

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Annual Report
2020



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For additional information, please contact:
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
9-11 Rue de Varembe, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: +41 22 917 89 08

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United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

2020 Annual Report

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded the world what the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is all about: risk is systemic, interconnected and cascading. Since the adoption of the Sendai Framework in 2015, the world has seen an ever more urgent need to better understand and manage the myriad of risks we face.

FOREWORD



Mami Mizutori
Special Representative
of the Secretary-General
for Disaster Risk Reduction

In 2020, humanity truly learned what happens when risk is ignored. COVID-19 changed our lives, our expectations, relationships, work prospects, livelihoods – in some instances, irreversibly. But whilst COVID-19 may have grabbed more headline space than any other disaster, it is not the biggest threat facing us. The climate emergency has continued unabated: in 2020 global warming reached the same all-time high as 2016. Climate-fuelled disasters, earthquakes, fires, tsunamis and other natural and manmade hazards hit countries and communities already suffering the effects of COVID-19.

It is no surprise therefore that 2020 set new records for the numbers of people requiring humanitarian aid and support.

The cost-benefits of investing in prevention, in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation have never been clearer, or more urgent.

Climate change is driving increased risk across all countries, and disasters such as the COVID 19 pandemic have shown how unpredictable hazards can have devastating cascading impacts on all sectors, with long-lasting, debilitating socio-economic consequences.

Out of crisis comes opportunity. UNDRR had to pivot immediately. Our convening power took a new and innovative turn, and the virtual landscape – as constrained as it sometimes feels – nonetheless enabled us to reach many more people than before without adding to the world's travel-related carbon emission burden. Going virtual improved our reach and engagement across the board with all our stakeholders. My engagements doubled: I represented UNDRR on more than

100 occasions; as an organisation we trained more than 6,000 individuals, connected peers and stakeholders in a range of early lessons learned series; released 85 knowledge resources; social media reach topped more than one million impressions a month; and the PreventionWeb audience more than doubled to 180,000 users each month.

Risk governance sits at the heart of prevention, response and recovery. Having national and local disaster risk reduction strategies is a way in which countries and communities can best prepare to frontload their risk reduction efforts to break the vicious cycle of disaster>respond>recover>repeat. I take heart that in a year when UNDRR campaigned relentlessly on the need to strengthen disaster risk governance, there are now 101 Member States reporting that have national strategies for disaster risk reduction aligned to a greater or lesser degree with the Sendai Framework. Deepening our support to Member States to respond and recover from COVID-19, we published guidance to help countries incorporate biological hazards into their disaster risk reduction strategies.

Local level disaster risk reduction strategies also took on new importance, recognising that cities were at the forefront of dealing with COVID-19. We launched the new Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative (MCR2030), which, through the provision of technical expertise, linking cities together to learn from peers will help cities move along a resilience continuum, and support the development and uptake of local strategies for disaster risk reduction. The proportion of countries that have these in place remains low across all regions.

The experience of the last year has highlighted the importance of a human rights-based approach to disaster risk reduction in a vivid way. The Sendai Framework emphasizes the importance of an inclusive, all-of-society focus to managing disaster risk.

UNDRR has long recognized that nothing exposes discrimination like a disaster. It is often very clear from disaggregated data that gender, age, disability and ethnicity play a significant role in who lives or dies, or who is disproportionately affected in a disaster event.

In the last year, the pandemic has starkly revealed these inequalities. Those living in extreme poverty and hunger have increased in number and their chances of receiving the vaccine have receded to a distant time horizon as wealthy countries corner the market for available vaccines.

The UN Secretary-General and others have cautioned against the lack of a coherent multi-lateral approach to global problems and the triumph of narrow national interests over the collective good of humanity.

It is important therefore that we see progress in the coming year on another key target of the Sendai Framework, Target (f), which spells out the need to substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries so they can reduce their dependence on humanitarian aid, strengthen their risk governance and improve their capacity for early warning and early action.

I look forward to the opportunity to engage even more closely with the disaster risk reduction community as we convene a new series of Regional Platforms around the globe, which will provide important feedback on progress to date in implementing the Sendai Framework.

I would like to close by extending my heartfelt thanks to our donor community for their steadfast support in difficult circumstances. We also owe a debt of gratitude to our many partners and collaborators in enterprises such as ARISE, MCR2030 and the development of the Words into Action series.

Last but by no means least, I take enormous pride in the motivation and dedication of our staff around the world who have overcome the constraints and challenges of remote working to deliver to a high standard as demonstrated by the results and achievements outlined in this Annual Report.

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Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

SENGAI FRAMEWORK
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015–2030

Expected outcome

The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

Goal

Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience.

Scope and purpose

The present Framework will apply to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters, caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks. It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors.

Targets

- Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005–2015.
- Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005–2015.
- Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
- Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.
- Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
- Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030.
- Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030.

Priorities for action

There is a need for focused action within and across sectors by States at local, national, regional and global levels in the following four priority areas.

PRIORITY 1

Understanding disaster risk

Disaster risk management needs to be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment.

PRIORITY 2

Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is vital to the management of disaster risk reduction in all sectors and ensuring the coherence of national and local frameworks of laws, regulations and public policies that, by defining roles and responsibilities, guide, encourage and incentivize the public and private sectors to take action and address disaster risk.

PRIORITY 3

Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment. These can be drivers of innovation, growth and job creation. Such measures are cost-effective and instrumental to save lives, prevent and reduce losses and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation.

PRIORITY 4

Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to «Build Back Better» in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

Experience indicates that disaster preparedness needs to be strengthened for more effective response and ensure capacities are in place for effective recovery. Disasters have also demonstrated that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of the disaster, is an opportunity to «Build Back Better» through integrating disaster risk reduction measures. Women and persons with disabilities should publicly lead and promote gender-equitable and universally accessible approaches during the response and reconstruction phases.

Guiding principles

- Primary responsibility of States to prevent and reduce disaster risk, including through cooperation.
- Shared responsibility between central Government and national authorities, sectors and stakeholders as appropriate to national circumstances.
- Protection of persons and their assets while promoting and protecting all human rights including the right to development.
- Engagement from all of society.
- Full engagement of all State institutions of an executive and legislative nature at national and local levels.
- Empowerment of local authorities and communities through resources, incentives and decision-making responsibilities as appropriate.
- Decision-making to be inclusive and risk-informed while using a multi-hazard approach.
- Coherence of disaster risk reduction and sustainable development policies, plans, practices and mechanisms, across different sectors.
- Accounting of local and specific characteristics of disaster risks when determining measures to reduce risk.
- Addressing underlying risk factors cost-effectively through investment versus relying primarily on post-disaster response and recovery.
- «Build Back Better» for preventing the creation of, and reducing existing, disaster risk.
- The quality of global partnership and international cooperation to be effective, meaningful and strong.
- Support from developed countries and partners to developing countries to be tailored according to needs and priorities as identified by them.

UNDRR Strategic Framework

<h2>Vision</h2>	<p>The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses for a sustainable future</p>			
<h2>Mandate</h2>	<p>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</p>			
<h2>Overarching objective</h2>	<p>The prevention of new and reduction of existing disaster risk and strengthening resilience through successful multi-hazard disaster risk management</p>			
				

Strategic Objectives

<h3>1</h3> <p>Strengthen global monitoring, analysis and coordination of Sendai Framework implementation</p>	<h3>2</h3> <p>Support to regional and national Sendai Framework implementation</p>	<h3>3</h3> <p>Catalyse action through countries and partners for Sendai Framework implementation</p>
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Results

<h3>1.1</h3> <p>Global Progress of the Sendai Framework and related SDG targets assessed and monitored and reported annually</p>	<h3>2.1</h3> <p>National and local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans are developed and implemented in line with Sendai Framework in coherence with climate action and the Sustainable Development Goal</p>	<h3>3.1</h3> <p>Policy coherence, in line with the Sendai Framework, fostered across intergovernmental decisions related to climate action and sustainable development</p>
<h3>1.2</h3> <p>Global risk data, analysis and policy advice generated</p>	<h3>2.2</h3> <p>Strengthened capacity of counterparts, UN Country Teams and partners for leadership in disaster risk reduction</p>	<h3>3.2</h3> <p>Strengthened coordination and leadership provided to all UN system partners at global level towards the implementation of the Sendai Framework</p>
<h3>1.3</h3> <p>Global coordination and review mechanisms of the Sendai Framework are in place</p>	<h3>2.3</h3> <p>Regional and national coordination mechanisms mobilized to accelerate Sendai Framework implementation</p>	<h3>3.3</h3> <p>Implementation of the Sendai Framework and coherence across Agenda 2030 facilitated through the promotion and implementation of an all-of-society approach</p>

Enablers

<h3>1</h3> <p>Enhancing visibility of disaster risk reduction through global advocacy</p>	<h3>2</h3> <p>Strengthened organizational performance</p>
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“The COVID-19 pandemic has brought renewed attention to the importance of strengthening disaster risk reduction.”

United Nations Secretary-General **António Guterres**
speaking on the *International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction*, 13 October 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nobody is immune from the COVID-19 pandemic. It has changed many things: how we live, how we work, how we relate to one another, and how we understand cause and effect. While the global workforce was impacted, UNDRR was no exception. Suddenly, COVID-19 thrust risk exposure and vulnerability to the forefront of individual, community and national experience. The crisis also delivered ample opportunities for the application of UNDRR expertise. Almost overnight, demand escalated for risk information and guidance on how to incorporate biological hazards into country risk profiles and risk reduction strategies on: how to strengthen the resilience of the health sector; how to enhance disaster risk governance; and on how to combat disinformation.

In addition to and as part of UNDRR’s mandated work supporting Member States to implement the Sendai Framework, the organisation had to quickly rethink and pivot to respond to the sharp rise in urgent demands from Member States for support on COVID-19. As a multi-hazard systemic approach to risk underpins the entire UNDRR Work Programme 2020-21, UNDRR was able to continue implementing the Work Programme with only slight modifications to the mode of its delivery in most regions. This included online rather than in-person training and an enhanced focus on biological hazards in general and COVID-19 in particular.

This 2020 Annual Report outlines how UNDRR’s work contributed to reducing disaster risk and building resilience, while adapting to the changed needs and new obstacles posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is structured along the three Strategic Objectives and two Enablers of its Work Programme and outlines UNDRR’s efforts at global, regional, national and local levels, in coordination with and in support of a wide variety of stakeholders, to implement the Sendai Framework. This is in the context of an

increasingly complex and interconnected risk-landscape exacerbated by risk drivers, including the increase in poverty, inequality, climate change, conflict, displacement, ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and the ongoing pandemic.

STRENGTHEN GLOBAL MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND COORDINATION OF SENDAI FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

The pandemic illustrates how the risk landscape can rapidly change, and the systemic nature of risk. The crisis laid bare how marginalization and inequality intersect with risk: the vulnerable are those most affected.

To strengthen Sendai Framework monitoring, UNDRR upgraded the functionality of its online monitoring system. By the end of 2020, 143 Member and Observer States were reporting through the **Sendai Framework Monitoring** system, augmented by a variety of online trainings. UNDRR compiled, analysed and submitted this dataset to UNDESA to inform a variety of UN processes and reports.

UNDRR analysis of disaster risk trends and challenges continued through the production of nine pandemic-focused **issue briefs**, the Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF) and in the processes to develop such products as the **Global and Regional Assessment Reports**, a Special Report on Drought, and policy guidance for developing national risk profiles.

At the regional level, the guidance on risk profiles was used to upgrade **16 National Risk Profiles** around floods and droughts and to develop **16 Disaster Risk-Sensitive Budget Reviews** in

Africa. This led to the publication of a document on the multiple benefits of disaster risk reduction investment as applied in three African countries and was used in the development of the executive summary of the Africa Regional Assessment Report. In the Asia and the Pacific region, **12 new national Disaster Risk Management Status Reports** were launched. Regional Assessment Reports (RAR) are ongoing in the Arab States and Americas-Caribbean Regions and the executive summary of the Africa RAR was released. In Europe, as coordinator of the **European Science and Technological Advisory Group** (E-STAG), UNDRR developed policy guidance papers for regional and national action on evolving wildfire risk that led to national legislative change.

SUPPORT TO REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SENDAI FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

The ongoing pandemic has clearly demonstrated the critical role of **risk governance** in reducing risk and saving lives and livelihoods. Throughout the year UNDRR campaigned relentlessly on the need to strengthen risk governance, in keeping with the early lessons captured in COVID-19 response and in support of 2020 Target (e) of the Sendai Framework. Through targeted support, normative guidance, advocacy, and partnership, **101 Member States reported having national disaster risk reduction strategies** aligned with the Sendai Framework.

UNDRR invested heavily in supporting, gathering and using **disaster loss data** in all regions and proposed solutions for reporting **disaggregated** data by hazard, location, sex, age, income and disability. By December 2020, there were **120 countries and territories using the UNDRR managed Desinventar disaster loss databases**. UNDRR also undertook a major Discovery and Needs Analysis to guide the development of a new national disaster loss data management system to better manage the convergence of Sendai Framework and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, to inform risk policy development and investment for strengthened risk governance and resilient economies, and to reduce duplication.

At the local level, building on the success of UNDRR’s Making Cities Resilient Campaign (4,000+ cities enrolled between 2010 and 2020), UNDRR launched the **Making Cities Resilient 2030** initiative to continue supporting understanding and use of risk information at the local level, including in the development and implementation of local disaster risk reduction strategies.

UNDRR further leveraged UN development system reforms to strengthen national and regional level mainstreaming of multi-hazard disaster risk reduction in UN interventions.

Notably, UNDRR led the development, dissemination and training of UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) on a Guidance Note on **Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework**. This was coupled with ensuring disaster risk reduction is prioritized in Issue-Based Coalitions (IBCs) and providing technical support in developing risk-informed Common Country Analysis and Cooperation Frameworks. As a result, the 24 new Cooperation Frameworks signed in 2020 have disaster risk reduction and resilience reflected in the Results Framework.

UNDRR Regional Offices worked closely with regional intergovernmental organizations and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in implementing the Sendai Framework at regional and national levels. Such cooperation focused heavily on providing targeted technical support to Governments in the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies; disaster loss data gathering and use; undertaking **institutional mappings of disaster risk reduction integration in policy and legislation**; and in delivering capacity building and trainings on enhancing Sendai Framework implementation in coherence with other development agendas. UNDRR’s technical and coordination support to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) contributed to the new Work Programme 2021-2025 of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), a legally binding policy on disaster risk management.

Across all five regions, UNDRR facilitated a variety of efforts to strengthen regional and national Sendai Framework implementation, such as the endorsement of the **Africa Roadmap for Improving the Availability, Access, and Use of Disaster Risk Information for Early Warning and Early Action, Including in the Context of Transboundary Risk Management**, by the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the four target countries¹.

The pandemic prevented planned **Regional Platforms** for Disaster Risk Reduction from taking place in 2020, but key consultations advanced regional coordination, including the Asia and the Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction (APP-DRR) Forum, the Fifth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Third Regional Forum of Heads of National Disaster Management Agencies in Central Asia, and the African Working Group on DRR.

¹ The main focus of the Roadmap is on the review of the legal and institutional framework at the continental level and the establishment of a 24/7 situation rooms at the AUC linked to the further capacitated centers in Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi, UR Tanzania and Zambia, as well as, ACMAD and IGAD

2020 Highlights

6,986

PARTICIPANTS FROM 165 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES REACHED THROUGH ONLINE AND BLENDED TRAINING PROGRAMMES

143

MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES REPORTED THROUGH THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK MONITORING SYSTEM

101

MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES REPORTED THE EXISTENCE OF NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES IN LINE WITH SENDAI FRAMEWORK

120

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES USED THE UNDRR MANAGED DESINVENTAR DISASTER LOSS DATABASE SYSTEM

600

NEW MEMBERS JOINED THE UNDRR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MECHANISM

CATALYSE ACTION THROUGH MEMBER STATES AND PARTNERS

To mainstream disaster risk reduction and catalyse action in the UN, UNDRR enhanced cooperation with the UN Sustainable Development Group by leading and convening the UN Senior Leadership Group on DRR for Resilience. With the highest turnout of the group's existence in 2020, the 42 UN entities present agreed, "to ensure a UN system approach to reducing risks and building resilience to a broad scope of hazards".

COVID-19 reinforced the importance of disaster risk reduction and prevention, and UNDRR supported efforts to make sure this message was heard at the intergovernmental stage. Member States adopted at least 20 resolutions at the General Assembly (GA) and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which integrate disaster risk reduction and promote policy coherence with the Sendai Framework in COVID-19 recovery and the implementation of the SDGs. The inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of UN system operational activities (QCPR) Resolution also provides a solid basis to mainstream disaster risk reduction action in support of the SDGs within the UN system.

UNDRR improved support provided to Member States to ensure coherence in the implementation of internationally agreed agendas through signing Memorandums of Understanding with UNDP and UNFCCC to strengthen coordination at global and national levels. In coordination with UNDP and UNFCCC, 16 countries received technical support, through policy landscape maps and targeted recommendations on building coherence in national strategies.

In contribution to the humanitarian-development nexus, UNDRR undertook global and regional consultations with a wide range of humanitarian and development partners, to develop a concrete set of recommendations and the **Checklist on Scaling up DRR in Humanitarian Action**. It identifies entry points for disaster risk reduction in the steps of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC). As a result of pilot testing of the Checklist with OCHA, the Pakistan UNCT is now considering vulnerabilities and risks within humanitarian response planning to address root causes of humanitarian needs.

Multi-stakeholder engagement increased. The UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) grew to more than 600 members and contributed to many different UNDRR-led efforts, including an extensive global survey examining the challenges that Small-Medium Enterprises (SME) face in building resilience. UNDRR worked with youth as agents for change and launched with UNICEF the **Words into Action Guide on Engaging Children and Youth in Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Building**.

UNDRR continues to work closely with partners to support gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, including through the collection, reporting and use of disaggregated data, backed by the SRSG's role as an International Gender Champion. On the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on 13 October 2020, UNDRR launched the **Women's International Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (WIN DRR)** in Asia and the Pacific to further promote women's leadership in disaster risk reduction.

Work undertaken with the International Science Council (ISC), with the engagement of more than 800 partners from the UN, science institutes, including national scientific advisors and the research funding community, led to the ground-breaking **Sendai Hazard Definition and Classification Review Technical Report**, which contains 302 Hazard Information Profiles and is a key mechanism for building common definitions for developing comparable datasets for monitoring and review.

Both externally and internally UNDRR worked closely with persons with disabilities, including the World Institute for Disability to deliver an all-staff training as part of the UN Disability Inclusive Strategy and produced materials including, **People with Disabilities in the Face of COVID-19**, and an addendum to the UNDRR local level assessment tool, the UNDRR Disaster Resilience Scorecard, for persons living with disabilities.

ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE, MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION AND GLOBAL ADVOCACY

The demand and appetite for UNDRR's engagement, platforms, channels and messages greatly increased in 2020 as the COVID-19 disaster unfolded. UNDRR's visibility improved with engagements by Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) Mami Mizutori doubling from the year before to more than 100 events, speeches, and op-eds. UNDRR social media channels (Twitter and Facebook) reached monthly engagement levels of more than one million impressions, up from average monthly engagements in 2019 of approximately 70,000-250,000. In the space of a year UNDRR's LinkedIn channel grew from 2,720 followers to 110,000, while PreventionWeb more than doubled its subscriber base from 80,000 to 180,000 and is now promoted by Google as the place to go to find information on disaster risk reduction.

