

**UNDRR's 2021 Report on the Implementation of the Santiago Network  
Presented to the  
Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage  
Pursuant to Paragraph 44 of Decision 2/CMA.2**

This report presents UNDRR's contribution in fulfilling the objectives of the Santiago Network, for inclusion in the WIM Executive Committee's annual report as mandated in Decision 2/CMA.2.

As focal point in the UN system for disaster risk reduction, UNDRR is responsible for catalyzing technical assistance and support to vulnerable countries, bolstered through its convening power as mandated by the UNGA; long-established support infrastructure for Member States (Parties); thought leadership in risk-centered approaches; and its role as a network of networks. All of which aim to avert and minimize (through disaster risk reduction) as well as address (through disaster risk management) losses and damages faced by vulnerable countries. This positions UNDRR as a key partner in the implementation of the functions of the Santiago Network.

This report outlines UNDRR's progress in catalyzing technical assistance to developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change; and in thereby contributing to the realization of the mandate of the Santiago Network. Through our multi-level, multi-year, multi-network programme that is grounded on robust systemic risk assessments, practical normative guidance, integrated tools for capacity strengthening, UNDRR will scale up country-level technical assistance for comprehensive disaster and climate risk management. The programme will focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). Over the next three years, UNDRR will strengthen the capacity of governments and communities in managing (or addressing) current risks and reducing (or averting and minimizing) future risks. A current UNDRR project covers support to around 20 countries, and we are in the process of seeking the mobilization of additional resources to enhance the reach to all vulnerable countries.

#### **A. THE SANTIAGO NETWORK**

Decision 2/CMA.2, para 43 established the Santiago Network to catalyse the technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts, for the implementation of relevant approaches to avert, minimise and address loss and damage at the local, national and regional level, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

The same decision ***invites these organizations, bodies, networks and experts to report on their progress to the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism (ExCom), and requests the ExCom to include relevant information from them in its annual reports.***

In short, the Santiago Network connects vulnerable developing countries with providers of technical assistance, knowledge and resources that they need to address climate risks comprehensively in the context of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage.

In 2020, the COP President launched the Santiago Network. Subsequently, the UNFCCC secretariat conducted a survey of the needs of developing country Parties: <https://unfccc.int/santiago-network/countries>.

Based on the survey, the following were identified as priority areas for technical assistance:

**Stage 1**

- Development and deployment of forecast-based finance instruments
- Insurance products: sovereign, national products, micro-insurance, etc.
- Early warning systems (whole range)
- Nature-based solutions and disaster risk reduction
- National Trust Funds/Social Protections
- Use of space technologies in disaster management
- Capacity-development in risk-based approaches
- Database development: for analysis, assessment and populations at risk

**Stage 2**

- Innovative financial instruments e.g. catastrophe bonds
- Full risk analysis and management
- Sectoral full risk management plans
- Climate risk scenarios
- Policy development: disaster/hazard mapping; displacement; social protections, etc.
- Public awareness and outreach

## **B. UNDRR AND CATALYZING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

In line with the above guidance and the evolution of the Santiago Network so far, UNDRR has been providing technical assistance to countries through its:

### **1. CONVENING POWER ARISING FROM ITS UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MANDATE**

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) was established in 1999 to facilitate the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). It was mandated to be the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster risk reduction. As such, it ensures synergy among the relevant activities of United Nations agencies and regional organizations, and related activities in socioeconomic and humanitarian fields.

In June 2015, [UN General Assembly Resolution 69/283](#) mandated UNDRR to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030**, including by fostering coherence with other international instruments, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

### **2. INFRASTRUCTURE/SYSTEM FOR THE COORDINATION OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND FOR ENSURING SYNERGIES AMONG THE RELEVANT ACTIVITIES OF UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND RELATED ACTIVITIES IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN FIELDS**

UNDRR is headquartered in Geneva (Switzerland) and enjoys global reach through implementing its mandate through five offices in the Asia-Pacific region (Bangkok), Africa (Nairobi), Europe (Brussels), Arab States (Cairo) and Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama). Its Office for Northeast Asia and Global Education and Training Institute is located in Incheon (Republic of Korea). UNDRR also maintains a UN Headquarters liaison office in New York, and presence in Bonn (Germany), Kobe (Japan), Suva (Fiji), Almaty (Kazakhstan) and Rio (Brazil).

Building resilience and promoting disaster risk reduction is a collective responsibility and challenge which calls for coordinated actions. UNDRR works closely at all levels with a wide

variety of stakeholders towards a global and comprehensive effort in support of country-level actions.

As the focal point in the United Nations system to ensure coordination and synergy among disaster risk reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields, UNDRR is well placed for promoting inclusion and collaboration as a critical element for building resilience and climate and disaster risk-sensitive development at all levels.

