

Disaster Risk Reduction and the policy marker DRR in a Nutshell

This document is intended to provide information on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and guidance on the use of the policy marker DRR. To this end, the document:

1. presents the international “Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction”,
2. defines how DRR is understood and taken into account at SDC,
3. provides guidance on how to use the policy marker DRR.



SENDAI FRAMEWORK

FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

1. The Sendai Framework

The United Nations endorsed Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 was adopted in March 2015.

Scope and purpose

It applies to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks. It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors.

Goal

Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that **prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience.**

Four priorities for action

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk



Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk



Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience



Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better"



Expected outcome

Its expected outcome is "the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries".

Seven global targets to achieve by 2030

Substantially reduce

- global disaster mortality;
- the number of affected people globally;
- direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product
- disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services

Substantially increase

- the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020
- international cooperation to developing countries;
- the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments



The Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals share several targets. For SDC, the Sendai Framework is important for its contribution to the achievement of all SDGs targeted in the implementation of the International Cooperation Strategy 2021–2024.

To facilitate the definition of objectives, the result-oriented management and the monitoring of projects as well as thematic learning, SDC has developed five Thematic Reference Indicators (TRI) for Disaster Risk Reduction in line with the targets of the Sendai Framework and the SDGs.

[More information on TRIs](#)

2. Disaster Risk Reduction at SDC

SDC's DRR activities promote the goal and global targets of the Sendai Framework. However, SDC's current definition¹ of DRR is not as broad as the one from the Sendai Framework.

DRR as currently taken into account at SDC

A disaster is a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.

$$\text{Disaster risk} = \text{Hazard} \times \text{Exposure} \times \text{Vulnerability}$$

Types of hazards considered in DRR at SDC

Hazard group	Main events
Geophysical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthquake (e.g. ground movement, tsunami) • Mass movement (dry, e.g. rock fall, landslide) • Volcanic activity
Meteorological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm • Tropical cyclone • Extreme temperature
Hydrological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood • Landslide, mudflow, avalanche • Wave action
Climatological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought • Glacial lake outburst • Wildfire
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental degradation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil degradation • Deforestation • Loss of biodiversity • Salinization • Sea-level rise
Technological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technological hazards caused by or causing natural hazards mentioned above (e.g. dam failures, power failure).

Types of hazards NOT considered in DRR at SDC under current DRR Guidelines

Hazard group	Main event
Biological ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human and animals diseases • Insect infestation (e.g. locusts)
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical and chemical pollution of air, water and soil
Technological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technological hazards NOT caused by or causing natural hazards mentioned above, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial pollution • Nuclear radiation • Toxic wastes • Transport accidents • Factory explosions • Chemical spills
Societal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political threats • Crime • Terrorism • Cyber attacks • Armed conflict • Other societal threats
Extra-terrestrial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact (e.g. meteoroid, asteroid) • Space weather (e.g. geomagnetic storm)

¹ SDC Guidelines on Disaster Risk Reduction will be revised in 2020–2021

² Normally not covered by SDC's DRR programmes, but may be targeted in special circumstances

A **hazard** is a process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. SDC addresses various types of hazards in its Development and Humanitarian programmes and projects. However, not all of them are considered in DRR under the current SDC Guidelines on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Exposure and **vulnerability** mainly due to population growth, unplanned urbanization, environmental degradation and increasing poverty are expected to continue to increase if not addressed properly, exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

