

2020

# INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

#ItsAllAboutGovernance  
#DRRday



**UNDRR**

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

# 1

## THE SENDAI SEVEN CAMPAIGN in 2020 #ItsAllAboutGovernance #DRRday

The United Nations General Assembly has designated 13 October as International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction to promote a global culture of disaster risk reduction. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the progress being made toward reducing disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in March 2015.

The Sendai Framework has seven strategic targets and 38 indicators for measuring progress on reducing disaster risk and losses. These indicators align implementation of the Sendai Framework with implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

### THE SEVEN GLOBAL TARGETS

**2016 – Target (a):** Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015;

**2017 – Target (b):** Substantially reduce the number of people affected globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015;

**2018 – Target (c):** Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030;

**2019 – Target (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;

**2020 – Target (e):** Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;

**2021 – 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;

**2022 – Target (g):** Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030.

In 2016, the UN Secretary-General launched "The Sendai Seven Campaign" to promote each of the seven targets over seven years.

The 2020 target is Target E: "Substantially increase the number of countries with

national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020" which lays the foundation for the implementation of the Sendai Framework and is closely linked with Priority for Action 2: "Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk."



# 2

## IT REALLY IS ALL ABOUT GOVERNANCE!

Countries that develop policy, legislative frameworks, and institutional architecture and associated investment vehicles for disaster risk reduction in line with the goal, targets and priorities for action of the Sendai Framework, have greater capacity to manage disaster risk. Such arrangements demonstrate a deep understanding of disaster risk and allow for a more complete engagement of citizens to take an active part in contributing to the development and implementation of national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction. These strategies need to address the full scope of the Sendai Framework which applies to “disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks.”

There are clear actions we can take – as countries, communities, individuals and organizations – to improve how we manage disaster risk in order to reduce it. We must act collectively. We must avoid creating new risk, and we must systematically reduce existing risk. We must strengthen the capacity of people, communities, countries and systems to anticipate, withstand and recover better from shocks and stresses and transform through crises.

Successful national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction require effective multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms, an

overarching national policy, transdisciplinary and multisectoral collaboration and input, political support in approving legislation, and adequate financial, technical and human resources. These underlying conditions at national level can strengthen institutional capacity of subnational or local authorities to address disaster risk. Political commitment and trust are key to generating an all-of-society approach to managing risk before, during and after an emergency.

Good national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction include links with sector policies in areas such as land use, building codes, public health, education, agriculture, environmental protection, energy, water resources, poverty reduction and climate change adaptation.

In keeping with the Day's focus on the impact that disasters have on people's lives and well-being, this year's theme is about conveying the message that many disasters can be avoided or prevented if there are disaster risk reduction strategies in place to manage and reduce existing levels of risk and to avoid the creation of new risk. What that amounts to is “good disaster risk governance.”

The issues of disaster risk governance – identifying and acknowledging, planning and acting on disaster risk – have come into sharp focus this year, as evidence accumulates



of the failure of many countries to heed the many warnings in recent years, and prepare for global threats such as a major pandemic like COVID-19.

As of early July, over 10.5 million cases of COVID-19 including 512,000 deaths had been reported to WHO. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SMSG), Mami Mizutori, has highlighted the fact that only a few of the 86 national strategies for disaster risk reduction developed to date, make adequate inclusion of epidemic and pandemic risk management, including prevention and preparedness measures.

The case for good disaster risk governance and strategic planning so acutely demonstrated by COVID-19, pales in comparison to the immediate need for such approaches in dealing with the climate emergency. The world is on course for a temperature rise of 3.2°C, and yet G20 countries which are responsible for 78% of all greenhouse gas emissions, have made no impact on the continuing upward trend; 15 of the G20 members have not committed to a timeline for net-zero emissions. Unless global greenhouse gas emissions fall by 7.6 per cent each year between 2020 and 2030, the world will miss the opportunity to get on track towards the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, the consequences of which for humans and ecosystems are dire.



