UNICEF and the Sendai DRR Framework
April 2015

What was at stake in Sendai?
2. Commitments to the framework by Member States and other stakeholders.
3. As a key component of UNICEF’s work on DRR and resilience, our main expectations were for a framework with a multi-risk approach (including links to conflict), increased accountability, child centered and inclusive with a recognition of the role of social services.

What was achieved at Sendai
1. An agreed framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).
2. A broader focus in terms of risks. The Framework contains a focus on natural hazards, strong operational links to climate change and a recognition of health related shocks. Though conflict was removed, there was a tacit understanding among many participants, on the linkage between disaster and conflict and the need for an all risks approach and focus on resilience determined by context.
3. Increased accountability. The new Framework has seven targets (the HFA did not have targets), thirteen principles, four priorities for action and a political declaration expressing the commitment of Heads of State and governments to implement it. Indicators are to be developed and a proposal to establish an expert working group to do so will be tabled at the GA. The formal monitoring mechanism remains under discussion to ensure alignment with other post-2015 processes. The GA will consider using the HLPF (High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development) that was set up to monitor the post-2015 agenda. To date UNISDR has monitored the HFA through the HFA Monitor as well as Global/Regional Platforms.
4. A focus on a people centered approach and greater inclusiveness. This was included following strong advocacy among others from UNICEF and the Major Groups (NGOs, Women, Children and Youth). The role of communities as well as the vulnerability and empowerment of women, children and youth, people with disability and the aged, is central in the new framework.
5. Renewed commitments for DRR and resilience. Though there was a lack of agreement on financing, important commitments in terms of alliances, capacity, skills and knowledge were made with a strong focus on national implementation (see attachment for key announcements). With the exception of Japan, that pledged four billion dollars, no States made concrete financial commitments, and despite a call for financing from the G77, deliberations over financing were pushed back to the upcoming Addis and Paris meetings. The Framework does call on UNFCCC and IFIs to support implementation (see attached Sendai Commitments Overview).
6. Areas where agreement was not reached: Member States were setting out their positions ahead of the final SDG and the 2st Session of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC/COP 21) processes. There was significant disagreement over Common but Differentiated Responsibilities – the principle of establishing that all states are responsible for addressing increasing disaster risk yet not equally responsible (which was removed from the final text), financing (which was deferred for further discussion at the Addis Financing For Development and COP 21 meetings in July and December respectively) and inclusion of conflict (which was removed from the final text as issues related to “occupation” were tabled by some Member States). It is worth noting that the zero draft of the Addis FFD outcome document highlights the need ‘to build climate and disaster resilience considerations into development assistance to ensure the sustainability of development results.’
**Sendai Framework For Action – Targets (Note: measurable indicators will be developed)**

1. Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015.
2. Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015.
3. Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
4. Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.
5. Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
6. Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this framework by 2030.
7. Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

**What Sendai means for children**

The majority of issues advocated for by UNICEF, NGO partners and the Major Group on Children and Youth have been included in the Framework, with the exception of the links to conflict and explicit mention of protection. Further opportunities exist in the development of the indicators. Key issues addressed in the framework include:

1. That development and recovery must be informed by a disaggregated analysis (age, sex and ability) of the risks posed by natural hazards and wider shocks.
2. That policies and practices should empower and promote the participation of all groups, especially children, women and those with disability, specifically:
   a. That children and youth are agents of change and should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with legislation and practice.
   b. That women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes.
3. The impacts that disasters have on the provision of, and access to, social services (included in one of the seven targets with a particular mention of education and health facilities).
4. The special role that schools and education play in reducing disaster risk. This includes support to scale up the structural safety of schools, emergency preparedness, and knowledge and education.
5. The health impacts of disasters and the role of health systems and community health care workers in reducing risk.
6. The need to better understand specific risks posed by water related disasters and to strengthen critical infrastructure.
7. The continued investment in preparedness and risk informed response and recovery (included in the Framework’s Priorities For Action).
8. The strengthening of the implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net mechanisms, including through community involvement.
9. That specific action is needed on tackling underlying disaster risk drivers, such as the consequences of poverty and inequality, climate change and variability, unplanned and rapid urbanization.

**Next Steps**

UNICEF will continue to strengthen the link between humanitarian and development work and build internal capacities to support Disaster Risk Reduction and enhance resilience. Where appropriate, depending on how government partners advance the issue at national level, DRR will be aligned with a multi risk approach which includes conflict. The following steps are proposed--many of which stem from the Kathmandu Action Plan on resilience or build on existing programme initiatives at country level and are already work in progress--for high risk countries prioritized in each region based on risk levels, programme cycle entry points and levels of commitment by government, UNCT and CO:

1. Increase the use of robust risk assessment to inform programmes (including through Sitan) and strengthen government risk assessment capacity. This should draw from existing experience such as the Child Centered Risk Assessment, guidance to government on municipal risk assessment and tools on resilience measurement.
2. Replicate work on comprehensive school safety (structural, preparedness and teaching/life skills) based on experience and linking to conflict work as appropriate.
3. Strengthen primary health care systems informed by an analysis of risk and that are decentralized and community-based so they not only reduce vulnerability related to health and nutrition, but are resilient and more sustainable themselves.
4. Support water, sanitation and hygiene services that consider all risks, including those additional risks posed by climate change, and build the adaptive capacity of communities themselves to deal with shocks and stress.
5. Promote social protection and safety net measures that are available to those most at risk to mitigate the impacts of floods, droughts and other shocks.

*In support of these actions at country level, the following will be pursued:*

6. Consolidate and strengthen guidance and capacities for risk assessment and risk-informed situation analyses. Develop sector specific guidance on risk informed programming and mechanisms to integrate programmes across sectors.
7. Develop and roll-out out a capacity development strategy for CO/RO/HQ on risk informed programming (including DRR).
8. Enhance RO capacity through the use of standby arrangements – in particular NRC and MSB as mentioned above - to support COS in risk informed programming.
9. Identify from the Strategic Plan a set of equity-based risk/resilience related indicators that can also inform the implementation of the Sendai Framework. If additional indicators are needed, consider these as part of the MTR of the SP.
10. Strengthen the knowledge platform and evidence base on DRR/resilience including through documentation and sharing of good practice.

UNICEF will also advocate on children and risk through the multiple post 2015 processes (FFD, COP 21, SDGs, WHS). Moreover, UNICEF will coordinate with UNISDR to offer its expert support to develop indicators for the Sendai Framework targets. Finally, UNICEF will continue to pursue the possibility of accreditation to the Green Climate Fund.