

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Annual Report
2023



UNDRR

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

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Citation: UNDRR (2024), Annual Report 2023, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
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Acknowledgement

UNDRR would like to acknowledge its major core donors for their support to this publication: Sweden, Japan, Norway, Switzerland and Finland. However, the views expressed in this publication are the author's alone and are not necessarily the views of the donors, as well as other core contributors, including Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, China, Philippines and France.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 Annual Report

FOREWORD



Paola Albrito
Acting Special Representative
of the Secretary-General
for Disaster Risk Reduction

In 2023, we crossed the halfway point of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. This milestone was marked by a renewed global determination to accelerate progress in the remaining years to 2030, as was expressed in the UN General Assembly’s political declaration on the Sendai Framework’s midterm review. This acceleration is urgently needed if the world is to rise above the growing disaster risks driven by the climate crisis, our disregard for the environment, and unplanned urban development.

UNDRR, through its Strategic Framework 2022-2025, remains committed to supporting governments and stakeholders to achieve this acceleration, as this Annual Report captures.

The Annual Report 2023 also lists several accomplishments of which we are particularly proud. Among them is the decision made at COP28 to award UNDRR and UNOPS the hosting of the secretariat of the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage. This decision is not only a vote of confidence in UNDRR, but more importantly is a clear recognition that disaster risk reduction is inseparable from the climate loss and damage agenda.

We are also proud of the progress that has been achieved under the Early Warnings for All initiative, which concluded its first year of implementation. Thanks to joint efforts in 2023 by the UN Secretary-General’s Advisory Panel members, key donors, and implementing partners across the UN system, the initiative is now on its way to deliver life-changing upgrades to early warning systems in at least 30 countries by the end of this year.

Moreover, in 2023, we saw the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative expand to cover half a billion people in 85 countries. As the majority of disasters are small-scale, local-level events, supporting municipalities to plan and implement resilience plans remains a critical priority for UNDRR to reduce the global burden of disasters.

These are some of the accomplishments in this report which we hope you will find informative and inspirational.

On a final note, I would also like to use this space to express my gratitude to the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for

Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms. Mami Mizutori, who completed her second term at the end of 2023. We thank her for stewardship of UNDRR over six eventful years, and we look forward to welcoming her successor, Mr. Kamal Kishore, in the near future.

Onward we push until we achieve resilience for all.

SIGNATURE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paola Albrito', written in a cursive style.

2023

IN NUMBERS

6,289 government officials

received DRR training through UNDRR's Global Education and Training Institute

US\$53.5m income



159
Member
States

reporting in the Sendai
Framework Monitor

129
Member
States

reporting to have national
DRR strategies

48
countries

applying DRR to inform Common
Country Analysis process

72
Member
States

contributions to the MTR
process resulting in a
Political Declaration

1,150

people received training in the
MCR Disability Scorecard

288

journalists received DRR training

77%

people reported applying
UNDRR's training at work

UNDRR Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objectives	1 Countries use quality information and analysis to reduce risks and inform development decisions	2 Disaster risk reduction governance strengthened at global, regional, national and local levels	3 Catalyze investment and action in disaster risk reduction through partnerships and engagement with stakeholders	4 Mobilize governments and other stakeholders through advocacy and knowledge sharing to make disaster risk reduction central to sustainable development
	1.1 Robust evidence, innovation and good practices on risk reduction available to inform decision-making processes across and within sectors	2.1 Effective and inclusive regional coordination and review mechanisms accelerate implementation of the Sendai Framework	3.1 Accelerate financing for disaster risk reduction, ensure investments are risk informed and address resilience of infrastructure	4.1 Governments and other stakeholders demonstrate awareness of importance of risk-informed sustainable development
	1.2 Governments and other stakeholders supported to integrate climate change and disaster risk reduction into relevant strategies and policies across and within sectors	2.2 Governments supported to develop and implement integrated, multi-stakeholder, gender-responsive risk governance	3.2 All of society approach contributes to inclusive risk knowledge and management with particular focus on reducing vulnerability of the most at risk	4.2 Advocacy, campaigning and communications strengthen UNDRR's relevance as the disaster risk reduction integrator within the UN system and externally
	1.3 Review and monitoring accelerates achievement and strengthens accountability towards the Sendai Framework	2.3 Local governments supported to develop, implement and finance climate sensitive, inclusive multi-hazard disaster risk reduction strategies	3.3 Disaster Risk Reduction strengthened across the 2030 development agenda and key intergovernmental policy decisions	4.3 Effective leadership, learning and knowledge sharing on disaster risk reduction mobilize action for risk-informed development
Results		2.4 Governments', UN partners' and other stakeholders' capacities are developed for climate-sensitive, inclusive disaster risk reduction		

While much was accomplished during 2020-2021, there is a renewed urgency to accelerate on multiple fronts so the UN Decade for Action and the hard lessons learnt from the global response to the pandemic about interconnectivity and interdependency, can be harnessed to implement lasting policy change. In consultation with stakeholders, UNDRR has identified the following four areas in which action needs to be accelerated:

ACCELERATORS: FROM STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK TO WORK PROGRAMME

SCALING UP USE OF DISASTER AND CLIMATE RISK INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK VISION

"UNDRR will support Member States and other stakeholders so that decisions on policies, plans, regulatory frameworks, and investments are risk-informed and grounded in an accessible and evidence-based understanding of multi-hazard systemic risk, including those related to climate change."

2022-23 OPERATIONALISATION

- Global Risk Assessment Framework scaled up in development and humanitarian contexts
- Next-generation systemic risk knowledge increasingly applied globally across the public and private sectors
- New generation disaster losses and damage database

ACCELERATING FINANCING FOR DRR AND DE-RISKING INVESTMENT

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK VISION

"UNDRR will work with Member States and other stakeholders to incentivize accelerated financing for DRR and to contribute to creating the next generation of financial products that more accurately price in the risks we now face. We will support national governments to develop risk-informed investment strategies that leverage public and private financing."

2022-23 OPERATIONALISATION

- More coherent Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Change Action expenditure tracking systems
- Regulatory changes to incentivize or remove barriers for blended financing options
- Better understanding of inter-dependencies, interaction and connectedness of infrastructure systems

SCALING UP COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC ADVOCACY FOR BUILDING HIGHEST POLITICAL TRACTION AND COMMITMENT TO DRR

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK VISION

"UNDRR will deliver evidence-based advocacy initiatives with clear calls to action to invest in prevention, highlighting the additional benefits that accrue through disaster risk reduction initiatives, increasing the visibility of the political importance of disaster risk reduction, and mobilizing citizens to demand change. This will be achieved through a connected approach to communications across UNDRR, drawing on enhanced risk knowledge and information, amplified through strategic communication partnerships."

