

Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism Action Plan Implementation Progress Report 2020 -2021

1. Background

Though governments remain responsible for integrating disaster risk reduction into social, economic and development planning, this also requires a change of behaviour across all sectors and levels through an all-inclusive societal approach.

The United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Office (UNDRR) engages with a variety of stakeholders, through different mechanisms, to involve all parts of society in disaster risk reduction for a more resilient future. For stronger stakeholder engagement in policy and practice decisions and disaster risk reduction implementation, UNDRR set up in 2018 [“the UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism” \(SEM\)](#). This leverages the convening and advocacy powers of 17 Major Groups, other stakeholders (MGoS) and UNDRR partner groups for the integration of disaster risk reduction into the broader [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). The SEM currently has over [390 members](#) and is composed of an Advisory Group, Focal Points, and Action Track Coordinators.

To guide the work of the SEM, a SEM Action plan is developed and endorsed biannually by the Advisory Group and shared with SEM members for their comments and final endorsement. It outlines the main priority areas and results for the SEM to advance the all-of-society approach for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

This report combines progresses made in 2020 (documented through a first progress report completed in 2020) and 2021. Inputs to the report were provided by the SEM Focal Points, SEM Advisory Group members and selected UNDRR colleagues who have been/are involved in SEM activities. Summaries from the most recent Annual Meeting, held in January 2021, were also used as a source. This progress report also informed the new Action Plan for 2022-2023.

2. Summary of key achievements

The SEM Action Plan 2020-2021 included three Action Tracks:

- Action Track 1: Policy Influencing - bring the SEM message to main forums and stakeholders.
- Action Track 2: Global Platform and Regional Platforms - ensure that the all-of-society approach is always present in DRR discussions.
- Action Track 3: Knowledge Management - develop knowledge assets and the means necessary to share them.

Key achievements 2020-21 under each of the Action Tracks above were:

Action Track 1: SEM made inroads as a key mechanism in HLPF, keeping up regular engagement at the Forum since 2019.

Also, SEM engaged in other critical areas, such as urban resilience (through the World Urban Forum) and food security (through the UN Food Systems Summit).

Engagement in climate (through COP) and financing for DRR is also emerging and getting stronger, reflecting progress in overcoming some of the siloed approaches established between agendas.

The innovative Faces of Resilience campaign video, shown at the Climate Adaptation Summit 2021, increased visibility of DRR efforts at grassroots level.

Action Track 2:

Preparation for the SEM Stakeholder Forum at GP22 are ongoing and progressing well. SEM has had some engagement with RPs but for the time being the group remains focused on influencing DRR policy at the global, rather than regional, level. This is to be discussed again at SEM AG meeting 2021.

Action Track 3:

There are plans to have an action track dedicated to improving visibility for and communication within the SEM in 2022-23, through a newsletter, a value proposition that can be quickly shared with stakeholders such as governments, and an improved online space for the group.

The [Building Resilience During COVID-19: Lessons Learned from Disaster Risk Reduction](#) report was published on November 21 2021. The publication process helped bring stakeholders together, highlighted different approaches to DRR, showcased good practice, and is expected to inform and encourage greater engagement by local communities in DRR. The publication highlights the multi hazard nature of risk and disasters in today's world and what stakeholders can do to help address it. The SEM plans to disseminate the publication through its networks, at upcoming events and at the GP22.

The executive summary of the report was already used for policy advocacy during HLPF in July 2021.

By end of 2021, SEM membership had increased to 390 members from 76 countries and territories. Growth has been slower this year, possibly due to the SEM being "less novel" than it was in 2020, when it had just been officially launched.

3. Progress in details

Action Area 1: Policy Influencing

Action Area 1 Objectives

- Develop common messages to be used by all SEM members in all 2030 Agenda processes, in consultation with respective constituencies, as stated in Action Plan 2020-21.
- Promote DRR and facilitate engagement of stakeholders in select global 2030 Agenda processes - FfD, HLPF, UNFCCC COP, World Urban Forum.

1. Sub-activity 1: Develop an advocacy plan with deadlines, leads and funding requirements for a global advocacy initiative to be rolled out with UNDRR SEM

- Develop a short concept note based on the SEM workplan and overall goal of SEM for consultation with the SEM AG.
- Develop an Action Plan for the Faces for Resilience project, following inputs and rounds of comments from SEM member.
- Source five people-centred stories about successful risk-informed development.

