

United Nations

Plan of Action on

Disaster Risk

Reduction for

Resilience



United Nations System
Chief Executives Board for Coordination

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), at its 2011 Spring Session, committed to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the programmes and operations of the UN system through the development of a common agenda, and to raise disaster risk reduction to the highest political support.

The High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) decided, at its 22nd session to carry out a review on the state of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, based on information provided by Committee members. The responses to the questionnaire, by 29 members, provided an initial overview of efforts by UN system to integrate disaster risk reduction. At its 23rd session, HLCP requested the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG) and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), to convene a time-bound senior management group to prepare a UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. The following entities contributed to the work of the Group: FAO, IAEA, IFAD, ILO, IMO, ITU, UNAIDS, UNCCD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCHA, UNOPS, UNRWA, UNWOMEN, UNWTO, UPU, WFP, WHO, World Bank, and CEB secretariat.

The UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience was endorsed by the CEB, upon recommendation by the HLCP, at its April 2013 Spring Session.



Message by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Responding to the dramatic increase in extreme weather events and mega-disasters is one of the great challenges of our present age. Climate change, rapid urbanization and population growth in hazard-prone cities and coastal areas make action all the more urgent.

Disaster risk reduction is a top priority as we seek to hold back the tide of rising economic and human losses. Its impact can be catastrophic for poverty reduction and sustainable development efforts, especially in the least developed countries.

To reduce risks from disasters, we must mobilize a broad coalition of partners, from village chiefs to government ministers, from family-run shops to international corporations, from school principals to hospital directors.

This Plan of Action presents a strategy for integrating disaster risk reduction into UN country level operations. I commend it to all partners committed to reducing the risks that disasters pose and making our societies more resilient.

May 2013



Introduction

Losses from disasters are a threat to people's lives and development; disaster risk is accumulating in most regions¹. The scale of vulnerability and exposure to hazards, and the resulting demand for assistance and protection are projected to increase substantially over the next decades. This is due to a combination of climate risk, resource scarcity and drought, ecosystem degradation, livelihoods' impoverishment, demographic changes, and limited capacities to manage risks from natural, technological and biological hazards, including epidemic diseases. Now, more than ever, disaster risk reduction must be integral to sustainable development.

This calls for a response by the UN that marks a step change in concerted action across all sectors; in the words of the *Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)*² "build the resilience of nations and communities to disasters". The UN must evolve and adjust its role and responsibilities to meet this changing and challenging risk scenario among complex and competing priorities.

A higher level UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience is required³. Accelerated action is needed for the remaining term of the HFA. Such action will also encourage the development of a successor or post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction [HFA2]⁴. Many of the commitments in the Plan of Action therefore reflects core needs to 2015 and sets a base to scale-up efforts once the successor is determined.

In the "Future We Want", adopted at the Rio+20 Conference in Brazil in 2012, member states requested for disaster risk reduction to be more central to sustainable development policies and plans. The post-2015 development agenda is also consulting on and considering the impact of disasters and the need to build resilience⁵. The UN Secretary-General committed to work on disaster risk reduction as part of his second mandate and its Five-Year Action Agenda. The UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience aims to position the work of the UN in these contexts.

The Plan of Action outlines the purpose, a set of core commitments and actions, a shared approach

to measure impact and progress, and steps for implementation. The Plan of Action also embraces the international momentum to use "resilience" as a common outcome that integrates poverty reduction, disaster risk reduction, sustainable livelihoods and climate change adaptation, as integral to sustainable development.



Commitments and Actions

Achieving the vision of the *Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)* to 'substantially reduce disaster losses in all countries' will require more effort to position disaster risk reduction at the core of a sustainable and resilient future. The UN system, both as individual organizations and collectively, will undertake the following three main commitments and sets of actions along with corresponding expected results.

