

SDC Disaster Risk Reduction Network



Beyond Risk proofing

Lessons-learnt around CEDRIG regional workshops

Editorial

Dear colleagues and friends of the SDC DRR Network

A topic close to our hearts is the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate, and Environment into development endeavours – as essentials to safeguard investments, and add value to development pathways of any sector or domain.



Mila Lomarda
Cliff Hammer



Two regional trainings on the mainstreaming of climate, environment and disaster risks, and built around the SDC mainstreaming tool CEDRIG, took place for the SDC and partners in South-East Asia, and the SDC/SECO Offices in the Western Balkans. The trainings were conducted in November 2020, with the strong support of the Bangkok and Skopje Offices, respectively. We were thrilled by the great interest and high commitment of the participants from the offices, and partner organisations in these trainings!

Two very different contexts, yet – three key lessons emerged from both

Trainings: (i) Successful mainstreaming rests on the strong commitment from the SDC top management related to the topic; (ii) mainstreaming is relevant for all sectors – stories from past experiences are needed to show pragmatically the way forward, and (iii) timing is key: the integration of Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk should not present an additional burden to an existing project; the sooner it is considered in the planning phase, the better the focus and resources can be managed.

Find out in the present newsletters how Directors of Cooperation see 'Mainstreaming', why Governance is a vital sector for achieving progress in DRR and CC, or how the intense interactions with colleagues in the field helped to shift from 'risk-proofing' to 'planning for innovative opportunities'. And much more ...

Big thanks go to all participants in the workshops, and special thanks to the contributors of this Newsletters. Last but not least: we are very grateful to the Thematic Networks DRR and Climate Change & Environment for their strong support in both workshops! – Enjoy the reading

Mila Lomarda, SDC Regional DRR Programme Officer working in Bangkok at the DRR&RR Hub for South-East Asia and the Pacific

Cliff Hammer: Regional Advisor for Infrastructure and Environment, for SDC and SECO in North Macedonia

CONTENTS

[BEYOND RISK PROOFING - Mainstreaming CC, DRR, Environment](#)

[.....Strong commitment of the Management is key](#)

[.....Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate & Environment is for all sectors](#)

[.....From Challenges to Opportunities: the Strategic Approach](#)

[Who is who: new faces in the DRR team](#)

[Interesting publications and news](#)

[Past and upcoming events](#)

[BEYOND RISK PROOFING - Mainstreaming CC, DRR, Environment](#)

[.....Strong commitment of the Management is key](#)

Barbara Dätwyler Scheuer, Director of Cooperation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Markus Bürli, Director of Cooperation in

Cambodia are strong advocates for, and committed to mainstreaming DRR, Climate Change and Environment into development initiatives. *They tell us why* this integration is much more than Risk-Proofing – and a fundamental need for sustainable development.

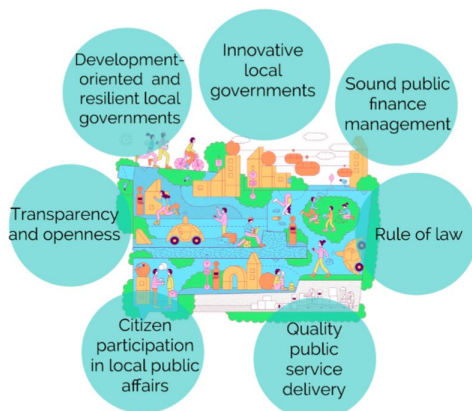


Barbara Dätwyler Scheuer
Markus Bürli

.....Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate & Environment is for all sectors

Mainstreaming Climate Change, Environmental and Disaster Risk does not always seem straightforward. How to go about it? Participants in the online regional CEDRIG workshops for the Western Balkan and South East Asia share their experiences; message is clear: mainstreaming is for all sectors - and has the potential to add substantial value to any sector.

Why DRR and Governance matter



Risk management as a primary governance issue

The Municipal Environmental Governance (MEG) project in Bosnia and Herzegovina couples the local governance framework with the modernisation of the water services sector. The use of the CEDRIG tool contributed to move from an ad-hoc risk assessment to the systematic integration of risks and impacts in

the new project phase, including measures to respond Covid 19, water pollution and pressure on water resources.

