

# United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Annual Report  
2021



UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

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# United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

# 2021 Annual Report

**Each new year brings new challenges, but also possibilities. Let us reflect on our achievements in 2021, and continue to work together for a more resilient, more sustainable and more equitable world in 2022 and beyond.**

## FOREWORD



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

In 2021, the social and economic impact of COVID-19 continued to magnify risk exposure and vulnerability worldwide, with at-risk populations hit hardest, as the world entered its second year of the pandemic. Amidst the changing geo-political landscape and public health crisis, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) continued to emphasize our message that #PreventionSavesLives, leading the way on innovation and planned risk-reduction strategies to strengthen resilience, enhance technical cooperation assistance and increase capacity-building efforts with partners.

In line with its Strategic Framework 2016-2021, UNDRR supported Member States in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and investing in preventative action, to accelerate Sustainable Development Goal targets.

This 2021 Annual Report outlines UNDRR's work in reducing disaster risk and strengthening resilience globally. The report highlights UNDRR's impact and progress throughout the year, its achievements and activities that supported disaster risk reduction in 2021. The report is structured along the three Strategic Objectives and two Enablers of the UNDRR Work Programme, and focuses on efforts at global, regional, national and local levels to implement the Sendai Framework in coordination with, and in support of, a wide variety of stakeholders.

Our risk landscape is increasingly volatile, compounded by risk drivers such as climate change, conflict, displacement, ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and the ongoing pandemic, which continues to exacerbate systemic and deeply entrenched economic and social inequalities. It is at the intersection of understanding risk and reducing disaster impact where UNDRR best illustrates its added value.

Throughout the year, UNDRR strived to innovate its operations by strengthening monitoring frameworks, ramping up virtual work arrangements, and incentivizing stakeholders to invest in and evolve comprehensive, equitable, localized, and meaningful plans of action. These plans can lead to sustainable outcomes for millions, particularly the hardest to reach, hardest hit, and most vulnerable to disasters, to ensure no one is left behind.

Now it is time to look ahead. In April, the Deputy Secretary-General will launch the 2022 Global Assessment Report (GAR) on Disaster Risk Reduction, entitled Our World at Risk: Transforming Governance for a Resilient Future. The central theme of the GAR 2022 is how governance systems can evolve to better address the systemic risks of the future. In May, we will gather with Member State representatives and other stakeholders at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali, Indonesia, as well as at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference for DRR, in Australia in September.

Throughout 2022, consultations and review by States and other stakeholders will continue to inform the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework. In the autumn, we will arrive at COP 27, with our clarion call for urgent action on risk reduction, to reduce climate-related disasters in a dangerously warmer world.

Each new year brings new challenges, but also possibilities. Let us reflect on our achievements in 2021, and continue to work together for a more resilient, more sustainable and more equitable world in 2022 and beyond.

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# Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

**SENDAI 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

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
- d. 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.
- e. Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
- f. 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.
- g. 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

## Vision

The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses for a sustainable future



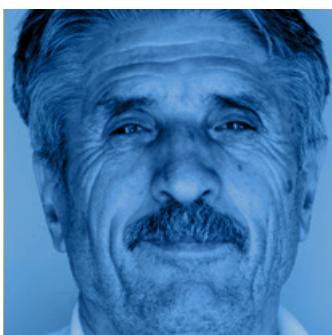
## Mandate

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



## Overarching objective

The prevention of new and reduction of existing disaster risk and strengthening resilience through successful multi-hazard disaster risk management



## Strategic Objectives

**1**

Strengthen global monitoring, analysis and coordination of Sendai Framework implementation

**2**

Support to regional and national Sendai Framework implementation

**3**

Catalyse action through countries and partners for Sendai Framework implementation

## Results

**1.1**

**Global Progress** of the Sendai Framework and related SDG targets assessed and monitored and reported annually

**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 Goal

**3.1**

**Policy coherence**, in line with the Sendai Framework, fostered across intergovernmental decisions related to climate action and sustainable development

**1.2**

**Global risk** data, analysis and policy advice generated

**2.2**

**Strengthened capacity of counterparts**, UN Country Teams and partners for leadership in disaster risk reduction

**3.2**

**Strengthened coordination and leadership** provided to all UN system partners at global level towards the implementation of the Sendai Framework

**1.3**

**Global coordination and review mechanisms** of the Sendai Framework are in place

**2.3**

**Regional and national coordination mechanisms** mobilized to accelerate Sendai Framework implementation

**3.3**

**Implementation of the Sendai Framework** and coherence across Agenda 2030 facilitated through the promotion and implementation of an all-of-society approach

## Enablers

**1**

**Enhancing visibility of disaster risk reduction through global advocacy**

**2**

**Strengthened organizational performance**

**"Progress on disaster risk reduction must be urgently prioritized as a precondition for sustainable development. Being ready saves lives – and money. Sound disaster risk management and increased resilience can safeguard hard-won gains in health, education, water, sanitation and more. It can also prevent new risk by ensuring that social and economic development are risk-informed."**

**António Guterres**

*United Nations Secretary-General*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

While 2020 brought the world a global pandemic, 2021 ushered in a new normal, largely dominated by risk. Throughout the year, the COVID-19 global pandemic continued to be felt in all corners of the globe, creating and exacerbating a range of challenges, not only related to health, but also those with economic, social and political consequences. Within that context, UNDRR's work largely focused on the systemic and interconnected nature of risk, and how it can trigger cascading impacts that unevenly harm society's most marginalized.

During conferences, panels and meetings, UNDRR spoke to the idea that systemic, interconnected challenges require systemic, interconnected solutions. Because the enormous gap for financing disaster risk reduction persists, UNDRR colleagues repeated a familiar message: resilience is not an extra cost but a wise investment. Fortunately, this message is increasingly hitting home, with COVID-19 and climate change raising awareness about risk more now than ever. Particularly, at the COP26 held in November, resilience featured high on the political and business agendas.

The year began with UNDRR adopting a new Strategic Framework for 2022-2025 and Work Programme for 2022-2023, which focused on accelerating implementation of the Sendai Framework, while continuing to embody the message that disasters do not have to devastate.

Not long after, the **Global Risk Assessment Framework** was rolled out to support Member States in better understanding risk and making risk-informed decisions by offering an improved data eco-system. In close collaboration with UN Country Teams and Humanitarian Country Teams, the rollout included pilots in Bangladesh, Costa-Rica, Eswatini, Fiji, Pakistan, Somalia and Sudan. Participating countries received guidance on improving risk-data use and systemic risk analysis.

On the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on 13 October, the **Centre of Excellence on Disaster and Climate Resilience** was launched. A joint UNDRR and WMO initiative, the Centre is designed to ensure synergy between DRR and climate action. It will convene climate and disaster risk reduction thought leaders and practitioners for joint research, capacity development and advocacy. Twelve United Nations and non-United-Nations organizations joined the Centre and participated in the first steering committee meeting.

In late 2021, four **Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction** were held in different parts of the world: Jamaica (Americas and the Caribbean), Kenya (Africa), Morocco (Arab States) and Portugal (Europe and Central Asia). The outcome documents from these platforms, as well as from the Asia-Pacific Partnership Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction, which took place in December, provide guidance on integrated risk management. The goal is to foster coherence across different agendas: sustainable development, climate action, humanitarian response and the preservation of biodiversity and ecological systems.

Six years after the Sendai Framework was adopted, its **Midterm Review** kicked off with the adoption of General Assembly resolution A/RES/76/204 on Disaster Risk Reduction. Member States determined that the Midterm Review will conclude with a high-level meeting of the General Assembly, to be held in May 2023. The Midterm Review offers an opportunity to renew political commitment and identify risk-reduction priorities for the remaining implementation period of the Sendai Framework 2015-2030.

## STRENGTHEN GLOBAL MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND COORDINATION OF SENDAI FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

UNDRR promotes risk awareness, as well as methods for reducing and managing risks, to ensure that development and humanitarian interventions are risk-informed and sustainable. The Sendai Framework is the global blueprint for reducing disaster risk and offers a practical roadmap for governments and stakeholders to assess risk and develop integrated solutions that reach those most at risk.

In 2021, UNDRR supported Member States' progress, reporting against the Sendai Framework, as well as DRR-related targets of the SDGs, through the Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM). By year end, 155 out of 195 countries were using the SFM online system, which strengthens data availability and standards, as well as official statistical information on disasters and disaster risk reduction. This vital information helps evaluate the potential success of preventative and post-disaster action.

Improved availability and geographical coverage of data made it possible for UNDRR to accurately monitor DRR progress around the world and contribute to increasing the amount and quality of evidence-driven information shared by Member States. UNDRR also led efforts to advance official disaster-related statistics as a core aspect of the SFM, by taking a central role in the development of a global framework on disaster-related statistics. These efforts, intended to enhance data quality and standards in disaster data, were undertaken in partnership with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and UN Regional Commissions.

With water-related hazards becoming a key concern around the world, UNDRR launched the GAR Special Report on Drought 2021, in collaboration with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The report explored the systemic nature of drought and how it affects health and well-being, as well as stymies achievement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals. Drawing on case studies, the report and Summary for Policy Makers provided crucial policy guidance for stakeholders and uses data trends and patterns to propose impactful and targeted policy options for improving drought management.

Other key policy guidance and knowledge products were developed at regional level. In 2021, two regional assessment reports were launched for the first time, offering a regional perspective of the risk landscape: the Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab States.

## SUPPORT TO REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SENDAI FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

Cities have been on the frontline of the COVID-19 emergency and feature highly in UNDRR's priorities. Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030), which was developed and implemented through an alliance of UNDRR and key partners, gathered momentum in 2021, thanks to the strong commitment of local governments and service providers. 641 local government officials and 164 service providers, covering a population of over 420 million people, joined MCR2030 to give and receive technical support, resources, and services related to implementation of the Sendai Framework. MCR2030 has been embraced as a tool for building resilience, making cities safer, preventing risks and promoting innovation and investments.

The programme has twelve core partners, who help urban stakeholders raise awareness about the importance of understanding risk, receive training on disaster and hazard resilience, and improve risk analysis and data management. The initiative also helped to foster stronger links across disaster-risk governance, climate change, humanitarian, development, and socioeconomic sectors, at municipal level. At regional level, city-to-city exchanges promote the uptake of DRR strategies and plans, and strengthen connections that support urban resilience.

UNDRR capacity development programmes continued to be a vital source of innovation for regional, national and local stakeholders, including UN country teams (UNCTs). The programmes offer technical support on national and local disaster risk reduction approaches, risk-informed plans, and resilience-building capacities.

Working with partners across the United Nations, UNDRR successfully developed and customized **online training modules**. These modules focus on disaster-risk outreach, early-warning systems and responses, and solutions at the crossroads of DRR, socioeconomic recovery, inclusion, health and climate change. UNDRR provided stakeholders with access to state-of-the-art tools and enhanced its online and hybrid delivery of products and services. This led to an increase in training, webinar and event participants compared with previous years. The UNDRR Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), for example, reached 21,920 stakeholders through 53 training programmes, 27 events and 16 webinars, with 46 per cent of participants identifying as women in 2021.

# 2021 Highlights

**155** COUNTRIES REPORTED PROGRESS IN THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK MONITORING PLATFORM

**123** COUNTRIES REPORTED ON THE ADOPTION OF NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES IN LINE WITH SENDAI PRINCIPLES

**3,900** PARTICIPANTS FROM 165 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES LEVERAGED TRAINING ON THE DISASTER RESILIENCE SCORECARD FOR CITIES

**30 million** IMPRESSIONS OF UNDRR DIGITAL CONTENT

**55%** OF GETI TRAINING PARTICIPANTS APPLIED DRR PRINCIPLES IN THEIR CURRENT WORKSTREAMS

**50** PILOTS ON DRR RESILIENT BUSINESS PRACTICES, INVESTMENTS, AND GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY BONDS LAUNCHED THROUGH ARISE NETWORK

## CATALYSE ACTION THROUGH MEMBER STATES AND PARTNERS

To catalyse action, UNDRR strengthened engagement with different segments of society through an all-of-society approach, including Member States, the private sector, parliamentarians, science and technology, women, youth, people with disabilities and across community-led organizations.

UNDRR coordinated and chaired the **UN Senior Leadership Group on DRR for Resilience** (UN SLG), as well as the UN Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points Group, which is comprised of 43 United Nations entities. UNDRR also supported Member States in ensuring coherence with implementation of internationally agreed agendas, releasing some 13 intergovernmental outcome documents that integrated DRR and provided intergovernmental guidance for risk-informed policy-setting and action at national level.

To scale up DRR in humanitarian action, UNDRR provided critical data to strengthen interagency engagement, addressed gaps in humanitarian actors' DRR capacity and developed a training package on *Scaling up DRR in Humanitarian Action*.

Parliamentarian engagement also strengthened throughout the year, with the launch of a [toolkit](#) for parliamentarians by UNDRR and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) as a basis for further accelerated action on DRR to achieve the SDGs. Similarly, UNDRR engaged as a key partner for the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), including in the launch of a new CVF Parliamentarian group on Sendai Framework and Paris Agreement.

UNDRR worked closely with partners to support gender-responsive disaster risk reduction. There was significant progress implementing the nine United Nations recommendations of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction (GEWEL-DRR) report.

Youth engagement rose in all Regional Platforms for DRR, leading to more inclusive and impactful disaster risk reduction initiatives globally. UNDRR organized the first ever **Youth Forum For Disaster Risk Reduction** prior to the Regional Platform in the Americas and the Caribbean. 300 young changemakers participated in the event from the region, resulting in a Youth Declaration on DRR. Youth were also central to the design and implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism, taking the lead in engaging stakeholders at the 2021 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) and Financing for Development Forum, as well as providing inputs for the Food Systems Summit and COP26.

UNDRR continued to strengthen relationships with the private sector through its flagship vehicle for private sector collaboration, ARISE, which grew to over 400 registered members from 29 national and regional networks.

Multi-stakeholder engagement increased. The **UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism** (SEM) boasted 390 members and consolidated its role as a key mechanism in the High-level Political Forum, the United Nations central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, promoting evidence-based discussions and reflections on DRR and sustainable development.

The **Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments** online platform, operated by UNDRR, continued to catalyse stakeholders to showcase their work, monitor commitments, and track progress on deliverables. It is a key tool for promoting accountability among non-state actors, as well as the main reference point for sharing information about stakeholders' efforts to implement the Sendai Framework.

## ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE, MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION AND GLOBAL ADVOCACY

UNDRR's global advocacy and engagement across all platforms continued to rise in 2021. The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) Mami Mizutori, took part in many in-person and virtual appearances, delivering poignant messages. The content she shared at key international events, meetings, and panels was redistributed across multiple digital media.

UNDRR garnered extensive media coverage for COP26, demonstrating the relevance of DRR as part of the climate emergency. Key developments were reported in 72 separate media items, drawing attention to the need to accelerate disaster risk reduction as a way of managing growing climate-related risks.

Meanwhile, UNDRR increased advocacy and communication efforts, raising awareness of disaster risk themes including drought, food security, tsunamis, earthquakes, flooding, biological hazards, nature-based solutions and links with social, economic and health spheres. UNDRR leveraged events and major campaigns to engage partners and stakeholders in disaster risk reduction initiatives.

The **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Tsunami Awareness Day** focused on Sendai Framework target F, to substantially enhance international co-operation on DRR. #OnlyTogether proved to be UNDRR's most successful outreach campaign to date, generating 500 million social media impressions across the two days.

The **Words Into Action** (WiA) series, jointly developed by UNDRR and communities of experts, focused on nature-based solutions and traditional knowledge in DRR. Multimedia packages were created for existing WiA publications, making the information more easily accessible and usable.

## STRENGTHENED ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Efforts to mobilize financial resources for UNDRR resulted in USD 44 million received from donors. Donors' generous voluntary contributions recognized UNDRR's vital role in strengthening the DRR agenda during the COVID-19 response and recovery, as well as the organization's ability to adapt and innovate to ensure delivery of its work programme.

In the second year of COVID-19's continued uncertainty, UNDRR remained resilient and productive, adapting to new working realities. Across the organization, the use of virtual events allowed UNDRR to connect with more partners around the globe. The 2020 mandatory, organization-wide training dedicated to project management provided a solid foundation for introducing the new tools.

UNDRR adopted a comprehensive entity risk register and risk treatment plan aligned with the Secretariat Enterprise Risk Management. Improvements to central monitoring tools such as the management and KPI dashboards assisted in the oversight of operational benchmarks and effectiveness.

UNDRR continued to perform well against gender-parity performance indicators. By the end of 2021, 58 per cent of staff were female.



**"I hope this recognition will encourage other young women to follow their dreams of becoming scientists or engineers. We need gender balance in these professions and the whole of society will benefit."**

**Dr. Rahma Hanifa**

Winner of the WIN DRR Rising Star Award

## MAINSTREAMING GENDER EQUALITY AND DISABILITY INCLUSION

In 2021, UNDRR mainstreamed gender equality across all objectives of the UNDRR Strategic Framework for 2022-2025, and incorporated **gender and disability** into organizational policies, guidelines, messaging, and mechanisms. This included making improvements to reporting standards and practices on disaggregating sex, age, and disability data, leveraging women's leadership in DRR, and increasing gender-responsive COVID-19 and health-centred recovery.