Progress in 2020 and 2021

An advocacy plan draft for the project “*Faces of Resilience*”, led by UNDRR and GNDR, was developed starting in 2020, including a theory of change reflecting the SEM Action Plan and SEM messages. The advocacy plan was shared with UNDRR and the SEM Advisory Group (AG) for feedback at the end of 2020.

The New Faces for Resilience Advocacy Campaign, part of the Faces of Resilience project, developed a list of stories, based on a set of criteria (e.g. hazard, regional coverage, etc.) and interviewed their protagonists as champions of resilience.

The resulting video was shown at the Climate Adaptation Summit 2021, [see here](#). UNDRR and GNDR, together with Partners for Resilience, also showcased some of the Faces for Resilience stories at the 2021 Climate Action Summit through an online pre-recorded video. The videos are also available on the UNDRR YouTube channel.

2. Sub-activity 2: Raise awareness of the SEM advocacy campaign amongst UN Major Groups and SEM members

- Deliver a webinar to UN Major Groups and SEM members to engage them in the action plan, showcasing stories and building buy-in for collective action for 2021.

Context in 2020

In May 2020, two SEM Briefing calls took place to update SEM on latest activities and action plan, which led to broader engagement and interest. On 5 November 2020, two brainstorming sessions took place to support the development of SEM climate messages. In April 2021, SEM started preparations for their participation in the **Global Platform for DRR 2022 with** an all-SEM call, where the importance of leveraging the GP to raise awareness on the SEM’s advocacy was highlighted.

3. Sub-activity 3: UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS)

- Facilitate SEM engagement in the preparatory process of the UN Food Systems Summit

Context in 2020

In 2020, the Summit was postponed to September/October 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The World Farmers Organisation (WFO), which is part of the SEM, was actively engaged in the Summit’s preparation process, working towards the resilience workstream to be mainstreamed in the discussions.

Two virtual sessions at the “*STEP into a Better World*” Conference were organized on 10 December 2020, led by WFO for SEM in close collaboration with the Planetary Emergency Partnership. This included one roundtable discussion on the UNFSS and one session on: “*Strengthen collaboration for local food systems resilience*”. This session was intended to highlight the importance of building resilience and of shifting towards more sustainable food systems, especially now that we are seeing Covid19 exacerbating existing inequalities, increased incidence of disasters induced by climate change and worsening in food insecurity and malnutrition. The session showcased the importance of local solutions and communities and of an all-of -society approach to DRR.

Progress in 2021

On 22 July 2021, UNDRR WFO and FAO jointly organised and hosted a UNFSS independent dialogue entitled “Our Food Systems at Risk: Scaling-up Resilient Agri-food Production”. Around 200 participants from a wide range of sectors, including farmers, UN organisations and the SEM, took part in the discussion to share their insights on practices, challenges and opportunities of managing multiple risks to build resilient agri-food systems. The independent dialogue was organised in the format of a high-level panel featuring, among others, the intervention of Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG) Mami Mizutori.

The panel was followed by interactive breakout sessions where participants had the chance to share their experiences in agricultural and food production multi-risk management.

Overall, the Independent Dialogue highlighted the importance of comprehensive climate and disaster risk management for equitable, resilient and sustainable agri-food production, while recognising the pivotal role of farmers through their economic, environmental and risk-coping agency. Building on the outcomes of this Dialogue, UNDRR remains involved in the post-Summit follow-up mechanism through an official commitment to scale-up Comprehensive Risk Management for food systems resilience at country level, in partnership with FAO.

4. Sub-activity 4: The World Urban Forum (WUF)

- Prepare WUF focused key messages and official CSO statement on DRR.
- Organize a side-event at WUF
- Organize a press conference/press release before, during or after the event

Context in 2020

In 2020, [a statement](#) was prepared for the World Urban Forum and submitted to UN Habitat for the record. Two SEM representatives participated in the WUF civil society roundtable on 11 February, which was attended by around 25 civil society and grassroots speakers.

