

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Annual Report
2019



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For additional information, please contact:
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
9-11 Rue de Varembe, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: +41 22 917 89 08

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United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

2019 Annual Report

If there is a lesson we have learned in 2019, it is that the world is an increasingly fragile place, and that unresolved and emerging risk is at the heart of this fragility.

FOREWORD



Mami Mizutori

Special Representative
of the Secretary-General
for Disaster Risk Reduction

Back-to-back category 3 storms hit Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in March. Large wildfires caused loss of life and property and had a huge impact on the environment, notably in the Amazon, Australia and California. These wildfires occurred during the hottest year on record without an El Niño. The climate emergency has manifested: unpredictability, extremes and systemic risk are on irrefutable display.

The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General used the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction to call for disaster risk reduction to be at the heart of the Decade of Action that lies ahead of us.

The *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2019*, launched at the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2019), drove home this message, moving beyond disaster risk to consider the pluralistic nature of risk, intersecting with climate in multiple dimensions, at multiple scales and with multiple impacts.

It would be easy to feel overwhelmed.

But what was also evident in 2019 is that disaster risk reduction works, and there has never been a more urgent time to invest in it.

I witnessed a compelling example of early recognition of complex issues in Kisumu (Kenya) – one of 4,311 cities participating in the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Making Cities Resilient Campaign. When I visited in March, Kisumu City manager, Doris Ombara, led me on a “resilience tour”.

Ms. Ombara and colleagues are challenged with a wide range of potential disaster

scenarios including floods, droughts, fires, water and energy supply problems, solid waste management difficulties and decaying infrastructure. But they are investing in reducing risk to support their plans for sustainable development. I visited a new managed rubbish dump site, built in a disused quarry where it will not affect the city’s water table, and a new bridge over a flooded waterway linking the community to a maternity hospital, children to schools and farmers to markets. I was struck by the remarkable level of civic participation and engagement on risk reduction and resilience issues.

Echoing this, the focus of GP2019 was on Resilience Dividend: Toward Sustainable and Inclusive Societies. It was held in Geneva in May and was attended by more than 3,000 participants from 182 countries. GP2019 called for accelerated action in achieving the seven targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework) and highlighted the importance of disaster risk reduction to achieve the Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), and the contribution of the Sendai Framework towards the Paris Agreement, the Agenda for Humanity, the New Urban Agenda and the Samoa Pathway.

GP2019 was the first time that UN Member States had reported publicly on progress against the Sendai Framework. At the end of 2019, 81 Member and observer States reported the existence of a National Disaster Risk Reduction strategy in the Sendai Framework Monitor. One of the key criteria for assessing these strategies is coherence with global frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

GP2019 provided a critical contribution to the 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the UN Climate Action Summit later in the year. Recognizing the significant youth participation component of GP2019, UNDRR was subsequently requested by the Secretary-General’s Office to support youth engagement and programming for the Climate Action Summit.

The world’s attention was on the unveiling of a range of ambitious new climate action initiatives at the Climate Action Summit. UNDRR was proud to be a partner in the new Risk-informed Early Action Partnership – an initiative aiming to protect a billion people in the developing world from extreme weather – and which corresponds to working towards Sendai Framework Target (g) to increase access to early warning systems.

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, announced the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure at the Climate Action Summit. The initiative was initially proposed at UNDRR’s 2016 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Through CDRI, UNDRR is supporting governments and partners to reduce infrastructure loss and damage and enhance the resilience of trillions of dollars of infrastructure investments.

Events in 2019 made it very clear that planning for disaster risk reduction must also include planning for climate change adaptation. UNDRR, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other partners launched the Target (e) Coherence Approach. This supports 40 countries that are most at risk to integrate climate change adaptation into their national disaster risk reduction strategies, and disaster risk reduction into their national adaptation plans to ensure coherence in implementing and monitoring the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.

UNDRR seized the opportunity to more closely align its acronym with its name and mandate, rebranding two weeks before GP2019. An ambitious plan was developed to rebuild and refresh the entire online UNDRR ecosystem to support better communication and knowledge management outputs, with the new UNDRR website being launched at the end of 2019. The appetite for risk information is increasing, with PreventionWeb – the world’s only disaster risk reduction knowledge platform – growing to reach 1.1 million unique users, and social media channels achieving an audience of more than 10 million.

I am grateful to all UNDRR partners and supporters, and also to the Government of Switzerland for its generous hosting of GP2019. I am thankful to UNDRR staff for their dedication during the year.

Risk is more deeply embedded in the world around us than we may have previously realized, and I look forward to seizing the opportunity we have before us in 2020 to make risk reduction everyone’s business for the good of the planet and people everywhere. The Decade of Action has commenced.

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Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

SENDAI FRAMEWORK
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015–2030

Expected outcome

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.

Goal

Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience.

Scope and purpose

The present Framework will apply to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters, caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks. It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors.

Targets

- Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005–2015.
- Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005–2015.
- Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
- Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.
- Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
- Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030.
- Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030.

Priorities for action

There is a need for focused action within and across sectors by States at local, national, regional and global levels in the following four priority areas.

PRIORITY 1 Understanding disaster risk

Disaster risk management needs to be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment.

PRIORITY 2 Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is vital to the management of disaster risk reduction in all sectors and ensuring the coherence of national and local frameworks of laws, regulations and public policies that, by defining roles and responsibilities, guide, encourage and incentivize the public and private sectors to take action and address disaster risk.

PRIORITY 3 Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

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 4 Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to «Build Back Better» in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

Experience indicates that disaster preparedness needs to be strengthened for more effective response and ensure capacities are in place for effective recovery. Disasters have also demonstrated that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of the disaster, is an opportunity to «Build Back Better» through integrating disaster risk reduction measures. Women and persons with disabilities should publicly lead and promote gender-equitable and universally accessible approaches during the response and reconstruction phases.

Guiding principles

- Primary responsibility of States to prevent and reduce disaster risk, including through cooperation.
- Shared responsibility between central Government and national authorities, sectors and stakeholders as appropriate to national circumstances.
- Protection of persons and their assets while promoting and protecting all human rights including the right to development.
- Engagement from all of society.
- Full engagement of all State institutions of an executive and legislative nature at national and local levels.
- Empowerment of local authorities and communities through resources, incentives and decision-making responsibilities as appropriate.
- Decision-making to be inclusive and risk-informed while using a multi-hazard approach.
- Coherence of disaster risk reduction and sustainable development policies, plans, practices and mechanisms, across different sectors.
- Accounting of local and specific characteristics of disaster risks when determining measures to reduce risk.
- Addressing underlying risk factors cost-effectively through investment versus relying primarily on post-disaster response and recovery.
- «Build Back Better» for preventing the creation of, and reducing existing, disaster risk.
- The quality of global partnership and international cooperation to be effective, meaningful and strong.
- Support from developed countries and partners to developing countries to be tailored according to needs and priorities as identified by them.

UNDRR Strategic Framework

<p>Vision</p>	<p>The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses for a sustainable future</p>		
<p>Mandate</p>	<p>Focal point of the United Nations system for disaster risk reduction and the custodian of the Sendai Framework, supporting countries and societies in its implementation, monitoring and review of progress</p>		
<p>Overarching objective</p>	<p>The prevention of new and reduction of existing disaster risk and strengthening resilience through successful multi-hazard disaster risk management</p>		
			

<p>Strategic Objectives</p>	<p>1 Strengthen global monitoring, analysis and coordination of Sendai Framework implementation</p>	<p>2 Support to regional and national Sendai Framework implementation</p>	<p>3 Catalyse action through Member States and Partners</p>
<p>Results</p>	<p>1.1 Global Progress of the Sendai Framework & related SDG targets assessed</p>	<p>2.1 Regional & national coordination mechanisms leveraged to monitor & accelerate Sendai Framework</p>	<p>3.1 Fostered policy coherence by engaging with member States & contributing to relevant intergovernmental processes</p>
	<p>1.2 Global risk data, analysis and policy advice generated</p>	<p>2.2 National disaster risk reduction strategies & plans developed in line with Sendai Framework prescribed guidance</p>	<p>3.2 Coordination & advice provided to UN System partners at global level towards effective & efficient Sendai Framework implementation</p>
	<p>1.3 Global coordination and accountability mechanisms convened</p>	<p>2.3 Build capacity of counterparts, UNCTs and partners for DRR leadership</p>	<p>3.3 All of society engagement and action promoted through strengthening partnerships with key stakeholders</p>
<p>Enabler</p>	<p>1 Effective knowledge management, communication and global advocacy</p>	<p>2 Strengthened organizational performance</p>	<p>3.4 Partnerships leveraged for increased financing for disaster risk reduction and risk-sensitive investment</p>

Notable disaster events in 2019 included extreme heat-waves, cyclones, wildfires and flooding, which caused thousands of deaths and injuries. Direct economic losses and damage from disasters caused by natural hazards in 2019 were estimated at \$232 billion.¹ The bush-fires that raged in Australia killed an estimated 1.25 billion animals,² with as yet unknown consequences on biodiversity. This accounts only for disasters triggered by natural hazards. It says nothing of the human-induced biological, technological and environmental hazards and risks that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (Sendai Framework) encompasses.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The climate emergency was the top global agenda item in 2019. The year ended what is almost certain to be the warmest five-year period and decade on record.³ Planetary boundaries have been breached, and the inability to curb greenhouse gas emissions compounds the risk of bigger, harder, more devastating disasters. At the same time, the benefits of globalization have also made risk more complex. Systemic, cascading risk is the underlying feature of today's risk landscape.

These developments highlight the critical importance of disaster risk reduction in protecting lives, livelihoods, ecosystems and development gains. Nothing undermines development like a disaster. Reducing disaster risk and losses and avoiding the creation of new risk are essential for building a stable, sustainable and more resilient world. Therefore, disaster risk reduction is a vital ingredient in delivering the international development agenda.

Reducing risk is critical to sustainable development, and it is also indispensable in reducing the humanitarian burden. The world is stuck in a cycle of disaster–respond–repair–repeat, and the costs associated with this pattern are rising. Investing in risk reduction and building resilience saves more than lives and livelihoods – it also makes good financial sense.

However, development assistance investments in disaster risk reduction have been minuscule in comparison to financing for disaster response. A total of \$5.2 billion for disaster risk reduction represented only 3.8 per cent of total humanitarian financing between 2005 and 2017 – less than \$4 for every \$100 spent.⁴ The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) therefore encourages increased international cooperation to build resilience in areas that are most at risk, as well as increased voluntary financial contributions to UNDRR through the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction, in line with the report of the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General on the implementation of the Sendai Framework.⁵

UNDRR is a focused organization mandated to support countries in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Sendai Framework, and to promote disaster risk reduction within the UN system. UNDRR works through partners, within and outside the UN system, to leverage their diverse expertise and country presence to deliver results and longer-term impact.

As per the UNDRR work programme 2016–2019, this 2019 Annual Report outlines how the work of UNDRR contributes to reducing disaster risk at the global, regional, national and local levels, curtailing the cost of humanitarian action, safeguarding development gains and ensuring that risk-informed

development contributes to the Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the New Urban Agenda and the Agenda for Humanity.

STRENGTHEN GLOBAL MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND COORDINATION OF SENDAI FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

UNDRR manages the **Sendai Framework Monitor** and provides capacity development to ensure that the data required to measure progress against the Sendai Framework are systematically collected and analysed, and that global coordination mechanisms are leveraged for the application of these data to drive policy decisions to reduce disaster risk. At the end of 2019, 130 Member and observer States were using SFM to report on implementation of the 38 globally agreed Sendai Framework indicators.

UNDRR also works with experts, practitioners, businesses and innovators to analyse the state of risk across the globe, identify emerging issues and trends, and present progress in risk reduction. These findings make up the **Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR)**. GAR is known for breaking new ground on risk and challenging prevailing norms. The 2019 version, GAR2019, moves beyond disaster risk to consider the multidimensional nature of risk. It discusses and applies systemic risk analysis to emerging risk trends. It also provides information to a broad range of stakeholders to facilitate risk-informed decisions and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The **Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF)**, launched at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, will become a framework, a network and a resource where decision makers can find information related to systemic risk analysis and emerging trends that enable them to make risk-smart decisions. GRAF challenges decision makers, including governments and investors, as well as the risk science community, to think and act differently about risk by embedding a more complex understanding of risk at the start of any investment. GRAF outputs will result in better risk-informed strategies, plans, policies and investments, and therefore improved and more sustainable development outcomes and impact.

The sixth session of the **Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2019)** provided an opportunity to galvanize political commitment and accelerate action among diverse global stakeholders to support Sendai Framework implementation and monitoring. GP2019 was informed by recommendations from the 2018 UNDRR Regional and Sub-Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction in Armenia, Colombia, Italy, Mongolia and Tunisia, among others. In turn, GP2019 contributed to highlighting the relevance of disaster risk reduction vis-à-vis sustainable development as evidenced by the deliberations and outcome documents

of the 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the UN Climate Action Summit.

SUPPORT TO REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SENDAI FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

Throughout the year, UNDRR provided regional-, national- and local-level support to the generation of disaggregated loss and risk data, policy guidance for risk-informed decision-making and the development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with Target (e), "Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020", of the Sendai Framework. UNDRR trained 4,087 government officials and disaster risk reduction stakeholders globally in 2019.

UNDRR also improved stakeholder capacity to undertake effective disaster risk reduction planning, implementation and monitoring. In 2019, working with local, national and regional organizations, together with UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams, UNDRR supported the development and revision of **disaster risk reduction strategies and plans**, as well as the monitoring of their implementation. UNDRR prioritized action towards achieving Target (e). As a result, at the end of 2019, 81 Member and observer States reported the existence of a National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy in the SFM system.

UNDRR collaborated with regional intergovernmental organizations to mainstream disaster risk reduction into policies and programmes. UNDRR also supported its regional partners to build coherence among different global agendas. In line with the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, in 2019, UNDRR worked with the **UN Sustainable Development Group, UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams** to ensure disaster risk reduction was integrated into the **UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework** and contributed to risk-informed **Common Country Analyses** and planning processes based on risk data and evidence.

To complement these efforts, UNDRR also built the capacity of countries to establish and maintain disaster loss accounting systems, which form a strong basis for a country's assessment of risks and also serve as essential information for the development of disaster risk reduction strategies. At the end of 2019, an estimated 111 countries and territories were using the UNDRR-sponsored **DesInventar disaster loss database**. One hundred of these countries or territories have a database from which data can be utilized for reporting on the targets and indicators of the Sendai Framework and related UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1 Aon plc, *Weather & Climate Catastrophe Insight – 2019 Annual Report* (Chicago, Aon plc, 2020). Available at http://thoughtleadership.aon.com/Documents/20200122-if-natcat2020.pdf?utm_source=ceros&utm_medium=storypage&utm_campaign=natcat20.

2 World Wildlife Fund, "Statement from WWF-Australia on Australia's bushfire emergency", 7 January 2020. Available at <https://www.wwf.org.au/news/news/2020/statement-from-wwf-australia-on-australia-s-bushfire-emergency>.

3 World Meteorological Organization, *WMO Provisional Statement on the State of the Global Climate in 2019* (Geneva, World Meteorological Organization, 2019).

4 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2019* (Geneva, UNDRR, 2019). Available at https://gar.undrr.org/sites/default/files/reports/2019-05/full_gar_report.pdf.

5 UN, General Assembly, *Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030*, Report of the Secretary-General, A/RES/73/268, 27 July 2018. Available at <https://www.preventionweb.net/files/resolutions/N1824255-en.pdf>.

2019 Highlights

81

MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES REPORTED THE EXISTENCE OF A NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGY IN THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK MONITOR

130

MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES USING THE SFM TO REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK

4,311

CITIES PARTICIPATING IN THE MAKING CITIES RESILIENT CAMPAIGN

237

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM 36 COUNTRIES IN FIVE REGIONS COMPLETED DISASTER RESILIENCE SCORECARD SELF-ASSESSMENTS

4,087

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STAKEHOLDERS TRAINED IN 2019 BY UNDRR, 39 PER CENT OF WHICH WERE WOMEN

More than half of the world's population lives in cities, and this is expected to increase to two thirds by 2050.⁶ Ensuring diverse stakeholders in cities, including local governments, has the capacity to reduce disaster risk and build resilience, which are crucial for making cities places where people flourish and prosper. In 2019, UNDRR continued to prioritize local-level disaster risk reduction through the **Making Cities Resilient** Campaign. The number of cities engaged in this campaign reached 4,311 by the end of 2019. To empower local authorities to manage disaster risk better, UNDRR provided support with tools, best practices and policy guidance to implement the Sendai Framework. At the end of 2019, 237 local governments from 36 countries in five regions had completed the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities (a local government self-assessment tool).

Throughout 2019, UNDRR also supported risk-informed urban development and planning; 40 cities in 22 countries have completed local disaster risk reduction action plans. Most of these plans have been endorsed for implementation. Some cities, such as Greater Suva, Lautoka and Nadi (Fiji), Honiara (Solomon Islands) and Kampala (Uganda), plan to integrate their draft disaster risk reduction action plans with climate change adaptation plans.

CATALYSE ACTION THROUGH MEMBER STATES AND PARTNERS

UNDRR improved **policy alignment across the international development agenda** for increased impact and effectiveness. As a result of UNDRR's advocacy efforts and policy inputs, 2019 saw greater political recognition that policy and programmatic coherence with the Sendai Framework is essential to achieving the major agreements related to sustainable development and climate action. UNDRR strengthened partnerships for coordinated action to address disaster risk reduction with diverse stakeholders including the private sector, science and technology partners, civil society, community-based organizations, parliamentarians and other key policy and decision makers.

