



*Summary of
findings*

RVR

*Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk
in Latin America and the Caribbean*

*Challenges in disaster risk reduction and progress
towards the Sendai Framework for
Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) targets*

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Introduction

This first edition of the Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk in Latin America and the Caribbean (RAR 2021) presents the results of thirty years of efforts to reduce the risk of disasters in the region. The analysis contained in these pages—particularly when considered in combination with the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and the adverse economic panorama ahead—presents us with a unique opportunity to both rethink and implement concrete risk reduction strategies that better meet the challenges of today.

The conclusions contained in this report demonstrate the need for profound shifts in how we understand both disaster risk and its drivers, and also how we might better utilize governance to successfully reduce both. We hope this first edition of the RAR 2021 will not only stimulate debate but also inspire much-needed change.

The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

*Expected outcome, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
2015-2030*

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Risk and Disaster Management in Latin America and the Caribbean: Where We Are Now

1.



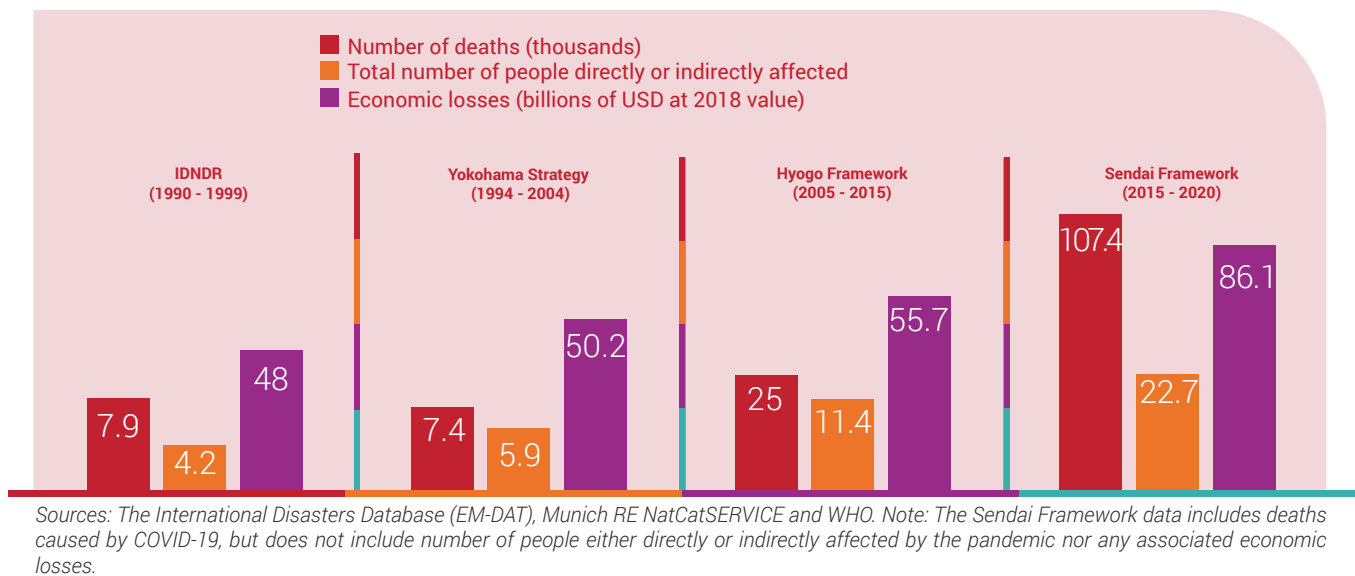
All forms of risk are increasing

The complexity of risk and the number of people affected by it has increased rapidly each year, while disaster-related mortality has decreased.

---> Three decades ago, the United Nations General Assembly declared the 1990s to be the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), thus setting into motion the international community's systematic efforts to reduce disaster risk. In subsequent years, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (Hyogo Framework) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) were adopted in order to better address a wider range of hazards and risks.

---> It is now clear that these mechanisms and their associated policies have been limited in their ability to reduce the occurrence of disasters and their impact around the world. We can see this clearly in the growing number of disasters with significant impact; the rapidly increasing numbers of people either directly or indirectly affected; and in mounting economic losses (Figure 1). While a proportion of these changing figures can be attributed to improved data collection, they primarily reflect the current state of affairs—that is, more disasters are occurring, and more people and assets are vulnerable and exposed to risk.

