

# **DRAFT 11 as of 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016**

## **UNISDR** **Words into Action Guidelines**

On:

- National Focal Points for Disaster Risk Reduction
- National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction and
- Local Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction

This guide is an effort from the international DRR Community brokered by UNISDR

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**UNISDR**  
**Words into Action**  
**Guidelines**

**National Focal Points for Disaster Risk Reduction**

**National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction and**

**Local Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction**

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## Preface

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted by the UN Member States in 2015, is designed to reduce existing levels of risk and prevent new risks from emerging. In particular, it aims at substantially reducing 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. The risks addressed by Sendai Framework are related to both natural and man-made hazards, small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow onset disasters.

The Sendai Framework recognizes that the State has the primary role in reducing disaster risk. That responsibility should however be shared with all stakeholders, including local governments and the private sector.

The coordination of disaster risk reduction actions at all levels can be more effective when led and underpinned by national platforms for disaster risk reduction. In turn, the national platforms should aim to mainstream disaster risk reduction considerations into all aspects of the daily functioning of relevant institutions in a multi-stakeholder approach.

Disasters know no borders. Climate change and rapid urbanization are adding to the mix of existing risks such as poverty, poor governance, poor land use, exclusion, environmental degradation and human rights issues. Based on scientific evidence and practical knowledge, properly applied disaster risk reduction supports resilience and economic growth. Accordingly, this can alleviate societal tensions, limit the likelihood of conflicts and mitigate the impact of hazards on society.

The Sendai Framework includes the guiding principle “Disaster risk reduction requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership. It also requires empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation, paying special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest.” In that way, embedding disaster risk reduction and making it a part of the very culture of governance and daily work is key to the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals.

While the world has made some progress on reducing human losses due to disasters, there is still a long road ahead of us in avoiding the creation of new risk and reducing existing ones for the generations to come.

Robert Glasser  
Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR

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## Introduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction charts the global course in disaster risk reduction (DRR) from 2015 to 2030. During the consultations and negotiations that led to its finalisation, strong calls were made to develop practical guidance. This would support implementation, ensure engagement and ownership of action by all stakeholders, as well as strengthen accountability in DRR.

As a result, paragraph 48 (c) of the Sendai Framework calls upon “the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), in particular, to support the implementation, follow-up and review of this framework”. The support would be carried out by “generating evidence-based and practical guidance for implementation”. This could happen through “close collaboration with States, and through mobilisation of experts; reinforcing a culture of prevention in relevant stakeholders [...]”.

This Words into Action (WiA) guide aims to support the above process by providing practical guidance on how to implement the Sendai Framework. The guide also intends to ensure worldwide access to expertise, communities of practice, as well as professional networks. The different WiA guides may focus on a specific sector or stakeholder group.

Mindful that the guides should support the Sendai Framework implementation, they are meant to facilitate access to essential basic thematic information. In addition, they provide clear advice and references that will help to get a good and thorough grasp of the subject covered. There is also a need to understand the overall context in which the main subject is embedded. The guides offer specific advice on the steps suggested to implement a feasible and people-centered approach in accordance with the Sendai Framework. Of note, the guides are not meant to be exhaustive handbooks that will cover each detail in depth. Those who need in-depth information will find pointers to other sources of a more specialised and detailed nature, in addition to the annexes which contain further resources and examples.

In short, the WiA guides are pragmatic roadmaps to programming an effective implementation strategy. This is facilitated by promoting a good understanding of the main issues, obstacles, solution finding strategies, resourcing and aspects for efficient planning.

The overall WiA strategy envisages three main outputs:

- Guidelines, which really are to-the-point and practical how-to-do handbooks, readily accessible for local and in-the-field use, both printed and online
- 'How-to-do DRR' packages, maintained online and up-to-date, validated and co-curated by communities on PreventionWeb
- Information-sharing workspaces and on-line discussion forums, to provide support for communities of practice and professional networks

To summarise, the overall objective of the WiA guides is to help engage the DRR community with timely, relevant and useful data and knowledge. The wealth of cutting edge information and resources is brought together through systematised and analytical knowledge management of information. This is generated by valid and recognised sources both online and through inter-agency coordination.

## Guideline on National Focal Points, National Platforms and Local Platforms

This document provides guidance on National Focal Points for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and on the establishment or strengthening of National and Local Platforms for DRR. It also describes the link between Local, National, Regional and Global Platforms for DRR.

To this end, the guide is comprised of the following sections: (i) Introduction to the Guideline and the Sendai Framework for Action; (ii) National Focal Points for DRR; (iii) National Platform for DRR; (iv) Case studies for National Platforms; (v) Local Platforms; (vi) Case studies for Local Platforms; (vii) Regional and Global Platforms for DRR; (viii) “Other”; (ix) Annex.

National and Local Platforms for DRR are recognised in the Sendai Framework as key players to achieve a coordinated implementation of DRR strategies, plans and actions. Within the Regional Platforms and the Global Platform for DRR, the National Focal Point and National Platform are seen as important coordinating institutional participants and contributors.

It is important to bear in mind that the stakeholders and various actors/sectors at local/sub-national and national levels are the main implementers of DRR. This means taking practical action and mapping risks, avoiding the creation of new risks (for instance in land use planning) and implementing the Sendai framework through legislation, financing programs, policies and programs. The platforms have a crucial role in coordinating strategies, policies, actions, reporting etc. to ensure a more coherent implementation.

Learning from previous success in DRR, the Sendai Framework now includes the role of designated National Focal Points. These Focal Points are responsible for leading the coordinated implementation of the Framework, following up and reporting on progress. Often the Focal Point ministry or government agency has to perform these duties in addition to its regular function.

Based on previous UNISDR guidelines on national platforms, this guide has been developed by a special working group with skilled persons nominated upon UNISDR request to contribute with their knowledge and practical experiences. It has included inputs from a group of government officials from countries with designated National Focal Points, National Platforms and Local Platforms for DRR. The working group was also based on a review of the literature on the progress and challenges in developing the platforms in different countries.

### Who is this guide for?

The guideline is for organisations or personnel, having the responsibility to act as the National Focal Point or to set up, maintain and sustain a national or local platform for DRR. It is also for those who participate in national or local platforms.

National and Local Platforms aim to involve government officials, members of civil society, the private sector and the NGO community, as well as representatives of present international organizations and donors. It is also anticipated that the Platforms will include members of the communities that are at risk. With a wide participation from society reflecting the multi stakeholders approach of DRR.

### Background

The systematic reduction of the increased impact of disasters is an urgent need. Recognition and commitment among governments worldwide are increasing, in parallel to people affected, lives lost and assets destroyed. Costs, directly or indirectly related to disasters, are expected to increase due to their inter-dependencies, urbanisation and the growing complexity of societies. The effective management of the prevention and reduction of risks, however, can reduce them.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was agreed by 187 governments at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan. The Framework is a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognises that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk. However, the responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local governments and the private sector.



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***“Each State has the primary responsibility to prevent and reduce disaster risk, including through international, regional, sub regional, transboundary and bilateral cooperation”***

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Disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting and complex development issue. Each state has the primary responsibility to ensure public safety and awareness of risks and to prevent and reduce disaster risks. International, regional, sub-regional, transboundary and bilateral cooperation can achieve this. In addition, political and legal commitment, public understanding, scientific knowledge, careful development planning and responsible enforcement of policies and legislation are required. National risk assessment is also needed, as well as disaster loss data, people-centered early warning systems, and effective disaster preparedness and response mechanisms. A multi-stakeholder National Platform for DRR can help provide and mobilise knowledge, skills and resources required for mainstreaming DRR into policies, planning and programs. This also includes initiatives at the local level.

In detail, each state is expected to:

- Decide on a designated National Focal Point for the Sendai Framework with governmental responsibility, as an “entry point” to implement and report on the DRR progress
- Establish/strengthen a multi-stakeholder National Platform for DRR to coordinate and develop national activities; provide and mobilise knowledge, skills and resources required for mainstreaming DRR into development policies, planning and programs; support the local-level implementation of DRR; and be an advocate of DRR at different levels

## **The Sendai Framework**

International community and countries all over the world have been working together and have learnt from over 20 years of experience in prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery to natural hazards and disasters in line with the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World and the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005–2015): Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA).

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***“The Sendai Framework has a clearer explanation than HFA of the purpose of managing disaster risks and on the role of coordination horizontal, vertical and with various stakeholders.”***

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Overall, the HFA provided critical guidance in efforts to reduce disaster risk and has contributed to progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Its implementation has, however, highlighted a number of gaps in addressing underlying disaster risk factors. Furthermore, issues were identified in formulating goals and priorities for action, in fostering disaster resilience at all levels and in ensuring adequate means of implementation. The gaps indicated a need to develop an action-oriented framework which governments and relevant stakeholders could implement in a supportive and complementary manner. This would help to identify disaster risks to be managed and guide investment to improve resilience.

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***“The Sendai Framework focuses on disaster risks while the HFA focused on disaster losses. Now there is a focus on reducing the occurrence of risks and the magnitude of disasters”***

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The present framework, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, has a broader and a more people-centered preventive approach to disaster risk. It builds on the understanding that DRR practices, to be efficient and effective, need to be multi-hazard and multi-sectoral, inclusive and accessible..

The Sendai Framework also calls for the coherent implementation of the international agreements adopted in 2015 - including the Sendai Framework itself, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Development, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. (Also there is a common UN plan of action for UN coordination on DRR for resilience endorsed<sup>1</sup>).



#### Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 context

The Sendai Framework calls on communities across the globe to prevent and reduce disaster risk in order to substantially reduce losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the various assets of individuals, businesses, communities and countries. In order to do this, the Sendai Framework includes a wide definition of disasters and risks:

- Small-scale and large-scale – from single accidents to disasters with local to national/international consequences
- Frequent and infrequent – floods, tsunami, earthquake, nuclear disaster
- Sudden and slow-onset disasters – explosions, coastal erosion, desertification

The framework covers disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, for instance, landslides, forest fires caused by human activities and industrial accidents. It also includes other “related” environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks such as contamination of ecosystems, cascading infrastructure failures and public health

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience – Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development, 2016

risks.

