



Call for Papers

Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2019

Background

The UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR) is the flagship report of the United Nations on worldwide efforts to reduce disaster risk, and is published biennially by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). The GAR is a vehicle to show-case Member States' and non-State stakeholders' progress in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as the disaster-related targets of the SDGs, to assess global risk trends, and to present innovative research and knowledge to enhance understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions. All with the objective to support risk reduction efforts globally.

Developed through an extensive set of partnerships with international organizations, governments, businesses, academic and research institutions, the GAR is both an ongoing process of evidence generation and policy engagement, as well as biennial opportunity to showcase and report.

In so doing, it promotes access to risk information for decision-making, and identifies feasible practices that can be employed at the local, national, regional and international levels. The report contributes to the biennial Regional and Global Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Progress reporting that is provided by countries through the Sendai Framework Monitor System, is captured in the GAR as well as the annual Report on the SDGs.

Structure

The 2019 UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR19) entails four chapters:

- 1. Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and disaster risk-informed Sustainable Development:** a review of global, regional, national and local progress and challenges, including in support of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda.
- 2. Global risk trends:** patterns and trends in global disaster risk and vulnerability – initiating the shift from a single model to a global intercomparison approach, introducing interactions with systemic risks with an emphasis on drought, and the Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF).



3. **Creating the national and local conditions to manage risk:** reaching Sendai Framework Target E - Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, exploring progress in establishing the basis for national and local risk-informed decision-making and investment across all-of-State-institutions at national and local levels.
4. **Introducing the hazard and risk scope of the Sendai Framework:** introducing biological, technological and environmental hazards and risks – identifying impacts, interrelationships with natural hazards, and existing measures – and providing a preliminary investigation of the dynamic interactions with systemic risks that shape the interface with the Sendai Framework and other international agreements.

Purpose

The purpose of this Call for Papers is to encourage additional research investigating the contributory factors to our understanding of the creation and propagation of disaster risk, as well as the conducive conditions and impediments to the prevention of its formation, its reduction and the strengthening of the resilience of societies. Research will inter alia provide insight into the genetics of risk creation and propagation, identify good practices in managing risk, highlight the impacts of disaster risk reduction measures at all scales, and explore what drives risk perception and behavior.

Common Themes

GAR19 will apply a number of lenses throughout the analysis featured in the report – see below. Authors are invited to consider these when submitting their abstracts:

- **Coherence** – integrated risk informed and sustainable development pathways; contributions to the achievement of the goals and outcomes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda.
- **Inclusion** – consistent with the theme of the 2019 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development - *Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*.
- **Systems risk** – disaster risk and its dynamic interactions with social, ecological, economic and political systems.
- **Behavior** – appraising and evaluating behavior, with and without risk knowledge and action, and the conditions that contribute to change.



The Call

As part of the development of the GAR19, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) is issuing a Call for Papers that present research, oriented by Chapter, addressing the following issues:

Chapter 1 Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and disaster risk-informed Sustainable Development

Chapter 1 will present trends and analysis of progress by Member States and non-State stakeholders in implementing the Sendai Framework, principally based on data collected in the online Sendai Framework Monitor. This chapter will also present analysis in the context of the contribution of the Sendai Framework to the achievement of the SDGs, exploring trends in disaster loss and damage, and examine measures undertaken by Member States and non-State stakeholders to deliver the expected outcomes and goals, realize both global and nationally-determined targets and priorities, and fulfil monitoring and reporting requirements.

1.1 Risk Reduction in the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda

Papers should address one or more of the below topics:

- Progress made in implementing risk-informed sustainable development at sub-national, national and regional levels
- Global, regional, national or local efforts to integrate disaster-related data in national statistical systems
- Lessons learned or case studies on the impact of successful or failed integration of disaster-related statistics in national statistical systems

1.2 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – Progress Review 2015 - 2017

Papers should address one or more of the below topics:

- Disaster loss and damage trends 2015 – 2017 from additional sources (excluding Desinventar or CRED/EMDAT) related to the Sendai Framework global targets / indicators.
- Thematic research on progress towards reaching the Sendai Framework global targets:
 - Reducing disaster mortality
 - Reducing number of affected people by disasters
 - Reducing economic losses due to disasters



