

Prioritized Action Plan 2018-2020 of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030



to implement the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**

1. Preamble

- 1.1. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) provides the way forward to prevent and reduce disaster risk to achieve resilient and sustainable development. Under the leadership of national governments and embracing all actors at all levels, the Sendai Framework offers a solution to saving lives, protecting livelihoods and assets and reducing the fiscal burden on governments to bail-out the aftermath of failed ‘development’.
- 1.2. The Sendai Framework’s primary focus on risk reduction and resilience is a common element highlighted in all the 2030 development agendas adopted by all member states of the United Nations, such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development¹, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Agenda for Humanity and New Urban Agenda.
- 1.3. The Sendai Framework highlights the need for agreed regional and sub-regional strategies and mechanisms for cooperation and for progress to be reviewed by regional and global platforms.
- 1.4. In the Arab States region, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the League of Arab States (LAS) through its Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) in its session of 24 May 2009 called for an Arab Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction (ASDRR), to outline the strategic vision and priorities, and core areas of implementation to reduce the risk of disasters and enhance institutional and coordination arrangements to support implementation at the regional, national and local level. This ASDRR 2020, in line with the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) 2005-2015, was adopted by the LAS Summit² held in Baghdad, Iraq on 29 March 2012. The First Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Aqaba, Jordan held from 19-21 March 2013 and the Second Arab Conference on DRR in Sharm El Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt from 14 -16 September 2014 were organized by UNISDR and the League of Arab States (LAS).
- 1.5. All 22 Arab states participated in the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 and joined in adopting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 on 18 March 2015. The Third Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Doha, State of Qatar held from 30 April to 1 May 2017 endorsed the efforts to update the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction to bring it in line with the SFDRR and expand its implementation period. This Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ASDRR) 2030 was adopted the League of Arab States (LAS) at the Summit³ held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 15 April 2018.

¹The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a global framework for financing sustainable development. It contains more than 100 concrete measures that address all sources of finance, and covers cooperation on a range of issues including technology, science, innovation, trade and capacity building.

²LAS Summit Resolution OS 563(23) of 29 March 2012

³LAS Summit Resolution SS 733 G.O. (29)- E 3- 15/4/2018)

1.6. In order to implement the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030, UNISDR and the League of Arab States developed a Programme of Work. This programme of work was consulted and agreed by Arab states at the Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction (ACMDRR) in 2018. The programme of work proposes the implement to the Arab Strategy in three phases:

- First phase 2018-2020: focuses on assessment of risks, creating/strengthening national institutions and development of overall elements of program at regional and national levels;
- Second phase 2021-2025: covers Strengthening Institutions, Developing and implementing Disaster Risk Reduction Programs at national level and beginning DRR implementation at selected local (sub-national) levels
- Third Phase 2026-2030: covers delivering on all areas especially strengthening investment, preparedness, response and recovery systems at national and local level and building DRR systems at all local (city and community) levels

1.7. The Fourth Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, being held as part of the Africa Arab Platform has three specific outcome documents, i) the Tunis Ministerial Declaration for Arab States, ii) this Prioritized Action Plan 2018-2020, and iii) Voluntary Action Statements by Stakeholder Groups on Implementation of the ASDRR 2030 and the SFDRR. This Action Plan 2018-2020, builds on the previous Program of Work, recognizing the progress realized in achieving the milestones, and recommends prioritized actions towards accelerating implementation of ASDRR 2030 and its Program of Work, with a specific focus on target (e) of SFDRR that calls for development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies.

2. Brief Overview of Progress in implementation of Sendai Framework in the Arab region

2.1. Throughout the region, countries have made notable achievements in reducing mortality for some hazards. Since its adoption, the Sendai Framework has provided a structured approach to Member States and stakeholders to build on progress made over decades

2.2. Key milestones have been achieved in measuring the impact of disaster risk reduction and building coherence. These include the adoption of the report of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology relating to disaster risk reduction by the United Nations General Assembly⁴, and the alignment of indicators of the Sendai Framework and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

2.3. Global mechanisms for coordination and partnerships for disaster risk reduction have been strengthened and advanced knowledge and mutual learning. The Cancun Communique of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2017 focused on ‘Ensuring the resilience of infrastructure and housing’⁵ while the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2018 focused on ‘Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies’⁶.