The more complex society becomes, the stronger the need for increased understanding and action both vertically between local, national, regional and global levels, and horizontally, between communities, local administrations and private institutions. The Sendai Framework aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development taking in consideration domino effects, withstanding of basic services and an all hazards approach, at all levels as well as within and across all sectors. In addition, the increased scope of the Framework results in a need for increased collaboration with government institutions and private sector dealing with health, basic services and critical infrastructure. There is also a requirement for coherence in disaster risk management policies and practices across sectors. Thus sector-and hazard-specific risk assessments, regulations and expertise still need to be further developed. Updating hazard databases and risk assessments with climate-related threats and cascading effects is another necessity identified.

## New elements in Sendai Framework

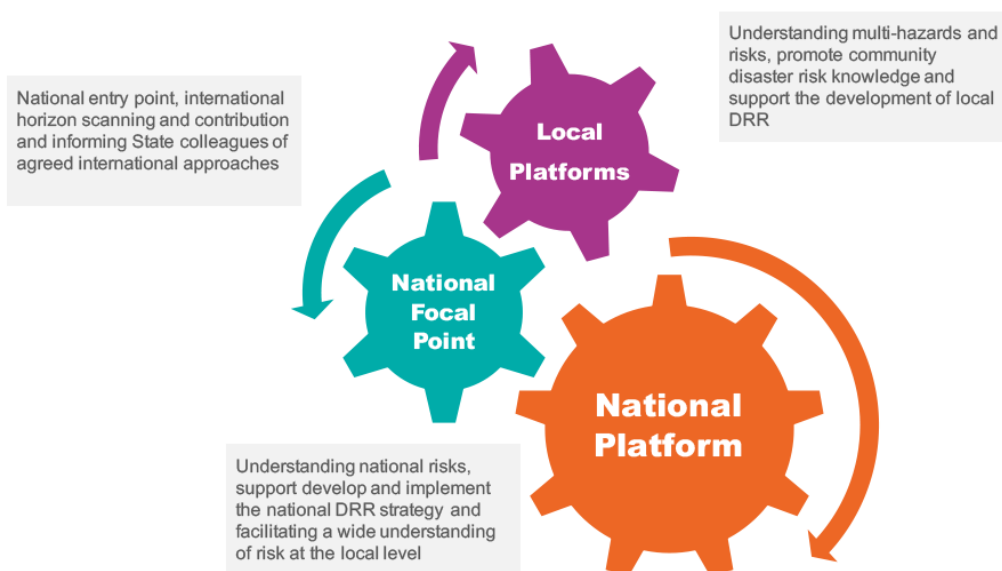
The Sendai Framework builds on elements, which ensure continuity with the work carried out by countries, municipalities and other stakeholders under the HFA . However, it also introduces new elements, such as:

- A policy shift from managing disasters to preventing and managing risks
- An understanding that DRR and climate change adaptation are both dependent variables of sustainable development
- A broader scope, which includes small-scale and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks
- A renewed focus on preventing the creation of new risks as well as reducing existing risks
- A focus on reduction of disaster risks - not only on post-event loss reduction;
- Strengthened coordination and national platforms for DRR
- Strengthened support for local level implementation
- A set of global targets to be followed by indicators enabling national and local targets and indicators to be aligned to track progress
- A set of guiding principles
- Promotion of national and local DRR strategies building on current analysis of levels of resilience, hazard mapping, risk assessment, future challenges and disaster loss data
- Increased emphasis on understanding risk drivers, governance, responsibilities and national platforms, local level implementation across sectors and investments in economic, social and cultural resilience and preparedness to build back better after disasters
- A focus on livelihoods, health, physical and cultural assets, infrastructure and basic services and special attention to persons with disabilities in addition to lives and social, economic and environmental assets
- Risk sensitive investments by public and private sectors

## Understanding disaster risks

Disaster risk reduction needs to be based on a thorough understanding of disaster risk scenarios including hazard characteristics, local exposure, capacity and vulnerability. This is essential for informed decision making, prioritising

projects and planning for DRR measures (prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery)<sup>2</sup>. Unless national and local platforms have a clear understanding of the risks they face and engage in discussions on these with the public and other stakeholders, implementation of meaningful DRR measures may be ineffective. In that view, risk assessment mechanisms need to have a strong foundation in national institutional frameworks with clearly assigned responsibilities and authority. These should be established through laws, regulations, standards and procedures.



#### Role of national focal point, national platform, and local platforms

The national platform has a role in understanding national risks, in ensuring this evidence base informs the national DRR strategy and in facilitating a wide understanding of risk at the local level. Local platforms have a role in understanding multi-hazard risks, promoting community disaster risk knowledge and supporting the development of local DRR strategies and plans. The national focal point has a role in international horizon scanning, in contributing to international debates about addressing risks and in informing national colleagues of agreed international approaches to risk.

### All-of-society engagement

Disaster risk reduction requires all-of-society engagement to prevent and reduce disaster risk through the integrated implementation of inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures. In fact, DRR depends on coordination mechanisms within and across sectors and with relevant stakeholders at all levels. It requires the full engagement of all State institutions of an executive and legislative nature at national and local levels. In addition, it needs a clear articulation of responsibilities across all stakeholders to facilitate mutual outreach, partnership, and accountability.

### Governance and Accountability

While some progress in building resilience and reducing losses and damages has been achieved, substantial reduction of disaster risk requires more explicit focus and coordinated efforts. The gaps identified in the review of HFA indicate a need to develop more practical and action-oriented initiatives. This includes tackling disaster risk drivers such as poverty and inequality, climate change and variability, unplanned and rapid urbanisation and poor land

<sup>2</sup> See 2009 UNISDR terminology on disaster risk reduction here <http://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/7817>.

management. This initiative should also address compounding factors, such as demographic change, weak institutional arrangements, risk-uninformed policies, lack of regulation and incentives for private sector investment in DRR. Moreover, risks include complex supply chains, limited availability of technology, unsustainable uses of natural resources, declining ecosystems, and pandemics and epidemics. These underlying risks will only be addressed by strengthening good governance in DRR at local, national, regional and international levels.

The Sendai Framework calls for the strengthening of disaster risk governance for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. This can help to address policy gaps, reduce exposure and vulnerability and in so doing, minimize the risk of economic, social and human failures and the costly losses for countries and humanity that these entail. In fact, ensuring clear accountability and transparency, and avoiding the creation of new and unnecessary risks will help generate opportunities for a safer and more resilient future.

To apply the main principles of the Sendai Framework, governments need to focus on all political, technical, participatory and resource mobilisation components:

- The political component ensures strong political commitment from the top leadership and the establishment of a national coordination mechanism (National Platform) and a national strategy for DRR with clear targets, indicators and responsibilities
- The technical component involves various activities such as developing disaster loss databases, national risk and capacity assessments, national indicators for DRR and knowledge bases
- The participatory component involves relevant groups, including various government bodies, the private sector, NGOs and academic institutions
- The resource mobilisation component obtains and allocates the resources required for implementing the Sendai Framework

## Request for National Focal Point, a National Platform and Local Platforms

As mentioned before, the Sendai Framework requests governments to “establish a designated national focal point” (Sendai Framework paragraph 27 g) for implementing the post-2015 framework. National focal points set up under the HFA, currently operate in a variety of government departments such as the Ministry of Interior, the Presidential Office, the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the authority for Civil Protection.

Governments are also requested by the Sendai Framework “to establish and strengthen government coordination forums composed of relevant stakeholders at the national and local levels, such as national and local platforms for DRR”. One strong recommendation is to build on what already exists and to strengthen local and national coordination, action and progress.

The number of National Platforms for disaster risk reduction officially established and reported back to UNISDR has increased from 34 in 2006 to 93 in June 2016. In March 2016, UNISDR registered 53 countries with officially designated Sendai Focal Points.

The HFA prescribed that by 2015, all countries should have a national platform for DRR. Several national platforms started from scratch during the ten years of HFA. These were usually established and developed through a governmental nationally led participatory process involving main stakeholders. The process was carried out with guidance from neighbouring countries and was technically supported by existing platforms as well as the UNISDR guidelines for national platforms for disaster reduction.

The aim of National Platforms is not to take over the responsibility for stakeholder's commitments but to reduce overlaps and use common resources in a productive, coordinated way towards strengthening resilience.

## The Need for National and Local Platforms

The purpose of National and Local Platforms for DRR is to improve the coordination of efforts to prevent disasters. The goal is that all stakeholders, and by extension their audiences, experience:

- Added value in coordinated DRR activities
- Increased knowledge of other actors in the field of DRR and related topics
- Better coordinated development and dissemination of knowledge, methods and data
- Increased opportunities for local, national, regional and international cooperation
- Strengthened engagement of multiple stakeholders

- Capacity to influence top level policy makers

It's important to involve and engage all relevant actors and sectors in the platforms. This leads to the achievement of information and data sharing, knowledge exchange and technology transfer among actors. All-of-society engagement also results in increased access and linkage of existing DRR actors with other relevant bodies at local, national, regional and global levels.

## Linkages between National Focal Points, National Platforms and Local Platforms

The national focal point is expected to have a clear mandate and sufficient authority to influence and shape national DRR strategies, to leverage national political commitment, and represent the country in the regional and global context.

The national platform works in partnership with the national focal point, which could lead or is part of the national platform. The national platform also coordinates all stakeholder engagement at the national level and should pursue an all-of-society engagement in DRR. It should also have mechanisms for effective dialogue with local platforms in place in order to influence, encourage and coordinate local action. In parallel, the national platform seeks to understand local priorities and issues.

The local platform also pursues an all-of-society engagement in DRR at the local level and engages in effective dialogue with the national platform. In this way, it establishes strong relationships to inform broader DRR frameworks and facilitates the development of scalable response capabilities. In addition, the local platform leverages resources for risk prevention and for local recovery after emergencies.

## National Focal Points for DRR

### Focal Point for DRR definition:

A National Focal Point for DRR is defined as a national governmental body and entry point responsible for the implementation, review and reporting of the Sendai Framework. The Focal Point is supported by the national platform for DRR. The Focal Point should preferably be responsible for the national DRR strategy, including national risk and capability assessment, national DRR reviews and reporting. The Focal Point should also be linked to the National Platform and the local level in coordinating DRR activity and should participate in regional and international cooperation as appropriate. The Focal Point will be the national entry point for UNISDR. Countries may designate one Focal Point for political and donor relations and another one for the national implementation of the Framework. Often the National Focal Point is also responsible for the coordination of the National Platform.