UNDRR Campaigns, notably, **#PreventionSavesLives**, **#NoNaturalDisasters**, and **#ItsAllAboutGovernance** reached a potential audience of millions and built momentum throughout the year to the **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction** on October 13 **#DRRday**, and **World Tsunami Awareness Day #TsunamiDay** on November 5. Both days mobilized a wide variety of stakeholders around the world and had the direct backing of the UN Secretary-General who delivered strong messages to mark both days.

COVID-19 exposed the need for a systemic approach to disaster risk reduction, and the importance of mainstreaming health-related risks in national disaster risk reduction strategies. UNDRR worked with UN partners, in particular the WHO, to develop guidance, including a supplement on biological hazards for the **Words into Action Guidelines** on national disaster risk reduction strategies.

STRENGTHENED ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

2020 challenged UNDRR to adapt to new working realities. A dedicated and resilient team seized the opportunity to increase staff development and learning, enhance the use of technology, institute process improvements, and monitor implementation.

Key efforts included the design and delivery of a mandatory, organisation wide training on project management training and on the use of a variety of new online platforms. Enhancements to the global enterprise resource planning system in the area of voluntary funds management allowed new data mining and timely analysis of key performance indicators. Real time information across multiple devices brought a novel approach to monitoring programme implementation and supported faster decision-making process.

Recognizing the critical role of UNDRR and disaster risk reduction in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, donors' generous voluntary contributions amounted to 98% of UNDRR's USD 48.74 million Work Programme in 2020. This included an increase of USD 1.45 million due to the urgent needs to address COVID-19. In total, USD 47.7 million was received in 2020. Donors also allowed for more flexible use of resources, which was a critical enabler in UNDRR's agile response to COVID-19.



COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

CONTRIBUTING TO THE UN'S PANDEMIC RESPONSE

As travel and mobility were restricted around the world, UNDRR quickly adjusted, ensuring the organisation was fit for purpose to continue working virtually. UNDRR disseminated its **COVID-19 Engagement Strategy**, which set out four interconnected strands of work on generating evidence and learning, integrating biological hazards, leveraging partnerships and disseminating guidance and information².

The Engagement Strategy included working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) to synchronise the health and disaster risk management sectors. It encouraged swift national implementation of the **Bangkok Principles for the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework (Bangkok Principles)** and the adaptation of UN Joint Country Action Plans for pandemic response and recovery.

To support UN Country Teams (UNCTs), UNDRR led the development of the technical guidance note, **Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework**, with an addendum devoted to biological hazards³.

In July 2020, 42 United Nations entities endorsed three recommendations to ensure risk-informed COVID-19 recovery in the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience at the fifth annual meeting of the **UN Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience**, chaired by SRSG Mizutori.

UNDRR Regional Offices joined regional IBCs, particularly those focusing on resilience. In **Asia Pacific**, UNDRR led the regional IBC on **Building Resilience**, producing a COVID-19 Action Plan for a multi-sectoral response and a whole-of-society recovery, using many examples from the region for post-disaster recovery plans. Similarly, in the **Americas and the Caribbean**, UNDRR co-leads together with UN Environment the IBC on Climate Change and Resilience, which developed a COVID-19 Brief and Workplan to focus on response and recovery, integrating a systemic approach to understanding risk and calling for a strengthened multi-sectoral risk governance.

“UNDRR was one of the first entities to initiate and master early lessons learned and conversations from practitioners and partners in the COVID-19 response at the regional level. These fora operated as effective fast-moving think tanks in real time.”

Catherine Haswell

UN Resident Coordinator in the Maldives

- 2 1) Evidence and learning on COVID-19 prevention, risk reduction and risk management are generated and disseminated for improved policy and practice (UNDRR Strategic Objective 1); 2) Biological hazards (pandemics) are integrated in disaster risk reduction and development planning and programming, including in the development of national and local DRR strategies (UNDRR Strategic Objective 2); 3) UNDRR partnerships are leveraged and key stakeholders are supported to address the impacts of COVID-19 and to support countries to recover better with a focus on the socio-economic impact on vulnerable groups (UNDRR Strategic Objective 3); 4) Information and advice are disseminated to key audiences to prompt action that will prevent the spread of COVID-19, mitigate its socio-economic impacts and support countries to recover better. (UNDRR Enabler 1).
- 3 UNDRR, Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/integrating-disaster-risk-reduction-and-climate-change-adaptation-un-sustainable>

“With the support of UNDRR, WHO has published a comprehensive Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Framework⁴, to support all countries to reduce and manage public health emergency risks, including disease outbreaks.”

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director-General, World Health Organization, speaking at a webinar co-organized by UNDRR, WHO and IPU in April 2020

INTEGRATING HEALTH AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The **Bangkok Principles** emphasize the shared need for risk assessment, surveillance and early warning systems, resilient health infrastructure, and coordinated health crisis incident management.

In 2020, UNDRR supported Member States to implement the Principles through review of national and regional disaster risk reduction strategies and governance mechanisms to assess the level of integration of biological hazards. To support these efforts, UNDRR developed the guide, **Addressing and Reducing Risks from Disease Outbreaks: A Supplemental Guide in Developing and/or Updating National DRR Strategies**, with the WHO.

UNDRR also developed a new **stress test tool**, with collaboration from **Finland** and the **European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats**, to help countries understand and improve their ability to reduce risk, including to health systems, against complex and cascading disaster scenarios.

A **Review of COVID-19 Disaster Risk Governance in Asia and the Pacific: Towards Multi-Hazard and Multi-Sectoral Disaster Risk Reduction⁵** was published based on a review of policy documents in 28 countries, providing recommendations on how disaster risk governance can be strengthened in context of the pandemic.

⁴ WHO, Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Framework Available at <https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/68110>

⁵ UNDRR, Review of COVID-19 Disaster Risk Governance in Asia-Pacific: Towards Multi-Hazard and Multi-Sectoral Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/review-covid-19-disaster-risk-governance-asia-pacific-towards-multi-hazard-and-multi>



“ We are very encouraged and building confidence from these strategies and lessons. This pandemic has exposed to us a very important issue, with the urban poor... We didn't realize just how vulnerable we could get in the face of such a crisis.”

Doris Ombara

City Manager of Kisumu, Kenya,
Making Cities Resilient Campaign

BUILDING CAPACITY

UNDRR quickly recognised Member States' need to compare and learn from other countries' experiences with COVID-19. Capacity development needs increased, in particular for support to Member States and other stakeholders to develop cross-sectoral responses. UNDRR's virtual and online work grew exponentially, reaching 25,000 people with 100 training events by December 2020. As people searched for guidance on COVID-19, UNDRR provided a virtual platform to reflect on and share emerging lessons learned in real time.

The first such webinar held in March in partnership with WHO, shared practical response lessons and reached 1,000 participants from governments, intergovernmental organisations, the United Nations system, civil society, researchers, and media from more than 100 countries.

Webinar series topics included business continuity; parliamentary action to reduce risks, increase resilience, and strengthen emergency preparedness; building back better; and the role of emerging technologies related to blockchain, ICT and data. Early lessons were disseminated through UNDRR's global network of more than 3,000 policymakers and practitioners, including Sendai Framework focal points, ministries, national sectoral counterparts and members of national platforms for disaster risk reduction, local authorities, **Making Cities Resilient Campaign** partners, academia, and the private sector.

COUNTERING THE 'INFODEMIC'

Coordinated, clear, and action-oriented messaging is essential in halting the spread of the pandemic.

UNDRR's advocacy, practice and policy discussions, and capacity-building and knowledge products that support effective risk information efforts, reached a diverse global audience including policy makers, grassroots practitioners and communications professionals. Soon after the outbreak, UNDRR immediately re-focused content across our online channels to amplify WHO health-related messaging. A webinar on **Risk communication and countering the 'Infodemic'** was organized in partnership with the WHO, attended by 888 participants, and an issue brief was released on the same topic⁶.

Together with the **Solutions Journalism Network**, UNDRR hosted a series of 'how to talk about risk' information sessions, and promoted key messages through digital content, social media assets, news stories & op-eds. More than 900 messages were posted across Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn and the **#PreventionSavesLives** campaign, gaining more than five million impressions. Between March and December 2020, the organisation's LinkedIn followers grew from 2,720 to 110,000. In addition, UNDRR joined the UN's **#Verified Campaign** to fight misinformation.

In July, UNDRR partnered with the WHO and the **Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU)** to catalyse parliamentary action to reduce risk, strengthen emergency preparedness and increase resilience. UNDRR's web dialogue drew more than 700 participants from more than 85 countries, who were encouraged to promote national risk-informed legislation.

6 UNDRR, UNDRR Asia-Pacific COVID-19 Brief: Risk communication and countering the 'Infodemic' (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/undrr-asia-pacific-covid-19-brief-risk-communication-and-countering-infodemic>

REDUCING VULNERABILITY

COVID-19 demonstrated that national preparedness and response systems are often insufficiently developed and require greater flexibility, especially regarding those most at risk. UNDRR webinars and guidance focused on most at-risk communities across the globe and produced key findings and policy recommendations on effective social protection to reduce vulnerability, support recovery, and reach the 'last mile'. These included the following:

- The brief **Disaster Responsive Social Protection**⁷ – with the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and the **UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)** explores how countries can use social protection systems to reduce vulnerability and boost resilience.
- With **Help Age International** and **UN Women, Leave No One Behind in COVID-19 Prevention, Response and Recovery**⁸ outlines key response challenges and ten policy recommendations, such as targeted economic stimulus and recovery programmes for vulnerable groups.

- **Reducing Vulnerability Amongst Displaced Populations and Migrants**⁹ built on a webinar with the **International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)** and the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** included lessons from Bangladesh's refugee camps.
- With **ONG Inclusiva** and the **Latin America and the Caribbean Network for Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management**, the publication **People with Disabilities in the Face of COVID-19**¹⁰ recommended disaggregated and geo-referenced data to fully characterise at-risk sectors.
- **Experience and Challenges in Fragile Contexts: Building Resilience to Future Shocks**¹¹ highlighted experience in fragile contexts, including lessons learned from previous crisis such as the 2016 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and the experience of addressing COVID-19 in Liberia, Iraq and Mozambique.

STRENGTHENING PREPAREDNESS AND PURSUING A 'GREEN' RECOVERY

UNDRR worked with the **International Recovery Platform (IRP)** to support COVID-19 recovery. The **eight guiding principles** and **nine recovery actions in A COVID-19 Recovery Brief** guided governments and stakeholders to plan for recovery, including assessing the wider socioeconomic impacts of the crisis; societal recovery; comprehensive economic recovery; livelihoods and psychosocial recovery and the expanded use of e-governance and emerging technologies. A toolkit compendium provides additional support for countries and communities to build back better.

Opportunities for Resilient Recovery¹² includes lessons from past disaster recovery efforts and an introduction to the World Bank's new employment recovery checklist, restoring degraded ecosystems and reducing climate and disaster risks. **Recommendations for a Resilient COVID-19 Recovery**¹³ in Europe focuses on the three pillars of the Next Generation European Union instrument, underscoring green and resilient disaster risk reduction in recovery planning; investments in sustainable infrastructure; and data driven investments based on risk and national policies.

7 UNDRR, Disaster Responsive Social Protection (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/undrr-asia-pacific-covid-19-brief-disaster-responsive-social-protection>

8 UNDRR, Leave No One Behind in COVID-19 Prevention, Response and Recovery (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/undrr-asia-pacific-covid-19-brief-leave-no-one-behind-covid-19-prevention-response-and>

9 UNDRR, Reducing Vulnerability Amongst Displaced Populations and Migrants (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/undrr-asia-pacific-covid-19-brief-reducing-vulnerability-migrants-and-displaced>

10 UNDRR, People with Disabilities in the Face of COVID-19 (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/undrr-americas-caribbean-covid-19-brief-people-disabilities-face-covid-19-americas-and>

11 UNDRR, Experience and Challenges in Fragile Contexts: Building Resilience to Future Shocks" (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/event/covid-19-experiences-and-challenges-fragile-contexts-building-resilience-future-shocks>

12 UNDRR, Opportunities for Resilient Recovery (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/undrr-asia-pacific-covid-19-brief-opportunities-resilient-recovery>

13 UNDRR, Recommendations for a Resilient COVID-19 Recovery (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/green-and-resilient-covid-19-recovery-eu-working-paper-recommendations>



ENSURING BUSINESS RESILIENCE

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are the least resilient sector of the economy yet represent about 90 per cent of businesses and more than 50 per cent of employment worldwide, while contributing up to 40 per cent of national income (GDP) in emerging economies.

To strengthen the private sector's capacity to build-in disaster resilience as part of their sustainable business approach, UNDRR works at the national, regional and global level through ARISE, the **UNDRR Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies**, comprised of more than 370 private sector entities globally. UNDRR in partnership with the ARISE networks, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), UN partners and Resilience Innovation Knowledge Academy (RIKA) developed:

- A review and guidance document on **Reducing Risk and Building Resilience of SMEs to Disasters**¹⁴ and factsheets including the impacts of COVID-19 on SMEs globally.
- A **COVID-19 Small Business Continuity and Recovery Planning Toolkit** to support MSMEs to protect their employees, customers and businesses¹⁵. Available in 11 languages, it was accessed more than 20,000 times since its publication in May. UNDRR also launched an **online orientation course**¹⁶ for the toolkit.
- An **online Quick Risk Estimation (QRE)** tool for MSMEs, available in multiple languages, to walk business owners through a survey to estimate their level of risk, including relating to COVID-19, as a first step to building their resilience.¹⁷

COVID-19'S IMPACT ON CITIES

Guided by the **Bangkok Principles** and the **Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Framework**, UNDRR improved the **UNDRR Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities** with the development of an online addendum to address biological hazards. An introductory webinar drew more than 1,100 participants from 121 countries and territories. It triggered requests for additional training, which led to a new online resilience-training course, with participants from 56 countries, and new requests for customized trainings and new courses.

Bangkok Principles

The seven recommendations of the Bangkok Principles for The International Conference on the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 are as follows:

1. Promote systematic integration of health into national and sub-national disaster risk reduction policies and plans and the inclusion of emergency and disaster risk management programmes in national and sub-national health strategies.
2. Enhance cooperation between health authorities and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen country capacity for disaster risk management for health, the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and building of resilient health systems.
3. Stimulate people-centered public and private investment in emergency and disaster risk reduction, including in health facilities and infrastructure.
4. Integrate disaster risk reduction into health education and training and strengthen capacity-building of health workers in disaster risk reduction.
5. Incorporate disaster-related mortality, morbidity and disability data into multi-hazards early warning system, health core indicators and national risk assessments.
6. Advocate for, and support cross-sectoral, transboundary collaboration including information sharing, and science and technology for all hazards, including biological hazards.
7. Promote coherence and further development of local and national policies and strategies, legal frameworks, regulations, and institutional arrangements.

¹⁴ UNDRR, Reducing Risk and Building Resilience of SMEs to Disasters (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/resilience-smes>

¹⁵ UNDRR, COVID-19 Small Business Continuity and Recovery Planning Toolkit (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/bcp-ap>

¹⁶ The COVID-19 Small Business Continuity and Recovery Planning Toolkit course can be accessed at <https://courses.adpc.net/courses/course-v1:UNDRR+COVID19SBCR+2020/about>

¹⁷ The Quick Risk tool can be accessed at <https://www.businessQRE.net/>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Strengthen global monitoring, analysis
and coordination of Sendai Framework
implementation

1.1

GLOBAL PROGRESS OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK AND RELATED SDG TARGETS ASSESSED, MONITORED AND REPORTED ANNUALLY

To help Member States track both progress against the Sendai Framework, and indicators for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 1, 11 and 13, UNDRR manages the Sendai Framework Monitoring (SFM) online system. The functionality of the SFM was upgraded in 2020 to **boost the quality of inputs, user experience and ease of reporting**.

In April, UNDRR supported Member States to complete a first round of reporting on 2019 data, emphasising Sendai Framework Targets (a) to (e).¹⁸ UNDRR compiled, analysed and submitted this dataset to UNDESA to inform a variety of UN processes and reports, including through the High-Level Political Forum, the Special Report of the Secretary-General (SG) on SDG Implementation, and the SG's Report on Sendai Framework implementation.

This was followed by the second milestone of reporting in October, when Member States further reported on all Sendai Framework Targets (a) to (g). The analysis of the data submitted fed into other UN reporting processes including the Follow-up and Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), the 2020 State of Climate Services Report, the SG Report on Implementation of the Programme of Action for LDCs and the Myanmar LDC Graduation Assessment.

UNDRR also developed two key publications **UNDRR Status Report on Target E**¹⁹ and **Monitoring the Implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: A Snapshot of Reporting for 2018**,²⁰ with detailed analyses of reporting and progress towards the Sendai Framework goal and targets. In addition, Member States were helped in the use of the data collected by the SFM to support climate change adaptation (CCA) processes and other planning and research requiring disaster damage and loss data.

By the end of 2020, 143 Member and Observer States were reporting through the SFM system, augmented by a variety of trainings including UNDRR's **e-Learning course**. India and China's enrolment in the SFM brought data from approximately an additional 35% of the global population.

Regional Offices worked to accelerate disaggregated reporting. For example, a workshop with Sendai Framework Focal Points in the Arab States proposed solutions for reporting data by hazard, location, sex, income and disability. Countries using DesInventar disaster loss databases were encouraged to extract the disaggregated data to use in SFM reporting for at least Targets (a) and (b). For instance, in the Americas and the Caribbean, UNDRR supported the design and operation of disaster related data in Panama, Paraguay and Peru, and provided training to 16 countries.²¹

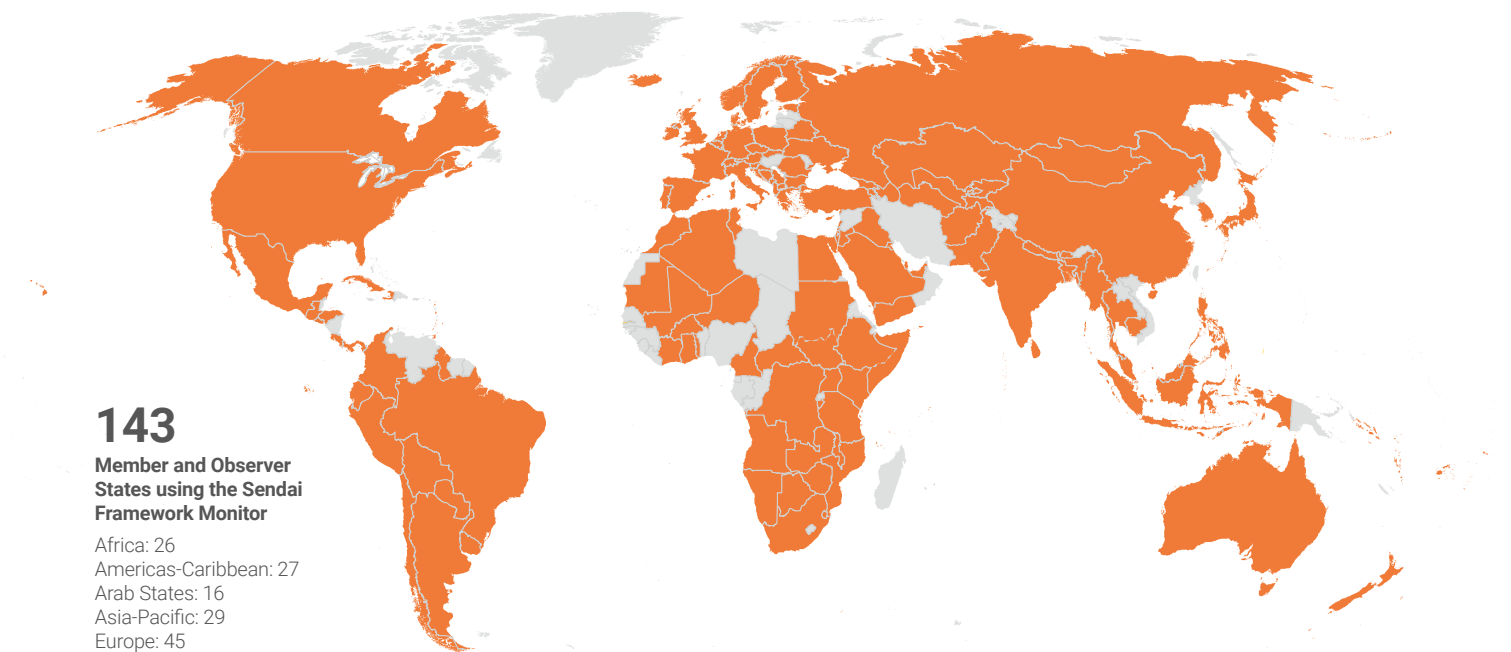
In **Africa**, UNDRR organized virtual meetings with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and African Union Commission (AUC) to take stock and discuss overcoming SFM reporting challenges posed by COVID-19. In **Europe**, UNDRR improved reporting by training National Statistics Offices, the **Regional Almaty Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction**, and UN counterparts. Such efforts resulted in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan reporting for the first time.

