



World Animal Protection Official Statement
UNISDR GLOBAL PLATFORM
May 2019 – Geneva, Switzerland

1. World Animal Protection would like to thank the organizers of the Global Platform and congratulate all delegates for the important discussions that have taken place. It is an honour to have the opportunity to highlight the importance of adopting animal-inclusive national disaster risk reduction strategies to achieve Target E.
2. Our key recommendation to all countries is that **animal protection must be an integral part of all national and local disaster risk reduction strategies.**
3. This can be accomplished by **including the husbandry sector** in the discussions for developing national and local strategies for DRR. The capacity of the public **veterinary sector** needs to be strengthened to understand the risks associated with disasters, as well as the underlying causes of such risks. In addition, governments need to understand the impact of disasters on agriculture by ensuring that **baseline information** is available. Finally, **local communities** must be empowered to improve their production methods and enhance their resilience.
4. The inclusion of animal protection in Disaster Risk Reduction strategies indicates how much a country has advanced in its **preparedness culture** and its understanding of the relationship between the protection of animals and the protection of livelihoods.
5. The Sendai Framework states that **livestock and working animals are productive assets** that must be protected to reduce the risk of disasters. This means that animals need special care to ensure their welfare and productivity. It also means that Member States that adopted Sendai recognise that people and economies depend on animals for their economic and social resilience, and therefore that animals need protection when a disaster strikes.
6. As part of the indicators endorsed by the General Assembly, Member States have agreed to quantify the Number of people whose livelihoods were disrupted or destroyed due to disasters (Indicator B5), and to measure direct agricultural loss attributed to disasters (Indicator C2). So, we encourage countries to report against these indicators to comply with Sendai's Targets B and C as they also relate to the protection of animals in disasters.
7. Including animals in disaster risk reduction strategies pays off. The agricultural sector absorbs 22% of disaster-related damages and losses in developing countries. The livestock subsector alone absorbs 34% of the total economic impact of disasters within agriculture. So, **risk-informed investments and economic planning are only smart if they take animal protection into consideration.**
8. The benefits are not only economic. Protected animals also alleviate social and environmental stresses caused by disasters. These benefits amount to resilience dividends and World Animal Protection hopes that the Platform delegates will not forget that animals play a vital role in building sustainable and inclusive societies.



9. Countries such as **Costa Rica, India, Mexico, Australia and New Zeland** are in the global forefront of animal-inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies. They have developed – at national and state levels - **specific funding, policy and protocols to address the protection of animals** in their disaster risk reduction work. They have also **enhanced governance** in disaster risk reduction by bringing important stakeholders together - such as the livestock sector, planning, finance and animal owners.
10. We wish to reiterate our commitment to assist countries achieve Target E of the Sendai Framework by 2020 and enhance their preparedness culture. We offer over 50 years of expertise in preparedness and management of animals in disasters.
11. Thank you.