



UNISDR ANNUAL REPORT 2016

In support of the Sendai Framework
for Disaster Risk Reduction

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Cover Photo: A tsunami preparedness drill at a multipurpose cyclone shelter in a Odisha fishing village in Ganjam district Patisunapu, Odisha.

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FOREWORD



The momentum gained from the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 continued to energize progress on reducing disaster losses worldwide in 2016. International Day for Disaster Reduction was focused on target (a) of the Sendai Framework reducing disaster mortality; on the day we recognized efforts in disaster events as various as the threat of an Ebola outbreak in Nigeria, El Niño in Peru, and a Category 5 cyclone in Fiji. The year was also marked by India's launch of its first ever national disaster management plan which is based on the four priorities of the Sendai Framework. Indeed, it was wonderful to hear the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, urge participants to "embrace the spirit of Sendai" at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction where we also commemorated the first-ever World Tsunami Awareness Day.

In addition to being the first pillar of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to be adopted by UN Member States, the Sendai Framework has also become the first of the interlocking components of the 2030 Agenda to have indicators adopted to measure the achievement of its seven global targets. This was thanks to the tireless work of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (OIEWG) which met in three formal sessions over the last 18 months. This work was done in parallel with that of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators and resulted in the adoption of OIEWG recommendations for the measurement of disaster-related targets for three of the 17 SDGs including SDG1 on the eradication of poverty. Disaster risk reduction is clearly seen as a lynch-pin of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda with strong links to the achievement of the other elements including the Paris Agreement on climate change.

I was also encouraged to see at first hand the progress that is being made at regional and national level, supported by UNISDR and our many partners, in moving "from commitment to action," the slogan for the forthcoming Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction which will be hosted in Cancun, Mexico in May, 2017.

Countries from some of the world's most disaster-prone regions are moving forward on building resilience to disasters. This is evident from the pace of progress in Africa, Europe, the Americas, the Pacific, Central Asia and the South Caucasus. These regions have all demonstrated their commitment to meeting the first deadline of the Sendai Framework by substantially increasing the number of national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction by 2020. Development of the Sendai Framework Monitor is well underway and the prototype will be presented at the Global Platform.

My many encounters with national leaders and discussions with key stakeholders throughout this busy first year in office, have reinforced the importance of UNISDR's role in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

In order to deliver on the overall objective of UNISDR's Strategic Framework 2016-2020: the prevention of new and reduction of existing disaster risk and strengthening resilience through successful multi-hazard disaster risk management, we now have in place a four-year Work Programme. In July 2016 we initiated an organizational review and change management process.

My goal is to ensure that UNISDR has the resources and personnel to strengthen our capacity to deliver on our mandate in an efficient and effective manner. Improvements in our operational performance is focussed on eight priority areas: a new organizational structure; resource mobilisation; internal and external communication; people management; staff capacity development; business processes and policies; and a partnership engagement strategy.

It has been an intense and exciting first 12 months. I am greatly looking forward to 2017, particularly the outcomes of the Global Platform which will spur and guide our efforts to implement the Sendai Framework. I would like to thank all those who help to make this work possible, particularly our highly committed donors and especially our hard-working staff.



Robert Glasser

UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General
for Disaster Risk Reduction

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2016 was transformative for UNISDR - internally, UNISDR aligned its work in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 with the organisational vision of its new senior management team. This resulted in the implementation of a new Strategic Framework 2016-2021, Work Programme 2016-2019 and a change management process. Externally, UNISDR facilitated and steered the global community's transition from the Hyogo Framework for Action to the Sendai Framework and helped translate the Sendai Framework into policies, plans and action.

This is the first Annual Report against the UNISDR Work Programme 2016-2019, which comprises the following Strategic Objectives and Enablers: SO1- Strengthen global monitoring, analysis and coordination of Sendai Framework implementation; SO2- Support regional and national Sendai Framework implementation; SO3- Catalyse action through Member States and Partners; Enabler 1- Effective knowledge management, communication and global advocacy; and Enabler 2- Strengthened organisational performance. In addition to reporting against the Strategic Objectives and Enablers, this report provides an overview of the 2016 results achieved by UNISDR's five Regional Offices in Africa, the Arab States, the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific. The accompanying results framework and 2016 UNISDR certified financial statement will be posted at: www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/donors.¹

SO1: STRENGTHEN GLOBAL MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND COORDINATION OF SENDAI FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

UNISDR provided political, policy, legal, procedural advice and logistical support to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology Relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (OIEWG). This contributed to the OIEWG's reaching agreement on the indicators to monitor and report against the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework, as well as the first set of terminology for disaster risk reduction agreed through an intergovernmental process.

Also during 2016, UNISDR requested an independent evaluation of its authoritative Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction to improve its risk knowledge services and prepared the first product in a new series, the Global Assessment

Report Risk Atlas, using UNISDR's updated multi-hazard, probabilistic Global Risk Assessment.

An additional key activity was the preparations for the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which entailed extensive multi-stakeholder consultations and design work, in consultation with the host country, the Government of Mexico. The Global Platform will assess progress on Sendai Framework implementation and share innovative practices and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments.

SO2: SUPPORT TO REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SENDAI FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction are recognised by the United Nations General Assembly as a critical part of the global disaster risk reduction architecture. UNISDR supported the convening of Regional and Sub-Regional Platforms in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Pacific, Central Asia and the South Caucasus, and Central Africa; regional ministerial meetings in the Americas and Arab States; and preparation of 2017 Regional Platforms in the Americas, Europe and the Arab States. The meetings agree on regional disaster risk reduction plans and strategies and result in multi-stakeholder commitments.

UNISDR strengthened its technical support to United Nations Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams to ensure that the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and Common Country Assessments (CCA/UNDAF) are risk-informed. The United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development, agreed by more than 45 United Nations entities, and convened by UNISDR, outlines the key steps for integrating and internalising disaster risk reduction across the United Nations System's processes, policies and programmes. It includes a Results Framework through which the UN System intends to hold itself accountable for delivering the changes called for in the Plan of Action.

UNISDR supported the development and use of disaster loss databases in over 30 countries and conducted workshops with government officials and other stakeholders to translate risk knowledge into risk financing, development planning and public investment decision-making.

UNISDR Regional Offices supported National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction to integrate the Sendai Framework into their structures, strategies and plans. More generally, the UNISDR Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) delivered capacity development workshops to over 1,200 national and local government officials and private sector representatives from 46 countries to strengthen disaster risk reduction in support of national and local implementation of the Sendai Framework.

To accelerate local implementation of the Sendai Framework, UNISDR updated the Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient and collected best practices from more than 30 cities to develop a new Handbook for Local Governments.

SO3: CATALYSE ACTION THROUGH MEMBER STATES AND PARTNERS

UNISDR strengthened policy coherence among the disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change agendas by providing substantive and logistical support to a variety of organisations both within and outside the UN system, including the ISDR Support Group in Geneva, the New York-based Group of Friends, and the Ministerial Declaration of the 2016 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

UNISDR policy advice resulted in furthering the integration of disaster risk reduction in regulatory frameworks such as the Committee of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the UN International Law Commission, and the Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

UNISDR further strengthened its dynamic partnership with the private sector, the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE), to build understanding of the hidden disaster risk-related liabilities for businesses and supported ARISE members to draft and launch a strategy for Sendai Framework implementation.

To coordinate the Science and Technology communities' support to Sendai implementation, UNISDR convened a major meeting of more than 700 science and technology experts. The outcomes included a 15-year road map with clear expected results and indicators, the launch of a Science and Technology DRR Partnership, and various regional initiatives which are underway.

