



United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

2018 Annual Report

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For additional information, please contact:

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

9-11 Rue de Varembé, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: +41 22 917 89 08

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Cover: A woman in the Tillabéri region of Niger who is part of an association called Cernafa, watering plants. The cooperative uses organic farming practices which combat desertification by preventing land degradation and soil erosion (World Bank).

**United Nations Office
for Disaster Risk Reduction**

2018 Annual Report



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

FOREWORD

Events of 2018 have underlined the importance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to broader humanitarian and development agendas, including undergirding the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, advancing the climate change agenda, reducing humanitarian loss and improving poverty reduction efforts.

In 2018, some 60 million people were affected by extreme weather events around the globe, while earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic activity took thousands of lives. Millions of people were displaced, notably by floods, drought and storms.

These disaster events demonstrated once more the importance of setting and reaching targets for: reducing mortality, the numbers of people affected, economic losses, and damage to critical infrastructure.

It was an important moment therefore, when, in March, we launched the Sendai Framework Monitor. This monitoring system provides the Member States, for the first time, with a universally available tool to benchmark disaster losses against future progress in reducing those disaster losses. This is done by tracking implementation of the Sendai Framework's seven targets.

By the end of the year, 88 countries were actively using the Sendai Monitoring System and I am looking forward to the findings from these first rounds of reporting being revealed and discussed at the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva.

As global interconnectivity grows, the world shrinks! Shocks, stresses and risks which may once have been confined to a limited geographical area, are increasingly threatening all of us. It is just as vital, therefore, that the world has a united and joined-up approach to reducing risk in all its forms. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction sits at the heart of the United Nations' combined efforts to manage disaster risk. Our convening power was demonstrated throughout the year as regional platforms for disaster risk reduction took place across the world in Africa, the Americas and Caribbean, the Arab States, Asia-Pacific and Europe.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the host countries, not only for the organization of these events but for their participation at the highest political levels. President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia, host of the Americas and Caribbean regional platform, rightly pointed out "Working together we will achieve more; we will be able to respond better."

Opening the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Prime Minister of Mongolia, Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, urged increased action at the local level, a key concern now as the 2020 deadline for target (e) approaches, wherein we must ensure a substantial increase in the number of countries with national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction.

On numerous occasions during the year we were reminded of the pressing need to scale up the level of our ambition to reduce disaster risk, not least by the dire scenarios described by the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change in the Special Report on Global Warming at 1.5°C and our own examination of twenty years of economic losses issued in a report issued on the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction in October.

We are aware, perhaps as never before, as Commissioner Josefa Sacko of the African Union wryly remarked at the first-ever joint Africa-Arab Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Tunis, “We have a lot of papers on our shelves but need to pass to action.”

At the same Platform, Minister of Local Affairs and Environment, Tunisia, Riadh Mouakher, expressed hope for new partnerships to strengthen vulnerable areas and identified the need to address the lack of capacity to address pressures induced by climate change through improving monitoring databases.

I was impressed with the Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte’s declaration at the opening of the European Forum in Rome, that “disaster risk reduction is fundamental for all governments.” He also highlighted the fact that increased public awareness must be a vital part of Italy’s new national plan to implement the Sendai Framework, particularly in terms of outreach to children and youth.

As the year closed, youth around the world expressed their dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs inspired in part by the words of (then) 15-year-old Greta Thunberg from Sweden, speaking at the COP24 in Katowice: “I hear people saying that climate change is an existential threat, yet I watch as people carry on like nothing is happening.”

Here at the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, we are committed to the transformation necessary to ensure that disaster risk reduction efforts are ambitious and in synch with other international agendas including action on climate change, urban resilience, implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Agenda for Humanity and the Financing.

I am grateful to all our partners and thankful to our staff for their hard work during the year. We are looking forward to welcoming many of you to Geneva to share ideas, initiatives and progress in disaster risk reduction, and building resilience, sustainability and inclusion at the Global Platform in May 2019.

水鳥 真美

Mami Mizutori

United Nations Special Representative of the
Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction



Workers carrying sand bags to be pitched on the banks of the river Brahmaputra in Gumi village, Guwahati, Assam, India. This protects the village from flooding through preventing soil erosion of the riverbank (Asian Development Bank).



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SENDAI FRAMEWORK

FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



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 between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015
- b) Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 between 2020-2030 compared to 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 this 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

Risk Reduction 2015-2030

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

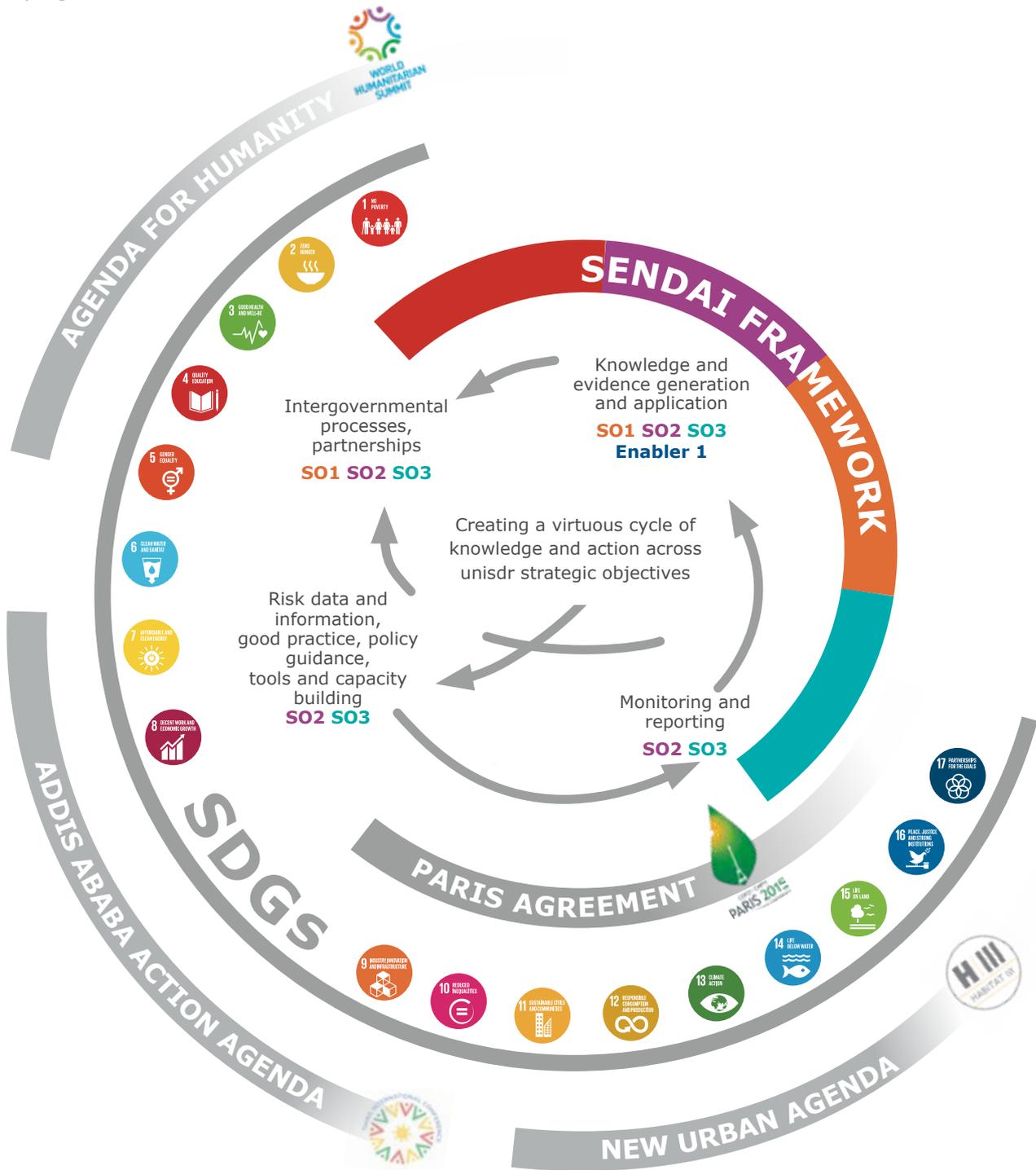
- Primary responsibility of States to prevent and reduce disaster risk, including through cooperation
- Shared responsibility between central Government and national authorities, sectors and stakeholders as appropriate to national circumstances
- Protection of persons and their assets while promoting 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

UNISDR VISION

The Substantial Reduction of Disasters Risk and Losses for a Sustainable Future

MANDATE

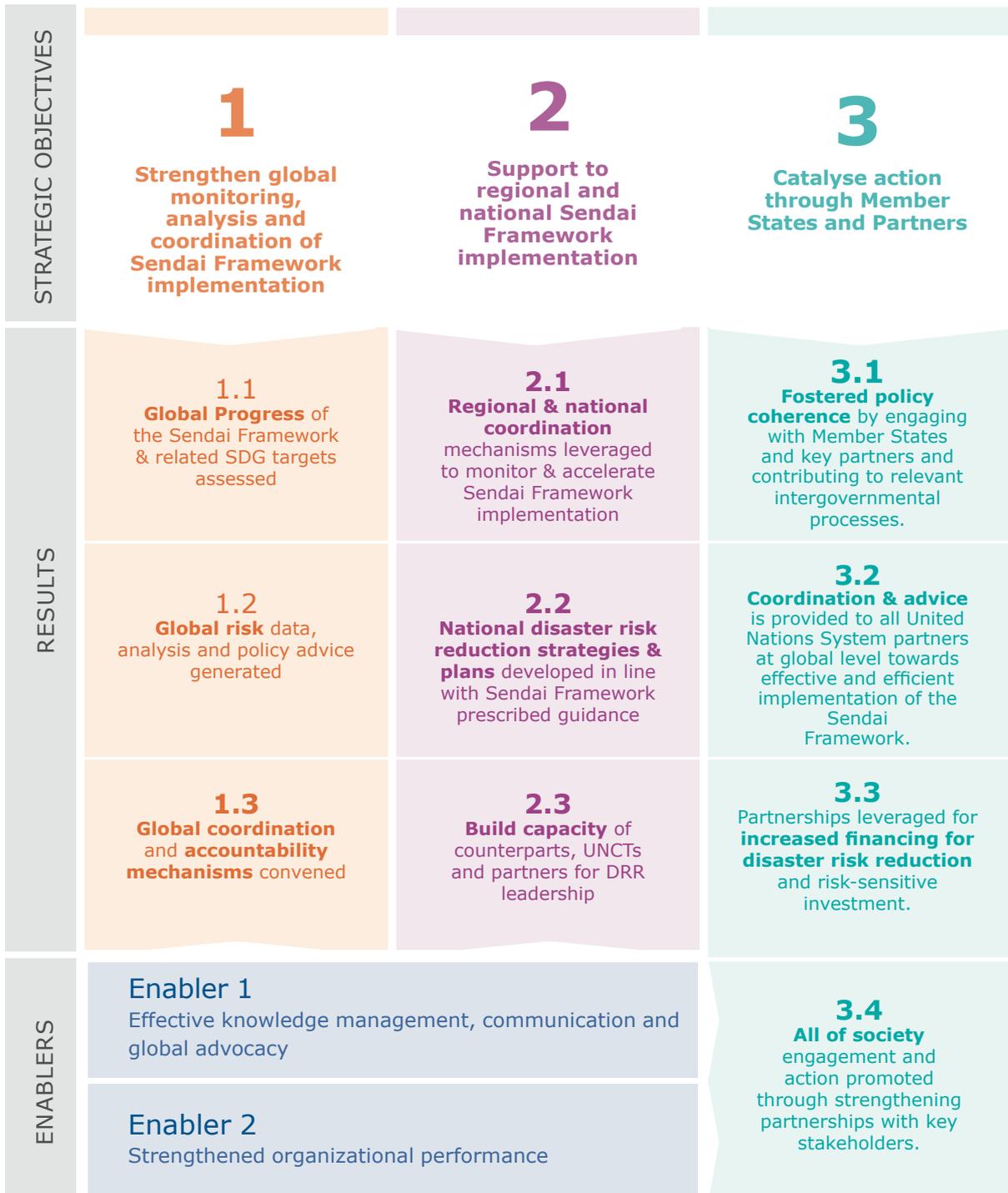
Focal point of the United Nations system for disaster risk reduction and the custodian of the Sendai Framework, supporting countries and societies in its implementation, monitoring and review of progress



UNISDR WORK PROGRAMME

OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE

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



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2018 was another costly year both in loss of life and livelihoods as a result of disasters. Wildfires across Europe and North America, earthquakes and tsunamis in Southeast Asia, floods across Asia, heatwaves in South Asia, drought in South America and Africa, landslides in Africa and Asia and a destructive volcano in Central America all increased global awareness regarding the need to invest in disaster risk reduction.

This 2018 Annual Report provides an overview of the results achieved by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) towards its vision, *the sustainable reduction of disaster risk and losses for a sustainable future*, vis-à-vis its guiding documents, the UNISDR Strategic Framework 2016-2021, the UNISDR Work Programme 2016-2019 and its Results Frameworks (result based management framework available electronically).

As recognised by Sendai Framework paragraph 28c, Regional Platforms are critical instruments for advancing disaster risk reduction, in order to forge partnerships, periodically assess progress on implementation and share practice and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, as well as to promote the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors. In 2018, UNISDR organized **Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction** in Asia-Pacific, Americas-Caribbean, Europe and a combined Africa-Arab regional platform in Tunisia. UNISDR also organised a sub-regional platform for the Central-Asia South Caucasus region.

The Regional Platforms, coupled with data from the Sendai Framework Monitor informed global processes, notably the **2018 High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development**. Key messages that emerged from all platforms in 2018, were the need for greater focus on target (e) of the Sendai Framework, increasing the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and the importance of inclusion.

In March 2018, UNISDR launched the **Sendai Framework Monitor**, a system for tracking progress against both the 38 globally agreed indicators of the Sendai Framework and custom national indicators. To reach the 88 countries using the Sendai Framework Monitor by the end of the year, UNISDR delivered extensive training at global, regional and national levels to a wide variety of stakeholders.

UNISDR in Numbers

100%
Gender Parity
at Senior Level

≈100
Number of Staff
in 2018

99%
Extra-Budgetary
Funded

\$40.8M
2018
Income



A reconstruction project in Nepal following the 2015 earthquakes that destroyed 91% of the houses in the Ramechhap district. This project seeks to build back better including through masonry trainings and improved building design (Medair).

In alignment with the expanded scope of hazards of the Sendai Framework and the current risk information landscape, UNISDR also significantly modified its approach to the development of its flagship report, the **United Nations Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction** (GAR) which will be launched at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2019. UNISDR also started consultations with experts on gathering and generating risk data and information through a new **Global Risk Assessment Framework** (GRAF).

To ensure that the **2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** is informed by the latest discussions, challenges, innovations and successes related to disaster risk reduction, UNISDR held extensive consultations with governments, the United Nations system partners and a wide variety of stakeholders. To shape the substance and structure of the May 2019 Platform, UNISDR worked closely with more than 300 stakeholders through 22 organizing teams.

In 2018, UNISDR also retrofitted its disaster loss database system (DesInventar Sendai) and launched a system for tracking voluntary commitments to implement the Sendai Framework. **DesInventar Sendai** allows Member States to continue to record and analyse disaster trends and impacts in alignment with the Sendai Framework Monitor. The online system for tracking **voluntary commitments** provides stakeholders with information about efforts to implement the Sendai Framework to avoid duplication and maximise impact. In turn, UNISDR can monitor and take stock of the work done to increase the effectiveness of stakeholders' shared responsibility towards implementation of the Sendai Framework.

In order to strengthen its engagement with partners and stakeholders, UNISDR developed a **Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy** in 2018. This strategy sets out priorities and expectations for partnerships, including definitions, guiding principles, value propositions and engagement modalities in alignment with the global United Nations Reform process. UNISDR also continued targeted engagement with key stakeholder groups including the science and technology community, private sector, youth, women, parliamentarians and other key civil society actors.

2018 Highlights

87

National Strategies completed or in progress with assistance from UNISDR

88

Countries using Sendai Monitor to report on progress

4,224

Cities participating in Making Cities Resilient Campaign

221

Local Governments that completed Disaster Resilience Scorecard Self-Assessments

+3,107

Government officials and disaster risk reduction stakeholders trained

Similarly, UNISDR conducted extensive global consultations to develop a **Strategic Approach to Capacity Development** published in 2018 as a living document. The document established a common understanding on the topic of capacity development within the disaster risk reduction community by characterizing outstanding capacity development needs in light of common obstacles and constraints, presenting key principles, elements and actions that together help guide planning discussions, providing targets and ideals and normalizing practice across sectors.

In addition to the extensive Sendai Framework Monitoring **capacity development efforts**, throughout the year, UNISDR provided regional, national and local level support to the generation of disaggregated loss and risk data and policy guidance for risk-informed decision-making and the development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with target (e) of the Sendai Framework. In total, UNISDR trained more than 3,107 stakeholders globally in 2018.

To empower local authorities to better manage disaster risk, UNISDR provided over 4,224 local governments signed up to the **Making Cities Resilient Campaign** with tools, best practices and policy guidance to implement the Sendai Framework. In 2018, over 200 cities completed a self-assessment of their state of resilience utilising UNISDR's Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities and UNISDR provided technical guidance to 20 pilot cities on the development of Local Disaster Risk Reduction Plans.

UNISDR continued to encourage mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction across the United Nations System through a variety of avenues in 2018, including the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development, membership in the new United Nations Sustainable Development Group, supporting the development of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and corresponding guidance, convening the **UN Senior Leadership Group**

on Disaster Risk Reduction, engagement in the process of developing the United Nations Global Compact for Migration and contributing to a variety of on-going UN-wide reform processes.

Throughout 2018, UNISDR continued extensive efforts to raise awareness and achieve impact through knowledge brokering efforts which included finalising two **Words Into Action Guides** and launching two others for public comment. The guides are instrumental in building local capacity through connecting best practice with on-ground realities to improve disaster risk reduction outcomes.

The **PreventionWeb** continued its growth as the world's only disaster risk reduction knowledge platform, publishing more than 400 new entries each month and curating services such as Ask-an-Expert sessions and the Disaster Risk Reduction Voices Blog series.

The Sendai Seven Campaign with a focus on target (c) was continued this year – reducing economic losses – and the launch of the report 'Economic Losses, Poverty & Disasters 1998-2017' highlighting the challenges of collecting disaster-related economic data and the dominance of extreme weather events. A wide variety of products and activities were generated in relation to the **International Day for Disaster Reduction** and **World Tsunami Awareness Day**. Activities ranged from high-level panels and the production of publications to the launch of an online game and videos.

The efforts to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment were recognised by UN-Women through the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) as "best amongst United Nations Secretariat entities in 2017" and the United Nations Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) audit positively evaluated UNISDR's performance in 2018.

In 2018, UNISDR raised US \$40.8 million against a requirement of US \$43.1 million.

Un-earmarked contributions to UNISDR increased significantly in 2018 to US \$16.7M or 41 per cent of the total funding received in 2018, up from US \$6.4M or 23 per cent of the total income received in 2017. This sharp increase was mainly due to the fact that the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided unearmarked financial support. UNISDR also continued to diversify its funding base in 2018, adding four new donors, two Member States, Cyprus and Czech Republic as well as the Enel Foundation and Willis.

While UNISDR remained 99.2 per cent funded through extra-budgetary resources from voluntary contributions, with only one post currently funded from the UN Regular Budget, it strongly appreciated that the need to allocate additional resources was agreed in 2018 by Member States in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly (A/C.2/73/L.15/Rev.1).

*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.*

UN General Assembly (A/C.2/73/L.15/Rev.1), Paragraph 40



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Strengthen Global Monitoring, Analysis and Coordination of Sendai Framework Implementation

Through Strategic Objective One (SO1) of its Work Programme 2016-2019, UNISDR seeks to ensure that risk knowledge and data to measure progress are systematically collected and analysed and that global coordination and accountability mechanisms are delivered and leveraged. In 2018, UNISDR supported the global disaster risk reduction community to make significant advances in gathering and using data related to implementation of the Sendai Framework, and corresponding SDGs, through the launch of the **Sendai Framework Monitor** and accompanying capacity development opportunities. UNISDR significantly modified its approach to the development of its flagship report, the **United Nations Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR)**. It now includes analysis on the expanded scope of hazards introduced in the Sendai Framework and focus on the systemic nature of risk. UNISDR began applying a new approach to gathering and generating risk data and information through the **Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF)**. UNISDR also fostered and coordinated a broad base of stakeholders throughout the year to advance preparations for the **2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**. The following section provides a detailed overview of the results achieved at the global, regional and national levels in 2019.

RESULT 1.1

Global progress of the Sendai Framework and related SDG targets assessed

RESULT 1.2

Global risk data, analysis and policy advice generated

RESULT 1.3

Global coordination and review mechanisms convened

Participants at an Advisory Meeting in Bonn, Germany on Regional Monitoring of the Sendai Framework implementation, organised by UNISDR discuss and learn about the analytics module of the Sendai Framework Monitor (UNISDR).

Sendai Framework Monitor

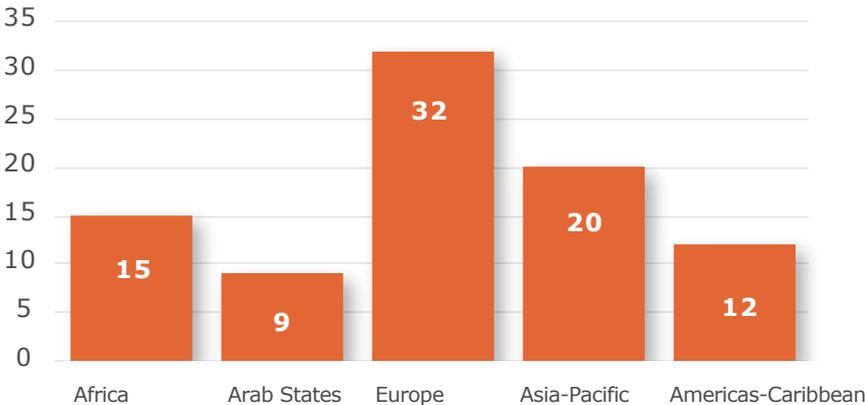
In March 2018, UNISDR launched the **Sendai Framework Monitor**¹, the online platform for UN Member States to report on progress against the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework (through its 38 indicators) and corresponding Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11 and 13, as well as customised national indicators. This was a significant milestone, as the quantifiable and comparable nature of the data enables enhanced understanding from the international to national and sub-national level about progress being made in implementing the wealth of guidance embodied in the Sendai Framework. The Sendai Framework Monitor is also a **tool to guide risk-informed policy decisions** and to allocate resources accordingly towards reducing risk.

The Sendai Framework Monitor was designed in close consultation with a broad base of stakeholders and it was released as three modules in 2018. The first module allows for data entry related to the Sendai Framework global targets and indicators, agreed by all United Nations Member States. The second module allows for data entry related to custom targets and indicators. This gives Member

States the opportunity to develop their own **nationally determined custom targets and indicators** to support the monitoring of their National Strategies for Disaster Risk Reduction and produce national reports as required, thus demonstrating their progress in implementing the Sendai Framework. The third module is an analytics module, which allows all validated information to be filtered for comparison by target, indicator, year and/or region and accessed as charts, maps and tables. This third module is publicly available and enables Member States to demonstrate their progress in contributing to the global targets and indicators of the Sendai Framework. It also shows how countries stand in their efforts on risk reduction as compared across time (e.g. with the period of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015) and space (across countries and regions).

The **Technical Guidance Notes**² which were launched in January 2018, explain the computational methodology for each target and indicator. They include minimum dataset requirements as well as the recommended optimal dataset (including disaggregation by gender, age, etc.). They clarify the required

88 Countries Using the Sendai Framework Monitor*



*As of 31 December 2018



Women gather firewood during a drought in Kenya (IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation).

developed a common understanding of how the Sendai Framework Monitor could support the monitoring at the regional level, including through the regional disaster risk reduction strategies and action plans.

Building on a full year of work rolling out the Sendai Framework Monitor, a Technical Forum on leveraging the process in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda⁴ and the Paris Agreement was organised in November in Bonn, Germany. The event provided an opportunity to learn about data collection and reporting requirements regarding the implementation of the Sendai Framework as well as to discuss and review how coherence with other global agendas such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change could be strengthened through the Sendai Framework Monitor. The training also provided an excellent opportunity for participants to learn from each other how different countries were tackling the monitoring issue within their own capacity and limitations.