Commitment 1: Ensure timely, co-ordinated and high quality assistance to all countries where disaster losses pose a threat to people's health and development



The UN will provide more effective support to country-driven efforts to address disaster risk as part of broader, comprehensive resilience-building efforts, to address disaster risk and climate change impacts in the context of sustainable development⁶. This support will include working at regional level and through multisectoral actions.

The UN will pursue the following objectives:

- Ensure that development policies, programming and investments, in every country, and the support provided by the UN, are informed by risk assessments.



I am convinced the UN, through the Plan of Action, is now better equipped to support countries and communities to build their resilience to disasters. The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) will work closely with UN partners to ensure the implementation of the UN Plan of Action translates into effective support to countries and communities.

Margareta Wahlström
Special Representative of the
Secretary-General for Disaster Risk
Reduction

FAO The Food and Agriculture Organization fully supports the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience (DRR). FAO has long been committed under its mandate to DRR in synergy with intensified production and climate change adaptation, towards eradication of hunger, poverty alleviation and sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of vulnerable farmers, herders, foresters, fisher and other groups at risk. This commitment has been further enhanced in 2013 through endorsement of its governing bodies of a Strategic Objective for FAO dedicated to increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crisis affecting food, agriculture and nutrition.

José Graziano da Silva
Director-General

- Promote multi-stakeholder national and local disaster risk governance systems and plans supported by effective regulatory frameworks and coherent institutional capacity-building efforts.
- Promote national and local public budgets, development co-operation, private sector investments and climate finance mechanisms that integrate disaster risk reduction.
- Promote the integration of disaster preparedness for relief and recovery with development programmes that reduce disaster risk and build resilience.

To be efficient, these efforts require more coherent, dynamic and context-sensitive approaches by the UN. Consultations among stakeholders will be encouraged. There are examples where the UN, through joint programmes and inter-agency collaboration⁷, has assisted countries to implement disaster risk reduction as part of these efforts. In some cases, reducing disaster risk has become a principal component of UN country level work, led by UN Resident Coordinators. In other cases, UN organizations have been taking more comprehensive risk management approaches, linking their development and humanitarian actions, linking science to policy and aligning their efforts and programming capacities around resilience-building. These efforts need to be encouraged, documented and replicated.

The support of the UN will increasingly be tailored towards local, national and regional needs and make best use of existing capacities and resources. This support will employ coherent coordination mechanisms and accountability systems to promote effective risk governance as well as encourage public and private investments that reduce underlying vulnerabilities. The support to countries will be based on the comparative advantage of the UN in relation to vulnerable, marginalized, discriminated and impoverished groups, as well as gender, disability and age-sensitive programming⁸. A holistic disaster risk management⁹ approach will be promoted to support critical areas. These include urban planning, rural development, and combating desertification, as well as a range of sectors including, food and nutrition security, agriculture, education, health, environment, water, migration and tourism. The UN will promote and support regional frameworks, led by regional intergovernmental organizations including regional commissions and sub-regional organizations. The UN will also provide guidance, share experiences and monitor progress including, where appropriate, via country-to-country peer reviews.

Actions

1.1 Promote the integration of disaster risk reduction, which shall be gender and age-sensitive, in Common Country Assessments (CCA), UN development assistance frameworks and partnerships¹⁰ (such as UNDAFs and UNPAFs and agency cooperation strategies with countries), and recovery plans as part of an integrated and comprehensive approach to assessing and addressing factors that undermine communities' and countries' resilience, including climate risk, environmental sustainability and social inequalities/exclusion.

Result: By 2015, information on disaster and climate risks from all hazards, and multisectoral capacities, will guide the planning of development frameworks and integrated action plans for all countries where disaster losses pose a threat to people's health and sustainable development.

1.2 Resource and support UN Resident Co-ordinators, their offices and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) including through the UN expertise available from UN non-resident agencies and at the regional level, to assist national and local institutions and international partners' in countries to develop common visions, plans and programmes for addressing disaster and climate risk within multisectoral and sectoral sustainable development strategies.