The UNDRR flagship women's leadership programme, the **Women's International Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (WIN DRR)**, grew rapidly in 2021, through the establishment of national networks in Asia-Pacific, and a new Latin America and the Caribbean Women's Network for DRR.

One of the priorities of WIN DRR is to recognize the achievements of women working in disaster risk reduction. The inaugural WIN DRR Leadership Awards were presented at a high-level event on International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction to highlight the work of women who are changing the field of disaster risk reduction. The Excellence Award, proudly sponsored by SM Prime, was granted to Vasiti Soko, the Director of the National Disaster Management Office in Fiji, while the Rising Star Award went to Dr. Nuraini Rahma Hanifa, an earthquake scientist who founded the U-INSPIRE Alliance to bring together young professionals working to reduce disaster risk in their communities.

These professional networks for women working in disaster risk reduction promote and support women's leadership by building the evidence base for women's leadership, strengthening leadership capacities,

recognizing women's achievements and supporting DRR institutions in removing barriers faced by women in furthering their career.

**"When a disaster strikes, the whole community can benefit and access support and services only when disaster risk reduction and preparedness are accessible and inclusive. We can best achieve this when persons with disabilities and their representative organizations join us in disaster risk reduction efforts from the start. Finland works with UNDRR to strengthen awareness of and participation in disability inclusive disaster risk reduction."**

**Mr. Ville Skinnari**

Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, Finland

**"Effective disaster risk reduction is inclusive, taking into consideration the capacities and needs of women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. Australia recognizes these people are leaders, first responders, and agents of change. These groups have unique knowledge and experience essential to the survival and to the resilience of their communities. To build sustainable resilience for all and leave no one behind, we must harness these capabilities, and ensure all voices are heard. Australia is proud to support the Women's International Network for Disaster Risk Reduction, a professional network of women in the Asia-Pacific, to enhance their role in decision making, empower them to attain leadership and ensure their voices are heard."**

**Ms. Ceri Teather**

Acting Director, Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Section, Australia

A central tenet of many global frameworks leading up to the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, gender equality was a key corporate action area for UNDRR in 2021. Focus was given to supporting **gender-responsive COVID-19** recovery, integrating gender across early-warning early-action value chains, and women's leadership in disaster risk reduction, as well as to upholding the rights of members of the LGBTQIA+ community. UNDRR also strives to promote gender equality within the organization, with 58 per cent of UNDRR staff female by the end of 2021.

UNDRR co-led the **United Nations Joint Study on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Leadership with UN Women and UNFPA**. The study made nine recommendations for UN entities to advance gender-responsive DRR. These recommendations were endorsed by the UN System to support gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through a gender-responsive midterm review process.

**Disability inclusion** was endorsed globally and in the regions as part of the UNDRR Strategic Framework for 2022-2025, with UNDRR calling attention to, and increasing engagement with, the establishment of accessible disability-friendly DRR projects and communications, that uphold the rights of persons with disabilities.

In the preparation of the regional platforms for DRR, disability groups from the respective regions, and youth representatives, were involved in concept design, session content, facilitating side events on disability-centred DRR, and disseminating takeaway messages.

Inclusivity and intersectionality were foundational themes of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) conference in Europe and Central Asia where the roadmap for 2021-2030 was developed. Keynote speakers at EFDRR side events focused on youth engagement, disability, and gender-responsive DRR, LGBTQIA+ inclusion, disaster displacement, and collaboration with the private sector drew the biggest audiences and interest.



**"We face challenging times: Compounding risks of an increasing climate crisis and COVID-19 hit the most vulnerable the hardest. We need to act urgently and collectively: Understand and anticipate risk, reduce it where possible - also by enabling anticipatory action, respond where necessary and build back better. We are grateful for UNDRR's strong efforts and guidance for the implementation of the Sendai Framework."**

### Ms. Luise Amtsberg

Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Assistance at the German Federal Foreign Office, Germany

## TRANSITIONING BEYOND COVID-19

In 2021, COVID-19, a systemic risk and global crisis, continued to affect millions of people around the world, causing record losses in lives and destruction of livelihoods. In response, UNDRR continued to follow its COVID-19

### Implementation amid and beyond COVID-19 pandemic supports at-risk groups

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of supporting children and youth with disaster-safety education. In 2021, UNDRR expanded the delivery of the Korean School Safety Programme to students with disabilities and those situated in remote and rural areas of the Republic of Korea. The programme, jointly delivered by the UNDRR Office of Northeast Asia, the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Citizens' Coalition for Safety, was adapted for online learning amid COVID-19. Its successful use shows that with appropriate adaptation to the environment, students and teachers can still achieve intended learning outcomes of the programme and continue to support online learning for remote populations beyond the pandemic. In 2021, training was conducted both in-person and online to help more students and schools become disaster prepared and disaster-risk aware.

Engagement Strategy to align new and existing global DRR and early-warning frameworks, policies, and technical guidelines with national and regional health initiatives. This strategy helped stakeholders increase evidence and learning foundations to improve the consolidation of novel, or once fringe, issues like biological hazards into mainstream risk-reduction thinking. The strategy also proved to be a timely instrument for leveraging partnerships and disseminating relevant guidance and information.

UNDRR made collaborative, data-centric, technical, and behavioural strides to shift perspectives on understanding the nature of risk, the interplay of climate change and other natural and human-made hazards, and the importance of embedding ambitious DRR targets and approaches into national health, economic, and social plans and projects.

Moreover, UNDRR worked with the regions and its partners to make DRR spaces more inclusive and resilient for communities and cities to better adjust in the face of multiplying shocks. UNDRR global and regional training on how to align DRR approaches and mechanisms with health-focused systems and services, resulted in 40 per cent of participants channelling their new-found DRR knowledge into local COVID-19 response and recovery plans, and another 58 per cent leading or contributing to local government consultations.

As COVID-19 shows signs of waning in many parts of the world, governments, DRR stakeholders and activists are now faced with the hybrid task of providing immediate, effective disaster-risk and emergency stopgaps while also thinking beyond the pandemic to address emerging realities and the future shocks we, as global citizens, will undoubtedly face.

UNDRR's humanitarian-development action was strengthened through improved disaster-data quality standards and enshrined in both the online Sendai Framework Monitoring (SFM) system and

global frameworks for disaster-related statistics. Such instruments were integral for measuring, assessing, and forecasting disaster risk, damage, and loss in multiple contexts. Through aligning national frameworks and strategies, United Nations country teams (UNCTs) could better leverage partnerships with humanitarian-development stakeholders and incite collective DRR action that enlisted Sendai Framework and SDG outcomes to build back better and ensure no one is left behind in the process.

As part of the pilot for testing the *Scaling up DRR in Humanitarian Action Checklist* in 2021, UNDRR and UNOCHA published two country-piloted snapshots for Haiti and Pakistan. UNCTs in Bangladesh and South Sudan equally championed the roll-out of the checklist, and technical support was provided to them to strengthen the integration of DRR in humanitarian planning and programming.

Through partnership with OCHA, disaster risk reduction became part of humanitarian policy references including the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) 2022 Facilitation Package and the IASC RC/HC Handbook on Leadership in Humanitarian Action.

To strengthen coordination on DRR in the humanitarian agenda, UNDRR officially launched the initiative *Scaling up DRR in Humanitarian Action* in 2021.<sup>1</sup> Core partners include IOM, UNICEF, OCHA and UNDP, and it has more than 15 other humanitarian and DRR partners including NGOs. The initiative provides practical guidance, tools, knowledge sharing and technical support to risk-inform humanitarian action.

## SCALING UP DRR IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

**"The School Safety Programme [jointly delivered by the UNDRR Office of Northeast Asia, the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Citizens' Coalition for Safety] helped my students to have a better understanding of disaster. Their conceptualization of disasters has changed from just enumerating different types of hazards such as earthquake, typhoon and so forth, to identifying risk factors."**

### Ms. Seo Seonju

Instructor at Citizens' Coalition for Safety (CCS) in Jeju

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.undr.org/publication/scaling-disaster-risk-reduction-humanitarian-action>

# **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

The Sendai Framework Monitoring (SFM) portal was **designed for Member States to assess and track global progress in reducing disaster losses and risks, and contributions made towards accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** outcomes related to disaster risk reduction. By year end, data from **155 countries was collated and archived** through the platform, representing 80 per cent of UN Member and Observer States. Of these, 78 countries reported on all seven global targets of the Sendai Framework at least once.

Throughout the year, UNDRR continued to support Member States in regular reporting on the seven Sendai Framework Global Targets A through G and related targets and indicators of SDGs 1, 11, and 13. Technical consultations, operational efforts, knowledge sharing, and capacity building were central to increasing country engagement with the SFM and strengthened common data standards for verifying the success of preventative and post-disaster risk-reduction solutions.

Increasing data accessibility and geographical coverage helped UNDRR monitor disaster risk reduction progress and update Sendai Framework reports and policies in a timely and comprehensive manner. Using available data, UNDRR spearheaded efforts in providing evidence-driven and detailed analytical inputs to United Nations formal mechanisms and reports, including the **2021 High-Level Political Forum, Sustainable Development Goals Report for 2021, Special Report of the Secretary-General on SDG Implementation, the UN Secretary General's Report on Sendai Framework Implementation**, in addition to the forthcoming Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022.

To improve the understanding of the current global disaster-data ecosystem and how SFM strengthens it, UNDRR organized a Technical Forum on the platform. Over 200 participants from around the world took part in the two-day event to deliberate on technical standards, innovative practices in data collection, data and metric applications, and methods for securing data quality. The event demonstrated the varied current and potential uses and applications of SFM data and metrics and its contributions to strengthening data standards.

To further improve disaster-data standards, UNDRR led global efforts to advance official disaster statistics, as a core aspect of Sendai Framework Monitoring, through taking a central role in the ongoing development of the global framework on disaster-related statistics in partnership with the statistical division of UN DESA and the five UN Regional Commissions.

In all regions, the SFM strengthened official data for disaster-related loss and damage tools, and enhanced understanding progress in disaster risk reduction for national stakeholders, United Nations country teams (UNCTs), and humanitarian-development partners. This, in turn, guided collective DRR action to accelerate achievement of Sendai Framework targets and SDG outcomes. The launch of a regional SFM module further enabled monitoring of regional progress in disaster risk reduction by intergovernmental organizations.

In **Asia and the Pacific**, the regional office worked closely with UNCTs to synchronize Sendai Framework indicators across new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) and national DRR plans. In Lao PDR, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia, new UNSDCFs drew from Sendai Framework indicators to measure and accelerate progress. Instrumental to this process was online and in-person training in Indonesia, Thailand, Lao PDR, Brunei, Republic of Korea, India and the Philippines, where more than 1,500 participants from the region took part. Similarly, the UNDRR Pacific sub-Office collaborated with the Pacific Community and RedR Australia to facilitate SFM capacities through workshops and one-on-one sessions for 30 stakeholders from 14 countries, including 12 small-island developing states (SIDS). As a result, SIDS reporting saw an impressive 400 per cent increase compared to the previous year. Overall, online e-learning tools were updated, helping regional partners improve SFM engagement during the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the **Arab States**, WHO country offices in Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon coordinated with UNDRR to mobilize all national ministries of health in providing disaggregated and accurate data on COVID-19 losses (primarily under targets A, B and D) for SFM reporting purposes – information that was translated and disseminated to national Sendai Framework and WHO Health Ministry focal points in the region.

In **Africa**, UNDRR supported Member States in their efforts to report on the Sendai Framework Monitor through organizing seven virtual SFM Support Days. The SFM Support Days provided regular support to SFM focal points to foster a community of practice for the SFM monitoring and reporting process in Africa. SFM Support Days allowed UNDRR to share system updates on new features and reporting progress, with sessions focused on Targets A, B, E and F, as well as sectoral coordination and the use of the new SFM regional module. Approximately 70 participants from 40 Member States participated in the monthly virtual meetings, with presentations, summaries and technical guidance notes shared with all SFM focal points. Direct individual support was also provided to Member States upon request, including Mauritius, Madagascar, Liberia, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Guinea and Cabo Verde. As a direct result, four of these countries joined the reporting process in 2021.



UNDRR and partners in **Europe and Central Asia** provided support to over 50 government stakeholders, monitoring disaster-risk outcomes in Albania, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom and, through the Central Asia Initiative, experts and policy makers in Central Asia, on the use of the Sendai Framework Monitoring system. Targeted technical support was also provided to DRR focal points in France, Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom on improving reporting standards on COVID-19 impacts. Regional engagement with the European Commission helped UNDRR amplify coordination of the monitoring of the Sendai Framework and the Union Disaster Resilience Goals (DRGs) – particularly targets E and G. Work focused on the two initial priorities set by the European Commission in rolling out its work on the Disaster Resilience Goals (disaster-risk management plans and early-warning systems / risk information), and the potential development of customized regional indicators within the Sendai Framework Monitor.

Twenty-eight countries (representing over 77 per cent) in the **Americas and the Caribbean** uploaded disaster-risk data through the SFM, providing useful information for working groups focused on DRR and disaster-related statistics. The technical secretariat of UNDRR and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) used this data to publish the Institutional and Methodological Recommendations for Measuring Disaster-related SDG Indicators and Sendai Framework Indicators in Spanish. This document is slated for approval by the Statistics Conference of the Americas in early 2022, before being translated into English.

**Building trust through official data:** Information accessed through the SFM portal is applied in the creation and implementation of localized policies and initiatives, and in raising support for strengthening disaster-risk statistics and modalities. Having established the SFM in 2018, UNDRR supports countries in reporting to it based on a long-standing disaster-loss accounting system, DesInventar, that facilitates reporting on four of the seven Sendai Framework global targets related to disaster losses.

To meet Sendai Framework conventions, the online tool simplifies data collection and aggregation for governments, international organizations, disaster risk reduction outfits, CSOs, and other stakeholders, when reporting on the seven global targets,<sup>2</sup> and 38 indicators agreed by Member States. Thanks to an improved classification system of hazards and disaster-related statistics, SFM data is distilled and made accessible in real-time, enabling users to evaluate data by region, country, year, target (A through G), and indicator. It thus helps stakeholders improve national data standards, develop policy and monitor targets, secure DRR financing, and establish localized monitoring and evaluation systems effectively.

Official disaster statistics generated through the Sendai Framework Monitor, and related SDG indicators, provide reliable means to assess progress in reducing disaster risk and adapting to climate change, and to inform and monitor disaster-risk management and anticipatory action.

The **UNDRR Office in Bonn**, responsible for facilitating SFM capacity development for governments and interested organizations, incorporated recommendations that improved how data was featured, accessed, and evaluated. Looking ahead, UNDRR will continue to scale-up methodologies for the global framework that will improve the robustness of data in the system. In addition, a new disaster-loss accounting system is in development that will contribute to the SFM process, particularly targets A to D, while enhancing the understanding of risk.

Furthermore, related to Target G of the Sendai Framework – focused on increasing the availability of and access to multi-hazard early-warning systems and disaster-risk information and assessments to the people by 2030 – UNDRR is partnering with WMO, through a joint initiative supported by the **Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems** (CREWS), to develop a set of custom indicators for countries to better measure the effectiveness of their multi-hazard early-warning systems.

Developed in consultation with an expert working group, the custom indicators complementing the global indicators under Target G, will be integrated into the Sendai Framework Monitor, and available in all six United Nations languages in 2022, for countries to choose based on their contexts. The feature is expected to especially benefit the LDCs and SIDS in the Caribbean, Pacific and Africa that are particularly vulnerable to natural and biological hazards.

Reducing gaps on the ground and implementing preventative measures requires collective action along with statistical rigour and strengthened common data standards. Behind the SFM indicators are lived experiences and new opportunities that feed into the design of strategic action for preventing or reducing future disaster losses.

<sup>2</sup> This includes mortality, people affected, economic loss, critical infrastructure/services, DRR strategies, international cooperation, and early warning and risk information.

## 1.2 GLOBAL RISK DATA, ANALYSIS, AND POLICY ADVICE GENERATED

At global level, UNDRR refined the **Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF)** internal methods and operational capacities in Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Eswatini, Fiji, Pakistan, Somalia and Sudan. UNDRR improved endorsement of, access to, and use of, risk data for national government employees, engaging 400 local stakeholders in ways of analysing interconnected and systemic risks that directly support local DRR policy decisions. GRAF-supported action led to improvements in modelling DRR and preparedness solutions, a better understanding of local vulnerabilities, and the creation of robust simulations that capture cascading impacts according to a chain of potential events. UNDRR also supported Costa Rica, South Sudan, Eswatini and Somalia in assessing systemic risk by modelling connected socio-economic impacts of risk landscapes and bringing them in line with national budget and planning priorities. Assessments led to improvements in the systemic risk knowledge and capacities of national ministries (finance, infrastructure, labour, agriculture, transportation, energy, and national planning), disaster-risk management agencies, national research organizations, think tanks, and local non-governmental organizations.

