UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Concept Note | DRR-CCA Thought Leadership Course - Synergizing Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

Introduction

At current levels of warming the world is experiencing unprecedented climate impacts. An increase in global average temperature above 1.5°C would mean extreme weather and climate disasters increasing in frequency and intensity, putting billions of people at risk. A growing impact of the climate emergency, experienced across countries, communities, and systems, has necessitated taking drastic measures and corrective actions. This includes both closing the emission gaps, as well as efforts to adapt and prepare for a world warmer than 1.5°C.

Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are synergistic, however, the governance of the two have evolved in parallel at both global and national levels. National DRR strategies and National Adaptation Plans are often developed in isolation of each other, resulting in suboptimal utilization of resources given common risk-reducing and vulnerability reduction objectives of both the actions.

Conversely, synergy in risk reduction and adaptation can bring considerable gains. Successful experiences carried out in the Pacific region shows that enhanced DRR-CCA integration is beneficial for both areas. This becomes even more significant given considerable investments being made and mobilized in actions like early warning systems and infrastructure resilience including nature-based solutions, that feature as both disaster risk reduction and adaptation measures.

The Paris Agreement calls for comprehensive risk management as key to enhancing understanding, action and support on losses and damages. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction seeks to increase national and local DRR strategies wherein coherence in policy is a stated objective. Hence, the integrated planning and implementation of national adaptation plans, and disaster risk reduction plans holds high significance as a key enabler for implementation.

It is with this objective that the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UN System Staff College are collaborating to develop a DRR-CCA Thought Leadership Course that aims to outline the need for and importance of pursuing integrated approaches. The learning modules will be designed to offer practical information on the benefits, challenges, and opportunities of integrating DRR-CCA planning processes at the country level.
**Target audience**

Based on the consultations during the design session, the module will be targeted at decision-makers and -shapers, and DRR and CCA focal points, who are directly involved in developing national Disaster Risk Reduction strategies and National Adaptation Plans at the local, subnational, national, regional, and international levels.

Other officials and stakeholders that can contribute to advancing CCA-DRR coherence can also make use of the course.

**Envisaged learning outcomes**

As discussed during the design session, the course has the objective of empowering decision-makers and focal points with information to facilitate changes in attitudes and behaviour towards the integration of disaster and climate change risk management.

The course will highlight the following key messages:

- Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation have inherent synergies that should be reinforced when designing national DRR strategies and NAPs.
- Enhanced DRR-NAP coherence offers unique implementation gains at the country level.
- The integration of DRR and CCA processes will significantly improve countries’ ability to reduce risk and vulnerability.
- The combination of both processes does not jeopardize or divert climate resources from CCA to DRR but maximizes the use of often limited resources.

With these in mind, by the end of the course, learners should be able to:

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<tr>
<th>KNOW</th>
<th>FEEL</th>
<th>DO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The importance of synergies and approaches between DRR and CCA</td>
<td>• DRR-CCA integration is a valuable/efficient strategy for countries to pursue.</td>
<td>• Advocate for an integrated process on DRR and NAPs</td>
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<td>• Good practices on DRR-CCA integration</td>
<td>• Motivated to advance CCA-DRR coherence at the country level</td>
<td>• Identify main synergies between DRR Plans and NAPs at the country level</td>
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<td>• Enhanced coherence between DRR and CCA leverages financing with better returns to investment</td>
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**Tentative course structure**

The course will be designed with one module, to be completed in 1 – 2 hours, with the following components:
Introduction: identifying key concepts and the synergies between Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation.

Lesson 1: The journey towards integration – Part 1: Taking the first steps.

Lesson 2: The journey towards integration – Part 2: The gains resulting from enhanced coherence.

Closing: Opportunities for enhanced DRR-CCA coherence

Introductory concepts: identifying the synergies between Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation

This introductory lesson will begin by emphasizing the urgent need for integrated DRR and national adaptation plans. It will present the current status of CCA-DRR integration and identify key synergies between national DRR strategies and National Adaptation Plans, highlighting that policy coherence strengthens both risk management and climate change adaptation goals. Using interactive exercises, the lesson will invite learners to map hazards and to classify them as being under the scope of disaster risk reduction or adaptation, making it clear that this division is artificial. Finally, while highlighting that there is no “one solution fits all” in this case, the lesson will also list the critical aspects supporting the integration framework, which will be used to analyze the case studies in the following lessons.

Lesson 1: The journey towards integration – Part 1: Taking the first steps.

In this lesson, learners will be presented with hypothetical scenarios of countries presenting different situations reflecting the early stages of integration. The profiles will portray countries that have a National Adaptation Plan, countries that have a Disaster Risk Reduction strategy, and countries that have both but face significant implementation obstacles. Through a conversational and interactive approach, the first lesson will point out to the learnings and challenges faced by countries that are in different stages of the integration process DRR-CCA. Real-life testimonials will be used to integrate the scenarios with experiences from the field.

Lesson 2: The journey towards – Part 2: The gains resulting from enhanced coherence.

The second lesson will present the hypothetical scenario of a country dealing with natural hazards and that has a joint DRR-CCA plan and integrated implementation. The scenario will highlight the good practices and benefits coming from mainstreaming both plans, while debunking some of the main myths around the topic. Real-life testimonials will be used to integrate the scenarios with experiences from the field.

Closing: Opportunities for enhanced DRR-CCA coherence

The final section of the module will allow participants to reflect on the opportunities offered by enhanced DRR-CCA coherence, listing key starting points and encouraging learners to advocate for the integration of both processes at the country level.