## Characteristics of National Focal Points

The authority or ministry acting as Focal Point and leading or linking to the National Platform for DRR should be a permanent structure that is in a sufficiently high position. This helps in coordinating the participation of all relevant partners with a national coordination mandate in DRR, disaster management, national planning or the environment. The role is also to work on the national DRR strategy (target 5 in the framework). The leading authority or ministry should have capacity for:

- Strong leadership and coordinating with other sectors
- Leveraging political commitment
- Collating and analysing data to monitor and report on progress
- Mobilising resources for and knowledge on DRR

The location and placement of the National Focal Point will depend on each national government's institutional arrangements for DRR. Operationally speaking, the National Focal Point for DRR is best placed in a function that ensures regular liaison and collaboration between all the key line Ministries and institutions (including Cabinet Office, Foreign Affairs, Interior, Planning and Finance, Infrastructure, Agriculture, Environment, Health, Education, and others).

## Major Functions of National DRR Focal Points

The major functions of National Focal Points include the following:

- Act as the national entry point for DRR for other countries, UNISDR and other actors and to represent and speak on DRR and related aspects on behalf of the Government, with the adequate legitimacy and authority
- Responsible to lead, guide and coordinate the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and to establish collaboration at the national level
- Lead and coordinate the development / revision of the national strategy for DRR by 2020, including national targets and indicators that link to the reporting of the Sendai Framework global and local targets
- Coordinate and support the integration of national level activity and progress on the Sendai Framework implementation
- Guide, facilitate and monitor implementation of national DRR commitments, programs and initiatives. This may include a disaster loss database, disaster risk assessments, public policies, legislation, standards, codes and norms
- Provide guidance to the most senior executive and legislative decision makers to build coherence between DRR and the post-2015 development agenda
- Be able to discuss the inter-relationships between DRR, sustainable development and climate change adaptation across sectors and with key stakeholders at the highest level
- Collaborate and facilitate national participation and contribution to regional and international meetings, processes and exchanges with international partners on DRR
- Establish collaborative networks for advocacy and engagement in DRR at the national level, including facilitating public awareness and an all-of-society approach
- Be able to coordinate and maintain DRR related national plans, strategies, data and information
- Have access to all key stakeholders and to convene inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder national coordination mechanisms/the National Platform for DRR as appropriate
- Facilitate the allocation of resources from donors, development banks, and UN agencies that are not represented in their respective countries. This can be advanced by advocating the importance and necessity for UN country offices to support the integration of DRR into UN- backed development programs



## National Platform for DRR

### National Platform for DRR definition

A National Platform for DRR can be defined as a nationally owned and led coordination mechanism or committee of multiple stakeholders. The facilitator would be a specific authority, ministry or other actor. It serves as a hub for common priorities requiring concerted action through a coordinated and participatory process. The National Platform is also responsible for mainstreaming DRR into development policies, planning and programs in line with the implementation of the Sendai Framework. It should contribute to the national DRR strategy, including national risk and capability assessments, and national review and reporting. It should also provide support to the local level, as well as ensure regional and international cooperation and bilateral exchanges as appropriate with national counterparts in other countries.

### Characteristics of National Platforms

The overarching goal of a National Platform for DRR is to contribute to the building of national resilience to disasters and thereby support sustainable development. To do this, the National Platform should have:

- The structure and experience to interact with the local level and the know-how to help embed DRR into local development processes
- The capability to work closely with the National Focal Point to promote effective coordination of activities
- Clear standing and credibility with the Government, such that it can influence and shape a cross-cutting range of policies including those pertaining to financing of DRR, spatial planning and urban development protection and management of ecosystems, institutional and societal resilience, disaster risk management and recovery
- Clearly defined goals that seek to address the underlying causes of disaster risk and promote the resilience of vulnerable communities
- Clearly defined mandates and leadership combined with a secretariat that encourages cooperation, trust and consensus and that shares information, prepares and documents meetings and monitors progress on follow-up activities

The National Platform is also expected to facilitate dialogue and partnership within the international community, including the UN System, regional and national authorities. It should also facilitate information sharing, knowledge exchange and technology transfer among its members and between National Platforms for DRR.

### 10 steps to establishing a National Platform

A National Platform with the aim to facilitate and coordinate DRR activities cannot be established overnight. It has to be undertaken in stages to ensure that the mechanism established builds on national needs. It also has to identify and involve key stakeholders from different sectors, and take into account mechanisms already in place. Establishing Local Platforms could follow the same steps, but will need to be commissioned by and receive strong support from local politicians and stakeholders.

1. Step one is to start to build the case for the National Platform by mapping national strengths and gaps in DRR and understanding national risks. Existing national coordination mechanisms upon which a National Platform can build should be explored.
2. Provide justification for establishing the National Platform through discussions to ensure the evidence base is understood. This includes the manner it aligns to the Sendai Framework and the responsibilities of the National Focal Point. This process also has to do with anchoring the mapping and showing how the National Platform will work alongside each sector's DRR responsibilities as set out in existing legislation, governmental commissions etc.



3. A logical third step is to think of the model and composition (government departments, private sector, NGOs, youth groups, academia etc.) of the National Platform using benchmarking from other countries and UNISDR. One method to come up with, is forming a Task Force with a project leader/ informal coordinator that have a full and complete understanding of DRR and are able to lead others into an understanding. This leader/coordinator could be or work on behalf of the National Focal Point and, if not, needs to work closely with the National Focal Point
4. Secure a decision from Government, the appropriate Ministry or other responsible body to proceed with the setting up of the National Platform for DRR. The National Platform would have the mission to coordinate all sectors and actors. DRR requires cross-cutting work, participatory processes, building partnerships etc
5. Government needs to have an active involvement and provide the necessary leadership to ensure success. The National Platform will also need a Coordinator who has the confidence of the stakeholders. This person does not have to be the person who coordinated the Task Force that established the National Platform and could be the National Focal Point. In any case, the National Focal Point should be closely involved in the National Platform
6. Formally launching the National Platform with accompanying publicity can act as a first step to building the awareness of the general public to the Government's forthcoming DRR agenda
7. Priority actions - establish a common agenda and an agreed action program to mobilize resources and to engage stakeholders from relevant sectors. Key stakeholders are those who should play a core role in the implementation planning and promotion of risk reduction strategies and programs. Agree on shared, measurable goals and indicators, scope, agenda, working arrangements and ground rules. Achieve consensus on what expectations you will have on time spent on the common work. One of the given tasks is to support the regular reporting on progress
8. Establish a mechanism for overall coordination and administration of the work effort. Coordination includes setting and monitoring progress and integrating outputs, together with roles and responsibilities.
9. If appropriate, establish multi-disciplinary working groups or committees to work on specific issues
10. When the National Platform for DRR has been established it is important for the Platform to work alongside and support the National Focal Point to take part fully in international action on DRR and to be a full member of the Regional Platform and the UNISDR System

## Major Functions of National Platforms

- National Platforms for DRR are national mechanisms by which countries can address inter-related social, economic and environmental challenges. Effective National Platforms view DRR as a national responsibility and a cross-cutting issue within sustainable development processes
- National Platforms support the identification of urgent needs and priorities in the broad area of DRR, recommend legislative and policy approaches and support the national risk assessment process. They also allocate resources, present for a clear action plan and monitor and review the implementation of DRR activities in line with the Sendai Framework. National Platforms influence positive changes in DRR through concerted and coordinated efforts particularly in policies, planning, administration and decision-making processes
- National Platforms also take responsibility for contributing to the national strategy for DRR by 2020, as agreed in the Sendai Framework
- National Platforms foster an enabling environment for developing a culture of prevention, through advocacy of and awareness-raising on DRR. They also stress the necessity and importance of integrating DRR into Climate Change Adaptation, critical infrastructure strategies and other national policies. --National Platforms contribute to planning and programs in various development sectors as well as into international or bilateral development aid policies and programs
- National Platforms for DRR work towards better resourced, effective and integrated DRR efforts amongst national stakeholders and sectors serving as catalysts for national consultations and consensus building. They utilise a participatory process to facilitate the engagement of various sectors with their diverse perspectives and actions. National Platforms often build on existing systems and mechanisms
- National Platforms also support a joined up approach between national, regional and international organisations. They support development goals, by providing a framework for systematic thought and commitment to priority actions across sectors and the territory
- National Platforms are proactive in contributing national knowledge and in participating in planning and coordinating regional and global platforms for DRR
- Effective National Platforms for DRR manage progress toward DRR objectives rather than producing a "plan" as an end product
- National Platforms support local level implementation and participation in DRR, including encouraging cities to join the UN Making Cities Resilient initiative. They promote and support the establishment of local

platforms for DRR to secure synergies between national policies and local implementation of DRR. In this way, they facilitate knowledge exchange between national and local levels, as well as between local areas

- National Platforms support the systematic national baseline and progress reporting on a regular basis in line with national indicators. This involves multiple actors from academia, planners and other stakeholders on a regular basis, through the online multi-tiered Sendai Framework Monitor. The means by which local level implementation is more clearly represented in national monitoring and reporting requires further work. However, the inclusion or aggregation of local reporting is desirable
- Overall, National Platforms encourage national and local implementation, adaptation and ownership of the Sendai Framework

## Dynamic National Platforms

Setting up National Platforms is only a first step – turning them into living and an active institution is the next and ultimately more important challenge. Evidence shows that dynamic National Platforms for DRR usually demonstrate strong national ownership and leadership of the DRR process, based on a shared understanding of DRR with its multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary nature. National Platforms that show the strongest ownership are currently often those that have been integrated into functional pre-existing national DRR systems such as those in United Arab Emirates or Gambia. These systems and their key institutions have a strong commitment, experience and capacity to assume a lead role in guiding and managing multi-stakeholder processes. They also have the structure and experience to interact with the local level and the know-how to help embed DRR into local development processes.