Targeted support to **Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** and **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** led to first-time reporting by **four Caribbean countries**. In **Asia and the Pacific**, a national workshop for the Maldives and technical support for Cambodia resulted in a substantial increase in

data collection and coordination, while in the Pacific, UNDRR supported greater collaboration between national disaster management offices and national statistical offices.

UNDRR produced a **Regional Snapshot Report for Europe and Central Asia** that analysed 2018/19 data, provided insights into national reporting practices, and reflected on biological hazards reporting against each target, **data disaggregation, coherence with SDG reporting and disaster displacement**.²²

MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES USING THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK MONITOR



1. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
2. The maps used reflect the Member and Observer States' self-defined geographic coverage for the purpose of reporting to the Sendai Framework Monitor.

18 See page eight for an overview of the seven Sendai Framework Targets

19 UNDRR, UNDRR Status Report on Target E (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/status-report-target-e-implementation-2020>

20 UNDRR, Monitoring the Implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: A Snapshot of Reporting for 2018 (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/monitoring-implementation-sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030-snapshot>

21 Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago

22 UNDRR, Regional Snapshot Report for Europe and Central Asia (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-monitoring-europe-and-central-asia-regional-snapshot>



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“I would like to express my appreciation for having Ethiopia as part of the Africa Road Map. It scaled up our Early Warning Systems capacity to have an evidence-based response. The Road Map will create the power to make informed decisions. Ethiopia will strengthen its DRM Policy anchored on the paradigm shift from managing crises to managing risk. UNDRR has given us the opportunity to identify all DRM components backed by robust and comprehensive early warning systems. This has enhanced our skills and knowledge.”

Tadesse Bekele Fanta

Senior DRM Adviser, National Disaster Risk Management Commission, Ethiopia

1.2

GLOBAL RISK DATA, ANALYSIS AND POLICY ADVICE GENERATED

To facilitate evidence-based decision making in reducing multi-hazard disaster risk, UNDRR developed a **business case and theory of change for the Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF)** and policy guidance for developing national risk profiles.²³ Open calls for expressions of interest to join the GRAF Expert and Working Groups yielded hundreds of applicants. A **network of more than 350 risk practitioners was established** to help UNDRR in its work to better understand the drivers of risk, to promote inclusive approaches to managing risk and to increase access to risk finance. This network is a resource upon which UNDRR can build to provide advice and use as a vehicle to accelerate learning and information dissemination.²⁴ A pilot programme to develop and learn from methods of understanding and managing the systemic nature of risk was developed for **Costa Rica, Eswatini and Pakistan**.

The four key areas of focus for the upcoming Global Assessment Report (GAR 2022), the **UN flagship report on the state of the world's risk**, were defined:

1. Understanding the impact of disasters (including events such as COVID-19 and the most active cyclone season in recent history).
2. Strengthening understanding of risk (with a focus on case studies).
3. Communicating risk, and why risk sometimes increases even in the face of evidence.

4. Analysing risk governance and how systemic risk can be better managed.

A call for contributing papers followed, which resulted in some 238 abstracts, of which 77 were selected for further development and peer review.

Demand for help in applying the key findings of **GAR 2019**²⁵ particularly to better understand the systemic nature of risk and the necessary governance and management response continued throughout 2020. The second special issue of the Disaster Prevention and Management journal was also published, based on GAR 2019²⁶ Propelled by an eight-article series **The COVID-19 pandemic and the systemic nature of risk** and accompanying webinars, UNDRR saw a proliferation of invitations to provide lectures, keynote speeches and authorship in flagship reports exploring systemic risk governance and management.

Drafting was initiated on the **GAR Special Report on Drought**, due in June 2021. The report further develops the modern understanding of drought, and the systems that create risk and can be used to manage it. The report will draw on extensive case studies and highlight how factors such as climate change and human action are necessitating upgraded drought governance arrangements.

UNDRR was invited as an Advisor to the EU Joint Research Centre **Science for DRM 2020**, a co-author of **Pathways to a post-COVID World**:

²³ UNDRR, Guidance Note on Using the Probabilistic Country Risk Profiles for Disaster Risk Management (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/guidance-note-using-probabilistic-country-risk-profiles-disaster-risk-management>

²⁴ Through GRAF, UNDRR leverages and connects the work of partners from around the United Nations including FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR UNICEF, UNFCCC, UNU, UNOOSA, WFP, as well as the UN Major Group for Children and Youth ICRC, IFRC, IPBES and IUCN.

²⁵ See the UNDRR GAR site at <https://gar.undrr.org>

²⁶ Disaster Prevention and Management, Special Issue: Disaster risk governance – solution or driver of vulnerability, volume 29, issue 5, (Bingley, U.K., Emerald Publishing, 2020). Available at <https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/0965-3562/vol/29/iss/5>

“The GRAF was used in the formulation of the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework, in articulating how risk assessment, risk governance, and disaster risk reduction are interrelated. The GRAF identifies and presents clearly and intuitively how risk interacts in complex and manifold ways across the spectrum of human activity, and provides prompts for localising these interactions to specific contexts.”

Dr Lochlan Morrissey

Senior program officer, Hazard and Risk Emergency Management and Community Capability, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Governance for Sustainability of the International Science Council and International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis. As Co-Chair of the Insurance Development Forum’s Risk Modelling Steering Group, UNDRR co-authored the **Development Impact of Risk Analytics Report (DIRA)** together with (re-)insurance industry and public sector partners. This highlights the role risk analytics can play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and charts the way for more active public-private partnerships to address systemic risk.

Throughout the course of 2020, UNDRR developed core normative guidance. To improve risk assessments, a **Technical Guide on Action Oriented Comprehensive Risk Assessment and Planning in the Context of Climate Change** was initiated for release in 2021. Together with the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** secretariat, UNDRR developed guidance to enhance coherence between national disaster risk reduction strategies and National Adaptation Plans through a **Words into Action Guide (WiA)** on integrating climate change adaptation (CCA) into national disaster risk reduction strategies.

In the Asia Pacific region, UNDRR’s partnerships led to an array of new knowledge products. In collaboration with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), UNDRR developed **12 new national Disaster Risk Management Status Reports**.²⁷ Each provides a baseline snapshot of a country’s progress under the four priorities of the Sendai Framework, along with key challenges and recommendations for strengthening Disaster Risk Management (DRM) governance, and have been used to inform Common Country Analysis processes in countries such as **Myanmar, Lao PDR, Maldives and Thailand**.

UNDRR also produced a report entitled **Ecosystem-Based Disaster Risk Reduction: Implementing Nature-based Solutions for Resilience**²⁸, with close engagement from members of the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR), on leveraging Nature-based Solutions (Nbs) for reducing disaster risk, providing examples and tools to help policy makers localize approaches in Asia and the Pacific.²⁹

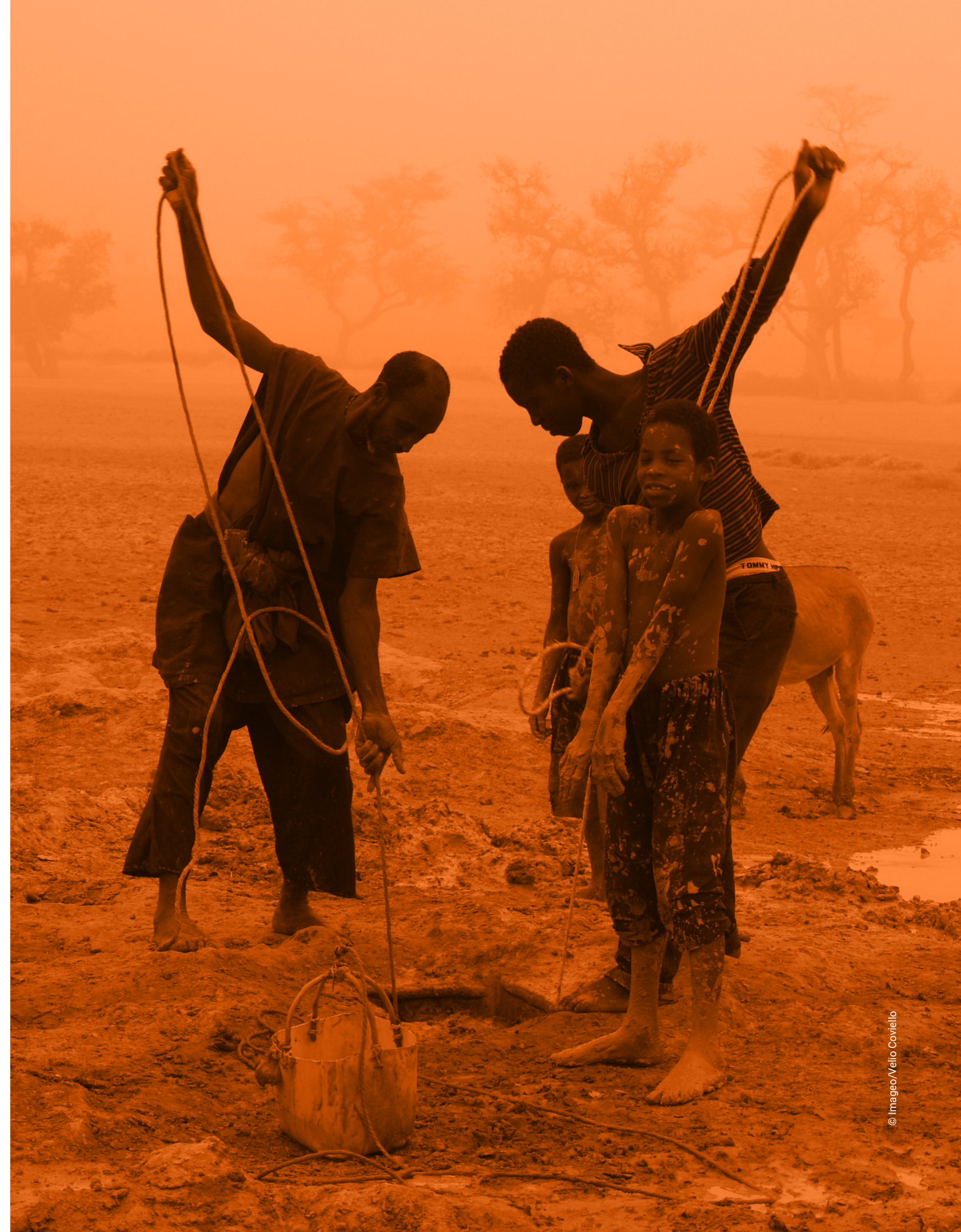
Nine pandemic-focused **issue briefs**³⁰ that capitalized on emerging lessons and offered actionable recommendations were published, ranging on topics from risk communication and social protection to human rights and displaced persons. In addition, a more detailed regional policy paper: **Review of COVID-19 disaster risk governance in Asia-**

²⁷ Published reports at <https://www.preventionweb.net/collections/asiapacific-profiles>

²⁸ UNDRR, *Ecosystem-Based Disaster Risk Reduction: Implementing Nature-based Solutions for Resilience* (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/ecosystem-based-disaster-risk-reduction-implementing-nature-based-solutions-0>

²⁹ For example, the 2019 National Disaster Management Plan of India provides a comprehensive mechanism to implement ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction approaches in river basins, mountainous regions and coastlines. By framing ecosystems as natural barriers that moderate hazards, the responsibilities of both central and state governments towards strengthening DRR governance is manifest.

³⁰ See <https://www.undrr.org/about-undrr-where-we-work/asia-pacific>



Pacific: Towards Multi-Hazard and Multi-Sectoral Disaster Risk Reduction³¹ was published. The policy paper examines policies, regulatory and institutional mechanisms used for risk governance in Asia and the Pacific, incorporating UNDRR's global strategy and the goals set by the UN Secretary-General to prevent infections, protect the most vulnerable and plan for a resilient recovery.

Given the paucity of regional disaster risk reduction literature, in the Arab States region, UNDRR began developing an **Arab States Regional Assessment Report (RAR)** to understand risk trends and risk reduction, in support of risk-informed sustainable development. The Arab States RAR will be published in 2021.

In the **Americas and the Caribbean** region, the first RAR will review six years of progress in Sendai Framework implementation, with an analysis of recent decades, the drivers of risk, as well as **new regional dynamics accelerating the creation of new risk**. UNDRR co-developed with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) an analysis of systemic risk and COVID-19, which was launched in March 2021³². Additionally, 11 publications and 12 webinars were organised providing advice on the integration of disaster risk reduction and supporting the work of partners in their efforts to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

In the **Africa region**, UNDRR published the executive summary of **The Highlights: Africa Regional Assessment Report**³³ with the full report and a COVID-19 addendum planned for release in 2021. The Africa RAR analyses the continental challenges, opportunities, innovations, lessons learned, and progress made in implementing the Sendai Framework in Africa.

In **Europe, as coordinator of the European Science and Technology Advisory Group (E-STAG)**, UNDRR developed policy guidance papers for regional and national action on evolving wildfire risk. This led to direct impact, for example, in France, where a law regarding local authority responsibility in disaster and wildfire mitigation was amended and became a case study for other countries.

Member State and stakeholder interest in risk-informed financing has increased. UNDRR developed a guidance note on risk profiles that was used to upgrade **16 National Risk Profiles in Africa**³⁴ around floods and droughts and to develop **16 Disaster Risk-Sensitive Budget Reviews**.³⁵ This led to the publication of a document on the application in Angola, UR Tanzania and Zambia.

The **Africa Road Map for Improving the Availability, Access and Use of Disaster Risk Information for Early Warning and Early Action, including in the Context of Transboundary Risk Management**, launched in February with UNDRR's support, highlighted the need to improve accessibility to risk information in Africa.³⁶ The roadmap emphasized synergies with other early warning/early action global, Continental and sub-regional programmes and initiatives, which will strengthen the implementation of Sendai Targets (f) and (g) in the continent.



1.3

GLOBAL COORDINATION AND REVIEW MECHANISMS OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK ARE IN PLACE

The seventh session of the **Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2022)** is scheduled for 23-28 May 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. Among the first steps, UNDRR conducted a survey with Member States, the UN system and stakeholders on their priority topics, type and format of sessions.

Preparations for a key stock-take review exercise at the midterm point of the Sendai Framework also began in 2020, with the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution 75/216, which: *“recognizes that the Sendai Framework, including its core provision to “build back better”, provides guidance relevant to a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and also to identify and address underlying drivers of disaster risk in a systemic manner, **decides to hold and midterm review of the Sendai Framework in 2023** to assess progress on integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels, identify good practice, gaps and challenges and accelerate the path to achieving the goal of the Sendai Framework in 2023.”*³⁷

Image from the sixth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2019.

31 UNDRR, Review of COVID-19 disaster risk governance in Asia-Pacific: Towards Multi-Hazard and Multi-Sectoral Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/review-covid-19-disaster-risk-governance-asia-pacific-towards-multi-hazard-and-multi>

32 UNDRR, UNDRR & ECLAC Report: The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic - an opportunity for a systemic approach to disaster risk for the Caribbean (Geneva, UNDRR, 2021). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/undrr-eclac-report-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-pandemic-opportunity-systemic-approach>

33 UNDRR, The Highlights: Africa Regional Assessment Report (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/highlights-africa-regional-assessment-report-2020>

34 Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Kingdom of Eswatini, Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

35 Accessible at <http://riskprofilesundrr.org/riskprofiles/>

36 Jointly authored and endorsed by the AUC, IGAD, and governments of Angola, Ethiopia, UR Tanzania and Zambia.

37 General Assembly Resolution 75/216, available at <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3896586>



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Support to regional and national Sendai
Framework implementation

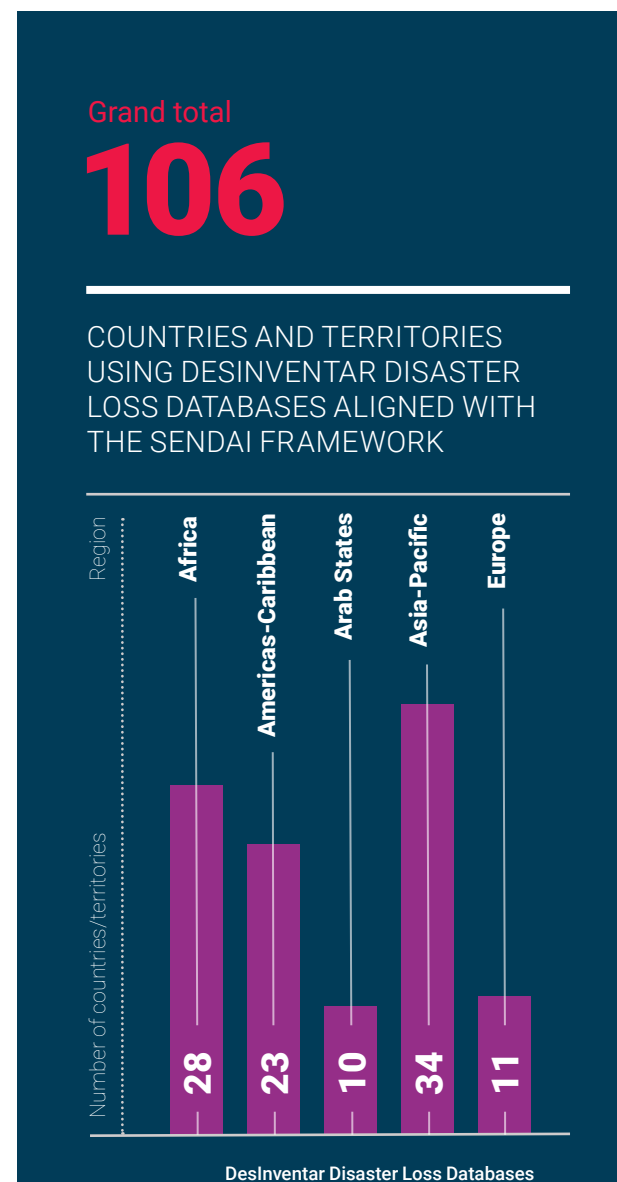
2.1

NATIONAL AND LOCAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES AND PLANS ARE DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED IN LINE WITH SENDAI FRAMEWORK IN COHERENCE WITH CLIMATE ACTION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2020 was the deadline for achievement of Sendai Framework’s Target (e), the development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies. To support this milestone UNDRR conducted a quantitative analysis of SFM data, and found highly exposed LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs had a high rate of Target (e) achievement.³⁸ The global pandemic added urgency to the importance of policy coherence between national disaster risk reduction strategies and sustainable development frameworks, the Paris Agreement, as well as ensuring that health and biological hazards are adequately incorporated.