This is evidenced in the intergovernmental deliberations and policy-making outcomes at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. At least 24 General Assembly resolutions - covering issues such as sustainable development, climate action, financing, biodiversity, least developed country graduation, displacement, and human rights - adopted language that strengthened disaster risk reduction policy coherence or outlined new areas for policy development. They also incorporate the recommendations of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework. The SDG Summit declaration reflected a substantial political commitment to disaster risk reduction by embedding the Sendai Framework in the Decade of Action.

⁶ UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision* (New York, UN, 2019). Available at <https://population.un.org/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2018-Report.pdf>

UNDRR also strengthened its efforts to promote risk sensitive investments and business practices, particularly in areas with direct links to the Sendai Framework targets. The **Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies** (ARISE) continued to promote business resilience and a risk-informed approach to investment decisions. Over the course of 2019 ARISE was enhanced, including through the Alliance's role in supporting the roll-out of a new initiative on strengthening the long-term resilience of small and medium businesses (SMEs). UNDRR also produced guidance for the private sector on how to better understand and implement cost-benefit analysis of disaster risk reduction investments, and how to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

The Sendai Framework highlights the role of improved disaster resilience, including that of infrastructure, as a cornerstone for sustainable development. Recognizing that resilient infrastructure is fundamental to reducing risk and economic loss, UNDRR supported the launch of the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure**, and is working with the Government of India and partners to reduce infrastructure loss and damage and enhance the resilience of trillions of dollars of infrastructure investments.

By leveraging the expertise of diverse partnerships from different sectors, UNDRR made important advances in advocating for development that is sensitive to disaster risk, shaping national and international policy and strengthening the engagement of civil society and communities most at risk in these efforts.

UNDRR continued to work with the **Global Science and Technology Advisory Group** (G-STAG), regional STAGs and members of the UNDRR Global Science and Technology Partnership to promote a science base for effective disaster risk reduction and risk-informed development.

UNDRR also launched the **Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism** (SEM) in 2019. In just nine months, SEM has grown to include 200 organizations committed to promoting and integrating disaster and climate risk considerations across the 2030 Agenda. This inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction is helping to ensure that efforts to reduce risk are informed by a spectrum of expertise and are more effective.

Youth voices dominated the international climate change agenda in 2019. Official Member State statements at GP2019 stressed the need to engage **children and youth**, emphasizing the principle of "leaving no one behind". The substantive youth participation in GP2019 was recognized by the Secretary-General's Office, which asked UNDRR to co-organize an event for the Youth Climate Action Summit. The results were an interactive Climate Slam, youth participation in the Member States' segment of the Climate Action Summit, follow-up discussions between youth and Member States, and an invitation for youth to speak at an event led by Member States following the summit.

UNDRR worked closely with **parliamentarians and other decision makers** to advocate for development that is disaster risk sensitive in political arenas. As a result of this engagement, more Members of Parliament are now committed to reducing disaster risk through their relevant legislative, budgetary and oversight roles.

In 2019, through global **advocacy, communication campaigns and knowledge-sharing**, UNDRR broke new ground in highlighting the value of development that is sensitive to disaster risk by demonstrating the strong linkages among the Sendai Framework targets and those of the 2030 Agenda and the climate action agenda.

The participation of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction at 25 high-level events and field visits across the globe, including the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Climate Action Summit, the SDG Summit and the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties, was leveraged to support implementation of the Sendai Framework. The release of three new Words into Action guides also enhanced visibility of disaster risk reduction, particularly among practitioners in national and local governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society. There was strong backing from the Secretary-General, notably on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD). New digital engagement activities, such as a first Facebook Live session in support of WTAD, featuring youth, reached more than 6,000 people, thus proving a growing appetite for risk reduction stories and information.

UNDRR invested in developing content for its social media channels in 2019, moving away from one-off event-driven activities to developing sustained campaigns. The success of this strategy was reflected in the doubling of Twitter followers of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, with an audience reach of 1.4 million, and an increase of more than 10 per cent in unique users on PreventionWeb, the knowledge platform for disaster risk reduction. UNDRR also strengthened effective learning and access to technical knowledge among diverse global stakeholders. NGOs working on disaster risk reduction started to log their voluntary commitments in the new Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments online platform, which allows diverse stakeholders to inform the public about their work, share lessons learned and identify areas for collaboration. In turn, UNDRR can monitor and take stock of progress and achievements of stakeholders.

In 2019, UNDRR further **strengthened its operational efficiency** by leveraging technology to improve results-based management and related planning, monitoring and evaluation. UNDRR also continued to ensure human resource management and staff development in line with its commitment to the UN system-wide policy to improve operational performance with a focus on results and impact.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

1

Strengthen global monitoring,
analysis and coordination of Sendai
Framework implementation



1.1

GLOBAL PROGRESS OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK & RELATED SDG TARGETS ASSESSED

Sendai Framework monitoring system

The Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM),¹ which is an online data platform, continues to support United Nations (UN) Member States to report on progress against the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (Sendai Framework), through its 38 indicators. These indicators also feed into the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to disaster risk reduction (SDG 1,² SDG 11³ and SDG 13⁴). Customized targets and indicators provide countries with an opportunity to adapt the monitoring mechanism to their national and local contexts to support implementation of a disaster risk reduction strategy. An SFM data analytics module provides clear status updates – to Member States, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the general public – on how countries are achieving the targets of the Sendai Framework.

At the end of 2018, 88 Member States had started reporting through SFM. By the end of 2019, 130 Member and observer States were using the system to report on implementation of the Sendai Framework. This demonstrates the strong voluntary accountability of Member States to the Sendai Framework.

SFM supports Member States to make risk-informed policy decisions and resource allocation to reduce current disaster risks and prevent creating new risk. In September 2019, to further support Member States in the collection, use and analysis of data, the UNDRR Bonn Office (Germany) held its second global Training of Trainers on Sendai Framework monitoring and disaster loss accounting. Twenty-five experts from UNDRR partner organizations in different regions participated in the training. There are now more than 50 global experts who have the capacity to provide technical support and training to Member States and other stakeholders.

In November 2019, UNDRR hosted the 3rd annual SFM Technical Forum in Bonn, which identified technical assistance gaps and provided space to share lessons learned. Seventy-five participants from governments, intergovernmental organizations, the UN and other technical partners from 35 countries attended. In partnership with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, UNDRR launched an online learning course on the use of SFM. This free online course is available to all Member States to guide officials on how to prepare and upload national and local data to SFM.⁵

1 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), “Measuring implementation of the Sendai Framework”. Available at <https://sendaimonitor.unisdr.org/>.

2 SDG 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere.”

3 SDG 11: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.”

4 SDG 13: “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.”

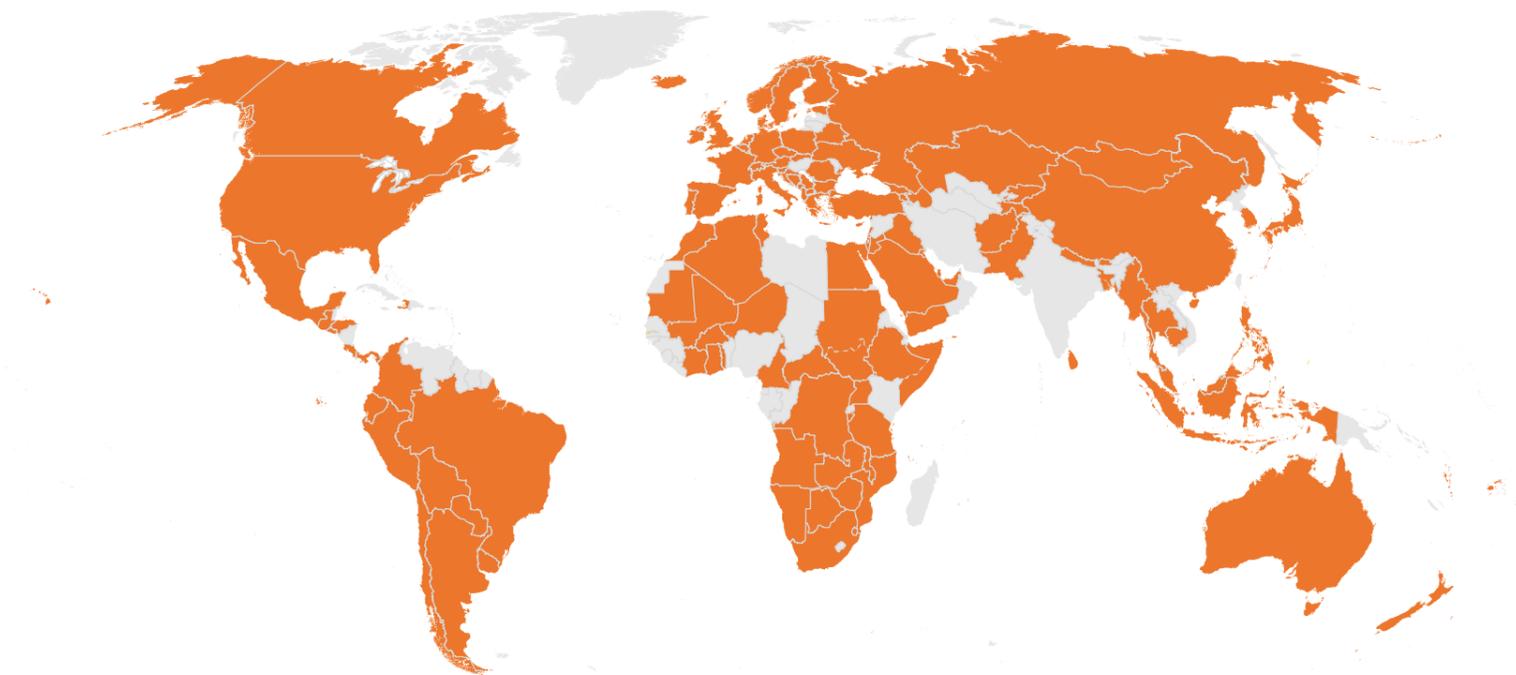
5 UNDRR, “E-learning: orientation to using the online Sendai Framework Monitor”. Available at <https://www.preventionweb.net/events/view/64762?id=64762>.

Member States need to further improve systematic SFM reporting. This is a key UNDRR priority. UNDRR used the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019 (GP2019)⁶ to consult stakeholders on the usability of SFM, and, by offering space for engagement in learning labs, helped participants to better understand and utilize global indicators and application of custom targets and indicators in their own contexts.

Government representatives attending GP2019 agreed that Sendai Framework monitoring, especially with responsibility shared across ministries, is successfully improving national and local ownership of disaster risk reduction activities. Monitoring data improves where UNDRR targets its activities to progress Sendai Framework implementation, and also feeds into global policy and stocktaking milestones such as the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the UN Climate Action Summit.

As the custodian UN entity for indicators related to disaster risk reduction under SDGs 1, 11 and 13, UNDRR actively engaged with the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators to ensure the relevant data informed the UN Secretary-General’s report on SDGs and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-level Political Forum in July 2019. In addition, UNDRR, in collaboration with the UN Statistics Division, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean prepared the report of the Secretary-General on disaster-related statistics, which was presented at the fiftieth session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2019. Based on recommendations of the UN Statistical Commission, UNDRR and partners are working towards a formal mechanism to advance a common framework on disaster-related statistics under the purview of the Commission. A network of expert communities will be established to sustain cooperation, coordination and fundraising for enhancing hazard- and disaster-related statistics.

MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES USING THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK MONITOR



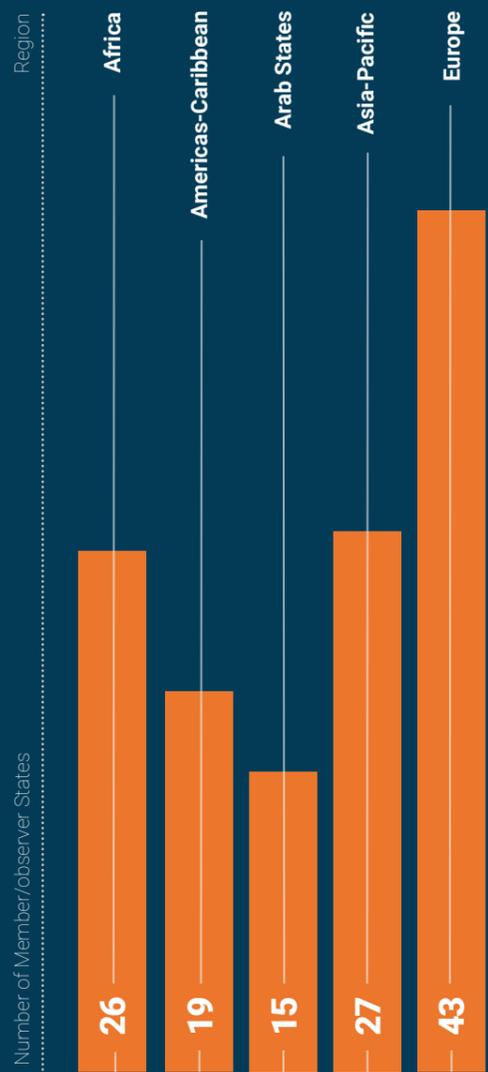
1. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

2. The maps used reflect the Member and Observer States self-defined geographic coverage for the purpose of reporting to the Sendai Framework Monitor.

6 UNDRR, “Global platform for disaster risk reduction”. Available at <https://www.unisdr.org/conference/2019/globalplatform/home>.

Grand total
130

MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES USING THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK MONITOR



As of 31 December 2019

“I always say that it is really difficult to get attention on the events that are not happening due to good disaster risk reduction or disaster preparedness. There is always much more attention when a disaster happens. As I understand it, the number of fatalities in disasters is declining globally but there are more people affected and economic losses are rising. States are better prepared than they used to be but in many low- and middle-income countries experiencing disaster losses there needs to be more focus on strengthening institutions and governance. This is a key concern for us now as we develop a new strategy for prevention in our international development policy.

UNDRR has been very good at including the private sector in its work and this was the subject of a very interesting session at the last Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction where KLP, Norway’s largest pension company, presented on their work collecting data on the exposure of companies listed on the Oslo stock exchange to disaster and climate risk. There is a clear opportunity to combine this data set with the disaster loss data being collected through the Sendai Framework Monitor.”

Erling Kvernevik

Sendai Framework Focal Point, senior adviser and representative on the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, Government of Norway

1.2

GLOBAL RISK DATA, ANALYSIS AND POLICY ADVICE GENERATED

Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction

UNDRR has published Global Assessment Reports on Disaster Risk Reduction (GARs)⁷ since 2009. This a series of analytical publications focused on disaster risk trends, progress and challenges. GAR serves as a research, advocacy and policy engagement tool for supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework. It supports improved coherence with the Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the New Urban Agenda and the Agenda for Humanity.

The 2019 version, GAR2019,⁸ is the first edition of GAR produced since the Sendai Framework was adopted in 2015. It presents the first review of countries’ efforts on Sendai Framework implementation, with a special focus on Target (e).⁹ The report also highlights the complexity of risk and provides examples of systemic risks that societies must manage, moving beyond disaster risk to consider the multidimensional nature of risk. It discusses and applies a systemic risk analysis to emerging risk trends, providing information to Member States and key stakeholders when making risk-informed decisions and implementing the 2030 Agenda. In response to stakeholder requests, a chapter in

GAR2019 addresses the complexity of drought risk, providing a compelling illustration of systemic risk, and anticipates the forthcoming GAR Special Report on Drought (to be published in 2021).

A robust and academic approach to producing GAR2019 facilitated a comprehensive picture of risk and inclusive analysis of risk trends and patterns. At the same time, the network of contributing partners established to produce the report has had a significant multiplier effect in outreach. In 2019, UNDRR regional offices in Africa, the Arab States, and Latin America and the Caribbean initiated the production of regional risk assessment reports, which will improve the integration of risk information into policy design and decision-making at regional and national levels.

The development of GAR2022 also started in 2019. The GAR Advisory Board agreed to further develop the understanding of systemic risk and the collective and interdependent solutions required to address these risks, as well as to explore progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and SDGs. The trade-off in achieving sustainable development outcomes while creating resilience in a changing climate will also be examined.

7 UNDRR, “Global assessment report”. Available at <https://www.preventionweb.net/sendai-framework/gar>.

8 UNDRR, *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2019* (Geneva, UNDRR, 2019). Available at https://gar.undrr.org/sites/default/files/reports/2019-05/full_gar_report.pdf.

