Contributions of UN Organisations

Mid-Term Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
1) Introduction and context

The Sendai Framework was adopted by 187 Member States at the Forth United (UN) World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, on March 18, 2015 “to achieve 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 over the next 15 years”.

Called for by the UN General Assembly¹, the midterm review of the Sendai Framework (MTR SF) marks the midpoint in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The MTR SF has retrospective and prospective elements. It works to take stock, identify emerging issues, uncover context shifts, and build coherence with other frameworks, to better address the systemic nature of risk. The MTR SF will conclude in 2023 at a high-level meeting of the General Assembly.

UN organisations were encouraged to contribute to a joint report through the UN Plan of Action reporting process: questions focused on achievements, key challenges and lessons learned in implementing the Sendai Framework and the UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience, as well as emerging topics and recommendations on how the UN Plan of Action can best support critical efforts in the coming years. UN organisations have also been invited to conduct comprehensive all-of-organisation MTR SF consultations, review and reporting, utilising the Guidance for Stakeholders of the MTR SF.

During the 7th annual meeting of the UN Senior Leadership Group on DRR and Resilience (12 July 2022), UN entities further discussed their inputs to the MTR SF process: key take-away from the meeting are included in this report.

The report includes contributions from the following UN entities:


*Through interventions at the 7th annual meeting of the UN SLG:* DPPA, EOSG, FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITU, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNECE, UNECLAC, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNOCHA, UN-OHRLLS, UNOPS, UNU, UNV, UN-Women, WFP, WHO, WMO.

*Organisations who attended the 7th annual meeting of the UN SLG, but did not intervene or their intervention was not related to the MTR SF:* CTBTO, UNDESA, UNECA, UNODC, UNOOSA / UN-Spider, UPU.

*Organisations who contributed additional MTR SF reports:* IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNU, UN-Women, WHO, WMO.

¹ https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3896586?ln=en
2) Assessing progress since the adoption of the Sendai Framework for DRR: achievements, challenges and emerging trends

This section presents some of the main achievements and challenges outlined by UN organisations in their contributions, as well as key trends that have emerged since 2015. Inputs were analysed and divided into key topics, which were then grouped together into a small number of umbrella categories. Some challenges mentioned also among the recommendations for actions have been included in Section 3 of this report.

The overall aim of this analysis is to present in a concise manner all contributions received by UN organisations: however, it is important to note that this report does not represent the joint views of all contributing organisations. Some specific topics or themes may have been mentioned by a number of UN organisations but not all, and topics included in this report do not necessarily have the endorsement of all contributing organisations.

A more comprehensive overview on the status of UN organisations support to Member States in implementing the Sendai Framework can be found in the annual progress reports of the UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience.

2.1) Achievements and challenges

Overall, UN organisations highlighted that the concept of disaster risk reduction since the adoption of the Sendai Framework in 2015 is widely understood as a cross-cutting issue, which underpins development and makes it sustainable. However, it has become more and more evident that risk is systemic\(^2\) and that only multi-hazard and whole-of-society risk reduction approaches can effectively tackle systemic risk.

UN organisations further noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated the interconnectedness of risk across sectors and regions, stressing even more the importance of cross-sectoral integration and DRR systems that reflect the needs and contributions of all sectors.

Addressing the cross-cutting nature of risk.
Understanding the cross-cutting nature of disaster risk means that there is growing awareness of the need to strengthen the connections between different global processes and different sectors.

The link between climate change and disaster risks has become more and more evident, with more research being undertaken and more efforts being made to align actions taken to implement the Sendai Framework with actions taken to implement the Paris Agreement. Guidance is offered to countries on how to include disaster risk reduction targets and indicators in their National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions. Moreover, more research has been undertaken to show how climate change has exacerbated the frequency and intensity of hydrometeorological hazards (and

\(^2\) “The concept of systemic risk is based on the notion that the risk of an adverse outcome of a policy, action or hazard event can depend on how the elements of the affected systems interact with each other. This can either aggravate or reduce the overall effect of the constituent parts. Interactions occur through positive or negative feedback processes” (GAR 2022 full report, page 4. Available for download here).
related risks). Some UN organisations stress that several climate-related mechanisms established with the Paris agreement (including NAPs, NDCs, and the task forces of the Warsaw International Mechanism) can be leveraged to strengthen resilience and DRR.