UNDRR undertook a major Discovery and Needs Analysis to guide the development of a new national disaster loss data management system to enhance synergies, including interoperability of systems, to better manage the convergence of Sendai Framework and SDG indicators, and to inform risk policy development and investment for strengthened risk governance and resilient economies. By December 2020, there were **120 countries and territories using DesInventar disaster loss databases**.

38 59% of LDCs, SIDS and Landlocked Developing Countries developed national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework by the end of 2019 compared to 25% in 2015. For more information see: UNDRR Status Report on Target E (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020), available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/status-report-target-e-implementation-2020>



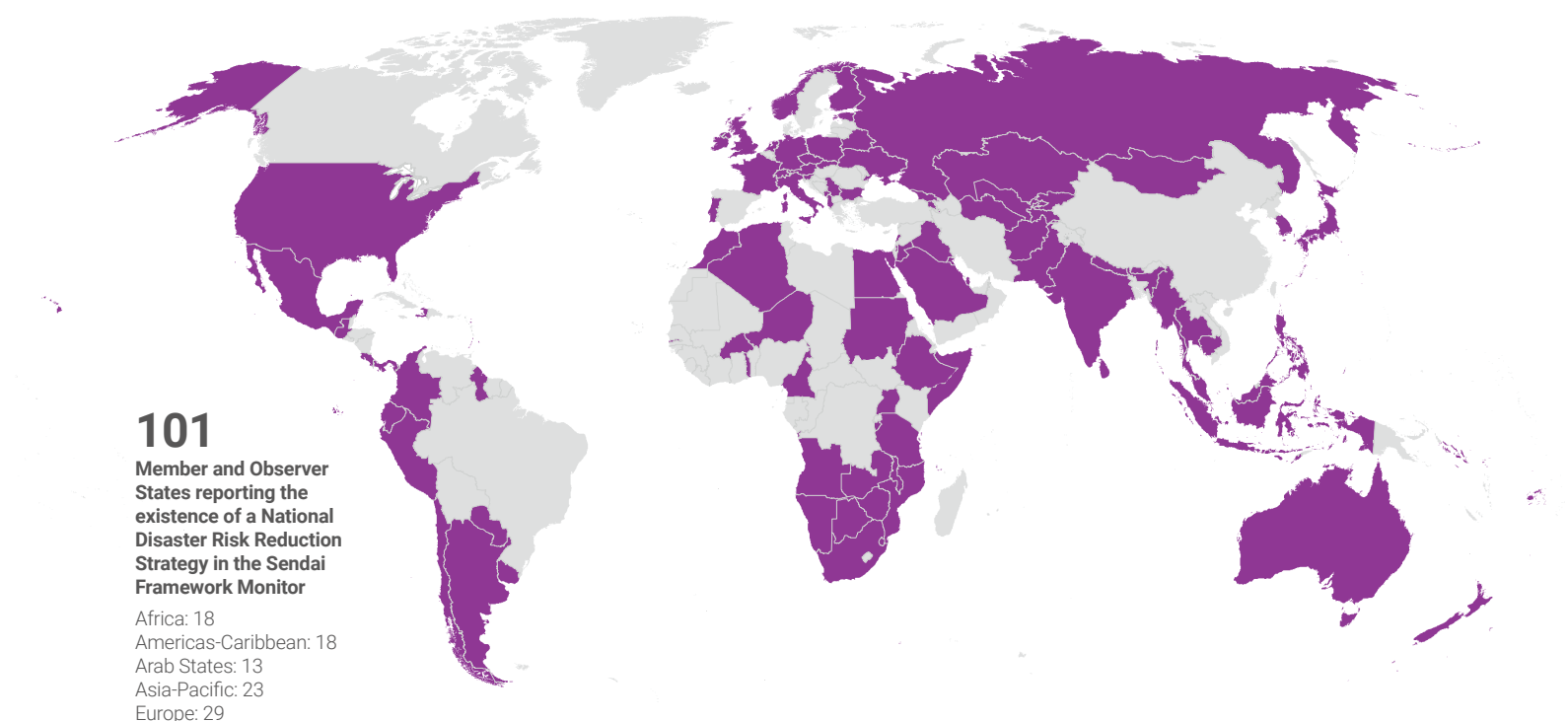
In the **Asia and the Pacific** region, most countries finished 2020 with a strategy, plan or framework that aligns with the Sendai Framework, **marking a shift from disaster management to disaster risk management**. Of 39 countries, 29 have developed national disaster loss databases.

In the **Pacific**, UNDRR, UNDP, and the Pacific Community (SPC) significantly updated records of recent disasters in the Pacific Damage and Loss (PDaLo) system and DesInventar disaster loss database, while in **Asia** UNDRR supported the government of **India’s** development of a National Disaster Management Information System, while continuing to provide regular technical support to other countries in the region.

Regulatory work with the governments of **Fiji, the Philippines and Kiribati** for improved disaster risk reduction governance were continued, and with the **Solomon Islands** to manage and use disaster loss data, to boost integrated risk governance, and to draw from experience regionally and globally.

Support in revisions or development of national strategy documents to shift from disaster management to disaster risk management was provided in **Cambodia, Maldives, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Lao PDR, Sri Lanka and Vietnam**. As part of a coordinated approach towards country support on national disaster risk reduction strategies, UNDP and UNDRR closely collaborated to support the Government of the **Philippines** in revising its Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Plan, which was adopted in October 2020.³⁹

SENGAI FRAMEWORK TARGET (e): 101 MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES REPORTED THE EXISTENCE OF A NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGY IN THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK MONITOR



1. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
2. The maps used reflect the Member and Observer States’ self-defined geographic coverage for the purpose of reporting to the Sendai Framework Monitor.

39 The revision builds on the implementation of the first nine years of the long-term DRRM Plan (2011-2028) and paves way for a more coherent implementation for the next nine years.

UNDRR initiated **an Asia and the Pacific regional analysis on integration between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation** to show current trends and good practices, and to identify strategic entry points for national integration and regional advocacy. In early 2020, a workshop was held for central and local governments from **Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and Maldives**,⁴⁰ to incorporate disaster risk reduction integration and climate change adaptation into local planning and policy development.

In the **Arab States**, UNDRR surveyed entry points for implementation of the pilot phase of the **Coherent Approach in Sudan, Djibouti, the Comoros, and Mauritania** (LDCs and SIDSs).⁴¹ In **Sudan**, UNDRR improved the government's disaster risk reduction programming alignment with climate change and the SDGs. In **Somalia**, a project was started to improve governance and the understanding of disaster risk, to mainstream and localize disaster risk reduction, to build a disaster loss database and multi-hazard country profile, to centralize COVID-19 data, and to strengthen coherence in the national disaster risk reduction strategy.

Using disaster loss databases, UNDRR **mapped historic disaster losses in the Arab States** from 1970 to 2019 and completed an assessment in ten Arab countries, demonstrating that disasters and exposure to multiple hazards **reverses social development**. 13 national disaster risk reduction strategies were reviewed to understand how biological hazards, including epidemics and pandemics, are addressed in the disaster risk reduction cycle. This review fed into a guidance note on integrating biological hazards for the **Fifth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction** held in November 2020.

Underscoring that local governments are critical for inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable human settlements, local governments in the Arab States region moved **quickly to contain the COVID-19 threat** to health systems, the economy, and people. In a UNDRR webinar with various Arab cities **it was clear that cities with pre-existing emergency plans or disaster risk reduction strategies coped better with the COVID-19 crisis**.

“Fiji is now more invested in preparedness, with strengthened disaster risk governance capacity to manage disaster risks.”

Ms. Vasiti Soko

Director of the Fiji National Disaster Management Office

By the close of 2020 in **the Americas and the Caribbean**, there were 24 countries (69%) that had national disaster risk reduction strategies aligned to the Sendai Framework adopted or in process.⁴² UNDRR provided both overall guidance and technical support to increase capacity and improve data collection using **DesInventar disaster loss databases**, and provided in-country support to six countries on disaster loss data collection and analysis.⁴³ In coordination with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), UNDRR is supporting 14 countries in the development of national disaster risk reduction plans, ensuring stronger risk analysis and contributing to enhanced risk governance mechanisms.

In the **Africa region** 18 countries validated strategies or policies aligned to the Sendai Framework and seven countries are developing or validating their strategies. To achieve this and strengthened disaster risk management in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDRR worked closely with the **African Union Commission (AUC)** and the **Regional Economic Communities (RECs)** in the region throughout the year.

In early 2020, UNDRR held a multi-country policy coherence peer-to-peer exchange on disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and the SDGs in Niger with participants from **Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, and Togo**. Countries examined policy coherence to improve climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction for operational purposes, regional coordination mechanisms and assessments, and investment. As one example, Niger integrated CCA into their disaster risk reduction strategy.

An April UNDRR survey⁴⁴ of disaster management agencies' roles showed that sub-Saharan Africa is strengthening government coordination forums composed of public officials and sectoral experts to steer COVID-19 response. The UNDRR desk review of **biological hazards integration into 18 national disaster risk reduction strategies in Africa** highlighted a need to improve understanding of the linkages between epidemic policy and prevention.

Notably, there is increased demand for disaster loss data coordination so that economic loss can be mapped. In **Ethiopia** for example, UNDRR worked with the National Disaster Risk Reduction Commission (NDRMC) to support the development of an early warning system for forest fires using open-source platforms to establish standard operating procedures for thresholds, early warnings, and to boost linkages amongst national agencies. In partnership with NDRMC and other partners, including the Ministry of Finance, UNDRR undertook a risk sensitive budget review in order to allow for disaster risk reduction budget tracking to be established in the future and for national authorities to have a clear picture of disaster risk reduction investments.



40 In partnership with the Asian Institute of Technology Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific and the EPIC network.

41 Read more about the survey findings here https://www.preventionweb.net/files/72168_dataandinterventionsrelatedtocovid1.pdf

42 Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Uruguay

43 Antigua and Barbuda, St. Lucia, Guyana, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay

44 UNDRR, COVID-19 Brief: Preliminary Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/covid-19-brief-preliminary-evidence-sub-saharan-africa>

“During my tenure as Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, all 22 major cities in Mongolia joined the Making Cities Resilient Campaign in 2017, and I inform you that the Government of Mongolia has fulfilled its commitment to implement Target (e) of the Sendai Framework by 2020, and all our major cities have adopted and are implementing local DRR strategies as of today... Through this Campaign, I believe that we have been able to build better community disaster resilience and recognize the importance of local leadership in DRR.”

H.E. U. Khürelsükh

Prime Minister of Mongolia (2017-2021),
speaking at the MCR2030 launch
October 2020

The UNDRR report *Pathways for policy coherence among disaster risk reduction and adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa* assesses the level of integration between the disaster risk and climate adaptation fields in 32 countries, suggesting that coherence is more incidental than structural. To address this, support was provided to five countries to include the convergence of disaster risk reduction and CCA through the submission of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to the UNFCCC. Increasingly, UNDRR’s work has reached down to the city and departmental levels, a fact attested as **municipalities of Mukono, Uganda and Kisumu, Kenya** now prioritize disaster risk reduction planning.

A webinar series critically assessing the investments required for a harmonized system of **Early Warning for Early Action** and transboundary risk management was held in collaboration with the AUC. In **Malawi**, UNDRR engaged national partners across the water, disaster, meteorological, information, survey sectors (as well as the Red Cross) to boost the myDewetra platform for early warning, and to establish joint disaster risk and climate change coordination committees.⁴⁵

In **Europe**, UNDRR continued to develop national competence and capacity around disaster loss databases. Trainings and workshops were organized for participants from **Armenia, Portugal, Slovakia and Romania**. An analysis of data collection structures in **Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan** initiated the establishment of data steering committees and focal points.

To support Target (e) of the Sendai Framework, in Bosnia & Herzegovina, UNDRR shared expertise, collaborated in disaster risk reduction strategy development, and assessed draft and existing strategic plans at sub-regional and national levels, helping to develop its national strategy. In **Bulgaria**, experts from the **European Science and Technology Advisory Group**, the government and other stakeholders evaluated the country’s National Strategy and draft national programme, with a report that will help authorities to finalize elements of their strategic plan. In **Moldova**, a similar 2019 UNDRR-supported process continued through 2020. In **Ukraine** their national strategy will emphasize the reduction of biological risk.



⁴⁵ myDewetra is a real-time system for hydro-meteorological forecasting and monitoring. It is a web-based platform that systematically organizes data and information produced by multiple institutions and agencies, from local to national and international levels. It links data producers and civil protection operators while assisting users to prepare real time risk scenarios based on the available data. The data infrastructure is built to minimize the data transmission time and to share data in real-time to different users in order to reduce the reaction time and have all the information available in one unique system-platform. It can be accessed at <https://www.mydewetra.world/>

MAKING CITIES RESILIENT CAMPAIGN TO MCR 2030



In 2020, UNDRR continued to deliver the advocacy and tools of the **Making Cities Resilient Campaign** (the Campaign) while beginning preparations for **Making Cities Resilient 2030** (MCR 2030). In the ten years of the Campaign, awareness was built and commitments were made by 4,360 cities from around the globe. However, over the decade, it became increasingly apparent that cities need to build 'vertical' governance linkages (local, to regional, and to central), as well as horizontal engagement across government agencies, civil society, the private sector, media, academia, and private citizens.

UNDRR, partners, and city networks conceived of the MCR2030 initiative to put a stronger focus on implementation.⁴⁶ MCR2030 seeks to support cities to assess their various resilience profiles, accelerate the development of local disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies, and to integrate strategies with climate change adaptation for urban resilience and sustainable development, risk-informed development backed by local, regional and global partners, whilst cohering with global frameworks.

The new initiative offers cities a clear, three-stage resilience roadmap. From January 2021, MCR2030 will provide advisory support for improved disaster risk reduction and resilience planning, climate finance, municipal finance and climate adaptation; improve coordination between national and local governments and national associations of local governments; and forge strong implementation partnerships at the local level.

It also incorporates lessons from the Campaign by providing a resilience roadmap for cities with time-bound commitments; key global partnerships that keep MCR2030 connected to global policies and the 2030 Agenda; a regional network of actors with strong links and implementation experience to connect cities; a governance structure that supports, connects and facilitates resilience-building and knowledge sharing; an online dashboard application allowing cities to



record and monitor progress; and a registry to find potential specialist service providers who can support implementation of actions.

In anticipation of the launch of MCR2030, UNDRR established a Global Coordinating Committee and five Regional Coordinating Committees (RCC) responsible for coordinating and ensuring synergies among regional partners in providing technical support to cities to empower them to progress along the resilience roadmap.⁴⁷ All five UNDRR Regional Offices organized either a regional launch RCC meeting in 2020 or made plans for one in 2021.

Even as the MCR2030 was launched in October 2020, the MCR campaign continued to support cities up to the end of the year through advocacy, information, planning and implementation of risk reduction and resilience plans, emphasizing disaster risk reduction coherence with climate risks and SDG 11. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, cities found themselves on the forefront of the response to COVID-19, managing complex scenarios that involved successive disease outbreaks whilst addressing cascading socio-economic impacts as well as other emergencies.

UNDRR immediately began supporting cities through establishing joint engagement between the **WHO Healthy**

“When we started the understanding of risk management, the understanding specifically of disaster risk and climate change was very low...we are glad to say that to date we have a resilient strategy for disaster risk and climate change”

Consolate Nakyagaba Kiyingi

Manager, Risk Management, Kampala City Capital Authority (KCCA)

Cities Network and the MCR campaign, and the **Public Health System Resilience Addendum** for the **UNDRR Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities (Scorecard)**, a local risk assessment tool, became instrumental in 2020 helping local governments understand public health exposure related to COVID-19. For instance, a local strategy for disaster risk reduction, which emphasized the public health sector, was developed for **Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe**.

The **Scorecard** was translated into additional languages, bringing the total to 16 languages,⁴⁸ and two additional addendums to the Scorecard were also initiated: **an addendum on cultural heritage management and an addendum for people living with disabilities**. Eleven cities in **Peru**⁴⁹ applied the **Cultural Heritage Resilience Scorecard** as part of the pilot project held with UNESCO and AECOM. The addendum to promote the inclusion of people living with disabilities will be rolled-out in 2021.

UNDRR further provided tailored support across regions to raise awareness and strengthen capacity to develop local strategies through a series of virtual training and engagements with partners in **Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador and Peru** to share resilience tools, methodologies and learnings related to urban resilience building and strengthening in the region. **Dubai, UAE and Incheon Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea** were both recognised as role model cities of the Campaign for their sustainability and resilience building achievements.

Virtual workshops with speakers from cities and regional authorities from across Europe, to share best practices around the COVID-19 pandemic, organized in partnership with the **European Committee of the Regions Natural Resources Commission** and the **Centre for European Volunteering**, led to cities from 13 countries to develop holistic local disaster risk reduction strategies using MCR tools.⁵⁰

Following a request by the Mayor of **Mutare, Zimbabwe**, UNDRR provided the Urban Councils Association of Zimbabwe with disaster risk reduction awareness training. As a result of the training, 11 cities committed to reducing disaster risk and joined MCR2030. An orientation was also provided for 21 mayors from **Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda** on **Urban Risk Reduction and Making Cities Resilient**.

In coordination with the **Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)**, UNDRR released a publication entitled **Local Leadership for Disaster Resilience: Profiles from Asia and the Pacific**.⁵¹ The publication analyses the good practices and success stories of community leaders in Asia and the Pacific to outline common threads across these examples and propose local leadership principles.

⁴⁶ Core partners that supported the launch of the MCR2030 in October were Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), IFRC, JICA, the Resilient Cities Network, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), UN-Habitat, UNOPS, the World Bank Group and World Council on City Data (WCCD).

⁴⁷ The Regional Coordinating Committees (RCC) are supported by the Regional Secretariats served by the respective UNDRR Regional Offices.

