



COHERENT ACTION BY THE UN SYSTEM TO REDUCE DISASTER RISK AND BUILD RESILIENCE

This background note describes areas of work for the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to enhance the focus on disaster risk reduction and resilience across the UN system.

1. Follow up to Rio+20: consultations on sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda.

UNISDR will be actively engaged in helping to shape the post-2015 development agenda over the coming years. The aim will be to identify disaster and climate risks as major threats to achieving sustainable development, and to integrate actions for mitigating the impact of disasters (i.e. disaster risk reduction) in the process of developing sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. The process of articulating a post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals will be led by Member States. DESA and UNDP will convene the UN system in support of the process. UNISDR will help ensure the inclusion of disaster risk reduction and resilience in this agenda.

Main outputs:

- A discussion paper with practical suggestions on how to integrate disaster risk reduction and resilience as a key dynamic of sustainable development to be presented at the Global Platform Forth Session, May 2013. This will build on the Thematic Think Piece '*Disaster Risk and Resilience*' produced by UNISDR and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for the UN System Task Team on the post-2015 Development Agenda for Rio+20.
- Continued engagement with Member States on opportunities to protect development investments through disaster risk management, drawing on country experiences and evidence. Disaster risk reduction platforms at regional and global level will be used to consolidate inputs, examples and advocacy.
- The biennial Global Assessment Report includes contributions from UN Country Teams and UN organizations highlighting their experience in disaster risk reduction and building resilience. The Global Assessment Report 2015 is planning to consolidate evidence of work on disaster risk reduction and resilience over ten years of the *Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015*.
- UNDP and UNISDR will organize discussions and a report around disasters and conflicts to feed into the post-2015 development agenda process. The report will be published at the

Global Platform in May 2013 and feed into the Report of the UN Secretary General on the post-2015 Development Agenda Consultations, June 2013.

2. Development of a UN system-wide Action Plan on disaster risk reduction and resilience

The UN system, through its principle coordinating bodies - the Chief Executive Board (CEB) chaired by the Secretary-General and the High-Level Committee on Programs (HLCP) – is reviewing its work on disaster risk reduction and resilience for the post-2015 agenda. The HLCP has requested the SRSR for Disaster Risk Reduction and UNISDR to lead the process.

The aim is to embed and strengthen disaster risk reduction in UN policies and programs in order to support global, regional and country level action. Commitments will be generated from UN agencies, funds and programs, and articulated in a UN system-wide Action Plan (or Compact) on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience.

Main Output:

- UN system-wide Action Plan finalized in the second quarter of 2013, and endorsed by the CEB by end 2013.

3. Integration of disaster risk reduction into UN country level operations.

Guidance Notes for the integration of disaster risk reduction into UN country programs were developed by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and approved in 2008. UNISDR is providing support directly to UN Resident Coordinators to help them to coordinate UN agencies around disaster risk reduction, and deliver in line with the priorities of host countries. UNISDR is also seeking to ensure that disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation feature in UNDAFs, as well as provide technical support and coordination advice.

The SRSR through country visits and engagement with the UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams mobilizes support for national DRR coordination mechanisms, ensures reporting and follow up around HFA monitoring, and engages with a wide array of stakeholder groups (including Government, NGOs, local communities, the private sector, and parliamentarians). The SRSR continuously advocates for safe schools, safe hospitals and resilient cities; enhanced government capacity to prevent, manage and respond effectively to disasters; and for the integration of disaster risk reduction across into sectors.

As part of the process of developing the UN system-wide Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, simplified procedures for country level support will be designed. These will ensure better alignment of UN support with Government priorities, development of common country risk assessment approaches, and concerted programming and monitoring of progress. Cooperation with the UN staff college and its outreach to UN Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams and managers in the UN system will ensure that disaster risk reduction will be better understood and used as an effective instrument to build and strengthen community and

national resilience.

The UN system plays a lead role in efforts to improve aid effectiveness. The Busan meeting in December 2011 underscored the importance of disaster risk reduction to protect development gains. The Busan Declaration explicitly mentioned the need to increase investment in disaster risk reduction and resilience. UNISDR is pursuing this commitment, especially through its work with OECD and the World Bank to strengthen systems and methods for tracking investments in disaster risk reduction

Main Outputs:

- Stock take and Baseline Study by UNISDR on integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change into UNDAFs. The study will review progress and examples of effective integration of disaster risk and climate change into UNDAFs.
- Ongoing support to integrate disaster risk reduction into National Adaptation Plans, building on scientific findings as well as the implementation frames elaborated in the COP UNFCCC processes.

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