Result: By 2015, UN Resident Co-ordinators and UN Country Teams are better resourced to lead efforts of the UN to reduce disaster losses and build resilience in support of a country-owned strategy or plan that addresses the root causes of disasters and identifies implementable risk management solutions.

1.3 Assist countries to develop and enhance national and local risk assessments and risk information based on common, open, accessible and regularly updated data on natural, technological and biological hazards, exposure, the different components of vulnerability, capacities across sectors and losses to disasters, as well as climate- and conflict-related disasters risk.

Result: By 2015, countries and regions have institutionalised disaster loss accounting systems and comprehensive information on risks and losses. Such information is being used

by national actors to manage disaster risk and monitor the results of risk reduction efforts.

1.4 In support of Action 1.3, provide a set of standards and methods for comprehensive disaster risk assessment and information-sharing in the context of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) for countries and partners.

Result: An engagement plan on multisectoral risk assessment and information to help implement a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) at the country and regional level.

Commitment 2: Make disaster risk reduction a priority for the UN system and organizations within¹²



To support countries, the UN will scale-up its capacity building efforts, maximise the efficiency of its development, humanitarian and recovery investments and emphasise the importance of disaster risk in sectors, across UN policies and programmes. Currently, 60 per cent of UN organizations identify disaster risk reduction as a priority and in some cases a mandatory engagement. Some UN organizations have employed an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in their strategies, programmes and projects. This integration will be encouraged.

Compared to the number of UN organizations that identify disaster risk reduction as a priority, few have a corporate disaster risk reduction and resilience policy. More can be done to integrate disaster risk reduction into strategic planning frameworks. UN organizations need to elevate disaster risk reduction as a strategic priority for the institution.

Actions

2.1 Adopt policies and strategies and allocate resources to increase the level of commitment of each organization to disaster risk reduction for resilience; to contribute to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR); and to implement a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).

IAEA Effective risk reduction requires preparedness and coordination. As global focal point for preparedness and response to nuclear and radiological incidents and emergencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency is the coordinating body of the Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies (IACRNE). Given its long experience the IAEA fully supports the use of coherent coordination mechanisms and accountability systems to promote effective risk governance as outlined in the UN Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience.

Yukiya Amano
Director General

IOM The UN Plan of Action provides an important basis to address the linkages between disaster and human mobility through concrete and integrated responses promoting resilience and reducing forced migration. As a partner of the UN and governments, the IOM strategy is to measuring migration as an indicator of exposure and resilience, focus on preparedness to address displacement and reduce exposure to forced migration

William L. Swing
Director General

ITU is a champion in harnessing information and communication technologies (ICTs) for risk reduction on land, at sea and in the air. ICTs, particularly satellites, are used to monitor, detect and predict environmental degradation and climate change patterns. Through each of our sectors – radiocommunications, standardization and development – resources, time and energy are invested into the development and deployment of vital services and infrastructure for public safety and infrastructure protection.

Hamadoun I. Touré
Secretary-General

UNCCD Increasingly, frequent and severe droughts are becoming disasters to reckon with. To mitigate the effects of drought, UNCCD following the recommendations of a high-level meeting on national drought policy (HMNDP) in collaboration with UN Water, WMO and FAO are undertaking capacity development towards enabling countries to develop national drought management policies and create drought resilient societies.

Luc Gnacadja
Executive Secretary

Result: By 2015, disaster risk reduction for resilience will be integrated in institutional policies and strategies of UN organizations.

2.2 UN organizations to align their strategies, policies and country level programmes on reducing risk and building resilience, within respective mandates, to the commitments of the Plan of Action.

Result: By 2015, UN organizations will have monitored and reported progress in integrating disaster risk reduction as part of their strategic plans, programmes, and multi-year results frameworks.

2.3 Adopt a risk-based approach to development programming, building on joint analysis of risk and the causal factors of disasters and utilizing this information to inform UN organizations programmes and sectoral work.

Result: By 2015, UN organizations are using risk analysis to shape their programming and sectoral engagement approaches.

