

Words into Action Guidelines Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation

Integrating disaster risk management with water
management and climate change adaptation



In support of the


SENDAI FRAMEWORK
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030



UNITED NATIONS

Words into Action

Engaging for resilience in support of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

The Words into Action (WiA) guidelines series aims to ensure worldwide access to expertise, communities of practice and networks of DRR practitioners. The guidelines offer specific advice on the steps suggested to implement a feasible and people-centered approach in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. While these guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive handbooks that cover each detail, those who need in-depth information will find references to other sources of information.

On the basis of a knowledge co-production approach, WiA work groups use a participatory approach that ensures a wide and representative diversity in knowledge sources. WiA is primarily a knowledge translation product converting a complex set of concepts and information sources into a simpler and synthesized tool for understanding risk and learning. It is also meant to be a catalyser for engagement of partners and other actors.

In summary, the WiA guidelines are pragmatic roadmaps to programming an effective implementation strategy. This is facilitated by promoting a good understanding of the main issues, obstacles, solution finding strategies, resourcing and aspects for efficient planning. The guidelines can be valuable resources for national and local capacity building through workshops and training in academic and professional settings. They can also serve as a reference for policy and technical discussions.

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Midès Canyon is a mountain oasis situated in the old village of Midès which was abandoned in 1969 after floods that killed more than 400 people. Midès is located very close to the border between Algeria and Tunisia.

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

WORDS INTO ACTION GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE FOR ADDRESSING WATER-RELATED DISASTERS AND TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

INTEGRATING DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT WITH WATER
MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

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Foreword

Over the past twenty years, there has been a sustained rise and frequency in the number of climate-related disasters such as floods and droughts. A large part of disaster risk is directly or indirectly linked to water. It is estimated that the global average annual loss from disasters will increase from an annual average of US\$ 260 billion in 2015 to US\$ 414 billion by 2030. This puts at risk economic growth, poverty reduction, peace, and more generally, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Adopted by the United Nations Member States in 2015, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 was conceived to reduce and to prevent disaster risk and losses related to lives and livelihoods, economic losses and damage to infrastructure. This is achieved by greater understanding of disaster risk, by strengthening resilience of people and communities with focus on those most at risk, and by decisive action by all of society to ensure risk informed development, planning and investments. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) is the focal point of the United Nations system for disaster risk reduction and the custodian of the Sendai Framework, supporting countries and societies in its implementation, monitoring and review of progress.

Disasters do not respect borders. International basins represent nearly half of the Earth's land surface and are home to 40 per cent of the world's population. Thus, risks and challenges associated with their management are frequently shared by neighbouring countries. Transboundary cooperation is often key to successfully reducing disaster risk and water-related hazards, highlighting the need for strong collaboration across borders. The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) serviced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) requires countries to cooperate in managing transboundary waters and addressing disasters, and it supports them through the development of guidance, exchange of experiences and projects on the ground.

This Words into Action guide intends to strengthen the capacity of Member States to implement the Sendai Framework and the Water Convention by offering a road map with concrete examples to help address water-related disasters, especially in situations where the transboundary context adds to the complexity of risk reduction. It specifically targets the water, disaster risk reduction and climate change communities and aims to bring them together so that they may jointly design effective and comprehensive disaster reduction measures.

While transboundary cooperation and sectoral cooperation may further complicate the implementation of disaster risk reduction measures, it also offers unique possibilities to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of plans and programmes by advancing synergies arising from cooperation and resulting in more robust risk reduction activities.

We hope this guide will provide readers, governments and other actors with useful advice to enhance transboundary cooperation in light of the increasing pressures on water resources and the adverse effects of climate change.



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List of abbreviations and acronyms

| | |
|---------------|---|
| CBA | Cost-benefit analysis |
| CCA | Climate change adaptation |
| COP | Conference of the Parties |
| DRA | Disaster Risk Assessment |
| DRM | Disaster Risk Management |
| DRR | Disaster Risk Reduction |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EU | European Union |
| FD | Floods Directive |
| FRMP | Flood Risk Management Plan |
| ICPDR | International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River |
| ICPR | International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine |
| IGO | Intergovernmental organization |
| INBO | International Network of Basin Organizations |
| IRBD | International River Basin District |
| IWRM | Integrated Water Resources Management |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| GWP | Global Water Partnership |
| MCA | Multi-criteria analysis |
| NGO | Non-governmental organization |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| PEDRR | Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| UNECE | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNISDR | United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction |
| WCDRR | United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction |
| WMO | World Meteorological Organization |