2018 saw **three milestones for data uploading** which contributed to global stocktaking of the 2015 intergovernmental agreements. The first milestone, 31 March 2018, compiled 2017 data submitted by Member States on targets (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e). This data was analysed and used to inform deliberations of the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The data and its analysis were also incorporated into the SDG report launched at the HLPF. The second milestone, 15 October 2018, gathered data reported for all targets from (a) to (g) for 2015, 2016 and 2017, and provided a critical input for the 2019 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR 2019), which will be launched at the Global Platform in 2019. The data reported by the second milestone was also shared with other global stocktaking exercises, including the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. By the end of 2018, 88 countries were using the Sendai Framework Monitor to report on



implementation. UNISDR will continue working with Member States towards the three planned reporting milestones in 2019⁵.

To build capacity in the use of the Sendai Framework Monitor in the **Americas and Caribbean Region**, regional training events were organized at the 2018 Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and sub-regional events in Central American, Andean and Southern Cone Regions, training close to 100 participants from approximately 20 countries. The Regional Office also provided one-on-one virtual support to individual countries when countries requested detailed support regarding precise information requirements for specific indicators. The Regional Office also took part at a regional working group on disaster risk reduction statistics in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Additionally, UNISDR worked to provide hands-on training and guidance for the application of DesInventar Sendai and the Sendai Framework Monitor in Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay⁶.

In the **Arab States Region**, UNISDR organised two regional workshops to provide hands-on training on Sendai Framework Monitor and DesInventar Sendai. The first in Cairo, was for Sendai Framework National Focal Points from 11 countries. The second in Bonn, brought together 34 Sendai Framework National Focal Points and statisticians from 16 Arab countries. Both provided an opportunity for exchange of experience in using the monitor and loss database systems and in strengthening disaster risk reduction governance. In addition, a full-day session was organized on the Sendai Framework Monitor and DesInventar Sendai during the Joint Africa-Arab Regional Platform where more than **50 Arab and African country representatives** actively participated. A regional training workshop for African Member States, on the development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies using the nationally-determined custom indicators was also organized.

Based on country requests, UNISDR delivered country-specific training workshops in the **Arab States Region** for national counterparts and line ministries of Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon and Qatar were delivered. In all trainings, UNISDR built understanding of the Sendai Framework, the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and coherence across global agendas was fostered. The role of national disaster risk reduction national platforms is also underscored as a key mechanism to support the comprehensive implementation and monitoring of, and reporting on the Sendai Framework⁷.

In the **Africa Region**, in order to monitor capacity across the continent, UNISDR organised a series of regional workshops in four African Regional Economic Communities – the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). UNISDR also provided country specific trainings. In one such training in Ethiopia,

participants from different Ministries in the Government agreed to set up a small technical group of experts to coordinate on Sendai Framework Monitor reporting and to discuss technical aspects of the platform including assignment of roles in the system (who should validate the data, which institution should be the owner of which target/indicator etc.) and reach agreement on metadata entries. The Ministry of Finance of Ethiopia actively participated in the workshop and in-depth discussions were held regarding the challenges related to tracking budget allocations to disaster risk reduction. Participants highlighted the need for continued support in data collection and discussed solutions for taking conflict into consideration through the Sendai Framework Monitor.

The **Regional Office for Europe** provided direct assistance to seven Member States on the Sendai Framework Monitor methodology, configuration and data collection. The Office organised a two-day training for Central Asia and South Caucasus countries, as well as a one-day specific event for all Sendai National Focal Points in the region during the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction. To capture and share good practices and national experiences utilising the Sendai Framework Monitor, UNISDR conducted interviews with Croatian officials for use in the development of an e-learning tool. Croatia was one of the first countries to complete a Sendai Framework Monitor report by the end of 2018; it engaged twelve national entities through 19 active users in the reporting process. UNISDR also facilitated exchanges among Sendai Framework National Focal Points for better sharing of practices related to national structures for reporting. As a result of this support, 32 European countries had initiated reporting by the end of 2018. Most countries validated data in due time for annual reporting.

The **Asia-Pacific Office** built monitoring and reporting capacity in the region through in-country trainings, remote technical support, regional and national workshops. Notably, six regional workshops were held for South East

"I have learned the way to implement these wonderful tools, Sendai Framework Monitor System and DesInventar. I take it as my priority action to share my experience in my sub-region and I will work along with my colleagues in implementing these tools".

Ms. Silvia Helden Molfino from CAPRADE (Comité Andino de Prevención y Atención de Desastres) speaking at a UNISDR training

Asia, South Asia, North East Asia and the Pacific. Workshops were also held with United Nations organizations to strengthen their understanding and capacities⁸. Additionally, **five national workshops** were held in Afghanistan, Australia, Malaysia, Myanmar and the Philippines. While the regional workshops saw the participation from National Disaster Management Offices and National Statistics Offices (NSOs), the national workshops, led by the country focal points, gained wider participation including from all relevant ministries, national development partners and civil society. This extensive participation was crucial for these countries to identify the repositories of data for different indicators. All five countries that had national workshops reported through the Sendai Framework Monitor in 2018 proving the value of providing capacity building and bringing together stakeholders at national level.



Women create terraces as their contribution to the umunsi w'umuganda program, a day of community service in Rwanda. The planting of crops on the terraces helps prevent soil erosion and landslides (World Bank).



Launch and training of the Sendai Framework Monitor (UNISDR).

These workshops convened United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and national partners such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to support the monitoring process. They also helped governments identify the data sources, coordinate with all national partners, and gain the technical capacity needed to collect and report on that data. As a result of this support, 20 countries successfully reported in 2018. More work is needed to increase the number of countries reporting as well as improving the overall quality of the data.

While a range of training workshops have been conducted to support countries, long-term and sustainable assistance mechanisms have also been pursued. This includes the development of an **online e-Learning course** on the Sendai Framework Monitor in partnership with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC). This e-Learning course, planned for release in 2019, will assist countries to maintain and update their technical capacity and supplement in-person workshops.

"The Sendai Framework Monitor is something we could use to bring everyone on board – from the Ministry of Finance and Planning as well as other parts of government – all working together to strengthen overall disaster management and risk reduction efforts."

Mr. Leveni Aho, Head of Tonga's National Emergency Management Office

Sendai Framework Monitoring in the Asia-Pacific Region

Country Highlights

Myanmar

Myanmar informed the Regional Office for Asia-Pacific that it would not have been able to report on the Sendai Framework in 2018 without comprehensive technical support and guidance from the Office. Myanmar's efforts to report on the Sendai Framework provide a model of engagement for potential replication in other countries.

Following release of the online Sendai Framework Monitor, Myanmar formed a national committee made up of national government stakeholders, Red Cross and the United Nations Development Programme to identify data holders and gaps in existing data needed to report against the 38 Sendai Framework indicators. Two national committee meetings and training sessions were held in the capital city of Nai Pyi Taw to train partners in using the Monitor, to understand what data is needed and to agree on a uniform reporting methodology. Myanmar utilised its existing national damage and loss database to assist in reporting.

By convening all relevant partners to review data requirements and with support from UNISDR, Myanmar was one of the few countries in the Asia Pacific region that was able to report comprehensively on all seven targets (a-g) of the Sendai Framework across all three requested years of data (2015-17). The detailed reporting will be useful to the country in its use of the Monitor's analytics tools and can complement the country's national damage and loss database to inform disaster risk reduction policies and programs. In addition, the process directly involved a national committee comprised of government stakeholders, the Red Cross and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Office in data collection and sharing for increased coordination and ownership of data collection, reporting and use of data to inform policies and activities.

Afghanistan

As a result of UNISDR technical support, Afghanistan has established formal reporting mechanisms which will assist in reporting against both the Sendai Framework targets and the SDGs in future years. The mechanism is comprised of 50 partners from across relevant government departments, United Nations agencies, donors and the national Red Crescent Society.

At the request of the government, a national workshop was held in Kabul in June 2018 with these partners. This workshop helped identify the data in Afghanistan in relation to the Sendai Framework indicators and the owners of this data across the government ministries.

As a consequence of this workshop, the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Agency (ANDMA) was able to garner support from other Ministries in order to report in the Sendai Framework Monitor in 2018. Furthermore, Afghanistan also formally requested all government departments to identify a Sendai Focal Point to liaise directly with the ANDMA and provide required data for monitoring. Afghanistan has now decided to invest further in a damage and loss database in the country to assist in reporting and informing on disaster risk reduction policies and activities. While acknowledging that more work is still needed to secure data from some ministries, Afghanistan managed to report across all seven targets for the calendar year 2017.

Tonga

Tonga was one of ten countries in the Pacific that attended an introductory training on the use and application of the Sendai Framework Monitor in March 2018 (Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu). The National Emergency Management Office of Tonga highlighted in the training the great potential of the Sendai Framework Monitor to better inform policymaking, improve coordination and preparedness and, in so doing, reduce disaster risk and associated losses. Tonga appreciated that the Sendai Framework Monitor draws data from the Pacific Disaster Loss Database (PDaLo) and can also be used to assess progress against the regional Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific as well as the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

At the time of the training, Tonga was still reeling from the previous month's Cyclone Gita which caused two fatalities, damaged or destroyed over 1,000 homes and caused US\$140 million in direct economic losses across on Tonga's two main islands Tongatapu (including the capital Nuku'Alofa) and Eua. The agricultural sector was hardest hit with 90% of fruit trees and 40% of root crops destroyed. UNISDR continues to support Tonga and the other countries in the Pacific, all of which are highly risk exposed due to climate-related hazards such as sea level rise and the growing intensity of extreme weather events, in the use of the Sendai Framework Monitor to build disaster resilience.



Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2019 (GAR)

In 2018, UNISDR began preparations for the **UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction** (GAR), the flagship report of the United Nations on global efforts to reduce disaster risk. The GAR 2019 is the first edition to be published since the adoption of the 2015 international agreements, provides:

- an introduction to the systemic nature of risk in the context of sustainable development and interconnected systems;
- an analysis of national reporting in implementing the outcome, goal, targets and priorities of the Sendai Framework and disaster-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including target (e) of the Sendai Framework – the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies; and
- an examination of the broadened scope of hazards and risks of the Sendai Framework.

Informed by cutting-edge, innovative research and good practice in understanding and managing risk, the GAR is developed through an extensive set of partnerships with *inter alia* academia, private sector, research institutes and international organizations.

As with previous GARs, it is anticipated that the GAR19 will contribute directly to **strategic policy guidance and advocacy** in support of regional and country implementation of the Sendai Framework. GAR19 preliminary findings indicate that the number of people affected by disasters is rising both in real and absolute terms. This is an important metric for policy makers, as it highlights the need to double down on disaster risk reduction efforts despite

the steady decline in loss of lives. This initial finding is also relevant in global sustainable development efforts, as it points to a hindrance to development, especially when considering that those affected are disproportionately marginalised populations. Another element emerging from GAR19 that will require continued analysis is the **economic impact of disasters**. While global economic losses are increasing in absolute terms it is important to examine this data related to gross domestic product, geographic distribution, income level and other factors, to better understand the economic impact of disasters on sustainable development.

Four common threads run through the GAR19 report:

- **Coherence** – integrated risk informed and sustainable development pathways;
- **Inclusion** – consistent with the theme *Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality* 2019 High Level Political Forum;
- **Systems risk** – dynamic interaction of disaster risk with social, ecological, economic and political systems; and
- **Behaviour** – appraising and evaluating behavior, with and without risk knowledge and action, and the conditions that contribute to its change.

In 2018, UNISDR drafted a Concept Note for GAR19 and convened a GAR Advisory Board meeting to discuss it. On the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Board, the Concept Note for GAR19 was finalised and a Call for Papers for the 2019 Global Assessment Report (GAR19) was issued in May 2018. The Call for Papers encouraged additional research investigating the contributing factors related to the creation and propagation of disaster risk.

Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction

The Call for Papers was structured around the following four chapters with many sub-topics outlined⁹:

- **Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and disaster risk-informed Sustainable Development:** a review of global, regional, national and local progress and challenges, including how these impacted the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda.
- **Global risk trends:** patterns and trends in global disaster risk and vulnerability – initiating the shift from a single model to a global inter-comparison approach, introducing interactions with systemic risks with an emphasis on drought and the Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF)¹⁰.
- **Creating the national and local conditions to manage risk:** reaching Sendai Framework target (e) - Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, exploring progress in establishing the basis for national and local risk-informed decision-making and investment across all-of-state-institutions at national and local levels.
- **Introducing the broadened hazard and risk scope of the Sendai Framework:** introducing man-made as well as related biological, technological and environmental hazards and risks – identifying impacts, interrelationships with natural hazards and existing measures – and providing a preliminary investigation of the dynamic interactions with systemic risks that shape the interface with the Sendai Framework and other international agreements.

To ensure papers were gathered from a broad base, an extensive outreach campaign was conducted to connect directly with hundreds of research centres, academic institutions, private sector entities and public institutes globally.

In response to the Call for Papers, UNISDR received 230 abstracts of which 183 papers were selected for further development. 165 papers were subsequently received with 139 of these being submitted for external academic peer review. This is the first time that peer review was carried out as part of the GAR process to ensure academic integrity of the process. The peer review was conducted by the University of Auckland – editor of the international journal *Disaster Prevention and Management*.

As a result of this process, more than 240 research centres, academic institutions, private sector entities and public institutes worldwide provided dedicated contributions; taken together with material that has informed GAR19 drafting, the work of over 1,100 entities have been referenced and cited in GAR19. The Zero Order Draft was produced and presented for review by the GAR Advisory Board in December 2018. The final report and accompanying “Summary for Policy Makers” will be launched and discussed at the Global Platform in May 2019. The Main Report will be available in digital format, supported by printed versions of the “Summary for Policy Makers” in all six United Nations languages. The shift to digital publication demands a major revamp of the GAR website. This revamp which began in 2018 and will continue into 2019, will enable easy access to the data and research that underpins the GAR19 findings.

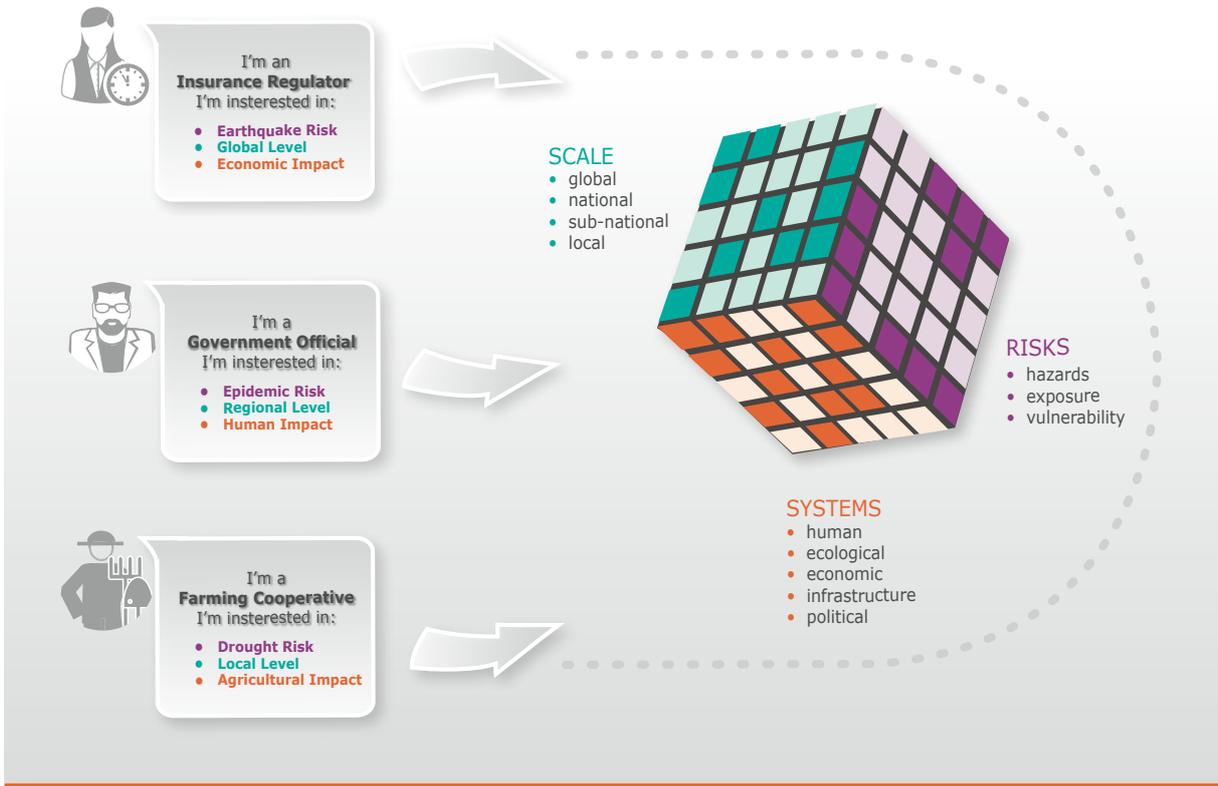
Understanding the multi-dimensional nature of risk: Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF)

UNISDR recognised the need to adapt its Global Risk Assessment to the post-2015 environment; notably with regard to the **broadened scope of hazards and risks of the Sendai Framework**, but also to reflect the systemic nature of risk and the mutually-reinforcing relationship between the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda and the Agenda for Humanity. This prompted consultations at the end of 2017 which led to the establishment of an Expert Group¹¹ in June 2018 to guide the design and initial development of the **Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF)**.

The GRAF aims to improve the understanding and management of current and future risks, at all scales, to better manage uncertainties and mobilise people, innovation and finance by fostering interdisciplinary systems thinking and enabling the identification of the interlinkages and dependencies of multiple risks and actors across systems, so as to enable decision-makers to act.

The diagram below represents one of the central constructs of the GRAF – the Impact Cube. This cube seeks to represent the different dimensions of risk information that a broader range of users would need in-line with Sendai Framework implementation. Drawing on the data, models, assessments and analyses of multiple providers, the GRAF mission is to connect decision-makers at all scales with multi-

Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF) - Impact Cube



dimensional risk information. In this way, by selecting a particular dimension from the cube, users could extract precisely the information they want about different risk types (natural and anthropogenic), at specific geographic scales (global, national, sub-national and local) and with all measurable impact (across human, ecological, economic, infrastructure

and political systems). In the earliest phases, the available information would reach a limited range of users and needs, but as the inputs to the cube grow and our understanding of user requirements matures, this cube would become gradually richer, offering information of progressively higher quality and relevance to an increasingly diverse range of stakeholders.

Regional Highlight - Arab Regional Assessment Report for Disaster Risk Reduction

At the 1st Arab Partnership Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in April 2018, a multi-stakeholder group established by UNISDR to promote an all-of-society approach to disaster risk reduction in the region, it was agreed that the Arab Region needed additional risk information and analysis.

The stakeholders from across governments, civil society organizations, academia, non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies agreed that a dedicated report should be developed to provide evidence-based understanding of risk in the region; take stock of what is being done in the region towards reducing these risks; analyse key drivers of risks through sectoral lenses; and identify the way forward for managing and preventing new risks towards protecting sustainable development in the region. They decided that this report should be referred to as the Arab Regional Assessment Report (RAR) and would be complementary to the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction.

The group highlighted that in many risk prone Arab countries risk reduction is often not a national development priority due to conflict and other competing issues. Therefore, a key aim of the Report is to communicate the impact of disasters and the rapidly increasing vulnerability and exposure in the Arab region which is making the population more susceptible to suffer from small and medium scale external shocks. It will establish the necessary linkages towards addressing the challenges of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation within a broad framework of sustainable development and poverty reduction.

UNISDR formally launched the process for the development of the Arab Regional Assessment Report during the Africa-Arab Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and, the editorial committee for the report was formed¹² at the 2nd Arab Partnership meeting held in Lebanon. The report will include findings of the Global Assessment Report (GAR) and will be developed through a similar multi-stakeholder process. The report will include findings of the Global Assessment Report (GAR) and will be developed through a similar multi-stakeholder process. The report will be completed in time to inform the next Arab States Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Global coordination and accountability mechanisms convened

The 6th session of the **Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** (GP2019) will take place in Geneva, Switzerland from 13-17 May 2019, convened and organised by UNISDR and hosted by the Government of Switzerland. The overall theme for the event is **Resilience Dividend: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Societies**. Each day will be planned around a specific focus, namely: Day 1- Taking stock; Day 2- Risk-informed public and private investments; and Day 3- Climate change action and disaster risk reduction for all. The preparatory days (13-14 May) will feature the 4th World Reconstruction Conference, organised by the World Bank, as well as the 2nd Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference, organised by the World Meteorological Organization.

The Global Platform is a critical component of the monitoring and implementation process of the Sendai Framework and the leading vehicle of the international community for wide-ranging and comprehensive discussions on understanding and managing risk. The outcomes of the Global Platform inform the deliberations of the 2019 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development thus contributing to a risk-informed implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The outcomes will also provide critical inputs for the United Nations Climate Summit in September 2019. In addition, the Global Platform is now recognised as part of the United Nations Secretary General's Integrated Platform for Prevention, thus contributing to the wider Prevention Agenda of the United Nations.

Preparations for the GP2019 began in late 2017 building on the lessons learned from an internal review and feedback received from 2017 Global Platform participants. Preparations were further scaled-up throughout 2018. It is important to note that the entire **preparatory**

process has been guided by principles of inclusion and multi-stakeholder engagement. To shape the thematic focus of the GP2019, a consultation process with governments, United Nations system and all stakeholders was organised over several months in 2018. This included both online consultations and face-to-face meetings. As a result of these consultations, the concept note and draft programme were finalised in June 2018, and since then, 22 **multi-stakeholder organising teams** have been working under the guidance of UNISDR focal points, on shaping the substance and structure of the sessions of the official programme. The **GP2019 website** was launched in October 2018 along with the registration system¹³.

The GP2019 will feature enhanced opportunities for interactive dialogue and peer-to-peer learning both during the official programme as well as during many parallel events. In addition to the traditional format of side events and the Ignite Stage, new elements such as the Innovation Platform and the Learning Labs will be introduced. The urgency of achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework by 2020 will receive much attention throughout the week and the programme has been designed in a way that will allow ample space for sharing of good practices and challenges in achieving this target.

Development of policy guidance and standards

As the availability of standardised metrics for resilience will assist local governments to determine their exposure to, and capacity to cope with potential hazards, extreme events or stresses while maintaining their essential functions and safeguarding their population, UNISDR worked closely with the World Council for City Data and the International Organization for Standardization (**ISO**) on the development of **ISO 37123** for Resilient Cities. The indicators that comprise this standard are designed to

help a city reflect on their status of disaster resilience and on measures to improve the same. The process of developing the standard is expected to be completed by mid-2019.

The **Asia-Pacific Regional Office** is leading regional efforts to learn lessons from recent disasters and make recommendations to reduce future risks and losses. Notably, a review of the tsunami in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, has been conducted in collaboration with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and research organizations, to better understand the challenges and opportunities in strengthening “the last-mile” reach of the tsunami early warning system. Focusing on the social aspects of end-to-end early warning systems, the study analyses the consequences of decisions made ‘upstream’ of the warning systems on the ability of communities to take action and save lives, in particular through self-evacuation.

The results of the assessment are expected to inform the decisions on this topic as the current regulations are under review in the aftermath of the disaster in Indonesia.

Considering the high human and economic impact attributed to soil liquefaction during the 2018 Indonesia Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami, UNISDR conducted a **study on the liquefaction hazard** to explain the associated mechanisms and the impacts of this complex peril and to raise awareness on existing risks aggravating factors and risk reduction options. The knowledge generated through this study which has mapped out main occurrence as well as susceptibility factors, will help governments in the region understand the policy implications of dealing with liquefaction risks. The research aims to raise awareness among exposed citizens, stakeholders and local governments in liquefaction-prone areas and recommend approaches to assess, prevent and mitigate the risk.



Stakeholders at the “marketplace” of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas sharing information and best practices (UNISDR).



The STATE of PLAY

REGIONAL STATUS ON DRR STRATEGIES



ASIA PACIFIC CONTINUES TO BE THE MOST DISASTER-PRONE COUNTRY

A NEW ALIGNMENT WITH SENDAI FRAMEWORK

• LOW IMPACT DISASTERS IN LOCAL COMMUNITY ARE INCREASING

INCREASING



FIJI

STAND

PRIORITISE FOR EVERYDAY LIFE OF COMMUNITY



EFFECTIVE



FOR DRR

• REAL PROGRESS

MANY LAWS NOW INCLUDE DRR

• NEED MORE INTEGRATION OF DRR IN SECTORAL

PLANNING + ENV. LAW

• NEED FOR STRONGER MANDATES

FIJI

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Support to Regional and National Sendai Framework Implementation

Through Strategic Objective Two (SO2) of the Work Programme 2016-2019, UNISDR provides regional, national and local level support to generate loss and risk data and policy guidance for risk-informed decision-making and the development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies. UNISDR also supports regional coordination, including through the organization of **Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction**, as key regional coordination and accountability mechanisms. In addition, UNISDR works with United Nations Resident Coordinators and Country Teams as well as regional organizations in the context of broader United Nations development system reforms, to actively support national risk-informed **United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks**.

