



SENDAI FRAMEWORK

FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

Asia-Pacific Action Plan 2021-2024

for Implementation of the
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

As of the drafting date, the Action Plan 2021-2024 has been sourced from the following:

1. Review of Action Plan 2018-2020 (desk-based analysis, key informant interviews with governments and stakeholders as well as sub-regional consultations).
2. Outcomes of the 2019 and 2020 Asia-Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction (APP-DRR) Forum including the consultations.
3. Review of relevant documents and publications during 2019-2021
4. Consultations between June and October 2021

Contents

1. Background	2
2. Context – Progress and Challenges.....	3
3. Priorities for Action.....	6
Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk	6
Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk	8
Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.....	10
Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction	12
4. Monitoring and Review	15

1. Background

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 calls for the development of regional action plans and strategies. In this spirit, three and a half years ago, the national governments of the Asia-Pacific region and partners agreed to an overarching message: Preventing disaster risk to protect sustainable development. The Action Plan 2018-2020 of the Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in July 2018. It addressed how the on-going threat of climate change is exacerbating the cascading and compounding nature of disaster risk. It called for several actions around the need to strengthen an integrated approach to risk governance to protect development gains.

The period since that commitment was made has reinforced the urgency of implementing the Sendai Framework as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and the centrality of the disaster risk reduction agenda to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Specifically, that risk is complex and needs to be addressed across agendas, sectors, institutions and borders via a coherent and systemic approach that is inclusive, gender-responsive, addresses intersectionality and leaves no one behind.

As the review of progress against the Action Plan began ahead of the planned 2020 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) in Brisbane, Australia, with a view to developing a new Action Plan, the global risks and impacts of climate change were compounded by another global disaster: the COVID-19 pandemic. Compound events are extremes that occur simultaneously or successively, but are not necessarily causally correlated, and may be combined with pre-existing conditions that amplify their impacts. This was the case for the two extremes; climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. While for natural hazards and climate change the predictability of occurrences and scale has increased in recent decades owing to scientific research and evidence, countermeasures against COVID-19 and other infectious diseases contain many uncertainties requiring further investigation.

The pandemic prompted the postponement of the APMCDRR and the temporary and exceptional continued use of the 2018-2020 Action Plan agreed in Mongolia. At the same time, extensive consultations continued to review and update the Action Plan, taking into account experiences before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the intent to launch the Action Plan at the APP-DRR Forum to be held virtually from 8 to 9 December 2021. These consultations included the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, which for the first time included the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

It is intended that this Action Plan will have a timespan from the end of 2021 until 2024. The plan contains a combination of carryover actions that need to be continued or scaled up, given that disaster risk reduction requires persistence and perseverance to generate change and impact, as well as new and innovative actions that emerged from good practices, lessons learned and recent developments, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Context – Progress and Challenges

While 2020 will be remembered for COVID-19, it was also the second warmest year on record. Climate-related disasters continued to intensify and become more frequent, especially storms and floods. The high glacial melt rate, for instance in the Karakoram-Himalayas region, increasingly causes floods. The rise in extreme weather events stretched Governments, including national disaster management agencies, and their budgets to the limit.

As a result, several countries in Asia-Pacific had to deal with multiple disasters, including droughts, floods, typhoons/cyclones and locust infestation, while managing the pandemic at the same time.

Disasters, which were triggered mainly by climate-related natural hazards, as well as COVID-19 highlighted how the same disaster affects people differently due to inequitable systems creating increased risk among marginalised groups. Indeed, people's experiences of disasters varied significantly, with disproportionate impacts facing women and girls, older persons, persons living with disabilities, migrants and displaced persons, those in the informal economy, remote areas and other marginalised groups.

According to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters' Emergency Events Database the Asia-Pacific region experienced 41 per cent of all recorded disaster events in 2020. The region accounted for 64 per cent of the total number of people affected. Over the period from 2018 to 2020, 542 disasters were recorded in Asia¹ and 51 in the Pacific.

