

SDC Network

Disaster Risk Reduction

**** October 13 - International DRR Day ****

Dear SDC DRR Network members, dear colleagues

Unbearable and sad losses caused by the tsunami in Indonesia just two weeks ago remind us of the forces of nature and the tremendous suffering they can inflict. At the time of writing this editorial, the question remains whether this human suffering could have been avoided - why was the early warning system not effective? Which element of the system failed? How must the interplay between technological solutions, capacities and awareness be improved? The world community, on October 13, 'celebrates' the [International Day for Disaster Reduction](#), encouraging every citizen and government to take part in building more disaster-resilient communities. The DRR Day shall promote the notion of investing in prevention and preparedness, and undertaking all possible actions to reduce the occurrence of disastrous effects caused by natural events. Reducing risks is an ongoing challenge, and measures need to take into account all possible elements of the present and future risks.

[Understanding and Managing Disaster Risks and Water under Climate Change](#) was the topic of a seminar held last month in Khorog, Tadjikistan. An integrated approach is promoted by SDC for the sustainable natural resource management, and watershed management to reduce negative impacts of natural hazards and climate risks and improve the safety of mountain communities and their infrastructure. The seminar was attended by SDC and SECO colleagues, and local partners from the public and the private sector and civil society. The seminar made a significant contribution in understanding the interrelation of sectors, and the undeniable need to fill knowledge gaps with relation to climate change effects for anticipating future risks and challenges.

[*** Enjoy the reading and *** have a look at the SDC DRR Shareweb for more information ***](#)

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Who is who new faces in the DRR Team

Omar Bellprat started working with SDC initially to manage the Strategic Partnerships in DRR (presently passed to Sergio Pérez) and is now responsible for the preparation of the Global Platform on DRR (GPDRR) 2019 in Geneva. Omar holds a PhD in Climate Sciences (ETH Zurich) and has over eight years of experience in climate services and research as a fellow of the European Space Agency (ESA).



Nadia Zuodar has joined the DRR Team in June and is responsible for M&E as well as to support the DRR network and shareweb. She is a member of SHA since 2008 and works as an advisor for various UN organizations, the UE, NGOs and businesses. She specializes in DRR, natural resource management, environment & biodiversity, industrial ecology, corporate social responsibility, social protection and cash transfer programming. For SDC she has done several missions in Bern for the Multilateral and the Africa divisions, and as DRR/Resilience/Cash/Protection advisor seconded to WFP and UNOCHA. [LinkedIn profile.](#)

Sergio Perez recently joined the SDC DRR Team as Program Officer to manage the Strategic Partnerships in DRR. He is responsible for SDC's DRR multilateral engagement with the World Bank (GFDRR), the UN (UNISDR, WMO) and the civil societies (GNDR). Sergio is a civil engineer with an MBA and studies in international affairs. Before his current position, he worked on SDC's South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean on its initiatives related to adaptation to climate change, integrated water resource management and water supply and sanitation, including the collaboration with IDB and their trust fund AquaFund. He also worked for SDC in Colombia on a public-private development partnership on water footprint.



Specials - interview with the field

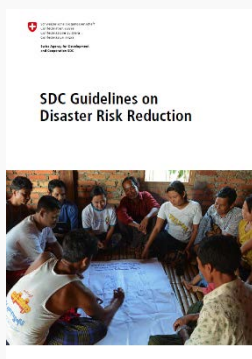
Moritz Krüger, outgoing SDC Regional

DRR Advisor Southeast Asia

Moritz Krüger just finished his assignment as Regional Advisor on Disaster Risk Reduction at SDC in Bangkok, Thailand. Moritz was one of the two SDC representatives based in Bangkok, bringing specific DRR expertise into the region. In an interview he talked with us about the strategic aims of his position, success stories and challenges.



Swiss Highlights



Updated SDC Guidelines on DRR

The SDC Guidelines on DRR have been revised to account for new international agendas and new trends. The revised guidelines provide orientation on how to systematically manage disaster risks and on how to integrate a risk perspective in planning and operational processes. Furthermore, the document outlines SDC's approach to increase the coherence of policy processes related to DRR.

CEDRIG: Russian version and experience factsheet

To make the CEDRIG tool available to a wider range of SDC country offices and local partners the tool and its platform are now available also in Russian. Have a look at the factsheet which summarizes all CEDRIG highlights of the past years. Since the launch of the CEDRIG Platform in 2016, our community has constantly grown and includes now more than 350 users from 46 countries.



