

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Annual Report
2024



UNDRR

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

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United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction 2024 Annual Report

FOREWORD



Kamal Kishore

Special Representative
of the Secretary-General
for Disaster Risk Reduction

The year 2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami – one of the most devastating disasters in modern history affecting communities and countries across three continents.

It not only marked a turning point in humanitarian history, but also highlighted the importance of investing in disaster risk reduction. It was followed by adoption of a comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction globally, which indeed is the spirit of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Within just eighteen months, it brought together 28 nations in the Indian Ocean rim to create an effective tsunami early warning system.

Since stepping into my role at UNDRR in May 2024, I have been on a steep learning curve. I have visited 24 countries, held conversations with nearly 100 Member States and met countless partners. These exchanges helped shape critical conversations on disaster risk reduction— the G20 Working Group on DRR, and Regional Platforms in Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Europe. I also carried the message of importance of investing in disaster risk reduction to the Summit of the Future, and the Fourth Small Island Developing States Conference in Antigua and Barbuda.

What has been most meaningful, though, are the moments spent with communities on the frontlines, those living the reality of disaster risk every day, and those working tirelessly to reduce it. Piece by piece, they are helping to build the larger vision of UNDRR: to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses, and to achieve the goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

We have made real progress in 2024. Thanks to our partnerships, 65 countries – 46 of them Least Developed Countries or Small Island Developing States – now have stronger support for their early warning systems. Thirty countries were supported to develop or improve their national disaster risk reduction strategies, bringing the global total reporting to 131. The Sendai Framework Monitor now includes contributions from 163 Member States.

But there is still a long way to go.

For example, with just over five years left before the Sendai Framework's 2030 deadline, only a little more than half of countries report having a life-saving early warning system. This is despite overwhelming evidence of their benefits. Investment gaps remain wide, and disasters continue to derail development efforts, particularly for the most vulnerable communities.

As 2025 begins, we find ourselves in uncertain territory. Multilateral systems are facing unprecedented scrutiny. Long-standing funding structures that the development world has relied on for decades are now shifting.

We cannot afford to step back—especially now.

When resources are limited, we must be strategic. Investing in disaster risk reduction is not just wise—it is essential. It saves lives, protects livelihoods, and delivers the strongest return on investment.

Time and again, disaster risk reduction proves what's possible when we join forces—across borders, sectors, and disciplines. It safeguards development, strengthens communities, and protects the future for generations to come and is one of the most hopeful investments we can make.

To our partners—Member States, donors, development leaders, private sector, colleagues in civil society organizations and academia, and above all the communities driving change on the ground—thank you! Let's carry this momentum forward, together, toward a safer, more resilient, and prosperous world for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Anurag', with a stylized flourish at the end.

UNDRR Strategic Objectives

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

UNDRR is prioritizing four accelerators

1. Generating robust evidence, innovation, and good practices on risk to inform decision-making processes

UNDRR supports Member States and other stakeholders in development, fragile and humanitarian contexts 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.

2. Accelerating financing for DRR and de-risking investment

UNDRR works 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 support national governments to develop risk-informed investment strategies that leverage public and private financing.

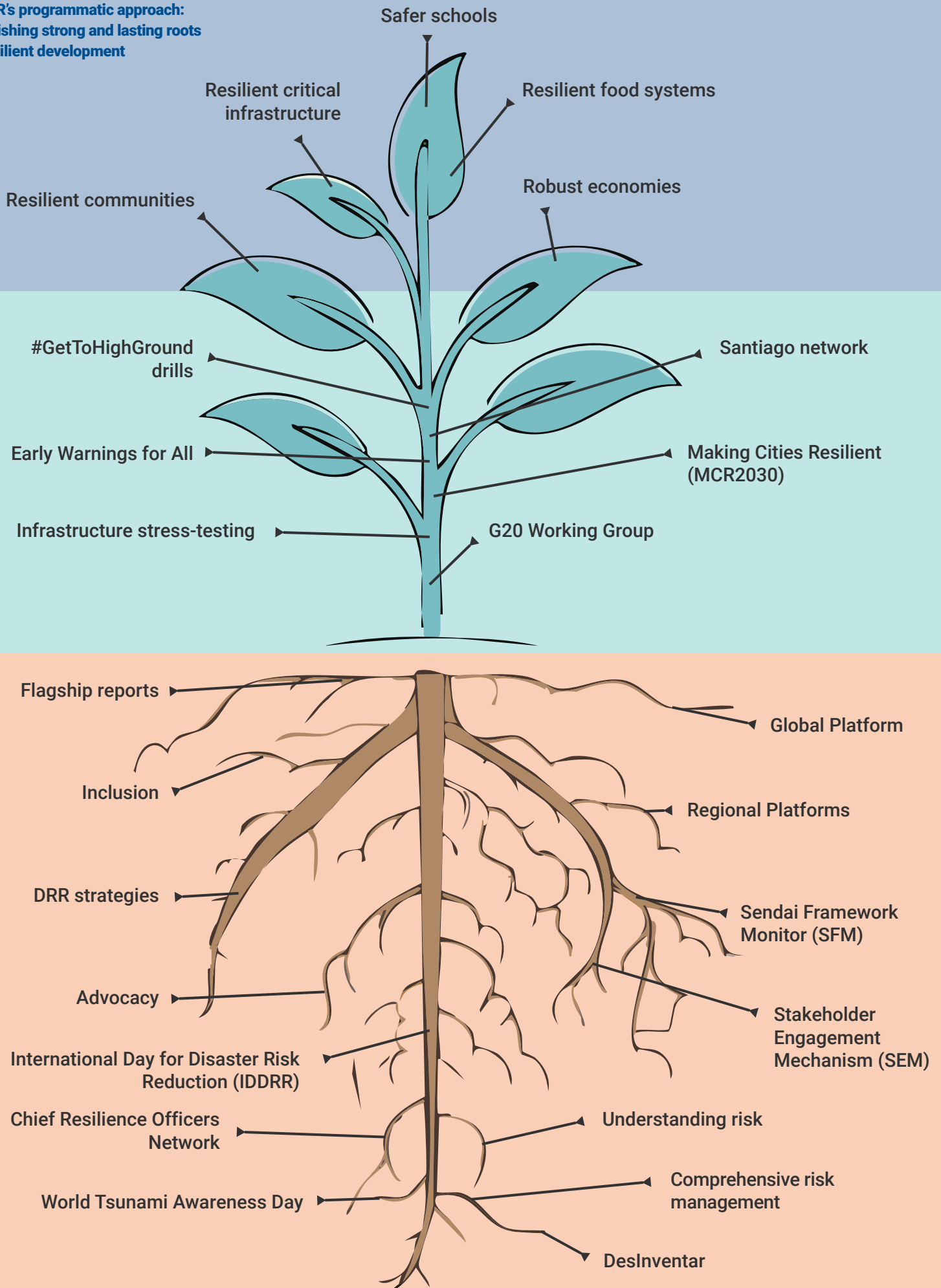
3. Scaling up communication and public advocacy for building highest political traction and commitment to DRR

UNDRR delivers evidence-based advocacy initiatives with clear calls to action to invest in prevention, highlighting the additional benefits that accrue through disaster risk reduction initiatives. This increases the visibility of the political importance of disaster risk reduction and mobilize citizens to demand change. These actions are being achieved through a connected approach to communications across UNDRR, drawing on enhanced risk knowledge and information, amplified through strategic communication partnerships.