Figure 1. Impact of major disasters in the Americas under disaster risk reduction agreements (yearly average)



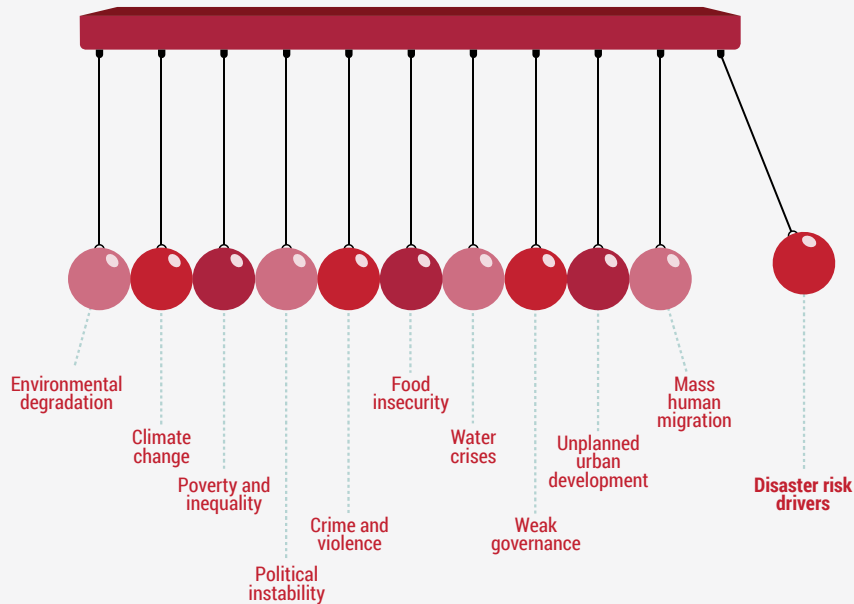
Risk and disaster patterns are increasingly complex

Natural and socio natural hazards are interacting more frequently with technological and biological hazards, while the effects of climate change are producing more complex risk patterns and the possibility of more disasters.

➡ Between 1997 and 2017, one out of every four disasters in the world were in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Nine out of ten people affected by these disasters were impacted by climatic events (mostly floods, some of which could have been predicted). Seven out of every ten deaths from disasters were triggered by a geological hazard (mainly earthquakes).

➡ In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic was the leading cause of death in most of the region, although the total number of people affected remains unquantifiable. In some countries, the virus and its reverberations have cancelled out the reduction in deaths from disasters achieved during the implementation period of the Hyogo Framework between 2005 and 2015.

Figure 2. Drivers of risk:



→ In Latin America and the Caribbean, the medium-term impacts of climate change will include desertification, longer periods of hotter weather, lower and/or extreme rainfall, intensification of the La Niña or El Niño phenomena and a likely increase in the intensity and frequency of tropical cyclones. Rises in sea level will also impact coastal communities, especially Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean.

Disaster losses are having a major impact on development

Existing studies have failed to convince decision makers of the need to invest in reducing the underlying factors of risk. Different countries have focused mainly on reactive and compensatory investments such as funds for post-disaster response and recovery, the insurance of public assets, and catastrophic bonds to finance reconstruction. Corrective disaster risk management has sometimes occurred via investments in retrofitting schools and hospitals and other critical infrastructure like roads and electrical grids. On the whole, regional efforts still have a long to go to advance prospective risk reduction measures—that is, until disaster risk reduction is fully incorporated into the planning of both public and private investments, from conception to design.

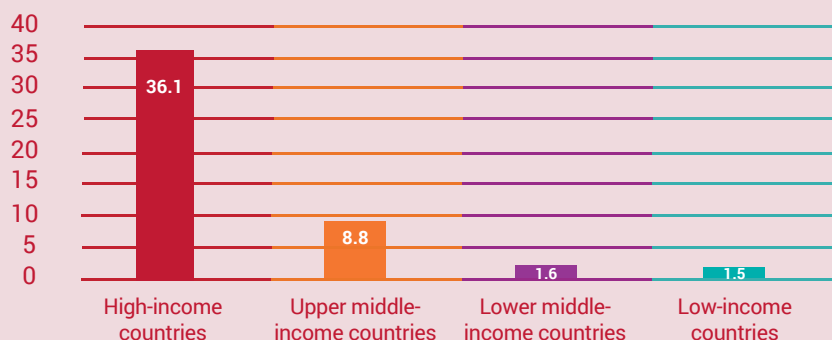
→ Between 1998 and 2017, 53 per cent of global economic losses from climate-related disasters occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean. Similarly, the region accounted for 46 per cent of global disaster losses during the last decade.