⁴⁸ Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, English, French, Italian, Korean, Mongolian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish

⁴⁹ Piura, Lima, Rímac, Cusco, Chachapoyas, Cajamarca, Lambayeque, Ayacucho, Trujillo and Arequipa

⁵⁰ Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

⁵¹ UNDRR, Local Leadership for Disaster Resilience: Profiles from Asia and the Pacific (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/local-leadership-disaster-resilience-profiles-asia-and-pacific>

2.2

STRENGTHENED CAPACITY OF COUNTERPARTS, UN COUNTRY TEAMS AND PARTNERS FOR LEADERSHIP IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

NEW TRAINING APPROACHES BUILT NEW PARTNERSHIPS

UNDRR swiftly adapted to COVID-19 pandemic realities that spurred rapid growth in online training programmes. New audiences were built and shaped by the nature of the emergency and the urgent need for reliable information. As a result, in 2020 UNDRR either adapted or newly developed 47 online and blended training programmes that reached more than **5,000 participants from 165 countries and territories**, as well as organized 27 webinars that drew more than 6,000 participants.⁵²

UNDRR's annual global **Training of Trainers (ToT) on Sendai Framework Monitoring and Disaster Loss Accounting** continues to build a pool of experts to develop national monitoring capacity. To adapt to the pandemic context, the previous four-day face-to-face training was adapted to a six-week online interactive training. The virtual modality enabled training of more participants, twice as many as the previous year. The number was capped to provide interactive one-on-one coaching and guidance.⁵³

New participants included healthcare providers, prison management officers, postal service officers, small-business owners, local NGOs, technology sector representatives and community leaders. Through **new partnerships** new resources were developed for online delivery, including with ARISE, MCR partners, the IPU, IFRC, UN agencies and Resident Coordinators (RCs), intergovernmental organisations, multilateral agencies and national ministries of health, economy and finance.

New content was quickly integrated into training materials and webinars, from a variety of sources, such as the systemic risk messages of the UNDRR Global Assessment Report 2019. New tools were featured to meet the needs of stakeholders, such as the **Public Health Scorecard Addendum**. Lessons learned from online training delivery were shared in training-of-trainer sessions.

New approaches reached new audiences. The winter edition of UNDRR and UNITAR's recurring online course on developing local disaster risk reduction strategies was made more accessible for the hearing and visually impaired in line with the **UN Disability Inclusion Strategy**. As a result, officers with hearing and visual impairments from the Asia and the Pacific region were trained. South-South, North-South and triangular approaches were further encouraged, including through enhanced engagement with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

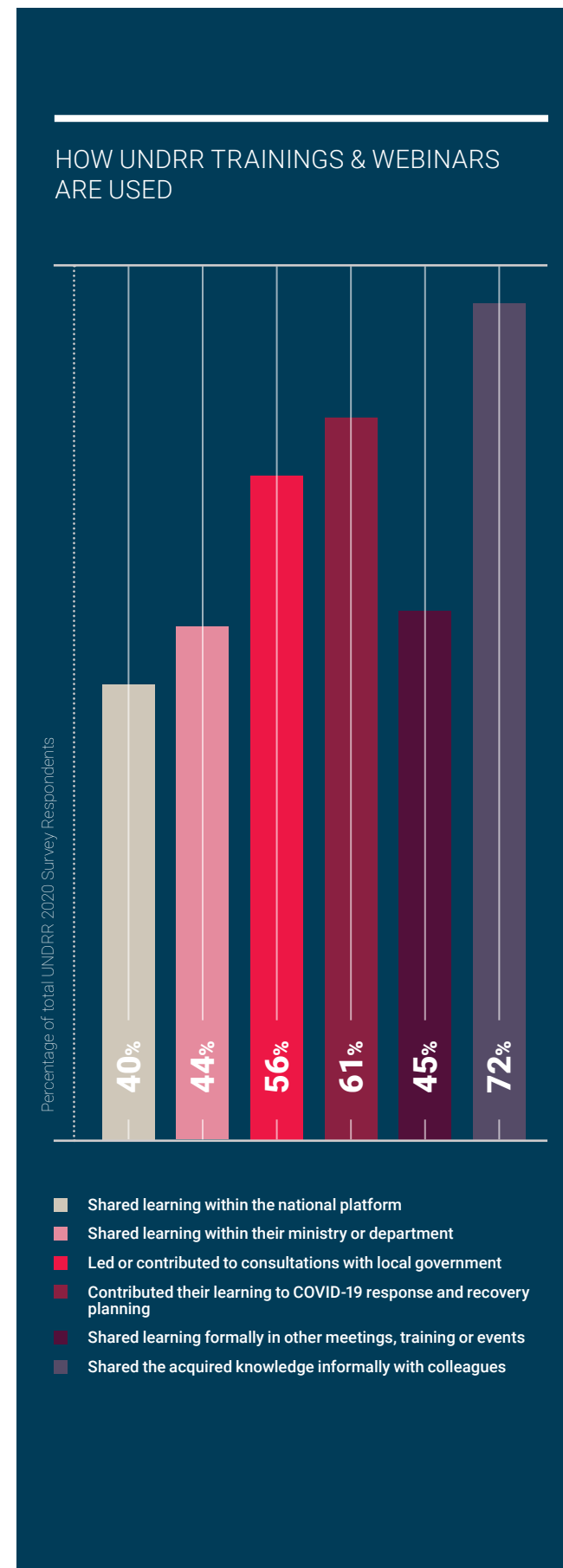
In the Asia and the Pacific region, eight regional webinars on integrating COVID-19 considerations into disaster risk reduction were recorded, shared online and followed by a summary story and issue brief with an average webinar attendance of around 1,000 each.⁵⁴ In addition, a virtual workshop on SFM was organized for participants from **China** and UN staff members based in **the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**.⁵⁵

52 Note, some participants attended both online training programmes and webinars.

53 This figure only counts those participants that attended a critical number of sessions.

54 See: <https://www.undrr.org/about-undrr-where-we-work/asia-pacific>

55 See: <https://www.undrr.org/news/strengthening-and-learning-chinas-work-disaster-risk-reduction>



TARGETED SUPPORT TO UNDCOs AND UNCTs

UNDRR leveraged UN development system reform to strengthen national level mainstreaming of multi-hazard disaster risk reduction into UN interventions, in alignment with strengthened global and regional engagement. UNDRR developed and shared, in close coordination with UNDCO, a briefing package for RCOs and other UN agencies in-country to share guidance on how to operationalize the Sendai Framework in a national context and outline the support that UNDRR can provide in this endeavour.

Another key mechanism UNDRR led was the development, dissemination and training for RCs and UNCTs based on the **Guidance Note on Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework**⁵⁶ The Cooperation Frameworks determine and reflect the UN development system's contributions in the country and shapes the configuration of UN assets required inside and outside the country. It guides the entire programme cycle, planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of collective UN support for achieving the 2030 Agenda. As such, this guidance on such aspects, as use of climate and disaster risk information to inform the Common Country Analysis and ultimately the Cooperation Framework, presents a key opportunity to reduce risk and strengthen resilience to disasters at the national level.

UNDRR's orientation series on the Guidance Note, targeting RCOs and UNCTs, reached over 130 participants from more than 20 UN partners to support its uptake in 2021. As a result of UNDRR's support to the development of new Cooperation Frameworks, undertaken in close coordination with UN partners, all 24 new Cooperation Frameworks signed in 2020 have disaster risk reduction and resilience reflected in the Results Framework.

In Europe, support was extended to 18 UNCTs to integrate disaster risk reduction results into Common Country Analysis and Cooperation Frameworks and in the implementation of the Cooperation Frameworks. Together with the Regional UN Development Coordination Office (UNDCO) a webinar for UNRCOs to introduce a regional briefing package developed by UNDRR was held.

In the Americas and the Caribbean, consistent one-on-one support was provided to national counterparts on Sendai Framework monitoring and reporting as well as support for the development of national strategies and plans and overall guidance for disaster-risk informed development policies and practices.⁵⁷ UNDRR is working closely with the Peer

56 UNDRR, Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/integrating-disaster-risk-reduction-and-climate-change-adaptation-un-sustainable>

57 Including Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, St. Lucia, Guyana, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Peru, Panamá, Paraguay and Uruguay

Support Group to provide guidance to UNCTs and RC offices developing new Common Country Analysis and Cooperation Frameworks. In **Panama** and **Barbados**, UNDRR ensured the inclusion of disaster risk reduction and environmental and biological hazard management in the new Cooperation Framework and contributed to the development of Cooperation Frameworks for **Argentina, Colombia, Guyana, Jamaica and Uruguay**.

Also in the Americas and the Caribbean, UNDRR co-leads the IBC on climate change and resilience, together with UNEP and developed a document called **Addressing COVID-19 – IBC Climate Change and Resilience, Latin America and the Caribbean region** which contains 26 tools and resources on IBC topics, and a section on common advocacy and communication messages.⁵⁸

In the Arab States, coordination with RCOs in **Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon** yielded an agreement between UNDP, UNEP and UNDRR on support to the UNCTs through developing joint diagnostic papers on disaster risk reduction and climate change, and implementing the guidance note on integrating disaster and climate risk in the Cooperation Framework processes.

In the Asia Pacific region, UNDRR organised a regional orientation for UN agencies on integrating CCA and disaster risk reduction into the Cooperation Framework processes. UNDRR adapted the training to support the **Bangladesh** RCO and UNCT in their efforts to integrate the impacts of COVID-19 in their Country Common Analysis. UNDRR also leveraged support from several UNDP country offices, and

regional organisations, such as the Pacific Community (SPC), by delivering training-of-trainer sessions to support governments in their reporting and use of SFM data. The development of this in-country expertise will increase UNDRR's ability to support countries, particularly with travel restrictions in place for COVID-19.

In the **African region**, disaster risk reduction was included for the first time in several significant development programming documents such as **Uganda's** Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025) which notes that "By 2025, Uganda's natural resources and environment are sustainably managed and protected, and people, especially the vulnerable and marginalized, have the capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change and disaster risks." **Ethiopia's** Cooperation Framework (2020-2025) notes that "All people in Ethiopia live in a society resilient to environmental risks and adapted to climate change." UNDRR contributed to the development of these two Cooperation Frameworks and ensured that disaster risk reduction was integrated across many sectors in these planning documents.

In **Nigeria** UNDRR provided inputs to the preliminary analysis of the Common Country Analysis diagnostic paper on Climate and Environment. UNDRR is also supporting Kenya's Common Country Analysis to ensure resilience and risk informed programming is integrated. This will form the basis for initiating the process of developing the new Cooperation Framework 2022-2026. In **Malawi**, UNDP and UNDRR are supporting the government's implementation of a bill on disaster risk management and resilience.



58 Seven webinars organized and led by different members of the coalition under the framework and in alignment with approaches of the IBC, reaching more than 2,500 participants from across the region and beyond. Five brief documents (Three in Spanish and two in English) with conclusions from the webinars were produced and made available.

2.3

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS MOBILIZED TO ACCELERATE SENDAI FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

UNDRR's approach to work through and leverage regional and national coordination mechanisms allowed acceleration of the Sendai Framework implementation, as regional and national entities worked to continue their work while responding to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

CENTRAL ASIA

In Central Asia, UNDRR steadily built the foundations for greater resilience through aligned data, capacity, governance and cooperation at local, national and regional levels. All Central Asian states reported on national implementation using the SFM. Activities in the sub-region include training for Sendai Focal Points and trainers across five countries, analysing regional and national disaster risk reduction legislation, and compiling a list of existing bilateral and multilateral agreements on cooperation around transboundary hazards.

The pandemic contributed to the urgency of assessing national response measures. In Almaty an agreement was established with the **Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR)** to develop a work plan that includes establishing and maintaining a regional disaster loss database, with data to be shared across countries, and support for an annual forum for disaster management authorities of Central Asian countries. In December, at the **Third Regional Forum of Heads of National Disaster Management Agencies in Central Asia**, CESDRR presented the draft of the regional risk profile and a draft version of the Regional disaster risk reduction strategy.

AFRICA

In the Africa region, in March 2020, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) requested that UNDRR deliver a workshop on SFM and disaster loss databases for its Member States. Two key outcomes were a roadmap to accelerate disaster data collection and management and monitoring of disaster risk reduction, and a new collaboration with FAO on reporting agricultural losses. In April 2020, UNDRR and the AUC held a virtual meeting for disaster risk reduction focal points in which 70 participants exchanged experiences related to the COVID-19 challenges.⁵⁹

UNDRR continued as the Secretariat for the AUC-chaired **African Working Group on DRR**. In July 2020, more than 80 participants from Member States, RECs, AUC, UN agencies, IFRC, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, civil society organisations and donors met virtually to support advocacy and awareness raising; strengthen coordination mechanisms and multi-hazard early warning systems; to mobilize resources, improve risk governance; and understand the management of systemic risk. In October 2020, more than 60 participants met to review progress, next steps on Sendai Framework Target (e) and resource mobilization.

59 UNDRR, COVID-19 Brief: Virtual Dialogue between national and regional Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/covid-19-brief-virtual-dialogue-between-national-and-regional-disaster-risk-reduction>

At the **African Peer Review Mechanism's (APRM)** virtual workshop on building state resilience, UNDRR, WHO, the AUC, and the APRM agreed to help governments in the region strengthen disaster risk reduction for resilience, as well as enhance capacity for preparedness, response and recovery, and to support Member States to implement international frameworks relating to shocks, disasters and infectious diseases.

UNDRR actively shaped input, policy and outcomes in the **Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF)**, the theme of which was *Managing Climate-Related Risks for Resilience*; and the **Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development's** integrated approach to disaster risk reduction, climate change and mitigation strategies.

In November 2020, the AUC held **The Special Session of African Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources, on the Challenges and Opportunities presented by the COVID-19 Pandemic**, which recognized the urgency of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, harmonizing or pooling multi-hazard disaster management funds at all levels, and strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems. In February a **Workshop on Risk Profiling and Early Warning** with both high-level and technical engagement endorsed a continental impact-based early warning system for early action and transboundary risk management.

The risk profiles of **Angola, Tanzania and Zambia** were reviewed and validated by national authorities and endorsed at the political level. **Angola's Chief Fire Commissioner** expressed the expectation that the profile drive future development strategies, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures across all sectors, as well as cost-benefit analysis for disaster risk reduction investments. **Tanzania** used information from the risk profile in the situation analysis and sub-section on the future impacts of climate change in its newly developed national disaster risk reduction strategy.⁶⁰

In February the AUC called for a continental early warning and preparedness system for natural hazards through the **Africa Roadmap for Improving the Availability, Access, and Use of Disaster Risk Information for Early Warning and Early Action, Including in the Context of Transboundary Risk Management**. Endorsed by the AUC, ACMAD, IGAD and the four target countries – **Angola, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Zambia** – it identifies activities and practical recommendations aiming to improve the availability, accessibility to and use of risk information at the continental, regional, national and local levels. UNDRR provided technical guidance and support throughout the entire process, including organising study tours to Belgium and Italy. As a result, Italy provided support to UNDRR for

the establishment of the **African Multi-hazard Early Warning System** in cooperation with RECs, Member States, the African STAG and other partners.⁶¹

In October, following **Anticipate and Act: The Stockholm High-Level Meeting on Addressing the Humanitarian Impact of Climate Change**, Sweden, UNDRR and WFP announced the establishment of the **Horn of Africa Partnership for Early Warning and Early Action**. A key feature of the project includes the development of a dedicated Cell for risk information compilation at IGAD's Climate Prediction & Applications Centre.

Disaster risk reduction, development, and climate action convergence in Africa through inter-agency country development cooperation, and IBCs were mainstreamed. UNDP and UNDRR prioritized collaboration in **Ethiopia, Malawi, Senegal, and Uganda**, and are trying to strengthen the collection of disaster loss data in the **Sahel region**.



The cartoon above was produced as part of the Anticipate and Act: The Stockholm High-Level Meeting on Addressing the Humanitarian Impact of Climate Change event organized by the Government of Sweden, UNDRR and WFP.

AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

In the **Americas and the Caribbean** region, UNDRR leveraged four inter-governmental organisations (IGOs) to accelerate action. All four key regional IGOs⁶² incorporated disaster risk reduction policy into planning and committed to submitting regional SFM reports in 2021. UNDRR worked with the **Latin American and Caribbean Working Group for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster-Related SDG Indicators** in coordination with the ECLAC Statistics Conference of the Americas to provide webinars and trainings for regional participants.

In 2020, UNDRR and CDEMA/CARICOM worked closely together to support countries to develop their national disaster risk reduction strategies. Extra support was provided to CEPREDENAC/SICA on the development of a multi-hazard information platform, which helped countries to identify COVID-19 response infrastructure and services that were in the path of Tropical Storm Amanda in May 2020.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In the **Asia and the Pacific region**, UNDRR furthered the disaster risk reduction agenda through its partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other key regional organisations, and within the UN system. Organisations have integrated disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework into plans and activities, as evidenced by new ASEAN regional work plans and in the outputs of UN agencies that make up the IBCs.

In **Asia and the Pacific**, five IBCs were established as part of UN development system reform. While co-leading the IBC on Building Resilience, UNDRR is also ensuring that disaster risk reduction and resilience is included in other IBCs on climate mitigation, human rights and gender equality, urbanization and human mobility, and inclusion and empowerment.⁶³ UNDRR also contributed to other regional reform components such as knowledge management, and data and statistics.

In addition, UNDRR continued to work with the **Peer Support Group** of the UN's Regional Collaboration Platform and provided targeted technical guidance to 12 UNCTs on ensuring quality assurance and programming support to all stages of the development of Cooperation Frameworks.⁶⁴

“UNDRR’s support has been a significant enabler for the ASEAN Community in developing this comprehensive and robust work programme for the next 5-years.”

His Excellency Kung Phোক

Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

The **2020 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR (APMCDRR)**⁶⁵ was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic; however preparations for the development and launch of the **Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021-2024** commenced at the virtual **Asia-Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction (APP-DRR) Forum**.⁶⁶ More than 175 participants from **30 Asia and the Pacific governments**, 10 intergovernmental organisations, several UN agencies and international organisations, and stakeholder groups consulted on regional disaster risk reduction and thematic priorities.⁶⁷ In subsequent virtual thematic consultations held in December, multiple stakeholders identified actionable priorities and commitments for the Action Plan.

2020 marked the end of the implementation of the **ASEAN-UN Plan of Action 2016-2020**. The subsequent **Plan of Action 2021-2025** continues to prioritize disaster risk reduction. UNDRR also contributed to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025 in particular the formulation of its monitoring and evaluation framework⁶⁸ and the review process in the **ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management**.

⁶⁰ Note: the national officer who led the risk profiling, in close coordination with UNDRR, also led the development of the national strategy.

⁶¹ UNDRR, Africa Road Map for Improving the Availability, Access and Use of Disaster Risk Information for Early Warning and Early Action, including in the Context of Transboundary Risk Management (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/africa-road-map-improving-availability-access-and-use-disaster-risk-information-early>

⁶² RMAGIR/MERCOSUR, CAPRADE/CAN, CEPREDENAC/SICA and CDEMA/CARICOM.

⁶³ During the year 22 UN entities joined the IBC on Building Resilience structured around four work streams: 1) Integration of health emergencies in disaster risk reduction; 2) Disaster and climate risk analysis; 3) Resilient recovery; and 4) Disaster and climate-related displacement.

⁶⁴ Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, I.R. of Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Thailand and Viet Nam.

⁶⁵ See <https://www.undrr.org/apmcdrr>

⁶⁶ See <https://www.undrr.org/event/asia-pacific-partnership-disaster-risk-reduction-app-drr-forum-0>

⁶⁷ See <https://www.undrr.org/news/asia-pacific-resolves-move-crisis-resilience>

⁶⁸ See <https://asean.org/asean-adopts-new-disaster-management-framework-2021-2025/> and <https://www.undrr.org/news/asean-achieves-milestone-towards-regional-disaster-risk-reduction>

“The Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction has been playing an important role, including in the face of COVID-19 pandemic, in advancing the disaster risk reduction agenda for resilience in the context of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction to contribute to the achievement of the Agenda 2030: The Africa We Want and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I am grateful for the partnership we have with UNDRR in this regard.”

