

Information Note from the Secretariat (UNISDR) on Cooperation and Partnerships (Geneva, 23 January 2015)

Introduction

Cooperation and partnerships are core to the success of implementing international agreements. In 2011, the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction recommended targets of 10% investment from all humanitarian aid, 1% of all development assistance, and 30% of climate change adaptation funding for disaster risk reduction. Efforts were made by several countries to meet these guiding targets. But there currently is no authoritative overall figures or any systematic tracking of international cooperation, partnerships or funding/ investments for disaster risk reduction.

There are many good examples of partnerships and cooperation. This note outlines some global and regional examples of cooperation and partnerships (including a list of activities in Annex 1 and 2) as well as some information on aspects of financing and development cooperation for disaster risk reduction. The examples presented are by no means exhaustive. Many partners in the network of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction have activities, partnerships and cooperation to implement disaster risk reduction which are not reproduced here. The note is a reflection of what the Secretariat has been able to prepare at short notice from existing publications and papers.

Global Cooperation and Partnerships

Global cooperation and partnerships are main sources for disaster risk reduction activities and in supporting the implementation to the current *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* (HFA). Such global cooperation and partnership can be expected to increase as the emphasis on integrated approaches continues to grow and, with it, the demand to combine diverse implementation capacities and expertise.

Some examples include:

- Partnerships brought together around a specific (often time-bound) initiative by linking institutions with diverse expertise and skills sets (for example Partnership for Resilience supported by the Government of the Netherlands) or to coordinate action in areas of common interest (such as the Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience) or to join resources to maximize global scale impacts (such as the USAID and Rockefeller Foundation's Resilience partnership in Asia and Africa).
- Partnerships that develop knowledge, advocacy or awareness , such as the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR), and the Community Practitioners Platform for Resilience or the Mountain Partnership.

- The Making Cities Resilience campaign which is a partnership of currently 2440 cities along with 34 global agencies that constitutes UN, civil society, private sector and academia to support both urban and rural communities in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action with guidance (including the 10 Essentials for Making Cities Resilient), training, workshops, self-assessment tools, peer learning and others.
- Other campaigns and advocacy developing partnerships and cooperation, for example the new World Initiative for Safe Schools led by governments with support from international organizations in a Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector.
- At the 2014 Climate Summit hosted by the UN Secretary-General, partnerships were forged around several disaster risk reduction initiatives to deliver climate information services, resilient cities, insurance and risk transfer and integrating risk in the financial sector.
- The World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) to help developing countries enhance their capacity for disaster prevention, disaster preparedness and recovery to contribute to the implementation of the HFA.
- Cooperation among the UN agencies and programmes through the 2013 *UN Plan of action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience* that outlines UN related commitments.
- The Disaster Risk Reduction Private Sector Partnership with 84 members (covering engineering, health care, construction, IT and insurance sectors among others). The partnership develops solutions for resilient and disaster risk-sensitive private sector activities including launching initiatives like the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities and a Briefing Kit on the collaboration between disaster risk reduction, sustainable development goals and the climate agenda. The partnership has also initiated RISE, - a global initiative to mobilize businesses, public sector, academia, civil society, insurance industry and investors to make investments risk-sensitive and to create risk-resilient societies.
- The ISDR Scientific and Technical, Advisory Group (STAG) is a partnership to produce case studies and surveys on contribution of science to disaster risk reduction and decision-making. Jointly with the EU/Joint Research Center, terms and definitions on disaster risk reduction are being identified. The Group also provides guidance to the more than 30 disaster risk reduction science and technical based thematic platforms and networks.

Regional Cooperation and Partnership

Partnerships and cooperation mechanisms have been developed at the regional level. They include a wide variety of activities covering disaster risk management planning, information sharing, scientific and knowledge exchange, risk identification, monitoring and early warning systems, and preparedness planning. **Annexes 1 and 2** provide a list of activities of regional cooperation and partnerships. Some main examples from the regions include:

Africa

- In partnership with the African Union (54 Member States) the AU Commission, five Regional Economic Communities, Member States and Climate Services a programme for disaster risk reduction (2006 to 2015) is being implemented with the support of the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries geared to 'Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities' (EUR 60 million, 2014-2018).
- In Horn of Africa over 50 donors and international development partners agreed to support the 'Ending Drought Emergencies' and led the formation of the 'Global Alliance for Action for Drought Resilience and Growth'. The Global Alliance is supporting the implementation of IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative.
- In Sahel and West Africa, a Global Alliance for Resilience was launched in December 2012 to achieve "Zero Hunger" target within the next 20 years. The aim of the Alliance is to channel the efforts of regional and international stakeholders towards a common results framework.
- The 5th Africa Regional Platform and 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (13-16 May 2014, Abuja, Nigeria) generated partnerships and commitments from stakeholders (including parliamentarians, private sector, science and technology group, NGOs, local authorities, and youth) to implement disaster risk reduction activities in Africa.

Arab States

- In partnership with the League of Arab States (with 22 Member States) a number of technical specialized organizations (including the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport ; the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands; the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), the Arab Labour Organization; and the Arab League's Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization) have incorporated disaster risk reduction measures into their projects and technical assistance.
- The result of cooperation and the outcomes of regional platforms including the Arab Strategies for Disaster Risk Reduction have also led to partnerships establishing the Arab Center for the prevention of risks of earthquakes and other natural disasters in Alger – Algeria; a Coordination Mechanism for Arab Agencies in Charge of Natural Disasters and Emergencies; and a Crisis Management Department within the secretariat of the League of Arab States
- Creation of a Disaster Management Center in cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which is a sub-regional group of the League of Arab States (6 Member States).

Asia-Pacific

- The biennial Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction has adopted declarations, strategies and action plans to implement regional priorities including commitments from all stakeholders. For example, The ISDR Asia Partnership a number of initiatives have been developed and provided with resources (from donors, partners as well as governments) for implementation.
- Sub-regional cooperation through regional Inter-Governmental Organizations such as the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Cooperation has been instrumental in implementing of disaster risk reduction framework.
 - The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) has developed a comprehensive regional framework and road maps covering earthquakes, landslides, droughts, flood and urban risks. SDMC has also developed protocols for early warning, tools and methodologies mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development, training, capacity building, research and documentation.
 - In 2009, ASEAN Member States ratified the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) which is the unique legally-binding HFA-related instrument with a work with projects covering disaster risk assessment, prevention and mitigation, preparedness and recovery.
 - Institutions have been strengthened with the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) and Ministerial Conference of Party (COP) following the ratification of the ASEAN Agreement AADMER.
 - Regional Roadmap for Disaster Risk Assessment and its closely linked Regional Roadmap for Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance.
 - The Disaster Monitoring and Response System an information sharing platform for early warning to monitor and detect information on hazardous events or risks for sharing with Member States to make informed decisions. A Satellite-based Disaster Monitoring System is being developed.
 - Development of Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations; the ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Team and the ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise.
- **In Central Asia and South Caucasus**, regional Ministerial Conferences have developed regional strategies, plans, cooperation and initiatives around risk assessment, early warning, capacity building, transboundary response and emergency assistance, information management, and monitoring.

- **In the Pacific**, sub regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Management have generated significant level of commitments from stakeholders to forge partnerships and coordination for disaster risk reduction implementation in the Pacific, for example:
 - Partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the South Pacific Environment Program, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, University of the South Pacific, and UNDP developed a new Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development to be considered in 2015 - the first integrated disaster risk reduction and climate change regional strategy in the world.

Europe

- The European region benefits from a strong network of partners committed to advancing the disaster resilience agenda. The European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction which meets annually to provide advocacy, information, policy direction and guidance and opportunity to develop cooperation and partnership to reduce disaster risk.
- The engagement of the European Commission (DG ECHO) has moved forward towards the European Union in developing a cross-sector risk management policy that promotes national risk assessments and planning, sharing of good practices between countries including through peer reviews and disaster proofed investments. In order to address disaster resilience, the European Commission developed a joint work plan for Europe 2014-2015.
- In Europe, significant efforts on data availability, accessibility, and comparability have been made to enhance the existing knowledge base on disasters in order to inform better policies and disaster risk management strategies. For example, the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) is currently chairing a working group attended by Member States (in particular Sweden, Norway, Italy), DG ECHO, DG Clima, UNISDR and research centers (e.g. CIMA Foundation) to carry out a study on existing standards and protocols for recording disaster losses, which will lead to recommendations for a European approach.
- Collaboration with the Council of Europe on disaster risk reduction related support to European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, persons living with disabilities, migrants, and cities. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in the Council of Europe adopted Resolution 399 (2012) on Making Cities Resilient.
- The Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative South Eastern Europe is a partnership among the 11 members to manage trans-boundary risks by means of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Activities include preparedness drills, training programmes, technical assistance and capacity building for risk identification, and gender awareness.

