National & Local DRR Strategies:
Taking Commitment to Action

An Overview of Key Requirements & Good Practices

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National DRR Strategies – Common Challenges

- National DRR/DRM strategies since early 1990s
- Focus on preparedness and response rather than risk reduction and underlying risk drivers
- Treat DRR as a ‘sector’ therefore do not overcome disaster development divide
- Developed top down with little participation
- Have little ownership of other sectors
- Show weaknesses in resourcing, implementation, monitoring and review

→ Limited impact on the ground
Requirement:
Legislative & Regulatory Frameworks

→ Laws & regulations provide the enabling environment for successful DRR Strategies
→ DRR Strategies need to prioritize implementation and enforcement of legal and regulatory provisions for DRR

Where are we at?

• Only few DRM laws prioritize DRR
• Unfunded mandates due to resource constraints
• Weak enforcement of legal provisions (capacities, funds, will)
• Low public acceptance due to limited stakeholder engagement
• Sector laws without disaster, climatic, and other risk dimensions
Good Practices:

DRR Legislative Frameworks

- Help prioritize DRR and increased investments in DRR (e.g. Algeria, Armenia, Mexico, Indonesia, Mozambique, Vietnam, Serbia)
- Strengthen institutional systems at national & sub-national levels (Vietnam, Philippines) and decentralized DRM systems (Armenia, Cuba)
- Mutually reinforced strategies and laws enhancing effectiveness of DRM (e.g. Bhutan, India, Vanuatu)
- Policy coherence due to simultaneous review of DRM and sectoral laws (e.g. Vanuatu)
- Emphasize mainstreaming (e.g. Mozambique, Moldova)
- Help set-up DRR platforms (e.g. Uganda, India, Cook Islands)
Requirement:
DRR Mainstreaming

→ DRR Strategies need to promote integration of DRR into national, local and sectoral development planning

Where are we at?

• Growing political commitment in global frameworks
• DRR still “add-on” and not integral to development
• Limited understanding of how to operationally support mainstreaming
• Very context-specific without any “blue print”
• Limited capacity, legal mandates and resources to mainstream
• Not widely championed by decision-makers and community leaders
• Integrated mainstreaming with CC and other risks only starting
Good Practices:
DRR Mainstreaming

- Institutionalizing DRR mainstreaming (eg. UNDP Mainstreaming Framework; Solomon Islands)

- Risk-informing development planning at:
  - national level (eg. Indonesia, Uganda)
  - sub-national level (eg. Cambodia, Cuba, Ghana, Viet Nam)
  - sector level (eg. Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda)

- Cross-agency collaboration in DRR mainstreaming (eg. Ghana with NDMA, environment & planning)

- Integrated mainstreaming of DRR and CC (eg. Kenya, Uganda)

- Integrating other risks like CC, conflict, health (eg. Sudan)
Requirement: Policy Coherence & Compliance

→ DRR Strategies need to promote policy coherence across DRR, CC and the broader development agenda

Where are we at?

• The 2030 agenda promotes “integrated and indivisible” solutions to development

• Functional silos across public and private sector hamper cross-sectoral approaches

• Funding streams and donor priorities do not foster coherence

• Interdisciplinary solutions require specific skills and coordination capacities

• Lack of understanding synergies across all agendas
Good Practices:

Policy Coherence

• SGD Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) focuses on “Assessing Risk and Fostering Adaptability”

• Integrated policy and institutional frameworks DRR, CC, NDCs (eg. Pacific regional, Vanuatu DRM law)

• Supporting countries meet their national reporting obligations (eg. Global Centre for Disaster Statistics, UN Statistical Devisison, UN-ESCAP)

• Integrated risk assessment help understand multi-sectoral impact (eg. Kenya Threshold 21 Model)

• Cross-sectorial coordination platforms and similar (eg. Vanuatu)
Requirement:
National & Local DRR Financing

DRR Strategies need to be fully resourced and provide guidance on DRR financing options

Where are we at?

• Only partial understanding and assessment of risks, impacts and cost-benefit analysis
• Limited capacity to spend available resources for DRR
• Available resources favor response and preparedness over risk reduction
• Resource gaps are particularly severe at local level where needs are greatest
• Political will to prioritize DRR financing over other pressing needs
• International DRR financing globally is diverted to protracted and refugee crises
Good Practices:
National & Local DRR Financing

- Integrating disaster risk and its impacts into public investment decision-making (*e.g.* Peru, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan)
- DRR laws to mandate for sustainable DRR resources with priority to local financing (*e.g.* Philippines, Viet Nam)
- Increase access to climate finance (*e.g.* GCF, GEF)
- Catalyzing private sector investments into DRR
- Encouraging risk transfer markets
Requirement:
Public and Private Sector

→ DRR is whole-of-society responsibility
National DRR Strategies need to define public and private sector roles and responsibilities

Where are we at?

• DRR still primarily viewed as a “governmental” domain
• Lack of a participatory and whole-of-society debate of respective DRR roles
• Setting the right incentives for private sector engagement
• Development of joint business models that reduce DRR still nascent
• Limited awareness of extent of respective stakeholders’ influence on disaster risk
Good Practices: 
Public and Private Sector

- Assign basics DRR roles and responsibilities for all
- Promote DRR as an individual and whole of society responsibility – shift in culture
- Local governments with clear roles, mandates and resources for DRR
- Public-private sector partnership that support DRR and preparedness with technical know-how (eg. Deutsche Post, Microsoft, GCDS)
- Private sector analyzes and reduces impact of its investment on disaster risk and ensures business continuity
In closing....

- Strengthen capacities and methods to improve DRR policy/strategy monitoring:
  - Ensure periodic review, peer review, and accountability for implementation

- Ensure close interface with 2030 development agenda

- Overcome challenges of weak enforcement, compliance and accountability

- Involve the public and non-traditional partners more consistently