→ Over time, these losses have shifted from being a circumstantial disruption in a given country's development to precipitating a steady decline in national wealth. This is true particularly in small countries. While the average loss may be equal to or less than 1 per cent of a large country's annual gross domestic product (GDP), the losses experienced in smaller countries are proportionally greater, and in some cases have equaled 100% of annual GDP.

---> If investments made in recovery and post-disaster reconstruction were redirected, this could quadruple the amount spent on research and development in the region. Alternatively, it could allow for some countries to meet 100 per cent of the demand for drinking water and sanitation over the next ten years, or allow for many other countries of the region to significantly reduce existing deficits and come very close to meeting the targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

---> The effects of economic losses are magnified because risk transfer mechanisms (such as insurance schemes) remain underdeveloped, especially in low- and middle-income countries (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Insured losses per country income level group in the Americas (1990-2018) (Percentages)



Source: Munich RE's NatCatSERVICE

---> The economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are threatening the achievement of the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) targets. Although the figures are constantly being revised, according to the most recent estimates predict a contraction of -7.2 to -9 percent in regional GDP in 2021, with poverty and extreme poverty rates expected to rise by 35.8 per cent and 14.2 per cent respectively. In Caribbean countries, this GDP loss is estimated to reach almost 6.1 per cent. Income inequality in the region (per the Gini index) could increase by between 0.5 and 6 per cent overall and by 3 to 3.9 per cent in the Caribbean.

New risk patterns are emerging in the region

Disaster risk linked to the effects of climate change is the new face of cities in the region. As the manifestations of climate change increase, so too will the challenges of managing sustainable urban development. This will be further compounded by the effects of forced migration and a growing incidence of systemic risk overall.

---> Risk is rapidly becoming concentrated in the region's fastest-growing small and medium-sized urban areas. More than half of cities with 500,000 or more inhabitants are highly vulnerable to at least one type of natural hazard; in Latin America and the Caribbean such cities are home to about 340 million people (Figure 4).

[1] ECLAC/UNDRR (2021), Socioeconomic Impact of the COVID-19 in the Caribbean: Towards a Systemic Approach to Disaster Risk.

Figure 4. Manifestation of risk in Latin America between 1995 - 2015



→ Climate change-related events are expected to become more important in the region's urban areas in the medium to long term. Cities are already heavily affected by climate change despite their relatively low contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Major effects of climate change on cities