RESULT 2.1

Regional and national coordination mechanisms are leveraged to monitor and accelerate Sendai Framework implementation

RESULT 2.2

National disaster risk reduction strategies and plans are developed in line with Sendai Framework prescribed guidance

RESULT 2.3

Build capacity of counterparts, United Nations Country Teams and partners for leadership in disaster risk reduction

Stakeholders draw storyboards at the ISDR Asia Partnership Meeting and target (e) workshop to help participants visually understand key components of disaster risk reduction strategies (UNISDR).

Regional Platforms

In 2018, UNISDR organised four Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction in Colombia, Italy, Mongolia, Tunisia and one Sub-Regional Platform in Armenia. Regional Platforms are recognized by the Sendai Framework as a critical instrument for advancing disaster risk reduction in order to forge partnerships, periodically assess progress on implementation and share good practices and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development and climate issues as well as to promote the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors (paragraph 28c). Each of the five Platforms held were unique in their focus, structure and outcomes while they all had one key common message: the need to focus efforts on achieving the Sendai Framework target (e) by 2020, to increase the number of national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction.

Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas

The sixth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, hosted by the Government of Colombia and organised jointly with UNISDR in **Cartagena, from 20 to 22 June**, was an opportunity to review progress made and provide guidance for moving forward the **regional action plan** for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas. The Regional Platform adopted the Cartagena Declaration¹⁴ called for the development and strengthening of disaster risk reduction plans and strategies in line with target (e) of the Sendai Framework, and the importance of strengthening institutional frameworks to integrate disaster risk reduction across development measures was recognized. Member States highlighted the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction in all sectors and **positioning disaster risk reduction as a public policy priority at the national and local levels**. They recognised that this requires

strengthened public-private partnerships and a commitment to invest domestic resources.

The Platform provided a space for all stakeholders to advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region; it renewed commitment to implementation of the regional action plan at the Ministerial and high authorities meeting; further strengthened capacity of countries to measure the Sendai indicators and a plan of action was discussed to engage the Science and Technology community. The Platform was attended by 1,354 participants from a wide variety of stakeholder groups and the agenda of the Platform was developed through a participatory approach by an advisory council comprised of 17 representatives from governments, financial institutions, civil society, private sector and United Nations agencies. At a **special session on recovery in the Caribbean**, it was concluded that building resilience encompasses five critical pillars: social protection for the most vulnerable, the safeguarding of infrastructure, economic diversification, environmental protection and operational readiness. Jamaica will host the Regional Platform in 2020 which Member States decided to rename the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean.

Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

The eighth biennial session of the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), and the second after the adoption of the Sendai Framework, was co-hosted by the Government of Mongolia in **Ulaanbaatar, from 3 to 6 July**. With UNISDR's leadership, organising teams were formed around themes and sessions which saw active participation and contributions from multiple partners and organizations. A drafting committee developed the outcome documents agreed to at the Platform: The Ulaanbaatar Declaration and the 2018-2020 Action Plan¹⁵, in addition to Voluntary Commitments¹⁶ issued by the stakeholders¹⁷.



H.E. Mr. U. Enkhtuvshin, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia and SRSG Mizutori participate in a small Naadam Festival award ceremony at the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction. Naadam is a traditional event held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia annually in July and features dancing, wrestling, horse racing, archery and music (UNISDR).

In the declaration adopted in Ulaanbaatar, Member States resolved to implement the Asia Regional Action Plan for the period 2018-2020 which focuses attention to where greater efforts are needed to achieve the Sendai Framework. To integrate disaster risk reduction into sectoral plans, countries are called upon to facilitate greater collaboration between national disaster risk management authorities and sectoral ministries, including collaboration for the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of data on disaster risk, loss and damage. The **decentralization of disaster risk reduction responsibilities**, supported by budget allocations, legislation and policies that promote local leadership in planning and implementation. Tools to support local coordination were also promoted. Furthermore, countries were encouraged to ensure that disaster risk reduction **strategies are backed by investment frameworks**, to develop new, and strengthen existing, funding mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and to create an enabling environment for private

sector investment in disaster risk reduction. This includes enforcing infrastructure construction regulations and adding disaster risk reduction as a marker for the approval of projects. The Action Plan also calls for the enhancement of the role of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, convened by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) And the United Nations Regional Sustainable Development Group for Asia-Pacific to support countries in implementing the Sendai Framework.

Governments committed to accelerating the disaster risk reduction agenda in the region. The Platform resulted in **concrete recommendations to substantially increase the number of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020**, thereby achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework. UNISDR followed-up immediately on these recommendations by producing an **analytical report** that reviews the current status of national disaster risk reduction



A sign language interpreter providing simultaneous interpretation at the Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

strategies in the region and by organising a consultative workshop on national and local disaster risk reduction strategies. The Platform also advanced regional efforts to promote risk-informed development, particularly as manifested through **disaster resilient infrastructure**. The topic, organised as a high-level featured event, brought forward the outcomes of the International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, co-organised by the Government of India and UNISDR earlier in the year.

Key thematic topics such as inclusion, local action for resilience and coherence, formed the guiding principles of the **Action Plan developed at the Conference**. These topics have since been translated into practice at various levels and catalysed through the ISDR-Asia Partnership Forum, organised in December 2018¹⁸. Disaster-induced displacement, a key issue in Asia-Pacific which accounted for 60 percent of global disaster displacements in 2017¹⁹, was highlighted as a key theme at the AMCDRR and subsequent deliberations. UNISDR has effectively mobilized its partners

and stakeholders towards mainstreaming these cross-cutting elements across the development agenda. In total, over 3,500 participants from 50 countries and over 1,500 organizations participated. The Government of Australia will host the next Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2020.

The Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

The Africa Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Arab Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction were organised jointly in **Tunis, from 9 to 13 October**. To facilitate the preparation process, a regional organising committee was set up comprised of the Government of Tunisia as the host government, the League of Arab States, the African Union Commission and UNISDR Regional Offices in Africa and the Arab States. The joint Regional Platform was divided into one preparatory day, one consultation day and three official days. The agenda was developed through a

"The huge losses experienced in Indonesia last September remind us of the need to continue raising awareness on tsunamis and to have more inclusive policies in place to take into account the most vulnerable as disasters have long-term economic and social impacts on people and their communities."

Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the 2018 UN General Assembly, opening the World Tsunami Awareness Day panel discussion at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

regional consultative process and the Platform enabled the two regions to discuss mutual challenges and gaps and share experiences in the implementation of the Sendai Framework. While the two regional platforms had combined events and a common Chair's Communique, there were many distinct events focused on the unique opportunities and challenges in the two regions that resulted in two distinct regional declarations²⁰.

Through the "**Communique of the Chair on Africa-Arab Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction**" the Member States agreed to step up action on reducing disaster losses and work together in the face of common challenges: "**risk drivers** such as the consequences of poverty and inequality, climate change and variability, unplanned and rapid urbanization, poor land management and compounding factors such as demographic change." The communique also spelled out a commitment by all countries in the two regions to improve the collection of data on disaster losses through the Sendai Framework Monitor and to "seize the **opportunity of post-conflict reconstruction to build back better** by investing in resilient and accessible infrastructure, following the example of the African and Arab Governments that are **integrating disaster risk reduction into national and sectoral investment planning** under the responsibility of Central Finance and Planning Ministries." The two regions also agreed to put national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction in place over the next two years, thus implementing target (e).

The Regional Platform also adopted the "**Tunis Declaration on accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction**"²¹; and the **Declaration of the 4th Arab Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction**"²². The Arab States also agreed on a prioritized plan of action which was developed as a reference document for countries and partners based on the "Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction" and its Programme of Work. This plan of action for 2018-2020 provides a sense of priority actions for countries to undertake over the next two years. A wide range of stakeholders from both regions were actively engaged in the Regional Platforms and committed to a variety of voluntary commitments²³.

The Platform brought together over 900 participants from more than 60 countries, representing national and local governments, international NGOs, UN agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders including academia, media and civil society organization representing children, youth, women, elderly and people with disabilities. Forty two representatives from Media, including from large broadcast companies, participated in the event and contributed to the Africa Media Awards²⁴, among other communication and outreach activities. As a result, the Platform benefitted from an unprecedented public outreach, hence contributing to raise awareness on disaster risk reduction across Africa.



SRSO Mizutori and the Prime Minister of Italy, Giuseppe Conte, opening the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction

The European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) was held in **Rome, from 21 to 23 November** and opened by the Italian Prime Minister. The Forum reviewed progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the European Region. The EFDRR Secretariat was comprised of UNISDR, the European Commission and the Council of Europe and facilitated strong engagement of stakeholders, including for the development of the agenda. All of the EFDRR sessions were designed by a designated **multi-stakeholder organising team**, each with two co-lead organizations. The plenary session on 'Implementing the Sendai Framework, SDGs and the Paris Agreement in a Coherent Way', was led by Germany and the Netherlands and 'Every life counts: Inclusive and equality-based disaster risk reduction strategies' was led by the United Kingdom and Turkey.

The Forum had a number of unique elements. The first was the **high level political leadership** and commitment to disaster risk reduction– the European Forum was for the first time opened by a Prime Minister, Giuseppe Conte of Italy, who highlighted that "Disaster Risk Reduction is fundamental for all governments".

Alongside this, there was a high-level roundtable attended by political leaders that examined the political questions on protecting Europe's citizens and ensuring a social contract on disaster resilience.

The second element was the innovative nature of the sessions designed to ask critical questions and challenge debate. This included an interactive game session and a special plenary session on climate change to highlight the latest scientific report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the implications of a 1.5°C warming of the planet. The third element was that all sessions

ran an online question and answer system called Pigeonhole where participants could write questions to the panel. There was also a strong emphasis on social media videos and live streaming of the sessions.

Over 800 delegates attended the Forum from governments, regional organizations, including the European Union, non-governmental organizations, private sector, science and technological institutions, academic entities, civil society representatives and variety of other experts. The meeting reached two **key outcomes**²⁵:

- High-Level Communique of the Chair: Protecting Europe's Citizens: The Social Contract on Disaster Resilience; and
- Rome Declaration of Stakeholders – Securing Europe's Prosperity: Reducing Risk of Disasters.

At the closing of the event, Portugal announced to host the next EFDRR.

Central Asia & South Caucasus Sub-Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Central Asia and South Caucasus Sub-Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction took place in Yerevan, Armenia, **from 25 to 27 June**, under the theme "Integrated Platform for Sustainable Development and Resilience". The purpose of the meeting was to gather countries in the region to review their progress in the commitments in the **Central Asia and South Caucasus Road Map** endorsed in 2016 and share good practices on Sendai Framework implementation. The Central Asia and South Caucasus (CASC) countries are now integrated into the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction.

A key outcome of the CASC Sub-Regional Platform was the adoption of the Yerevan Declaration²⁶. The outcomes were presented at the side event organised by UNISDR during the

"The platform has given us all positive workloads. I urge everyone to achieve new results in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, in order to enhance the welfare and resilience of our countries and, of course, strengthen ties between us."

Minister Rostomyan of the Ministry of Emergency Situations in Armenia speaking at the closing ceremony of the Sub-Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction for Central Asian and South Caucasus

High-level Political Forum in July and at the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction. Discussions at the CASC platform focused on what it means to coherently implement the broad 2030 agendas, how to reach target (e) of the Sendai Framework, enhancing regional cooperation and good practices related to fostering an "all-of-society approach" towards sustainable and risk-sensitive development. In particular, countries showed how a coherent approach has been adopted in developing national strategies for disaster risk reduction. Armenia highlighted the endorsement by the government and the Parliament of the disaster risk reduction strategy in 2017 which supported input across different policy areas and enabled greater oversight. Also discussed were the results of a survey conducted by UNISDR prior to the Sub-Regional Platform which indicated that all countries in the region have or are in the process of finalising national strategies and the majority of these have a coherent approach with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. To broaden the outreach and impact of the event, a video on the highlights of the Platform²⁷ was developed.

"We shall adopt a more interventional and proactive consideration for prevention, mitigation and preparation in the face of natural hazards."

H.E. José Félix Hermenegildo, Secretary of State of Angola

Partnerships with regional and national organizations

To develop and monitor regional disaster risk reduction strategies and to support Sendai Framework implementation, UNISDR further strengthened its **partnership with regional intergovernmental organizations** throughout 2018. In the **Arab States Region**, UNISDR worked closely with the League of Arab States through a consultative process to develop the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030. It was adopted at the Riyadh Heads of States Summit in April 2018. In addition, a work programme for the strategy was developed with three phases: short term (2019-2020), medium term (2021-2025) and long term (2026-2030). Based on the work programme, a Prioritised Plan of Action (2019-2020) was developed as a reference document for countries and partners.

In the **Asia-Pacific Region**, UNISDR supported ten intergovernmental organizations from across the region through their senior level participation in the AMCDRR²⁸. In South-East Asia, UNISDR led the Prevention and Mitigation Pillar of a mid-term review of the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management 2016-2020. The Plan of Action is a joint UN contribution towards the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). Cooperation was further enhanced in the Pacific where UNISDR provided technical support for the implementation and monitoring of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific in line with the

Sendai Framework. Moreover, as part of the Pacific Resilience Taskforce, UNISDR has been steering the preparation for the **Pacific Resilience Meeting** due to take place in April 2019 in Suva, Fiji.

In the **Africa Region**, long-standing cooperation between UNISDR, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Regional Economic Commissions has proven instrumental in the adoption of the Africa Strategy and Programme of Action (PoA) for Disaster Risk Reduction. To support the PoA, partners work through several coordination mechanisms: The Africa Working Group, the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and other thematic platforms.

The partners listed above also implement the Intra ACP Programme entitled "*Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities*". The Programme's overall objective is to strengthen the resilience of Sub-Saharan African regions, countries and communities to the impacts of natural disasters, including the potential impacts of climate change, in order to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. The Programme is the first comprehensive disaster risk reduction programme of its magnitude in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Programme, due to end in 2020, has attained commendable achievements that will enable Africa to improve disaster risk reduction interventions significantly.

Following the establishment of a disaster risk reduction unit within the AUC's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture in 2017, UNISDR continued its technical support to the



Children gather around a settlement in Hadhawe village, Somali regional state, Ethiopia (UNICEF).

Commission – including through its African Union Liaison Office in Addis Ababa. Sustained support led to an improved coordination among countries and stakeholders which in 2018 resulted in the adoption of the Operational Plan to implement the Programme of Action.

Work is underway to enable the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to use and support training of Member States on the use of the Sendai Monitor including to track implementation of regional and sub-regional disaster risk management plans of action, particularly by drawing upon the custom indicators functionalities. RECs are also expected to provide technical support to countries in monitoring and reporting progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the AUC Programme of Action. Following consultations with RECs and Member States, UNISDR supported the AUC in the development of the monitoring and reporting framework for the Africa Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action. The framework was adopted during the Africa-Arab Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. It

will facilitate monitoring and biennial reporting to AU ministerial meetings and the AU Heads of State Summit.

UNISDR promotes the inclusion of civil society and private sector actors in disaster risk management and planning in countries, notably through encouraging their inclusion in national platforms for disaster risk reduction. In 2018, 34 multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral national platforms in the Sub-Saharan African Region participated in regional and global disaster risk management events to share experiences and enhance their capacities to use and promote the tools developed by UNISDR.

The **Regional Office for Europe** engaged with the European Commission in the revision of the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism**, known as the **'rescEU initiative'**. This political agreement steps up action on prevention and preparedness by establishing a reporting framework, focusing on key risks of a cross-border nature and risks of low probability with high impact. It also provides support to Member



Undocumented Myanmar Nationals in Shyamlapur settlement, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. © IOM 2016

States to increase their existing disaster risk reduction measures through a consultation mechanism and deployment of expert missions and follow-up recommendations. Furthermore, it supports greater knowledge sharing through setting up a new EU Civil Protection Knowledge Network. UNISDR also contributed to meetings with the **Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe** to highlight the cross-cutting nature of disaster risk reduction and the importance of risk-sensitive decision-making. UNISDR further advocated the same messages in presentations to two European Commission inter-services meetings, convening all directorates of the Commission.

In the **Americas and Caribbean Region**, UNISDR worked with the Centre for Coordination of Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPRENAC), the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance (CAPRADE), the Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management of the Common Southern Market of South America (RMAGIR), as well as other intergovernmental organizations in the Central American, Andean and Southern Cone regions respectively, to align their regional strategies

and plans with the Sendai Framework. Support was provided for the development of National disaster risk reduction plans in Argentina, Chile (indicators only), Guatemala and Paraguay.

In the **Caribbean**, UNISDR also supported the alignment of the Caribbean Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy and related strategic documents with the Sendai Framework. Building on these efforts, the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and UNISDR supported Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in developing national disaster management strategies and plans that are aligned to the Sendai Framework.

In addition, UNISDR and CDEMA continue working towards the harmonizing the Caribbean monitoring and reporting mechanism with the Sendai Framework Monitor. The goal of these efforts CDEMA Participating States is to enable that future report progress made in DRR is reflected through one single process both in regional (CDM Strategy) and global (Sendai framework) reporting mechanisms (CDM Monitor and SFM respectively) which will reduce the reporting burden on Caribbean countries.

Regional Highlight - Probabilistic Risk Assessments in Sub-Saharan Africa: Translating risk information into policy decision-making

In 2018, UNISDR commissioned the development of country-level probabilistic risk profiles for 16 sub-Saharan African countries (Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia). These profiles layer historical disaster loss data with national risk profiles. UNISDR also performed a preliminary disaster risk reduction cost-benefit analysis, to demonstrate the relevance of disaster risk reduction investments to ensure resilience of investments both in the face of disaster risk and climate change impacts. Results of probabilistic risk analysis presented through the risk profiles focused on flood and drought hazards in a changing climate as well as taking into consideration future social and economic projections. The objective has been to ensure that African countries improve their knowledge of probabilistic risk and cost-benefit analyses for disaster risk management.

Probabilistic risk profiles were also prepared for these 16 countries against the indicators for Sendai Framework targets (a) to (d) focusing on the annual average number of affected persons, direct economic losses and disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services. This exercise included prediction of losses and damage to agriculture, productive assets, housing, services, transportation and critical infrastructure.

The probabilistic risk profiles and disaster risk reduction cost-benefit analysis were presented and discussed for verification and validation through twelve national risk profiling workshops aimed at translating risk information into policy. The workshops comprised two modules: the first module presented country-specific results and the methodology of probabilistic risk profiling. The second module was designed to allow participants to scrutinise the results of the risk analysis through a three-day group work exercise. The exercise also served to test the use of risk information in the development of a national disaster risk reduction strategy.

The risk profiling workshops provided an opportunity to enhance national capacity to incorporate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into public investment and development planning systems. Target participants of national risk profiling workshops are the National Public Administration including Civil Defence Ministries, disaster risk reduction agencies, line-ministries such as Ministry of Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources, Education, Health, Finance and Development Planning. Academia and civil society organizations were also represented. The national workshops were conducted using an interactive approach and kick-started a process leading to a more systematic assessment of disaster risk and the national and sub-national level. Topics covered in these workshops included:

- Understanding risk assessment: familiarization with the results of the Probabilistic Risk Assessment including Loss Exceedance Curve²⁹. Understanding key risk metrics, including Average Annual Loss, Probable Maximum Loss, Loss Exceedance Curve for floods and droughts in a changing climate;
- Risk financing and cost-benefit analysis: introducing risk financing to countries considering future impacts of climate change; assessing and prioritizing investment; tracking and planning expenditure required for risk financing strategies; national budget reviews using a harmonized methodology of best practices such as the OECD disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation budget markers for identifying public investments and expenditures in these areas;
- Development of risk-informed disaster risk reduction strategies including risk information resulting from the results of probabilistic risk assessment;

Zambia

During the Zambia national workshop, participants – predominantly members of the disaster risk reduction national platform – chose to revisit a draft national disaster risk reduction strategy in light of the risk profile results and the Sendai Framework indicators. Zambia's Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit planned for a **special parliamentary session** to be held in early 2019, with the aim of presenting and discussing the results of the risk profile as well as those of the disaster risk reduction-sensitive budget analysis. Budget analysis is a time-consuming exercise, but the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit recognised **the pragmatic nature of disaster risk reduction-sensitive budget analysis** and how it can serve as a tool to scrutinise public investment. This serves to demonstrate both the practical application of risk metrics such as average annual losses and probable maximum losses beyond advocacy purposes.



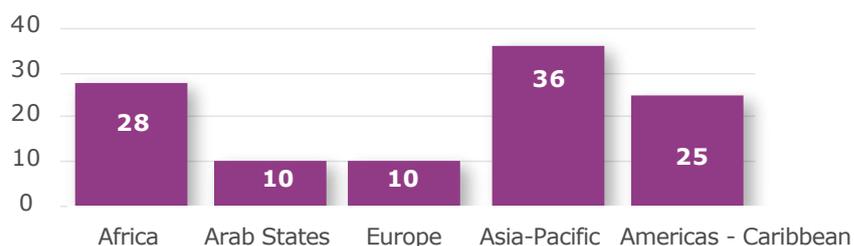
A UNISDR training-of-trainers workshop on the Sendai Framework Monitoring System and DesInventar Sendai at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany (UNISDR).

Disaster loss data: DesInventar Sendai

In January 2018, UNISDR retrofitted its disaster loss accounting system, DesInventar, aligning it with the targets and indicators of the Sendai Framework. The new system, **DesInventar Sendai**, enables Member States to compile detailed and homogeneous disaster loss and damage data that is location and time-stamped. It also generates charts, graphs and reports that help countries to understand disaster trends, patterns and impacts in a systematic way, thus facilitating dialogue and informed policy decisions on disaster risk reduction.

The process of gathering data for reporting national progress in implementing the Sendai Framework enabled countries to appreciate the benefit of keeping an active national damage and loss database both in terms of reporting progress but – even more importantly – in informing investment decisions about risks at local and national levels. As a result, a number of countries decided to revitalise their national disaster loss databases aligning their data reporting to Sendai indicators. To date more than 109 countries and territories are using disaster loss databases of which 59 are aligned to the Sendai Framework. By retrofitting the tool, Member States are also able to continue analyzing disaster trends and impacts in alignment with the Sendai Framework.

109 Countries and Territories with Disaster Loss Databases



Through its Regional Offices and its office in Bonn, UNISDR supported countries and local administrations to strengthen their capacity to account for disaster losses to report against four of the seven targets of the Sendai Framework, as well as to understand the impact of these losses in the context of policy and investment decisions.

For example, the **Regional Office for Africa** did extensive training on the development of national disaster loss databases. Both United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs)³⁰ and national stakeholders from Ghana, Malawi, São Tomé and Príncipe were trained in the development of their national disaster loss databases. As a result, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Malawi and Tanzania launched their online loss databases aligned with the Sendai Framework in 2018. In the **Americas and Caribbean Region**, seven local disaster loss databases were established and three national loss databases were institutionalised in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Uruguay, as the official tool for data collection by the national authorities.

The **Regional Office for Arab States** organised regional training workshops for Sendai Focal Points and technical national focal points and statistics departments in Iraq, Lebanon and Qatar. This had a multiplier effect, as the Sendai Focal Points who participated then provided additional trainings to the national platforms in each country. This in turn encouraged multi-stakeholder engagement in loss data collection. UNISDR also provided direct support to Lebanon on disaster loss accounting.

In partnership with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Disaster Management Centre (Interim Unit), the **Regional Office for Asia and Pacific** trained government officials in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. These countries also benefitted at these occasions from sharing experiences, good practices and lessons learned

on the establishment and institutionalization of disaster loss databases. Through the exchanges made during the workshop, the participating countries identified coordination needs for data collection, reporting and analysis and learned how to apply disaster data to policy making.

As part of the plan for improving disaster loss data collection in European countries, the **Regional Office for Europe** joined efforts with the European Commission on a programme for disaster risk assessment and mapping in the Western Balkans and Turkey (IPA DRAM).

Fiji's National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2018-2030

In the Pacific, UNISDR supported the development of Fiji's National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2018-2030 which is currently awaiting cabinet approval. This is a good example of a strategy that has a comprehensive and systematic approach to disaster risk reduction in order to achieve poverty alleviation and sustainable development. It also promotes the all-of-society approach encouraged by the Sendai Framework toward addressing climate change and disaster risk reduction, stating: "Women and vulnerable groups including the elderly, persons with disabilities and young people will share in planning, decision-making and community action." The Government of Fiji also launched a review of its 1998 National Disaster Management Act wherein UNISDR is a member of the steering committee guiding consultations and drafting of the new Act.

