

UNISDR Annual Report 2017



UNISDR

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

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Cover: Residents begin cleaning up in Haiti after Hurricane Mathew. *UN Photo/Logan Abass*

UNISDR

Annual Report 2017

2016-17 Biennium Work Programme Final Report

FOREWORD



UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Mami Mizutori

The year 2017 was full of reminders why the work of disaster risk reduction is so important. Climate change continues to amplify the impact of extreme weather events especially for Small Island Developing States. This was apparent in the Caribbean during a record-breaking Atlantic Hurricane Season which will continue to impact on the region's progress towards sustainable development for decades to come.

Extreme weather took its toll in Africa too when hundreds died in an overnight landslide which swept away housing in a poor neighborhood in the Sierra Leone capital, Freetown, and drought continues to take a high human toll in terms of hunger, poverty and sustainable development. Across South Asia, the lives of millions were deeply affected by the floods which resulted in 1,200 deaths in Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

While losses on this scale are very visible, the accumulation of impacts from recurring, small-scale disaster events that do not grab the headlines can be equally corrosive of a community's resilience to disasters. That is one reason why the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction was pleased to see a prototype of the Sendai Framework Monitor being piloted at the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun, Mexico. Data gathered through this monitoring system will allow us

to understand disaster risk in all its dimensions, which is the first priority of action of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

With the Sendai Monitor System formally launched on 1 March this year, throughout 2018 and 2019, UN Member States will be able to use the mechanism to report on their progress in achieving the seven targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Sendai Monitor allows also for reporting against common indicators for key Sustainable Development Goals, notably on poverty eradication, resilient cities and climate action.

We continue to pursue our mandate of disaster risk reduction in coherence with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, and we are moving forward steadily towards 2030. However, not all countries have the necessary capacity to fulfill their responsibilities under the Sendai Framework in accessing, compiling and reporting back on the data necessary to measure our achievement. The need to boost capacity development in many countries is crucial, and this will remain an important focus of our activities.

All of this work is vital preparation for the Sendai Framework 2020 deadline for Target (e) which is to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020. These strategies will form the basis for further achievement of all other six targets of the Sendai Framework. I look forward to participating in the Regional Platforms scheduled during 2018 and hearing about progress to date in this area.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend once more the gratitude of United Nations to Mexico for generously hosting the first Global Platform outside of our host city of Geneva. It was a great success thanks to the commitment and support of the Mexican government, notably through the participation of President Enrique Peña Nieto and the National Civil Protection System.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the outgoing Special Representative, Dr. Robert Glasser, for his excellent stewardship of UNISDR during his term of office which included the 2017 Global Platform and the organisational review and change management process.

During my short time in office, I have found UNISDR to be a small and nimble organisation. I thank the staff for their hard work and dedication to supporting the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework over this past year.

We are committed to working together with Member States, the UN family, regional organisations, and all other partners and stakeholders, including the civil society, the academic, scientific and research entities, business, professional associates and private sector financial institutions, and the media.



Mami Mizutori

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

*Locals in Haiti work on a flood project in Ti Riviere, Cap Haitien.
Photo Victoria Hazou
UN/MINUSTAH*





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Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

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

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

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

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

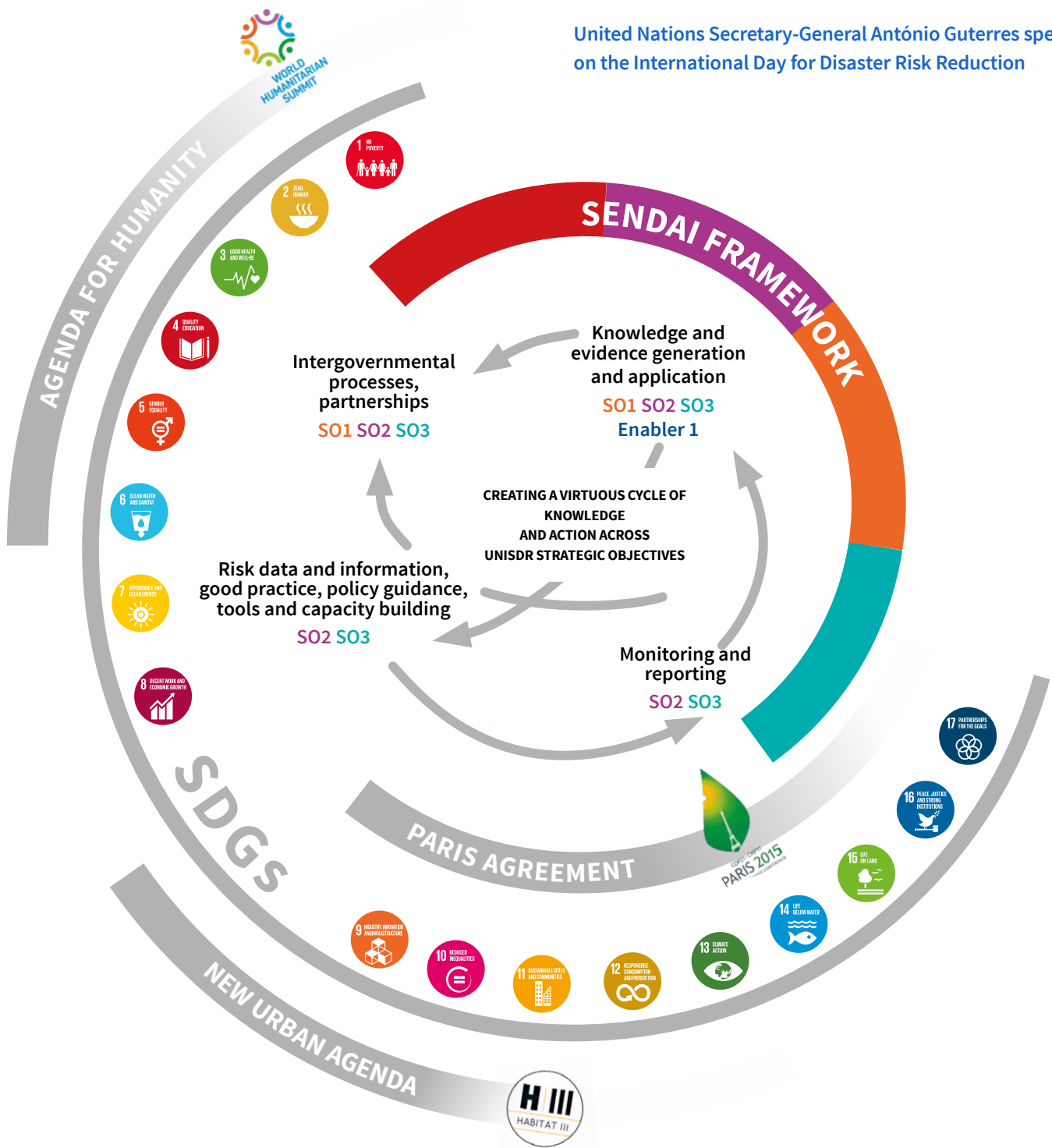
- a.** Primary responsibility of States to prevent and reduce disaster risk, including through cooperation
- b.** Shared responsibility between central Government and national authorities, sectors and stakeholders as appropriate to national circumstances
- c.** Protection of persons and their assets while promoting and protecting all human rights including the right to development
- d.** Engagement from all of society
- e.** Full engagement of all State institutions of an executive and legislative nature at national and local levels
- f.** Empowerment of local authorities and communities through resources, incentives and decision-making responsibilities as appropriate
- g.** Decision-making to be inclusive and risk-informed while using a multi-hazard approach
- h.** Coherence of disaster risk reduction and sustainable development policies, plans, practices and mechanisms, across different sectors
- i.** Accounting of local and specific characteristics of disaster risks when determining measures to reduce risk
- j.** Addressing underlying risk factors cost-effectively through investment versus relying primarily on post-disaster response and recovery
- k.** «Build Back Better» for preventing the creation of, and reducing existing, disaster risk
- l.** The quality of global partnership and international cooperation to be effective, meaningful and strong
- m.** 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

“The challenge is to move from managing disasters themselves to managing disaster risk. Poverty, rapid urbanization, weak governance, the decline of ecosystems and climate change are driving disaster risk around the world.”

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres speaking on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

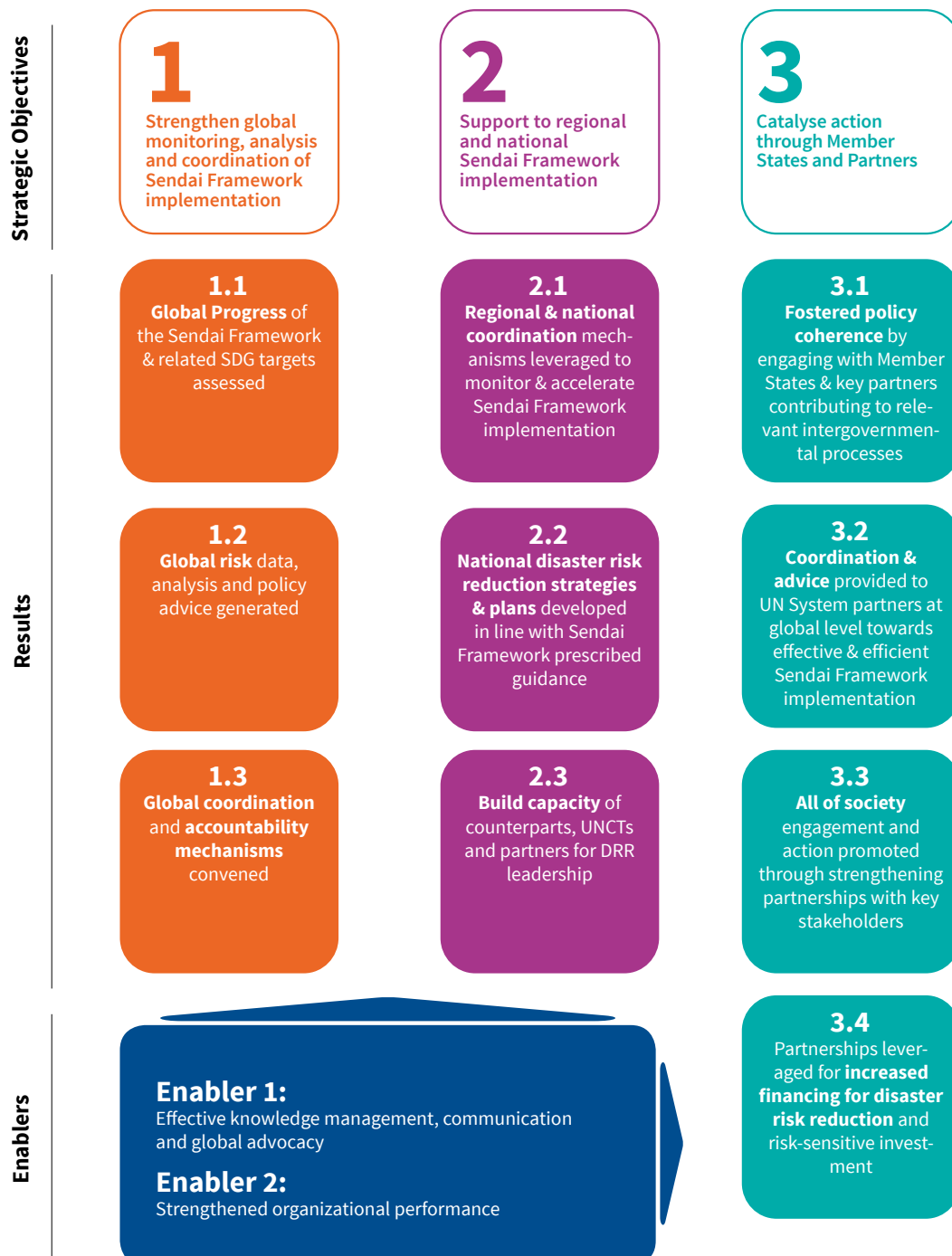


UNISDR WORK PROGRAMME

VISION The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses for a sustainable future

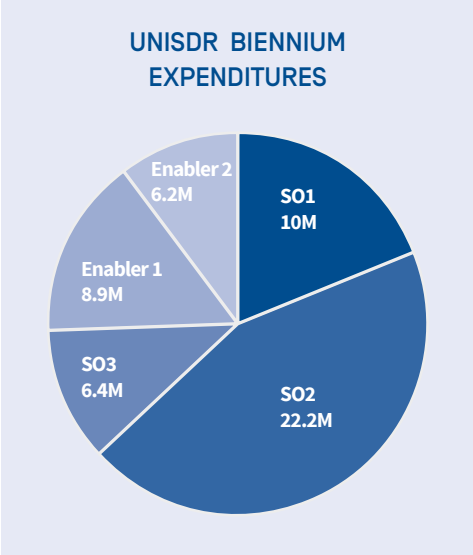
MANDATE Focal point of the United Nations system for disaster risk reduction and the custodian of the Sendai Framework, supporting countries and societies in its implementation, monitoring and review of progress

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



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this first biennium since the adoption of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* and of the *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, UNISDR led the global disaster risk reduction community in transitioning from implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action to implementation of the Sendai Framework in the context of the overall 2030 Development Agenda. Throughout the course of the biennium, the global community increasingly underscored the **interconnected nature of humanitarian, development and climate action**. As disaster risk reduction falls squarely in this nexus, UNISDR championed the need for all planning, policies and actions to be risk-informed. The hazard landscape continued to evolve over the course of the biennium, 2017 was one of the costliest years for disaster losses ever, heightened by due key risk drivers of climate change, poorly planned urbanisation in hazard-prone areas, environmental degradation and rising inequality.



In this context, UNISDR provided key actors and stakeholders at all levels and sectors with the tools, information, platforms, technical expertise and incentives, to translate the Sendai Framework into concrete actions and contribute to achieving: *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*.

To effectively focus its action, UNISDR launched a **Strategic Framework 2016-2021** and **Work Programme 2016-2019** and underwent a multi-faceted change process to align its organisational structure to the Strategic Objectives of its Framework for greater focus, resource efficiency and accountability.

This 2017 Annual Report includes an overview of the 2016-17 results achieved by UNISDR against its Work Programme. Although all **UNISDR Regional Offices** contribute to the achievement of all of UNISDR’s Strategic Objectives, this report also highlights specific achievements by the five UNISDR Regional Offices in Africa, the Arab States, the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific. A results-based indicators report and the 2016 and 2017 UNISDR certified financial statements are available at: www.unisdr.org/whowe-are/donors.

UNISDR IN NUMBERS

100%	≈100	99.2%	\$57.6M	\$53.7M
Gender Parity at Senior Level	Number of Staff in 2017	Extra-Budgetary Funding <small>(1 post funded through UN Regular Budget)</small>	Biennium Income	Biennium Expenditures

UNISDR OFFICES

UNISDR headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland. Its 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.



Member States began **reporting progress on implementation of the Sendai Framework** in March 2018, the data is transmitted to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and will be featured in the corresponding sustainable development report in 2018. A significant component of UNISDR work in the biennium under review contributed to achieving this important milestone.

It is the culmination of UNISDR's technical, political, policy, legal, procedural and logistical support to the **Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology** relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (OIEWG) which agreed on 38 global indicators to measure Sendai Framework implementation in 2016. It is also the fruit of UNISDR's active engagement and coordination with the United Nations Statistical Commission, which approved use of seven of the Sendai Framework indicators to measure Sustainable Development Goals 1 (No Poverty), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and 13 (Climate Action). Upon adoption of the indicators by the General Assembly in early 2017, UNISDR worked closely with Member States to develop an on-line monitoring system, through an iterative and consultative process, including an initial **Readiness Review** analysis to identify reporting gaps and capacities. UNISDR also developed specific technical guidance for reporting and conducted extensive capacity building to enable countries meet their reporting obligations against the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNISDR convened, and the government of Mexico hosted, the **Global Platform 2017** in Cancun, Mexico. The first major gathering since the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015, the Global Platform, which included the Leaders' Forum, ministerial roundtables, plenary sessions, special sessions, working sessions and special events, identified the need to prioritise the following topics: monitoring implementation of the Sendai Framework; achieving Target (e) – “Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020”; coherence with the sustainable development and climate change agendas; gender-sensitive and inclusive disaster risk reduction; and international cooperation initiatives, such as public-private cooperation and building a coalition of countries for critical infrastructure.

Throughout 2016 and 2017 UNISDR supported the convening of **Regional and Sub-Regional Platforms** in, chronologically, Africa (Mauritius), Asia-Pacific (India), the Americas (Canada), Europe (Turkey), the Pacific (Fiji), the Arab States region (Qatar), Central Asia and the South Caucasus (Tajikistan), and Central Africa,

BIENNIUM HIGHLIGHTS

10,000 +

Participants in Global, Regional and Sub-Regional Platforms

99

Countries use UNISDR disaster loss database system, Sendai DesInventar

3,858

Cities part of UNISDR Making Cities Resilient Campaign

38

Global Indicators to monitor progress against the 7 Sendai Targets agreed by all UN Member States

7

Common Indicators to monitor Sendai Framework and SDGs

109

Member States trained in the use of the Sendai Framework Monitor

2,387

Officials from National and Local Governments from 81 Countries trained by UNISDR, of whom

40% women

Cameroon. Over the course of the biennium, UNISDR supported the revision of existing strategies to ensure alignment with the Sendai Framework through providing technical inputs and capacity development sessions in all five regions.

UNISDR retrofitted DesInventar, its open-source disaster inventory system, and launched on January 1, 2018, **DesInventar Sendai**, an updated version which enables countries to manage all the data required for the monitoring of Sendai Framework Targets (a) to (d) which in turn contributes to the reporting against indicators for SDGs 1, 11 and 13. Throughout the biennium, UNISDR supported 68 Member States on the use, development, maintenance and retrofitting of disaster loss databases, bringing the total number of Member States using the Sendai DesInventar system to 99.

