RISK REDUCTION HUB EVENT
Disaster Risk Reduction in Countries Affected by Multidimensional Crisis
Thursday, 18 May 2023
8:15am – 9:45am
Conference Room 8 - United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background
Countries affected by protracted humanitarian crises and conflict are among those most vulnerable to the impacts of disasters. Yet there is no one size-fits-all solution for how to effectively reduce disaster risk in such complex and multidimensional settings. With disaster and climate disruption at the doorstep, how do we keep the attention focused on the countries and actors that need support the most? Join this session for a dynamic and open discussion with disaster risk reduction practitioners working on the front line. At the midpoint of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this session will identify how to step-up disaster risk reduction and build resilience in the most difficult of contexts.

The application of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in humanitarian and conflict-affected contexts can deliver multiple benefits. When successful, disaster risk reduction reduces needs, strengthens governance and community cohesion, and builds resilience and adaptive capacity. Even in the most complex contexts, communities need risk reduction and resilience building to help break cycles of crisis.

Disaster risk reduction is inherently cross-sectoral, with activities spanning across both the humanitarian, development and sustaining peace fields. Recent reports highlight that, while disaster risk reduction can act as a bridge between humanitarian, development and peace programming, these activities do not always take a risk-informed approach. Employing a strong people-centred and prevention-oriented focus, disaster risk reduction can act as the glue that supports better analysis and programming across interventions. With comprehensive risk data and analytics, practitioners can ensure risk-informed humanitarian, recovery and development plans that have resilience-building to current, emerging and future threats at their core.

Disaster risk reduction can be peace positive. Through strengthening inclusive and inter-institutional risk governance, particularly at local level, disaster risk reduction brings governments and communities together around a shared goal. Coherence between post-disaster needs assessments and recovery and peacebuilding assessments is important. It ensures that disaster rehabilitation is conflict-sensitive and supports peacebuilding goals. At the same time, peacebuilding initiatives can capitalize on the benefits of disaster recovery to strengthen social cohesion and participatory governance.
Food security is a central component of this multidimensional approach. Many of the world’s 2.5 billion people who depend on smallholder farming live in fragile contexts and are on the frontlines of the climate emergency. As food crises are becoming increasingly protracted, there is an urgent need for increased investment in medium- and long-term risk reduction and resilience building to protect livelihoods, reduce disaster losses in agriculture, and reduce food insecurity. In fragile contexts, this requires a risk-informed approach to food crisis prevention that can address long-term drivers and root causes of food insecurity by tackling and managing multiple risks in an integrated way through a joint humanitarian, development, disaster risk reduction, and peacebuilding efforts.

Collaboration and cohesion across humanitarian, development, peacebuilding actors directly supports the implementation of the UN’s ‘New Way of Working’, which stipulated in 2016 that these stakeholders should work “in support of collective outcomes that reduce risk and vulnerability and serve as instalments toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. It is also aligned with the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report on “Our Common Agenda” and several calls from Member States at the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Objectives
- Share the latest evidence of how multi-dimensional analysis and collaborative programming across actors and sectors helps reduce disaster risk in countries affected by crisis.
- Identify solutions to operational and capacity challenges that hinder disaster risk reduction and resilience building activities in the world’s most fragile and vulnerable contexts.
- Provide recommendations for how disaster risk reduction and efforts to address hunger and food crisis can support peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Format
A panel discussion a government and a civil society representative to hear their experience of implementing disaster risk reception in context of multidimensional crisis, highlighting how work done has supported analysis and programming across actors and sectors. Lead respondents from UN entities and civil society will be invited to reflect on the panel discussion and share their ideas for accelerating disaster risk reduction implementation in countries affected by multidimensional crisis. The audience will then be invited to pose questions to the panelists and the lead respondents and share their solutions on the way forward for stepping up the implementation of the Sendai Framework in crisis affected countries in the years to come.

Participants
The event will be open to all. It is targeted to any Member State, UN system, civil society, academia, or other stakeholder representative implementing DRR in vulnerable and fragile contexts.
Guiding questions

1. In what ways can the application of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction help address protracted and multi-dimensional crises?
2. How can multidimensional risk assessment and risk analytics support more integrated and forward-looking programming?
3. What practical example can you share of when disaster risk reduction action helped accelerate collaboration across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors?
4. If there was one DRR action you would emphasize for countries experiencing multidimensional crisis, what would that be?

Programme

| Opening Segment | • Opening Remarks – Katie Peters, Overseas Development Institute (Moderator)  
|                 | • Welcome Remarks – Ambassador Ivan Šimonović, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations |
| Setting the Scene | • Xavier Castellanos, Under Secretary General for National Society Development and Operations Coordination, IFRC |
| Panel Discussion | • Ana Christina Manuel, Director, National Emergency Operations Centre, Mozambique  
|                 | • Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan  
|                 | • Khadar Mohamed Sheikh Nur, Director of Department for Disaster Risk Management, Disaster Management Agency, Somalia  
|                 | • Nesibu Yasin Seid, Deputy Commissioner, Disaster Risk Management Commission of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia |
| Lead Respondents | • Rein Paulson, Director, Office of Emergencies and Resilience, Food and Agriculture Organization  
|                 | • Alexandra Fong, Chief for Policy and Guidance at the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs  
|                 | • Adessou Kossivi, Africa Regional Lead, Global Network of Civil Society Organisation for Disaster |
| Questions for the Floor | |
| Closing Segment | • Closing Remarks – Patrícia Gaspar, Secretary of State for Civil Protection, Portugal |

Contact Information
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