ENABLER 1: EFFECTIVE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION AND GLOBAL ADVOCACY

UNISDR designed the Sendai Seven Campaign: Seven Targets, Seven Years, launched by the United Nations Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction on International Day for Disaster Reduction, 13 October, along with a special report Poverty & Death related to Sendai Framework Target A, to substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030. UNISDR was also responsible for advocacy in support of the new World Tsunami Awareness Day, on 5 November.

UNISDR global advocacy efforts included a relaunch of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, which since 2010 has grown into a network of 3,457 cities, the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools, leadership in the conceptualisation of the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) in partnership with the World Meteorological Organisation and The World Bank, and the launch of a new Global Roster of Women Leaders and Gender Experts in Disaster Risk Reduction.

In 2016, UNISDR continued efforts to raise appropriate, sustainable and predictable financial resources to support the work embodied in the UNISDR Work Programme 2016-2019, and met its US\$30 million target for 2016.

ENABLER 2: STRENGTHENED ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE

The UNISDR Strategic Framework 2016-2021, finalised over the course of 2016, defines UNISDR's vision and role in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

The UNISDR Work Programme 2016-2019 details fifteen results and describes the thirty deliverables required to achieve the Strategic Framework's objectives. The Work Programme includes a Results Framework that defines indicators, baselines and targets to monitor progress towards implementation of the Work Programme.

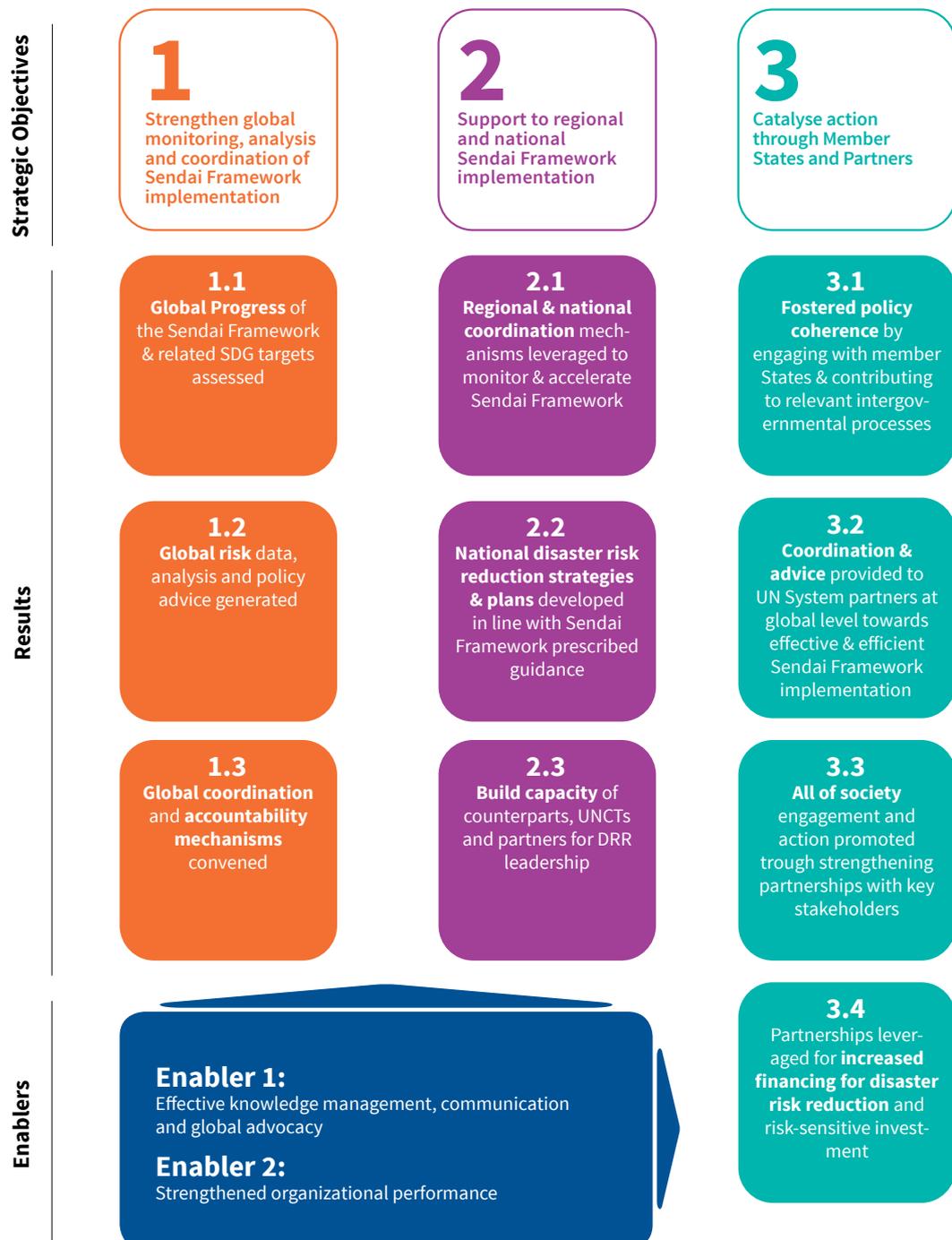
UNISDR's Organisational Review and Change Management Process, which aims to make UNISDR more fit for purpose to deliver its mandate, is underpinned by commitments to strengthen organisational performance, enhance effectiveness and efficiency.

UNISDR WORK PROGRAMME OVERVIEW 2016-2019

VISION The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses for a sustainable future.

MANDATE Focal point of the United Nations system for disaster risk reduction and the custodian of the Sendai Framework, supporting countries and societies in its implementation, monitoring and review of progress.

OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE The prevention of new and reduction of existing disaster risk and strengthening resilience through successful multi-hazard disaster risk management.



1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

STRENGTHEN GLOBAL MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND COORDINATION OF SENDAI FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

Following work initiated in 2015, United Nations Member States through the **Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (OIEWG)**, agreed upon indicators to monitor and report against the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework, as well as the first set of terminology for disaster risk reduction agreed through an intergovernmental process. The indicators and terminology were endorsed by the UN General Assembly in February 2017 (A/RES/71/276) and set the foundation for the new **monitoring system** for the Sendai Framework. UNISDR served as the secretariat of the OIEWG and provided the group, its Chair, Permanent Missions and experts with technical, political, policy, legal, procedural advice and logistical support to ensure positive and successful deliberations through days of formal and informal sessions and meetings.² At the request of Member States in the OIEWG, UNISDR produced technical papers and non-papers offering proposals on metadata and addressing critical issues, including technical feasibility, computation methodology and data availability.³

In parallel, UNISDR sought to promote the coherence of the work of the OIEWG with that of the **Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)**, which is developing the global indicator framework for the SDGs. Thanks to UNISDR's efforts, the IAEG-SDGs formally recognised the work of the OIEWG in its deliberations and subsequently adopted the recommendations of the OIEWG for the measurement of disaster-related targets of SDGs 1, 11 and 13. In so doing, UNISDR ensured the possibility of integrated and multi-purpose reporting.⁴

As the OIEWG concluded its work, UNISDR amplified its efforts with the international statistical community to align frameworks, standards and classifications for disaster-related statistics, building on the work to date led by the national statistics offices of the Europe and Asia-Pacific regions. Extensive work with national statistics offices, the statistical divisions of UN DESA (Secretariat of the IAEG-SDGs), and the regional economic commissions, enables **integrated monitoring and reporting** using multi-purpose data sources across the frameworks that make up the 2030 Agenda. A global partnership is emerging that is pursuing this collaborative work and will assure continued interaction with the IAEG-SDGs and the High Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for post-2015 monitoring (HLG) in the roll-out of global monitoring frameworks for both the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UNISDR began the design and development of the **Sendai Framework Monitor** to support States in the collection of data and the establishment of baselines required to report on progress in achieving the Sendai Targets against the agreed set of indicators through periodic national self-assessment, using national disaster loss databases and other relevant national datasets. The prototype will be presented at the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.⁵ The Sendai Framework Monitor will include options for monitoring nationally developed targets and indicators.

