



**The 2022 High Level Political Forum  
The Sendai Stakeholders Engagement Mechanism Para 89 report**

*Development that is not risk-informed is not sustainable.<sup>1</sup>*

Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism



**SENDAI FRAMEWORK**

FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

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<sup>1</sup> UNDRR: Input to the thematic review of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (2022; REF:UNDRR/OUT/2022/00095).

## Overview

Para 89 report is submitted by the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) of the UNDRR will harness key recommendations from the 7th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as the best practices and case studies of risk-informed development to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in particular and Agenda 2030 in general that are championed by the SEM membership. Given that the 2022 High Level Political Forum reviews SDG4, SDG5, SDG14, SDG15, and SDG17, the report pays special attention to these goals as well as the cross-cutting theme of “leaving no one behind”. In addition, it provides additional recommendations that strive to promote coherence and synergies across the Agenda 2030 framework.

[The Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism](#) was established by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in 2018 as a means to operationalize an all-of-society approach to the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies. The SEM consists of 17 constituency groups that engage over 500 members across 80 countries.

SEM aims to leverage the convening, advocacy and implementing power of stakeholders in support of resilience building across, within, and through the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SEM offers representational space for all ‘non-state’ Sendai stakeholders as set out in Paragraphs 36 and 48 of the Sendai Framework. Its key functions are to enable an inclusive and broad movement for the Sendai Framework, influence policy design and implementation, strengthen citizen-led and social accountability mechanisms, and promote coordination and harmonization between different stakeholder groups.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Members can sign up through the following [link](#).

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## Executive summary

As we approach the mid-term evaluation of the global progress in achieving the Agenda 2030 ambition, including mid-point review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals in 2023, the Sendai Stakeholders bring forward key lessons, recommendations and best practices in delivering a sustainable and resilient future for all, where no one is left behind. The below recommendations draw from the 7th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, including the second Sendai Stakeholder Forum, as well as the case studies of risk informed development championed by the Sendai stakeholders to achieve the SDGs, and promote synergies between the Agenda 2030 policy framework documents, with particular attention to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Climate Agreement.

The 2022 Global Platform outcome document - the *Bali Agenda for Resilience* took stock of the implementation of the Sendai Framework through the Sendai Framework Monitor, the United Nations 2022 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, and other recent reports such as the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in turn promoting synergies in the Agenda 2030 monitoring. It gathered input from regional platforms, which in turn emphasized the crucial role of partnerships, highlighted regional and transboundary cooperation, South-South cooperation, strengthening disaster loss and risk data, multi-hazard and impact-based early warning systems for anticipatory and early action, comprehensive school safety, promoting youth leadership, and heritage management as well as calling for inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) was recognized as a key mechanism to promote risk-informed development.<sup>3</sup>

The 2022 Global Platform drew attention to the insufficient progress in SDG implementation and the need to strengthen the risk-informed development approach through implementation of the Sendai Framework to get back to realizing the Agenda 2030 goals.

Achieving coherence is of especially high relevance given that we approach the midpoint in implementation of the Agenda 2030, including the Mid-Term review of the Sendai Framework, calling for reflection over the success, effort, lessons learnt, gaps and challenges.

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<sup>3</sup> Co-chair Summary: [Bali Agenda for Resilience](#) (2022).

*“Just as societies are holistic, diverse and integrated, so too must be the institutions which govern them. This means integration and mutual reinforcement of global policies; it means domestic ministries working across silos; it means local authorities serving the individual at the community level. Moreover, these governance systems must connect to and reinforce each other, at all levels.”*

*- Whole of Society; Whole of Government Approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism Statement to the 2022 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction<sup>4</sup>*

The thematic policy recommendations and key insights highlighted by this report relate to each of the Sustainable Development Goals in focus at the 2022 High Level Political Forum as well as the overarching theme of “leaving no one behind”:

**SDG4:** Resilient educational systems and resilience education are key to ensuring education continuity and accessibility. Making schools resilient to disasters through school safety programs must be at the heart of the SDG4 implementation. In addition, integration of DRR education that promotes resilient thinkers among the leaders of tomorrow alongside promotion of partnerships to make DRR education reach the wider society, would help to empower actors in building resilience and risk management efforts.


