

Making the SDGs sustainable and resilient

Disasters and Resilience in the Zero Draft rev 1

The first revision of the Zero Draft, released on 30 June, retains key disaster and resilience targets that reflect the importance and support states are giving to this area. The challenge remains to retain the right combination and coverage of targets across the goal framework and ensure evolving wording provides the right balance of policy outcomes to build resilience and reduce the impacts of disasters, particularly for the poorest people.

This short brief outlines several amendments to existing language and proposes a new target to support better coordination between the humanitarian and development sectors.

Amendments required

Revise Target 11.4 under Cities and Human Settlements. This is an important new target. It is a strong outcome-based target, but the language needs to be nuanced to make it more effective.

- ✘ Current 11.4: By 2030 halve the number of deaths and decrease by 50% economic losses relative to GDP caused by natural disaster
- ✓ Our proposed 11.4: ***By 2030 reduce disaster risk and social, household, physical and economic losses related to disasters by x%***

It is well-recognised that mortality is not a good indicator for disaster losses, and not a good proxy for disaster impacts at the human level, so we have introduced a broader spectrum of losses. As well as losses – which are entirely backward-looking and dependent on hazards - this target also includes an objective of reducing disaster risk which looks to future losses and will require an anticipatory approach to reducing vulnerability.ⁱ

Revise Goal 9 on Infrastructure and Industrialisation. Infrastructure is now included in the goal title, but ‘resilient’ should be added.

- ✘ Current Goal 9: Promote sustainable Infrastructure and industrialisation and foster innovation
- ✓ Our proposed Goal 9: Promote ***resilient*** infrastructure, sustainable industrialisation and innovation.

The word ‘sustainable’ is not particularly meaningful in relation to infrastructure; the word ‘resilient,’ being able to withstand shocks and stresses, is more relevant.

Revise Target 9.1 under Infrastructure and Industrialisation. This target is helpful but misses key infrastructure that is crucial to reduce disaster risk.

- ✘ Current 9.1: support the development of quality, reliable, safe, sustainable and resilient infrastructure for energy, water, waste management, transport, ports and ICT, with a focus on affordable access for all
- ✓ Our proposed 9.1: support the development of quality, reliable, safe, sustainable and resilient infrastructure for energy, water, waste management, transport, ports, ICT, ***healthcare, education and public buildings***, with a focus on affordable access for all

It is imperative to have high quality, reliable resilient health and education infrastructure to achieve goals 3 and 4 (note that there are no targets under the health goal in relation to healthcare infrastructure; targets 4.a and 4.c touch on educational facilities, but do not specify *resilient* infrastructure).

Additions required

Add new target 17.14bis under Means of Implementation. A new target is required on Global Partnerships to support better coordination between humanitarian and development actors.

- ✓ Our proposed 17.14bis: ***encourage and promote more integrated partnerships and collaboration between humanitarian and development actors, building national and local capacity to manage shocks and stresses and better coordinate emergency response and prevention work with sustainable development.***

Development gains can be undermined through crises and shocks, many of which are on the rise. Better integration of development and humanitarian work, and stronger partnerships between different actors, at all levels, are crucial to ensure development is sustainable and resilient.

Incorporating the impact of shocks in the chapeau The impact of shocks and stresses needs to be reflected in the chapeau as, if left unchecked, they are a fundamental barrier to the achievement of the SDGs. We suggest new language, taken from paragraph 178 of *The Future we Want*, to be inserted in the ninth paragraph.

- ✓ We recognize that each country faces specific challenges to achieve sustainable development, and we underscore the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing the middle-income countries. ***These challenges may include exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks, including to a large range of impacts from climate change and potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters.*** Countries in situations of conflict also need special attention.

Existing other references to DRR and resilience to be retained

1.3: by 2030, implement nationally appropriate social protection measures including floors, with a focus on coverage of the poor and people in vulnerable situations

1.5: by 2030 build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations to disasters, shocks and climate-related extreme events

2.4: by 2030 implement sustainable and resilient agricultural practices including for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought and disasters, and progressively enhance soil quality

6.6: by 2030 decrease by x% mortality and y% losses caused by water-related disasters

11.b: by 2020 increase by x% the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resilience, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and natural disasters

13.1: strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate induced hazards and natural disasters in all countries

13.3: improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, impact reduction, and early warning

15.3 by 2030 achieve a land degradation neutral world, and restore degraded land including land affected by desertification and drought

ⁱ Indicators would be:

- Social losses – numbers of people killed, injured, displaced; working days lost (to represent impact on livelihoods); and school days lost (to represent longer-term impact on poverty);
- Economic losses – direct economic losses as percentage of GDP (using actual and modelled data);
- Household losses - Loss of poor people's household assets as percentage of household income (using actual and modelled data);
- Physical losses – damage to housing and public infrastructure
- Disaster risk – a composite of hazard x exposure x vulnerability, using models or indices