# 3

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2020

#ItsAllAboutGovernance #DRRday

**Goal:** Identify advocacy opportunities to highlight how good disaster risk governance, planning and implementation leads to reduced numbers of people affected by disasters (especially in terms of death, injury, displacement and loss of livelihood).

### 3.1 MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Promote and encourage events at national and community level to mark implementation of the Sendai Framework with a focus on governance and Target E, highlighting challenges faced with the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Highlight achievements of selected countries and cities in each region which have capacity to develop and implement integrated whole-of-society action on disaster risk reduction including for biological risks and hazards;
- Launch a guidance note on integrating risks associated with biological hazards, including pandemics, in national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction:
- Partner with CRED to produce an insightful report on disaster trends over the last twenty years 2000-2019
- Organize a rolling series of webinars – Governance and DRR Strategy - hosted by Regional Offices and introduced with short video messages from the SG and the SRSG
- Launch a new Words into Action guide on Nature-based Solutions for DRR
- Launch International Day website and social media campaign.

# 4

## KEY MESSAGES/ TALKING POINTS

- Without appropriate institutions, policies and collaborative frameworks, the best plans and strategies will fail;
- Plans and strategies must reflect the multidimensional, systemic nature of risk, if people and ecosystems are to be protected and resilient. Assessment is imperative;
- Empowering and resourcing local authorities is key to successful disaster risk reduction;
- Each State has the primary responsibility to prevent and reduce disaster risk, through effective multi-stakeholder coordination, proper planning, oversight of implementation and strengthening institutions with responsibility for disaster risk reduction;
- The inclusion of biological hazards and associated risks in the Sendai Framework was a result of a strong push from Member States based on their experience of various outbreaks in recent years including Ebola, MERS, SARS and influenza. COVID-19 tells us that it is time to act decisively on biological hazards by applying the risk management approach.
- Few countries have made adequate inclusion of biological risks, including pandemic risk management, in their national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction and filling this gap in disaster risk reduction is an essential part of the recovery from COVID-19;
- Globalization has entrenched the systemic nature of disaster risk in a world coping with the unprecedented challenge of a climate emergency and a full-blown pandemic at the same time;
- COVID-19 is a very clear example of what is meant by systemic risk, and an illustration of the cascading impacts of both the disaster event and the responses adopted by States;
- If disaster risk reduction is included explicitly in national development plans and climate adaptation plans and budgets, all parts of government within and across sectors are then able to programme risk reduction actions and investments;
- The adoption and enforcement of hazard resistant building codes and standards, planning and environmental regulations and the overall strengthening of risk governance through legislation, institutions and systems, protect people from the risk of vulnerable infrastructure;
- Weak implementation of DRR measures and enforcement mechanisms are common problems in countries where most urban development is informal;
- Increasing exposure of critical infrastructure and economic assets has been the major cause of long-term increases in economic loss from disasters and shows that the economic incentives for building in many hazard-prone areas continue to outweigh the perceived disaster risks;
- Extreme weather events have risen by 80% over the last twenty years (Emergency Events Database maintained by CRED);



- Most of the people affected by disasters (2000-2019) – over 90% - were affected by climate-related events including extreme weather;
- We are all responsible for disaster risk reduction, and the success of the SDGs depends on it;





# 5

## SOME QUESTIONS FOR PARTNERS TO CONSIDER FOR PROMOTING THE DAY

- Does your national strategy for disaster risk reduction have a clear vision supported by plans, the necessary competence, legislation, resources, guidance and coordination within and across sectors?
- Have you put in place organizational structures to implement the Sendai Framework or risk-informed sustainable development?
- Does your national strategy take a systemic view of risk and seek to strengthen economic, social, health and environmental resilience?
- Do your national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction take adequate account of biological, technological and environmental hazards and risks?
- Have you been able to establish and strengthen government coordination forums composed of relevant stakeholders at the national and local levels, such as national and local platforms for disaster risk reduction, and a designated national focal point for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030?
- Are you addressing disaster risk in publicly owned, managed or regulated services and infrastructures?
- Do you include financial incentives, public awareness-raising and training initiatives?
- Do you report regularly on your activities and make use of the Sendai Framework Monitor?