**SDG5:** Gender equality and women and girls’ empowerment is a tandem goal that requires systemic policy, education, economic, social and most importantly fiscal and resource based investments. It is impossible to achieve without the leadership of women and girls themselves, who must be capacitated and supported through necessary policy frameworks to fully participate in the Agenda 2030 implementation.

**SDG14:** The health of our blue ecosystems is key to disaster prevention and risk reduction as the declining state of our marine life negatively impacts livelihoods of coast area communities, exacerbating risk of flooding and storms and the decline of blue economies. Nature based and community driven solutions as well as partnerships and knowledge exchange with the scientific community can drive restoration of the blue ecosystems and their preservations. To achieve this, we must ensure sustainable and systemic long term management of the blue economies, as well as better monitoring of human impact on marine ecosystems.

**SDG15:** There is an unquestionable link between environmental degradation and disaster risk, whereas the former increases our exposure to viruses, floods, droughts and other slow on-set disasters that have huge economic short and long-term losses, especially affecting the already risk prone and more economically vulnerable populations. Nature based solutions prove to be a systemic approach to building resilience by employing local contextual knowledge of the surrounding environment, utilizing indigenous and traditional knowledge, and engaging scientific methods and innovation, to build partnerships that could restore and promote environmental sustainability.

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<sup>4</sup> [A Statement of the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism for GPDRR 2022.](#)



**SDG17:** To enhance partnership potential for the Agenda 2030, we must connect the government, civil society and local actors as well as the private sector, promoting actor inter-connectivity and interlinkages. To achieve meaningful partnerships, we must strive for inclusiveness of all stakeholders at all levels of government. This in turn calls for strengthening stakeholder engagement through effective information sharing and resourcing of their action, as well as creating an enabling environment for their full participation in the design, planning and implementation of resilient development processes. This could be achieved through national DRR platforms, VNR and VLR processes.

**Leaving no one behind:** Employ leading methodologies for the collection of disaggregated data with a focus on intersectionality and risk to identify specific barriers, maximize inclusion, and ultimately better inform development policies. Adopt an inclusive, intergenerational approach to the Agenda 2030 by building on the diverse lived experience and the energy and innovation of all groups of society.

Additional recommendations, pertaining to policy coherence and risk informed development financing, as well as governance are extrapolated in the recommendations for coherence section of the report.



## The Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed essential educational vulnerabilities relating to educational continuity in the context of disaster risk, including but not limited to a pandemic. In its input towards the 2022 High Level Political Forum, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction drew upon key recommendations coming from the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Platforms that convened in 2021, highlighting “the need to promote awareness and knowledge among children and youth towards a culture of disaster prevention and resilience, including by promoting and strengthening a systemic approach to school safety and integrating risk preparedness, prevention and response in school curriculums.”<sup>5</sup>

Therefore, a resilient education system is capacitated across two dimensions: curriculum and physical safety. Notable strides forward have been made by stakeholders across the world in making education more resilient as well as making education work for resilience. In terms of making school safer. A disaster risk safety protocol guaranteeing student safety in the context of climate, environmental, natural and man-made hazards should be implemented accompanied by enabling virtual learning opportunities accessible for all students. In this spirit, LIDÈ Foundation (Haiti) implemented a toll-free tutoring project to support physical and mental health of students in the aftermath of the pandemic, an initiative that will become permanent and extended to other disasters caused by natural hazards such as hurricanes.

In terms of a resilient educational curriculum, an integrated disaster risk education across all levels - from the classroom to the broader community and society as a whole - should become a learning priority. Moreover, a widely implemented DRR curriculum could help to achieve a necessary long-term mindshift and raise a generation of resilience thinkers, capable of taking up the development challenges of today and tomorrow, working with their communities as well as globally. To achieve this, we need all of the stakeholders to collaborate in bringing the best practices and knowledge sharing and in disseminating quality, up to date information to all key

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<sup>5</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction: [Input to the 2022 High Level Political Forum](#) (2022).

actors for their successful capacitation in the DRR effort. Furthermore, we need education to empower and capacitate all stakeholders.