In terms of the number of affected people, the worst disaster in Asia during that period was the flooding in India in 2018, which affected over 23 million people. In the Pacific, it was the earthquake in Papua New Guinea in 2018, which affected 544,000 people. However, in relation to the percentage of the population affected, Cyclone Gita in 2018 in Tonga was the worst, affecting 87,000 people or 86 per cent of Tonga's population. Cyclone Tino affected in 2020 around 50 per cent of Tuvalu's population, while the highest percentages in Asia were caused by the drought in Afghanistan in 2018, which affected 43 per cent of the population, and the drought in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 2019, which affected 40 per cent of the population.

According to the Aon Weather, Climate & Catastrophe Insight Annual Reports of 2019 and 2020, the floods in China in 2020 caused the highest disaster economic losses in the region, totalling US\$35 billion. Three other disasters caused losses of US\$15 billion each: the very severe Typhoon Hagibis in Japan in 2019, the monsoon floods in China in 2019 and Cyclone Amphan in 2020 in South Asia. Early indications suggest that the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires in Australia cost close to US\$74 billion. However, Vanuatu was the most severely affected by Cyclone Harold in relation to losses as a proportion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment by the Government of Vanuatu, the total damage and losses caused by the cyclone and the concurrent COVID-19 pandemic containment measures were calculated at around US\$617 million, which corresponds to approximately 61 per cent of the forecasted GDP in 2020. The total cost for recovery and reconstruction in Vanuatu has been estimated at US\$358 million, which is approximately 36 per cent of the forecasted GDP. When Cyclone Harold hit, which also left a trail of

¹ This figure excludes disasters in Western Asia and in Central Asia.

destruction in Solomon Islands, Fiji and Tonga, it was for the Pacific region the first time to experience the compounded impacts of a pandemic and climate-related disasters.

COVID-19 has proved how disaster impacts cascade across systems and sectors. Lockdowns and containment measures have severely disrupted supply chains triggering significant employment and wage income losses. ILO estimates that in 2020 equivalent of 138 million full time jobs were lost and 89 million people were pushed back into extreme poverty. Education disruption affected over 800 million children with 27 million being out of classrooms for over a year. In East Asia and Pacific region alone, UNICEF estimates that 1.2 million girls are at risk of not returning to school with significant inequalities in learning outcomes exacerbated.

More than six years into the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Asia-Pacific region has achieved positive results across a number of areas. Capacities to manage disasters have increased through strengthened prevention, preparedness and response efforts.

As of April 2021, according to reporting in the Sendai Framework Monitor, the average annual number of dead and missing persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 people has fallen in Asia-Pacific from 1.84, between 2005 and 2014, to 0.73, between 2011 and 2020. However, the number of persons affected by disasters per 100,000 people has grown from an average of 3,391 to 5,066 per year over the same period.

Underpinning the progress of cutting the average annual number of dead and missing persons attributed to disasters by 60 per cent has been a better understanding of risk; a stronger approach to risk governance (including in terms of integration and inclusion); increased and smarter investments in disaster resilience; and better preparedness and response, particularly in terms of early warning and early action. The increase in number of people affected reflects the heightened risks of exposure to hazards and disasters due to population growth, urban development and the adverse effects of climate change. This requires efforts to ensure disaster risk reduction actions are commensurate to a changing risk landscape.

Yet challenges and gaps remain significant. A lack of collection and use of disaggregated data by income, sex, age and disability continues to limit the understanding of the differential impact of disasters. Addressing intersectionality and discrimination is key to reduce vulnerabilities and leave no one behind.

COVID-19 – along with on-going climate change – has introduced another powerful risk dynamic. This complex risk landscape is further driving up poverty and inequality, undermining health systems and food security and impacting access to education. As a result, the SDGs are under immense pressure. At the current trajectory, Asia-Pacific is not on track to achieve any of the SDGs, while climate change is threatening the region in particular. Therefore, there is a need to continue enhancing cooperation and sharing practices among the countries to address transboundary risks by harnessing the richness and diversity of and in the region.

Scaling up implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region has the potential to reverse – and ultimately reduce – these worrying trends. It will, in turn, bolster progress towards the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. Increasing international cooperation and capacity

development in support of SIDS, Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Landlocked Developing Countries, as well as other countries in special situations, remain essential.

