United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Briefing Package for UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams
Development gains cannot be sustained over time if disaster risk reduction (DRR) considerations are not fully integrated into development planning and investments. The systemic nature of risk requires an integrated approach to development. Climate change is interacting with many of today's global issues: ecosystem fragility, rapid urbanization, mass displacement, and protracted crisis.

As a result, the human, economic and environmental impact of disasters - whether triggered by natural or man-made hazards – is on the rise, lasting longer and hitting harder.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) believes this can be turned around.

In addition to “building back better”, we need to focus on doing better to start with.

A total of US$ 5.2 billion spent on disaster risk reduction represents 3.8% of the total humanitarian financing between 2005 and 2017 - less than US$ 4 for every US$100 spent. And humanitarian needs are only growing. Could we reduce these if we funded risk reduction up front?

Every US$1 invested in risk reduction and prevention can save up to US$15 in post-disaster recovery.

Every US$1 invested in making infrastructure disaster-resilient saves US$4 in reconstruction.

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1 https://gar.undrr.org/
UN System reform and DRR

The UN Development System reform supports UN Resident Coordinators (UNRCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to deliver context specific results backed by clearer and more robust lines of accountability: both nationally and within the UN system. In line with the UN Secretary-General’s prevention agenda that prominently features disaster risk reduction as a priority across the UN System, UN Resident Coordinators, through their Terms of Reference, are being urged to take “a preventive approach and to identify and mitigate risks to the achievement of the SDGs”.

DRR is complex and overlaps with many sectors. It is often a very useful entry point for **demonstrating the benefits of multilateralism to national governments**, as it brings together a range of different agencies and actors to support risk reduction activities across many sectors including housing and urban development, infrastructure, environment, energy, agriculture, health, education, governance and sustainable development planning.

UNDRR is committed to working closely with UNRCs and other UN agencies in country to **better support governments to build relevant and implementable national and local DRR strategies** to reduce disaster and climate risk.

UNDRR is a firm believer in reducing the burdens placed on national and local governments to respond to multiple global policy agendas, and promotes a practical approach to building coherence, including **how to integrate DRR as part of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and Common Country Analysis (CCA)**, and **how to incorporate climate risk as part of national DRR strategies** - in line with National Adaptation Plans.

This briefing package sets out how UNDRR can better support UNRCs and UNCTs to deliver sustainable development benefits at a country level from a DRR angle. The options set out here can be adjusted to suit the needs of different Regional Coordination Mechanisms (RCMs) or Regional Collaborative Platforms, including Issues-based Coalitions. This package includes an information checklist, support tools and information that UNDRR has developed to support national governments and UN partners to implement the Sendai Framework.
1. About UNDRR

UNDRR is the focal point within the UN system for DRR and resilience building. UNDRR advocates and supports governments to ensure their development efforts are risk-informed. UNDRR works with stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels to build political momentum and commitment to prevent the creation of new and reduce existing risk.

The Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) is the roadmap to a resilient, sustainable future. Alongside the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework supports and protects progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Sendai Framework’s targets and indicators contribute to measuring disaster-related targets and indicators of the SDGs, in particular SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), SDG 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts).

**SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE**

A. Substantially reduce global disaster mortality
B. Substantially reduce the number of affected people
C. Reduce direct economic loss in relation to global GDP
D. Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services

**SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE**

E. Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020
F. Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries
G. Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk reduction information assessments
2. Ways in which UNDRR can support UNRCs and UNCTs

UNDRR is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It has five regional offices (Bangkok covering Asia-Pacific, Panama for the Americas and the Caribbean, Nairobi for Africa, Cairo for Arab States, and Brussels for Europe and Central Asia) and a range of smaller liaison offices (Bonn, New York, Incheon, Kobe) and sub-regional offices in Suva and Addis Ababa.

UNDRR has no presence at country level and depends on the political advocacy of UNRCs to promote the Sendai Framework and DRR initiatives with their host governments. UNDRR, through its regional staff, mobilizes UNCT members’ expertise on the ground to support DRR training and capacity building, strategy development, monitoring and overall reporting on progress towards achieving the Sendai Framework’s seven global targets for DRR 2015-2030. Whenever feasible, UNRCs facilitate UNDRR regional offices’ engagement in the UNCTs’ work, including the development of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and national development plans as the corner stone of the UNSDCFs.