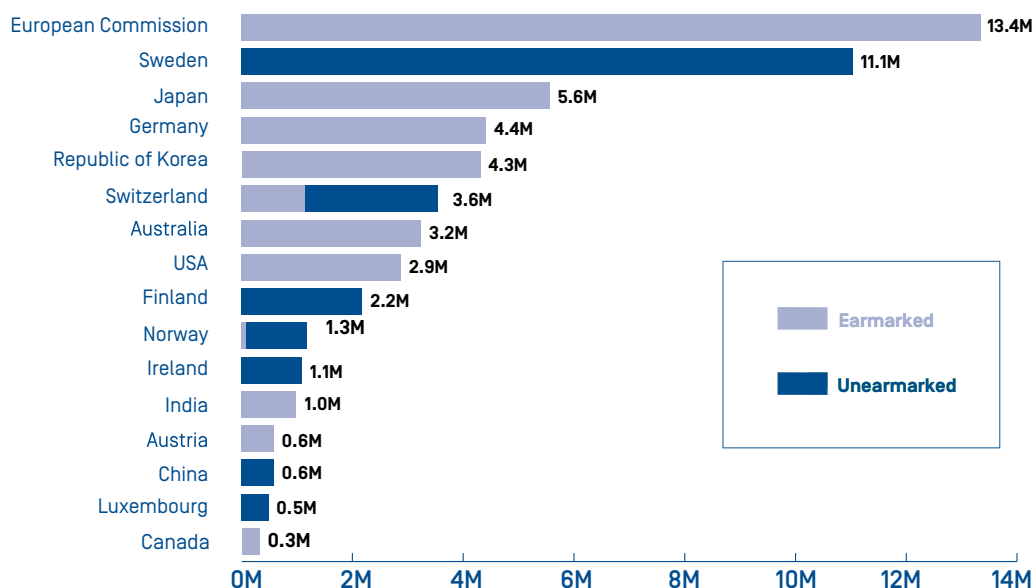
Target (e) of the Sendai Framework, “substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020”, is the first deadline in the Sendai targets. Over the course of the biennium, UNISDR supported 46 Member States to develop and update their national strategies and plans. UNISDR also worked closely with Member States and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat to ensure coherence and linkages between disaster risk reduction strategies and national adaptation plans (NAPs). To support **disaster risk reduction efforts at local level**, UNISDR provides almost 4,000 local governments participating in the **Making Cities Resilient Campaign** with tools, best practices and policy guidance to implement the Sendai Framework at the local level. A major revision to the Campaign’s Disaster Resilience **Scorecard** was presented at the 2017 Global Platform. The Scorecard provides a set of assessments that cover the policy and planning, engineering, organisational, financial, social and environmental aspects of disaster resilience.

As the focal point for disaster risk reduction in the UN system, UNISDR led and facilitated the revision of the **UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development**, which provides an opportunity for the United Nations to actively work as one towards meeting the 2030 Agenda. The **United Nations Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience**, chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, was formed in 2017 to ensure full implementation of the UN Plan of Action.

UNISDR worked with other organisations in the **United Nations system** to conduct joint disaster risk reduction assessments, update databases and support the integration of resilience considerations in new United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), thus risk-informing both the United Nations global response to meeting national development priorities as well as contributing to coordination at the country-level. Over the course of the biennium UNISDR also worked closely with UN Regional Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to promote the joint implementation of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience.

UNISDR supported Member States to reflect Sendai Framework’s priorities in the follow-up and review of the other major agreements adopted in 2015 and 2016. During the biennium, the **High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF)** was at the centre of this effort. In collaboration with Member States, United Nations entities and stakeholder groups, UNISDR organised several side-events and workshops on disaster risk reduction and the SDGs in the margins of the HLPF in 2016 and 2017. This enabled such results as the recognition of the important contribution of disaster risk reduction for sustainable development in the 2017 HLPF Ministerial Declaration and the inclusion of the Sendai Framework in the guidelines for countries to develop their Voluntary National Reviews. In the final quarter of 2017 UNISDR joined the Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) on Financing for Development and contributed to its report to the 2018 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FFD). Subsequently, one of the report’s overarching messages is the need for greater focus on prevention and disaster risk reduction, including the development of

UNISDR TOP BIENNIUM DONORS 2016-17 IN MILLIONS USD



institutional frameworks and financing mechanisms. Disaster risk reduction will feature on the Financing for Development (FFD) agenda for the first time in 2018, including in the high-level dialogue between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions.

UNISDR global communication and advocacy effort enhanced awareness of disaster risk reduction through global, regional, national and local events and outreach throughout the biennium. UNISDR implemented the **Sendai Seven Campaign**: Seven Targets, Seven Years, as the theme for the 13 October International Day for Disaster Reduction to raise awareness annually on each of the Seven Targets of the Sendai Framework. UNISDR also supported advocacy efforts related to the **World Tsunami Awareness Day** with events, training sessions, and panel discussions in all regions. In the period under review the total number of cities joining the **Making Cities Resilient Campaign** grew to 3,858.

In alignment with the UN Secretary General's vision for change, UNISDR initiated **an Organisational Review and Change Management Process** in 2016 to enhance its focus, business model and ensure it was fit for purpose to deliver its mandate. Commitments to strengthen organisational efficiency, safeguard financial sustainability and further develop gender-sensitive internal policies and approaches underpinned the process. The series of actions implemented included strengthening its regional presence, improving performance management, optimising business processes and reinforcing an organisational culture based on transparency, trust and accountability for results. A new organisational structure reduced the top heaviness of the organisation and the overall proportion of budget spent on staff costs, without reducing the number of staff. The new structure strengthened UNISDR's regional presence and was implemented at a record pace—the average speed for UNISDR to fill the over 30 posts advertised as part of the change process was 60 days, while the UN Secretariat average is 157 days.

Over the course of the 2016-2017 Biennium UNISDR raised US \$57.6 million against an initial requirement of US \$74.9 million. While not meeting its financial target, UNISDR received on significant in-kind contributions, most notably towards the 2017 Global Platform. UNISDR also continues to diversify its support base, with India and Canada becoming new donors over the Biennium.

1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

STRENGTHEN GLOBAL MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND COORDINATION OF SENDAI FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

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

UNISDR supported the work of the **Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (OIEWG)**. After 14 months of work, through an intergovernmental process, the Group agreed upon specific global indicators to monitor progress in achieving the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework and on the disaster risk reduction terminology. In February 2017, the UN General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the OIEWG through General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/71/276). The 38 global indicators will now enable Member States and the global community to systematically track progress in preventing creation of new risks and reducing existing risks, as well as strengthening resilience of communities and countries. Ultimately, the indicators will provide tools to ensure accountability, which is a cornerstone of the Sendai Framework.

Concurrently, UNISDR worked closely with the Inter-Agency and Expert Working Group on Sustainable Development Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) to ensure close coordination on the use of common indicators for reporting. These efforts culminated in the approved use of seven Sendai Framework indicators for SDG 1 - eradicating poverty, SDG 11 - sustainable cities and communities, and SDG 13 - Climate Action, at the 48th Session of the UN Statistical Commission. These developments reflect the UN commitment to place disaster risk reduction at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This common reporting system will enhance international, national and local knowledge and understanding of the inherent linkages and interdependencies between sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change. It will decrease the reporting burden on Member States and, equally important, create the conditions for enhanced collaboration amongst Ministries in sharing of data and for coherent planning across different agendas. At the international level, the common reporting system is also setting an important precedent for other similar processes: UNISDR is currently working closely with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to support Member States in leveraging the Sendai Framework indicators to potentially monitor progress of the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda.

With the indicators adopted by the General Assembly, UNISDR began development of a prototype of **the Sendai Framework Monitoring System**. This is a global on-line tool for countries to report and monitor progress on the implementation of the seven targets. The system enables countries to align their reporting with their national strategies, and related dimensions of the SDGs and climate change adaptation plans. UNISDR made the prototype available for initial testing at the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and further developed the Monitor system itself while conducting end-user consultations and trainings concurrently. This work culminated in **the launch of the on-line Monitoring System on 1 March 2018**.¹

As each country faces a unique set of challenges and require customised responses, UNISDR is also supporting the development of national custom indicators to enable countries to measure progress against nationally determined targets and priorities aligned with the Sendai Framework. Countries can report against these nationally determined indicators through the on-line Monitoring System. Multiple ministries and levels of government can be delegated by the National Sendai Framework Monitoring Coordinators to input information into the Sendai Framework Monitoring system. Thereby encouraging an all-of-government approach, including at the local level, to input data directly into the monitoring system.



President of Mexico, Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto and the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed speaking at the 2017 Global Platform

Supporting monitoring and reporting towards achieving targets of the Sendai Framework

In 2017, UNISDR developed **Technical Guidance for Monitoring and Reporting on Progress in Achieving the Global Targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**.² These guidance notes are crucial for countries to understand minimum standards and metadata for disaster-related data, statistics and analysis. It provides suggestions to Member States and technical partners in regards to applicable definitions and terminology, computational methodologies and data standards.

The aim of the technical guidance is to allow for consistent measurement of progress towards the global targets across countries and over the duration of the implementation of the Sendai Framework and Sustainable Development Goals, by sharing minimum standards which describe a common and detailed international understanding of indicators, data required, and standard reporting methodology.

To develop this technical guidance, UNISDR conducted consultations, which included technical meetings at the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. UNISDR also worked closely with the statistics offices of the UN Economic Regional Commissions, in particular the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), to support standard setting related to disaster statistics. National statistical offices also contributed to the development of the technical guidance.

In 2017, UNISDR developed and conducted a survey to assess the availability of national disaster-related data to report on the Sendai Framework indicators, capacity gaps and resources needed to fill them, and the availability of current baselines from which to measure the global targets of the Sendai Framework. UNISDR analysed the findings of the survey responses by 87 countries in **the Sendai Framework Data Readiness Review 2017**. The findings showed that while data was available for Targets (a) and (b) in most countries (83% and 66% respectively), data became increasingly limited, with only an average of 20-25% data availability for Target (f). The report indicated that data capacity needs must be addressed comprehensively, by expanding data availability through developing and acquiring new data, creating common methodologies and standards for enhanced data quality and by creating common data sharing platforms and protocols to enhance data accessibility and applicability. Over 90% of the countries indicated the need for financial resources to cover

“The Sendai Framework puts the focus squarely on prevention. Governments working with other stakeholders, such as mayors, community groups, women’s organisations, private sector, parliamentarians, youth groups, to name just a few, have to give the same priority to managing disaster risk as they give to managing disasters.”

Ms. Amina Mohammed,
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

data gaps, and many countries, particularly those in special situations, reported significant capacity gaps and technological deficiencies which hinder their ability to track progress.

Subsequently, to support the monitoring process, UNISDR organised a technical workshop in December 2017, inviting senior staff of National Statistics Offices (NSO) and other relevant national data custodians to promote knowledge on data entry, analytical capabilities of the system, as well as levels of application (global, regional, national, local). At the workshop countries (amongst others Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Fiji, Lebanon and the Seychelles) shared information about their efforts to prepare for reporting. UNISDR and other technical institutions and UN agencies shared expertise related to the various indicators, for example, WHO outlined opportunities and challenges associated with capturing data associated with mortality and health-related indicators.

The data reported by Member States through the on-line Sendai Framework Monitoring System from March 2018 will be the basis for UNISDR to contribute to the report on progress towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in July 2018.

At the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction over **500 voluntary commitments** were announced in support to the implementation of the Sendai Framework. UNISDR began in the biennium under review the development of an on-line system to monitor these commitments.

Understanding the broadened scope of hazards and risks

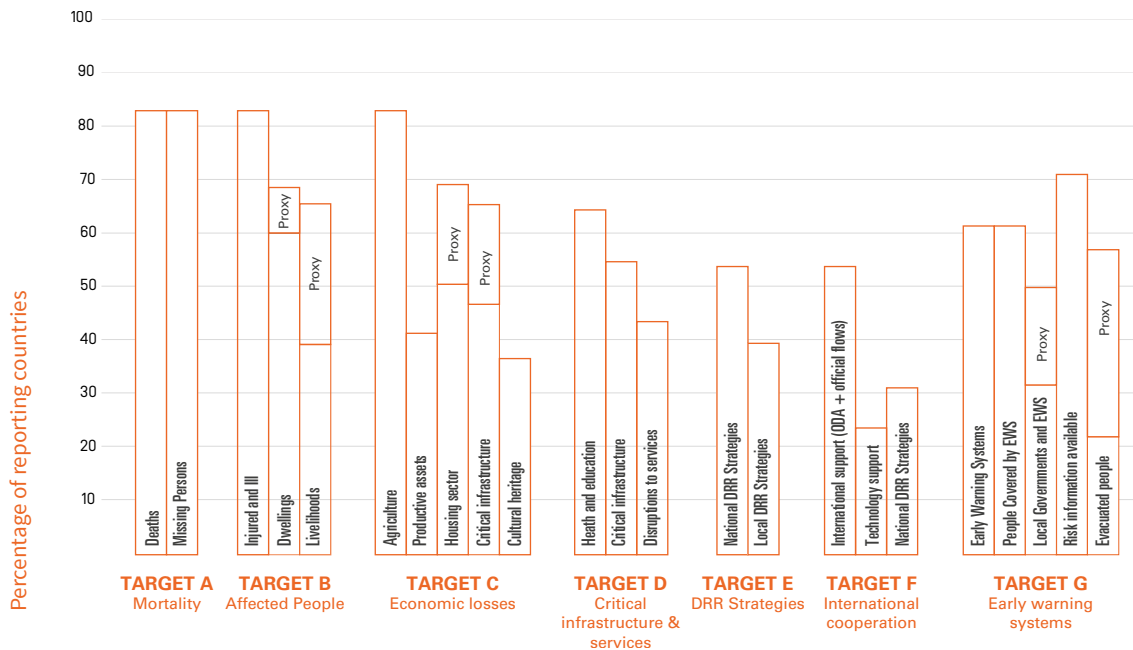
One significant characteristic of the Sendai Framework is the **broadened scope of hazards and risk to be addressed**. Small- and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks are now all included. This creates new requirements and new opportunities for those involved in building resilience to the shocks to which societies are exposed, and articulated the need for improved understanding of risk in all its dimensions.

UNISDR initiated a review of its Global Risk Assessment by conducting a survey of risk information users in a number of sample countries. Building also on the outcome of the external evaluation of the Global Risk Assessment, in November 2017 (see following page), UNISDR convened an **Expert Meeting on the Global Risk Assessment Framework**, bringing together 110 eminent experts in hazard and risk modelling from all regions of the world to examine existing risk models in public and private domains and identify gaps and opportunities for enhanced collaboration towards a global assessment of risk within the broader scope of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda.

As recommended by the Expert Meeting, UNISDR initiated the development of a **Global Risk Assessment Framework** (GRAF) to provide risk information, across the full spectrum of hazards and risks covered by the Sendai Framework, with emphasis on vulnerability, exposure and impact across sectors and geographies, to enhance risk-informed decision-making. The design and development of the GRAF will continue in the same vein by following a broad consultative process with guidance from an Expert Group. The GRAF is expected to be launched at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2019. It will highlight the changes in global risk assessment post-2015, the evolution in approach to reflect more accurately risk in society, with an understanding that data or information on vulnerability (social and environmental) is severely under-developed and will be a priority area for expanded work.

UNISDR SENDAI FRAMEWORK DATA READINESS REVIEW

Overview of availability, quality and accessibility of national disaster-related data required to report on the 38 Sendai Framework Indicators, as reported to UNISDR by 87 countries.



Note: In order to capture a broader set of data, the readiness review included questions that allowed the assessment of data availability and sources that could serve as a proxy for the indicators.

Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction

Since 2009, UNISDR has published a biennial, in-depth analysis of risk trends, patterns, progress and challenges in understanding and managing disaster risk - the **Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR)**. This has become the flagship publication of UNISDR.

In 2016, an external evaluation of the GAR was undertaken to assess: a) the quality, scientific credibility and depth of content, b) process, c) impact, outreach, influence on policy-makers, and d) the future of GAR in support of Sendai Framework implementation. In summary, the evaluation found that the GAR has made significant impact in terms of: i) contributions to international frameworks, ii) producing multi-hazard, open data global risk assessment, iii) generating new national disaster loss data, iv) initiating DRR research, v) providing high quality evidence for dialogue with policy makers to bring about institutional change, and vi) strong processes and partnerships. The evaluation also showed however, that a weak communications strategy has limited uptake of its recommendations and the potential for impact. The evaluation recommended the continued production of a redefined GAR as a broad research, advocacy and policy engagement initiative which would be supporting implementation of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda.

Instead of the usual format of GAR, in 2017, UNISDR launched the **GAR Risk Atlas**, which provides a global visual account of where and how disaster risk can undermine development. It estimates the probability of future disaster losses in the built environment for five major hazards – earthquakes, tsunamis, river flooding, and tropical cyclones, plus winds and storm surge – for every country and territory in the world. The GAR Atlas was launched online, as an application, and in a limited edition print format with icons that allow readers to see the hazard maps in augmented reality using their smart phones.³

In preparation of the next **Global Assessment Report 2019 (GAR19)**, to be launched at the Global Platform 2019 the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction constituted a new Advisory Board reflecting a broad spectrum of expertise. Further to the review of the Advisory Board, a concept note and a call for papers for GAR19 launched the preparatory process early in 2018. The 2019 Global Assessment Report will also introduce the **Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF)**, and future editions will feature the risk information outputs of this collaborative undertaking.

Drawing on the data, research and outputs that have been integral to the global risk assessment, its global risk model, and the Global Assessment Report (GAR), UNISDR has supported the development of policy guidance, knowledge tools and the development of standards throughout the biennium. Of note, is the development of the **National Disaster Risk Assessment Words into Action** knowledge product (see page 36). UNISDR Regional Offices incorporated risk knowledge in trainings and policy guidance towards the development of national risk profiles and strategies. The analysis of the GAR has also been a key input to make the case for disaster risk considerations in the context of enhanced coherence in the follow-up mechanisms of the broader 2030 Agenda.

The Global Risk Assessment Framework and the Global Assessment Report have both been acknowledged as part of the broader **UN Integrated Platform on Prevention**, and efforts are underway to ensure coherence with other initiatives and actors, within and outside of the UN system, to achieve comprehensive risk analysis for decision-making.

One key thematic area that UNISDR emphasised across its activities in the biennium under review was enhanced understanding of the **gender dimensions of disaster risk** - the importance of gender-responsive disaster risk reduction strategies, and the need for systematic collection of sex-disaggregated data to identify the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls. In order to support this work, UNISDR, UN Women and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched a **joint program entitled “Addressing the gender inequality of risk and promoting community resilience to natural hazards in a changing climate”** at the 2017 Global Platform to support gender responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2017 in Cancun, Mexico

In 2017, UNISDR organised, in close coordination with the host country Mexico, the largest **Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** (Global Platform) to date with over 4,200 participants to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework, build partnerships and augment domestic and international efforts to reduce disaster risk.