4. Integrating the DRR agenda with the climate agenda

UNDRR builds 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, reduces climate related disaster impacts and contributes towards comprehensive risk management. UNDRR is strengthening integrated disaster risk reduction, climate-risk informed development and humanitarian planning, as well as improving results and impact monitoring.

UNDRR's programmatic approach:
establishing strong and lasting roots
for resilient development



WINDRR Leader Finalists Forum

October 14, 2023



01

UNDERSTANDING RISK FOR BETTER DECISION MAKING

163

Member States

reporting through Sendai Framework Monitor.

112

Member States

reporting disaster losses in DesInventar.

35

countries

applied UNDRR's technical guidance/ understanding to their work.

65

countries

supported with early warning systems, 46 of them SIDS and LDCs.

Understanding risk is the foundational pillar on which to co-build solutions. Through its central tools for understanding disaster risk, including the Sendai Framework Monitor and DesInventar, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) supported 163 Member States to better understand and act on the risks they face, enhance their accountability, advance progress on data disaggregation and analysis, and make more risk-informed decisions. UNDRR monitored progress against the targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and offered forensic evidence on the impact of key disasters in the GAR Special Report [Forensic Insights for Future Resilience](#).

In an era of increasing disaster risks and extreme weather events, ensuring that communities worldwide have access to effective early warning systems (EWS) has never been more critical. UNDRR, with its partners in the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative, has taken bold steps to bridge gaps in disaster preparedness by fostering regional cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement.

Throughout 2024, UNDRR, working alongside EW4All pillar leads and partners, coordinated a series of regional multi-stakeholder forums in [Montenegro](#), [Namibia](#), [the Philippines](#), and [St. Kitts and Nevis](#). These forums brought together a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector. The goal was to facilitate inclusive dialogue, peer-to-peer learning and collective action, to strengthen end-to-end EWS that lead to timely, life-saving interventions.

The discussions in these forums highlighted critical challenges, such as gaps in governance and financing, while also showcasing innovative solutions in technology and anticipatory action. The importance of sustainable financing was a major theme, with calls for increased national investment and stronger donor commitments. Moreover, a whole-of-society approach emerged as a cornerstone of effective disaster preparedness, emphasizing the need for deep collaboration among sectors, especially in fragile States and for vulnerable communities.

But the regional forums did more than spark conversation; they resulted in concrete, actionable outcomes. Governments and partners explored ways to bridge the gap between early warnings and anticipatory action, ensuring that warnings translate into protective measures on the ground. The forums also served as a platform to showcase best practices from various Member States, illustrating the socioeconomic benefits of robust EWS and the role of public-private partnerships in maintaining them.

The momentum built in 2024 will culminate in the [Global Multi-Stakeholder Forum](#) at the 2025 Global Platform in June. This will be a defining moment for EW4All, bringing together lessons learned across regions to drive collective action on a global scale.

As co-host of the [Santiago Network](#) secretariat, UNDRR spearheaded the network's operationalization, launching a [dedicated online portal](#) to streamline technical assistance requests and facilitate outreach to vulnerable communities. UNDRR organized a [landmark Pacific workshop](#) to enable regional stakeholders to access Santiago network support, which resulted in the network receiving and processing its first request for technical assistance from Vanuatu.

Through participation in key United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change bodies, UNDRR strengthened integration of disaster risk reduction (DRR) into global climate frameworks. Notably, its insights shaped the United Arab Emirates-Belém work programme on indicators for the global goal on adaptation, incorporating lessons from the Sendai Framework.

At COP29 in Baku, UNDRR led and contributed to over 50 high-impact sessions on topics such as EWS, extreme heat, loss and damage, and urban resilience. It further reinforced these messages at [COP16 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#) in Riyadh, emphasizing data-driven risk analytics, digital innovations and nature-based solutions.

UNDRR's [comprehensive risk management \(CRM\)](#) approach transformed global policy into actionable national strategies. Engaging 45 countries – including 13 least developed countries and 23 SIDS – it conducted capacity-building on DRR and climate adaptation.

Technical assistance efforts also yielded tangible progress in [Djibouti](#), [Kenya](#), [Mauritania](#), [Montenegro](#) and [Seychelles](#), where UNDRR supported the revision of DRR strategies to embed climate risk considerations. In the Bahamas, Barbados, Seychelles and [Suriname](#), it facilitated the development of integrated DRR and adaptation plans, laying the foundation for more climate-resilient governance.

UNDRR's [Thought Leadership Course on Synergizing DRR and Climate Change Adaptation](#) continued to empower stakeholders. By late 2024, over 8,000 participants had registered, with a remarkable 98.6 per cent recommendation rate. This underscores the growing demand for expertise in aligning DRR with climate action.

Strategic partnerships amplified UNDRR's impact. As a co-lead of the [Risk-informed Early Action Partnership](#), UNDRR developed a [CRM resource compendium](#) to support early action initiatives. Through its role in the [UN4NAPs network](#), it provided technical guidance to countries revising their national adaptation plans. Additionally, as a key player in the [Global Shield](#) Coordination Hub, UNDRR enhanced countries' financial preparedness for climate-induced disasters.

As climate risks escalate, UNDRR remains steadfast in its mission to bridge policy and practice. By advancing integrated solutions and leveraging the Santiago network's full potential, UNDRR is shaping a future where disaster resilience is the norm, not the exception.

FOCUS ON: In Barbados, MHEWS saves lives

Hurricane Beryl, the first major hurricane of the 2024 Atlantic season, left a trail of destruction across multiple Caribbean islands. At major Category 4 strength, Beryl was the strongest hurricane ever recorded in June. Entire communities were left in ruins, with infrastructure crippled and thousands displaced in Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Compared to Hurricane Ivan in 2004, the destruction in 2024 was slight. That Beryl's impact in Barbados was not far greater is largely due to the country's Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS).

The importance of MHEWS, which safeguard lives and reduce the impact of disasters, cannot be overstated. The EW4All initiative exemplifies the power of combining advanced technology, effective communication strategies and local knowledge. EW4All enhances community preparedness and response capabilities, fostering resilience across vulnerable populations.

Barbados recently approved its MHEWS policy, establishing clear roles, sustainability and financing. The Barbados Meteorological Service, the Department of Emergency Management and Government Information Service collaborated effectively to provide timely warnings. Advanced technology, including satellite imagery leveraged through partnerships with Microsoft and MapAction, enabled swift, targeted responses to infrastructure damage.

The lessons learned from Hurricane Beryl will guide future efforts to improve preparedness, response and recovery, ensuring the safety and well-being of communities across the region. Barbados' success is now being shared globally, with peer-to-peer learning exchanges extending to African Indian Ocean Island countries. This highlights the importance of engagement and coordination among national sectors and regional entities.