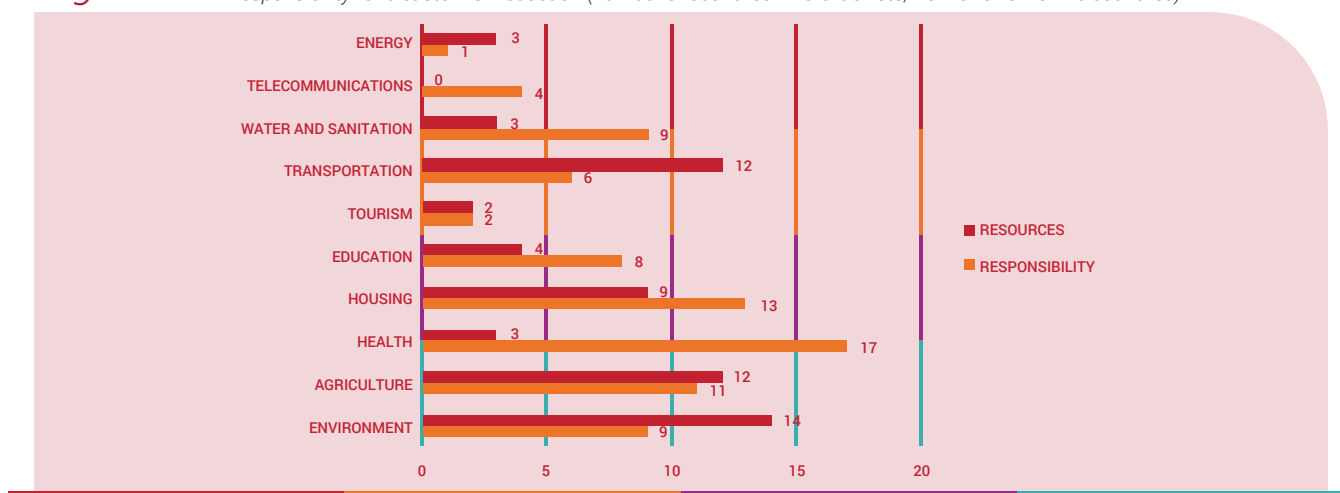


Weaknesses in disaster risk governance

Risk management governance remains mostly reactive and has yet to profoundly impact the DNA of development.

- ➔ To date, disaster risk governance has focused predominantly on building and strengthening institutional, legal and policy frameworks. Sustained progress has been made over the past two decades towards strengthening public policy on risk reduction, but the pace of reforms, investment and budget allocations remains mismatched.
- ➔ Latin America remains the most unequal region in the world in terms of income distribution. More than 184 million people—sixty per cent of whom live in cities—are poor. Its dependence on activities for economic growth that result in significant environmental degradation remains high. If the present trend continues and disaster risk reduction is not integrated into development policies, both disaster risk and the impact of disasters will increase.
- ➔ Very few countries have articulated multi-sectoral approaches that address the drivers of risk, such as water resource management, land use planning, and climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, among others. Furthermore, progress in implementing national and sectoral policies through budgetary mechanisms and intersectionality has been limited (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Number of countries in the Latin America & the Caribbean with national action plans allocating resources and responsibility for disaster risk reduction (number of countries where it exists, from a review on 26 countries)



Source: Index of Governance and Public Policy in Disaster Risk Management (iGOPP), Inter-American Development Bank.

- ➔ We continue to observe low levels of accountability and of participation from civil society as well as science and technology institutions in the design and implementation of risk management policies. The COVID-19 pandemic and the refusal of some governments to incorporate recommendations from the scientific community into efforts to control its spread highlights the ongoing challenge of mainstreaming science into decision-making.
- ➔ Urban management remains fragmented because it is based on political and administrative boundaries that are inconsistent with how cities function or with a view towards strategic and long-term planning. Such disjointed management generates a lack of coordination between jurisdictions, political conflicts between decision makers at various levels, inefficiencies in infrastructure operations, a failure to utilize economies of scale, inequities in the provision of public services and delayed decision-making on climate change mitigation strategies.

*Progress
towards
Implementing
the Sendai
Framework
for Disaster
Risk Reduction
(2015-2030)*

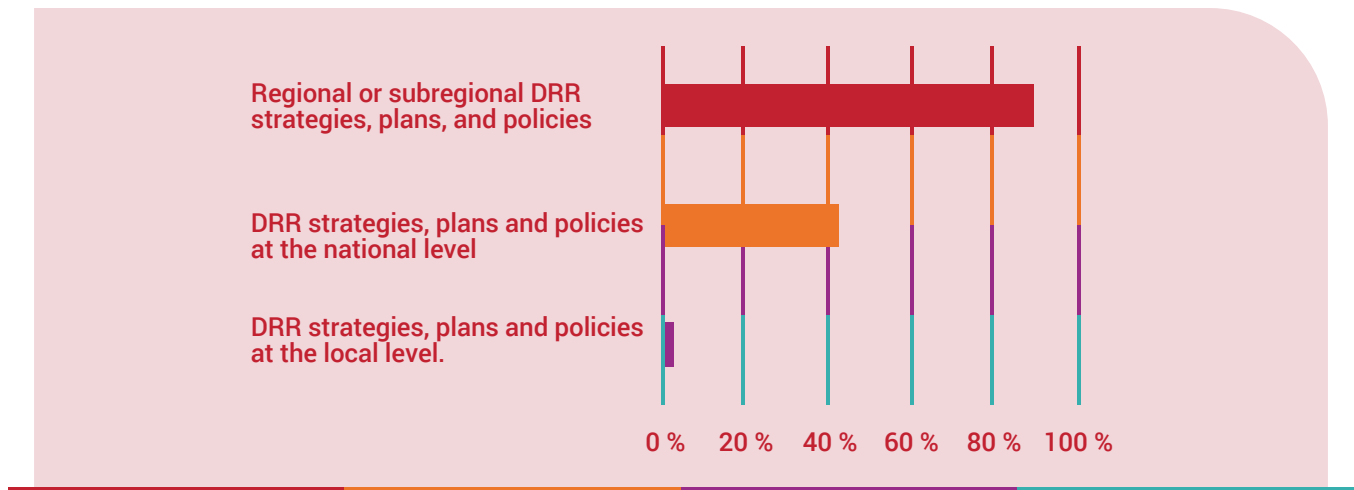
2.