2022-23 OPERATIONALISATION

- Increased global awareness about the contribution of disaster risk reduction to sustainable development
- Alliances, networks and partnerships forged within the UN system and with external actors
- Strengthened knowledge sharing platforms and demand-driven learning tools

ACCELERATING CLIMATE RISK REDUCTION

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK VISION

"UNDRR will build on the global momentum around the climate emergency as a way of fast-tracking action to achieve the Sendai Framework. Accelerated action to address climate change, including scaling-up adaptation, will reduce climate related disaster impacts and contribute towards comprehensive risk management. UNDRR will strengthen integrated disaster risk reduction and climate-risk informed development and humanitarian planning and will improve results and impact monitoring."

2022-23 OPERATIONALISATION

- Integration of climate projections in national and local disaster risk reduction strategies
- Risk-informed National Adaption Plans based on risk metrics and analysis
- Enhanced cooperation between disaster risk management and climate change actors.

01

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RISK INFORMATION SUPPORTING EVIDENCE-BASED POLICIES

A comprehensive understanding of disaster risks is essential to building resilience. Through a wide range of initiatives and partnerships, UNDRR facilitates the gathering, sharing and analysis of verified risk information to empower decision-makers across government to formulate and finance evidence-based DRR policies and programmes. At the same time, UNDRR supports governments and other stakeholders to integrate climate change and DRR into broader strategies and policies for an all-of-society approach to implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2023, UNDRR stepped up efforts to strengthen the disaster data ecosystem, leveraging its role as the custodian of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. As a result, by the end of the year, a total of 159 countries had started using the [Sendai Framework Monitor](#) (SFM), the official tool for governments to report progress against the seven targets of the framework and selected targets of the SDGs. Moreover, 69 countries are now filing disaster data disaggregated by sex, age, and disability, demonstrating the growing recognition that effective DRR requires an all-of-society approach that leaves no-one behind. The value of the SFM is further evidenced by the fact that 85 percent of these

countries have reported on at least five Sendai Framework targets, and 70 percent have reported on all SDG-related targets.

At COP28, data from the SFM informed several of the climate conference's key outcomes and, looking forward, will help operationalize a range of important climate initiatives. Such data also fed into the 2023 edition of the [Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems](#) report, which outlines the encouraging progress that has been made under the [Early Warnings for All](#) (EW4All) initiative.

Early Warnings for All

A joint initiative co-led by UNDRR and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and implemented by a range of partners,¹ Early Warnings for All (EW4All) was unveiled during COP27 by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. EW4All aims to ensure that every corner of the globe is equipped with robust early warning systems by 2027. This represents a significant step forward in disaster risk reduction and preparedness on a global scale, and provides a welcome boost for Target G of the Sendai Framework.

In 2023, UNDRR drove the establishment of the governance and coordination tools and mechanisms, orchestrating efforts to mobilize partners, and align resources and expertise across 30 initial countries. This strategic coordination has led to tangible progress in strengthening early warning systems and building resilience in vulnerable communities. Through close collaboration with local stakeholders, UNDRR has successfully integrated global initiatives with grassroots efforts, ensuring that interventions are tailored to meet the specific needs and challenges faced by communities on the ground.

At a high-level event in Barbados in May, UNDRR and its partners led EW4All's launch in the Caribbean region. The importance of this event was illustrated by the presence of several heads of government, including Barbados Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, regional organizations and UN agencies. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mami Mizutori, described the launch as "a critical first step toward coalescing the national, regional, and global cooperation needed to ensure everyone on Earth, especially the most vulnerable populations, is protected by multi-hazard early warning systems."



Another example of UNDRR's impact can be seen in the Maldives, where its support has facilitated unprecedented levels of political collaboration and advancement across strategic objectives and directly contributed to the country's ability to access increased climate adaptation financing. Similar success stories have emerged in countries such as Tajikistan, Ethiopia, and Madagascar, where diverse stakeholders have come together to endorse action plans and forge partnerships aimed at enhancing resilience.

In East Africa, where most disasters — such as drought, floods, landslides, windstorms, lightning, extreme temperatures and wildfires — derive from hydro meteorological and related hazards, UNDRR supports the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development's Climate Prediction and Application Centre ICPAC). Under the umbrella of the [Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System](#), this centre provides 11 East African countries with climate products including regular forecasts and crop monitoring that allow countries to issue early warnings and take preparedness measures. UNDRR plans to continue supporting ICPAC to expand its early warning systems to cover more hazards.

UNDRR recognizes the private sector has an important role to play in early warning. By fostering partnerships with leading organizations and convening an advisory panel comprised of key industry players, private sector expertise and resources have been employed to further strengthen early warning systems and build resilience at scale.

¹ Including the International Telecommunications Union, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies among others.

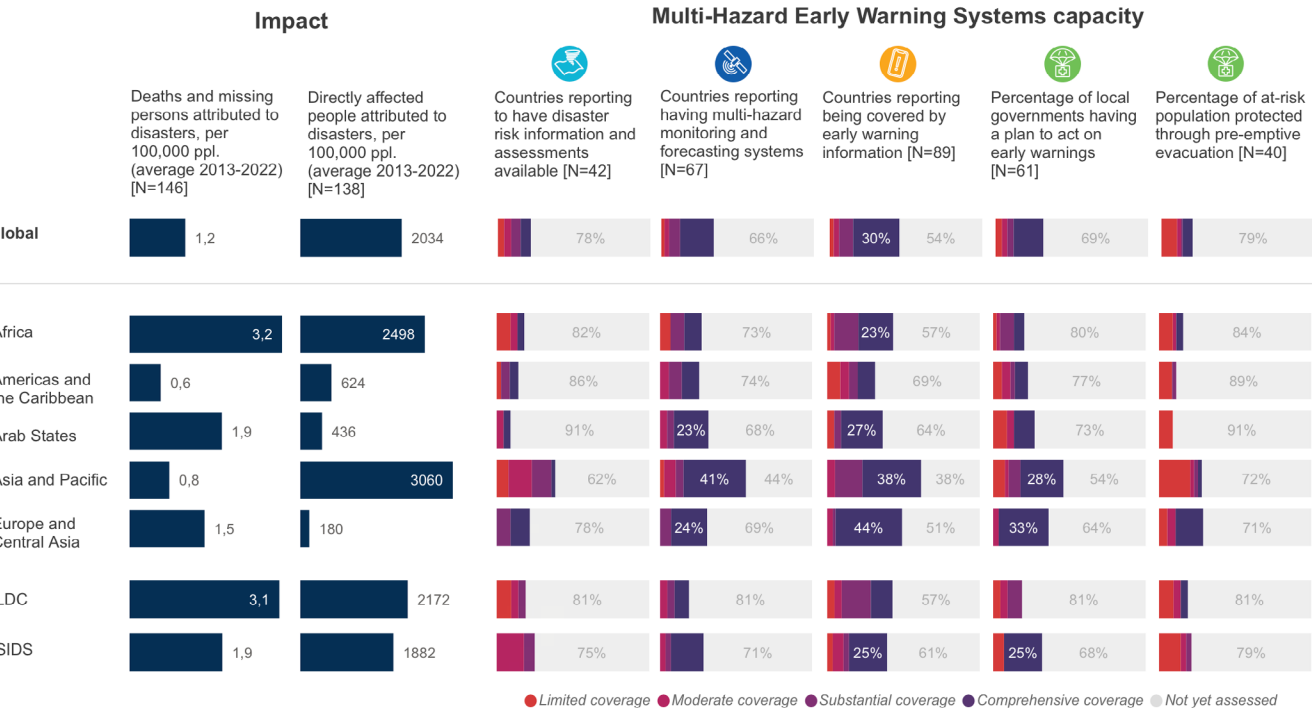
Financial commitments have been instrumental in driving progress towards EW4All's central goal. UNDRR has played a crucial role in mobilizing multilateral funds, securing support from multilateral development banks and facilitating the pivotal involvement of the Green Climate Fund in fortifying early warning systems in 50 to 60 vulnerable countries.