Similarly, there is awareness of the need to connect humanitarian work with development, peace and security (the “triple nexus”): this however is an issue where UN organisations feel more effort is needed. In particular, separate funding streams and siloed ways of working at national and international level are some of the obstacles to linking these areas of work more effectively.

**Scaling up disaster risk reduction in humanitarian action**

UNDRR, in consultation with UN OCHA and other partners, developed a set of recommendations and an accompanying checklist outlining specific actions to better integrate DRR into humanitarian response. The recommendations are intended to support operationalisation of humanitarian-development collaboration, and they aim to help practitioners strengthen risk informed programming in different phases, while leaving them room to adapt to the country context. The checklist covers all the phases of the humanitarian programme cycle, from preparedness, to needs assessment, strategic planning, resource mobilization, and response monitoring, with the aim of preventing people at risk from becoming people in need.

There are still inconsistent connections between DRR and other key issues, such as the nexus between migration, environment and climate change, or employment and labour issues: while some progress has been made and several initiatives are in place to strengthen these linkages, more needs to be done to systematically mainstream DRR into these sectors. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the interrelation between risk and global trade has become more evident, in particular for issues related to international supply chains or procurement processes.

**Words into Action guidelines - Disaster Displacement**

Forced displacement is one of the most common and immediate impacts of disasters. To support government authorities to integrate disaster displacement and other related forms of human mobility into DRR strategies, several organisations developed a practical guide focused on disaster displacement. This Words into Action Guideline includes guiding principles and case studies to illustrate effective practices. The guide is accompanied by a checklist on Addressing Disaster Displacement in Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice: this includes a list of elements to consider in assessing if policies, strategies and practices align with the Sendai Framework’s guidance on disaster displacement. The Guideline further contributes to achieving the goals of the UN Secretary Generals Action Agenda on Internal Displacement.

**Strengthening risk governance.**

Some UN organisations reported that learnings from the COVID-19 response inspired changes in their internal ways of working, to be better equipped to deal with similar risks in the future. Moreover, some organisations’ strategic priorities have been adjusted since the pandemic began in 2020.

UN organisations emphasised that the UN Plan of Action for DRR and Resilience is an effective mechanism to help UN organisations to identify trends, gaps and opportunities and to jointly support

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3 UNDRR, 2021. Scaling up disaster risk reduction in humanitarian action.

4 UNDRR, 2019. Words into Action: Disaster displacement: how to reduce risk, address impacts and strengthen resilience
Member States in DRR implementation. Effective interagency cooperation led to stronger system-wide coherence, while providing evidence for advocacy towards countries and other stakeholders on DRR.

At the national level, disaster risk governance and stakeholder engagement have emerged as key aspects of resilience building since the adoption of the Sendai Framework. In particular, multi-sector government frameworks and increased coordination among different departments are two areas where progress can be seen. Many UN organisations have reported increased support to countries on strengthening their governance mechanisms (through knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening activities, among others). An all-of-society approach to DRR is applied more and more frequently. The mechanisms put in place at local, national, regional and global levels to coordinate response to COVID-19 can be reinforced and applied to prevention, preparedness and recovery, as well as response. In terms of stakeholder engagement, many UN organisations highlighted the importance of working with youth and women’s groups: this indicates an uptake of youth and women’s issues among the UN system.

**Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation**

In 2017, the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation adopted a landmark recommendation focusing on the link between the world of work and employment, and peace and resilience. Recommendation n. 205 provides guidance to ILO members on the “measures to be taken to generate employment and decent work for the purposes of prevention, recovery, peace and resilience with respect to crisis situations arising from conflicts and disasters”. The recommendation is an example of the shift in understanding disaster risk and its links to other sectors: the document clearly outlines the need to mainstream risk and resilience considerations in employment and decent work policy decisions.

Beyond national and global levels, regional mechanisms for cooperation, especially for transboundary risks, were mentioned as effective accelerators of DRR and resilience. Similarly, some UN organisations shared that there has been an increased focus on the local level, in particular through the development of local DRR strategies and various entities’ efforts to enhance localisation.

Some organisations shared reflections on the need to ensure sustainability of the UN system’s work on the ground, with the need for more activities that rely on a country’s own resources and/or stakeholder uptake, rather than time-limited external funding. In addition, reference was made to the importance of translating policies and guidelines into action on the ground: several organisations feel that the UN system could play a stronger role in supporting this.