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FOCUS ON: How Somalia is advancing disaster preparedness through EW4All and beyond

For decades, Somalia has faced devastating droughts, floods and conflict. Today, thanks to coordinated efforts spearheaded by UNDRR, Somalia is making significant strides towards more effective, integrated DRR and EWS.

In 2023/24, Somalia worked with UNDRR and key international partners to establish an MHEWS. A road map developed in 2023 identified weaknesses in data collection, risk assessment and communication networks. This laid the groundwork for Somalia's participation in EW4All, significantly strengthening national capacities in risk knowledge, anticipatory action and community-based preparedness.

In July 2024, a capacity-building workshop in Nairobi brought together national and international stakeholders. Somali officials later travelled to Italy, exchanging best practices with the Italian Civil Protection and the CIMA Research Foundation. These experiences helped refine Somalia's early warning framework.

"The EW4All initiative was launched in 2023, and throughout this time, the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) project has supported capacity-building and risk management in Somalia", said Khadar Sh. Mohamed Nur, Director of the Somalia Disaster Management Agency. "It has changed the way we think about DRR."

The impact was evident during the heavy Gu rains of April–June 2024. While floods affected 160,000 people and displaced 37,000, the damage was significantly less severe compared to 2023. The key difference was timely, accurate and widely disseminated early warnings and early action.

Through text messages, radio broadcasts and community meetings, vulnerable populations received crucial information. Additionally, data from the DesInventar system improved impact-based forecasting, enabling proactive interventions such as fortification of riverbanks and pre-positioning of emergency supplies.

A critical component of Somalia's DRR strategy has been inclusivity. "[Persons] with disabilities in Somalia did not previously have access to information", said Mawlid Abdul Qadir Badal, Director of the National Disability Agency Somalia. "After the workshops and consultations led by UNDRR, we are sure that disability aspects are included in the EW4All road map." In a [three-day training on gender and disability-inclusive early warning systems](#) in Nairobi in November 2024, UNDRR brought together officials from Somalia, Sudan and Djibouti.

UNDRR has also played a pivotal role in integrating disaster risk analysis into broader humanitarian and development planning. In 2024, UNDRR facilitated a joint analysis effort among stakeholders from across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. This informed the development of Somalia's 2025 [Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan](#) and Common Country Analysis for the 2026–2030 Cooperation Framework.

In addition, the [Early Warning Systems and Early Action in Fragile, Conflict-affected and Violent Contexts handbook](#) provides strategies for implementing EWS where governance is weak or absent. Employed by practitioners across the globe, it emphasizes cross-sectoral coordination, regional collaboration and adaptation to local challenges.

Somalia's DRR journey is far from over. But through strategic partnerships, technological advancements and inclusivity, Somalia is steadily building a more resilient future. While challenges remain, the EW4All initiative and UNDRR's broader support highlight what is possible when governments, international agencies and communities work together.

02

STRATEGIES, GOVERNANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

131

countries

have a DRR strategy, of which UNDRR supported 30.

520

journalists

and communication professionals trained.

9,771

people trained

74%

survey responders

report having a better understanding of DRR as a result.

Target E of the Sendai Framework calls for a substantial increase in the number of countries with national and local DRR strategies by 2020. Though a strategy is not the end goal, UNDRR has found that countries with national DRR strategies tend to have more robust DRR governance.

The Government of Jordan has developed its National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (2023–2030) in a participatory manner involving different governmental entities, ministries and municipalities, and the Public Security Directorate (Civil Defense), with support from UNDRR and the United Nations Development Programme country office. The strategy also integrates biological hazard risk reduction with the aim of building back better after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Within the framework of Jordan's efforts to deal with increasing threats and risks, the National Centre for Security and Crises Management has played a major role in developing two integrated risk registers; the national risk register and the local register for governorates. Both registers aim to improve the kingdom's capacity to respond to disasters through accurate identification of risks, and enhanced coordination between the local and national levels for improved risk governance.

Through this effective coordination between the national and local risk registers, Jordan has made great strides in reducing risks and enhancing community resilience, making the kingdom a role model for disaster management and risk reduction at the regional level.

Morocco, too, has taken concrete steps to strengthen its risk governance. It established the Directorate of Natural Risk Management under the Ministry of Interior as its national DRR coordination mechanism. Morocco also established the National Risk Observatory to collect, analyse and share data on natural hazard risk. Furthermore, Morocco established a National Risk Forecasting Centre for monitoring and alerting, and an Operational Risk Anticipation Centre for forecasting, alerting and risk management assistance systems. Another successful project comprised the generalization of coverage of the entire national territory using multiscale and multi-hazard risk maps (for natural hazards).

Albania's National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy demonstrates widespread integration of concerns related to climate change and triggers the engagement of new sectors, particularly tourism.

The vision statement explicitly brings together DRR, climate change and sustainable development using the language of resilience, while the document includes a detailed plan of action for DRR implementation that integrates institutions such as the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy.

In particular, it articulates the implementation of the ALBAdapt project Climate Services for a Resilient Albania. The Ministry of Tourism and Environment is identified as the lead institution for implementation of a set of activities that offer compounding co-benefits for both DRR and climate change adaptation, including the development of a people-centred MHEWS, the creation of a fully functional and well-resourced National Meteorological and Hydrological Service.

This integration is supported by articulations elsewhere in the country's strategic profile, with the National Adaptation Plan 2019 including a priority area entitled "upgrading civil defence preparedness and DRR". Elsewhere, the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Albania (2023–2028) addresses risks ranging from national security threats to climate change impacts, emphasizing resilience to disasters, while the National Strategy for Development and European Integration (NSDEI) 2022–2030 includes the integration of DRR and climate change adaptation planning among its priorities.

National DRR strategies are the bedrock for multi-hazard risk governance and the achievement of Sendai Framework targets. These strategies help transform risk knowledge into actions and programmes that save lives and livelihoods. In addition, they serve as guides for mobilizing resources, delegating roles and responsibilities within government, and identifying entry points for non-governmental stakeholder engagement, all leading to more inclusive, sustainable development.

With 131 countries now reporting having national DRR strategies, and 30 receiving technical support from UNDRR to improve or implement them, this is just a snapshot of the progress being made globally in this important area.

Under Brazil's presidency, the Group of 20 (G20) recognized DRR as a critical component of economic resilience. Collaborating closely with UNDRR, Brazil facilitated the adoption of the first-ever [G20 Ministerial Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction](#). This landmark declaration emphasized the necessity of accelerating the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction's implementation, aiming to reduce disaster losses by 2030, and called for the development of high-level principles for DRR financing. The work of the [G20 DRR Working Group](#), with UNDRR as the lead knowledge partner, further reflected a comprehensive approach to integrating DRR into economic and social policies.

As the chair of the G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, which was established by India during its presidency of the G20 in 2023, Brazil ensured that deliberation of the group built on the progress made to date around five priority areas, while dedicating extra attention to the plight of the least fortunate, though a new priority on "combating inequalities and reducing vulnerabilities." These outcomes illustrate the elevation of DRR that can be achieved through sustained high-level partnership.