2.4. Countries in the Arab State region have progressed well at the regional, national and local level.

⁴Monitoring of the Sendai Framework (<https://www.preventionweb.net/drr-framework/sendai-framework-monitor>)

⁵ 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 22-26 May, Cancun, Mexico (<https://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en>)

⁶ High Level Political Forum, 9-18 July 2018, New York (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018>)

- 2.5. Most countries in the region have identified a focal point for disaster risk reduction. Some of these focal points have been designated as the official national coordinator for Sendai Framework Monitoring. UNISDR has supported this process through releasing a ‘Words-into-Action’ guideline on National focal points, national platforms and local platforms for disaster risk reduction⁷ and Technical guidance for monitoring and reporting on progress in achieving the global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction⁸.
 - 2.6. The region has advanced in the development of national disaster risk reduction strategies, plans and policies. Out of twenty-two Arab countries, about seven have developed their national DRR strategies and a number of other countries are in the process of developing them. Some countries have revised or are in the process of revising their national strategies and plans to integrate key elements of the Sendai Framework; such as preventing new disaster risk, reducing existing risk, and strengthening of economic, social, health and environmental resilience.
 - 2.7. Development of local disaster risk reduction strategies are still a challenge in the region. Almost 300 cities and municipalities in the Arab region joined the campaign of Making cities resilient campaign of UNISDR (20% of all cities worldwide). The Mayors Handbook on “How to Make Cities More Resilient” was translated to Arabic and disseminated widely in the region.
 - 2.8. A number of Arab countries have started to report on their disaster losses, to provide a practical basis for informed risk analysis and the development of disaster risk reduction policies. Ten of the 22 Arab countries completed the development of national disaster loss databases.
3. Despite notable efforts in disaster risk reduction, the Arab states region continues to grapple with increasing losses due to disasters and intensity of natural hazards. Within the past three decades, more than 70 million people have been affected by disasters in the Arab region, with at least 330 separate events resulting in more than 160,000 deaths. Rapid urbanization, environmental degradation, water scarcity and migration trends were all recognized as drivers of risk across the region, alongside conflicts and political turmoil.

4. Prioritized Action Plan 2018-2020

This Action Plan is based on the Programme of Work of the ASDRR 2030 and prioritizes actions required at regional, national and local level in the next two years. The Arab Regional Platform for DRR will review and assess periodically these prioritized actions through the Sendai Monitor and updated them every two years. The plan is in line with the overall policy direction of the ASDRR 2030 and contributes to the achievement of milestones in the long-term Programme of Work, focusing on milestones set for 2020 . This Plan is founded on recommendations and priorities shared by governments and stakeholders through multiple consultations, including through the ACMDRR.

4.1. Actions at the Regional Level:

- Through international cooperation, promote and improve qualitative and quantitative disaster risk assessment practices for all-natural hazards, including mechanisms for linking, exchanging and using them.

⁷ Words into Action guidelines: National focal points for disaster risk reduction, national platforms for disaster risk reduction, local platforms for disaster risk reduction (<https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/53055>).

⁸ Technical guidance for monitoring and reporting on progress in achieving the global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (<https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/54970>).

- Strengthen cooperation between governments and other stakeholders including scientific, technological and academic communities, private sector, civil society organizations, children and youth, National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, using an inclusive, whole of society approach, towards implementation of the Sendai Framework and ASDRR 2030.
- Enhance the use of media, including social and traditional media, large data networks and mobile phones to compile and assess information on disaster losses, exchange and use them.
- Enhance regional cooperation and coordination by strengthening the Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction – the biennial Ministerial Conference.
- Strengthen the role of and cooperation between intergovernmental organizations including the League of Arab States and other technical bodies.
- Enhance the roles of the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism and the UN Development Group, including through collaboration with intergovernmental organizations to support implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework in line with the SDGs.
- Encourage governments and stakeholder groups to consistently implement, monitor and report on their voluntary actions and commitments at the Regional Platform
- Promote and support gender-sensitive and gender-responsive disaster risk reduction actions, including universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services.
- Strengthen existing regional mechanisms to enhance multi-hazard early warning for multiple and transboundary hazards, as well as pre- and post-disaster recovery frameworks.
- Strengthen regional cooperation on preparedness by sharing innovations, new technologies, data and good practices and conducting joint exercises, including through the leadership of regional organizations.