Progress in 2021

The World Urban Forum did not take place in 2021, so no activity was done on this area for that year. Next year, the WUF 11 will take place in Katowice, Poland from June 26-30, 2022, and SEM plans to apply for a side event.

Sub-activity 5: Financing for Development (FfD)

- Create a Sendai/DRR group under the FfD Civil Society Organisations (CSO) mechanism
- Prepare FfD focused key messages and official CSO statement on DRR
- Apply and organize a CSO DRR FfD Side event at the FfD Summit in May 2020
- Influence member states to pick up DRR in their statements at the FfD summit
- Organize a press conference/press release before, during or after the event

Context in 2020

In 2020, SEM Focal Points proposed to the FfD CSOs group to create a Sendai/DRR group under the FfD CSO mechanism. A draft SEM position paper on DRR and FfD was published for the FfD 2021 Summit. Materials on DRR and financing were also shared with DRR SEM and the CSO group on FfD by UNDRR.

The DRR SEM and CSO group participated in FfD and mainstreamed DRR into FfD policy processes, especially in the UN Meeting with Civil Society on FfD in the era of COVID and Beyond; and the IATF Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2021 ([link](#)). The report explicitly mentions the importance of DRR and stakeholder engagement and has a dedicated sub-chapter on financing for DRR.

Unfortunately, a CSO DRR FfD side event and press conferences and press releases during the FfD did not take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Progress in 2021

- [The SEM position paper on DRR and FfD](#) was prepared and circulated among SEM members ahead of the FfD Forum.
- A SEM representative spoke at the UNDRR/UNDESA FfD side event: *“Financing for Disaster Risk Reduction and a Risk-Informed Approach to Investing Across the SDGs”*, on 13 April 2021.
- The [outcome](#) of the FfD Forum also highlighted the importance of DRR and risk informed investment.
- SEM hosted an official side event: *“Risk-informed Financing Frameworks: Vulnerabilities, Local Realities and the Cost of Inaction”*, on April 15 during the 2021 FfD forum, in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh.
- SEM provided comments to the Zero Draft of Inter-governmentally Agreed Conclusions and Recommendations, in the lead-up to the 2021 FfD Forum.
- SEM members attended the Forum and the position paper was used to inform SEM’s advocacy messages.
- Discussions on the creation of a Sendai/DRR group under the FfD CSO mechanism are still ongoing as of 2021. There are some difficulties linked to the fact that the FfD CSO mechanism does not accept private sector organisations, which are included in the SEM.
- Overall, these progresses show that SEM is gaining traction through the FfD, and that the topic of financing is progressively rising in priority for the DRR community, and vice versa the importance of DRR is becoming more evident for the finance community, thanks in part to SEM’s advocacy efforts.

5. Sub-activity 6: The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

- Facilitate SEM participation in HLPF, based on UNDESA decision and modalities under COVID-19.
- Develop key messages to be used by SEM members and mainstream DRR
- Organization of a side event
- Organization of bilateral meetings with potential SEM members/partners
- Engagement with UN Major Groups

Context in 2020

In 2020, the HLPF Sendai group actively engaged in the HLPF MGOS Coordination Mechanism, facilitated by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). [A Sectoral Paper for the High-level Political Forum 2020 - Sendai Group](#), developed on behalf of the SEM, was published on the UNDESA knowledge platform. This was done by the Sendai Stakeholder Group, which represents the SEM in UNDESA-led events such as HLPF.

Key messages were also developed by the SEM for the HLPF sessions: *“Ending Hunger and Achieving Food Security”* and *“Protecting the planet and building resilience”*. As part of the team that shaped the latter session, WFO mainstreamed the concept of resilience in its contributions to the Paper.

Awareness on SEM and DRR/resilience was raised through mentioning of the SEM in the events. A SEM COVID-19 statement was also developed and widely disseminated. Furthermore, a side event: *“Lessons from a new Disaster: National and Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies in Action”*, was organized on 8 July, with WFO as part of the SEM task team that worked on its preparation.