Participants included Heads of State and Government, ministers, mayors and parliamentarians, as well as, representatives of intergovernmental organizations, local governments, local communities, civil society organisations, indigenous peoples, women’s groups, children and youth, persons with disabilities, science, academia, the private sector and the UN system.

Participants shared lessons and good practice, highlighted the latest technologies and approaches and forged partnerships to strengthen cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as innovative partnerships between non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors.

The deliberations across sessions namely, the Leaders’ Forum, ministerial roundtables, plenary sessions, special sessions, working sessions and special events, identified the need to prioritize the following topics: monitoring implementation of the Sendai Framework; achieving Target (e) – “Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020”; coherence with the sustainable development and climate change agendas; gender-sensitive and inclusive disaster risk reduction; and international cooperation initiatives, such as private-private cooperation and building a coalition of countries for critical infrastructure.

Bonn Office Highlights

In 2017, as part of the UNISDR Change Management process, UNISDR strengthened its presence in Bonn, Germany, and transformed the office into the UNISDR hub to support governments as they report progress against the targets and indicators of the Sendai Framework. The Bonn office will also ensure closer coherence and coordination in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, taking advantage of the common presence in Bonn of the Secretariat of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The UNISDR Bonn team developed the Sendai Framework Monitoring system, technical guidance notes on using the Sendai Framework Monitor system and supported UNISDR Regional Offices to train 109 Member States in addition to key stakeholders in the use of the System prior to its launch on 1 March 2018.

At the Leaders' Forum, the highest-level session of the 2017 Global Platform, participants agreed to apply disaster risk management in overall economic planning as a lynchpin for sustainable development, resilient infrastructure and job creation. The leaders also committed to conduct a disaster risk assessment of existing critical infrastructure by 2019 and to strengthen the enforcement of regulatory frameworks and building codes.⁴

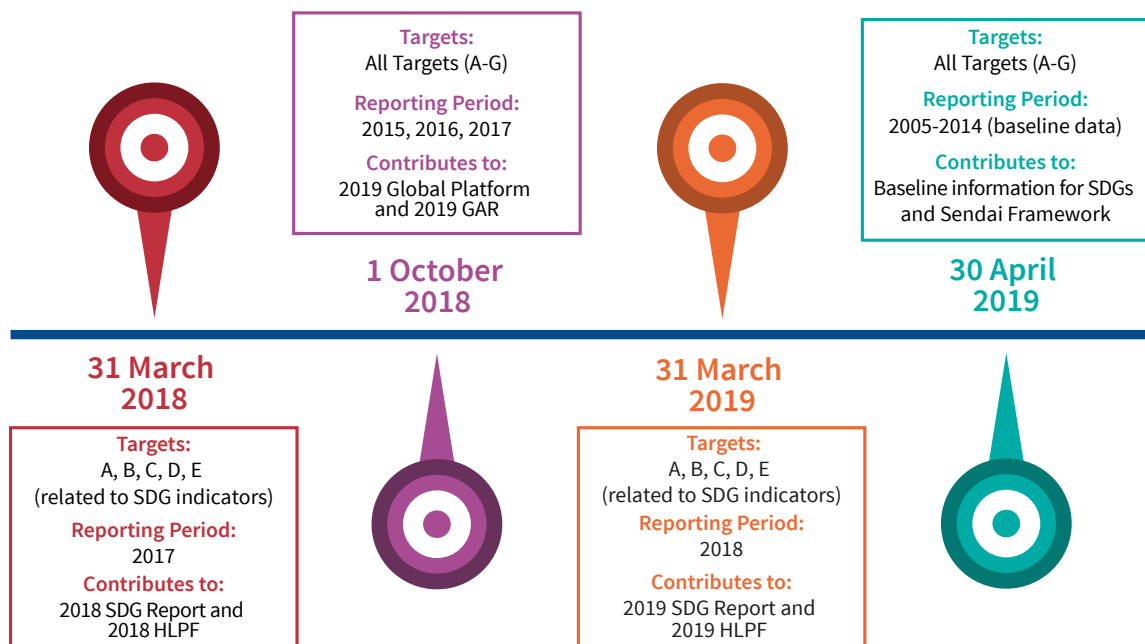
Stakeholders came together to coordinate efforts in disaster risk reduction and to hold themselves and the global community accountable to implementation of the Sendai Framework. Many stakeholders committed to undertaking concrete and measurable actions to implement the Framework such as supporting the standardisation of methodologies and guidelines for data collection, the provision of geospatial data and use of other technologies to identify emerging risks.

The **Chair's Summary of the Global Platform** was submitted to the President of ECOSOC as a contribution to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. UNISDR compiled and published the 2017 **Global Platform Proceedings**, which included the Chair's Summary and brief overviews and video links of the discussions conducted throughout the conference in all six UN languages.⁵

The impact of the Global Platform was emphasised in both the outcome documents and follow-up evaluation underscored the critical importance of the Global Platform as a mechanism to track progress, guide implementation and promote innovation at regional and global levels. The Global Platform was instrumental in setting the agenda for the regional platforms in 2018 and thereby ensuring continued momentum in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

In light of the heightened responsibility placed on the Global Platform through the Sendai Framework as a key mechanism for monitoring progress and catalysing action, UNISDR decided as part of the UNISDR change process to allocate a full-time position to coordinate the Global Platform process and ensure linkages with the Regional Platforms, the HLPF and other relevant processes.

Sendai Framework Monitoring Process (2018-2019)



Note:
SDG: Sustainable Development Goals
HLPF: High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

SUPPORT TO REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SENDAI FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

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

Regional and sub-regional platforms leveraged

During the reporting period of this document, UNISDR supported the convening of **Regional and Sub-Regional Platforms** in, chronologically, Africa (Mauritius), Asia-Pacific (India), the Americas (Canada), Europe (Turkey), the Pacific (Fiji), the Arab States region (Qatar), Central Africa (Cameroon), Central Asia and the South Caucasus (Tajikistan). The meetings agreed on regional disaster risk reduction strategies and plans and resulted in multi-stakeholder commitments to address cross-border hazards, identify regional resources, share best practices and agree on common strategies (see regional offices section). Participants consistently recognized the importance of these regional platforms for advancing their work domestically and facilitating regional coordination.

In 2017, UNISDR began preparations for Regional Platforms to be held in 2018: Americas region in Colombia (June), the sub-regional platform for the Central Asia-South Caucasus Region in Armenia (June), the Asia-Pacific region in Mongolia (July), Africa and Arab States regions in Tunisia (October), and the European region in Italy (November). These preparations included stakeholder dialogues, liaising/consulting with host countries, developing agendas and providing guidance and information to build programmatic and political linkages amongst regions and between Regional and Sub-Regional Platforms, the Global Platform and High Level Political Forum processes.

Regional coordination and implementation with partners

UNISDR provides technical support to, and works closely with, **regional intergovernmental organisations** to develop and monitor regional disaster risk reduction strategies. This work enables the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into the policy and programming of the intergovernmental organisations. The number of regional intergovernmental policy statements about disaster risk reduction delivered at the 2017 Global Platform, such as by the African Union and the Arab League, showcased the impact of UNISDR's work with these organisations to foster cohesive policy development and mainstream disaster risk reduction into their guiding principles.

Over the course of the biennium, UNISDR supported the revision of 63 existing **disaster risk reduction national strategies** to ensure alignment with the Sendai Framework through providing technical inputs and capacity development sessions in all five regions. UNISDR also supported the development of new regional strategies in all five regions, in particular with regional economic communities in Africa. UNISDR worked closely with key partners on strategic sectoral and thematic strategies, such as with the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) to develop a regional strategy for disaster risk management in the agricultural sector for food and nutrition security in the Americas. The impact of this work was evident in the European region through EU Council decisions, such as a Special Directive on Sendai Framework implementation, referred to in an EC Communication to strengthen capital markets (for more information, see the regional offices section).



A workshop in Trinidad and Tobago co-organised by UNISDR and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

Over the course of the biennium UNISDR worked closely with Regional UN Development Groups (R-UNDGs), UN Regional Coordination Mechanisms (RCMs), UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to promote the joint implementation of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, including through the organisation of specific trainings. In 2017, UNISDR worked with other UN entities to conduct 54 joint disaster risk reduction assessments, update databases and support the integration of resilience considerations in the new **United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs)**, thus risk-informing both the UN collective and coherent response to meeting national development priorities and the UN country-level platform for coordination. UNISDR directly supported the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in UNDAFs in Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia-Pacific and the Americas regions. UNISDR also organised meetings and briefings on the UN Plan of Action as part of UN Development Groups (UNDG) meetings to inform common country programming, including development of guidance tools for the implementation of the 2017 UNDAF Guidance. UN System Staff College and UNISDR initiated interviews with stakeholders to prepare for the launch of an on-line course in 2018 to enhance understanding of the linkages between the Sendai Framework and 2030 Agenda (for more on this deliverable see the regional offices sections of this report).

DesInventar Sendai

Disaster loss databases are a crucial instrument to produce and operationalise risk information for risk assessments, the development of disaster risk reduction strategies, policy making and risk governance. **Disaster loss databases** are also a basic source of information for reporting on the first four Sendai Framework Targets (a)-(d) namely mortality, affected people, economic loss, and damage to critical infrastructure and disruption to basic services. The database is also critical for developing a baseline for calibration and validation of results.

UNISDR has been working with Member States for more than a decade to record and analyse disaster trends and their impacts in a systematic way through an open source disaster inventory system called DesInventar. With the adoption of the 38 indicators to measure the progress against the achievement of the seven targets of the Sendai Framework, UNISDR retrofitted DesInventar and launched at the beginning of 2018 a new system renamed, DesInventar Sendai.⁶

DesInventar Sendai, similar to the previous system, is a methodology and software, which enables the collection of **detailed and homogeneous loss and damage data** about disasters at all scales (temporal and spatial) and allows the capture of disaster information that is location- and time-stamped, enabling also the analysis of disaster loss and damage through charts, graphs and statistical reports. The tool helps countries to understand disaster trends, patterns and impacts in a systematic way and, as it makes disaster impacts more visible, it facilitates dialogue and policy discussions. This increased understanding of disaster impacts, better prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures can be used to assess risks and develop national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction by 2020 in line with Sendai Framework Target (e). The new system enables countries to **manage all the data** required for the monitoring of Sendai Framework Targets (a) to (d) which in turn contributes to the reporting against indicators for SDG 1 - eradicating poverty, SDG 11 - sustainable cities and communities, and SDG 13 - Climate Action.⁷

“The world is making efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals with huge financial and human resources involved, but little or no attention is given to disaster risk reduction in the process. Disaster Risk Management should be given the highest priority in our Development Agendas to reduce the burden on our respective Economies”.

Mr. Barrow Kawsu, National Disaster Management Agency of Gambia and Sendai Framework Monitor Focal Point

In 2017, UNISDR drafted guidance notes on the use and recording of disaster loss information and provided trainings on the collection and use of data disaggregated by gender, age, income and disabilities. UNISDR also encouraged partners to support disaster loss database efforts, including through the organisation of a working session at the 2017 Global Platform on the topic. Through the Global Platform session and other fora, stakeholders emphasised the importance of standard methodologies and guidelines for the collection of data to build and maintain national loss databases and risk assessments. UNISDR was recognised as playing a critical role in setting these standards, as, without common methodologies, the data gathered through Sendai Framework Monitoring and SDG reporting would not be comparable. The European Union’s adoption of the same loss data accounting standards is a key endorsement of the standards UNISDR continues to promote.

Throughout the biennium, UNISDR supported 68 Member States on the use, development, maintenance and retrofitting of **disaster loss databases**, bringing the total number of Member States using the Sendai DesInventar system to 99 (as of April 2018). UNISDR also worked closely with partners with a specific thematic focus, for example, in West Africa, in light of the 2015 Ebola outbreak, UNISDR worked closely with WHO to ensure that data on losses related to the health sector were recorded in the national loss databases (for more on UNISDR’s loss database work see the regional offices sections of this report).

Achieving Target (e) by 2020

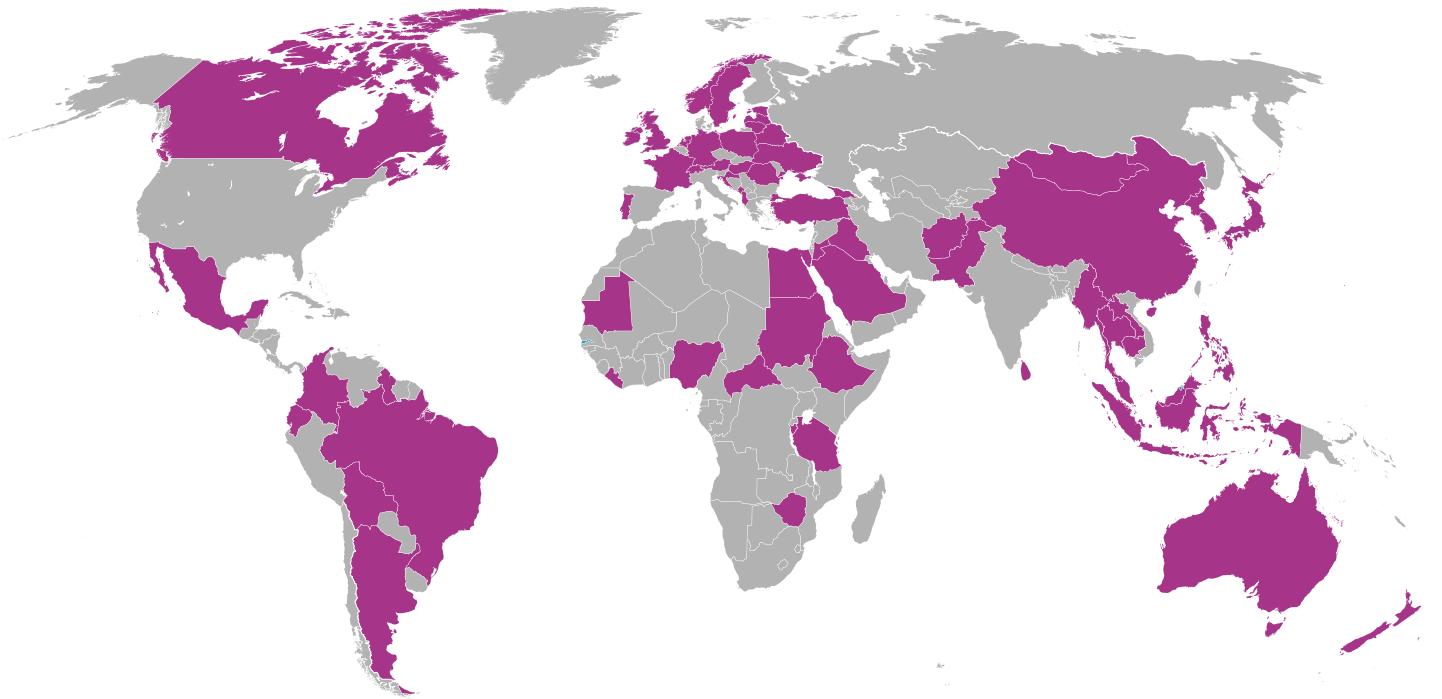
Target (e) of the Sendai Framework, “substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020”, is the first deadline in the Sendai Framework targets. Meeting this target is crucial in laying the foundation for other disaster risk management efforts. Over the course of the biennium, **UNISDR supported 29 Member States in developing and updating national strategies and plans**. To support Member States in the development of

the strategies, UNISDR is coordinating partners to develop a **Words Into Action (WIA) Guide on National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies** which promotes the integration of disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development considerations. It will be a step-by-step guide to Governments in developing their national disaster risk reduction strategy in the context of sustainable development. To monitor the implementation of the strategies, UNISDR is supporting countries to develop monitoring frameworks that feature the Sendai Framework global targets and indicators as well as nationally determined indicators.

Building Coherence between the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework by ensuring coordination of National Adaptation Plans (NAPS) and National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies (Target e) - UNISDR has been working with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for more than a decade as climate change is a key driver of disaster risk. In 2017, to reinforce coherence and linkages between UNISDR and UNFCCC, UNISDR strengthened its office in Bonn, Germany. Over the course of the biennium, UNISDR worked closely with Member States and UNFCCC secretariat to ensure coherence and linkages between disaster risk reduction strategies and national adaptation plans (NAPS). UNISDR actively participated in COP23 to build coherence amongst the disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development agendas. UNISDR also organised a workshop of experts involved in drafting the different strategies to provide guidance and share best practices on the strong linkages between the National Adaptation Plans and National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies, for which countries share a common target year of 2020. An outcome of this workshop was the addition of supplementary guidance on disaster risk reduction to the UNFCCC’s official technical guidance note on National Adaptation Planning. In addition, UNISDR has been working with the Adaptation Committee to organise a workshop in 2018 to review the adequateness of the Sendai Framework indicators to monitor progress on the work of the Adaptation Programme.

UNISDR SENDAI FRAMEWORK DATA READINESS REVIEW

Overview of the geographic distribution of the 87 countries that reported to UNISDR about the availability, quality and accessibility of national disaster-related data required to report on the 38 Sendai Framework Indicators.



Making Cities Resilient Campaign: Working with local governments

In order to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk, local authorities from both urban and rural areas must transform their approaches. They are required to constantly assess and revise their strategies, actions and investments in line with the pace of social and economic development. To support local authorities, UNISDR provided the almost **4,000 local governments participating in the Making Cities Resilient Campaign** with tools, best practices and policy guidance to implement the Sendai Framework at the local level. Throughout the biennium, UNISDR worked in close collaboration with a variety of actors involved in building urban resilience, notably UN-Habitat to build coherence with the New Urban Agenda, and the eighteen members of the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient Campaign Steering Committee.⁸

A key outcome of this work was a major revision to the Campaign's **Disaster Resilience Scorecard**, launched at the 2017 Global Platform. The Scorecard provides a set of assessments that cover the policy and planning, engineering, organisational, financial, social and environmental aspects of disaster resilience at the local level. Designed to be led by local government authorities, the Scorecard aims to assist in monitoring and reviewing progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The revision was undertaken by UNISDR private sector partners AECOM and IBM.⁹ In 2017, UNISDR also released a new **Quick Risk Estimation (QRE)**¹⁰ tool; *How to Make Cities More Resilient: A Handbook for Local Government Leaders*;¹¹ and *Local Government Powers for Disaster Risk Reduction: A Study on Local-Level Authority and Capacity for Resilience*.¹² UNISDR also began development of an online version of the Scorecard to facilitate easy use by local governments.