UNISDR contributed to the design and organization of meetings with national authorities of Montenegro, upon their request, in order to assess capacities and gaps, to define adapted methodologies for data collection and to facilitate endorsement of a national structure for data collection and implementation of DesInventar Sendai. The upcoming data gathering will consolidate municipal level historical data. This data will be disaggregated, allowing for greater understanding of specific impacts on women and vulnerable persons.

Through the same process as in Montenegro, the Regional Office for Europe worked in Bosnia & Herzegovina conducting a workshop on disaster data collection and initiating plans on the use of DesInventar Sendai. As a result, at the end of 2018, Bosnia & Herzegovina began running the national capacity and gap assessment with the objective to fully achieve the implementation of the system by the end of 2019. An important aspect of this effort is the empowerment of local level administration as they will receive direct access to DesInventar Sendai. Currently the local officials gather and send loss information to a national coordinator and do not see how this information is processed for decision-making purposes. UNISDR also engaged in discussions with Croatia to ensure the inclusion of disaster loss data collection in the 2019 National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, and for collaborating on the sustainable implementation of DesInventar Sendai as the national tool for systematic data collection. In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Armenia, UNISDR initiated support to National Authorities and Sendai National Focal Points for assessing needs and current status for disaster loss data collection with the aim to support a national structure with a Sendai compliant system. This process will concretely take place in 2019 with the aim to implement DesInventar Sendai by the end of the year.

Sub-national disaster damage and loss accounting was strengthened in the **Asia-Pacific Region**. Seven Indian States were

supported to enhance their understanding of the relevance of systematically recording disaster losses and strengthening their capabilities to develop and/or maintain disaster loss databases. Two cities (Kathmandu and Ulaanbaatar) benefitted from an intensive training workshop on disaster loss databases, together with governmental representatives from Bangladesh, Mongolia and Nepal. Through this workshop and discussion with national counterparts, all participants understood the additional benefits of higher resolution datasets on disaster losses and their potential applications at the local level.

Working with the UN System at Regional and National Levels

To advance integration of disaster risk reduction and a risk-informed approach in Common Country Analysis and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (**CCA/UNDAF**), UNISDR works through its Regional Offices to strengthen support to United Nations Resident Coordinators and Country Teams. UNISDR also engaged at the global level in the Reference Group and Design Team for revised UNDAF Guidance in the context of United Nations Development System reform. This work is to ensure that UNDAFs are disaster risk-informed and built on an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction, resilience and sustainable development.³¹ UNISDR also works through regional level inter-agency coordination mechanisms. For example, in Africa, UNISDR and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) co-chair a working group on 'Humanitarian issues and disaster risk management' under the Regional Coordination Mechanism, and in the Americas, UNISDR and UNDP co-chair a working group on resilience.

In the **Asia-Pacific** Region, UNISDR worked closely with the regional UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) to review the UNDAFs in Bhutan and Myanmar. This is the



Communities in Quang Tri, Vietnam help each other to rebuild houses after severe floods (Oxfam GB).

first UNDAF to be developed in Myanmar. Along with ESCAP and UNDP, UNISDR co-chairs the Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience. This Working Group both enables information sharing among the UN entities for strengthened coordination and is in the process of developing a knowledge product on disaster resilient infrastructure that will inform national-level policy development. Under the leadership of UN Resident Coordinator in Mongolia and in coordination with other partners, UNISDR provided technical support to the formulation of a potential forecast-based financing mechanism in the country to address severe winter conditions which are known as “dzud”.

In the **Africa Region**, UNISDR provided technical guidance on the integration of disaster risk reduction considerations in seven new UNDAFs (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya and Nigeria). The Africa Regional Office also provided support through the United Nations Development Group (UNSDG) peer support group and presented multi-hazard probabilistic risk profiles in three of the countries with new UNDAFs (Cameroon, Ghana and Kenya).

In addition to the country risk profiles, these countries were supported in developing disaster risk reduction cost-benefit analysis to ensure that future development investments will be disaster and climate change risk-informed. For select countries which will launch the new UNDAF in 2019, UNISDR will provide country teams with the multi-hazard probabilistic risk profiles and disaster risk reduction cost-benefit analysis developed in 2018-2019. These countries include: Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Namibia and Rwanda.

The UNISDR **Europe Office** actively contributed to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, notably by highlighting the recommendations of the Sendai Framework in relation to reliable data, inclusiveness and finance in discussions on promoting resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements and sharing lessons learned from UNISDR’s work with more than 4,224 cities through the Making Cities Resilient Campaign.

At a technical level, UNISDR coordinated closely with UNDP to organise the Central Asia and South Caucasus Platform, which contributed to ensuring the presence of several ministers from

the region. As a result of this engagement, it is anticipated that disaster risk reduction will be strengthened in the UNDAFs in the region to be released in 2020.

Upon invitation from UNECE, UNISDR supported the organization of a workshop about land use planning and industrial hazards, a growing concern in Europe. UNISDR gave a presentation about the approach of the Sendai Framework, its priorities and ways of implementation and chaired a Plenary Session about better linkages between industrial safety and Sendai Framework which highlighted the social impact of industrial disasters, the risk of cascading effects and the need for improved risk knowledge.

In the **Americas and Caribbean Region**, to improve the availability and use of risk data, UNISDR collaborated closely with ECLAC and UN Environment in the provision of technical support to the Latin American and Caribbean Disaster Risk Reduction (LAC DRR) Statistics Working Group. UNISDR also coordinates the LAC United Nations Interagency Group on Resilience. An exploratory mission to Bolivia was carried out jointly with UNDP within the framework of the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) and the LAC Interagency Group on Resilience.

Developing national disaster risk reduction strategies

Recognising the importance of attaining target (e) of the Sendai Framework by 2020, UNISDR conducted an in-depth analysis of national disaster risk reduction strategies. The analysis identified achievements and gaps in disaster risk reduction strategies and policy recommendations to strengthen their implementation. UNISDR organised a variety of regional and national capacity building workshops to improve understanding of Sendai Framework priorities and role of the national platforms in the development of the national strategies for disaster risk reduction. At these workshops, the core requirements of the

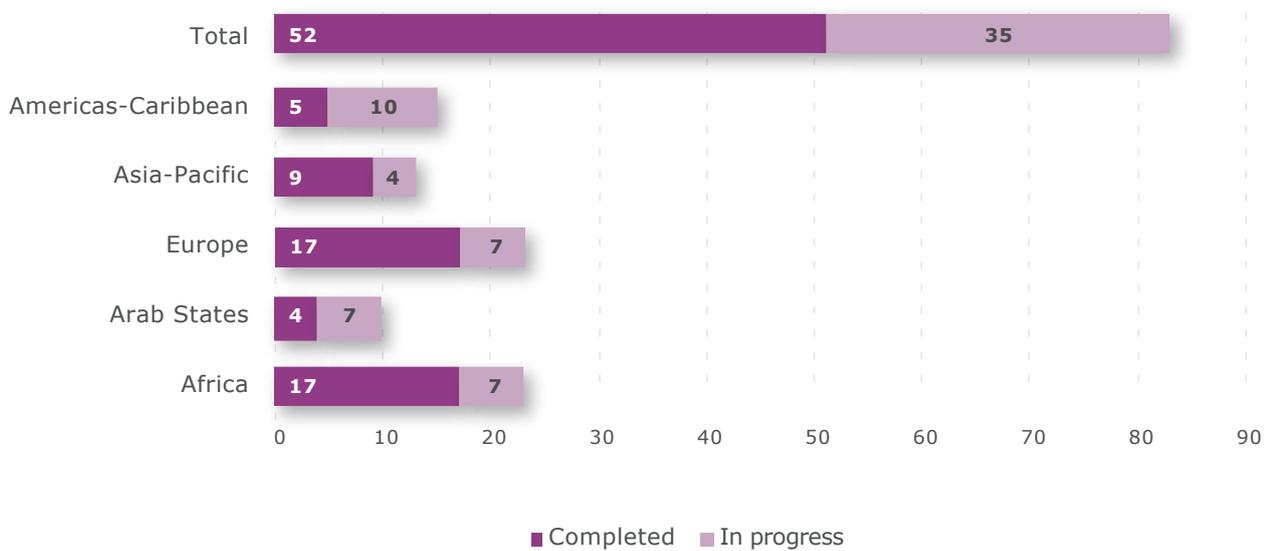
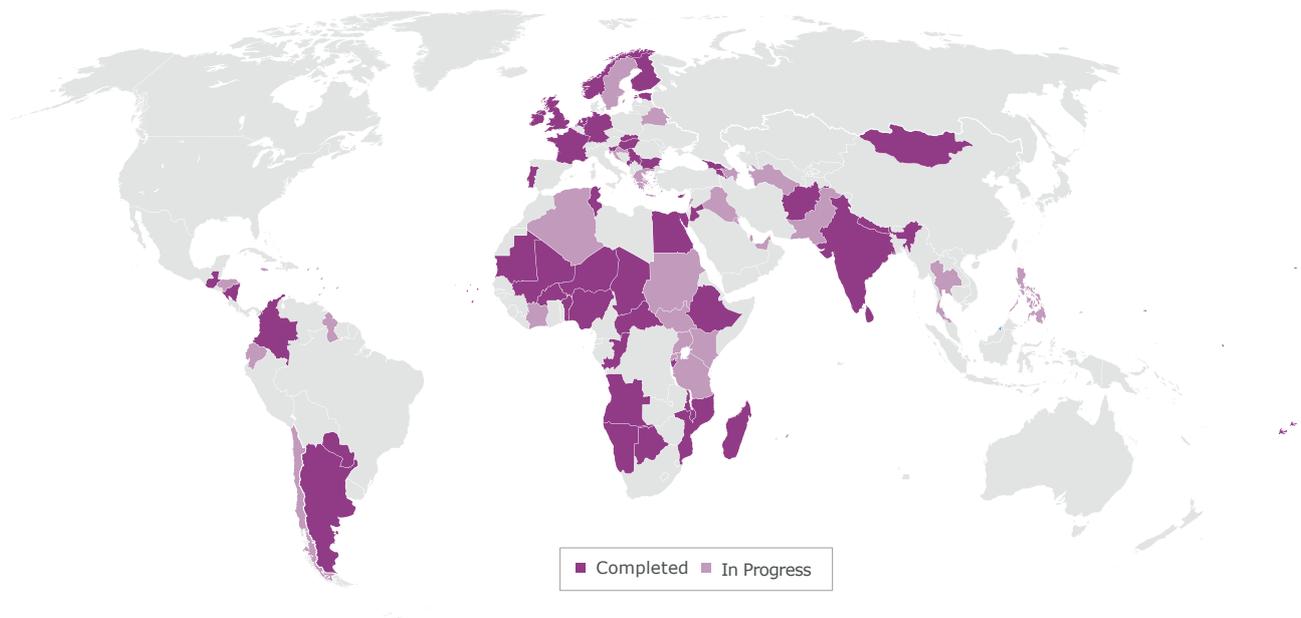
strategy, the necessity of a people-centred and multi-stakeholder approach and the need for evaluation and reporting tools were highlighted. The workshops were attended by representatives from across ministries and national platforms facilitating discussion and collaboration among the entities.

In the **Asia-Pacific Region**, UNISDR presented a regional analysis on target (e) to 115 representatives from 20 governments, several intergovernmental organizations, national and regional United Nations entities, stakeholder groups and international organizations. The workshop allowed UNISDR to identify good practices on aligning disaster risk reduction strategies with the Sendai Framework, in terms of the nature of strategic goals and the scope of hazards considered. The group work and panel discussions allowed the represented UNCTs as well as partners, stakeholders and UNISDR, to identify roles and support requirements to develop or revise national strategies, to improve the linkage and foster development of local disaster risk reduction strategies and to enhance implementation capacities.

Based on recommendations from the participants, UNISDR will further strengthen this area of work by developing knowledge products and guidelines on: application of risk knowledge; disaster risk reduction mainstreaming into sector and development plans; meaningful engagement and empowerment of stakeholders and partners; financing mechanisms for disaster risk reduction; multi-stakeholders and multi-level coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction planning, action and decision-making; and significance and implications of coherence with the sustainable development agendas.

In the **Arab States Region**, UNISDR conducted national consultation workshops in Jordan and Lebanon to support the development of national disaster risk reduction strategies through the identification of the gaps, challenges and priorities related to implementing the Sendai Framework. UNISDR's engagement in the

Sendai Framework Target (e) Countries with National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies or Plans *(developed with UNISDR support)*





Rebuilding a road after eruption of Mount Merapi in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (World Bank).

region and guidance materials supported the finalisation of eight additional national strategies in Bahrain, Comoros, Egypt, Kuwait, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Tunisia. Support is continued to five countries in their national strategy development: Algeria, Iraq, Morocco, Palestine and Sudan.

The **Regional Office for Africa** is currently analysing the status of alignment of national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans to the Sendai Framework, including to address the expanded scope of hazards³². The review is to be completed in 2019; the preliminary results of the analysis indicate that 17 countries have achieved target (e): Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Chad, Congo (Republic of), Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia and Niger. The Central African Republic and Nigeria have drafted strategies that are currently waiting adoption. Burkina Faso and Chad have plans for disaster risk reduction and expressed willingness to work on a more comprehensive strategy in line with the Sendai Framework. Three countries are currently in the process of aligning their strategies with the Sendai

Framework (Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda). UNISDR held a regional workshop for the ECOWAS region in November and for the ECCAS region in December and as a result, eight countries from these regions that do not presently have a process leading to the development of disaster risk reduction strategy expressed interest and requested support in developing one³³.

In the **Americas and Caribbean Region**, UNISDR provided support in the development of national disaster risk reduction strategies using both global and nationally defined indicators in Argentina, Chile, Guatemala and Paraguay. This has resulted in strategies focusing on the guiding principles of inclusion and all-of-society participation, while at the same time ensuring that their respective custom national indicators, such as gender disaggregated indicators are incorporated.

UNISDR, together with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, supported the development and follow-up of a Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management in the Agriculture Sector and Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean

(2018-2030). The strategy was approved at the ministerial level by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and will enable improved disaster risk management in the agriculture sector for food and nutritional security. This process was initiated in response to a request by CELAC, on behalf of its Member States on the need to increase efforts on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the agriculture sector³⁴.

In **Europe**, UNISDR provided support at bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels to accelerate the achievement of target (e). This included the provision of guidance on the development of national strategies to Sendai

National Focal Points including Slovakia, Montenegro, Turkey and Serbia. UNISDR also participated in meetings with government task forces to facilitate the development of national strategies.

UNISDR gathered 30+ national representatives to share experiences after one year of reporting and almost three years of Sendai Framework implementation. The countries presented their achievements and methodologies, opening a broad discussion about challenges, successes and possible solutions for disaster risk reduction data, reporting and implementation. The session also shared the latest news and next milestones linked to the Sendai Framework.

Aligning National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and National Adaptation Plans

The Sendai Framework target (e) calls for an “increase in the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies” and the Paris Agreement calls for the development of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), both by 2020.

To support countries in building coherence between these strategies and even developing joint strategies, UNISDR worked closely with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which is mandated to provide technical guidance and support to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on the process of formulating and implementing NAPs.

The Secretariat of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) requested that UNISDR develops technical guidelines regarding the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the development of the National Adaptation Plans. To respond to this request, UNISDR organised an expert meeting in Bonn in November 2017 which brought together 50 leading experts in disaster risk reduction and professionals responsible for developing national and local disaster risk reduction strategies from 13 countries to develop the technical guidelines. Building on the feedback from the consultation, UNISDR drafted the supplementary technical guidelines presented for final consideration at the next LDC Expert Group in Kiribati in February 2019.

To support the implementation of the technical guidelines over the 2018-2019 biennium UNISDR will work with 10 countries ensuring a closer coordination and coherence in the development of target (e) and NAPs. UNFCCC has indicated they will work with UNISDR in carrying out these technical support missions.

UNISDR's Approach to Training and Monitoring Impact

UNISDR's Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) was established in 2010 to coordinate capacity building policy and implementation at UNISDR. The Institute utilizes adult learning approaches, based primarily on the theory of andragogy introduced by Malcom Knowles, as opposed to the pedagogy often associated with childhood learning. In the actual planning and organising of the training opportunities, GETI works in close coordination with the Regional Offices in order to integrate specific regional needs.

In a training workshop for conducting consultations towards the development of draft National/Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and Plans, representatives of both national and local governments and key disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation training institutions are involved. Participants generally include officials from national and city/local governments, multi-stakeholder members of the National or Local Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. sectoral / ministry representatives, private sector, civil society, United Nations Resident Coordinators office).

Co-organised workshops with a regional, local or national training institution or partner organization and the host country is the preferred method where the partner institutions can follow-up on the workshop recommendations. Additionally, where possible, the translation of training course modules into the local language and inclusion of these modules into the local disaster risk reduction training institution curriculum is encouraged. This approach is pursued to ensure ownership and to foster sustainability.

For a workshop on the development of draft National/Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and Plans, the training course primarily uses a mix of:

- Introductory presentations with question and answer sessions (for participants to understand the context and terms) in plenary.
- Case study presentations with question and answer sessions and eliciting sharing of experience from participants.
- A presentation on tools that have been developed by UNISDR (e.g. Sendai Framework Monitor, Resilient Cities Scorecard).
- Group work to: identify gaps/challenges by country/city; drafting of disaster risk reduction action plans to address gaps/challenges by country/city; identification of objectives, actions and indicators.

Impact is monitored through end-of-course evaluation forms and analysis of the results for future use. An implementation progress survey is then carried out online with participants two to three months following the workshop. UNISDR also maintains a "Kudos File" to capture qualitative information that demonstrates how capacity development efforts support Sendai Framework implementation and captures specific feedback on impact or usefulness of the training. Moreover, key success indicators such as the number of disaster risk reduction plans adopted and implemented are monitored.



UNISDR training on the use of the Sendai Framework monitor (UNISDR).

Decentralizing disaster risk reduction support at local level

To empower local authorities to manage disaster risks better, UNISDR provides over **4,224 local governments** signed up to the Making Cities Resilient Campaign with tools, best practices and policy guidance to implement the Sendai Framework. In 2018, **over 200 cities completed a self-assessment** of their state of resilience utilising UNISDR's Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities. Technical guidance was also provided to 20 pilot cities on the development of Local Disaster Risk Reduction Plans and Strategies in line with Sendai Framework target (e) including through the use of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign tools and methodology developed by UNISDR's Global Education and Training Institute (GETI)³⁵.

The technical support provided to the twenty pilot cities included a training-of-trainers workshop on disaster risk reduction action

plans and five workshops which facilitated the sharing of experiences, best practices and innovative solutions to common challenges. This experience of **horizontal learning** facilitated partnerships and engagement of multiple stakeholders in the disaster risk reduction planning process, such as the engagement of sectoral development planning officials, budget officials, academia and vulnerable group representatives. An example of this horizontal learning was knowledge sharing between Kisumu City, Kenya and Kire Dawa, Ethiopia. In a workshop, representatives from Kisumu City, who had a challenge with waste disposal, were able to learn from Dire Dawa's cost effective solid waste management experiences and solutions. The experience of pilot cities also serves as a catalyst to strengthen national governments' support to local governments in disaster risk reduction. In Mongolia, for example, Ulaanbaatar, inspired 21 other cities to sign-up to the Making Cities Resilient Campaign and to conduct self-assessments for disaster risk reduction.

Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient

Enabling Essentials



Essential 1 :
Organize for disaster resilience



Essential 3 :
Strengthen financial capacity for resilience



Essential 2 :
Identify, understand and use current and future risk scenarios

Operational Essentials



Essential 4 :
Pursue resilient urban development and design



Essential 6 :
Strengthen institutional capacity for resilience



Essential 8 :
Increase infrastructure resilience



Essential 5 :
Safeguard natural buffers to enhance the protective functions offered by natural ecosystems



Essential 7 :
Understand and strengthen societal capacity for resilience

Build back better Essentials



Essential 9 :
Ensure effective preparedness and disaster response



Essential 10 :
Expedite recovery and build back better

The **Regional Office for Africa** provided technical guidance and capacity building for city officials and stakeholders in the mainstreaming of inclusive disaster risk reduction integrated with climate change adaptation. The Office enriched the process by facilitating city-to-city exchanges carrying out preliminary multi-stakeholder assessments, developing disaster risk reduction/climate change adaptation action plans, and establishing/ strengthening disaster loss accounting systems. Using the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities, the cities assessed their achievements and identified gaps and challenges, enabling city officials and stakeholders to propose solutions to their identified challenges. In several cases, challenges were overcome by opening communication lines across the various departments of the local governments to leverage available resources.

The city of Kisumu, Kenya, is coordinating and aligning the planning process for disaster risk reduction action and urban development in the Integrated Strategy for Urban Development. UNISDR's engagement in 2018 helped increase the capacities of the focal point and secured the commitment of the City Manager equivalent to Mayor to disaster risk reduction. The City Manager's commitment is highly visible in her efforts to secure financing for disaster risk reduction. A focal point was appointed with the mandate to mainstream disaster risk reduction in urban development planning. This focal point joined UNISDR to train officials in The Gambia on local disaster risk reduction planning. The city of Kisumu is also engaging parliamentarians, political leaders and private sector to support issuing relevant bills and securing budget for disaster risk reduction implementation.

The **Asia-Pacific** Regional Office accelerated the Making Cities Resilient Campaign in the region throughout the year. As a result, Mongolia became the first country to sign up all of its provinces, known as "Aimags" in the local language, to the Campaign. Nine cities in Iran joined the Campaign in 2018. In Bangladesh, the self-assessment exercises with

Disaster Resilience Scorecard

The UNISDR Disaster Resilience Scorecard provides a set of assessments that will allow local governments to monitor and review progress and challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and to assess their disaster resilience. It is structured around **UNISDR's Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient** and provides a set of assessments that cover the policy and planning, engineering, organizational, financial, social and environmental aspects of disaster resilience. The Scorecard can be used on two levels:

Level 1: Preliminary level, responding to key Sendai Framework targets and indicators, and with some critical sub-questions. This approach is suggested for use in a one to two-day city multi-stakeholder workshop. In total, there are 47 questions/indicators, each with a 0–3 score;

Level 2: Detailed assessment. This approach is a multi-stakeholder exercise that can take between one to four months and can be a basis for a detailed city resilience action plan. The detailed assessment includes 117 indicator criteria, each with a score of 0–5.

cities triggered the interest of the Municipality Association of Bangladesh which took the lead and signed up all 329 municipalities in the country to the Campaign in 2018 with all 329 Mayors committed to implementing policies to reduce disaster risks.

Several of these cities assessed their resilience using the **Disaster Resilience Scorecard**. All the provinces in Mongolia, five cities in Iran and three in Fiji have completed the assessments. Bangladesh is developing a training plan that will allow all municipalities to carry out the Scorecard-based assessment. The cities are then provided **guidance on how to develop action plans based on the results of the Scorecard assessments**. The action plans for the five cities are currently in final stages of development before official adoption by the city governments.

The Scorecard also inspired the development of **national tools**. In the Philippines, through its National Resilience Council, a National

Resilience Scorecard was developed that assesses local resilience against indicators aligned with the Philippine Development Plan and the Seal of Good Local Governance. The successful development of the Resilience Action Plan in Honiara prompted the Government of Solomon Islands to request similar support from UNISDR for the development of such strategies in other provinces. In light of the enhanced awareness about the importance of local strategies, the development of provincial disaster risk reduction strategies is a requirement under the country's new National Disaster Management Plan adopted in 2018.

The **Regional Office for Arab States** provided technical support in the development of disaster risk reduction action plans following detailed Disaster Resilience Scorecard assessments in four cities in the Sudan and Mauritania. Workshops on advocacy and the development of local level disaster loss databases were held for each city. As a result, each of the cities



"As local governments, we are strategically positioned to successfully integrate disaster risk information into urban development planning processes and daily city operations, as we provide leadership for the well-being of our constituents."

Ms. Doris Ombara, City Manager of Kisumu City in Kenya

developed a disaster loss database. In addition, a workshop took place in Lebanon for ten cities to build capacities of officials on the Disaster Resilience Scorecard and to draft local disaster risk reduction action plans accordingly.

To better assess shocks and stress in Mauritania, UNISDR held workshops involving several stakeholders including the National Sendai Framework focal point and representatives of three cities: Rosso, Tevragh Zeina and Kaedi. In the workshops, UNISDR facilitated the use of its Quick Risk Estimation (QRE) tool³⁶ and integrated human security considerations for the first time. This allowed the cities to have a comprehensive understanding of their risks and opportunities. With UNISDR support, the cities are now working on local action plans that take into account safety and security concerns in addition to social, environmental, political, health and economic risks. The learnings from the application of this new approach should prove useful for cities in fragile contexts.