Progress in 2021

- In January 2021, the Paragraph 89 Report and the Sectoral Paper were submitted.
- Information was shared with SEM members on how to engage in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and on SEM participation in HLPF.
- Regular information was shared with SEM members on the means to engage ahead of and during HLPF.
- The SEM Caucus took place on 6 July 2021, where all SEM members attending HLPF met to coordinate SEM participation and exchange information about the event.
- Global Urban Commons and the SEM Policy and Advocacy Track Coordinator followed the 2021 HLPF Ministerial Declaration on behalf of the SEM.
- The Sendai Policy Priorities for the 2021 HLPF were developed and shared with SEM members for use on 28 June 2021.
- In consultation with SEM members, policy briefs and social media cards were developed on the SEM’s position at HLPF, and shared through UNDRR social media.
- A SEM member from the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), spoke on behalf of the Sendai Stakeholders at the Thematic Session [“SDGs in focus: 12, 13, 17”](#) on 7 July 2021.
- A SEM member from Global Urban Commons spoke at a parallel event: *“Post Covid-19: Essential Actions for Sustainable Future”*.

- During the HLPF Thematic Session 3: “*Building resilience against future shocks through structural changes and investment in sustainable infrastructure*”, which took place on 6 July 2021, [an intervention on behalf of SEM](#) was delivered by SEM member Alinne Melina Olvera Martínez.
 - The SEM side-event to the HLPF: “*Harvesting lessons from COVID-19 towards risk-informed development to achieve the SDGs*”, took place on 8 July 2021. Its recording is available through Prevention Web.
 - SEM also contributed to the “Sendai Stakeholders Group Policy Position for the 2021 HLPF”.
 - These efforts show continued influence by the SEM at HLPF, in which the group has been engaging since 2019. SEM’s advocacy through the HLPF is to be continued and expanded in 2022.
6. **Sub-activity 7: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (UNFCCC and COP)**
- Facilitate SEM engagement in the preparation processes
 - Engage in the UNFCCC subsidiary body sessions (SB 52)
 - Organize bilateral meetings with stakeholders and potential partners
 - Prepare focused key messages and an official statement
 - Apply and organize a side event
 - Develop a background paper for UNFCCC COP26

Context in 2020

All of the above events were postponed in 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Progress in 2021

- A virtual side event, organised by GNDR, UNDRR and Partners for Resilience, was held during the Climate Action Summit on 25-26 January. This was a [pre-recorded video](#), which featured three UNDRR/GNDR Faces of Resilience stories and other local stories from Partners for Resilience.
- The SEM position paper for the COP26 was prepared and shared on Prevention Web. It was also disseminated in COP26 within bilateral meetings with member states, as well as with other stakeholders.
- A preparatory caucus was organized for SEM members attending COP26 online and in-person.
- At COP26, SEM members were engaged in the Resilience Hub events and the MPGCA event focused on resilience
- There are plans to follow up with another position for COP27 paper and the guide for participation for SEM members.

Action Area 2: Coordination for the Global Platform and Regional Platforms

Action Area 2 Objectives

- Facilitate SEM engagement and participation in the UNDRR GPs and RPs

Action Area 2 Sub-Activities

- Ensure engagement of SEM in the GP/RP preparatory processes as relevant
- Set up a task team
- Coordinate stakeholder inputs and develop first draft report
- Present and discuss draft at regional platforms and update draft after regional platforms
- Finalise preparatory report for the next GP agenda
- Facilitate stakeholder engagement in GP preparatory process and the GP
- Coordinate stakeholder engagement in session preparation teams
- Support stakeholder registration as part of the respective UN-MGoS
- Organize the second Stakeholder Forum at next Global Platform
- Coordinate stakeholder inputs to Sendai Framework Mid-Term Review (to be confirmed)

Context in 2020

In 2020, monthly coordination calls were initiated between SEM and UNDRR focal points for the Regional and Global Platforms. Initial exploratory calls with UNDRR Regional Offices (ROs), were held on the potential support from SEM. In addition, preparations for the SEM's engagement in the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) were ongoing. The setup of the task team was also ongoing and discussions with UNDRR's Global Platform Coordinator, regarding the finalisation of the preparatory report for the next GP agenda, started.