## Multi-Stakeholder Participation

Most sectors are affected directly or indirectly by disasters and many have specific responsibilities that impinge upon disaster risks. Effective DRR requires the knowledge, capacities and inputs of a wide range of sectors and organisations, including governments, international organisations, civil society and the private sector, as appropriate. Accordingly, multi-stakeholder participation creates the opportunity for a more comprehensive approach, allowing for the interdependence of actors to be identified. It also enables any competing priorities of individual agencies, organisations and communities to be aligned with common objectives.



### National Platform for DRR organised for coordinated actions

Members of the National Platform need to be truly committed and tasked to bring real and demonstrable institutional support and added value. Thus multi-stakeholder participation must be balanced with manageability. Successful National Platforms have the right combination of member organisations to secure the necessary institutional mandates and delivery mechanisms to achieve their objectives. Many National Platforms seek to keep the actual

number of members manageable by involving the representatives of networks and focal points rather than individual agencies, in particular from the private sector and civil society. However, an inclusive, all-of-society approach to DRR must be achieved. Members of the National Platform must have the mandate to represent a key stakeholder group and be able to communicate their causes and concerns.

The leadership of effective multi-stakeholder processes and platforms requires a management style that integrates different views, mitigates possible conflict and generates the necessary commitment to participation and follow-up. Such processes require a strong and competent secretariat and for the National Platform to be convened on a regular basis.

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***“The idea of National Platforms is not to take over stakeholder’s responsibility but to reduce overlaps and to use common resources coordinated and wisely”***

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## Financing

The setting up of a National Platform in itself is a measure that helps to allocate and use scarce resources for DRR more efficiently through coordination and joint action. Many of the activities of National Platforms such as meetings, setting up working groups and producing policy recommendations do not have to be costly as they build on and optimise existing capacity of member organisations.

In general, main funding sources for National Platforms come from Governments but they may also attract contributions from project funding, members and regional/ international organisations (UN, regional development banks and the World Bank) and donors. The most stable source of funding is the Government that should at least cover the costs of the secretariat and expenses incurred in the organisation of meetings.

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***“A single ‘blueprint’ approach for National Platforms for DRR is neither possible nor desirable”***

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## Inspiring Examples on National level

### Gambia

#### The National Platform for DRR/CCA

The National Platform in the Gambia is called the National Platform for DRR/CCA and it covers both DRR and Climate Change Adaptation.

It was established in March 2011 as under the Office of the Vice President with the support of ECOWAS Regional Body.

**Administrative/Command Structure:** The Platform is chaired by a Minister responsible for Climate Change and Environment and the National Disaster Management Agency that I head serves as the Secretariat. The Platform is also under the chair of the President of the Republic at the level of the Disaster Governing Council which serves as decision-making body at the highest level. It could be relevant to note that the National Platform is a multi-stakeholders/multi-disciplinary body including the NGOs and Civil Society Groups.

There exists the following:

1. The Platform for DRR/CCA – NP DRR/CCA (Chaired by the Hon Minister for Environment, Climate Change, Parks and Wild Life) at National Level
2. The NP DRR/CCA has 6 subcommittees namely:
  - Resource Mobilization Committee
  - DRR Committee
  - Climate Change Committee
  - Environment and Land Use Committee
  - Monitoring and Evaluation Committee and
  - Capacity Building Committee

All these sub-committees are chaired by different institutions. (The Platform meets quarterly). Equally, the membership of the National and Local Platforms are multi-sectoral represented, including CSOs/NGOs, Private Sector and local communities at local/regional levels

3. Local Platforms at regional level in the country has similar structures and operates similarly as well;
4. The Secretariat of the Platform (National ) is the NDMA

While the local platforms report to the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), the National Platform for DRR/CCA reports to the Disaster Governing Council chaired by the President of The Gambia.

The National Platforms should have clear functions (e.g. engaging lawmakers on DRR issues) and serve as a vehicle on national DRR agenda and resource mobilisation. National Platforms should also provide opportunities for dialogue between government and CSOs, NGOs etc.

#### Where to find more information

Sanneh Alhajie, Executive Director

National Disaster Management Agency Gambia

<http://www.preventionweb.net/organizations/5085/view>

Website: [www.ndma.gm](http://www.ndma.gm)

Agency Email: [info@ndma.gm](mailto:info@ndma.gm)

Contact Phone: 002209977255/ 002204399537/8

### **Risk prevention and mitigation as part of the Netherlands governing system**

Changing risks (IPCC/climate change), Hurricane Katrina', new threats (Cyber Security and Terrorism) added to turn-over moments like the 'millennium bug' and the 'Twin Towers terrorist attack' have been 'wake-up' calls for the Netherlands. These events like the 'Enschede Fireworks explosion' and high waters and cross-border flooding in Europe at the beginning of this century, have been catalysts for the management of risks. The Netherlands started to change and reorganise the system of disaster relief/crisis management and of risk reduction. So more than a decade ago the Netherlands initiated the development of an all hazard, all government and all society strategy.

The Netherlands' way of coping with risks has been in several years of development from disaster relief to a crisis and risk management in line with the Sendai Framework and its predecessor HFA.

It was legally formalised with the 2007 Strategy National Safety & Security to prevent societal disruption and mitigate the impact of disturbances. It is based on five critical interests:

- Territorial Security: the undisrupted functioning of the Netherlands as an independent state and, more specifically, the territorial integrity of the country
- Economic Security: the undisrupted functioning of the Netherlands as an effective and efficient economy
- Ecological Security: sufficient self-recovery capability/adaptability of the living environment, recognising climate changes and other events or developments
- Physical Safety: the undisrupted functioning of inhabitants (and nature) in the Netherlands and its (living) environment
- Social and Political Stability: the undisrupted continued existence of a social climate in which groups of people live together without major conflict within the framework of the democratic state and shared core values

To acknowledge a (potential) threat for the upkeep of territorial, physical, economic and ecological security and social and political stability, a national risk assessment methodology has been developed. This methodology serves as an instrument to prioritise actions on national, regional and municipality levels with the main focus on prevention but in balance with preparedness, mitigation/response and aftercare.

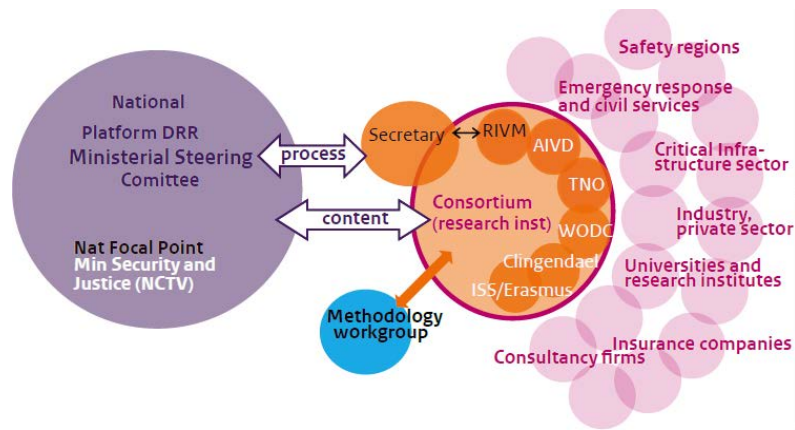
For some threats with a potentially high impact, the Cabinet decided to set up special programs under an appointed National Commissioner as there are for the Delta and for Digital Government.

Based on the strategy, a legally bound National Steering Committee National Safety & Security has been established. It functions as the key advisor to the Dutch Cabinet in prevention, preparation, response and 'after care' ('search-reference': National manual decision making in crisis situations). All ministries are represented and also represent their societal and other governmental bodies and organisations. A special seat is reserved for a representative of the private sector. Since 2012 this national committee has also been - for the UNISDR - the National Platform for DRR.

At the regional level, 25 safety regions have tasks based on the 2010 law, also including the setting up of 'local platforms' and safety-regional risk profiles. ('search – reference': Safety Regions Act)

In strengthening national and local level; and public and private partnership all designated and involved 'crisis partners' are since 2015 working together on 'common goals'.

The steering committee's advice to Cabinet is based on the national risk assessment, provided by the analyst network. The advice – if agreed by Cabinet – becomes a Cabinet's letter to Parliament and the proposed priorities and actions are discussed, finalised and implemented. Regular Parliamentary reporting and new proposals are part of this democratic governing process on DRR. ('search – reference': progress letter and/or findings report)



Organisational structure risk assessment ('search-reference': Analyst Network NRP)

There were a few other countries in the world that also stepped into this innovative way of reducing disaster risks. In an OECD study on innovation in country risk management, it was reviewed as best practices.

Together with a few European countries, there was a strong commitment to share practices and to develop risk management in Europe. Next to the NL NRA, the UK developed their 'risk register' and France 'the white paper'. These developments also led to commitments at an EU-level with 'Council conclusions of the Justice and Home Affairs Council', April 2011. This was the starting point for agreements and developments in all EU Member States on national risk assessments.

All EU Member States shared their NRA's with the EU Commission December 2015. Member States are looking forward to the analysis to improve risk management not only in their nations but also Europe-wide and also build on (common) capacities, based on these risks. This fundamental first step of understanding risks will be – next to the EU Action plan - one of the 7 focus areas of the EFDRR Roadmap implementation of the Sendai Framework in Europe until 2020.

This way of managing risks and threats, to reduce and prevent them in the Netherlands and in the European Union is now becoming mainstream in other regions. This particular manner of doing risk management is established as a global goal in the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030. It is strongly related to the SDG's, the COP21 'Paris Climate Agreement', the WHS and Habitat III and becoming all hazards, all government and whole of society.

Where to find more information



<https://english.nctv.nl/>

## Sweden

### The Swedish National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

#### Political commitment

The Government governs Sweden and is the g-force in the process of legislative changes, thereby influencing the development of society. The Government consists of a Prime Minister and 23 ministers. The Prime Minister's Office is responsible for leading and coordinating the work of the Government offices.

The Government of Sweden has designated the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency as national focal point for the implementation of the Sendai Framework. This was the case even for the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015).