To ensure accountability and transparency in EW4All, UNDRR has established a robust monitoring and evaluation framework, complete with a dashboard to track progress and reveal gaps in real time. This commitment to accountability extends to governance leadership, with UNDRR working alongside the WMO to facilitate collaboration across four key pillars.

UNDRR also developed a system for tracking early warning system investments in support of EW4All. Though this methodology, UNDRR captured and analysed some 323 projects and collaborated with WMO to analyse self-reported data from 11 multi-lateral development banks and climate finance institutions. This analysis found that millions of dollars are flowing annually to support countries in their early warning efforts directly and indirectly and fed into country-level workshops. UNDRR's engagement with MDBs on this topic caused nine MDBs to issue a joint statement at the SG's Climate Action Summit in support of the EW4All initiative.

Global status of early warning systems

The indicators below are designed to capture the global impact of the Early Warnings for All Initiative across the four pillars of end-to-end, people-centred early warning systems.



Source: Sendai Framework Monitor, UNDRR, 2022
Scope: 195 UN Member States

[N= Number of countries reporting]

Global indicators

Explore the overall progress of the Early Warnings For All initiative. Indicators capture the global impact of disasters and the status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems.

Implementation

The indicators below monitor global key indicators designed to measure implementation of the EW4All Pillar Implementation Strategies.

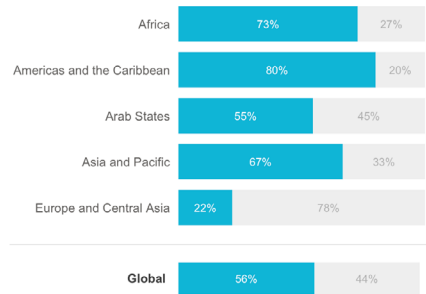
CHART VIEW

Region UNDRR

Countries with national disaster loss databases [N=110]

Source: DesInventar, UNDRR, 2022 / Scope: 195 UN Member States

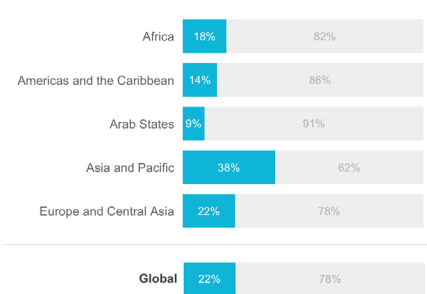
● Yes ● No data



Countries reporting to have disaster risk information and assessments available [N=42]

Source: Sendai Framework Monitor, UNDRR, 2022 / Scope: 195 UN Member States

● Yes ● No data



[N= Number of countries reporting]

Implementation indicators

Learn more about the global key indicators designed to measure the EW4All Pillar Implementation Strategies.

3

Maturity level

Antigua and Barbuda

This page presents detailed information on the capacity for monitoring and forecasting of the 30 countries initially selected for support under the EW4All Initiative, structured along eight elements of the hydrometeorological value chain, based on data submitted to WMO by their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.



Element Maturity Scores

Country (–) / Global average*

*Based on the number of currently assessed National Meteorological and Hydrological Services



Source: WMO Monitoring System, 2023

MHEWS Country Capacity

Delve into country-level information on the capacity for monitoring and forecasting of the 30 countries initially selected for support under the EW4All Initiative.



© UNDRR/Antoine Tardy

In the Caribbean, where increasingly frequent hazards such as hurricanes, tropical storms, tsunamis, floods, volcanoes, landslides and epidemics cause damage amounting to some US\$1.6bn annually², UNDRR, in line with its mission to boost DRR governance and its role as a lead EW4All change agent, led a range of activities in 2023 to enhance the efficacy of the region's multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS).³ This work will enable improved disaster risk knowledge, better monitoring and forecasting, stronger warning and dissemination capabilities, and enhanced response capabilities of individuals, communities, businesses, institutions, and organizations.

In November, UNDRR teamed up with UNDP and WMO to develop a new [system to track slow-onset hazardous events](#), whose related losses and damages have traditionally been hard to assess in isolation because of their undetectable start and end points and because they often overlap with more sudden hazards. The system, for which a functional prototype has been developed, is designed to enhance local and national capacities to systematically collect, manage, analyse and apply data to early warning systems, preparedness, resilient recovery, and DRR financing.

The Sendai Framework stresses that science and technology must take centre stage in the development of evidence-based DRR policies. In 2023, one of the UNDRR-coordinated [Regional Science and Technology Advisory Groups](#) (R-STAGs) that emerged from this imperative played a pivotal role during the VIII session of the Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas and the Caribbean (RP23), which took place in Punta del Este, Uruguay in late February and early March under the theme "Science and Technology for Integrated Disaster Risk Management." RP23 was attended by almost 2,000 people (virtually and in person), while more than 10,000 followed live streams.

The influence of R-STAG extended across every facet of RP23, from crafting the agenda to active participation in core sessions. Highlights included the presentation at a high-level ministerial meeting of the [Science and Technology Declaration](#) and an updated [Regional Action Plan for implementing the Sendai Framework](#). While not legally binding, this plan serves as a foundation for a coordinated regional approach to DRR, identifying practices to enhance disaster resilience through science and technology. RP23 also featured a pioneering [Gender Observatory](#), organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Network for Disaster Risk Reduction with the aim of strengthening gender-responsiveness in the DRR agenda.

The R-STAG in Arab States was also in action in 2023, with Tunisia hosting a conference exploring the theme: Towards a Resilient Future: Science, Technology, Policy and Private Sector Nexus for DRR. The outcome document, the ["Tunis Call for Action"](#) on Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab States and in Africa, makes a collective commitment to foster synergies between science and technology, policy, and the private sector, ultimately leading to more effective, efficient, and coordinated approaches for disaster risk reduction and resilience at all levels.

² <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/08/1139492>

³ MHEWS are systems designed to provide timely and effective warnings of impending natural hazards, such as hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, droughts and earthquakes. These systems utilize various sources, including meteorological, hydrological and geophysical data, to monitor and forecast potential hazards and issue warnings to populations at risk. MHEWS play a crucial role in disaster risk reduction and management by enabling communities to take proactive measures to mitigate the impact of natural disasters, such as evacuating vulnerable areas, strengthening infrastructure, and implementing emergency preparedness plans. Moreover, early warning systems reduce disaster-related mortality by a factor of eight and reduce economic losses in the wake of climate catastrophes.