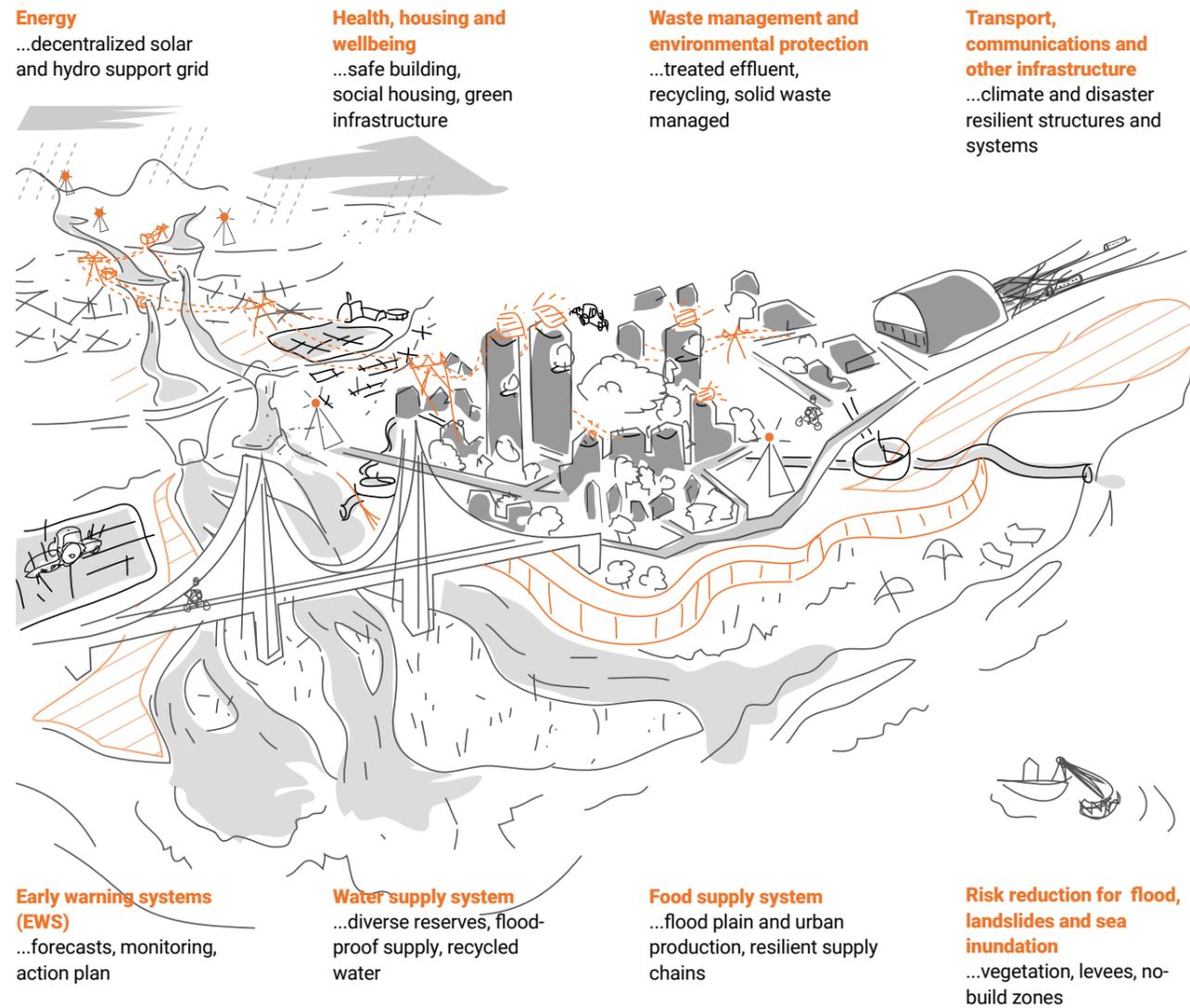
9 Target (e): “Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.”

Disaster risk reduction in complex risk contexts and elements of integrated risk governance

Managing complex risks while also governing the everyday aspects of life and encouraging socioeconomic development can seem remote and theoretical. It can also be hard to imagine what success looks like in the face of so many demands. The scenario of a fictional coastal delta city, Drecca-Susdev, which has taken a systems approach to managing risk offers an illustrative scenario.

It is selective – it may even appear futuristic – but it is based on careful expert thought and is offered as an exercise of imagination towards “the future we want”.

WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE IN THE FICTIONAL CITY OF DRECCA-SUSDEV?



Many coastal delta cities face seasonal flood risk, cyclonic wind and storm surge, and potentially seismic and tsunami risk. They are looking to a future of sea-level rise and increased weather extremes due to climate change, coupled with the socioeconomic challenges of rapid population growth, increased exposure and vulnerability, building and construction, energy needs, risk of environmental pollution, pressures on waste management, water and food resources, transport and communications systems, as well as the urgent global need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate climate change. Meeting these challenges and moving towards risk-informed sustainable development requires an understanding of the interrelationships among systems and subsystems, within local area planning and risk governance, and aligned with national socioeconomic development planning.

The figure illustrates some elements of integrated risk governance in the fictional coastal delta city, Drecca-Susdev. These include:

1. RISK REDUCTION FOR FLOOD, LAND-SLIDES AND SEA INUNDATION:

- Revegetation and/or engineering stabilizes land-slide-prone areas
- Smaller more numerous dams reduce flood risk from dam failure
- Homes, businesses and sensitive infrastructure are kept off flood-plains and the coastal foreshore, or raised/adapted to seasonal flooding/storms and built to relevant codes
- Flood-plains and coastal foreshore are reserved for recreation, and for vegetation that absorbs flood waters or sea storm impacts
- Mechanical or built barriers reduce impact and/or divert flood waters or storm surges

2. EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS (EWS):

- EWSs for flood and land-slide risk based on weather forecasts, recorded rainfall and intensity, and for monitoring upstream river levels, allow for flood mitigation through controlled dam releases, opening/closing of flood gates/levees around the city and evacuation response when needed
- EWSs for sea storms, hurricanes and/or tsunami, based on weather forecasts, seismic activity and other monitoring including regional/global systems allow for evacuation and use of mechanical barriers as needed

3. HEALTH, HOUSING AND WELL-BEING:

- Medium- to high-density residential buildings on safe land include social housing, comply with updated codes for relevant risks, have water and sanitation, have access to health, welfare and education facilities, and give access to fire and emergency services
- “Green infrastructure” gardens and trees cool the city,

- improve health and provide space for recreation and cultural pursuits
- Walking and cycling route networks improve safety and health, and reduce air pollution from vehicles

4. WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM:

- Multiple small dams give redundancy in water supply for farms and city, increasing drought resilience across the territory
- Potable water systems, pumps and treatment are flood-proofed
- Water is reused and recycled in the city, with a back-up energy source

5. FOOD SUPPLY SYSTEM:

- Flood-plains are preserved for crops that use seasonal flooding that also regenerates fertile soil
- Flow-of-the-river dams allow fish breeding
- Urban agriculture on balconies and rooftops boosts access to fresh produce; high-density commercial aquaponics food production combines plant and fish nutrient needs to reduce ocean overfishing and agricultural nitrogen run-off
- Resilient transport and communications maintain local and regional food supply chains

6. WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

- All storm water run-off and human and industrial refuse and effluent is treated so that clean water is released into the land and marine environments
- Recycling of materials is maximized
- Solid waste is managed city wide

7. TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Bridges and roads are elevated and built strong enough to withstand more-extreme weather events and sea-level rise
- Risk-assessed dedicated public transport is separate from the road system
- Disaster-proofed communications infrastructure increases resilience of all other city systems, including energy and supply chains
- Transport and communications systems are designed to reduce cyberrisk with flexible system responses and redundancy

8. ENERGY:

- Small-scale hydro-dams supply local areas, and link into the power grid
- Decentralized solar photovoltaics on city rooftops that heat, cool and power buildings, and which include energy storage and charging for electrical vehicles, reduce the need for major new investment in power distribution and increase resilience to grid system failures

Source: GAR2019 (<https://gar.undrr.org/>)

Global Risk Assessment Framework

To reduce disaster risk effectively and efficiently, the international community must understand the main drivers of risk, their likelihood and impact. UNDRR launched the Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF)¹⁰ at GP2019, in response to the need identified by expert communities for innovation in research, science and assessment of the nature of risk – consistent with the expanded scope of hazards and risks included in the Sendai Framework and 2030 Agenda.

Most risk models draw on historical data and observations while taking a hazard-by-hazard approach, assuming the past is a reasonable guide to inform what risks exist in the present and future. However, dramatic changes in the climate and the dynamic connectedness of systems require the international community to revisit assumptions about the relationship between past and future risk and the nature of systemic risk.

GRAF is a network and platform that provides robust information to support better solutions for risk-informed sustainable development. It facilitates collaboration across disciplines, geographies, the risk science community and users of risk information – bringing natural and social sciences together with donors, investors and industry.

GRAF challenges decision makers, including governments and investors, as well as the risk science community that informs them, to think and act differently about risk by embedding a more complex understanding of risk at the start of any investment or development action. Outputs from GRAF operationalization will result in better risk-informed strategies, plans and investments and therefore improved and more sustainable development outcomes and impact.

1.3

GLOBAL COORDINATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS CONVENED

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019



©UNDRR/Antoine Tardy

The Global Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction provide an accountability mechanism and catalyse political commitment and action to support Sendai Framework implementation and monitoring. UNDRR convened GP2019 in Geneva in May 2019, hosted by the Government of Switzerland. It brought together more than 3,000 stakeholders from 182 countries, and it was the most inclusive and accessible multi-stakeholder Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to date. Half of the session speakers and 40 per cent of participants were women – amplifying the voice of female leaders. GP2019 was also the most accessible Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, with more than 120 persons with disabilities in attendance.

GP2019 was also the first Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to feature an Innovation Platform, showcasing more than 80 applications of new and innovative disaster risk reduction approaches and learning labs that provided participants with an opportunity to enhance knowledge in key disaster risk reduction topics.

Building on recommendations from the 2018 UNDRR Regional and Sub-Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction hosted by the Governments of Armenia, Colombia, Italy, Mongolia and Tunisia, GP2019 called for accelerated action in achieving the seven Sendai Framework global targets and to build coherence among the various global policy agendas.

The GP2019 focus on Resilience Dividend: Toward Sustainable and Inclusive Societies contributed to highlighting the relevance of disaster risk reduction for achieving sustainable development as evidenced by the deliberations and outcome documents of the 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Climate Action Summit.

¹⁰ UNDRR, "Global risk assessment framework". Available at <https://www.preventionweb.net/disaster-risk/graf>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Support to regional and national
Sendai Framework implementation



2.1

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS LEVERAGED TO MONITOR & ACCELERATE SENDAI FRAMEWORK

Partnerships with regional and national organizations

In 2019, UNDRR continued to support regional organizations to develop and monitor the implementation of national, subregional and regional disaster risk reduction strategies. UNDRR also collaborated with regional intergovernmental organizations to mainstream disaster risk reduction into their policies and programmes through strategic contributions to policy papers, consultations and capacity development. As a result of UNDRR support, regional partners advocated for the integration of disaster risk reduction into the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and other relevant international agendas.

In the **Africa Region**, cooperation among UNDRR, the African Union Commission (AUC) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) supported implementation of the Africa Strategy and Programme of Action for disaster risk reduction, which was adopted in 2016. The Africa Working Group, platforms for disaster risk reduction and other thematic platforms provided mechanisms for partners to support the Programme of Action.

As the Secretariat for the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWGDRR), UNDRR organized activities to strengthen risk knowledge and disaster risk governance in the southern African countries affected by Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, including a special session at the 15th AWGDRR: Progress and Next Steps: Relief, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Efforts in Addressing the Impacts of Tropical Cyclones Idai and Kenneth. Participants recognized the importance of Multi-Hazard Early

Warning Systems (MHEWS) and the need for a framework for African Union (AU) intervention during a disaster. The working group agreed to establish and operationalize a continental and regional MHEWS, with information-sharing mechanisms to link early warning information with early action and to improve outreach to communities, including by engaging the media.

UNDRR delivered workshops on improving availability, access and use of disaster risk information for early warning and action, as well as transboundary risk management to help stakeholders develop their own road maps. UNDRR has ensured a focus on the development and implementation of an inclusive approach to EWSs and has provided a methodology and capacity-building tools for beneficiaries to enhance their ownership and sustainability of the entire process. Member States, Regional Climate Centres and UNDRR are expected to contribute to the AUC and REC longer-term process, leading to the eventual establishment and operationalization of a MHEWS system with continental coverage.

In 2019, the UNDRR Regional Office in Africa also enhanced its partnerships with AUC and RECs to support engagement with Member States to monitor Sendai Framework implementation. Regional and national training on SFM was organized to address capacity gaps in monitoring and data collection. By the end of 2019, 77 per cent of the countries in the region had a national SFM coordinator and 25 countries in sub-Saharan Africa had initiated the reporting process.

UNDRR presented SFM, including the roles and responsibilities of national stakeholders, reporting deadlines and lessons learned in the region, at an AUC-convened workshop. As a result, countries are gathering data and reporting to AUC on five additional regional targets and related indicators, in addition to the Sendai Framework's seven global targets. UNDRR works closely with RECs to analyse the progress of implementation of the regional disaster risk reduction strategies, mainly through engagement with key stakeholders during the Africa Regional Platform and with the Africa Working Group.

In the **Americas and the Caribbean Region**, UNDRR worked with several regional organizations to support the development and implementation of regional disaster risk reduction strategies and plans. These organizations included the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) of the Caribbean Community, the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC) of the Central American Integration System, the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance of the Andean Community of Nations, and the Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management of the Southern Common Market.

CEPREDENAC finalized and approved its regional comprehensive risk management plan for the period 2019–2023. Strong engagement of UNDRR in the process ensured that the plan was well aligned with the Sendai Framework. UNDRR and CDEMA worked together to finalize harmonized indicators of the Caribbean Disaster Management Strategy and the Sendai Framework to support the coherent development of 14 country work programmes. These work programmes serve as the disaster risk reduction strategies for countries in the Caribbean, and are an integral part of the implementation at the country level of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy of the Caribbean.

In the **Arab States Region**, UNDRR organized two regional partnership meetings with the League of Arab States to convene governments and stakeholders to review progress made on disaster risk reduction in the region and agree on how to best accelerate efforts to implement the Sendai Framework and the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. The meetings focused on achieving Target (e) in the region by the end of 2020. The meetings were catalysts for stakeholders and partners to support governments to implement the Sendai Framework in the region. Two new stakeholder groups, the Arab Local Government Advisory Stakeholder Group and the Arab Media Group for Disaster Risk Reduction, expressed interest in supporting the ongoing regional efforts. As a result of these meetings, Lebanon, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates finalized their national disaster risk reduction strategies, which are pending formal endorsement by their respective governments.

In the **Asia Pacific Region**, UNDRR works closely with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to harness its regional influence in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in South East Asia. As the lead for the prevention and mitigation pillar of the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management, UNDRR organized the first ASEAN Technical Consultation on Risk-Informed Sustainable Development. The consultation brought together managers from 20 ASEAN divisions to introduce them to the value of risk proofing their sectoral plans. As a result, ASEAN Secretariat managers were able to identify risks to the ASEAN Vision 2025, the means to address them, and opportunities for collaboration with their own disaster management and humanitarian assistance divisions. The consultation will inform the development of the 2021–2025 work programme of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, which is a legally binding regional instrument related to disaster risk reduction. The ASEAN Secretariat and UNDRR have agreed to make a paradigm shift from reactive crises management to proactive risk management, and to embed risk into development planning and implementation.

All eight member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) participated in a workshop, on how to strengthen Sendai Framework alignment of the SAARC Comprehensive Framework on Disaster Management and enhance regional and national capacities for implementing key aspects of the regional strategy. The workshop strengthened the capacity of the participating member States and resulted in a plan to update and align the SAARC disaster risk management framework to the Sendai Framework. Once implemented, the plan will ensure a more proactive regional framework that can support member States in navigating changing risk dynamics, including the impact of climate change.

In the **Europe Region**, UNDRR works closely with European institutions to drive the disaster risk reduction agenda. In 2019, the Regional Office for Europe co-organized, with the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), the first joint meeting on disaster risk reduction. The meeting brought together National Sendai Framework Focal Points from 25 European Union (EU) member States, Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) disaster prevention experts and representatives from European Commission services. This joint event provided a platform for sharing experiences and identifying opportunities to reinforce coherence among the Sendai Framework and EU frameworks, for a stronger disaster risk reduction agenda across the region. Sessions explored synergies between prevention activities under UCPM and activities coordinated by National Sendai Framework Focal Points in implementing and monitoring the Sendai Framework. UNDRR also partnered with DG ECHO on a joint initiative to address risk-informed financing and engagement of the private sector in disaster risk reduction in Europe, as well as in the context of global development and humanitarian response.

Through close collaboration, UNDRR engaged the European Commission in the UNDRR 2019 Training of Trainers on Sendai Framework Monitoring and Disaster Loss Data, which reinforced support to EU member States in monitoring Sendai Framework targets and developing disaster loss accounting systems.

As part of its broader engagement with the presidency of the Council of the EU, UNDRR actively contributed to the Civil Protection Programme of the Romanian and Finnish governments, which held the presidency in 2019. UNDRR helped to frame the priorities defined by the presidencies in the context of the disaster risk reduction agenda and

the Sendai Framework. UNDRR also reinforced the debate around new and emerging risks in Europe, in particular complex risks and high-impact low-likelihood risks.

A dedicated initiative was launched and successfully completed under the Finnish presidency of the Council of the EU, in which UNDRR collaborated with the Finnish Ministry of the Interior and the Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats to develop a stress test tool for disaster risk reduction capabilities in the face of complex scenarios. This initiative was introduced to the European Council Working Party for Civil Protection, and is planned to be piloted in Finland in 2020.

Collaboration with the United Nations system at regional and national levels

The *United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience*¹¹ emphasizes national- and local-level engagement to ensure the UN system is responsive to different country needs and contexts regarding disaster risk. UNDRR strives to ensure that disaster risks are factored into UN country-level programmes and activities, as well as those at the regional level.

In 2019, the UN development system reform process provided a strategic opportunity for UNDRR to drive coherent action towards the implementation of the Sendai Framework by UN system partners. As a result of UNDRR engagement, risk reduction was incorporated into key UN mechanisms, including the process for developing the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework), Common Country Analyses, UN climate-security mechanisms and humanitarian-development-peace collaboration. Throughout the year, UNDRR collaborated with the UN Sustainable Development Group, UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to ensure that planning processes and related analysis were based on risk data and evidence.

In the **Africa Region**, UNDRR supported Angola, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone and South Africa to develop their Cooperation Frameworks. Based on technical guidance from UNDRR, the development of these frameworks was standardized, using common guidelines to mainstream disaster risk reduction.

