

UNDRR'S SUBMISSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SANTIAGO NETWORK

31 July 2021

On 30 April 2021, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) submitted its first report to the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, noting its contribution in fulfilling the objectives of the Santiago Network as mandated in Decision 2/CMA.2. Since then, a number of activities have been completed and initiated in the context of the mandate of the Santiago Network, and which aim to scale up global, regional and country-level technical assistance to developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, especially through UNDRR's global initiative on Comprehensive Climate and Disaster Risk Management (CRM).

Similar to its first submission, this second report presents UNDRR's continued 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.

CRM Initiative: A UNDRR Programme for Targeted Technical Support to Member States

Climate change amplifies risk. Extreme weather events have doubled over the last 20-year period when compared with the previous 20 years. From cyclones in the Pacific to heatwaves in South Asia and drought in Africa, we are seeing a significant increase in the intensity and frequency of weather-related disasters with far-reaching consequences, especially on the most vulnerable.

To support Member States/Parties and catalyse technical assistance to developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, UNDRR is implementing a multi-level, multi-year and multi-country programme on Comprehensive Climate and Disaster Risk Management. CRM is based on advocacy, multi-sector and multi-stakeholder engagement and capacity development, and is underscored by an integrated understanding and management of disaster and climate risks. To do so, CRM entails joint governance of disaster and climate risks, including through joint risk analysis, planning, implementation, and communication and monitoring.

This global initiative has four workstreams/trajectories that are implemented at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels, through the different UNDRR divisions and regional offices.

Global climate-related engagements and partnerships	Guidance and Technical Resources	Research and Analysis	Capacity Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interface with UNFCCC Processes Link with various UN Agencies Engagements with global networks and partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical guidance Development of training packages and knowledge products Targeted capacity-building initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy landscape analysis National data baseline analysis (linked with Global Risk Assessment Framework) Disaster Loss Databases Sendai Framework Monitoring Technical Papers and Briefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted technical support on DRR Integration into NAPs and making DRR plans climate-informed In-country workshops Monitoring and reporting

From 2021 to 2022, the initiative is being implemented in 16 countries across four regions, and UNDRR is in the process of mobilizing additional resources to enhance the reach to all vulnerable countries.

This initiative contributes to the achievement of Target E of the Sendai Framework, aligned with selected SDG targets (adopt and implement national and local disaster risk reduction strategies). It also contributed to the achievement of Target 1 of the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP¹), among others.

Requests for Technical Assistance from Parties

Based on the survey completed by 23 developing countries, the following belong to the top 10 requests for technical assistance from Parties²:

- 83% ▪ Conducting pilot loss and damage *assessments* for certain key agricultural commodities which are vulnerable to climate change, such as rice, aquaculture, and fruits
- 78% ▪ Costing of *impacts* in the present as well as for projected impacts for use in cost-benefit analyses to appraise options
- 74% ▪ Establishment of a *baseline* on non-economic and social loss and damage, as well as regarding culture, territory, indigenous knowledge systems, ecosystem services
 - Design of proposals to financing for *climate information services and early warning systems* under the GCF and other funding channels
 - Design and *financing of social protection* measures
- 70% ▪ Use of space technologies in systematic observations and geospatial analyses
 - Development of *databases and information services to support risk profiling and risk assessment* of a variety of timeframes by different actors and stakeholders in their decision-processes
 - Design of combinations of appropriate *risk finance tools* and instruments applicable to a specific country context and vulnerable groups
 - Development and deployment of *forecast-based finance instruments* to minimize potential losses to productive systems
 - Design of national *trust/contingency/recovery funds*

Overall, the majority of the requests for capacity development and/or technical assistance can be summarized under four areas:

1. Understanding and assessing of risks, losses and damages
2. Application of data on past and future disaster losses to inform analysis and decision-making
3. Risk-informed early warning systems enabling anticipatory actions
4. Risk finance, including funds for anticipatory, contingency and recovery actions

UNDRR's support and technical assistance to Parties can be outlined as under:

I. UNDERSTANDING AND ASSESSING RISKS, LOSSES AND DAMAGES

The disaster risk reduction community has extensive experience in addressing ex-ante risk and, consistent with the needs under the Santiago Network, UNDRR is mobilising this community to prioritise the provision of technical assistance to LDCs and SIDS that are

¹ <https://www.early-action-reap.org/> Launched at the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit, REAP aims to make 1 billion people safer from disaster by 2025. The first REAP target focuses on integrating disaster risk management and climate adaptation laws, policies and plans in 50 countries.

² Percentages indicate the proportion of countries requesting the listed support.

particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Through CRM, UNDRR is addressing the full spectrum of risk in the context of averting, minimising, and addressing losses and damages, including risks from extreme and slow-onset events triggered by climate change, as well as other hazards that are occurring due to compounded and cascading climatic events.

