UNDRR
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

**CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON
LOCAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES**

1 - 2 Oct 2019, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Background and Context

Following three decades of disaster risk reduction efforts, and consequent advancements in preparedness mechanisms, disaster mortality is declining globally. Policy and legislative space has been strengthened and every country in Asia-Pacific has established institutional mechanisms to address disasters and disaster risks.

However, the success in reducing disaster mortality remains uneven. Since 1990, over 90 per cent of disaster mortality has occurred in low- and middle-income countries. Disaster impact, in terms of affected population and economic losses, continues to rise. Disaster risk remains disproportionately concentrated in low income households and communities. Disasters deepen inequalities and disproportionately affect the most at-risk populations, in particular, children, women, persons with disabilities, older persons, and those in vulnerable situations such as the poor and the marginalised.

Further, geographically disaggregated data shows an increase in the frequency and accumulated impacts of events in various pockets across multiple countries. Climate change acts as a huge risk amplifier that exacerbates disaster impact. The recent IPCC special report on Global Warming of 1.5°C shows the potential climatic impact through rising average temperatures, hot extremes, heavy rainfall and extreme weather events, affecting millions of people.

The challenges cited above point to the need to rethink the way disaster risks are managed. They further point to the need for assessing and addressing the localised nature and impact of disaster risk as aggregated analysis masks the issues faced by the communities who remain in a state of continued vulnerability and exposure. People at risk need to be identified and strategies need to take their needs into account. This is particularly significant when considering that most actions take place at the local level, where it is important to identify and understand risks, based on historical data but also climate change projections.

Local Action for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 marked a paradigm shift from managing disasters to managing disaster risk and solidified the role of disaster risk reduction in the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Importantly, the Sendai Framework outlines the priority actions to be taken at the local level to achieve the global outcomes.

Resilience-building is at the heart of the global agenda and therefore, it is important that governments, partner organizations and stakeholders ensure the mainstreaming and integration of disaster risk reduction and resilience in all sectors. There is a strong need to ensure vertical and

horizontal policy and programme coordination, which can be achieved only if 'local' considerations receive priority attention.

Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies

Recognising the importance of catalysing local action for disaster risk reduction, the Sendai Framework's Target (e) aims to "substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies" by 2020. The proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies forms a key indicator of this target, and is aligned with SDG 11.

The importance of localizing DRR relates to a series of factors:

- Impacts of disasters are most immediately and intensely felt at the local level.
- Hazards usually occur locally and many of the most effective tools to reduce exposure to hazards (e.g. land-use regulations and enforcement of building codes) are at the local level.
- The local level is where the basic environmental management and regulatory governance functions that are essential for effective DRR are concentrated.
- It is at the local level where governments and communities can best work together.
- Local DRR goes hand-in-hand with the promotion of local development and environmental management.
- Local actors are the first responders should a disaster occur, hence feedback and adjustments can be adopted and implemented more quickly and according to the specific context.

However, challenges remain in the achievement of this target at the local level. Only 14 countries in Asia-Pacific have reported the status of their local disaster risk reduction strategies, of which only five countries have reported that all local government bodies have local strategies in line with the national strategies (as of 15 August 2019).

Recognising the urgency in developing local disaster risk reduction strategies, as a necessary condition to promote local action, leaders in the Asia-Pacific region affirmed their commitment to this target at the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. This was reiterated at the recently concluded Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction that recognised that 'local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans are necessary to ensure the implementation of national strategies.'

Objectives of the Consultative Workshop

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is collaborating with partners to help national and local governments accelerate action to develop DRR strategies at the national and local levels by 2020. To this end, the UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific convened a Regional Consultative Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies[1] in December 2018. The

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[1] https://www.unisdr.org/archive/62695

workshop recognised the need for a focused dialogue on local strategies with key stakeholders and partners.

UNDRR has also coordinated a mapping of progress in the development of national and local DRR strategies in the region to complement the information received through the Sendai Framework/SDG Monitoring.

To take this discussion forward a Consultative Workshop on Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies is being organised. The workshop aims to:

- Assess the progress in achieving Target (e) in Asia Pacific region, focusing on local strategies;
- Identify challenges and build on the experiences and lessons (both governments at national and local level and partner organisations);
- Share good practices and lessons and identify best approaches for building resilience to climate and disaster risks at the local level;
- Share available and relevant tools and guidelines;
- Explore partnership opportunities to support national and local efforts to achieve Target (e).