UNDRR's capacity-building continues to go from strength to strength, with nearly 10,000 DRR practitioners attending trainings, workshops and webinars, 74 per cent of whom reported having a better understanding of DRR as a result. At one such workshop in the Global Education and Training Institute in Incheon, Republic of Korea, a remarkable collaboration unfolded – a pioneering workshop uniting experts from UNDRR and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to empower government stakeholders from Mongolia and Bhutan to mobilize relevant partners and stakeholders and obtain funding for their DRR measures. This joint training begins a process of transforming the daunting challenges of climate change into opportunities for proactive DRR.

Delegates were empowered by not only technical insights, but also the forging of lasting partnerships. The workshop's training modules, co-designed by UNDRR and GCF specialists, delved deep into practical tools such as the EW4All Checklist for Gap Analysis, equipping participants to critically assess their national capacities and pinpoint vulnerabilities. "Early warning systems are important components for our national climate change adaptation strategy," noted Ms. Tserendulam Shagdarsuren, Director General of the Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environment and Tourism in Mongolia, emphasizing how the training illuminated the next steps for their evolving EWS.

This pilot UNDRR–GCF initiative is part of a broader strategy to replicate capacity-building endeavours in developing countries. Future workshops are planned for countries that are in very different geographic contexts yet face similar challenges (particularly those resulting from climate change), such as Somalia, Togo and the SIDS. These workshops aim to accelerate access to climate finance and enhance DRR measures worldwide.

In a continuation of the Media Saving Lives programme, UNDRR and partners trained 520 journalists and media practitioners in DRR and risk communications, bringing the total to over 2,500 from 80 countries. Media are an integral part of the EWS delivery chain, and engaging them to build trust between government and communities can be the difference between life and death when disaster hits.

The rise in global temperatures and the increasing frequency and severity of extreme heat events are rapidly becoming central challenges for nations worldwide. Yet many Member States, cities and societies remain ill-prepared to address this

escalating threat. The imperative for enhanced extreme heat risk reduction, governance and management is clear. Without urgent and coordinated action, extreme heat will continue to endanger billions of lives, amplify health risks and threaten the ecosystems upon which we depend.

In response, the [UNDRR | WMO Centre of Excellence for Climate and Disaster Resilience](#) – together with the [Global Heat Health Information Network](#), Duke University and WMO Centre of Excellence for Climate and Disaster Resilience partners – has developed an extreme heat decision-support package for countries tackling this global threat. The package includes: international organization resource and ecosystem mapping, readiness reviews and profiles; national best practice analytics; evaluations of heat action plans; and materials for development of an extreme heat maturity index for self-assessment. These materials can enhance collaboration, integrated heat risk governance and policy responses to extreme heat.

UNDRR's work and that of United Nations system partners, coupled with increasing demands for assistance from Member States, prompted and informed the [UN Secretary-General's Call to Action on Extreme Heat](#) issued in July 2024, in which he emphasized the need for urgent action if a future characterized by even more devastating heat impacts on lives, economies and ecosystems is to be avoided.

This work is in turn informing the development of a **Common Framework for Extreme Heat Risk Governance**, led by UNDRR with the Global Heat Health Information Network, and Member States, international organizations and stakeholders. The Framework will receive inputs from (and is designed to bring together) multiple sectors, domains and scales – from agriculture and food systems, to energy systems, transportation, construction materials and design, and urban cooling. It is expected to assist national and subnational decision makers in designing and resourcing integrated actions to reduce extreme heat risk to people, urban and rural ecosystems, and the environment, preventing the loss of lives and livelihoods.



FOCUS ON: Cultivating resilience through strong governance in Colombia

In a world where climate change and food insecurity loom large, national governments across the Americas and the Caribbean are rallying to localize DRR efforts. Colombia stands out as a dynamic example, leveraging the Sendai Framework to build resilience from the ground up. With 178 cities already engaged in the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative, Colombia is inspiring neighbouring nations to accelerate local DRR actions.

At the heart of Colombia's approach is its National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD). One of 10 national DRR departments in the region and a core partner of MCR2030, UNGRD has been instrumental in forging strong national–local linkages since the initiative's launch in 2020. Working hand in hand with local governments, UNGRD has equipped communities with the tools and expertise needed to understand disaster risks and implement effective solutions. "Colombia is advancing local DRR to overcome the three main challenges of the Amazon region in terms of State presence, infrastructure, and the vulnerability of Indigenous communities to disaster risks," explains Nelson Hernández of UNGRD, underscoring the critical role of local action in regions where government reach has historically been limited.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the small Amazonian town of Puerto Nari, home to nearly 7,000 inhabitants – and [highlighted as a "green getaway" by the BBC](#) for its locally driven conservation efforts. Recently, an extreme drought dramatically lowered river levels, disrupting fishing and subsistence agriculture, a stark reminder of how climate change can upend traditional food systems. In response, UNGRD, alongside the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Environment Programme, conducted an integrated assessment of the town's food systems and disaster resilience.

This equipped Puerto Nari to craft a comprehensive local DRR strategy, weaving together climate change adaptation and robust food security measures. "WFP and UNDRR embrace an integrated vision for cross-border challenges in the Amazon region in the face of historic floods and droughts. Short supply chains that rely on forest products are being prioritized to foster environmental preservation, resilience and social benefits," noted Raphael Leão, Programme Officer at WFP.

Colombia's strategy of strengthening national–local linkages is more than a policy framework – it is a lifeline for communities.

As nations prepare for COP30 in Brazil, the lessons from Colombia offer a road map for resilience. By aligning local actions with national priorities and tailored United Nations methodologies, Colombia's efforts pave the way for communities to better withstand climate shocks, secure food supplies and protect their way of life. The journey ahead is challenging, but with regional collaboration and innovative strategies, a sustainable future for the Amazon is within reach.



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FOCUS ON: Advancing resilience through law

In 2024, we celebrated an encouraging milestone in the global multilateral response to reducing disaster risk – the [decision](#) “to elaborate and conclude a legally binding instrument on the protection of persons in the event of disasters” by the United Nations General Assembly.

While the Sendai Framework provides guidelines for DRR, a future instrument – such as a convention – would enshrine DRR in international law, reinforcing the commitment shown by Member States and complementing the existing guidelines.

The Draft Articles on Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters were conceived in response to the 2004 tsunami disaster and developed by the International Law Commission to address the increasing frequency and severity of disasters and their damaging impacts.

As part of its advocacy and support for the Draft Articles, in July 2024, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations, with support from UNDRR, [hosted an exhibition](#) at the United Nations Headquarters’ Delegates Entrance Hall to raise awareness and understanding of this initiative.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted [resolution 79/128](#) in December 2024, deciding to conclude an international convention on protection of persons in the event of disasters, based on the Draft Articles, by the end of 2027, taking the initiative closer to adoption as international law

The combination of voluntary, soft law incentives, such as the Sendai Framework, and a legal framework to require that States offer protection from disasters, can help ensure that when disasters strike, the risks are greatly reduced for everyone, everywhere.