H.E. Ambassador Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko

Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission

In the **Pacific**, UNDRR worked closely with the Pacific Resilience Partnership on a monitoring, evaluation and governance framework for the management of information and knowledge for the **Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific**.

At the country level, UNDRR ensured that disaster risk reduction was included in UN joint work plans and indicators, and provided technical input into activities. For instance, in **Lao PDR**, support led to inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the new 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan. In **Thailand**, UNDRR actively contributed as a member of the first COVID-19 Intra-Action Review, strengthening links between the Ministry of Health and the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. In addition, contribution was made to the Joint Work Plan in support of **Solomon Islands’** Graduation from the LDC category.

In the **Pacific**, UNDRR continued to take a leading role in the UN Pacific Strategy’s Outcome Group 1, which focuses on disaster, climate and environmental resilience. Support was provided to UNDP to strengthen UN agency support to Pacific Island Countries in their development of **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** by the December 2020 deadline. In addition, UNDRR represented the UNCT on the advisory committee of a planned major programme of support to Pacific SIDS and guided the **Pacific Resilience Partnership’s Technical Working Groups** on displacement, disaster risk finance, risk governance and localization.

UNDRR further actively engaged in the **climate service user forums** for the South Asia Climate Outlook Forums (SASCOF 16 and 17) and contributed to strengthening translation of early warning into early action through impact-based forecasting.

ARAB STATES

In the **Arab States**, the **Fifth Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction** was held virtually and attended by 15 Arab States, the League of Arab States, key members of the five Arab Stakeholder Groups for disaster risk reduction and representatives from ten UN regional offices. The meeting showcased solid progress made by governments and stakeholders in implementing the **Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030** and its corresponding action plan. There were calls for more collective and coordinated efforts to advance regional disaster risk reduction. One of the main outcomes of the meeting was to review Phase I of the **Prioritized Action Plan 2018-2020 for the Arab Strategy for DRR 2030**, and to begin Phase II (2021-2024). A guidance note on integrating biological hazards is underway and will be released in 2021.

The Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform continued to deepen collaboration on sustainable development across the UN system. UNDRR joined two regional IBCs, one on urbanization, and one on climate change action and natural resource management. For the regional IBC on urbanization, UNDRR developed and shared a survey on preparedness and response of cities to COVID-19 and organized the webinar on **Lessons Learned: Arab States Cities Preparedness and Response to COVID-19**⁶⁹ with six UN partners.



Meeting of the UNDRR Arab States ARISE network.

69 ESCWA, IOM, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNOPS and WHO

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Catalyse action through countries
and partners for Sendai Framework
implementation

3.1

POLICY COHERENCE, IN LINE WITH THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK, FOSTERED ACROSS INTERGOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS RELATED TO CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2020 was a seminal year for intergovernmental policy-setting on disaster risk reduction. Intergovernmental decisions and high-level events indicated the increasing political space given to disaster risk reduction in deliberations and their outcomes; the increasing understanding of the policy-setting needed in response to the systemic nature of risk; and the increasing recognition of disaster risk reduction as essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Member States adopted at least 20 resolutions at the GA and ECOSOC which integrate disaster risk reduction and promote policy coherence with the Sendai Framework in the implementation of the SDGs and COVID-19 recovery, including several of the year's major intergovernmental decisions. In the **Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the UN**, Member States recognized the historic opportunity brought by the pandemic and climate crisis to build back better and to focus on risk reduction for systemic

resilience, while the resolution on **Comprehensive and Coordinated Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic** called for the integration of risk reduction into recovery strategies.

Disaster risk reduction also featured more prominently than ever before in the 2020 **Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review** resolution, which ensures that the UN system's support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the country level will be risk-informed and aligned with the Sendai Framework.

On climate change, UNDRR extended technical guidance during deliberations of the Adaptation Committee, the LDC Expert Group, the Standing Committee on Finance and the **Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage**, including the **Technical Expert Group on Comprehensive Risk Management**.

Critical policy gaps in financing for disaster risk reduction were addressed in the outcome document of the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development and the **Menu of Options for the Consideration of Ministers of Finance on Financing for the 2030 Agenda in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond**. Together they provide Governments, financial institutions, development banks, and the UN system with a clear medium-term agenda for policy development and technical support in this area. This includes a call for the development of national disaster risk reduction financing strategies and instruments, for risk-informed investments, and for the international and national financial institutions and development banks to align their strategies and activities with the Sendai Framework.

In support of these policy-setting achievements, UNDRR was a member of the working group on Recovering Better for Sustainability as part of the Heads of State and Governments initiative on **Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond**. UNDRR also plays an instrumental role in the **Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development**. Mainstreaming a risk-informed approach in the Integrated National Financing Frameworks was a key outcome of this engagement in 2020.

As the focal point in the UN system for disaster risk reduction, **UNDRR provided substantive inputs and data to 13 reports of the Secretary-General** and led the drafting of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Sendai Framework, with input from across the UN system. Policy recommendations provided through these reports supported Member States in their deliberations by highlighting bottlenecks, gaps and challenges in implementation of the Sendai Framework; underscoring the breadth of areas where disaster risk reduction and the implementation of the Framework enable progress; and offering guidance to strengthen policy coherence with the implementation of key intergovernmental agreements on sustainable development, financing for development, climate action, biodiversity and the environment, and countries in special situations.

This guidance was reinforced in virtual events targeted at New York audiences, co-organized by UNDRR, Member States, UN agencies, and civil society partners. **For the first time, disaster risk reduction was included in the official programme of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)**, with a special session on **Protecting the Planet and Building Resilience**. The GA second committee also chose disaster risk reduction as the topic for its only side event in 2020.

At UNFCCC CoP 25, UNDRR organized five events and sponsored the attendance of youth activists. At 14 events our staff highlighted how climate action can include disaster risk reduction and advocated for coherence between the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the SDGs. While CoP 26 was postponed, UNDRR contributed to the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues held in November 2020, with staff presenting information to governments at the **Structured Expert Dialogue on the second periodic review of the long-term global goal and the progress towards achieving it**.

Collaboration with the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) also bore positive results in 2020. The consideration of disaster risk and risk reduction has been strengthened across the CDP's work and in the coordinated UN support offered to countries graduating from the least developed category.



3.2

STRENGTHENED COORDINATION AND LEADERSHIP PROVIDED TO ALL UN SYSTEM PARTNERS AT GLOBAL LEVEL TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK

Considerable progress was made in strengthening coordination amongst UN system partners' contribution to reducing risk and building resilience, and in improving coherence between the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. Notably UNDRR signed a **Joint Statement of Intent with UNDP** and a **Memorandum of Understanding with UNFCCC** to strengthen coherent and coordinated disaster and climate risk reduction.

Building coherence, work was started with UNFCCC and interagency partners through the **Coherent Approach**, to support 40 LDCs and SIDS over the next three years in aligning policies, financing, and implementation of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies. 16 countries were supported, mainly through policy landscape maps and recommendations for national action plans.

The UN development system reform offered new opportunities to strengthen implementation of the UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience, particularly at the country level. In July, the guidance note, **Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework**, was made available to UN Resident Coordinators and UNCTs. Supported by a training package, this document outlines the impacts of climate and disaster risks on the SDGs and suggests how to risk-inform the UN Sustainable Development

Cooperation Framework throughout its lifecycle and includes an annex on biological hazards.

UNDRR undertook global and regional consultations in Asia, Africa and Arab States with a wide range of humanitarian and development partners, to develop a concrete set of recommendations and a **Checklist on Scaling up DRR in Humanitarian Action**⁷⁰ which identifies entry points for disaster risk reduction in the steps of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC). Pilot testing of the Checklist was undertaken in collaboration with OCHA in Haiti and Pakistan, to inform a final iteration of the Checklist to be launched in 2021.⁷¹ In Pakistan the country team is now considering vulnerabilities and risks within humanitarian response planning to address root causes of humanitarian needs.

COVID-19 exposed the need for a multi-hazard approach to disaster risk reduction, and the importance of mainstreaming health-related risks in national disaster risk reduction strategies. UNDRR worked with UN partners, in particular **WHO**, to develop guidance, including the forthcoming supplement on biological hazards for the **Words into Action Guidelines** on national disaster risk reduction strategies.

UNDRR and WHO strengthened collaboration between Sendai Framework and International Health Regulations (IHR) focal points. This included joint situation analysis of systemic risks



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in order to inform health security and emergency planning, joining forces to identify and share best practices and lessons learned, and jointly promoting investments in health security **to build back better**.

In support of UN system efforts to implement risk-informed sustainable development and the Sendai Framework, UNDRR supported the Interagency Group on Industrial and Chemical Accidents in support of the '**Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents**' and is linked to the OECD Working Group on Chemical Accidents.⁷²

UNDRR pushed ahead on a common statistical framework for disaster-related statistics, in pursuit of scientific rigour and common reporting.⁷³ An Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics was approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). More than 160 membership nominations from over 85 countries and expressions of interest from an array of international organisations were received. A Core Group has been formed with UNDRR and UNESCAP as co-chairs, UNDRR as secretariat and all regional commissions and the UN Statistics Division as members.

UNDRR partnered with the WMO through a **Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS)** initiative project to develop a set of custom indicators for countries to measure the effectiveness of their **multi-hazard early warning systems**, related to Target (g) of the Sendai Framework. LDCs and SIDS in the Caribbean, Pacific, and West Africa regions are especially vulnerable to natural and biological hazards. An expert working group was formed to review indicator proposals, which will be translated into the six official UN languages, and made accessible to all Member States through the SFM system in 2021.⁷⁴

Under the **UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience**⁷⁵ UNDRR coordinates two mechanisms: the high-level **UN Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience** and the **UN Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points Group (Focal Points Group)** at the working level. Areas of collaboration include national reporting on the Sendai Framework, achieving Target (e), ensuring coherence with climate change and the SDGs, and providing guidance and technical assistance to support risk-informed and sustainable development, through risk-informed CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks.

70 UNDRR, Scaling up disaster risk reduction in humanitarian action (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/scaling-disaster-risk-reduction-humanitarian-action>

71 The IASC Results Group 4 on Humanitarian-Development Collaboration, the HPC Steering Group, and the Global Cluster Coordinators Group were engaged in different stages of the development and roll-out of the Checklist.

72 See https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2019-05/Hirsh_Publication%207.pdf

73 See E/2019/24-E/CN.3/2019/34, accessible at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/50th-session/documents/Report-on-the-50th-session-of-the-statistical-commission-E.pdf>

74 UNDRR is also further collaborating with WMO and the World Bank/GFDRR in the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Ocean Commission Regions through CREWS.

75 UNDRR, United Nations plan of action on disaster risk reduction for resilience (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/49076>

The 5th meeting of the **UN Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience (UN SLG)** held in July 2020 had the highest level of participation since the group's establishment. The 42 UN entities present reviewed progress during 2019 towards the UN Plan of Action and endorsed a set of nine recommendations to strengthen the implementation of the UN Plan of Action and disaster risk reduction in the context of the socio-economic response to the global pandemic. The UN SLG also initiated a review of key lessons from UN coordination mechanisms for COVID-19 "to ensure a UN system approach to reducing risks and building resilience to a broad scope of hazards, including biological hazards."⁷⁶

UNDRR's coordination of the DRR Focal Points Group supports disaster risk reduction mainstreaming across the UN system. Through the Focal Points Group, guidance on reporting **more than doubled the number of UN partners submitting UN Plan of Action progress reports**. This provided a comprehensive overview of the UN system's support to advancing the Sendai Framework at country level and underscored the extent to which UN partners had supported countries in the development or updating of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies (a total of 66 countries) and supported 129 countries to develop or update risk-informed development plans.

The UN Plan of Action progress report highlighted the need to further systematise the efforts of the UN systems related to gender sensitive disaster risk reduction. In response, the UN SLG called for the development of a study on gender and disaster risk reduction. Another area of improvement revealed the lack of technological or biological hazard consideration in national and local planning instruments, leading to a recommendation to adopt a whole-of-society approach, and ensure multi-hazard risk sensitive development and disaster risk reduction planning at all levels.

UNDRR continued its coordination of the International Recovery Platform (IRP), a thematic platform and joint initiative of international organisations, national and local governments, and civil society to promote building back better. In 2020, the IRP issued a series of publications to support pandemic recovery. The first in the series, **Applying IRP Disaster Recovery Tools and Guidelines to Pandemic Recovery**⁷⁷ offered a compendium of relevant, existing disaster recovery tools that could be immediately adapted. The second, a **'COVID-19 Recovery Brief'**,⁷⁸ outlined principles and key actions for government and stakeholder

recovery plans. The third publication linked previous recovery knowledge experience with emerging practices from the current crisis to support recovery.⁷⁹ In January, the IRP organized the annual **International Recovery Forum** to draw on good practice, strategy, and lessons learned, around the theme of **Building Back Better through Resilient Infrastructure**.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND DISPLACEMENT

To explore the risk factors that influence whether disaster displacements become multiple and/or protracted, UNDRR developed the publication **Reducing the risk of protracted and multiple disaster displacements in Asia-Pacific**⁸⁰ with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). Further, in Asia Pacific, through the Issue-based Coalition on Building Resilience, UNDRR supported the organization of a consultation with the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, and a virtual briefing by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons.

In the Americas and the Caribbean Region, UNDRR collaborated with key IGOs, CAPRADE/CAN and CEPREDENAC/SICA, in the dissemination of the **Words into Action on Disaster Displacement**. In Africa, UNDRR actively contributed to the **Platform on Disaster Displacement's** policy mapping to define how disaster-induced displacement is integrated in disaster risk reduction strategies. UNDRR further encouraged consideration of displacement in data disaggregation and in the development of national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans.



76 UNDRR, Progress report on the implementation of the UN plan of action on DRR for resilience (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/progress-report-implementation-un-plan-action-drr-resilience>

77 Applying IRP disaster recovery tools and guidelines to pandemic recovery (issued on 18 May 2020) is available at: <https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/71895>

78 The IRP COVID-19 Recovery Brief was downloaded more than 700 times in the first three months post-publication. It is available at: https://www.recoveryplatform.org/assets/publication/Covid19_Recovery/COVID-19%20Recovery%20Policy%20Brief.pdf

79 UNDRR, IRP Practical Lessons for Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic: Principles for Recovery (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/75428>

80 UNDRR, Reducing the risk of protracted and multiple disaster displacements in Asia-Pacific (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at: <https://www.undrr.org/publication/reducing-risk-protracted-and-multiple-disaster-displacements-asia-pacific>

3.3

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK AND COHERENCE ACROSS AGENDA 2030 FACILITATED THROUGH THE PROMOTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ALL-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH

Throughout 2020 UNDRR boosted its engagement across a broad variety of stakeholder groups – the private and finance sectors, science and technology, civil society organisations and community-led organisations, indigenous people, children and youth, parliamentarians and regulators, in the delivery of new evidence as well as advocacy at key global and regional meetings.

The **UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM)** was used to coordinate the wide variety of stakeholder groups and support their engagement in key policy processes, including the Financing for Development Summit, HLPF, Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative (FFDI) ministerial event, the World Urban Forum, and CoP26 preparatory events. **The SEM grew to represent more than 600 members** and contributed to many different UNDRR-led efforts, including an extensive global survey examining the challenges that Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) face in building resilience.

To catalyse stakeholders and monitor action, UNDRR continued to maintain its **Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments** online platform.⁸¹ The platform allows stakeholders to showcase their work, monitor their commitments, track progress on deliverables and provide brief periodical progress reports. It is a key tool to promote accountability of non-state actors and

is the main reference point for information about stakeholders' efforts to implement the Sendai Framework. Voluntary commitments grew throughout 2020 and are key tools in engaging local governments, the private sector, civil society organisations and academia.

UNDRR continued to bring stakeholders together to boost engagement in key areas, such as the need for increased investment in resilient infrastructure. This is done largely through supporting efforts of the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**, including through serving on its Executive Committee. In a virtual seminar marking the one-year anniversary of the establishment of CDRI, SRSG Mizutori presented a five-point plan to boost, amongst other things, private investment and regulatory frameworks in pursuit of greater resilience in new and existing infrastructure against climate and disaster risks. The growth of membership in the Coalition in the first year of its existence is a testament to UNDRR's ongoing advocacy efforts related to CDRI.

While all stakeholder groups were supported through the SEM, the following outlines engagement with five key stakeholder groups in 2020: the private sector, parliamentarians, the science and technology community, women, persons with disabilities, and children and youth.

81 See <https://sendaicommitments.unisdr.org/commitments>

“As the Caribbean is prone to the occurrence of various types of hazards, UNDRR’s guidance has been crucial to enhancing our work to support private sector resilience whilst integrating a prevention perspective, our linkages, and improved access to resources and personnel leading to successful trainings, discussions and webinars across the region. I believe that this has been extremely valuable in contributing to the work of the ARISE networks, Chambers of Commerce and other support organisations in the Caribbean and around the world.”

Lizra Fabien

ARISE Network of Chambers of Commerce from the Caribbean Community

82 See The World Bank, Understanding Poverty, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Finance, accessible at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/smefinance>

83 UNDRR, Reducing Risk and Building Resilience of SMEs to Disasters (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/resilience-smes>

84 UNDRR, COVID-19 Small Business Continuity and Recovery Planning Toolkit (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/bcp-ap>

85 See <https://www.undrr.org/event/webinar-business-resilience-face-covid-19>

PRIVATE SECTOR

The private sector is responsible for significant investments worldwide, including new buildings and public services such as utilities and transportation. The decisions made by businesses have important consequences on whether they increase or reduce risk drivers. In many cases, investors have not paid attention to the growing exposure to hazards and the threat to business resilience and competitiveness. Worldwide, micro, small and medium enterprises account for about 90% of businesses and more than 50% of employment.⁸² COVID-19 has rocked the resilience of businesses around the world, large and small. Smaller businesses for example often lack capacity to form basic business continuity and disaster risk management plans. Protecting their investment makes good business sense for individual enterprises and strengthens the entire economy.

The **UNDRR Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE)** expanded rapidly, now with 27 networks globally, with notable growth in Africa and the Arab States and expanded membership in the Americas and Europe. ARISE has identified four priority areas, namely: to promote the resilience of SMEs; risk informed investment; incentivising disaster risk reduction through the insurance industry; and resilient infrastructure.

UNDRR published **Reducing Risk & Building Resilience of SMEs to Disasters**,⁸³ and established new partnerships with key actors from the financial sector, such as the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF). This support offers new guidance on risk-informed investment and policy and legal frameworks that support SME resilience. The insurance industry can play a pivotal role in tackling the risks faced by SMEs, by helping them absorb shocks, build assets, and manage and prevent risks. The UNDRR-ICMIF partnership, launched in November 2019, saw the collection of case studies in 2020 on the role of insurance mechanisms in disaster risk reduction, and the move from protection to prevention.