### 3. RISK-CENTERED PROGRAMMES

Risk is central to UNDRR's work – from understanding, mitigating and reducing risks (and averting and minimizing disasters, losses and damages) to managing disaster risks (and addressing the impacts of climate change, including losses and damages).

From 2005 to 2015, UNDRR had a significant track record of expertise and accomplishments under the **Hyogo Framework for Action**. These include the:

- successful establishment and leadership of regional and global coordinating and review mechanisms for disaster risk reduction;
- ongoing support to countries, intergovernmental processes, and key stakeholders, by providing relevant risk information, decision-making support tools and policy guidance; catalysing multi-stakeholder engagement in disaster risk reduction, including the private sector, parliamentarians and civil society; and
- fostering gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction; and effective global advocacy.

In supporting the implementation, follow-up and review of the **Sendai Framework**, UNDRR is:

- Enhancing accountability in disaster risk governance through generation of disaster loss and damage data, Sendai Framework Monitoring (aligned with the SDG monitor), and periodic reviews through intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder mechanisms.
- Generating knowledge and awareness through flagship Global Assessment Reports, Regional Assessment Reports, and other knowledge and policy products.
- Developing capacity, both through practice tools on topics including multi-hazard early warning systems, nature-based solutions, disaster risk reduction strategies, etc. and through targeted mechanisms and workshops.
- Engaging with the international community – including governments and key policy makers, the UN system and international and regional organisations, international and regional development banks, parliamentarians, the private sector, civil society, and the science and technology community – that understands and is committed to disaster risk reduction as a strategic approach to achieve sustainable development;
- Supporting countries to align their national priorities, strategies and plans – as well as the related monitoring and review mechanisms – to relevant international frameworks, in particular for disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- Leading advocacy towards a change in decision-making processes, policies and practices of governments, private sector and other key actors to make them truly risk-informed, which implies access to risk information and knowledge that is context-specific, appropriate and accurate;
- Working with an all-of-society engagement and partnership, guided by the principle that governments, parliamentarians, civil society and community groups, international organizations, the private sector, members of the science and technology community,

and other key stakeholders jointly engage in disaster risk reduction and act as important contributors to understanding risk and as advocates for risk-informed development;

- Committed to making disaster risk reduction gender- and age-sensitive and inclusive of all stakeholders, including persons with disabilities;

#### **4. NETWORK OF NETWORKS**

UNDRR establishes networks, initiatives and partnerships to convene stakeholders globally around Sendai Framework action. UNDRR will mobilize these interconnected networks, initiatives and partnerships in support of the objectives of the Santiago Network. With its convening power and existing infrastructure, UNDRR can also link with other relevant entities and groupings that are not within its direct purview, if relevant to advancing the Santiago Network objectives. To date, UNDRR is leading/co-leading/steering the following network of networks:

##### **Act Now And Be Resilient, Create Impact, Help Societies And Expand Your Network (ARISE)**

<https://www.ariseglobalnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/arise-value-proposition.pdf>

A network of business and other public and private partners, ARISE works as a catalyst for business innovation and for knowledge sharing to reduce risk for a sustainable and resilient future. Through its regional and national Networks and links into the global policy discussions on sustainability, climate action and disaster risk reduction, ARISE offers its members the opportunity to demonstrate leadership in cooperating with public partners to reshape business, society and financial frameworks to implement tailor-made solutions for all industries and sectors, leading to take risk-informed decisions, formulate adaptive strategies and implement preventative actions.

##### **Coalition For Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) <https://www.cdri.world/>**

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is a multi-stakeholder global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and academic and knowledge institutions. It aims to address the challenges of building resilience into infrastructure systems and development associated with it. The collaboration aims to build resilient economies and resilient people through cross-sector commitments at all levels towards adaptation and resilience with concrete outcomes that will bring resilience action to global scale. Members include Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bhutan, Chile, Fiji, France, Germany, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, Peru, Sri Lanka, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA. The following organizations are also members: Asian Development Bank, World Bank, UNDP, UNDRR, ARISE, Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment, and the European Union.

##### **DRR Working Group Of The UN Major Group On Children And Youth (UNMGCY)**

[https://www.undrr.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/UNDRR\\_Youth\\_2020\\_04\\_20.pdf](https://www.undrr.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/UNDRR_Youth_2020_04_20.pdf)

Aligned with "Youth2030: Working with and for Young People", the 2018 youth strategy of the UN Secretary-General, UNDRR supports and harnesses the energy and motivation of youth to find solutions to risks and participate in disaster risk reduction for enhanced resilience. Within these efforts, UNDRR will also seek close collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women to ensure coherence, cross-fertilization and coordination in the implementation of the Youth Strategy and other initiatives. Key focus areas include:

- Advocacy and implementation of the Sendai Framework and coherence, including the development of guidance at all levels;

- Catalyzing and empowering youth as drivers of innovation and new ways of communication including through social media and other new technologies;
- Capacity building and risk education for children and youth.

