

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

October 13, 2020

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Spotlight on:

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13 October

Under the "Sendai Seven" campaign, launched by the SG in 2016, each year is dedicated to a different target of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The 2020 target is Target E: "Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020" which lays the foundation for the implementation of the Sendai Framework and is closely linked with Priority for Action 2: "Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk."

On [International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction \(IDDRR\)](#), UNDRR launched the report [The human cost of disasters: an overview of the last 20 years \(2000-2019\)](#). The statistics in this overview, which are from the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT) and maintained by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), confirm how extreme weather events have come to dominate the disaster landscape in the 21st century.

In the [press release](#) that announced this report, Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, called for all sectors, including business leaders, to take an active role in areas such as prevention and disaster risk reduction as she highlighted [key statistics](#) from the report. Overall, Ms. Mizutori emphasized how this alarming overview of the human cost of disasters in the last 20 years serves as a reminder for key actors to plan and implement disaster risk reductions strategies. Click here to read her [opinion piece](#).

Key events related to ARISE Priority Areas:

November 2020

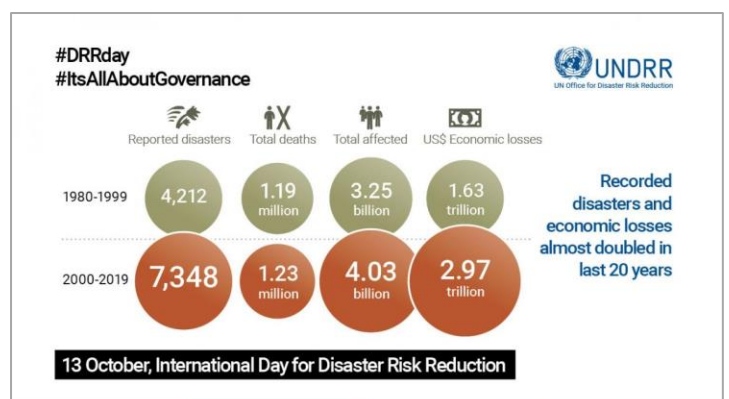
- 5th: Interactive Brainstorming - SEM Messages on Climate Change. Register for [1st Session](#), [2nd session](#)
- 5th: World Tsunami awareness day

December 2020

- Early December: Launch of new ARISE website
- Launch of SME Study
- Launch of Risk-Informed Financial Sector Investment Report

January 2021

- 25th: Global Climate Adaptation Summit
- 26th: SEM Annual Advisory Group Meeting



The human cost of disasters: an overview of the last 20 years (2000-2019).
Figure 1. Disaster Impacts: 1980-1999 vs. 2000-2019.



"We are willfully destructive. That is the only conclusion one can come to when reviewing disaster events over the last twenty years. COVID-19 is but the latest proof that political and business leaders are yet to tune in to the world around them. The odds are being stacked against us when we fail to act on science and early warnings to invest in prevention, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The report is a reminder to UN Member States of their commitment to strengthen disaster risk governance and to have national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction in place by 2020." Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In addition to the UNDRR Geneva office, regional offices, other UN agencies and the ARISE community celebrated, promoted and supported IDDRR by hosting webinars, symposiums and contests during the week of 13 October 2020. Below are examples of these engaging activations around the globe.