In 2016, UNISDR contracted an independent evaluation team to assess and provide recommendations regarding its flagship publication, the **Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction** (GAR). The GAR, published biannually since 2009, provides an in-depth analysis of risk trends and patterns, progress and challenges in disaster risk reduction. Based on the evaluation recommendations, UNISDR began planning future GAR publications, including completing a draft of The GAR Atlas will be launched at the Global Platform.

The GAR Atlas is a key output of the multi-hazard probabilistic **Global Risk Assessment**, which, UNISDR and core members of its Science and Technology Partnership updated, enhanced and expanded in 2016. In line with the evaluation recommendations, the results of the assessment are designed to be presented in a visually appealing and innovative manner, with an online version, an application with a small physical globe, and a large-size printed publication. Enhanced content in the print version was designed to link to an application that makes available the updated risk metrics and hazard data across all main physical hazards.

The **GAR Atlas** compares the value of potential economic losses in the global built environment with a variety of economic metrics relating to capital stock, investment, social expenditure and fiscal strength. This comparison makes it possible to estimate the implications of disaster risk for development in each national economy. The GAR Atlas thus provides risk metrics that could support decision makers in national planning and finance ministries to adopt more effective risk management strategies, in the context of the Sendai Framework. The risk metrics presented in the GAR Atlas will also provide insight for the private sector, including the insurance industry. Revealing the levels of risk hidden in national economies and their urban centres can inform investment flows in a way that prevents the generation of new disaster risk, as well as enabling businesses and financial institutions to assess the implications of existing risk embedded in value chains and asset portfolios. The GAR Atlas will thus contribute to a transition from the sort of risk-blind investment that constructs avoidable disasters towards pathways of risk-informed investment that will contribute to strengthened social and economic resilience and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2016, UNISDR put significant effort into preparing for the **2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**, to be hosted by the Government of Mexico in Cancún in May 2017. The role of the ISDR Support Group was enhanced through the creation of a dedicated Task Force for the organisation and follow-up the Global Platform.⁶ Starting in May 2016, UNISDR conducted an extensive consultation exercise with governments and stakeholders to formulate the agenda, draft session concept notes and choose speakers for the Global Platform. Numerous rounds of consultations on the draft Global Platform outcome documents were conducted. Coordination and engagement with stakeholders were also strengthened. Fifteen stakeholder groups, endorsed by Governments, were consulted on the substantive development process of the Global Platform and will be engaged in co-Chairing and speaking at various sessions in Cancún.

The **Global Platform** will take stock of the progress made in implementing the Sendai Framework, with a specific focus on its looming Target E to *substantially increase the number of countries with disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020*, as well as Targets A to D on reducing global disaster mortality and direct disaster-related economic loss by 2030. Progress in defining baselines and risk profiles, including the establishment or enhancement of systems to record disaster losses, will also be examined, while the announcement of

cutting-edge disaster risk reduction initiatives will help drive implementation. The Global Platform will be informed by the discussions and outcomes of ministerial meetings and Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction (see below) that took place in 2016.

In preparation for the **Global Platform**, UNISDR drafted policy options concerning Sendai Framework implementation, identified options at the Global Platform to achieve consensus, and ensured that the deliberations are in synch with, and contribute to, the work of the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development. UNISDR also organised extensive logistical arrangements and substantive support to deliver four plenaries, 15 working sessions, many side events and several other interactive events in Cancún.

2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

SUPPORT TO REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SENDAI FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction are key instruments to advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework. In 2016, **Regional Platforms and Sub-Regional Platforms** were held in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Pacific, Central Asia and the South Caucasus, and Central Africa. In the Americas and Arab States, ministerial meetings were held in 2016. Preparations are well under way for Regional Platforms in the Americas, Europe and the Arab States to be organised in 2017 (more details are provided in the regional section, page 19).

UNISDR provided technical support to, and worked closely with, **regional organisations** to play a central role in reducing disaster risk through the exchange of good practice, the standardisation of region-specific codes and guidelines, the adoption of common information and early warning systems, the dissemination of tried and tested tools and methodologies, and the development of regional strategies for disaster risk reduction. In 2016, with UNISDR support, a number of regional intergovernmental organisations aligned their work with the Sendai Framework. Examples include the endorsement of the ***Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa and the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction Road Map 2016-2020*** (more information is available in the regional section, page 19).

UNISDR strengthened its technical support to United Nations Resident Coordinators and **United Nations Country Teams** to ensure that the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and Common Country Assessments (CCA/UNDAF) are risk-informed. A key tool in this work was the 2016 launch of the ***United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development***. More than 45 United Nations entities committed to this document, which, outlines the key steps for integrating and internalising disaster risk reduction across the United Nations System's processes, policies and programmes.

Countries need national disaster loss data to establish baselines in order to start monitoring the implementation of the Sendai Framework and common targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. **Disaster loss databases** are a key tool for providing this information and UNISDR has worked with over 92 countries to develop them.⁷ In 2016, UNISDR increased

the capacity of 10 countries in Africa by training government officials, United Nations staff and government consultants in the concepts and use of the software DesInventar.⁷ UNISDR also supported the building of new databases containing more than 20 years of disaster loss and damage data, providing them with technical support in the form of data gap analyses, funding required to conduct the historical research, and supporting the production of preliminary analyses. In countries that had previously finished initial databases, UNISDR conducted a series of policy dialogues and workshops to translate the knowledge of risks gained through the databases into development planning and public investment decision-making.⁸

Target E of the Sendai Framework, to substantially increase the number of countries with **national and local disaster risk reduction strategies** by 2020, is a prerequisite for achieving the other targets. It committed Member States to developing new, and improving existing, disaster risk reduction strategies and plans with clear targets and indicators by 2020. UNISDR prepared a draft guidance notes for countries for the development of national strategies based on a review of existing strategies, and using advice from a group of experts (including national government representatives and technical experts). The draft concept note was used by UNISDR Regional Offices to advise various countries. This work contributed to the development of new strategies, including India's launch of its first National Disaster Management Plan based on the four priorities for action of the Sendai Framework (for more, see the regional section, page 19).

UNISDR also partnered with UN Women to develop a gender marker that will help governments develop gender-sensitive national disaster risk reduction strategies and/or plans by 2020, and to monitor and report on their implementation. UNISDR Regional Offices also supported **national coordination mechanisms** and National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction, including advising on adjustments in light of the Sendai Framework.

In 2016, UNISDR developed pilot local indicators aligned with the Sendai Framework through a multi-stakeholder consultative process, and worked closely with ten cities in ten different countries to pilot them for voluntary use by local governments.⁹ UNISDR also updated the **Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient** to accelerate local implementation of the Sendai Framework. Building on the Ten Essentials, UNISDR collected best practices from more than 30 cities to develop a new Handbook for Local Governments to be launched at the Global Platform. UNISDR also engaged actively in the Habitat III Conference and in supporting the formulation of the New Urban Agenda, which, fully incorporates disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework.

The UNISDR Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) continued to deliver **capacity development programmes** to support national and local implementation of the Sendai Framework. The year saw increased demand for follow-up programming, with a particular focus on training of trainers' workshops engaging the private sector, national and local governments. Fifty new events and training workshops were organised to meet this increased demand. A total of 1,224 national and local government officials and private sector representatives from 46 countries were trained in 2016. Twenty-eight training events centred on national and local resilience planning, with the focus being the development of action plans to align existing policy, plans or legislation to the Sendai Framework, in coherence with the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. Twenty-two events were on local implementation of the Sendai Framework in line with the Making Cities Resilient Campaign.