**Moving towards prevention.**

The need to shift from a responsive to a preventive approach was highlighted by the Sendai Framework and a lot has been done to test different approaches to enhance prevention: anticipatory action, for example, is one of the most impactful approaches piloted.

Several UN organisations have reported an increased focus on risk assessments and monitoring in their programmes, which strengthens the case for more investments in understanding risk and gathering data. Research and science communities are strengthening their connections with policy makers at national level and contributing to the UN work at international level. However, donor support for strengthening risk management, data collection and other efforts to understand risk should be scaled up.
Integration of DRR into UNDP’s 2022-2025 Strategic Plan

UNDP integrated DRR and resilience in its 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, following a clear mandate to work on DRR by the UN General Assembly, which led to the creation of a dedicated work programme and team. The current Strategic Plan includes resilience-building as one of the organisation’s three “directions of change”, but specific resilience-related indicators are mainstreamed across all areas of work. Resilience building is also one of the Plan’s six “signature solutions”, which guides UNDP’s policy and programmatic work across all thematic areas reinforcing the interlinkages between DRR-CCA, while also ensuring complementarities across governance, poverty eradication, gender, climate action etc. Moreover, the Plan has a dedicated outcome focusing on “building resilience to risks, crises and shocks” which takes a multi-risk approach to secure development gains and to reduce structural vulnerabilities.

Knowledge and capacity strengthening are essential at country level, regionally and globally, and since 2015 various platforms have been set up to share sector-specific expertise or provide technical support in disaster risk governance. Local and indigenous knowledge is being recognised as essential to better understand the multiple dimensions of risk. At the same time, there is a need for stronger integration of scientific and technical knowledge into policy making.

Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) programme

UNESCO’s Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems programme (LINKS) promotes local and indigenous knowledge and its inclusion in global climate science and policy processes. As part of the LINKS programme, a specific project is being run in six countries in Africa: the ‘Knowing our Changing Climate’ project aims to empower and build the capacity of pastoralist communities to engage in science-policy dialogue; at the same time it supports the development of transdisciplinary research that bridges indigenous and scientific knowledge on climate change to reinforce community resilience.

2.2) Emerging trends since the adoption of the Sendai Framework for DRR

Since 2015, several issues have emerged since the adoption of the Sendai Framework. Below is a summary of the main issues identified by UN organisations: under each issue there is a reference of which UN organisation proposed the topic.

- **Enhancing disaster risk financing.**
  Funding for resilience building should be further increased, including financing for anticipatory action, risk transfer mechanisms, shock-responsive social protection and other prevention measures.
  [Anticipatory action: FAO, UNDP, UNOCHA, UNITAR, WFP; Risk transfer, social protection: FAO; General remarks: DPPA, UNDP, UNECLAC, UNFCCC, UNICEF, UNOCHA, UN-Women]

- **Leveraging the use of technology.**
  More attention should be given to the developments in artificial intelligence, cyber-security risks, and the use of space technology for DRR. Geospatial tools have emerged as essential to strengthen risk assessment and early warning systems. However, there is an urgent need to address the digital divide.
  [ITU, UNECE, UNECLAC, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNITAR, UNOOSA / UN Spider, WMO]
• **Engaging stakeholders.**
  The Sendai Framework makes a clear call for stakeholder engagement, but this needs to be addressed with more urgency: UN organisations mentioned the need to strengthen involvement of different groups in the policy-making process (from policy design, to implementation and review), such as communities, children and young people, displaced populations, women’s leadership, organizations of employers and workers, the private sector, and a stronger science-policy connection as stakeholder groups that require special attention.

  [FAO, IFAD, ILO, UNAIDS, UNECE, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNV, UN-Women, WHO, WMO]

• **Developing more accurate data and improving its use.**
  The generation, dissemination and use of risk data (including vulnerability data) has emerged as a key requirement to understand and assess risk to inform decision making and resilience building. Disaggregation of data is particularly important to ensure there is a clear picture of risk and vulnerability across different society groups which will inform audience targeted risk reduction strategies.

  [FAO, UNECLAC, UNESC, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN-Women, WMO]

• **Improving all-sectoral multi-hazard early warning systems.**
  Early warning systems should include sector-specific information, and target multiple hazards (not just hydro-meteorological, but also for example technological and biological hazards) approaches. Sector-specific information include, among others, ecosystem data, agriculture and food security, transport, trade, employment, industrial accidents, etc.