2.4 Extend a risk-based approach, as appropriate, to disaster relief and recovery programmes of UN organizations.

Result: By 2015, country disaster recovery strategies and programmes have integrated disaster risk leading to more resilient and sustainable development.

2.5 Enhance preparedness of the UN¹³ for effective support to nations and communities' emergency response and recovery efforts.

Result: By 2015, UN agencies and UNCT will have enhanced their capacities to respond to, and facilitate recovery from disasters.

Commitment 3: Ensure disaster risk reduction for resilience is central to post-2015 development agreements and targets



More people and assets are located in areas of high risk. Over the past 30 years, the world's population has grown by 87 percent. The proportion of the population living in flood-prone river basins has increased by 114 percent and on cyclone-exposed coastlines by 192 percent. More than half of the world's large cities, with populations ranging from 2 to 15 million are currently located in areas of high risk of seismic activity¹⁴.

Developing countries suffer a 2 to 15 percent of GDP annual loss to disasters depending on the profile of the country and intensity of disasters. Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) constitute the most vulnerable group of countries to disasters and climate change¹⁵.

The UN will fulfil its convening role, bringing multiple partners together to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) within the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). The convening role will include renewed urgency and accelerated efforts to determine global and regional priorities of action, support country level programming and priority setting, monitor progress and risk trends, and build consensus around effective action and norms.

UN organizations will need to work together to ensure disaster risk reduction is a key component of the post-2015 development agenda supported by a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).

Actions

3.1 Undertake consultations (based on evidence of the impact of disasters on people's health and sustainable development) to consolidate goals, targets and indicators on losses to disasters and building resilience as part of the post-2015 development agenda.

Result: By 2015, the development agenda reflects the risk of disasters and the need to build resilience.

3.2 Support national, regional and global consultations and efforts towards the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).

Result: By 2015, a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) is endorsed by the UN General Assembly.

UNDP welcomes the UN Plan of Action and looks forward to supporting the Resident Co-ordinator system ensuring that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is integrated into development plans. Pursuant to its General Assembly mandate¹⁶ to strengthen operational activities and build capacities to mitigate, prevent and prepare for natural disasters, UNDP will continue to build national capacities to manage the risk of disasters and build resilience through initiatives informed by comprehensive risk analysis. UNDP will support efforts to integrate DRR into the post-2015 development agenda and implement a successor to the Hyogo Framework of Action.

Helen Clark
Administrator

UNEP is totally committed to the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience full implementation. As we move towards a post-2015 global framework on disaster risk reduction, UNEP will continue to advocate for ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction, mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in climate change adaptation, and better preparedness in responding to environmental emergencies.

Achim Steiner
Executive Director and Chair of
the UN High Level Committee on
Programmes (HLCP)

UNESCO has been and will continue supporting Member States in mapping natural hazards and the vulnerability to them. Furthermore UNESCO will support Member States to introduce Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in their education systems. UNESCO will continue its work to integrate DRR in the management plans of World Heritage Sites. UNESCO's commitment to DRR will be further strengthened in the Organization's Medium-Term Strategy (2014-2021).

Irina Bokova
Director-General

UN-Habitat has committed to implementing the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience; operationally, through its Strategic Policy on Human Settlements in Crisis and Sustainable Relief and Reconstruction Framework, institutionally by creating a new Branch, dedicated to disaster risk reduction and resilience, and a global work programme mainstreaming outputs on disaster risk reduction and resilience. The on-going City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP) will also contribute to the Plan of Action.

Joan Clos
Executive Director

UNHCR is fully committed to supporting the UN Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. We recognize that it is essential to anticipate and be prepared for recurring disaster risks to help mitigate the impact on affected populations and strengthen their coping mechanisms. Whenever feasible, UNHCR strives to address Disaster Risk Reduction in its operations in disaster-prone areas, though progress depends on donor support.