### ***Case study: AIM COVID-19 Situation Room<sup>6</sup>***

The Asian Institute of Management (AIM) established a student-led laboratory called the AIM COVID-19 Situation Room that focused on physical, food and financial security. The Situation Room was responsible for awareness raising through social media, preparing forecasts to help different sectors in their decision making, writing situation reports and briefs. The Situation Room functioned as a listening post and communications center, where students collected and prepared news reports and intelligence from a wide range of sources including contacts, networks and online sources. One of the identified concerns included the phenomenon of a “double whammy” of compound effects of a natural hazard such as a typhoon occurring during the ongoing COVID-19 response management. AIM organized two town hall meetings to help parents, teachers and school administrations to collectively understand the impact of the pandemic, identify the main problems that people were experiencing and share solutions and best practices. AIM also introduced Business Continuity Planning sessions and exercises for strengthening pandemic preparedness for the heads of university departments.

### ***Case study: Sustainable and Resilient Universities Campaign***

The project was implemented by two institutions, the American and Caribbean University Network for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Central American Higher University Council. Within projects' scope ten selected universities from the region carried out university building safety and disaster risk assessments. In 2018 they carried out the georeferenced map and in 2019 their risk analysis. To guide the universities, the project team developed work guides with minimum criteria for maps and risk analysis. The teams were trained to carry out the diagnoses. The risk assessments included building site risks as well as structural building vulnerabilities, finding that out of 73 sites evaluated, 16.5% had high degree of vulnerability, recommending relocation of building sites, meanwhile 47.9% had structural problems of low to high severity, making them vulnerable to natural hazards. The research findings and recommendations were applied to planning, construction, and maintenance of the universities. In addition, the project strengthened risk governance in university administration through Risk Management Units and training on risk management.

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<sup>6</sup> [Learn more.](#)





## Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

While disaster may hit without gender prejudice, its short and long-term impacts expose the gender differences and norms that continue to put socio-economic strain on women and girls across the globe. The rising demand for unpaid care work, heightened vulnerability to domestic violence to name but a few gendered socio-economic impacts of hazards. Meanwhile, the global health crisis has illuminated prevalent gaps in the women's health services, compromising their access to sexual and reproductive health across the most and the least developed countries alike.

Neglecting or sidelining gender equality in sustainable development is bound to reproduce poverty and global inequality with more than half of the population threatened to be left behind. Evidently, one cannot speak of gender equality without putting the women at the center of the stage and empowering their voices. Gender equality and women and girls' empowerment is a tandem goal that requires systemic policy, education, economic, social and most importantly fiscal and resource based investments. It is impossible to achieve without the leadership of women and girls themselves, who must be capacitated and supported (through supportive policies considerate of gendered realities of development and participation) to engage as leaders across all levels and sectors of government and society, from community to local to global.

### ***Case study: Understanding and taking coherent action for inclusive sustainable and resilient development<sup>7</sup>***

A review (Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Management Status Review and Recommendations for implementing the Sendai Framework for DRR) carried out by the Gender

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<sup>7</sup> Duryog Nivaran & Asian Disaster Preparedness Center for GSHG: [Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Management Status Review and Recommendations for Implementing the Sendai Framework for DRR in Asia-Pacific](#) (2021).

Stakeholder Group in the Asia Pacific region (GSHG) showed that isolated efforts by either DRR stakeholders, or gender focal points, or development actors do not lead to coherent action for gender responsive risk reduction. The review revealed that despite strong recommendations for the 2030 agenda for coherent action for development, DRR and climate action, this has not been the practice over the first half of implementing this agenda. Mainstreaming of gender responsive action is thus at a very unsatisfactory level. This calls for coordinated and coherent action between development, finance and planning agencies, climate, DRR and gender focal agencies if the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and resilience building is to be achieved.

To bridge the disconnect between development, DRR, and gender agencies in bringing about coherence and gender responsive resilience activities, a training programme targeting key multiple government agencies has been developed over the last year by the GSHG of the Asia Pacific region and UNDRR. The four modules of the training take the participants through an understanding of key concepts, context, interrelationships and current status, maps out the roles and responsibilities of multiple agencies for coordinated actions for gender responsible resilience building. The training aims to bring together the national and provincial development planning institutions, disaster risk management institutions and women's machineries to explore common grounds for actions that lead to holistic resilience building.

### ***Best practice: gender equality as an essential condition for achieving resilient development<sup>8</sup>***

Gender equality remains an essential condition for achieving risk informed development, and, consequently, any sustainable development. The Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction has published a Risk-Informed Development Guide (2022), which identifies gender inequality among six key drivers of risk.