Helping Costa Rica better understand systemic risks and improve risk governance and critical infrastructure resilience

In 2023, UNDRR partnered with Costa Rica’s National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergencies (CNE) and other national partners to carry out the Central American country’s first ever systemic risk assessment aligned with the assessment of national infrastructure resilience. The aim was to foster a better understanding of the evolving risks affecting Costa Rica’s economy, infrastructure, and communities, to inform mitigatory policies and actions and identify actions to enhance risk governance and imbed resilience principles into infrastructure systems.

Whether they are used to guide public investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, to strengthen early warning systems or to detect social services’ vulnerabilities, robust risk data and multisectoral Analysis are essential to any reliable assessment of systemic disaster risk. More than 100 senior government officials, technical staff and practitioners worked together throughout 2023 to quantify risks associated with key hazards – such as floods and seismic events – across different sectors, including household livelihoods, water and sanitation, energy and road infrastructure, and schools and health centres. This work helped the Government of Costa Rica to identify ways to safeguard public infrastructure and public services from future disaster risk. As a result of this thorough analysis, some 60 percent of Costa Rica’s critical road corridors, and a similar proportion of its of bridges, were found to be vulnerable to flood risk – just one example of crucial information that will inform decisions about remedial investments.

Furthermore, the multistakeholder dialogue has catalyzed the formulation of pivotal recommendations aimed at enhancing the governance of strategic infrastructure related to systemic risk. These recommendations encompass vital sectors including electric energy, hydrocarbons, roads and bridges, railroads, water and sanitation, health, education, and postal services. Notably, the dialogue has underscored the

imperative to dismantle silos within governance structures, emphasizing the necessity for cohesive and systematic actions under a comprehensive macro resilience policy. UNDRR’s partnership with the CNE has fostered enhanced discussions and collaboration between different ministries on the issue of sharing and making better use of existing risk information. It has also underlined the benefits of providing direct access to such information, which can inform public policy and guide risk reduction actions taken by communities, businesses, the insurance industry, and state agencies. When gaps in risk data become known, the partnership helps actors come together to agree on how to improve risk knowledge and resilience governance.

As Carlos Picado, Chief of Strategy Development at the CNE, put it: “UNDRR contributes a lot in terms of transferring capacities for risk assessment and helping CNE’s partners better understand the inter-connected nature of risk.”

The integration of systemic risk analysis and the principles infrastructure resilience into risk governance marks the inception of a transformative new stage in risk-informed and multistakeholder disaster risk reduction, empowering decision-makers with invaluable insights, fostering a paradigm shift towards risk-informed investment and robust multisectoral engagement. With unwavering dedication, the CNE pledges to propel recommendations forward, striving to institutionalize guidelines, processes, and mechanisms for governing systemic risk effectively. Concurrently, UNDRR reaffirms its commitment as a trusted partner in risk knowledge and policy development for Costa Rica, poised to navigate the evolving landscape of resilience hand in hand.

In 2023, UNDRR accelerated its efforts to scale up climate action. At the global level, it firmly anchored DRR in global climate policy processes under UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, including in adaptation and loss and damage. While, at the national and local levels, it boosted the capacity of countries to integrate planning and implementation of DRR and climate action.

COP28 delivered several key DRR-related outcomes like the operationalization of the Santiago network and the loss and damage fund, coherence and comprehensive risk management in the Global Stocktake, and early warning systems reflected across several COP28 decisions.

In recognition of the critical role DRR plays in preventing loss and damage, UNDRR was mandated to co-host, along with the United Nations Office for Project Services, UNOPS, the secretariat of the nascent Santiago network. This network will connect vulnerable developing countries with providers of the technical assistance, knowledge and resources they need to address climate risks comprehensively in the context of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage. As co-host, UNDRR will have an unprecedented platform to better inform global policies and programming, and the appointment is a recognition of the organization’s normative strengths in this field.

Through regular submissions, presentations and facilitation of technical discussions, UNDRR supported the incorporation of the outcomes of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework into the [Global Stocktake](#) of the Paris Agreement, and development of the [Global Goal on Adaptation](#) and its targets. UNDRR also supported the Transitional Committee on loss and damage fund as a member of its Technical Support Unit. In December, UNDRR published a [primer on loss and damage financing approaches](#).

Besides these formal outcomes, UNDRR also facilitated the reflection of disaster risk reduction in the climate conference’s non-negotiated outcomes, including the [COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace](#) and Getting ahead of Disasters: A Charter on Finance for Managing Risks.

Meanwhile, UNDRR continued to operationalize the growing global synergy between DRR and climate action at the national level, through its [comprehensive risk management \(CRM\) approach](#), engaging over 30 countries to align their DRR and climate change adaptation strategies and policies. This included a regional workshop in the Caribbean attended by officials from ministries responsible for DRR and climate change adaptation in 18 countries, resulting in a [regional roadmap for integrated approaches](#). UNDRR provided targeted, demand-based technical assistance to help several of these countries develop integrated DRR and climate change adaptation policy instruments. In addition, within the framework of CRM, UNDRR delivered training activities in five countries in Asia and Africa.

In partnership with the UN System Staff College, UNDRR provided a thought leadership course, [Synergizing Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation](#), that helped stakeholders understand the necessity of synergies. Within six months, more than 5,000 people registered for this course, which was recommended by almost everyone who too it. In October, UNDRR published [Technical guidance on application of climate information for comprehensive risk management](#), in partnership with the WMO. Launched at COP28, this guidance is designed to help countries better integrate climate information in their DRR plans and strategies, adaptation planning and policy instruments.





Unpacking multi-dimensional risk in fragile contexts

Disaster risk cannot be effectively managed or mitigated unless it is fully understood in all its complexities. That is why understanding risk is among the top priorities of the Sendai Framework and why in 2023 UNDRR convened government, NGO and UN representatives to explore a broad spectrum of historic and emerging risks with a view to informing humanitarian and development planning.

Over 300 practitioners collaborated in eight countries including Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Haiti, Yemen and South Sudan. In these fragile and humanitarian contexts, a multitude of hazards converge with widespread economic hardship, a dearth of basic services and the deepening impacts of climate change, especially on agricultural livelihoods. In the face of such vulnerabilities – which are important drivers of displacement and migration – improving knowledge of disaster risk is of critical importance.

These joint analysis exercises, organized in collaboration with the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and its Development Coordination Office, illustrate the increasing convergence between the development and humanitarian sectors, and offer further evidence of the key role UNDRR plays in mainstreaming – or de-siloing – disaster risk reduction. Participants jointly analysed risk, agreed on priority hazards and developed most-likely scenarios to guide humanitarian planning and disaster risk reduction efforts. As a result, the Humanitarian Response Plans and Common Country Assessments are increasingly risk informed with improved consideration of preparedness and anticipatory action measures.