In the case of Angola, UNDRR support resulted in a dedicated outcome and accompanying budget entitled Environment and Resilience of the Vulnerable Population: By 2022, the Vulnerable Population is Resilient to Climate Change and Disaster Risk. By the end of 2019, some UN agencies had already mobilized funding for this outcome. Angola's disaster risk profile on droughts and floods, finalized with support from UNDRR in 2019, influenced

development of its Cooperation Framework, particularly the outcomes related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

UNDRR also participated in Kenya's UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018–2022 Annual Review and Planning Retreat. Kenya's UNDAF has one outcome related to disaster risk reduction under the framework's Strategic Priority 2 – Human Capital Development: By 2022, Individuals and Communities in Kenya have Reduced Exposure to Risks and are more Resilient to Disasters and Emergencies.

UNDRR is a member of the UN Economic Commission for Africa Humanitarian Matters and Disaster Risk Management Cluster, and was engaged in developing the AU–UN workplan for 2019–2020, which is aligned with the AU strategic priorities and includes activities for strengthening regional coordination for disaster risk reduction. UNDRR is working closely with partners, including AUC, to mobilize additional resources to ensure implementation of the workplan.

In the **Americas and the Caribbean Region**, UNDRR worked with the UN Sustainable Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean through issue-based coalitions (IBCs), which act as regional task forces to facilitate cooperation and response to cross-cutting challenges in the region. UNDRR co-chairs two IBCs in the region: the Regional Inter-Agency Resilience Group, aimed at enhancing coordination of disaster risk reduction efforts among UN agencies in the region, and the Climate Change and Resilience IBC. Through engagement in these coalitions in 2019, UNDRR successfully ensured a disaster risk reduction agenda coherent with climate change action in countries across the Andean region and the southern cone of South America. In addition, UNDRR has engaged stakeholders in the region to support and advocate for the implementation of a risk-informed 2030 Agenda and enhance climate

change adaptation and disaster risk reduction based on risk knowledge and evidence.

In the **Asia Pacific Region**, as a member of the regional Peer Support Group, UNDRR provided technical advice on how to assess risk and integrate disaster risk reduction into the Common Country Analyses, underpinning the development of new Cooperation Frameworks in the region. In 2019, UNDRR ensured that risk and resilience were considered when the Common Country Analyses for Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia and Timor-Leste were revised. UNDRR also engaged with the UN Country Team in Iran and the Lao People's Democratic Republic during their UNDAF midterm reviews to mainstream disaster risk and related capacity development into the recommended revisions. In Bangladesh, the UNDRR regional office and the Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) helped to pilot the Strategic Approach to Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Reduction as part of the formulation of the new Cooperation Framework. As a result, a disaster risk management governance review was initiated and a UN Country Team–government analysis on institutional and financial capacities and gaps for implementation was undertaken.

UNDRR also coordinated and consolidated the disaster

and climate resilience programming element of the new joint country action plans (JCAPs) for the Pacific. The development of these JCAPs strengthens coordinated UN support at the national level based on jointly agreed priorities under the existing regional UN Pacific Strategy. UNDRR supported the development of JCAPs in the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau and Tuvalu.

In 2019, the UNDRR **Regional Office for Europe** engaged UN Country Teams in the region to ensure that Cooperation Frameworks were risk informed and addressed natural and human-induced hazards. UNDRR provided UN Country Teams with a package of strategic and analytical disaster risk reduction documents that informed the Common Country Analyses. The Regional Office for Europe was actively engaged in ensuring that the Common Country Analyses reflected disaster risk reduction priorities. In addition, governments and National Sendai Framework Focal Points were engaged to discuss disaster risk reduction priorities for the next four-year cycle to increase understanding of the complexity of current and potential interacting hazards and risks. Based on the agreed development priorities articulated in Cooperation Frameworks, disaster risk reduction measures will now be implemented in many countries in the region.



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¹¹ UN, *United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development* (Geneva, UN, 2017). Available at https://www.preventionweb.net/files/49076_unplanofaction.pdf.

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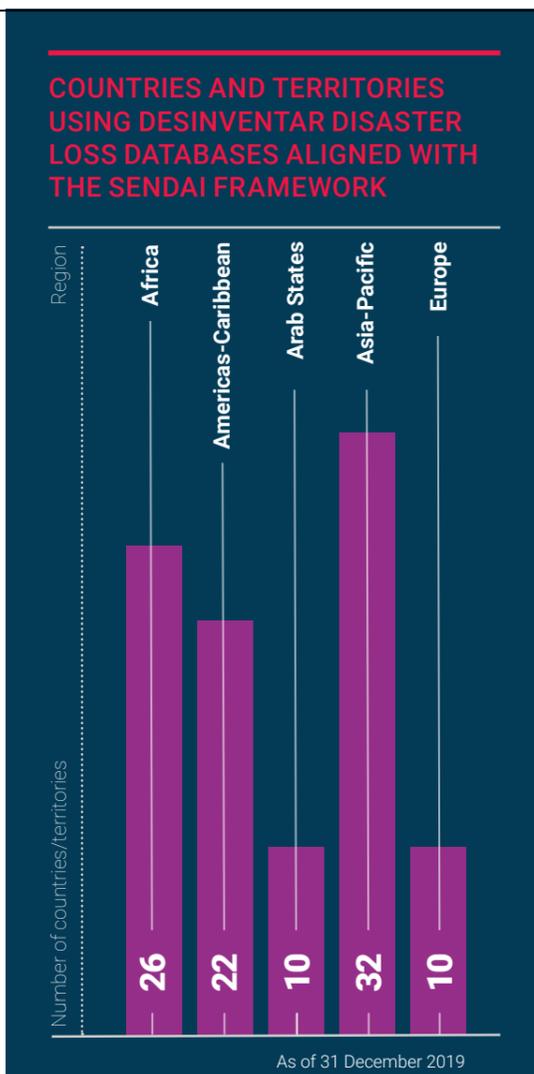
NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES & PLANS DEVELOPED IN LINE WITH SENDAI FRAMEWORK PRESCRIBED GUIDANCE

Disaster loss and risk data

Countries need national disaster loss data to establish baselines to monitor Sendai Framework implementation and SDG common targets. UNDRR played a key role in building the capacity of countries to establish and maintain disaster loss accounting systems, which form a strong basis for a country's assessment of risk and also serve as essential information for the development of disaster risk reduction strategies and investment decisions at the local and national levels.

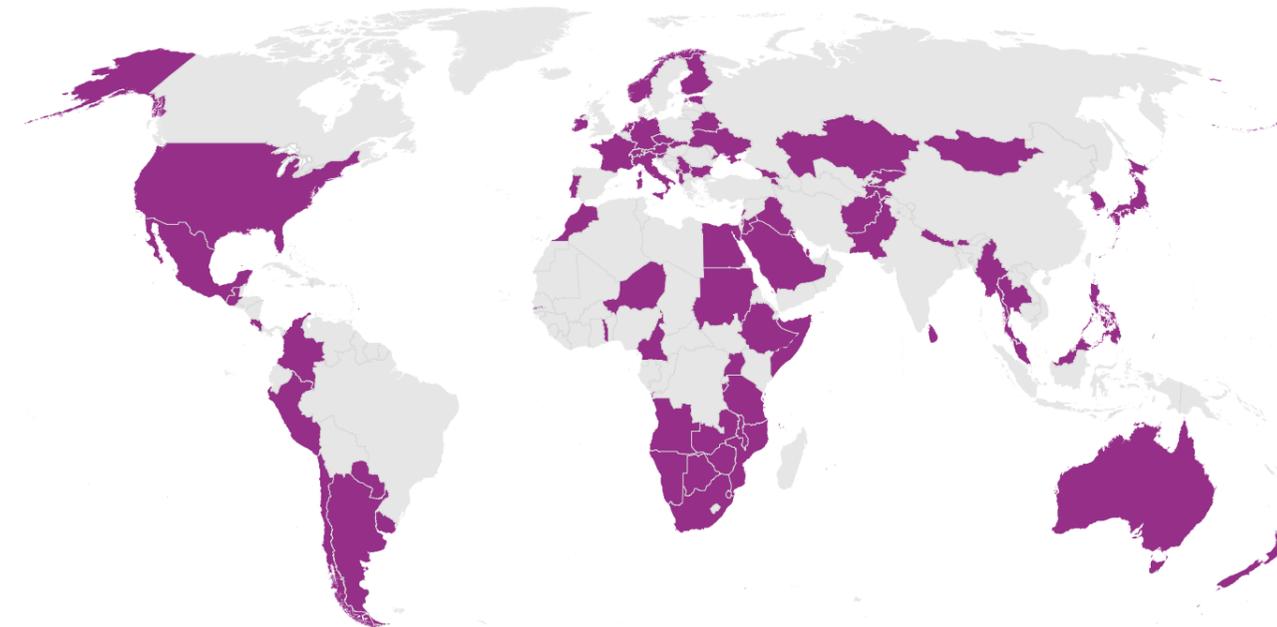
Through regional offices and the office in Bonn, UNDRR continued providing technical support to countries to establish, maintain and update DesInventar,¹² the most widely used disaster loss database, currently used in an estimated 111 countries and territories globally. One hundred of these countries or territories have a DesInventar database from which data can be utilized for reporting on the targets and indicators of the Sendai Framework and related SDGs.

Grand total
100



¹² UNDRR, "DesInventar Sendai". Available at <https://www.desinventar.net/>

SENDAI FRAMEWORK TARGET (E): 81 MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES REPORTED THE EXISTENCE OF A NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGY IN THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK MONITOR



1. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
2. The maps used reflect the Member and Observer States self-defined geographic coverage for the purpose of reporting to the Sendai Framework Monitor.

National and local disaster risk reduction strategies

National and local disaster risk reduction strategies are essential for implementing and monitoring a country's risk reduction priorities. In 2019, working with local, national and regional organizations, together with UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams, UNDRR supported the development and revision of disaster risk reduction strategies, as well as the monitoring of their implementation. These strategies set implementation milestones, established key roles and responsibilities of government and non-government actors, and identified technical and financial resources. In 2019, UNDRR prioritized action towards meeting Sendai Framework Target (e), which calls for these strategies to be established. As a result, at the end of 2019, 81 Member and observer States reported the existence of a National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy in the SFM system.

The links among disaster risk reduction and the post-2015 development agreements create opportunities to: build global coherence and foster risk-informed policy and decision-making, promote multi-hazard and cross-sectoral approaches to assessing risk, and encourage a deeper understanding of social and environmental vulnerability across sectors and levels of government.

GP2019 provided a key opportunity to review progress on meeting Target (e) and consult the disaster risk reduction community on effective methods to develop, implement and monitor disaster risk reduction strategies.

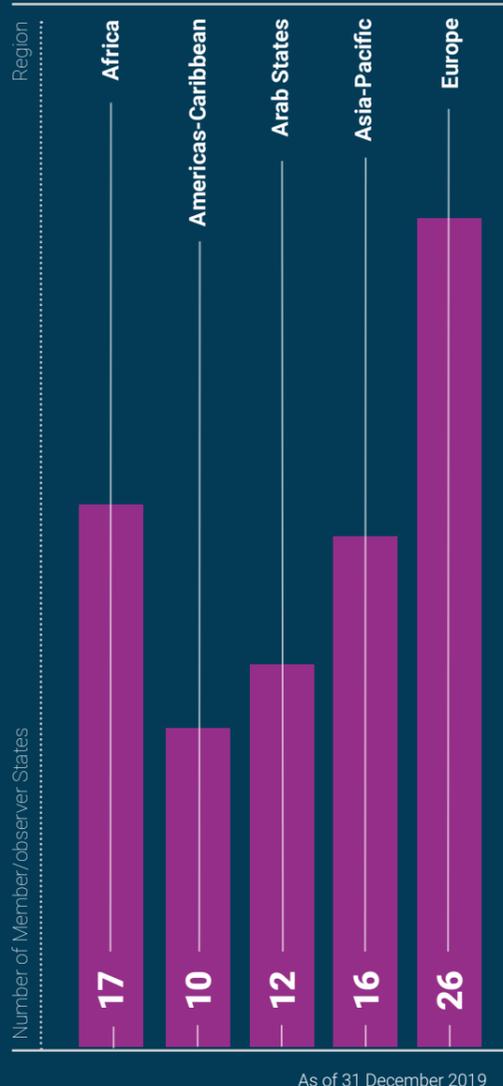
To support countries in implementing Target (e), UNDRR produced a new Words into Action (WiA) guide: *Developing National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies*,¹³ which complemented another WiA guide: *Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Strategies*.¹⁴

¹³ UNDRR, *Developing National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies* (Geneva, UNDRR, 2019). Available at https://www.preventionweb.net/files/65095_wianationaldrstrategies10052019.pdf.

¹⁴ UNDRR, *Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Strategies* (Geneva, UNDRR, 2019). Available at https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57399_57399localdrresiliencestrategie.pdf.

Grand total
81

MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES REPORTING THE EXISTENCE OF A NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGY IN THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK MONITOR



In the **Africa Region**, UNDRR supported efforts to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in the region. Training based on UNDRR WiA guide *Developing National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies* was conducted for 17 countries from the Economic Community for West African States and the Economic Community of Central African States. Representatives from 12 countries were engaged in peer-learning exchanges focused on policy coherence among SDGs, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Partners from AUC, EU, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), RECs, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Economic Commission for Africa, UN Environment Programme, the UN Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UN Women also took part. UNDRR also organized regional SFM training for national disaster risk reduction coordinators and statistical offices from 42 countries, which focused on the role of SFM in developing a disaster risk reduction strategy monitoring framework.

Drawing on one of the recommendations of the multi-country peer-learning workshops in July 2019, the Regional Office for Africa organized a national peer-learning exchange for policy coherence in Malawi. This activity supported the work of the recently established National Technical Committee on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, and enhanced coherence between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities, notably through the national adaptation plan process in the country. Entry points and next steps identified by participants included: ensuring better coordination in planning and programme design and undertaking more coordinated analysis; developing coherent financing plans that address disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation; and increasing collaboration in designing indicators and monitoring frameworks for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. This workshop coincided with a training workshop on SFM in Malawi to improve collaboration across sectors on data collection, monitoring and reporting on disaster impact following the 2019 Malawi floods.

In March 2019, five African cities – Praia (Cabo Verde), Yaoundé (Cameroon), Dire Dawa (Ethiopia), Kisumu (Kenya) and Kampala (Uganda) – participated in the GETI Experience Sharing Workshop – Making Cities Sustainable and Resilient. Cities and national governments subsequently requested support to scale up the disaster risk reduction assessments and strategies. As a result of support provided by UNDRR within the context of the Making Cities Resilient (MCR) Campaign,¹⁵ the city of Praia and the national government officials of Cabo Verde discussed decentralization of disaster risk reduction in line with the national disaster risk reduction strategy and strengthened vertical and horizontal resilience linkages.

15 UNDRR, "Making cities resilient: my city is getting ready". Available at <https://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/>.

Kampala has developed an Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Resilience Strategy and prioritized efforts to reduce the impact of persistent flooding in the city. UNDRR supported the validation workshop, together with the World Bank. The leadership of Kampala remains committed to disaster risk reduction and has built strategic peer partnerships, including with the city of Incheon, Republic of Korea, contributing to an inter-learning workshop, organized and hosted by Incheon.

By the end of 2019, 8 countries in the **Americas and the Caribbean Region** had finalized and made publicly available a national disaster risk reduction strategy, and 17 others were in the process of formal approval. UNDRR collaborated with CDEMA to harmonize the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy of the Caribbean with the Sendai Framework. Support continued to small island developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean with 14 national strategies directly supported by UNDRR and CDEMA. The status of national disaster risk reduction strategies in these countries was then assessed to inform the nature of technical assistance that should be provided by UNDRR in 2020.

In 2019, the Brazilian municipalities of São José do Rio Preto and Vinhedo validated their local disaster risk reduction action plans. UNDRR also worked with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the city of Cusco (Peru) to develop a local disaster risk reduction strategy, with a focus on heritage protection. In the Caribbean, a workshop with representatives from the cities of Kingston and Montego Bay (Jamaica) was carried out. The aim was to finalize local disaster risk reduction plans for both cities before the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction for the Americas and the Caribbean hosted by Jamaica in 2020.

In 2019, in the **Arab States Region**, UNDRR organized national consultations in Lebanon and Mauritania to support finalization of their national disaster risk reduction strategies for further endorsement by their respective cabinet offices. A national consultation workshop was organized in Qatar to initiate work on the development of its strategy in line with the WiA guide *Developing National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies*.

Through a project focused on enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities in urban settings, the UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States, in collaboration with UNDP in Mauritania and Tunisia, provided technical support to develop disaster risk reduction action plans based on the MCR scorecard preliminary assessments and in-depth risk assessments in 10 cities. The preliminary scorecard assessment was conducted in all 10 cities, while resilience action plans and in-depth assessments were conducted in five cities (Kaédi, Rosso and Tevragh Zeina in Mauritania, and Gabès and Mateur in Tunisia). Linkages between the UNDRR "Ten Essentials" for the MCR Campaign and a human security approach were explored, including assessing the policy and planning, engineering, organizational, financial, social and environmental aspects

of disaster resilience. A clear connection was established between the low disaster resilience levels and the weak human security dimensions in these cities.