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Partnerships and collaboration can also be seen between inter-governmental organizations dealing with disaster risk reduction such as the Forum of Cooperation and Collaboration of IGOs on Disaster Risk Reduction established in the region in 2010 with the participation of the Centre for Natural Disaster Prevention of Central America of the Central American Integration

System; the Caribbean Disaster Management Agency of the Caribbean Community; the Andean Centre for Disaster Prevention the Andean Community of Nations, the Specialized Meeting on Disaster Prevention and Humanitarian Assistance of the Southern Common Market of South America. Also more recently, the Community of Latin America and Caribbean Nations and the Union of South American Nations are actively to exchanging information and practices.

- The World Bank and Regional Development Banks such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the Development Bank for Latin America and to a lesser extent sub-regional banks such as the Caribbean Development Bank and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration have provided technical cooperation funding in the area of disaster risk reduction and disaster management. Some of these institutions have developed disaster risk reduction funding windows in form of loans available to governments.
- A Donor Technical Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction has been established to promote information sharing and collaboration amongst its members with the aim of ensuring better cooperation, coordination and coverage of disaster risk reduction funding needs in the region. A web-based information platform provides access to an inventory of donor supported projects.

ODA Financing of Disaster Risk Reduction

Only a few studies and publications have contributed to identify donor financing and funding sources for disaster risk reduction. Due to the cross cutting nature of disaster risk reduction and lack of an overall financing tracking system the question of how much has been funded by donors remains subjective.

In 2014, the Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) and Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in the publication “The Future Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction” stated that of total development aid (USD3 trillion) between 1991 to 2010 (a 20 year period) an estimated 0.45% was devoted to disaster risk reduction.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) through an online survey of 11 donors in mid-2013 suggested that donor funding for disaster risk reduction is overall very low, but is on an upward trend. Donor funding had increased since the launch of the HFA in 2005 reaching an estimated USD600 million in 2009 and USD500 million in 2010 and 2011 and represented an estimated 0.4% share of Official Development Assistance.

The findings of OECD also indicated that disaster risk reduction is starting to be more integrated into the overall development cooperation policy frameworks (rather than humanitarian assistance) of donor countries. Donors cited the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) as being a useful and coherent framework and mandate for development programming.

Annex 1:

Examples of disaster risk reduction regional cooperation and partnership

Region	Regional Mechanism	Activities
Africa	African Union (AU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa Regional Strategy (2004) and Programme of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015) • African Risk Capacity (response to drought)
East Africa	East African Community (EAC) Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy (2012) • IGAD DRM Programme (2003) • IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI)
West Africa	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRR Action Plan for the West African Countries • DRR Frameworks and Strategies for West African Region • ECOWAS Emergency Response Team
Central Africa	Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Politique en matière d'environnement et de gestion des ressources naturelles, 2007 • Stratégie Régionale Afrique Centrale pour la prévention des risques, la gestion des catastrophes et l'Adaptation aux changements climatiques, 2012
Africa Sahel	Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)	
America	Organization of American States (OAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation
Latin America	Coordination and Cooperation Forum of Regional Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDEMA, CEPREDENAC, CAPRADE, and Special Meeting on Risk Reduction of Socio-Natural Disasters, the Civil Defence, Civil Protection and Humanitarian Assistance (REHU)
South America	Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergovernmental Commission for Risk Management and Vulnerability Reduction
Central America	Center for Coordination and Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 member countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Dominican Republic)
South America (Andean Countries)	Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Responses (CAPRADE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 member countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru)
Caribbean	The Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 member countries • Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Framework • Regional Security System • Annual Simulation Exercise