In **Asia Pacific**, to help the private sector build business resilience, UNDRR worked with ARISE partners, UN partners, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the Resilience Innovation Knowledge Academy to create a number of tools, including the **COVID-19 Small Business Continuity and Recovery Planning Toolkit**,⁸⁴ available in 11 languages, and which has been accessed more than 20,000 times since its publication in May. A dedicated webinar to inform this topic was also organized that was attended by 743 participants.⁸⁵

In the Americas and the Caribbean, UNDRR provided support to 19 national and two sub-regional ARISE networks in Central America and in the Caribbean, promoting peer-to-peer collaboration on business continuity risk mitigation, and integrated multi-hazards approaches. Twelve webinars were co-organised, in support of 15 ARISE networks⁸⁶ and more than 30 events were directly conducted by ARISE networks, in which good practices and tools were shared among companies for better integration of risk into business practices, such as the ARISE **Mexico** Resilience Protocol in the context of pandemics⁸⁷ and the ARISE **Colombia** risk assessment tool, which provides guidance on the development and implementation of Business Disaster Risk Management Plans.⁸⁸

In Central America and in the Caribbean four trainings were co-organized with partners to build capacity and disseminate tools for enhanced risk awareness and the development of business disaster risk reduction plans, with a special focus on SMEs. A study on **Disaster Risk Reduction and the Caribbean Private Sector: The role of the Telecommunications sector in the context of COVID-19**

was developed in cooperation with the ARISE national networks.⁸⁹ Through ARISE, the private sector has been a thought leader with respect to resilient approaches to COVID-19 economic recovery in the region.

In the Arab States, partners and stakeholders from the government and private sector were engaged to elaborate on risk management, the emergency response structure, and business continuity through the **Business Resilience in the Face of COVID-19 Webinar** led by ARISE, the **National Crises and Emergency Management Authority** in the United Arab Emirates and the **National Technology Group** from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In Africa, UNDRR held a virtual **Africa Private Sector Engagement Meeting** comprised of ARISE members from Africa and potential members from the private sector. UNDRR called for increasing private sector engagement in disaster risk management coupled with investments in disaster risk reduction, to build and foster business resilience and prosperity.

In the Americas and the Caribbean, the regional Scientific and Technological Advisory Group for DRR (STAG Americas) developed the briefing note: **Science and Technology for DRR in the Context of COVID-19**,⁹⁵ which highlighted the contributions of the scientific community and the technological developments to enhance comprehensive risk management and the needs for a better understanding of the systemic nature of risk in the region. The Group also held an exchange meeting with the European STAG to share views on the challenges and opportunities to disaster risk reduction in the COVID-19 context.

In the Arab States, the Scientific and Technological Advisory Group for Disaster Risk Reduction (Arab-STAG) developed and shared with diverse partners a questionnaire on the state of science and technology in disaster risk reduction. Members of the Arab-STAG contributed to a variety of UNDRR led processes, including the Expert Review Group to support the development of the IRDR integrated agenda until 2030.

In Europe, the European Scientific and Technological Advisory Group (E-STAG), developed a position paper on the role of science and priorities in Horizon Europe,⁹⁶ the EU's research investment programme and policy guidance papers for regional and national action on evolving wildfire risk that led to legislative change.

In the **Africa region** in March, UNDRR participated in the first **AUC African Scientific and Technological Advisory Group (Af-STAG) for Disaster Risk Reduction** and Africa Youth Advisory Board annual meeting, where by-laws, a communications strategy and a roadmap were adopted. In May, 156 academics and researchers discussed systemic risk, the multi dimensionality of risk and the role of the academia in evidence-based disaster risk reduction with disaster risk reduction professionals from UNDRR and Af-STAG to develop research contributions to reinforce resilience in the face of COVID-19 and beyond.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Few other years have so profoundly demonstrated **the value of engaging the scientific community** in planning for risk reduction, creating resilience, and providing science and technology-based solutions for disaster.

The formal partnership of UNDRR and the **International Science Council (ISC)**, to co-sponsor the **Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)**, led to the launch of the ground-breaking **Sendai Hazard Definition and Classification Review Technical Report**. The report, containing 302 Hazard Information Profiles, was developed in collaboration with more than 800 partners from the UN and other science institutes, including national scientific advisors and the research funding community. It provides a critically important common set of hazard definitions for monitoring and reviewing the Sendai Framework implementation.⁹⁰

In Asia Pacific, COVID-19 highlighted the importance of the science-policy-practice nexus. The UNDRR-led **Asia-Pacific Science, Technology and Academia Advisory Group (APSTAAG)** was instrumental for the development of guidelines on the integration of biological hazards into disaster risk reduction and UN Cooperation Frameworks. In October around 200 researchers and practitioners gathered virtually for the **2020 Asia-Pacific Science and Technology Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction**,⁹¹ at which three regional publications were launched: a regional framework on NATECH (**Natural Hazards Triggering Technological Disasters**) risks,⁹² the **Status of Science and Technology in Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia-Pacific 2020** report,⁹³ and **30 Innovations linking disaster risk reduction with sustainable development goals**.⁹⁴

⁸⁶ Webinars included the Trinidad and Tobago Resilience Conference, the Salvadorian Forum for Sustainability and the Colombian ARISE public private partnerships meeting.

⁸⁷ See <https://arise.mx/en/lanza-arise-mx-protocolo-de-resiliencia-para-mipymes-ante-la-pandemia/>

⁸⁸ See <http://portal.gestiondelriesgo.gov.co/Paginas/Herramienta-de-Autoevaluacion-Dto-2157-de-2017.aspx>

⁸⁹ National ARISE networks were from the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago

⁹⁰ UNDRR, Hazard definition and classification review (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/hazard-definition-and-classification-review>

⁹¹ See: <https://www.undrr.org/news/undrr-convenes-asia-pacific-scientists-and-policy-makers-prevent-next-unexpected-disaster>

⁹² UNDRR, Asia-Pacific Regional Framework for NATECH (Natural Hazards Triggering Technological Disasters) Risk Management (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/asia-pacific-regional-framework-natech-natural-hazards-triggering-technological>

⁹³ UNDRR, Status of Science and Technology in Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia-Pacific 2020 (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/status-science-and-technology-disaster-risk-reduction-asia-pacific-2020>

⁹⁴ UNDRR, 30 Innovations linking disaster risk reduction with sustainable development goals (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.preventionweb.net/go/70713>

⁹⁵ UNDRR, UNDRR Americas & Caribbean COVID-19 Brief: Science and Technology for DRR in the Context of COVID-19 (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/undrr-americas-caribbean-covid-19-brief-science-and-technology-drr-context-covid-19>

⁹⁶ UNDRR, Evolving Risk of Wildfires in Europe (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/evolving-risk-wildfires-europe-thematic-paper-european-science-technology-advisory>

“Disasters push millions of people into poverty each year, threatening progress, peace and security, and costing billions of dollars – and we have the science that tells us that climate change is going to increase the frequency and intensity of these disaster events of natural origin... This is why tools like this Protocol are so valuable for parliamentarians. It gives us the information we need to more effectively design and approve laws – and hold our governments accountable to implementing those laws – to ensure we are taking measures for comprehensive disaster risk reduction. Now is the time to take action. Our citizens expect this of us and we need to deliver.”

Honourable Robert Nault

Member of Parliament of Canada and President of ParlAmericas speaking about the Parliamentary Protocol for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation developed by ParlAmericas and UNDRR



©Pixabay/Wilfried Strang

PARLIAMENTARIANS

Parliaments and parliamentarians are key to improving disaster risk reduction governance. In April, UNDRR partnered with the **IPU**, **IFRC**, and **WHO** to explore ways to reduce risk, strengthen emergency preparedness, and increase resilience in the face of the burgeoning pandemic; more than 700 people represented 85 countries in the discussions. UNDRR and the IPU began development of a Parliamentarian Advocacy Toolkit on disaster risk reduction to achieve the SDGs, identifying actions for parliamentarians to take in accordance with their parliamentary functions, to be published in 2021. To support parliamentarian action through coherent disaster risk management and climate change legislation, UNDRR worked closely together with IFRC to review existing plans and legislation. This directly contributed to the first Target of the **Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP)**.⁹⁷

Together with **ParlAmericas**, UNDRR organised a meeting for parliamentarians in the Americas to provide guidance on how to support the development of legislation on disaster risk reduction by integrating a multi-hazard approach and a systemic risk understanding to key policies that could support state institutions to reduce risk and its cascading effects. As a result of this meeting UNDRR contributed to the development of the **Guide on Supporting a Post-COVID-19 Green Economic Recovery**,⁹⁸ in which a special section on how parliaments can apply the Sendai Framework in their efforts to build back better was developed.

Engagement continued with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) on key areas of EU legislation. This included work on the revision of the Union Civil Protection Legislation, which helps to coordinate disaster preparedness and prevention activities of national authorities and contributes to the exchange of best practices. UNDRR engaged MEPs on topics of sustainable finance, climate change adaptation and through a UNDRR publication on **Making Critical Infrastructure Resilient**.⁹⁹ At the national level, UNDRR, through the **Kenya UNCT Resilience Group**, developed a common position in support of the Government of Kenya's draft 2020 National Disaster Risk Management Bill. The inputs provided are being shared with the Parliamentary committee. The Bill is expected to reflect the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction, climate change and SDGs.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND GENDER RESPONSIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

UNDRR continues to work closely with partners to support gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, including through the collection, reporting and use of disaggregated data, backed by the SRSG's role as an International Gender Champion. In 2020, UNDRR recruited the organization's first full-time Gender Advisor and launched the **Women's International Network on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia-Pacific (WIN DRR)**, a three-year project that seeks to promote women's leadership in disaster risk reduction.

UNDRR closely supported the UN Women and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) on a **Review of Gender-Responsiveness and Disability-Inclusion in DRR in Asia and the Pacific**, and co-published with UN Women **Gender and disaster risk reduction and response in the context of COVID-19**, exploring links between gender inequality, disaster management and COVID-19. Through a project with UN Women, UNDRR provided support on gender sensitive disaster risk reduction to **Solomon Islands** so that national stakeholders can monitor the gender commitments of the Sendai Framework.

"The Sendai Framework refers to the role of parliamentarians in terms of how we can strengthen legislative framework. What we have to do now is make sure that biological risks and pandemics are covered."

H.E. Saber Chowdhury

Honorary President, MP and IPU
Bangladesh

⁹⁷ As a member of the REAP Board and the lead focal point for the initiative for the Office of the UN Secretary-General, UNDRR contributed to all four targets and provided comprehensive updates about the work of the initiative to the SG, as follow-up to the 2019 Climate Action Summit.

⁹⁸ See Guide on Supporting a Post-COVID-19 Green Economic Recovery, page 14, accessible at https://www.parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Green_Recovery_ENG.pdf

⁹⁹ UNDRR, Making Critical Infrastructure Resilient: Ensuring Continuity of Service - Policy and Regulations in Europe and Central Asia" (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/making-critical-infrastructure-resilient-ensuring-continuity-service-policy-and>



In the Arab States, as part of the voluntary commitments programme, **The Arab Gender Equality & Women Empowerment Group (GEWE)** developed a Technical Resource Repository; worked on a facility migration joint research study; and contributed to **Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction: Good Practices and Lessons Learned**. UNDRR supported five **Caribbean countries** on the design, development and implementation of their country work programmes using a comprehensive disaster management approach which ensured that the **Strengthening Hydro-Meteorological and Early Warning Services Project** was gender transformative and inclusive of marginalized groups.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Persons with disabilities are especially exposed to the disruption of health, transport, educational, and critical service networks. UNDRR produced an issue paper, **People with Disabilities in the Face of COVID-19**, proposing recommendations such as accessible communications and information platforms, including Braille, sign language, captioning and the use of geo-referenced data, as well as the provision of more flexible social protection packages.

Across all regions UNDRR encouraged and provided guidance on gathering and reporting disaggregated disaster loss data, including related to persons with disabilities. Several webinars focused on inclusion and accessibility, including the **Global Digital Summit on Inclusive Management of Disaster and Disability Risk** organized by **ONG Inclusiva**, which reached more than 27,000 people.

In the **Africa region**, UNDRR hosted special tsunami awareness training in **Madagascar** for youth and volunteers including youth representatives from the local deaf school. In **Asia**, the Disability-inclusive DRR Network (DiDRRN) produced a series of disaster preparedness quick guides for persons with disabilities¹⁰⁰ and actively engaged with and trained members of the **Pacific Disability Forum**. In the **Americas and Caribbean**, tools and guidelines on inclusive local disaster risk reduction plans began in 2020, including the Scorecard to promote the inclusion of people living with disabilities at the local level, which will be applied in 2021 with 51 local governments in the greater metropolitan area of **Santiago, Chile**.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children and young people are particularly vulnerable to disaster impact. Disruptions to school, home life, community bonds, and employment opportunities all affect the long-term progression and stability of children and youth. At the same time, youth are key advocates and stakeholders in building more resilient societies. UNDRR amplified the role and voice of the youth in understanding and reducing disaster risk through the UNDRR Youth Action plan, rolled-out globally in 2020. Key successes included the launch of the Words into Action Guide, **Engaging Children and Youth in Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Building**.¹⁰¹

In Africa, UNDRR teamed up with the Africa Youth Advisory Board for Disaster Risk Reduction for a webinar titled **Youth Engagement on COVID-19 for the Africa We Want**, to reach new and diverse audiences; utilize social media platforms to communicate and engage with youth across the continent; identify youth led innovations to combat COVID-19; and work with other youth networks across the continent to promote a culture of safety and risk aversion amongst youth. UNDRR partnered with UNESCO to develop a **Know DRR**¹⁰² Smartphone Edutainment application for the educational community and students in Africa.

In Asia and the Pacific, UNDRR worked with a children and youth stakeholder group in a region-wide consultation of 10,000 of their peers on climate-related disasters, which resulted in a report entitled **Guardians of the planet: Asia-Pacific Children and Youth Voices on Climate Crisis and Disaster Risk Reduction**.¹⁰³ More than 2,800 people watched the online launch webinar.

In the Americas and Caribbean, together with partners (UNICEF, IFRC and UNESCO) and youth leaders, UNDRR organized a youth forum and presented the results of a survey on the impact of disasters and climate change on young people in the region to a 300-strong youth audience. Preparations began for a special session on youth engagement for the Regional Platform 2021 and participation of youth in the **Caribbean Safe School Initiative** (CSSI) continued to grow, engaging 18 countries and overseas territories across the greater Caribbean. In the framework of CSSI a webinar on systemic risk and the education sector was held to contribute to a multi-sectorial approach for the implementation of safe school policies and tools in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

In the **Arab States**, members of the Arab Disaster Risk Reduction Children & Youth Group organized a range of events, including the **International Quiz Competition on DRR and Towards a Safer and More Resilient Rainy Season in Yemen**. In partnership with the Arab Children & Youth Stakeholder Group for disaster risk reduction, UNDRR organised a webinar that showcased youth engagement in supporting COVID-19 response and preparedness in Lebanon.



¹⁰⁰ See Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund reports, accessible at <http://www.asbindonesia.org/category-34-material-and-publication.html#>

¹⁰¹ UNDRR, Words into Action: Engaging Children and Youth in Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Building (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at https://www.preventionweb.net/files/67704_67704wiachildyouthdrr202067704undrr.pdf

¹⁰² See <https://en.unesco.org/news/know-drr-smart-phone-edutainment-app>

¹⁰³ Guardians of the planet: Asia Pacific Children and Youth Voices on Climate Crisis and Disaster Risk Reduction. Available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/guardians-planet-asia-pacific-children-and-youth-voices-climate-crisis-and-disaster>. The consultation with youth to produce this report was jointly organised by a group of partners that included the Asia Pacific Coalition for Safe Schools, Plan International, Save the Children, UNDRR, the UN Major Group of Children and Youth, UNICEF, and World Vision International.

ENABLER 1

Enhancing visibility of Disaster Risk Reduction
through global advocacy

ENHANCING VISIBILITY OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION THROUGH GLOBAL ADVOCACY

In an exceptional year, the switch to virtual and online stimulated greater engagement between UNDRR and our stakeholders and partners. UNDRR's online presence was overhauled with the launch of a new corporate website and the scale-up of communication across all social channels, leading to an overall audience reach of 17 million plus during 2020.

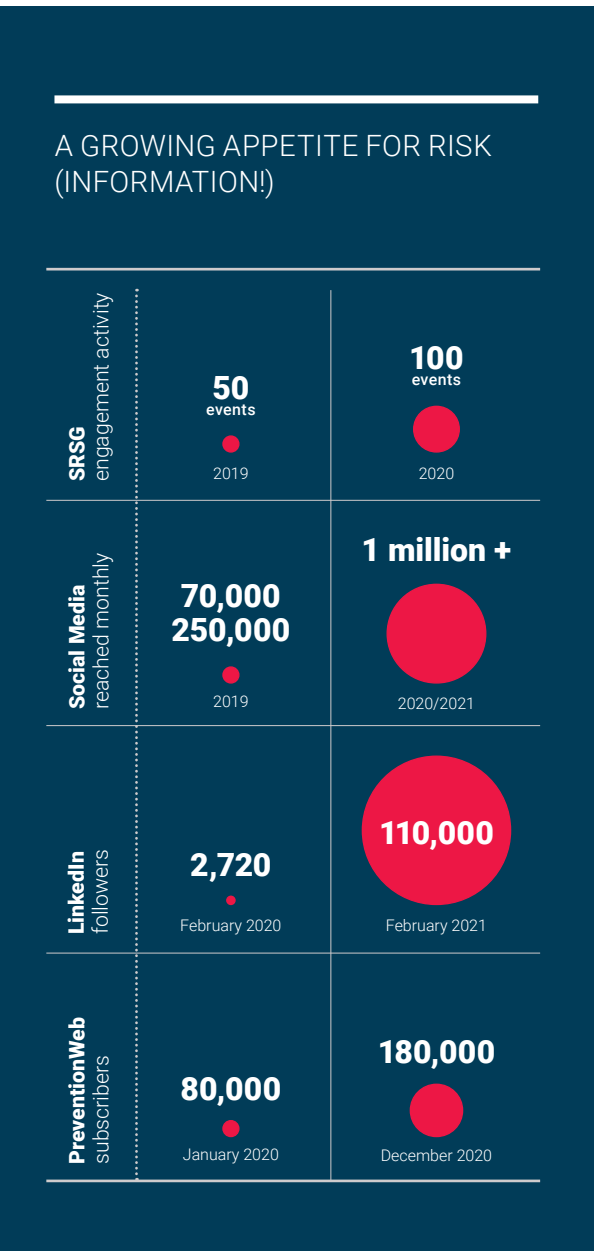
A 'virtual' SRSG was in many places, increasing engagement levels. Webinars and online events were the new norm. In contrast to 48 speaking events in 2019, the SRSG participated in more than 100 events to advocate for disaster risk reduction and resilience building. This output was complimented by a range of 12 opinion pieces, video messages, press releases, media interviews and web stories, along with a monthly newsletter update that began in May 2020.

The Sendai Seven campaign focus for 2020 was Target (e) – “Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020” – highlighting the need to strengthen disaster risk governance. In March, UNDRR launched the **#PreventionSavesLives** campaign reflecting largest disaster of the year and possibly the century, COVID-19.

Early in the pandemic, the SRSG urged governments and disaster management agencies to prioritize biological hazards in their efforts to implement Target (e). A focus on lessons learned from the pandemic, both the failure to act on early warnings and the resulting protection gap for vulnerable groups, was a constant theme of the SRSG's advocacy.