Capacity-building workshops and consultations with national and local governments and relevant stakeholders were subsequently held to address the gaps and challenges and pave the way for development and implementation of local resilience action plans. UNDRR facilitated a city-to-city technical exchange workshop with Potenza and Viggiano in Italy (both MCR role model cities) to promote knowledge-sharing and dissemination of best practices among local governments from the 10 pilot cities. As a result, a set of recommendations was provided to guide the cities in disaster risk reduction planning and implementation, including on the importance of developing a clear stakeholder engagement strategy, increasing public awareness and civic engagement in disaster risk reduction planning and implementation, promoting human security, and improving risk assessment and hazard mapping. With UNDRR support, Gabès, Kaédi, Mateur, Rosso and Tevragh Zeina have developed comprehensive local resilience action plans.

UNDRR organized two workshops in Dubai (United Arab Emirates), in collaboration with the Dubai Police. The workshops brought together stakeholders at the local level to complete the detailed Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities to assess Dubai's disaster risk reduction and resilience capacity. The workshops provided an opportunity for local experts and officials to develop a city resilience action plan and related implementation plan based on the Ten Essentials of the MCR Campaign. By the end of 2019, Dubai was finalizing its local strategy for disaster risk reduction.

UNDRR support has been instrumental in accelerating the achievement of Target (e) in the **Asia Pacific Region**. Through participation in regional consultations and capacity development workshops, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam received support from UNDRR to improve understanding of risk prevention, risk mitigation and strengthened capacities to integrate these elements into policy and practice. As a result, a shift in focus is expected to happen within national strategies and priorities from disaster management to comprehensive risk management, which will ensure that national disaster risk reduction strategies guide policies, programmes and plans towards multi-sector risk-informed development that is more sustainable and resilient.

In partnership with UNDP, UNDRR conducted workshops to provide technical assistance to revise national disaster risk reduction strategies in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand. In both workshops, the inclusion of diverse stakeholder groups and government agencies ensured a comprehensive assessment of the key priorities proposed in the new strategies. In addition, training was provided to ensure alignment of the new strategies with the Sendai Framework.

In the case of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the national workshop enabled government officials to start a wide inter-agency and inclusive effort to develop a national disaster risk reduction strategy. The ministry responsible for the strategy development committed to launch a consultation tour with local governments and provinces to ensure they understand their role in providing data and input, for strategy development and for Sendai Framework monitoring. Workshop participants felt better equipped with understanding and knowledge to support the strategy development process and Sendai Framework monitoring, and they confirmed that the knowledge gained would help enlist the cooperation of other sectors.

UNDRR collaborated with UNDP Cambodia to support the National Disaster Management Committee and its partners to revise the national action plan for disaster risk reduction. Through a multi-stakeholder workshop, sectoral representatives, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and development partners collectively reviewed the outcomes of the previous plan and identified gaps. This analysis informed implementation of the new disaster risk reduction strategy, including a recommendation to develop a related investment and partnership framework. As a result of the consultative process, Cambodia delivered the first draft of a revised plan.

In support of efforts led by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, UNDRR provided significant technical guidance in the development of Fiji's National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy, launched by the Prime Minister in 2019. UNDRR was also active on the steering committee for the ongoing review of Fiji's National Disaster Management Act 1998. It helped facilitate a national consultation with government and non-government partners to refine the revised act and was successful in strengthening the focus on disaster risk prevention and reduction.

Technical guidance was provided to Kiribati for the development of the country's new Disaster Management Act adopted in 2019. In addition, UNDRR provided recommendations to Kiribati on how to monitor the country's new joint national action plan for implementation of climate change and disaster risk management.

In partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and IFRC, under the auspices of the Pacific Resilience Partnership, UNDRR convened eight Pacific Island countries for a subregional conference to strengthen national risk governance legislation and policymaking and to identify opportunities to align climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The conference had a strong focus on approaches that could be applied at the local level. It also endorsed the workplan of the Pacific Resilience Partnership, which aims to strengthen risk governance at the national level. The workplan includes efforts to: (a) map relevant national legislative and policy frameworks to ensure information is easily accessible and examples of good practice are shared; (b) develop, adapt and disseminate

technical guidance, including best practices and guidance on developing policy and legislation on climate change and disaster risk management; and (c) document pertinent case studies and good practices in legislative reform in the Pacific.

UNDRR led a regional effort to accelerate action on Target (e) at the local level through a consultative workshop on local disaster risk reduction strategies. The workshop identified practical activities at the regional level that would increase the development of local disaster risk reduction strategies in the Asia and Pacific region. The key outcome of the workshop was to identify a set of "accelerators" that include support for integrating climate change into local disaster risk reduction planning, enhanced advocacy and simplified terminology, better coordination among development partners, tools to track progress and public expenditure, and better sharing of good practices. These accelerators were shared at the 7th Asian Pacific Urban Forum in Penang (Malaysia), where they were further refined into a road map.

UNDRR is supporting the implementation of this road map through several projects including: the development of a catalogue of tools to support local disaster risk reduction and climate change integrated planning; convening the science and technology community at the regional and country levels to advise local planning officials on how to better integrate climate projections into their plans; and carrying out a public expenditure review on disaster risk reduction and climate investments to generate evidence-based recommendations.

In Fiji, a joint initiative with UN-Habitat and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) produced a basic disaster and climate risk assessment of the Sigatoka municipality with a focus on informal settlements. The findings were consolidated with previous assessments conducted by other municipalities in Fiji, which resulted in a national analysis and recommendations to the Ministry of Local Government, Urban Development, Housing & Environment, focused on priority areas for support at the municipal level in Fiji.

In Honiara, the capital of Solomon Islands, UNDRR followed up on its initial support in 2018 to the City Council on disaster risk reduction planning. In partnership with ICLEI and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, UNDRR supported training of new ward councillors on the importance of gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction. The training was followed by a two-day round-table discussion hosted by the Honiara City Council and jointly facilitated by UNDRR, UN Women and the National Protection Committee. The Ten Essentials methodology of the MCR Campaign was reviewed with a gender lens. In addition, a set of key recommendations for integration of gender and social inclusion in disaster risk reduction planning was proposed for consideration by the Honiara City Council.





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The UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific joined GETI in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, with a focus on local disaster risk reduction and decentralized disaster risk reduction governance, into the curriculum of India's Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration and regional academies of public administration.

In 2019, the UNDRR **Regional Office for Europe** coordinated an independent multi-stakeholder assessment to ensure that national disaster risk reduction strategies are inclusive, robust and aligned with the recommendations outlined in the Sendai Framework. Belarus and the Republic of Moldova were the first countries to undergo the process.

To meet Target (e), Member States from Europe and Central Asia are working with UNDRR to improve the effectiveness of their plans to increase disaster resilience. To accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework and build coherence across the 2030 sustainable development agenda, UNDRR has developed a robust methodology that supports independent assessment of national disaster risk reduction strategies. The aim is to increase efficiency and relevance, ensure sustainability and build ownership of the disaster risk reduction agenda at national, regional and global levels while addressing the needs of the most vulnerable.

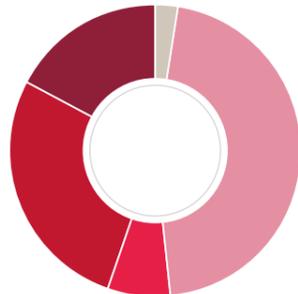
Independent assessment teams, comprising representatives and experts from the European Science and Technology Advisory Group (E-STAG), financial institutions, local government, parliament, the private sector, civil society and UN agencies, as well as National Focal Points for the Sendai Framework and other experts in disaster risk reduction, were engaged to assess the structure, substance and coherence of strategies under development.

Assessment teams analysed the disaster risk reduction strategies of Belarus and the Republic of Moldova, and provided advice on how to ensure that the strategies have an impact on reducing existing disaster risks and avoiding creation of new risk. Advice provided by E-STAG included recommendations for: integrating the results of national and local risk assessments; identifying clear roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders involved in the management of risks; mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into relevant sectors such as water and sanitation, energy, education, transport and agriculture; and building coherence with SDGs and other global agendas.

In 2020, the same exercise will be conducted for Bulgaria, Poland, Slovenia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, working in close collaboration with authorities to strengthen their national disaster risk reduction strategies.

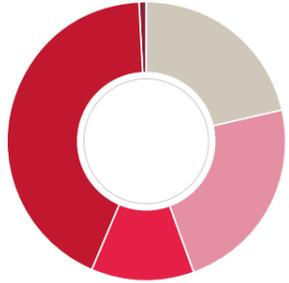
Overview of local-level engagement

4,311 CITIES PARTICIPATING IN THE MAKING CITIES RESILIENCE CAMPAIGN



Africa	110
Americas-Caribbean	1,974
Arab States	310
Asia-Pacific	1,175
Europe	742

237 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS COMPLETED DISASTER RESILIENCE SCORECARD SELF-ASSESSMENTS



Africa	51
Americas-Caribbean	55
Arab States	28
Asia-Pacific	102
Europe	1

Local urban development: how one city in Africa is meeting the Sendai Framework targets

Doris Ombara was six months into her new job as City Manager of Kisumu, Kenya's third-largest city with a population of approximately 600,000, on the shores of Lake Victoria in Kenya, when she reluctantly decided to go to the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, in Sendai (Japan) in March 2015.

She was persuaded to travel because she had read about other towns and cities that had joined the MCR Campaign: "I was overwhelmed by the level of disasters and I was under a lot of pressure to give people an assurance that they would not be pushed out of their homes and that the management of the city really cared about them."

Energized by what she saw in Sendai, she returned to Kisumu and joined the MCR Campaign, determined to improve the city's risk governance, especially for the 60 per cent of the city's population who live in slums and whose lives were regularly disrupted by floods and fires. It took two years of advocacy and awareness-raising among politicians before she started to see a real shift towards disaster risk management.

"The situation before was one of waiting for a disaster to occur and then we would cope to the best of our ability. Then we got into the Making Cities Resilient Campaign. With the help of the UNDRR team in Nairobi our biggest strategic achievement was disaster risk mapping and zoning the city. This helped us to convince the politicians to factor disaster risk reduction into our annual workplan and budget", Ms. Ombara explains.

In 2017, the city management worked with various stakeholders to provide data on fires and floods. To combat the fire threat, the city recruited community champions who went from door to door identifying households with illegal connections, so the problem could be systematically addressed.

The city's Kibuye market provides an outlet for up to 30,000 traders, but large parts of it were regularly destroyed by fires, and it was impossible for fire engines to gain access. After a major awareness-raising campaign involving politicians and traders, access lanes for fire engines have been put in place, along with fire hydrants. A fire engine is also stationed there. "Instead of three or four fires a week we now might get one a month", Ms. Ombara said.

Using funds from the Kenya Advance Support Programme, which is backed by the World Bank, Ms. Ombara has also been able to buy heavy machinery to open drainage channels during the dry season to lessen the impact of flooding during the region's two rainy seasons. She has also put in an EWS, which relies on information flows about the rains from communities upstream and a system of water gauges along the rivers that flow through the city into Lake Victoria.

"We had record rains here last December. We did not have Christmas. We had just two deaths but at least 10,000 people slept in the social centres and primary school in the neighbourhood because their homes were all flooded. If we hadn't taken action on the drainage, 50,000 people would have been displaced."

Ms. Ombara is a civil engineer by training, with expertise in water resource management. She has taken steps to educate the population about waterborne diseases, as well as practical measures to remove mosquito breeding grounds including relocation of the main rubbish dump away from the city centre.

She is known as "Ten Point Mama" for her advocacy of the "Ten Essentials" of the MCR Campaign. Along with her team, she is now working on a detailed local urban development plan for the city that will include a continued strong focus on disaster risk reduction.

Doris Ombara,
City Manager, Kisumu

Making Cities Resilient Campaign: resilience at the local level

More than half of the world's population lives in cities, and this is expected to increase to two thirds by the year 2050.¹⁶ Ensuring diverse stakeholders in cities, including local government, have the capacity to implement effective disaster risk reduction measures is essential to achieving sustainable development. Since its launch in 2010, the MCR Campaign has been successful in increasing awareness and technical resilience capacity in cities. The number of cities engaged in this campaign reached 4,311 by the end of 2019. To empower local authorities to manage disaster risk better, UNDRR provided support with tools, best practices and policy guidance to implement the Sendai Framework.

At the end of 2019, 237 local governments in 36 countries in five regions had completed the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities, a self-assessment tool that has been translated into 12 languages including all six official UN languages, and also Burmese, Italian, Korean, Mongolian, Polish and Portuguese.

UNDRR has published two key performance and impact analyses based on the results of self-assessments conducted by 214 local governments. The first one is the *Making Cities Resilient Report 2019*,¹⁷ which provides a snapshot of progress made by local governments in reducing disaster risks in alignment with the Sendai Framework. The report also provides insights on progress made towards achieving the Sendai Framework and SDGs, particularly SDG 11.

Based on work with more than 200 cities and local governments to assess gaps and progress in addressing local resilience and pilot integrated climate and disaster resilience planning with 20 cities, UNDRR issued a second report called *Making Cities Sustainable and Resilient: Lessons Learned from the Disaster Resilience Scorecard Assessment and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Action Planning*.¹⁸ That report demonstrates how, through the completion of scorecard assessments and disaster risk reduction action plans, cities raised awareness and understanding of disaster risk reduction issues and their interconnectedness. The process built local capacity, generated awareness and interest, and created or strengthened stakeholder partnerships.

Risk-informed urban development and planning

Throughout 2019, UNDRR continued to support countries to implement disaster risk reduction planning and initiatives through training activities. GETI local training workshops focused on risk-informed urban development and planning. Forty cities in 22 countries have completed local disaster risk reduction action plans with UNDRR support. Most of these plans were also endorsed as ready to move onto implementation, and some cities, including Greater Suva, Lautoka and Nadi (Fiji), Honiara (Solomon Islands) and Kampala (Uganda), also plan to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans.

Learning from the experience of the city of Ulaanbaatar, the Mongolian National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) adopted the use of the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities as a diagnostic tool to inform the development of local disaster risk reduction action plans. Led by NEMA and with technical support provided by UNDRR, the process was replicated widely with all 22 provinces across the country. In 2019, following UNDRR training, 12 of Mongolia's largest cities in these provinces completed local disaster risk reduction action plans. Mongolia aims to have all its provinces equipped with the disaster risk reduction action plans for further implementation in 2020.

The MCR Campaign was launched in 2010 to raise awareness and commitment of local governments and political leaders on disaster risk reduction. Broad engagement in the campaign since 2019 has demonstrated increased commitment to take action to ensure the safety and well-being of citizens from disasters. To build on this success, UNDRR initiated consultations with stakeholders on the way forward for the campaign. City representatives, national government agencies, development partners and diverse stakeholders reiterated the need to continue building the capacities of local governments to strengthen disaster and climate resilience, including in areas related to strategic planning, financing for resilience, multi-stakeholder engagement, use of nature-based solutions and effective implementation of risk-informed urban development plans. The consultations informed the design of the successor of the MCR Campaign – Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030). MCR2030 will be launched by the end of 2020 and seeks to create an alliance of partners committed to supporting implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies by local governments.

¹⁶ UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision* (New York, UN, 2019). Available at <https://population.un.org/wup/Publications/Files/WUP2018-Report.pdf>.

¹⁷ UNDRR, *Making Cities Resilient Report 2019: A Snapshot of how Local Governments Progress in Reducing Disaster Risks in Alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* (Geneva, UNDRR, 2019). Available at https://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/assets/toolkit/documents/UNDRR_Making%20Cities%20Resilient%20Report%202019_April2019.pdf

¹⁸ UNDRR, *Making Cities Sustainable and Resilient: Lessons Learned from the Disaster Resilience Scorecard Assessment and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Action Planning* (Geneva, UNDRR, 2019). Available at https://www.preventionweb.net/files/66413_undrlessonslearnedfromdevcoproject.pdf.



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2.3

BUILD CAPACITY OF COUNTERPARTS, UNCTS AND PARTNERS FOR DRR LEADERSHIP

Strategic Approach to Capacity Development for Implementation of the Sendai Framework

The *Strategic Approach to Capacity Development for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*¹⁹ was launched at GP2019, and provides stakeholders with a common and comprehensive methodology on building disaster risk reduction capabilities and competencies. The strategic approach provides advice on the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, and high-level guidance in six critical areas of need: (1) developing and strengthening disaster risk reduction fundamentals, (2) institutionalizing disaster risk reduction capacity, (3) sharing and using risk information before and after disasters, (4) establishing collaborative action for disaster risk reduction at the national and local levels, (5) strengthening external support mechanisms and (6) advancing and expanding disaster risk reduction capabilities.

UNDRR regional offices, together with GETI and other UN entities, expert institutions and stakeholders, provided a range of training and technical assistance to increase the capacity of countries to develop and implement their national strategies. In 2019, through the strategic approach, UNDRR delivered tailored workshops for 1,154 national and local government officials from 81 countries, strengthening national and local coordination mechanisms, improving coherent planning across disaster risk reduction,

climate action and sustainable development, and embedding disaster risk reduction in relevant sectoral plans and strategies. Thirty-four per cent of workshop participants were women.

¹⁹ UNDRR, *Strategic Approach to Capacity Development for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* (Geneva, UNDRR, 2019). Available at https://www.unisdr.org/files/58211_fullconciseguide.pdf.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

3

Catalyse action through Member
States and partners

3.1

FOSTERED POLICY COHERENCE BY ENGAGING WITH MEMBER STATES & CONTRIBUTING TO RELEVANT INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES

Integration of disaster risk reduction into intergovernmental decision-making

UNDRR continues to advance Sendai Framework implementation and further integrate disaster risk reduction as an essential component of climate action and sustainable development through intergovernmental decision-making and policy-setting. UNDRR advocates for a coherent approach towards disaster risk reduction and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement, Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, New Urban Agenda and Agenda for Humanity.