Throughout the year, UNDRR strengthened efforts to become more active in generating core policy guidance on key DRR topics. The [Policy brief: Financing Prevention and De-risking Investment](#) explored the challenges faced in financing disaster prevention in relation to the climate emergency, highlighting that prudent risk management requires preparation for a range of negative outcomes associated with varying degrees of warming. The brief

**"Through support from UNDRR's Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF), national institutions are sharing high-quality risk information to strengthen risk knowledge. As shocks are becoming more complex, our cooperation with UNDRR is focusing on assessing systemic risks, including from climate change, to guide financial decision-making and public investment, with particular focus on the protection of public infrastructure to avoid loss and damage and encourage early recovery in case of disaster events."**

**Mr. Carlos Picado**

Head of National Emergency Commission, Strategic Development Unit, Costa Rica

provided policy recommendations including establishing a pipeline for disaster and climate-resilient infrastructure investment and COVID-19 stimulus packages that build resilience.

In addition, UNDRR's Strategic Framework for 2022-2025 integrates the DRR agenda with the climate agenda and employs climate-risk reduction as a fundamental accelerator for organizational performance in supporting the achievement of the Sendai Framework. In support of this key accelerator, the UNDRR [Policy Brief: Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change](#) called for scaled-up actions in key areas to better address the climate emergency and provide decision-makers with concrete recommendations for risk-informed climate action. Moreover, the establishment of an internal climate-change accelerator group and climate-change strategy both fed into the UNDRR roadmap for scaling-up climate action at the COP26 and beyond.

In **Asia and the Pacific**, UNDRR used GRAF to support the development of a new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the Pacific that includes a systemic risk approach built on a foundation of data and recommendations for improving cross-sectoral risk governance in 14 Common Country Analyses (CCAs).

In **Europe and Central Asia**, UNDRR in collaboration with the Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) and the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South-eastern Europe (DPPI SEE) updated the sub-national **INFORM risk index** that was first developed by OCHA and European Commission's Joint

Research Centre for the Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Force for Caucasus and Central Asia. With an interactive visual dashboard, the INFORM Risk Index for Central Asia and the South Caucuses and South-east Europe shows how risks differ across sub-national units in a country and draws from 60 indicators to correlate exposure to hazards, socio-economic vulnerability, and coping capacities in Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan.

Moreover, with support from UNDRR, the **European Science and Technology Advisory Group (E-STAG)** co-produced an important and timely policy paper on research needed to address climate-adaptation gaps. This paper contributed to exploring options for implementing adaptation actions toward multi-hazard risk reduction and cascading risks and the compound nature of disasters locally and across national frontiers.

The publication of the [Regional Assessment Report \(RAR 2021\)](#) in the **Americas and the Caribbean** addressed critical gaps in risk knowledge and contributed substantially to fostering collaboration among key stakeholders from science and academic and decision makers. Launched in 2021, the first-ever RAR report detailed evidence-based insights into emerging trends and new drivers of risk in the region, including an account of the progress made towards meeting the targets of the Sendai Framework and analysis of the root causes and manifestations of risk that are leading to increasingly devastating disasters in both human and material terms.

UNDRR collaboration with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) institutions, and intergovernmental organizations, led to a widely publicized launch that characterized the need for more multi-sector approaches that cover risks in the region. Similarly, a regional [Working Group on the Measurement and Recording of Indicators Related to Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020-2021](#) was created to support the analysis of national Sendai Framework implementation.

In the **Arab States**, UNDRR launched the *first Regional Assessment Report on DRR* during a special session at the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for disaster risk reduction in November 2021. The report represented a major step towards the adoption of a modern, regional view of disaster-risk countermeasures, as well as an analysis of region-specific systemic drivers. The report also covered contextualized case studies on vulnerability, rapid urbanization, conflict, and food security, and a review of seven emerging systemic risks in the region.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Chapter 1 identifies seven systemic risks namely: rural/agricultural risk with rising food insecurity; systemic risk in a rapidly urbanizing region; overdependence on natural resource extraction and non-sustainable consumption and production patterns; the COVID-19 pandemic; cyber risk in cities with advanced infrastructure systems; emerging nuclear energy risks; and the climate change-disasters-conflict migration nexus.

The UNDRR regional office in **Africa** ramped up action in Ethiopia, by rolling-out a capacity-building initiative on early-warning forest-fire information management and risk-sensitive budget reviews. In collaboration with national authorities from DRR, forests, and meteorology, the forest-fire information-management system relies on the MyDEWETRA platform, an open-source web-based system for real-time data collection, monitoring, and forecasting of natural hazards. RISCO, the forest-fire forecasting model, has also been integrated into the platform to demonstrate how early warnings are issued through the system and where early action is required. The system will assist national and regional authorities in improving the social and economic resilience of communities in fire-prone areas. On the monitoring and assessment side, the risk-sensitive budget review proved critical for tracking and promoting DRR investments in Ethiopia.

## In full bloom: DRR engagement in East Africa

Emergencies and disasters have exposed gaps in East African countries and exacerbated negative societal and economic trends, including the rise of gender-based violence (GBV), teenage pregnancy, and food insecurity. In Kenya, women and girls are often responsible for balancing environmental, livelihood, and social responsibilities – whether they farm or collect water and firewood, the environmental ramifications of the hazards (e.g., drought, pollution) encountered, expose them to risks that affect entire communities, family-planning choices, health indicators, levels of insecurity and access to education and services. Many

governments in Africa have prioritized saving lives and preventing losses through the **maintenance of multi-hazard early-warning systems** that are sector-focused and based in established ministries. In **Kenya**, local administrators responsible for emergency and disaster-management action, a role they share with national and county governments, understand the importance of strengthening preparedness plans to facilitate the response to disasters. This requires greater support to enhance human capacities and financial resources needed to design medium-term to long-term prevention measures.

## UNDRR 2021 Global Assessment Special Report on Drought: Madagascar

UNDRR's launch of the 2021 Global Assessment Special Report on Drought provided visible, highly policy-relevant leadership in risk reduction. The report draws connections between operational insights from development and humanitarian partners, researchers and policymakers around the world, with practical and context-aware advice on transformations needed to build long-term disaster-risk resilience in communities and institutions. The report brought to life systemic approaches to understanding risk through case studies that outline the complex and cascading impact of drought in various societies. Following the launch of the report, regional offices tailored events to expand regional and bilateral DRR partnerships.

Immediately following the regional event for Africa, UNDRR was contacted by the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in Madagascar who expressed interest in further applying the recommendations from the GAR Special Report on Drought for in-country planning.

Madagascar is grappling with its worst drought in 40 years, as well as security, social, institutional and development challenges.

Recognising the cross-cutting nature of the report and linkages with the work of the UN Country Team in Madagascar, the UNRC invited UNDRR and report authors to present an overview of the report to the entire UN Country Team, as well as to donors and partners in early 2022. The aim of the briefing was to align the UN's response to the drought in southern Madagascar with longer-term resilience-planning across the UN System, and to identify partners at various levels of government and the private sector in Madagascar with similar priorities. The fact that the delegated representative of the UN System in Madagascar singled out the GAR Special Report on Drought as a model for understanding and managing the risks Madagascar faces, is a testament to the clarity, utility and practicality of the report's recommendations.

# 1.3

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

In 2021, UNDRR conducted consultations with a broad range of stakeholders to ensure global-level coordination and review mechanisms of the Sendai Framework. The organization of the Seventh Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2022), scheduled to take place from 23 to 28 May 2022, in Indonesia, made significant progress, with multi-stakeholder teams, composed of representatives of 172 different organizations, established to shape the substantive sessions of the GP2022, while the four Regional Platforms provided significant regional input for the global deliberations set to take place.

An important milestone was achieved with the adoption of General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/76/204) on Disaster Risk Reduction in December 2021, in which Member States agreed to convene a Midterm Review (MTR) of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The Midterm Review will culminate in a high-level meeting of the General Assembly in New York in 2023 and adopt a concise and action-oriented political declaration to renew commitment, accelerate implementation and inform the ECOSOC High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the SDGs Summit at the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly in 2023.



# **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2**

Support To Regional And National Sendai  
Framework Implementation



# 2.1

## NATIONAL AND LOCAL DRR STRATEGIES AND PLANS ARE DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED IN LINE WITH SENDAI FRAMEWORK IN COHERENCE WITH CLIMATE ACTION AND THE SDGS

### NATIONAL AND LOCAL DRR STRATEGIES (TARGET E OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK) AND DISASTER-LOSS DATABASES

By the end of 2021, 123 countries reported the existence of national disaster risk reduction strategies—an increase of 124 percent from 2015, when only 55 countries reported the adoption of such strategies. This increase was a result of growing appreciation among countries for adopting multi-hazard approaches, including enhanced integration with climate change adaptation plans, and fuelled by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to the design of risk-informed sustainable development solutions. An additional factor that contributed to the increase in numbers was the deadline set by Member States for developing national and local DRR strategies by 2020. UNDRR enhanced advocacy for integrated approaches and scaled-up technical assistance to countries to enable this shift.

To this end, UNDRR initiated a comprehensive disaster and climate risk management (CRM) programme to incorporate adaptation and climate information in national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and embed risk-centred approaches into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). The programme—integral to the UNDRR package of support on Target E of establishing DRR strategies at both national and local level—was launched in several LDCs and

SIDS in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Arab States, and the Americas and the Caribbean. Technical resources were designed to complement national DRR and adaptation strategy building and planning processes, for example, *Promoting Synergy and Alignment Between Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in the context of National Adaptation Plans* guide and the UNDRR-GIZ *Technical Guidance on Comprehensive Risk Assessment and Planning in the Context of Climate Change*.

In **Asia and the Pacific**, UNDRR supported Member States in strengthening their disaster-loss data systems with technical assistance. In India, UNDRR provided technical assistance to refine the design of disaster information-management systems, which included a module on damage and loss data, geographic disaggregation down to district level, and the introduction of a unique disaster ID in their National Disaster Management Information System (NDMIS). UNDRR's support also enhanced decentralized disaster-loss accounting capacities at state and district level. In Bangladesh, UNDRR helped enhance interoperability of data on relief, humanitarian needs and disaster damage and loss. All 14 Pacific UN Member States self-assessed and reported having a national plan or strategy. Furthermore, through UNDRR support, historical disaster-loss data was updated for 12 SIDS and 10 territories in the Pacific, covering events between 2016 and 2021.

In the **Americas and the Caribbean**, UNDRR provided support on developing national DRR plans in alignment with the regional Caribbean Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy. With UNDRR's extensive support, Guyana adopted its Country Work Programme for Comprehensive Disaster Management 2021–2025 (DRR strategy). Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Antigua and Barbuda, are at the latest phase of developing their DRR strategies, while Trinidad and Tobago will complete the strategy by the first quarter of 2022. Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and the Bahamas launched the process of developing national DRR strategies, which includes situational analyses to risk-inform their strategies. Bolivia and Uruguay were also supported with national plans focused on biological hazards.

By the end of 2021, five countries—Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Ecuador, Bolivia and Honduras—added loss and damage data and migrated their data sets from the original DesInventar database to the most recent DesInventar-Sendai version. Technical and programme teams in several of these countries uploaded and verified data from 2020 and earlier, while in Bolivia and Honduras they took part in DesInventar training sessions, which triggered the initiation of the data-collection stage.

Likewise, in **Europe and Central Asia**, 33 countries reported progress on national DRR strategies through the Sendai Framework Monitoring system, while 11 countries were using the DesInventar disaster-loss database system. Throughout 2021, UNDRR supported national stakeholders in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on the use of peer-review strategy-assessment tools to ensure national disaster risk reduction strategies are inclusive, robust, and in line with Sendai Framework recommendations. Overall, efforts assisted in increasing efficiency and relevance, ensuring sustainability, and building confidence and ownership in the DRR agenda at national, regional and international levels. The regional office also engaged with Albania, Sweden, Germany, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg and Kazakhstan on developing and revising national DRR strategies. Country-level efforts were complemented by the regional facilitation of technical discussions at the European Forum for DRR and collaboration with the European Commission on joint work plans.

In **Africa**, UNDRR supported Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique and Malawi in the collection of disaster-loss data and in increasing the quality of data in the national disaster-loss database. In four of the above countries in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region, UNDRR collaborated with the Netherlands Red Cross to enhance the use of disaster-loss data for the setting of early-warning triggers and anticipatory action. Five countries joined the reporting process in 2021 from 28 reporting in total, while two additional countries added data for the Sendai Framework Monitor baseline. This allowed UNDRR to mobilize countries on key reporting milestones pertaining to Target E.

In the **Arab States**, 14 countries reported the existence of national DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework, while 10 countries reporting using the DesInventar disaster-loss database system. Action centred on expediting partnerships and providing technical support to national counterparts and implementing partners on addressing biological hazards, in the context of COVID-19, in national strategies and preparedness plans in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, as well as on a revision of the structure of their respective national DRR platforms. These considered the needs of respective governments, health stakeholders and international partners when applying the framework of the project *Building Back Better from COVID-19 in the Arab States: Applying the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Enabling a Prevention-Oriented and Risk-Informed Approach*. The UNDRR regional office also mapped national policy landscapes on coherence between DRR, climate change and the SDGs for stakeholders in Comoros, Djibouti and Mauritania.

### Disaster-loss accounting

Over 120 countries and territories use disaster-loss databases (SFM and DesInventar) managed by UNDRR to access standardized data on 750,000 instances of disaster-related losses and damage at national and sub-national levels. As the current system has been in operation since 1994, UNDRR is developing a next-generation disaster-loss accounting system in partnership with UNDP. Part of this process saw a UNDRR technical team conduct a mapping and needs analysis, draw down digital diagnostics of in-country existing disaster-data solutions, and develop a visionary roadmap for the new system which is central to authenticating and validating data that can improve the functionality, effectiveness and sustainability of future DRR interventions.

## MAKING CITIES RESILIENT 2030 (MCR2030)



Inspired by the United Nations Decade of Action, 2030 Agenda, and Making Cities Resilient Campaign (2010-2020), UNDRR together with

11 Core Partners (C40 cities, ICLEI, IFRC, JICA, R-Cities, UCLG, UN-HABITAT, UNDP, UNOPS, WCCD and the World Bank) rolled out the **Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030)** initiative in 2021 as a global partnership to accelerate local disaster risk reduction and resilience. An ambitious and bold collaboration, MCR2030 counts on the participation of local governments and service providers to design and implement disaster risk reduction strategies in urban centres. Support provided to cities includes, for example, awareness-raising workshops and training on disaster resilience, ways of improving risk analysis and data management, approaches for strengthening climate, disaster-risk governance, and fostering better cross-sector links at municipal level, and strategies to increase city-to-city exchanges.

At global level, the MCR2030 delivery strategy is negotiated and agreed by the Core Partners, through the Global Coordinating Committee (GCC), and supported by the MCR2030 Global Secretariat, which is served by UNDRR's Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) based in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

By the year end, with the support of partners, 309 MCR2030 cities reported having DRR strategies in place to guide actions to reduce risks and build resilience. In addition, 168 cities are in the stage of strengthening capacities to assess resilience and formulating DRR and resilience strategies. UNDRR and MCR2030 partners continued providing technical support and training for local authorities and stakeholders on the tools and capacity needed to develop urban baseline resilience assessments.

Based on a post-training impact survey in 2021, UNDRR's training session participants incorporated DRR strategies into their workspace, with many taking it further to amplify DRR impact in local communities and networks. Having MCR2030 and its resilience roadmap as an umbrella of collaboration on local resilience, the competitive advantage of each MCR2030 partner was exercised, permitting enhanced support to cities and municipalities in becoming inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. For example, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) delivered training for MCR2030 cities and national municipal associations, and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) provided a platform for the cities to share their experiences. World Council on City Data (WCCD) is working to support MCR2030 cities with collecting and maintaining standardised data and R-Cities empowered a number of their network cities to become Resilience Hubs under the MCR2030.

**At regional level, UNDRR regional offices** strengthened vertical links between national and local authorities in support of urban resilience and promoted DRR uptake through the MCR2030, implementation of disaster risk reduction scorecards, frameworks, training and related approaches. The MCR2030 Regional Coordinating Committees (RCC) in each region are responsible for coordinating and ensuring synergies among regional partners to provide technical support to cities and empower them to progress along the resilience roadmap. This decentralized operation is the key to ensuring MCR2030 responds to the contextualized needs of each region. The RCCs are supported by the Regional Secretariats served by the respective UNDRR Regional Offices.

In the **Americas and the Caribbean**, nine new cities or local governments from the region completed self-assessment reports using the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities. For Brazil, sub-national government action was crucial in promoting and disseminating guidelines, addenda, technical support and tools such as DRR scorecards related to MCR2030, helping build momentum among existing strategic partners and strengthening local DRR and climate-

**"Campinas [São Paulo, Brazil] is recognized as an international leader in building resilience and is committed to working to integrate various municipal agencies, the community, and the private sector to implement public policies for disaster risk reduction and, especially at this time, seeking to develop coping mechanisms with inclusion policies in post-COVID recovery."**

**Mr. Dário Saadi**

Mayor of Campinas, 2021, in recognition of the city becoming a MCR2030 Resilience Hub

## Making Cities Resilient Milestones In 2021

**OVER 641 LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS** (RESPONSIBLE FOR A COMBINED POPULATION OF 423 MILLION RESIDENTS) AND **164 SERVICE PROVIDERS** JOINED MCR2030 TO OFFER AND RECEIVE TECHNICAL SUPPORT, RESOURCES AND SERVICES ON URBAN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK.