Disaster risk reduction requires the full engagement of all State institutions, beyond National Disaster Management Organizations (NDMO). In acknowledgement of the critical role of stakeholders for inclusive disaster risk reduction, the Sendai Framework recognises that managing disaster risk is a collective and shared responsibility between governments and relevant stakeholders. While States are primarily responsible for the prevention and reduction of disaster risk, non-state stakeholders act as enablers by contributing their commitment, goodwill, knowledge, experience and resources. The Sendai Framework encourages critical actions from civil society organizations, women, children and youth, persons living with disabilities, poor people, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, communities of practitioners, older persons, academia, the private sector as well as media. The implementation of this Action Plan relies on stakeholders, in addition to governments and intergovernmental organizations.

The 2018-2020 Action Plan also focused on the development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, in line with Target E of the Sendai Framework. According to the Sendai Framework Monitor, as of March 2021, out of the 39 Member States covered by UNDRR in the Asia-Pacific region, 29 Member States reported having a National DRR Strategy. While there has been progress, there is still a need to update or develop some plans as well as to scale up their implementation and to strengthen their alignment to the Sendai Framework. Work also needs to be expanded around the development of local strategies that are resourced and aligned with national plans and effectively guide local action.

Based on the progress made thus far, this new Action Plan 2021-2024 aims to accelerate Asia-Pacific's transformation to risk-informed development, by treating disaster risk reduction as a cross-cutting theme and by increasing investment in prevention, risk reduction, climate change adaptation and anticipatory approaches to enhance resilience.

3. Priorities for Action

The Action Plan is structured to reflect the four priorities of the Sendai Framework, namely:

1. Understanding disaster risk.
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to ‘build back better’ in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The plan identifies actions needed at three levels: regional, national, and local.

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk

A consistent focus of Priority 1 is on the need to strengthen the capture, management, dissemination and application of risk data and information. This includes a holistic understanding of all risk dimensions, specifically, hazards, exposure, vulnerabilities, capacities and their interactions.

1.1 Regional Actions

- a. Further develop risk assessment methodologies and approaches to consider the systemic, compounding, transboundary, probabilistic and dynamic nature of existing and emerging disaster risks and their cascading effects, including in fragile situations and complex emergencies. The methodologies should be based on science and incorporate traditional and indigenous knowledge.
- b. Enhance the methodologies and collection of standardised risk and impact data, disaggregated by income, sex, age and disability, including crowdsourced data, to inform inclusive and accessible disaster risk reduction that promotes gender equality.
- c. Enhance the collaboration between regional and national scientific institutions and platforms to strengthen the understanding of short and long-term climate projections and their implications on climate and disaster risks.
- d. Enhance transboundary and cross-sectoral sharing of data and good practices by utilizing existing regional platforms, promote open data, and support joint analyses among countries to enable comprehensive risk assessments.
- e. Enhance transdisciplinary engagement between scientists, policy-makers, civil society and businesses to increase shared understanding of current and future risks and strengthen science-based decision-making.

1.2 National Actions

- a. Assess disaster risks and drivers, vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics and their possible sequential and cascading effects, and take measures to guide and ensure risk disclosure in public and private transactions.
- b. Survey the disaster risk reduction abilities of stakeholders and strengthen linkages between NDMOs, National Statistics Offices and national science, environmental,

hydrological, agricultural, geological, maritime, meteorological, social protection, gender equality and public health agencies to support and provide guidance towards the collection, availability, analysis, interoperability, sharing and use of disaggregated disaster-related data to support risk-informed development.