As a result of UNDRR advocacy efforts and policy advice, there was greater political recognition in 2019 that policy and programmatic coherence with the Sendai Framework is essential for achieving the goals and objectives of major intergovernmental sustainable development and climate action agreements. This was evident in the outcomes of intergovernmental deliberations and policymaking activities at UN Headquarters, and through the UN General Assembly. In 2019, at least 24 General Assembly resolutions adopted language that strengthened policy coherence on disaster risk reduction and opened new areas for policy development. These resolutions covered issues ranging from sustainable development, climate action, financing, biodiversity, least developed country graduation, displacement

and human rights. They also incorporated the recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Sendai Framework.²⁰

Political commitment to disaster risk reduction in the SDG Summit Political Declaration embedded the Sendai Framework in the Decade of Action. The political declarations of the midterm reviews of the Samoa Pathway for SIDS and the Vienna Programme of Action highlighted the importance of disaster risk reduction in addressing the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries.

The outcome of the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development and several General Assembly resolutions called for greater action on disaster risk reduction financing, an area that remains significantly underdeveloped in terms of legislation, policies and instruments. These achievements have created a strong foundation for policy coherence on disaster risk reduction across sectors and are a critical contribution to the implementation of the Sendai Framework and disaster risk reduction strategies in 2020 and beyond.

Throughout 2019, governments continued to draw on UNDRR policy advice and support to build political commitment for disaster risk reduction, strengthen coherence in implementation of the Sendai Framework and identify new policy development opportunities. Supported by UNDRR, the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Sendai Framework and 18 other strategically selected reports of the Secretary-General provided specific recommendations to advance policy and programmatic coherence on disaster risk reduction across sectors and areas of UN work. Throughout the year, several high-level and technical briefings on these recommendations were provided to the Group of Friends for Disaster Risk Reduction (a group of Member States that advocates for disaster risk reduction and effective implementation of the Sendai Framework). To further mainstream disaster risk reduction and foster policy coherence, UNDRR also provided policy advice to UN entities supporting intergovernmental deliberations on key questions relevant to disaster risk reduction.

Targeted advocacy

The UNDRR Support Group convenes Member States on a quarterly basis to support implementation of the UNDRR mandate. In 2019, through this mechanism, UNDRR proactively engaged Member States to advance implementation of the Sendai Framework, foster coherence among disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development, strengthen linkages with the broader UN agenda, and improve understanding of disaster risk and its impact. GP2019, the UN Sustainable Development Summit, the Climate Action Summit and the UNFCCC twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) provided strategic opportunities for Member States to advocate for disaster risk reduction as an effective means of enabling sustainable development.

Briefings for Member States and stakeholders at GP2019 established a link between the platform's outcomes and the deliberations at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. This was strengthened through a side event during the High-level Political Forum on a coherent and coordinated approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change action for sustainable development. During the High-level Week of the General Assembly in September, a side event at the SDG Summit promoted the launch of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). UNDRR also created platforms for young people to share their perspective on disaster risk reduction at the Climate Action Summit.



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²⁰ UN, General Assembly, *Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030*, Report of the Secretary-General, A/RES/73/268, 27 July 2018. Available at <https://www.preventionweb.net/files/resolutions/N1824255-en.pdf>.

3.2

COORDINATION & ADVICE PROVIDED TO UN SYSTEM PARTNERS AT GLOBAL LEVEL TOWARDS EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT SENDAI FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

Incorporation of disaster risk reduction into United Nations mechanisms

In 2019, the UN development system reform process and GP2019 provided an opportunity to catalyse action towards implementation of the Sendai Framework by UN system partners. Risk reduction was systematically incorporated into various UN mechanisms, notably the process for developing Cooperation Frameworks, as well as UN climate-security mechanisms and humanitarian-development-peace collaboration. Building on this broad recognition and commitment, UNDRR worked with UN partners to enhance risk reduction at the country level. As a result, development and humanitarian UN system partners are increasingly integrating risk considerations into their work.



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Impact through the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

As the focal point for disaster risk reduction in the UN system, UNDRR coordinates UN-wide Sendai Framework implementation. The *United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience* is one of the main tools to maximize UN efforts to support countries to strengthen risk-informed development programming, planning and investment and ensure no one is left behind. UNDRR coordinates two mechanisms related to the UN plan of action: the high-level UN Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience and the UN Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points Group at the working level.

During the 2019 UN Senior Leadership Group meeting, which was convened by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, participants identified relevant steps to improve coordination of national-level disaster risk reduction activities. These included closer collaboration with the Resident Coordinator system, integration of disaster risk into Cooperation Frameworks and Common Country Analyses, provision of updated technical guidance for UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams, promotion of SFM and increased technical support to countries.

Active engagement in the Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points Group resulted in the systematic incorporation of disaster risk reduction in the revision of key mechanisms such as the development of the Cooperation Framework guidance and related companion pieces, as well as the UN climate-security mechanisms and humanitarian-development-peace collaboration. In support of the reform of the UN development system and its focus on a reinvigoration of the UN Resident Coordinator system, UNDRR initiated the development of a briefing package for Regional Coordinators and UN Country Teams on the integration of disaster risk considerations into Cooperation Frameworks and Common Country Analyses.

Targeted support to Member States

To provide targeted support to Member States to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework in alignment with the UN development system reform process, UNDRR identified opportunities to build on complementarities with partners such as UNDP, UNFCCC and the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. For example, to accelerate the implementation of Target (e) and enhance coherence with the climate change agenda, UNDRR, UNFCCC and other partners launched the Target (e) Coherence Approach. This supports 40 countries to integrate climate change adaptation into their national disaster risk reduction strategies and disaster risk reduction in their national adaptation plans, and ensure coherence in the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework, the Paris

Agreement and SDGs. UNDRR is working with partners to ensure integration of disaster risk reduction into the humanitarian development nexus, with a particular focus on the Humanitarian Programme Cycle. Based on the increasingly complex and protracted nature of today's humanitarian crisis, this effort expects to increase lives saved and livelihoods protected by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction considerations into joint humanitarian and development planning and activities. This work operationalizes the UN "New Way of Working", which brings UN humanitarian, development and peace efforts together to work more "cohesively" as part of a "triple nexus".

Supporting a realistic understanding of risk

“ I have been in this job for four years and I have had the opportunity to work with UNDRR as a representative of a UN Member State. During this time, I’ve observed the following ways in which UNDRR contributes to building resilience and sustainable development:

1. Introduced a complex understanding of risk: Since the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in the 1990s, UNDRR has campaigned to take the natural out of disasters and increase understanding that disasters occur because of a multitude of other reasons besides the actual natural hazard, including lack of preparedness and early warning systems, poverty, poor land use and building codes, destruction of protective ecosystems to mention a few.
2. Put risk at the centre of sustainable development: UNDRR has put the issue of risk and risk management centre-stage in the development discourse. It is no longer something seen as a niche ‘nice thing to do’.
3. Demonstrated the key role of public policymakers: During the International Decade there was a danger that DRR [disaster risk reduction] would be monopolized by scientists, geologists, climatologists and excellent people in academia. UNDRR changed the narrative to bring on board the social scientists and public policymakers.
4. Leaders in enabling local engagement: UNDRR has empowered local DRR champions including parliamentarians, mayors and city managers.
5. Proven value of a multi-stakeholder approach: DRR remains the primary responsibility of governments but is now a big tent with engagement and action from a variety of stakeholders including women and girls, persons living with disabilities, older persons, ethnic groups, the private sector and civil society.
6. Advocacy and technical assistance: Knowledge creation and management through the Global Assessment Reports and the Words Into Action guides has provided the DRR community with ready-made sources for advocacy and coherent argument to justify the investments that need to be made in DRR.
7. Investing in resilient societies (not just infrastructure): In collaboration with partners such as UNDP and the World Bank, UNDRR has helped to bring the whole notion of ‘building back better’ into the mainstream of post-disaster recovery, going beyond the resilience of the asset itself and looking at the larger context, including the social dimension.
8. Results driven: Compared to 20 years ago, there is much greater focus on accountability and results, particularly substantial reductions in: loss of lives, numbers of people affected, economic losses and damage to critical infrastructure.
9. Contribution to SDGs: Should there be a Sustainable Development Goal for Resilience? The fact that people even ask that question is a sign of how far we have come. DRR fingerprints are all over the 17 SDGs. It will be difficult to achieve many of them without progress on reducing disaster risk and disaster losses, particularly in low- and middle-income countries where efforts to eradicate poverty are critically dependent on building societal and structural resilience.
10. Convincing cost-benefit analysis for investing in risk reduction: It may not be enough to meet the challenge of the resilience gap between rich and poor but in recent years we are seeing governments investing much more of their own resources in disaster risk management as the arguments on cost-benefits sink home. Multilateral institutions are also investing heavily.”

Kamal Kishore

Member, National Disaster Management Agency, India

3.3

ALL OF SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT AND ACTION PROMOTED THROUGH STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Disaster risk financing and tracking

As humanitarian and development budgets are under ever more strain, it is increasingly important that international aid investments do not inadvertently create new risks and that investments are disaster risk sensitive. Therefore, in line with Sendai Framework Priority 3²¹ and Target (f),²² UNDRR works with international development actors to track and increase mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction across programmes and policies.

As a result of UNDRR close engagement with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the adoption of the OECD marker for disaster risk reduction in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Creditor Reporting System came into force in January 2019. This enabled enhanced integration of disaster risk considerations into development assistance.

In 2019, UNDRR focused on providing additional guidance to help Member States report on Target (f). The UNDRR *Technical Guidance for Monitoring*

*and Reporting on Progress in Achieving the Global Targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*²³ emphasizes the importance of the disaster risk reduction policy marker as a way to track the extent to which disaster risk reduction has been integrated into development assistance. The technical guidance also emphasizes the need to look at financial flows captured by the DAC Creditor Reporting System for official development assistance commitments.

21 Priority 3: “Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.”

22 Target (f): “Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030.”

23 UNDRR, *Technical Guidance for Monitoring and Reporting on Progress in Achieving the Global Targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* (Geneva, UNDRR, 2017). Available at https://www.unisdr.org/files/54970_techguidancefdigitalhr.pdf.

Risk-sensitive private sector investments

The Sendai Framework recognizes the fundamental importance of nurturing an economic and regulatory environment that incentivizes risk-informed investments. Globally, the private sector is responsible for a significant proportion of investments that will determine the future landscape of risk. According to insurance broker Aon, 2010–2019 was the worst decade on record for economic losses from disasters triggered by natural hazards, amounting to \$3 trillion, which is over a trillion more than for 2000–2009.²⁴

Because of the increase of disaster-related economic losses, it is encouraging that the private sector, financial institutions and regulators have started to pay closer attention to the integration of disaster risk management. Effective engagement with the private sector can dramatically enhance the international community's collective ability to reduce losses and strengthen resilience.

Acknowledging the role of the private sector in building resilience, UNDRR provides guidance for the private sector on supporting Sendai Framework implementation. This includes improving understanding of the cost–benefit analysis of disaster risk reduction investments, as well as the requirements for an environment that allows and encourages risk-informed business investment. In 2019, new partnerships were developed, and existing ones strengthened in support of increased financing for disaster risk reduction and risk-sensitive investment.

Estimates project that more than \$90 trillion will be invested globally in infrastructure by 2040, primarily in developing countries.²⁵ At the same time, disaster-induced economic losses continue to increase – already estimated at \$520 billion per year.²⁶ The Sendai Framework highlights the resilience of critical resilience as a cornerstone of sustainable development. CDRI was proposed at the 2016 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, convened by UNDRR and hosted by India. Following a series of events and workshops, including the International Workshops on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and GP2019, CDRI was formally launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Climate Action Summit in September 2019. CDRI is an international partnership that supports countries to build climate and disaster-resilient infrastructure. The impact of disasters on infrastructure has a disproportionate impact on the poor as they often lack adequate resources to cope with disasters and related risks. Ensuring infrastructure assets and systems are resilient is crucial for reducing economic losses from disasters and

also central to protecting lives and livelihoods. Through CDRI, UNDRR is supporting governments and partners to reduce infrastructure loss and damage and enhance the resilience of trillions of dollars of infrastructure investments.

The UNDRR-led Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE) promotes resilience and a risk-informed approach to doing business and future-proofing investment decisions. New terms of reference, including a new due diligence process, were developed in 2019 to strengthen the alignment and impact of ARISE.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of many economies worldwide. SMEs range from micro-businesses such as sole retailers in street markets, to manufacturing plants with significant capital investments in equipment and workforce training. They are increasingly recognized as central to socioeconomic development. Their resilience to disasters is therefore central to sustainable development. In a globalized economy, SMEs are increasingly susceptible to systemic risks related to supply chains and access to markets from events that may occur at a great distance away. In 2019, ARISE supported the roll-out of a new initiative on enhancing the long-term resilience of SMEs.

In addition, to building the resilience of SMEs, the UNDRR **Regional Office for Europe** launched the Building Resilience of SMEs initiative. To understand how SMEs in Europe manage risk and invest in resilience, a national-level survey in Italy and city-level surveys in Istanbul (Turkey) and Manchester (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) were launched. Results of the initiative highlighted the recovery challenges that SMEs face, including obstacles to investing in resilience. It also highlighted the importance of improved collaboration between local authorities and stakeholders, and urged immediate action to strengthen engagement between the banking sector and local government. The findings from Italy highlighted key factors that are increasing the exposure of SMEs to greater risk, such as lack of capacity, resource constraints, incentives to invest in risk reduction and awareness of risk and the potential impact. Due to the importance of SMEs in Europe, which represent 95 per cent of new jobs created in the past five years, UNDRR plans to extend this initiative to other Member States in Western and Eastern Europe as well as Central Asia. This will help to further understand the risks SMEs face and inform the design of fiscal policies and insurance solutions across Europe to ensure their resilience to natural and human-induced hazards.

Recognizing the role of the insurance sector as a global risk manager in the implementation of risk-informed investment, UNDRR continued its engagement in the Insurance Development Forum (IDF), which focuses on ensuring full insurance coverage for all, including the most vulnerable and is aligned with the InsuResilience Global Partnership targets, which aim to strengthen the resilience of developing countries and protect the lives and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable people from the impacts of disasters.

UNDRR announced a new partnership with the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation. The partnership focuses on promoting a shift in the sector from protection to prevention and incentivizing the integration of disaster risk reduction considerations by the insurance sector and its clients through the liability and the asset management side of the sector. UNDRR also initiated a new

cooperation with the World Travel and Tourism Council on building the capacity of businesses in the tourism sector to implement the Sendai Framework.

With support from UNDRR, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Symposium on Natural Disasters and Trade launched two studies on the interlinkages between trade and resilience. This was the first time that the trade community looked at disasters beyond response and preparedness. The findings highlighted the vulnerability of SIDS and SMEs, as well as opportunities within the WTO rules system to enable better disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

UNDRR engagement with the World Economic Forum (WEF) led to a session organized by WEF during GP2019 on the integration of climate and disaster risks into business models.



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Private sector participation at the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

GP2019 provided a key opportunity to bring together UNDRR diverse private sector partners including the ARISE Network, IDF, UN Global Compact and WEF, as well as trade-related organizations such as WTO and the International Trade Centre, and regional business groups and networks. A day-long forum attended by more than 300 private sector

representatives explored private sector engagement in enhancing SME resilience, as well as integrating disaster risk into financial and private sector decision-making. Recommendations from the event were reflected in the new UNDRR initiative on enhancing the resilience of SMEs to disasters.

24 Reuters, "Last decade most expensive for natural disasters: report", 22 January 2020. Available at <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-climate-disaster-losses/last-decade-most-expensive-for-natural-disasters-report-idUSKBN1ZL00H>

25 Global Infrastructure Outlook, "Forecasting infrastructure investment needs and gaps". Available at <https://outlook.gihub.org/>.

26 Stephane Hallegatte, Adrien Vogt-Schilb, Mook Bangalore and Julie Rozenberg, *Unbreakable: Building the Resilience of the Poor in the Face of Natural Disasters* (Washington, DC, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank Group, 2017). Available at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/512241480487839624/pdf/110618-PUB-Box396333B-PUBLIC-PUBDATE-11-24-16-UNIT-ITSKI.pdf>.



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3.4

PARTNERSHIPS LEVERAGED FOR INCREASED FINANCING FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RISK-SENSITIVE INVESTMENT

Role of science and technology partners

UNDRR continued to work with the Global Science and Technology Advisory Group (G-STAG), regional STAGs and members of the UNDRR Global Science and Technology Partnership to promote a science base for effective disaster risk reduction and risk-informed development.

The Science and Policy Forum, held during the days preceding GP2019, convened scientists, academics, representatives from the private sector and civil society, and government representatives from ministries of science and research, and launched a revised edition of *The Science and Technology Roadmap to Support the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*.²⁷ The revised edition was adapted to facilitate enhanced coherence among the 2030 Agenda agreements. The G-STAG Working Group on Data presented a final report on its work during the period 2017–2019, which informed other global and regional risk data discussions. The Science and Policy Forum coincided with a session of the ECOSOC Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), which provided an opportunity for UNDRR science partners to actively

engage with science ministers and participate in a disaster risk reduction and resilience side event at CSTD.

UNDRR worked in partnership with the International Science Council (ISC) to improve data for disaster risk reduction and policy advocacy through the ISC role as lead of the UN Major Group for Science and Technology. As a result, UNDRR has seen strengthened integration of disaster risk reduction expertise in science-led intergovernmental processes such as the ECOSOC Science Technology and Innovation Forum and CSTD. This has supported cross-disciplinary action within government ministries and enhanced engagement by ministries of science and national disaster risk reduction entities, resulting in the practical application of science by policymakers.

