

SDC Disaster Risk Reduction Network



Dear SDC DRR Network members, dear colleagues

Resilience pays off. The title of this year's Global Platform for Disaster Reduction, held in Geneva next month, summarizes what we are working for, in our effort to improve societies' abilities to prevent a hazard to turn into a disaster, to safeguard development achievements, to understand how to reduce vulnerabilities.

Switzerland and UNISDR jointly convene the Global Platform. This is a special opportunity for Switzerland to showcase its experience in joining forces across sectors, and across stakeholder groups, by investing in prevention, preparedness – and resilience; and it is an important step to support the global dynamics driven by the Sendai Framework for DRR. Read more about the Global Platform in our lead article.



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The Swiss support to the multilateral system through secondments is another very effective instrument, for instance, in strengthening DRR. Erik Kjaergaard and Barbara Rothenberger share their experiences, working in the design of large DRR engineering and financing projects, and a risk-based needs-assessment at UNDP after the floods in Kerala. Enjoy the reading on Barbara's and Erik's experiences in this Newsletter

PS. Due to IT updates there might be interrupted access to the DRR shareweb in the coming weeks. To guarantee continued information access this newsletter makes mainly reference to external weblinks.

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Lead article: Global Platform for DRR 2019



The sixth session of the Global Platform for DRR (GPDRR) will take place in Geneva from 13 to 17 May 2019. The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the

Government of Switzerland jointly convene, and co-chair the Platform.

The event will integrate the outcomes of the regional DRR conferences in 2018, for a continuous implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR.

The GPDRR will thematically focus on the economic dimensions of DRR, calling for a continued investment in risk-informed and climate-smart development. History has taught us that resilience pays off.

For full information please consult the [GPDRR website](#), read the news on twitter [#GP2019Geneva](#), [#TheResilienceDividend](#), [#SendaiFramework](#) or other pages on [working sessions](#), [special sessions](#), [side events](#), [ministerial round tables](#), [high-level dialogues](#), [ignite stage](#), [innovation platform](#), [program](#), [process](#).

Check some selected events around the GPDRR:

- [World Reconstruction Conference \(WRC4\)](#) - Inclusion for resilient recovery (13/14.05.19)
- [Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference](#) (13/14.05.2019)
- [Stakeholder Forum](#) for preparation and coordination of GPDRR (13/14.05.2019)
- [Stakeholder Meetings - Private Sector](#) (14.05.2019)
- [Science and Policy Conference](#) (13/14.05.2019)
- [Africa Caribbean and Pacific Meeting](#) (15.05.2019)
- [Strategic Approach to Capacity Development Session](#) (16.05.2019)
- [Health emergency and Disaster Risk Management Symposium](#) (16.05.2019)

- Partnership Meeting of the Asia and Pacific Centre for Development of Disaster Information (16.05.2019)
 - Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster-Induced Mobility (17.05.2019)
 - Making Resilient Cities Campaign Event (17.05.2019)
 - [Field visits](#) (18.05.2019)
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Swiss engagement at the GPDRR

 Alternative text

As a co-host and co-organiser, Switzerland will participate in the official ceremonies, high-level dialogues and ministerial roundtables of the GPDRR, and be present with various stakeholders from governmental offices, private sector, academia and the civil society, and share innovative and long-standing experiences from successful Swiss Disaster Risk Management.

Visit Swiss DRM Expertise at the GPDRR:

- **Swiss Innovation Stand:** How can Early Warning serve daily challenges of a farmer, a City Mayor, a Construction company.... In Switzerland? Why is coordination across sectors important?
- **Swiss-Bolivian Learning Labs:** Cost-Benefit calculations are a fundament of sound decisions on investments in DRR. Learn about this collaboration based on Swiss and Bolivian expertise.
- **Swiss Learning Lab:** the Geneva Civil Protection and the Swiss Federal Office for Civil Protection present Local Disaster Management Experience for the City of Geneva.
- **Field visits:** On Saturday 18 May to disaster reduction practices in Switzerland. [Register here](#) by 30 April for Climate services, Mountain hazards, Flood management, Tsunami in Lake Geneva, or Earthquake protection
- **Exhibition "the white danger":** Living with Avalanches - Visit the exhibition of this UNESCO Heritage in front of the Swiss Innovation Stand at the GPDRR.
- [High level segments, opening and closing ceremony.](#)

>> **See you soon at the GPDRR!**

Who is who - new faces in the DRR team

Eric Bardou – Deputy Head of the Disaster Risk Reduction & Environment Specialised Group of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid. Eric has a long-standing experience in linking his engineering background in



Eric Bardou

hydrology and soil sciences, to the mapping of hazards and vulnerabilities. Since the year 2001, upon Eric's first intervention on a glacial outburst flood (GLOF), climate change adaptation is an integral part of his portfolio. As a member of the SHA specialized group since 18 years, Eric's experience englobes risk assessments, support for structural mitigation measures, and early warning systems (including organizational development) in Europe, North Africa and Central Asia. Eric follows Markus Zimmermann who left the post in January 2019. We wish to thank Markus for his tireless engagement (co)leading the DRR&Environment Group in the past 15 years, and extend a very warm 'welcome' to Eric !