#### Facts about the country

Number of residents	9.8 million
Number of municipalities and counties	290 municipalities and 21 counties
Area	450 000 km <sup>2</sup>
Location	Sweden is a Scandinavian country in Northern Europe. It borders Norway to the west, Finland to the east and is connected to Denmark in the south-west by a bridge across the Öresund. Sweden also has maritime boundaries to the Baltic states, Germany and Poland.
Risk profile	Landslides, erosion, mudflows, flooding, extreme rain-/snowfall, drought, heat waves, extreme cold, forest fire, avalanche, invasion of insects, contagious disease among animals or plants are the most common risks
DRR priority	Natural hazards, technological hazards, and other man-made hazards

#### Facts about the national platform

The Swedish National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction consists of several national authorities in cooperation, including representatives from county and local level organisations and the private sector. The purpose of the National Platform is to increase the society's ability to prevent and handle natural disasters.

Specific goals of the Swedish National Platform include the following:

- Strategic and needs-based cooperation for DRR More efficient use of resources for DRR
- Better coordination of DRR research and dissemination of knowledge
- Better knowledge of other authorities' and organisations' activities within the area of DRR
- Increased possibilities for cooperation, at all levels of government and with non-government stakeholders

#### Main successes and challenges

The work of the Swedish National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction under the Hyogo Framework for Action was evaluated in 2015 in order to measure the performance of the platform. The survey was conducted using qualitative interviews with the members of the Swedish National Platform. In addition, interviews were conducted with representatives of the Norwegian and Finnish national platforms, representatives from the United Nations Office for



Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and staff from the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB).

The platform is considered as a coordination hub. Actions are taken by the participating agencies but they are done in a more cooperative way and with a broadened understanding of risks than before the establishment of the platform. The results of the evaluation show that the main benefits of the platform are these:

- A broader network of contacts
- Increased opportunity for collaboration and cooperation
- Mutual learning and awareness of international perspectives on how others manage disasters
- Furthermore, the results of the evaluation show that the activities carried out on the platform's initiative have been successful some examples of platform activities are
- Coordinated and user-adapted geographical data for dealing with natural disasters
- Guidance for management of heavy, sudden rains in urban environments
- Project on how to reduce the risk of landslides caused by forestry and exploitation
- Project on the development of a methodology for gathering data for shallow waters in the Swedish coastal zone, lakes and streams

Here are some positive lessons learned from the Swedish National Platform:

- Clear mandate for the national platform
- Steering group
- Formal process for planning and steering documents
- Well-structured meetings with knowledge and information sharing
- Field visits to create common understanding of the risks and prevention and mitigation measures
- Integration of CCA and DRR
- International networking and engagement brings new ideas and creates synergy
- Reaching out and supporting the local level by encouraging participation in the Making Cities Resilient Campaign and implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local level

A challenge, which also showed in the results from the evaluation, is to demonstrate the benefits that are gained through a platform. One suggestion is to develop measurable indicators and another to work more on dissemination of knowledge beyond the members of the platform and its working groups.

The Swedish National Platform is now (2016) under the process of reorganisation to address the intentions of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and to include many more stakeholders. This work is led by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) in its capacity as National Focal Point.

Where to find more information

<https://www.msb.se/en/Prevention/Natural-Disaster-Risk-Reduction-in-Sweden/>  
<https://www.msb.se/en/Prevention/National-risk-and-capability-assessment/>  
<https://www.msb.se/sv/Forebyggande/Naturolyckor/katastrofriskreducering/>



## The National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority

The National Platform in the United Arab Emirates is called the National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority and it covers emergency, crises and disasters management.

The establishment of NCEMA was announced on May 14, 2007 within the organizational structure of the Supervision of the Supreme Council for National Security.

NCEMA operates under the Supervision of the Supreme Council for National Security, with the aim to achieve the UAE's policy regarding the necessary procedures for emergency, crises and disasters management. It's the major national standard-setting body responsible for regulating and coordinating all efforts of emergency, crisis and disaster management. It is also responsible for the development of a national plan for responding to emergencies.

NCEMA's main mission is to enhance the UAE's capabilities in managing emergency, crisis and disaster by:

- Setting the requirements of business continuity
- Enabling quick recovery through joint planning
- Coordinating communication both at the national and local level

NCEMA oversees the development of response capabilities by proposing and coordinating programs among stakeholders at the local and national levels and updating them on a regular basis. In addition, it participates in preparing the risks and threats log at both national and local levels. It periodically updates the log in cooperation and coordination with the concerned authorities.

NCEMA also coordinates the roles of the concerned governmental parties in the event of an emergency, crisis or disaster. It engages in the preparation and coordination of the essential emergency plans for vital facilities and infrastructure. NCEMA also follows up on their implementation in coordination with the concerned governmental authorities.

NCEMA conducts the necessary studies and researches through a dedicated centre for information and resources related to predicting emergency, crises and disasters. The centre is concerned as well with how to deal with them in coordination with the concerned authorities. Moreover, it prepares, coordinates, and implements the exercises related to emergency, crises and disaster management. NCEMA organized the exercises in coordination with the concerned authorities and follows up on their implementation.

### Where to find more information

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<http://www.ncema.gov.ae/en/home.aspx>

## Local Platforms

### Local Platform for DRR definition

A Local Platform for DRR can be defined as a locally/municipally owned and led coordination mechanism or committee of multi- stakeholders. The responsibility of being the facilitator is given to a specific local authority or another actor. It serves as a hub for common areas of priority requiring concerted action through a coordinated and participatory process. In addition, the Local Platform works for mainstreaming DRR into local policies, planning and programs in line with the Sendai Framework. It should contribute to the local disaster risk reduction strategy, which includes: local risk assessment and capability assessment; local review; reporting and providing information to the national level. The Local Platform should participate as well, if appropriate, in regional and international cooperation and exchanges.

As on national level, coordination at the local level must build on what already exists and identified needs. Local platforms provide a means to enhance local actions to reduce disaster risks.

### Characteristics of local platforms

The overarching goal of a Local Platform for DRR is to contribute to the building of the community's resilience to disasters. To do this the Local Platform should have:

- The structure and experience to interact with the inhabitants, other municipalities and with national and county level processes
- Clear relationships; standing and credibility with the political leadership such that it can influence and shape a cross-cutting range of policies including those with a bearing on the financing of DRR; spatial planning and urban development; public awareness, protection and management of ecosystems; institutional and societal resilience; disaster risk management and recovery
- Multi-stakeholder participation with members truly committed and tasked to bring the knowledge needed balanced with manageability. Members of the Local Platform should have the mandate to represent and be able to communicate their needs and concerns.
- Clearly defined goals that seek to address the underlying root causes of disaster risk. These goals should promote resilience in land use planning and protection of the vulnerable population, risk prone areas and buildings, infrastructure etc at risk
- Clearly defined mandates and a leadership combined with a secretariat that encourages cooperation, trust and consensus. The secretariat should share information, prepare and document meetings, and monitor progress on follow-up activities

The Local Platform is also expected to facilitate dialogue and partnership. It is also responsible for facilitating information sharing, knowledge exchange and technology transfer among its members and between local Platforms for DRR.

## Major Functions of Local Platforms

- The overarching goal of a Local Platform for DRR, at the city level, is to contribute to the building of the municipal's resilience to disasters in supporting sustainable development
- Local Platforms serve as a coordination mechanism at the local level to enhance multi-stakeholder collaboration and coordination. This is achieved through a consultative and participatory process in line with the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Collaboration is also potentially enhanced through participation in the UNISDR's Making Cities Resilient Campaign
- Local Platforms are part of their countries approach to DRR and, as such, will actively contribute local knowledge and participate in supporting national platforms for DRR
- Local Platforms serve as catalysts for local risk assessment, leading the local risk assessment process and the establishment of a local strategy for DRR by 2020. The strategy will include clear targets, indicators, timelines and responsibilities, reflecting local priorities and actions to support DRR. This strategy also comprises of integrating DRR into land use planning, climate change adaptation and other local policies, plans and programs
- Local Platforms can drive consultations and consensus building, as well as local policy formulation, regulation and enforcement activity in DRR
- Similarly to the National Platform, Local Platforms should adopt a participatory process to facilitate engagement of various sectors. This process should include their diverse perspectives and actions, as well as ensuring the involvement of local communities to ensure an all-of-society approach
- They should foster an enabling environment for developing a culture of public awareness and prevention. This can be achieved through advocacy of DRR and awareness-raising in relation to risks and vulnerabilities
- Local Platforms should ensure effective resource mobilisation, cooperation and also ensure effective preparedness and disaster response
- Local Platforms can influence positive changes through concerted and coordinated efforts, particularly in practical actions, policies, planning, administration and decision-making processes
- Local Platforms can support the systematic monitoring of local progress in relation to the Sendai Framework. This may be performed through the reporting against the UNISDR Local Urban Indicators and involving multiple actors from academia, planners, and other stakeholders

## Inspiring Examples on Local level Greater Manchester - Resilience Forum, UK

### Introduction and context

Across England and Wales, there are 42 local multi-stakeholder partnerships made up of representatives from local public, private, voluntary and academic sectors with a role in resilience. These partnerships, called Local Resilience Forums, aim to plan and prepare for localised incidents and catastrophic emergencies. They are convened under legislation by the UK Civil Contingencies Act 2004.



### Political commitment

At a local level, the Greater Manchester Resilience Forum (GMRF) receives political leadership from a number of sources including an elected Leader of one of the 10 local authorities in Greater Manchester. It also includes an elected representative, through the Police and Crime Commissioner, who holds the police to account. All 10 local authorities have made a political commitment to the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient campaign.

### Facts about the municipality

<b>Number of residents</b>	2,710,000 (2011)
<b>Area</b>	1,276 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location</b>	Greater Manchester lies in the north west of England and is one of the largest metropolitan areas in the UK. Designated a city region in 2011 it comprises the cities of Manchester and Salford, together with the metropolitan boroughs of Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan. There is a mix of high density urban areas, suburbs and semi-rural locations
<b>Risk Profile</b>	Flooding, Severe Weather, Transport Accidents, Epidemics and Pandemics, Environmental Pollution and Industrial Accidents, Loss of Essential Services, Mass Gatherings, Anti-Microbial Resistance
<b>DRR priority</b>	Flooding is acknowledged as a major risk with heatwaves, storms, snow and high winds presenting further risks within the conurbation. On account of the population size and Greater Manchester's importance as an economic region there are also transport, infrastructure, industrial and environmental risks

## Facts about the local platform

GMRF is a multi-stakeholder partnership which sits at the heart of civil protection Arrangements in Greater Manchester. Its role is to co-ordinate civil protection activity across the conurbation and to drive forward an integrated emergency management approach.