António Guterres
UN High Commissioner for Refugees

UNOPS endorses the commitments expressed in the joint United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. UNOPS is mandated as a central resource of the United Nations in civil works and physical infrastructure development, including the related capacity development activities. In conducting such activities UNOPS works to support resilient and sustainable infrastructure in line with the organization's goals set out in the Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017.

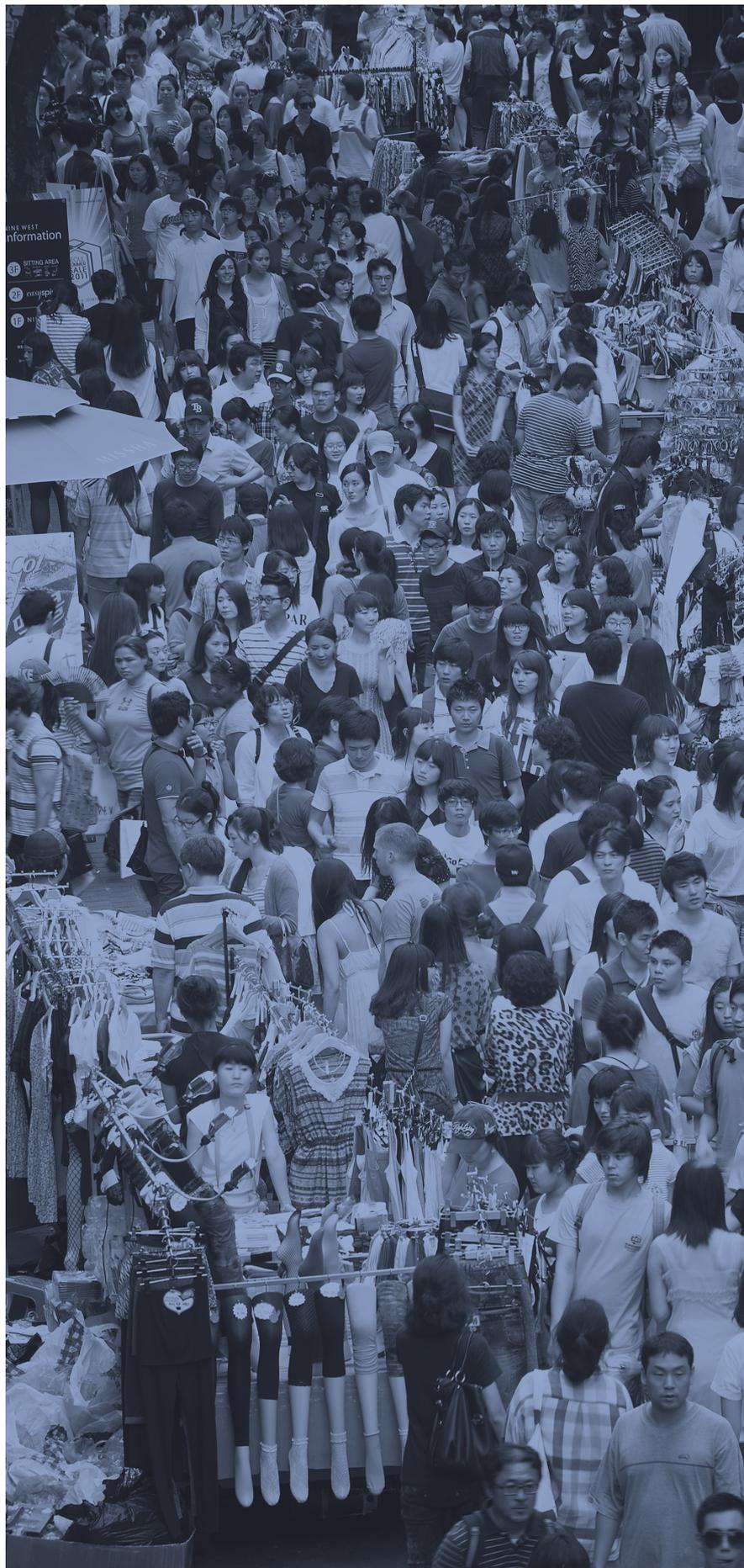
Jan Mattsson
Executive Director

UNU The United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) welcomes the Plan for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The Institute will continue to carry out and contribute research, education and capacity development activities in various fields linked to DRR and will launch in October 2013 a joint MSc Programme on “Environmental Risks and Human Security” with the University of Bonn, which will contribute to the educational component of the Plan.