03

DRIVING INVESTMENT IN DRR

© Alexander Arosemena

3

G20

working group meetings for DRR facilitated.

10

companies

with a combined revenue of over US\$300 billion joined the Chief Resilient Officer network.

8

countries

supported to improve infrastructure resilience, including strengthening national infrastructure regulations and assessing infrastructure resilience.

DRR remains chronically underfunded. Public expenditures cover only a fraction of what is needed, and financial markets have struggled to direct significant private investment into resilience-building initiatives. UNDRR is leading the push to change this, mobilize investments and assist governments in reshaping their national financing frameworks.

UNDRR is developing essential frameworks that enable financial institutions to create dedicated instruments, such as resilience bonds. Partnering with key stakeholders, including the Climate Bonds Initiative, UNDRR has introduced the Climate Resilience Classification Framework, providing much needed clarity for investors about what can be considered as a “resilience-building” investment”. This clarity creates a common language for the investment community and will boost investor interest in this topic, facilitating the flow of capital towards disaster resilience. Countries such as Rwanda have already integrated part of these frameworks into their green taxonomies, while others including Brazil, Canada and Colombia are considering following suit.

Financial institutions are taking notice – the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank recently raised over US\$310 million through its first Climate Adaptation Bond. UNDRR is also working with global banking leaders such as Standard Chartered and KPMG to issue guidance on adaptation and resilience finance, mapping over 100 investable activities so far in the 2024 [Guide for Adaptation and Resilience Finance](#).

At the national level, UNDRR is driving a paradigm shift in disaster risk financing. Traditional models focus on absorbing shocks through insurance or budgetary reserves, but often neglect proactive risk reduction. UNDRR supports countries in adopting comprehensive DRR financing strategies that emphasize resilience-building investments.

In Kenya and Madagascar, UNDRR has helped establish budget tagging systems to track DRR expenditures, ensuring accountability and better integration into sectoral budgets.

In Armenia and Chile, UNDRR has collaborated with governments to embed disaster risk considerations into infrastructure planning and public investment decisions.

In Guatemala, UNDRR has worked with local banks to integrate DRR criteria into credit allocation, fostering risk-informed lending and sustainable financing solutions, while in Fiji, the Pacific's first anticipatory action pilot insurance scheme provides farming groups with funds to better prepare for cyclones.

UNDRR has supported Bangladesh and Seychelles in reforming policies to unlock climate financing from institutions such as the International Monetary Fund's Resilience and Sustainability Trust.

Overall, with UNDRR's assistance, these countries have successfully integrated disaster risk into public finance management practices, enabling more efficient use of existing resources for greater disaster resilience. UNDRR's support also helped them to mobilize private investment and secure access to international funding mechanisms, scaling up the financing available for DRR.

The Corporate Chief Resilience Officers network gathered 10 large private sector companies covering diverse sectors with a combined workforce of over a million people globally and revenue exceeding US\$300 billion in over 100 countries. This group is committed to advancing best practices and providing thought leadership to other companies to boost the resilience of businesses around the world, hence strengthening the resilience of society as a whole.

As financial markets and governments increasingly adopt resilience-based investment approaches, UNDRR's work is creating an enabling environment for countries to make risk-informed investment decisions.





FOCUS ON: Resilient infrastructure

Infrastructure is the backbone of modern society. It powers cities, connects communities and supports economic activity. Yet every year, disasters wreak havoc on infrastructure worldwide, causing economic losses that exceed US\$700 billion. The impact is disproportionately felt by poorer nations, where fragile infrastructure can mean the difference between recovery and years of lost development. UNDRR is at the forefront of the mission to help countries fortify their infrastructure, ensuring sustainable growth and safeguarding lives.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals emphasize infrastructure resilience, urging nations to integrate risk reduction into their development strategies. However, resilience is more than just withstanding disasters – it means designing systems that can adapt, recover and even improve in the face of adversity. With climate change intensifying risks, countries need innovative solutions and stronger governance to protect their infrastructure investments.

In collaboration with the [Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure](#), UNDRR has pioneered an innovative approach. Through tailored interventions, UNDRR has enabled nations to identify weaknesses across critical sectors such as transport, energy, water and telecommunications. By conducting stress tests, infrastructure vulnerabilities have been pinpointed using satellite imagery and geolocalized data, allowing governments to take pre-emptive action. Benchmarking national infrastructure policies against global best practices, such as the [Principles for Resilient Infrastructure](#), has helped align national strategies with proven methodologies. Furthermore, strategic road maps have been developed to guide planning, construction and long-term operations, ensuring resilience is embedded throughout the infrastructure lifecycle.

UNDRR's impact is already evident across the globe.

- **Bhutan** has integrated resilience measures into its five-year strategic plan, shaping national infrastructure policy for years to come.
- In **Chile**, UNDRR's stress testing prompted national authorities to recognize drought and water scarcity as critical threats, leading to strengthened institutional capacity for risk management.
- **Costa Rica** has developed a new data platform, ensuring that future infrastructure investments are informed by risk analysis.
- **Ghana** is institutionalizing a technical working group on critical infrastructure to coordinate national disaster resilience efforts more effectively.
- In **Madagascar**, a review of regulatory frameworks has led the Government to consider new resilience standards in energy and telecommunications.
- The Government of **Panama** is overhauling infrastructure procurement processes and establishing a resilience commission to mainstream risk management in national policies.
- In **Tonga**, a deep analysis of the water sector has led to enhanced emergency planning, better water security and improved monitoring of groundwater resources, ensuring communities have access to clean water even during crises.

UNDRR's efforts in these countries have significantly strengthened national policies and institutional frameworks for resilient infrastructure. This will positively impact the reduction of disaster damage to critical infrastructure – Sendai Framework Target D – by integrating risk analysis into infrastructure planning, enhancing resource allocation through improved coordination mechanisms, and strengthening construction and maintenance practices. Combined, these actions reduce the likelihood of infrastructure failures and protect economic investment and activity. Infrastructure resilience requires cross-sectoral collaboration to manage interdependencies and prevent cascading failures. Engaging stakeholders across public and private sectors and civil society fosters inclusive and sustainable resilience strategies. Finally, data-driven decision-making ensures that infrastructure investments are both sustainable and secure.

The time to act is now. As climate change continues to challenge global stability, resilient infrastructure will be the foundation upon which sustainable, inclusive and disaster-ready societies are built. UNDRR's continued leadership and global collaboration can ensure that our lifeline in times of crisis remains strong in an uncertain world.



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04

INFLUENCE ADVOCACY AND RISK COMMUNICATION

© Government of Philippines (DENR)

24

resolutions or **political declarations** include DRR.

**Top 3
campaigns**

made **7.5m impressions** on social media.

50%

of countries where UNDRR has signed the Cooperation Framework, report progress in implementing DRR actions. Evidence shows implementation of DRR against **50%** of the UN Cooperation Frameworks where UNDRR is a signatory.

