



All of Society Approach to Reduce Risk for a Resilient Future

A Contribution from the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism to the Zero Draft of the Political Declaration on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

As the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM)¹, we continue to leverage the convening, advocacy, and implementing power of stakeholders in support of the realisation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework).

The following recommendations is a compilation of the 17 SEM stakeholder constituencies recommendations to the zero draft of the political declaration on the Midterm Review (MTR) of the Sendai Framework. Please note that the report we refer to in the below recommendations is A/77/640, Main findings and recommendations of the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (referred as MTR).

If you, the reader, have any questions or wish to receive further information please do not hesitate to contact the SEM focal points Rebecca Murphy (rebecca.murphy@gn-dr.org) and Jekulin Lipi (jekulin.lipi@unmgcy.org), with the request to copy Moa Herrgård (moa.m.herrgard@gmail.com).

Localisation of voices and actions

The MTR report has revealed that the progress observed at the local level has been limited². To address this concern, it is crucial to significantly invest in local actions and involve the voices of local communities and their traditional knowledge in governance systems. Such efforts will inspire collective ownership and meaningful collaboration, ultimately enhancing progress at the local level.

¹ <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework-partners-and-stakeholders/stakeholder-engagement-mechanism>

²Section B, §25, Main findings and recommendations of the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

To achieve a comprehensive understanding of local level progress, it is imperative to gather and utilise disaggregated data, which is currently lacking.³ Disaggregated local data needs to be strengthened by disaggregation based on gender, age, citizenship, disability and indigeneity.

In examining the first priority area of the Sendai Framework, notable advancements have been made in understanding risk at the global and national level, although the same level of progress has not been attained at the local level. To address this gap, participatory governance is a critical solution. Local community members are best equipped to understand the risks and realities of their respective areas. Therefore they should be involved in decision-making processes and resource allocation to achieve successful outcomes.

Accessible and decentralised resource allocations

To ensure a development that takes into account the diverse range of local risks, empowering and engaging local actors, particularly community-based organizations, is essential. This involvement requires providing flexible and accessible financing and resource allocation mechanisms that enable these organisations to respond to emerging risks and prioritise shifting needs. By providing them with the necessary resources and support, they can be equipped with the tools and flexibility required to adapt to emerging risks, and thus help to build more sustainable and resilient communities. This approach not only strengthens local actors' abilities to address challenges effectively but also promotes the ownership and responsibility of local communities and builds trust between donors and recipients in decision-making processes.

Leave no one behind and address vulnerability of persons most at risk

The MTR report has identified a critical issue of insufficient efforts being made to address the vulnerabilities of individuals who are most at risk. To avoid leaving anyone behind, it is essential to prioritise enhanced actions and investments to address the vulnerability of persons who are most at risk. In this regard, we recommend the following:

Firstly, it is important to recognize gender inequality as a risk driver and a barrier to achieving the Sendai Framework. Therefore, institutionalising a gender-lens in all DRR policy decisions and actions is imperative.

Secondly, an inclusive, intergenerational approach to DRR is necessary to build on the diverse lived experiences and energy and innovation of both older persons and younger generations. This approach recognizes the unique contributions of different age groups and knowledge in addressing disaster risks.

Thirdly, DRR policy decisions and actions must meet the requirements of persons with disabilities. This includes ensuring that barriers including physical, institutional and attitudinal barriers are eliminated and that disability-inclusive measures are incorporated into all stages of

³Section B, §15, Main findings and recommendations of the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

the DRR process, and ensuring that they can actively participate in DRR planning and policy-making, implementation and monitoring.

Fourth, it is crucial to recognize disaster displacement and reduce the risks related to displacement. by preventing the creation of conditions that lead to displacement in the first place, and by preparing for displacement and its adverse consequences.

Finally, build on the partnerships and trust established with local actors who oftentimes are most aware of which populations face unique risks in their communities in order to ensure that all needs are met.

Recognition and actions of a triple nexus approach

We recognise the MTR's acknowledgement of needing greater focus on bringing DRR into humanitarian and peace building efforts. Building community resilience requires that non-homogenous social and geographic groups work together to put in place reliable and practical disaster risk prevention, reduction and management mechanisms in the short, medium and long term. However, this cannot be achieved if the social fabric is weakened or when population movements following conflicts are frequent, making all community efforts more challenging if not impossible. It is therefore essential to practice and/or adapt the triple nexus approach in all initiatives to build collective resilience.

Learn from the COVID-19 pandemic

The MTR report acknowledges that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the progress of implementing the Sendai Framework. However, the pandemic also provides a valuable opportunity for Member States to learn from the risk governance failures and successes that have contributed to the ultimate impacts of the pandemic, both direct and indirect. It is also an opportunity to learn from good practices of collaboration and resource mobilisation for a common goal. To make the most of this opportunity, it is important to adopt a learning-in-action approach rather than a solutions-focused approach. Circumstances and hazards change, so must our systems. We also recognise a shortcoming in the MTR report in regards to specifically increasing the understanding and actions related to biological disasters.

Invest in the future

The MTR report acknowledges the vulnerability of children and youth to various risks. However, it is essential to go beyond viewing this demographic as vulnerable and instead recognize them as valuable contributors to risk governance and DRR actions. Youth should be included in risk governance. Formal and informal education should include knowledge of disaster risk reduction for children and youth.