

1 Interfaces with the post-2015 framework for sustainable development

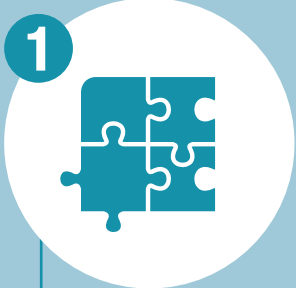
The future framework for disaster risk reduction will come into force at almost the same time as the post-2015 framework for sustainable development. As sustainable development is threatened by disaster risk and because levels of sustainable development determine vulnerability to disasters, it is important that these two global frameworks are closely aligned.

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Why is alignment between DRR and development frameworks necessary?

- Disasters have serious impacts on growth, poverty and well-being, and conversely development influences vulnerability to disasters.
- Both frameworks are concerned with tackling ‘underlying risk factors’. These include the social, economic, political and environmental issues that put people at risk and impede development.

Five ways in which the future framework for disaster risk and the post-2015 framework for sustainable development should be aligned



Mainstreaming targets and indicators on risk and resilience in the SDGs

Currently issues of disaster, risk and resilience are accommodated in the potential goals on poverty reduction, ensuring health and well-being, sustainable human settlements, infrastructure and industrialisation, food security and combating climate change. Yet there are other goals proposed by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals that should integrate issues of risk and resilience:¹⁹³

- a. Education: ensuring that every child is entitled to a safe learning environment
- b. Gender equality: preventing disproportionate levels of disaster risk amongst women
- c. Water and sanitation: reducing risks and impacts of water-related disasters.

Whatever the DRR targets agreed by the SDG process, they should be used as headline targets in the post-2015 framework for DRR.



Monitoring will ensure that progress across the same thematic areas is integrated and reinforced

As both frameworks come into force at the same time and because there are strong overlaps in the issues that they engage with, it is important that any mechanisms to monitor progress are also aligned. This can be done by:

- a. Ensuring alignment in monitoring cycles
- b. Working with regional and other institutions to ensure coordination, reconciliation and communication of data from monitoring the frameworks
- c. Sharing targets and indicators
- d. Including DRR targets with the same start and end points (e.g. targets set from 2015 to 2030) in the SDGs and the future framework for DRR.



Financing mechanisms for the future framework for DRR and the post-2015 framework for sustainable development should be shared

The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals are currently exploring mechanisms for financing the SDGs; moreover, an international summit on the future of development finance will take place in the first half of 2015. These processes must acknowledge the strong potential overlaps in interventions for realising the goals of both frameworks and consequently the need for shared financial streams.



Science, data and information should be shared by both frameworks

There are overlaps in the type of data and information needed for the two frameworks (especially if risk and resilience are effectively mainstreamed in the SDGs). At the same time, there are calls for both frameworks to be strongly informed by scientific evidence to help guide implementation and monitoring. Therefore, a shared mechanism for science, data and information exchange would enhance alignment and harness synergies between the two frameworks.



Each framework should connect to the other through appropriate textual references

The texts of both frameworks should refer to one other and underscore the need for alignment in order to ensure that institutions and individuals working with either framework understand this need.

How sustainable development is featured in the HFA

Para 4: ‘There is now international acknowledgement that efforts to reduce disaster risks must be systematically integrated into policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development and poverty reduction, and supported through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including partnerships. Sustainable development, poverty reduction, good governance and disaster risk reduction are mutually supportive objectives, and in order to meet the challenges ahead, accelerated efforts must be made to build the necessary capacities at the community and national levels to manage and reduce risk. Such an approach is to be recognized as an important element for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.’

Para 13 (k): ‘Disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting issue in the context of sustainable development and therefore an important element for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. In addition, every effort should be made to use humanitarian assistance in such a way that risks and future vulnerabilities will be lessened as much as possible.’

Para 28: ‘The follow-up on the World Conference on Disaster Reduction will, as appropriate, be an integrated and coordinated part of the follow-up to other major conference in fields relevant to disaster risk reduction. This should include specific reference to progress on disaster risk reduction, taking into account agreed development goals, including those found in the Millennium Declaration.’

Para 30 (e): ‘Include information on progress of disaster risk reduction in the reporting mechanisms of existing international and other frameworks concerning sustainable development, as appropriate.’

Para 33 (c): ‘Consult with relevant United Nations agencies and organizations, regional and multilateral organizations and technical and scientific institutions, as well as interested States and civil society, with the view to developing generic, realistic and measurable indicators, keeping in mind available resources of individual States. These indicators could assist States to assess their progress in the implementation of the Framework of Action. The indicators should be in conformity with the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.’

How links to sustainable development are featured in statements and consultations on the successor to the HFA

Mid-Term Review

‘The study noted a problematic lack of data about mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the agencies and organizations approached. Resident Coordinators interviewed agreed on the need to scale up on all aspects of disaster risk reduction, emphasizing a closer link with the Millennium Development Goals, a common UN message on disaster risk reduction, and lessons learned on how to implement it effectively’ (p. 37).