After the Yemen workshop, Bridget Mung'atia, a humanitarian affairs officer with OCHA, said the event "was the first time that local NGOs and the UN came together in Aden to jointly deep-dive into the complex risk landscape and explore scenarios for humanitarian planning."

As the world grapples with an ever-evolving landscape of challenges, such cross-sectoral initiatives help to place DRR at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. When risk considerations graduate from afterthoughts to priorities, investments become more sustainable, offering the most vulnerable a chance to break free from the vicious cycle of repeated and compounding shocks

02

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE, STRATEGIES AND CAPACITIES AT ALL LEVELS

Through its regional offices, UNDRR supports Member States implement the Sendai Framework and improve disaster risk governance through a collaborative, inclusive, and multi-stakeholder approach that involves all segments of society. These efforts focus on inclusive and participatory actions to reduce risk and address the climate crisis at national, regional, and global levels. They are guided by clear visions, strategic plans, capacity building, advisory services and inter-sectoral coordination. It also helps countries to share best practices and develop joint programmes to improve their capacity to deal with common and cross-border disaster challenges.

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UNDRR is the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction thought implementation of the Sendai Framework. Accordingly, it was under UNDRR's coordination that in response to the findings of the MTR SF and its [Political Declaration](#) the UN Senior Leadership Group on DRR for Resilience endorsed a set of [recommendations](#) to support Member States in their efforts to accelerate Sendai's implementation. These recommendations will guide the [UN's system-wide support for DRR, climate change adaptation and resilience](#) building until 2030 and complement the commitments made in the UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience. They include strengthening risk governance at all levels, accelerating efforts to risk-inform development programming, and boosting an all-of-society approach to DRR.

The Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework

The [Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction \(MTR SF\)](#) was a Member State-led multistakeholder process which generated 72 government-led national reviews and reporting on implementation of the Sendai Framework, as well as contributions from 28 United Nations System entities, 7 Regional Reports, 13 dedicated reports from non-State stakeholders, a global report of 25 non-State Stakeholder constituencies, and 14 MTR SF thematic studies.

Illustrating the cross-cutting nature of DRR, in producing the MTR SF, the thematic studies included a report by the UN Scientific and Technology Community Major Group published by the International Science Council, as well as thematic studies on risk and resilience in the global food system, how the Sendai Framework connects to the [global financial system](#), and on how to advance [risk-informed development](#) at a time when rapid technological change gives rise to existential risk.

This milestone culminated in a [High-Level Meeting \(HLM\)](#) of the UN General Assembly attended by Member States, UN system partners and other stakeholders.⁴ The HLM issued a [Political Declaration](#) through which the General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to the full implementation of the Sendai Framework, including its guiding principles and four priorities for action.⁵

- 4 Including private sector representatives from the [ARISE](#) network, which UNDRR established in 2015 in line with the Sendai Framework's recommendation that private sector financial institutions, such as financial regulators, accounting bodies and SMEs, integrate DRR into their business models and practices. The HLM took stock of DRR challenges experienced to date with a view to identifying necessary adjustments to risk governance and risk management.
- 5 These priorities are: understanding disaster risk; strengthening disaster risk; investing in DRR for resilience; and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

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Throughout 2023, UNDRR pursued its strategic efforts to help national governments and local authorities develop, implement and finance climate-sensitive, inclusive multi-hazard DRR strategies. This often entailed supporting local governments and stakeholders enhance resilience through the [Making Cities Resilient 2030](#) (MCR230) initiative, a global platform of practitioners, thought-leaders, financiers and donors, policy makers, technical agencies and networks committed to delivering on the 2030 Agenda.

In the Americas and the Caribbean region, for example, UNDRR convened its MCR2030 partners – including the [Climate Bonds Initiative](#) and the [World Council for City Data](#) – to train city stakeholders how to access various climate and resilience funds.⁶ In line with the Sendai Framework’s imperative that DRR be mainstreamed across government sectors, participants included both officials working on DRR/resilience and those responsible for finance and budgets. The training workshops focused on the use of tools such as the [Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities](#), and its associated [Action Guide](#), developed in collaboration with the US branch of the [Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies \(ARISE\)](#), which UNDRR established in 2015.⁷ Feedback from participants indicated that the training gave them practical skills to enhance the planning and implementation of disaster and climate actions. They also appreciated the direct connections made between cities and potential investors.



ARISE led the private sector’s participation in the third Regional Disaster Response and Humanitarian Assistance Drill, organized in Panama in June 2023 by the Government of Panama in conjunction with the Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic and UN agencies such as OCHA, UNDP and UNICEF. As a result of the drill, the Private Sector Coordination Protocol for International Humanitarian Assistance was created for Central America and the Dominican Republic. The overarching goal is to extend the application of the protocol beyond simulation exercises and seamlessly integrate it into real disaster response scenarios. The participation of the private sector helped to raise awareness that businesses should play a key role during disasters, which often hit them especially hard: 40 percent of SMEs do not reopen after a disaster, while up to 60 percent of losses resulting from natural hazard events are often uninsured.⁸

In March, UNDRR gathered inter-governmental bodies, academia, practitioners and scientists to establish and launch the Africa Network of Centres of Excellence for Disaster Risk Reduction. This network will function as a framework for members and institutions to collaboratively develop, deliver, and share customized tools, services, products, and training for disaster risk management, all guided by user needs in Africa.



6 These training sessions were held in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, Uruguay and Jamaica.
7 The ARISE network continued to grow in 2023, when the number of its members reached 562.

8 <https://www.undrr.org/es/news/sector-privado-afianza-su-rol-en-la-coordinacion-regional-para-la-reduccion-del-riesgo-y>

Elevating the role of cities: the Dubai Call for Action

In October, UNDRR co-organized the first Global Urban Resilience Forum, which was hosted by the City of Dubai. The backdrop to the event was the growing recognition that the climate emergency is having an increasingly negative impact on city dwellers around the world.

The outcome of the forum was a document entitled [“Dubai’s Call for Action: Scaling up urban resilience for a changing climate”](#). This encapsulates the collective experience and insight of the UNDRR-led [Making Cities Resilient 2030](#) global initiative, which comprises 1,640 cities with a combined population of 523 million people as well as 30 national governments and several international partners, including Local Governments for Sustainability, United cities and Local Governments, and the World Council for City Data. Dubai is the initiative’s first “Resilience Hub”.

The Call for Action encourages the integration of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge in disaster risk assessment and policies, as well as the use of nature-based solutions in urban areas. The forum also emphasized the need for data-driven approaches to inform decision-making and recognized the transformative potential of technology, including artificial intelligence, in collecting and disseminating risk-related data. Participants also called for the expansion of initiatives such as the UN’s Early Warnings for All and Forecast-Based Financing to protect urban communities.

The Call for Action drove MCR2030 engagement at COP28, supporting what was the biggest role to date for local governments at the annual global climate conference. The recommendations called for greater budget allocations for local governments and stronger coordination mechanisms with the national level, among others.