Protecting lives and livelihoods

The Gulf of Mottama project in Myanmar, a governance project related to the preservation of coastal natural resources, succeeded to join forces with the local governments for strengthening flood protection preparedness for the local population.

This was initiated after a CEDRIG analysis in 2019 that was leading to setting

up a dedicated disaster risk management committee.

Leaving no-one Behind

The Social Accountability Framework for Cambodia aims to improve public services, particularly for the poor people. With the CEDRIG training, project implementers got aware of the risks presented by cycles of floods and drought, and how they impact on the project areas. The occurrence of these risks not only impacts on the project planning, but also on the safety of the public services to be provided.

How DRR adds value to the Health Sector



Primary Health Care for ethnic minorities

A CEDRIG training in **Myanmar** in 2019 encouraged the Health Care workers to consider recurrent heavy rainfall in the planning of access to remote areas, increasing their medical supply, strengthening education on water borne diseases,

and how this can be overcome by harvesting rain water. Thanks to the participatory approach, the emergency team was re-activated, and trained to inform on disease outbreaks and disasters by adequate means.

Greening and protecting investments in Vocational training and Economic development

Sustainable investments

In **North Macedonia**, the CEDRIG training inspired the elaboration of a concise checklist to avoid investing in projects that damage the environment. Choices in economic development and vocational training should focus on greening the economic sectors, and informing the demand side on their choices.



Greening curricula

The Integrated Vocational and Education Training in Laos identified the need to strengthen entrepreneurship for being able to avoid hazards and risks, and greening the curricula for safeguarding the environment and avoiding Greenhouse Gas

Emissions. The project learns from a larger-scale project in the Region, where, for instance, co-benefits such as the reducing of water losses through

better trained plumbers have reportedly increased their market access – and visibility in the social media !

.....From Challenges to Opportunities: the Strategic Approach

One participant said: *'We should stop just considering the risks that Climate Change or other environmental disasters can create – instead, we should look for opportunities to proactively integrate these issues in our programme and project planning, and add value to our development investments – in some projects, the links are quite obvious', such as, for instance, in an infrastructure resilience project in [Serbia](#).*

SDC and SECO endeavour to set the context related to Disaster Risk, Environmental conditions and the impact of Climate Change in all Regional Strategies and Country Programmes. The integration of those topics, and the mitigation of Climate Change, from the outset of the planning phase allows for proactively anticipating needs and opportunities related to a given sector. The CEDRIG 'thinking' at the operational level shall be expanded to integrating risks and opportunities at the strategic level, and SDC and SECO prepare Guidance Sheets to support such sectoral approaches.

Who is who: new faces in the DRR team

Claudia Schneider, Programme Officer DRR

Claudia Schneider recently joined the SDC DRR Team and SHA and replaces Helen Gambon during her maternity leave, from November 2020 to March 2021. She is supporting the SDC DRR Team with policy development, and assists the knowledge and information platform of the network.



Claudia
Schneider

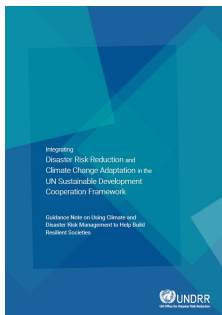
Claudia brings along key expertise in DRR and reconstruction through her broad and diverse working experience in the past 20 years in international cooperation. She is the lead author of "[Sustainable Reconstruction in Urban Areas](#)" and was seconded to UNDRR, she participated in the regional consultation process for the Arab States in preparing the Sendai Framework. Regional Process towards Sendai Framework for DRR. She has worked for the public, private and NGO sector in South-East Asia, MENA, Eastern Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Balkans.

Backstopping Mandate for the SDC Thematic Network DRR

Since August 2020 and as a result of a public tender process, Skat Consulting Ltd (www.skat.ch), jointly with a team of high profile subcontracted experts, is providing backstopping support to the SDC DRR Network. The backstopping support aims at contributing to the expansion of the capacity of the DRR Network in relation to knowledge management, capacity building, creation of innovative instruments and approaches, and setting-up on demand advisory services.