Ensuring that DRR is embedded in national, regional and global planning requires sustained engagement with policymakers at all levels. UNDRR's strategic advocacy has demonstrated that resilience must be treated as a fundamental pillar of governance, not an afterthought. By working directly with governments, financial institutions and international organizations, UNDRR is fostering risk-informed policies that translate into real-world action, whether through national legislation, regional cooperation frameworks or global economic strategies.

In 2024, UNDRR achieved significant milestones in embedding DRR into global policy frameworks, ensuring that the importance of DRR influences processes far beyond our immediate reach.

UNDRR's advocacy significantly shaped the United Nations [Pact for the Future](#), adopted by the General Assembly in 2024. This comprehensive framework mainstreamed DRR elements, promoting a risk-informed approach to sustainable development at all levels, and ensuring that resilience is at the core of global development strategies. This alignment with the Sendai Framework's priorities marked a pivotal shift towards proactive disaster risk management on an international scale.

UNDRR's work with policymakers included advocating for regions with unique vulnerabilities.

- **[Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\)](#)**: This agenda underscored the importance of DRR and resilience across various sectors, including tourism and water management. Notably, it was the first intergovernmentally agreed document to explicitly call for the application of the Principles for Resilient Infrastructure.
- **[New Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries \(LLDCs\)](#)**: For the first time, DRR was elevated to one of the five priority areas in the [Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries \(2024–2034\)](#), ensuring that resilience becomes central to LLDCs' development strategies.

UNDRR's efforts to promote inclusive governance were exemplified by the Sendai Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM). SEM's leadership role for the United Nations Civil Society Conference in Nairobi ensured that DRR perspectives were prominently featured in the Summit of the Future and the resulting Pact for the Future. Its active participation embedded DRR and principles of meaningful stakeholder engagement into the Pact's outcome documents,

reinforcing resilience as a central theme in future global governance frameworks.

UNDRR's strategic advocacy and partnerships in 2024 have significantly advanced DRR's integration into global policy frameworks. By influencing high-level platforms such as the G20, and empowering diverse stakeholders through mechanisms such as SEM, UNDRR has reinforced resilience as a fundamental component of sustainable development. These efforts lay a robust foundation for continued progress in reducing vulnerabilities and building resilient communities worldwide.

World Tsunami Awareness Day focused on lessons learned from the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in a sombre commemoration of the 20-year anniversary of this tragic event. Under the #GetToHighGround campaign, communities around the world carried out evacuation drills, and marked the event with messages of remembrance and praise for the progress made in EWS since. UNDRR, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, created an art and survivor portrait exhibition that was shown in Paris, Manila and Geneva. Record numbers of schoolchildren attended the high-school students' tsunami awareness summit in Japan.

For the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, the theme was "Empowering the next generation for a resilient future". Schools around the world were encouraged to run events, games and activities using UNDRR's toolkit and the "Stop Disasters!" game to mark the day.

Five Central Asian nations – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – reaffirmed their commitment to safe and resilient schools for children, with four endorsing the Comprehensive School Safety Framework 2022–2030.

The Framework provides strategic guidance for governments and partners to enhance school safety, ensuring safe, equitable and continuous access to quality education for all. This is especially pertinent for schools in disaster-prone areas with structural vulnerabilities that put them at significant risk.

Central Asian countries face hazards including earthquakes, floods and extreme weather events – all of which can threaten children's safety and continuous access to education. Political commitment is the first step to addressing such threats.

FOCUS ON: Regional platforms raising the bar on DRR financing

Asia Pacific

5,000

in-person delegates

45

**countries, territories
and regions represented**

**2 Deputy Prime Ministers,
11 Ministers and
4 Vice Ministers**

**46% female, 52% male
2% transgender and gender diverse
and 122 persons with disabilities**

The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR was held in Manila, Philippines, with 7,000 ministers and participants in attendance. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, who opened the event, emphasised funding as a priority issue of the conference and called for greater access for developing and least developing countries to financial resources. "We must significantly increase our investments and develop financing mechanisms in disaster risk reduction," he said.

Across the week, participants engaged in discussions on key themes, including financing, inclusion and local level engagement for disaster and climate resilience. The official deliberations are accompanied by major events and exhibitions [Are You Ready? And Tsunami: Sea Change for Resilience](#) engaging thousands of children and youth on prevention, as well as awards on women's leadership on DRR.

After three days of discussions, the Ninth Session of the Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Namibia concluded with the adoption of the Windhoek Declaration on advancing the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in Africa. This ambitious document sets the direction for the next three years, reinforcing Africa's commitment to reducing disaster risks and building resilience across the continent.

Financing efforts were at the heart of the discussions. The Windhoek Declaration calls on Member States to increase budgetary allocation and establish innovative financing solutions, with support from regional and international partners to access funding, including for loss and damages and the EW4All initiative.

The Windhoek Declaration also reiterates the call for inclusivity, especially in legislation and policies, but also through better national systems for gathering disaggregated data. The event called for mainstreaming of DRR in development programmes, and aligned DRR strategies with sustainable development and climate resilience policies, ensuring coherent and comprehensive approaches across all levels of governance as climate-related disasters continue to grow.

Africa

750

in-person delegates

44

Member States represented

**2 Deputy Prime Ministers,
34% female, 66% male
and 15 persons with disabilities**

Europe

700
participants

41
countries represented

**2 Deputy Prime Ministers,
11 Ministers and
4 Vice Ministers**

**50% female, 50% male
68 representatives from children
& youth group**

The 2024 Europe and Central Asia Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Budva, Montenegro, bringing together over 700 participants, including ministers, civil protection leaders, and diverse stakeholders from 55 UN Member States.


In a show of unity, Member States endorsed a political declaration that committed to strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and addressing the growing impacts of climate change in the region, ahead of the COP29 conference.

They acknowledged the escalating risks across the region, exacerbated by climate change, economic vulnerabilities, and geopolitical tensions, and committed to four targeted actions in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the regional DRR Roadmap 2021-2030: integrated action on DRR and climate resilience; inclusive risk governance; increased financing for resilience, and enhanced early warning systems.

Additionally, the Platform launched the Montenegro Call for Action on Earthquake Preparedness and Recovery, aimed at strengthening regional cooperation, improving technical capacity, and driving investments toward earthquake resilience.

Outcomes from these events, and the February 2025 Regional Platform in the Arab States will all feed into the Global Platform in Geneva in June 2025.





FOCUS ON: How media and risk communication save lives

UNDRR has long championed the critical role of communication in DRR. In 2024, the Media Saving Lives project conducted in partnership with the World Broadcasting Unions highlighted the importance of media as a vital component of MHEWS. With a clear focus on ensuring that risk information reaches the last mile, the initiative strengthened linkages across national disaster management agencies, meteorological offices and national broadcasters. These collaborations ensured coordinated messaging during crises, fostering a more responsive and efficient early warning chain.

The project further supported broadcasting organizations to enhance their readiness and resilience in times of disaster. Twelve media organizations established new Standard Operating Procedures to ensure their continuity plans, so these can remain a lifeline for disaster-affected communities.