  [FAO, ILO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNOHRLS, UNOPS, WHO, WMO]

• **Learning how to manage systemic risk.**
  The systemic nature of risk makes efforts around reducing risk and avoiding the creation of new risks becomes more complex. Further research is needed to develop comprehensive strategies and further understand how to build forward stronger and manage systemic risk in a more inclusive and transformative way.

  [FAO, ILO, IOM, UNESC, UN-Habitat, UNU]

• **Exploring social inequalities as a driver of risk.**
  Social inequalities, such as gender, age and disability inequality of risks, are important structural issues that undermine resilience. Risk and vulnerability assessment tools that include social inequality aspects are being developed, but more research is needed to gather evidence of successful actions. The development of a multi-dimensional vulnerability index is a step towards gaining a clearer understanding of key drivers of risk.

  [ILO, UNESC, UNAIDS, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNOHRLS, UN-Women, UNU, WFP]

• **Leveraging ecosystem services for DRR and humanitarian action.**
  Closer cooperation between national ministries from different sectors is required. Targeted national reporting on nature-based solutions for DRR and adaptation needs to be strengthened.

  [ILO, UNEP]

• **Strengthening inclusion of technological hazards.**
  Contingency planning and risk reduction measures focusing on industrial hazards are often not integrated in national DRR strategies and plans. Applying a true multi-hazard approach would require the inclusion of all relevant hazards, including technological hazards.

  [UNESC, UNEP]

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5 [Hazard definition and classification review | UNDRR]
• Integrating sector-specific considerations in DRR strategies and risk management measures.
A lot of progress has been made in the context of the COVID-19 response and recovery in applying a whole-of-society approach to reducing and managing health, social, environmental and economic risks. These successes should be strengthened and used not only to response plans, but also to prevention, preparedness and recovery efforts.

[FAO, IFAD, IOM, UNCTAD, WHO]

3) Looking forward: areas of focus to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR

When asked to reflect on the way forward and future priorities, UN organisations identified several areas of focus to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the remaining seven years.

3.1) Enhancing UN system-wide coherence

Further efforts are required to increase coordination, synergies and common programming, especially between the DRR and climate change communities. Risk-informed integrated approaches should be the guiding principle. System-wide coherence can be improved by doubling efforts in sharing information and avoiding duplication, linking with existing mechanisms and initiatives, in particular at national and regional level (e.g. other UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, Issue-based Coalitions), and stimulating an environment of mutual support among UN organisations and building on comparative advantages. Partnerships should be created to foster complementarity of expertise and mandates across the UN system.

Increasing coherent capacities for DRR and resilience within the UN Country Teams (UNCT) and Resident Coordinators System was suggested as another measure to ensure system-wide coherence on DRR: this includes better communication and information sharing, as well as increasing UNCTs abilities to access the broader UN system expertise and support for DRR, and including a DRR advisor within Resident Coordinators Offices.

UN system coordination and integration of a risk-informed approach
In addition to the UN Plan of Action and the establishment of the UN SLG, the UN System has made considerable effort to ensure DRR considerations and a risk-informed approach to development are mainstreamed across the organisations. Since the UN SLG was created, there have been several key initiatives and resolutions that pushed coordination further. In particular, the reform of the UN development system (UNDS) initiated in 2018 provided an opportunity to integrate DRR into the work of the UN country teams (UNCT): the importance of a risk-informed development approach was reflected in the new internal guidance for the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks issued in 2019. The Resident Coordinator (RC), as the highest-ranking representative of the UNDS at the country level, plays a critical role in ensuring that planning and programming is risk-informed.

At the regional level, support is provided to the RC and UNCTs through the Regional Collaborative Platforms as well as Issues-based Coalitions, for example focusing on climate and disaster risk and resilience building, which ensure UN-wide coordination and technical support on DRR matters.
Moreover, the adoption of the 2020 Resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) created further momentum for integrating DRR into the work of UN organisations and beyond. The QCPR resolution includes for the first time a very strong and articulated paragraph on DRR, which makes reference to the UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience and calls on entities to risk-inform planning instruments such as the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. The Resolution also recognizes that greater cooperation, coherence, coordination and complementarity among development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and sustaining peace, are fundamental to achieving the SDGs.

The prominent inclusion of DRR in the QCPR Resolution is an important milestone to help ensure that the UN System’s support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the country level is risk-informed and aligned with the Sendai Framework. It provides a strengthened momentum to accelerate DRR implementation.