At present, **200 cities are implementing the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities** and will complete the self-assessment in 2018 (50 in Africa, 50 in Latin America, 75 in Asia Pacific, 25 in Northeast Asia). Additionally, 20 pilot cities (6 in Asia Pacific, 5 in Africa, 5 in Americas and 4 in Arab States) are working towards the development of local disaster risk reduction plans and strategies in line with Sendai Framework Target (e)

using Campaign tools and methodology developed by UNISDR's Global Education and Training Institute (GETI). Four kick-off regional workshops were conducted between late 2016 and early 2017 to engage 20 cities in establishing baseline status and developing disaster resilience action plans. Officials of the 20 cities, and selected partner organisations, will be trained as trainers in 2018 on the methodology to be utilised to develop disaster risk reduction plans from the Scorecard reports. This will ensure standardisation of the approach to develop disaster risk reduction plans. The 20 cities will utilise the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities to understand the baseline, as well as determine the needs and actions required to achieve higher resilience.

Capacity building for national and local planning, implementation and monitoring

The Sendai Framework underscored the critical enabling role of technical support to build the capacity of institutions and professionals at the national and local level. In order to fulfil the expectation of the Sendai Framework, UNISDR initiated a process to develop a new global strategic approach to reach agreement and commitment of the main actors supporting capacity development to implement the Sendai Framework on the actions and follow up required to achieve the Sendai Framework targets. UNISDR held consultations towards the development of this new strategic approach throughout 2017 with a view to 1) identifying gaps and opportunities to build greater focus and coherence globally; and 2) incorporating the capacity development efforts of key partners globally.

The consultations began with the **UN Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction**,¹³ and continued at the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and included on-line consultations and a concurrent literature review. In addition, seven regional in-person and online consultations were held with over 200 representatives of Member States and other relevant stakeholders from Africa, the Americas, Arab States, Asia-Pacific and Europe including United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, regional intergovernmental organizations, academia state-lead and private sector stakeholders. A two-day consultation held in March this year sought to understand the most urgent capacity development needs for Sendai Framework implementation and disaster risk sensitive development planning, the most appropriate solutions to address the needs, and to establish a way forward to support capacity development programming. A zero draft of the **global capacity development strategy** to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework – an approach for all partners and stakeholders, was developed for expert consultation and made available for public comment. The strategic approach aims to enable partners to work together in a complementary way to ensure capacity development programmes lead to sustainable institutional capacities with the aim of reducing disaster losses and strengthening resilience.¹⁴

Simultaneously throughout the biennium, UNISDR also implemented 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. **Over the biennium, 2,387 national and local government officials and other relevant stakeholders from 81 countries were trained - 40% of participants were women.** 36 training workshops, including six online, were conducted by UNISDR's Office for Northeast Asia and GETI in Incheon both in the Republic of Korea and in other countries, to equip government officials with the necessary understanding of the Sendai Framework and related tools to develop both national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans to achieve Target (e) of the Sendai Framework. Training programme modules were updated throughout 2017 to reflect coherence with the Agenda 2030 and other global agreements. UNISDR also continued to work on improving follow-up mechanisms to track and analyse the impact of training and capacity development programs.



*Community members on a flooded street in Haiti as the water begins to retreat after Hurricane Mathew.
UN Photo/Logan Abass*

3 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

CATALYSE ACTION THROUGH MEMBER STATES AND PARTNERS

Result 3.1: Fostered policy coherence by engaging with Member States and contributing to relevant intergovernmental processes

Result 3.2: Coordination and advice is provided to all United Nations System partners at global level towards effective and efficient implementation of the Sendai Framework

Result 3.3: Partnerships leveraged for increased financing for disaster risk reduction and risk-sensitive investment

Intergovernmental processes for policy coherence in line with the Sendai Framework

UNISDR continued to highlight in intergovernmental processes the importance of coherence and consideration of disaster risk reduction as a key element of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNISDR focuses on intergovernmental processes and agreements where the integration of disaster risk reduction can make a direct contribution to the implementation of the Sendai Framework by contributing to reducing existing stock of risk and preventing the creation of additional ones. The close interlinkage between disaster risk reduction and climate change and the urgency to adopt complementary strategies to address both have therefore been a major focus of UNISDR inter-governmental work.

UNISDR supported Member States to articulate the Sendai Framework's priorities in the follow-up and review of the other major inter-governmental agreements adopted in 2015 and 2016. During the biennium, the **High Level Political Forum (HLPF)** was at the centre of this effort. In collaboration with Member States, United Nations entities and stakeholder groups, UNISDR organised several side-events and workshops on disaster risk reduction and the SDGs in the margins of the HLPF in 2016 and 2017. This enabled such results as the **recognition of the important contribution of disaster risk reduction for sustainable development** in the 2017 HLPF Ministerial Declaration and the inclusion of the Sendai Framework in the guidelines for countries to develop their Voluntary National Reviews.

Beginning in 2017, UNISDR worked closely with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) to prepare the 2018 ECOSOC Integration Segment on the theme of leveraging technology and innovation to build sustainable and resilient societies, which will include a session on technology in disaster risk reduction, as well as in the substantive preparations for the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum. UNISDR also strengthened collaboration with UN Water on the implementation of the **International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028**, with several commitments on reducing water-related disaster risks contained in its Action Plan launched in March 2018.

Achievements during the 2016-2017 biennium laid the groundwork for further progress in 2018 and 2019. In the final quarter of 2017 UNISDR joined the **Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) on Financing for Development** and contributed to its report to the **2018 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FFD)**. Subsequently, one of the report's overarching messages is the need for greater focus on prevention and disaster risk reduction, including the development of institutional frameworks and financing mechanisms. Disaster risk reduction will feature on the Forum on Financing for Development (FFD) agenda for the first time in 2018, including in the high-level dialogue between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions.

Through its substantive inputs to Secretary-General's reports on a range of issues related to sustainable development, including on countries in special situations, development cooperation, as well as the



End poverty in all of its forms



Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- A** Reduce global disaster mortality
- B** Reduce the number of affected people globally
- C** Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to GDP
- D** Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services
- E** Increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies
- F** Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries
- G** Increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems

COMMON SET OF INDICATORS

Sustainable Development Goal Indicators	Sendai Framework Indicators
1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	A1 and B1
1.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)	C1
1.5.3 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	E1
1.5.4 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	E2
11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	A1 and B1
11.5.2 Direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters	C1, D1, D5
11.b.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	E1
11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	E2
13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	A1 and B1
13.1.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	E1
13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	E2

In 2016, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology (OIEWG) agreed upon a set of indicators to measure the Sendai Framework, several of which were later adopted by UN Statistical Commission. UNISDR served as the secretariat of the OIEWG, providing political, policy, legal and procedural advice, as well as logistical support, and worked closely with the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) to support the discussions related to the adoption and use of common indicators.

“We recognise that effective disaster risk management contributes to sustainable development. We underline the importance of strengthening disaster risk reduction and early warning systems, in order to minimise the consequences of disasters.”

Ministerial Declaration of the 2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

humanitarian-development nexus, UNISDR ensured continued integration of disaster risk reduction into key intergovernmental deliberations and outcomes. UNISDR also worked to support delegates to further integrate disaster risk reduction in relevant General Assembly and ECOSOC deliberations.

UNISDR provided substantive support for deliberations on disaster risk reduction and sustainable development at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In May 2016, the ECOSOC convened a Special Meeting on the Impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon, followed by a Special Meeting on the Aftermath of Recent Hurricanes in October 2017. The latter meeting was important in calling for greater financing for disaster risk reduction and risk-informed investment in infrastructure and housing.

Support Groups for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNISDR continued to serve as secretariat to the UNISDR Support Group in Geneva, under the leadership of the Philippines, Sweden and Germany consecutively. In New York, UNISDR supported the Group of Friends of Disaster Risk Reduction, Co-Chaired by Australia, Indonesia, Norway and Peru, in a two-year approach to capitalize on strategic opportunities to promote coherence on disaster risk reduction and sustainable development, in view of the global stock-take of the SDGs at the 2019 HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly and the first global report on the Sendai Framework targets. UNISDR has also provided advice to the President of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC President to leverage disaster risk reduction to support their priorities for sustainable development during their tenure. Since assuming office in 2017, UNISDR has provided substantive support to the Secretary-

Throughout the biennium, **UNISDR New York Liaison Office** provided policy advice to delegates in the shaping of deliberations and decisions on sustainable development by the UN governance bodies. In particular, the General Assembly Second Committee resolutions on disaster risk reduction and the effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon. These Second Committee resolutions provided Member States, the United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders with forward-looking guidance to implement the Sendai Framework in coherence with the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the SAMOA Pathway; inclusive approaches to develop national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, as per Target (e); promoting synergies with existing national climate change adaptations plans and sustainable development policies; and stimulating risk-informed investments in infrastructure, as per Target (d), while providing political recognition for and benefitting from the outcomes of the Global and Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

These resolutions are informed by the **Annual Reports of the Secretary General on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework** which are coordinated by UNISDR's New York Liaison Office. The reports provide an overview of progress by Member States, regional organisations, and stakeholder groups, and the coordinated technical, policy and capacity building support provided by the United Nations systems, with strategic recommendations to drive implementation further.



UNISDR produced the data sculpture, designed by Professor Pablo Suarez (above), to model flood risk in Togo for the 2017 Global Platform. UNISDR offered the data sculpture to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The IFRC is now using the sculpture to continue teaching about disaster risk reduction around the world.

General and the Deputy Secretary-General who have also advocated for disaster risk reduction. Their commitment to disaster risk reduction is evidenced by its inclusion as a core component of the **Secretary-General's integrated approach to prevention** and his recommendations for repositioning the United Nations development system.

Working within the UN system

In 2016, UNISDR led and facilitated the revision of the **UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development**, which provides a framework for the United Nations to actively work as one towards meeting the 2030 Agenda. It was endorsed by the UN Chiefs Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) and 49 UN entities.

In April 2017, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction convened the first meeting of the **UN Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience**. The group is comprised of senior leaders from the UN entities, and provides strategic direction to the implementation of the UN Plan of Action. The second meeting in November 2017 focused on the Atlantic Hurricane Season's impact on the Caribbean and identified the challenges and opportunities for the UN system in addressing disasters and climate risks.

The outcomes of these meetings have been followed up by the **UNISDR-led UN Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points Inter-Agency Group** comprised of technical working-level representatives from UN entities. Concrete actions included a stock-taking exercise to identify gaps in the disaster risk reduction support provided by the UN system, to reduce duplication and promote a more effective use of resources. In addition, the Focal Points group finalised a results framework to implement the UN Plan of Action to strengthen accountability across the UN system through measurable monitoring of progress. Guided by the results-based monitoring

system, the Senior Leadership Group will review progress on the Plan of Action, while continuing to promote mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction across the UN. In 2017, to improve the impact of the UN Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points Inter-Agency Group, the Terms of Reference of the group were reviewed and revised.

UNISDR worked closely in 2017 with seven UN entities towards the revision of the **United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) guidance** that will support UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to produce a new generation of UNDAFs. UNISDR also provided technical inputs in contribution to the UNDG-led Sustainable Development Goals Acceleration toolkit, which resulted in the inclusion of datasets, risk models and data viewers in the toolkit. These tools facilitate the efforts of UNCTs in addressing disaster and climate risks in UNDAFs and other relevant activities.

Disaster risk financing

Supporting Member States' tracking and reporting on disaster risk reduction investments is required for Sendai Framework 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." UNISDR drafted and published a technical guidance note on the topic. In addition, UNISDR continued to provide technical guidance on the development of a **disaster risk reduction policy marker for the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)** Creditor Recording System. The Marker was approved by the Working Party on Statistics of the DAC in January 2018 and is a critical tool for countries to begin reporting funding which contributes to disaster risk reduction, as it will: 1) Provide an incentive for donors to mainstream disaster risk reduction in development assistance; 2) Promote the idea that disaster risk reduction is a development priority, as well as a humanitarian one; 3) Ensure data homogeneity and comparability, possibly extending to national accounts in due course; 4) Allow qualitative measuring of disaster risk reduction mainstreaming; and 5) Coexist with the OECD DAC Climate Change Adaptation Marker.¹⁵



Private Sector Pre-meeting, 'Business for Resilience' session of the 2017 Global Platform (above from left to right: Mr. Jesus Gonzalez Arellano, KPMG Mexico and President Global Compact Mexico; Ms. Estelle Parker, of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia; Mr. Robert Glasser, former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Reduction, Co-Chair, ARISE; Mr. Luis Felipe Puente, National Coordinator of Civil Protection, Mexico; Mr. Aris Papadopoulos, Chairman STET, Board Member ARISE; and Ms. Sandra Wu, Chairperson and CEO Kokusai Kyogo, Board Member ARISE).

UNISDR also continued its outreach and engagement with the **international financial industry**, to ensure its engagement in implementing the Sendai Framework. This includes the role of financial regulators and accounting bodies in managing disaster risk. UNISDR did this through the direct engagement by the SRSR in critical global private sector initiatives, such as on the insurance protection gap through the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF), the Insurance Development Forum (IDF), the Basel Committees and the Financial Stability Board of the G20, and the High-Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance to integrate disaster risk into the insurance and banking regulatory system.

Promoting risk-sensitive private sector investments

In 2017, UNISDR continued its partnership with the private sector. The increasing awareness and understanding of disaster risk-related liabilities for businesses was clearly reflected in the active engagement of private sector partners at the highest level across the 2017 Global Platform.

Over the biennium, UNISDR worked closely with private sector entities on research, most notably the 2016 report with the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), entitled **Towards disaster-risk sensitive investments: The Disaster Risk-Integrated Operational Risk Model**. The study focussed on the findings of a model applied to 20 pilot countries and built on five domains, 23 indicators and 82 sub-indicators, both qualitative and quantitative. The model reveals a range of behaviours, strategies and approaches, used by a diverse set of countries to manage disaster risk and provides a benchmark that is valuable, both in terms of helping other countries to identify good practices, and in directing businesses to make more sustainable investments.¹⁶

One of UNISDR's mechanisms for engaging with the private sector is the **UNISDR Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE)**, which aims to promote risk-sensitive business investment through the integration of disaster risk into business plans and strategies. The launch of new **national ARISE networks**, in Canada, the US, Colombia, Chile, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Peru, Guatemala, Honduras and a regional network in the Caribbean, brought the total of ARISE members to 190 by the end of 2017. The 2017 Annual General Meeting of ARISE initiated revision of the ARISE Strategy to reflect lessons learned over the past two years, as well as global developments such as a strengthened partnership between the UN and the private sector proposed under the ongoing UN Reform. ARISE members provided inputs into key UNISDR initiatives, including the provision of data, knowledge and expertise such as the engagement of ARISE members in the revision of the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities and the engagement of risk modellers in the Global Risk Assessment Framework. UNISDR also continued **training key private sector representatives** globally on such topics as understanding disaster risk, business continuity planning and building multi-stakeholder resilience, in an effort to decrease existing risk and prevent the creation of new risk; UNISDR has trained 500 private sector representatives globally to date.

ARISE members and other private sector representatives actively engaged in the 2017 Global Platform, with many companies represented at the CEO-level. At the Global Platform the representatives launched a manifesto, Business for Resilience, to mobilise business in support of the goals of the Sendai Framework.

Building the science base for disaster risk reduction

Aligned with the importance of a science-based approach to disaster risk reduction for risk-informed development highlighted by the Sendai Framework, the **UNISDR Global Scientific and Technology Advisory Group (G-STAG)** has been enhanced in terms of its scope and resources. To better engage scientists, researchers and technology experts in the development and implementation of regional and national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans. Five regional STAGs are also currently being developed. The STAGs monitor and support the implementation of a Science and Technology Roadmap to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework adopted in 2016.

Building on the work of the previous Science and Technology Committee and G-STAG meetings convened for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and the implementation of the Hyogo Framework (2005-2015), **G-STAG will focus on the expanded scope of hazards covered in the Sendai Framework**. G-STAG will also aim to foster coherence and linkages with other relevant fora and networks related to climate and disaster risk and the SDGs. The overarching framework for the G-STAG is thereby the resilience and wellbeing of all people, to ensure nobody is left behind.

Working with members of the science and technology community also resulted in advancing the knowledge base and understanding for effective disaster risk reduction including through the organization of the

“Poverty, rapid urbanization, poor land use, ecosystems decline and other risk factors will amplify the impacts of climate change. Today on International Day for Disaster Reduction, we call for them to be addressed in a holistic way.”

Joint Opinion Piece by UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner, UNFCCC Secretariat Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa and then Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Robert Glasser

Global Forum on Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction in Tokyo, Japan together with the Science Council of Japan, the Integrated Research for Disaster Risk (IRDR) and the International Science Council (ICSU). The meeting gathered 150 representatives from the science and technology community. Implementation of the S&T Roadmap was discussed and resulted in a commitment to develop two critical products in support of the Roadmap: 1) periodic synthesis reports on the state of science and technology for disaster risk reduction; and 2) guidelines for enhanced engagement of S&T in national platforms to ensure a scientific base for informed decision making and action at the national and local level.

Through the biennium, science and technology and partners, including from academia, provided invaluable input to UNISDR initiatives, including the expert meeting on Global Risk Assessment Framework, the development and launch of the Sendai Framework Monitor, capacity building strategy and several Words into Action documents.

Mobilising the civil society and community

The Sendai Framework enshrines the critical role of stakeholders and recognises an **all-of-society approach** as critical to the success of the Framework. To support stakeholders in Sendai Framework implementation, UNISDR worked throughout the biennium with a wide variety of groups including civil society organisations, indigenous peoples, women’s groups, children and youth, persons with disabilities, and people from the scientific and academic communities. In 2017, UNISDR initiated development of a comprehensive **Partnership Strategy** to systematise and enhance its engagement with stakeholders and partners. The Strategy includes the revitalisation and repositioning of existing UNISDR partner groups, as well as the development of new engagement mechanisms and modalities.