- **UNDRR Regional Offices** hosted [webinars](#) about disaster risk governance in the context of COVID-19 and systemic risk, some of which brought into the conversation the role of the private sector in DRR governance and DRR strategies.
- In recognition of the need for a coherent approach to addressing the climate emergency and associated disaster risk, **UNFCCC and UNDRR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** during a public online conversation between Patricia Espinosa, head of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Mami Mizutori, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- The **United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)** hosted the launch of the [Massive Open Online Course \(MOOC\): Nature-based Solutions for Disaster and Climate Resilience](#) and [Words into Action on Nature-based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction](#). These resources support learning about how to work with nature to tackle some of the world's challenges.
- The **United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY)** and the **Africa Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction (AYAB DRR)**, launched an international, virtual quiz competition on disaster risk reduction (DRR). The quiz aimed to educate young people and raise awareness on the basic principles of DRR, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework), the African Plan of Action (PoA) and their connection to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also aimed to highlight best COVID-19 practices in DRR led by youth.
- **ARISE Japan** hosted its fifth annual public symposium on IDDRR on 13 October 2020 as an online event. The symposium attracted tourism industry businesses, and hosted a stimulating online discussion among a mix of tourism and DRR related companies.
- The **Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry** held its annual DRR event, themed *"Understanding Risk in an Evolving World"* on 2 October 2020. Topics discussed included the Hurricane season and COVID-19, DRR strategies, the value of business continuity and resilience, and mitigating loss.

IDDRR Exposure and Engagement

UNDRR flooded social media channels with messages from Mami Mizutori, the [UN Secretary-General](#), the [WHO Director-General](#) and 17 other [original videos](#) with strong advocacy messaging on disaster risk governance. There was a wealth of other material in the form of social media cards, reaching a potential audience of two million people online over a six-week period.

Other relevant content

- [At What Cost?](#) How chronic gaps in adaptation finance expose the world's poorest people to climate chaos
- [CEOs Symposium for Business Resilience](#)
- [Anticipate and Act](#), The Stockholm High-Level Meeting on Addressing the Humanitarian Impact of Climate Change

Stay in touch!

Amplify your reach sharing your events and publications with us. We want to hear from you.

Send your updates to the email address below and reach 800+ people in the ARISE community!

arise@cc.preventionweb.net

ARISE members can contact all other members by sending an email to arismembers@cc.preventionweb.net

News round-up:

Initiative on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond

As the unfolding global recession shows, it is high time for Governments and stakeholders to ramp up efforts - and be held to account - to jointly implement the Sendai Framework vision in systematically integrating the full risk spectrum into all decision-making and investment.

On 28 May heads of state and governments, international organizations, and other key partners joined forces to address the current and future socioeconomic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in an “Initiative on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond.” As a result, an ambitious menu of policy options for the short, medium and long term was developed by Ministries of Finance together with other international institutions.



Disaster risk reduction and resilience received strong attention throughout the discussions, as reflected in the outcome documents, in particular under the work track related to “*Recovering Better for Sustainability.*” For example, one of the recommended options included the establishment and revision of National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies, in line with the Sendai Framework, with appropriate financing, incorporating multiple, inter-related risks including climate change. The menu of policy options was presented to the Member States during the Heads of State and Government Meeting on 29 September 2020 with the view of supporting them in responding and recovering from the current global crisis. A follow-up meeting will be held in December 2020 to review progress and delivery on the Financing for Development Initiative in relation to the 2030 Agenda. To read about the initiative please [click here](#).



UNDRR Work on Risk-informed Investment

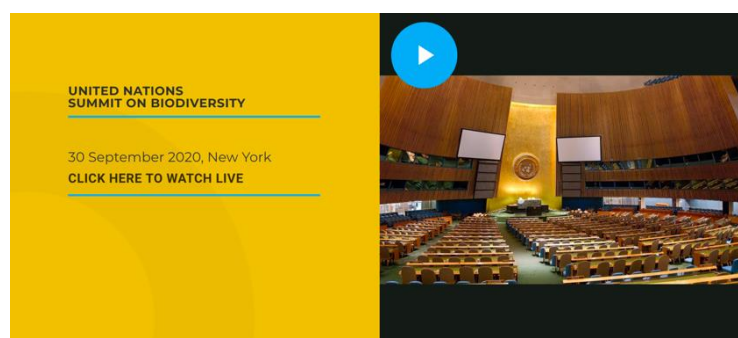
Recognizing that up to 80% of any investment in any country comes from the private sector, the Sendai Framework highlights the role of the private, but specifically the financial sector, and its regulators in driving better and comprehensive integration of disaster risk reduction considerations into business investment decisions.