## MCR2030 Core Partners

**GLOBAL AND REGIONAL SECRETARIATS:** UNDRR

**CORE PARTNERS:**

C40 CITIES \* ICLEI - LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY (ICLEI) \* JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY \* INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES \* RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK \* UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCLG) \* UN-HABITAT \* UNDRR \* UNOPS \* UNDP \* WORLD BANK \* WORLD COUNCIL ON CITY DATA

hazard networks. Stakeholders in Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Santa Catarina and São Paulo formally engaged their state departments of civil protection and defence in applying MCR2030 methodologies.

In Colombia, the regional office supported capacity-development events framed in a long-term collaboration with the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management. As a result, 589 local government officials were trained in MCR2030. Moreover, Jamaica became the first country with all its 14 municipal corporations signing up for MCR2030 – an exemplary demonstration of stakeholder commitment to disaster risk reduction and resilience-building, as well as readiness to implement local assessment and planning tools that contribute to meeting the Sendai Framework

## Raising urban resilience with MCR2030

Based on its proximity to the Yellow Sea and Han River, residents of Incheon, Republic of Korea, have contended with social and economic hardships linked to adverse events. The city, home to 2.8 million people, has seen a rise in natural hazards like floods, heatwaves, landslides, earthquakes, and human-induced accidents such as industrial fires. In response, city officials signed up to the MCR2030 initiative and integrated disaster risk reduction approaches across vital sectors in ten districts, helping local administrators, businesses, and residents ramp up disaster-prevention, preparedness, and recovery efforts, and associations with several health responses. This move led to global acclamation for the effective use of data, science, and technology to create targeted preparedness and response actions to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a Resilience Hub, Incheon City stakeholders committed to implementing an ambitious three-year action plan that will further strengthen local resilience and can inspire partner cities. "Incheon has a long track record in innovation and dedication to disaster risk reduction, which is why we are glad to have it as the first Resilience Hub in the Asia-Pacific region. [...] It will serve as a source of inspiration and expertise in helping other cities in the region and beyond." Mr. Marco Toscano-Rivalta, Chief of the Asia-Pacific Regional Office of the UNDRR.

and SDG indicators. Additionally, three cities in the region (Medellin, Mexico City and Campinas) demonstrated commitment as MCR2030 Resilience Hubs. The primary purpose of the Resilience Hubs is to enhance city-to-city collaborations and peer-to-peer support along the resilience journey. Resilience Hubs have a critical role in supporting other MCR2030 cities in knowledge sharing, capacity building and creating learning opportunities.

To accelerate MCR2030 efforts in **Africa**, UNDRR organized five webinars on local DRR strategies and an urban resilience campaign that reached over 200 representatives from local and national agencies in Ghana, Uganda and The Gambia in taking forward recommendations and championing the revision of local strategies, so they are in line with the Sendai Framework. Links between national and local partners continued to be strengthened as evidenced in Uganda, where the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development mobilized participants in seven regional cities, with a combined population of five million, in setting up local governance resilience networks. In 2021, three cities in Uganda completed the development of disaster risk reduction strategies based on the baseline evidence created from the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities assessment, with support from UNDRR and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) Africa.

Continued support from the Regional Office to national and local governments across **Africa** unfolded vis-à-vis the development of local strategies and context-relevant training and technical support. In collaboration with UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Reduction in Mauritius, UNDRR facilitated a workshop for local representatives on multi-stakeholder engagement, self-assessment and strategy development to promote joint action for building resilience and the design of local disaster risk reduction strategies and action plans that contribute to building the resilience of 1.2 million people. Collaboration across networks increased support to local governments – like the African Research and Impact Network and Africa Smart Cities Network – in championing local DRR strategies.

In **Asia and the Pacific**, partners involved in the MCR2030 received commitments from stakeholders to reduce local disasters and climate risk, along with raising resilience through campaign initiatives. The UNDRR Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) and the regional office organized webinars in Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea while, in the Philippines, MCR2030 tools were used to support government priorities in providing enhanced support to local governments on disaster risk reduction. As a result, the Philippine Office of Civil Defence, together with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and Union of Local Authorities jointly launched the national programme on MCR2030 in October, with over 70 cities signing up to the MCR2030 dashboard. The dashboard is a closed online platform accessible only by users that signed up

to MCR2030. It helps to facilitate the connection and foster exchanges and collaboration among cities and organizations in making cities resilient.

Incheon Metropolitan City became the first city in the region to become a MCR2030 Resilience Hub, committed to providing capacity-building support, promoting city-to-city exchanges and opportunities for peer-to-peer learning to MCR2030 cities. In 2021, Ningbo, Shanghai and Beijing in the People's Republic of China used the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities to assess their disaster-resilience progress. The assessment will inform further contextualization of MCR2030 tools, in 2022, to support Chinese local authorities on risk-reduction and resilience.

At local level in **Europe and Central Asia**, UNDRR oversaw the launch and implementation of the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative, bringing together 68 participating

**"We use the [UNDRR] disaster-resilience assessment tool and scorecard in our annual planning and monitoring processes, relying on it as a source of information to gauge where we are and our gaps. MCR tools helped us better organize in Makati, structure disaster-risk management initiatives, and track city progress to improve disaster resilience over time, as well as identify priorities for future investment and action."**

**Ms. Liza Velle B. Ramos**

Head of Research and Planning Division, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office in Makati, Philippines

cities and 46 regional entities in the region. Of special note, the regional office successfully supported the establishment of global Resilience Hubs in Barcelona, Greater Manchester, Helsingborg and Milan – networks of innovators from business, investment, civil society, academia and urban development communities who are committed to mobilizing financing and action to raise the resilience of all urbanites in meaningful and inclusive ways.

Equal success was met in coordinating the involvement of 15 partners in the Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) for Europe and Central Asia; a group comprised of key partners like UNDP, WHO, UNECE, UN-Habitat and UNEP. The RCC coordinated the roll-out of the MCR2030 in the region and provided advisory support on emerging urban trends to the Regional Secretariat as well as to the Global Coordinating Committee of the MCR2030.

Through dedicated project-based engagement, UNDRR guided MCR2030 implementation through the roll-out of Disaster Resilience Scorecard assessments and Public Health Resilience Scorecard assessments. To improve collaboration with the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) in supporting Sendai Framework implementation in 11 countries, UNDRR advocated for increased engagement for MCR2030 at CBSS regional events and the European Forum for DRR.

In Central Asia, meanwhile, UNDRR MCR2030 support to the three capital cities of Bishkek, Dushanbe and Nur-Sultan inspired local stakeholders to initiate the development of 'home-grown' disaster-resilience strategies and action plans. Self-assessments by 13 cities or local governments from Europe and Central Asia are ongoing and expected to inform and strengthen localized DRR and resilience strategies, and support the preparation of bankable projects.

<sup>4</sup> [HCTT NEXUS STRATEGY \(2021-2025\): Humanitarian-Development Collaboration for Climate-Related Disasters in Bangladesh | United Nations in Bangladesh](#)

In the **Arab States**, engagement with local and national administrators, private sector and civil society actors in 22 countries supported on-the-ground efforts in getting 45 cities to join MCR2030. In Somalia, UNDRR facilitated several consultation workshops for Jowhar city to raise awareness on disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development, and introduce the MCR2030 programme. The Disaster Resilience Scorecard for assessing the status of cities' DRR efforts was completed and a resilience action plan for the city of Jowhar was developed with a clear timeframe and set of actions to build the resilience of the city and reduce the effects of disasters. Additionally, three cities in Lebanon also reported assessing disaster-resilience progress using the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities.

## SCALING UP DRR IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

In Bangladesh, UNDRR worked closely with OCHA, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, and USAID to provide support to the Bangladesh Humanitarian Country Task Team (HCTT) on integrating risk information into four local humanitarian policies and plans. A customized INFORM-based sub-national risk assessment was launched, covering 64 districts and 552 upazila local government units in prioritizing DRR and humanitarian preparedness. UNDRR in Bangladesh continues to take the lead on operationalizing the first strategic objective ('risk and impact analysis') of the *HCTT NEXUS STRATEGY (2021-2025): Humanitarian-Development Collaboration for Climate-Related Disasters in Bangladesh* on climate-related disaster.<sup>4</sup> The strategy will minimize the impact of crises by enabling local communities, government and partners in regions exposed to cyclones, monsoons, floods and landslide regions, to act early, minimize losses, and reduce humanitarian financing needs.

## Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities

**Supporting cities in using the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities to identify gaps and priorities for disaster resilience, UNDRR facilitated online training workshops reaching over 3,900 participants from 165 countries and territories in 2021. Among the training, a new course, 'Build back better: Harnessing South-South cooperation and risk reduction planning for resilient and healthy cities in the post COVID-19**

**era', in collaboration with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and World Health Organization (WHO), reached 3,000 participants alone from 155 countries and territories, conducted with interpretation in six languages. Such engagement highlights the importance of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach for sustainable urban development.**

## 2.2

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

UNDRR capacity development programmes continued as a central source of innovation for national and local stakeholders, including UN country teams that rely on UNDRR tools, projects, and technical support to strengthen disaster risk reduction, resilience-building capacities, and risk-informed planning. Working with partners across the United Nations System, UNDRR successfully developed and customized online training modules, greatly contributing to outreach efforts and reaching a range of stakeholders who could access state-of-the-art guidelines and tools. The number of people reached through UNDRR training programmes, webinars and events continued to grow as online and hybrid delivery has vastly enhanced access. The UNDRR Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) reached 21,920 stakeholders through 53 training programmes, 27 events and 16 webinars in 2021. Participants represented national and local government from 178 countries and territories, regional intergovernmental and United Nations organizations, academia, private sector and civil society. 46 per cent of trainees were women.

According to a year-end survey, 75 per cent of training participants had informally shared acquired knowledge with colleagues, 55 per cent applied a DRR lens in their current job, and 49 per cent formally upcycled information in other meetings, training, and events. With 2021 being the second year of the pandemic, 40 per cent reported having used their newfound DRR knowledge to contribute to local COVID-19 response and recovery plans, while 58 per cent led or took part in consultations with local governments and a further 42 per cent within ministries or institutional departments.

In improving the quality and quantity of Sendai Framework contributions to Target E (and SDGs 1, 11 and 13), 59 per cent of participants did both and helped incorporate them in the development or revision of local and national disaster risk reduction strategies.

UNDRR rolled out a training package on **Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation into UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks** (UNSCDFs) reaching over 500 representatives of UN Resident Coordinator Offices, UN Country Teams, and in-country partners in 36 countries.

In **Asia and the Pacific**, UNDRR customized sessions on climate and disaster risk reduction for the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) engaged in developing the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and UNSDCFs, such as Nepal, Thailand and Maldives. UNDRR, UNEP, OHCHR, and UN Women, as part of human-rights-based approach training, delivered joint webinar sessions on climate and the multi-dimensional risk analysis in the Maldives and Thailand that, as a result, gave UNCTs greater insight into how risk-blind development solutions can affect progress in other areas as outcomes cascade across social, economic and ecological systems.

UNDRR also worked with the Asia-Pacific Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) on Building Resilience in advocating at the 77th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for improved national multi-hazard disaster risk governance. As a result, Member States agreed in April 2021 to a resolution (ESCAP Resolution 77/1) that called for better

integration of health into disaster risk reduction through the implementation of the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework. This policy action advanced perspectives on the role of the Bangkok Principles in progressing the health features of the Sendai Framework in the region, in support of improving coordination between health and disaster risk reduction sectors.

In 2021, the regional office in the **Americas and the Caribbean** provided technical support, training, and guidance to UNCTs in the revision of 11 CCAs and UNSDCFs. UNDRR staff facilitated training on embedding DRR in the UNSDCFs and merging DRR considerations into CCAs and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in El Salvador, Guyana, Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia. In addition, UNDRR regional programme officers delivered six training sessions on programmatic principles for UNCT members that highlighted the integration of DRR and climate change adaptation when developing new cooperation frameworks in Honduras, Peru, the multi-country Office for Eastern Caribbean, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Ecuador. Regionally, the IBC on Climate Change and Resilience, co-led by UNDRR and UNEP, spearheaded strategies for disaster risk and climate change analysis and planning tools to support the risk-informed 2030 agenda for sustainable development, as well as the dissemination of common messages that highlight DRR and climate change adaptation strategies.

UNDRR also published the IBC technical report, *Wildfires in Latin America: A preliminary analysis, messages and resources for RC/UNCT* led by UNDRR, UNEP, FAO and WMO with the participation of WHO, OCHA, WFP, ILO, UNDP, UNFCCC, IOM, ECLAC and UNICEF. The report seeks to provide United Nations Country Teams with a regional analytical perspective and resources to better understand and address the issue of wildfires in their different contexts. The IBC contributed to the organization and the contents of the 11th UN-CARICOM General Meeting with substantive inputs to highlight disaster risk and resilience in its resulting statement.

In **Europe and Central Asia**, UNDRR continued to give technical assistance to 18 UNCTs through dedicated focal points and results groups for UNSDCF development and implementation. In Moldova and Serbia, UNDRR contributed to raising local health and disaster resilience by supporting localized UN Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plans for COVID-19 and the uptake of public-health addendum scorecards. Furthermore, UNDRR and the UNDP Regional Hub published a joint study in February on the Impact of COVID-19 on National Disaster Management Agencies in the Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (ECIS) region on the activities of national disaster-management agencies in the region, which served as the basis for targeted events with the UNCTs, Sendai Framework focal points in the ECIS region, and European Forum for DRR.

UNDRR also continued to co-lead the Task Team on DRR and Climate Change Adaptation for the IBC on Environment and Climate Change in Europe, coordinating the production of a regional review of good practices on the integration of DRR and climate change adaptation for risk-informed and climate-smart development. Published and introduced to UNCTs in the region in 2021, the [paper](#) was built on UNDRR's 2020 Guidance Note on Using Climate and Disaster Risk Management to Help Build Resilient Societies.

In **Africa**, stakeholder commitments reinforced the inclusion of DRR and resilience-related activities for projects in the region. UNDRR supported the development and implementation of joint workplans in collaboration with UNCTs in the context of the UNSDCFs in Ethiopia, Madagascar and Nigeria. Following requests from the UN Development Coordination Office, as members of the Peer Support Group, UNDRR provided technical inputs and quality-assurance feedback to Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi, The Gambia and Zimbabwe, to support the reviews of their common country analyses.

In the **Arab States**, the UNDRR regional office published a policy brief on *Health System Resilience and Building Back Better from COVID-19* in close cooperation with WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, the IBC on Food Security, Climate and the Environment, League of Arab States, WHO country offices and national Sendai Framework focal points in the region. The brief was presented during a special session on reducing disaster risk in health sectors at the 5th Arab Regional Platform for DRR.



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## 2.3

### REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS ARE MOBILIZED TO ACCELERATE SF IMPLEMENTATION

UNDRR contributed to accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework at regional level through a series of interventions. In November 2021, UNDRR in the **Americas and the Caribbean** held its 7th Regional Platform for DRR to accelerate stakeholder understanding of disaster risk reduction and incentivize future action. The platform featured 200 panellists over 38 sessions and was streamed by 52,000 people in 85 countries. Preceded by the Youth Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, concrete commitments emerged from the Regional Platform to ensure young people are included in collective efforts to reduce disaster risk and build resilience.

The high-level segment resulted in the acceptance of a ministerial declaration that emphasizes the multi-stakeholder nature of DRR and highlights the importance of inclusivity in projects to ensure no one is left behind. Moreover, the event supported women in taking on active leading and speaking roles – resulting in 53 per cent female participation, including 22 (co)chairs, 103 speakers, 12 in other leading roles (moderators or facilitators), and women comprising 48 per cent of total speakers.

The regional platform resulted in the adoption of a revised regional action plan for implementing the Sendai Framework and a roadmap of regional priorities to advance DRR.

UNDRR is also implementing a regional programme on Strengthening Hydro-Meteorological and Early Warning Services in the Caribbean to strengthen and streamline regional and national early-warning services and capacity. As a result of this project, a draft of the regional

Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) Roadmap was developed and shared with regional stakeholders (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) and Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO)). The roadmap identifies nine Strategic Initiatives to accelerate progress on MHEWS, notably on the transition from traditional EWS to Impact-Based Forecasting (IBF).

UNDRR, as the Secretariat of the **Africa** Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction, supported the African Union Commission to organize two regular sessions of the Africa Working Group on DRR – a principal continental mechanism for DRR that provides technical and coordination support to implement the Sendai Framework in Africa. The Group also provided a platform for all stakeholders to advocate for a coherent and integrated approach to disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable actions, as well as consideration of disaster risk reduction in COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives.

