

# 5.

## Strengthening External Support Mechanisms

---

### Action Area

5.1: South-South and Peer-to-Peer Mechanisms

5.2: UN Country Teams

5.3: Humanitarian Development Nexus

### Action Area 5.1: South-South and Peer-to-Peer Mechanisms

Bilateral cooperation through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation arrangements have each proven effective in many instances where the transfer of DRR capacity was sought. There has been an increase in calls for South-South arrangements given the tendency for partners to have more closely-matched risk profiles, governing arrangements, economic constraints, and other relational factors. Peer-to-peer partnerships have also played an additional important role in helping countries to harness greater potential in their disaster risk management and reduction activities, and for improving the social, health and economic well-being of citizens, communities, and society as a whole.

- Actions**
- Establish and strengthen methods and best practices to help initiate and conduct peer-to-peer (country-to-country and city-to-city) support and learning.
  - Develop, promote, and maintain mechanisms that enable country and city partners to gather and share experience and lessons, including those linked to Sendai Framework monitoring.
  - Encourage development partners to facilitate arrangements that are more conducive to or supportive of South-South and Triangular cooperation.
  - Identify innovative opportunities to support twinning and peer-to-peer approaches, including secondments, government exchanges, symposia, and tours.
  - Identify ways to move beyond 'learning together' such that actual sharing of lessons and practices occurs in both existing and new collaborative programmes and in joint exercises.

## Action Area 5.2: UN Country Teams

The UNPoA exists to ensure Sendai Framework implementation contributes to a risk-informed and integrated approach to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development achievement. It addresses the need for coherence and mutual re-enforcement of the UN's resilience building efforts and seeks more effective integration of UN operational preparedness and response capacities into national operational and CD arrangements. The Plan of Action places emphasis on country and local level engagement, ensuring the UN system is responsive to the different country needs and contexts in regard to DRR. Likewise, ongoing United Nations Development System (UNDS) reform recognizes that stronger integrated planning for risk management capacities will bolster the system's ability to anticipate risks and draw on system-wide assets and expertise. UNDAFs must remain risk-informed to ensure any threats to the SDGs and vulnerable populations are well anticipated and mitigated, and where possible, prevented.

- Actions**
- Build UN Country Teams' capacities to understand linkages between DRR (vis-à-vis the Sendai Framework and other programmes and efforts) and the SDGs.
  - Promote wider UN Country Team understanding of the Sendai Framework Monitor system .
  - Ensure UN Country Team staff have an operational-level understanding of the UN Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience, such that implementation in all contexts is both possible and likely.
  - Support the mapping of existing services, needs, and actions of the national development plan.
  - Ensure that all staff involved in country programming can assess and act on the need to include (where necessary) assistance to support technical capacity development as it relates to project-specific or generalized disaster risk.
  - Encourage policies that reduce a reliance on activity-focused and rigidly process-oriented DRR efforts that fail to address CD needs of beneficiaries including the national government, by training staff to view interventions through a capacity development lens.
  - Support capacity assessments and use the outcomes of efforts in the design and formulation of programmes and projects so they are more responsive to actual CD issues and gaps.
  - Ensure that the goal of CD support is to maximize effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and country ownership of its own disaster risk reduction needs by ensuring country level stakeholders can effectively, efficiently, resiliently, and self-sufficiently manage and deliver intended products and services to their target groups
  - Support the CD efforts of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.

- Explore alternative models like secondments and colocation within the Office of the Resident Coordinator or other agencies with related mandates.
- Identify UN entities that should be active in-country to support CD priorities.
- Support Coordinators in proactively and regularly engaging Non-Resident Agencies, ensuring their participation in UNDAF elaboration and UN Country Team meetings.

### Action Area 5.3: Humanitarian Development Nexus

The compressed timelines and response-focused mandates associated with post-disaster humanitarian work can inhibit opportunities to promote and/or support capacity development for disaster risk reduction. Even when disaster risk management capacity is addressed during post-disaster humanitarian work, the tendency is towards enhancing response preparedness rather than managing risk drivers. At the same time, there is significant overlap between the humanitarian and development communities of practice, and in fact the knowledge, skill sets, and influences are oftentimes similar or the same. From a capacity development standpoint, there needs to be more strategic alignment between the two areas of practice.

- Actions**
- Use stakeholder engagement, training and education, and other CD tools to address the lack of understanding of the links between development and humanitarian response that may persist between those engaged in response and those focused on DRR and longer-term development.
  - Ensure that academic and other research entities have access to areas where humanitarian interventions are ongoing so that accurate, science-based CD resources may be developed.
  - Educate humanitarian stakeholders in the long-term value of incorporating DRR considerations into planning and operations for humanitarian interventions, including those that occur in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.
  - Encourage humanitarian partners to emphasize disaster risk reduction and resilience messages at the outset.
  - Promote and incentivize engagement of humanitarian partners in the CD process, most significantly in the assessment of capacity, implementation, and monitoring and assessment.