Fulfilment of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) Targets

- > By the end of 2020, nearly half of the countries in the region had national disaster risk reduction strategies, plans and policies in place (thus meeting target E of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).
- > Significant efforts have been made to develop regional and subregional strategies for disaster risk reduction. To date, these include the Caribbean Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy (CDM) for the CDEMA/ CARICOM Member States; the CEPREDENAC/SICA Central American Policy for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (PCGIR); the CAPRADE /CAN Andean Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (EAGRD); and the RMAGIR/MERCOSUR Strategy for Disaster Risk Management for countries of the Southern Common Market.
- > As of December 2020, the development of local disaster risk reduction strategies aligned with corresponding national strategies (Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) indicator E2) is one of the lesser-achieved 2020 targets, and thus the number of countries reporting progress or achievement remains low.

Figure 7. Countries in the Americas reporting progress on Sendai Framework Target E (Percentage)



Source: UNDRR, Sendai Monitor (as December 2020).

---> As of December 2020, more than half of the countries in the region have reported no progress on achieving Targets A, B, C and D, which are key to measuring the effectiveness of disaster risk reduction strategies and are closely linked to the SDGs. Although these targets are set to be met by 2030, their achievement is threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need of many countries to divert economic resources to cope with its compound effects

A new understanding of risk

---> Five years after the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) came into effect, the COVID-19 pandemic clearly reveals that disaster risk should be reconceived, based on the systemic nature of risk and its cascading effects.

---> A systemic approach opens up new perspectives on the complexity of risk by examining the different types of vulnerability our societies currently face and the need for cross-sectoral approaches to manage them.

A new framework for risk assessment

---> This much-needed paradigm shift in the way risk is conceptualized –as articulated in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—implies the need for a corresponding shift in the way risk is measured and managed.

The importance of strategic partnerships

→ Building alliances and working across sectors is a priority in the region. Among other initiatives that stand out, are the training of networks and other alliances among civil society. With a strong presence of non-government organizations, organized groups or networks, civil society brings together professionals from diverse sectors, community members, indigenous groups, women, migrants, people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups to foster risk management, the development of preparedness mechanisms (such as early warning systems) and post-disaster activities. In Latin America and the Caribbean, such groups constitute major asset thanks to the collaborative networks established within countries and within the region as a whole, such as the National Risk Management Roundtables created in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch in the most affected Central American countries and gathered sub-regionally through the Regional Coordination for Risk Management (CRGR for its acronym in Spanish); the Network for Indigenous Knowledge and Disaster Risk Reduction; Regional Academic Institutions; Science and Technology Networks; the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR); and the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management (LAC DiDRR Network), among others.

→ Another important strategic partnership is the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE), which is the first systematic and far-reaching private sector effort for risk reduction in which members voluntarily commit to aligning their activities with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). At the time of this report's preparation, there were twenty national private sector networks and two sub-regional networks in Central America and the Caribbean. Collectively, these networks represent thousands of companies from across all sectors. They provide space for capacity-building and the dissemination of tools and good practices, and facilitate dialogue both within the business sector and between the public and private spheres. More recently, these networks have assisted their members, partners and allies in facing the challenges of COVID-19, among other hazards.

While States have the overall responsibility for disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between governments and relevant stakeholders. In particular, non-State stakeholders play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the present Framework at local, national, regional and global levels. Their commitment, goodwill, knowledge, experience and resources will be required.