Moreover, in Africa, UNDRR, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, organized the 8th Africa Regional Platform for DRR and the 7th High-Level meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (16-19 November 2021) that was hosted by the Government of Kenya, where the Nairobi Declaration was adopted by Member State representatives. Building on progress achieved under the Tunis Declaration, adopted at the previous regional platform in 2018, and the *Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*

2015-2030 in Africa (adopted by the African Union Heads of State and Government in January 2017), the Nairobi Declaration demonstrates the strong commitment stakeholders have made to disaster risk reduction and resilience-building in Africa to date, and provides actionable steps towards accelerating Sendai Framework implementation across the continent.

Furthermore, UNDRR and UNESCO continued to co-lead the subgroup on building climate and disaster resilience under one of the seven Opportunity/Issue Based Coalitions (OIBCs)-OIBC 5-Fostering Climate Action and Resilience. This made it possible for participating UN organizations to improve the quality of coordinated and coherent support provided to the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities, and Member States to implement

the above-mentioned regional programme, which is the main flagship initiative of OIBC 5.

In the **Arab States**, the 5th Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction under the theme From Risk to Resilience: Accelerating Local Action for Disaster Risk Reduction, was hosted virtually by the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and co-organized by the UNDRR regional office and the League of Arab States (LAS) in November. More than 100 experts and 500 participants from 55 countries gathered at ministerial level to attend the inclusive and interactive platform, comprising 25 sessions. The outcomes will inform the 2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York and the 2022 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.



I VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean (RP21).

During a special session of the Regional Platform, UNDRR organized a regional dialogue on 'Health and DRR in post-COVID context' in collaboration with WHO-EMRO. The dialogue provided an opportunity for participants to enhance capacities across the Arab Region by advancing the integration of biological hazards in DRR strategies, emphasizing the importance of national DRR strategy alignment with long-term development efforts and global initiatives and incentivize sustainable health-system

recovery practices. The United Nations and OECD also organized a global seminar on DRR following the Beirut port explosion in 2020. UNDRR and members of the Lebanese DRM Unit in the Council of Ministers facilitated discussions between 30 different national stakeholders on adopting a multi-hazard approach to DRR that mainstreams disaster-risk management of technological hazards into national, local, and sector strategies and plans.

## Science and technology DRR investments ensure no one is left behind

Extreme climate events have compounded existing social and economic crises in Lebanon, overburdening the public and private sectors and affecting entire communities. Since 2019, more households have fallen below the poverty line and individuals lack access to essential services, resources, job opportunities, institutional support or utilities. Communities are affected by economic adversity, sector stagnation, COVID-19-related restrictions and unstable markets, while youth, women, girls and refugees have been hit the hardest and remain vulnerable to disasters, humanitarian emergencies and extreme environmental events.

In response, national and local stakeholders collaborated with UNDRR to prioritize disaster risk reduction (DRR) in emergency and recovery interventions. For example, the Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development is a civil-society organization that took the lead in designing and implementing DRR initiatives in Lebanon with technical support from UNDRR. The Foundation collaborates with stakeholders when using science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) as entry points to raise civil-society awareness on the SDGs and 2030 Agenda, and to ensure Sendai Framework indicators are embedded in localized DRR plans and activities.

Along with its focus on youth involvement, the Hariri Foundation collaborated with the National Disaster Risk Management Unit to better align local frameworks and activities with the Sendai Framework

and embed STEM-based equity and gender principles in all DRR processes with the aim of empowering women and young people to make meaningful contributions.

Local DRR programmes were inspired by global solutions and modified to fit within the Lebanese context. Working across sectors, the Hariri Foundation and local collaborators incorporated practical STEM solutions and advocated for national and local gender-sensitive policies, communication and initiatives. Investing in science and technology – with a focus on leaving no one behind – is central to the country's future and informing a new wave of intersectional programming that covers education and empowerment, socio-economic development, governance, state building and crisis response. Stakeholder engagement has been integral to embedding these concepts in local priorities, as well as in coordinating projects, mobilizing financing, improving cross-sector network reach, and rolling out multi-dimensional approaches that feature women and youth as primary investors in community and market development, policy research, policymaking, and the design of sustainable, urban socio-economic recovery plans. In 2022, Hariri Foundation members will use their relationships to increase participation rates of women, youth and other marginalized groups in local DRR efforts. There are also plans to use data collection and analysis support to help shape local human-resource management and expand consultative processes with stakeholders, and endorse recommendations for public-health resilience action plans in three major Lebanese cities.

The virtual **Asia-Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction Forum** held in December brought together 200 participants and representatives from 23 Member States, intergovernmental organizations, stakeholder groups and NGOs, who shared information on progress and challenges in the region with a specific focus on financing disaster risk reduction, alignment with the Sendai Framework, and ways of ensuring inclusive and comprehensive approaches to risk management. Throughout the year, UNDRR support to the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) resulted in the adoption of the **Pacific Resilience Standards**, which support the operationalization of the 10 Guiding Resilience Principles for the region and accompanies the launch of pilot projects in Tonga and the Marshall Islands. Together with UNDP, UNDRR also advanced the Issue-Based Coalition on Building Resilience through the development of a [policy brief](#), 'Climate and disaster resilient infrastructure: Building resilience to future uncertainties and shocks', and with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) developed a research publication on [weathering the storms: COVID-19, disasters and internal displacement in the Asia-Pacific](#).

The 2021 European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) held in November, welcomed 1,250 virtual participants and delegations from 49 European and Central Asian Member States. During the Ministerial Roundtable, governments endorsed the [EFDRR Roadmap 2021-2030](#) and its four priority areas,<sup>5</sup> to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework and related SDGs targets in **Europe and Central Asia**. The roadmap lays out challenges, lessons, opportunities and pathways for incentivizing and supporting more risk-informed and inclusive regional, national and local DRR policies, strategies and actions for regional collaboration and information sharing. Developed by the EFDRR working group comprising 13 Member States, recommendations include four collective pathways to achieving the four Sendai Framework priorities for action, 16 common action areas for development and investment, and five enabling approaches for shaping a more disaster-resilient region by 2030.

Additionally in **Europe**, UNDRR supported coordination mechanisms by increasing engagement in developing national platforms in Albania, Turkmenistan and Slovakia, revamping said platforms in Belgium, Finland and Luxembourg, and increasing stakeholder participation in national platform processes in France, Portugal, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. To date, 38 countries in the region are now equipped with DRR-coordination mechanisms. Meanwhile, in **Central Asia**, government partners resolved to develop and strengthen coordination at sub-regional level through the adoption of the Regional DRR Strategy for 2022-2030 and roadmap for its implementation.

<sup>5</sup> The four core areas include understanding and communicating risk, disaster risk governance, risk-informed investments, and preparedness for resilient recovery.

I Beirut's Port explosion (August 5, 2020)



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# **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

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS

2021 was an important year for intergovernmental policy setting on disaster risk reduction. UNDRR scaled-up its efforts on risk-informed policy in intergovernmental deliberations and their outcomes, to address existing gaps, lower risk, raise resilience and promote preventative measures that recognise disaster risk reduction as essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The UNDRR New York Liaison Office continued to provide policy advice to Member States on intergovernmental deliberations in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with demonstrable results. Some 13 intergovernmental outcome documents, released in 2021, integrated DRR and provided intergovernmental guidance for risk-informed policy-setting and action at national level. Prevention of, and preparedness for, major global risks were also embedded in the Secretary-General's report on Our Common Agenda, which provides strategic recommendations for Member States and the UN System to boost the 2030 Agenda.

Supporting Member States in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction as a guiding principle of the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) was a high point for the organization in 2021. The new Programme of Action promotes technical support and capacity development to LDCs in the pursuit of risk-informed structural economic transformation and sustainable-development strategies, with commitments and targets aligned to the Sendai Framework. These actions were amplified by the ECOSOC resolution that encourages graduating LDCs to embed DRR into smooth transition strategies to ensure a sustainable graduation.

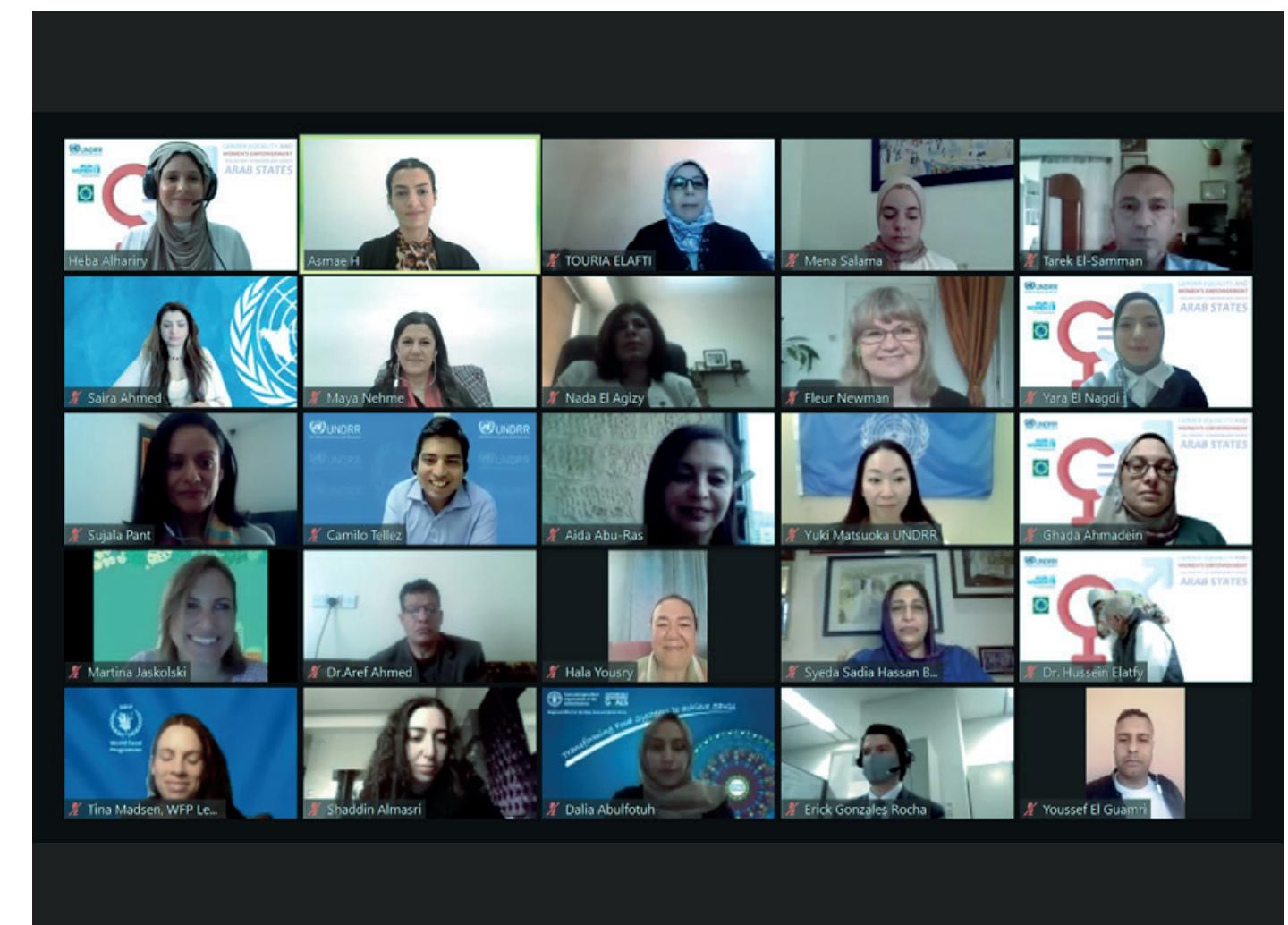
### CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

At **COP26 in Glasgow**, UNDRR advocated for action based on three central messages: dramatically raising ambition for reducing and managing risks due to climate change; significantly increasing support for averting, minimizing and addressing losses and damages; and accelerating predictable and risk-informed investments and financing. Messages resonated strongly at pavilions and side events with United Nations, CSO, government, and private-sector partners reinforcing the UNDRR stance and sharing it within their communications, statements, and good practices. At Glasgow, UNDRR organized or co-led events on topics including accelerating adaptation actions, comprehensive risk management, risk-informed early-warning and anticipatory tools, urban and coastal resilience

and displacement, as well as highlighted the specific vulnerabilities facing those in LDCs, landlocked low-income countries and SIDS.

UNDRR was a core partner of the first ever Water Pavilion in the Blue Zone of the COP, led by a steering committee of the Swedish International Water Institute (SIWI). UNDRR curated the disaster risk reduction theme of the pavilion that featured eight sessions on diverse topics related to water and disasters. Similarly, UNDRR also curated the disaster risk reduction theme of the Resilience Hub, convened by the Global Resilience Partnership.

During regional Climate Week, events held in the **Americas and the Caribbean** (May), **Asia and the Pacific**, (July) and **Africa** (September), countries and DRR stakeholders, highlighted the need for integrated climate action into global pandemic recovery.



The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Voluntary Stakeholder Group for DRR in the Arab States organized a webinar on Gender, Climate Change and Migration: Promising Policy and Programmatic Practice in Addressing Linkages from a Gender Equality and a Women's Leadership Perspective.



## 3.2

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

Collaborative action and strengthened coordination among UN System partners contributing to reducing risk, were central to UNDRR's work and processes in 2021. As the focal point for disaster risk reduction within the United Nations development system, UNDRR coordinated efforts at global, regional,<sup>6</sup> and national levels, building on existing coordination mechanisms. UNDRR coordinated and chaired the **UN Senior Leadership Group on DRR for Resilience** (UN SLG) and UN Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points Group, comprised of 43 UN entities committed to jointly moving the DRR agenda forward, to enhance implementation of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience 6 (UN Plan of Action).

UNDRR continued to jointly coordinate the **International Recovery Platform** (IRP) to incentivize national and local partners to build back better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, through the promotion and implementation of Sendai Framework Priority 4.<sup>7</sup>

This platform advanced global discussions on the COVID-19 pandemic and other disasters. UNDRR strongly endorsed the IRP Help Desk and provided technical guidance on the uptake of new programming methods related to assessment, planning, financing and management evidence from recovery.

Progress on gender-responsive DRR action was recognised through implementation of the nine United Nations recommendations in the **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction (GEWEL-DRR)** report, coordinated by UNDRR, UNFPA, and UN Women with support from an additional 20 United Nations entities.

<sup>6</sup> The UN Plan of Action is an important tool in maximizing the joint impact of action by the UN System in support of countries to strengthen disaster and climate risk-informed development planning and investment, and to ensure that no country, city, community or person is left behind: <https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/united-nations-plan-action-disaster-risk-reduction-resilience-0>

<sup>7</sup> Priority 4 of the Sendai Framework guides stakeholders in enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

RECOMMENDATION 1	RECOMMENDATION 2	RECOMMENDATION 3	RECOMMENDATION 4
<p><b>Socialize and implement</b> within UN entities, the <b>recommendations</b> put forward in the <b>GEWEL-DRR study</b> and the <b>COVID-19/DRR key lesson review</b>.</p>	<p>Continue joint efforts to ensure that <b>Cooperation Framework and CCA</b> are disaster and climate <b>risk-informed</b>.</p>	<p>Scaling up efforts around enhancing the <b>integration of disaster and climate risk in humanitarian action</b> and <b>strengthening humanitarian/development collaboration</b> around DRR.</p>	<p><b>Maximizing advocacy efforts</b> around applying a multi-hazard, multi-sectoral, transboundary and systemic risk approach through existing EWS initiatives and by advancing the understanding of risks.</p> <p><b>"As a farmer, training on weather forecasts allowed me to improve my situation and what I grow. It allowed me to have something so I could take care of my family and [...] it means that everything is planned so we don't waste time or money. The difference is indisputable, [...] but everyone knows old ways are no longer possible with climate change. You have to adapt."</b></p> <p>Participant in the CREWS weather and climate system pilots in Burkina Faso.</p>

The study focuses on United Nations institutional readiness for gender-responsive DRR and climate change adaptation programming and avenues of United Nations support to Member States. The document was endorsed during the July 2021 UN Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience (UN-SLG) meeting, and action plans were developed to move recommendations jointly forward.

The scaling up of DRR in humanitarian action initiative is addressing gaps and maximizes impact by building on partnerships. Achievements include the development of a training package on the Checklist for Scaling up DRR in Humanitarian Action.

A mapping of capacities to risk-inform humanitarian action further contributed to strengthening interagency engagement and addressing gaps in humanitarian actors' capacity on DRR.

UNDRR also played an active role in the **UN Food Systems Summit** under the Resilience Action Track (AT5), mainstreaming comprehensive risk-management approaches to food-systems resilience with special considerations for climate and non-climate risks. Also emphasized was local action and indigenous knowledge, and the promotion of *whole-of-society* approaches that bring together governments, civil society, the private sector and communities on food-system resilience.

## ► Governance for the greater good in the Pacific and the Caribbean

The CREWS collaboration with UNDRR led to the finalization of weather, climate and water-focused components of National Strategic Plans in **Pacific and Caribbean** countries. Once fully endorsed and implemented, these plans will inform approaches to improving 12 hydrometeorological and early-warning governance systems that serve 2.3 million island-state residents in the Pacific and 18 million in the Caribbean – a fundamental building block for reducing disaster risk and saving the lives and livelihoods of those most vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather and climate change.