The workshop will result in a concrete **roadmap on accelerating the development of local disaster risk reduction strategies** in the region.

Outcomes of the consultative workshop will be shared at the [Seventh Asia-Pacific Urban Forum](#) (15-17 October 2019 in Malaysia) and subsequent forums and events, including the [2020 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction](#). The roadmap developed at the workshop will be used by UNDRR and partner organisations to scale up coordinated action on local disaster risk reduction strategies.

Participants

The workshop will bring together different actors and stakeholders leading and engaged in the process of local DRR strategies. This will ensure sharing of experiences, approaches and lessons in developing and implementing local disaster risk reduction strategies. A common forum for various organisations will also help understand who is working on what and where. Participation of national and local authorities will serve to close feedback loop on the above, while acting as a sounding board for the discussion and refining the demand and supply connect.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Tue, 1 Oct		
09:00	09:30	**Opening Session** • Opening Remarks: Setting the Scene • Introduction of the agenda and participants
09:30	10:15	**Session 1: Where are we? The State of Play: Status of local DRR and CCA strategies in Asia-Pacific** • Analysis (Survey, SFM, other information sources) • Lessons from relevant projects
10:15	*10:30*	*Tea Break*
10:30	12:30	**Session 2: Approaches to local DRR and CCA** Interventions from key players on the lessons learned from their different approaches to support local resilience building **Developing Local DRR Strategies** • Tools and guidelines • Risk assessment at the local level • Coherent planning and implementation at the local level
12:30	*13:30*	*Lunch*
13:30	15:30	**Session 3: How do we ensure better integration between CCA and DRR?** • Challenges and potential solutions on integrated approaches for DRR and CCA at the local level are identified • Group discussions
15:30	*15:45*	*Tea Break*
15:45	17:00	***Session 3 (continued): How do we ensure better integration between CCA and DRR?*** **Local DRR Strategies: Challenges and Solutions/Opportunities** Breakout sessions and Plenary Discussion
Wed, 2 Oct		
09:00	09:15	**Summary of Discussions from Day 1**
9:15	11:15	**Session 4: Resilient Cities Roadmap: what are the common challenges we face on the trajectory to build local resilience.**
11:15	*11:30*	*Tea Break*
11:30	12:45	**Session 5: What can we collectively improve to address the challenges?**
12:45	*13:45*	*Lunch*
13:45	15:45	**Session 6: How do we accelerate action?** Group discussions: ▫ Scaling up successful approaches to support local resilience building ▫ Financing integrated DRR and CCA action ▫ Partnerships and guiding principles for supporting local DRR and CCA implementation

15:45	*16:00*	*Tea Break*
16:00	17:00	***Session 7: How do partners coordinate to collectively support accelerated action? reimagining the partnership***
17:00	17:30	**Closing and Way Forward** Next steps in the roadmap presentation and discussion at the 7th APUF side event Linkages with AP DRR and AMCDRR

Annex

UNDRR CONTRIBUTION TO LOCAL ACTION FOR RESILIENCE

Advocacy

The Making Cities Resilient (MCR) Campaign was launched in 2010 to advocate and raise awareness among local authorities and cities on disaster risk governance, urban risk and resilience. Since 2016, when the campaign was extended, the scope has expanded to include implementation of local DRR and resilience strategies. As of June 2019, 4,270 cities have joined the campaign and committed to the 10 Essentials for Making Cities Resilient.

Assessing Resilience

UNDRR has collaborated with partners to develop simple and easy-to-use tools for local authorities to self-assess their levels of risk and resilience. These include the Quick Risk Estimation (QRE) tool, Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities and City-to-City Peer Review tool. Further, disaster loss and damage databases, being used by over a 100 countries and territories, provides an understanding of past disaster impact at local levels. The tools available for cities does not only provide a snap shot or baseline of disaster resilience but their application also creates the space for multi stakeholder and multi sector engagement for development, and implementation, of DRR strategies.

Local Planning

UNDRR has coordinated the development of a Words-into-Action Guideline on Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Strategies. The Guideline builds on the experience gained in developing resilience action plans in several pilot cities globally.