Role of stakeholders, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)

Challenges for Disaster Risk Reduction

3.



Fulfilling international commitments

Maintaining momentum towards advancing in the coherence among the International Frameworks and targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) , the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement for Climate Change among others , will be the main challenge of this decade.

→ International disaster risk reduction agreements continue to face major challenges to their implementation. Some obstacles, however, have already been overcome—for example, the lack of advocacy and political will to promote disaster risk reduction policies; policy disruption between administrations; weak institutions; a lack of financial resources ; the time lag between the dynamics of governments and international agreements ; and structural problems such as corruption, noncompliance with the rule of law and a lack of transparency.

---> Current estimates predict a profound economic recession in the region precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Effects of this downturn are expected to include job losses and the growth of the informal labor market, declining household and corporate incomes, increased indebtedness of countries and strain on the financial sector, and the slow recovery of critical sectors like tourism and the entertainment industry. These conditions will in turn result in a significant increase in income inequality, poverty and extreme poverty, which could eventually reactivate a wave of social unrest similar to that seen in several countries in 2019 or intensify the mass migration of people. Given such a scenario, the targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) and the 2030 Agenda will be more important than ever, and it is imperative that countries and the international community redouble their efforts and commitment to ensuring their fulfilment.

Enhanced work to reduce exposure and vulnerability, thus preventing the creation of new disaster risks, and accountability for disaster risk creation are needed at all levels. More dedicated action needs to be focused on tackling underlying disaster risk drivers, such as the consequences of poverty and inequality, climate change and variability, unplanned and rapid urbanization, poor land management and compounding factors such as demographic change, weak institutional arrangements, non-risk-informed policies, lack of regulation and incentives for private disaster risk reduction investment, complex supply chains, limited availability of technology, unsustainable uses of natural resources, declining ecosystems, pandemics and epidemics.

Hyogo Framework for Action: lessons learned, gaps identified and future challenges, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Higher-quality information—and more of it—is needed to better understand disaster risk and its impact

The availability of information on risk and disasters remains insufficient. Improved data quality and coverage is essential to gaining a better understanding of how risk and disasters manifest.

---> Although improvements in the quality of information on risk and disasters have been remarkable over the last three decades, much remains to be done. Continued investment in information quality and standardization, the broadening of data sets and the application of effective methodologies in sectoral and land use planning are all essential components for reducing disaster risk.

---> There are significant differences among the sources of information about the number of people killed or affected by disasters and the associated economic losses. This prevents a clear understanding of the actual ways risk manifests (both intensively and extensively), and the true impact of disasters.

---> Methodologies to quantify damage that are accessible to non-specialist audiences and allow unified figures on human and economic losses to emerge should be developed to complement those methodologies that already exist. Reducing the differences in figures among information sources to the extent possible is essential to achieving a better understanding of the true impact of disaster (Figure 8).

Policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and environment. Such knowledge can be leveraged for the purpose of pre-disaster risk assessment, for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters.

Priority 1, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Figure 8. Disaster casualty and loss estimates according to various sources (1998-2013)
(Thousands of lives and millions of United States dollars)

Event	EM-DAT		Desinventar		NatCatSERVICE		ECLAC	
	Dead	Losses	Dead	Losses	Dead	Losses	Dead	Losses
Hurricane Mitch, 1998	18 820	6010	15 032	N/A	9068	5700	9214	6008
Floods and landslides in Venezuela, 1999	30 000	3160	700	2000	1000	3200	N/A	3226
Colombia Earthquake, 1999	1186	1857	1185	1591	1230	1900	1185	1580
Earthquakes in El Salvador, 2001	1159	1849	1818	N/A	853	1500	1159	1255
Hurricane Katrina, 2005	1833	125 000	N/A	N/A	1720	125 000	N/A	N/A
Haiti Earthquake, 2010	222 570	8000	222 521	N/A	159 000	8000	220 000	7800
Hurricane Sandy, 2012	145	50 301	N/A	N/A	207	68 400	N/A	N/A

Sources: EM-DAT, DesInventar Sendai, NatCatSERVICE and ECLAC (selected evaluations).