In response to a call for a new approach to risk, including systemic risk analysis, UNDRR, ISC and the ISC Integrated Research on Disaster Risk programme have initiated the development of a new science and research agenda for disaster risk reduction in 2020.

²⁷ UNDRR, *The Science and Technology Roadmap to Support the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* (Geneva, UNDRR, 2019). Available at https://www.preventionweb.net/files/65131_file.pdf.

Civil society engagement

In 2019, the newly launched Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) and the Sendai Stakeholder Groups led civil society engagement in GP2019, as well as the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and COP 25.

SEM organized the first ever Stakeholder Forum before GP2019. It brought together high-level government representatives and representatives from the private sector, science, academia, civil society organizations and community-based groups to discuss lessons learned and future opportunities for inclusive, coherent, stakeholder-led disaster risk reduction and risk-investment approaches. The Stakeholder Forum adopted the first global stakeholder declaration highlighting collaborative approaches among stakeholders in support of government efforts to implement the Sendai Framework and a risk-informed 2030 Agenda.

SEM has grown to a network of more than 200 organizations that promote disaster risk reduction and resilience across the global policy processes of the 2030 Agenda. In 2019, SEM developed an action plan for 2020–2021 focused on three activity streams: (a) influencing policy, (b) facilitating stakeholder engagement in global and regional platforms and (c) knowledge management.

In 2019, NGOs working on disaster risk reduction started to log their voluntary commitments in support of the new

Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments (SFVC) online platform.²⁸ More than 200 users registered in the first year. The platform allows diverse stakeholders to inform the public about their work, share lessons learned and identify areas for collaboration. In turn, UNDRR can monitor and take stock of progress and achievements.

In May 2019, UNDRR issued the first *Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments Synthesis and Analysis Report*.²⁹ The report presents trends and gaps regarding how voluntary commitments are contributing to the implementation of the Sendai Framework by covering the four priorities of the Sendai Framework as well as SDGs. More than 50 per cent of these voluntary commitments were concentrated in the Asia region. Approximately 60 per cent were submitted by NGOs, followed by academic and research institutes (11 per cent). SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) had the highest coverage (19 per cent) by these voluntary commitments among the 17 SDGs. The report also highlights three good practice examples in relation to Target (e) of the Sendai Framework. Continued registration of additional voluntary commitments by stakeholders in the SFVC online platform will enable improved assessment of all-of-society contributions to the implementation of the Sendai Framework and increase stakeholders' accountability.

²⁸ UNDRR, 'Voluntary commitments, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-230'. Available at <https://sendaicommitments.unisdr.org/>.

²⁹ UNDRR, *Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments Synthesis and Analysis Report 2019* (Geneva, UNDRR, 2019). Available at https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/65545_sfvcreport20190503light.pdf.

“UNDRR is one of the best allies in our struggle for inclusion”

“The success of the MCR Campaign in Latin America has laid the groundwork for a new campaign to include persons living with disabilities. It targets 51 local governments in the greater metropolitan area of Santiago (Chile).”

The Making Cities Disability Resilient Campaign will receive funding of \$500,000 from the Chilean Government. This will improve the lives of as many as 1.4 million persons living with disabilities in one of the world's most active seismic zones, and which is also vulnerable to floods, droughts and other hazards.

The campaign has been made possible thanks to the support of UNDRR and is being spearheaded by the NGO Inclusiva.

“The problem we have been facing for a long time is that persons with disabilities have been invisible. We are 15 per cent of the global population. If the world wants to be resilient then we need people living with disabilities to be involved, especially because we are masters of resilience. We have little or no access to jobs, culture and education and that is why we are so resilient”, said Carlos Kaiser.

“Out of 7 million people (in Chile) there are 1.4 million persons living with disabilities, but the programme is going to have impacts for everyone.”

The training will target key stakeholders in local government to ensure that emergency plans of first responders, search and rescue teams, fire officers and police are improved for persons living with disabilities.

“Some disabilities are invisible and difficult to distinguish from an injury caused by a collapsed building or a car crash. Sometimes rescuers talk to you to see if you can answer but if you are a deaf person, they have to know that you are using sign language; or if you have autism that you are going to communicate in a different way. This is very important when triage is being done after a disaster.”

Mr. Kaiser emphasizes that the training will also include persons living with disabilities “to teach them about self-protection. How to ask for help. How to become volunteers. How to cooperate with the local authorities and community-based institutions. First responders come from the communities most affected.”

The two-year programme begins in March 2020, in Talagante Province, which has a population of over 200,000. Mr. Kaiser has already been invited to talk about the programme to the fire department of the Mexican city of Guadalajara, and Argentina has also expressed interest.

Reflecting on his long experience of working with UNDRR, Mr. Kaiser said: “UNDRR is one of the best allies we have in our struggle for inclusion of persons living with disabilities in disaster risk management. UNDRR wants the world to be safe for everyone and to leave no one behind. They are supporting persons living with disabilities and promoting us as full-fledged citizens and people with rights of our own.”

Carlos Kaiser

Executive Director, Inclusiva NGO

Youth

Youth are at the front line of disaster risk and disaster risk reduction. Particularly vulnerable to disasters, youth are also key stakeholders in reducing risk and building resilience. In 2019, youth made their voices heard by leveraging social media and organizing global protests that pressured global leaders to address climate change. UNDRR worked closely with many of these young people to catalyse youth action and engagement globally by providing tools, guidance and opportunities to connect and mobilize, including access to high-level platforms, such as GP2019, the Climate Action Summit and COP 25 to engage directly with decision makers.

UNDRR worked with youth through the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, the official mechanism of the UN for channelling participation in sustainable development. In close coordination with this group, UNDRR developed a youth action plan to respond to the Secretary-General's call for UN entities to develop action plans to implement the UN Youth Strategy.

UNDRR also worked closely with the MGCY Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group and UNICEF to develop a new *WiA guide: On the Frontline of Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience: Children and Youth Engagement Guide for Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030*.³⁰ The guide was launched for public review at the Youth Climate Action Summit in September, and will be finalized and launched in 2020. The practical “how to” reference guide pulls together the resources and

expertise of more than 100 institutions and individuals globally. UNDRR also worked with other key partners, such as the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, of which it is a member.

During GP2019, youth organized and contributed to events such as the Resilience Lab, a Young Scientists' Strategy Meeting and a hackathon on resilience building in high-vulnerability contexts. UNDRR ensured that youth were engaged in GP2019 discussions as moderators on several panels and by delivering a statement as an integral part of the closing ceremony. Youth utilized the opportunity to self-organize, meet policymakers, share innovative solutions and advocate for action.

The impact of this work was clear. Member States' statements at GP2019, reflecting on their efforts to implement the Sendai Framework, increasingly emphasized the need to engage children and youth, particularly through the principle of “leaving no one behind”. UNDRR active youth participation in GP2019 was also recognized by the Secretary-General's Office, which requested UNDRR to co-organize an event for the Youth Climate Action Summit. The result was an interactive Climate Slam, which led to an invitation for youth to contribute to a session of the Member States segment of the Climate Action Summit, follow-up discussions among youth and Member States, and an invitation for youth to speak at an event organized by Egypt following the summit.



³⁰ UNDRR, *On the Frontline of Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience: Children and Youth Engagement Guide for Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030* (Geneva, UNDRR, 2019). Available at <https://www.preventionweb.net/files/67704-wiachildyouthsept12publicreviewhand.pdf>.

Leveraging parliamentarians and other decision makers

UNDRR worked closely with parliamentarians and other key decision makers to advocate for development that is sensitive to disaster risk through a variety of avenues including briefings and meetings with Members of Parliament (MPs) by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, technical-level consultations with MPs and outreach to hundreds of MPs through engagement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

UNDRR used GP2019 to engage and consult with diverse MPs on a wide range of policy issues related to disaster risk reduction. UNDRR participation at, and address to, the 141st IPU Assembly enabled UNDRR advocacy to drive action on disaster risk reduction to reach hundreds of MPs.

As a result of engagement with UNDRR, MPs have committed to highlighting the need for disaster risk reduction and to reducing disaster risk through their relevant legislative, budgetary and oversight roles. UNDRR continues to monitor legislative action on disaster risk reduction globally.

UNDRR worked with the European Parliament and the European Commission to ensure the inclusion and strengthening of disaster risk reduction national legislation. In March 2019, the revised EU Civil Protection legislation, known as the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, came into force. The revision which centred on the flagship

response initiative of the Commission known as 'rescEU', was triggered by the devastating forest fires in Portugal in summer 2017. In the area of disaster prevention and preparedness, the revision outlined significant developments that support greater disaster risk reduction action at the level of the EU. Disaster prevention will be improved by requiring member States to further develop their national risk assessments and related reporting, national risk management capability, and their risk management planning. Training and knowledge-sharing will also be strengthened as a result of the establishment of the European Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network.

As a result of collaboration between UNDRR and ParlAmericas (an independent network composed of national legislatures from all countries in the Americas and the Caribbean), the Parliamentary Protocol for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation has been developed and was presented during the 4th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network in March. The protocol guides parliamentary work to meet national disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation needs. The protocol is structured under two chapters: the first presents a series of suggested parliamentary actions for managing disaster risk, linked with the parliamentary functions of legislation, political oversight, and debate and approval of the national budget, and the second provides a detailed explanation of each of the Sendai Framework's priorities for action and its usefulness for parliamentarians.

“Disasters push millions of people into poverty each year, threatening progress, peace and security, and costing billions of dollars – and we have the science that tells us that climate change is going to increase the frequency and intensity of these disaster events of natural origin... This is why tools like this Protocol are so valuable for parliamentarians. It gives us the information we need to more effectively design and approve laws – and hold our governments accountable to implementing those laws – to ensure we are taking measures for comprehensive disaster risk reduction. Now is the time to take action. Our citizens expect this of us and we need to deliver.”

Honourable Robert Nault

Member of Parliament of Canada
and President of ParlAmericas

Partnership for building back better

In support of Priority 4³¹ of the Sendai Framework, UNDRR continued to coordinate the International Recovery Platform (IRP) – a joint initiative of international organizations, national and local governments, and civil society. IRP supports advancements in resilient recovery and build back better by convening a broad range of senior policymakers and practitioners to exchange experiences and identify opportunities in resilient recovery and build back better at the annual International Recovery Forum. It advocates for closer cooperation with development partners, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction in promoting and building capacity for effective build-back-better outcomes. In 2019, IRP coordinated several key events on disaster recovery, including the annual International Recovery Forum under the theme of Attaining the Build Back Better Dividend and a GP2019 side event focused on Securing an Inclusive Build Back Better Dividend.

Gender-responsive disaster risk reduction

UNDRR remains committed to ensuring the perspectives of women and girls, including at the grass-roots level, are reflected in disaster risk reduction policy and initiatives. Evidence has shown that gender-sensitive and responsive approaches contribute to more effective disaster risk reduction interventions, reducing the vulnerability of women and children. In 2019, UNDRR continued to integrate a gender perspective and related outcomes into the implementation of its programmatic activities. Gender-balanced participation in UNDRR national and international conferences, discussion panels and stakeholder groups improved in 2019. GP2019 prioritized an integrated gender perspective and balance: 50 per cent of session speakers and 40 per cent of participants were female.

³¹ Priority 4: “Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to ‘Build Back Better’ in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.”

ENABLER

1

Effective knowledge management,
communication and global advocacy



Communication support, including speeches, press releases, media interviews, web stories and social media assets, was provided for appearances of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction at 25 high-level events and field visits across the globe including GP2019, the Climate Action Summit, the SDG Summit and COP 25. These appearances were leveraged to support implementation of the Sendai Framework with a focus on Target (d)³² to reduce damage to critical infrastructure and disruption to basic services. The release of three new WiA guides also enhanced visibility of disaster risk reduction, particularly among practitioners in national and local government, the private sector, NGOs and civil society. There was strong backing from the Secretary-General, notably on International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) and World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD). New digital engagement activities, such as a first Facebook Live session in support of WTAD, reached more than 6,000 people, proving the growing appetite for risk reduction stories and information.

ENHANCING VISIBILITY OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION THROUGH GLOBAL ADVOCACY

Awareness of disaster risk reduction through global events for behavioural change

Opportunities to create awareness of disaster risk reduction, featuring the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and other senior UNDRR staff included, in chronological order, the UN Human Rights Council, IDF at the Bank of England, the UN Environment Assembly, the Resilient Cities 2019 Congress, the World Reconstruction Conference 4, GP2019, the Second Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference, the launch of ARISE-India, the 2nd International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, the seventy-fifth session of UN ESCAP, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development,

the Climate Action Summit, the Fourth Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters of the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters, the Financial Times Mozambique Summit on Resilient Infrastructure and Disaster Risk Reduction, the High-level Panel on International Day of Persons with Disabilities and COP 25. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction proactively engaged with youth across all events, including during visits to China, Japan, Kenya and Mozambique, giving lectures at universities with programmes related to disaster risk reduction.

³² Target (d): "Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through development of their resilience by 2030."

Global advocacy campaigns

IDDRR and WTAD were linked to Sendai Framework Target (d). A common hashtag with a clear message, #BuildToLast, was created for both days. The campaigns were linked to UNDRR promotion of the development and launch of CDRI and the development of national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction by 2020. They were supported by targeted content production (film and photography) and visits to key locations where there is a visible dependence on critical infrastructure. The themes of inclusion and displacement were also explored through visits by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction to Kenya and Mozambique – countries that are regularly confronted with a range of natural hazards.

The damage to Mozambique's infrastructure was captured in a series of videos, including one focused on a school that survived Cyclone Idai as a result of being compliant with cyclone-resistant standards set by UN-Habitat. UNDRR also organized field visits to profile other areas affected by disasters, including: Bangladesh, where protecting critical infrastructure and the exposure to cyclones of the forcibly displaced Rohingya population is a constant global concern; the Caribbean island of Barbuda where the entire population was forced to evacuate during the highly active 2017 Atlantic hurricane season; and Nepal, four years after the 2015 earthquake that left 3 million people homeless.

Disaster risk reduction champions, actors and initiatives

Throughout the year, the voices of actors at national and local levels were heard across all communication channels open to UNDRR. Most memorably, these included diverse actors who were recognized for driving innovation and change in disaster risk reduction, the three laureates of the 2019 United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction – the Department of Civil Defense of Campinas (Brazil), the Mahila Housing SEWA Trust (India) and Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra (Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India) – as well as the University of Dundee (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Resilience Solution (Bangladesh), which received the RISK Award sponsored by Munich Re.

Social media assets profiled on UNDRR Twitter and Facebook channels highlighted the perspective of diverse influential leaders on disaster risk reduction, including: Ahmadul Haque, Head, Cyclone Preparedness Programme, Bangladesh; Amod Dixit, Founder, National Society for Earthquake Technology, Nepal; António Guterres, Secretary-General; Doris Ombara, City Manager of Kisumu, Kenya; Professor Fumihiko Imamura, tsunami expert, Japan; Kamal Kishore, Member, National Disaster Management Authority, India; Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India; Petra Němcová, tsunami survivor and UNDRR Tsunami Awareness champion; and Ronald Jackson, Executive Director, CDEMA.

Increasing reach and public engagement in disaster risk reduction through communication, media and marketing

A major area of focus during 2019 was content production to populate UNDRR social media channels, to improve reach and engagement. These ranged from the Secretary-General's IDDRR message, public service announcements for international days, and campaign film packages on Bangladesh, the Caribbean, Japan (tsunami risk) and Mozambique, which contributed to successfully increasing UNDRR followers on social media channels by more than 10 per cent compared to 2018.

The presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction on social media (Twitter) grew considerably during 2019. The number of followers increased from 4,700 to 7,030 and the account's audience reach grew to 1.4 million. The 2018 monthly record of 74,000 impressions (potential audience) was exceeded in 9 out of 12 months in 2019. The high-level appearances

of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, speeches, opinion pieces and press releases helped fuel UNDRR overall audience growth (e.g. UNDRR followers on Twitter rose from 61,000 to 68,300). When combined with the UNDRR PreventionWeb Twitter account, these three Twitter channels had a total outreach of 10.5 million. UNDRR Facebook followers rose from 21,300 in 2018 to 26,500 in 2019. The independent media tracking company, Meltwater, logged 6,500 pieces of online coverage mentioning UNDRR. Notable peaks occurred during GP2019 and during the weeks of IDDRR and WTAD.

PreventionWeb,³³ the world's only disaster risk reduction knowledge platform, increased followers from an average of 80,000 per month in 2018 to 92,000 per month in 2019, reaching more than 1.1 million unique users during 2019.

³³ UNDRR, "PreventionWeb, The knowledge platform for disaster risk reduction". Available at www.preventionweb.net.



PROMOTING EFFECTIVE LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

Knowledge management to broaden reach

UNDRR rebranded in 2019, aligning its acronym with its name and purpose. The rebrand was applied across all communication and external facing outputs, and a range of internal quality tools were released to staff to encourage brand consistency.

Following recommendations of a technical audit conducted in 2018, UNDRR initiated the migration of its digital properties to a new content management system in line with UN standards. The new platform will ensure technology, architecture and brand consistency across all websites. The websites will be deployed on the new platform in 2020.

Guidance and tools

The WiA series of guides provides practical guidance to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, ensure engagement and ownership of action by all stakeholders, and strengthen accountability in disaster risk reduction.³⁴ In 2019, as part of a recently developed strategy to maximize long-term WiA impact, UNDRR produced a new design and structure for the guides to make them as accessible as possible across a range of digital channels.

