



## Issues Briefs Template

<b>Event title</b>	<b>WS1: Sendai Framework Implementation</b>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>The purpose of this session is to examine global progress in implementing the Sendai Framework for DRR and identifying practical actions and recommendations to accelerate implementation. It will do this through looking at implementation progress to date, from the perspective of a developed and a developing country, civil society and the private sector, as well as use of the Sendai Monitor.</p> <p>The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction charts the global course over the next 15 years. It provides a solid body of recommendations and guidelines for countries to reduce risk and disaster losses.</p> <p>During the consultations and negotiations that led to its finalization, strong calls were made to develop practical guidance to support implementation, ensure engagement and ownership of action by all stakeholders, and strengthen accountability in disaster risk reduction. In particular, it has called for the inclusion of all stakeholders in the reduction of disaster risk, in particular persons with disabilities, children, youth, older persons and women. To support the process, a number of Sendai Framework implementation guides have been developed by UNISDR and other stakeholders. Even with a Global Framework and accompanying detailed guidance on its implementation, practice across all stakeholders, especially Member States can vary significantly due to many diverse factors. Additionally, in some instances it can be difficult to accurately assess and measure progress.</p> <p>That said, Monitoring of the Sendai Framework global targets, and implicitly of related SDG Goals and to a lesser extent Paris Agreement actions, along</p>

	<p>with nationally defined Targets and Indicators, can inform the progress of risk reduction, development and climate change adaptation initiatives and policies. For instance, these and other global priorities can assist with measuring the compliance of national strategies with the Framework, and could be applied in disaster risk reduction planning, ensuring that a meaningful review of progress and necessary course correction in national actions is possible.</p> <p>With four years since the adoption of the Sendai Framework in 2015, countries and other stakeholders have by now gained considerable experience implementing risk reduction under the new framework. Additionally, since the release of the Sendai Framework Monitor in early 2018, a body of evidence based on data submitted by Member States has been and continues to be collected.</p> <p>A variety of perspectives will be shared, such as regional, national, community and private sector points of view.</p>
<p><b>State of Play and Opportunities</b></p>	<p>Overall, some progress is being made in achieving Sendai targets, with a decline in relative global mortality over the last 30 years and damage to critical infrastructure declining more recently (in line with targets (a) and (d) respectively). However, there remain many challenges to overcome and gaps to fill in order to successfully implement the Sendai Framework.</p> <p>Key to implementation of the framework is understanding risk by analysing its underlying drivers. In order to achieve this, comprehensive monitoring of progress is required at all levels, covering not just direct losses but also the wider, indirect, socio-economic impact, thus allowing for a more holistic understanding of risk. With this data, evidence-based DRR policies can be pursued and certain areas can be prioritised. However, gaps in the availability of such data, including in specific areas of disaster loss, all areas of international cooperation, and aspects of early warning, risk information and DRR strategies, pose a challenge. Additionally, obtaining high quality disaggregated data, making it accessible to all government institutions and utilising it effectively are problems that need to be overcome for effective implementation of the Sendai framework. The establishment of a baseline through the collection of historic loss data is also necessary for measuring progress. However, this requires an investment of time and resources, and may not be possible for countries which lack the necessary data infrastructure. Even after overcoming the technological challenge of collecting and analysing data, nations are faced with the challenge of characterising and depicting such data, for example presenting probability of non-probabilistic hazards, or characterising the vulnerability of people or</p>

	<p>assets to different hazards. Good risk communication is essential for populations who may have to make life-changing decisions in relation to hazard risks.</p> <p>Aside from challenges related to the collection of data, another key problem faced by countries is a lack of coordination and cooperation within government and more broadly between government, non-governmental organisations and stakeholders, including the private sector, across multiple disciplines. Coordination and clear delineation of responsibility is a must if organisations are to avoid working at cross purposes and comprehensive resilience is to be achieved.</p> <p>Also crucial to implementation of the Sendai Framework is the dedication of resources. The poorest nations are those that are most vulnerable to disasters and even if there is government commitment to implementing Sendai, there are often not enough funds to realise this goal, especially since risk reduction often falls outside the humanitarian funding stream.</p> <p>Finally, a key barrier to the successful implementation of Sendai, and specifically target (e), is the lack of national DRR strategies. While some countries have made progress in this area, many lag behind in this crucial first step towards a more resilient future. Such strategies must take a comprehensive, all-hazard and transboundary approach so as to achieve maximum effectiveness. This is also links in with the political challenge of DRR rarely featuring high on national political agendas, with risk often being overlooked due to complacency or over-emphasis on economic development.</p>
<p><b>Way Forward</b></p>	<p>There are multiple actions that can be taken to assist in the implementation of Sendai. Firstly, raising greater awareness among stakeholders of their vulnerability to hazards is crucial, and can be achieved through educational and awareness raising campaigns.</p> <p>Secondly, risk governance should be approached in a holistic way, with the private sector and government needing both the incentives and modes to facilitate sharing the responsibility and cost of risk. The International Risk Governance Council (IRGC) has proposed an innovative risk-governance framework and guidelines on how to address emerging risk.</p> <p>Linked to governance is the need for specific legislation for DRR. This legislation should be accompanied by guidance on how to achieve goals set out in the legal framework to help industry be compliant, and to support</p>

authorities in assessing if undertaking has met the associated safety objectives. In addition to a legal framework, a liability and compensation framework is also required.

Risk communication at all levels should also be improved to ensure that information on risks flows freely and effectively across all of society. Better exchange of and access to risk-management resources should also be guaranteed. However, it is not just risk communication that warrants attention, risk assessment too requires action. Research should therefore focus on the development of methodologies and tools for risk assessment and mapping. In order to realise this goal, better loss and damage functions are needed for all hazards. Human, environmental and economic impacts should also be assessed, the latter two often being neglected.

Of course, accurate assessment of risk and the prevention and mitigation of future disasters requires the collection of quality data that supports learning from past events. To this end, the easy and free sharing of relevant data on all risks, disaster events and even near misses should be promoted and facilitated. This can be done through investment in physical infrastructure for better online reporting and loss accounting, connecting Sendai related statistics with official statistics collected by National statistics offices, building a strong nationally orientated customised reporting mechanism, and building synergies with UN entities responsible for different SDG targets. Research can also help to fill existing knowledge gaps, something which is particularly important in an age of multi-hazard, systemic risk. Stakeholder training is also a crucial step in this process, providing them with the knowledge and skills to mitigate risk.

As mentioned previously, lack of coordination is a major challenge in the implementation of Sendai and cooperation among stakeholders, particularly at local level, is essential for its success. Public-private partnerships and regional and international networks that facilitate collaboration for effective risk management must therefore be fostered.

Finally, Sendai related strategies and frameworks should strive for synergy with SDGs. Given the higher international and political profile of the SDGs, the SDG community needs to be sensitised to the Sendai Framework and actively consider coherence with it as they advocate for the attainment of SDG targets.