

Disaster Risk Reduction: The United Nations System

7 September 2015

Uniting Nations, People and Action for Resilience



"The UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience commits the UN to scaling up our capacity building efforts. We will also make the best use of our resources. And we will emphasize the importance of disaster risk across our policies."

Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General

Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations

The UN has committed to address disaster and climate risk throughout all of its development and humanitarian work.

The UN system has committed to:

- Make disaster risk reduction a priority for UN system organizations;
- Ensure timely, coordinated and high quality assistance to all countries where disaster losses pose a threat to people's health and development; and
- Ensure disaster risk reduction for resilience is central to post-2015 development agenda

The contributions that drive the UN system's support to countries and communities to implement the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030** are found in the **UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience**. The UN Plan of Action was approved by the UN Secretary-General and its Executive Heads through the UN's Chief Executives Board for Coordination in April 2013. The UN's commitment was reiterated at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction at Sendai in March 2015. The UN Plan of Action is being revised to further align with the post-2015 development agenda.

UN Role and Scale of Operations

The UN is one of the world's largest multilateral development partners, channelling 17% of total official development assistance.

The UN is leading efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction into key sectors such as agriculture, health, tourism and water.

The UN contributes to:

- ✓ Building national, regional and local/cities capacities for disaster risk reduction in support of development and disaster recovery efforts;
- ✓ Undertakes research, produce earth observations on and monitors hazards, exposure and vulnerability;
- ✓ Generates weather and seasonal predictions to support preparedness and early warning systems; and
- ✓ Sets norms, manages awareness campaigns, addresses underlying risk factors, and makes risk informed investments.

29 specialized organizations in the UN system contribute with their respective expertise, networks

and resources to the reduction of disaster risk and collaborate to deliver as one at the global, regional and country level.

Information on service and support available on disaster risk reduction across the UN system is regularly compiled by UNISDR and available on www.unisdr.org/united nations.

13 UN organizations have prioritized disaster risk reduction in their 2014-2017 strategic work plans and included disaster risk reduction in their results-based monitoring frameworks. This represents a 70% increase in comparison with the previous work planning cycle.

A review carried out in 2013 found that 50 of 56 country's development assistance frameworks (UNDAFs) published since 2009 prioritized disaster and climate risk reduction. In terms of trends, in 2014, 79% of published UNDAFs integrated disaster and climate risk.

Moving forward, over 80 countries will be determining the further focus and priorities of their development support to countries through the UNDAFs over the next three years.



About UNISDR: UNISDR is the UN office dedicated to disaster risk reduction. It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction and supports implementation of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*.

Coherence and Coordinated Action

In 2014, more than 70% of countries with UN programmes implemented all or some pillars of the **Delivering as One** approach. This approach gives the UN a more holistic capacity to address complex issues such as disaster risk reduction at the country level.

UN Resident Coordinators ensure that disaster risk reduction is effectively incorporated in the country-level programming and regularly report on progress. In countries where a disaster risk reduction advisor was deployed to support the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the UN provided more coherent and effective support to the national and local authorities.

The pooling of capacities within UN Country Teams and the strengthening of regional inter-agency cooperation on disaster risk reduction are proving to be effective, particularly when these efforts are framed by regional intergovernmental policies and institutions.

The work of the UN Regional Commissions, Regional UN Development Groups supported by Regional Offices of UNISDR, is contributing to more effective and aligned assistance to countries.

UNISDR is strongly committed to UN coherence and its primary objective to achieve sustainable results in an effective and efficient way.

UNISDR is the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and ensures synergy among the disaster reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations (UN General Assembly resolution 56/195).

The UN High-level Committee on Programmes promotes system-wide cooperation, coordination and knowledge sharing across UN system organizations. The UN High Level Committee on Programmes Senior management Group on Disaster Risk Reduction supports the roll-out of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, reviews progress against the UN Plan of Action and reviews effectiveness of the UN Plan of Action implementation and delivery.

Accountability and Reporting

UN organizations have increased their accountability by adopting a single set of indicators to measure progress as they accelerate and mainstream disaster risk reduction into their operations.

The indicators include minimum requirements for agencies to report on the extent to which disaster risk reduction is integrated in:

- Work plans;
- Strategic frameworks; and
- Governing body agendas and agencies own result based management systems.

The UN reports on its progress and impact of its work in countries in implementing disaster risk reduction in its annual Secretary-General Report to the UN General Assembly on the topic and against the UNs Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) which monitors the UN systems' operational development work.

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Key Documents



[Information on roles and mandates and services by UN partners \(UNISDR, 2013\)](#)



[Publication on the impact of UN's effort to mainstream disaster risk reduction \(UNISDR, 2015\)](#)



[Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience \(UNCEB, 2013\)](#)



[Indicators for Measuring the Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction in UN Programming \(UNISDR, 2015\)](#)



[CEB Statement to the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction \(UNCED, 2015\)](#)

- ❖ <http://www.unisdr.org/partners/united-nations> provides information about the UN and disaster risk reduction and the coordination activities of UNISDR.

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