A series of local consultations took place in 25 Arab cities in 2018. The Disaster Resilience Scorecard was applied by cities in Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan and Tunisia, and the analysis was integrated into their city resilience planning. Learning lessons from best practices and exchanging knowledge, the cities disaster resilience assessment workshops paved the way for initiating multi-stakeholder dialogues between national and local disaster risk reduction stakeholders on emerging disaster risk issues. A statistical analysis and a summary of the results of the Scorecard preliminary assessments in the 25 cities; with a focus on the lessons learned and future action plans related to the development and implementation of risk-informed city resilience action plans; was made available in the Arab Region Synthesis Report 2018 "Making Cities Sustainable and Resilient: Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at the local level"³⁷.

Overview of Local Level Engagement

	Number of cities participating in the Making Cities Resilient Campaign	Number of local governments or cities submitting Disaster Resilience Scorecard Self-Assessments aligned to the Sendai Framework
Africa	108	50
Arab States	308	28
Europe	724	0*
Asia-Pacific	1,169	93
Americas-Caribbean	1,915	50
Total	4,224	221

*Europe completed 118 Self-Assessments based on the local assessment tool under Hyogo.

In accordance with the Sendai Framework, consultations and workshops employed an all-of-society approach ensuring representation of women, civil society and the elderly, among others.

The **Regional Office for the Americas** provided technical support and guidance to develop local Action Plans in Argentina, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago. Training workshops to develop Local Action Plans for Disaster Risk Reduction were held using the Making Cities Resilient Campaign methodology and tools which were translated into Spanish. In Colombia, UNISDR worked along with the Unidad Nacional para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres (UNGRD-National disaster risk reduction entity) to adapt the Campaign tools to the Colombian disaster risk reduction legislative framework and trained 20 municipalities on the use of the adjusted materials in two multi-stakeholder workshops.

In Santo Domingo Este, Dominican Republic, UNISDR's support increased disaster risk reduction awareness and commitment of technical staff and political leaders. The active engagement and buy-in of the most senior officials at the local level, led from one staff working on disaster risk reduction on an ad hoc basis to institutionalising disaster risk reduction in the city's structure. Santo Domingo Este also established a disaster risk reduction committee and the Mayor endorsed the disaster risk reduction action plan of the Municipal Council. Civil society and non-governmental organizations have also provided sustained support to the city-lead initiatives to build local resilience.

In **Europe**, UNISDR designed a **city-level peer review tool** with the University of Manchester, United Kingdom Department of Communities and Local Government, the Portuguese National Authority of Civil Protection and the Associazione di Protezione Civile Gruppo Lucano to enable

UNISDR coordinated an experience sharing workshop between the cities of Dhaka North (Bangladesh), Mawlamyine (Myanmar) and Incheon (the Republic of Korea). The workshop included this site visit to Incheon Metropolitan City's Real Time Monitor Platform for Safety and Disaster Control. The sophisticated technology in the control room tracks a variety of hazards such as floods, fires and typhoons in real-time. The monitors capture information from CCTV cameras across the city and from other agencies including the Meteorological Administration. This information is also shared with relevant response agencies.



transparent sharing of experiences between cities about good practice in disaster risk management. The municipalities of Viggiano (Italy), Amadora (Portugal) and Greater Manchester (United Kingdom) then tested and refined the tool. The methodology behind this tool is now being developed into a dedicated International Standard - ISO (22392) to further support cities worldwide (see page 16 of SO1). Having a standard built on this tool will assist local governments in rationalizing investments and fostering communication. It will ensure that systems and policies being put in place are compatible, increase safety and meet the needs of society. It will play an important role in building the resilience of cities.

Capacity building for all stakeholders

The Sendai Framework recognizes the primary role of national governments in facilitating the achievement of its disaster risk reduction goals and priorities, but also highlights the critical role of other stakeholders and calls for an all-of-society approach. To support this approach, United Nations Member States have identified

a need to enhance the capacity of institutions and individuals responsible for disaster risk reduction. Beginning at the 2017 Global Platform and throughout 2018, UNISDR took the lead in conducting an overview of prevailing disaster risk reduction-specific capacity development needs in collaboration with United Nations Member States, other United Nations entities, partners and disaster risk reduction stakeholders to develop a more effective and strategic approach to capacity development. Following a global consultation workshop in 2018, the resulting **“Strategic Approach to Capacity Development”** document was published as a living document at the request of Member States and participating stakeholders in June 2018 and subsequently further refined during sessions held at all Regional and Sub-Regional Platforms held in 2018³⁸.

The “Strategic Approach to Capacity Development” established a common understanding on the topic of capacity development within the disaster risk reduction community by characterizing outstanding capacity development needs in light of common obstacles and constraints, presenting key principles, elements and actions that together help guide planning discussions, providing



targets and ideals, and normalizing practice across sectors. The Strategic Approach is meant to be a resource for empowerment in pursuit of its goal which is “A Vision of Risk-Informed Sustainable Development by 2030”. The Strategic Approach provides generalized advice on the capacity development roles and responsibilities of various disaster risk reduction stakeholders, and high-level guidance in critical areas of need³⁹.

As an integral part of the Strategic Approach, UNISDR organises training programmes focused on understanding disaster risk reduction and the importance of coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement towards developing integrated plans for resilience. In 2018 alone, 2,850 national and local government officials and other relevant stakeholders from 91 countries were trained. 65 training workshops, including four online, were conducted by UNISDR’s Global Education and Training Institute (GETI). Training programme modules were updated throughout 2018 to reflect further coherence with the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement.

Web Community of Sendai Framework Focal Points

The UNISDR Europe Office developed a web community comprised of 48 Sendai Framework National Focal Points in the region and 33 technical focal points. The platform serves for communication from UNISDR to all focal points but also for exchanges between national counterparts and document sharing. The exchanges among Member States foster regular communication and experience sharing, especially about national structures for the Sendai Framework Monitoring process and data collection, the development of national strategies for disaster risk reduction and the improvement of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Catalyse Action through Member States and Partners

Through Strategic Objective Three of its Work Programme 2016-2019, UNISDR builds coherence of international and regional efforts for disaster risk reduction across agendas; strengthens partnerships for the generation and application of risk knowledge and evidence; provides inter-governmental support; and catalyses active and accountable contributions to disaster risk reduction from all stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and community groups, science and technology partners, parliamentarians and key policy and decision makers. In order to streamline and structure its engagement with partners and stakeholders, a new Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy has been developed and started to be implemented.

RESULT 2.1

Fostered policy coherence by engaging with Member States and key partners and contributing to relevant intergovernmental processes.

RESULT 2.2

Coordination and advice is provided to all United Nations System partners at global level towards effective and efficient implementation of the Sendai Framework.

RESULT 2.3

Partnerships leveraged for increased financing for disaster risk reduction and risk-sensitive investment.

RESULT 2.4

All of society engagement and action promoted through strengthening partnerships with key stakeholders.

Maraloo (10 year old) youth representative addressing the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

"An important part of reducing disaster risk is strengthening coordination. All stakeholders need to be sitting together and involved in all stages."

Mr. Zahi Chahine, Disaster Risk Reduction Management Unit, Lebanon

Strategic Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

In order to support the implementation of the full scope of the Sendai Framework, UNISDR developed a new Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy which sets out the priorities and expectations for partnerships, including definitions, guiding principles, value propositions and engagement modalities. The goal of this Strategy is to enable systematic engagement and catalyse action between governments and stakeholders to reduce existing risks and prevent the creation of new risks for resilient socio-economic development at the global, national and local levels through:

- Promoting the value proposition including tangible results of engaging in disaster risk reduction and risk-informed development and investment;
- Engaging partners and stakeholders for an inclusive approach in designing and implementing integrated disaster risk reduction strategies at national and local levels;
- Breaking down silos between and within governments, the United Nations system and stakeholder groups;
- Initiating behavioural change towards risk-informed decision-making and investment;
- Encouraging enhanced, South-South triangular and North-South collaboration.

Supporting the operationalization of the Strategy, the UNISDR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) was launched in December 2018. The main focus of the new mechanism

is to bring together the power of stakeholders to trigger behavioural change at all levels through promotion and advocacy in global and regional policy processes and implementation and information sharing at the national and local levels. Developed through an active consultation process with stakeholders over the course of 2018, the mechanism includes a committed **Stakeholder Advisory Group**, consisting of representatives of the 13 UN Major Groups and Other Stakeholder Groups (MGoS)⁴⁰ and civil society organization networks focusing specifically on all international agreements post-2015. This also includes a newly established independent **Sendai Civil Society Organization** Group for the Coordination Mechanism of the MGoS for the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (CM/MGoS/HLPF), led by the **Global Network for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)** and the Huairou Commission which is promoting a stronger risk focus in the HLPF discussions as well as across the development Civil Society Organization Community.

The **Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism** members agreed on concrete activities for 2019, including the organization of a Global Stakeholder Conference during the preparatory days of the 2019 Global Platform and the development of common advocacy messages for risk-informed development which will be used to promote an inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction in key meetings in 2019.

The Strategy is being rolled out across the organization, and with existing and new partner networks and initiatives. Internally, coherent operationalization of the strategy is ensured through mechanisms such as a Community of Practice on Partnerships which allows cross-fertilization and alignment as well as the ongoing development of a partner registry, updated risk management including due diligence processes and standard operating procedures.



A house in Indonesia built on stilts to protect against flooding (World Bank).

Fostering policy coherence

Throughout 2018, activities continued to support and inform intergovernmental **decision-making and policy setting** to advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework and promote policy coherence through a risk-informed approach in the implementation and review of international agreements related to sustainable development. Financing for disaster risk reduction was included on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Forum on Financing for Development (FFD) for the first time. In the Forum's inter-governmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, Member States recognized that the international system's financial response to disasters is insufficient, and called for disaster risk reduction measures to be incorporated into development assistance programmes and infrastructure financing. The Presidential Statement of the ECOSOC meeting, *Pathways to resilience in climate-affected SIDS*, also called for much greater attention to develop tailored disaster risk reduction financing instruments to translate national and local disaster risk reduction strategies into action. Subsequently, the Inter-Agency Task Force on FFD, of which UNISDR is a member, will further explore how countries can mobilize financing for disaster

risk reduction in its 2019 report which will also guide FFD deliberations in 2019.

Disaster risk reduction was featured prominently at the **High-level Political Forum (HLPF) for Sustainable Development**. In a joint statement, the Group of Friends for Disaster Risk Reduction⁴¹ declared that disaster risk reduction strategies are a prerequisite for sustainable development and appealed for stronger leadership for a disaster risk-informed approach to programming and financing across all areas of sustainable development. This was echoed in the HLPF Ministerial Declaration, through which Member States called to augment efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction into national and local sustainable development strategies as well as development assistance programmes and infrastructure financing.

Through its annual resolution on disaster risk reduction, the General Assembly encouraged Member States to engage their National Sendai Framework Focal Points in order to incorporate disaster risk reduction in their voluntary national reviews and to input data into the Sendai Framework Monitor to ensure disaster risk reduction is reflected in the deliberations and outcomes of the HLPF in 2019 and beyond. For the first time, the General Assembly resolution on *External debt sustainability*

UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

The UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development was adopted by the UN Chief Executives' Board in 2016 and is the contribution by the UN to ensure the implementation of the Sendai Framework contributes to a risk-informed and integrated approach to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It addresses the need for coherence and mutual re-enforcement of the UN's resilience building efforts, and seeks to effectively integrate UN operational preparedness and response capacities into national development arrangements. The Plan has added emphasis on country and local level engagement while ensuring the UN system is responsive to the needs and contexts of different countries in regard to disaster risk reduction. It is structured around three commitments: 1) strengthen system-wide coherence in support of the Sendai Framework and other agreements through a risk-informed and integrated approach; 2) build UN system capacity to deliver coordinated, high-quality support to countries on disaster risk reduction; and, 3) to ensure disaster risk reduction remains a strategic priority for UN organizations.

The SRSG plays a lead role in facilitating the implementation of the UN Plan of Action in the UN System and convenes, at least once a year, the Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience to review progress.

and development recognized that preserving external debt sustainability requires disaster risk reduction financing and risk disclosure. To advance priority four of the Sendai Framework, the General Assembly resolution on *International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development* acknowledged the need to prepare in advance to "build back better" through post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Similarly, the General Assembly called for disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework to be integrated in the implementation and review of other intergovernmental agreements related to sustainable development, such as the *Samoa Pathway*, the *Istanbul Programme of Action* and the *International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development*.

UNISDR Regional Offices further supported policy coherence through engagement in the Regional Forums for Sustainable Development. In the **Asia-Pacific Region**, UNISDR partnered with UN-Habitat and UNESCAP and, as a result, the Forum noted in its report to the High-level Political Form on Sustainable Development "the need to build resilient infrastructure and develop early warning systems, including with respect to education and preparedness for natural disasters and economic shocks."⁴² In **Europe**, UNISDR engaged with UNECE in discussions on sustainable cities which valued recommendations of the Sendai Framework related to reliable data, inclusiveness and finance.

The **Europe Office** further supported building policy coherence through senior participation in a high-level event hosted by the High Representative of the European Union's Foreign Affairs and Security Policy entitled *Climate Peace and Security: The Time for Action*. This event included strong engagement by Sweden's Foreign Minister who held the United Nations Security Council Presidency at the time. An outcome of this event was the European Council conclusion on water diplomacy adopted in November 2018 which

supports the Sendai Framework and notes “the importance of raising awareness and improving understanding of water-related disaster risks and their impact on society.”

The strong engagement of the **Americas Office** with MERCOSUR⁴³ and the Climate Action Network (CAN) Member States resulted in a common agenda for collaboration on comprehensive disaster management and the development and approval of a process to strengthen intergovernmental processes in South America.

United Nations Coordination

In 2018, UNISDR became a full-fledged member of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG). UNISDR continues to facilitate and advance implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. The United Nations Development System Reform provides multiple opportunities

for the United Nations systems to advance the objectives of the UN Plan of Action. Notably, UNISDR sought to advance coherence in United Nations support to Member States’ implementation of the Sendai Framework, SDGs, Paris Agreement and other international frameworks to ensure a coherent and risk-informed approach.

Other reform processes to which UNISDR actively contributed include the Reference Group for the System-Wide Strategic Document and task teams on *Integrated Policy Support, Country-Focused Data & Reporting and Partnerships*. UNISDR also engaged in the process led by UNDP to develop **Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies**. The Common Guidance on Resilience will support the implementation of the United Nations development system reform. The Guidance places disaster risk reduction as a central component of an integrated risk and vulnerability analysis, to inform the new generation of UNDAFs and subsequent integrated plans and programmes.



Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Action

To address root causes of humanitarian crises and contribute to reduce humanitarian needs, UNISDR engaged in key thematic/sectoral areas with strategic partners across the humanitarian/development nexus along four key work streams.

Enhanced Risk and Vulnerability Information for Better Humanitarian Planning and Response

UNISDR uses data collection and analysis to enable anticipation of humanitarian crises and the identification of pockets of extreme poverty. This includes the biennial **Global Assessment Report** and support to the development of **national disaster loss databases**. The data provided by UNISDR serves as a critical baseline to compare against in the event of humanitarian emergencies. UNISDR makes this information readily available to all stakeholders to use in their planning and response efforts. Through the increased understanding of disaster impacts, better prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures can be planned to reduce disaster risk.

Preparedness, Early Warning & Recovery

UNISDR serves in leadership and advisory roles for the **Climate Risk Early Warning Systems** initiative which supports least developed countries and small island developing states to develop effective, multi-hazard, gender-informed early warning systems, to protect lives, livelihoods and assets. UNISDR and its partners coordinate the **International Recovery Platform** which allows countries and stakeholders to share experiences and lessons associated with build back better. UNISDR coordinates to ensure that the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference and World Reconstruction Conference take place during the preparatory days of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Displacement

UNISDR worked closely with partners to integrate disaster risk reduction in the **Global Compact for Migration**. As a result, the Global Compact's objective on '*minimizing the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin*' is strongly linked to the Sendai Framework. As an advisory group member in the **Platform for Disaster Displacement**, UNISDR supported the development of joint recommendations for how displacement can be featured in national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans and facilitated the development of **Words Into Action Guidelines on Disaster Displacement**.

Social Protection

UNISDR's advocacy on social protection and safety nets aims to protect the most vulnerable in the context of disasters. Efforts on this include UNISDR's contributions to the drafting of the **ASEAN Guidelines on Disaster Responsive Social Protection** and the **Inter-American Conference on Social Security to include a stronger focus on DRR**. UNISDR and IFRC are also exploring avenues for collaboration on **forecast-based financing**.



Women at a community meeting in Yogyakarta, Indonesia discuss the reconstruction of their village (World Bank).

The **UN Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction** convened annually by the SRSG, reconfirmed in July 2018 their commitment to the UN Plan of Action and agreed on the priorities for work of the Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points Group in 2018-2019: 1) UN Coherence on Disaster Risk Reduction and Wider Resilience Agenda; 2) UN Capacity for Common Risk Assessment & Analysis; 3) Coherent support to Member States on Sendai Framework target (e); and 4) Promoting the availability and monitoring of sex, age and disability disaggregated data. In 2018, the group of disaster risk reduction focal points made significant progress in finalising a **Results and Accountability Framework** for monitoring and reporting annually on the implementation of the UN Plan of Action which will allow the first report on its progress to be issued in time for the Global Platform 2019. Annual reporting will, as of 2019, strengthen UNISDR's ability to track the results and impact of the United Nations system's implementation of the UN Plan of Action.

To raise awareness about water-related disasters and risks, UNISDR partnered with UN Water, with the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters⁴⁴ and the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM). UNISDR supported the development and initial implementation of the International Decade of Action "Water and Sustainable Development" which aims to put greater focus on the sustainable and integrated management of water resources while recognising the need to address water-related disasters as one of the challenges to achieve sustainable development.

UNISDR also continued to strengthen coordination with various cooperation mechanisms such as the Platform for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR), the Climate-Risk Early Warning Systems (CREWS), the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) which UNISDR joined as an advisory member in August 2018, and the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).



A highly risk-exposed street in the Bohol Strait, Central Visayas, Philippines (Storm Crypt).

Encouraging disaster risk financing and tracking

Increased financing for disaster risk reduction from the public sector in support of Priority Three and target (f) of the Sendai Framework is a key focus. As a major step, UNISDR's close engagement with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) over the past years bore fruit in March 2018 with the adoption of the **OECD Marker for Disaster Risk Reduction** in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Creditor Reporting System. The marker came into force in January 2019, with initial reports expected in fall 2019. The marker aims at enhanced integration of disaster risk considerations into development assistance, thereby supporting data homogeneity and comparability and qualitative measuring of disaster risk reduction efforts. Together with the Climate Change Adaptation Marker and the voluntary SDG Marker, the Disaster Risk Reduction Marker can become an important tool to enhance a coherent approach to resilient and sustainable development.

The successful implementation of the marker will be a key element for the achievement of Sendai target (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*. Yet, reports show that many countries find this target particularly hard to measure in light of the qualitative nature of the indicators which were agreed by all UN Member States. As part of the roll-out of the Sendai Framework Monitor, UNISDR held a consultation with Member States to develop enhanced guidance related to reporting on this target which will become available in 2019.

UNISDR and OECD also engaged in the promotion of better risk governance, including more comprehensive and long-term risk financing strategies. Similarly, closer engagement with the Commonwealth Secretariat during the IMF/World Bank Fall meeting in September 2018 as another key partner to promote risk-informed public and private sector financing took place.

"My heart feels sorrow for people who cannot help themselves when disasters strike... and I know this is the reason why today thousands of people from more than 50 countries around the world have gathered here in my hometown – Ulaanbaatar. From the bottom of my heart, together with children and youth of Asia and Pacific, I urge you to join your hands, your minds and your passions to create a better world for all of us."

Maralgoo (10-year-old) youth representative, featured on page 60, addressing the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Promoting risk-sensitive private sector investments

The goal and targets of the Sendai Framework cannot be achieved with public sector financing alone. As clearly outlined in the Sendai Framework, success will critically depend on more risk-sensitive private sector investment, including through integration of disaster risk considerations into business strategies and plans. The **Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE)** is a key vehicle for the promotion of resilience and a risk-informed approach to investment decisions. Over the course of 2018, UNISDR repositioned ARISE to better align needs, opportunities and capacities to trigger change on the ground. ARISE Board Members and UNISDR revised the ARISE Terms of Reference and developed an Action Plan to focus on building resilience at the national and local level through ARISE National Networks. At the global level, Board members also advocated the business case for disaster risk reduction in a wide variety of venues, including the 2018 HLPF and UN General Assembly sessions. At the national level, six new ARISE networks were launched in Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua, bringing the total number of networks to 16. Network activities in 2018 included advocacy and awareness raising, capacity building and knowledge sharing and creation, with over 3,000 business leaders reached totally.

Next to ARISE, engagement with other global private sector networks and initiatives was expanded. The insurance industry being a critical actor in disaster risk reduction,

engagement was strengthened through the **Insurance Development Forum** (see following page) as well as partners such as the Geneva Association. The SRSG attended several meetings on the importance of resilient infrastructure and the role that insurance, through premium policies as well as asset management, can play in encouraging greater risk reduction and resilience. In addition, UNISDR enhanced engagement with the **UN Global Compact**, including through the SRSG's participation in the SDG Business Summit in September 2018, co-hosted by the UN Global Compact and the International Chambers of Commerce (ICC). The event offered an opportunity to further highlight the importance of resilience and a risk-informed approach by the private sector to business and investment decisions, as well as opportunities for partnerships with the public sector to develop the enabling business environment for lasting change. UNISDR continues to discuss with the UN Global Compact on further integration of disaster risk reduction and resilience into the work of its networks, working groups and member companies in 2019.

To further raise political awareness for resilience, UNISDR initiated a new partnership with the World Economic Forum (WEF) to integrate disaster and climate risks into business strategies and decision-making. The SRSG presented the business case for disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework at the World Economic Forum in ASEAN 2018 at Hanoi, Vietnam and participated in the Sustainable Impact Summit hosted by WEF during the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018.

Spotlight: Enhancing the role of Insurance in Disaster Risk Reduction

Insurance, through both the liability and asset side of its business, has a major role to play in building resilience and incentivizing risk reduction activities. UNISDR is a member of the Insurance Development Forum (IDF), an industry-led public-private partnership supporting the achievement of the SDGs, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and other 2030 Agenda agreements. Comprised of chief executives from 26 major global insurance companies, the IDF is well placed to become a powerful vehicle for raising awareness and bringing about change for better coordination of insurance-related activities in the field of resilience, including the development of shared priorities and mobilization of resources, and the promotion of strategic and operational relationships within and between governments, the industry, its regulators and international institutions.

Aligned with the Sendai Framework, UNISDR's engagement focuses on working with the industry to integrate insurance within broader disaster risk management frameworks, incentivise risk reduction activities by its clients as well as using its weight as a major investor to take a lead role in including a comprehensive risk scope in the decision-making of the financial sector at large. The SRSG is a member of the high-level IDF Steering Committee which provides strategic guidance to the IDF's implementation. UNISDR is furthermore engaged in the IDF Operating Committee, hosted by the International Insurance Society (IIS), including the working groups on risk modelling and assessment and on law, regulations and resilience policies.

UNISDR also initiated a dialogue with the **International Chambers of Commerce (ICC)**, both at the global level through its Observer Status at the UN as well as through its national chambers. At the global level, the ICC engages in the UNISDR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) as a representative of the Major Group on Business and Industry. Building on the complementarity of mandates, ICC, the International Trade Center (ITC) and UNISDR are developing a new initiative on policy development, capacity development and training, with specific focus on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). The work will take into account results from 2018:

- The findings of a private sector study undertaken by UNISDR, CDEMA and private sector partners in the Caribbean recommended enhancing the resilience of Caribbean businesses⁴⁵;
- The efforts of the ARISE Networks in the Americas to develop private sector action plans and train over 200 private sector representatives in Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico on business continuity planning;
- Trainings carried out by UNISDR with 20 businesses in the Cook Islands (mainly tourism and retail) and twelve businesses in the Marshall Islands (mainly retail) in basic risk assessment and continuity planning. Development of an interactive webpage to showcase good private practices in disaster risk reduction in the region⁴⁶;
- Work with the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council to promote resilient investment thinking in the island economy's influential small business sector resulted in disaster risk-sensitive business planning being included on the Council's flagship training course for youth entrepreneurs in 2019.



A capacity-building workshop for a flood-prone community in Nepal to improve understanding of flood risk, mitigation efforts and the use of Early Warning Systems (Practical Action).