On **International Human Rights Day** the SRSG was one of many UN Principles mobilized in support of the day. Her tweet on that day, which reached a potential audience of over 124,000, stated: “Nothing lays bare inequality and discrimination like a disaster. **#COVID19** confirms the truth of this. We must learn the lessons of the pandemic and place human rights at the heart of the recovery. **#StandUp4HumanRights**”

The release of three new Words into Action (WiA) guides enhanced visibility of disaster risk reduction in the three areas: effective response; Land use and urban planning; and the engagement of children and youth. Three new multi-media guides were launched, amplifying the use and reach of the usual printed WiA resources.¹⁰⁴



¹⁰⁴ For UNDRR Words Into Action Resources see <https://www.preventionweb.net/sendai-framework/wordsintoaction>

AWARENESS OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION THROUGH GLOBAL EVENTS FOR BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

The SRSG's year started with a visit to New Delhi for consultations with the Indian Government on the newly launched **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** and ended with a well-attended webinar organized with CDRI looking at the issue of lessons learned from COVID-19 for public health infrastructure and global supply chains.

The SRSG also attended the **World Urban Forum** in Abu Dhabi where she was a keynote speaker on urban resilience, leading up to the launch of **Making Cities Resilient 2030** in October.

The 5th anniversary of the adoption of the Sendai Framework triggered a significant response on social media and was also the subject of a SRSG opinion piece and a press release on disaster loss data gathered by the SFM.

The Target (e) theme for 2020's **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR)** was announced by the SRSG at the HLPF in July where she gave a speech on water-related disaster risk reduction.

The SRSG also gave her support to the **No Natural Disasters Campaign**, another online success, arguing that a natural hazard only becomes a disaster when it combines with exposure and vulnerability to cause loss of life, hurt and injury to people, along with economic loss. She also addressed two new events, the **Anticipate and Act: Stockholm High-Level Meeting on Addressing the Humanitarian Impact of Climate Change** and the **Reykjavik Global Forum – Women Leaders 2020**.

GLOBAL ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

The **#PreventionSavesLives** Campaign was launched on 15 April and was instrumental to significant growth on LinkedIn which stood at 85,000 followers by year's end. The sharing of 215 PreventionWeb and UNDRR stories, 23 videos and almost 3,000 social media posts supported the Campaign. By the time the Campaign wound down in September it had reached a potential audience of five million. It also dovetailed with the **#NoNaturalDisasters** Campaign supported by a SRSG opinion piece and a video which received 31,000 views.

#ItsAllAboutGovernance was both the catch cry and hashtag for much of UNDRR's advocacy throughout the

¹⁰⁵ UNDRR and UNDP, **Tsunami Evacuation during COVID-19: A Guide for School Administrators** (Geneva, UNDRR, 2020). Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/tsunami-evacuation-during-covid-19-guide-school-administrators>

year in the build-up to the October 13 **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, #DRRday**, and **World Tsunami Awareness Day #TsunamiDay** on November 5. Both days were actively supported by the UN Secretary-General, who delivered strong messages in support of the two days.

The two days were supported by targeted content production including webinars, social media assets and the press launch of the report **Human cost of disasters 2000-2019** which highlighted the fact that climate related disasters have almost doubled by comparison with the previous twenty years. This theme was taken up again in UNDRR's inputs for the launch and content of WMO's **Climate Services Report 2020**.

On World Tsunami Awareness Day, the UN Secretary-General made an arresting link between **#TsunamiDay** and the coronavirus: “Currently we are struggling with what some describe as a tsunami of death and disease due to COVID-19. This metaphor comes easily because living memory remains strong of the worst sudden onset disaster this century, the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 that took more than 227,000 lives.” That living memory came vividly alive in the recollections of survivors and high-level representatives from tsunami-affected countries in both the **Third Annual Tsunami Museum Conference** and the **Ready for the Next Wave** webinars organized jointly with IOC-UNESCO and UNDP. In addition, together with UNDP a checklist for school tsunami evacuation during COVID-19 was launched.¹⁰⁵

Still images from 'Tsunami ladies', documentary directed by Nicolás Kasakoff in 2020.





Recognizing the role of early warning and early action in saving lives, UNDRR launched a new **Media Saves Lives** campaign together with the **World Broadcasting Union**, represented by the **Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union**, the **African Union of Broadcasting**, the **Arab States Broadcasting Union** and the **Caribbean Broadcasting Union**. DIRAJ, a network of African journalists supported by UNDRR grew substantially during 2020, with the establishment of a new English and French-language version website. Membership grew to 70 journalists across the continent and more than 15 different training events were held.

UNDRR's media seminal reference guide **Disasters Through A Different Lens**, aimed at reporters and broadcasters to increase their understanding of disasters and engagement throughout their coverage, was completely revised. An online portal was developed and a new journalists' training course was rolled out in the Caribbean. The aim of the project **Media Saves Lives** is to reach 100 public broadcasting unions by the end of 2021, ensuring that journalists are equipped to provide information before, during, and after disasters, and that broadcasting unions are supported to continue transmission during disaster events.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CHAMPIONS, ACTORS AND INITIATIVES

Support for UNDRR's work on raising awareness through campaigns on COVID-19, disaster risk governance and tsunami risk gained support from a broad range of actors including many from within the UN family, including the Secretary-General, António Guterres, the President of the General Assembly, Volkan Bozkır, the Director General of WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WMO Secretary-General, Petteri Taalas, UNESCO Director-General, Audrey Azouley, and UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner.

UNDRR also cooperated closely with political representatives from the **Climate Vulnerable Forum** and the IPU including Saber Chowdhury, former President of Bangladesh, and IPU Secretary-General, Martin Chungong. Joint opinion pieces were produced with the International Science Council CEO Dr. Heide Hackmann; UN-Habitat Executive Director, Maimunah Mohd Sharif; World Food Programme Executive Director, David Beasley; and Sweden's then Minister for International Development Cooperation, Peter Eriksson.

UNDRR's influence in the private sector continued to expand with the launch of a new website and communications toolkit developed in conjunction with the ARISE Global Board to guide how members can carry out communications activities.

Communications support was key to the successful launch in October of **MCR2030**, the new phase of the *Making Cities Resilient Campaign*, which becomes operational in 2021, building on a decade of advocacy and capacity-building that reached more than 4,000 cities. The MCR2030 is designed to support mayors, local governments and urban planners focusing on the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies.

INCREASING REACH AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION THROUGH COMMUNICATION, MEDIA AND MARKETING

As one Member State representative at the November donors' meeting noted: *"UNDRR transformed the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity to mainstream disaster risk reduction in other policy frameworks and raise awareness of risk."* UNDRR pivoted almost exclusively to online activity for most of the year. The multiplicity of online events, both COVID-19 and non-COVID-related, supported by real-time communication through social media, has seen UNDRR's audience grow significantly to a potential audience reach of over 17 million on Twitter alone and over one million visitors for the first time to the corporate website.

Audience reach was nurtured throughout the year by compelling campaigns around the themes of **#PreventionSavesLives**, **#NoNaturalDisasters**, **#It'sAllAboutGovernance** (DRRday) and **#Plan2Survive** (TsunamiDay) fuelled by hundreds of social media posts and original video material.

In support of these campaigns, UNDRR produced 75 videos, 1,800 posts across all social media channels, and 135 social cards carrying key campaign messages. UNDRR's corporate Twitter account grew from 68,300 to 77,000 and potential audience reach grew from 10 million in 2019 to 12 million in 2020. The SRSG twitter grew from 7,000 followers to 9,600 and potential audience reach grew from 1.4 million in 2019 to 2.3 million in 2020.

PreventionWeb, the world's only disaster risk reduction knowledge platform, increased followers from an average of 92,000 users per month in 2019 to 186,000 in 2020, reaching 2.2 million users during 2020.

ENABLER 2

Strengthened organizational performance

ENHANCED EFFECTIVENESS, EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY OF OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE, BASED ON APPROPRIATE GENDER-SENSITIVE INTERNAL POLICIES, STRUCTURE AND STAFFING

The year 2020 challenged UNDRR to adapt to new working realities. A dedicated and resilient team seized the opportunity to increase staff development and learning, enhance the use of technology, institute process improvements, and monitor implementation.

To remain safe, UNDRR staff and their families dispersed across 18 locations,¹⁰⁶ had access to timely information and were well connected with their colleagues throughout the year. Working virtually and under social distancing conditions strengthened the sense of community across offices and increased internal communication.

STRATEGIC PLANNING, MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION ENHANCED FOR IMPROVED WORK PROGRAMME DELIVERY

In the early months of 2020, a mandatory, organisation-wide training on project management was implemented. As online platforms could support more participants, more staff logged in to UNDRR webinars or the scheduled training activities.

Going virtual was not without its challenges. Connectivity issues and high service provider costs limited internet access in some regions, and large virtual meetings restricted two-way communication, requiring follow-up sessions. There was an increased investment in content production, and programmatic activities had to be adapted wherever feasible, or postponed. The support of the donor community in allowing a more flexible use of resources has been invaluable.

¹⁰⁶ Addis Ababa, Almaty, Ashgabat, Bangkok, Bishkek, Bonn, Brussels, Cairo, Dushanbe, Geneva, Incheon, Kobe, Manila, Nairobi, New York City, Panama City, Suva and Tashkent.

The investment in learning and new programme delivery is testament that UNDRR's programme delivery is reflecting global demand for disaster risk reduction knowledge. The ongoing planning process for the Strategic Framework 2022-2025 will build on lessons learned, achievements, and challenges from five years of Sendai Framework implementation, to accelerate UNDRR's contribution to the UN Decade of Action.

FINANCIAL PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING STRENGTHENED FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

Increased flexible resources meant the timely allocation of funding for the pivot to virtual mode. The selection process for implementing partners with specialist knowledge improved independence and accountability. The continued enhancements to the global enterprise resource planning (ERP) system in the area of voluntary funds management allowed new data mining and timely analysis of key performance indicators. Real time information across multiple devices brought a novel approach to monitoring programme implementation and supported faster decisions.

The work programme of the year was adjusted to match financial forecasts and prudent financial management meant maintaining operational reserves. The postponement of key regional meetings and workshops into 2021 resulted in under expenditure in 2020, which is expected to be offset once the planned activities take place in the future.

SENDAI FRAMEWORK TARGET (E): 101 MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES REPORTED THE EXISTENCE OF A NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGY IN THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK MONITOR



1. The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
2. The maps used reflect the Member and Observer States' self-defined geographic coverage for the purpose of reporting to the Sendai Framework Monitor.

HUMAN RESOURCES PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT ENHANCED FOR IMPROVED WORK PROGRAMME DELIVERY

In a year like no other, staff welfare took centre stage as the organisation pivoted to fulltime teleworking across all locations in response to national policies on COVID-19. Adherence to the corporate guidance on COVID-19 measures, detailed business continuity guidance, the organisation-wide emergency-call tree systems and activation of the Crisis Management Team ensured that staff at all the 18 locations were well informed and connected to colleagues. The organization also implemented a series of webinars on work-life balance and staff wellbeing to support colleagues during this challenging period. The collective vigilance and duty of care to one another prevented an outbreak of the pandemic within the offices and the work of the organisation continued.

Significant value creation was realised through the all-staff training activities in the areas of project management and work planning, work-life balance, and wellbeing, through focused topic-specific webinars. All staff completed

training on the implementation of the UN Disability Inclusive Strategy (UNDIS) and disability inclusive disaster risk reduction, developed with the World Institute for Disability, generating a list of activities to be undertaken in 2021.

These initiatives have led to an increased understanding of the programmatic priority and improved productivity. Practical integration of geographic diversity, inclusiveness, and multilingualism in the work programme activities as well as the establishment of working groups dedicated to topics identified through the UN Staff Engagement Survey are some notable achievements. UNDRR has significantly improved the completion rate of mandatory learning programmes and the timely completion of performance appraisals in compliance with the guidelines. Gender parity across the organization was maintained and further improvements to geographic diversity are anticipated as the activities under the new action plan are implemented.

“Better disaster resilience leads to better response to global pandemics, such as COVID-19. The world has been stuck in the “disaster – response – recover – repeat” cycle for too long. It is critical that we start investing in preventing the risks. This applies to our own countries as well as globally, because the fact is that nothing eliminates development more effectively than pandemic and other disasters.”

H.E. Kirsti Kauppi

Ambassador and PR, Permanent Mission of Finland to Geneva

ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT STRENGTHENED TO EFFECTIVELY ANTICIPATE AND MITIGATE WORK PROGRAMME DELIVERY RISKS

A centrally developed suite of online tools, dashboards and increased data mining provided invaluable information for increased monitoring and timely decisions. Regular updates of the key performance indicators associated to the delegation of authority ensured close attention to implementation trends and adherence to the regulations and rules. UNDRR reviewed in 2020 the various internal controls of its operations and ensured that appropriate remediation plans are in place to support the preparation of the Statement of Internal Control required at the entity level by the accounting standards.

Enhanced understanding of corporate and operational risk from the trainings and webinars allowed for the UNDRR Risk Register and the Risk Treatment Plan to be comprehensively reviewed and updated. A more rigorous due diligence process closely aligned to the Global Compact Principles and the procurement of the Rep Risk gives access to a comprehensive database on environmental, social and governance (ESG) information and business conduct risk allowing for independent evaluation of potential partnerships.



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DONOR OVERVIEW

DONOR OVERVIEW

In December 2020, Member States reiterated the importance of funding UNDRR in **General Assembly Resolution 75/216, paragraph 46**, which:

“Recognizes the continued importance of voluntary funding, and urges existing and new donors to provide sufficient funding and, where possible, to augment financial contributions to the United Nations trust fund for disaster reduction to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through unearmarked and, where possible, multi-annual contributions.”

Throughout the year donor partners responded to this call, recognising the critical role of UNDRR and disaster risk reduction in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Donors provided 98% of UNDRR’s USD 48.74 million Work Programme in 2020 which included an increase of USD 1.45 million due to the urgent needs to address COVID-19, in total, providing USD 47.7 million in 2020. By end of 2020, USD 10.11 million was pledged for 2021 onwards.

The flexible nature of unearmarked core funding is particularly important to UNDRR, given the reliance on extrabudgetary support (99.9% funded through extrabudgetary resources). Unearmarked donors continued to increase their support for UNDRR, providing USD 22 million in 2020 (46% of funding received). Multi-year funding also enables UNDRR to better plan and leverage funds and several donors contributed via multi-year agreements to UNDRR’s 2021 funding.¹⁰⁷

The Governments of Canada and Italy **expanded UNDRR’s funding base** in 2020, and Italy also joined the top five donors to UNDRR who provide more than USD 4 million per year: Sweden, Germany, Japan, Norway and Italy (in descending order).

Member States and partners supported UNDRR in its work through donating their time and expertise. In-kind professional support, such as Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) and UN Volunteers was provided by the Governments of Finland, France, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America and were critical assets that enabled UNDRR to deliver its mandate. UNDRR also made a commitment in 2020 to seek financial support for JPOs from UN under-represented countries, particularly from the Global South. Throughout the year UNDRR also facilitated south-south cooperation and triangular cooperation and knowledge sharing through trainings, workshops, and a variety of virtual and in-person platforms.

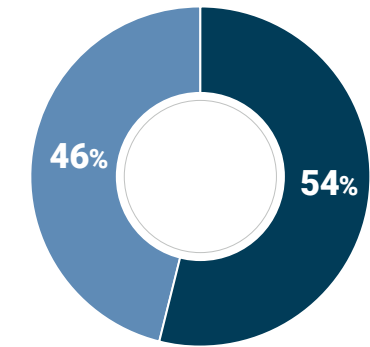
UNDRR engaged actively with Member States throughout 2020, regularly consulting through the Geneva-based UNDRR Support Group, the New York-based Group of Friends, and two donor meetings held virtually to discuss progress in implementing its biannual Work Programme 2020-2021 and preparations for the new Strategic Framework 2022-2025 and corresponding Work Programme.

“The Covid-19 pandemic showed us the human and economic costs of a lack of preparedness. The close collaboration between the EU and UNDRR is ever more important in the efforts to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, building back better will not be enough. We also need to build back greener to make communities and societies less vulnerable to future shocks and achieve a more inclusive, resilient and greener COVID-19 recovery.”

Mr. Janez Lenarčič

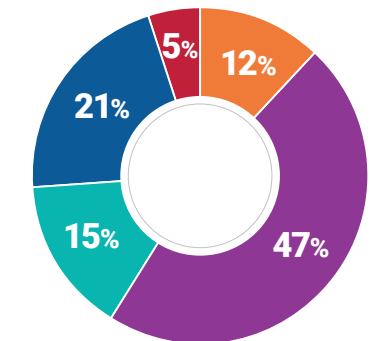
European Commissioner for Crisis Management

2020 INCOME BREAKDOWN



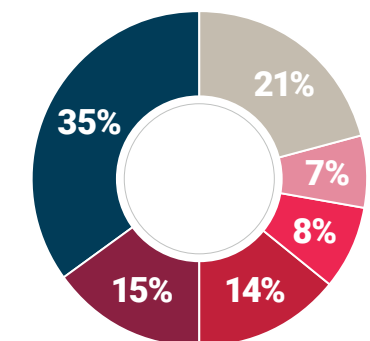
- Earmarked funding
- Unearmarked funding

2020 WORK PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



- S01
- S02
- S03
- E1
- E2

2020 EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN BY REGION



- Africa
- Americas-Caribbean
- Arab States
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- Global

¹⁰⁷ Member States: Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the European Commission and CREWS Initiative (funded by Australia, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom).

UNDRR 2020 DONORS

1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020

GOVERNMENTS	USD
Sweden ³	9,975,526
Germany ¹	5,683,930
Japan ³	5,288,154
Norway ²	4,664,470
Italy ¹	4,606,903
United States of America ¹	3,369,453
Republic of Korea ¹	2,588,102
Finland ²	2,280,519
Switzerland ³	2,090,911
European Commission ⁵	2,022,774
Australia ¹	1,986,091
CREWS ⁴	1,666,160
Czech Republic ²	428,247
China ²	299,980
Luxembourg ²	294,118
Canada ¹	177,136
Spain ¹	119,474
UPS Foundation ¹	75,000
UNDP ¹	52,920
Kazakhstan ¹	50,000
UN Women ¹	45,270
France ²	10,917
GRAND TOTAL	47,776,055

“We need to prepare ourselves better for the next climate-related humanitarian crises by anticipating, reducing and managing risk. And we need to respond swiftly, intelligently and efficiently to the humanitarian consequences, be it hunger or forced migration. We need to both Anticipate and Act.”

H.E. Per Olsson Fridh

Minister for International Development
Cooperation, Sweden

1 Earmarked contribution

2 Unearmarked contribution

3 Combination of unearmarked and earmarked contribution

4 Donors to CREWS: Australia, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom

5 Earmarked contributions from two Directorate Generals (INTPA and ECHO)

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

Note: IPSAS compliant audited financial statements will be published upon availability on: <https://www.undrr.org/about-undrr/funding>

[funding](https://www.undrr.org/about-undrr/funding)





UNDRR

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

**United Nations Office
for Disaster Risk Reduction**

9-11 Rue de Varembé
CH 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Telephone: +41(0)22 917 89 07-8

E-mail: undrr@un.org

Website: www.undrr.org