‘There are clearly **opportunities** to link action in support of HFA substantively into UN development processes, to support mainstreaming, and to link disaster risk reduction with climate change adaptation and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. In this connection, the study suggested considering the possibility of having higher-level representation for UNISDR in New York to facilitate higher visibility and improve its ability to participate in discussions bridging humanitarian, development, and environmental perspectives’ (p. 38).

The United Nations General Assembly has repeatedly asserted through many resolutions the need for disaster risk reduction to be an integral component of development plans and poverty eradication programmes. This point is well understood and accepted among disaster risk reduction experts and has been emphasized throughout the Mid-Term Review during workshops, online debates, and one-on-one interviews. The Review has also shown that important connections are constantly being made about the inextricable links between disaster risk reduction and sustainable development at the international policy level’ (p. 55).

‘As HFA implementation progresses, it is time to consider whether the institutions responsible for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into all aspects of sustainable development are doing so from the best positions within their organizations. The General Assembly has regularly called for a more effective integration and, by acknowledging the significant impacts of disaster risk reduction on social, economic, cultural, and environmental systems, underlined the need for a close interrelation of disaster risk reduction with development. The Secretary-General too stressed the firm link of disaster risk reduction with development, and by declaring it a core function of the United Nations, asked for a full incorporation of disaster risk reduction into both the humanitarian and the development agendas’ (p. 56).

‘The Advisory Group recommended supporting governments in defining and developing appropriate accountability measures for disaster risk reduction. An international system for global **accountability for disaster risk reduction** was also discussed by the Advisory Group, and it was noted that an explicit inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the Millennium Development Goals would help in making governments accountable to report on action taken in this connection’ (p. 61).

‘Views on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, irrespective of whether it would be of a legally binding nature or not, included the need to ensure solid and structural links with sustainable development and climate change international framework agreements’ (p. 65).

‘Some argued that considering that disaster risk reduction is primarily a development issue, far greater leverage is likely to be obtained by ensuring the **inclusion of disaster risk reduction as a mainstreamed element** of development plans, goals, and targets in the successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals, rather than going it alone as a “new HFA”. A more nuanced approach was that expressed by those who felt that it is probably desirable to maintain a strong focus on disaster risk reduction as a subset of new development goals so as to ensure that mainstreaming does not mean invisibility for disaster risk reduction and that targeted disaster risk reduction investments are catalyzed where that is the best way to reduce disaster risk’ (p. 65).

Elements Paper

‘Sustainable development goals cannot be achieved without managing disaster risk. The overall focus of disaster risk management, therefore, has to shift from shielding social and economic development against what are seen as external events and shocks, to one of transforming development to manage risks, sustainably seize opportunities, strengthen resilience, thereby ensuring a sustainable development’ (p. 3).

‘This synchronicity is a major opportunity to define and agree upon an overall cohesive, coherent, and as much as possible harmonised post-2015 paradigm. This should enable the management of the risks inherent to development and that manifest through disasters, climate change and variability, financial and economic crises, and other consequences for the economy, society and the environment. From that perspective, climate change mitigation and adaptation need to be seen as part of broader risk management strategy, which embraces natural and technological hazards and is instrumental to the achievement of sustainable development goals’ (pp. 3–4).

‘Provisions need to be made to secure an interlinked and mutually supportive implementation’ (p. 4).

‘[T]he periodic review of the Hyogo Framework for Action has been carried out through a process separated from the Millennium Development Goals and the Climate Change Convention, thus preventing countries from having a holistic review and appreciation of progress, assessing coherence and convergence in implementation, and introducing useful adjustments. In this connection, the periodic review of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction should be carried out at least in connection with, and through the same process and UN governance bodies as, the post-2015 development agenda and goals; and also, possibly, with future arrangements for mitigating and adapting to climate change’ (p. 4).

‘The effect is that monitoring has been very removed from the mechanisms used for the MDGs, resulting in extremely limited cross-fertilisation’ (p. 9).

RECOMMENDED READING

For mainstreaming risk and resilience in the SDGs:

Jones, L. and Bahadur, A. (2013) *Options for Including Resilience in Post-2015 Goals*. London: ODI and IFRC.

Mitchell, T., Jones, L., Lovell, E. and Comba, E. (eds) (2013) *Disaster risk management in post-2015 development goals: potential targets and indicators*. London: Overseas Development Institute.

On the post-2015 SDGs:

Proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals.

Progress report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals.

Chair's Summary

‘Governments should take a strong lead to ensure that disaster risk reduction is well recognized and systematically incorporated in the international sustainable development agenda’ (p. 2).

Synthesis Report

‘Stakeholders provoked discussion of how mainstreaming and integrated approaches that address underlying risk factors can be a catalyst for pro-poor development. Health, for instance, is regarded as core to social justice and is a key driver of community and national social and economic development. By managing risks to health, people are able to maintain their effective livelihoods and contributions to community development. The MDGs 4, 5 and 6 are directly aimed at health-specific outcomes. Hence, reducing health risks will enhance chances of achieving development goals’ (p. 11).

‘Stakeholders consistently called for inclusion of DRR and climate risk in the post-2015 development agenda’ (p. 15).

‘Work on disaster risk and resilience targets will need to reference and consider the post-2015 development agenda and post Rio+20 SDGs’ (p. 22).