At the regional level, engagement of the private sector is rapidly picking up speed. Aligned with the outcome of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2017 which highlighted disaster resilient infrastructure as a key means to achieve risk-informed development, work in this area is happening across UNISDR. In the **Asia-Pacific Region**, UNISDR co-organised with the Government of India an international workshop on disaster resilient infrastructure in January 2018. The workshop identified best practices in the infrastructure sectors as well as key issues and recommendations for improving existing practices. Priority areas for collaboration on **disaster resilient infrastructure** were further identified by the experts from 23 countries representing a variety of sectors and highlighted at the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR).

In the **Africa Region**, a group of committed organizations, including UNISDR, drawn from local and multinational private sector, UN agencies, NGO's and governments in the Eastern Africa region established the Humanitarian Private Sector Platform (HPPP)⁴⁷. As a multi-stakeholder platform comprising humanitarian and private sector entities, the platform seeks to provide a more structured opportunity for humanitarian, business and governments together with community representatives to effectively share information on opportunities and needs. It facilitates networking, collaboration and opportunities to address humanitarian needs through innovations and shared value creation. The platform ensures all parties are integral participants in government led disaster management from preparedness planning to humanitarian response and early recovery.

Also, the Government of Kenya, with support from the UN system in Kenya, has spearheaded the SDG Partnership Platform. The Platform is a UN Development Assistance Framework flagship initiative which will take leadership on overarching facilitation, coordination and demonstration of how public private collaboration can effectively translate the SDGs into action on the ground and thereby guide and accelerate innovations, impact, maximize investments and optimize resource utilization in support of the realization of Kenya's Vision2030 and the "Big Four" agenda. UNISDR participates in the SDG Partnership inter-agency coordination meetings and plans to support actively the priority for action on Food Security & Agriculture, given the impact of climate-induced disasters on agriculture and food security. UNISDR also advocates for the participation of the Kenyan national platform for disaster risk reduction in the group, to ensure multisectoral participation.

In the **Americas and Caribbean Region**, the Latin America and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) held the VII Meeting on Public-Private Partnerships for Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean: This was an occasion when building resilient infrastructures was discussed, jointly with UNISDR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Cementos Mexicanos and the Inter-American Conference on Social Security. The event analysed regional best practices in terms of investment and efficient, sustainable and responsible construction as well as the resilience of physical infrastructure, both public and private buildings, in particular hospital and health services, educational and cultural facilities.

All the Regional Platforms in 2018 had active engagement of private sector representatives. Notably at **AMCDRR**, more than 75 private sector representatives participated as organisers, speakers and presenters. The

Spotlight on ARISE Philippines and ARISE Japan

The Philippines national network of the UNISDR ARISE initiative was particularly active in 2018, notably spearheading the establishment of the National Resilience Council, an innovative science and technology-focused public-private partnership. A key product of the National Resilience Council in 2018 was the Resilient Local Government Systems Scorecard, launched by the SRSG in Manila, Philippines in August. The Scorecard, modelled on the UNISDR Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities (see page 60 of SO2), is a series of indicators aligned with the Philippine Development Plan and the Seal of Good Local Governance. ARISE Philippines also organised a Business Continuity Summit and the 7th Top Leaders Forum in November 2018 under the theme *From Risk to Resilience: Celebrating the Resilience Champions* and organised a series of capacity development initiatives on business continuity, risk assessments and other topics to encourage risk-sensitive investments by the private sector.

ARISE Japan actively supported the preparatory stages of the AMCDRR and participated in the event held in Mongolia in July 2018 as organisers, speakers and presenters. ARISE Japan was also engaged as the leading national level private sector stakeholder at Japan's national disaster risk reduction platform in October, where nine ARISE Japan members organised sessions, ran booths and workshops and engaged in speaker roles.



Children in the Republic of Korea learning about disaster risk reduction through a game designed by UNISDR (UNISDR).

private sector delivered a Statement of Cooperation in support of implementation of the Asia Regional Plan and the Sendai Framework.

At the **Regional Platform for the Americas** in Colombia, several companies showcased good practices including risk sensitive investments and preparedness strategies from recent events in the region including Hurricanes Irma and Maria, Tropical Storm Nate and the 2018 Earthquake in Mexico.

As part of the **Africa-Arab Regional Platform**, over 34 representatives from business councils and private sector firms participated in a side event entitled "Pursuing Resilience : Private Sector and Disaster Risk Reduction" to enhance awareness towards safe and resilient investments. Participants expressed strong interest to further engage in the promotion of risk-informed investments and decided to set

the "SendaiAfrica" Volunteer Group to sustain discussion and seize cooperation opportunities.

Science and technology partners

UNISDR, through the **Global Science and Technology Advisory Group (G-STAG)**, regional STAGs and members of UNISDR's global **Science and Technology Partnership** which comprises over 240 science institutions and other partners, continued to actively promote an enhanced science base for effective disaster risk reduction and risk-informed development. Representatives of the G-STAG engaged in key intergovernmental processes such as the ECOSOC Commission on Science and Technology for Development, ECOSOC Science Technology and Innovation Forum and

the Spring 2018 ECOSOC Integration Segment. Working Groups established under the G-STAG on data, education and NATECH (technological disasters caused by natural hazards) worked tirelessly with partners including the International Science Council and its Integrated Research for Disaster Risk (IRDR) and CODATA programmes, Public Health England, GEO, and took a lead in facilitating new research initiatives to help countries better understand and implement the Sendai Framework. G-STAG, IRDR and other science partners co-organised a science and technology meeting in Chengdu which reiterated the requirement for closer engagement of the broader science community to address today's increasingly complex and interconnected global risk landscape. In follow up to this, the G-STAG and partners are leading an exercise to contextualize the 2016 Science and Technology Roadmap to this new environment, including reinitiating action of traditional and new science partners. A new working group is under development to produce technical definitions for all hazards mentioned in the Sendai Framework. Both initiatives are expected to be completed in 2019.

In the **Asia-Pacific Region**, UNISDR's Asian

"An important part of reducing disaster risk is strengthening coordination. All stakeholders need to be sitting together and involved in all stages."

Mr. Zahi Chahine, Disaster Risk Reduction Management Unit, Lebanon

Science Technology and Academia Advisory Group (ASTAAG), organised the 2nd Asian Science and Technology Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction conference in Beijing, China in April 2018. The Conference resulted in the **Beijing Consensus** that outlines and reinforces key measures to implement the global Science and Technology Roadmap and was subsequently presented as a stakeholder

contribution to the AMCDRR. An overview publication, *Science and Technology into Action: Disaster Risk Reduction Perspectives from Asia*, was also launched at the Conference.

In the **Arab States Region**, UNISDR organised a consultation in Lebanon with scientists, academics and experts from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, and Tunisia. The attendees voted to establish the Arab STAG to provide scientific information and technical advice to the Arab Region and coordinate strategic engagement of science, research and technology with decision-makers to increase the Arab Region's resilience and strengthen the regional and national disaster risk reduction programs.

During the Regional Platform in the **Americas**, a meeting of more than 30 representatives from the academia, science and technology sector expressed their commitment to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas and discussed the relevance and priorities that will serve as the foundation for the creation of a Regional Science and Technology Advisory Group. A regional survey was then sent to science and technology partners in the region to capture their interests, ideas and priorities around science, technology and disaster risk reduction.

In **Africa**, UNISDR facilitated the creation of a disaster risk management network of higher education institutions through a long-standing collaboration with Periperi U which is a network of African Universities committed to building local disaster risk related capacity⁴⁸. The partnership contributes to the standardization of disaster risk management courses in the continent. Building on late 2017 consultations as part of the Periperi U Annual Consultative Meeting, the Tunis Declaration adopted by Ministers and Heads of Delegations agreed to establish an African Science and Technology Advisory Group (STAG) linked to the Global STAG⁴⁹.

Spotlight: Youth – Agents of Change for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sendai Framework highlights that ‘Children and youth are agents of change and should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction...’ (36a ii).

Aligned with ‘Youth2030: Working with and for Young People’, the UN Youth Strategy launched in September 2018, UNISDR supports and harnesses the energy and motivation of youth and in 2019, will present its own ‘Youth Action Plan’ 2019-2021 to support the UN Youth Strategy.

Working closely with the **Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group** of the UN Major Group on Children and Youth, the Science Policy Interface Platform, youth representatives of the UN Major Group on Science and Technology, the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development and the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, key focus areas of the youth engagement include advocacy and outreach, capacity building and risk education, and catalysing and empowering youth as drivers of innovation.

In **Africa**, UNISDR actively engages youth in disaster risk reduction through multiple initiatives, including through a **Youth Engagement Strategy** (2016-2020). In 2018, the African Union Commission developed a Youth Advisory Board and the UNISDR Africa Office provided inputs and comments on the draft terms of reference. The establishment of this Board was supported through the Tunis Declaration, adopted at the Africa-Arab Regional Platform. In addition, the Africa Disaster Risk Reduction Youth network supports numerous disaster risk reduction activities in Africa and participates in the coordination meetings such as the African Working Group. UNISDR also contributed to compiling a publication on African youth disaster risk reduction activities which will be published in 2019 for reference and follow-up.

In 2018, UNISDR continued to support the work of young scientists on disaster risk reduction, including through supporting the launch of **U-INSPIRE** (Youth and Young Professionals on Innovation, Science and Technology Platform for Resiliency) in Indonesia in November 2018, in partnership with UNESCO.

In the **Arab States**, UNISDR worked with youth to strengthen their engagement in Sendai implementation, including through capacity building and training, and in the drafting of the Regional Assessment Report for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab States, to be launched in 2020. In October 2018, the Arab Disaster Risk Reduction Children & Youth Group presented a Voluntary Action Statement in support of the Sendai Framework and Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in the margins of the Africa-Arab Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

UNISDR supported the participation of youth in the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Notably, the Ulaanbaatar Declaration, commits governments to ‘support systematic inclusion of engagement and partnership with children and youth, in all phases of disaster risk reduction through sharing of information and involvement in decision-making processes at all levels.’

Spotlight: Trade, Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

The organization of trade in global value chains with research, design, production, distribution, sale, after-sale service and other functions distributed across multiple locations, can be extremely sensitive to a range of hazards. The effects of disruption at one point can cascade through the entire network. Recognizing the impact of disasters on trade, but also the potential role of trade to reduce risks, prevent risk creation and build resilience, UNISDR is collaborating with the World Trade Organization (WTO) on new research on trade and resilience. The work seeks to cast light on the disruption effects of disasters and identify measures that can be taken to minimize risk.

Initial research results show that trade facilitation is one area with growing evidence of positive dividends that may accrue from risk-informed investment in trade systems. The new impetus given by the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement to investment in modernizing trade facilitation systems is an opportunity which will be further examined. Work also includes several country studies (Dominica, Fiji, Nepal, Saint Lucia, Tonga and Vanuatu) looking at the macro-economic impact on disaster-affected countries and trade issues arising in disaster response, recovery and resilience. The results of the study will be presented in 2019.

The topic of trade, development and risk reduction was also highlighted in a joint event by UNISDR, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC) in celebration of the 2018 International Day for Disaster Reduction which raised awareness among the trade and development community about the rising economic impacts of disaster risk and their impacts on sustainable development and trade.

Mobilising and strengthening civil society and community organizations

In alignment with the Sendai Framework which recognises the unique roles and vulnerabilities of civil society actors in building resilience and reducing disaster risk, UNISDR strengthened its engagement with civil society and community-based organizations through the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM). Key focus areas for this partnership are youth, displacement and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Civil Society organizations were actively engaged in the organization of all Regional Platforms. In Arab States, engagement of civil society organizations is now channelled through a newly established Arab States Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism which is aligned with the global SEM.

At the regional level, civil society and non-governmental entities working on disaster risk reduction in the **Asia-Pacific Region** are coordinated by the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN). The ADRRN actively contributed to the regional platform mechanisms in the region, both at the AMCDRR and the ISDR-Asia Partnership (IAP) Forums. A key highlight of the engagement was the Asian Local Leaders Forum for Disaster Resilience which was recognised by the Asia Regional Action Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework. Local leaders from five countries were critically recognised for their contribution at this event⁵⁰. Other civil society entities, including groups representing persons with disability, children and youth, women and gender, also actively contributed to the AMCDRR and IAP and to the drafting of the Action Plan through participation in the Drafting Committee of the documents.

In the **Africa Region**, UNISDR works closely with civil society stakeholder groups, largely coordinated by the Global Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (GNDRR). The civil society groups are largely comprised of community-based disaster risk reduction practitioners who come together to share their lessons learned and develop voluntary commitments for accelerating implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local level. During the **2018 Africa-Arab Regional Platform**, the Disaster Risk Reduction group delivered a joint statement to reiterate commitment to disaster risk reduction, acknowledging the increased threat resulting from natural hazards and worsening effect of conflict in fragile states. The Group also called for enhanced cooperation towards fulfilling the targets of the Africa Union's Agenda 2063 and inclusion in the decision-making process. Finally, the Group committed to "promote coherence between existing global frameworks and ensure community participation as a pillar of building back better in preparedness for response, recovery and reconstruction"⁵¹.

Parliamentarians and other decision makers advocate for disaster risk-sensitive development

In 2018, as part of the new Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, UNISDR identified the following key areas for engagement with parliamentarians, building on previous work:

- development of model disaster risk reduction laws and legal frameworks at the regional and national levels;
- advocacy for the integration of disaster risk reduction into national and local budgets and enhanced oversight and accountability;

- capacity development and training for parliamentarians on risk-informed development and legislation. To implement the strategy, UNISDR will put greater focus on working through key partners, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other global and regional networks to strengthen depth, breadth and sustainability of engagement.

UNISDR also continued to work with individual parliamentarians as advocates for disaster risk reduction and disaster risk-sensitive development. Using opportunities such as the Regional Platforms which were actively attended by parliamentarians throughout 2018, the SRSR had meetings with parliamentarians from various countries including from Bangladesh, Japan, Mexico and the Philippines, committing to working together for the implementation of the Sendai Framework and encouraging the sharing of best practices in terms of disaster risk reduction legislation and parliamentary oversight. The Japanese Parliamentarian Voluntary Support Group for UNISDR, established in 2017, is now the largest national support group for disaster risk reduction, engaged in multiple advocacy events globally, including at a high-level event organised by UNISDR for World Tsunami Awareness Day on 5 November in New York.

UNISDR also worked with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to integrate disaster risk reduction in a European Parliament report on sustainable finance in May 2018 and continued engagement on disaster risk reduction and sustainable finance with MEPs throughout the year, including by providing advice on how to strengthen disaster risk reduction and a risk-informed approach in the draft **European Union Budget 2021-2027**⁵². In this context, the SRSR delivered a keynote speech at the Global Legislators Organisation (GLOBE) EU High-Level Conference: "Missing pieces in the evolution to Sustainable Finance".



A capacity-building exercise on the UNISDR platform for recording voluntary contributions to the Sendai Framework (UNISDR).

In Central Africa, a group of parliamentarian created a network for resilience to disasters called REPARC. The seven founding countries, namely: Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Burundi, Tchad and Cameroon, have worked on joint initiatives for the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in national policies, information sharing and enhanced capacities for disaster risk management.

Partnership for Building Back Better

UNISDR continued to coordinate the International Recovery Platform (IRP), a thematic platform to promote build back better in recovery and advocate for the implementation of Priority 4 of Sendai Framework. In 2018, the IRP coordinated several key events, including the International Recovery Forum in January under the theme of *Build Back Better in Urban Resilience* and a side event during AMCDRR focusing on “*Recovery as an Opportunity to Prevent Risk*”. In 2018, IRP issued four knowledge products including the supplementary edition of the Guidance Note on Recovery for the Health and four volumes (Vol.21-24) of the IRP Herald to share various discussions to promote build back better in recovery⁵³.

UNESCO joined the IRP Steering Committee in January 2018 as its 17th member. In addition, the first comprehensive review of the IRP was conducted from May to November upon the finalization of the terms of reference of the review of the IRP Steering Committee. The final report of the IRP Review, including a number of recommendations, was submitted to the IRP Steering Committee for its consideration in 2019.

Voluntary commitments by stakeholders for Sendai Framework Implementation

Prior to, and during the Third UN World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015, Member States underlined the shared responsibility of stakeholders for disaster risk reduction and called for specific and time-bound voluntary commitments (VCs) by stakeholders at local, national, regional and global levels in line with disaster risk reduction strategies and plans to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework. As a result, a broad base of stakeholders made hundreds of voluntary commitments to implement the Sendai Framework⁵⁴.

Following intensive consultations with various stakeholders, UNISDR developed an online platform which was launched in December 2018. The new platform (<https://sendaicommitments.unisdr.org/>) includes the commitments made in 2015 and also allows for submissions year round. By logging commitments in an open and accessible platform, stakeholders can inform the public about their work while identifying

opportunities for collaboration with potential partners to maximise impact. In turn, UNISDR can monitor and take stock of the work done to increase the effectiveness of stakeholders' shared responsibility towards implementation of the Sendai Framework. UNISDR will develop and present the first Analysis Report of Voluntary Commitments at the 2019 Global Platform.

Spotlight: Inclusion and Accessibility

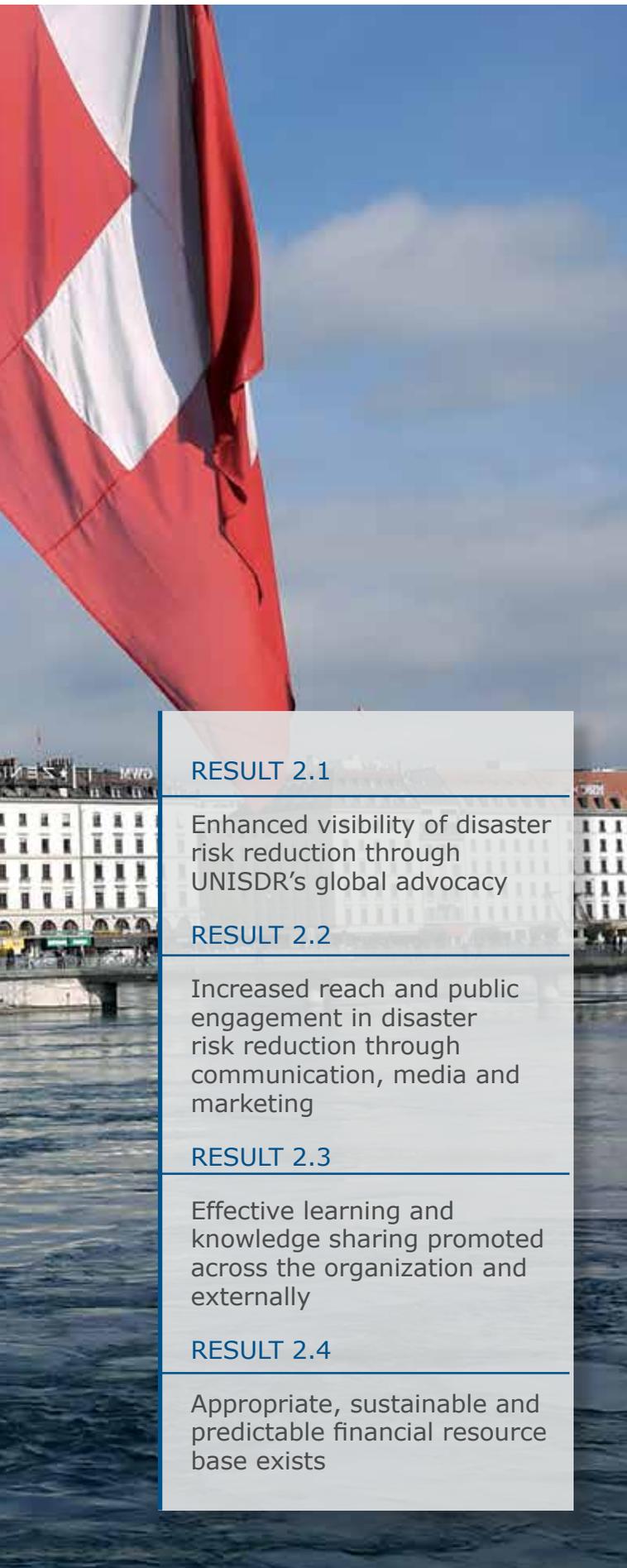
In 2018, UNISDR ensured that the disability constituency were actively engaged in the new Stakeholder Engagement Advisory Group represented by the International Disability Alliance. Furthermore, as a member of the Inter-Agency Support Group to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UNISDR actively contributed to the **UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development 2018**. This featured the results of a seminal survey carried out by UNISDR in 2013 which laid bare the crude reality of discrimination that persons with disabilities suffer from in disaster risk management in a chapter of the Report on "Building resilience of persons with disabilities and reducing their exposure to and impact from climate-related hazards and other shocks and disasters." The Report highlights how through the implementation of the Sendai Framework disability, inclusive disaster risk reduction is starting to be mainstreamed at regional level.

Furthermore, UNISDR contributed to the European Union mid-term assessment of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and ensured that adequate reference to the Sendai Framework is included. In 2019, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (DG ECHO) published its "Operational Guidance Note on Disability Inclusion in EU-funded operations" which acknowledges the Sendai Framework for its "increased consideration of disability and inclusion" and includes indicators that are in support for the Sendai Framework monitoring process.

Internally, UNISDR developed draft **guidelines for engagement of persons with disabilities** across the organization. This includes accessibility to UNISDR meetings which builds on the achievements in 2018, where all **Regional Platforms** were accessible for persons with disabilities. All Regional Platform outcome documents called for an inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction into policies, strategies, plans and programmes, and urged for data disaggregation by sex, age and disability as part of the Sendai Framework Monitor to assess progress in achievement of global and national targets and indicators.

UNISDR also actively engaged in the Second Global Conference on Persons with Disabilities in Bangladesh in May 2018. The outcome document, the **Dhaka+ Declaration**, is aligned with the Sendai Framework and will guide the activities of the community until 2030. UNISDR is supporting the implementation through its active engagement with the Disability Stakeholder Group under the lead of the International Disability Alliance.





ENABLER 1

Effective Knowledge Management, Communication and Global Advocacy

RESULT 2.1

Enhanced visibility of disaster risk reduction through UNISDR's global advocacy

RESULT 2.2

Increased reach and public engagement in disaster risk reduction through communication, media and marketing

RESULT 2.3

Effective learning and knowledge sharing promoted across the organization and externally

RESULT 2.4

Appropriate, sustainable and predictable financial resource base exists

Enabler 1 of the UNISDR Work Programme 2016-2019 through which UNISDR achieves impact, through knowledge brokering, effective communication and global advocacy campaigns, ensuring stakeholder engagement.

Flags on a main bridge in Geneva, Switzerland raises awareness on the International Day for Disaster Reduction.

Telling the global story of disaster risk reduction

UNISDR launched a series of both owned and leveraged **advocacy events** in 2018 across the globe. A mixture of leading research, stakeholder events and media engagement placed messages about Target (e) of the Sendai Framework squarely on the international agenda.

UNISDR activated the third focus area of the UNISDR Sendai Seven Campaign: Seven Targets, Seven Years in 2018

– Sendai Framework target (c), reducing economic losses kicking off with a blog on the High Level Political Forum website, authored by the SRSG⁵⁵. The campaign was linked closely with the launch of the Sendai Framework Monitor in March, announced across a range of communication channels, including a press release, on social media and in an opinion piece which highlighted that *"while we often have reliable estimates for mortality and numbers of people affected by disasters, until now too few governments have had the will or the means to systematically collect comprehensive data on economic losses and the damage inflicted on critical infrastructure, housing, agricultural production, livelihoods, cultural and environmental assets."* Signifying the relevance of economic losses related to disasters, the World Trade Organization hosted a first "Natural Disasters and Trade Symposium" which called for greater dialogue on the impacts of the growing numbers of disasters on world trade and on the role trade can play in building resilience to disasters.

Communication activities in support of Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, Asia, Africa/Arab States and Europe provided opportunities through SRSG speeches, opinion pieces and social media to reinforce messaging around the need to improve data collection on economic losses. Communication messages also emphasised the need for coherence in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and

the SDGs, drawing attention to the deadline in 2020 for implementation of Sendai Framework target (e) which seeks a substantial increase in the number of countries with national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction. This messaging filtered through into the outcome documents from all regional platforms in 2018.

Reflecting on the link between economic losses for the poor and high levels of internal displacement from disasters in his message to the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the UN Secretary-General said:

"Last year, extreme weather events were largely responsible for displacing almost 19 million people around the world. Asia is the most disaster-prone region in the world and accounted for almost half this number. They cost hundreds of billions of dollars, hitting the poorest countries disproportionately and pushing millions into poverty."

