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Institutionalizing Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity

Action Area

2.1: Understanding Links Between Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development

2.2: Understanding & Integrating Climate Risk Across Sectors

2.3: High-Level Awareness and Cross-Sectoral (inter-ministerial) Understanding of DRR

Action Area 2.1: Understanding Links Between Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development

During the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Member States reiterated with a renewed sense of urgency their commitment to addressing DRR and building resilience to disasters within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. This included, as appropriate, integration of both DRR and the building of resilience into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and within relevant frameworks. The development of capacity to not only understand more fully these critical interlinkages, but also to be able to act on the need to integrate their driving policies at every level of governance and among all stakeholders, is therefore a priority in and of itself.

- Actions**
- Increase awareness and understanding of the interlinkages between Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the New Urban Agenda and the Sendai Framework among all stakeholders, at all levels, tailored to their context. (e.g., at Ministerial and Parliamentary level, national and local government)
 - Ensure stakeholder knowledge of and access to information that clearly explains how SDGs and Sendai Framework global targets and principles are interlinked, preferably using data and case studies
 - Increase knowledge of, understanding about, and the sharing of experiences between countries and regions regarding integration and interlinking practices and opportunities for development planning, monitoring and reporting under Sendai Framework among focal, line, and related sectoral ministries, including National Statistics Offices.
 - Target the development of capacity to foster risk-informed development by promoting integration and mainstreaming of DRR among a more broad-reaching target audience that is representative of the greater development effort (e.g., ministries of finance, planning, housing, infrastructure, and others).
 - Minimize competition between different areas of practice and divert time and investment from the DRR efforts.
 - Incorporate at all junctures the mechanisms to enable development of internal stakeholder capacity to understand, assess, and act on the need to integrate DRR in all development activities in a manner that ensures outcomes are demand-driven and locally-relevant.
 - Ensure CD for DRR requirements are identified and emphasized in sectoral and cross-sectoral development plans and programmes.

Action Area 2.2: Understanding & Integrating Climate Risk Across Sectors

The Sendai Framework considers the coherence of DRR and sustainable development policies, plans, practices and mechanisms, across different sectors, to be one of its guiding principles. In line with this principle and to achieve coherent implementation in line with commitments to the Paris Agreement on climate change, participants highlighted the need to ensure that those tasked with DRR or who play a relevant or influential role are informed of the interlinkages and influences that exist between the two policy goals.

- Actions**
- Focus initial CD activities around informing elected and appointed leadership throughout government, including parliamentarians, on the need to increase understanding of and capacity to incorporate climate risk in DRR, resilience and development planning activities, and on motivating them to be champions of change within their area of influence.
 - Increase the understanding of the importance of risk forecasting and the influence of climate change risk among disaster risk management and sustainable development stakeholders.
 - Coordinate practices and mechanisms that facilitate climate and risk data collection, assessment, management, and reporting.
 - Promote the involvement of individuals, organizations, and other stakeholders involved in the development of National Adaptation Plans as providers and/or recipients of capacity development assistance.
 - Incorporate climate-related capacity development training, educational, and scenario-based materials into CD for DRR activities, especially those focused on the national risk assessment, national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, and land use planning.

Action Area 2.3: High-Level Awareness and Cross-Sectoral (inter-ministerial) Understanding of DRR

In line with the Transforming Our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the SAMOA Pathway for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) constitute an integral and ambitious set of action plans for countries, the UN system, and all other development actors. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes and reaffirms the urgent need to reduce the risk of disasters. Understanding of these interlinkages among key decisionmakers, and among all Ministries, particularly in terms of the commonalities among the Sendai targets and SDG indicators, is important for mainstreaming DRR into all development planning and investment. Tailored and contextualized awareness-raising and capacity to coordinate, advocate, mediate, and negotiate for DRR for Ministers, Parliamentarians, national and local decisionmaker is needed.

- Actions**
- Focus initial capacity development efforts on raising the awareness of senior officials and key leadership, especially parliamentarians and business leaders, about the economic case for DRR, highlighting the cost of inaction.
 - Maintain engagement with senior leaders throughout the course of CD activities to promote greater appreciation for and understanding of the impacts of risk on operations, to encourage action to address greater risk management, and to advocate on behalf of greater (nation- or society-wide) DRR needs.
 - Motivate and encourage decisionmakers to promote DRR planning and implementation within their area of influence to contribute to sustainable development, notably in pursuit of the SDGs.
 - Engage stakeholders from the science and technology community to increase cross-sectoral and inter-ministerial understanding of risk-related impacts on development.
 - Design targeted CD interventions to ensure relevance to specific ministries, government entities at sub-national levels, and other concerned partners.
 - Develop short courses for university students and focus on people other than those already working in the disaster risk reduction field.
 - Ensure that some aspects of training and education are mainstreamed in the general curriculum through much more intense advocacy with the ministry of education.