One of the major barriers to risk-informed development, which interconnects with all other drivers of risk, is gender inequality. Unless development is systematically gender transformative, we will see disasters placing women into intractable cycles of poverty.

Research across the world shows that women and girls remain discriminated against in education, employment, health, political representation, and much more. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by disasters and, whilst often being the first responders, are regularly discriminated against when recovery and rehabilitation efforts take place.

Experience of GNDR members working with local communities is that, for transformative progress to be made in the reduction of risk and strengthening of community resilience, a focus on gender inequality is critical when understanding the drivers of risk, identifying points of focus and designing and developing different activities. It means ensuring that women who face risks and are in vulnerable situations are empowered to provide solutions, demand rights, services and increased access to information, and participate in decision-making processes.

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<sup>8</sup> GNDR: [Risk-Informed Development Guide](#) (2022).



## Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

Oceans, seas and marine resources remain vital for securing livelihoods of multiple communities across the world and for reducing risk of natural hazards. Meanwhile, small island states are at the forefront of the augmented disaster risk related to the decline in ocean health.

Degradation of coastal ecosystems poses great development risks to coastline communities, particularly, those already dealing with other socio-economic vulnerabilities, and whose livelihood depends on the blue economy. Moreover, oceanic pollution threatens with heightened water acidity, which is lethal to ocean life and further exacerbates disaster risk by destroying vital coral reefs that worked as natural protection against storms and tides.

The Sendai Framework reinforces that oceanic observations as essential to early warning systems and collecting up to date disaster risk information closely aligns to the SDG14 ambition, while decision-making around blue resilience must take into account risk-mapping and assessments of the coastal areas, as well as other scientific data combined with indigenous knowledge.<sup>9</sup> In addition, the *Bali Agenda for Resilience* calls for a resilient blue ecosystem management approach, in which the grassroots and local communities play a central role. Through participatory partnerships, engaging grassroots and scientific communities, better monitoring and accountability for human impact on the marine environment, we could restore and preserve the vital blue ecosystems in their diversity.

### ***Case study: women from coastal communities lead blue resilience partnership<sup>10</sup>***

The indigenous grassroots women leaders from WAGUCHA, Honduras partnered with COPECO, the national civil protection agency, investing the CRF in construction of two seawalls in areas at risk of hurricane, winds, and strong tides in the coastal communities of Cristales and Barranco White, protecting local mangroves from extreme rainfall and strong tides which in turn protects the local economy of the people.

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<sup>9</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction: [Secretary-General's background note for the preparatory meeting of the UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14](#).

<sup>10</sup> Huairou Commission: [Annual Report \(2020\)](#)



## Sustainable Development Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Development risks are systematic, thus, require a holistic long-term thinking approach that considers the codependency on man-made and natural worlds, as well as the man-made and natural development risks. The Sendai Framework identifies declining use of ecosystems alongside unsustainable use of natural resources as drivers of risk. There is an unquestionable link between environmental degradation and disaster risk, whereas the former increases our exposure to viruses, floods, droughts and other slow on-set disasters that have huge economic short and long-term losses, especially affecting the already risk prone and more economically vulnerable populations.

The Sendai Stakeholders have already strongly advocated for NbS in the 2021 Para 89 report. The NbS helps reduce the possibility of a “double whammy” of other natural hazards occurring during a pandemic, by for example reducing zoonotic hazards (i.e., reforestation) and reducing vulnerabilities (i.e., increased food security). On the other hand, the deployment of NbS for preparedness and DRR could be strengthened by efforts such as community-level contingency funds, better facilitation of dialogue and co-creation of solutions.

The Sendai Framework recognizes sustainable environmental management as a key component that can reduce disaster risk and increase resilience, whereas:

- Poor land management, unsustainable use of natural resources and degrading ecosystems are highlighted as underlying drivers of disaster risk;
- Environmental impacts of disasters are recognized;
- Countries are explicitly encouraged to strengthen the sustainable use and management of ecosystems for building resilience to disasters.<sup>11</sup>

The Sendai Stakeholders continue to champion NbS as a systemic approach to building resilience by employing local contextual knowledge of the surrounding environment, utilizing indigenous and traditional knowledge, and engaging scientific methods and innovation, to build partnerships that could restore and promote environmental sustainability. In recent decades the scientific community has also increasingly turned towards Nature based Solutions (NbS) as a way to address development challenges. This shift illustrates the coming together of traditional and technological science alongside the increasing emphasis on the importance of natural

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<sup>11</sup> UNDRR: [Words Into Action \(2021\)](#).

ecosystems to ensure sustainability of human development. Continuing the effort to bring closer together the scientific community and traditional knowledge holders by promoting meaningful partnerships between local, grassroots and indigenous communities as well as scientists and academia could create the necessary learning and scaling opportunities to implement contextualized Nature based Solutions for resilient development.