Global Advocacy: International Day for Disaster Reduction and World Tsunami Awareness Day

UNISDR released, in close collaboration with the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), a seminal 'Economic Losses, Poverty & Disasters 1998-2017' report on **International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR)**, 13 October highlighting that 91 per cent of disaster events are climate-related⁵⁶. These account for 77 per cent of the US\$ 3 trillion in recorded economic losses from climate-related and geophysical disasters over the last 20 years. The report also reinforced the message on the importance of good data collection, highlighting that economic data is not

available for 63 per cent of 7,255 disaster events recorded in the Emergency Events Database maintained by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters at the University of Louvain. Interest in the linkages between disaster and economic loss was clear: media coverage of the report had a potential reach of 1.3 billion people. This major advocacy report had substantial trickle-down effect, feeding into discussions in forums co-organised by UNCTAD, the MIKTA countries (Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia) and WTO, and was featured at the joint Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in Tunisia. The United Nations Secretary-General commented that comprehensive accounting of economic losses *"is crucial for progress on crisis prevention"*⁵⁷. *For example, a better understanding of the economic losses from extreme weather events can help generate greater action on climate change and increased ambition on reducing greenhouse gas emissions."* Leveraging advocacy opportunities provided by the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming at 1.5°C, UNISDR linked the International Day with its publication, participating in the Climate Dialogue on the Special Report event and publishing a joint opinion piece with the head of

UN Framework Convention in Climate Change entitled *Climate change is a major multiplier of disaster losses*. The SRSR also made use of the report's findings in her contribution to the Talanoa Dialogue at COP24 and revisited the theme in another opinion piece to coincide with COP24 *"What if we knew the real costs of climate change?"*⁵⁸

The **Americas Office** organised a regional event in Panama City to raise awareness about economic losses due to disasters and produced a video focusing on the economic impacts of disasters as they relate to the tourism sector in the Caribbean⁵⁹. Additionally, an event was organised in Guatemala focusing on scientific evidence and information in order to create awareness about country-level risk exposure around economic losses.

The UN Secretary-General described the **World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD)**, 5 November, as "an opportunity to emphasize again the importance of disaster prevention and preparedness, including early warning, public education, science to better understand and predicts tsunamis, and foster development that takes account of risk in seismic zones





Workers constructing seawalls to prevent soil erosion in Tarawa, Kiribati (World Bank).

and exposed coastal areas". This message was delivered in the aftermath of his visit to the tsunami-devastated Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. The Secretary-General also made the link with the high level of economic losses ensuing from tsunamis in his message. The stage for WTAD was set by a High-Level Panel discussion organised with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO in Paris which highlighted the significant challenges caused by lack of maintenance of early warning systems and near-field tsunamis⁶⁰.

Partnering with **country-level media** is essential for furthering a joined-up approach to ensuring disaster risk reduction is mainstreamed into national policies. To draw attention to country-level leadership and responsibility, the SRSR published an opinion piece in The Japan Times and participated with representatives from tsunami exposed countries - Chile, Indonesia, Japan, the Maldives - in a high-level event at UN HQ in New York. Special events were also held at the Americas Regional Platform (June, Colombia), the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (July, Mongolia), and the joint Africa-Arab Platform (October, Tunisia). For the third year, Japan

hosted a High School Students Summit⁶¹ which attracted 379 participants from 48 countries, in Wakayama prefecture Japan. Students learned about disaster risk reduction and how to serve as Youth Ambassadors for Tsunami Disaster Risk Reduction and to support their communities to build resilience from disasters. The 2nd World Tsunami Museum Conference in Tokyo attracted 156 participants from 17 countries, highlighting the concept of museums as cultural hubs which keep alive the memory of past events, and established a network among participating museums which can be capitalized on to exchange ideas, material, and assets through ICT and other technologies.

Continuing the theme of economic loss on owned social media channels, UNISDR published three videos for WTAD and IDDR, highlighting the severe economic damages, tsunami risk in Europe and need for disaster resilient infrastructure. The videos received more than 6,000 views in the first 24 hours of being posted. In the **European Region**, UNISDR coordinated a number of events in many countries to mark the day. In Montenegro, evacuation exercises of persons with disabilities were organised. There were also events and activities in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Spain and many other

"Measures to adapt the inevitable impacts of climate change are just as important as cutting greenhouse gases. The world requires an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and tackling climate change."

A joint statement for the International Day for Disaster Reduction by Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms. Mami Mizutori and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Ms. Patricia Espinosa.

locations. In Italy, the 8th edition of the *I don't take risks – Best practices of civil protection* communication campaign took place with 3,500 civil protection volunteers meeting citizens in squares throughout Italy to raise awareness on seismic, flood and tsunami risks.

UNISDR supported a range of influential IDRR and WTAD outreach activities in the **Asia-Pacific region**. In 2018, at least 11 countries in Asia-Pacific held IDRR events. Notably, the Government of Indonesia marked the 2018 IDRR with a number of events under the umbrella of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Month Commemoration. This month-long celebration culminated with a series of activities in Medan City, in the North Sumatra Province engaging more than 5,000 active participants. Activities included technical and thematic events as well as public engagement and awareness raising events, such as 10-kilometre run and a disaster risk reduction contest for students. The Chief of Asia-Pacific Regional Office joined the Government of Indonesia in Medan City to participate and support these events.

In the Pacific, the International Day for Disaster Reduction was the catalyst for **Fiji's National Disaster Awareness Week** which aimed to increase public understanding on how to reduce the risk from tsunami, earthquake and drought. The week strategically linked public outreach with policy-focused activities, including opportunities for consultations on the country's National Drought Response Plan. For the first time in the Marshall Islands, IDRR

provided an opportunity where the national disaster management office and its partners focused on raising awareness and preparedness amongst high school students to strengthen school disaster prevention planning.

UNISDR chaired a special event on tsunami preparedness profiling the global innovation of Wellington, New Zealand, in painting blue lines on streets across the city to clearly indicate tsunami safety zones. The session at Wellington's National Te Papa Museum was a feature of a major conference on risk communication in Asia Pacific (ISCRAM 2018). The 'blue line to safety' initiative has spread globally including to the Indonesia, Japan and the United States of America.

As a sign of the growing significance of WTAD in mobilising action in Asia-Pacific, some countries used WTAD as an occasion to launch new disaster risk reduction-related initiatives. For instance, the Thai Public Broadcasting Service launched their Disaster Communication Development Centre to serve as a coordination mechanism between the government and the media to improve the dissemination of timely and accurate information to the public before and during disasters. The Government of Australia released its 2018 Probabilistic Tsunami Hazard Assessment (PTHA). As the first update in ten years, this new assessment will inform Australia's infrastructure resilience planning and risk mitigation strategies, as well as disaster management and evacuation plans.

Knowledge Brokering through Expert Services

To continue improving topical relevance and community connection, PreventionWeb hosted four Ask-an-Expert sessions in 2018 on Avoidable Deaths, Reducing Economic Losses, Fire Safety and Evacuation Measures in Buildings and Disaster Risk Assessment. The Disaster Risk Reduction Voices Blog shares stories and perspectives from disaster risk reduction practitioners and academics on reducing risk and building resilience. The featured experts came from various backgrounds, including academia, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and inter-governmental organizations. A total of 16 blogs on a varied set of issues were published in 2018.

The Disaster Risk Reduction Voices Blog series covered a variety of topics, including:

- Inclusion (marginalized groups, sexual and gender minorities, refugees, homeless people)
- Economic losses (challenges in data collection, developments in the financial sector)
- Communication (risk communication, disaster coverage in the media)

UNISDR created and launched a **child-friendly booklet "Get up to high ground,"**⁶² that uses simple messages to generate life-saving tsunami awareness among children aged 6-12 years old. UNISDR also produced a short video to raise awareness about how tsunamis disproportionately impact vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities⁶³. The video features interviews with survivors and victims of past tsunamis, giving voice to their needs and experiences. It also includes practical advice and guidance to ensure preparedness and evacuation efforts are inclusive.

Creating public opportunities to advocate for disaster risk-sensitive development

In 2018, UNISDR worked with Disaster Risk Reduction Champion, former President of Finland, Ms. Tarja Halonen, on a special video message highlighting the impact of the high economic costs of disasters on women and girls in particular, as well as sustainability. Ms. Petra Nemcova, UNISDR's World Tsunami Awareness Advocate, international model and 2004 tsunami survivor, took part with the SRSG in an event targeting students. This event was also used to launch an upgraded version of the Stop Disasters Game which helps educate children, using a fun medium, about how they can be actively involved in reducing tsunami risk and impact.

UNISDR recognised the work of a number of people who champion disaster loss reduction through the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Mr. John Schneider, the Secretary-General of the Global Earthquake Model (GEM) was presented with the Damir Cemerin Award at the European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction. GEM has carried out seismic risk assessments in more than 150 countries. GEM's OpenQuake web-based platform is the result of a fully collaborative policy of data and tool sharing using open source software for the assessment of earthquake hazard and risk.



Stakeholders logging on to the upgraded version of UNISDR's Stop Disasters Game, an interactive game aimed at building children's understanding of disaster risk management.

The Africa Regional Office organised the first **African Media Awards**. Reflecting a growing appetite for better informed media and disaster risk reporting, more than 100 entries from 16 countries were announced in Tunis on International Day for Disaster Reduction at the Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction. The awards for the best reporting on disaster risk reduction went to Ms. Ruth Keah Kadide, Radio Rahma, Kenya; Ms. Dicta Asiimwe, The East African, Uganda; Mr. Romain Dekadjevi, Radio Tokpa, Benin, and Ms. Mai Elshafei, Egyptian TV.

UNISDR also opened the nomination process for the **2019 Sasakawa Award** which will recognize individuals, organizations and initiatives that have best contributed to ensuring inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation in disaster risk reduction activities. The winners will be announced at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2019.

Strategic communication and advocacy

Strong growth continued in UNISDR's outreach on all platforms. This was fuelled by original content in the form of press releases, web news stories, opinion pieces, speeches, videos and posts on social media in line with the Communications and Advocacy Strategy, Resilience for All (2018-2019).

The Sendai Framework Monitor was successfully launched and the collection of good quality data, particularly on economic losses, was a constant theme in communications and advocacy throughout the year. A **communications strategy** was developed for the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and implementation of the strategy began in 2018. A new communications strategy for the Making Cities Resilient Campaign was also developed in 2018 and is being implemented. Work is also ongoing with the new board of the ARISE initiative to develop a communications strategy in the context of the new Partnership

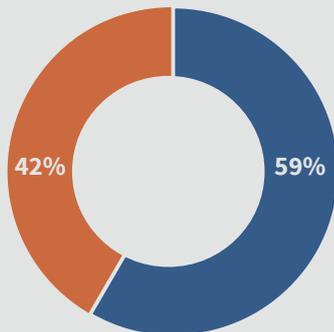
PreventionWeb

In 2018, **PreventionWeb** continued its growth as the world's only disaster risk reduction knowledge platform, publishing more than 400 new entries each month. More than 92,000 visits to the site per month, registering 122,000 individual sessions, increasing its relevance to those working on the forefront of dealing with disaster risk.

PreventionWeb now features more than 45,000 entries in its knowledge base. To point users to relevant knowledge on specific topics and emerging trends, new resource guides were created including on assessing and disclosing climate-related financial risks, making the business case for disaster risk reduction, fragility and disasters, disaster risk in a warming world, evacuation behaviour, and volunteerism for disaster risk reduction.

Preventionweb Audience

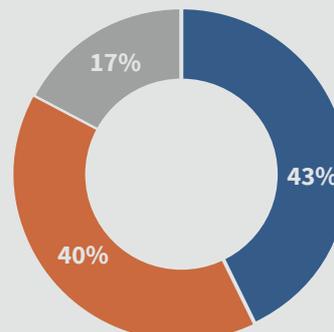
What Users Are Looking For:



Information about Disaster Risk

Resources and Tools on How to Reduce Disaster Risk

Where Users Are From:

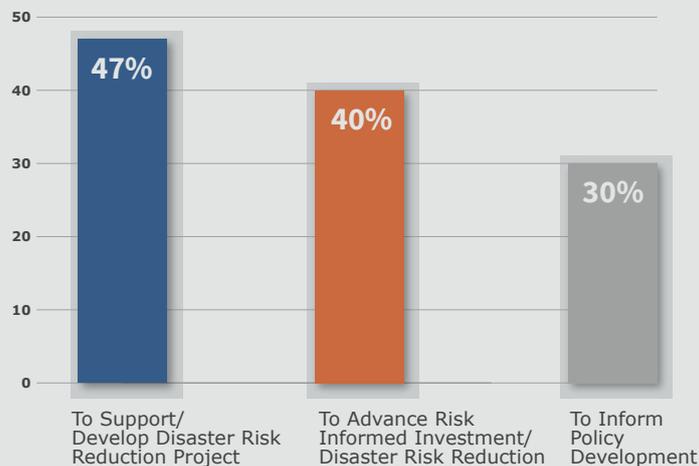


High Risk Countries

Medium Risk Countries

Low Risk Countries and Other

Why Users Go To PreventionWeb:



To Support/Develop Disaster Risk Reduction Project

To Advance Risk Informed Investment/Disaster Risk Reduction

To Inform Policy Development

"The African Union will seek to collaborate on achieving sustainable development informed by disaster risk reduction. Disasters do not make any distinction between borders and continents."

Ambassador Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission

Engagement Mechanism launched in December, to encourage stakeholder support to implementation of the Sendai Framework (for more on the Partnership Engagement Mechanism see SO3).

There was continued organic growth on UNISDR social media outlets: followers on **Twitter** rose from 52,500 to 61,000; **Facebook** rose from 18,600 to 21,300; the SRSG twitter account, 3,200 to 4,700. This growth was driven by a continued focus on generating fresh news content and commentary around the implementation of the Sendai Framework. This output included 132 web news stories, 24 press releases, 16 SRSG blogs/ opinion pieces, 20-plus SRSG speeches/ video messages, and three messages prepared for the UN Secretary-General. The corporate website, www.unisdr.org attracted more than 620,000 visitors.

The Regional Office for the **Americas** has implemented a communication strategy on social media to increase reach and engagement, and connected online growth with offline outreach opportunities, to promote the following topics: private sector engagement (January to March 2018); VI Regional platform themes (April to August 2018); International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (September to October 2018); World Tsunami Awareness Day (October and November 2018) and urban resilience (November and December 2018).

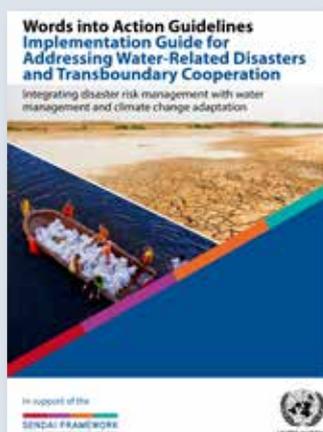
In line with the Sendai Framework which recognises the important contribution of the media in raising awareness and educating the general public to increase investments in disaster risk reduction, UNISDR proactively engaged with **Africa-wide media** through reinvigorating the Diraj network of African journalists, that was originally launched in 2013, to raise awareness about disaster risk reduction. In addition to continued engagement, the Regional Office for Africa also involved media representatives in campaigns and celebrations and systematically promoted articles and visuals produced by the network.

Forty two representatives from media groups attended the Africa-Arab Platform in Tunis and UNISDR and Diraj held a media training workshop during the event. As a result of Africa Office's increased engagement with CNBC Africa, the Platform saw extensive mediatic coverage, particularly through the broadcasting of interviews and a 30mn TV Programme on disaster risk reduction that aimed to increase awareness of the public at large. The programme had a potential TV audience of 24 million subscribers as well as 700,000 social media followers, across 48 countries in Africa⁶⁴.

Promoting effective learning and knowledge sharing

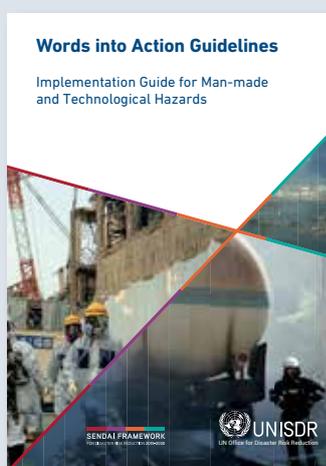
In 2018, UNISDR conducted a **technical audit of its online ecosystem** which recommended the migration of its digital properties to a new content management system in line with United Nations standards. The new platform will ensure technology, architecture and brand consistency across all websites. To support this effort, **a new set of branding guidelines** was developed which will apply to all communication products. The redesign of UNISDR corporate website has been initiated and procurement is underway to identify a vendor to conduct the migration. Implementation towards building the new platform is expected to start in early 2019.

Translating the large panel of theoretical disaster risk reduction and resilience building information into practical tools that can be used on the ground continued through the **Words into Action** initiative. These guides are instrumental in building capacity through connecting best practice with on-ground realities to improve disaster risk reduction outcomes. Two new guides were launched in 2018: 'Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation' and 'Man-made and Technological Hazards'. Two additional Words into Action guides, 'Disaster Displacement: How to Reduce Risk, Address Impacts and Strengthen Resilience' and 'Implementation guide for local disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies' were published for public review and feedback, and will be launched at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2019. UNISDR previously released three guides and currently has nine others in advanced stages of development. All of the guides are the result of collaboration with many partners both inside and outside the United Nations and point to UNISDR's growing convening and knowledge-brokering role.



Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation: Integrating disaster risk management with water management

This guide intends to provide guidance to implement the Sendai Framework and the Water Convention by offering a road map with concrete examples to help address water-related disasters, especially in situations where the transboundary context adds to the complexity of risk reduction. It specifically targets the water, disaster risk reduction and climate change communities and aims to bring them together so that they may jointly design effective and comprehensive disaster reduction measures.



Man-made and technological hazards

This guide seeks to address man-made and technological hazards by strengthening national and local disaster management plans to include these hazards and by raising awareness of the risks and impacts of man-made and technological hazards. It provides a set of evidence-based, practical activities for implementation at national and local levels for chemical, industrial and transport accidents, and nuclear and radiological hazards under each of the Sendai Framework's four priorities for action. The guide highlights the existing diversity of thematic frameworks, institutional and legal mechanisms at global and regional levels that are related to and used for addressing man-made hazards. It also draws attention to existing collaborations to implement these tools within the disaster risk reduction community and key partners.

ACTION GUIDES



Disaster Displacement: How to Reduce Risk, Address Impacts and Strengthen Resilience

This guide offers practical guidance to help government authorities integrate disaster displacement and other related forms of human mobility into regional, national, sub-national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in accordance with target (e) of the Sendai Framework, to revise or develop disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020. It provides basic background information and highlights the various roles disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction can play in reducing, preparing for and responding to disaster displacement.

The guide is primarily intended to support the work of: 1) Regional, national, sub-national and local disaster risk management actors, particularly disaster management agencies in addressing disaster displacement risk; 2) National and regional governments in ensuring that policies to avoid and manage displacement within and across borders are coherent across all relevant sectors; 3) National and sub-national law and policymakers, such as parliamentarians, in regulating measures to reduce and manage disaster displacement; 4) Local land-use planning and urban development authorities responsible for reducing vulnerabilities and exposure that may lead to displacement, and in ensuring disaster displacement risk is included in spatial development plans.



Implementation guide for local disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies

The guide highlights the role of local authorities in disaster risk reduction. Indeed, one of the targets of the Framework is to substantially increase the number of countries not only with national, but also local disaster risk reduction strategies. In the past decades, more and more people have migrated to settle in cities, searching for better economic opportunities. However, when cities are overwhelmed it can lead to unplanned urbanization which increases vulnerability of the urban population to many risks, including those related to disasters. This guide is meant to inspire those actors who are interested in creating effective local resilience strategies and to help local governments towards the development and fine-tuning of the local disaster risk reduction strategies, supporting cities to become more resilient.



ENABLER 2



RESULT 2.1

Enhanced effectiveness, efficiency and quality of operational performance, based on appropriate gender-sensitive internal policies, structure and staffing

Strengthened Organizational Performance

Through Enabler 2 of its Work Programme 2016-2019, UNISDR seeks to strengthen its operational efficiency through leveraging new technology and continually improving results-based management and through concurrent planning, monitoring and evaluation. UNISDR also works to enhance its human resource management and staff development in line with its commitment to the UN system-wide policy on gender equality and to improve operational performance. UNISDR efforts through Enabler 2 were positively recognized in 2018 through both an Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) audit and the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) annual evaluation exercise.

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Director Madi moderating a working session entitled "Gender Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction" at the Africa-Arab Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

Strengthening financial planning, management and monitoring

In 2018, UNISDR focused on achieving key operational and financial targets, managing for results and using information technology. To harness existing new technologies, UNISDR piloted a **Customer Relations Management platform** for intra-office administrative processing and will begin utilizing the platform in 2019. This will allow to more efficiently process administrative requests from across its 12 offices, and to have a smooth transition when the United Nations Global Service Delivery Centre for all administrative services starts⁶⁵.

To further increase efficiency in the delivery of administrative services, UNISDR is in the process of preparing and training staff in the use of a variety of guidance notes that outline standard procedures for undertaking all key administrative tasks. This sets the foundation for future decentralization to its regional offices of day-to-day operational decision making.

To enhance programme monitoring and implementation, UNISDR began to use the **Business Intelligence module of the Enterprise Resource Planning** (ERP) system, Umoja. As part of this change, UNISDR now issues automated financial reports and disseminates these reports via email on a weekly basis to all programme managers and feeds a management monitoring dashboard.

Audit by the Office of Internal Oversight Services

In September 2018, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) conducted a comprehensive audit of UNISDR⁶⁶. The objective of the audit was “to assess whether UNISDR governance, risk management and control processes were efficient and effective to achieve its strategic objectives in compliance with relevant administrative issuances.”

UNISDR was pleased that this audit was included in the 2018 risk-based work plan of OIOS, “due to the risk that inadequate coordination and support to Member States and other key stakeholders may threaten the overall success of the Sendai Framework”, as this was indicative of the importance OIOS places on the successful implementation of the Sendai Framework.

The OIOS report positively recognized that “UNISDR established key foundational elements for supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework.” The report further highlighted that UNISDR established the processes to ensure achievement of its strategic objectives, including a mechanism for monitoring results, a resource mobilization strategy, a comprehensive capacity development strategy, a partnership strategy and an action plan to reduce vacancies and increase compliance rates for mandatory training and had sound financial management.

UNISDR was also pleased to learn that there were **no critical findings from the OIOS report** and agreed with the useful recommendations provided, all of which are under UNISDR’s purview to be implemented by October 2019. The entire OIOS audit exercise was fully aligned with UNISDR goals of fostering a learning culture to continually enhance organizational effectiveness, efficiency and performance⁶⁷.



A disaster response drill in Duy Hoa Commune, Quang Nam Province, Viet Nam supported by the Red Cross (USAID)

In late 2018, UNISDR also began actively contributing to preparations which inform the design of Extension Two of Umoja (UE2) through participation in consultations, training and testing to ensure a smooth roll-out of the extension in 2019. The new Strategic Planning, Budgeting and Performance Management (SPPM) solution of UE2 will add programme and project planning and monitoring capabilities to Umoja. Through SPPM, strategic plans and results frameworks of different types and durations can be created and linked to one another hierarchically, if needed. This will enable to more easily monitor and report on the results, deliverables and indicators of its Work Programme - provided that the system is well adapted to extra-budgetary programmes. As such, UNISDR continues to engage actively in the roll-out process with the intention of ensuring the effectiveness of UE2 for programme planning and management.

Strengthening enterprise risk management

As part of its 2018-2019 Results Framework, UNISDR committed to craft an Enterprise Risk Management Framework aligned to the current UN standard. During 2018, the Resource Planning and Monitoring Section developed a Risk Register following guidance from UN headquarters and with full engagement of the Senior Management Team. The Risk Register includes risk definitions, an analysis of key risk drivers, a description of the controls already established by management, an evaluation of their effectiveness and an outline of potential risk response strategies. Risks were classified into tiers based on the qualitative evaluation of risk exposures and control effectiveness as well as contributing factors gathered during the risk assessment process. The Risk Register will be reviewed and updated annually by the Senior Management Team.



Mr. Noriyuki Suzuki, who lost his daughter Mai in the tsunami that followed the magnitude 9 earthquake on March 11, 2011 in Japan, shows SRSG Mizutori, a photo of the Okawa school clock. Okawa Elementary School lost 74 students and ten teachers. (UNISDR).

Improving work programme delivery

Over the course of 2018, UNISDR updated and operationalised a new Terms of Reference for its Programme Management Oversight Committee (PMOC). The focus of this Committee is to ensure the alignment of funding proposals with the Work Programme, review programming of funding to ensure alignment with organizational priorities and donor agreements as well as monitor ongoing projects and the overall implementation of the Work Programme. A key change to the function of the Committee is to have all proposals reviewed by the Communications and Knowledge Management Units to ensure alignment to relevant UNISDR and United Nations information and technology standards. In addition, the new weekly financial monitoring reports are used to facilitate and improve regular monitoring of project implementation through the Committee.