In 2024, MCR2030 will use the Call for Action to inform national and local governments on key priorities and options as they seek to scale up their ambitions and action on climate resilience, including through future COPs. The Call for Action will also be the basis for all MCR2030 advocacy as it seeks to influence regional and global policy recommendations in terms of scaling up urban resilience for a changing climate.



The 2023 edition of UNDRR's [Global Survey on Persons with Disabilities and Disasters](#) revealed that limited progress has been made with regard to disability inclusion since the previous survey was conducted in 2013, with no significant differences across the world's regions. The survey was designed to identify whether persons with disabilities are prepared for potential disasters, whether early warning and risk information is available and accessible, whether persons with disabilities are aware of DRR plans at national and local levels, and whether persons with disabilities are participating in DRR decision-making and planning. Drawing insights from 6,342 respondents in 132 countries, the survey provided a robust and nuanced perspective on the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in the face of disasters. Its findings serve as a powerful call to action, emphasizing the critical importance of addressing the persistent gaps in disability inclusion. Despite a decade passing since the last survey, the lack of substantial progress across regions signals an urgent need for renewed commitment and innovative strategies to empower and protect persons with disabilities in times of crisis.

To help meet this need, in September UNDRR published ["Gender-responsive and Disability-Inclusive Early Warning and Early Action in the Pacific Region - Findings and Recommendations for Future Action"](#). Prepared in consultation with the region's gender and disability community, the report sets out a pragmatic framework for revamping disaster preparedness strategies. As these guidelines gained traction across various Pacific nations,⁹ they paved the way for a comprehensive rollout and implementation in diverse countries. The subsequent phase is poised to extend the guidelines' reach and integration into a broader spectrum of countries, ultimately aiming for universal implementation in all targeted countries.

In March 2023, UNDRR initiated and co-led the first Pacific Anticipatory Action Week in Nadi, Fiji, which brought together national disaster management agencies and meteorological offices from 15 countries, as well as representatives of regional partners, civil society, the Red Cross movement and various UN agencies to strengthen cooperation between them and to de-silo DRR work.¹⁰ Subsequently, the Government of Fiji, with UNDRR's support, established the first national framework for anticipatory action. This links early warning information to early action financed by UN-OCHA's Central Emergency Response Fund to protect people and their livelihoods. In a first for the Pacific region, UNDRR, together with the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the local Sun Insurance Company, launched a [new insurance product](#) to help farmers in Fiji better prepare for cyclones and to reduce loss of lives and damage to crops, livestock and other assets. These activities were in line with UNDRR's efforts to strengthen the capacities of the UN system to support national and local communities in early warning, preparedness, response and recovery.



⁹ With support from the multi-agency [Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems \(CREWS\)](#) initiative

¹⁰ "Anticipatory action" refers to the implementation of measures or interventions before an expected event or crisis to mitigate its impact or prevent its escalation. It involves proactive planning and preparedness based on forecasts, early warning systems and risk assessments to anticipate and respond effectively to potential threats or hazards.

03

CATALYSING FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS THROUGH STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

UNDRR catalyses investment and action through partnerships and stakeholder engagement in line with the Sendai Framework's emphasis on a whole-of-society approach to DRR. In practice, this means engaging governments, the private sector, parliamentarians, civil society, international financial institutions, the international academic and scientific community, the media, youth groups and other key stakeholders.

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UNDRR encourages such engagement to address infrastructure resilience, accelerate DRR financing, de-risk investments, build coherence with the 2030 Agenda and scale up DRR in fragile contexts, with a particular focus on those most at risk to ensure no-one is left behind. It continues to strengthen strategic, impact-driven partnerships, including within the UN system, by enhancing technical cooperation to improve the way DRR is promoted in UN processes at the global level and mainstreamed into intergovernmental policy-making. Significant progress has been made towards UNDRR's goal of deepening coherence between the implementation of the Sendai Framework and other global intergovernmental agreements on sustainable development and climate change.

UNDRR's commitment to an all-of-society approach to reducing the risks associated with disasters, as mandated by the Sendai Framework, is most clearly manifested in the [Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism](#) (UNDRR-SEM) it established in 2018 as part of wider UN efforts to broaden participation in UN activities related to sustainable development and to empower non-state stakeholders to integrate DRR into the 2030 Agenda.

Over the course of 2023, participation in the UNDRR-SEM grew by 23 percent, to reach 806 non-State stakeholders from 106 countries and territories across the world. The mechanism provides civil society and community-based organizations the opportunity to strategically engage in and support global and regional policy discussions on the Sendai Framework and related instruments, such as the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, and Financing for Development.

The SEM fortified its role in the 2030 Agenda in 2023 through its participation in a range of high-level international gatherings, such as COP28, the 25th meeting of the [Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice](#),¹¹ the SDG summit and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. SEM members also made invaluable contributions to the MTR SF. A series of meetings and stock-taking exercises led to the drafting of the [SEM's 2024-2025 Action Plan](#), which serves as a blueprint for further operationalizing the mechanism and thus ensuring that the voices, needs, participation and recommendations of diverse stakeholders are prominently featured in global and regional fora and contribute to risk-informed DRR policies and actions at all levels.

¹¹ An entity created under Article 25 of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Walking the talk on Sustainability

In 2023 UNDRR adopted an environmental policy and developed an Environmental Action Plan. The policy embodies a recognition of the links between the natural environment and DRR as well as UNDRR's undertaking to mainstream environmental sustainability across all its functions. These actions enabled UNDRR to set the basis for its environmental management system and work to systematically improve the environmental sustainability of the organization's operations and programmes.

In April, UNDRR published the [Handbook for Implementing the Principles for Resilient Infrastructure](#), which offers countries practical steps – including proposed interventions and indicators – towards achieving the strategic goals of the Sendai Framework and the SDGs. The handbook also provides a governance framework to incorporate these actions into an implementation plan that considers national priorities, context and available funding. As such, it complements 2022’s [Principles for Resilient Infrastructure](#) in a drive to reduce the damage that disasters do to primary infrastructure, damage whose global annual costs currently exceed US\$300bn.¹²

Partnering with national governments, UNDRR then successfully brought these guidance materials to several countries, including Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Panama. Within each country, government focal points engaged representatives from key infrastructure sectors to produce a comprehensive analysis of the nation’s infrastructure resilience.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the analysis revealed island-specific differences in risk and resilience, leading to tailored recommendations for implementation through 2024 and beyond. Meanwhile, in Panama, the process emphasised the imperative to bolster infrastructure resilience among government officials and the private sector. This resulted in the proposal to create a permanent national commission mandated to coordinate and monitor progress in this crucial area.

Building on the experience and insights gained through its country-level interactions, UNDRR reinforced its infrastructure resilience work with the launch at COP28 of the [Global Methodology for Infrastructure Resilience Review](#) in cooperation with the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). The methodology synthesizes lessons learned and integrates feedback from diverse contexts into a step-by-step guide for countries to achieve resilience gains. Currently in action in Bhutan, Chile, Madagascar and Tonga, in collaboration with CDRI, the Global Methodology reflects UNDRR’s impact in driving global resilience.

