

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)



As an increasing number of people are being affected by natural hazards, there is growing recognition by governments and organizations that building resilient communities and reducing disaster risk sustains development gains. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is the designated focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction.

WHAT IS UNDRR?

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF UNDRR?

UNDRR works globally with a wide range of partners and stakeholder towards the prevention of new, and the reduction of existing disaster risk. Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other global development goals, UNDRR promotes the strengthening resilience through successful multi-hazard disaster risk management. UNDRR has regional offices in [Africa](#), [Americas and the Caribbean](#), [Arab States](#), [Asia Pacific](#), and [Europe and Central Asia](#).

UNDRR works at the intersection between understanding risk and risk impact. UNDRR publishes the [UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction \(GAR\)](#), a flagship report of the United Nations on worldwide efforts to reduce disaster risk.

UNDRR supports Member States in the implementation of the [The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#) (Sendai Framework), which outlines seven clear targets and four priorities for action:

Understanding disaster risk

Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

Investing in disaster reduction for resilience

Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

UNDRR AND WATER

Priority 4 of the Sendai Framework (Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction) contains the following steps to be undertaken at national and local levels, among others:

33.(c) To promote the resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure, **including water**, transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, educational facilities, hospitals and other health facilities, to ensure that they remain safe, effective and operational during and after disasters in order to provide life-saving and essential services;

33.(e) To support, as appropriate, the efforts of relevant United Nations entities to strengthen and implement global mechanisms on **hydrometeorological** issues in order to raise awareness and improve understanding of **water-related disaster risks** and their impact on society, and advance strategies for disaster risk reduction upon the request of States;

UNDRR AND THE WATER-RELATED SDGS

The seven global targets of the Sendai Framework contribute to the achievement of water-related SDGs. Disaster Risk Reduction is a core part of many water-related SDG targets, for example:



Target 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.



Target 11.5 : By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.



Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

Target 15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

Target 15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

THE WAY FORWARD

Earth, the blue planet, is in the middle of a water crisis: the two failures relating to poverty and unsustainability are accelerating both the incidence and impact of water-related disasters. I look forward to working with UNDRR, particularly on preparedness and risk mitigation to safeguard the human rights to water and sanitation.



Pedro Arrojo-Agudo

UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation