terminology adopted by the UN General Assembly at www.undrr.org/terminology.

Peer-reviewed indicators across sectors are found in the IASC Humanitarian Response Indicator Registry.

UNICEF’s Guidance for Risk-Informed Programming aims to help UNICEF and its partners better assess and manage risks. These are risks related to fragility, violent conflict, disaster, climate change, epidemics and economic instability. The guidance complements and supports UNICEF’s work on Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation, Social Protection, Emergency Preparedness and Peacebuilding. It also brings a child-centered, risk-informed approach to both the humanitarian action and development programming of UNICEF and our partners.
Wrap-up

1. Humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors should all be clear on fundamental DRR terms and concepts (i.e., disaster risk, hazard exposure, vulnerability, capacities, resilience) to share ideas on risk-informed humanitarian response

2. Collaboration among humanitarian, development and peacebuilding (HDP) actors is key to enabling long-term reduction of vulnerabilities

3. Several key frameworks – Sendai, the 2030 SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Agenda for Humanity and its “New Way of Working” – all aim to build resilience and reduce vulnerabilities to disasters

4. In an inter-connected world with the potential for one disaster to lead to another, analysis of risks must be conducted systemically. The Global Risk Assessment Framework aims to support such comprehensive risk assessment efforts.