***Best practice: CPPR grassroots women leaders champion nature based solutions for resilience<sup>12</sup>***

The Community Practitioners Platform for Resilience members from across the world utilize Community Resilience Funds supported by the Huairou Commission towards promotion of nature based solutions to strengthen local DRR and build long-term resilience. They also come together to exchange their best practices and knowledge.

In the Philippines, CO-Multiversity facilitated the construction of a low-cost, sustainable foot bridge, making it possible for people to safely move around the community during and after flooding caused by heavy rainfall. In Kenya, Polycom partnered with local stakeholders to provide 25 water barrels to old women in Kibiri Ward, Homabay County and set up rainwater harvesting systems to reduce exposure to diseases resulting from drinking contaminated water. ZHPPF, Zambia and Groots, Peru used CRF to promote eco-friendly practices that minimize flooding incidents by reducing disposal of harmful plastic waste, training women to use recycled plastic and sand for the production of driveway and walkway pavers and conducting workshops on recycling, environment and home gardens to secure food and income. Grassroots leaders from Shibuye, Kenya rehabilitated 555 acres of degraded land after receiving training in soil rehabilitation and management. In addition, 105 grassroots women engaged in agroforestry and conservation agriculture practices, while Polycom organised and engaged women in land rehabilitation, set up a tree nursery and organized a campaign to plant over 2500 trees in local schools. ZHPPF capacitated and supported 100 women to establish sack gardens and tree planting initiatives, supporting ecosystem restoration and creating environmentally friendly green spaces.

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<sup>12</sup> Huairou Commission: [Annual Report \(2020\)](#).



## Sustainable Development Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

There is no doubt that multi-level, cross-sectoral, transnational partnerships are crucial for the Agenda 2030 implementation. Calling for an “all of society” approach, the Sendai Framework promotes partnerships among and between stakeholders, governments and the private sector. Working through partial partnership models will only get us partially towards the SDGs. On the other hand, long term partnership mechanisms with a forward looking vision of scaling and growth will carry us to the Agenda 2030 and beyond.

A meaningful partnership between governments, civil society stakeholders and the private sector should have a strong local engagement. This means firstly working with communities and the local civil society network to research, design and implement the set resilience and development goals. While the SDGs carry a global ambition, their realization happens on the ground and must take into consideration local contexts and capacity needs. Meanwhile, local actor networks prove to be most competent in setting realistic goals, maintaining long-term vision and achieving it.

Drawing from the best practices in Sendai Framework implementation as shared at the Stakeholder Forum of the 7th Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the role of national governments proves to be most effective in facilitating institutionalization and resourcing of civil society stakeholders, who in turn bring the knowledge, tools and expertise of implementation that is a key input toward DRR and all development decision-making and planning. Moreover, effective civil society engagement in the DRR decision making and governance shows to be key in achieving resilience goals. This lesson is easily transferable to the entire Agenda 2030 as for a sustained implementation of the SDGs, the civil society actors must hold ownership of the process.

It is key to strengthen development governance by enhancing civil society actor connectivity and networking towards collective ownership and coordination in systemic reduction of development risks. As an example as highlighted by SLOCAT Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon transport - to effectively achieve the climate action goals, an entire transportation network from suppliers to service providers had to come together and explore interlinkages and jointly coordinate action. The national governments could play a key role in facilitating such partnerships through creation of National Platforms as called for in the SFDRR. These platforms

create the necessary infrastructure and promote accountability mechanisms among development actors.

More so, it proves important to strengthen government agency coordination so that national policies are mutually reinforcing and strive to eliminate institutional barriers and obstacles that prevent a wide range of stakeholders, especially grassroots, at risk communities, women, youth, people with disabilities, and indigenous stakeholders from fully participating in national and regional level partnerships.