All stakeholder groups actively participated to the Global Platform and influenced its outcomes through their engagement in preparatory meetings, plenary sessions and working sessions. Statements were also made by 65 NGOs, Private Sector and Stakeholder groups, including joint statements made on behalf of multiple stakeholder groups.

Inclusion remained a key focus of UNISDR’s work over the biennium. Among others, **women’s groups** were active in raising awareness about the role of women in disaster risk reduction and the higher risk exposure of women to disasters. A key initiative of UNISDR to support women’s role in disaster risk reduction in 2017 was to develop a draft roster of women leaders and gender experts in disaster risk reduction. Throughout 2017 it was complemented and enhanced, in particular, with data and contacts from the 2017 Global Platform. A new global initiative on reducing the disproportionately higher rates of women fatalities in disasters and enhancing women’s engagement in disaster risk reduction was launched by UNISDR, UN-WOMEN and IFRC at the Global Platform. UNISDR continued its **close engagement with youth**, including by collaborating with representatives from the Youth Major Group in many global and regional meetings and initiatives. Critically, UNISDR provided legal and policy advice to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Draft General Recommendation No.37 on the Gender-Related Dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction in Climate Change.

UNISDR further strengthened partnerships with **persons with disabilities**, including by providing inputs in the development of disaster risk reduction strategies, the Sendai Framework Monitor and disaggregated data collection at the national level. UNISDR also worked closely with the secretariat of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to integrate the key tenets of the Sendai Framework in the guidelines to



UNISDR ensured that persons with disabilities played a central role in making the 2017 Global Platform fully inclusive, including the use of robots to enable the remote participation of persons with disabilities.

States parties on periodic reporting to the Committee, and built a strong partnership with the International Disability Alliance to promote the rights and needs of persons with disabilities in various global and regional fora and initiatives. In addition, UNISDR ensured that persons with disabilities played a central role in making the Global Platform and its outcomes to be fully inclusive, including through the innovative use of robotic telepresence that enabled the remote participation of persons with disabilities in the Global Platform.

As part of its renewed effort to engage stakeholders in a systematic and strategic way, UNISDR also developed a new **Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism**, bringing together representatives of all Major Groups and Other Stakeholders of the HLPF Coordination Mechanism as well as other Sendai stakeholders and UNISDR partner group representatives. The mechanism will allow for information sharing and lessons learned from the local and national to the global and regional levels, as well as support advocacy efforts for a coherent approach to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development at all levels. The draft mechanism was discussed and general agreement achieved at a stakeholder meeting in February 2018. In addition, UNISDR supported the establishment of the new ‘Sendai Group’ under the HLPF Coordination Mechanism, led by the Global Network for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), the Huairu Commission and representatives from the Children and Youth Major Group, to ensure mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction considerations across this forum.

Promoting and enabling risk-sensitive legislation and budgets

Parliamentarians support the implementation of the Sendai Framework through adopting and amending legislation, providing oversight and seeking budget allocations for disaster risk reduction. To further catalyse action, UNISDR worked closely with the **Inter-Parliamentary Union** (IPU) and engaged with more than 125 parliamentarians across the world to share approaches to strengthen disaster risk governance and promote resilient public and private investments. In 2017 UNISDR began to develop advocacy materials for parliamentarians and provide workshops on Sendai implementation. UNISDR also established partnerships with MP constituencies in addition to IPU, including regional parliaments, national parliaments, MPs in their personal capacity and organisations such as Women in Parliaments Global Forum and GLOBE Legislators.

At the regional level, UNISDR established a new collaboration through a letter of understanding with **Parlamericas** on parliamentary support for the implementation of the regional strategy and roadmap.¹⁷ Following the adoption of the first regional disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management law by the East African Community in 2016, Members of Parliament from the six-nation **East African Community at the EAC Parliamentarian Forum** vowed to step up implementation of the Sendai Framework in their region. In Europe, UNISDR’s collaboration with the Italian Banking Insurance and Finance Federation (FeBAF) and members of the European Parliament resulted in the recognition that avoiding the creation of future disaster risk is essential to the sustainability of EU finance policy. This was subsequently reflected in the Capital Markets Union work plan on sustainable finance in March 2018. A Japanese Parliamentarian group in support of UNISDR and disaster risk reduction was launched in 2017.

1 Enabler

Effective knowledge management, communication and global advocacy

Result E1.1: Enhanced visibility of disaster risk reduction through UNISDR's global advocacy

Result E1.2: Increased reach and public engagement in disaster risk reduction through communication, media and marketing

Result E1.3: Effective learning and knowledge sharing promoted across the organization and externally

Result E1.4: Appropriate, sustainable and predictable financial resource base exists

Enhancing awareness of disaster risk reduction through global events

In 2016, UNISDR designed the **Sendai Seven Campaign: Seven Targets, Seven Years**, as the theme for the **13 October International Day for Disaster Reduction** to raise awareness annually on one of the seven targets of the Sendai Framework. Target (a) and (b) were featured respectively in 2016 and 2017 through the organization of a series of events around the world. In 2017 UNISDR organised events in Armenia, Cambodia, Gambia, Mauritius, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines, the United States, and partners in many other locations organised events utilising UNISDR-produced advocacy and outreach materials. On the International Day for Disaster Reduction, UNISDR set a new social media outreach record of 23.6 million.

UNISDR also regularly publishes press releases, opinion pieces, web news stories and social media posts that showcase good practices in implementation of the Sendai Framework from all the regions. Over the course of the biennium this included 287 news releases and web news stories, 52 press releases and 40 opinion pieces.

To bolster the important role of media in promoting disaster risk reduction and how to report beyond disasters, on their causes and further how to address them, UNISDR prepared an updated version of the **Media Handbook**. UNISDR used this handbook to provide training to 60 journalists from Thailand and Myanmar. UNISDR's awareness raising efforts also included developing and disseminating five animated videos aligned with the priorities for action of the Sendai Framework.¹⁸

At the 2017 Global Platform, UNISDR organised the **United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction** to recognise individuals and institutions active in reducing disaster risk in their communities and advocating for disaster risk reduction. Due to their efforts to reduce disaster death tolls, individuals and organisations from Portugal, Iran, Brazil and Fiji were honoured in the ceremony in 2017.

Global advocacy campaigns

UNISDR also supported advocacy efforts related to the new **World Tsunami Awareness Day**, on 5 November. A variety of global events aimed to change the misconception that tsunamis are far-off disasters rather than real hazards that can wipe out progress towards sustainable development and require up-to-date evacuation plans underpinned by continuous training sessions. The event included panel discussions in Geneva and New York, technical workshops in Nicaragua and Egypt, a school drill in Chile, two high school summits in Japan, events at the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Africa Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, a film screening in Geneva, a museum conference in Japan and many other activities worldwide. UNISDR also maintains a website of information about Tsunami risk and World Tsunami Awareness Day at: www.unisdr.org/2017/tsunamiday.



Students in Egypt look under the microscope at coral that has been bleached to understand the impact of ecosystem degradation as a result of climate change and how loss of the coral barrier can increase exposure to various hazards.

UNISDR supported the **Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools (WISS)** advocacy and monitoring efforts, in close collaboration with the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector. Over the course of the biennium, UNISDR increased the number of Member States involved in the initiative and engaged in a policy mapping of integration of school safety in national disaster risk reduction strategies. In the Caribbean UNISDR supported the development of a regional action plan and training.

In 2016 UNISDR re-launched its **Making Cities Resilient Campaign** and over the course of the biennium, 1,181 cities joined the Campaign, bringing the total number of cities to 3,858. Through this network, UNISDR encourages knowledge sharing and disseminates tools to build local resilience. Over the course of the biennium UNISDR worked with partners through the Campaign Steering Committee and the UNISDR Urban Planning Advisory Board to align tools and guidance for local resilience-building with the Sendai Framework.

UNISDR also continued to provide leadership and active engagement in the **Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS)** initiative in partnership with the World Meteorological Organisation and The World Bank. The CREWS initiative organised a Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference with more than 450 experts in Cancun, Mexico, prior to the 2017 Global Platform.

PreventionWeb

In 2017, **UNISDR's knowledge sharing platform, PreventionWeb**,¹⁹ celebrated its 10th anniversary and now featuring over 40,000 content entries and a directory of over 8,000 organisations working in disaster risk reduction. By the end of the year, over 10,000 users were registered and the platform receives a monthly average of 100,000 visits. As part of a redesign effort, new features were launched including a blog series titled Disaster Risk Reduction Voices Blog, which shares stories and perspectives from practitioners and academics on reducing risk and building resilience. A new collection service enables users to curate their own content and an application programming interface (API) was introduced, which allows third party organisations to display or repurpose the content of the PreventionWeb knowledge base on their sites. UNISDR produced good practices, guiding documents, tools, fact sheets, reviews, disaster risk reduction papers and reports, many of which were launched and discussed at the Global Platform 2017.



UNISDR Communication and Knowledge Platforms and Websites

Sendai Framework Monitor / <https://sendaimonitor.unisdr.org> / The UNISDR-managed platform for countries to report progress in achieving the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework and the common Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The Platform will allow UNISDR to produce global-level analysis of progress in implementing the Sendai Framework and countries to review progress against global targets as well as, in a subsequent phase, review progress against nationally determined indicators.

DesInventar Sendai / <https://www.desinventar.net> / The UNISDR-managed platform is a conceptual and methodological tool for the generation of National Disaster Inventories and the construction of databases of damage, losses and in general the effects of disasters. The platform allows countries and stakeholders to analyze the data for decision-making purposes.

UNISDR Risk Data Platform / <https://risk.preventionweb.net> / UNISDR-managed platform shares spatial data information on global risk from natural hazards. It allows users to visualize, download or extract data on past hazardous events, human & economical hazard exposure and risk from natural hazards. It currently covers earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclonic wind, storm surges and riverine floods. Data from this platform has been used widely in research and analysis on disaster risk as well as in UNISDR publications including the 2017 Global Risk Atlas.

PreventionWeb / www.preventionweb.net / UNISDR-managed collaborative knowledge sharing platform on disaster risk reduction. The site offers a wide range of knowledge products and services to inform and support the work of disaster risk reduction professionals.

2017 Global Platform / <https://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform> / UNISDR developed and managed its own website for all its Global Platform meetings and the 2015 World Conference. The website provides a wealth of information in the form of videos, concept notes, national statements and outcome documents generated by a variety of stakeholders about the status of Sendai Framework implementation. The UNISDR-managed registration system also allowed UNISDR to gather disaggregated statistics about Global Platform attendees and interested parties.

International Day for Disaster Reduction / www.unisdr.org/2017/iddr / UNISDR developed and manages a website to serve as a platform of advocacy and public information resources developed by UNISDR for stakeholders to organize International Day for Disaster Reduction events globally and to publicize them.

World Tsunami Awareness Day / <https://www.unisdr.org/2017/tsunamiday> / UNISDR developed and manages a website to serve as a platform of advocacy and public information resources developed by UNISDR for stakeholders to organize World Tsunami Awareness Day events globally and to publicize their events.

UNISDR Corporate Website / www.unisdr.org / UNISDR manages its corporate website that shares all UNISDR publications, news stories, press releases, op-eds and a variety of other information about UNISDR and the disaster risk reduction. The site also shares UNISDR regional office information (in multiple languages).

Best practices documented, standards, guidance and tools developed

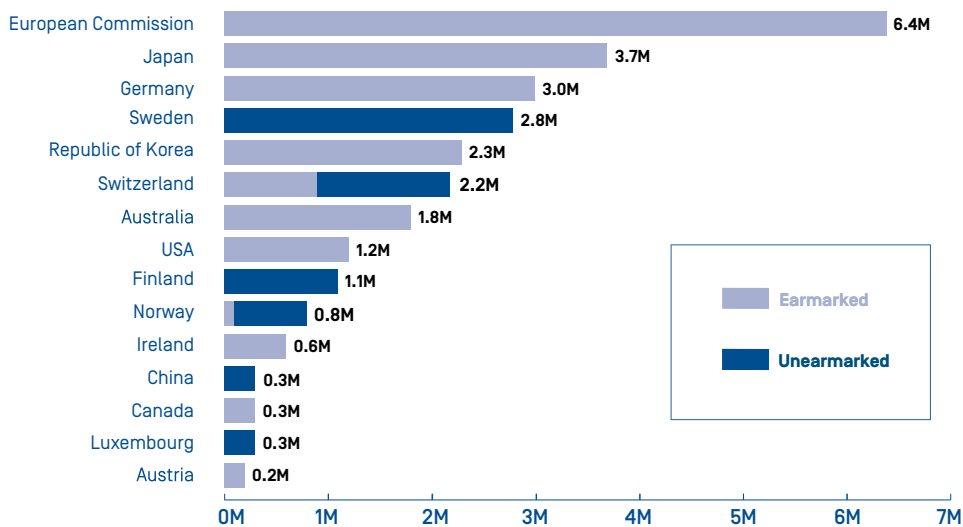
Over the biennium UNISDR continued to facilitate the development of practical how-to guides **Words into Action** guidance materials targeted to specific users to support Sendai Framework implementation through coordinating communities of stakeholders to develop the guidelines. In 2017, UNISDR launched the **National Disaster Risk Assessment (NDRA)** guide.²⁰ This was the result of a collaboration with more than 100 leading experts. It focuses on the Sendai Framework's first Priority for Action: Understanding Disaster Risk, which is the basis for all disaster risk reduction measures. The launch of this guideline was accompanied by a series of Webinars and other training sessions. Eleven additional guides are currently in advanced stages of development. The following are publicly available for comment: Local disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies; Man-made and technological hazards; National and local platforms for disaster risk reduction - national platforms.²¹

To advocate and to disseminate knowledge on build back better in recovery to decision makers and practitioners, UNISDR coordinated the **International Recovery Platform (IRP)** and supported the development of a consultative version of the Words into Action Guide for Build Back Better in Recovery as well as developed two knowledge products in recovery. By using a series of IRP knowledge products, IRP contributed to seven capacity development workshops by partners.²² At the 2017 Global Platform many sessions and consultations were held to support the development of the guidelines. In 2018 work will continue and the guidelines will continually evolve throughout the lifespan of the Sendai Framework to remain a relevant global resource for implementation of the Framework.

Efforts to secure financial resources to fully implement our work

Throughout the biennium UNISDR continued efforts to raise appropriate, sustainable and predictable financial resources to support its work as embodied in the UNISDR Work Programme 2016-2019. To increase predictability of funding and operational agility UNISDR continued to advocate with its donors for multi-year, un-earmarked contributions. Over the course of the 2016-2017 Biennium UNISDR raised US \$57.6 million, out of an initial requirement of US \$74.9 million. While not meeting its financial target, UNISDR could count on significant in-kind contributions, most notably towards the 2017 Global Platform. This allowed UNISDR to accomplish the majority of its 2016-2017 deliverables; with the exception of those related to the implementation of the Sendai Monitor due to the negotiations towards the definition of Sendai Indicators and resulting postponement of the planned launch of the Sendai Monitor. UNISDR also continues to diversify its support base, with India and Canada becoming new donors over the Biennium.

2017 Donors to UNISDR in Millions USD



UNISDR is 99.2% funded through extra-budgetary resources from voluntary contributions, with only one post currently funded from the United Nations Regular Budget. Un-earmarked funding is therefore vital to ensure UNISDR's ability to implement its Strategic Framework and to achieve its mandate. The flexibility provided by un-earmarked funding enables UNISDR to 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. Ultimately, un-earmarked funding is a vote of confidence in the ability of an organization to achieve its vision and programme of work as a whole.

2016-2017 DONORS TO UNISDR IN USD

1 January 2016 - 31 December 2017

GOVERNMENTS	2016	2017	BIENNIUM TOTAL
Argentina ¹		50,000	50,000
Australia ¹	1,442,125	1,786,935	3,229,061
Austria ¹	396,825	233,441	630,266
Canada ¹	4,753	266,908	271,661
China	300,000	300,000	600,000
Finland	1,133,787	1,067,236	2,201,023
France	10,966	11,664	22,630
Germany ¹	1,511,254	2,978,086	4,489,340
India ¹	1,000,000		1,000,000
Ireland	543,478	600,962	1,144,440
Japan ²	1,933,333	3,703,428	5,636,761
Kazakhstan	100,000	100,000	200,000
Luxembourg	281,849	266,809	548,658
New Zealand ¹		42,648	42,648
Norway ²	464,183	836,575	1,300,758
Philippines		20,000	20,000
Republic of Korea ²	2,107,836	2,282,867	4,390,702
Sweden	8,364,725	2,752,705	11,117,430
Switzerland ²	1,374,612	2,188,605	3,563,217
Turkey ¹		10,741	10,741
USA ¹	1,293,183	762,263	2,055,446
USA/WHO ³	495,050	396,040	891,090
SUB-TOTAL	22,757,959	20,657,912	43,415,872
OTHER INSTITUTIONS			
European Commission ⁴	7,055,465	6,310,539	13,366,004
FAO ¹	125,820	58,490	184,310
Human Security Trust Fund ¹	191,665		191,665
SUB-TOTAL	7,372,949	6,369,029	13,741,979
PRIVATE SECTOR			
AXA ¹	10,000		10,000
IBM ¹	7,000		7,000
Kokusai Kogyo Co. Ltd ¹	10,000		10,000
Nippon Foundation ¹		159,500	159,500
RMS ¹		15,000	15,000
SM Prime ¹	5,000		5,000
UPS Foundation ¹	110,000	135,000	245,000
SUB-TOTAL	142,000	309,500	451,500
GRAND TOTAL	30,272,910	27,336,441	57,609,351

¹ Earmarked contributions

² Combination of earmarked and un-earmarked contributions

³ Earmarked contribution from USAID Bureau for Global Health, Emerging Threats Program through WHO.

⁴ Earmarked contributions from two Directorate Generals (DEVCO and ECHO)

Note: Certified financial statement will be posted at: www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/donors

2 Enabler

Strengthened organizational performance

Result E2.1: Enhanced effectiveness, efficiency and quality of operational performance, based on appropriate gender-sensitive internal policies, structure and staffing

Gender mainstreaming and gender parity

The Change Management Process followed UNISDR's policy for **gender parity** and particular efforts were made to reach out to female candidates and to ensure gender parity in interview panels. As a result of these efforts, UNISDR is now one of seven UN Secretariat entities (out of 48 surveyed) that have achieved gender parity at senior level positions (D1 and above). Gender focal points were appointed in each UNISDR Regional Office as well as UNISDR liaison offices in New York and Kobe to support overall mainstreaming of gender considerations as part of UNISDR's work. Also in 2017, UNISDR developed and launched its **Strategy on Gender Equality and Parity and UNISDR's Action Plan for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**.