Aplicación del CEDRIG en el proyecto BASAL en Cuba

En el marco del proyecto "Bases Ambientales para la Sostenibilidad Alimentaria Local (BASAL)" se aplicaron los tres módulos de la herramienta: el CEDRIG light como base, el CEDRIG estratégico para tres principales resultados de BASAL y el CEDRIG operacional para tres proyectos prioritarios asociados. Tanto el proceso como los resultados de esta aplicación constituye insumos importantes para el desarrollo y la planificación del proyecto. El evento se organizó en mayo 2018 en Cuba incluyendo una visita

de terreno. En el evento regional participaron 24 técnicos e investigadores Cubanos de instituciones nacionales, provinciales y municipales y dos funcionarios de ONGs de Nicaragua y Honduras. Para todos fue una excelente oportunidad de capacitación en CEDRIG, gestión de riesgos y cambio climático.

Suiza apoya la Gobernanza del Riesgo de desastres en Centroamérica

El proyecto de Gobernanza del riesgo de desastres en Centroamérica, auspiciado por Suiza promueve espacios de diálogo y concertación entre los diferentes actores públicos y privados de Centroamérica. El proyecto fomenta la coordinación, transparencia y rendición de cuentas para una gestión de riesgos más efectiva.



Switzerland publishes the updated strategy 'management of risks from natural hazards'

The Swiss National Platform for Natural Hazards (PLANAT) updated its Strategy, considering current environmental conditions such as the higher incidence of extreme weather events and increasing utilisation of our living environment. The strategy contributes to securing Switzerland's living and business environment for the long term.

Community-based DRR measures build resilience in the Swat Valley in Pakistan

The remote Swat Valley of Pakistan is frequently hit by hydro-meteorological disasters. SDC implements preparedness and mitigation measures, which are crucial to save communities' lives and protect their assets. In Chail Valley, SDC in partnership with WFP, adopted an innovative approach with an integrated project related to DRR, food security and livelihoods. The project mobilizes local knowledge, expertise and resources supported by the technical guidance from experts. It capitalizes these pooled resources to solve local problems related to food security and disasters. Based on positive results the project has been extended to FATA region of Pakistan. In view of SDC's phase-out from Pakistan the initiative shall be consolidated and scaled up.





Swiss support to the Pakistan National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF)

The Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan and ADB signed an agreement to support the NDRMF, which promotes investments in DRR. SDC contributes with 1.5 million CHF and provides technical assistance through the secondment of a Disaster Risk Finance Specialist.

Switzerland and the World Bank support the City Resilience Programme

The City Resilience Program aims to assist city governments in building resilience to climate and disaster risks, which requires strong intersectoral partnerships and new sources of capital. The programme tackles gaps in technical expertise and access to capital, its milestones and achievements are summarized in a two-pager document.



Swiss engagement for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR

Switzerland co-hosts the Global Platform for DRR in May 2019

The sixth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2019) will take place in Geneva from 13 to 17 May 2019.



The event is convened and organized by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and hosted and co-chaired by the Government of Switzerland. The GP2019 will integrate the outcomes of the regional DRR conferences in 2018 for a continuous implementation of the Sendai Framework (SFDRR). In view of its preparation and to foster national and regional ownership and participation, SDC and its regional partners participate actively in various preparatory events, further information online:

- >> [SDC DRR shareweb news](#)
- >> [UNISDR GPDRR 2019 website](#)
- >> [UNISDR calendar on Regional Platform Events](#)
- >> [UNISDR website on Regional Platform outcomes](#)

Asian Regional Platform for DRR

Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR 2018 in Mongolia, 3 - 6 July 2018.

>> [Action Plan 2018-2020 of the Asia Regional Plan the SFDRR Implementation](#)

>> [Ulaanbaatar Declaration](#)

Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas

Organized by UNISDR and the Government of Colombia in Colombia 20 - 22 June 2018.

>> [Publications and information presented by SDC and its partners](#)

>> [Action Plan for the implementation of the SFDRR in the Americas](#)

>> [Cartagena Declaration](#)

Africa-Arab Regional Platform for DRR

9 - 13 October 2018 in Tunisia.

European Forum for DRR

21 - 23 November 2018 in Italy with focus on National Platforms for DRR, hosted by PLANAT, the Swiss Platform for Natural Hazards.