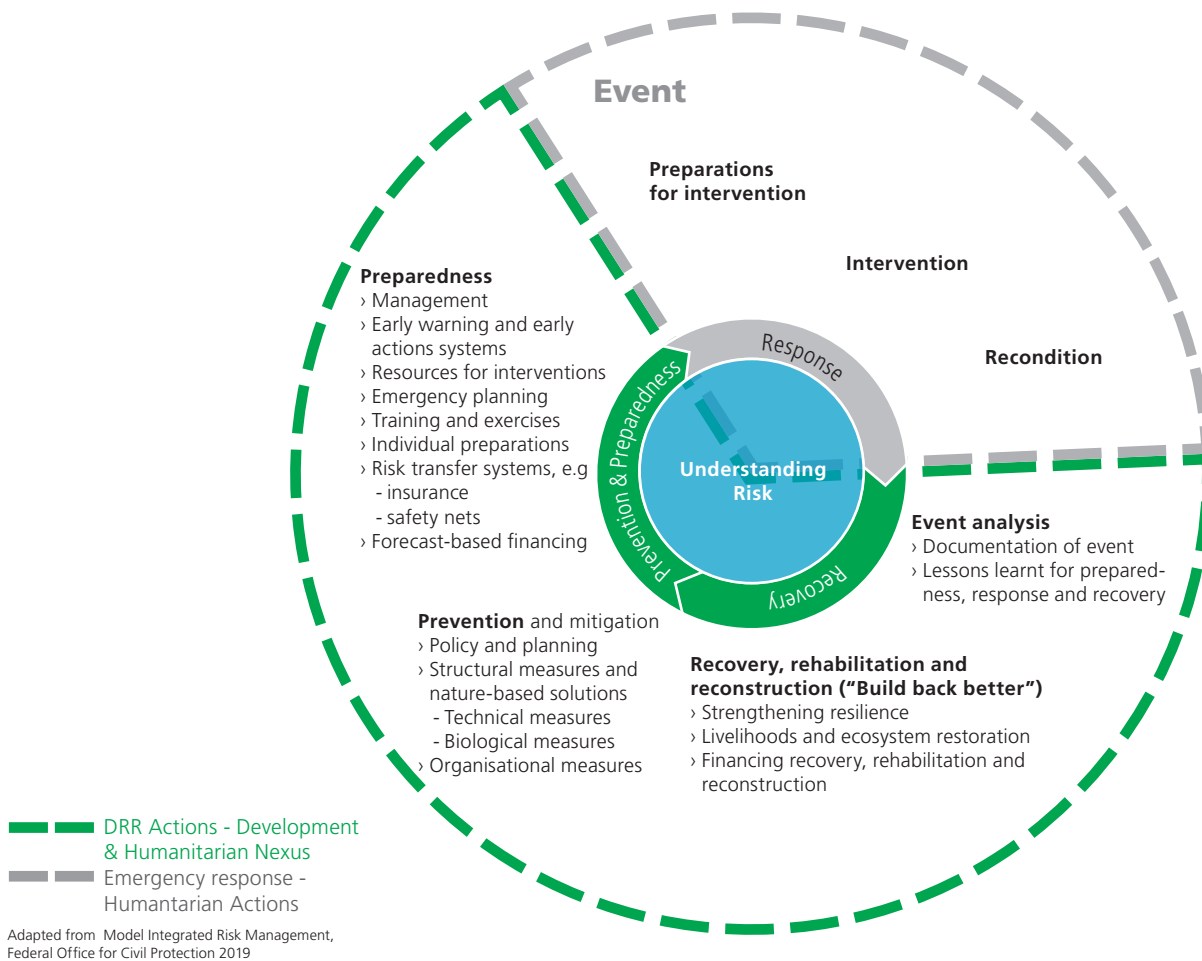
Disaster risk reduction refers to the practice of assessing the variety of disaster risk factors and managing them, by reducing the hazard, exposure or the vulnerability of people and assets. According to the international terminology, DRR is the policy objective (outcome) of disaster risk management (process of managing risks). Disaster risk management is the application of disaster risk reduction policies and strategies to prevent new disaster risk, reduce existing disaster risk and manage residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening of resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development.

SDC's DRR approach is based on three lines of action:

1. Implementing targeted DRR programmes,
2. Mainstreaming DRR within SDC and systematically incorporating DRR considerations into programmes and projects where relevant, and
3. Influencing international DRR policy system and institutions.

Within these lines of action, DRR activities can take various forms, such as institutional and policy development, technical support for implementation, capacity-building, training, awareness raising, etc. However, these activities are always based on risk assessment and fit into the Integrated Risk Management cycle (cf. p.4).