THREE WIA GUIDES WERE LAUNCHED IN 2019:

Developing National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies, which is now being used intensively by UNDRR regional offices to organize Member State consultations to guide and support the development of their national disaster risk reduction strategies. National Sendai Framework Focal Points are also using the guide to help achieve Sendai Framework Target (e).

Disaster Displacement: How to Reduce Risk, Address Impacts and Strengthen Resilience tackles the complex realities of displacement as a result of disaster. Several partner organizations are using this guide in their regional and country programmes, and translations into Arabic, French and Spanish are under way.

Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Strategies builds on lessons learned from the MCR Campaign and is intended to inspire and guide local governments to create effective local resilience strategies.

The following WiA guides have gone through a public review process on UNDRR PreventionWeb and are to be published in 2020:

Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response targets emergency managers, relevant government officials and other actors working to enhance risk-informed disaster preparedness within and across sectors, and at all administrative levels in a country. The guide will have an annex, Design and Conduct of Simulation Exercises (SIMEX).

On the Frontline of Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience: Children and Youth Engagement Guide for Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 addresses children and youth under 30 years of age, who currently make up more than half the world's population.

The Implementation Guide for Land Use and Urban Planning provides guidance for urban planners on how to incorporate disaster risk reduction and resilience into urban planning decisions.

Work on the WiA guide **Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation** has led to an initiative to broaden cooperation between UNDRR and UNECE to mutually support and complement disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation awareness. UNECE is proactively using the WiA guide when hosting training seminars and providing advice to countries, and has produced a project proposal to collaborate with UNDRR to scale up this work across countries.

34 UNDRR, "Words into action". Available at <https://www.preventionweb.net/sendai-framework/wordsintoaction>.

ENABLER

2

Strengthened organizational
performance

In 2019, reforms across the UN Secretariat introduced new measures such as a new delegation of authority that strengthened accountability and increased UNDRR capacity to make timely decisions. The first senior manager compact between the Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction emphasized the strategic importance of the UNDRR mandate.

UNDRR enhanced its business processes, related operating procedures and templates, which resulted in increased operational accountability and performance. The increased support and training for staff at all levels of administration and new monitoring tools ensured results-driven administrative decisions.

ENHANCING EFFECTIVENESS, EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY OF OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Work programme delivery

UNDRR revised its programme planning, monitoring and reporting processes. Improved alignment of programmatic priorities and financial decision-making facilitated timely action and increased internal coordination in programme delivery.

New planning templates were rolled out, enabling UNDRR to more effectively link project deliverables to the strategic objectives of the work programme. The Programme Management Oversight Committee continued to be a robust internal review mechanism that has enhanced the quality, impact and alignment of UNDRR projects with the organization's strategic objectives and work programme.

To prepare the organization for the UN Decade of Action, the UNDRR work programme for 2020–2021³⁵ was developed following extensive internal and external consultations. The work programme is closely aligned with the UN Annual Budget Fascicle for 2020 and supports timely adjustments to the expected accomplishments relative to the anticipated extrabudgetary resources.

Financial management

Frequent financial reports were shared with UNDRR programme managers in 2019, to ensure strengthened tracking of expenditures against projects deliverables and funding levels. Internal training for programme managers in UNDRR regional offices ensured that these reports were used as effective decision-making tools linked to operational priorities.

UNDRR invested in an enhanced accounting structure to support more efficient and transparent results-based budgeting and management. The new system more accurately links expenditures to UNDRR strategic objectives. It will allow UNDRR to enhance the quality and efficiency of its financial monitoring in relation to the organization's work programme as well as accountability to donors and partners. The new accounting system became effective for all projects as of 1 January 2020.

35 UNDRR, *UNDRR Work Programme 2020-2021* (Geneva, UNDRR, 2019). Available at https://www.unisdr.org/files/68235_undrrworkprogramme20202021.pdf.

UNDRR OFFICES AND PRESENCES



1. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
2. The maps used reflect the Member and Observer States self-defined geographic coverage for the purpose of reporting to the Sendai Framework Monitor.

Human resources

UNDRR maintained its strong focus on performance management and staff development to improve organizational performance. The evaluation of the 2018–2019 staff development strategy will inform the UNDRR 2020–2021 staff development and learning strategy.

UNDRR developed and shared an analysis of key performance indicators on a quarterly basis to inform senior management's strategic human resources decisions. The organization also ensured gender parity at all levels, including at senior levels. An action plan to enhance geographic diversity was developed and will be rolled out in 2020.

Standard operating procedures for key human resources processes were developed and implemented, and a human resource learning programme is ongoing to build the capacity of newly recruited colleagues including Junior Professional Officers.

Administration planning, management and monitoring

UNDRR works with a range of partners to leverage their technical expertise and country presence. In 2019, UNDRR reviewed and released 16 grants to partner organizations in support of the implementation of the UNDRR work programme for a total amount of \$2.3 million. All grants were screened in compliance with UNDRR standards before approval. Implementation of the grantees' projects was closely monitored in line with the UNDRR results framework.

In 2019, the UN Secretariat started preparatory steps for the issuance of a Statement on Internal Control for 2020 operations by early 2021. This statement is a voluntary public accountability document that describes the effectiveness of internal controls within an organization. As part of this process, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction will be providing the Secretary-General with a self-assessment of the internal controls in place at UNDRR.

Key issues highlighted in the UNDRR Risk Register continued to be closely monitored.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

UNDRR remains predominantly funded through voluntary contributions, with over 99 per cent of its resources being from extrabudgetary sources and less than 1 per cent from the UN Regular Budget. UNDRR therefore focused on raising adequate, flexible and predictable financial resources to ensure effective implementation of the work programme.³⁶

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Efforts to mobilize financial resources for UNDRR resulted in \$76.8 million³⁷ being received by UNDRR during the 2018–2019 biennium, of which \$36 million was available for implementation in 2019. By the end of 2019, approximately \$15.6 million was pledged for implementation in 2020 onwards.

The flexible nature of unearmarked core funding is particularly important to UNDRR, given the organization's reliance on extrabudgetary funding support. Core funding significantly reduces transaction costs related to contributions and allows for forward planning. It also allows the organization to initiate implementation of essential activities that may later be funded by earmarked contributions, enabling the organization to focus on ensuring effective operational delivery, strategic results and long-term impact. Some of the UNDRR key partners are not able to provide unearmarked core support, but are able to provide welcomed flexibility by pledging their support as softly earmarked contributions. The donor community continued to indicate strong support for UNDRR, and its confidence translated into UNDRR receiving 62 per cent of the funds available for implementation in 2019 as flexible support,

of which 45 per cent was unearmarked core support and 17 per cent was softly earmarked support.

Most of the funding available for 2019 was part of multi-year funding agreements. As such, it provided valuable predictability and a reliable cash flow, which allowed for a high implementation rate. In 2019, out of the \$36 million available for implementation, UNDRR spent \$33.5 million, achieving a 93 per cent implementation rate. The results achieved are elaborated in Annex I, Progress Against Output Indicators, of this Annual Report, which is available online and provides a systematic account of the achievements for 2019.

Through regular financial and programmatic reports, consultations and donor meetings, UNDRR ensured accountability to its donors. Two donor meetings were held in 2019 to brief on progress against strategic priorities outlined in the UNDRR work programme and related funding requirements. In addition to maintaining strong relationships with key donors, UNDRR continued its work to achieve a truly global and diversified donor base. New donors came on board, and some previous donors returned in 2019³⁸.

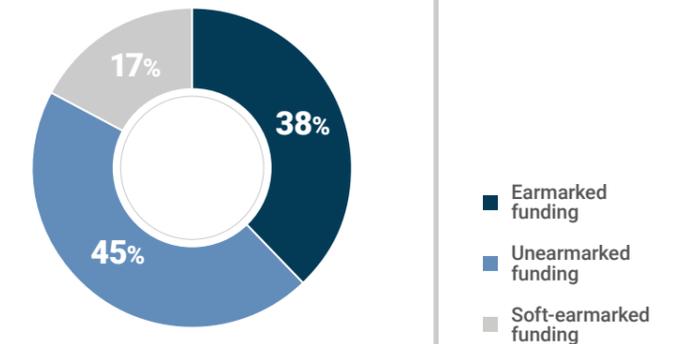
³⁶ The financial information in this section is based on contributions received by UNDRR.

³⁷ This amount includes the contributions received from donors in 2019. It also included 2019 contributions from Czechia and Spain, which were received at the beginning of 2020.

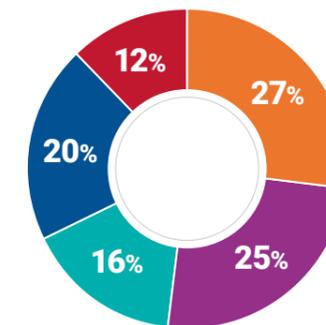
³⁸ China, IDF, New Zealand, the Philippines, Spain, UNDP, United Kingdom Research and Innovation and UN Women.

UNDRR values advocacy for disaster risk reduction, integration of a risk perspective and adoption of a risk-informed approach. The generous support and close collaboration of Switzerland helped to ensure a successful outcome of GP2019. In-kind contributions also remained an important source of support for UNDRR. During the course of 2019, the Governments of Italy, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America provided a total of five Junior Professional Officers, and the Government of France provided one fully funded UN Volunteer. Working for UNDRR gives young professionals opportunities to engage with diverse global stakeholders at the policy and operational level and to contribute to a broad agenda that is delivering results and providing long-term impact.

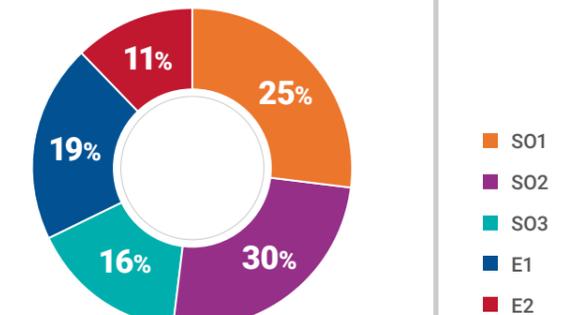
2019 INCOME BREAKDOWN



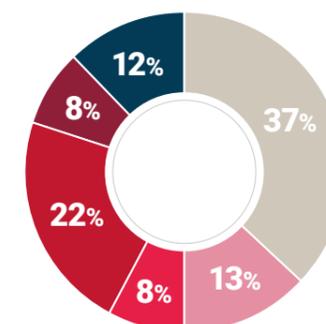
2019 WORK PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



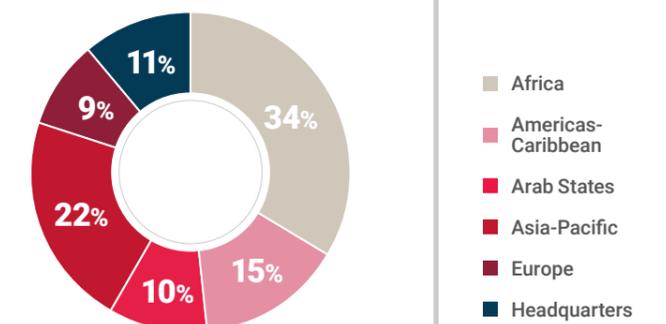
2018 – 2019 WORK PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



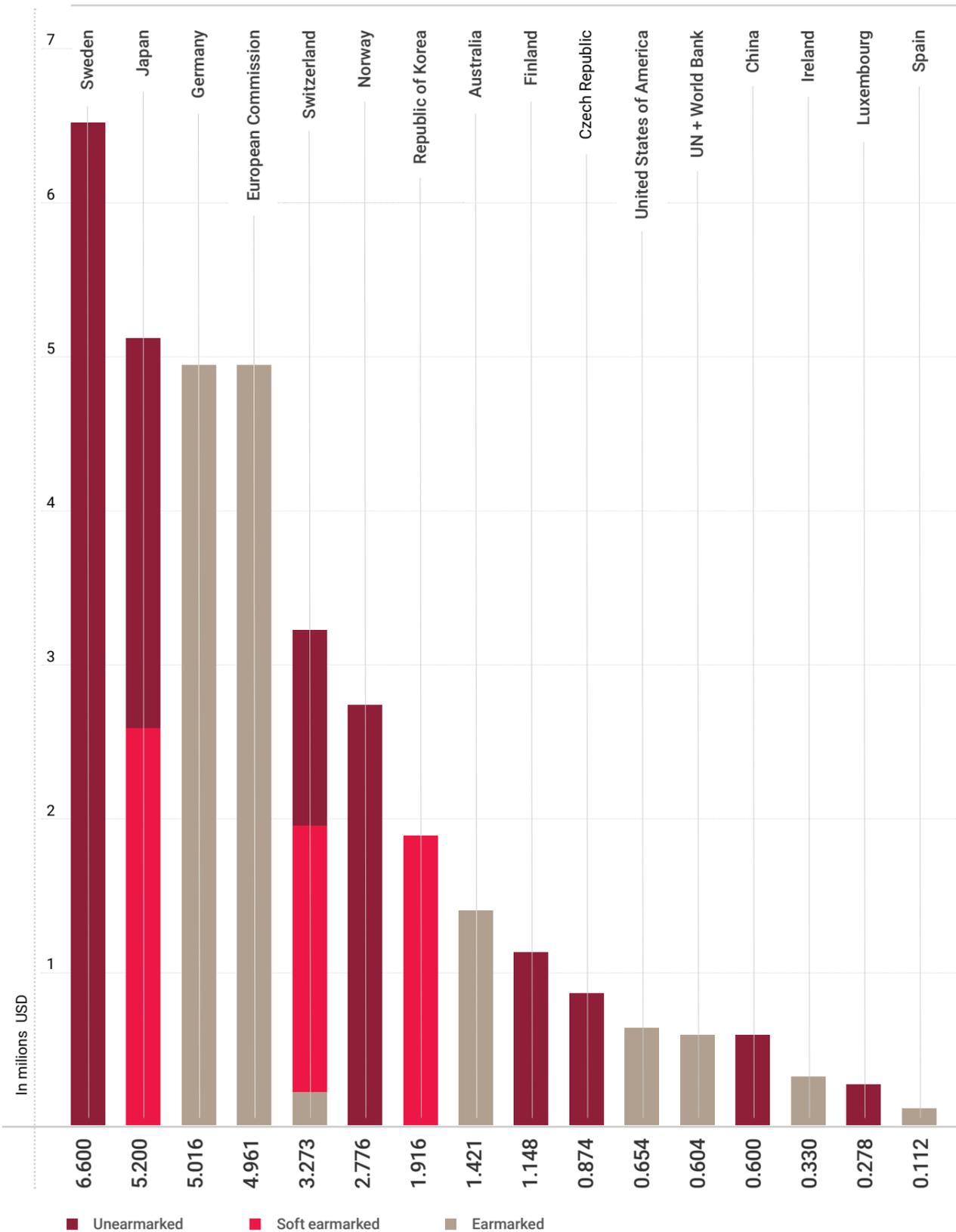
2019 EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN BY REGION



2018 – 2019 EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN BY REGION



TOP 2019 DONORS TO UNDRR (IN MILLION USD)



1 Earmarked contribution
 2 Unearmarked contribution
 3 Soft-earmarked contribution
 4 Combination of unearmarked and soft-earmarked contribution
 5 Combination of earmarked, unearmarked and soft-earmarked contribution
 6 Earmarked contributions from two Directorate Generals (DEVCO and ECHO)
Note: IPSAS compliant audited financial statements will be published upon availability on: <https://www.undrr.org/about-undrr/funding>

UNDRR 2018-2019 DONORS

GOVERNMENTS	2018	2019	BIENNIUM TOTAL
Argentina ¹	25,000		25,000
Australia ¹	1,682,718	1,420,944	3,103,662
China ²		599,980	599,980
Cyprus ¹	11,377		11,377
Czech Republic ²	127,873	873,744	1,001,617
Finland ²	1,207,729	1,148,106	2,355,835
France ²	11,968	11,177	23,145
Germany ¹	5,211,300	5,015,866	10,227,166
Ireland ²	582,751	330,033	912,784
Japan ⁴	7,203,382	5,200,218	12,403,600
Kazakhstan ³	100,000	10,000	110,000
Republic of Korea ¹	2,399,980	1,916,268	4,316,248
Luxembourg ²	310,559	278,087	588,646
New Zealand ¹		37,239	37,239
Norway ²	1,618,225	2,775,783	4,394,008
Philippines ²		2,500	2,500
Spain ¹		111,607	111,607
Sweden ²	8,224,725	6,599,934	14,824,659
Switzerland ⁵	2,782,543	3,273,312	6,055,856
United States of America ¹	1,512,653	654,330	2,166,983
SUB-TOTAL	33,012,783	30,259,129	63,271,912
OTHER INSTITUTIONS			
European Commission ⁶	6,819,187	4,961,155	11,780,341
UKRI ¹		65,445	65,445
World Bank ¹	471,000	427,310	898,310
ESCWA ¹	16,667		16,667
Human Security Trust Fund ¹	335,215		335,215
UNDP ¹		103,680	103,680
UNWomen ¹		72,770	72,770
SUB-TOTAL	7,642,069	5,630,360	13,272,428
PRIVATE SECTOR			
Enel Foundation ²	39,773		39,773
IDF ²		5,000	5,000
UPS Foundation ⁴	60,000	70,000	130,000
Willis ¹	36,800		36,800
SUB-TOTAL	136,573	75,000	211,573
GRAND TOTAL	40,791,424	35,964,489	76,755,913



**United Nations Office
for Disaster Risk Reduction**

9-11 Rue de Varembé
CH 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Telephone: +41(0)22 917 89 07-8

E-mail: undrr@un.org

Website: www.undrr.org