Interesting news and Publications

Compendium of Good Practices in DRR: Brown Bag Lunch presentation and summary video

The Swiss NGO DRR Platform and CDE presented an overview of its new publication "Where people and their land are safer - A Compendium of Good Practices in DRR" in the frame of a SDC Brown Bag Lunch which is also summarized in a short video.

Overview on natural disasters 2017

The Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) summarized facts and figures of disaster events in 2017. Read more about relevant events, economic losses and disaster affected regions in the six-pager overview.

GFDRR Building Back Better report (2018)

This World Bank / GFDRR report advocates for faster, stronger and more inclusive post-disaster reconstruction for resilience, with examples from small island countries and linking with social protection/safety nets needs. The report shows the benefits of a building back better approach for communities and countries.

Role of Social Protection in DRR and Climate Change

To address communities' vulnerabilities facing climate change, disaster risks and poverty, Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), DRR and Social Protection (SP) should be considered at policy and programme level. Adaptive Social Protection refers to efforts to integrate these three elements. This research analyses the integration of CCA, DRR and SP within the institution and programmes of SDC.

New 'Center for Research of Glaciers of the Academy of Sciences' in Tajikistan

The recently launched Center does fundamental and applied research on crucial topics such as climate change impacts on glaciers, water reserves, cryosphere and hydrometeorology, expeditionary and innovative monitoring, measures against glacier melting and GLOFs.

New financing instruments for drought protection - a successful spin-off of ARC

With the African Risk Capacity (ARC) replica the Start Network develops innovative financing instruments. Through the Start Network, its members in Senegal and Mauritania can secure funding, based upon a pre-agreed trigger, in order to protect farmers from the consequences of drought events. The initiative is a spin-off of the initial ARC programme, supported by SDC and other donors.

New insurance product for Eco-DRR through Coral Reef Protection

Swiss Re launched a new type of insurance to protect, conserve and restore coral reefs and linked to new economic opportunities. The insurance supports the economic resilience with scalable new market opportunities for the insurance industry, linked to the new Coastal Zone Management Trust.

Past and upcoming events

August 2018 - SDC trainings on integrated DRR

SDC Humanitarian Aid DRR experts organized a three days course on integrated DRR for the members of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) based in Switzerland and the field. Explore the [course presentations](#) including further material on [cost-benefit-analysis](#).

September 2018 - Regional seminar in Khorog / Tajikistan

SDC Tajikistan hosted a seminar on the Management of Disaster Risk and Water under Climate Change. The event was preceded by an on-line discussion in English and in Russian, integrating the findings of [four scientific papers](#).

13 October 2018 - Celebration of the International Day for Disaster Reduction

Various events organized by different organisations around the world.

15 October 2018 - Interactive discussion to mark the the International Day for Disaster Reduction

Organized by UNISDR, UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre in Geneva.

15 - 19 October 2018 - Understanding Risk Finance Pacific Forum

Organized by the World Bank (DRFIP) and the Government of Vanuatu in Vanuatu.

17 - 19 October 2018 - Emerging risks and future challenges for mountain regions

Organized by the Eurac Research, UNU-EHS in Bolzano / Italy.

25 October 2018 - Learning Event on DRR and water

Organized by the Swiss NGO DRR Platform (Helvetas) in Bern.

6 November 2018 - Learning Event on DRR and climate risks in fragile contexts

Organized by the Swiss NGO DRR Platform (Helvetas) in Bern.

7 - 9 November 2018 - International Conference on Resilience Building (ICBR)

Organized by University of Lisbon, the University of Coimbra and the Global Disaster Resilience Centre, UNISDR in Lisbon / Portugal.

21 - 23 November 2018 - European Forum for DRR 2018

Organized by UNISDR in Rome / Italy.

26 - 28 November 2018 - F2F Workshop and Public Event on Advocacy for DRR

Organized by the Swiss NGO DRR Platform (Caritas, Helvetas, HEKS) in Spiez and Bern.

13 - 17 May 2019 - Sixth Global Platform for DRR (GPDRR)

Organized by UNISDR and the Government of Switzerland in Geneva.

Wish to read more?

Follow us:

[SDC DRR Shareweb](#)

[@SwissHumAidUnit](#)

The next DRR newsletter is planned for early 2019.

Wish to share news or publications?

Please post them directly on the website under the section [share your knowledge](#)

or send us an email sdcdrrnetwork@eda.admin.ch.

We are looking forward to your contributions!

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