- c. Update national comprehensive risk profiles and disaster risk reduction status reports regularly to document changing risk dimensions and mechanisms to address them.
- d. Support policymakers to better understand the root causes of vulnerability and how discrimination and social norms can interact to exacerbate disaster risk based on an individual's gender, disability, race, age, education, socio-economic status, geographical area and other factors, in order to enhance risk-informed policy making.
- e. Improve public awareness and understanding of disaster risk reduction, including through the national commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13 October) and World Tsunami Awareness Day (5 November), by encouraging the participation of all stakeholders.
- f. Incorporate disaster risk reduction in formal and non-formal education in primary, secondary and tertiary levels and in professional training curricula including through partnerships with Higher Education Institutions, universities and relevant organizations.
- g. Apply and share science, engineering, technology and innovation advancements and promote the development of innovative, accessible and low-cost technologies and tools, which can be deployed for disaster risk reduction and prevention, complemented by traditional and indigenous knowledge as well as citizen science.
- h. Strengthen the understanding and early detection of biological hazards and emerging infectious diseases, beyond COVID-19, which could potentially cause public health emergencies, through a multi-hazard, multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach.

1.3 Local Actions

- a. Incorporate the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic into disaster risk reduction capacity development efforts aimed at local leaders, including representatives of women and girls, youth, older persons, persons living with disabilities, migrants, displaced persons, those in the informal economy, those living in remote areas, other marginalized groups as well as the private sector.
- b. Enhance capacities for the inclusive collection and analysis of quality disaggregated risk, climate change and disaster impact data, which include regular updates of baseline data, of data on the socio-cultural and ecological context as well as of risk assessments, maps and profiles, through use of new technologies as well as through standard methodologies and tools.
- c. Make risk, forecast, early warning and disaster impact information, including information about operational services and facilities, publicly available in formats that are accessible and customized to be easily understood by everyone in the community, keeping in mind the disproportionate risks faced by children, women, persons living with disabilities, older persons, migrants, ethnic minorities and persons living in remote areas. Risk communication and warning dissemination systems should address misinformation and include a feedback mechanism to verify that the messages have been received, understood and actions have been taken.

- d. Assess, preserve, promote and enhance local, traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices, which includes documentation of knowledge and practices that are orally passed down, to complement science-based knowledge. Integrate traditional and indigenous knowledge into risk profiles and early warning systems.
- e. Improve cities', towns' and private sectors' understanding of risk, including the impact on supply chains, and enhance their commitment to inclusive local climate and disaster risk reduction and resilience building as well as prevention and mitigation activities.

Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

Integrated and inclusive multi-level risk governance needs to be strengthened to manage risk in a systemic manner, which encompasses multiple hazards and sectors, with particular attention to climate and health related hazards. Disaster risk reduction should be mainstreamed within and across all sectors. Diversity in decision-making and leadership and the meaningful participation of women, children, youth, persons living with disabilities, indigenous peoples, older persons, migrants and ethnic minorities represent a huge opportunity to strengthen the effectiveness of managing risk at – and between – each level.

2.1 Regional Actions

- a. Ensure country and sector-specific technical assistance is provided, through regional and development cooperation mechanisms, to strengthen linkages and complementarity between climate change policies and actions, especially National Adaptation Plans, disaster risk reduction strategies and national COVID-19 recovery efforts.
- b. Support implementation of sub-regional frameworks, such as the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response.
- c. Support the meaningful participation of women, children, youth, persons living with disabilities, indigenous peoples, older persons, those displaced, migrants and ethnic minorities as an enabler of inclusive resilience building.
- d. Promote the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework, noting the Bangkok Principles, to ensure more systematic cooperation, coherence and integration between disaster risk reduction, the health sector for the management of biological hazards, including epidemics and pandemics.
- e. Scale up the application of ecosystem-based approaches in disaster risk reduction to coherently implement the three Rio Conventions, namely on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification, and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, to prevent and reduce the impact of water-related disasters as well as to build disaster resilience and to mitigate climate change.
- f. Support the development of conflict-sensitive disaster risk reduction approaches, policies and plans in fragile contexts and complex emergencies.

