EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MAPPING OF NEEDS, CAPACITIES AND RESOURCES TO RISK-INFORM HUMANITARIAN ACTION
Executive summary

In the current state of the world where humanitarian needs are at an all-time high, where funding remains well below needs, and humanitarian access is extremely constrained in many contexts, there is an urgent need to reduce future humanitarian needs by addressing risks and vulnerabilities through a more holistic, localized and people-centred approach.

The checklist of recommendations on Scaling-up disaster risk reduction in humanitarian action (the Checklist) set out opportunities to better risk-inform the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC). The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and inter-cluster coordination bodies can select the opportunities to pursue based on the specific country context within an overall holistic approach across the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus to reducing risks and vulnerabilities. This mapping of existing and needed capacities and resources available to HCTs makes recommendations on how best to pool, coordinate and strengthen existing capacities and resources to support humanitarian actors better in this endeavour to address needs in a more sustainable way.

The contexts of interest for this mapping exercise were those that had a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2021 in place. Interviews were conducted with more than 100 stakeholders in eight humanitarian contexts: Afghanistan, Haiti, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan and Ukraine, as well as at global and regional levels. The case studies informed the analysis of gaps in capacities and resources, and led to general recommendations on how best to address these gaps.

- The challenges and complexities in many of the contexts reviewed do not lend themselves to easy solutions. In contexts where humanitarian access is extremely constrained, security challenges are enormous and operational space for traditional development activities severely challenged due to, for example, the rules of engagement with de facto authorities, sanctions, concerns for staff security, and similar. The scale of the challenges is so enormous that closing the gaps in capacities and resources for risk-informing humanitarian action may seem insignificant. However, it is not. In a context with minimal access, the way humanitarian assistance is delivered becomes ever more important – that it be principled, rights-based and according to needs, people-centred, localized, conflict-sensitive, and risk-informed, to avoid doing harm.

- Removing some of the structural barriers to risk-informing humanitarian action will be essential to achieving positive impact. For example, it needs a financing system that incentivizes joined-up programming for risk reduction and management for resilience across the nexus, holistic financing strategies, and increased presence of development actors in fragile contexts. To achieve durable solutions to protracted displacement, development and peace actors must work alongside humanitarian actors, and focus on strengthening public systems and basic social services to assist internally displaced persons (IDPs), together with refugees and other persons of concern and their host communities.
• **Dedicated capacities and resources for risk-informing and risk-understanding support, could help design and implement joint programming that reduces and manages risks for building resilience across the HDP nexus and across sectors or systems.** Complexities could be reduced by area-based or sectoral approaches, and implementation could be fostered by holistic financing strategies.

• The priority gaps in technical and programmatic capacities and resources faced by humanitarian actors were identified as a lack of:
  1. dedicated in-country capacity for operationalizing risk-informed programming
  2. an active DRR working group coordinating efforts across the HDP
  3. operational and concise guidance, practice examples, tools and processes that can be adapted to the specific context and sectors.

Based on the Checklist’s recommendations, the analysis of existing and upcoming capacities and resources led to the formulation of two priority recommendations for consideration by the inter-agency group supporting the workstream, and the **UN Senior Leadership Group for Disaster Risk Reduction**, to better risk-inform humanitarian action:

1. Through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), establish a dialogue with HPC operations to ensure dedicated neutral inter-agency capacity in country for operationalizing risk-informed humanitarian programming to support – as needed:
   a. the analysis of risks, vulnerabilities and capacities
   b. risk-informed joint planning across the nexus throughout the cluster or sectoral responses
   c. the coordination of risk-reduction efforts
   d. the resource mobilization for risk-reduction efforts

2. Operationalize and consolidate relevant guidance, tools and processes on risk-informing humanitarian action, particularly through further sector-specific guidance and indicators, and strengthen exchanges of good practices across country teams, to enable learning.

There is no one size that fits all. The support with capacities and resources needs to be tailored to each context, location and sector or system, based on the needs identified by country-level colleagues. Each context will have a specific set of risks and vulnerabilities, existing capacities, challenges and gaps.

Dedicated technical in-country capacity and tailored resources are expected to prove impactful if they address the priority gaps of a particular context. This would be achieved by taking part in each phase of the HPC, ensuring the relevant links are made to existing technical and advisory capacities and resources, as well as good practice experiences of risk-informed responses in similar contexts, innovative solutions, tools and processes.

This mapping of capacities is accompanied by a compilation of good practices along with a selection of relevant tools and resources, collected through the consultations. These are intended to facilitate amplified support to country teams in line with the above recommendations.
About the mapping of needs, resources and capacities

In July 2021, the UN Senior Leadership Group for Disaster Risk Reduction recommended ‘scaling up efforts on enhancing the integration of disaster and climate risk considerations in humanitarian action and strengthening humanitarian / development collaboration on DRR, including United Nations entities’ support in implementing the Checklist on Scaling up DRR in Humanitarian Action.

This recommendation includes a proposed action for the UNDRR Focal Points Group to "support a mapping of capacities and needs among humanitarian actors to risk-inform humanitarian action to identify gaps and inform strategies to address these".

Following the 2021 UN SLG meeting, an inter-agency task team was established to support the implementation of the recommendation, including the mapping, with representation from the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Focal Points Group and Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Results Group 4 on Humanitarian Development Collaboration. The members of the inter-agency task team are: the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) Secretariat, Development Initiatives, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Oxfam International, Oxfam South Africa, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Institute for Environment and Human Security, United Nations University (UNU-EHS), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Vision. IOM, OCHA, UNDP, UNDRR, and UNICEF formed a core group of this inter-agency task team for more regular support to the capacity-mapping exercise. Florentina Debling was the lead consultant and author of the report.

Following the completion of the report, the UN SLG reviewed the recommendations emerging from the mapping of needs, resources and capacities, and adopted the following recommendation and actions at their meeting on July 1 2022, to guide collaboration in 2022-2023:
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<th>UN SLG Recommendation</th>
<th>Proposed actions for UNDRR Focal Points Group</th>
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<td><strong>Accelerate efforts to risk-inform programming in development, humanitarian and peace actions respectively, and strengthen collaboration on DRR in humanitarian and crisis contexts.</strong></td>
<td><strong>1. Support United Nations and Humanitarian Country Teams and agencies’ country offices to risk-inform programming across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus in line with the Checklist on Scaling up DRR in Humanitarian Action in at least five countries by 2023.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2. Encourage inter-agency collaboration to aggregate and make accessible global and national level risk data through the Risk Information Exchange (RiX) and other initiatives, and strengthen the application of risk analytics in planning processes including Common Country Analysis and Cooperation Frameworks, DRR strategies, national adaptation plans as well as humanitarian programme cycles.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3. Review gaps in available funding mechanisms for DRR in humanitarian contexts and mandate the creation of a guide to funding resources.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4. Enhance risk-reduction considerations through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for strengthened dialogue with, and pooled capacities to, support Humanitarian Programme Cycle operations, reinforced operationalization of guidance and risk-informed indicators in sectors or clusters, engagement in revision of global humanitarian policies and standards, and enhanced exchange of knowledge across country teams on risk-informing humanitarian action.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>5. Joint awareness-raising event together with SG’s Public Goods Initiative.</strong></td>
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