

2016 SDGs Round Table Series



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YEARS

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1 Climate Change and Disaster Resilience



Heavy rains precede elections in Democratic Republic of Congo. UN Photo/Christophe Boulierac.



A member of the Brazilian battalion of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) carries an infant to safety-- one of the many areas ravaged by the heavy rains of tropical storm 'Noel' in Haiti. UN Photo/Marco Dormino.

UNDP works in some 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. We help countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results. UNDP focuses on helping countries build and share solutions in three main areas:

- Sustainable development
- Democratic governance and peacebuilding
- Climate and disaster resilience

SDGs, Climate Change and Disaster Resilience

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report confirmed the overwhelming scientific consensus that the impacts of climate change are accelerating, and are largely driven by human-caused greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. For the first time the report also quantified the global “carbon budget” — the amount of CO₂ emissions that can be emitted while still having a likely chance of limiting global temperature rise to 2°C above pre-industrial levels. If emissions continue unabated, the world is on track to exceed this budget in about 30 years—exposing communities to increasingly dangerous forest fires, extreme weather, drought, and other climate impacts.

Limiting the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels is vital, and requires urgent collective action. Following the historic Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015, by 22 April 2016, a total of 175 Parties (174 countries and the European Union) signed the Agreement, and 15 States deposited instruments of ratification. Countries are now busy with implementation of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), which involves climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR) components cutting across different aspects and sectors of development.

Where disaster risk reduction and resilient recovery is not supported, people grow increasingly more vulnerable with every single disaster. Climate change further compounds the complexity of the challenges we face. Research shows that while linked to natural hazards, such as storms or earthquakes, the actual impact of disasters is directly linked to poor development choices that increase vulnerabilities and expose communities to risk. By undertaking risk-informed and resilient development, decades of hard work and costly development gains can be protected and livelihoods can be saved.

The links between climate change, disaster risk reduction and development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030 are therefore well-defined. Sustainable Development Goal 13 on Climate Change particularly focuses on strengthening resilience and the adaptive capacity of more vulnerable regions, in addition to mitigating climate-related disasters. DRR is firmly established as a core development strategy through its 25 targets related to DRR in 10 of the 17 SDGs.

Annual economic losses from disasters are estimated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) at between US\$ 250 billion and US\$ 300 billion. Indeed, the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will, in part, be measured by progress in DRR implementation. This focus provides an opportunity to encourage increased political commitment and economic investment to reduce risks and take development action that considers resilience as critical to poverty reduction and a key enabler of participatory and inclusive sustainable development.



A young girl after attending school in a temporary camp for Pakistanis displaced by heavy floods in Jamshoro, Sindh Province. UN Photo/WFP/Amjad Jamal.

The UNDP Seoul Policy Centre is working with national and international stakeholders to contribute to the discourse of linking climate change and disaster risk reduction to the SDG implementation processes.

UNDP Seoul Policy Centre

For more than 40 years (1963-2009), UNDP has supported the people and Government of Korea, delivering 270 projects in 20 areas mirroring Korea's development path. UNDP closed its Country Office in 2009, as Korea joined the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), affirming its status as a significant contributor of development aid. In this context, the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre (USPC) was established in 2011, with the objective of brokering new partnerships between Korea and the developing world through UNDP networks.

As one of the six UNDP Global Policy Centres, USPC is tasked with:

- representing UNDP in Korea
- working with Korea on international issues
- sharing Korea's development experiences with other countries

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