Jakob Rhyner
Vice-Rector

UNV People, as victims of disasters, are the first to respond, rebuild and disaster proof their communities and lives. UNV partners with all agencies in the UN system and adds voluntarism and volunteers to their operational strength. UNV will continue to provide national and international DRR specialists and partner with UN Country Teams and Agencies to ensure voluntarism is built into their interventions under the post-2015 HFA framework.

Richard Dictus
Executive Coordinator





Shared Approach to Measuring Impact and Progress

As part of existing result and impact monitoring within UN organizations, a common monitoring checklist or diagnostic (a “tool”) will be developed to be made operational by the fourth quarter of 2013¹⁷. The tool should not be an additional layer of reporting. Rather, a simple set of questions, as part of ongoing monitoring and evaluation efforts, will be developed. The tool will provide the means for UN organizations to measure the integration of disaster risk reduction across agencies’ strategies, policies, programmes and activities in support of sustainable and resilient development, within their mandate.

UN organizations will report against the tool biennially. Once information is aggregated for all UN entities, the tool will also inform on ongoing efforts and the type of UN support that is available to countries. The tool will also be used to update the current publication *Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations* [produced biennially for the sessions of the Global Platforms] which will be adapted in the future to provide a regular account of progress across the UN on disaster risk reduction for resilience. The tool will inform the annual Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.



Implementing the Plan of Action

The Plan of Action has four implementation components:

I. Endorsement

Formal endorsement of the Plan of Action will be sought from the UN Chief Executive Board through the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP). The Plan of Action will further guide the contributions by the UN to the post-2015 development agenda, the consultations on a post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction (HFA2), and to the UN Secretary General’s Five-Year Action Agenda.

II. Implementation

A UN senior leadership group will be convened by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and assisted by UNISDR. The senior leadership will promote the implementation of the Plan of Action. Efforts will be made to ensure alignment with other relevant initiatives of the UN, for example, the humanitarian related work on preparedness and resilience of the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC).

The senior leadership group will use existing inter-agency and science and technical groups to assist them. Individual UN organizations will take the responsibility for certain components of the Plan of Action within their respective mandates and roles. UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) will be engaged through relevant UN Development Group (UNDG) mechanisms to support implementation at the country level. UNISDR will work with the Regional Commissions through the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) to adapt and implement the Plan of Action at the regional and sub-regional levels.

III. Monitoring progress

Progress against the UN Plan of Action will be reviewed by the senior leadership group with the support of the Senior Management Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience of the HLCP.

The Plan of Action will be reviewed by the HLCP after 2015. The review will determine effectiveness of implementation and delivery of the Plan of Action as well as make necessary adjustments from the outcomes of the post-2015 development agenda and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) including the review of the timeframes, currently mostly 2015, for the actions. The information gathered through the monitoring tool will input into the review of the Plan of Action.

IV. Communication and advocacy

Following endorsement of the Plan of Action, Executive Heads of UN organizations, UN Resident Coordinators and UNCTs will be engaged to raise visibility with countries and partners. Future events, such as global and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, can be optimised to promote the Plan of Action as a key commitment of the UN. Indeed, the Plan of Action is a main UN contribution to disaster risk reduction in support of resilience and sustainable development as part of the post-2015 development agenda.

UNICEF “Every year over the next decade, an estimated 175 million children will be affected by disasters. Reducing risk, and strengthening the resilience of families and communities against shocks, is a priority for UNICEF. We will support the Plan of Action. With our partners, we will work to strengthen disaster preparedness. We will work to help protect services in health, WASH and education from hazards. We will increase the number of “safe schools.” Finally, we will help children learn – including about their environment and climate change - and to speak out about the growing risks that they face.”