#### **Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction And Resilience In the Education Sector**

The main purposes of GADRRRES are to strengthen global coordination, increase knowledge, and advocate on risk reduction education and safety in the education sector. The work of the Global Alliance ultimately contributes to a global culture of safety and resilience through education and knowledge. It was created to ensure that all schools are safe from disaster risks and all learners live in a culture of safety by:

- Strengthening global coordination
- Advocating for DRR knowledge and education
- Improving global information, resources and knowledge management on DRR education
- Supporting development and dissemination of existing and new educational and training materials, guidelines, and standards at the global level.

#### **Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF)**

As part of its wider program, UNDRR convenes the GRAF network of decision-makers, finance professionals, social scientists and risk specialists. GRAF's network comprises more than 115 organizations expert in risk, science, investment and policy-making and communication. Their combined efforts aim to synchronize data, methods, models, insights, practical tools and incentives to enable real risk reduction in the complex climate future.

#### **International Recovery Platform (IRP)**

The International Recovery Platform (IRP) is a global partnership working to strengthen knowledge, and share experiences and lessons on building back better in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. It is a joint initiative of United Nations organizations, international financial institutions, national and local governments, and non-governmental organizations engaged in disaster recovery, and seeks to transform disasters into opportunities for sustainable development. It works to advance the field of resilient recovery and build-back-better through three principal areas of work:

- Convening a broad range of senior policy makers and practitioners to exchange experiences and facilitate discussion on opportunities and challenges in resilient recovery and building back better at the annual International Recovery Forum
- Enabling closer cooperation between development partners, international and regional organizations, and governments, for disaster risk reduction and promoting and building capacity to achieve build-back-better outcomes
- Sharing knowledge, experiences, and lessons through its publications and its website.

#### **Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) <https://mcr2030.undrr.org/>**

Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) is a unique cross-stakeholder initiative for improving local resilience through advocacy, sharing knowledge and experiences, establishing mutually reinforcing city-to-city learning networks, injecting technical expertise, connecting multiple layers of government and building partnerships. MCR2030 aims to ensure cities become inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by 2030, contributing directly to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG11) "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", and other global frameworks including the Sendai

Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda. Core partners include: Resilient Cities Network, ICLEI, JICA, IFRC, United Cities and Local Governments, UN Habitat, UNOPS, C40 Cities and the World Bank.

### **Parliamentarians**

[https://www.undrr.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Parliamentarians\\_2020\\_04\\_20.pdf](https://www.undrr.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Parliamentarians_2020_04_20.pdf)

The Sendai Framework calls for parliamentary action through developing new or amending current legislation, setting budget allocations and holding governments accountable for their actions to reduce disaster risks and protect their populations. As representatives of the people, parliaments can play a major role to voice and strengthen the participation of all sectors of society in resilience building. Key partners for this work will include the International Parliamentary Union (Sendai paragraph 47) and other global and regional networks.

### **Regional Platforms**

Regional Platforms are multi-stakeholder forums that reflect the commitment of governments to improve coordination and implementation of disaster risk reduction activities while linking to international and national efforts. Risks and vulnerabilities go beyond national boundaries, so intergovernmental collaboration is key to addressing disaster risk reduction at a regional level. Regional platforms provide a forum for all those engaged in disaster risk reduction to showcase practical applications for disaster risk reduction, exchange experience and develop joint statements, strategies and action plans, which guide decision makers and practitioners.

UNDRR's regional offices serve as the supporting secretariat for regional platforms. Regional platforms for disaster risk reduction evolved steadily between 2005 and 2015. In the final years of the Hyogo Framework, platform participants called for stronger recognition of regional mechanisms to implement and oversee disaster risk reduction. In the 2030 [Sendai Framework](#) era, regional platforms remain a key opportunity to tackle transboundary issues around disaster prevention and preparedness, provide leadership and direction, and propose relevant solutions to address disaster risk and to build the resilience of communities and nations.

### **Scientific And Technical Advisory Group**

[STAG](#), [STAG TOR](#), [STAG Members](#)

Recognizing the importance of research, scientific and technical information for disaster risk reduction, UNDRR established a Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG), which provides technical advice and support in the formulation and implementation of activities carried out by the disaster risk reduction community. The work of the STAG encompasses all aspects of the scientific and technical dimensions of risk reduction, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries.