Throughout its 2016-2021 Strategic Framework and 2016-2019 Work Programme UNISDR mainstreamed gender equality and women's empowerment, underscoring the important role gender plays in all disaster risk reduction strategies, plans, policies, advocacy campaigns and awareness-raising products. To further strengthen gender equality and women's empowerment, UNISDR added a new deliverable and corresponding indicator to its updated 2018-2019 Work Programme.

UNISDR supported recommendations made by the OIEWG on Indicators to initiate and strengthen the collection of disaster loss data disaggregated by income, sex, age and disability and to start reporting on disaggregated data. In particular, UNISDR supported 68 countries in collecting, analysing and managing **disaster data based on sex disaggregation** as a component of their national disaster loss databases and in support of disaster risk reduction policy-making. UNISDR is also actively working with UN system partners to strengthen the capacity of Member States to disaggregate data.

UNISDR strongly promoted gender parity as a core principle for organising Global and Regional Platforms, which resulted in a significant improvement in gender parity at the 2017 Global Platform discussions.

The Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction served as an **International Geneva Gender Champion** in 2016 and 2017. During this period UNISDR achieved its three commitments to the initiative: 1) all staff completed a UN-Women gender training course, 2) all staff meetings included an agenda on gender-related issues in the workplace; and 3) programmatic aspects of gender were mainstreamed in the substantive work of UNISDR.

UN-Women recognised UNISDR, in the context of UNISDR's reporting to the **2016 UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women** (UN-SWAP), for UNISDR's initiatives to foster a more inclusive organisational culture, including incorporating gender equality within strategic documents of the organisation. Several innovative approaches were recognised by UN-Women as worthy of replication across the United Nations system, such as the inclusion of gender as a standing agenda item for all staff meetings. UNISDR was also recognised for its creation of a **Global Roster of Women Leaders and Gender Experts in Disaster Risk Reduction** as a tool to promote gender parity panels and bolster recruitment efforts in the pursuit of equal representation of women at decision making levels and beyond.

UNISDR Change Management

In alignment with the UN Secretary General's vision for change, UNISDR initiated an Organisational **Review and Change Management Process** in 2016 to enhance its focus, business model and to ensure it is fit for purpose to deliver its mandate for years to come. Commitments to strengthen organisational efficiency, safeguard financial sustainability and further develop gender-sensitive internal policies and approaches underpinned the process. The series of actions implemented included strengthening its regional presence, improving performance management, optimising business processes and reinforcing an organisational culture based on transparency, trust and accountability for results. **Eight change priorities**, identified in consultation with UNISDR staff, guided the process:

1. Organizational set-up;
2. Resourcing (resource mobilisation and cost savings);
3. Internal Communication;
4. External Communication;
5. People management;
6. Staff development;
7. Business processes and policies;
8. Partnership engagement strategy.

The eight change priorities were implemented in phases and UNISDR staff were engaged in the delivery of each priority through internal consultation and coordination mechanisms. The focus in 2016 centred around the first change priority, developing the **organisational structure**. The final design of the new organisational structure streamlined staff functions across all Regional Offices and better aligned staff skills, levels and geographic locations. Implementation of the new structure began in the second quarter of 2017, with most of the substantive functions in place by the third quarter of 2017.

During the change process, UNISDR enhanced its human resource capacity with a human resource expert, which enabled the organisation to finalise the majority of the organisational structural changes in less than 18 months. The responsible staff member together with the Human Resource team was recognised through an **award by the Secretary-General** for her role in the design and implementation of this process which brought the UN average recruitment time, after the closing of the job posting, down from an average of 157 days to 60 days.

Concurrently, UNISDR analysed and identified the optimal **administrative support structure** for its new organization. The final proposal was approved in the third quarter of 2017 and is under implementation. All new support staff functions across UNISDR offices are anticipated to be in place by mid-2018.

The new organizational structure did not reduce the total number of UNISDR staff, but it did reduce the top heaviness of the organisation and the overall proportion of budget spent on staff costs. In addition, the new structure strengthened UNISDR's regional presence. While there are many benefits in increasing field presence, it is critically important to ensure efficient and effective communication and coordination between staff across all eleven UNISDR offices worldwide. To overcome this challenge, UNISDR officially launched **Communities of Practices** at its **All Staff Retreat** in September 2017. Communities of Practice include UNISDR staff based across offices and duty stations who contribute to the same UNISDR Work Programme deliverables and enable the exchange of information, support work collaboration and ensure connectivity as a global team. The newly established Communities of Practices include Risk Assessments, Sendai Framework Monitoring, Resource Mobilisation, External Communication and Global Operations.

In parallel to developing and implementing the organizational structure, UNISDR developed and is continuing to develop strategies related to several change priorities to ensure each work stream has a targeted approach to maximise inputs and avoid duplication. These strategies include a Communication Strategy, Resource Mobilisation Strategy, Partnership Engagement Strategy, and Staff Capacity Development Strategy.

“The Change Management Process fits well with the Secretary-General’s reform and prevention agenda, and shows the strong commitment from UNISDR to efficiency and accountability.”

H.E. Ambassador Antje Leendertse, Permanent Representative of Germany and Chair of the UNISDR Support Group in 2017-2018 speaking about UNISDR at the 26 September 2017 UNISDR Support Group Meeting.



UNISDR 2017 All-Staff Retreat in Montreux, Switzerland

CHANGE PROCESS IN NUMBERS

60

Day average to fill a post after a vacancy announcement was closed

62%

Faster than the 157-day average of the UN Secretariat

72

New job descriptions classified in three months

64

Staff Members on-board against new job descriptions (transferred or recruited)

35

Posts advertised as part of the UNISDR Change Process

With regard to change priority seven, people management, UNISDR made substantive investments in performance management and the enhancement of management and supervisory skills of senior managers across the organisation. Performance Management workshops were completed in five UNISDR offices (Geneva, Panama, Bangkok, Nairobi and Cairo) and **100% of staff were trained in performance management.**

UNISDR made significant progress with regard to its 8th change priority, business processes and policies. A **Business Process Review** was initiated in April 2017 and key business process priorities identified: planning, resource mobilisation, resource allocation, program and project delivery, monitoring and reporting, programme coordination and staffing. An outcome of the review was an action plan, which UNISDR began to implement in August 2017 and will continue throughout 2018. Progress to date includes an updated 2018-2019 Results Framework; new work planning, cost planning and acquisition processes; a revitalised Project Management Oversight Committee with a new terms of reference; quarterly internal reporting and monitoring of the UNISDR Work Programme improved; discussions on service level agreements with UN Service providers in the Regional Offices initiated; and steps under way to decentralise key support functions to Regional Offices in 2018, once support staff recruitments are completed.



UNISDR Staff, Ms. Chloe Saimpert Labbe receiving the 2017 Staff Award for Excellence in the category of “Implementing Efficiencies” from Deputy-Secretary-General Ms. Amina Mohammed on behalf of the Secretary-General;

Organisational planning, monitoring and reporting

In 2016 UNISDR finalised its Strategic Framework 2016-2021, Work Programme 2016-2019 and Results Framework 2016-2019. The Strategic Framework 2016-2021 is based on the role and mandate the Sendai Framework and relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions defined for the organisation.

The Work Programme was reviewed in mid-2017 and modifications and additions were made to several Deliverables to reflect new strategic adjustments resulting from the change process. These adjustments were coupled with associated modifications to indicators in the Results Framework and an updated 2018-2019 Results Framework and 2018-2019 Work Programme were finalised. A reprint of the entire Work Programme 2016-2019 is underway and will be released in 2018.

UNISDR strengthened its monitoring processes through improved quarterly reporting to management on how the organisation was meeting the targets and indicators identified in its Results Framework. In addition, the UNISDR Programme Management Oversight Committee focuses on ensuring the alignment of funding proposals with the UNISDR Work Programme, reviewing programming of funding to ensure alignment with organisational priorities and donor agreements as well as monitoring ongoing projects and the overall implementation of UNISDR’s Work Programme.

Enterprise Risk management

During the 2016-2017 biennium, UNISDR committed to develop an internal Risk Management Framework. Following a careful review of the information and development of an initial action plan, it was decided to postpone the draft of the Framework until after implementation of several critical action items under the Business Process Review. A first draft of the Enterprise Risk Management Framework is now anticipated by the end of 2018.

“Disaster risk reduction is a crucial component of wider global efforts to make development sustainable and to confront the challenges posed by climate change. UNISDR plays a critical role in this process,”

H.E. Ambassador Veronika Bard, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations in Geneva, and chair of the UNISDR Support Group from 2016-17.

UNISDR

Regional Offices



UNISDR

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

AFRICA



Key Hazards: Flash floods, droughts, storms and earthquakes.

Key Risk Drivers: Weak infrastructure, weak governance structures and institutional capacities, population growth and rapid urbanisation, limited fiscal space and options for financing to invest in disaster risk reduction, and climate-change.

The UNISDR Regional Office for Africa (ROA) is based in Nairobi, Kenya with a Liaison Office in Addis Ababa. It is responsible for promoting the implementation of the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction in the 44 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.²³ ROA collaborates with key partners in the region, in particular, the African Union Commission (AUC) and five Regional Economic Communities (RECs).²⁴ ROA also coordinates closely with UN entities, notably the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Over the course of the biennium, UNISDR coordinated multi-stakeholder **Africa Regional Platforms, High-Level Meeting of Ministers** responsible for disaster risk reduction and the **African Working Group**. These mechanisms together enabled comprehensive disaster risk reduction coordination across the continent and facilitated implementation of the Sendai Framework. ROA also worked closely with the African Permanent Missions based in Addis Ababa, which further mobilised political commitment and support for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region. These fora provide opportunities for African Member States, Intergovernmental Organisations, the United Nations, and multiple stakeholder groups and development partners to discuss tools, mechanisms and ways to boost the development and implementation of action plans for disaster risk reduction in Africa. They also addressed key risk drivers on the continent such as, poverty, public health, climate change, poorly-managed urbanisation, conflict and migration, and environmental degradation.

In 2016, ROA supported the organisation of a Regional Platform and high-level meeting in Mauritius. Key outcomes of the Platform were the **adoption of the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030** and the **Mauritius Declaration**. The former led to the development of the seven commitments contained in the Africa Position on Disaster Risk Reduction that was presented at the 2017 Global Platform. Among others, the seven commitments underlined the importance of the need to implement the Programme of Action, which provides strategic direction to integrate disaster risk reduction into regional, national, subnational and local sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategies. It also emphasises the need to mobilise domestic resources to increase the allocation of disaster risk reduction in national budgets. It is accompanied by a five-year plan to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework based on national and regional priorities.

The Regional Platform was complemented by the **Africa Working Group Meetings on Disaster Risk Reduction**, co-organised by ROA and the African Union Commission in 2016 and 2017. As the primary disaster risk reduction coordination mechanism in Africa, it was instrumental in finalising the Africa Common Position for the Global Platform, that was also reflected in its outcome. **Sub-regional platforms** and meetings convened by sub-regional organisations with ROA support in East, West, Central and Southern Africa further ensured implementation of global and continental policies. Each gathering resulted in outcomes such as sub-regional action plans and work plans, strategies for disaster risk reduction and climate change. These disaster risk reduction efforts at the sub-regional level are also supported by dedicated sub-regional disaster risk reduction units. As a result, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), updated their regional disaster risk reduction action plans. In 2017, the third ECCAS Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction acknowledged the benefits of building resilience in countries and communities and called for increased multi-stakeholder engagement to boost implementation of the Sendai Framework in order to reach its targets according to the established deadlines. UNISDR is also supporting the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) in the process of developing disaster risk reduction plans in line with the Sendai Framework and the Africa Programme of Action.

Strengthening disaster risk reduction **governance** in Africa is a key area of work for ROA which provided technical guidance in the development of national action plans and strategies for disaster risk reduction aligned with the Sendai Framework (Target (e) of the Sendai Framework). Over the course of the biennium,

“Africa’s vulnerability to hazards is compounded by a combination of factors, key of which is climate change and variability. Notwithstanding the burden the continent faces, progress has been made in reducing disaster risk with regards to policy and institutional development for disaster risk reduction. Though the political will to address disaster risks in Africa has been gaining momentum, resources required to translate commitments into action remain a challenge.”

Her Excellency Sacko Josefa Leonel Correa, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture

this resulted in the adoption of a new strategy aligned with the Sendai Framework in Burundi and a five-year National Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan (2016-2020) in Kenya. In Rwanda a new strategy is awaiting adoption. Uganda is in the process of reviewing a new National Disaster Risk Management Bill. South Sudan is drafting the National Policy on Disaster Risk. ROA is also helping Tanzania and Uganda in the process of developing and updating disaster risk reduction strategies.

In 2017, ROA launched an operational programme to perform **multi-hazard probabilistic risk profiles**, which consider climate change and include econometric cost-benefit analyses for 16 beneficiary countries. The programme informs investments in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development made by governments, the private sector and international organisations.

ROA built the **disaster loss accounting capacity** of 15 countries, bringing the total number in the region to 30. The loss databases support the development of national strategies and the monitoring of the Sendai Framework. New national disaster loss databases were established in Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Cape-Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Namibia, Rwanda, Swaziland, Zambia and Tanzania. In Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, UNISDR worked closely with World Health Organisation (WHO) to utilise loss data information in risk assessments and action planning. The action plans developed have a particular focus on building resilience of health systems, in light of the 2014 Ebola crisis. Following the landslide in 2017, the Sierra Leone Government acknowledged the critical value of disaster risk reduction to prevent new occurrences of such disasters.

ROA regularly coordinates with UN partners through the **Regional United Nations Development Group** (R-UNDG) mechanism and chairs the regular meetings of the Disaster Risk Reduction Development Partners group. ROA works to ensure that disaster risk reduction is regularly mainstreamed in United Nations Development Frameworks (UNDAFs). A key disaster risk reduction achievement in this context is the development of the Regional UNDG Strategic Framework to Support Resilient Development in Africa. In the context of the first, second and third Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development held in 2015, 2016, and 2017, ROA provided key messages, background information, as well as regional assessment reports. The UNISDR inputs were integrated in the content of 16 regional knowledge products developed by ECA.²⁵ ROA also supported the development of a joint UN/AU work plan for a cluster on humanitarian matters and disaster risk management under the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa structure.

To build **local resilience**, a workshop was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with representatives from Dire Dawa (Ethiopia), Kampala (Uganda), Kisumu (Kenya), Praia (Cabo Verde) and Yaoundé (Cameroon). The capacity building workshop introduced the process, expectations, tools and expected results for risk assessments to be conducted primarily in 2018 to develop local action plans. The workshop enabled the sharing of experiences and lessons across regions and facilitated implementation of the UNISDR Disaster Resilience Scorecard tool in 50 cities. Utilising the findings of the Scorecard five cities developed local strategies for disaster risk reduction. These strategies rely on a multi-stakeholder approach to ensure inclusive participation and effective implementation.

To strengthen **advocacy and awareness** on disaster risk reduction, ROA provided outreach materials to interested stakeholders and at least nine countries and two intergovernmental organisations in the region held events to mark **International Day for Disaster Reduction** and **World Tsunami Awareness Day**.²⁶



Women weather a microburst (intense small-scale downdraft produced by thunderstorms or rain showers) in Ber'aano Woreda in Somali region of Ethiopia. The need for water supply normally increases in the dry season, especially during recent droughts. UNICEF Ethiopia

ROA ensured high-level representation from 40 countries in the region in the 2017 Global Platform and supported the development of a joint African statement that was developed for the event. ROA engaged parliamentarians to scale-up disaster risk reduction planning and investments through engagement in parliamentary networks. An outcome of this work was the establishment of a regional parliamentary network in East Africa and the adoption of a disaster risk reduction act by the **East African Community Parliament**.

In addition to governments and parliaments, ROA worked with a wide range of **stakeholders** across Africa. In the area of gender, ROA's work with the African Union ensured disaster risk reduction was included in the **Africa Union's Gender Strategy**. Efforts to ensure the active engagement of youth groups in disaster risk reduction resulted in strong youth representation in African disaster risk reduction forums. Partners in the science and technology community such as Peri Peri U, a partnership of 12 African Universities, were engaged in building disaster risk capacities in the region. ROA also worked closely with academics and scientists and began development of an African Science and Technology Advisory Group on Disaster Risk Reduction to support Sendai Framework implementation in the region, which will be established in 2018.

Reducing displacement risk in the Greater Horn of Africa: A baseline for future work

In 2017, UNISDR co-authored with the International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) a report entitled, *Reducing displacement risk in the Greater Horn of Africa: A baseline for future work*.²⁷ The publication presents the first baseline for displacement risk associated with sudden-onset disasters in the countries of the Greater Horn of Africa with the ultimate aim of reducing future displacement risk. As sudden-onset natural hazards, primarily floods, caused more than 600,000 new displacements in 2016 in the Greater Horn of Africa, this report provides a critical indicator of the scale and complexity of the phenomenon in the region.

The report provides a baseline for the Greater Horn of Africa - Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda, plus Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania. It gives an overview of the scale, scope and distribution of risk associated with sudden onset natural hazards, explains the methodology used to calculate it, and defines key concepts, data sources and metrics. It also describes the method used to assess the impact of displacement associated with drought in the Afar and Shinile regions of Ethiopia. Two complementary types of analysis were used to calculate displacement risk for sudden-onset hazards. Retrospective assessments on direct observation of the impacts of past disasters, primarily destroyed and flooded housing were correlated with information from IDMC's databases and UNISDR's loss database tool, DesInventar. To overcome the limited spatial and temporal coverage of the findings, prospective assessments drawing principally on models used to inform UNISDR's Global Assessment Reports were utilised. When possible, the outputs of both were combined in a hybrid assessment.

This report built on the technical support and training that UNISDR has provided to counterparts in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda to enable them to systematically collect data on disasters and maintain a national loss inventory. The information captured in these databases contributed key data to produce the analysis in the report. The report also illustrates the importance of loss databases in providing critical information to make risk-informed decisions related to settlement options and other humanitarian responses to avoid exacerbating existing risks and the creation of new risks.