DRR Actions within the Integrated Risk Management cycle



Understanding risk

A risk assessment serves as a basis for the designing of the project. It is important to **know the risks!** Several tools can help you with the multi-hazard risk assessment:

[CEDRIG](#)

[SDC Guidelines on Disaster Risk Reduction³](#)

Examples of measures implemented within DRR Actions

Examples of prevention and mitigation measures

- › **Policy and planning:** e.g. disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, building regulations, fire safety, land-use and spatial planning (land use based on risk maps, sustainable land management, etc.)
- › **Technical measures:** e.g. seismic engineering, flood barriers, deflection structures, limitation of water evaporation on fields, minimum mechanical soil disturbance, water reservoirs, etc.
- › **Biological measures:** e.g. reforestation, management of protective forests, protection of soils against erosion, drought-resistant crops, mangrove restoration and preservation, agroforestry, etc.
- › **Organisational measures:** e.g. temporary ban on naked flames, closure of roads, evacuation of dwellings, public awareness programmes, etc.

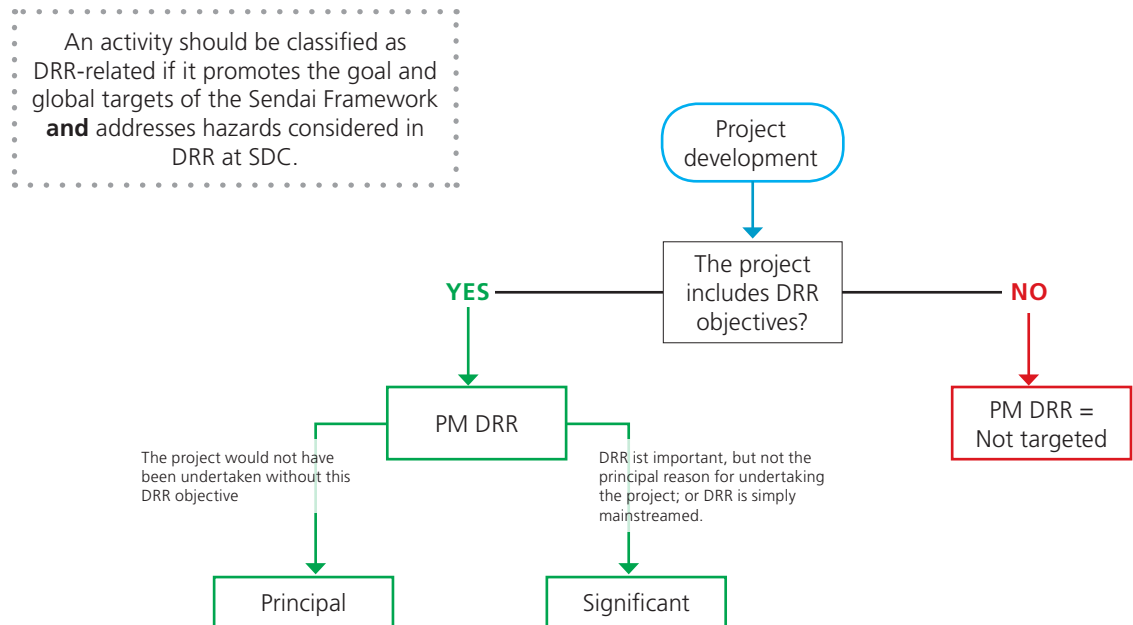
Potential sources for financing recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

- › Existing insurance policies, own reserves, loans, specific funds, etc.

³ DRR Guidelines include a list of tools and reference documents

3. Policy Marker Disaster Risk Reduction (PM DRR)

Switzerland committed to the Sendai Framework and to report against its targets. For this purpose, we use the Policy Marker DRR.



- Eligibility criteria for the policy marker DRR (Principal or Significant):**
- › The objectives are explicitly promoted in project documentation
 - › The activity contributes to:
 - the prevention of new disaster risk, and/or
 - the reduction of existing disaster risk, and/or
 - the strengthening of resiliencethrough the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional **measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, and increase preparedness for response and recovery** with the explicit purpose of increasing human security, well-being, quality of life, resilience, and sustainable development.
- Note: the emergency response activities should not be marked with the policy marker DRR.

Further information:

Disaster Risk Reduction:

[DRR Network shareweb](#)

[SDC Guidelines on Disaster Risk Reduction](#)

[UNDRR](#)

[Terminology related to DRR](#)

[Implementing the Sendai Framework to achieve the SDG](#)

Policy markers:

[Manual on SAP characteristics](#) and

[FAQs on Policy Markers](#)

Contact:

[DRR Team](#)