On the twentieth anniversary of the 2004 tsunami, twelve broadcasting houses collaborated on the production of a regional documentary series in the lead-up to the commemoration. The initiative culminated in [an hour-long documentary](#), which examined lessons learned, technological advancements and the resilience of communities that experienced the tsunami's devastating impact.

Through compelling storytelling, expert interviews and survivor testimonies, the documentary highlighted successful early warning interventions in high-risk coastal regions and reinforced the need for continuous investment in education, public awareness and coordinated DRR efforts.

A key milestone in 2024 was the first regional summit in Africa on DRR and climate change, alongside the launch of the Global Media Network for DRR in Bali. These events brought together media professionals to

exchange experiences, discuss challenges and share good practices in disaster risk communication and disaster coverage.

In collaboration with BBC Media Action, the Risk Communication for Early Action project explored challenges and opportunities for media and communication to contribute to DRR. This initiative focused on three pilot countries: Cambodia (hard-to-reach populations), Somalia (conflict-affected communities) and Barbados (fisherfolk and elderly citizens).

In Maldives, UNDRR carried out a joint risk communication campaign with the National Disaster Management Authority, Maldives, and the Maldivian Red Crescent that was informed by a nationwide assessment of Maldivians' understanding of disaster risks, early warning messages, and actions to reduce future losses and damages from hazardous events.

Global tools, including a [Pocket Guide for planning disaster risk communication to support early warning and early action](#) and a [Guide for Essential Research](#), were developed and piloted across the three countries, ensuring their real-world applicability.

The knowledge and materials produced through the Risk Communication for Early Action project have informed the development of the [Disaster Risk Communication Hub](#) on PreventionWeb. This global platform consolidates the best practices, research and tools to enhance disaster risk communication strategies worldwide. As a living knowledge platform, the hub ensures that the lessons learned through this initiative continue to shape future DRR efforts, inspiring collaboration and driving innovation in risk communication.



05

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UNDRR FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND FUNDING BASE ANALYSIS

In 2024, UNDRR received a total of US\$57.25 million in financial contributions. Additionally, the USA pledged US\$6.5 million, though this amount was not received. The financial inflows represented a substantial portion of the resources required to support the implementation of the Biennial Work Programme for 2024-2025, which had a total funding requirement of US\$135 million including US\$69.43 million for 2024.

UNDRR continues to diversify and broaden its donor base, both in terms of financial contributions and partnerships. In 2024, the organization saw an increase in the number of donors, reflecting growing support for its mission to reduce disaster risks worldwide. Notably, more UN partners

contributed to the UNDRR Trust Fund, which bolstered the organization's financial sustainability and enhanced its ability to engage in long-term strategic planning. In addition, UNDRR's involvement in two Green Climate Fund (GCF) programmes under development in 2024 highlights the increasing collaboration with international financial mechanisms aimed at addressing climate-related risks.

Flexible core funding remains essential for UNDRR's ability to deliver on its Work Programme. This flexibility enables the office to adapt to rapidly changing disaster risk landscapes and remain agile in the face of emerging challenges. Given that 99.9% of UNDRR's funding comes from extra-budgetary

and voluntary contributions, this funding flexibility is critical to its operational success. In 2024, eleven donors—Sweden, Norway, Japan, Switzerland, Finland, the Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, China, the Philippines, Israel, and France—provided full or partial unearmarked core funding, contributing a total of US\$13.06 million. This represented 20.5% of the total pledged funding for the year.

Multi-year agreements are a cornerstone of UNDRR's financial strategy, providing a predictable funding stream that enhances the organization's ability to plan and implement disaster risk reduction efforts over a four-year period covered by UNDRR Strategic Frameworks or at least two years. In 2024, UNDRR signed five new multi-year agreements with CREWS, the Netherlands, and Switzerland, further reinforcing the strategic alignment between the organization and its donors. These new agreements add to a robust portfolio of multi-year contributions from donors such as Australia, Canada, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America.

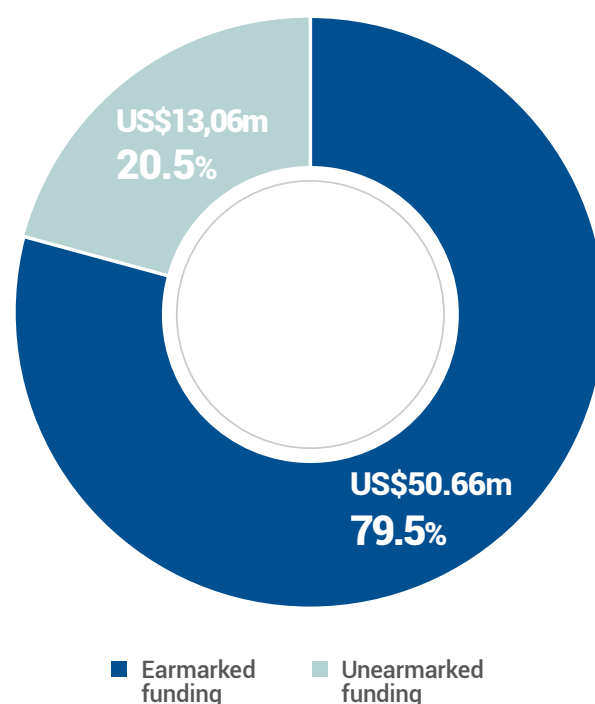
UNDRR's funding supports key global initiatives such as the Early Warning for All initiative (EW4All) and other thematic programmes such as the Water at Heart of Climate Action Programme (WHCA). These programs are pivotal in advancing UNDRR's mission of reducing disaster risk and promoting resilience in vulnerable communities worldwide. Moreover, while larger donors play an important role in UNDRR's funding strategy, smaller contributors also provide valuable support. These smaller donors, which include a variety of governments, international organizations and private sector partners, are crucial in strengthening UNDRR's capacity to achieve its objectives. Their contributions, while not always as high-profile, are no less significant in enabling UNDRR to maintain a diverse and sustainable funding base.

In-kind contributions, including Junior Professional Officers (JPOs), continue to play an essential role in bolstering UNDRR's capacity. In 2024, ten JPOs were provided by Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Netherlands,

and the United States, contributing valuable expertise and supporting the successful delivery of UNDRR's global initiatives.

UNDRR's ongoing efforts to foster dialogue and transparency with its donor community and stakeholders are vital in strengthening partnerships and ensuring accountability. In 2024, the organization hosted multiple platforms for consultation, including the UNDRR Support Group in Geneva, the Group of Friends in New York, donor meetings, and online briefings for the Global Platform 2025. These interactions fostered collaboration and knowledge sharing, further enhancing UNDRR's capacity to deliver on its mandate.

In 2024, the increase in the number of donors and expanded partnerships, along with growing recognition of UNDRR's work in important global initiatives, has strengthened its funding base. Flexible core funding, multi-year agreements, and in-kind contributions remain essential for UNDRR's ability to carry out its Work Programme and respond to new disaster risks. UNDRR is committed to continuing the diversification of its donor base to ensure long-term financial stability, which is vital to its mission of building resilience and reducing disaster risks worldwide. Both large and small donors play an important role in supporting this mission, and UNDRR sincerely thanks all contributors for their ongoing support.