12 CDRI (2023) [Biennial Report Global Infrastructure Resilience](#)

Celebrating Women’s Leadership in DRR

In 2023, UNDRR again celebrated women’s leadership in DRR through [the Women’s International Network for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (WIN DRR), an initiative it supports alongside the Government of Australia. The third annual WIN DRR Leadership Awards, held in Manila in October, attracted more than 400 nominations from across Asia and the Pacific region. A shortlist of 12 produced two winners: the Excellence Award went to Shaila Shahid from Bangladesh, who works as a senior advisor at the Pitachara Forest and Biodiversity Initiatives and the National Alliance on Drowning Prevention; and the Rising Star Award was won by Abia Akram from Pakistan, who has been an advocate for the rights of women with disabilities for many years.

WIN DRR was established in 2020 to empower women to attain leadership and decision-making roles in the field of DRR. This is in line with the emphasis the Sendai Framework places on adopting an inclusive, all-of-society approach to DRR. The framework acknowledges both the specific vulnerabilities that women face in disasters due to pervasive gender inequality that exists across all societies, while recognizing the indispensable role of women in risk reduction efforts.

Women’s participation in decision-making is also enshrined in international human rights frameworks (including the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women), yet there is still great disparity in the number of women playing a leadership role in disaster risk management.

But the tide is beginning to turn. Thanks to initiatives such as WIN DRR and the publicity its annual awards attract, previously sidelined community leaders in the Asia Pacific region are now working with their countries’ governments, civil society representatives are participating in more national and regional events, and award finalists are collaborating with new partners.

Reacting to her Rising Star award, Abia Akram said, “I am hugely honoured to receive the WIN DRR award. It is something that I can give back to a community who are so often sidelined or made invisible by society. There are so many inspiring and strong women with disabilities out there who achieve greatness every day. WIN DRR shines a spotlight on their extraordinary achievements.”

Flora Vano, a finalist for the 2023 Excellence Award who works with ActionAid in Vanuatu, offered first-hand evidence of the initiative’s impact: “Before I was shortlisted for the WIN DRR Award, I could never get a meeting with the minister. Due to my nomination, we met at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR Conference, and now he invites me to the meetings in Vanuatu.”

Also in 2023, WIN DRR saw the launch of its Philippines chapter at an inauguration ceremony attended by senator and global DRR advocate, Loren Legarda, as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In line with its determination to enhance the visibility of DRR efforts made by non-state actors and to foster collaborative learning and an all-of-society approach to tackling risk, in 2023 UNDRR made improvements to and provided training about its online platform that logs the voluntary commitments of NGOs, the private sector, local governments and academia. By the end of the year, the [Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments](#) (SFVC) platform had published a cumulative 118 projects involving some 674 organizations from all over the world. A mobile-friendly version of the platform was rolled out in October, making it even more accessible to stakeholders and thus contributing to a 45 percent year-on-year increase in registered users, who now number more than 700. Entries in the SFVC platform also fed into the MTR SF.



04

ADVOCATING FOR RESILIENCE

UNDRR delivers evidence-based advocacy initiatives with clear calls to action to invest in prevention. Communication campaigns highlight the benefits that accrue through DRR measures, demonstrating why investing in DRR is in the best interest of people and the planet. UNDRR continued to curate and synthesise information from a range of trusted sources on DRR policy analysis, research evidence and lessons, drawing from implementation experience and innovation in community and international settings.

UNDRR also invests in enhancing its digital and social media platforms to provide compelling, solutions-focused content that connects, equips and mobilizes stakeholders to act as agents of change. UNDRR works with a range of media partners to play an active role in DRR and to promote a whole-of-society approach where managing risk becomes everyone's business.

In a move that brings DRR to highest level of political engagement, the G20 President in 2023, India, established a DRR Working Group and asked UNDRR to serve as the Lead Knowledge Partner of the DRR Working Group. Throughout the year UNDRR provided technical guidance to the DRR Working Group through several knowledge products and input papers.

In elevating disaster risk reduction on the G20's agenda, DRR has been firmly placed as an issue that demands attention from the national financial authorities and from the global financial system. The G20 have sent a clear message that

disaster risk reduction makes financial sense and that we cannot achieve our development and climate goals without it.

At the heart of its public campaigning efforts, UNDRR leads two major international days; the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Tsunami Awareness Day. In 2023, both days focused on fighting inequality as one of the main drivers of risk, supporting messaging that struck at the heart of the SDG agenda, and enabled partnerships with other UN system partners.

Implementing the Disability Inclusion Scorecard

Following the December 2022 addition to the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities of an [Annex for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities](#),¹³ in 2023, UNDRR led numerous workshops on the use of this new tool and helped pilot its implementation via self-assessments exercises. Participants analysed the roles of persons with disabilities in DRR, discussed gap areas and identified actions to enhance disability inclusion in local DRR planning and implementation. As well as in-person sessions that brought together persons with disabilities, local authorities and key stakeholders in more than 17 cities,¹⁴ UNDRR also held an [online session](#) with simultaneous translation in seven languages in which 1,157 participants from more than 500 cities in 140 countries and territories took part. This training was conducted in response to the MTR SF and in conjunction with the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023, both of which underscored the pressing need to address the inequalities embedded in DRR practices and which call for existing DRR strategies to be re-examined. This is currently available in seven languages,¹⁵ with more translations planned for 2024. The workshops enhanced the DRR and urban resilience capacities of persons with disabilities and of organizations that represent them, while local government authorities gained a better understanding of the differentiated needs of persons with disabilities and how to better integrate them in local DRR processes.

"Inclusion of persons with disabilities is a very important part of building resilience," said Tshering Norbu, the mayor of the Bhutanese town of Gelephu Thromde, where, with UNDRR's support, city officials have begun collecting data disaggregated by disability to better plan for the specific needs of persons with disabilities in disasters.

"Such measures have been incorporated in some public space projects, but we still need to strengthen overall planning and policy making," Norbu added. Also in Bhutan, a risk assessment that followed a training session in the city of Phuentsholing, the access of persons with disabilities to public transport improved, thereby bolstering urban resilience there.

Jussara, a wheelchair user resident in Rocinha, Brazil's largest favela, highlighted the challenges faced by persons with disabilities. "Accessibility in my community is non-existent. I know that when disaster strikes – and it will – I'll be left behind because we don't have the infrastructure, the equipment or the awareness. I want this to change and we're all going to contribute," she said at a workshop held on 13 October to mark the 2023 edition of the [International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), the theme of which was "Fighting inequality for a resilient future."

In the Colombian city of Pereira, senior municipal official Hamilton Ramirez Vargas said: "the inclusion of people with disabilities in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction plans not only improves the care provided to this population but also empowers them to take an active role in their own development while increasing awareness of risk, thus fulfilling the principle of leaving no one behind."