- Reducing damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services
 - Enhancing international cooperation to developing countries to reduce disaster risk
 - Increasing the number of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies
 - Increasing availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information
- Qualitative and quantitative analysis of efforts made by countries in developing and retrofitting national disaster loss accounting systems and developing disaster-related statistics
 - Progress made in establishing the basis for national and local risk-informed decision-making and investment across all-of-State institutions at national and sub-national levels
 - Progress in the evolution of the policy environment at regional, national and sub-national scales, and consequences for risk-informed decision-making at all scales

Chapter 2 Global Risk Trends

Chapter 2 will explore current and future risk trends, introducing a systemic risk approach, with emphasis on drought as exemplar of complex, multi-dimensional, cascading risk. The chapter will describe the concept and roadmap for developing the Global Risk Assessment Framework, and the shift to inclusive, collaborative modelling and assessment approaches providing systems risk perspectives, able to combine and inter-compare a variety of risk information translating it into understandable and applicable tools and products that will support risk-informed decision-making.

2.1 Global Risk Trends – on the road to a comprehensive Global Risk Assessment Framework

Papers should address one or more of the below topics:

- Current global and future risk trends regarding geological or geophysicalⁱ, hydro-meteorologicalⁱⁱ, slow and rapid onset hazardsⁱⁱⁱ at any scale
- Updated vulnerability analyses, especially social vulnerability
- Updated representation of global exposure to hazards
- Analysis of disaster risk impact / consequence – sectoral, cascading (impact models, conceptual models, etc.)
- Inter-comparison approaches – risk models, risk assessment, impact models; pros / cons in defining risk trends



2.2 Global Drought Risk examined

Papers should address one or more of the below topics:

- Drought risk components (hazard, exposure, vulnerability) and drivers
- Drought risk – scale and impact
- Agricultural drought risk – farming systems, food systems, market dynamics
- Drought risk management – proactive, reactive; policies and plans

2.3 Contextualizing global risk trends – making global risk data locally applicable

Papers should address one or more of the below topics:

- Contextualizing global risk models for local action (for example, through socio-economic indicators, innovative combination of various data sources, etc.)
- Making data count; the contribution of emerging technologies (AI, machine learning, deep learning, etc.)
- Overcoming data gaps in developing risk trends

2.4 Effective communication of risk – information that creates the case for action

Papers should address one or more of the below topics:

- Risk communication successes; impacts, corollary action, impediments, case studies
- Risk information products, services and presentation (scenarios, maps, graphs...) – what works, why and when
- Integrating risk in decision-making, principles for risk communication, interdisciplinary risk communication
- The relationship between the Sendai Framework, interconnected risk and sustainable finance; the transmission and application of risk information by the science, policy and investment communities

Chapter 3 Creating the national and local conditions to manage risk

Chapter 3 will examine the evolving policy environment since 2015 and the progress made towards substantially increasing the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies. This being Global Target E of the Sendai Frameworkⁱ the deadline for which is 2020. The chapter will showcase successful examples of risk informed decision-making



at regional, national and sub-national scales, and in a variety of scenarios – including ‘fragile contexts’ – with the view to guide and steer efforts towards achieving risk-informed sustainable development in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

3.1 Stand-alone disaster risk reduction strategies and plans

Papers should address one or more of the below topics:

- Cases of Sendai-compliant national and/or local disaster risk reduction strategies integrating the ten components agreed by Member States^{iv}
- Conducive and hindering factors in developing stand-alone national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and their impact
- Successful national and local disaster risk reduction actions in absence of enabling policies/governance arrangements

3.2 Disaster risk reduction integrated in development strategies and plans

Papers should address one or more of the below topics:

- Cases of successful risk-informed (Sendai-compliant) development planning at national and sub-national levels, multi-sectoral, interdisciplinary integration of disaster risk reduction
- Research on sectors involved in the development of such strategies and conducive contextual drivers for successful implementation

3.3 Disaster risk reduction integrated in climate adaptation strategies and plans

Papers should address one or more of the below topics:

- Cases of national and local climate adaptation strategies and plans in which disaster risk reduction elements have been integrated, or vice versa
- Impact and consequences of integrated disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies at national and sub-national levels

3.4 Disaster risk reduction strategies developed in fragile contexts

Papers should address one or more of the below topics:

- Cases of national or sub-national disaster risk reduction strategies or plans that have been developed and successfully implemented in fragile contexts, complex emergencies
- Research on successful integration of disaster risk reduction in humanitarian action plans, transitional plans etc.