Specials - Secondments in the field

Erik Kjaergaard: Working in an Environment of Engineers and Bankers (Secondment to the ADB)



Erik Kjaergaard representing ADB in a regional workshop

Erik Kjaergaard is Disaster Risk Management Specialist seconded by SDC to the South Asia Department (SARD) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He talks about his tasks, related challenges and achievements working in ADB's complex but powerful institutional environment. [Read the full interview.](#)

Barbara Rothenberger: Post-Flood-Disaster Needs Assessment in Kerala (deployment to the UNDP)

In 2018 right after the massive floods in Kerala / India the UN conducted a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), which

promotes an eco-sensitive and risk-informed recovery. Barbara Rothenberger was seconded to UNDP as SDC/SHA expert to contribute to the PDNA as a member of the Shelter sector team. In an article she describes the process, results and her working experience. [Read the full article.](#)



Barbara Rothenberger (middle) with her Indian mission colleagues.

Interesting publications and news

Risks and opportunities in Peru - A [scientific study](#) in the frame of the SDC [project glaciares+](#) focus on implications for future water management in the Andes. Despite all negative effects of glacier melting, future lakes bear also options for integrated disaster risk management (IDRM) and integrated water resources management (IWRM) potentially attenuating deglaciation-driven discharge variability and scarcity. New lakes could offer attractions for tourism.

Best-practice videos from Bolivia - The two videos document how innovation can validate indigenous know-how: [Forecasting the weather with a n app](#) and [Recording the weather by climate observers](#). Traditional Bolivian farmers and climate observers are supported by new technologies when making use of their signs of nature (bioindicators). An [initiative](#) of the Collaborative Crop research Program (CCRP) by the McKnight Foundation, supported by the SDC Global Program Food Security.

Taking Sendai Forward within IOM - [Progress Report](#) on DRR and Resilience 2018. Stock-taking of IOM's implementation action plan 2017-20.

Global, open-source risk assessment - [INFORM report 2019](#) - one of the most relevant information sources with data of 191 countries related to humanitarian crises and disasters.

Disaster Risk, Global Change and Sustainability Nexus - A [publication by GRID-Geneva and UNEP](#) on the evolution of the global understanding of 'risks' in the past decades, evolving from 'a direct consequence of natural hazards' to 'a compound event and calling for a better consider the role of global environmental change in disaster risk assessment.

Advocacy for Climate Change - 'Local evidence for disaster and climate resilient pathways' was the topic of the yearly [F2F workshop](#) of the Swiss NGO DRR Platform, key findings are summarized in a [packing list for advocacy](#). The Platform also launched a website with three [photo videos](#) on the impacts of climate change in the developing world.

Local Voices for Resilience - [Results from the Frontline Program](#) of GNDR (Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction). Lessons learnt and case studies from over 14'000 conversations around the world.

Policy coherence among international frameworks from a local perspective - GNDR started an initiative looking at policy coherence from the perspective of CSOs and local governments. These critical actors are closely connected to the realities where coherence is most needed. Key aspects are summarized in a [discussion paper](#) in Spanish and French.

New Research Findings on Safe Schools - Various publications by the Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector [GADRRRES](#), such as a [Report](#) and [webinar](#) on Comprehensive School Safety Policy with trends in the Asia-Pacific Region. A [Research-into-Action Brief](#) related to the development and implementation of the Comprehensive School Safety Policy. A series of [Policy Case Studies](#).

Past and upcoming events

Learning event (4 March 2019 - Bern) and forthcoming events

Learning event of the Swiss NGO DRR Platform on the topic of "Linking Relief, Rehabilitation (LRRD); Humanitarian - Development Nexus". [Documentation of this and further Platform events online](#).

International Conference (1 - 4 April 2019 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

International Conference on [Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change](#) (CBA13) on the topics of climate finance, adaptation technology and policy engagement.

GPDRR (13 - 17 May 2019 - Geneva)

Sixth Session of the [Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (GP2019) including various special events before and after GPDRR.

Training APC (June 2019 - Bangkok, Thailand)

Trainings by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)

- 1) [Gender in DRR](#), 10 - 14 Jun 2019
- 2) [Disaster Risk Communication](#), 24 - 28 Jun 2019

DRR Training SIDA (June 2019 - Feb. 2020 - Asia and Sweden)

[Training Program](#) in Disaster Risk Management supported by SIDA addressed for participants from Nepal, Bangladesh, Philippines and Cambodia.

Further events



Updates and further events on [the SDC DRR Shareweb](#)

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