Building awareness on the drivers of risk and containing the new dynamics in the construction of risk

Disaster risk drivers are the foundation of all efforts to reduce disaster risk. The failure to tackle root causes increases risk and the human and economic losses of disasters.

---> Targeting the drivers of risk is vital. It requires work to develop strategies and methodologies to identify them in each country. It also requires close attention to emerging economic, political, social and climatic phenomena—such as the effects of climate change, the mass migration of people and the COVID-19 pandemic—that systematically increase risk as they interact.

---> Meeting Target E—the adoption of national and local strategies—is critical for optimal instrumentation for risk reduction in its corrective and prospective forms, as stated in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). At the end of 2020, only about 50 per cent of countries had such plans in place. A review of these instruments is needed to determine the extent to which lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic (and other biological hazards) are reflected in current strategies.

---> In 2014, two out of every ten urban dwellers in Latin America lived in informal settlements, and in Caribbean countries the rate was twice as high. Informal urbanization in the region averages 65 per cent, and in some countries exceeds 70 per cent. Urban governance that endeavors to contain the proliferation of informal settlements and to establish minimum agreements between the public and private sectors regarding the land market will enable local governments to recover their planning capacity and meet the needs of social and economic sectors.

---> It is vital that countries in the region continue to tackle corruption, promote transparency, and improve accountability. The sustained efforts of countries to develop regulatory and legislative instruments to manage risk will yield few results without simultaneous efforts to combat practices that prevent these instruments from having their desired effect.

Invest in risk reduction, not just reconstruction

Most countries to date have allocated their resources to post-disaster reconstruction. In the coming years, it will be essential to promote sustainable investments in corrective and prospective risk management that do not overburden national budgets.

Financial strategies for disaster risk reduction are essential for disaster reconstruction, but these resources are lost if they do not substantially diminish the likelihood of future disasters and simply replace what has been lost without addressing underlying causes.

Investing in risk reduction ultimately reduces the cost of reconstruction. Eventually, it also could reduce the cost of insurance premiums and poverty levels among affected populations. Resilient investment could become a source of saving for countries that could in turn be invested into strategic sectors that could have a multiplier effect on sustainable development.

Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment. These can be drivers of innovation, growth and job creation. Such measures are cost-effective and instrumental to save lives, prevent and reduce losses and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation.

Priority 3, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)

The need for new approaches and forms of city management

Risk is increasing rapidly in urban areas. In recent decades, emergent processes have added complexity and new challenges in understanding and managing risk in urban settings.

→ A major challenge to urban risk reduction lies in understanding the systemic nature of risk and the need to build a new perspective based on the relationship between contributing factors. The imperative to understand and manage interdependent and multidimensional risk drivers that play out across geographic and spatial scales has become particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, as evidenced in the complexity of managing health emergencies in disorganized and fragmented cities with high levels of social and economic inequality.

→ A second major challenge cities undoubtedly face is the transformation of governance models, which until now have not kept pace with the evolving demands of the urbanization process.

Transforming governance to reduce risk will be a key challenge

The governance of risk management must overcome—once and for all—its reactive approach in order to profoundly impact the DNA of development.

→ The push for a new paradigm in disaster risk reduction management requires advanced forms of governance that clearly differentiate between disaster management and risk management. The conclusions contained in earlier sections of this report elaborate further on some critical aspects of governance that are needed now as well as in the future.

Disaster risk governance at the national , regional and global levels is of great importance for an effective and efficient management of disaster risk . Clear vision , plans , competence , guidance and coordination within and across sectors , as well as participation of relevant stakeholders , are needed . Strengthening disaster risk governance for prevention , mitigation , preparedness , response , recovery and rehabilitation is therefore necessary and fosters collaboration and partnership across mechanisms and institutions for the implementation of instruments relevant to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

Priority 2, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)

---> Disaster risk is a social construct and a product of incomplete and unsustainable development processes. The main challenge for governance is to develop forms of management that act directly on root causes, risk drivers and other underlying dynamics and to ensure they are reflected in both planning and implementation.

---> The different risk drivers are interlinked and manifest themselves as risk scenarios in territories where stakeholders coexist with risks. Consequently, strengthening territorial governance in regions and at the local level, becomes an indispensable step for all the aspirations towards a risk informed development process. Without robust and consistent territorial governance, changes in policies or international commitments have little real impact.