Skat coordinates the mandate and provides key methodological expertise through its team of network facilitators. In addition, a team of high profile DRR experts is providing thematic expertise (Isabelle Providoli, Markus Zimmermann and Moritz Krüger). For methodological expertise, Nadia von Holzen and Corinne Sprecher support the backstopping mandate, more specifically on virtual collaboration methods.

Interesting publications and news



Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

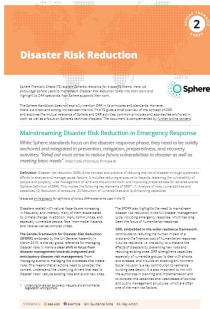
Guidance Note on Using Climate and Disaster Risk Management to Help Build Resilient Societies

This hands-on [Guidance Note](#) published by UNDRR, with a foreword by SG Mami Mizutori, meets the need to integrate climate and disaster risk into the Common Country Analysis and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. It outlines the impacts of climate and disaster risks on progress in all development sectors, and suggests appropriate actions for each phase (Assessment – Analysis – Implementation), for risk-informed implementation of the UN Development Frameworks. The Guidance also frames the ‘Triple Nexus’ of Natural Calamities, Development, and Conflict.

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Emergency Response

Sphere Thematic Sheet 2: Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sphere movement aims to improve the quality of humanitarian work during disaster response. Sphere’s foundation chapters (Humanitarian Charter, Protection



Principles and Core Humanitarian Standard) focus on protection, inclusion and organisational responsibilities, providing a solid ground for translating DRR into practice. [This publication](#) is the second of Sphere’s ‘thematic sheets’.

Sustainable and non-sustainable Land Management

WOCAT (The World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies) features four case studies in different contexts: (i) land management to reduce flood disaster risks (Haiti), (ii) to improve the recharge of springs (India and Haiti), (iii) to reduce damaging behaviour of rivers in a large watershed (Colombia) and (iv) protecting farmland and towns from devastating sand and dust storms (Iceland). Check out the [policy briefs](#), [the SLM documentations](#) and [the videos](#).

COVID-19 and DRR

The COVID pandemic affects everyone - but it does not affect everyone equally. The crisis has laid bare severe and systemic inequalities. See the [PreventionWeb](#) to explore the systemic impacts of the pandemic and how the world has mobilized to address this unprecedented threat.

Past and upcoming events

upcoming

Annual workshop of the Swiss NGO DRR Platform

The registration for the first virtual annual workshop of the Swiss NGO DRR Platform is opened. **Virtual practitioner workshop** on three half-days on **March 29 – 31** (9am - 1pm CET) on the topic of “**The role of DRR in the humanitarian-development nexus – linking concepts, connecting stakeholders, strengthening resilience**”. **Interactive panel discussion** on **April 8** (4 – 6 pm CET).

[Further information and registration](#)

past

Supporting small business resilience to big disasters and pandemics

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) facilitated a webinar in November 2020 organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) aiming to

help micro and small enterprises to identify risks and build own resilience to disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic. Watch and download the full webinar [here](#).

past & upcoming

Building Resilience Faster

The theme of the [World Water Week 2021 is Building Resilience Faster](#), with a focus on concrete solutions to the world's greatest water-related challenges, starting with the climate crisis and including water scarcity, food security, health, biodiversity, and impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI, host of the yearly World Water Week), in collaboration with the World Water Week Scientific Programme Committee is presenting a [special series of thematic webinars](#) to link the World Water Week at Home 2020 and the World Water Week 2021. These webinars will help to sustain momentum around the importance of water and climate change – especially in the context of building resilience in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The webinar on **Climate Crisis and Covid-19 Collide: Resilience through Information, Governance, and Justice** took place on the 15th of October 2020 and looked at what happens when extreme events and pandemics collide, the implications on vulnerable communities, how water professionals are responding, and key insights for future resilience work. [Visit this link for the webinar recording and conclusions](#).

CONTACT

Disaster Risk Reduction Network

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

DRR.newsletter@eda.admin.ch | www.shareweb.ch/DRR

[Edit profile](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

Copyright © 2019 FDFA. All rights reserved.