Particular attention should be paid to creating an enabling environment for private businesses to join the effort and participate in inclusive, socially accountable and innovative partnerships. We need new models of partnership with the private sector that promote risk-informed and resilient investments and embed long-term thinking. Notable models are already emerging and the ARISE cluster of private sector partners within the SEM are bringing forward case studies of such models.

The *Bali Agenda for Resilience* reinstates the importance of data accessibility and knowledge sharing for effective partnerships. This pertains to synthesizing data to promote sectoral cooperation and generating ecosystems of data and mechanisms for local knowledge and expert feedback. Moreover, cooperation with the private sector opens opportunities for better risk data access meanwhile media can play a vital role in making it accessible to the wider society and therefore scaling action.

### ***Case Study: A Public-Private Partnership for a Livelihood Seeding Program in a Post-Disaster Context***<sup>13</sup>

The Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE) members were working in a post-disaster scenario in the Province of Leyte, the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) designed an early recovery program with national government agencies, local government units, and international NGOs. This program is leveraging the capabilities of each organization in support of micro and small enterprises and the normalization of the local supply chain. Given the extent of typhoons' damage, PDRF, in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and its regional office and through the support of the US-Philippines Society, provided livelihood "Starter Kits" for 406 qualified Micro Enterprises (MEs). Dubbed the "Livelihood Seeding Program" for Leyte, DTI began the project by conducting consultations among affected microentrepreneurs. The starter kits include items such as kitchenware, gas stoves, cooking equipment for food business owners and grocery stocks, bags of rice, and weighing scales for "sari-sari" store owners. PDRF helped hasten the process of procuring the goods and equipment needed for the starter kits.

The business case is that through the Livelihood Seeding project undertaken by the private and public sectors, the micro-entrepreneurs in disaster-affected areas were given the opportunity to

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<sup>13</sup> [ARISE case studies in Disaster Risk Management](#) (2022).

re-start their economic activities and are able to take care of their families without depending on relief from humanitarian agencies and civil society groups.

Some of the lessons learned coming from the Post Disaster Needs Assessment provided program partners an idea of the best way to support affected communities and livelihood outside of relief packages. In helping jumpstart early recovery, people were provided the opportunity to help themselves and regain their businesses. Another benefit of this early recovery activity is stabilizing market prices of basic commodities and deterring opportunities that prey on the vulnerability of the community's situation.

### ***Case study: journalists for effective DRR information dissemination and education***

The Asian Broadcasting Union has launched a project to capacitate journalists in DRR reporting. The project consists in educating and training journalists, weather forecast experts and media professionals on DRR and multi-hazards risk prevention. The Project phase 2 concluded in May, 2022, and has reached around 29 countries across three continents (Asia, Pacific Region and Africa), for a total of 27 TV stations and around 250 media professionals, who participated in 25 training courses.

The training courses taught media professionals how to better cooperate with their colleagues across borders as well as with the national authorities in charge of the DRR strategy and action plans. The courses are complemented by an on-line platform ([DRR Media hub](#)), which media professionals can visit to better prepare for the classroom. The platform provided for an effective knowledge sharing mechanism in the context of the pandemic. Otherwise, the courses are complemented by regional meetings, where media professionals come together to discuss and solve contextually specific regional issues and share effective solutions. Through this exercise, the Early Warning Systems (EWS) have become more familiar to media professionals and, hopefully, they will continue their work of “mediators” with updated tools that could enhance their communication with the citizens in times of crisis.



## Leave No One behind

In order to achieve the necessary inclusion of the most at-risk groups in the development paradigm, we must ensure that they are included as partners in meaningful, therefore, empowering development partnerships. To achieve this, we must strive to ensure that persons with disabilities, persons displaced or at risk of being displaced, grassroots and marginalized groups have access to means, processes and resources required to meaningfully participate in implementing Agenda 2030, and particularly in disaster risk reduction and climate risk assessment to evaluate local and context specific risks followed by policy-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The recent Sendai Framework Mid-Term review convened by the GNDR across its network members, highlighted the need to move away from inclusion as a standalone topic towards recognition of “the intersectional dynamics of marginalization in relation to risk”<sup>14</sup>. Risk factors compound for increased vulnerability, however, we cannot take a siloed approach in effort to reduce them. This aligns with the general call for shift towards systematic approach to the entire Agenda 2030, synergizing its policy frameworks, promoting coherence, and bringing forward the interlinkages among its targets to ensure that risks and vulnerabilities are fought systematically.