UNDRR and CREWS improved existing tools and approaches for measuring the effectiveness of early-warning systems and services, introducing twenty custom indicators that calibrate the effectiveness of single, cluster and multi-hazard early-warning services with computational methods of analysing and processing data that can be used alongside the Sendai Framework Monitor.

At the Summit, UNDRR chaired a working group on multi-risk and crisis management for 25 UN System agencies, NGO and CSO representatives, who devised solutions for risk-proofing food systems: anticipatory action, risk governance, risk-resilient infrastructure, vulnerability and risk reduction at farm level.

Similarly, in the last quarter of the year, UNDRR led an independent, global webinar on food-systems resilience, with over 200 participants from agricultural and DRR sectors. The high-level panel featured the UNDRR SRSG, WMO Secretary General, high-level representatives from FAO and IFAD and youth ambassadors. Speakers and facilitators highlighted the importance of improving knowledge on multi-hazard, complex and cascading risks in agri-food systems, and the urgent need to adopt integrated and multidisciplinary approaches – shifting away from crisis and disaster management to risk management for raised resilience.

# 3.3

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

In 2021, UNDRR continued to promote an all-of-society approach, strengthening engagement of different segments of society to promote the DRR agenda for resilience. Throughout the year, UNDRR increased engagement and investor cooperation through a variety of stakeholder groups, including with the private and financial sectors, parliamentarians, science and technology, women, youth, people with disabilities and across community-led organizations, in an all-inclusive approach, as well as advocacy at key global and regional meetings.

The **UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM)** grew in membership to 390 Members from 76 countries, and continued as a key mechanism in the High-Level Political Forum, the United Nations central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SEM also engaged in other critical areas, including urban resilience (through the World Urban Forum), food security (through the UN Food Systems Summit), climate (through COP26) and financing for DRR, issuing position statements, reflecting progress in overcoming existing siloed approaches between agendas.

Through the SEM, the Youth network also engaged in the 2021 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) and Financing for Development Forum, as well as providing inputs for the Food Systems Summit and COP26.

The [Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments](#) online platform, operated by UNDRR, continued to catalyse stakeholders and monitor actions by allowing stakeholders to showcase their work, monitor their commitments, and track progress on deliverables. Voluntary commitments by stakeholders grew throughout 2021. By the end of 2021, the online platform published 94 VCs, which are being implemented jointly by 595 organizations and have committed to a total of more than 430 concrete deliverables. More than 50 per cent of these committed deliverables have been reported as delivered. The SFVC platform serves as a key tool in promoting accountability of non-stake actors and the main reference point for information about stakeholder's efforts to implement the Sendai Framework.

In 2021, UNDRR collaborated with stakeholders to provide evidence-based analyses and knowledge products to foster inclusive risk-informed development across several sectors.

Highlights included: the efficacy of existing vulnerability-and-exposure classification systems by researchers from the GRAF Working Group on Vulnerability and Exposure; a briefing paper on systemic risk with partners at International Science Council (ISC); a study on COVID-19 as the manifestation of systemic risk; a briefing paper on digital public goods for DRR in partnership with the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR); and another analysis on anticipatory action and finance in collaboration with UN OCHA. Such studies and publications filled critical gaps in global knowledge on the drivers, causes, and nature of risk, alongside counter-measures and solutions.

While all stakeholder groups were supported through the SEM, the following outlines engagement with key stakeholder groups in 2021: the private sector, parliamentarians, the science and technology community, women, persons with disabilities, and children and youth.



## PRIVATE SECTOR

UNDRR continued to strengthen private-sector engagement through ARISE—the UNDRR flagship vehicle for private-sector collaboration, which grew to over 400 registered members from 29 national and regional networks. In October 2021, UNDRR, in collaboration with the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF), launched the report ‘Opportunities for delivering risk-informed investment: Addressing the barriers’, offering eight comprehensive areas where stakeholders can take immediate action to incorporate disaster risk into their investment decisions.

With new partners joining ARISE in the **Arab States**, opportunities for financing and launching comprehensive initiatives in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) resilience, resilient infrastructure, insurance and risk-informed investments increased, with the establishment of ARISE Egypt launched on 25 October. Additionally, UNDRR and ARISE United Arab Emirates (UAE) brought together real-estate developers and regulators from the public sector to discuss resilience of the real-estate sector through conducting an exploratory roundtable discussion.

UNDRR also supported ARISE UAE engagement on a special session for the private sector during the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2021 (AFSD-2021), under the theme Catalyzing Private Sector Engagement in the Decade of Action. The dialogue aimed to identify the most pressing challenges facing SMEs today in the region, the

critical components to developing a business-resilience framework, and the tools required to leverage public-private partnerships to support business continuity and resilience.

In **Asia and the Pacific**, private-sector partners, particularly ARISE in India, the Philippines and Japan, were crucial for ensuring voices within the DRR sector were heard and incorporated into the **Asia-Pacific Action Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework (2021-2024)**. Inclusion efforts extended to reaching out to small and medium-sized enterprises in India and the Philippines through the translation of UNDRR’s online small-business Quick Risk Estimation Tool into Filipino, Hindi and Odiya.

UNDRR strengthened the uptake of ARISE in the **Americas and the Caribbean** by providing technical assistance to 21 national and three regional networks piloting ARISE-priority-specific projects in Argentina, Panama and Uruguay. ARISE Americas increased regional outreach by managing platforms and spaces for exchange and collaboration between both public and private regional and national DRR changemakers.

ARISE network members launched 12 projects focusing on SME resilience, insurance and resilient infrastructure. These actions led to: increased peer-to-peer collaboration and network expansion; development of financial and business tools for promoting resilience; an increase in the number of public-private partnerships; greater science and technology involvement; the creation and launch of critical assessment, risk mapping and data collection tools; improved alignment of local action with global priorities.

The private sector actively engaged in disaster risk reduction in **Africa** by way of focused financing. In June 2021, ARISE Africa pinpointed actionable steps to better promote climate-resilient infrastructure investments across the continent, while **UNDRR, ARISE, Private Financing Advisory Network, Global Compact South Africa, and RBN Fund** representatives workshopped ideas with African thought leaders and DRR stakeholders to take forward when building climate-resilient infrastructure to harnesses private-sector support. These ideas were taken from concept to practice when, in July 2021, ARISE Africa held its first Resilience Dialogue to address SME responses to the eruption of Nyiragongo volcano in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

UNDRR also continued engagement with the Insurance Development Forum (IDF), a public-private partnership led by the insurance industry, aimed at optimising and extending the use of insurance and its related risk-management capabilities to build greater resilience and protection for people, communities, businesses and public institutions that are vulnerable to disasters and their associated economic shocks.

The collaboration led to the joint establishment of the Global Resilience Index Initiative (GRII), a multi-partner initiative launched during the COP26 Adaptation Day on 8th November under the patronage of Mark Carney, UN Special Envoy on Climate Action and Finance; SRSG Mami Mizutori and Eric Andersen, President, Aon, Member and Risk Modelling Champion IDF Steering Committee.

The GRII draws upon significant cross-sector risk-modelling experience, including public-private partnerships between governments, academia, insurance and engineering, a world's first curated, open-source reference index, addressing the data emergency that is contributing to the climate crisis.

UNDRR also collaborated with the Munich Re Foundation for the 2021 RISK Awards, set up to help improve risk reduction and disaster management by providing financial support to projects. The 2021 RISK Award focussed on nature-based solutions that highlight the importance of social and economic stability. The grant was awarded to the project Strong roots, strong women: My Pham, Director of Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and Philip Bubeck, University of Potsdam, aimed at empowering women for community and coastal-ecosystem resilience.

**“Resilient societies can only be achieved if local stakeholders are involved in developing and implementing plans and actions. We must also include cooperation with the private sector, which is essential to accelerate finance and de-risk investment. Gender-responsive and gender-transformative approaches must be a fundamental part of our work.”**

**Ms. Anne Beathe Tvinnereim**

Minister of International Development,  
Norway.

## ARISE

**ARISE - the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies, a network of private-sector entities led by the UNDRR – mobilizes and facilitates the private sector to carry out risk-informed investments and to apply business practices that reduce and prevent the creation of risk, build resilience, and enhance recovery from disasters, in line with the Sendai Framework.**

**The launching event of ARISE Egypt served as an opportunity to establish the foundations of the network. ARISE Egypt aims at enhancing the**

**resilience of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), integrating disaster and climate risk into investment decisions by the financial sector, and supporting resilient infrastructure development. “ARISE Egypt will play a pivotal role in engaging the private sector and non-governmental business organizations in the Arab and African countries,” Ali Helmy Eissa, Chairman of the Board, Egyptian Businessmen’s Association said. “The exchange of best practices with various international organizations will have the greatest positive impact on creating a more resilient and strong business community.**

## PARLIAMENTARIANS

UNDRR’s engagement with parliaments and parliamentarians continued to play a crucial role in bridge-building between the government, civil society and constituents. Key progress included strengthened commitment, understanding and capacity of parliamentarians for DRR through publication of the ‘Disaster risk reduction to achieve the SDGs: a toolkit for parliamentarians’. The toolkit, developed in partnership with the International Parliamentarian Union (IPU), saw an extensive consultation process with parliamentarians across the globe and outlined 10 concrete actions that parliamentarians can employ to influence and implement DRR policy, legal, financial and oversight frameworks effectively. The toolkit was disseminated at key events in 2021, including The First Global Parliamentary Meeting on Achieving the SDGs, which took place from 28 to 31 September 2021, and the 143rd IPU assembly in November 2021.

In addition, UNDRR took part in the launch of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) Global Parliamentary Group in October. The group aims to enable parliamentarians from across the CVF Member States to share valuable experiences and good practices on legislative measures in support of ambitious climate action. By working with the parliamentarians engaged in the group, for example at the CVF Global Parliamentarians Meeting: Parliamentarians of Climate Threatened Nations Championing Planetary Prosperity event, UNDRR enhanced the focus of legislators on the need for accelerated climate and DRR in most vulnerable countries.



UNDRR also established the UNDRR Friends of DRR Parliamentary Group, in Europe, as a key network to improve integration of DRR in EU legislative and parliamentary frameworks. Through the group, UNDRR secured DRR-language and Sendai Framework references in the European Parliament COP26 resolution, as well as in EU legislation, such as in the EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Sustainable Finance Strategy. There was also increased engagement of parliamentarians in DRR integration in the private sector and finance sector, for example through MPs' participation in the webinar on supporting DRR and resilience practices in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as continued engagement of the UNDRR SRSG in key parliamentarian events, including the GLOBE COP26 Legislators Summit in November 2021.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

UNDRR convened the first global annual meeting of all regional **Scientific and Technical Advisory Groups (STAGs)** to coordinate research priorities, programming and planning. This annual meeting brought together delegations from five regional STAGs and UNDRR to plan for substantive progress in the implementation of a cross-cutting research agenda from 2021 to 2030. The STAGs are an important part of UNDRR's promotion of new research and methods to understand and reduce risk and the connection of that work to policy makers in the interest of evidence-informed risk reduction.

Regionally, the **European Science and Technology Advisory Group (E-STAG)** published the E-STAG European Union analysis of COVID-19 recovery plans, examining the steps taken to achieve a green and resilient recovery for Europe. E-STAG also contributed technical inputs to the recently published UNDRR/International Science Council Hazard Information Profiles. Key recommendations for strengthened science and technology for DRR in the **Americas and the Caribbean** were also developed by UNDRR with the Regional Science and Technology Advisory Group (RSTAG). The report, to be published in 2022, presents findings on the effect and significant role of scientific and technological research on strengthening the implementation and formulation of sound DRR policies.

**"Given the influx of knowledge, networks and passion, young people have rightly commandeered niches in policy design circles. They offer unique and innovative ways of implementing, tracking and evaluating DRR initiatives."**

**Ms. Maryanne Muriuki**

AYAB member and Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Officer for ILICIT Africa.

## WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

In its first full year of implementation, the Women's International Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (WIN DRR) grew significantly, with 418 new members and the establishment of a national network with more than 100 members in Indonesia. The inaugural WIN DRR Leadership Awards, which seek to recognise women's achievements in disaster risk reduction, received 153 nominations from 22 countries. The Excellence Award, proudly sponsored by SM Prime, was granted to Vasiti Soko, the Director of the National Disaster Management Office in Fiji, while the Rising Star Award went to Dr. Nuraini Rahma Hanifa, an earthquake scientist who founded the U-INSPIRE Alliance to bring together young professionals in science, engineering and technology with the intention of reducing disaster risk. WIN DRR is supported by the Government of Australia.

In the **Americas and the Caribbean**, UNDRR jointly launched the Latin American Women Network with UN Women and the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), with over 800 women enrolled in the region. The office also supported regional and global activities aimed at disability-inclusive DRR and the continuation of a Latin American and Caribbean Disability Inclusive DRR Network.

## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Persons with disabilities are often disproportionately affected by disasters, and have different and uneven levels of resilience and capacity to recover. In 2021, partners at regional level publicly championed disaster risk reduction policies that advanced inclusive and accessible early-warning initiatives. Stakeholders advocated for the meaningful participation of people with disabilities at forums and side events on risk communication and disaster resilience. Throughout the year, UNDRR flagged the importance of accessible and integrated disability-friendly risk projects and succeeded in boosting engagement with partners such as Climate, Risk, and Early Warning System (CREWS) as they raised the profile of disability stakeholder groups, expanded disability networks, and endeavoured to improve gender equality and disability inclusion across the early-warning and action value chain.

In the preparation of the Regional Platforms for DRR, disability groups from the respective regions and youth representatives were consulted and engaged in the development of session content and facilitated side events on disability-centred DRR.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children and young people are particularly vulnerable to disaster impact and therefore play a key role as advocates and stakeholders in building more-resilient societies. In 2021, UNDRR amplified the voice of youth in understanding reducing disaster risk, with youth engagement growing across all Regional Platforms. In the **Americas and the Caribbean**, UNDRR organized the first ever **Youth Forum For Disaster Risk Reduction** prior to the Regional Platform, resulting in a Youth Declaration on DRR and participation of 300 youth and activists from the region. In **Europe and Central Asia**, youth representatives participated in a Ministerial Round Table at the European Forum for DRR (EFDRR), and a plenary session on Accelerating implementation of the Sendai Framework, and were actively involved in EFDRR virtual discussions.

Ms. Kristinia Dougherty speaking at the Fourth High-Level Meeting of Ministers and Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean



With **Africa** having the youngest population in the world, the African Union helped establish the Africa Youth Advisory Board (AYAB) for disaster risk reduction in the continent, to close gaps in youth stakeholder engagement. In Africa, the Board addresses meaningful youth engagement around the continent and collaborates closely with UNDRR, relying on advisory and technical guidance to amplify initiatives. The AYAB uses the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework as twin foundations to create youth-focused initiatives that feature SDGs as prime programmatic actions. Both were used in the design and facilitation of multiple conferences, programmes and events – such as the Africa Regional Platform for 2021 – where youth consultations on DRR took place and voluntary stakeholder commitments were made.

In 2021, AYAB boosted engagement and strengthened network outputs through a collaboration with UNESCO on a science and technology app (KNOW DRR); operationalized UNDRR technical assistance to increase engagement in DRR policy-making and provided support to young academics, researchers and community leaders in Uganda.

Youth engagement also extended into flagship UNDRR initiatives, including MCR2030, the Sendai Voluntary Commitments Platform, Global Platform 2022 preparations and the forthcoming Mid term Review of the Sendai Framework 2023.

## ► Next-generation innovation: youth DRR activism in the Caribbean

Climate-change-related risks in the Americas and the Caribbean include hazards like severe weather, hurricanes, flooding, erosion and drought, as well as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Young people under 30 face specific vulnerabilities when disasters hit because they often rely on others for economic provision, access to basic services, and resource or decision-making support. In island states, socio-economic factors increase risk exposure and challenge adaptive capacities to this age demographic.

In response, UNDRR increased engagement with under-30s on disaster risk reduction, bringing together young people to host the first online **Youth Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction** in August 2021. Three hundred of the brightest young minds across the Americas and the Caribbean participated and shared ideas on pressing climate-change and DRR issues in their countries, amplifying the voices and values of young people to help promote youth-led initiatives across the region.

Kristinia Dougherty, a DRR expert from Jamaica, Red Cross volunteer, and PhD candidate at the University of the West Indies, helped organize and facilitate the forum as she believes climate change is a disaster risk and livelihoods issue. Her call to action is to involve more young people in the implementation of the Sendai Framework to help design and apply innovative, disaster risk reduction actions, tools and preventative counter-measures that are tailored to local realities for youth.