As disaster risk reduction gains traction, and different sectors engage in sustainable recovery work tracks, UNDRR hosted a webinar on *Risk-*

Informed Investment for Macro-Economic Financial Stability on 15 September. The webinar’s panelist, which included prominent experts from Aviva Investors, the European Parliament, the International Monetary Fund and UNDRR, looked at lessons learned to date, identified gaps and explored opportunities to address them. This was the first in a series of four webinars examining the case for risk informed investment as a critical element of macro-economic financial stability and the achievement of the SDGs. This series accompanies the development of a new global study to identify opportunities and concrete steps to be taken into account the full risk spectrum in investment decision-making. To watch the first webinar [click here](#).

UN Summit on Biodiversity

The President of the General Assembly convened the UN Biodiversity Summit on 30 September under the theme of “Urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development.” Throughout, several interlinkages between Disaster Risk Reduction and Biodiversity were emphasized. In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General pointed out that nature-based solutions can protect lives and livelihoods from natural hazards and must be embedded in COVID-19 recovery and sustainable development plans. The implications of biodiversity loss



across the SDGs and for increasing disaster risk were recognized by multiple speakers. While COVID-19 has exposed risks underlying the Sustainable Development Goals, the imminent biodiversity and climate change crises will be a lot worse, it was argued. Simultaneously, the opportunity that the pandemic has presented to build back better and greener was documented by many, including the Secretary-General and President of China. Calls were made that all money for COVID-19 recovery and stimulus must have “green strings attached.” To watch the summit [click here](#).

ARISE Board Meeting

The first meeting of the new ARISE Board, elected by ARISE members in July 2020 for a three-year period, took place on 19 October 2020. The meeting focused on the development of a Board workplan for 2020-2023, aligned with and supporting the implementation of the [ARISE Global Terms of Reference](#), [ARISE four priorities and KPIs](#) and the [Value proposition](#), which had been adopted by the previous Board.



Co-chairs Mami Mizutori (Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, SRSG) and Martha Herrera (CEMEX) and Vice-Chair Hans-Peter Teufers (UPS Foundation)) engaged in active dialogue with the Board while calling special attention to three critical points that will lead to the successful implementation of the Board mandate over the next three years. These critical points were:

1. The urgency and timeliness of ARISE to take a lead role in encouraging more engagement by the private sector in driving risk-informed decision-making and investment.
2. The critical role of the Board members to act in a global capacity to help further accelerate and focus the activities and impact of the ARISE initiative at all levels.
3. The key focus for Board members to agree on concrete and realistic activities to be implemented by the board including with specific roles and commitments of each member.

The Board’s next step is to finalize the Board workplan with roles, budgets and resources by late November.

In depth:

New UAE ARISE Network generates new partnerships and stakeholder engagement

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is leading in the private sector engagement for disaster risk reduction by announcing the first ARISE initiative in the Arab region. The newly formed UAE ARISE Network launched early September and is comprised of 14 CEOs and business leaders that are Board members. The diverse group is made of professionals from many sectors including real estate, health, business networks and start-ups, academia and finance. Their efforts are focused on SMEs, infrastructure resilience and advocacy. The committed network has signed an endorsed workplan in line with the Global ARISE Terms of Reference to achieve the outcomes and goals of the Sendai Framework in a transparent and inclusive way that delivers measurable impact.

The first meeting for the UAE ARISE Network was organized at the Burj Khalifa on 9 September 2020. The meeting was led by Mr. Sujit Mohanty the Chief of UNDRR Regional Office for the Arab States (ROAS), Dr. Mahmoud El Burai the Vice President of International Real Estate Federation and Senior Advisor in Dubai Government, along with the United Nations Resident Coordinator for the UAE Dr. Dena Assaf and other senior officials from UNDRR.



First UAE ARISE Network meeting.

