

Words Into Action

*Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
Transforming policy into action and results*

*Eighth Meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate
Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Geneva, 15 September 2016*

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Key aspects

Through the adoption of the Sendai Framework the Members of the United Nations have signalled a strong determination to:

- Managing disaster risk in a comprehensive and integrated way across sectors and institutions; disaster risk reduction is not a technical sector per se;
- Adopt development policies, plans and investments that in and of themselves prevent the creation of new risk and reduce the existing risk;
- Increase international cooperation, including trans-boundary cooperation;
- Ensure the full engagement of all stakeholders in decision making and implementation through coordination mechanisms;

7 global targets were adopted to materialise such commitment;

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Key aspects

The Sendai Framework:

- Counts on treaty bodies to support its implementation and the integration of disaster risk management in all national practices;
- Places emphasis on water management, river basins, and ecosystem management;
- Supports national coordination for integrated disaster risk management;
- Asks Global and Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction to support a coherent approach in managing disaster risk across sectors and agendas;
- Aims at strengthening accountability in disaster risk management and the review and development of relevant normative instruments.

The Water Convention and its Mechanisms for the Sendai Framework

- Supporting the further understanding of water-related disaster risk, and its dissemination to other sectors;
- Strengthening the understanding of sequential effects, the risk of “cascading disasters”;
- Development of common information systems and exchanges of good practices in disaster risk management;
- Ensuring the resilience of critical infrastructures and life-saving and essential services in river basins;
- Strengthening of early warning;
- Promoting the adoption of strategies and plans which are multi-hazard and multi-sector in nature and scope;
- Promoting integrated risk management practices for transboundary river basins;
- Development and review of normative instruments;
- Supporting the application of positive experience and practices in trans-boundary cooperation on water issues to other sectors;

River basins management in the Sendai Framework

- 30(g) To promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessment, mapping and management into rural development planning and management of, inter alia, mountains, rivers, coastal flood plain areas, drylands, wetlands and all other areas prone to droughts and flooding, including through the identification of areas that are safe for human settlement, and at the same time preserving ecosystem functions that help to reduce risks;

Water in the Sendai Framework

- 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 live-saving and essential services;
- 34(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;

Transboundary Cooperation in the Sendai Framework

8. International, regional, subregional and transboundary cooperation remains pivotal in supporting the efforts of States, their national and local authorities, as well as communities and businesses, to reduce disaster risk. Existing mechanisms may require strengthening in order to provide effective support and achieve better implementation.
- 19 (a) Each State has the primary responsibility to prevent and reduce disaster risk, including through international, regional, subregional, transboundary and bilateral cooperation. The reduction of disaster risk is a common concern for all States and the extent to which developing countries are able to effectively enhance and implement national disaster risk reduction policies and measures in the context of their respective circumstances and capabilities can be further enhanced through the provision of sustainable international cooperation;
- 28(a) To guide action at the regional level through agreed regional and subregional strategies and mechanisms for cooperation for disaster risk reduction, as appropriate, in the light of the present Framework, in order to foster more efficient planning, create common information systems and exchange good practices and programmes for cooperation and capacity development, in particular to address common and transboundary disaster risks;
- 28(d) To promote transboundary cooperation to enable policy and planning for the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches with regard to shared resources, such as within river basins and along coastlines, to build resilience and reduce disaster risk, including epidemic and displacement risk;

Words Into Action Guides

Purpose and Rationale

Provide practical guidance on how to implement the Sendai Framework and integrate disaster risk management in a given area;

Catalyze and leverage on worldwide expertise, communities of practice, professional networks;

Are knowledge brokering tools;

Can be used to support training, national programs and capacity building in general.

Words Into Action Guides

Lifespan

The guides are not 'final products' but will evolve over time through reviews and updates to respond to new needs, requirements and learning from practice.

Updates may take place every few years, or more frequently if required and can be recommended in the guide itself.

Words Into Action Guides

Format

A three-tier outlook

1. Concise and practical how-to written guides, making them readily accessible for global, local and in-the-field use.
2. On line, up-to-date 'how-to' editorial packages validated and co-curated by communities on PreventionWeb.
3. On-line work spaces and discussion forums.

