

SDC Disaster Risk Reduction Network



Risk and Resilience

Dear SDC DRR Network members, dear colleagues

With a world that becomes more and more interconnected, sources of risk become increasingly diverse. Climate change, cyber fragility, illicit financial flow or fragility, transboundary crime, pandemics and many other issues contribute to multiple concurrent threats. *Managing risks* requires, above all, the understanding of each individual risk, and an assessment of development decisions in view of their complexity and interconnectedness.

With the present newsletter we wish to share some of the recent work published with support of SDC, and learning events organized by the DRR team to shed light on recent advances in *Risk Informed Development*, and a specific view on *Resilience* reflecting this complexity.

We wish you all the best for the end of the year, and a healthy and peaceful 2020!

Enjoy the reading!

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Jacqueline Schmid
December 2019



Jacqueline
Schmid, SDC
DRR Thematic
Network

Lead article: Risk Informed Development Report - Interviews with the authors

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Lead article: Risk Informed Development Report (ODI/ UNDP/ SDC)

The report concludes with the following key actions for risk-informed development:

- Strengthen capacity in risk-informed decision-making within both the international development community and governments.
- Deepen the understanding of the resources, constraints, legal mandates and risks that shape development objectives.
- Build capacities to define which particular method or tool to apply and to understand their limitations for complex threats and risks.
- Strengthen data collection to improve the evidence base for development decisions.
- Strengthen monitoring-evaluation and communication systems and integrate them at an early stage of the risk-based decision process.
- Integrate considerations of multiple threats and trade-offs across the full range of actors, including NGOs, international donors, multinational development banks and governments.
- Encourage new financing mechanisms for risk-informed development that are designed to reduce vulnerability, exposure and risk creation.
- Integrate global initiatives and framework agreements (e.g. the Agenda 2030, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the World Humanitarian Summit) into development planning.



****Read the full report****



Rebecca Nadin (ODI), Jan Kellett (UNDP)

The interview with two of the lead authors Jan Kellett and Rebecca Nadin in a nutshell

- The report is addressed to a broader public than the Sendai Framework, such as governments, policy makers, investors or impacted groups. The notion of risk informed

development though is not fundamentally new.

- Our report provides an umbrella for different tools, *instead of a new tool*.
- We have to consider relevant risks early enough at the planning stage and make risk assessments accessible for all relevant stakeholders *instead of developing new tools*.
- Geopolitical volatility, financial and cyber risks are new risks, which require specific consideration and are often not sufficiently addressed in the development context.
- The main challenge is to focus on key aspects. Not all of the suggested seven steps enabling risk-informed decisions can always be applied.
- We consider SDC to be a potential thought leader. Through the evaluation of risk tolerances in pilots and exchange with government partners, according results can be transferred and shared broadly.
- Our planned second study will have a more in-depth look at risks and development approaches of Niger and Myanmar.

****Read the full interview****

Urban Resilience: what can we do in practice?

With growing complexity of risks, the requirements on 'resilience' become increasingly important. The SDC DRR Network, and the Working Group from the Learning Journey on urban-rural linkages jointly invited for a [BBL on resilience in urban areas](#): from concepts to practice.

Starting from a definition of 'resilience' with a focus on the functionality of a given sector, the discussion continued with a view on 'resilience' as the ability of a system, community, or society to pursue its social, ecological, and economic development and growth objectives, while managing its disaster risk over time in a mutually reinforcing way – giving the five capitals (human, social, natural, financial and physical) a mutually reinforcing role while striving for understanding a given situation. Finally, experiences in a slum in Bangladesh showed very practical approaches to increase resilience of vulnerable people to extensive risks.



1) Risk and resilience assessments in urban water systems by Reto Bühler and Christian Willi (EBP):



- Urban resilience should be addressed specifically, i.e. through the understanding of a given sector, its requested services, the type of related infrastructure, and potential shocks affecting the system.
- By assessing the system, a resilience score shall be incorporated in a multi-criteria analysis to understand how a system will be maintaining, or regaining the initial state of a sector as swiftly as possible in the case of an external shock.

2) Experience from the Floods Resilience Alliance Initiative by Michael Szönyi (Zurich Insurance Group):



- A solid understanding of a hazard, and related risks is at the basis of each 'resilience' dialogue - Resilience building should be complemented with risk reduction, which refers to the hazard, exposure and vulnerability components.
- Make use of the resilience concept to analyze a system through its capitals (5C), resilience properties (4R) considering the phases of the 'Disaster Risk Management' cycle. Resilience is not just bouncing back – it is allowing to grow over time, with the given boundary conditions.

3) Resilience in Urban Slums of Bangladesh by Sarah Sabry (Save the Children):



- Informal settlements foremost are in need of own DRR capacities related to the most prevalent risks – which are generally extensive in nature (small but frequent disasters such as fire, localized flooding, lacking solid waste management, etc.)
- An enabling policy environment needs to be child-centered, gender-sensitive and inclusive, and include informal settlements, where most vulnerable groups live.