3 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

CATALYSE ACTION THROUGH MEMBER STATES AND PARTNERS

UNISDR continued to strengthen **policy coherence** across the disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change agendas by providing technical support to a variety of **intergovernmental and informal** mechanisms. The Geneva-based ISDR Support Group, with UNISDR as the secretariat, was a key reference point for policy and political exchanges on Sendai Framework implementation, disaster risk reduction and links with other UN agendas. Other intergovernmental processes supported by UNISDR included drafting the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General and written inputs for other reports of the Secretary-General on the coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. In addition, UNISDR contributed to the main themes for the ECOSOC sessions of 2017, 2018 and 2019, the restructuring of the agenda of the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly, and the draft Ministerial Declaration of the 2016 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

UNISDR provided legal and policy advice to the UN International Law Commission, the Committee of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This contributed to the **UN International Law Commission defining an international legal obligation for each state to reduce disaster risk, based on the Sendai Framework**. In addition, the secretariat of the **Committee of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** integrated the Sendai Framework's key tenets in the Guidelines to State Parties on periodic reporting to the Committee.¹⁰ UNISDR guidance also contributed to the **CEDAW Draft General Recommendation No. 35 on the Gender-Related Dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction in a Changing Climate**.

UNISDR has a key coordinating role in the United Nations system, and UNISDR's **inter-agency coordination** engagement strengthened the ability of the United Nations to support countries in the implementation of the Sendai Framework. This included convening the **first United Nations Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction** and the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points Group. UNISDR led and facilitated the roll-out and implementation of the revised *United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience* in 2016.¹¹ This common approach to disaster risk reduction provides an opportunity for the United Nations to actively work as one towards meeting the 2030 Agenda. The new results-based analytical framework, developed through the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points Group, led by UNISDR, has strengthened accountability across the United Nations system through measurable progress monitoring. UNISDR also collaborated with the United Nations Development Group to guide the United Nations Country Teams in integrating disaster risk reduction in country programming, including the revision of guidelines for United Nations country teams to prepare United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and co-led the preparation of several supplementary guides to ensure that risk and resilience were retained as critical pillars in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In 2016, UNISDR strengthened its **partnership** with the private sector, the **Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE)**, to build understanding of the hidden disaster risk-related liabilities for businesses, in order to increase **risk-sensitive business** investments and foster risk-sensitive business practices. UNISDR supported the ARISE private sector members to draft and launch a strategy for Sendai Framework implementation, working within its focus areas of business disaster risk management strategies, investment metrics, resilience benchmarking analytics and standards, education and training, legal and regulatory

issues, urban risk reduction and resilience, and risk transfer. UNISDR collaborated with ARISE members to design and implement a range of projects and initiatives that allowed ARISE members to meet voluntary commitments made at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in 2015. In 2016, ARISE member projects engaged over 500 businesses, 15 universities, 1,500 students, and a host of local administrators.¹²

To encourage **disaster risk financing and tracking**, UNISDR provided extensive input and secretariat support throughout 2016, including technical papers and non-papers, to the formal and informal deliberations of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology Relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (OIEWG) regarding indicators for measuring progress in achieving Target F of the Sendai Framework, on international cooperation to developing countries. The recommended indicators for the measurement of Target F encompass three categories – financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building – thereby observing the same organising principles employed for measuring the means of implementation of the SDGs.

Recognising UNISDR's work developing a **disaster risk management (DRM) policy marker** within the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Creditor Reporting System (CRS), as well as its pilot application at national level in the risk-sensitive budget review of Indian Ocean Consortium countries, Member States suggested the use of a DRM policy marker to assist measurement of the target. In parallel to the programme of work of the OIEWG, UNISDR worked closely with the OECD DAC on the proposal for the inclusion of a DRM policy marker within the CRS. This proposal, which was first developed by UNISDR and the World Bank together with Member States, passed the first instance of scrutiny by the OECD DAC Working Party on Statistics in 2016 and will be submitted for final approval in 2017. UNISDR also continued its outreach and engagement with the international financial industry, to identify explicit responsibilities in the Sendai Framework for financial regulators and accounting bodies in managing disaster risk.

UNISDR's January 2016 **Science and Technology Conference on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework** was attended by more than 700 experts representing numerous scientific institutions and societies. It resulted in a 15-year road map to define the expected outcomes of science and technology work under the four Sendai Framework priorities for action, ways to monitor progress and needs, the launch of a Science and Technology Partnership, and various regional initiatives.

As a result of extensive consultations with **civil society organisations** in the preparations for the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, many session organising teams, co-chairs, speakers, and concept notes reflect a variety of stakeholders and many are led by civil society members.

UNISDR provided guidance to **parliamentarians** in their efforts to include disaster risk reduction in national legislation and budgets, including through technical support to the Inter-Parliamentary Union's 2016 Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals for the Parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe. Results of UNISDR support to parliamentarians include the establishment of the East African Disaster Risk Reduction Parliamentarian Platform, as well as the creation of the Parliamentarians Network for Resilience to Disasters in Central Africa (REPARC), and active advocacy by Women in Parliaments.

UNISDR's Japan Liaison Office, collaborated with partners for 29 events in 2016, and in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the United Nations

Training and Research Institute (UNITAR), contributed to five disaster risk reduction training programmes in 2016, including three gender focused trainings. Through these five programme, 113 participants from 46 countries were trained. In addition, through the coordination of the **International Recovery Platform**, five capacity-building workshops were delivered to promote the Build Back Better approach to recovery.

1 ENABLER

EFFECTIVE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION AND GLOBAL ADVOCACY

The *Sendai Seven* Campaign: Seven Targets, Seven Years was launched by the United Nations Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSR) on **International Day for Disaster Reduction**, 13 October, along with a special report *Poverty & Death* that helped focus International Day activities on Target A of the Sendai Framework, to *substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030*. The SRSR briefed the media several times during the year and published 14 opinion pieces through Thomson Reuters, Japan Times, the Bangkok Post, the Guardian, Huffington Post, and other high-profile international outlets. The Sendai Seven strategy seeks to recognise best practice in achieving the targets of the Sendai Framework, and five examples from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Pacific were honoured on International Day for Disaster Reduction through regional and national media outreach. The campaign will continue for the next six years, with each focusing on a different target as well as making links to **World Tsunami Awareness Day on 5 November**. Social media are an important part of the strategy, and three Thunderclap online campaigns launched during the year reached over 60 million people. The strategy also involved reaching out to other United Nations agency heads, and joint op-eds were published with the executive heads of UNDP, OCHA, UNEP and IOM.

In 2016, UNISDR continued its **global advocacy** efforts through a relaunch of the **Making Cities Resilient Campaign**, now consisting of a network of 3,457 cities. This phase began with alignment of all tools and guidance for local resilience-building with the Sendai Framework and began development of new local-urban indicators coherent with the Sendai Framework, SDG 11, and the New Urban Agenda. UNISDR supported the **Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools' advocacy** and monitoring efforts¹³, as part of 2016 Regional Platforms in Asia and the Pacific, in close collaboration with the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector. This triggered new membership from three Pacific countries¹⁴ and an ongoing policy mapping of integration of school safety in national disaster risk reduction strategies. UNISDR provided leadership in the conceptualisation of the **Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS)** initiative and worked partners, The World Meteorological Organization and The World Bank, on project development.¹⁵

UNISDR initiated the development of a **Global Roster of Women Leaders and Gender Experts** in Disaster Risk Reduction to further enhance UNISDR's efforts globally, the SRSR's commitment as an International Gender Champion to achieve gender parity on all development discussion panels by 2030, and to promote women's leadership in disaster risk reduction in future Regional and Global Platforms.

UNISDR continued to coordinate the **International Recovery Platform** (IRP) as a mechanism for knowledge sharing to promote the Build Back Better approach to recovery, in line with Priority 4 of the Sendai Framework. The work included developing the Recovery Guidance Note focusing on the private sector, which was published in November, and operating IRP Web as a knowledge management tool for recovery.