Covers the essentials while complementary information is made available through other means (editorial packages, wiki-type platforms, etc).

There is no exact size that fits all purposes, most paper guides will fall in the range of 10 to 60 pages.

Words Into Action Guides

Target groups

Experts, community practitioners, policy makers, organisations and institutions at local, national and international levels

Words Into Action Guides

Modalities for Preparation

- Identification of a lead organisation which develops the theme, purpose and scope as well as working modalities, including program and drafting, and identifies partners;
- Work can be in meetings and through electronic means and platforms;
- Critical that the preparatory process be multistakeholder in nature and reflect variety of practice;
- Substantive quality control is exercised by the lead organisation with the support of UNISDR to ensure consistency across all Words into Action;
- Advisable to have peer reviews;
- Advisable to contact leads of other Words Into Action to ensure coherence;
- Particular formalities are not requested – this to allow for the necessary flexibility to ensure a quality product and an inclusive process;
- Once the lead organisation deems that the draft is final, it is submitted to the SRSB for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- It is published on PreventionWeb as a ‘public review version’ for three months, after which it is finalized.

Words Into Action Guides

Timelines for Preparation

There is no predefined timeline for preparation. It depends on needs to ensure a quality product. Possibly could be between 1 to 2 years.

The first ones, already in the making, are expected for 2017. More guides to follow over the years.

YET

As Target E of the Sendai Framework indicates the commitment to “substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020”, a timely preparation of the Guides may also positively influence the definition of such strategies.

Work Group status

Work Group	Status
Leveraging Science for Policy Making Through Capacity Development and Research Local Authorities	Planning & Work on Initial Concepts
Governance & Accountability	Development of Draft Versions
Business, professional associations & private sector financial institutions	Preparing & Configuring Work Group
Civil society, volunteers, organized voluntary work & community-based organizations	Development of Draft Versions
Fostering the Engagement of Children and Youth in Sendai Framework Implementation at National and Local Levels	Planning & Work on Initial Concepts
Critical infrastructure (target 4) - critical infrastructure	Preparing & Configuring Work Group
Critical infrastructure (target 4) - promoting and implementing school safety	Preparing & Configuring Work Group
Cultural heritage	First Structured Outline of Guide
Ecosystems-based disaster risk reduction	Development of Draft Versions
Finance, insurance and risk transfer - disaster risk in the financial system	Preparing & Configuring Work Group
Finance, insurance and risk transfer - insurance and risk transfer	Preparing & Configuring Work Group
Health systems and disaster risk reduction	Preparing & Configuring Work Group

Work Group status

Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience (priority 3)	 First Structured Outline of Guide
Land use and urban planning	 Planning & Work on Initial Concepts
Local authorities	 Planning & Work on Initial Concepts
Media	 Planning & Work on Initial Concepts
Man-made and technological hazards	 Planning & Work on Initial Concepts
Multi-stakeholder approach, inclusion and empowerment of stakeholders	See Civil Society
National and local platforms for disaster risk reduction - national platforms	 Quality Control and Final Draft
National and local platforms for disaster risk reduction - supplement on the private sector	 Preparing & Configuring Work Group
National and local strategies (target 5) - for national governments, dealing with disaster management, risk reduction, planning, finance, urban or local development	 Preparing & Configuring Work Group
National and local strategies (target 5) - for local government leaders, mayors, city managers	 Planning & Work on Initial Concepts
Parliamentarians	 Preparing & Configuring Work Group

Work Group status

Peer review among countries	 Planning & Work on Initial Concepts
Build Back Better in Recovery	 Planning & Work on Initial Concepts
Social protection	 Planning & Work on Initial Concepts
Standards	 Planning & Work on Initial Concepts
Preparedness for Response	 Planning & Work on Initial Concepts
Tourism	 Planning & Work on Initial Concepts
Understanding disaster risk (priority 1) - National risk assessment	 First Structured Outline of Guide
Understanding disaster risk (priority 1) - National loss database	 Preparing & Configuring Work Group
NEW GUIDE Construction policy and practice	 First Structured Outline of Guide
Multi-hazard early warning systems (Sendai Framework target 7)	 Preparing & Configuring Work Group