# 6

## #ItsAllAboutGovernance CAMPAIGN

The #DRRday website will highlight key initiatives and engage stakeholders and public by encouraging discussion and debate through social media, using the hashtags #ItsAllAboutGovernance #DRRday.

Visualizations and stories will be included to illustrate action and partnerships, with a focus on plans being implemented to reduce or avoid future disaster losses as set out in the Sendai Framework.

### 6.1 Content Generation

Within the limits imposed by the pandemic, there will be a focus on developing multi-media content - news stories, photographs, videos, social media cards - which will highlight the links between good disaster risk governance and having national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in place aligned with the Sendai Framework.

These will feature good practice from the list of 86 countries currently reporting on their national strategies for DRR and their level of alignment with the Sendai Framework – two per region ideally with a strong focus on multi-hazards and the application of learning from past disasters e.g. Bangladesh which marks the 50th anniversary of the Great Cyclone of November 1970 which killed one million people and has plans to expand its highly regarded

The website will be a resource for the DRR community to use for posting details of any planned events – bearing in mind the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 - for the day including photographs, video clips, posters and commentary. This page will also be a resource including logos, infographics, press releases, news stories, photographs, public service announcements and other useful materials.

Cyclone Preparedness Programme to cover other natural and man-made hazards.

At the local level, the focus can be on those 19 cities selected for Result 4 of the EC DEVCO Resilient Cities Project, ideally, at least one per region if possible, in the circumstances.

**Africa:** Kampala, Dire-Dawa, Kisumu, Yaonde, Praia

**Asia:** Ulaanbaatar, Kathmandu, Dhaka North, Cilacap Regency, Mawlamyine

**Pacific:** Honiara

**Arab States:** Khartoum, Ismailiya, Nablus, Nouakchott

**Americas:** Tegucigalpa; Guayaquil, Guatemala City, San Juan de Lurigancho

**Caribbean:** East Santo Domingo

## 6.2 DRRday Activities

**GENEVA:** Press release to be issued on Guidance Note for the inclusion of pandemic preparedness in national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction;

Press release on new disaster trends report prepared with CRED and GAR team;

Launch of Words into Action on Nature-based Solutions for DRR

Video messages on the theme of the day from the SG and the SRSG;

**UNDRR REGIONAL OFFICES:** Webinars on Target E and disaster risk governance hosted and moderated by Heads of Regional Offices. These can include reference to the UNDRR/CRED report which can also be launched separately by the Head of the Regional Office.

## 6.3 Newsfeed

PreventionWeb will curate relevant news stories and case studies which speak to the theme and

which will be featured on the DRRday website.

## 6.4 Social Media

UNDRR will use Twitter and Facebook and LinkedIn to engage and generate support from organisations and individuals for the theme of the day, requesting they share the following messages, accompanied by a suitable image, with their followers:

The greatest single driver of disaster risk is weak governance and lack of political commitment to invest in disaster prevention. Good governance means good national and local DRR strategies. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

If the benefits of investing in disaster risk reduction were fully realised, we would not be facing a global economic crisis. The world would have been better prepared to mitigate the impact of the [#COVID19](#) pandemic. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Failure to address global challenges including [#racism](#), the [#ClimateEmergency](#) and pandemic risk starts at the national level with failures in governance. We need to put prevention at the centre of how we choose to live. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

[#COVID19](#) has reinforced the need for people with life-threatening and chronic disease, living with disability or in poverty, to be included in the design of policies and plans to manage their risks. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

The case for good governance and strategic planning is underlined by the fact that the world is on course for a temperature rise of 3.2°C. G20 countries responsible for 78% of all greenhouse gas emissions need to lead by example. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