---> Territorial governance is more comprehensive and distinctive than risk governance. Although risk governance has a sectoral connotation, territorial governance has a broader character: it is the framework that sustains processes such as land-use planning, natural resource management, social and economic development of territories, and the planning and implementation of resilient infrastructure. As such, it is a governance not specific to the disaster risk management sector, but a governance on the drivers of risk as a whole.

---> The art of strategy lies in identifying how and by which means a proposed objective may be achieved given existing resources, capacities and conditions. As such, strategies for corrective and prospective risk management must identify the appropriate partners for implementation, which are not necessarily the same in each country. The promotion of a global understanding of risk and new tools for its assessment will be vital to facilitate a more successful transition to advanced forms of disaster risk reduction. This will be one of the major challenges of this decade.

---> Effective governance of disaster risk management cannot occur without the close participation of civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Many professional groups, civil society organizations, community associations and private sector companies do important work on a daily basis to aid risk reduction and post-disaster recovery—a fact which should be leveraged and encouraged by governments.

The steady growth of disaster risk, including the increase of people and assets exposure, combined with the lessons learned from past disasters, indicates the need to further strengthen disaster preparedness for response, take action in anticipation of events, integrate disaster risk reduction in response preparedness and ensure that capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels. Empowering women and persons with disabilities to publicly lead and promote gender equitable and universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches is key. Disasters have demonstrated that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of a disaster, is a critical opportunity to “Build Back Better”, including through integrating disaster risk reduction into development measures, making nations and communities resilient to disasters.

Priority 4, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)

The Future of Disaster Risk Reduction

4.



Final Conclusions

The devastating effects of COVID-19 have deeply impacted the way we think about disaster risk management and have undoubtedly shaped the conclusions of this first regional report. It is our hope that this historic period will propel governments and individuals alike to re-examine old problems and apply lessons learned to reduce future losses.

→ The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) significantly changed the paradigm of disaster risk management by placing greater emphasis on targeting the drivers of risk, but the transition from disaster management to disaster risk management is still incomplete in the region.

→ A complex ecosystem of risk drivers currently exists in the region, including climate change; displacement and mass migration; violent crime; water shortages; food insecurity; aggravated patterns of environmental degradation; and chronic political instability. Such drivers are both rooted in and intensified by the prevalent development models in the region. Countries are past the point of simply observing how new extreme events negatively affect development, and instead are experiencing an intensifying accumulation of systemic risks that permeate the entire social, environmental and physical landscape. As a whole, the region is more unbalanced than ever in political, economic, environmental and social terms.

---> A conception of systemic risk that steadily unfolds and draws from the logic of development models requires the transformation of the rationale of privatization of benefits and socialization of risks that characterize them. This is not an administrative or institutional change, but a restructuring of development practices and the political, economic and social priorities that support them. Prospective risk management cannot be included in an ad hoc basis in development . We must build a new logic for sustainable development not only out of conviction , but because the challenges to surviving the intensifying risks in the region are increasingly dire.

---> Disaster risk reduction is a complex process that goes beyond short-term and one-off action. It implies a radical change in paradigm; a deep reflection on existing governance structures meant to cope with the increasingly complex and interconnected context in which we live; and a strategic vision for development. For the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) to meet its targets of reducing the number of deaths and people affected by disasters and diminishing the associated economic losses, it is necessary that the international community have a better understanding of risk; take bolder action to reduce it; and move towards empowering all of society—especially vulnerable groups—to exercise their right to live in a healthy and safe environment.

These are uncertain times marked by doubts about how—and when—the health and economic crises of the COVID-19 pandemic will end, and what the long-term effects will be. Such a complex reality forces us to reinvent the way we see the world and rethink how we must act to transform it. Given the turning point that the pandemic represents for risk reduction in the region, a reflection on how best to prioritize efforts should be undertaken . Latin America and the Caribbean has contributed greatly to disaster risk reduction over time ; indeed , many of the international agreements that orient and strengthen current efforts were proposed and shaped here. Such capacities present the region with a new opportunity to lead a process that will be of great benefit not only locally, but around the world.



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