PreventionWeb, the disaster risk reduction community knowledge platform, overhauled its search technology, providing a much more intuitive user experience. A plan was developed to provide a practical framework to ensure that services are strongly embedded in a modern knowledge management strategy. A modern service of online work spaces was launched and is used by 200 disaster risk reduction networks/communities serving over 105,000 people. As part of its knowledge brokering effort, PreventionWeb piloted new editorial packages, and continued interactive Ask-the-Expert and Guest Editorial slots.

The process to develop a set of **Words into Action** (WiA) guidelines, as practical how-to guides targeted to a specific set of users, began in 2016. The WiA guidelines will be validated and kept up to date online through co-curation by communities on PreventionWeb. In 2016, a general strategy for quality control and working towards guidelines that reflect real-world needs was developed on the basis of the lessons learnt while developing the first guide of the WiA guidelines, on National and Local Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction. Currently, six WiA work groups are in an intermediate or advanced phase of drafting and another eight are in an initial stage of drafting. The total number of experts participating in all work groups exceeds 500.¹⁶

In 2016, UNISDR continued efforts to raise appropriate, sustainable and predictable financial resources to support the work of UNISDR embodied in the UNISDR Work Programme 2016-2019. UNISDR donors responded positively to UNISDR's change management process by increasing un-earmarked funding. UNISDR donors also strengthened the predictability of their support in 2016 by signing 15 multi-year agreements. UNISDR met its 2016 financial target of US\$30 million and diversified its support base, with India becoming a new donor.

2 ENABLER

STRENGTHENED ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

The UNISDR **Strategic Framework 2016-2021**, finalised over the course of 2016, defines UNISDR's vision and role in the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The Strategic Framework's fifteen results contribute to the achievement of three Strategic Objectives, leading to the overarching objective: the prevention of new and reduction of existing disaster risk and strengthening resilience through successful multi-hazard disaster risk management. A quadrennial Work Programme for 2016-2019 was finalised in alignment with **Sub-Programme 3- Natural Disasters, Under Programme- 23 Humanitarian Assistance**, of the United Nations Framework 2018-2019. The **UNISDR Work Programme** details fifteen results and describes the thirty deliverables required to achieve the Strategic Framework's objectives. The Work Programme includes a Results Framework that defines indicators, baselines and targets to monitor progress towards implementation of the Work Programme.

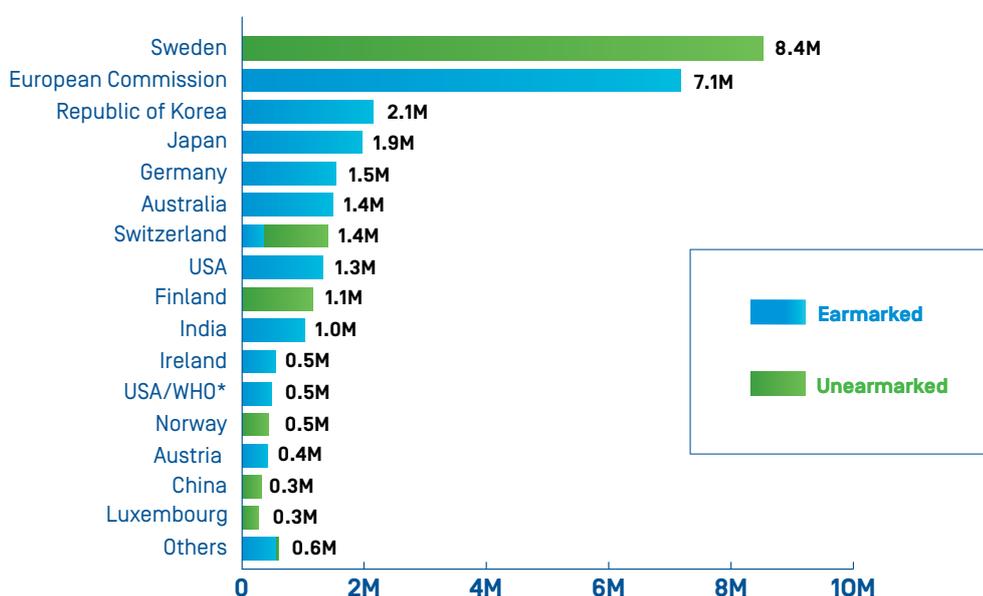
In July 2016, UNISDR initiated an **Organisational Review and Change Management Process**, to make itself more fit for purpose to deliver its mandate. The process is underpinned by commitments to strengthen organisational performance, **enhance effectiveness, efficiency** and quality of **operational performance**, including through gender-sensitive internal policies and approaches. It is guided by eight change priorities: organisational set-up; resourcing (resource mobilisation and cost savings); internal communication; external communication; people management; staff capacity development; business processes and policies; and a partnership engagement strategy. The eight change priorities were initiated in a phased manner, with a new organisational structure being a central piece of the work in 2016. In late 2016, the new organisational structure was designed to better align the functions, levels, skills and geographic locations of staff required to achieve the objectives of the Strategic Framework. The process of implementing the new organigram began in 2016 and will be completed in 2017.

In 2016, the UNISDR Programme and Finance Committee, the mechanism for screening new projects prior to donor submission, was reviewed and adjusted to broaden its scope to include oversight of new and ongoing projects. As a result, the committee was converted into a **Programme Management Oversight Committee**. This committee began work in September and focuses on enhanced oversight of ongoing projects and better alignment between proposed project results and the UNISDR Work Programme.

UNISDR mainstreamed **gender equality** and **women's empowerment** throughout its Strategic Framework and Work Programme, underscoring the need to mainstream gender aspects in all planning and implementation of disaster risk reduction policies, advocacy campaigns and awareness-raising products. Internally, UNISDR is committed to gender balance in its work force. UNISDR achieved its **Geneva Gender Champions Initiative** commitments, and all staff passed a UN-Women gender training. A standing item at all UNISDR staff meetings is the identification of gender-related issues in the workplace and a broader discussions on gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction in the work of the organisation.

2016 DONORS TO UNISDR IN MILLIONS USD

(RECEIVED AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2016)



Note: In 2016, significant in-kind contributions were provided by the host countries of Regional and Sub-Regional Platforms, Global Platform 2017 and other meetings.

*USAID Bureau for Global Health, Emerging Threats Program through WHO

2016 DONORS TO UNISDR IN USD

(RECEIVED AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2016)

| GOVERNMENTS | USD |
|--|-------------------|
| AUSTRALIA ¹ | 1,442,125 |
| AUSTRIA ¹ | 396,825 |
| CANADA ¹ | 4,753 |
| CHINA | 300,000 |
| FINLAND | 1 133,787 |
| FRANCE | 10,966 |
| GERMANY ¹ | 1,511,254 |
| INDIA ¹ | 1,000,000 |
| IRELAND ¹ | 543,478 |
| JAPAN ¹ | 1,933,333 |
| KAZAKHSTAN ¹ | 100,000 |
| LUXEMBOURG | 281,849 |
| NORWAY | 464,183 |
| REPUBLIC OF KOREA ¹ | 2,107,836 |
| SWEDEN | 8,364,725 |
| SWITZERLAND ³ | 1,374,612 |
| USA ¹ | 1,293,183 |
| USA/WHO ⁴ | 495,050 |
| SUBTOTAL | 22,757,959 |
| OTHER INSTITUTIONS | USD |
| EUROPEAN COMMISSION ² | 7,055,465 |
| FAO ¹ | 125,820 |
| HUMAN SECURITY TRUST FUND ¹ | 191,665 |
| SUBTOTAL | 7,372,949 |
| PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOUNDATIONS | USD |
| AXA ¹ | 10,000 |
| IBM ¹ | 7,000 |
| KOKUSAI KOGYO CO. LTD ¹ | 10,000 |
| SM PRIME ¹ | 5,000 |
| UPS FOUNDATION ¹ | 110,000 |
| SUBTOTAL | 142,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 30,272,908 |

¹ Earmarked contributions

² Earmarked contributions from two Directorate Generals (DEVCO and ECHO)

³ Combination of earmarked and unearmarked contributions

⁴ Earmarked contribution from USAID Bureau for Global Health, Emerging Threats Program through WHO.