Progress in 2021

- As of 2021, it was confirmed that the task team is composed of Action Track 2 members and SEM focal points.
- SEM is now working on the Sendai Framework Mid Term Review (MTR) inputs from SEM members, with the support of a consultant. This activity will be completed in the first quarter of 2022.
- Preparations for the Global Platform (GP) in 2022 are ongoing. The SEM Advisory Group led the involvement of stakeholders in the organising teams for GP sessions. All organization teams now have stakeholder participation, and the majority have stakeholders that were prioritised by SEM AG members.
- The support of the stakeholder registration as part of the respective UN-MGoS is currently ongoing and part of group representatives' mandates. To note, the constituency preparation processes are different for each constituency group - each group has their own way to prepare and coordinate for the GP (e.g. developing joint messages, deciding who should attend the event etc).
- Planning for the Second Stakeholder Forum is also ongoing. Space at the conference has been secured, and AG members are discussing themes for the sessions with the organisers.
- SEM decided not to engage in the regional platforms taking place in 2021 because they are region-specific stakeholder mechanisms and SEM did not want to create competition and preferred to stay focused on DRR advocacy at the global level. However, SEM was partly involved in providing comments to the concept note for the Asia-Pacific Regional Platform. SEM will have another discussion on whether to become involved in regional processes or remain focused on global level at the SEM annual meeting 2021.

- SEM applied to host a side event at the European Forum for DRR (November 2021) but the application was not accepted by the organisers.
- All remaining Action Track 2 sub-activities haven't had any further updates since 2020.

Action Area 3: Knowledge Management

Action Area 2 Objectives

Increase SEM visibility, membership and internal processes and communication

Action Area 3 Sub-activities

- Increase the number of SEM members through promotion and communication activities.
- Improve SEM online space
- Prepare progress report SEM Action Plan 2020-2021
- Create and disseminate a quarterly newsletter to SEM members
- Report on SEM Action Plan implementation through the Sendai Voluntary Commitment Platform (SVCP)
- Develop and disseminate at least one knowledge product per annum

Context in 2020

In 2020, it was agreed that the Annual SEM Advisory Group meeting, covering both 2020 and 2021, would be held on 26 January 2021. A review and recommitment of SEM AG members, coordinators and action track focal points took place at the meeting, as well as a strengthening of the engagement of youth in SEM, including young scientists.

As of December 2020, SEM members had reached 354 from 72 countries and territories through the promotion of SEM during numerous SEM events. One annual progress update on the SEM Action Plan was developed in table form at the end of 2020. Regular communication with SEM members by UNDRR and SEM Focal Points continued through regular update calls.

Progress in 2021

- A draft newsletter layout was created and shared by AISR with SEM Focal Points for feedback in 2021. There are plans to have a dedicated task force or action track on communication within the SEM in 2022-23, who would also work on finalising and disseminating the newsletter regularly.
- Discussion ongoing with the UNDRR Communication Unit on creating a dedicated online space for SEM, for example through the UNDRR website, where members could more easily share documents, collaborate etc.
- The Annual AG meeting 2021 was held on 7, 9 and 14 December.
- The meeting included the presentation of the progress report, approval of the new action plan for 2022-23 and elections of new focal points and AG members.
- By end of 2021, SEM membership had increased to 390 members from 76 countries and territories. Growth has been slower this year, possibly due to the SEM being "less novel" than it was in 2020, when it had just been officially launched.
- The SEM value proposition is currently being developed, and this will help raise SEM visibility.

- Webpages on stakeholder engagement were launched on the UNDRR website:
 - <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework-partners-and-stakeholders/stakeholder-engagement-mechanism>
 - <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/partners-and-stakeholders/civil-society>
- The report on the SEM Action Plan implementation through the SVCP has not yet been completed
- The [Building Resilience During COVID-19: Lessons Learned from Disaster Risk Reduction](#) report was published on November 21 2021.
- The report, which is the result of the results of a 2020 survey and literature review conducted by the SEM, features lessons learned and insights on how disaster risk reduction stakeholders around the world have leveraged existing disaster risk reduction programmes and initiated new ones to better prevent, prepare, respond to and recover from COVID-19 and future pandemics.
- SEM plans to disseminate the publication through its networks, at upcoming events and at the GP22. The executive summary of the report was already used for policy advocacy during HLPF in July 2021.
- Social media on the report disseminated through UNDRR channels.
- SEM is currently discussing possible new research on the state of stakeholder engagement at national level, in national DRR platforms, to be developed in 2022.