*"We [youth] hold the front line on climate change and DRR interventions, sustainably moving forward at the local level by connecting humanitarian and development aspects so they're more inclusive*

*and diverse. This means bringing vulnerable and marginalized groups into the fold, especially indigenous people given their long-standing knowledge in multiple areas,"* says Dougherty. Since the forum, Dougherty and youth leaders across the region have grown their networks to source more effective ways for promoting disaster risk reduction and environmental resilience. Some are in talks with local academic, government, and private-sector stakeholders to develop new youth platforms where leaders can help shape DRR policies and processes. Activists also found ways to leverage the isolation faced by millions of people across the world as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dougherty reflects, "The pandemic made us pivot towards social-media activism to have greater reach. These days, a farmer in the most remote part of Grenada frequently uses at least one platform they like. This matters because when a message goes viral, it does so across apps and connects people...especially the messages that resonate, like the negative impacts of climate change or how to recover financially after a disaster."

Up next for young regional DRR changemakers is taking ideas and recommendation from the Youth Forum and similar conferences, including the Caribbean Youth Environment Network, to spearhead virtual engagements that keep conversations flowing and action coming. With more young people in the Caribbean fully aware that they inhabit, or are in proximity to, spaces that increase their exposure and vulnerability to compounded hazards, this age group wants a seat at the table to ensure inclusivity and diversity are central to DRR processes and in brokering partnerships across the region to better leverage risk and shape more-sustainable, resilient futures.

## **ENABLER 1**

**Effective Communication, Advocacy And Knowledge-Management Outputs, Supported By Efficient ICT Systems, Strengthen The Business Case For Investing In DRR And Building Resilience-Management Outputs**



# 1.1

## DRR IS SEEN AS AN ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTOR TO REDUCING THE NEED FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND TO ENSURING DEVELOPMENT IS SUSTAINABLE

In 2021, UNDRR communications and virtual engagement on disaster-risk approaches and measures continued to grow, with webinars and online events as the new norm amid the ongoing pandemic. Concrete messages developed and shared across digital and social media further increased UNDRR visibility and illustrated its added value in the provision of support in disaster risk reduction in development and humanitarian and conflict settings.

UNDRR published 28 opinion pieces and press releases in news outlets in 2021, and the SRSG delivered speeches at more than 23 high-level events and meetings. Moreover, 74 DRR-related articles were published throughout the year.

UNDRR supported increased awareness and understanding of DRR through the implementation of four major campaigns during 2021: #Prevention Saves Lives, International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, World Tsunami Awareness Day, and While you were talking. Multi-media approaches of sharing and disseminating information on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Tsunami Awareness Day, as well as data on the Sendai Framework targets, generated large audiences and drove up online traffic. All efforts heightened UNDRR's global impact.

The regional office for the **Americas and the Caribbean** ran seven major advocacy campaigns, mobilizing partners and stakeholders on core

DRR initiatives. Campaigns positioned DRR in the context of systemic risk and risk governance, and the impact of outreach resonated with Member States and donors such that the regional office experienced an increased demand for public events designed, organized and facilitated by UNDRR, to increase engagement on disaster risk, climate change, inequality and resilience. A regional media network was launched at the Regional Platform for DRR (RP21), increasing demand for UNDRR to provide training to the media and provide reliable and specialised inputs for media coverage, including the BBC, on climate change. Journalists across the region published DRR-related activities, resulting in 38 pieces of content created and published.

**In Asia and the Pacific**, UNDRR strengthened its relationship with the largest political block in the region, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), co-organizing a regional event for donors and partners from the Pacific and South Asia, with a call to action for improved international cooperation on DRR. UNDRR campaigns and events promoted the social currency and leadership of women in COVID-19 response and recovery, as well as the need for more gender-responsive COVID-19 plans. Based on the outcomes of events throughout the year, policy briefs developed provided Member States with approaches and steps for ensuring COVID-19 recovery supports inclusivity and gender equality.

**In 2021, the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Tsunami Awareness Day focused on international cooperation under the promotion of Sendai Framework Target F. For World Tsunami Awareness Day, the flagship global event was a joint webinar hosted in New York with UNESCO and UNDP, in collaboration with Chile, Japan, Maldives, Australia, Indonesia, Norway and Peru. With the theme Leveraging the Power of Science and Technology**

**to Reduce Tsunami Risk for Current and Future Generations**, the event saw speakers from around the world discuss the progress made, and the work yet to be done, to improve the preparedness and resilience of communities exposed to tsunami risk. The Permanent Representative of Japan, the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of DRR and other Member States spoke on the critical intersection of technology, science and youth in tsunami-risk reduction.



## Turning up the volume at COP26

UNDRR developed a call to action for DRR inclusion prior to COP26, rallying stakeholders and partners, new and existing, around three key messages for shifting the climate change and international policy landscapes:

- Raise ambitions for risk-informed climate change adaptation.
- Enhance risk analytics and increase support for averting, minimizing, and addressing losses and damages
- Accelerate predictable and risk-informed investments and financing.

UNDRR leveraged its existing partnership with the World Broadcasting Union (WBU) and supported several professional journalists in attending COP26, to elevate the importance of DRR in climate action. WBU journalists produced more than 70 video pieces, including interviews and features. This enabled media outlets who were not able to travel to COP26, as a result of COVID-19 or financial restrictions, to cover DRR and climate-action issues.

UNDRR SRSG Ms. Mami Mizutori and African Risk Capacity Group ASG Mr. Ibrahima Cheikh Diouf speaking at UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021, COP26.



UNDRR and its partners advocated for DRR and risk-informed development in 31 workshops, lectures, meetings and conferences in the **Arab States**. Events increased awareness and collective action on financing disaster risk reduction for stakeholders across the region, with outcomes resurfacing in IDDRR commemorations and special sessions at the United Nations Hub at Expo 2020, Dubai. In parallel, UNDRR developed a publication that analysed progress on Target F of the Sendai Framework (international cooperation in DRR) and included levels of financial flows, technology transfer, and capacity development for disaster risk reduction.

Stakeholders participating at the European Forum on DRR used the opportunity to strengthen collective workstreams, share responsibilities and take action towards reducing disaster risk and adapting to climate change. In the lead up to the EFDRR, participants amplified messages and kept the momentum going by launching the [Prevention Saves Lives](#) campaign to engage the Forum's diverse membership in increasing local disaster-prevention programming and responses for earthquakes, floods, drought, heat waves and other disasters that affect the lives of more than 923 million people across the region. Reframing narratives on disaster resilience is the first step to creating meaningful action that spurs transformational investments in the future of the planet.

The UNDRR regional office in **Africa** supported stakeholders in increasing DRR awareness through consultations, events and campaigns. To mark International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR), the African Union Commission and Dubai Expo held an event on disaster risk reduction and climate resilience that featured the development of new situation rooms in Ethiopia (African Union Commission), Niger (African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development) and Kenya (IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre), that supports the implementation of the Africa Roadmap for improving use of DRR data for early warning and transboundary disaster risk management. To boost IDDRR advocacy, ARISE Africa collaborated with the UNDP-OCHA Connecting Business initiative in hosting a joint webinar for strengthening the role of the private sector in Africa in financing disaster management projects.



I 2021 European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, 24 - 26 November, Matosinhos, Portugal.

# 1.2

## IMPROVED AWARENESS OF UNDRR'S ROLE IN CATALYSING AND CONVENING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION POLICY AND ACTIVITIES, SO THAT COLLABORATION AND INVESTMENT ARE INCREASED

Through awareness raising and campaigns on disaster-risk governance, UNDRR cemented its role as a strong, global convener of disaster risk reduction policy in 2021. Extensive media coverage of the COP26 focus on DRR in the climate-action agenda led to heightened brand awareness for the organization, and highlighted the importance of integrating DRR policies with the Sendai Framework at regional and national levels.

Collective efforts between UNDRR and the World Broadcasting Union resulted in the distribution of COP26 media assets to 500 broadcasters globally through syndicated coverage. The total number of UNDRR mentions in the media increased 50 per cent in November 2021, due to the creation of consistent COP26 and climate-change messaging in advance of the conference. Accelerating brand awareness played out across all communications media, and comprehensive organizational messages contributed to establishing a stronger outward-facing image of UNDRR's vision, leadership and expertise in disaster risk reduction.

In **Asia and the Pacific**, UNDRR partnered with journalists to source and feature examples of successful implementation of the Sendai

Framework: nature-based solutions in India to counter climate-induced disasters; building back better through resilient infrastructure in the People's Republic of China; expanding the role of women in DRR projects in Japan, and the uptake of community early-warning and risk communication in Nepal. As a result, UNDRR was able to publicize numerous success stories from across the region to help drive up public demand for disaster risk reduction.

In **Europe and Central Asia**, the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction was organized as a Member-State-driven process following a year-long multi-stakeholder consultation process that included more than 100 entities from the region.

In the **Americas and the Caribbean**, 12 media outlets attended the Regional Platform (RP21) and journalists drafted 24 articles on the event, significantly increasing the Caribbean outreach and contributing to a better understanding of DRR and the Sendai Framework at national and regional levels.

Opening of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) Disaster Operations Centre in Nairobi in 2021, supported by the Government of Italy, UNDRR, African Union and the CIMA Research Foundation.



# 1.3

## EFFECTIVE LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE-SHARING ACROSS THE ORGANIZATION AND EXTERNALLY

PreventionWeb is the knowledge-sharing platform for disaster risk reduction for those working on the frontline of disaster risk and vulnerability (44 per cent of its 180,000 users per month come from high-risk countries). The 2021 redesign and relaunch included an interactive friendly site that facilitates access to knowledge. Over the year, the platform had more than 2.16 million unique users, a 17 per cent increase from 2020, and published over 5,000 news, publication, event, training and vacancy entries. Coverage of the pandemic continued, with a dedicated track for COVID-19 stories and reports that demonstrated how governments, cities and local communities tackled the complex nature of the pandemic at local, national, and global levels. Other critical areas of coverage included: women in DRR, disability-inclusive DRR policies, disaster displacement and AI solutions, among others.

Across UNDRR's corporate platform, new systems, like the Resilient Cities Scorecard and the MCR2030 Dashboard, were developed and enhanced to improve the user experience and encourage interoperability between UNDRR's activities. Work also began on UNDRR's Data Strategy and Roadmap 2022-2025 to further streamline the organization's work in this area.

### REGIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND WEBINARS

To increase interest and collaboration on specific disaster-risk themes—drought, food security, tsunamis, earthquakes and more—the **Americas and the Caribbean** regional office published eight podcast episodes in an innovative effort to reach and involve youth. Each episode brings in an expert to discuss an aspect of DRR (systemic risk, COVID-19 recovery, disaster preparedness) and publicize main areas of action by the regional office such as MCR2030 or private-sector engagement. Along with the podcast, the Regional Office launched a magazine with features on Caribbean-specific DRR and COVID-19 recovery challenges, as well as achievements of the work being implemented by UNDRR with partners in the region, to drive up interest in disaster-risk strategies and inspire action.

Side events at UNFCCC **Africa** Climate Week in September 2021 progressed conversations on comprehensive climate and disaster risk management, innovative financing solutions for climate risk and resilience-building, and ways of unifying climate-risk data at country level.



Participants discussed innovative technical financing solutions and partnerships for managing climate risk, risk transfer for resilience building, and how investment data should be prioritized to improve the validity and transparency of climate-risk analytics.

In line with the push to promote women's leadership in DRR, the regional office in **Asia and the Pacific** profiled 58 WIN DRR members with publications on PreventionWeb. In addition, UNDRR collaborated with partners to share ways of making DRR initiatives gender-responsive at the CSW66 Expert Group Meeting, UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN SWAP) annual conference, UNITAR Women's Leadership Programme, the Huairou Commission, and Slum Dwellers International session at COP.

Several DRR-related articles that contributed to UNDRR learning and knowledge-sharing in Europe were published on: PreventionWeb, the MCR2030 domain and the regional Twitter account. Organizational plans, action, processes and results were also promoted through UNDRR INFO, a monthly newsletter of 3,500 subscribers that provides updates on disaster risk reduction activities, campaigns and implementation in **Europe and Central Asia**. The editions included the latest news and updates of the regional office, MCR2030 and Central Asian Initiative's activities on disaster risk reduction. *International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction* and *Prevention Saves Lives* campaigns, as well other DRR-related activities implemented by the regional office were promoted through the newsletter.

### Institutes of higher (DRR) learning in the Americas.

The UNDRR Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) has been essential in turning theoretical ideas on disaster risk reduction into practical applications. Participants from the Federal University of Juiz de Fora in Brazil applied what they learned by giving technical support to the Juiz de Fora municipality on developing a resilience baseline using the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities. With support from the Regional Office, university partners modified the GETI

training course for local officials and incorporated tools from the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative – translating training materials and MCR2030 courses into Portuguese and then, in September 2021, training 43 municipal agents on operational approaches to formulating local action plans for disaster risk reduction and resilience.

# 1.4

## REDUCING DISASTER IMPACT THROUGH EFFECTIVE PROMOTION OF BEHAVIOUR-CHANGE STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

To prevent disasters and minimize damages and losses, individuals must transform how they think about future risks and plan for them. Based on the UNESCO Futures Literacy campaign, UNESCO, UNDRR, UNDP and the youth-led U-INSPIRE Alliance, launched the Future Thinking on Disaster Risk Reduction initiative in **Asia and the Pacific**. Running into 2022, the project has engaged over 700 young professionals through a series of webinars and thought labs, in challenging conventional ways of thinking about disasters. Participants and stakeholders-in-the-making are encouraged to think of novel solutions that are strategic, comprehensive, inclusive and anticipatory, and that adequately allow for the accurate assessment of catastrophic risks that prompt forward-looking and context-relevant solutions.

Connecting core values that bridge DRR communities with others, helps the creation of practical and multi-disciplinary policy solutions in civil society, science, government, academia and the private sector. An aspect of this bridge-building is fostering behavioural change and applying interventions that shift attitudes and perspectives. Case studies in the GAR Special Report on Drought emphasized the importance of developing tools that onboard the “effects of adaptive or non-adaptive human behaviour and potential adaptation measures on future drought risk.”

The report was launched on the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought in conjunction with the United Nations body coordinating this work, the UN Convention for Combating Drought (UNCCD).

The regional office in the **Americas and the Caribbean** promoted behavioural change through animated short films like *The Girl and the Tsunami*, produced with UNESCO. The film follows the story of a Chilean girl, Martina Maturana, who saved the lives of people in her community after providing early-warning alerts during the Robinson Crusoe Island tsunami of 2010. This film was shown at a regional online event in Spanish, organized jointly with the Government of Chile and at an in-person event in New York. The film was shown at the global event for WTAD and featured on UNDRR and UNESCO's YouTube channels.



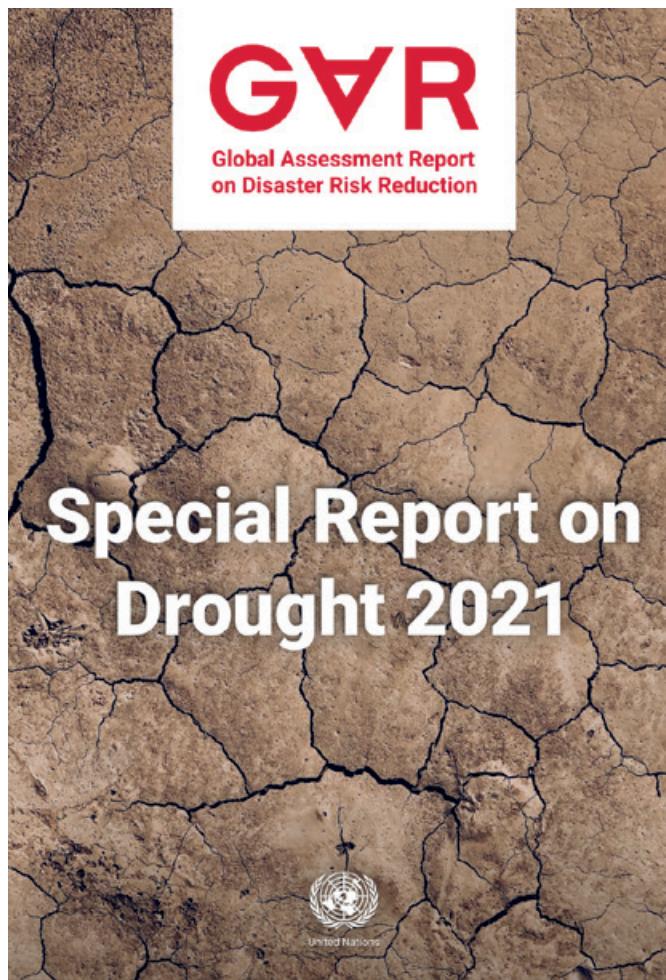
I “La Niña y el Tsunami” directed by Emiliano Rodríguez Nuesch.

## Disaster risk reduction goes viral

UNDRR audiences increased around the world in 2021 with 30 million impressions linked to organizational digital content. The LinkedIn page became the UNDRR top channel with 221,270 followers, and UNDRR advocacy engagement increased: the International

Day for Disaster Risk Reduction campaign focused on international cooperation for DRR and the hashtag #OnlyTogether generated over 305 million impressions. Likewise, the World Tsunami Awareness Day campaign had 194 million impressions.

**GAR**  
Global Assessment Report  
on Disaster Risk Reduction



## ENABLER 2

Strengthened Organizational Performance



## 2.1

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

2021 was a year where UNDRR focused on long-term planning and operational stability for strengthened organizational performance. The continuation of the challenges posed by COVID necessitated the review of the physical working conditions, which resulted in the relocation of the UNDRR Offices in September 2021. The new premises offered more space and allowed better social distancing as staff gradually returned to the office in the last quarter of 2021.