GMRF promotes resilience throughout the conurbation by:

- Identifying, understanding and attenuating collective risks for the city-region
- Influencing local strategies and policies, together with the national framework for civil protection
- Contributing to the growth of the city region by strengthening the resilience of the conurbation
- Encouraging community resilience and an understanding of risk, thereby reducing dependency on public services
- Leading and coordinating a systematic multi-agency approach to emergency management by embedding collective planning, preparation, response and communication protocols
- Promoting business continuity management and organisational resilience
- Ensuring locally led assurance and improvement measures are in place
- Encouraging cooperation between different disciplines and areas of competence
- Promoting academic research and city-to-city learning

## Achievements / results

- Promoting community resilience across the conurbation. For example, the community of Lower Broughton in Salford was declared a Champion of Community Resilience by UNISDR
- Successfully embedded partnership working to regularly identify risks, develop capabilities and respond to incidents across the conurbation as well as establishing effective leadership for recovery
- Facilitating co-location of key emergency planners from different organisations
- Producing a strategy and bi-annual work programme to which all stakeholders agree
- The work programme effectively implements the Civil Contingencies Act 2014, the UNISDR's ten essentials, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-30
- Contributing to implementing the UNISDR Disaster Resilience Scorecard (produced with AECOM and IBM) in six cities across Europe to measure city-level resilience

Greater Manchester being identified as a model city for the UNISDR Resilient Cities campaign



NWAS at the airport and United Utilities

## Factors leading to success

GMRF's success is based on:

- Political and strategic ownership
- Multi-stakeholder engagement
- Underpinning by researchers and thought leaders

- Learning from others through international, national and city-to-city networks
- Proactivity
- Recognising resilience as a cross-specialism agenda
- Effective prioritisation of preparedness activity and identification of common consequences to multiple hazards
- Visibility, both locally and nationally

## Next planned steps / actions

Key next steps / future actions for GMRF include:

- Promoting the city region as a resilient place in which to invest
- Identifying opportunities to strengthen resilience through an increasingly devolved governance structure
- Contributing expertise to the development of the GM spatial framework, a joint plan to manage the supply of land for jobs and new homes across Greater Manchester to 2035
- Identifying and implementing ways to promote the resilience of local communities
- Understanding and responding to a changing risk landscape, whether due to climate change or emerging risks such as anti-microbial resistance
- Driving innovation e.g. international city-to-city peer reviews

Where to find more information

Dr Kathy Oldham, Head of AGMA CCRU and secretariat for GMRF ([k.oldham@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:k.oldham@manchester.gov.uk))

[www.gmemergencyplanning.org.uk](http://www.gmemergencyplanning.org.uk)

<http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/home/cityprofile/City%20Profile%20Of%20Greater%20Manchester%20?id=3899>

## Peru - Driving groups for risk management and adaptation to climate change (GRIDES) in 13 regions

### Introduction and Background

In 2002 the civil society organisations in Peru started to gather as a group to strengthen risk management at the sub-national and local levels. With representatives from academic institutions and development agencies, they share knowledge and initiatives to reduce the risk in Peru territory.

Over the years they have generated similar groups in 13 regions of the country that have involved the participation of more than 200 institutions and civil society organisations. These groups are known as Grides, which means "Driving groups for risk management and adaptation to climate change"; or "Disaster Risk Reduction networks"<sup>3</sup>.

Grides also have cooperated with the EIRD in developing the monitoring mechanism of Hyogo Framework for Action at the local level through consultations and an event to contribute to the HFA Monitor<sup>4</sup>.

### Political commitment

Among the members of the Grides are several institutions that have been promoting the Resilient Cities Campaign through advice and support to local governments. In Lima, the capital of Peru, the Grides created in 2011 the Platform of Civil Defense of the Metropolitan Municipality of Lima, which enabled the support of initiatives in 20 districts to disseminate proposals for risk reduction and training community leaders. In other regions, Grides have been recognised as advisers by regional and local governments with regard to risk management issues. In some regions like Apurimac, the Grides promote risk reduction strategies merged with poverty reduction and adaptation to climate change. For these strategies they develop initiatives with other networks and specialised institutions, both public and private.

### Data on the regions involved

- Peru's population is highly vulnerable to extreme climatic variations, especially the people living in the Andes. They tend to have no access to water storage or irrigation systems or to basic services
- At a country level, most of the population is located on the Pacific coast. This area is prone to earthquakes, landslides and floods. The coastal cities have grown through the informal occupation of land most at risk, particularly in riverbeds and steep slopes of the hills surrounding cities
- Advances in national legislation have not sufficiently reached the regions and local areas in part because of the limited capacities of government institutions. On the contrary, other stakeholders such as academic institutions, local NGOs, neighbourhood associations as well as private actors can reach these areas. However, they did not use to be involved in risk reduction.
- The contribution of Grides has been to involve these institutions in risk management issues. This was achieved by incorporating risk reduction strategies within these institutions and creating spaces for dialogue and reflection with local and regional authorities.

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<sup>3</sup> 11 of which are called GRIDES; and 2 are called "Risk Reduction of Disasters networks". They gather groups and institutions with capacity to influence the issue of risk management, such as associations of women, children, teachers, representatives of the State (local government, regional and sectoral), universities, research institutes, professional schools, labor unions, aid agencies, municipality's network, thematic networks and NGOs.

<sup>4</sup> Government reports on progress in strengthening their capacities to address disaster risk.





Community EWS system in Piura, Practical Action Peru

## Data on the local platform

The Grides are local and sub-national platforms that advocate towards authorities to put DRM issues as a priority on their agenda. They involve both public and private institutions that:

- Share knowledge about risks and advances in DRM policies
- Promote the incorporation of DRM into local planning and management in general
- Influence the subnational and local policies through recommendations and proposals to the authorities
- Develop and implement training activities on DRM in the sub-national levels for both civil servants of local institutions, students and community leaders
- Share resources for risk management
- Promote community resilience and cooperation mechanisms
- Promote public consultations on progress in disaster risk at the community level and create spaces for listening to the voices of vulnerable people
- Promote specific policies to take into account the most vulnerable populations particularly women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly

## Achievements / results

- Eight municipalities integrated and actively participating in the Cities Resilient campaign
- Four universities teaching graduate courses in DRM
- 350 local journalists trained in disaster prevention campaigns regarding El Niño Phenomenon
- Creation of DRM groups within the Water Resources Council of Piura; and implementation of early warning systems with the participation of local communities
- Three consultations “Views from the Frontline” and 10 community action plans implemented by Grides
- Annually updated plans of Grides in 13 regions
- Meetings of risk management networks in Peru and in 9 countries in South America, to exchange experience, train the members and built advocacy strategies
- Incorporation of Peruvian institutions to the global DRM network (GNDR)
- Publication of the book on “Risk Management Networks in Latin America” - three editions (Ferradas Pedro; Carbonel Dalia; Redes de gestión del riesgo y adaptación al cambio climático- Tercera edición; 2014)





Peru Grides meeting - August 2016

### Where to find more information

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<http://practicalaction.org/disasters-climate-change-latin-america>

## Province of Potenza

### Local Mechanism for Territorial and Community Resilience, Italy

#### Introduction and context

Italy is largely characterised by all major natural hazards and related risks, whose potential impacts on communities reveal very serious in the case of disasters. For this reason, risk reduction policies and actions to prevent disasters are needed at all institutional levels, in order to meet the basic need for public and private safety.

The territory of the Province of Potenza, made up of 100 small-sized Municipalities, is exposed to natural and man-made risks that resulted in disasters with heavy losses in recent and ancient history, due to improper land use.



use.



PROVINCE OF POTENZA  
AREA: 6.500 sqkm  
POPULATION: 378.000 inh  
POP. DENSITY: 60 inh/sqkm  
MUNICIPALITIES: 100  
CAPITAL CITY: Potenza (67.000 inh)

In the last twenty years, much work has been done at national and local levels to combat disasters from an operative point of view. This entails working on the construction and implementation of an operational national System that is now considered one of the most efficient all over the world. In this context, since 2004, the Province of Potenza has built and implemented the Provincial Civil Protection System. The System is working with Municipalities, all relevant stakeholders and major groups of the local, regional and national civil protection system. The purpose was to provide an organisational structure for disaster management and risk reduction activities to be performed both in ordinary and in emergency situations.



Supporting its institutional strategy for assessing/reducing disaster risks and managing emergencies, the Province of Potenza has progressively created an interconnected system of operational and organisational tools:

- The Provincial Operations Room;
- The instrumental sensors networks for risks monitoring (for example, the Accelerometric Network for real-time earthquake risk assessment/monitoring);
- The databases of resources for emergency management and a Geographic Information System (GIS) enabling the collection of information on different territorial components and multi-risks analysis.

Thanks to the implementation of land-monitoring data and of “risks-exposed territorial elements”, plenty of multi-risks assessments have been performed over the years with satisfactory results for civil protection. By merging static and dynamic data, spatial information contributed in giving a more realistic characterization of territorial risks and their effects in case of disasters. This increased the accessibility of information and facilitated a wider public understanding.

However, more frequent extreme events are showing that the system is not yet structurally fully prepared both in contrasting and preventing disasters. The severe floods that occurred in recent years in several regions of Italy (with huge casualties and damages) are an example of what is happening. The construction of the Civil Protection System and the implementation of related activities had the limit to relegate the action mostly to the field of the “disaster management”. However this is not allowing treating “disaster risk management” as a real fully structural issue.

This condition revealed the need for a radical reconsideration of the work within the province of Potenza.. This change of strategy was needed for ensuring the territory, as a whole, being involved more actively and concretely in disaster risks reduction policies and actions, both at territorial and local levels. A long period of analysis and assessment has been started, even on a global scale, to develop a different, unique and more effective/efficient strategy. This strategy would have the goal of implementing DRR policies and actions throughout the territory and at all levels.

The Province of Potenza has placed DRR in close connection with its territorial planning functions. This has transformed DRR it into a real “structural” action to be implemented by coordinating territorial and urban development and land-use. In this way, the Province of Potenza intended to provide a strong contribution to the calibration and optimisation of the resources needed for the safe development of the territory as a whole.