ARAB STATES



Key Hazards: Flash floods, droughts, storms, sandstorms, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides and sea-level rise. Different parts of the Arab region are regularly exposed to geological hazards such as earthquakes and landslides, in addition to weather related hazards such as floods, extreme temperature events, drought, sand storms, wildfires and cyclones.

Key Risk Drivers: Poor urban planning, extreme poverty, increasing population density, rapid urbanization, ecosystem decline, climate change, conflict and security challenges.

The UNISDR Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) is based in Cairo, Egypt and supports implementation of the Sendai Framework in 22 countries. ROAS works with a variety of partners in the region, in particular the League of Arab States and its technical regional bodies, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) to support linkages between disaster risk reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals. This has resulted in a clear reflection of disaster risk reduction as a major cross-cutting issue for sustainable development and a critical factor in the resilience of cities in the 2016 Arab Report on Sustainable Development.

Over the biennium, ROAS provided technical guidance to four countries (Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, and Tunisia) to develop or update their **national strategies** and action plans in alignment with Sendai Framework. This contributes to the achievement of Target (e) of the Sendai Framework and ensures that the national strategies address critical elements of the Sendai Framework such as the all-of-society approach and the expanded scope of hazards. Throughout the biennium ROAS supported the provision of risk information, including through the development of ten **national disaster loss databases**, which will be retrofitted in the coming biennium in Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, and Yemen.

UNISDR supported the organisation of the **Third Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction**, hosted by Qatar in Doha in May 2017. An outcome of the Conference was the adoption of the **Doha Declaration**, which contributed the critical perspective of the Arab States region on Sendai Framework implementation to the 2017 Global Platform and the corresponding Chair's Summary. The **Doha Declaration** calls for the development of specific Arab regional tools, methodologies and guidance for risk assessments that benefit from international and regional best practices for disaster risk reduction and take into account the specificities and needs of the region. The Conference also agreed on an updated **Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction** and its corresponding Work Programme for 2018-2020, which was updated, consulted and finalised by Arab countries and the League of Arab States through a series of regional coordination processes facilitated by UNISDR.

In accordance with the decision of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, ROAS revised the **Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction** to align it with the Sendai Framework and link it to the sustainable development goals and the Arab Plan of Action on Climate Change. The Council's decision also called upon ROAS to coordinate with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to organise the Arab Coordination Mechanism meeting for disaster risk reduction. The meeting took place early 2018 bringing together governments and key stakeholders from 16 countries to reflect on the progress implementing the Arab Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction 2030, and consult with governments and stakeholders on priorities and preparations related to the 2018 Arab Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. This is all part of the work done with the League of Arab States to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Arab region and the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030.

The Third Arab Conference brought together more than 120 participants from 15 countries, representing international organisations, government institutions, NGOs, the UN, civil society, academia and youth to share good practices, develop partnerships, identify challenges, share information and monitor implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region. The stakeholders identified the need to strengthen the role of science and technology in implementing the Sendai Framework in the region. This resulted in a call

“Thank you UNISDR for offering us such a great opportunity to be part of the change. The workshops and presentations were informative, beneficial and eye-opening. The World Tsunami Awareness Day was a great contribution to empower the youth and include them in the DRR field.”

Aliaa Wael, youth representative at WTAD event.

to nominate a scientific focal point to represent each country in the **Arab Science and Technology Advisory Group for Disaster Risk Reduction** to support the Arab region in implementing the Sendai Framework. The implementation of the Arab Plan of Action, is set to be finalised and activated through the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction at the Africa and Arab States Regional Platforms on Disaster Risk Reduction scheduled from 9-13 October 2018.

ROAS strengthened **disaster risk governance** to manage disaster risk in the region through providing technical guidance to countries to update existing legislations, strategies and plans related to disaster risk reduction in eight countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates). ROAS also contributed technical expertise to existing multi-stakeholder national platforms for disaster risk reduction in five countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar and United Arab Emirates) and to the establishment of multi-stakeholder national platforms for disaster risk reduction in six countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Kuwait, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia).

During the reporting period, ROAS also focused on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development programmes across the **UN System**, using the Common Country Assessment/UN Development Action Framework and supported UN Country Teams to integrate disaster risk reduction in their planning documents. This resulted in the integration of disaster risk reduction in the planning documents of Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Somalia Sudan, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

As part of the **advocacy** efforts to promote disaster risk reduction in the Arab Region, the **International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR)** 2017 on October 13 was celebrated in several countries. The celebrations included a variety of activities demonstrating disaster risk reduction preparedness efforts as well as how to mainstream disaster risk reduction across different sectors of development. For example, Jordan’s civil defence conducted lectures to introduce the Sendai Framework to the local community and students in all twelve muhafazat (governorates or administrative divisions) in Jordan. In addition, the United Arab Emirates co-organised with ROAS a consultation on the Global Capacity Development Strategy for Implementation of the Sendai Framework that brought together representatives and disaster risk reduction practitioners from more than 15 Arab countries. In Egypt, ROAS supported an event hosted by the Egyptian Red Crescent and the Information Decision Support Center at the Cabinet of Ministers, focusing on promoting disaster risk reduction among a vast network of volunteers and youth. In Sudan, UNISDR provided technical inputs to support the Humanitarian Aid Commission in the organisation of a national workshop to celebrate the International day focusing on disaster risk reduction and resilience to climate change. The workshop brought together members from key ministries and stakeholders from across Sudan to initiate plans to establish a national platform for disaster risk reduction.

ROAS worked in close coordination with UNESCWA (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) on key **regional knowledge products** in an effort to highlight coherence between disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development agendas. The report, *Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience and Sustainable Development in the Arab Region* was prepared as a background document for the Arab Sustainable Development Report and presented the key cross-cutting issues, including governance, inclusiveness, decentralisation and legislation. ROAS further contributed to the Arab Climate Change Assessment Report with a technical report, *Disaster Loss Data and Linkage to Climate Change Impacts for the Arab Region*. The report was launched at the High Level Conference on Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation in the Arab Region and provides an overview of the national risk context in relation to climate change of selected Arab countries, utilising analysis from the UNISDR 2015 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR). It further provides a time series historical review analysis of



Students take a field trip off the coast of Egypt to learn about tsunami risk and coastal hazard exposure as part of a UNISDR organized World Tsunami Awareness Day event.

disaster losses in six Arab countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen). The report also uses a probabilistic methodology to simulate future possible scenarios and overcome the limitations of estimates derived from historical loss data.

ROAS worked to **build local resilience** by organising consultations and training workshops to develop city resilience action plans in nine cities: Ismailia, Egypt Nouakchott, Rosso and Kaedi in Mauritania; Jendouba, Gabes and Kasserine in Tunisia; Nablus, Palestine; and Khartoum, Sudan. ROAS also promoted the use of UNISDR's Disaster Resilience Scorecard translated into both French and Arabic, as it provides a set of assessments that allow local governments to monitor and review progress and challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and assess their disaster resilience.²⁸ More than 15 local governments used it over the course of the biennium in the Arab States to build local resilience. In addition, more than 20 cities joined the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, bringing to 350 the total number of participating cities and towns in the Arab region. ROAS also piloted the application of a human security approach to disaster risk reduction at the local level in Tunisia and Mauritania by providing training and in-depth risk assessments, in collaboration with UNDP, to build institutional capacities to cope with a variety of hazards as well as health, food, environmental and economic insecurities. ROAS work with these cities will continue in 2018.

Mindful of the critical importance of the youth as a large proportion of the regional demographic, ROAS actively engaged youth in the region through a variety of interactive initiatives including the establishment of the **Arab Youth Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction** and workshops and activities to build awareness and creative solutions to reduce disaster risk in general and tsunami risk in particular. The engagement of youth in the region is evident from the active discussions on the UNISDR Arab States Facebook page.

ASIA-PACIFIC



Key Hazards: Floods and storms are the most frequent disasters, though earthquakes and tsunamis have proved particularly deadly in the region. Drought, is another important hazard but often overlooked hazard in the region.

Key Risk Drivers: Rapid urbanisation and economic growth much of which is unplanned and not risk-informed. Widespread poverty and increasing inequality further intensify vulnerability to hazards and extreme climate events. The diversity of sub-regions, various trans-boundary risks pose additional challenges to disaster risk management.

UNISDR's Regional Office for Asia-Pacific (ROAP) is based in Bangkok, Thailand with a sub-regional office in Suva (Fiji), a liaison office in Japan and office for North-East Asia in Incheon (Republic of Korea). In close coordination with partners, UNISDR-ROAP, covers a total of 42 countries and 10 territories.

Disaster risk management in the region was strengthened through ROAP's technical guidance in the development of disaster risk management status reports, which form an important baseline for the review and update of **national disaster risk reduction strategies** to align with the Sendai Framework and to support monitoring of the Framework. Status reports were developed in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia Nepal and Pakistan. These reports provide important baseline information for the review and update of national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, and for the Sendai Framework monitoring and reporting. ROAP provided technical support, which resulted in national strategies aligned with the Sendai Framework in India, Mongolia and Palau and on-going efforts to do so in Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Further, in 2017 with UNISDR's technical support and policy advocacy Nepal endorsed a Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017, a prevention-focused piece of legislation that replaces the Natural Calamity Relief Act of 1982 and Mongolia endorsed a Mid-Term Strategy 2017-2020 to implement the Sendai Framework.

ROAP strengthened relationships with key stakeholders by leveraging the **2016 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)**, co-organised by UNISDR with the Government of India, in New Delhi. The event, opened by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was attended by 30 Ministers and 4,400 representatives from 51 countries and generated commitments by governments and partners to accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia. AMCDRR adopted three major outcomes: **the New Delhi Declaration; the Asia Regional Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework**, which includes policy guidance, milestones and a **two-year action plan** to achieve the Sendai Framework's seven targets. Ten Voluntary Stakeholder Action Statements were also issued.

The ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) serves as a regional forum that brings together Member States, intergovernmental organisations, UN institutions, international organisations and stakeholder groups to mobilise technical expertise, enhance advocacy and periodically assess the status of the Sendai Framework and the Asia Regional Plan, while forming a link between the biennial Ministerial Conferences. It reflects the Sendai Framework's call for stronger regional mechanisms to support national and local action. Two sessions of the IAP Forum were held in 2017. The April IAP Forum assessed the outcomes of the 2016 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and developed initial reflections on the AMCDRR 2018, including its theme: 'Preventing disaster risk: Protecting sustainable development'. The December IAP Forum assessed the status of implementation of the Asia Regional Plan on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework and outlined challenges and recommendations for the AMCDRR 2018 outcomes.

In October 2017, ROAP, the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) organised the Joint Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Roundtable in Suva, Fiji where more than 200 government officials and representatives from across the development sector considered how to facilitate implementation of the **Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management**.²⁹ The Joint Pacific Platform prepared the way for the inception of a new regional governance mechanism endorsed by the region's leaders. The Pacific Resilience Partnership champions an all-of-society approach to disaster resilience. UNISDR, along with UNDP, will represent the UN system in the new partnership which will also act as a steering committee for the new sub-regional platform to be known as the Pacific Resilience Meeting.

“The science is clear. Climate change and its implications are real. The Maldives is one of the lowest-lying nations in the world, and among the most vulnerable countries, vulnerable to climate risk related disasters. For the Maldives, working on disaster risk reduction and becoming more resilient is tied to our very existence,”

Mr. Mohamed Zuhair, Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and National Security, Maldives

ROAP, as the co-chair (with ESCAP and UNDP) of a Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Thematic Group, supported the disaster risk reduction discussion at ESCAP’s 5th Committee session, which resulted in the identification of disaster risk reduction as a priority area in the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, adopted by the Member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at the fourth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in March 2017.

As a result of ROAP’s technical inputs to the **UN Development Framework** (UNDAF) drafting process in Bangladesh, Iran, Mongolia and Thailand, disaster risk reduction was included in the UNDAFs of those countries. UNISDR’s technical inputs in the Pacific region have resulted in the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the UN Pacific Strategy 2018-2022, which is a multi-country sustainable development framework covering the 14 Pacific countries. ROAP also conducted information sessions on the Sendai Framework for the UN Country teams (UNCTs) in Indonesia, Viet Nam and, Fiji (covering nine countries). ROAP also supports the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) as well as the regional UN Development Group (R-UNDG) to strengthen UN coordination for disaster risk reduction and implementation of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. UNISDR presented and facilitated dialogues on the UN Plan of Action in a variety of fora in the region including at meetings with UNCTs in Fiji (nine countries), Maldives and Sri Lanka to scale-up implementation of the Plan.

To support preparations for **monitoring the Sendai Framework** and to enable risk-informed decision-making, ROAP continued to support the establishment of national disaster loss databases. Bhutan and Myanmar established theirs with UNISDR’s support in collaboration with UNDP, and existing databases were updated in Cambodia, Mongolia, Timor-Leste, and the Indian state of Uttarakhand.³⁰ In addition, 14 countries from the Asia-Pacific region and a range of academic, private sector and regional organisations attended a global technical workshop in Bonn to launch the Sendai Framework Monitoring Process in December 2017. The workshop aimed to inform participants about the new Sendai Framework Monitor System, its data entry, analytical capabilities as well as levels of application (global, regional, national and local) and increase their knowledge of using the Sendai Monitor and indicators to report on both the Sendai Framework targets and the SDGs.

ROAP continued to engage **parliamentarians**, as key decision-makers who can draft and enact policies and allocate funding for disaster risk reduction measures. This work resulted in the establishment of a Parliamentary Support Group for UNISDR and its activities, in Japan, with 60 Japanese parliamentarians as members in 2017.

UNISDR built **local resilience** through engaging a variety of local governmental officials to enhance understanding of their disaster risks, capacities and vulnerabilities through the use of UNISDR’s Disaster Resilience Scorecard. In 2018, UNISDR will continue working with select pilot cities: Dhaka (Bangladesh), Cilacap (Indonesia), Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), Mawlamyine (Myanmar) and Kathmandu (Nepal), to conduct risk assessments develop action plans; to outline priorities; and identify resources, to strengthen disaster resilience. UNISDR also began assisting Yogyakarta (Indonesia) to develop its resilience action plan through a multi-stakeholder process and conducted a preliminary gap assessment with key stakeholders in Honiara (Solomon Islands), which identified how to build resilience in Honiara around planning and coordination, urban design and critical infrastructure, natural buffers and eco-systems.

To enhance harnessing of research and technology to boost implementation of the Sendai Framework, ROAP followed up on the **First Asian Science and Technology Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** co-organised

UNISDR Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific

The UNISDR Sub-Regional Office in Suva, Fiji has been a leader in linking disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. UNISDR works in close coordination with the 17 Member States in the region, UN partners, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Community (SPC), and Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and to further this agenda. Notably in 2017, UNISDR co-organized the Joint Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Roundtable. More than 200 government officials and representatives from across the development sector considered how to accelerate implementation of the **Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management**. UNISDR played a key role in the technical working group that developed this framework, which aims to strengthen the resilience of Pacific Island communities to the impacts of both slow and sudden-onset natural hazards. The Sub-Regional Office also supports the maintenance of a joint disaster loss database of 15 countries in the region. In addition, it conducted trainings on integrating disaster risk reduction into business continuity planning with a focus on the primary industry in the region, tourism. UNISDR actively contributes to the two multi-country UN teams in the region (based out of Fiji and Samoa) and is developing stronger links to the UN country team in Papua New Guinea. UNISDR also works on advocacy and outreach in the region including organising **International Day for Disaster Reduction** and **World Tsunami Awareness Day** events over the course of the biennium.

with the Government of Thailand, in Bangkok, in 2016 and establish the Asian Science, Technology and Academia Advisory Group (ASTAAG). The outcome of the conference was a Science and Technology Roadmap and the active engagement of the community has led to preparations for a follow-up conference to be held in Beijing in 2018.

To strengthen the coordinated management of disaster risk and resilient health systems, ROAP co-organised a conference in 2016 with WHO in Bangkok and agreed upon the **Bangkok Principles**, which form an important contribution to international policy guidance and help to put health at the heart of disaster risk management. ROAP also strengthened risk understanding and management in schools, which resulted in Pacific countries joining World Initiative on Safe Schools (WISS).³¹

ROAP improved **private sector** risk management through the launch of national ARISE forums, the development and provision of toolkits, including on risk assessments and *12 Steps for Making Your Business Disaster Proof*. More than 37 workshops were held with small and medium-sized businesses in Samoa and the Solomon Islands. In Mindanao (Philippines) UNISDR led a workshop with 45 business and government representatives to test and revise the tools for adaptation and use in the local context. In Mongolia and Thailand UNISDR trained a total of 75 companies on business continuity management and climate change adaptation principles. In Japan, ARISE Japan's annual symposium was held in March 2017 with over 100 representatives from Japan's business world gathered to discuss how businesses meet the challenge of extreme weather events.

Over the course of the biennium, ROAP catalysed disaster risk reduction advocacy through direct and indirect organisation of many events related to the **International Day for Disaster Reduction** and the **World Tsunami Awareness Day**. International Day for Disaster Reduction celebrations were held in 10 countries (Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Thailand and Viet Nam) and World Tsunami Awareness Day events raised awareness among youth groups in the Pacific and Japan. In addition, the first World Tsunami Museum Conference was held in Ishigaki Island, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan. UNISDR also worked with Miyamoto Relief³² to undertake an assessment of 40 schools in Pokkakra District, Nepal, a region affected by the 2015 earthquake. The outcome of the assessment was shared with the Government of Nepal to guide the Ministry of Education in making financial allocations to secure safe schools in Nepal.



A submerged petrol station after an embankment ruptured in Bangkok, Thailand. Photo/ Christophe Archambault

AMERICAS



Key Hazards: Earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, landslides, volcanoes, forest fires and droughts El Niño and La Niña.

Key Risk Drivers: Environmental degradation, poor land-use management, un-planned urbanisation, climate change.

UNISDR's Regional Office for the Americas (ROAM) is based in Panama City, Panama and works in close coordination with a wide variety of stakeholders across the 50 countries it supports.