### **Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM)**

[https://www.undrr.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/SEM\\_2020\\_04\\_17.pdf](https://www.undrr.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/SEM_2020_04_17.pdf)

One of the key goals of (non-State) stakeholders is to engage in intergovernmental decision and policy making processes through access to intergovernmental processes and events. To address this, nine major groups were established for the first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 as main channels through which broad participation would be facilitated in UN activities related to sustainable development. Today, these



groups make up a total of 17 Major Groups and other stakeholders (MGoS), the majority of which represent civil society and community-based organizations and demonstrate a high level of engagement in all major intergovernmental processes related of the 2030 Agenda. In 2018, UNDRR set up the "UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism" (UNDRR-SEM) to leverage the convening and advocacy powers of the MGoS for the integration of disaster risk reduction into the broader 2030 Agenda.

The UNDRR-SEM creates an open and structured avenue for close engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Sendai Framework through key global, regional and national policy processes. As the main interlocutor between UNDRR and stakeholders, key functions of the UNDRR-SEM include to:

- Build an inclusive and broad movement for the implementation of the Sendai Framework;
- Create avenues to influence policy design and implementation;
- Strengthen citizen-led and social accountability mechanisms;
- Promote coordination, information exchange and harmonization between stakeholder groups.

## **5. PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH IN COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT**

In 2020, UNDRR embarked on a programmatic approach to better equip governments and communities in managing (or addressing) current risks and reducing (or averting and minimizing) future risks. The multi-level, multi-year, multi-network programme is grounded on robust systemic risk assessments, practical normative guidance, integrated tools for capacity strengthening, and in the provision of country-level technical assistance to Member States (Parties). The programme is being carried out at the global, regional and national levels and contributes to the 2020–2021 UNDRR Work Programme, including in the following areas: Policy Guidance; Aligned National Risk Reduction Strategies; Capacity Development; Intergovernmental Deliberations and Processes; and coordination of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

It has four workstreams, and is being implemented at the global, regional, and national levels by the UNDRR Support and Monitoring of Sendai Framework Implementation Branch (SAMSI) through its different sections based in Geneva, Bonn, Incheon, in close coordination with the Partnerships and Communications Branches and the Regional Offices.

Initial work was carried out in 2019 and has led to the understanding that there is a need to ensure a tailored, stepwise programmatic approach in supporting countries while catalyzing the move from paper to policies to on-the-ground action and vice versa. A stronger understanding

of national contexts and associated challenges and opportunities is critical, and the pre-implementation approach highlighted the need for:

- Stronger national government ownership and capacity
- Greater mainstreaming of comprehensive risk management approaches across plans
- Dynamic approaches in risk governance
- Ensuring that national governments work through partnerships across sectors and levels
- Consideration for potential increased growth in vertical financing that is influencing domestic/subnational risk management and institutional arrangements
- Strengthening local capacity and governance systems

From 2020 to the first quarter of 2021, work was focused around workstreams One and Two, specifically on the development of guidance on comprehensive climate and disaster risk management, research, and policy landscapes at the regional and national levels. The second quarter of 2021 will be devoted in the development of various training packages and roll-out of capacity-building programs for the different countries, regions, UN partners, various UNDRR Networks and other key stakeholders. The third and fourth quarter will be devoted on targeted technical support and assistance in priority countries.

UNDRR hopes to scale up this programmatic approach in support of the Santiago Network in the coming years, as shown in the following table.



<b>I</b> <b>International CC and DRR Policy Landscape</b>  <b>(Global Level)</b>	<b>II</b> <b>Research and Guidance Documents</b>  <b>(Global Level)</b>	<b>III</b> <b>Capacity Strengthening</b>  <b>(Regional Level)</b>	<b>IV</b> <b>National Technical and Advisory Support</b>  <b>(National Level)</b>
UNFCCC Interface  Engagement with Constitute Bodies and Expert Groups  Link with various networks and UN Bodies  Link with global networks and partnerships (e.g. REAP, CREWS, Insuresilience, IDF)	Global Risk Assessment Framework  Comprehensive Risk Management  Disaster Loss Database  Sendai Framework Monitoring  Anticipatory Action  Risk Financing	Development of training packages  Targeted capacity building initiatives  Online training  Global and Regional Platforms  Roster of Experts and/or Institutions  Knowledge Products	Policy Analysis / Landscape  Capacity Development  Reporting and Monitoring
Global Risk and Reporting Unit in Geneva  Data and Climate Change Unit in Bonn  Partnership Group in Geneva	Global Risk and Reporting Unit in Geneva  Data and Climate Change Unit in Bonn	Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) in Incheon  UN Regional Collaborative Platforms (e.g. the Issue Based Coalitions)	Regional Offices  National Governments  DRR Focal Points