Note: 2016 certified financial statement will be posted at: www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/donors

UNISDR Regional Offices

In support of the Sendai Framework
for Disaster Risk Reduction



UNISDR
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

AFRICA



The year 2016 was marked by heightened advocacy and urgency to implement the Sendai Framework in Africa. A key achievement was the adoption of the **Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa**. The Programme of Action will serve as the instrument to facilitate the achievement of the Sendai Framework's goals in the region. Political commitment for the implementation of the Programme of action was generated through the **Mauritius Declaration**, adopted at the 5th High-Level Meeting of African Ministers responsible for disaster risk reduction.

UNISDR published the **2015 Africa Status Report** analysing current trends in Africa, key risk drivers, and the state of disaster risk reduction implementation. The report also outlined a roadmap to enable African countries to transition from implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action to the Sendai Framework.

Over 400 government staff from ten countries were trained on **disaster loss accounting** and risk knowledge. The training is the first step to build a risk knowledge architecture at the national level to inform investment decisions for disaster risk reduction. Ten sub-Saharan countries are in the process of data collection, systematisation and entry, disaggregating data by gender, age, and hazard type, including natural and human-induced hazards. The data collection is compliant with the Sendai Framework loss and damage indicators set by the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology for Disaster Risk Reduction.¹⁸

Regional coordination on disaster risk reduction was strengthened during the reporting period through two sessions of the **Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction**, one **Africa Regional Platform**, one High-Level Meeting, and one sub-regional platform. These forums provided opportunities for African Member States, Intergovernmental Organisations, the United Nations, and multiple stakeholder groups and development partners to discuss tools, mechanisms and ways to boost and coordinate disaster risk reduction in Africa, as well as to address key risk drivers on the continent: poverty, public health, climate change and variability, poorly-managed urbanisation, conflict and migration, and environmental degradation.¹⁸

UNISDR's Regional Office for Africa (ROA) provided regular technical and financial support to the Intergovernmental Organisations in Africa, particularly the **African Union Commission** and the **Regional Economic Communities**. The support resulted in the first-ever regional disaster risk reduction and Management Act in Africa, passed by the East African Community, as well as a disaster risk reduction policy in West Africa, the Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy in Southern Africa, capacity building of parliamentarians in Central Africa, and enhanced early warning capacity through Climate Outlook Forums in the Greater Horn of Africa.

ROA also strengthened United Nations coordination in Africa, setting the ground for the implementation of the revised **United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience**, including through inter-agency mechanisms. UNISDR continued to influence United Nations Common Country Programming at the national level by reviewing United

Nations Development Assistance Frameworks as a member of the United Nations Development Group. At the regional level, UNISDR ensured integration of disaster risk reduction into the Regional Coordination Mechanism, resulting in the formation of a cluster on Humanitarian matters and disaster risk management.

Integration of disaster risk reduction was also promoted at the political level, including at the United Nations Environmental Assembly and regional climate outlook forums. The African Union Agenda 2063 recognises the importance of disaster risk reduction in pursuit of its Goal 7, *Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities*. **Education and health** continued to be key sectors prioritised by ROA, including through a targeted approach to develop and strengthen risk-informed health systems in the Ebola-affected countries and supporting the implementation of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools in Africa.

UNISDR focused on **parliamentarians and media** for capacity-building initiatives. A training workshop of the Parliamentarians Network for Resilience to Disasters in Central Africa (REPARC) and a training session for media personnel on effective disaster risk reduction reporting were organised. Momentum on advocacy and awareness of disaster risk reduction was catalysed during International Day for Disaster Reduction, World Tsunami Awareness Day, and World Radio Day.

ARAB STATES



Despite mounting political and security challenges, with increasing demands for humanitarian aid relative to developmental assistance, several Arab States scaled up actions on policy guidance and advocacy to ensure that regional policies and commitments are aligned with the Sendai Framework. In 2016, Arab countries increased their disaster risk reduction actions and took steps to enhance their capacities at national and local levels as well as strengthening regional cooperation and coordination mechanisms. The Arab region continues to make progress thanks to active engagement by the League of Arab States, national and local governments, civil society, academic and scientific institutes, as well as youth groups, who are actively playing a role in disaster risk reduction and more generally in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

In accordance with the decision of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment in their 27th meeting, UNISDR's Regional Office for the Arab States (ROAS) revised the **Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction** to align it with the Sendai Framework and link it to the sustainable development efforts of Arab countries and the Arab Plan of Action on Climate Change. The strategy was submitted to the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for the Environment in their 28th meeting. ROAS provided technical inputs to the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, which acknowledged the importance of disaster risk reduction

noting that “*Disaster risk reduction and sustainable development are closely related. The Arab road map for implementing the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction should be put into effect through national strategies and frameworks for managing risk and building resilience with a view to reducing existing risks, averting new risks and ensuring sustainability. Doing so will require the creation of appropriate coordination and financing mechanisms.*” Additionally, the **Arab Report on Sustainable Development**, published in 2016, reflects disaster risk reduction as a major cross-cutting issue for sustainable development and as a critical factor in the resilience of cities.

ROAS further supported **national and local governments** in disaster risk reduction. UNISDR helped to pilot the Sendai Framework indicators at the national level in Tunisia. In Mauritania, UNISDR supported the development of a national disaster risk reduction strategy and action plan, and assisted four local governments (Aqaba, Jarash, Zarqa and Saida) in developing their disaster risk reduction and resilience action plans. In Jordan, ROAS support contributed to the establishment of the country’s national platform for disaster risk reduction.

ROAS also focussed on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development programmes across the UN System. Using the Common Country Assessment/ United Nations Development Action Framework (CCA/UNDAF) tool, ROAS supported **United Nations Country Teams** to integrate disaster risk reduction in their planning documents. As a result, disaster risk reduction concerns are now part of the planning documents of Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. ROAS contributes a risk-sensitive approach to all meetings of the Inter-Agency Coordination Network on Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Middle East and North Africa region.

At the local level, the Arab region witnessed an increase in the number of local governments joining the **UNISDR Making Cities Resilient Campaign**, bringing the regional total to over 310. ROAS continued to support and build the capacities of the advocates and champions for the campaign in countries including Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Sudan, and Tunisia. Through the campaign, ROAS strengthened partnerships with Palestine’s An-Najah University by contributing knowledge products and advocacy tools to its weekly radio station, as well as with the Arab Towns Organization, the Arab Urban Development Institute and others.

ROAS also helped to establish the first **Arab Youth Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction** and facilitated a dialogue between local government and private sector representatives, which culminated in an agreement and a coordination mechanism to provide technical and financial support to the implementation of disaster risk reduction and resilience action plans.

EUROPE



In 2016, UNISDR's Regional Office for Europe (ROE) focused on the continued active European contribution to Sendai Framework implementation in coherence with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Regional and national partners focused on gaining high-level political buy-in. Notably, the **European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR)**, serviced and facilitated by UNISDR, adopted the **EFDRR Road Map 2016-2020** actions in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework at its 7th Annual Meeting in Helsinki, Finland. The EFDRR Road Map was endorsed by the European ministers at the Council of Europe (EUR-OPA) ministerial session that further adopted a four-year work plan as effective tools to implement Sendai Framework priorities in the region. The European Commission shaped up priorities and launched programmatic implementation of the Sendai Framework through the adopted European Commission Action Plan, A disaster risk-informed approach to all EU policies, and the European Committee of the Regions' joint action plan with UNISDR on implementation of the Sendai Framework at local and regional levels in 2016-2020. ROE also collaborated closely with the Netherlands and Slovakia who held European Union (EU) presidencies in 2016.