It is equally important to strengthen the UN system’s accountability on DRR and its ability to monitor real-time progress towards the Sendai targets. As specified in the UN Plan of Action, DRR specific targets and indicators should be adopted in the strategic frameworks and work programmes of each UN entity so to effectively mainstream DRR into the UN system’s work.

Moreover, increased efforts should be made to ensure that the focus of the UN system’s work shifts from planning to delivering on the ground: monitoring mechanisms such as the UN Plan of Action are in place to assess whether countries are receiving tangible benefits from the work of UN organisations, and support should be extended to local actors.

3.2) Advancing global leadership for disaster risk reduction and resilience building advocacy

The COVID-19 pandemic created momentum for enhanced understanding of DRR and resilience building, which should be leveraged by strengthening the global leadership to make the case for resilience. More analysis should be undertaken to present evidence of the return-on-investment of DRR and to highlight the cost-benefit ratio of investing in prevention measures as a core strategy for risk reduction and management.

The UN’s role as convener should be used to continue policy discussions and strengthen the alignment to other global processes. International platforms (such as the Global and Regional Platforms for DRR) are an important space where technical expertise can be shared and cross-sectoral partnerships be strengthened. This is particularly relevant for climate change - where efforts are already underway to link National Determined Contribution (NDC) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes to DRR targets, but should expand to sectors including agri-food systems, human mobility and migration, environment, health, education, employment structures, women’s empowerment and technology.

Disaster risk reduction at farm level: multiple benefits, no regrets

In 2019, FAO published a study on the cost benefit of implementing DRR good practices in agriculture. One of the key findings is that the DRR practices generated benefits 2.2 times higher than practices previously used by farmers. Benefits included both increases in agricultural production and avoided hazard-associated risks. The report also presents recommendations for upscaling DRR farm-level good practices: either through small incremental scaling (such as farmer-
to-farmer replication), requiring lower investment, or through larger-scale efforts with the support of government or the private sector.

The humanitarian-development-peace nexus needs particular attention, and integration among these areas of work is still relatively weak: in particular, linking funding mechanisms and project activities on the ground, integrating DRR in humanitarian programming, and addressing climate and environmental sustainability as part of disaster preparedness, are some examples of how the nexus could be strengthened.

The UN system must play a critical role in supporting Member States in translating global policies into national and local actions.

3.3) Strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems

Early warning mechanisms are widely recognised as a key element of resilience and are recognised in Target G of the Sendai Framework. Anticipatory action has also emerged as a leading practice in resilience building. However, there is a need to scale-up these efforts: this translates to moving from pilot to actual implementation of anticipatory action initiatives, and focusing on increased accuracy and use of multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS). While there has been considerable effort in developing early warning systems that consider multiple hydro-meteorological as well as geological hazards, there is still limited integration with technological, including industrial, and biological hazards.

Strategic toolkit for assessing risks: a comprehensive toolkit for all-hazards health emergency risk assessment

WHO published in 2021 a toolkit to support governments’ efforts to integrate risk considerations into the public health sector. This Strategic Toolkit for Assessing Risks provides guidance on how to rapidly conduct a strategic and evidence-based assessment of public health risks, with the aim of planning and prioritising health emergency preparedness and disaster risk management activities. The guidance is for use at national and subnational level and it outlines six key steps to perform a risk assessment which result in a country risk profile which can inform public health planning and health emergency strategizing.

Reaching the “last mile” with actionable and accessible information is one of the key challenges that early warning systems currently face. Special investments are required to support efforts to turn early warning information into early action. This would need to be accompanied by addressing the early warning systems capacity gaps and sustainable financing.

Moreover, MHEWS should be further developed to integrate climate information, vulnerability and exposure data, and should be cross-sectoral and inclusive: inclusive early warning systems are necessary to further strengthen democratic values, gender equality and human rights in the context of DRR and resilience. Effective MHEWS would also contribute to empowering local communities and vulnerable groups, but ensuring their meaningful participation and leadership in DRR decision making.

3.4) Fostering data generation, disaggregation and effective use

Data disaggregation and localisation are an integral part of many resilience building activities, from early warning systems to comprehensive risk assessment and monitoring mechanisms. Repeated calls have been made for gender, age, disability, sectoral and sub-sectoral data disaggregation, as well as for a stronger focus on individual-level data.