UNDRR, through its regional offices, provides the following support to UNRCs and UNCTs:

2.1. Strengthen policy coherence

Integrate DRR as part of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (CF) and Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and secure the government’s full buy-in and political and financial commitment to implement. In particular, based on their respective capacity, UNDRR regional offices will:

- Attend selected UNCT meetings to introduce guidelines on how to integrate DRR and Climate Change Adaptation into the CF.
- Attend selected UNCT prioritization retreats to provide guidance and wording to integrate DRR into the planning process of CFs and CCAs.
- Participate in existing regional Issues-based Coalitions linked to DRR, such as those focusing on themes related to climate change, resilience and environmental sustainability.
- Advocate for the DRR agenda through existing regional mechanisms, including the Regional UNSDG Group, the Regional Coordination Mechanisms, the Regional Collaborative Platform and the Peer Support Group as appropriate.
- UNDRR will prioritize its support based on the status of the country’s CF programming cycle and the ongoing work of existing regional coordination mechanisms in this respect (e.g. Regional Collaborative Platforms, including Issues-based Coalitions, etc.).

a. Provide normative guidance and available methodology on building coherence across DRR, climate change (CC) and sustainable development at national and local levels as part of DRR strategies / NAPs (see details under Supporting Tools).
b. **Mobilize the National Sendai Framework focal point and the National Platform for DRR** (or its equivalent) in the development, government’s endorsement, and implementation of risk-sensitive CFs and in promoting a coherent ‘UN approach’ to and advocacy around DRR and its linkages with climate change and sustainable development.

c. **Support the implementation and monitoring of the UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience**.

d. **Promote a multi-stakeholder approach to DRR by sharing the contacts and activities of in-country stakeholder groups** engaged in DRR such as ARISE (UNDRR’s global private sector network), parliamentarians, mayors, science and technology actors, etc.

### 2.2. Improve data collection and analysis for better decision-making

a. **Support risk assessment processes in country, in particular those related to the collection of disaster risk and climate data** to effectively influence the DRR and disaster management policy processes of different DRR indicators.

b. Support the **establishment and development** of disaster loss databases through DesInventar Sendai – a web-based tool sponsored and hosted by UNDRR. This tool provides access to evidence-based data and analysis of disaster risk to inform the CF and for reporting on the Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM) and relevant DRR indicators of the SDGs.

### 2.3. Improve DRR capacity

a. **Provide hands-on capacity development and training opportunities** for UNRCs and UNCTs on:

   - Integrating DRR into sustainable development and climate change adaptation plans.
   - Supporting national efforts for monitoring progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework through its monitoring system (SFM)
   - Assessing DRR capacity at the country level through the CADRI Partnership

### 2.4. Leverage advocacy opportunities

a. **Ensure regular interaction between UNDRR regional offices and UNRCs’ offices and provide joint advocacy communication assets**, compelling case studies and impact stories that demonstrate the difference a risk-informed DRR approach has had in a country or region.

b. **Build opportunities around visits of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for DRR to countries to reinforce the DRR message and advocacy for a coherent approach.**

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5 [https://www.preventionweb.net/files/49076_unplanofaction.pdf](https://www.preventionweb.net/files/49076_unplanofaction.pdf)
3. Other opportunities to work more closely with UNRCs and UNCTs in implementing the Sendai Framework at national and local levels

3.1. Ensure the development of national and local DRR strategies

a. **Support national governments with the development of national DRR strategies** in support to Sendai Framework Target E’s achievement by 2020 and beyond through a systematic mobilization and engagement of UNCT members from their respective areas of expertise.

b. **Work with local governments to assess the resilience of cities and develop and implement local DRR strategies** with the aim to reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience by using the guidance and tools developed by the “Making Cities Resilient Campaign”.

3.2. Improve DRR coordination mechanisms

a. **Support the establishment of multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms for DRR (e.g. National DRR Platforms)** and mobilize Sendai Framework Focal Points to ensure effective DRR coordinated action at the national level and linkages with the local level as appropriate, through the mobilization of key stakeholders including the private sector, communities and key technical experts.

b. **Establish linkages between National DRR Platforms and SDG Platforms** as a core mechanism for building coherence at national level in close cooperation with UNDP and other key partners.

4. Support tools and information

UNDRR manages the world’s only DRR knowledge platform **www.preventionweb.net** that provides information to more than 1.2 million unique users each year, most of whom are from developing countries and work in policy advice, advocacy or DRR implementation for national governments. It is a great gateway to refer country counterparts to: contribute to the platform, join online working groups and benefit from a range of resources including practical how-to guides, training events and cutting-edge information from the world’s leading institutes.

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6 Target (e): Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020
Specific guidance and DRR tools include:

- **Integrating DRR as part of UNDAFs / CCAs** - Guidance [https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/10760](https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/10760)
- **Words Into Action (WIA) Guides**:
- **Disaster loss databases, country profiles** [https://www.undrr.org/terminology/disaster-loss-database](https://www.undrr.org/terminology/disaster-loss-database)
- **Local Governments’ Handbook, Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities** for local level implementation of the Sendai Framework: [https://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/toolkit](https://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/toolkit)

5. Core Reference Documents

- **Regional Platforms for DRR outcomes and priorities implementation** [https://www.preventionweb.net/collections/rp-outcome-docs](https://www.preventionweb.net/collections/rp-outcome-docs)
- **United Nations Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience** [https://www.preventionweb.net/files/49076_unplanofaction.pdf](https://www.preventionweb.net/files/49076_unplanofaction.pdf)
- **Global Assessment Report (GAR)** [https://gar.undrr.org](https://gar.undrr.org)
Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, UNDRR has a small, nimble work team of around 120 staff members who work with partners around the world to reduce disaster risk and impact, and build resilient communities.

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