UNDRR is providing support to countries through (a) the development of normative guidance; (b) capacity strengthening; (c) customised provision of technical assistance to governments; and (d) advocacy work.

UNDRR has developed and/or updated various **guidance documents** aimed at helping governments understand and assess risks across scales; integrate them into plans and actions; and bring together the DRR and CCA communities. These documents have been completed and are ready to be used:

- Promoting Synergy and Alignment between Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Context of National Adaptation Plans – A Supplement to the UNFCCC NAP Technical Guidelines
- Technical Guidance on Comprehensive Risk Assessment and Planning in the Context of Climate Change – A document co-developed with GIZ and contributed to the Technical Expert Group on Comprehensive Risk Management (TEG-CRM)
- Checklist and Practical Tool on Comprehensive Risk Management
- Biological hazards including outbreaks, epidemics and pandemic in national disaster risk management strategies – A Supplemental Guide for Developing or Updating National all hazards Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies (co-developed with WHO)

Since the submission of the last contribution from UNDRR to the ExCom (from April to July 2021), UNDRR's Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) has developed a **training package of capacity development materials** aimed at supporting Member States and partners to understand, appreciate, and use comprehensive risk management – from assessment to integration into planning. These materials will be used in face-to-face and virtual sessions with at least 16 countries through four UNDRR's regional offices, beginning the third quarter of 2021.

II. APPLICATION OF DATA ON PAST AND FUTURE DISASTER LOSSES TO INFORM ANALYSIS AND DECISION-MAKING

For countries to comprehensively manage climate and disaster risks, data/information on past and predicted future disaster losses and damages provide countries grounded understanding on why risks turn into disasters. This provides planners with empirical evidence to help in unpacking vulnerabilities and the underlying causes of risks.

To ensure balance, and consistent with the objectives of the Santiago Network, UNDRR is harnessing information through a variety of mechanisms, including:

1. ***Disaster Loss Database and Sendai Framework Monitoring*** – 110 Member States and several territories are currently using UNDRR's disaster losses and damages accounting system (<https://desinventar.net>) that is based on national and sub-national disaster databases. 153 Member States are reporting on progress in implementation of the Sendai Framework through the online monitoring system (<https://sendaimonitor.undrr.org>). These are based on targets and indicators of the Sendai Framework, shared with the SDG reporting system, that provide valuable metrics for losses and damages.

2. **Global Risk Assessment Framework** – UNDRR also convenes the Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF) network of decision-makers, finance professionals, social scientists and risk specialists. This network comprises more than 115 organizations with expertise in risk, science, investment, policymaking 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. These result in periodic [Global Assessment Reports](#) that provide an overview on paradigmatic shifts in understanding of risk.

These knowledge systems are backed by a set of tools, including a [classification of over 300 hazards](#) through a consultative process led by UNDRR and the International Science Council.

III. EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS ENABLING ANTICIPATORY ACTIONS

Risk-informed and end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems are core to disaster risk reduction, enshrined in the Sendai Framework. With hazards intensifying and risks becoming more complex, compounded and systemic, understanding how to embed it in policy, enhancing capacities to anticipate disasters, and optimising action based on risk thresholds are no easy tasks.

Through UNDRR's combined approach of using normative guidance, capacity-building programmes and advocacy on comprehensive risk management, UNDRR is helping countries to strengthen their anticipatory capabilities to predict growing risks, and at the same time, embed risk reduction into early action and response.

UNDRR partners with the World Meteorological Organization and the World Bank to implement a major initiative entitled Climate Risk and Early Warning System ([CREWS](#)) in LDCs and SIDS. A [checklist](#) on multi-hazard early warning system has also been developed.

UNDRR is engaging with global networks like the REAP, InsuResilience, Insurance Development Forum and the high-level group of Anticipate and Act to have a stronger voice in support countries (and donors) make that institutional shift towards anticipatory finance and anticipatory actions, in line with the needs expressed by countries in the context of the Santiago Network.

IV. RISK FINANCE, INCLUDING FUNDS FOR ANTICIPATORY, CONTINGENCY AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Risk finance is anchored in a comprehensive understanding and assessment of risks, including their underlying causes of vulnerabilities, and in addressing these through programmes and activities which strengthen resilience and reduce risks. Funding for these risk-informed actions, coupled with the right enabling policy environment that allows for the timely utilisation of these funds, based on heightened risks, is a core area of comprehensive climate and disaster risk management.

In this context, UNDRR is providing targeted technical assistance to countries, policy analysis/research work, normative guidance, and capacity-building initiatives, with a view to ensuring that risk-informed, predictable, and sustainable finance is integrated in national DRR strategies and related plans.

For more information:

www.undrr.org
www.preventionweb.net