



REVIEW OF THE INTEGRATION OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Inspector Jean Wesley Cazeau



Source: <https://www.unisdr.org/we/monitor/indicators/sendai-framework-sdg>

Background

The present report contains a review of the work of the United Nations system entities, focusing on inter-agency coordination and systemic coherence for a more effective and efficient implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the revised United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience.

It analyzes the extent to which the organizations have integrated the issue of disaster risk reduction in their corporate priorities, with regard to either normative or operational activities to implement their mandates. It also presents the organizations' self-reported information on their level of engagement to implement their commitments made through their endorsement of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience.

Objective and Purpose

The recommendations of the report aim to address gaps and reinforce collaboration among the system organizations to work as one, effectively and efficiently delivering on disaster risk reduction strategies in the context of the 2030 Agenda.



What the JIU Found

1. Commitment of the United Nations system on disaster risk reduction

The data collected and information received indicate that the integration of disaster risk reduction is taking place in most organizations of the United Nations system. In addition, organizations that are largely involved in operational activities at country level dedicate significant resources through their risk-informed sector programming work, which embeds the issue of disaster risk reduction in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

2. Inclusion of disaster risk reduction in corporate strategic plans

The majority of organizations in the United Nations system have included disaster risk reduction in their corporate strategic plans and, accordingly, they are implementing activities under the relevant goals. However, the differences in reporting frameworks do not facilitate system-wide consolidated reporting to measure progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

3. Cross-cutting nature of disaster risk reduction.

The analysis reveals that, to a large extent, disaster risk reduction is covered not only as a dedicated goal, but often as a by-product of achieving other goals related to the 2030 Agenda, for example Goal 1 on poverty reduction, Goal 3 on health, Goal 11 on resilient settlements or Goal 13 on climate change.

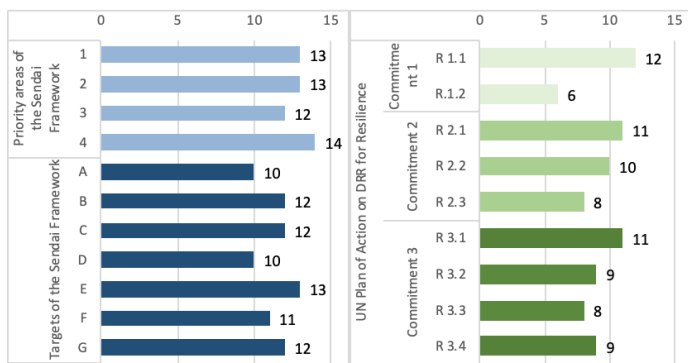
4. Role of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

The role of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the focal point on disaster risk reduction in the United Nations system, is focused on coordination, acting as a normative entity to support countries' efforts to strengthen institutional frameworks for increased preparedness and resilience to disasters. Moreover, the Office has strengthened its support by issuing guidance and establishing the Sendai Framework Monitoring platform, which is instrumental in allowing countries to report on the progress achieved in their national strategies on disaster risk reduction. Besides of this strategic role, the budget of its secretariat relies essentially on voluntary contributions and represents 4.7 per cent of the overall reported resources dedicated to disaster risk reduction for the period under review.

5. Disaster risk reduction work in the field and operational activities

Organizations of the United Nations system actively engage in the field, supporting the integration of disaster risk reduction in the strategic plans of the United Nations country teams (or multi-country offices), in close coordination with regional and national authorities. Most of the organizations delivering work in the field pointed out that the level of integration of disaster risk reduction in their core work, through integration in sector programming, would not allow for a distinct report specifically on resources dedicated to disaster risk reduction.

Number of participating organizations contributing to the Sendai Framework by priorities and targets (left) and to the United Nations Plan of Action by commitment and result (right)



6. Role of non-resident agencies

The team also noted that non-resident agencies play a role through their partnerships with other organizations of the United Nations system that have a presence in the field and their direct partnerships with national stakeholders.

7. Reported resources on disaster risk reduction-related work

The team collected data through responses to the questionnaires and found \$4.12 billion in resources devoted to disaster risk reduction between 2012 and 2017. However, the amount should be considered as an underestimate due to the cross-cutting nature of disaster risk reduction; activities are not necessarily reported under this category.

8. Partnerships for disaster risk reduction

The development of inter-agency partnerships, such as the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative and the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction, is an effective way to leverage synergies and deliver more successfully an integrated approach to sustainable development.

9. Gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies and data collection

Although a willingness to develop gender-sensitive work is manifest, according to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women there is a gap between the intention and the actual incorporation of a gender dimension in the work.

10. Leaving no one behind

In strengthening the work of the United Nations system on disaster risk reduction, it is also recommended to give priorities to risk-prone countries, in particular to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Small Island developing States, as well as vulnerable population groups in all countries.



What the JIU recommends

The governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system should request the secretariats to present a map of interlinkages between the core mandate of their organizations and disaster risk reduction and report on the progress made on disaster risk reduction accordingly.

The Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations should ensure that the new generation of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks systematically include disaster risk reduction as part of the common strategic plans of the country teams.

The executive heads of the organizations working in the field should ensure that the UN country teams plan for dedicated capacity to implement risk-informed development activities and that such activities in the field are reported to headquarters, including by monitoring their contribution to implementing the Sendai Framework.



Methodology and Approach

In accordance with the JIU internal standards, guidelines and working procedures, this system wide review was conducted in a consultative manner. The methodology followed in preparing the report included:



A desk review and preparation of terms of reference in consultation with the participating organizations



A quantitative and qualitative analysis of data contained in their replies to the questionnaires



The information collected through interviews both at headquarters and field locations

ABOUT THE JIU

The Joint Inspection Unit is the only independent external oversight body of the United Nations system mandated to conduct evaluations, inspections and investigations system-wide.
Visit the JIU website for more information at www.unjiu.org



JIU
Statute



11
Inspectors



Latest
news



Reports, notes
and management letters



Main
thematic areas



2019
Programme of Work



28 Participating
Organizations