UNISDR efforts in **policy** continued through collaboration with the European Parliament, Commission and Council, with disaster risk reduction considerations included in several policy documents and discussions on the World Humanitarian Summit, sustainable development, cultural heritage, the European Consensus on Development, European Disability Strategy and consultations on the European Commission's policy priority areas.

ROE continued to support the 27 **national platforms** for disaster risk reduction in Europe including by support to align them with the Sendai Framework. ROE also prepared an extensive survey of European countries' progress in implementing the Sendai Framework. The survey results will be presented at the European Open Forum on in March 2017 and will be used to support policy-making and strategic implementation plans in European Union and non-European Union countries.

Twenty-eight national disaster risk reduction focal points were identified in the region. Portugal and Sweden developed **national strategies** for disaster risk reduction in line with the Sendai Framework. ROE further supported Bulgaria, Estonia, Georgia, Italy, Slovenia and Turkey in the development of national strategies. Three **peer reviews** on disaster risk reduction were conducted in Estonia (risk management capabilities), Malta and Poland (both on risk assessment) under the European Commission programme for peer reviews in the framework of EU cooperation on civil protection and disaster risk management. Twenty-eight European Union member states, three states participating in the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism, and six countries performed national risk assessments according to European Union guidelines.¹⁸

In 2016, ROE contributed to the development of four United Nations Development Action Frameworks within the Europe region.¹⁹ In addition, ROE continued to mainstream disaster risk reduction within diverse **United Nations** processes, including through the integration of substantive inputs to the Prague Declaration, which formed the European contribution to the New Urban Agenda. ROE also collaborated with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in developing methodologies for country profiles on Housing and Land Use Planning

and in identifying a way forward for options for UNECE and the OECD to support prevention, preparedness and response relating to industrial and chemical accidents.

ROE ensured that civil society representatives participated in the preparatory consultations for the 2017 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction and supported European Disaster Risk Reduction Champions, including former President of Finland Tarja Halonen, and European Commission Vice President Kristalina Georgieva.²⁰ ROE and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction contributed to the Rome Investment Forum, an international private sector event featuring European ministers of finance and the European Commission Vice-President, which focused on the importance of business resilience for sustainable development.

The **Making Cities Resilient Campaign** continued to grow in Europe in 2016. Europe hosted in Florence the first high-level international event on local level Sendai Framework.²¹ The outcome document, the Florence Way Forward, highlighted local level priorities in implementing the Sendai Framework. The event also relaunched the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient Campaign and the Florence Declaration. On International Day for Disaster Reduction, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction signed a joint agreement with the European Committee of the Regions to support European Union cities and regions in taking more concerted action to reduce the impact of natural hazards.

AMERICAS



In 2016, the **First Ministerial and High-level Authorities Meeting on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas** was held in Asunción, Paraguay. The 35 participating countries adopted the **Asunción Declaration** and the guidelines for the formulation of an action plan on the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas. Building on the political backing achieved in Asunción, UNISDR's Regional Office for the Americas (ROAM) supported the alignment of the main **three sub-regional disaster risk reduction strategies** (the Caribbean Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy, the Central American Policy on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management, and the Union of South American Nations Strategy) with the Sendai Framework. Particularly in the Caribbean, the alignment involved the harmonisation of the monitoring framework of the regional strategy with the Sendai Framework's targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the national level, ROAM began providing technical support to seven countries for the revision of their **national plans and strategies** for disaster risk reduction.²² Four of the countries agreed to prepare roadmaps or to initiate the process as per the Sendai Framework's standards. In 2016, UNISDR supported Argentina in the revision of its national framework of civil protection to include a more comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction. And also supported Costa Rica to finalise the preparation of its national plan and policy and monitoring framework. This will serve as a best practice of the integration of cross-sector disaster risk reduction priorities within a comprehensive national level monitoring system. In the Caribbean, ROAM support

lead to the Caribbean Road Map on Seismic Risk Management, the identification of Caribbean disaster risk reduction priorities that will guide national plans, and agreed recommendations to enhance early warning systems in Caribbean.

ROAM supported countries to update their **loss and damage databases**. As of 2016, 19 countries (55%) of the region, had updated loss and damages databases. The updated databases served to prepare a statistical report on disaster risk trends for the 19 countries, with the aim of contributing directly to strategic policy guidance as well as advocacy in support of regional and country implementation of national and local disaster risk plans. This report included six Caribbean countries that, for the first time, updated their loss and damage databases.

In 2016, ROAM assisted four municipalities in finalising **local disaster risk reduction action plans**.²³ The national and local action plans received inputs from updated loss and damage databases, risk profiles and local indicators, including a second report on disaster trends and statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean. The regional, national and local achievements built on an active engagement of key partners, including the private sector, advocates and champions, the United Nations System and the media. In 2016, ROAM established four new national chapters of the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE) in Colombia, Chile, Peru and El Salvador. In addition, 321 new cities, 11 new advocates and one new champion joined the Making Cities Resilient Campaign.

Partnerships also involved important work to further the cross-sectoral nature of disaster risk reduction with United Nations partners. One highlight of 2016 was the preparation, with FAO, of the *Guidelines and Recommendations for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Agriculture and Food Security and Nutrition Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean* to be adopted by Ministries of Agriculture at the 2017 Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas. Another key achievement was the implementation of the revised **United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience**, working with the Inter-Agency Working Group of the United Nations for the Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience chaired by UNISDR and UNDP (IAWG) and formed by 16 United Nations Regional Offices in the Americas. The group developed disaster risk reduction assessments, update loss and damage databases and supported the integration of resilience considerations in the UN Development Assistance Frameworks of three countries.

In 2016, ROAM shared 2,002 communication items through the regional **Communications Platform**, including press releases and special messages, web stories on the regional website and PreventionWeb, and posts on social media in the Americas. The quality, language accessibility and the knowledge content of the information provided by ROAM website had an impact on numbers, with an average of nearly 700,000 monthly visits. ROAM reinforced its social media presence through successful partnerships with regional television outlets for dissemination of good practices and to further extend the reach of global initiatives supported by UNISDR.²⁴

ASIA-PACIFIC



A highlight of 2016 for UNISDR's Regional Office for Asia-Pacific (ROAP) was the successful outcome of the **2016 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)**, which UNISDR co-organised with the Government of India, in New Delhi in November. It was a major achievement: a heavyweight political presence and wide partner support reiterated the commitment by governments and partners to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi opened the AMCDRR before 30 Ministers and 4,400 representatives from 51 countries. He issued a 10-point plan to strengthen resilience in the region and set the stage for a conference that adopted three major outcomes: the ***New Delhi Declaration; the Asia Regional Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework***, which includes policy guidance, milestones and a two-year action plan to achieve the Sendai Framework's seven targets; and ten Voluntary Stakeholder Action Statements. As the region looks ahead to the AMCDRR 2018, in Mongolia, it is well positioned to introduce the Sendai Monitor which will further boost efforts to prevent and reduce disaster risk.

ROAP also facilitated the Central Asia and South Caucasus Regional Platform, hosted by the Government of Tajikistan in Dushanbe, which was the first such platform in that region. The ***Dushanbe Declaration*** is a landmark collective political commitment – supported by a Regional Plan of Action with milestones to achieve the 2020 target of the Sendai Framework – to advance disaster risk reduction efforts in this hazard-prone region of eight countries with a population of 75 million people.