Tony Lake
Executive Director

UNWOMEN

Women and girls are among the most affected by disasters and often carry a major burden in the response. Their experience, knowledge and expertise are critical to effective disaster risk reduction. UN Women is committed to supporting all partners in implementing their commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment in disaster risk reduction.

Lakshmi Puri
Acting Head

UNWTO is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. UNWTO is contributing to the objectives and action points of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, through its continuous work in the area of risk and crisis management. Among the priorities of the Organization is the good integration of travel and tourism into the emergency management structures and procedures at national and international level to ensure resilient tourism development.

Taleb D. Rifai
Secretary-General

WFP welcomes and supports the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. Natural and man-made disasters are a leading cause of hunger. Reducing disaster risks is at the heart of our mission and mandate. As part of the UN Plan of Action, through corporate strategies, policies and partnerships, WFP will continue to build national and local capacities in disaster risk reduction to achieve resilience, with early warning, preparedness, livelihood protection, and other initiatives which address the needs of the most food insecure people.

Ertharin Cousin
Executive Director

UN commitments and progress reports will be regularly communicated to Member States and be readily accessible, for instance through open, online sources. This will strengthen UN accountability to countries and the public at large. In this regard, the UN will sustain its engagement with civil society including the private sector in coordinating and maximising investments on disaster risk reduction and building resilience.

Terms Used in the Action Plan

Capacity of a community, society or organization is understood to be the combination of all strengths, attributes and resources available that can be used to achieve agreed goals.

Climate change adaptation is the adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.

Climate risk means a risk resulting from the extreme values of the climate or weather variables and affecting natural and human systems and regions.

A **disaster** is a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.

Disaster risk is a function of hazard, exposure and vulnerability. Disaster risk is normally expressed as the probability of loss in a given period of time.

Disaster risk reduction describes the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.

Exposure describes people, property, systems, or other elements present in hazard zones that are thereby subject to potential losses.

Hazard refers to natural (or physical), technological or biological phenomena which have the potential to cause harm and damage. Processes such as urbanization, environmental degradation and climate change shape and

configure hazards which mean it is difficult to disentangle their natural and human attributes.

Preparedness is the knowledge and capacities developed by governments, professional response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from, the impacts of likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions.

Resilience is the ability of a system to reduce, prevent, anticipate, absorb and adapt, or recover from the effects of a hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner, including through ensuring the preservation, restoration, or improvement of its essential basic structures and functions.

Risk assessment is a methodology to determine the nature and extent of risk by analyzing potential hazards and evaluating existing conditions of vulnerability and capacities that together could potentially harm exposed people, property, services, livelihoods and the environment on which they depend.

Vulnerability describes the characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard¹⁸.

WHO welcomes the emphasis on reducing the risks of disasters to people's lives and health within the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience (DRR). Emergency risk management (ERM) is a key outcome of the Organization's Global Programme of Work for 2014-19. Other activities in support of DRR include the development of an all-hazards framework on ERM for health, the enhancement of ERM within WHO Country Cooperation Strategies, and advocacy for the inclusion of health and DRR within post-2015 development goals.

Margaret Chan
Director-General

WMO Disaster risk reduction and the protection of life and property are the highest priorities of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of World Meteorological Organization's 191 Members. WMO is spearheading the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services, which will help strengthen resilience, especially among the most vulnerable. For all of these reasons, WMO strongly endorses the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience as fundamental to sustainable development.

Michel Jarraud
Secretary-General

World Bank During the Sendai Dialogue, held in the IMF/World Bank 2012 Annual Meetings, world leaders called for stronger and more systematic integration of disaster risk management into development planning. The UN Action Plan on DRR aligns with this call, and the World Bank, working with GFDRR, is scaling up operations to increase countries' resilience. Over 70% of the World Bank's Country Partnership Strategies recognize natural disasters as a risk to sustainable development, and DRR has been integrated into our institutional scorecard to monitor progress.