Human resources planning, management and monitoring

A significant effort was made to achieve full incumbency against core positions of the organization, thereby ensuring that staff capacity in all locations to deliver on its mandate was secured. At the end of the year the vacancy rate for core positions was 14 per cent, down from 16 per cent at the end of 2017 and 30 per cent at the end of 2016. The majority of the positions under recruitment are expected to be filled by the end of the first quarter of 2019.

For the 2017-2018 Performance Management Cycle (covering the period April 2017- March 2018), UNISDR continued to work towards enhanced people management by focusing on strengthening performance management across the Office. With the full engagement of senior management, workshops were conducted in every office in 2018, ensuring all staff members

were clear about the performance expectations of their supervisors, received regular feedback and could contribute fully to the delivery of the Office’s mandate. In light of these efforts, **UNISDR reached 99 per cent compliance on performance management appraisals in the period under review.**

To further invest in its staff, a **Staff Development Strategy** was developed for 2018-2019, defining the key learning priorities. The objective is to foster an empowering and supportive culture that encourages innovation and creative thinking. The priority for 2018 was

to encourage all staff to complete mandatory United Nations learning programmes. At the end of the year, the compliance rate reached 79 per cent and is steadily progressing towards the 100% target. In addition, further training was provided in the use of social media to ensure staff can implement the most updated communication tools. Finally, short, focused in-house learning sessions on programme planning, human resources management and information technology solutions, have further promoted a culture of continuous and cross functional learning.

UNISDR Offices and Presences

UNISDR headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland. Regional Offices are based in Brussels, Belgium, for Europe; Panama City, Panama, for the Americas; Cairo, Egypt, for Arab States; Bangkok, Thailand, for Asia and Pacific; Nairobi, Kenya, for Africa. UNISDR also maintains presences in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Bonn, Germany; Incheon, Republic of Korea; Kobe, Japan; Suva, Fiji; and New York, United States of America.



"Disasters do not affect people equally. In many parts of the world more women die in disasters than men as a consequence of higher levels of poverty and other forms of discrimination. One of the guiding principles of the Sendai Framework is that we need to obtain disaggregated data by sex, age and disability for risk-informed decision-making which will lead to saving more lives."

SRSB Mami Mizutori marking the International Women's Day on 8 March 2018.

Mainstreaming gender considerations

Mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment throughout UNISDR's work continues, underscoring the important role gender plays in all disaster risk reduction strategies, plans, policies, advocacy campaigns and awareness-raising products. In particular, UNISDR fostered recognition of women's contributions to disaster risk reduction as part of their engagement in the design, development, implementation and monitoring of inclusive national and local disaster risk reduction strategies. This work was guided by UNISDR's *Strategy on Gender Equality and Parity and Action Plan for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*.

In light of efforts to mainstream gender, specific discussions were held in all of the five Regional Platforms in 2018 on women's empowerment and leadership in disaster risk reduction and gender-sensitive and inclusive approaches to disaster risk reduction. All of the 2018 Regional Platforms promoted **General Recommendation 37 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change when formulating national and local disaster

risk reduction strategies. In addition, all outcome declarations contained references to the need to address disaster risk reduction in an inclusive all-of-society approach, and the need for disaggregated disaster loss data.

UNISDR developed a **set of guidelines recommending gender mainstreaming** and parity in the panel as a core principle of the organizational process of the Regional Platforms, resulting in an overall increase in women's participation in substantive discussions that passed from 32 per cent at the 2015 World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) to an average of 37 per cent women participants across the 2018 Regional Platforms. Commitment and efforts towards the organization of gender parity panels also led to an improvement in the level of women's participation as speakers, passing from 31 per cent at the 2015 WCDRR to a 35 per cent average across the five Regional Platforms.

UNISDR continued to scale-up technical support and advocacy efforts to support governments in promoting women's contributions to disaster risk reduction governance and their systematic engagement and involvement in the development of inclusive national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, as called for by the Sendai Framework

target (e). UNISDR promoted a **gender perspective in disaster risk reduction planning**, disaggregation of data in collection and reporting, in trainings and advice provided to national Sendai Framework focal points as well as with other stakeholders in disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change. A Technical Forum including disaggregation of disaster loss data by sex was held in November 2018 in Bonn with the participation of 40 Member States.

As International Gender Champion, the SRSG has committed to work with partners and women's groups to facilitate the identification

of good practices on gender and disaster risk reduction and their promotion at the 2018 Regional Platforms and the 2019 Global Platform; to support panel parity; and to further raise UNISDR's internal awareness, commitment and ownership of gender issues.

Internally, to further ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed across the work of UNISDR, gender equality has been integrated into all new project proposals and grant development templates as core priority area of work and is receiving targeted funding for promoting women's voices in disaster risk reduction.

UNISDR Recognized for Gender Initiatives through UN-SWAP

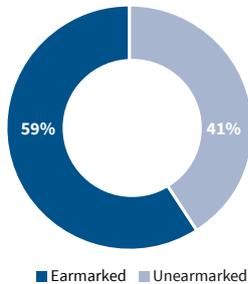
UN-Women recognised UNISDR for the 2017 UN System-Wide Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) reporting cycle as scoring best amongst UN Secretariat entities for the 2017 reporting cycle. UN-SWAP focuses on six key elements:

- Strengthening accountability for gender equality
- Enhancing results-based management for gender equality
- Establishing oversight through monitoring
- Evaluation and reporting, allocating sufficient human and financial resources
- Developing and/or strengthening staff capacity and competency in gender mainstreaming
- Ensuring coherence/coordination and knowledge/information management at the global, regional and national levels.

UNISDR was commended in particular for strengthening accountability mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women through the adoption of UNISDR's **Strategy on Gender Equality and Parity** and the **Action Plan to Prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse** in 2017; for enhancing gender-responsive strategic planning by including a new deliverable on gender mainstreaming in the revised Strategic Framework 2016-2021; for engaging systematically in inter-agency partnerships promoting gender equality and women's empowerment such as its global partnership programme on gender inequalities of risk in cooperation with UN-Women and the IFRC which aims to promote gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework; and for integrating gender equality in monitoring and reporting practices, such as its support to countries to disaggregate disaster loss data.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

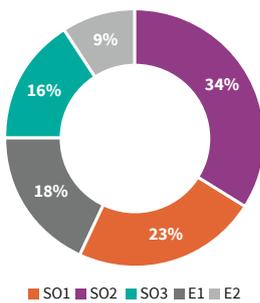
2018 Income Breakdown



In 2018, UNISDR efforts to raise appropriate, sustainable and predictable financial resources to deliver the UNISDR Work Programme 2016-2019 brought in US\$40.8 million against a requirement of US\$43.1 million. As 15% of the funds received was for activities continuing into 2019 overall only 80% of the funding requirement for 2018 was received by year end. UNISDR was 99 per cent funded through extra-budgetary resources from voluntary contributions, with only one post currently funded from the UN Regular Budget, despite a call from Secretary-General Guterres in his 2018 report on Sendai Framework implementation (A/73/268) recommending in paragraph 94(i) that:

States consider augmenting their financial contributions to the United Nations trust fund for disaster reduction, as well as regular budget support for the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, to support the efforts of Member States to manage and reduce their disaster risk and implement the Sendai Framework.

Work Programme Expenditures Breakdown

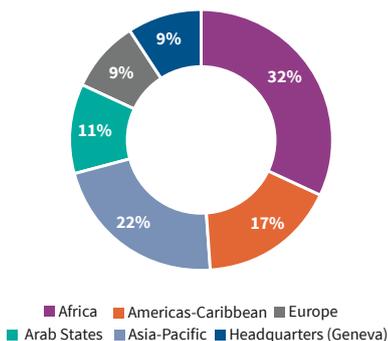


UNISDR strongly appreciated that the need to allocate additional resources was agreed by Member States in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly (A/C.2/73/L.15/Rev.1) in paragraph 40 as follows:

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.

UNISDR continued to reach out to new donors. This effort resulted in engaging four new donors; two Member States, Cyprus⁶⁸ and the Czech Republic; as well as Enel Foundation and Willis.

Expenditures Breakdown by Region



To improve resource mobilization efforts, UNISDR developed a strategy that summarised its resource mobilization principles, approaches, targets and internal division of labour necessary to raise the funding required to support UNISDR to implement its Work Programme. A detailed action plan that highlighted specific opportunities to strengthen engagement with existing donors and engage with potential new donors was also developed.

In light of its dependence on extra-budgetary funding, the flexible nature of unearmarked (core) funding is particularly important to UNISDR. **Unearmarked contributions** increased significantly in 2018 to US \$16.7M or **41 per cent of the total funding received in 2018**, up from US \$6.4M or 23 per cent of the total income received in 2017. This sharp increase was due to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs providing unearmarked financial support as other strategic partners to UNISDR.

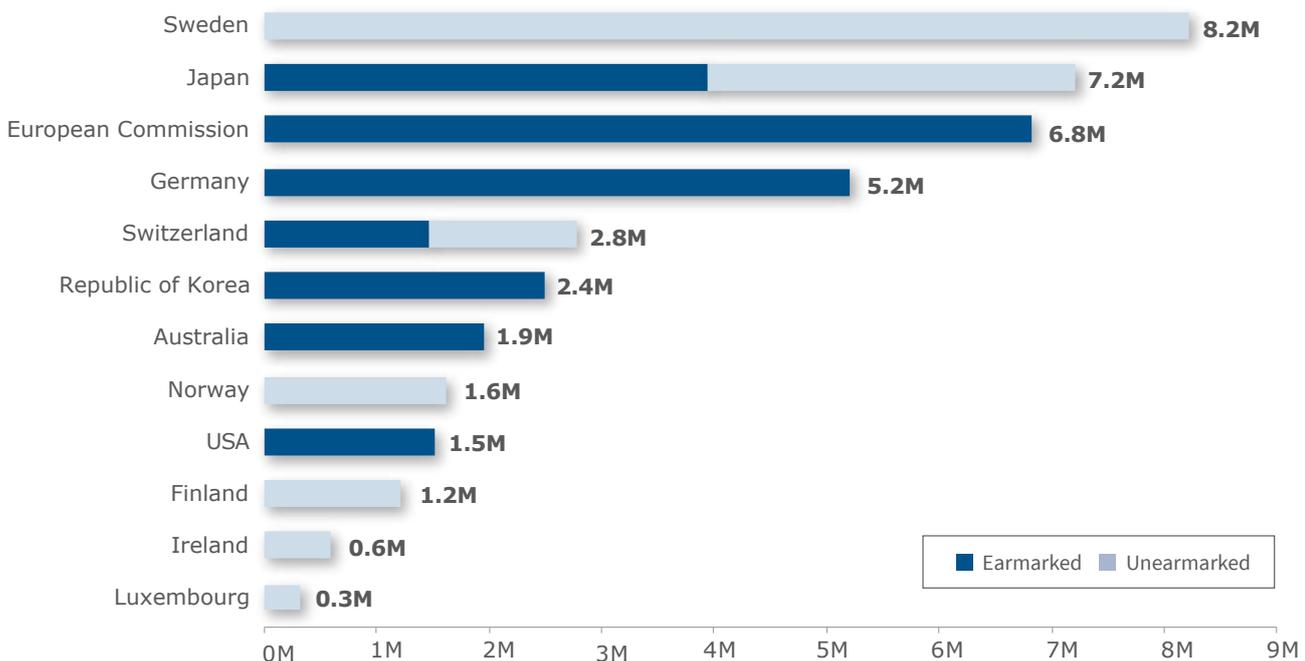
Unearmarked funding is critical, as it enables UNISDR to better focus on the strategic result areas, affords smooth and effective operational delivery, significantly reduces transaction costs related to contributions, and allows for forward planning, including the ability to attract and retain high-quality human resources. To raise awareness about the importance of unearmarked contributions, UNISDR drafted and began consultations with donors on an unearmarked visibility strategy for implementation in 2019.

To increase predictability of funding, UNISDR continued to advocate with its donors for multi-year contributions and over the period of 2018 received 28 payments through multi-year agreements.

In-kind contributions were another important source of support to the work of UNISDR in the delivery of its Work Programme in 2018. Notably the Governments of Armenia, Colombia, Italy, Mongolia and Tunisia made significant in-kind contributions through hosting Regional and Sub-Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In addition, over the course of 2018, the Governments of Japan, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States of America provided a total of six **Junior Professional Officers** and the government of France provided a **UN Volunteer**. As disaster risk reduction sits at the cross-roads of the development and humanitarian agendas, working with UNISDR provides young professionals with exposure and opportunities to engage with the different agendas and stakeholders which serves as a valuable professional foundation.

2018 Top Donors to UNISDR in Millions USD



2018 Donors to UNISDR

1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018

GOVERNMENTS	US\$ TOTAL
Argentina ¹	25,000
Australia ¹	1,682,718
Cyprus ¹	11,377
Czech Republic	127,873
Finland	1,207,729
France	11,968
Germany ¹	5,211,300
Ireland	582,751
Japan ²	7,203,382
Kazakhstan ¹	100,000
Luxembourg	310,559
Norway	1,618,225
Republic of Korea ¹	2,399,980
Sweden	8,224,725
Switzerland ²	2,782,543
USA ¹	1,512,653
SUB-TOTAL	33,012,782
OTHER INSTITUTIONS	
ESCWA	16,667
European Commission ³	6,819,187
Human Security Trust Fund ¹	335,215
World Bank ⁴	471,000
SUB-TOTAL	7,642,068
PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOUNDATIONS	
Enel Foundation ¹	39,773
UPS Foundation ¹	60,000
Willis ¹	36,800
SUB-TOTAL	136,573
GRAND TOTAL	40,791,423

¹ Earmarked contributions.

² Combination of earmarked and un-earmarked contributions.

³ Earmarked contributions from two Directorate Generals (DEVCO and ECHO).

⁴ Two years of payments to cover costs associated with a staff member seconded to the CREWS Initiative.

Note: IPSAS compliant audited financial statements will be published on the website once available.

Endnotes

- 1 In early 2019, the Sendai Framework Monitor will also allow regional inter-governmental organizations to monitor and report progress of implementation in their respective regions.
- 2 Technical Guidance Notes on the use of the Sendai Framework Monitor: <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/54970>
- 3 Temporal considerations cover issues of different timeframes for various type of hazards. This includes small-scale sudden-onset disasters and large-scale, slow-onset and long duration disasters which have for example different characteristics of mortality recording that would affect the report.
- 4 UNISDR worked closely with the SDGs Monitoring Unit of the United Nations Statistical Division in support of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators and as a result, all the Sendai Framework related indicators have been classified as Tier I or Tier II in the SDG indicators.
- 5 By 31 March 2019 Member States should report on targets (a)-(e) for 2018 as a critical input to the 2019 SDGs Report and 2019 HLPF. By 30 April 2019 Member States should report on all targets (a)-(g) from 2005-2014 to develop a baseline for the SDGs and the Sendai Framework. By 1 October 2019 Member States should report on all targets (a-g) for 2018.
- 6 UNISDR worked with the Osso Corporation, one of the original supporting agencies behind DesInventar, to provide hands-on training and guidance for the application of DesInventar Sendai and the Sendai Framework Monitor in Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay.
- 7 As of 31 December 2018, eight United Nations Member States and one observer had entered data in the Sendai Framework Monitor for at least one target/indicator.
- 8 In the Asia-Pacific Region partners trained in the use of the Sendai Framework Monitor include the Association of Southeast Asian Nations(ASEAN), the Pacific Community (SPC), Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and Pacific Disability Forum (PDF). In addition, United Nations organizations were also trained, including the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), including the newly-established Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM).
- 9 UNISDR Call for Papers: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/58255_callforpapersgar1918.05.2018final.pdf
- 10 Inter-comparison approaches allow an array of models to be brought together to collectively improve quality, coverage and consistency in modelled outputs. See for example, Inter-Sectoral Impact Model Inter-comparison Project which offers a framework for consistently projecting the impacts of climate change across affected sectors and spatial scales (<https://www.isimip.org/>).
- 11 The Expert Group is convened by the SRSG and was selected - following an open Call for Expression of Interest - using the following criteria: 1) Technical and operational relevance to the design and development of the GRAF; 2) Updated and scientifically sound experience and topic excellence, in 13 different disciplines from risk/hazard modeling to risk communication; 3) Global geographic representation and experience; 4) Representation of major stakeholder groups; and 5) Gender balance.
- 12 Key members of the editorial committee for the Arab Regional Assessment Report are: FAO, IOM, UN-WOMEN, ODI, ITU, Arab Water Council, Independent consultants, UNESCWA, LAS and Arab Science & Technology Group.
- 13 As of 31 December 2018, 1,049 participants had registered for the Platform. Link to 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction: <https://www.unisdr.org/conference/2019/globalplatform/home>
- 14 Cartagena Declaration: <http://eird.org/pr18/docs/cartagena-declaration.pdf>
- 15 Ulaanbaatar Declaration: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/56219_ulaanbaatardeclarationfinal.pdf
- 16 Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/56219_actionplan20182020final.pdf
- 17 Statements and Voluntary Commitments: <https://www.unisdr.org/conference/2018/amcdrr/statements>
- 18 More information on the 2018 ISDR-Asia Partnership Forum: <https://www.preventionweb.net/go/61009>
- 19 Global Report on Internal Displacement 2018: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2018/>
- 20 There was a joint special session focusing on disaster

- risk reduction in fragile and conflict contexts, a joint high-level session on enhancing coherence among disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development goals and six joint working sessions. There were also two ministerial sessions per region and two special sessions per region.
- 21 Tunis Declaration on the implementation of the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57759_finaladopteddrafttunisdeclaration13.pdf
 - 22 Declaration on the 4th Arab Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction : https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57759_finaldeclarationtunisarabic.pdf
 - 23 Voluntary Commitments: <https://www.unisdr.org/conference/2018/afrp-acdrr>.
 - 24 Africa Media Awards: <http://www.opportunitydesk.org/2018/08/02/diraj-media-awards-2018/>
 - 25 High-Level Communique of the Chair - Protecting Europe's Citizens: The Social Contract on Disaster Resilience; and Rome Declaration of Stakeholders: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/62161_57664hlcommuniquefinalconverted.pdf
Rome Declaration of Stakeholders – Securing Europe's Prosperity – Reducing Risk of Disasters: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/62147_extromedclarationstakeholders20111.pdf
 - 26 Yerevan Declaration: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57668_finalyerevandclarationeng26.06.181.pdf
 - 27 CASC Sub-Regional Platform: <https://www.unisdr.org/conference/2018/casc>
 - 28 Asian Ministerial Conference for DRR: <https://www.unisdr.org/conference/2018/amcdrr>
 - 29 Loss Exceedance Curve of a Probabilistic Risk Assessment shows the relation between a given loss (usually economical) and the annual frequency of occurrence of that loss or of a larger one.
 - 30 A United Nations Country Team (UNCT) encompasses all the entities of the United Nations system that carry out operational activities for development, emergency, recovery and transition in a given country.
 - 31 Risk-informed programming entails effective management of risk at every step of the UNDAF process. Risk is viewed from a common UN system-wide perspective, rather than an organization-specific one. Risk-informed development takes into account “risks to” programming as well as “risks from” programming. While assessing risks to programming, the focus is on those that might impact or facilitate the achievement or facilitate the achievement of development objectives.
 - 32 The strategic goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action were mainly input-oriented and aimed at ensuring that disaster risk reduction was mainstreamed into development policies and enhancing capacities of national institutions. The goal of the Sendai Framework focuses on impact, namely preventing risk and avoiding the creation of new risk. In terms of development and implementation of national strategies, this represents and increase in the complexity of measuring the impact and obtaining evidence of the results.
 - 33 ECOWAS and ECCAS countries that do not presently have a disaster risk reduction strategy but have expressed interest and requested support in developing one include: Benin, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of the Congo and São Tomé & Príncipe.
 - 34 Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management in the Agriculture Sector and Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean (2018 - 2030): <http://www.fao.org/3/i8919en/i8919EN.pdf>
 - 35 20 pilot cities on the development of Local Disaster Risk Reduction Plans and Strategies : six in Asia Pacific, five in Americas and four in the Arab States.
 - 36 The Quick Risk Estimation (QRE) produces a dashboard-style risk assessment advising the risks and hazards to human and physical assets, impacts of identified main risks and associated perils on the specified location and/or particular asset.
 - 37 Link to Arab Region Synthesis Report 2018 “Making Cities Sustainable and Resilient: Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at the local level”.
 - 38 Strategic Approach to Capacity Development: <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/58211>
 - 39 The six areas of need of the Strategic Approach to Capacity Development are: 1) Developing and Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction Fundamentals; 2) Institutionalizing Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity; 3) Sharing and Using Risk Information Before and After Disasters; 4) Establishing Collaborative Action for Disaster Risk Reduction at the National and Local Levels; 5) Strengthening External Support Mechanisms; and 6) Advancing and Expanding Disaster Risk Reduction Capabilities.
 - 40 Together 2030 (SDG focused); CSO Task Force on Financing for Development; Climate Action Network (Paris Agreement); General Assembly of Partners (New

- Urban Agenda); IFRC (Agenda for Humanity): <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/>
- 41 The Group of Friends for Disaster Risk Reduction in New York serves as an informal coordination mechanism for Member States with a common interest in the promotion of disaster risk reduction.
- 42 Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific: <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/publications/SDGs-Regional-Roadmap.pdf>
- 43 Mercosur, officially Southern Common Market is a South American trade bloc comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.
- 44 HELP: <http://www.wateranddisaster.org/>
- 45 Private sector study: Preparedness for enhanced resilience after hurricanes Irma and Maria in Dominica and the British Virgin Islands: <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/60956>
- 46 Good private practices in DRR: https://www.agendaforhumanity.org/sites/default/files/Final%20September2017HPPPNewsletterIssue4_2.pdf
- 47 HPPP: <https://thepartneringinitiative.org/news-and-views/general-news/humanitarian-private-sector-partnership-platform-hPPP-launched-in-east-africa/>
- 48 Periperi U: Algeria, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda
- 49 African STAG: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57759_finalstatementfromthescientificandt.pdf
- 50 More information on the Asian Local Leaders Forum for Disaster Resilience: <https://www.unisdr.org/archive/59163>
- 51 Civil Society Statement at the Africa-Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/57759_africaarabplatformcsostatementv1.pdf
- 52 Information about draft European Union Budget 2021-2027: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/future-europe/eu-budget-future_en
- 53 Guidance Note on Recovery for the Health: [https://www.recoveryplatform.org/assets/Guidance_Notes/HGN%20Supplementary%20Edition-20180119%20\(final\).pdf](https://www.recoveryplatform.org/assets/Guidance_Notes/HGN%20Supplementary%20Edition-20180119%20(final).pdf)
- 54 Paragraph 48c of the Sendai Framework outlines explicit roles of UNISDR to support implementation of the Sendai Framework. Maintaining a stakeholders' commitment registry is among these roles.
- 55 Blog on the High Level Political Forum: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018/blog#16jan>.
- 56 Economic Losses, Poverty & Disasters 1998-2017: <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/61119>
- 57 13 October 2018, UN Secretary General on the occasion of International Disaster Day, retrieved from <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-10-13/secretary-general's-message-international-day-disaster-reduction>
- 58 What if we knew the real costs of climate change : <http://news.trust.org/item/20181211100527-gau7o/>
- 59 UNISDR produced video on the economic impacts of disasters as they relate to the tourism sector in the Caribbean: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGVoHPSsq8w>
- 60 5 November 2018, UN Secretary General on the occasion of World Tsunami Day: <http://www.un.org/en/events/tsunamiday/messages.shtml>
- 61 More information about the High School Students Summit on World Tsunami Awareness Day 2018: <https://www.tsunami2018wakayama.telewaka.tv/en/index.html> <https://www.unisdr.org/archive/61665>
- 62 UNISDR created and launched a child-friendly booklet "Get up to high ground": <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/61656>
- 63 UNISDR also produced video to raise awareness about how tsunamis disproportionately impact vulnerable groups: <https://youtube/NEG3badyEJc> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGGLNlv0EY#action=share>
- 64 CNBC Africa Special (video): UNISDR, Africa Arab Platform assesses progress on Sendai Framework: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGGLNlv0EY#action=share>
- 65 Contingent upon United Nations General Assembly approval in 2019, the Global Services Centre will be the United Nations Secretariat-wide model of providing administrative services through the various regional economic commissions.
- 66 The most recent Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) audit of UNISDR was carried out in 2014.
- 67 The full report is available at: <https://oios.un.org/page?slug=report>.
- 68 Note: Cyprus had previously been a donor to UNISDR, but UNISDR had not received a contribution from Cyprus since 2010.