Concurrently, the strive towards inclusiveness should take into consideration the specificities of risk faced by different social groups. Following *the Second Sendai Stakeholder Declaration*, which gathers contributions from seventeen stakeholder groups, we recommend employing leading methodologies for the collection of disaggregated data with a focus on intersectionality and risk to identify specific barriers, maximize inclusion, and ultimately better inform development and DRR policies. Concurrently, *the Bali Agenda for Resilience* reinforces the participatory and human rights-based approach to inclusion, where “nothing about is without us” in disaster risk reduction as much as the at large sustainable development process planning and implementation.

We should pay special attention to providing risk reduction and development implementation support to conflict affected and fragile states and the communities on the front line of risk in these contexts. Recognize and mitigate gender inequality as a risk driver and a barrier to achieving the Sendai Framework targets. Adopt an inclusive, intergenerational approach to development and DRR by building on the diverse lived experience and the energy and innovation of all groups of society.

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<sup>14</sup> GNDR: [Civil Society Consultation of the Mid-Term Review of the Sendai Framework Implementation \(2022\)](#).

### ***Case study: Including Persons with Disabilities in Disaster Risk Reduction<sup>15</sup>***

In 2021, a consortium of Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland e.V. (ASB), Centre for Disability inDevelopment (CDD), Christian Blind Mission (CBM), International Disability Alliance (IDA), and MalteserInternational (MI) commissioned a study on disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DiDRR) policy and practice across eight countries of Africa, Asia, and South/Central America. The study describes progress, gaps, and identified good practices in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 and concludes with recommendations to support improved disability-inclusive DRR.

The findings recommend a twin track approach to disability inclusion in DRR:

- Mainstreaming disability inclusion by removing barriers to participation and facilitating access to information and services;
- Disability specific initiatives, such as capacity development and individualized support and services.

Inclusive DRR efforts require making DiDRR a shared agenda and increased multi-stakeholder collaborations and partnerships among governments, I/NGOs, UN agencies, OPDs, and civil society actors, which can encourage further resource and capacity sharing. Extended collaborations are needed with donors as the main trend-setting actors under which I/NGOs and government align. Assistance in transfer of capacities should be provided by the members of the DiDRR Network to other DRR actors in collaboration with national and local authorities and OPDs (e.g., through training curriculums and formulation of strategies for nation wide roll-out).

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<sup>15</sup> International Disability Alliance et al: [Including Persons with Disabilities in Disaster Risk Reduction: A Research Study from Eight Countries of Africa, Asia and South/Central America](#) (2022)

# Recommendations for achieving policy coherence and for financing Agenda 2030

The supplementary recommendations put forward by this report call for ensuring systemic approach to risk reduction and promoting of risk informed development that ensures long-term resilience and leaves no one behind in pursuit of the Agenda 2030 ambition. They draw from the second Stakeholder Declaration and the Stakeholder Forum<sup>16</sup> at the 7th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and remain cross-cutting to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as risk reduction or risk-informed development is an underlying condition for achieving sustainable, long-term resilience.


**Implement whole of government approaches** and strengthen coordination and coherence by linking DRR policies and strategies to development policies, plans and actions, climate change, humanitarian action, health and human mobility in appropriate ways. This requires working across ministries and sectors to strengthen governance for the implementation of DRR and sustainable development policies and strategies. We must coordinate to achieve coherence by ensuring that development policies, particularly those pertaining to reducing development risks are mutually reinforcing. To achieve this, we should Implement National Platforms which include all stakeholders in the Voluntary National Review processes and promote inclusive Local Voluntary Review platforms as a tool to learn, promote multi-level government coordination of plans and policies, and strengthen local to national implementation of the Agenda 2030.

**Promote localization** by integrating local actors into policy, planning, and action, not solely as beneficiaries but as agents and ensure that development decisions are made at the lowest appropriate level. This equally calls for inclusion of all societal actors at all levels in DRR decision-making, implementation, and monitoring, with particular attention to inclusion of community leaders in decision making in local, national, and global spaces. Institutional recognition and support to grassroots and indigenous knowledge and community data to better inform resilience (DRR and Climate Adaptation) strategies, plans, and investments. These communities bring tested knowledge and practices of resilience, and we should integrate this wisdom with the scientific and research communities.

