Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation

Jos Timmerman
The Netherlands
Words into Action

Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation

*Integrating disaster risk management with water management and climate change adaptation*

In support of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNECE Water Convention, Task Force on Water and Climate, 1 May 2019, Geneva, Switzerland
Cooperation between our organizations is a way to materialize a more resilient future for ourselves and the new generations.

Working together in implementing the Sendai Framework (for Disaster Risk Reduction) and together developing and applying specific tools are means to bring DRR practical knowledge to where it is most needed.

The Sendai Framework talks a lot about climate change and how DRR and climate change are related.
Sendai Framework quick reference

7 global targets

SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE

1. Global disaster mortality
2. Numbers of affected people
3. Economic losses in relation to global GDP
4. Disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services

SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE

5. The number of countries with national and local DRR strategies by 2020
6. International cooperation to developing countries
7. Access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments.
Water in the Sendai Framework

• 34(e). To support, as appropriate, the efforts of relevant UN entities to strengthen and implement global mechanisms on hydro-meteorological issues in order to raise awareness and improve understanding of water-related disaster risks and their impact on society, and advance strategies for DRR upon the request of States;

• 33(c). To promote the resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure, including .... water infrastructure.
Number of people affected per disaster type 2018

- Earthquake: 35,385,178
- Flood: 12,884,845
- Extreme temperature: 9,368,345
- Volcanic activity: 1,908,770
- Storm: 1,517,138
- Landslide: 396,798
- Wildfire: 256,635
- Drought: 54,908

Graphic: UNISDR. Data source: CRED

In support of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030
Words into Action (WiA) in a nutshell

WiA is a long-term initiative to support countries and practitioners to implement critical aspects of the Sendai Framework. The most visible product is a set of practical how-to guides that have the potential to be widely used resources in national and local capacity building, and that can strengthen our organizations’ role as a broker in DRR through providing quality knowledge services.

Guides will provide practical implementation advice, are meant to be used as a reference for technical and policy discussions, and serve to build capacity through workshops and training in academic and professional settings at the national and local level. And more.
WiA = Knowledge Translation

WiA is primarily a knowledge translation product. It is the result of a participatory process that has converted a complex set of concepts and information sources into a simpler and synthetized tool for understanding risk and learning.
WiA Aims

To ensure worldwide access to expertise, communities of practice and networks of DRR practitioners. They offer specific advice on the steps suggested to implement a feasible and people-centered approach in accordance with the Sendai Framework.

While the guides are not meant to be exhaustive handbooks that cover each detail, those who need in-depth information will find references to other sources of information in addition to the annexes, which contain further resources and examples.
WiA’s Approach

WiA is based on a knowledge co-production approach. Work groups use a participatory approach that ensures a wide and representative diversity in knowledge sources, and the best possible balance in gender, expertise and background of members.
In summary, the WiA guides are pragmatic roadmaps to programming an effective implementation strategy. This is facilitated by promoting a good understanding of the main issues, obstacles, solution finding strategies, resourcing and aspects for efficient planning.
WiA guides

- https://www.preventionweb.net/sendai-framework/wordsintoaction
Since 8th Task Force meeting (December 2017)

• Core-group of experts established
• Inputs from multiple experts
• Review
• Joint session of the Working Group on IWRM and Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (May 2018)
Contributions from

Aims and scope

- Support to the implementation of the Sendai framework in (transboundary) basins
  - Ensure that IWRM issues are considered at all levels including the international level
  - Ensure that the role of water and basins is taken into account

- Taking into account various international commitments including the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Target audience

- Practitioners in DRR and water management
  - water managers and institutions responsible for water management
  - authorities and institutions responsible for DRR, at local, regional, national and international level
- Also relevant for, but not specifically target water users, a.o. from the industry, agriculture and energy sectors
- The guide will also be brought to the attention of the humanitarian sector and development aid.
**Typical steps**

- Defining goals and scope
- Analysing context
- Defining stakeholders, roles and responsibilities
- Assessing disaster risks
- Developing and prioritizing measures
- Implementing measures
- Monitoring and evaluating

**Transboundary cooperation elements**

- Joint goals and agreed scope at basin level, role of basin organization
- Relevant international commitments, flexible transboundary agreements
- Involve and link to all relevant basin stakeholders
- Sharing of data. Basin-wide joint modelling and vulnerability assessments. Common information and early-warning systems
- Agreement of priority measures of transboundary relevance. Development of basin-wide strategy.
- Sharing benefits and costs
- Joint (or coordinated) monitoring and evaluation
## Contents

1. Key messages
2. Introduction
3. International commitments and legal framework
4. Main principles and approaches
5. Responsibilities and stakeholders
6. Understanding the risks and hazards
7. Develop strategies to reduce risk
8. Implementation
9. Monitoring and evaluation
10. Glossary
11. References
Key messages for disaster risk management

- Water management can limit or enhance the risk of disaster in water-related sectors
- Transboundary cooperation is both necessary and beneficial
- Need for coordination across all governance levels
- Disaster risk management measures need to be flexible
- Degrading ecosystems are often a contributing factor to the development of hazards
- Ecosystems (e.g. wetlands) can be part of the solution
Dissemination

- Disseminate to universities
- Use in DRR trainings
- Link with ministries for emergency
- Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (13-17 May, Geneva)
Dissemination

• Available at
  https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/61173
  https://www.wetlands.org/?attachment_id=16662

• To be translated into French, Russian and Spanish

• Invitation to promote and use within your basin