It is important to also evaluate how data is used, and whether the information produced with such data is understandable and actionable, and how it is disseminated. In particular, disaggregated data should be used to assess policy effectiveness and its impact on groups often associated with higher levels of vulnerability (including women, children and young people).

National statistical offices and sectoral ministries play a crucial role, and the UN system should focus on supporting them by offering further tools, methodologies and technical expertise for data collection, analysis and sharing. Further support should also be given to the capacities of national governments to share data and join regional data analysis efforts (for example to improve regional impact forecasting mechanisms).

3.5) Improving governance structures beyond (and below) the national level

While national governments have the primary responsibility for DRR and resilience, stronger integration of governance structures and mechanisms both beyond and within the country level enhances the effectiveness of national policies.

Transboundary cooperation is a particular area of focus, which should be included in governance frameworks, early warning system structures as well as sectoral DRR policies. UN-led Issue-based Coalitions at regional level offer a wealth of expertise and technical support: the UN system should strengthen their connection to national governments to ensure countries are able to access the skills and knowledge needed to address the systemic nature of risk.

The involvement of local actors in building resilience has emerged as a key success factor. In this regard, more should be done to support countries in linking national DRR and climate risk strategies to the local level by making use of existing or new sub-national and community structures. In particular, donor support to strengthen institutions and capacities for resilience at all levels is still lagging behind. The role of communities and local governments should be further strengthened by ensuring participation in the policy making process. Community-based disaster risk management practices should be better researched to scale up leading practices and further mainstream local involvement.

National and local DRR strategies are a priority in the Sendai Framework, and more resources should be mobilized to ensure that they are adopted, properly funded and implemented effectively and sustainably. Further financial incentives should be placed on DRR and resilience actions (including the implementation of DRR strategies) to ensure stronger accountability.
3.6) Engaging with stakeholders for a true all-of-society approach to resilience

Following the adoption of the Sendai Framework a lot has been done to bring stakeholders on board, with the understanding that an all-of-society approach is needed to achieve the Framework’s vision.

Stakeholder engagement is still not a top priority in many contexts, and more should be done to bring it to the forefront of resilience actions. Stronger collaborations with the scientific community, with children and young people, and with the private sector can accelerate DRR actions at local, national and global level. Gender-responsive DRR policies should be implemented with the strong involvement of women leaders at all levels: the Beyond vulnerability to gender equality and women’s empowerment and leadership in disaster risk reduction (GEWEL-DRR) study provides relevant guidance for action.

Broader partnerships are needed for risk monitoring to ensure that all risk perspectives are included, and for accessing disaster and climate risk financing. Science and research work should be further integrated with policy-making, early warning system mechanisms and data collection processes.

At national level, strengthening existing platforms for participation, network-building and civic engagement can be of great support to COVID-19 recovery efforts and future resilience building. Disaster risk governance frameworks should not only be multi-hazard and multi-sectoral, but also multi-level and share responsibility across society, and further support should be given to countries in developing such frameworks. National and local capacities should be strengthened to ensure a sound understanding of a wider variety of hazards, including technological and biological hazards. In situations of protracted crises, tailored capacity building programmes should be designed to take into account the specific needs of vulnerable communities.

4) Conclusion

This report summarises inputs received by UN organisations on the progress in achieving the Sendai Framework, emerging trends to consider and recommendations for action for the remaining seven years of implementation.

It is clear that a lot has already been done within the UN system towards the Sendai Framework targets, including on improving risk governance, enhancing support to Member States in shifting towards prevention, and strengthening interagency coordination to address the cross-cutting nature of risk, as UN organisations pointed out in their reflections on progress. The UN Plan of Action on DRR for
Resilience progress report highlights the latest work in more details, and shows the commitment of the UN family towards achieving the vision of the Sendai Framework.

However, there is also a recognition that more needs to be done to achieve the Sendai Framework targets by 2030. The report grouped UN organisations recommendations into six broad areas for consideration, as outlined in Section 3. They relate to 1) issues of interagency cooperation and global governance, 2) DRR leadership and strengthening advocacy for resilience, 3) further improving MHEWS, 4) addressing the gap in availability, quality and use of data, 5) creating governance mechanisms to connect local, subnational, national and regional levels, and 6) improving meaningful engagement of stakeholders and vulnerable groups in DRR decision making.

These focus areas should be considered in the context of the joint UN work undertaken in the context of the UN Plan of Action and beyond.