Francis Ghesquiere
Head of Secretariat

FOOTNOTES

1. Information provided by assessments of disaster risk and related trends, the lessons learnt from recent disasters events and the ongoing monitoring of its own achievement are guiding the UN in this effort. In particular, the Special Report on Extreme Events (IPCC/SREX, 2012) and the Global Assessment Report (UNISDR, 2011).
2. Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA)
3. The 14th and 16th sessions (2007 and 2008) of the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) discussed mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the policies and strategies of the United Nations. The SRSG for Disaster Risk Reduction addressed the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) at its 2011 Spring Session. Following the decisions of the CEB, the SRSG convened, through the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), a senior management group to prepare a UN Plan of Action to identify and act on core issues and gaps in disaster risk reduction. The HLCP also carried out a review on the state of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction based on information provided by Committee members to UNISDR.
4. UN GA Resolution 66/199 requests the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to facilitate the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction in an inclusive, open and transparent manner.
5. The post-2015 Development Agenda encapsulates a number of interrelated processes spurred by the approaching culmination of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015, including the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on Post-2015 Development Agenda (initiative of the UN Secretary-General); the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals; and, post-Rio+20
6. Member States have repeatedly called upon the United Nations to make every effort to accelerate the full integration and mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in all its programmes and activities. This request for support is set out in the Hyogo Framework for Action which calls for a comprehensive international agenda requiring global, regional and national action and the support of the UN system. The UN General Assembly endorsed the Hyogo Framework for Action (A/RES/60/195) and through subsequent resolutions reiterates the integration and mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction.
7. One example of a well established inter-agency mechanism that relates to radiation emergency preparedness and response is the Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies (IACRNE), coordinated by the IAEA.
8. The Plan of Action recognises that disasters affect women and girls disproportionately, that gender-based discrimination remains a widespread driver of inequality and, accordingly, will promote gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction and resilience policies, programming and investments.
9. A holistic disaster risk management approach encapsulates a human-rights-based approach, given that vulnerable groups have fewer choices at their disposal to prepare for, respond to, escape from, or recover from disasters.
10. In support of UNDG 2009 decisions and guidance, as well as the UNDG Strategic Priorities 2013-2016
11. The 2015 timeframe used for the Results will be reviewed to align with the timeframe of the successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action.
12. UN system is intended to cover all its constituent parts including funds, programmes, specialized agencies, commission and the UN Secretariat.
13. Building on coordination efforts by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).
14. Global Assessment Report (UNSDR, 2011)
15. Global Assessment Report (UNSDR, 2011)
16. General Assembly 1998, resolution A/RES/52/12B, paragraph 16, "Decides to transfer to the United Nations Development Programme the responsibilities of the Emergency Relief Coordinator for operational activities for natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness, with the understanding that the resources for this task will be separate and additional to the resources of the United Nations Development Programme for development activities and that they will be provided by a grant from the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999."
17. HLCP requested UNISDR, under the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to lead the preparation of the proposed checklist for the UN system to mainstream disaster risk reduction into their ongoing policies and programmes. These efforts should build on existing inter-agency mechanisms and thematic platforms in place.
18. In relation to people, vulnerability can be defined as the diminished capacity of an individual or group to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a hazard. People differ in their exposure to risk and the factors that increase their exposure include poverty, inequality and discrimination related to gender, age, ethnic or other identity, (dis)ability, etc. Through their relative poverty and social and economic exclusion, women are often more vulnerable to hazards than men.

Chief Executives Board (CEB)

The Chief Executives Board (CEB) is the prime instrument for strengthening the coordination role of UN inter-governmental bodies on social, economic and related matters. It brings together the executive heads of 29 specialized organizations to deliver as one at the global, regional and country levels. It is supported by three pillars:

- High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)
- High Level Committee on Management (HLCM)
- United Nations Development Group (UNDG)

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