4.2. Actions at the national and local level:

- **Achieving Target (e) of the Sendai Framework:** All countries will develop/ revise their national and local strategies for DRR by 2020, identified by the Sendai Framework as a top priority. Disaster risk reduction strategies and policies need to define goals and objectives across different timescales with concrete targets, indicators and time frames to be aimed at preventing the creation of disaster risk, the reduction of existing risk and the strengthening of economic, social, health and environmental resilience.
- These national and local plans should include development/strengthening of multi hazard early warning systems, response capacity and manpower, preparedness plans, including evacuation and rescue.
- Establish/update multi hazard disaster damage and loss databases to be used in national disaster risk assessments. These should preferably cover the period 1990 to 2016 and be updated annually/periodically. They should be geographically disaggregated by sub-national administrations and include gender, age, disability disaggregated data or work towards it.
- Establish mechanisms to promote dialogue among national and local actors, science and technology communities, private sector and other stakeholders to share and document knowledge, including successful practices, forms of partnerships and innovative approaches.
- Establish multi ministry, multi sectoral and multi stakeholder national platforms.
- Develop or enhance policy and /or regulatory frameworks to link DRR and resilience measures into new development initiatives covering both social (education, health, livelihoods) and economic (infrastructure) sectors.
- Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in disaster risk reduction.

- Support systematic inclusion, engagement, information sharing, involvement in decision-making and partnership with children and youth, in all phases of DRR at all levels.
- Accelerate UN Country Teams' actions to implement the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience in country-level operations and processes.
- Create an enabling environment, including through enacting appropriate legislative and regulatory action for enabling private sector investment in disaster risk reduction,
- Strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure and basic social services before, during and after disasters, and develop and enforce regulations to ensure all new infrastructure is disaster risk-resilient including in post-conflict or post-disaster reconstruction.
- Encourage community-led approaches to be incorporated in recovery and reconstruction planning and actions.
- Strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems to ensure last mile accessibility, including enhanced quality and locally understood, actioned by relevant authorities and communities.
- Build capacity of local authorities, private sector and communities to develop/ implement local disaster response and recovery plans, including retrofitting, reconstruction, building code enforcement, post-trauma care, resilient livelihoods & shelter for displaced populations.

4.3. Monitoring the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030 and its Programme of Work:

- The Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030, its Programme of Work and this principal biennial Prioritized Action Plan, is developed to guide the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region. The overall roles and responsibilities of international, regional and sub-regional organizations and entities will be as outlined in the SFDRR. This Prioritized Action Plan 2018-2020 will be monitored through the Sendai Framework monitoring system adopted by the countries, supplemented by other information sources.
- The overall monitoring of the Sendai Framework will be carried out through the Sendai Monitor at both regional (through IGOs especially the League of Arab States) and national levels by national governments in partnership with partner stakeholders.
- Prioritized actions to strengthen the Sendai Monitoring at regional and national levels are:
 - Increase data collection and establish national and local baselines to report on Sendai Framework and relevant SDGs disaggregated, where possible, by sex, age and disability.
 - Establish/ strengthen linkages between Sendai Framework monitoring, National Statistical Organizations and Informatics Centres and available disaster loss databases.
 - Include disaster risk reduction-related indicators in national development plans, in line with the SDGs-Sendai Framework indicators and link national disaster risk reduction strategies with the Sendai Framework Monitor, using customized national indicators to complement the global targets and indicators.
 - Promote stronger institutional and stakeholder coordination with centralized national disaster data platforms as effective ways and tools for collection and validation of data to enable Member States to report on the Sendai Framework Monitor.
 - Enhance the capacity of countries to use the Sendai Framework Monitor in partnership with UNISDR.
 - Have intergovernmental and international organizations, and stakeholder groups, support Sendai Framework country reporting through strengthening disaster loss database development and use of data in informing policies and programmes.