2.2 National Actions

- a. Adopt and promote coherent planning and implementation of national and local disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies, including through enhancing the linkages between national development plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, disaster risk reduction strategies, National Adaptation Plans and national COVID-19 recovery efforts, while systematically and scientifically optimizing the effective disaster risk reduction measures across all policy sectors with an emphasis on pre-disaster investments.
- b. Establish mechanisms to monitor the implementation and to evaluate effectiveness of the national and local disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies, including through the formulation of monitoring, evaluation and accountability frameworks.
- c. Establish or strengthen close collaboration between national and local disaster management organizations.
- d. Establish or strengthen close collaboration between disaster management organizations and other organizations and ministries, such as for planning, finance, education, health, human rights, agriculture, environment, social affairs, women and gender equality, cultural heritage, local and urban development, persons living with disabilities and older persons, national meteorological and hydrological services, as well as the private sector and community-based organisations to support risk-informed development, anticipatory action and ex-ante disaster risk reduction financing.
- e. Review and enhance legal, regulatory and policy instruments and institutional mechanisms to ensure risk-informed sustainable development and promote decentralized decision-making for risk-informed local-level investments.
- f. Promote accountability and transparency in disaster risk ownership and risk transfer.
- g. Increase diversity and inclusivity as well as the representation of women, youth, persons living with disabilities, and indigenous peoples in leadership and decision-making, including through incentives, affirmative recruitment policies and an enabling working environment.
- h. Implement disaster risk reduction actions that promote gender equality, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 recovery, including through the implementation of the Ha Noi Recommendations for Action on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction and taking into account the Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Management Status Review and Recommendations for implementing the Sendai Framework for DRR in the Asia Pacific.
- i. Promote and support universal access to sexual and reproductive health as well as prevention and response to gender-based violence in national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans in order to reduce vulnerability to risk.
- j. Promote the inclusion of persons living with disabilities and older persons in strategies and plans, including through the implementation of the Dhaka Declaration on Disability and Disaster Risk Management.
- k. Integrate prevention of displacement as key elements of disaster risk reduction strategies and relevant sectoral strategies.

- l. Review disaster risk reduction strategies, policies and legislations for better integration of biological hazards and incorporate lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- m. Support a human rights based approach to disaster risk reduction, in line with obligations under human rights conventions.

2.3 Local Actions

- a. Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to develop and implement community-based inclusive and sustainable disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans that enhance meaningful participation of diverse population groups.
- b. Accelerate the implementation of Making Cities Resilient 2030 as a mechanism to enhance the advocacy, planning and financing of local resilience, and promote urban disaster risk management that combines social, environmental and economic aspects, and incorporates inclusive and sustainable land-use planning and service delivery.
- c. Enhance linkages and collaboration between schools and local authorities to better integrate school safety and children's participation into local disaster risk reduction strategies.

Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

Significant investment will be mobilised over the coming years to recover from COVID-19. Risk-proofing current and future investments requires a coherent approach across all levels. This applies to both public and private sector investments. Strengthening the partnership between both sectors, and ensuring broad stakeholder engagement, would generate further innovation and maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of investments. In addition to unlocking capital, investment in resilience can also drive behaviour change through society by creating incentives and buy-in from areas not typically associated with disaster risk reduction.

3.1 Regional Actions

- a. Enhance cooperation for the development and application of predictive models to scale up anticipatory actions and financing.
- b. Increase and track investment in knowledge, education, research, innovation, technology and the empowerment of young researchers and professionals, particularly women and indigenous people, in science and technology to advance multi-disciplinary disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and resilience.
- c. Analyse the impact of disasters and risk on graduating LDCs and support the integration of disaster risk reduction in relevant policies and investment; advance resource mobilization for LDCs in the Asia-Pacific region that cannot fund the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

- d. Enhance engagement of central banks and international financial institutions to promote the integration of climate and disaster risk into financial stability measures, including through progressive steps towards risk disclosure.
- e. Encourage multilateral development partners and the private sector to invest in north-south and south-south regional knowledge transfer on risk informed development.
- f. Support localization by financing local and grassroots groups to rapidly address their varied risks and vulnerabilities.
- g. Reaffirm the importance of investments that contribute to disaster risk reduction, beyond risk financing and other risk transfer mechanisms.

