

**The cascading and compounded impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other disasters has shown that we must transform how disaster risk is governed. Going into 2021, please share your reflections on what is most needed to facilitate this transformation.**

Development is taking place in an environment of uncertainty, interconnectedness and complexity with dynamic risks and emerging threats both at the local and the global level. New and additional risks can emerge if development choices do not consider existing risks and potential impacts on both the built and social environment, thereby, jeopardising sustainable development. There is no doubt, that we will need to transform the way we govern risk as soon as possible. Risk-informed development is a pre-requisite for sustainable development. However, the expertise, capacities and skills of actors and decision-makers are not yet at a level that would enable them to address risks effectively.

In spite of the increasing awareness of the complex, cascading and systemic nature of risks, they are still not always adequately taken into account in the planning and programming of development measures, whether in the partner regions and countries or on the part of international donors. Current approaches often factor in only one risk (generally a natural hazard) rather than several simultaneous risks (multi-risk scenarios) or newly emerging global threats (such as pandemics).

The COVID-19 pandemic is illustrating the vulnerability and interdependencies of all social policy fields and sectors worldwide. People threatened by acute crises or by conflict and violence, as well as those at risk from extreme natural events, are worst hit by the current situation. Risk governance must be inclusive, so no one is left behind.

To transform how disaster risk is governed, especially with regard to developing resilient systems, infrastructure and services, we would like to highlight the following issues:

1. There has to be a common understanding of the nature of “resilient” systems, infrastructure and services. *What makes infrastructure resilient and how can the resilience be supported?*
2. Resilient infrastructure needs to be financed, and is largely funded by the public sector. *How can we make sure that climate and disaster risks are integrated and considered in public investment decisions to facilitate resilient development?*
3. Decision-makers need to have access to actionable information on risk and the necessary skills and capacities to understand the information and the potential impacts. *What kind of sector-specific information is needed to ensure that decision-makers can take risk-informed decisions?*

The Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM), implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, strives to support decision-makers and organisations in building the knowledge, the capacities and the skills to better understand the sector-specific information needs and facilitate their application of risk-informed development approaches.