## **The Vision and political commitment**

With a so complex territory full of potential hazards in front of which actions and extremely codified strategies are needed, over the years the Province of Potenza has assumed the leading role of a “big player”. The Province has now a

strong vision and political commitment in coordinating and assisting its Municipalities and Communities in facing future challenges in local Sustainable and Resilient Development.

As an example of this strong activism in the SFDRR context, all regional Local Authorities (the 100 Municipalities and the Province of Potenza as facilitator and leading coordinator) have made a joint institutional engagement to the UNISDR MCR Campaign. In this context they committed themselves to networking in DRR and Resilience implementation through specific and coordinated policy-making institutional agreements.

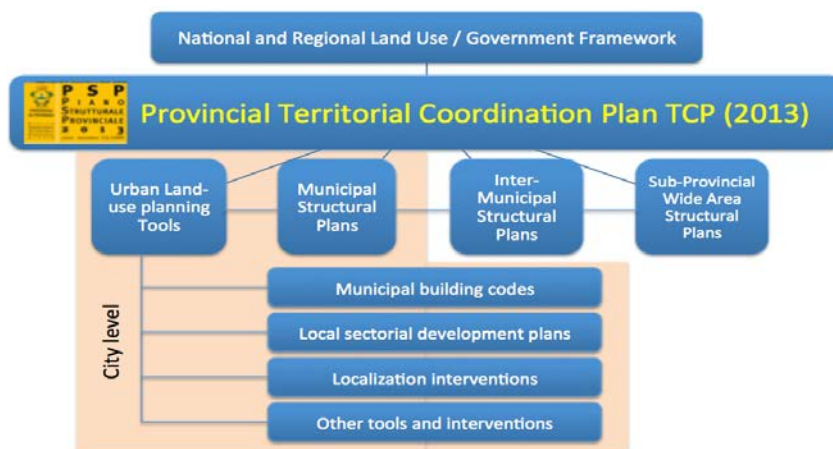
## Facts about the local strategy and platform

Capitalising its best institutional and governance practices experimented during the last decade, the Province of Potenza outlined the #weResilient strategy for pursuing territorial development. This process includes the structural combination of environmental sustainability, territorial safety and climate change contrasting policies.



So, in 2013 a major goal has been achieved: delivering to the community a very important tool for guiding and addressing the provincial-territorial governance, the Provincial Territorial Coordination Master Plan (TCP). TCP represents a “structural” tool for analysing needs and driving local governments’ choices with a “wide-area” development point of view.

The outlined strategy meets with one intention: conducting Advocacy towards the Municipalities and communities for implementing local development policies by integrating them with territorial and communities Resilience.



The strategic implementation path consists of both an urban planning coordination activities and in an "awareness-

rising" action with a supportive process. This process is addressed to Municipalities, Communities and Citizens, for pursuing proper territorial governance and land-use policies/actions in the local context.

This new concept of territorial governance provides for the structural introduction of "Resilience" - to disasters and climate changes - into territorial development policies. These policies are then to be implemented through specific actions at local and urban levels.

For #weResilient outlining and implementation, the Province of Potenza has set-up a permanent Local Platform aimed at engaging Municipalities, institutions/authorities, stakeholders, social groups, communities and citizens in translating the strategy into concrete actions.



The Local Platform promotes the specific #weResilient strategy throughout the provincial and urban systems by:

- Identifying, understanding and attenuating collective risks for the urban and provincial systems
- Defining, influencing and implementing local strategies and policies, together with the national/regional framework for territorial and land-use governance
- Contributing to the sustainable growth of the territory by strengthening its resilience
- Encouraging community resilience and an understanding of disaster risks, thereby reducing the impact on relief operations
- Leading and coordinating a systematic multi-actors approach to local development through the implementation of structural actions by merging territorial safety and sustainability
- Encouraging cooperation between different disciplines and areas of competence for promoting participatory and engaged interaction between all relevant actors (institutions, scientific research, economic and trade sectors, professions, education and civil society) and city-to-city exchanges and learning

## Achievements / results

#weResilient main achievements and results:

- Promoting comprehensive Resilience across the provincial territory, the Province of Potenza was declared a World Role Model for Inclusive Resilience and Territorial Safety by UNISDR
- Engaging local communities and indigenous culture in Resilience implementation, the Province of Potenza was declared a Community Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction under the "Knowledge for Life" theme by UNISDR in IDDR2015 Permanent networking with Cities, stakeholders and major groups for a comprehensive sustainable territorial development
- Performing supportive actions to Cities with a subsidiary and wide-area approach
- Performing programmes and actions for including communities and people in: relevant institutional decision-making processes, building capacities, developing capabilities, raising awareness, increasing political will and public support in local disaster risk reduction
- Building local to trans-national partnerships for sharing cooperation and best practices exchanges
- Contributing to implementing the UNISDR Local Government Self-Assessment tools in 100 Cities and 1 Provincial Local Authority to measure city-level and territorial resilience in a coordinated way
- Contributing to the finalisation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-30, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement



- Producing a strategy and work programme to which all stakeholders and relevant key actors agree and which effectively implement the TCP, the UNISDR's ten essentials, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-30, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.

## Factors leading to success

#weResilient success is based on:

- Having defined a Vision on which building a Strategy and a coordination Platform
- Political and strategic ownership leading to public support
- Multi-stakeholder engagement
- Community and people-centered inclusive action
- Networking
- Learning from others through international, national and city-to-city networks
- Resilience being recognised as a structural policy-making to be performed through a combination of different actions
- Visibility: locally, nationally and globally

## Next planned steps / actions

Key next steps / future actions for #weResilient include:

- Strengthening the institutional coordination action and increasing the social/sectorial groups by further developing a set of local plans of action to address DRR in the Province The plans of action will specifically focus on the highlighted priorities: resilience for all "sensitive and vulnerable", development of implementation tools including community training, private- public partnership actions, setting of performance indicators and monitoring
- Strengthening the Resilience implementation through an increasingly devolved "integrated territorial governance" coordination role
- Downscaling the experience to the urban context by performing and coordinating participatory urban planning paths
- Identifying and implementing ways to provide local communities with the right leading role in performing sustainable and resilient growth Looking at the potentialities of the territory and the communities as "engines for development" and as attractors of investment to build new and renewed opportunities for growth and integration. This process should be considered at increasing scales ranging from the region to the Country and the EU - and in a global context
- Strengthening the internationalisation, the knowledge and experience exchanging, the networking with other global realities. This has to do with concrete opportunities for growth - even cultural - on which to build practical and realistic development actions, promoting partnerships, attracting investments, importing new opportunities and driving innovation
- Understanding and responding to a changing risk landscape, whether due to climate change or emerging risks
- Exporting experiences and know-how by supporting other territories in performing similar path in Resilience implementation and Sustainable Development
- Becoming a pilot in the monitoring of the SFDRR implementation including through peer review, towards an enhanced good governance practice at the local level

### Where to find more information

Dr Alessandro Attolico, Head of Territorial Planning and Development and Civil Protection Department at the Province of Potenza, SFDRR-SustDevAgenda2030-ParisClimateAgreement Local Focal Point, Advocate of the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient Campaign ([alessandro.attolico@provinciapotenza.it](mailto:alessandro.attolico@provinciapotenza.it); [provinciapzresiliente@gmail.com](mailto:provinciapzresiliente@gmail.com))

<http://www.provincia.potenza.it>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/provpzresilient> - @provpzresilient - #weResilient

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/provpzresilient>

<http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/home/cityprofile/City%20Profile%20Of%20Provincia%20di%20Potenza/?id=3757>



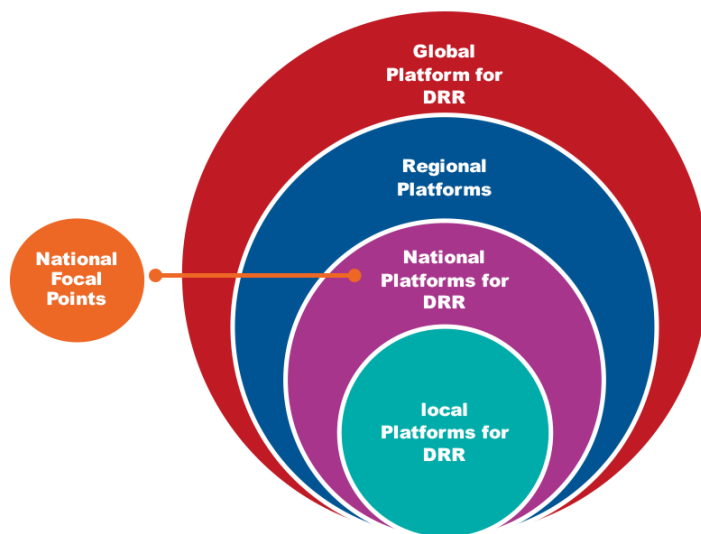
## Regional and Global Platforms for DRR

### Characteristics of Regional and Global Platforms for DRR

As discussed already in this guide, National and Local Platforms for DRR are recognised as key players to implement Sendai Framework on local and national levels, where most practical actions have to take place. In Regional Platforms and the Global Platform for DRR, the National Focal Point and National Platform for DRR are seen as key participants and contributors. UNISDR and its international and regional counterparts are expected to provide support to national and local actions that facilitate the exchange of knowledge (technical, scientific, institutional, training and others as required).

### Characteristics of Local, National, Regional and Global Platforms for DRR

For UNISDR, when dealing with the topic of DRR and when organising Regional and Global platforms, National Focal Points for DRR are the recognised formal entry points. Where National Platforms for DRR exist, the coordination of national actions will build on them. For more formal, political dialogue and when negotiating, UNISDR uses the permanent representations in Geneva as entry points.



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***“Whilst maintaining certain flexibility, a consistent monitoring mechanism that encompasses the local to national, regional and global is desirable”***

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### Regional Platforms

The Sendai Framework recognises that the Global and Regional Platforms for DRR have a key role in its implementation. This recognition builds on the pivotal role that they have played in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The Sendai Framework also underscores the need for the Global Platform and Regional Platforms to function as a coherent system. This system can fully leverage the potential of collaboration

across stakeholders of all sectors, and thus provide guidance and support in implementation.