Read the [full text of all three presenters' recommendations](#) and download [presentations](#) on the SDC DRR Shareweb.

LIFELINES - The Resilient Infrastructure Opportunity



Upon invitation of the DRR Team of SDC, Stéphane Hallegatte presented the new GFDRR Report 'Lifelines - The Resilient Infrastructure Opportunity'. Stéphane Hallegatte together with Jun Rentschler and Julie Rozenberg are the authors of the GFDRR report, with the following key findings:

- Resilient infrastructure is about people. Particularly in developing countries, infrastructure disruptions are an everyday concern that affects private sector competitiveness and economic prospects, jobs and income, and people's well-being and quality of life.
- Significant economic opportunity from investing in resilient infrastructure: the overall net benefit in developing countries would be \$4.2 trillion over the lifetime of new infrastructure. Each dollar invested in more resilient infrastructure brings \$4 in avoided economic losses.
- For infrastructure investors, governments, development banks and the private sector the message is clear: to delay action from 2020 to 2030 leads to additional costs of USD 1 trillion. Climate change makes the strengthening of infrastructure assets even more important. Without climate change, the median benefit-cost ratio would be equal to 2, but it is doubled when climate change is considered.

Download the presentation of Stéphane Hallegatte and check for the full GFDRR report, its infographics and a movie on the [SDC DRR Shareweb](#).

Who is who - new faces in the DRR team

Mila Lomarda – Regional DRR Programme Officer (Programme Vert) South East Asia

Mila is a member of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid (SHA) DRR/Environment specialized group since 2018. With a background in environmental sciences (focused on climatology) and international relations, she has over four years of experience working with UN Environment in Geneva and the Red Cross in the Philippines on ecosystem-based and community-based DRR, climate change adaptation, and environmental law. As a Volunteer of the Swiss Civil Protection she is trained in radio communications and operations center management. Her background fits the diverse work of the SDC Humanitarian Aid Regional DRR and Rapid Response Hub in Bangkok where she is based. Mila supports the Senior DRR and Rapid



Mila Lomarda,
Regional DRR
Program officer

Response Advisor in mainstreaming DRR and Climate Change Adaptation into SDC Development projects, regional policy dialogue, capacity building, and emergency response in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Interesting publications and news

SDC Climate Change and Environment Network:

[Newsletter November 2019](#) with focus on the CEDRIG tool - Mainstreaming DRR, Climate Change and Environment in Development and Cooperation.

SDC: [Guidance sheet on Gender, Climate Change and DRR.](#)

ODI, UNDP, SDC: [Risk-informed development - from crisis to resilience.](#)

GFDRR: [Lifelines - The Resilient Infrastructure Opportunity.](#)

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SDC: [Humanitarian Aid engagement](#) against the Amazonian Fires in Bolivia.

UN Environment: [Disasters and Ecosystems -Resilience in a Changing Climate source book.](#)

ODI: [Disaster risk reduction in conflict contexts.](#)

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UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP): [Asia-Pacific Disaster Report.](#)

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IFRC: [The cost of Doing Nothing- the humanitarian price.](#)

Climate & Development Knowledge Network (CDKN): [Communicating climate change - A practitioner's guide.](#)

UNDRR: [Words into Action guideline \(draft\)](#)-Implementation guide for land use and urban planning.

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Welthungerhilfe, Concern, Helvetas: [Global Hunger Index \(GHI\)](#) with focus on the consequences of climate change and extreme weather events.

Past and upcoming events

[upcoming] Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW)

03.-07.02.2020 in Geneva.

[upcoming] Swiss NGO DRR Platform events:

Various upcoming learning events and webinar, further information and registration [online](#).

- > [Webinar on useful Platform products, guides, tools](#) - 17.12.2019
- > [Webinar on Advocacy for DRR and CCA with GNDR](#) - 21.01.2020
- > [Learning Event on GMO in Agriculture: Risks and risk reduction measures](#) - 13.01.2020.

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Check the weblinks to download the presentation material and documentation of past events:

[past] SDC event: Nature-based solutions for sustainable development - 21.11. 2019 in Bern.

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[past] SDC Brown Bag Lunch Events (BBL):-

> [Lifelines](#) - The Resilient Infrastructure Opportunity.

Presentation of the GFDRR report and discussion with Stéphane Hallegatte - 17.10.2019.

> [Resilient cities](#) - what can we do in practice?

Resilience in urban areas: from concepts to practice with inputs from Michael Szönyi (Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance), Sarah Sabry (Save the Children) and Reto Bühler/ Christian Willi (EBP) - 25.09.2019.

> [Risk-informed development](#) - from crisis to resilience.

Presentation of the ODI/UNDP/SDC report by Rebecca Nadin and Jan Kellett - 18.09.2019.

[past] PEDRR/UNDP: Event on Environment, Gender and DRR :

Promoting inclusiveness through ecosystem-based approaches - 11.10.2019 in Geneva.

Further publications, news and events



on the [SDC DRR Shareweb](#).

Next newsletter to be published early 2020.

CONTACT

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