Country	Earmarked	Unearmarked	Total
CREWS*	10,002,037		10,002,037
United States of America**	8,752,202		8,752,202
Germany	6,738,151		6,738,151
Switzerland	3,542,474	2,020,202	5,562,676
Japan	2,772,800	2,679,330	5,452,130
Sweden	1,831,837	3,257,935	5,089,773
Australia	3,077,732		3,077,732
Norway		2,785,291	2,785,291
Republic of Korea	1,935,550	600,000	2,535,550
European Union	2,362,274		2,362,274
Netherlands	1,858,387		1,858,387
American Express	1,721,287		1,721,287
Italy***	1,636,970		1,636,970
Finland		1,082,251	1,082,251
Denmark	982,729		982,729
UN entities****	842,529		842,529
Coalition for Disaster resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)	649,500		649,500
Migration Trust Fund	502,600		502,600
Spain	464,109		464,109
Canada	290,076		290,076
Luxembourg		267,953	267,953
China		266,973	266,973
Czech Republic	207,788		207,788
Portugal	204,082		204,082
Poland	151,469		151,469
Sobha Realty	100,000		100,000
Philippines		50,000	50,000
Israel		25,000	25,000
France		22,371	22,371
Kazakhstan	20,000		20,000
SM Prime Holding	11,300		11,300
Total	50,657,882	13,057,307	63,715,189


* Part of the contribution (US\$2.07 million) was received by UNDRR and passed through to IFRC and ITU.

** This includes US\$6.46 million that was pledged for 2024 but not received.

*** Contribution of EUR 1 million was received in 2025, but was intended for 2024.

**** That includes FAO, IOM, WHO, WMO, UNDP and UNOPS

 Total or partial core contributions



FOCUS ON: Empowering women and transforming disaster resilience

The need for gender-responsive and inclusive DRR has never been more urgent. Hazards and risks are not experienced equally; women, in particular, face unique challenges that compound the impacts of disasters. Yet amid these challenges, UNDRR is championing a transformative approach that ensures no one is left behind, not only reducing risks but also empowering communities to build a more resilient future.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Network for Disaster Risk Reduction has over 1,535 active members. Operating through autonomous working groups and guided by a robust long-term strategic plan, the network is redefining disaster resilience in the region. Liliam Patricia Cuevas Berrio from the [Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction](#) affirmed:

"The Women's Network for Disaster Risk Reduction is a unique platform that highlights the vital role women play in disaster risk management. It fosters a sense of shared commitment and responsibility among its members, providing an opportunity for collaboration, learning and empowerment. Initiatives like these are essential to advancing resilience and ensuring inclusive governance in the region."

The [Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities: Addendum for Gender Equality and Intersectionality](#) has enabled local governments to diagnose gaps in their DRR strategies and implement tailored, gender-sensitive actions. This tool not only identifies weaknesses but also highlights opportunities for growth, ensuring that disaster response plans incorporate the perspectives and needs of all community members. Such initiatives are laying the groundwork for systemic change by transforming data into actionable insights and making gender equity a central pillar of disaster governance.

Beyond the Americas, the [Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction](#) in Manila broke new ground by establishing the first-ever Help Desk on gender-responsive and socially inclusive DRR. Its findings are already steering future interventions towards more meaningful dialogue and action.

Perhaps the most ambitious of these efforts is the [Sendai Gender Action Plan](#) (GAP), launched in March 2024. The Lao People's Democratic Republic has integrated the GAP into its National DRR Action Plan, directly addressing the unique risks faced by women and girls. As one Lao People's Democratic Republic government representative stated, highlighting the transformative impact of this global initiative: *"The*

Sendai GAP has been instrumental in helping us integrate gender-responsive strategies into our DRR action plan. It ensures that the needs of all our people are addressed during every step of the process."

Similarly, in Cambodia, collaborative efforts between UNDRR and UN-Women have enriched national strategies with diverse gender perspectives. In Samoa, enhanced capacities for collecting disaggregated data have provided clearer insights into how disasters affect different groups, leading to more targeted DRR interventions. Initiatives in Djibouti, Somalia and Sudan have further bolstered gender-responsive governance.

The journey towards gender-responsive DRR is not without challenges. Persistent gender inequalities and entrenched social biases continue to pose risks that are often magnified during disasters. However, UNDRR is fostering environments where women and girls can lead the way in building safer, more resilient communities.

In 2024, UNDRR also made strides in championing disability inclusion, advocating for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in DRR at international events and in key discourses. Key moments included presentations at the thirtieth session of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Summit of the Future high-level event on disability inclusion and the Equality Conference in Ankara.

UNDRR met or exceeded the requirements for 16 indicators out of the 17 applicable indicators of the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN-SWAP).

Closer to home, UNDRR implemented its disability inclusion policy, achieving milestones such as recruiting staff with disabilities, developing guidelines for reasonable accommodation, and ensuring participation of persons with disabilities in regional DRR platforms. Awareness was raised through publications and social media, and the UNDRR United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy focal point actively supported policy implementation.

Efforts extended to making workshops and webinars accessible, updating conference registration templates and ensuring accessible options for Disability Inclusion Scorecard workshops globally. UNDRR's communication and knowledge management activities featured numerous content pieces on disability, garnering significant engagement on social media, to further spread the important message of inclusive DRR and how to make it happen.

FOCUS ON: Efficiency and pooled funding

UNDRR's operations are guided by the goal of achieving the highest impact by strategically allocating resources, streamlining processes and fostering a collaborative environment with implementing partners to access specialist skills as needed. UNDRR ensures that every initiative delivers measurable results, which are reported in Annex 1 to the Annual Report. UNDRR has a dedicated team consisting of staff, Junior Professional Officers, secondees from national governments (Non Reimbursable Loans) and), United Nations Volunteers and interns who work together seamlessly, leveraging diverse expertise to swiftly and effectively deliver on a broad work programme. Through its unwavering focus on accountability, establishing long-term contracts to ensure that recurrent services provide the best value for money, and continuous improvement, UNDRR maximizes the reach and benefits of its programmes, ultimately driving sustainable change through its work.

UNDRR has worked with several pooled funding mechanisms and partnerships to increase effectiveness and efficiency. CREWS was an important partner to UNDRR in 2024, bringing together UNDRR, WMO and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery to enhance EWS. The Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund brought together UNDRR, the World Health Organization and the International Organization for Migration for work in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency made a contribution to UNDRR for EW4All, and UNDRR shared a portion with the World Health Organization, the International Telecommunication Union and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to ensure that all four pillars could accelerate work in a coordinated manner. The Netherlands used the same formula for the Water at the Heart of Climate Action initiative, and Denmark made a contribution to WMO that was shared with the other pillar leads, including UNDRR. In short, 2024 saw significant efforts to enhancing efficiency and impact on the ground through working with key partners in a joined-up way.



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