Region	Regional Mechanism	Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional emergency telecommunication network Internet-based website Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) Emergency Assistance Fund
South America	Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-Level Working Group on Disaster Risk Management 12 Member States DRR Work Plan
Caribbean	Association of Caribbean States (ACS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction 25 Member States Saint Marc Plan of Action Declaration of Petion Ville
Latin America and the Caribbean	Economic System for Latin America and the Caribbean (SELA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public-Private Partnerships for Disaster Risk Reduction
Asia	Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27 member states Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC)
South Asia	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 member states SAARC Disaster Management Center (SDMC) (since 2007) SAARC Comprehensive Framework on Disaster Management SAARC Meteorological Research Centre (Dhaka) South Asia Disaster Knowledge Network (SADKN) Thimphu Statement on Climate Change (2012) Digital Vulnerability Atlas (2012)
South East Asia	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 member countries ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) (2009) and Work Programme 2010-2015 ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre)
Central Asia		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Ministerial Conference: "Regional Cooperation in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia" (Annual meetings over 2 years)
Arab States	League of Arab States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional mechanisms and legal frameworks. Adoption of Policies and Decisions Adoption of the Arab Strategy for DRR 2020.

Region	Regional Mechanism	Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arab Center for the Prevention of Seismic Risk and Other Natural Disasters
Europe	European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased political engagement through the EU Presidencies allowing for each Country Presidency to embrace the topic of DRR through Council Conclusions. Strategic political commitment to DRR from the European Parliament (Parliamentarian Network) European Political Engagement on the Campaign and local/urban resilience through the collaboration with the Committee of the Regions (the EU assembly of local/regional authorities)
Europe	European Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DG ECHO : member of the Secretariat of the European Forum; EU Civil Protection Mechanism; Disaster Preparedness Programme – DIPECHO DG Clima: Synergy to assure inclusion of DRR measures in regional adaptation strategies and linkages; Collaboration on Climate Resilient Cities EU Initiative DG Enlargement: Southeast Europe and Caucasus Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, Exchange of experts; development of knowledge management systems; practices at local level DG Research: dialogue between scientific communities and policy makers on DRR issues; Connecting FP7 Research projects on CCA and DRR to national and regional policies and strategies on climate adaptation and risk reduction
Europe	Council of Europe, European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Platform for co-operation between European and Southern Mediterranean countries in the field of natural and technological disasters Member of the Secretariat of the European Forum Selected focus area on persons with disability (e.g. guidelines developments; International Day for DRR), Wild Fires (guidelines on damage prevention measures...), Cultural heritage

Region	Regional Mechanism	Activities
North Europe		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nordic Rescue Agreement • International Barents Rescue drill (every two years)
South Eastern Europe	Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen good neighbourly relations and stability through the exchange of information, lessons learnt and best practices in the field of disaster management
Mediterranean	5+5 Agreement (Maghreb and Southern Europe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation and technical knowledge sharing
Pacific	The Pacific Regional DM and DRR Framework of Action 2005-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Catastrophe Risk Financing Mechanism (under development) • Regional Tsunami Exercise • Pacific Disaster Net (online virtual center of excellence)

Source: HFA Progress Report for each country.

Annex 2:

Examples of regional cooperation and partnership on DRR scientific knowledge

Region	Activities
Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prevention and Application Center • African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) • Southern African Development Community (SADC) Drought Monitoring Centre
America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Warning System for Central America (SATCA)
Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System • ASEAN Earthquake Information Center • South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Meteorological Research Center • South Asian Knowledge Development Network (SAKDN)
Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tsunami and Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions • COSMIC program (50 GPS stations for hurricane monitoring) • Caribbean Risk Atlas
Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction • Nordic Network for Geo-data for Risk and Crisis Management including creating digital maps available • EC Framework Programmes such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SEERisk (started in 2012 in central Europe): common risk assessment methodology ○ SAFER: Seismic Early Warning for Europe ○ MATRIX: New Multi-Hazard and Multi-Risk Assessment Methods for Europe ○ ENHANCE: Enhancing risk management partnerships for catastrophic natural hazards in Europe • Network of European Meteorological Services
Pacific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pacific Risk Exposure Database • Regional Specialized Meteorological Center for Tropical Cyclone in Nadi • Pacific Tsunami Warning Center • Melanesian Volcanological Network

Source: HFA Progress Report for each country.