A more robust online support service was launched to help staff at all locations find information on various administrative services, the regulations and rules pertaining to the work of the organization, and other useful resources that would enable them to access up-to-date information on a central site as, and when, needed.

Lessons learned from previous years were incorporated into the new UNDRR Strategic Framework for 2022-2025 and Work Programme 2022-2023, while the new robust planning methodology allowed for staff to better integrate inclusive approaches into projects and prioritize resources and financing.

Globally, it became easier to work virtually with connectivity, service-provider costs and limited internet-access issues addressed. In November 2021, UNDRR held a series of regional platforms through a hybrid format – the first in a series of major, virtual events deemed successful by attendees and participants and a cost-effective method for boosting connectivity to staff from all 18 UNDRR locations.

#### UNDRR COMMITMENT TO MAINSTREAMING GENDER

UNDRR actively incorporated gender and disability lenses in its policies, guidelines and tools to strengthen gender-responsive DRR projects and offer ways of improving reporting on, and disaggregating, sex, age, and disability data, **leveraging women's leadership in DRR**, and increasing gender-responsive COVID-19 and health-centred recovery responses. Within the organization, gender equality – a central tenet of global frameworks and agendas in the run up to 2030 – was further mainstreamed across all objectives of the UNDRR Strategic Framework for 2022-2025.

The **UNDRR gender-parity strategy** and the Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) were updated to respond to challenges and opportunities presented by COVID-19. As part of its commitments to implement the **UN System-wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (GEEW)**, UNDRR undertook a gender-capacity assessment of staff and developed a plan to support improved harmonization of gender equality and women's empowerment in technical counsel, knowledge products and programmes.

Moreover, the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, in her role **as an international gender champion**, worked with partners and women's groups to share good practices on gender and DRR, and promote the voices of women and girls at regional platforms.

UNDRR was successful in achieving gender parity in panels across the four regional platforms held in 2021, ensuring that women's voices and expertise are heard and recognised. The Regional Platform in the **Americas and the Caribbean** had an overall participation of 53 per cent women, 46 per cent men, and 1 per cent who identified as non-binary.

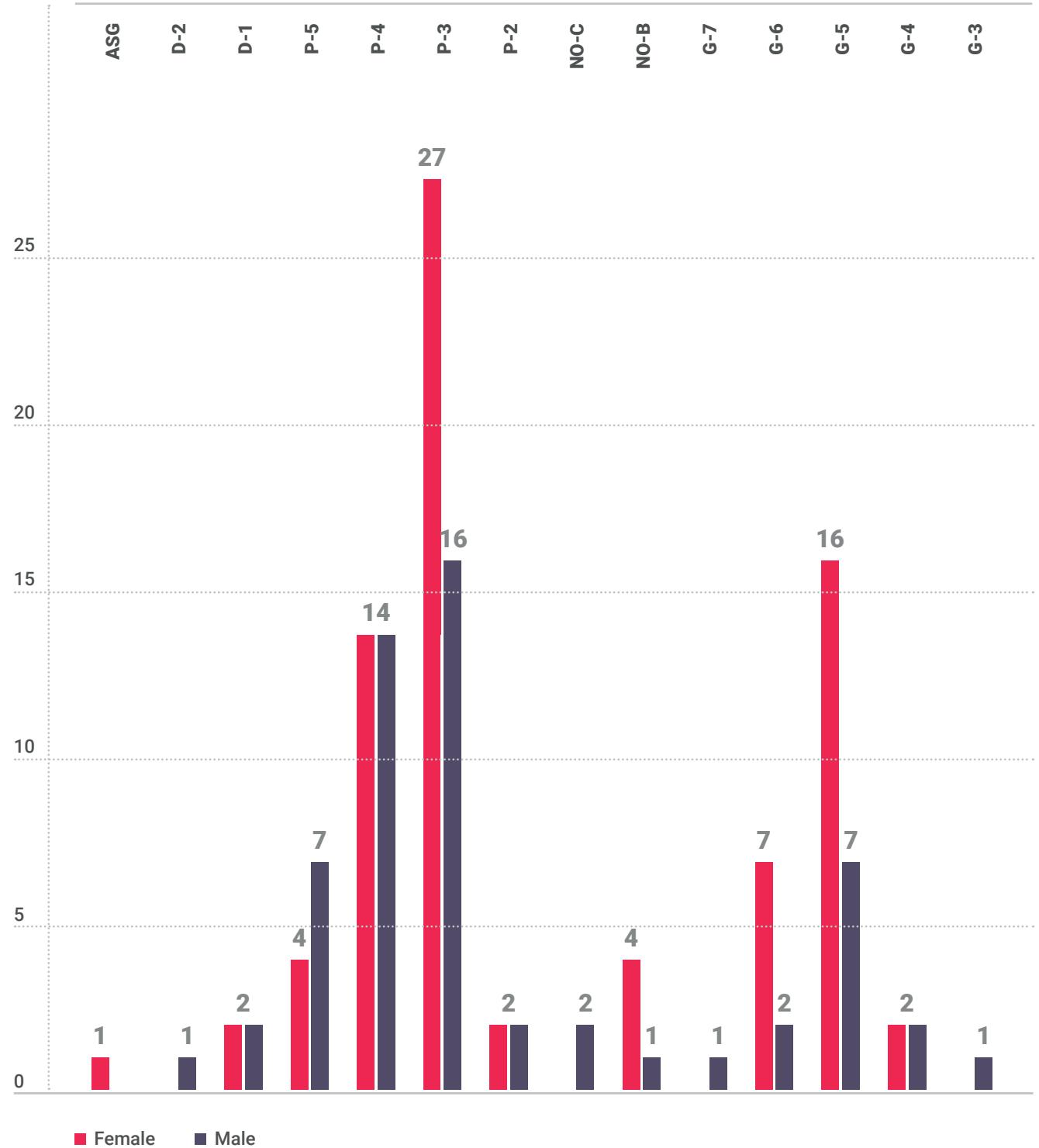
**Making Cities Resilient 2030** promoted female speakers in training and webinars on local resilience, and 45.6 per cent, or 2,248 of 4,931 participants, who took part in GETI training workshops were women.

By the end of 2021, 58 per cent of UNDRR staff were female. The graph below shows gender parity by grade. The figures in the graph represent absolute numbers of staff.

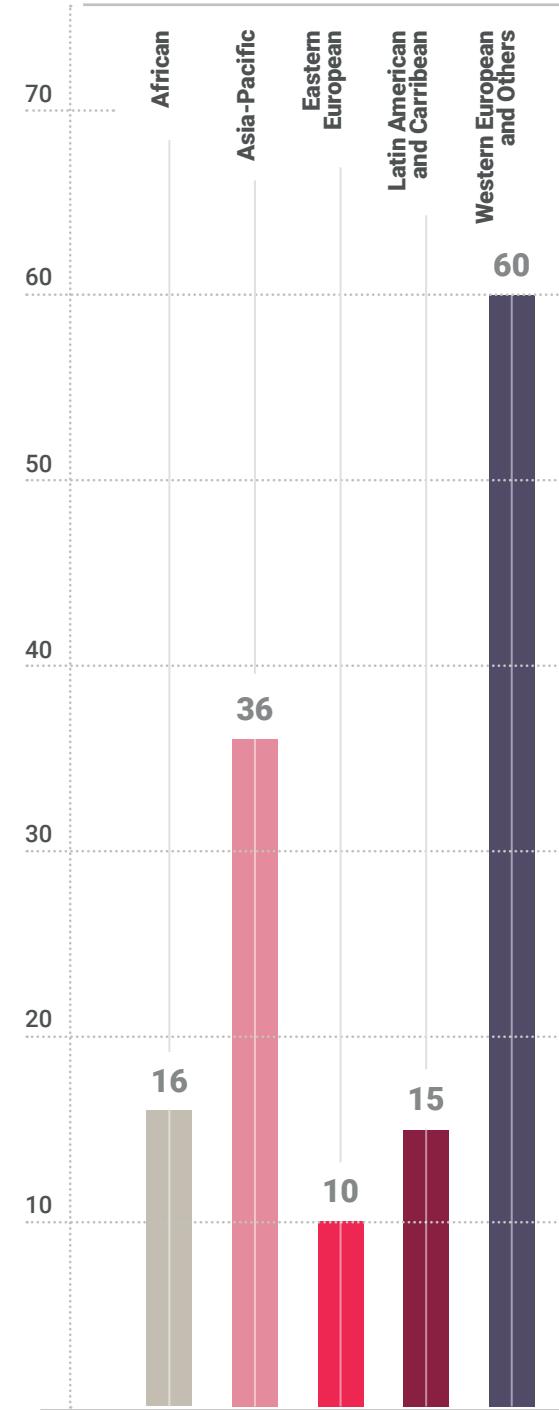


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## GENDER DISTRIBUTION BY STAFF CATEGORY



## STAFF BY REGIONAL GROUP



## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN DISABILITY INCLUSIVE STRATEGY

**Disability inclusion** was another core intersectional aspect championed globally and in the regions. UNDRR called attention to and increased engagement on the establishment of accessible disability-friendly DRR projects and communications. The UNDRR disability inclusion road map for 2022-2025 was drafted in 2021 and is under consultation prior to adoption.

In the **Americas and the Caribbean**, partners of the **Disability Inclusive DRR Network** ([Red GIRDD-LAC](#)) supported accessibility at regional events and saw to it that recommendations and key messaging on DRR – including COVID-19 response-and-recovery processes – were created with the inputs of persons living with disabilities, their families, and caregivers.

At the Eighth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in **Africa**, a side event organized by Christian Blind Mission and the **International Disability Alliance** underscored the importance of implementing disability-inclusive DRR aspects in programmes. Of note, panellists from Zimbabwe and Malawi shared country-level experiences, which led to relevant recommendations enshrined in public messages about mandating inclusive DRR and humanitarian responses.

Disability inclusion was publicly advanced in **Asia and the Pacific** through the Asia Pacific Partnership Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, **WIN DRR Roundtable Discussions**, and side events on risk communication during **ESCAP disaster resilience week**. UNDRR continually flagged the importance of accessible and integrated disability-friendly risk projects and communications, and succeeded in boosting engagement on the issue with partners, such as CREWS, to expand inclusion of disability stakeholder groups and networks. All actions helped onboard specific objectives for improving gender equality and disability inclusion across the early-warning, early-action value chain.

Flagship UNDRR websites – [undrr.org](#) and [preventionweb.net](#) – were developed according to WCAG 2.0 AA standards following the new internal accessibility checklist guidelines. Systematic training for UNDRR content editors rolled out in late 2021 and more than 20 pieces of content centring people living with disabilities was sourced and published. This included the launch of a promotional video for International Day for Persons with Disabilities, which was the most viewed video on UNDRR social media in December.

# DONOR OVERVIEW



# DONOR OVERVIEW

In December 2020, Member States underscored 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 continued to recognize the important role of UNDRR in preventing new, and reducing existing, disaster risk as well as managing residual risk. UNDRR identified financial requirements of USD 96.2 million for the Work Programme 2020-2021. Efforts to raise sustainable and predictable financial resources to deliver the UNDRR Work Programme resulted in USD 43.8 million in contributions received in 2021. The overall amount raised during the 2020-21 biennium amounted to USD 91.6 million.

**Member States and partners supported UNDRR in its work through in-kind professional support including 16 UN Volunteers and seven Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) provided by the Governments of Italy (1), Finland (1), Japan (1), Sweden (1), Switzerland (1), and United States of America (2) – critical human resource that enables UNDRR to deliver its mandate.**

The flexible nature of unearmarked core funding is vitally important to UNDRR. It enables the office to focus on strategic result areas, to afford smooth and effective operational delivery, to adjust to changing circumstances and allow for forward planning, as 99.9 per cent of total funding is through extra-budgetary resources.<sup>8</sup> Unearmarked donors continued to support UNDRR, providing USD 19.3 million in 2021, which represents 44 per cent of funding received.

To increase predictability of funding in 2021, UNDRR continued to advocate with strategic partners for **multi-year contributions**. Luxembourg and Sweden renewed commitments through new cooperation agreements for the period 2022-2025. As a result, USD 33.5 million was pledged for 2022 onwards by year end.

The top ten donors to UNDRR – Sweden, Japan, Germany, the United States of America, Norway, the European Commission, the Republic of Korea, Italy, Australia and Switzerland – each contributed more than USD 1 million in 2021. A special note of appreciation was expressed to the Government of Israel and SM Prime Holdings for contributing to UNDRR for the first time.

In-kind contributions were another important source of support to the work of UNDRR in the delivery of its Work Programme in 2021. Notably the Governments of Jamaica, the Kingdom of Morocco, Kenya and Portugal made significant in-kind contributions by hosting Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Throughout the year, UNDRR facilitated peer-to-peer exchange and knowledge sharing through regular consultations and dialogue with UN Member States at the UNDRR Support Group in Geneva, the Group of Friends in New York, as well as two donor meetings and four thematic briefings to donors held virtually in 2021.

In addition, UNDRR joined forces with strategic partners to raise awareness on key issues to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. UNDRR, UN Women and Government of Norway co-hosted the ‘Learning from COVID-19 to strengthen gender-responsive Disaster Risk Reduction’ event, that was also supported by UNFPA and the Governments of Australia, Kenya and Finland.

The Government of Sweden, UNDRR and WFP enhanced cooperation under the Horn of Africa Partnership for Early Warning and Early Action and developed a regional flood-risk profile in 2021, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC). That inter-agency cooperation resulted in strengthened risk information services delivered to 11 Member States. The partnership also contributed to the launch of the IGAD Disaster Operations Center, for impact-based early-warning and enhanced assessment of food insecurity and early action.

In 2021, UNDRR worked with governments that held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, namely Portugal and Slovenia, to promote disaster risk reduction at the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid & Food Aid (COHAFA) and the Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV), that are attended by the EU Group of Member States and form an important venue to inform EU discussions.

Strategic partners also contributed to scaling up disaster risk reduction in climate change and other policy discussions, including in the margins of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) and advocacy milestones in 2021. UNDRR, with the Governments of France and the United Kingdom, co-hosted a pre-COP26 event entitled From Risk to Resilience: Accelerating Adaptation Action at COP26, in collaboration with WMO and the World Resource Institute. In reviewing COP26 adaptation goals, the event explored how to improve preparedness for climate-related disasters and support national adaptation planning, with the aim of empowering and protecting those most vulnerable to climate change.

UNDRR would like to thank all its donors, without whose generous contribution UNDRR’s crucial work in accelerating global efforts in disaster risk reduction to ensure a more resilient and more sustainable future for all would not be possible.

<sup>8</sup> UNDRR receives funding from the United Nations Secretariat Regular Budget to cover costs for one senior-level position.

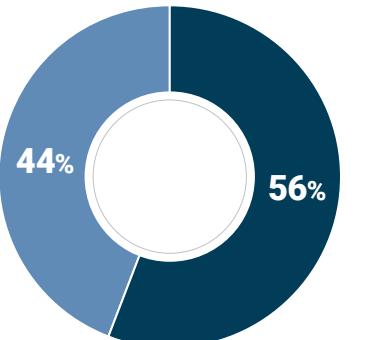


## UNDRR 2021 DONORS

GOVERNMENTS	USD
Sweden *	9,089,723
Japan *	6,255,921
Germany	5,205,168
United States of America	4,147,308
Norway *	2,940,395
European Commission	2,868,432
Republic of Korea *	2,699,980
Italy	2,619,798
Australia *	2,360,954
Switzerland *	2,156,236
Finland *	1,213,592
CREWS	846,234
Czech Republic *	355,698
Luxembourg *	302,663
People's Republic of China *	299,985
CDEMA	175,497
UPS Foundation	175,000
Kazakhstan	50,000
Israel *	20,000
Philippines *	20,000
France *	12,107
SM Prime Holding	11,495
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>USD 43,826,186</b>

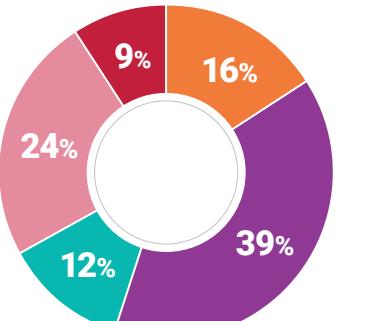
\* Donors that provide total or partial core-funding

## 2021 INCOME BREAKDOWN



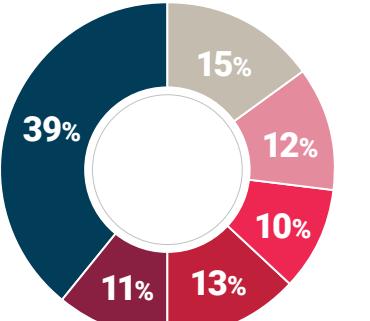
- Earmarked funding
- Unearmarked funding

## 2021 WORK PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



- SO1
- SO2
- SO3
- E1
- E2

## 2021 EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN BY REGION



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





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