**Ensure appropriate financing for the Agenda 2030.** We need to provide decentralized risk reduction finance - flexible and long term - with an emphasis on the community level by empowering and financing grassroots led action for risk reduction with a special emphasis on community based organizations as well as women's and youth efforts.

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<sup>16</sup> [A Statement of the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism for GPDRR 2022.](#)



Despite there being some notable progress in new financing mechanisms that link to climate action, we ought to strengthen investments in disaster risk reduction with particular attention to prevention as disaster risk is the underlying threat to all development progress.

We should equal “Think Resilience” when it comes to financing models. Agenda 2030 financing must be driven by resilient investments. Here, one of the challenges is that scalable resilience models involving private investors do not yet broadly exist - so innovation is required around deal structures and partnership approaches. Likewise, if we want to finance risk, innovation is needed to close the global underinsurance gap. Appropriate legislation can advance the cause of investments in resilience, particularly when the process is inclusive and enforcement is adequate. To increase the effectiveness of investments, speakers pointed to coherence in action across the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals as a sweet spot to help people prone to risks preventing losses.

**Learn from and apply knowledge and experience.** We must strive to ensure that DRR and sustainable development policy is aligned with scientific knowledge and builds on community and stakeholder experience. This would require modification of the current development risk understanding and management landscape in light of the lessons learned from COVID-19 and ensure that research and documentation lead to meaningful policy change. We need to promote knowledge sharing, as well as new learnings and innovation by deepening connections among civil society, government, the private sector, and the media to ensure proper and effective dissemination of accurate information. Remain flexible and build learning into project design and DRR as well as sustainable development programmes and action, ensuring these learnings are then also clearly applied in new programmes and action.

There is a need to ensure continuity from knowledge to implementation and to better integrate scientific knowledge and local knowledge throughout the development programming cycle broadly and DRR specifically from prevention and preparedness to response and recovery. This is all the more important for addressing systemic development risks that are complex. Significant challenges remaining for co-designing locally led programs that require building trust, understanding decision-making contexts, recognize the value of local community engagement within academic institutions, translate available scientific and technical information and provide spaces for scientists, decision-makers and practitioners to interact on the local needs and identify solutions that are relevant to the local context. There is a need to better integrate knowledge of the social determinants of human security and vulnerability and better understand how people receive information, make decisions and act to achieve resilience.

# Conclusion

As emphasized at the 7th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the nature of risks is that they are never isolated, thus, the second Stakeholder Declaration highlights that for achieving Agenda 2030 commitments, the “risk-informed policies that address the holistic, diverse and integrated nature of society are imperative - therefore, institutions that can abide by these needs are to provide the necessary means to guarantee whole-of-society strategies and approaches.”<sup>17</sup>

To achieve a holistic policy approach towards risk informed development as a driver of the Agenda 2030 implementation, we must work together to ensure coherence and synergies across policy and implementing level (local to global), stakeholder engagement.

The crucial steps towards this ambition is breaking the silos and promoting partnerships across the Agenda 2030 frameworks, national ministries, and stakeholders. Institutions bear the responsibility to break the governance and decision-making silos and to promote integration of risk-management and development policies. Meanwhile, the global policies should mutually reinforce each other at the global, regional, national and the local level with promotion of synergetic collaborations among the stakeholders, bringing together their capacities and knowledge towards the mutually reinforcing goals, aided by government institutions, bringing policy and resource capacitation.

As case studies outcomes strongly suggest, deliberate and meaningful procedures to guarantee an integrated approach towards achievement of SDG (especially but not limited to those in current review) must avoid isolated efforts and tokenism; also partnerships with most-at-risk sectors of society are to be highlighted and prioritized. Contextualization of every developing process, at every level by positioning local actors as drivers of development processes, will therefore close the gap between science, technology and indigenous knowledge, and High-Level Dialogues.

We equally need to promote coherence among the Agenda 2030 policy frameworks and their review mechanisms, connecting the outcome message review of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to the 2022 High Level Political Forum and the COP27.

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<sup>17</sup> [A Statement of the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism for GPDRR 2022.](#)