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***“Regional Platforms for DRR in each region aiming to create a safer region by reducing vulnerability and increasing the ability to prevent the creation of new risks towards a sustainable and resilient future”***

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Regional Platforms have been hosted and chaired by a number of different countries in each respective region of Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia, Central Asia, Pacific, and Europe. The Regional Platforms meet every two years, except in Europe and the Pacific which meet annually. The European meeting is called the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction. The rotation of Regional Platforms has fostered political leadership and ownership of DRR across regions. It has also created the opportunity to mobilise a broader and deeper engagement of civil society, media, the private sector, and science and academia.

The Regional Platforms for DRR (Regional Platforms) are multi-stakeholder forums and were developed incrementally after the 2nd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Kobe, Japan in 2005. While they have varying characteristics, they all share the same traits as dynamic forums for policy-makers, partners, experts and practitioners. The forums give them the opportunity to pursue new ideas, launch new initiatives, share information, promote campaigns, monitor progress and provide evidence about DRR. Most Regional Platforms feature a high-level ministerial segment.

The role of Regional Platforms is to:

- Provide advocacy for effective actions to reduce the risk of disaster and prevent the creation of new risks, with a special focus on the region, by contributing to the implementation of the Sendai Framework
- Support the creation of and enhance existing National Platforms aligned with the Sendai Framework working towards building resilience to disasters at the national level
- Stimulate coordination, coherence and enhanced monitoring on progress, including through peer reviews, in DRR actions
- Facilitate exchanges among countries on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for increased political space and enlarged opportunity of innovation in DRR
- Serve as a venue for preparation for the Global Platform
- Share experiences, challenges and achievements among and between actors, sectors and disciplines in the region engaged in building resilience to disasters

## Global Platform

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Global Platform), as recognised by the UN General Assembly, is the main forum at the global level for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development. It is also responsible for the review of progress in the implementation of international agreements on DRR. It was established in 2006 and holds biennial sessions. There have been four sessions, namely in 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013, all in Geneva, Switzerland. The 2015 session did not take place, due to the holding of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan.

The Global Platform's essential characteristic is to be a multi-stakeholder forum where dialogue and exchanges are facilitated by a format with a low level of formality. In this spirit, the Global Platform also features a high-level dialogue which brings together senior government officials, including Heads of Government, Ministers, mayors, parliamentarians and senior leaders from the private sector, science and civil society.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) leads the organisation of the Global and Regional Platforms, including on substantive questions, and coordinates the support from the UN system entities. The Global Platform for DRR is a key mechanism for the international dialogue on the implementation and review of the Sendai Framework. Furthermore, it also:

- Improves the coherence of international action on DRR at all levels



- Advocates and shares knowledge among practitioners and experts
- And provides reviews and evaluations of national and local progress in DRR

## Specific support from UN and UNISDR

Supporting countries in their development of multi-stakeholder National Platforms for DRR has been one of the major activities of the UNISDR secretariat. This support is delivered primarily through the regional offices and involves the following types of activities:

- Advocating the necessity and importance of establishing and developing multi-stakeholder National and Local Platforms for DRR
- Coordinating and facilitating with UNISDR partners, as the designated UN focal point for DRR, the support for country-level implementation. This is performed in line with the Sendai Framework through National Focal Points and National Platforms for DRR
- Assisting the process of establishing or strengthening National Platforms for DRR by providing national authorities with advice, contacts, information. This also entails when relevant, cost-sharing based funding, and working closely with key collaborating organisations
- Supporting partners with the development of guiding principles, tools research results etc This includes:
  - the development of sector-specific policy briefs, guidance for the preparation of baseline studies, risk assessments, capacity assessments and indicators for progress reporting
- Awareness raising and training material
- The compilation of country experiences and lessons learned, making them easily available to national authorities, National Focal Points, National Platforms for DRR and other interested parties, using the UN system and regional networks
- Identifying information gaps and outsourcing specific studies and policy briefs to National Platforms for DRR that are capable of preparing them, for regional or global use
- Facilitating sharing of information, know-how and expertise through the UNISDR website and other information dissemination channels
- Providing opportunities for and fostering collaboration and dialogue among National Focal Points and National Platforms for DRR from the same region. Collaboration and dialogue also are promoted among National Focal Points and National Platforms for DRR from different regions. This is achieved through the promotion of bilateral cooperation and broad exchange of experience and information among National Focal Points and National Platforms for DRR., In addition, encouraging existing National Platforms for DRR to support the establishment of new ones through “twinning” is also an important component
- Lobbying organisations like the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and World Bank to establish and strengthen National Platforms for DRR in countries where they have offices
- Advocating the inclusion of National Platforms for DRR (as key national mechanisms for DRR at the national level) among international organisations and programs and reforming guidelines
- Encouraging, when applicable, the participation of UN Country Team in National Platforms for DRR, and their support to and push for National Platforms for DRR
- Working in partnership with National Focal Points and National Platforms for DRR on resource mobilisation for DRR at local, national and regional levels
- Serving as a networking hub where the Global Platform for DRR is the main instrument for coordination
- Facilitating the development of Regional Platforms for DRR, which are particularly valuable in supporting National Platforms for DRR;

## Main benefits which Countries gain from UNISDR include:

- Visibility of national and local experience and expertise in DRR
- Visibility and recognition of national focal points and national platforms for DRR in facilitating the implementation of the Sendai Framework
- Access to knowledge and resources at regional and international levels for DRR activities
- Information on the progress of DRR in other regions and countries
- Tools, guidelines, research results, indicators and advocacy to support the implementation , review, monitoring and reporting on DRR
- Reduced risk and vulnerability, and thus a reduction in disasters in the long term
- Contribution to the sustainability of various development sectors and gains

Main benefits which UNISDR gains from National Focal Points and National Platforms for DRR include:

- Updated information on progress on DRR at local and national levels
- Better position to guide and coordinate the international implementation of the Sendai Framework
- Capacity to provide an overview of achievements and challenges in DRR to regional platforms and the Global Platform for DRR
- Capacity to monitor and report on progress made in DRR in line with Sendai Framework on a regular basis
- Understanding of national and regional needs and pooling of both; resources and actions for more effective implementation of the Framework
- Increased political and public support to DRR
- Increased financial and technical support for DRR

## UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

Since 2013, the UN system support in DRR has been guided by the first UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. The commitments and actions of the Plan of Action focused on quality assistance to countries; ensuring DRR is a priority for the UN system; and ensuring that DRR was central to post-2015 development agreements and targets. The reviews of progress against the 2013 UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience showed significant advancement by the UN system on the implementation of some of these commitments. This is reflected for example, in the prioritisation of DRR by UN organisations, while showing slower progress in advancing DRR in a consistent and integrated manner in UN country programmes.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction includes a major conceptual and programmatic shift from managing disasters to managing risks, and an agreement on four priority areas for action. The revision of the 2013 UN Plan of Action was therefore required to align to the principles driving the broader UN response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the need to effectively support its transformative, universal, indivisible and integrated nature and its pledge of 'leaving no one behind', in the UN's policy and operational work.

In April 2016, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination approved the revised UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction: "Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development". The UN Plan of Action provides for a stronger alignment of the UN's work in DRR with other UN system-wide approaches on related issues. In particular, it provides actions to align with the forthcoming UN system-wide approach to climate change.

In order to realise the vision that all investment in sustainable development should be risk-informed, the revised UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction includes three commitments and eleven expected results. It has a section on implementation addressing coordination and strategy, as well as monitoring and reporting needs. The UN Plan requests for a stronger emphasis on communication, advocacy and multi-stakeholder partnerships. A Results Based Analytical Framework is included in the UN Plan to monitor progress and promote the accountability of the UN system in the implementation of the commitments.

## ANNEX 1

### Key Recommendations from the PREPARATORY EVENT on National Platforms and HFA Focal Points held at the World Conference 2015 in Sendai, Japan:

Based on the presentations made by the panel members and subsequent discussions, the following key recommendations were made by the Chair of the session:

- We need to continue to have designated focal points and entry points responsible for regular reporting in each country for DRR. They should have defined and clear responsibility and accountability to ensure that development is risk sensitive
- A multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach should be adopted by National Platforms to ensure that risk considerations are factored into sectoral development planning and practices. This requires the engagement of all stakeholders, including the private sector
- Governments need to ensure that existing National Platforms are sustainable and that the future platforms are built on existing coordination mechanisms, based on the national context
- National Platforms need to focus on the integration of DRR into development processes by influencing relevant sectors and ministries at the national and local level
- While UNISDR should continue to support the strengthening of National Platforms, the UN System needs to coordinate through the National Platform for both national and local level actions
- Cooperation among countries and National Platforms needs to be strengthened to facilitate sharing of learning and experiences and foster a culture of collaboration, especially on disaster risk related trans-boundary issues
- National Platforms, through the leadership of national HFA Focal Points, should take a leading coordinating role in the implementation and monitoring of the post-2015 framework for DRR
- Governments need to take leadership and action to raise the profile of National Platforms and enable them to effectively coordinate with all stakeholders

## ANNEX 2

### UN Official Recognition of National Platforms for DRR

National DRR Focal Points and National Platforms for DRR, both officially designated, express the interests of various national and local stakeholders in DRR. Through the legitimacy conferred upon them by their respective Governments, Focal Points and National Platforms for DRR can serve as an effective mechanism for promoting DRR at the international level. In this way, they can access and exchange knowledge and resources based on their individual experience and in cooperation with the ISDR System.

Official designated Focal Points and the establishment of a National Platform for DRR, as changes in contact persons etc. should be formally announced directly to UNISDR head office in writing, through an official letter from official and diplomatic channels. The institutions responsible for this process may be the Authority or Ministry responsible for DRR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or a Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva with a copy to the UN Resident Coordinator.

Notification of National Focal Point should include the following information:

- Name of the National Focal point body
- Contact information including responsible individuals name and contact information (address, telephone, email, website)
- Information on the governmental and political commission and planning to develop or strengthen already existing national strategy for DRR

Notification of National Platform should include the following information:

- Name of the National Platform for DRR
- Contact information including responsible individuals name and contact information (address, telephone, email, website)
- Information on the governmental commission to establish, withstand or strengthen existing National Platform
- The composition of the National Platform for DRR
- Any relevant documentation explaining the functioning or status of the National Platform for DRR