

Dear DRR Network Members,

Please find here the SDC DRR newsletter January-July 2015. The SDC DRR network is working along thematic learning cycles of 6 months each. **Integrated Disaster Risk Management** has been the 1<sup>st</sup> theme of the year, presented in this newsletter. I wish you a pleasant lecture and remain at your disposal for any comment, need for clarification.



### ***Integrated Disaster Risk Management: a closer look at SDC's approach to DRR***

Integrated risk management (IRM) is a central element in many of the risk-oriented planning guidelines used and applied by several federal offices such as the Federal Office for Civil Protection ([FOCP](#)), the Federal Office for the Environment ([FOEN](#)) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation ([SDC](#)). It is also applied by cantons and organisations (e.g. Swiss National Platform for Natural Hazards [PLANAT](#)), and is described in a variety of publications.

Integrated risk management (IRM) is a proven general methodology for treating hazards and their related risks with appropriate actions in a systematic and comprehensive way that complies with the principles of sustainability. At the same time, IRM also expresses a certain mindset to addressing the challenges posed by the wide range of hazards and their risks: comprehensive, transparent, and comprehensible, as well as in cooperation with all relevant decision-makers, others concerned, and those who are affected. However, integrated risk management also implies a pragmatic flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances, rather than dogmatically applying its elements and principles.

For further reading:

- DRR network website, [Integrated Disaster Risk Management](#)
- Federal office for Civil Protection (FOCP), [Integrated Risk Management](#)

Watch the SDC video on [IDRM for a resilient world](#) (available in English, Spanish and French)

For further information, contact: [Nadia Benani](#)



### ***Integrated Flood Management course for our network members, Bern, March 2015***

In close collaboration with the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), the SDC DRR network organized a course on Integrated Flood Management for its members.

The 34 participants learned about the basics of flood processes, flood risk mapping, the elaboration of flood management strategies, management of sediments in mountainous areas, the Swiss model of risk sharing, as well as of cost benefit analysis, among other topics. During a field visit, the canton of Bern presented the mechanisms of monitoring and regulation of the level of lake Thun. The firefighting unit of Bern city shared their Early Warning System on Aare river floods.

For those who missed the course, we recommend you the following readings:

National Platform for Natural Hazards: [Basic knowledge on flood](#)

Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) [Tool Series](#)

Swiss Re (2012): [Floods in Switzerland: an underestimated risk](#)

For further information or to receive the course material, contact: [Nadia Benani](#)



### ***5 SDC thematic networks meet in Estelí Nicaragua: they exchange on integrated natural resources.***

48 members of the networks DRR, CCE, A+FS, E&I and Water from the Latin America and Caribbean region worked together a week to insure a better coherence between their programmes and approaches, with the overall goal to reduce poverty.

They defined good practices and innovations in the field of integrated management of water, soil and ecosystems at watershed level at various scales. A special attention was given to the following 2 transversal themes:

- Modalities for the management and transfer of the climatic risks and climate change adaptation in agricultural production and

- rural income from family to watershed levels
- Financing schemes and incentives for integrated natural resources management: performance, effectiveness and ways to scale up.

Prior to the start of the meeting, [an online forum](#) facilitated the exchange among of the members of the various networks to set the stage: More than 160 contributions have been made to discuss the issue within 3 weeks.

Check out what has been produced by visiting the website of the workshop (in Spanish). [Regional meeting multi-networks](#)

Synthesis of the workshop (with English subtitles to follow soon): [Reflection on the thematic](#), [Synthesis](#).