15 of the #G20 members have not committed to a timeline for net-zero emissions. Unless global greenhouse gas emissions fall by 7.6 per cent each year between 2020 and 2030, the world will not achieve the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Disaster risk reduction requires all-of-society engagement to develop and successfully implement national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction. So far 86 UN member States report having started work on these. More need to follow. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Good planning, national and local DRR strategies saves lives and reduces the risk of displacement in floods, storms and drought. 25 million people are displaced every year by climate and weather. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Planning for drought, heatwaves and wildfires in your national and local DRR strategies can reduce the risk of all three and speed up adaptation to climate change. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Inclusion of the potentially vulnerable in developing and implementing a national or local strategy to reduce disaster risk is key to its success. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Planning for cyclone seasons in a national or local DRR strategy can avoid damage to critical infrastructure and reduce economic losses. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Nothing undermines development like a disaster. Careful planning around the location of critical infrastructure saves lives and avoids economic losses. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Schools, hospitals, bridges, roads, public utilities....Plan them to make sure they are still there when you need them most. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

National and local strategies for disaster risk reduction require dedicated assessments of risk, including systemic risks. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Risk-informed land use planning and building codes are key elements of any national strategy to reduce disaster risk. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Reducing the risks which accrue from rapid urbanization, poverty, changes in land use, environmental degradation and global warming is best achieved by avoiding the creation of these risks in the first place. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Risk-informed planning of critical infrastructure represents large savings in terms of avoided losses and reconstruction costs with cost benefit ratios ranging from 3:1 to 15:1 or higher in some cases. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

The most expensive hospital or school is the one that collapses in a disaster. National and local #DRR strategies need a strong focus on protecting critical infrastructure. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)



Unplanned urbanization creates greater risk of floods. Reducing flood risk needs to be addressed in national and local strategies for DRR. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Too many people die in earthquakes, floods and storms because of poor planning and failure to implement adequate building codes. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Climate and extreme weather displace an average of 25 million people every year in their own countries. Reducing risk of displacement needs to be a goal of national and local DRR strategies. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

The collapse of tourism because of #COVID19 is a glimpse of the economic future of many small island developing states if the world's wealthy industrial countries do not act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to support adaptation to [#ClimateChange](#). [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

About 95% of #COVID19 cases have come from urban areas. Pandemic preparedness in cities and towns must be included in urban and local strategies for disaster risk reduction. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Interaction between #COVID19 and other risk drivers including poverty, slum-like living conditions, lack of international solidarity, extreme weather events...all contribute to a world in which human rights are abused. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Disaster risk reduction is the desired outcome of all measures which can be taken to reduce loss of life, injury and displacement, damage to critical infrastructure and loss of access to basic services, because of both man-made and natural hazards. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

#COVID19 shows that consumption patterns, travel & trade, urban density, lack of access to clean water combined with poor risk management creates conditions for an outbreak to become an epidemic, a pandemic – and a global economic & social disaster. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

If we do not improve disaster risk governance, the #COVID-19 pandemic will be viewed by future generations as a lesson that was ignored in the course of destroying the planet. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Good disaster risk governance can be measured by lives saved, fewer people affected and reduced economic losses. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

Risk resilience emphasizes the importance of effectively managing change. #COVID-19 an opportunity to reevaluate our resilience and revise national and local DRR strategies accordingly. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#) Investment in disaster risk reduction generally represents a large saving in terms of avoided losses and reconstruction costs with cost-benefit ratios ranging from 3:1 to 15:1 or higher in some cases. [#ItsAllAboutGovernance](#) [#DRRday](#)

## 6.5 PSA/ videos

UNDRR Comms will produce a number of videos on the theme of disaster risk governance for sharing across social media

## 6.6 Expected Outcomes

1. Greater awareness of the importance of governance and political commitment to managing and reducing disaster risk;
2. Greater awareness of the importance of including considerations for disease outbreaks including pandemic risk management in national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction;
3. Greater awareness of the Sendai Framework and a key target with a 2020 deadline;
4. Greater focus on integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation;
5. Greater understanding of how extreme weather events and biological hazards and risks are raising the bar for disaster risk reduction and the achievement of the SDGs;
6. Public discourse to promote attitudinal and behavioral change towards disaster risk management;



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