3.2 National Actions

- a. Allocate the necessary resources, including financial and operational resources as appropriate, at all levels of administration for the development and the implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, policies, plans, laws and regulations in all relevant sectors, as well as for ex-ante public investment in structural measures such as resilient infrastructure for flood prevention and earthquake resilience.
- b. Encourage the integrated financing of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation actions through incentivized public-private partnerships and business-to-business collaboration for risk-informed and green investments, including engaging of key national business federations and chambers.
- c. Establish frameworks to enhance nationwide investment in prevention and guide the development of integrated national financing frameworks that integrate prevention and reduction of risks in sustainable development.
- d. Facilitate an enabling environment for layered, blended and innovative financing to prevent and reduce disaster risk, including mobilization of private capital flows and leveraging multi-stakeholder initiatives.
- e. Strengthen public financing tracking mechanisms to enable multi-sector disaster risk reduction.
- f. Develop, disseminate and apply standards and guidelines based on universal design principles for inclusive and climate and disaster resilient infrastructure, including for often ageing water, energy, transportation, telecommunications, health and education infrastructure, incorporating existing seismic and fire resistant building codes as well as cyber security.
- g. Ensure through investments that services, such as social protection, water distribution and primary health and other essential services, are resilient, accessible and inclusive of all.
- h. Promote forecast-based financing and anticipatory actions, including through shock-responsive social protection, risk-informed micro-credit initiatives as well as inclusive disaster risk insurance for people, properties and livelihoods in order to manage residual risks, remaining after the application of disaster risk reduction measures.
- i. Strengthen collaboration between development partners, regional organizations and business networks to establish social security and safety nets, including through regulatory measures, to support the resilience of micro, small and medium-sized

enterprises (MSMEs), especially women-led MSMEs, livelihood groups and communities.

- j. Promote a green and blue economy that builds resilience of businesses, including through nature-based solutions and the revival of traditional ecological knowledge.
- k. Promote gender budgeting for financing of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation actions and build capacities in this regard.
- l. Encourage digitization of the economy to facilitate business continuity and the delivery of assistance both in the context of disaster-responsive social protection and in humanitarian action.

3.3 Local Actions

- a. Ensure budget and institutional commitment for implementation of local disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and resilient development strategies.
- b. Integrate universal design principles for accessible, inclusive, liveable and resilient cities and infrastructure, as well as for early warning and evacuation mechanisms.
- c. Enhance business resilience in partnership with local authorities to ensure economic stimulus and recovery programmes reach all enterprises, in particular MSMEs and, in combination with social protection programmes, the informal sector and migrant workers.
- d. Encourage the private sector to invest in resilience building through innovations and new technologies, including through social entrepreneurship and seed funding for young people who can bridge the gap between new and traditional techniques.
- e. Finance local, community, women’s rights and women-led, youth-led, child-led organisations and enterprises as well as organisations of persons living with disabilities, older persons associations and children’s rights/welfare organisations to reduce disaster risk and build resilience.

Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

“Build Back Better” should be applied in both pre-disaster recovery planning and post-disaster recovery as well as in development and in land use plans, which may include retreating or relocating, to build resilience and to reduce vulnerabilities and disaster risk. A stronger focus on a rights-based approach to preparedness, response and recovery is important, in particular as disaster and climate-induced displacement continues to increase.

4.1 Regional Actions

- a. Enhance regional cooperation and policy commitments to support countries in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and to build back better, while ensuring resilient, equitable, sustainable and climate-sensitive societies.

- b. Strengthen impact-based forecasting as well as end-to-end, people centred and multi-hazard early warning with regional organisations supporting governments to enable early and anticipatory actions.
- c. Share knowledge, including indigenous knowledge, and best practices on how to build back better and greener for recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