For further information, contact: [Fabrizio Poretti](#), [Miriam Downs](#) from SDC Managua office



***Caritas Switzerland, a member of the [Swiss DRR NGO platform](#), shares its experience in Muminabad, Tajikistan on integrated risk management.***

As a response to the trend of environmental degradation and climate change in Tajikistan, Caritas Switzerland started in September 2011 implementing the Swiss Development and Cooperation (SDC) funded Integrated Watershed Management (IWSM) project in Muminabad District. The project aims to contribute to reducing the natural disaster risk of the population of two selected pilot watersheds (Obishur and Chukurak) by sustaining the processes of their integrated management. Within a participatory process involving all concerned stakeholders, two Watershed Action Plans (WAPs) were developed - one for each watershed. The WAPs determine sustainable land management (SLM) technologies to be implemented in order to restore and protect the land area and provide some processes towards IWSM. Selected SLM activities focus on pasture management, conservation agriculture, agroforestry, tree-planting, energy saving and mitigation infrastructure. The WAPs shall serve as a voluntary governance tool establishing an inclusive decision-making process, enhancing cooperation among all stakeholders, and supporting the creation and improvement of institutional structures.

Watch the video on [Good land use management to reduce disasters in Tajikistan \(WOCAT\)](#)

For further information, contact one of our “Golden Ambassador” of the DRR network from Caritas Switzerland: [Sa'dy Odinašoev](#)



***Adoption of the new framework on DRR after long negotiations in Geneva and Sendai:***

After nine months of intensive preparation and negotiations in Geneva, delegations from 187 states and 6'500 participants made their way to Sendai City, Japan, to take part in the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR). The Conference ended in success on 18 March 2015 with the adoption of the new Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. As a result, for the first time in history, we dispose of a negotiated framework on DRR. With the process strongly interlinked with the Post-2015 process, the framework also prominently places DRR on the development agenda. The Swiss delegation headed by Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter played a key role in the negotiation and adoption of the framework. We have been happy to see that the key elements of Switzerland's position on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction have been included in the new framework.

Read here [the statement](#) of Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter

Read here the report on the high level meeting (SDC/UNDP) "[Risk informed development: making the case for resilient investment](#)"

For further information, contact: [Philipp Beutler](#)  
For further information contact: [Reynald Veillard](#)



***Switzerland will continue its supports to the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction***

There is an apparent gap between national policies for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and local level realities. While national DRR plans mostly prioritize on large-scale and high-impact events, the majority of disasters are small scale, recurrent and the result of environmental, economic, social, as well as political threats. However, these everyday disasters remain largely unacknowledged and unrecorded. Many are poorly understood and local communities are often left to deal with them through self-organization and self-reliance. On the other hand resilient communities are the building blocks of resilient nations. Without effectively building resilience at the local level, national targets cannot be met.

For this purpose, the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) has launched the “Frontline Programme”. Frontline uniquely finds out from local people what risks they face and how their lives and livelihoods are threatened by these risks. Local communities have detailed knowledge of local threats, their consequences, the capacities they have to address them and the barriers of underlying risk factors they face. This knowledge is the starting point for all further action to combine local level realities with other levels, including the national and global.

With over 800 member organizations and a presence in 129 countries, GNDR is the largest international network of civil society organizations committed to improving the lives of people affected by disasters. Switzerland will continue funding GNDR to ensure that local communities and civil society actors are given a voice in national and global policy dialogues.

Watch the video about “frontline programme”

For further information contact: [Frank Bertelsbeck](#)

## ***Management of the SDC DRR network***

**Our new website** can be visited at the following address: [SDC DRR website](#). You can find various information about DRR, SDC's and partners' engagement in the topic, tools and videos. We would be grateful to receive your feedback.

**Network membership:** As of today, the DRR Network has more than 320 members of which about 60% are from SDC and 40% from external organizations.

In the context of re-orienting and dynamizing the DRR Network as well as with the intention to add more value for its members, we are conducting a little membership survey to better understand the interests and needs of our members. If you haven't respond yet, please contact the focal point and inform if you are willing to be a

- Active member "Golden Ambassador"
- Passive member "News member"

### **Upcoming event**

31.8.15: Brown Bag Lunch in SDC AusserHolligen-Switzerland. Screening of the movie "5 municipalities prepare for natural disaster" in presence of the director Martin Moll.

10.9.15: Joint event CCE and DRR networks in Bern, Uni Tobler. Vanishing glaciers and Coping communities. Register [here](#).

**Next newsletter** will be shared in December 2015, under the theme "Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction".

For further information, contact: [Nadia Benani](#)