In 2017, ROAM, co-organised the Fifth **Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas** hosted by Canada in Montreal. At the Platform, Member States agreed on a **Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas** and the **Montreal Declaration**. Grounded in a all-of-society approach, the multi-stakeholder plan of action offers a suite of practical and action-oriented regional initiatives based on the four Sendai Framework priorities for action. The Regional Platform built on the Ministerial Meetings organised by ROAM in Montreal (Canada) and Asunción (Paraguay), notably, the **Asunción Declaration** was a critical element of the Regional Platform. In 2017, ROAM began preparations for the 2018 Regional Platform to be hosted in Cartagena, Colombia, where stakeholders will take stock of implementation of the Framework to date and identify mechanisms to scale-up implementation.

At the sub-regional level, ROAM supported the alignment of **sub-regional frameworks** with the priorities and global targets of the Sendai Framework, as well as with the Sustainable Development Goals. The sub-regional strategies include the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy for the Caribbean, the Central American Policy on Comprehensive Risk Management and the Union of South American Nations. These strategies not only support scaling-up implementation of the Sendai Framework by identifying concrete actions for the relevant stakeholders to undertake, but also support building coherence between the Sendai Framework and Sustainable Development Goals.

ROAM also supported, together with FAO, the development 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 State (CELAC) and will enable improved disaster risk management in the agriculture sector for food and nutritional security. This process responded to a request by CELAC on behalf of its member States' expressed on the need to increase efforts on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the agriculture sector.³³

To support achievement of Target (e) of the Sendai Framework, development of **national disaster risk reduction plans and strategies**, ROAM provided technical support to Argentina and Honduras to align national disaster risk reduction plans with the Sendai Framework. ROAM also agreed upon a timeline for National Plan developments with Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Saint Lucia.

In 2017, 14 of the region's countries participated in the **Sendai Framework Monitoring** Readiness Review. This helped the countries understand their reporting challenges and allowed the countries to prepare to use the Sendai Framework Monitoring system when launched in 2018. ROAM supported preparations for Sendai Framework monitoring and supported six countries in defining national disaster risk reduction plans and indicators (Argentina, Paraguay, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua). ROAM continued to support countries to update their loss databases. As of 2016, 19 countries had updated **disaster loss databases**, key tools in the development of national strategies and for reporting on the Sendai Framework indicators.

ROAM has developed a close working relationship with most **intergovernmental organisations** in the Americas region dealing with disaster risk reduction issues, namely the Organization of American States (OAS), Centre for Coordination of Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPRENAC), Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), Andean Community of Nations (CAN), and the Ministerial Meeting for the Reduction of

“Natural hazards recognize no national boundaries or frontiers or orders of the government and they hit vulnerable populations hardest”

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto speaking at the opening ceremony of the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Socio-natural Disasters (REMAGIR) of the Common Southern Market of South America (MERCOSUR). ROAM also coordinates closely with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in particular the Conference of Statistics of the Americas, and also promoted the creation of a working group for disaster risk reduction in the area of Urban Risk.³⁴

To support implementation of the **United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience**, UNISDR and UNDP chaired the Inter-Agency Working Group of the United Nations for the Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience with 16 other UN entities and ensured that the development of disaster risk reduction assessments, updated disaster loss databases and resilience considerations were integrated into the UN Development Assistance Frameworks of three countries. In addition, the UN Resident Coordinators (RC) through UNDG Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC) in Bolivia, Dominican Republic and Honduras agreed to be pilot countries for support in implementation of UN Plan of Action. UNISDR prepared jointly with UNDG LAC an inter-agency document on sustainable development, **Actions in LAC for overcoming poverty-leaving no one behind**, which served as an input document for the Intergovernmental Forum on Sustainable Development, Subsidiary of ECLAC, prior to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

ROAM provided support and tools to the growing network of 1,889 cities that joined the **Making Cities Resilient Campaign** in the region with the purpose to strengthen local resilience. ROAM assisted eight municipalities in finalising their local disaster risk reduction action plans and applied campaign tools in 54 cities in 2017 and is providing additional technical support to five more cities. In addition, 11 new advocates and one new champion agreed to join the existing 9 advocates and two champions to support the Campaign in the region.

Strengthened knowledge and understanding of **private sector** entities on their role in disaster risk management was achieved through, support and advice, as appropriate, to develop national ARISE chapters in Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru and the United States. In addition, ROAM is supporting the development of new chapters in Argentina, Mexico and the Caribbean region.

In addition, ROAM developed partnerships with other stakeholders to catalyse action in the region. ROAM worked in close collaboration with **International and Regional Financial Institutions** to incentivise risk-informed investments. In particular, as a result of ROAM developing a partnership with the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), CAF will chair the Resilient Investment sessions in the context of the 2018 Regional Platform. Partnerships were also strengthened with academic organizations and networks over the course of the biennium, notably, a **Regional Science and Technology Advisory Group** was established. A partnership was established with **ParlAmericas** to support a parliamentary dialogue and elaborate a parliamentary protocol for disaster risk reduction. ROAM also supported the creation of a regional network for **Inclusive Disaster Risk Management and Disabilities in Latin America** and continues to support and strengthen its development as an observing member of the network.

ROAM engaged 12 countries in the region, all of which expressed interest in becoming members of the **Worldwide Initiative on Safe Schools** (WISS) to enhance awareness and understanding disaster of risk and efforts that can be undertaken to improve the safety of schools. UNISDR supported the Caribbean Safe School Initiative and its declaration and action plan, organised a plenary session on school safety during the 2017 Caribbean Disaster Management conference in the Bahamas and supported a training organized on WISS and CDEMA's Model Safe School Programme (MSSP) in six countries.³⁵ Ministers of Education confirmed their political commitment by signing the Antigua and Barbuda Declaration on school safety and agree on priorities for the Caribbean Road Map.

EUROPE



Key Hazards: Droughts, extreme temperatures, forest fires, earthquakes and floods.

Key Risk Drivers: Scale and complexity of social and economic assets in cities make them highly sensitive to the impacts of climate change.

UNISDR's Regional Office for Europe (ROE) is based in Brussels, Belgium and works with 56 countries. In 2017, as part of the change management process, countries in the Central Asia and Caucasus sub-region came under the remit of ROE. ROE currently has a project presence in Almaty, Kazakhstan.³⁶

Over the course of the biennium, UNISDR co-organised a **European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction** in Finland and in 2017 a **European Open Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction** in Turkey. The European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) at its 7th Annual Meeting in Helsinki, Finland (6-8 October 2016) adopted the **EFDRR Road Map 2016-2020** in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The EFDRR Road Map was endorsed by European ministers at the Council of Europe (EUR-OPA) ministerial session in Portugal, October 2016 and a four-year work plan to implement the Sendai Framework in the region. Following this, in 2017, from 26-28 March, the EFDRR hosted its first Open Forum in Istanbul, Turkey, that brought together 530 participants including national and local level government representatives, UN entities, European Union, parliamentarians, intergovernmental organizations, scientific and academic institutions, private sector, NGOs, persons with disabilities, migrants, community-based organizations and others. The outcomes of the EFDRR Open Forum included the **High Level Communique; Recommendations of the Europe Region for the 2017 Global Platform**; and the Chair's Summary. Preparations also began for the 2018 EFDRR to be hosted by Italy.

Much of ROE's impact is achieved through the dedication and active engagement of the nation government counterparts. ROE also works closely with the European Union (EU) institutions, including the European Commission, European Parliament, European Council and the European Committee of the Regions. Collaboration with the EU is particularly important in scaling-up Sendai Framework implementation because EU decisions are agreed and implemented by 28 countries in the region with many neighbouring countries following the agreements. ROE coordinates closely with UN entities operating in the region, in particular, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

UNISDR's **policy work** with the European Union has resulted in a strong emphasis on resilience and disaster risk reduction in key policy documents. This includes the European Commission Action Plan, **A disaster risk-informed approach to all EU policies**, and the European Committee of the Regions' joint action plan with UNISDR on implementation of the Sendai Framework at local and regional levels in 2016-2020, which sets priorities for Sendai Framework implementation. Other notable documents include the **EU Joint Communication on Resilience** (European Commission and External Action Service), which was endorsed in June 2017 and notes the Sendai Framework and disaster risk reduction; EU Council conclusions at Foreign Affairs Council (13/11/2017), which give a strong mandate to the aforementioned Resilience Communication; the European Committee of the Regions adopted an opinion on the EU Action Plan on the Sendai Framework; **EC Communication on Reinforcing Integrated Supervision to Strengthen Capital Market Union and Financial Integration in a Changing Environment**, which makes a direct reference to Sendai Framework in their action plan (September 2017). EU Council conclusions (October 2017) by Environment Ministers on COP23 includes reference to coherence with the Sendai Framework. ROE also contributed to the European Environment Agency report on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (October 2017) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), which, in collaboration with Member States and international partners, has been developing an *ECO Regional Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*.³⁷

In 2016, UNISDR organised the **Central Asia and South Caucasus Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**, hosted by the Government of Tajikistan in Dushanbe, the first such platform in that region. The **Dushanbe Declaration**, a collective political commitment supported by a **Regional Plan of Action**, was a key outcome of the event. In 2017, ROE began organisation of this region's 2018 Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction to be hosted by the government of Armenia in Yerevan.

To support strengthening of **monitoring and analysis** of Sendai Framework implementation, a regional baseline was developed and shared at the EFDRR session in Finland. Italy was engaged on the review



Severe floods in Bosnia
and Herzegovina
Photo credit: EC/ECHO

of indicators of the Sendai Framework as a pilot country (see Readiness Review Result 1.1). Three disaster risk reduction peer reviews were undertaken in Estonia, Malta and Poland on the areas of risk management capabilities and risk assessments. UNISDR initiated the Peer Review process with the EC and as part of the Peer Review Advisory Board, UNISDR attended the preparatory meetings for the countries reviewed and took part in the Estonia Peer Review. A number of countries participated in the Peer Reviews as follows: for Estonia: Finland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Lithuania and Ireland; for Malta: Cyprus, Jordan, the Netherlands and Portugal; for Poland: Bulgaria, Malta, Sweden and Turkey. The European Commission, in collaboration with UNISDR, reviewed the European methodology on gathering disaster losses to include the new Sendai Framework elements. Belarus, Georgia and Moldova developed disaster loss databases, following training, guidance and systems support from ROE.

Over the course of the biennium, 31 countries completed **risk assessments** to inform disaster risk reduction strategies. The EU Civil Protection Mechanism Legislation played an important role in achieving this because risk assessments became mandatory in EU Member States when the Mechanism was revised in 2013. ROE provided support to the European Commission at the time on this development and continues to collaborate now as the Mechanism is updated. Risk assessments provide key information for the development of national strategies for disaster risk reduction, Target (e) of the Sendai Framework. Twenty-eight countries in the region have integrated disaster risk reduction into **national strategies**. Most recently, Armenia, Bulgaria, and Georgia, with technical inputs from UNISDR, developed national strategies for disaster risk reduction and UNISDR continues to provide guidance to other countries in the process of developing one, including Italy, Portugal, Slovenia and Turkey.

Significant demand continued throughout the biennium to apply UNISDR tools for building **local resilience** and to support the development and testing of the new tools. Six cities in Europe shared and published their experience with local level indicators aligned with the Sendai Framework, which was useful for UNISDR's development of the Sendai Framework Monitoring system. UNISDR co-hosted with the City of Florence the first high-level international event on local level Sendai Framework implementation and the outcome document, the **Florence Way Forward**, highlighted local level priorities in implementing the Sendai Framework. In Central Asia, support continued on the Sendai Framework implementation at the local level in collaboration with the European Commission. Municipality staff in three cities, Ust-Kamenogorsk and Ridder in Kazakhstan and Karakol in Kyrgyzstan were supported to undertake Hazard Risk Vulnerability assessments for city development plans, which were endorsed by the cities' Mayors. ROE, in collaboration with the European Commission, co-organised a city-to-city peer review of Viggiano (Italy) with Lisbon (Portugal) and the Greater Manchester (UK), which paved the way towards the development of a peer review module that can be used by other local authorities. In total, 733 cities and towns have joined the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient Campaign in the region to date.

ROE coordination with UN entities, has primarily centred around mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in diverse UN processes including UNECE methodologies for country profiles on Housing and Land Use Planning and in identifying a way forward for UNECE and OECD to support prevention, preparedness and response relating to industrial and chemical accidents. ROE also worked to ensure coherence with the Sendai Framework in the *Habitat III Europe Region Consultation and Declaration*, the *EC Climate Change Plan of Action*, the *Committee of the Region's position on SDGs*, and the adoption of the *EU Communication on SDGs/Agenda 2030*. ROE contributed to the development of seven **UN Development Action Frameworks** in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Ukraine. ROE led workshops related to the UN Plan of Action, with a particular focus on UN coordination in the Central Asia Caucasus region.

ROE engaged a variety of stakeholders to **raise awareness** and contribute to providing disaster risk reduction expertise to the global community. ROE ensured active engagement of European Disaster Risk Reduction Champions such as former President of Finland, Tarja Halonen, and former European Commission Vice President, Kristalina Georgieva in key disaster risk reduction events. In 2016 and 2017, ROE ensured that disaster risk reduction was a key element at the Rome Investment Forum, an international private sector event featuring European ministers of finance and environment, which focuses on the importance of business resilience for sustainable development. ROE also organised a variety of **International Day for Disaster Reduction** events to raise awareness about disaster risk reduction including co-organising an event on 13 October 2017 with the participation of the SRSR for Disaster Risk Reduction, the EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, and the European Committee of the Regions.

Endnotes

1. The Sendai Framework Monitor went live on 1st March 2018 with the agreed Global Indicators with the extended system which will include the nationally determined indicators (custom indicators) of the Monitor to be available in June 2018.
2. As called upon by Member States through General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/71/276): https://www.unisdr.org/files/54970_techguidancefdigitalhr.pdf
3. See the Global Risk Atlas and the augmented reality icons at: <https://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/atlas/>
4. The 2017 Global Platform Leaders Forum was co-chaired by the H.E. Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, the President of Mexico and Ms. Amina Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. Participants of the Leaders Forum included presidents, heads of state, vice presidents, and a deputy prime minister. For more on Leader's Forum: <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/55465>
5. Global Platform Proceedings: <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/55465>
6. For list of all indicators see: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/50683_oiewgreportenglish.pdf
7. Note data to report on Sendai Framework target (e), national strategies, is only captured in the Sendai Framework Monitoring system as it does not pertain to disaster losses.
8. For more about the Making Cities Resilient Campaign and its Steering Committee see: <https://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/Home/steering>
9. The Disaster Resilient Scorecard for Cities (version 2.0) was developed with the support of European Commission, IBM, AECOM and other partners and cities participating in the Making Cities Resilient Campaign. <http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/home/toolkitblkitem/?id=4>
10. Quick Risk Estimate tool: <http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/home/toolkitblkitem/?id=3>
11. How to make cities more resilient: a handbook for local government leaders: <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/54256>
12. https://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/assets/documents/guidelines/LG%20Powers%20for%20DRR_20
13. The UN Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, convened by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, is comprised of senior leaders from the UN entities provides strategic direction to the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development.
14. Zero Draft of the Global Capacity Development Strategy: https://www.unisdr.org/files/56922_sfdrrcdstrategyzerodraft20180223.pdf
15. <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/56922> Link to OECD Policy Marker for Disaster Risk Reduction: [http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT\(2017\)26&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT(2017)26&docLanguage=En)
16. Towards disaster-risk sensitive investments The Disaster Risk-Integrated Operational Risk Model: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/51068_eiutowardsdisasterrisksensitiveinve.pdf
17. ParlAmericas is an independent network composed of national legislatures from 35 states in North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean, which engages to develop inter-parliamentary dialogue on relevant hemispheric issues.
18. Link to animated videos about the Sendai Framework Targets: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrqmwZMOI-k>
19. www.preventionweb.net
20. Link to National Disaster Risk Assessment Words into Action: <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/52828>
21. Link to Works Into Action Guidelines available for public comment: <https://www.preventionweb.net/tags/pw:wia-draft/Words%20into%20Action%20Guidelines#hits=20&sortby=default&view=pw&filter=usertags%3A%5E%22pw%3Awia-draft%22%24>
22. In 2018, a review of IRP activities, under the current IRP Strategic Framework 2016-2020, will be undertaken.

23. African Member States of the League of Arab States fall under the Regional Office of Arab States, Cairo. However, for continental forums led by AUC, e.g. Africa Regional Platform, High Level Meetings, and Africa Working Group, African Member States are invited.
24. Regional Economic Communities are: The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), The East African Community (EAC), The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), The Southern African Development Community (SADC), The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
25. Key messages of the third session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development include elements recommended by UNISDR, such as “Investing in the capacities of people, communities, economies, cities and countries to prevent, reduce and manage risks arising from climate change and natural hazards, conflict, economic, political and social instabilities, is critical to building resilience and achieving broad-based sustainable development.”
26. Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, as well as ECCAS and AUC
27. Reducing displacement risk in the Greater Horn of Africa: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/assets/publications/2017/201709-af-greater-horn-of-africa-drr.pdf>
28. The Scorecard provides a set of assessments that allow local governments to monitor and review progress and challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and assess their disaster resilience. It is structured around UNISDR’s Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient.
29. The outcome statement recommends that countries and territories and partners take the necessary steps to improve disaggregated data collection and analysis of risk factors; explore the development of a Pacific advisory group on science and technology; further develop a multi-hazard early warning system in the region; and document and apply traditional and local disaster risk reduction knowledge systems.
30. A hilly state in northern India highly prone to earthquakes, landslides, avalanches, floods and other hydro meteorological hazards.
31. Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu
32. Miyamoto Relief is a non-profit that provides engineering expertise to those in need.
33. The Regional Strategy is available through the following link: <http://eird.org/americas/docs/informe-estrategia-reg-sector-acgricola-2018-eng.pdf>
34. The Urban Risk working group aligns its effort with the Sustainable Development Goals, New Urban Agenda and Sendai Framework.
35. ParlAmericas is an independent network composed of national legislatures from 35 states in North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean, which engages to develop inter-parliamentary dialogue on relevant hemispheric issues.
36. Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Turks and Caicos. In total 144 professionals were trained and the risk of 17 schools were assessed based on the MSSP methodology.
37. The 55 countries include the areas of Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, Western Europe, South Caucasus, Central Asia, Russia, Israel and Turkey.
38. http://www.eco.int/general_content/85976-ECO-and-Disaster-Risk-Reduction.html?t=General-content