4.2 National Action

- a. Prepare or review and periodically update disaster preparedness and contingency policies, plans and programmes, considering climate change scenarios and their impact on disaster risk, and adjust the approaches in light of the dynamic compounding and cascading nature of disaster risks.
- b. Strengthen collaboration on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus and the integration of disaster risk reduction in humanitarian action to ensure long-term resilience building that links relief, recovery and disaster risk reduction interventions.
- c. Evaluate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the social, health, psychosocial and the gendered impacts as well as the economic losses.
- d. Expand pre-disaster recovery planning considering disaster risks, and enhance capacities for developing recovery assessments as well as risk-informed and climate-smart recovery, reconstruction, development and land use plans.
- e. Embed prevention principles and processes, including minimum standards, in recovery and “Build Back Better” strategies and policies, ensuring that all new investments, infrastructure or public programmes are risk-informed.
- f. Promote the resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure, including water, energy, transportation, telecommunications, health and education infrastructure.
- g. Protect and promote the rights of marginalized groups during disaster-induced evacuation and displacement.
- h. Leverage new technologies operating on climate-sensitive and disaster risk reduction data to build back better.
- i. Build capacities of local organizations and responders, existing workforce and volunteers as well as youth on how to build back better in order to strengthen professional abilities and scientific skills for risk-sensitive development.
- j. Extend “Build Back Better” principles to the reconstruction of heritage and cultural sites, while adhering to preservation policies, and develop guidelines and standards accordingly.

4.3 Local Actions

- a. Develop and strengthen accessible regular and reliable weather and climate information as well as localized and end-to-end early warning systems that account for the special needs of marginalized populations, including accessible evacuation routes and centres for persons living with disabilities and older persons.
- b. Promote regular disaster preparedness, response and recovery exercises, including evacuation drills, training and the establishment of area-based support systems, as appropriate to local needs.

- c. Promote meaningful participation and leadership of marginalized groups in preparedness planning and resourcing for community level early actions and responses and ensure that individuals who experience intersecting inequalities can access and benefit from anticipatory action.
- d. Develop and update education continuity plans and integrate “Build Back Better” principles into the education sector; promote “Safe back to school” during recovery.
- e. Integrate psychosocial support as part of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery mechanisms, and enhance psychosocial aspects of education curricula to protect the wellbeing of children and their teachers.
- f. Promote and facilitate the development of business continuity plans that incorporate risk awareness and adaptive solutions to staying in business and recovering quicker and more sustainable after a disaster.

4. Monitoring and Review

The monitoring and review of the Sendai Framework's implementation is key to assess whether progress is being made to prevent and reduce the risk and impact of disasters. Considerable progress has been made, however, more remains to be done at national and international level. Whereas no specific timing may be associated to the actions in the plan due to the wide diversity in the Asia-Pacific region, countries and stakeholders are encouraged to set them in line with their strategies and plans for the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Strengthening cooperation around disaster risk reduction is critical, hence the importance to take the opportunity of the APP-DRR and APMCDRR to discuss regional progress and challenges, share good practices and develop partnerships.

1. Member States need to:
 - a. Strengthen the reporting and use of disaster damage and loss data primarily through the online Sendai Framework Monitor, but also through other national damage and loss databases, including reporting of disaggregated data.
 - b. Enhance links with other relevant official statistics through the national statistical offices and with the SDG national monitoring.
 - c. Increase data collection and establish baselines at national and local levels to report on the Sendai Framework and relevant SDG indicators disaggregated, by income, sex, age and disability.
 - d. Consider feedback on implementation from stakeholders.
2. Stakeholders and associated organisations need to:
 - a. Effectively harness the Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitment platform to register their commitments and monitor their implementation.
3. United Nations entities need to:
 - a. Leverage global mechanisms and regional mechanisms such as the Regional Collaborative Platform and its constituent Issue-Based Coalition on *Building Resilience* – to coordinate and strengthen UN efforts to reduce disaster risk and monitor progress through enhanced data gathering and analysis.
4. UNDRR, in partnership with relevant organisations and stakeholders, needs to:
 - a. Facilitate the convening of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Asia-Pacific Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction and associated coordination mechanisms in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Asia-Pacific and its Mid-Term Review.
 - b. Continue enhancing national and local capacity to develop, maintain and institutionalize disaster loss and damage databases, conduct risk assessment and apply risk information for decision-making, develop and implement inclusive national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in coherence with climate, public health security and sustainable development policies and plans, and secure ex-ante public investment in disaster risk reduction.

- c. Enhance Member State capacity to report through the online Sendai Framework Monitor, including for disaggregated data, and through online learning tools, available in local languages.
- d. Promote an all-of-society approach to disaster risk governance through strengthened stakeholder engagement and advocacy including through coordination of the commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Tsunami Awareness Day.