13 Developed with support from the Government of Finland

14 Various cities in Bhutan, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Uganda and Uruguay

15 Namely: English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish

To meet the challenges of improving the quality and efficiency of disaster communications, enhancing collaboration and establishing effective crisis communication planning UNDRR continued its Media Saving Lives partnership with the World Broadcasting Unions. To date, over 2,000 journalists from 80 countries have been trained in DRR and EWS technologies, such as the Common Alerting Protocol. 2023 also saw the roll-out of hardy, low-tech Raspberry Pi computers to Cox's Bazaar to ensure that the Rohingya refugees have access to accessible early warning information in the harshest of conditions.

In 2023, UNDRR inaugurated the Media Council for the Americas and the Caribbean. A dozen editors and directors of media outlets were selected to sit on the council's board. The council is set to improve collaboration among journalists, experts and stakeholders in the field of DRR with the aim of deepening public awareness of disaster risk prevention and improving the timely delivery of life-saving messages. The overarching aspiration is to establish a sustainable ecosystem where resilience journalism becomes ingrained in mainstream media practices. Over the long term, this initiative aims to contribute to a global shift in media narratives, fostering a culture of preparedness, resilience, and informed decision-making in the face of the climate crisis. Ultimately, the goal is to create a more resilient and well-informed society that actively engages with and addresses the challenges posed by climate-related disasters.

For two days at the end of June, UNDRR conducted a workshop in Trinidad and Tobago to help communications professionals from public institutions and government ministries and journalists from local media better understand disaster risk. As well as increasing participants' knowledge of alerts and prevention systems, and the relevance of the Sendai Framework to the SDGs, the workshop reinforced channels of communication between state officials and media outlets and contributed to better collaboration within various government ministries and agencies. The workshop was part of UNDRR's longer-term efforts to create a robust and sustainable framework for disaster communication in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean region.

UNDRR also trained teachers and pupils at schools in Indonesia (Yogyakarta), and India (GIFT City), about the fundamentals of DRR and the importance of preparedness. The trainings were carried as part of UNDRR's efforts to increase awareness and understanding of DRR and its centrality to sustainable development and the climate change agenda.



Building resilience through public advocacy in Tonga

The Pacific Island of Tonga is stepping up action on early warnings and preparedness following a powerful tsunami in 2022. In January 2022, the eruption of Tonga's Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano and resulting tsunami left damage and losses equivalent to US\$182 million, or more than 36 percent of Tonga's GDP. The poorest and most at-risk families were hit the hardest with many in informal sectors related to tourism, fisheries and agriculture severely impacted. The volcanic eruption also produced the fastest underwater flows ever recorded. Telecommunications were cut for 6 weeks and the tsunami waves were recorded reaching as far as Peru and Japan.

To mark World Tsunami Awareness Day this year, Tonga's National Disaster Risk Management Office organized a major drill to test the early warning systems and ensure children know what to do in the event of a tsunami. Over 1500 students participated from three schools on the main island of Tongatapu.

Alongside the drill, new tsunami evacuation maps were installed around the island for public awareness and to educate on the safest route to get in land, and inclusion was a major component.

Participating in the drill, Tim Solo teacher and founder of the Tonga National Disability Congress explained "this is the best way to deliver the message to youngsters and people. Then we have the experience of how to move safely."

The drill comes in the wider context of major efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction across the country, including implementing new disaster risk management legislation and the first country globally to adopt an integrated strategy on both climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Thanks to Tonga's participation in UNDRR's Media Saving programme journalists in the Polynesian kingdom have received training in DRR and early warning systems.

The [effectiveness of that media training](#) was abruptly tested during the 2022 tsunami. Viola Ulaki, Chief Executive Officer of the Tonga Broadcasting Commission, immediately went live on radio to inform people to stay tuned to information from the Met Office. TBC's quick action saved many lives, especially those in the outer islands where digital communication was damaged.

To further boost local media engagement and capacity building, UNDRR later supported a journalist from TBC to attend COP28 – the first time a TBC journalist was able to report from an event which is so fundamentally linked to the risks facing their country.

05



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DONOR OVERVIEW 2023

In 2023, UNDRR received US\$53.55 million in financial contributions. The biennial Work Programme 2022-23 had a funding requirement of US\$110 million, including US\$50.37 million for 2023. US\$45.59 million was mobilized to cover the 2023 cost plan.

Flexible core funding is vitally important to UNDRR. The flexibility of this funding enables the office to more efficiently and effectively deliver on its Work Programme, to adjust to changing circumstances and facilitate strategic forward planning, as 99.9 percent of UNDRR's total funding is through extra-budgetary resources. Ten donors, namely China, Finland, France, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, provided full or partial unearmarked core support for UNDRR, providing US\$13.1 million in 2023, which represents 24 percent of funding received.

Multi-year agreements further support strategic planning through predictable funding. UNDRR continued to advocate for such agreements and signed three new multi-year contributions with Canada, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea and the United States of America in 2023. UNDRR also has multi-year agreements from previous years with Australia, CDRI, China, CREWS, European Union, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland and United States of America.

The top ten donors to UNDRR — Sweden, Germany, USA, Japan, Italy, Australia, Switzerland, Norway, Republic of Korea and CREWS — each contributed more than US\$2 million in 2023. UNDRR was particularly pleased to welcome five new and returning donors to UNDRR in 2023: Canada, Mauritius, Poland, Portugal and the Netherlands.

In-kind contributions were another important source of support to UNDRR this year with ten (10) Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) provided by Finland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States of America (4). Throughout the year, UNDRR facilitated peer-to-peer exchange and knowledge sharing through regular consultations and dialogue with UN Member States at the UNDRR Support Group in Geneva, the Group of Friends in New York, as well as two donor meetings and two Early Warnings for All thematic briefings to donors held virtually.

UNDRR would like to thank all its donors, without whose generous contribution, the crucial work in accelerating global efforts in disaster risk reduction to ensure a more resilient and more sustainable future for all would not be possible.



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Country	Earmarked	Unearmarked	Total
Sweden	5,782,018	3,278,996	9,061,014
Germany	7,027,307		7,027,307
USA	5,959,237		5,959,237
Japan	3,086,800	2,785,160	5,871,960
Italy	5,476,451		5,476,451
Australia	3,705,143		3,705,143
Switzerland	874,929	1,984,565	2,859,493
Norway		2,794,109	2,794,109
Korea, Rep. Of	2,076,827	600,000	2,676,827
CREWS	2,111,970		2,111,970
Canada	1,462,831		1,462,831
EU	1,210,576		1,210,576
Finland		1,072,961	1,072,961
CDRI	324,972		324,972
Spain	322,234		322,234
Netherlands	317,516		317,516
Luxembourg		268,240	268,240
China		258,087	258,087
Portugal	215,750		215,750
Czech Republic	214,197		214,197
Poland	100,000		100,000
Philippines	40,000	50,000	90,000
UPS Foundation	75,000		75,000
France	26,681	21,906	48,587
Kazakhstan	20,000		20,000
SM Prime	11,300		11,300
Mauritius	4,500		4,500
Total	40,446,239	13,114,024	53,560,263



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