In the Pacific, The ***Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management***, was adopted with strong substantive support from the Pacific Office. This framework, the first of its kind, aims to strengthen the resilience of Pacific Island communities to the impacts of slow and sudden-onset natural hazards by integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts with disaster risk reduction approaches and activities towards sustainable development. UNISDR played a key role in the Technical Working Group that developed this document by providing technical disaster risk reduction support and ensuring its coherence with the Sendai Framework.

ROAP co-organised the International Conference on Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework with the World Health Organization and the Government of Thailand, in Bangkok. The conference called on all countries to put health resilience at the heart of disaster risk management in the face of crises such as the Zika virus outbreak. The agreed ***Bangkok Principles*** form an important contribution to international policy guidance and help to put health at the heart of disaster risk management.

ROAP supported the development of **disaster risk management status reports** in Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, India, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, and Mongolia. These reports are important baseline documents for the appropriate review and update of national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, and of course, for the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework.²⁵ Through the process, the countries gained a clearer understanding of their disaster risk context,

capacity and vulnerability. This knowledge equips decision makers – in government and with other stakeholders, at national and local level – to make better choices on the allocation of resources and priorities to strengthen disaster resilience.

India developed the country's first ever **National Disaster Management Plan** aligned with the Sendai Framework, while Mongolia utilised the Sendai Framework to guide its national strategy for disaster risk reduction. UNISDR advocacy and facilitation supported the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Nepal, Palau, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to strengthen their national plans in line with the Sendai Framework.²⁶

In 2016, **national disaster loss databases** for Bhutan and Myanmar were established with UNISDR's support in collaboration with UNDP. The existing databases in Cambodia, Mongolia, Timor-Leste, and the database in the Indian state of Uttarakhand were updated. Countries such as Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka, used their disaster loss data to carry out probabilistic risk assessments. Based on data from disaster loss databases, and on exposure and proxies for vulnerabilities, probabilistic risk modelling was carried out in the above five countries with UNISDR technical assistance.

ROAP, via the **United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction** for Resilience, worked to strengthen the broad commitment to incorporate disaster risk reduction parameters in all United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). In 2016, UNISDR provided technical assistance to four UNDAFs (Bangladesh, Iran, Kazakhstan and Mongolia) and all 14 UNDAFs in the Pacific region included disaster risk reduction. The Plan of Action was consistently and formally introduced to United Nations Country Teams and regional organisations (e.g. ASEAN and SAARC).

ROAP co-organised the **First Asian Science and Technology Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** with the Government of Thailand, in Bangkok. The Conference's outcome document translated the global Science and Technology Roadmap to Support the Implementation of the Sendai Framework into concrete actions for Asia, the world's most hazard-exposed and disaster-prone region. The outcome, outlining eight priorities to harness research and technology to boost Sendai Framework implementation, was integrated into AMCDRR outcomes.²⁷

In the Pacific, UNISDR worked to improve **private sector risk management** through 35 workshops with small and medium sized businesses in Samoa and the Solomon Islands, work on a global guidance note for the Sendai implementation in the tourism sector, and the launch of the Connecting Business Initiative in Fiji. A Pacific Science and Technology Advisory Group was also developed to advance disaster risk reduction in the region, as an outcome of the Pacific Sub-Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.²⁸

ENDNOTES

1. The UNISDR certified financial statement will be available by July 2017 and the results framework will be available in March 2017.
2. This included two formal and two informal sessions of the Working Group as well as 4 informal consultations of the Chair with Experts and Delegates, six meetings of the 10+10 Group, numerous preparatory briefings with the Chair, the preparation of session documents including agendas, substantive notes, presentations, programs and calendars of work, scripts for the Chair and the SRSG, informal reports of meetings and the formal outcome document of the Working Group, Working Group website page updating, continuous communications with delegates and experts, and provided travel support to Experts from developing countries.
3. Link to technical papers and non-papers: www.preventionweb.net/drr-framework/open-ended-working-group
4. The report of the IAEG-SDGs (E/CN.3/2017/2) proposing a global indicator framework for the SDGs will be presented for consideration and approval by the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) at the 48th Session of the Statistical Commission in March 2017.
5. Further testing will continue in 2017, with the ultimate launch in January 2018.
6. UNISDR serves as the Secretariat for the Support Group and the dedicated Task Force for the organisation of and follow-up to the Global Platform.
7. Through understanding historical trends, patterns, impacts and losses, countries can derive a great deal of understanding of current hazards and exposure (people and economic assets).
8. DesInventar is a low cost, low complexity database that countries can use to record and analyse disaster loss and damage information that has been embraced by more than 92 countries.
9. Lisbon and Amadora (Portugal), Greater Manchester and Stroke on Trent (United Kingdom), Jonkoping (Sweden), Aqaba (Jordan), Kisumu (Kenya), Bugaba (Panama), Yogyakarta (Indonesia), Makati (Philippines) and Islamabad (Pakistan)
10. The secretariat of the Committee of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities integrated the Sendai Framework's key tenants in the Guidelines to State Parties on periodic reporting to the Committee concerning article 11 on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, thus furthering the integration of disaster risk reduction in national regulatory frameworks and the implementation of the Sendai Framework.
11. The revised UN Plan of Action added emphasis on country and local level engagement and ensuring the UN system is responsive to the different country needs and contexts in regards to disaster risk reduction.
12. UNISDR ARISE website: <http://www.preventionweb.net/arise/>
13. The mapping is a global mapping of existing national policies that will integrate comprehensive school safety aspects, to match support by technical partners to interested Governments to integrate school safety fundamentals in their national disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
14. Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu
15. In 2016, country projects were approved for Burkina Faso, Mali, Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Pacific (regional project).
16. The following will be ready in 2017: Build back better in recovery, National and Local platforms, Governance & Accountability, Ecosystems-based disaster risk reduction, Construction Policy and

Practice, Understanding disaster risk (National risk assessment). The eight groups in the initial stages of drafting are: Civil society, volunteers, organised voluntary work & community-based organisations, Tourism, Cultural heritage, Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, Land use and urban planning, Local authorities, National and local strategies (for local government leaders, mayors, city managers), and Preparedness for Response.

- 17 10 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa were provided with training for implementation of disaster loss databases: Angola, Botswana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.
- 18 Key risk drivers identified in the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa (PoA). The PoA was one of the main outcome documents of the 5th High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction agreed through the deliberations of the 6th Session of the Africa Regional Platform in November 2016 in Mauritius and reviewed under the consultative processes of the 7th, 8th and 9th Sessions of the Africa Working Group.
- 19 Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
- 20 Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia
- 21 The then European Commission Vice President, Kristalina Georgieva, played a vital role as co-chair of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing in advocating for funding for preparedness and risk reduction.
- 21 Jointly organised by the City of Florence, the Italian Civil Protection, UCLG, UN-Habitat and UNISDR.
- 22 Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Peru
- 23 Bugaba, Tecoluca, San Luis La Herradura, and Cuyutitlan
- 24 ROAM, in close collaboration with ECHO, continued fostering horizontal cooperation among countries through a repository of good practices and tools for DRR as implemented in the Caribbean, South America and Central America through an online platform (<http://dipecholac.net/>).
- 25 The conference was an example of the Sendai Framework's all of society approach in action with government officials and representatives from inter-governmental organisations, health, science, academia, media, business, and non-governmental organisations from 54 countries present.
- 26 The following countries are expected to submit their report early 2017: Bhutan, Lao PDR and Viet Nam are expected in 2017.
- 27 Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam are also in the process of finalising their revised national DRM plans.
- 28 The outcome underscored three main areas of work: strengthen the connection between the science community and policy makers; ensure advances in science and technology in disaster risk reduction support local actions; and encourage a people-centred approach that taps into traditional knowledge to complement innovation. The recommendations included the need: for better national accounting of disaster loss and damage; for more engagement of the private sector and academic networks; and to nurture a younger generation of researchers with significantly more women.

In support of the Sendai Framework
for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030