Chapter 4.0 Introducing the hazard and risk scope of the Sendai Framework

Chapter 4 will introduce some of the additional hazard and risks presented in the Sendai Framework, and their dynamic interactions with systemic risk. This edition of the GAR will provide a preliminary examination of some of the biological, technological and environmental hazards and risks, alongside the inter-connected relationships and dependencies that exist within and across social, ecological, political and economic systems and behaviors.

Papers should address one or more of the below topics:

- Risk assessment, analysis of social, environmental and economic impacts of, governance and risk management approaches to:
 - Biological hazards and risks^v
 - Technological hazards and risks^{vi}
 - Environmental hazards and risks^{vii}
- Research on multi-dimensional, cascading risk phenomena and dependencies that exist within social, ecological and economic systems and behaviors.
- Investigation of the systemic risks that are embedded within the complex networks of an interconnected world, and which shape the dynamic interactions with the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda, contributing to the determination of exposure and vulnerability at all scales.
- Understanding the nature of disasters / shocks and ensuing systems reverberations, feedback loops, and examining sensitivities to change.
- Comparative analytics contrasting disaster risk governance approaches established to manage disaster risk related to natural hazards, with those addressing man-made hazards.

Timelines/Requirements

- Deadline for submission of abstracts for GAR19 papers is the **3 June 2018**.
- Abstracts must be 300 words or less.
- Abstracts must be submitted in English to katsanakis@un.org and chiara.menchise-intern@un.org using the submission template available via <https://www.preventionweb.net/news/view/58255>
- Authors are encouraged to read the GAR19 concept note in preparation of their abstract, which is available via <https://www.preventionweb.net/news/view/58255>
- Selection will be conducted by UNISDR, whereupon successful authors will be notified by 15 June, 2018 to develop full GAR19 papers for submission by 15 August, 2018.
- All papers having successfully passed peer-review will be made available online as an annex to GAR19 by May 2019.



For more information, contact: Rhea Katsanakis at katsanakis@un.org and Chiara Menchise chiara.menchise-intern@un.org

Endnotes

ⁱ Taking origins from internal earth processes. Examples are earthquakes, volcanic activity and emissions, and related geophysical processes such as mass movements, landslides, rockslides, surface collapses, and debris or mud flows. Hydro-meteorological factors are important contributors to some of these processes. Tsunamis triggered by undersea earthquakes and other geological events, they essentially become oceanic process that is manifested as a coastal water-related hazard.

ⁱⁱ Examples are tropical cyclones (also known as typhoons and hurricanes), floods including flash floods, drought, heatwaves and cold spells and coastal storm surges. Hydro-meteorological conditions may also be a factor in other hazards such as landslides, wildland fires, locust plagues, epidemics, and in the transport and dispersal of toxic substances and volcanic eruption material.

ⁱⁱⁱ Rapid as earthquakes, with early warning as for cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons or slow as for droughts

^{viii}. Have different timescales, with targets, indicators and time frames:

- a. Aims at preventing the creation of risk
- b. Aims at reducing existing risk
- c. Aims at strengthening economic, social, health and environmental resilience
- d. Address the recommendations of Priority 1, Understanding disaster risk: Based on risk knowledge and assessments to identify risks at the local and national levels of the technical, financial and administrative disaster risk management capacity
- e. Address the recommendations of Priority 2, Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk: Mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction within and across all sectors with defining roles and responsibilities
- f. Address the recommendations of Priority 3, Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience: Guide to allocation of the necessary resources at all levels of administration for the development and the implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies in all relevant sectors
- g. Address the recommendations of Priority 4, Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction: Strengthen disaster preparedness for response and integrate disaster risk reduction response preparedness and development measures to make nations and communities resilient to disasters
- h. Promotes policy coherence relevant to disaster risk reduction such as sustainable development, poverty eradication, and climate change, notably with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement
- i. Have mechanisms to follow-up, periodically assess and publicly report on progress.

^v Of organic origin or conveyed by biological vectors, including pathogenic micro-organisms, toxins and bioactive substances. Examples are bacteria, viruses or parasites as well as venomous wildlife and insects, poisonous plants, and mosquitoes carrying disease-causing agents.

^{vi} Originate from technological or industrial conditions, dangerous procedures, infrastructure failures or specific human activities. Examples include industrial pollution, nuclear radiation, toxic wastes, dam failures, transport



accidents, factory explosions, fires and chemical spills. Technological hazards also may arise directly as a result of the impacts of a natural hazard event.

^{vii}Such as chemical, natural and biological hazards. They can be created by environmental degradation, physical or chemical pollution in the air, water and soil.