



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Disaster Management and Risk Analysis



“Disasters are occurring with increasing frequency and intensity, bringing devastating human consequences and macroeconomic impacts. In support of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and in collaboration with UNDRR, our training offer aims to strengthen government authorities’ capacities in risk assessment and analytics, data collection and monitoring and evaluation for designing actionable management strategies”.

Michelle Gyles-McDonnough
United Nations Assistant
Secretary-General
Executive Director, UNITAR

“In a world of increasingly complex and interconnected risks, disaster risk reduction is a shared responsibility. Understanding risk is the first step toward effective planning, stronger resilience, and early action. Through training, collaboration across sectors and disciplines, and shared action, we can help prevent hazards from becoming disasters”.

Kamal Kishore
Special Representative of the United
Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk
Reduction
Head, United Nations Office for Disaster
Risk Reduction (UNDRR)



Why is our work important?



Over 40,000 people were killed or missing each year (2015-2024) due to disasters, and 121 million people affected annually.¹

Annual disaster losses are around \$202B, rising to \$2.3T including cascading impacts.²



In 2024, global temperature exceeded +1.5°C above pre-industrial levels for the first time.

In 2024, 93% of losses were weather-related.



Severe storms are becoming more frequent and more intense.

Tropical cyclones alone cost \$135B in 2024.



Disaster risk is increasing, especially in hazard-prone urban areas, raising exposure and vulnerability.

1. Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems 2025

2. Global Assessment on Disaster Risk Reduction 2025



Understanding Disaster Risk to Strengthen Resilience

Risk knowledge is fundamental for effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) as it enables communities, civil society, governments, the private sector, the United Nations system and the international community to make informed decisions that save lives and protect livelihoods.

UNITAR, in collaboration with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) has developed an online training portfolio building on technical guidance and tools designed by UNDRR.

Together with partners around the world, we disseminate and make widely available online training packages and deliver capacity building activities to support Member States and local actors to strengthen risk knowledge and advance its application in decision-making.

Areas of work



Risk analysis

- to understand risk drivers and develop actionable strategies.
- to analyze potential hazards and evaluate existing conditions of exposure and vulnerability.
- to protect people, property, services, livelihoods and the environment on which they depend on.



Local Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- to develop DRR strategies and plans.
- to link national strategies, local implementation and community engagement.
- to empower communities and local governments to build local resilience.



Monitoring and Evaluation

- to assess the effectiveness of early warning systems.
- to track and assess hazardous events, losses and damages.
- to strengthen early warning strategies and strengthen understanding of the multidimensional nature and impacts of disasters.

Strengthening Institutions to of Global Commitments



PACT FOR THE FUTURE

The **Pact for the Future**, adopted in 2024, underscores the need to promote a disaster risk-informed approach to sustainable development that integrates disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes and investments at all levels.



SENDAI FRAMEWORK
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030** calls for focused action on:

- Enhancing **risk knowledge**
- Strengthening disaster risk **governance**
- **Investing** in disaster risk reduction for resilience
- Enhancing disaster **preparedness**

Accelerate the Achievement and National Priorities

Leave No One Behind as the central principle of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** means that Disaster Risk Action (DRR) must empower and protect the people and places where hazards and vulnerability intersect most sharply.



- Including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- Promoting the effective and full participation of women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and youth in global, regional, national and local DRR actions.

Our Training Programmes



Risk Analysis

Words into Action National Disaster Risk Assessment

Building on UNDRR's National Disaster Risk Assessments (NDRA), our online training course provides a comprehensive overview of the policy objectives, governance structures, and processes involved in designing, implementing, and utilizing national disaster risk assessments.



Target audience: Leads of NDRA authorities, National Government Ministries, related National Technical Institutions, DRM practitioners at national, subnational, and local levels, regional and global development institutions, technical experts, academics, and research centers on knowledge creation.

Risk Assessment for National Planning Processes

The course, offered in self-paced and facilitated formats, aims to deepen understanding of risk analysis for disaster risk reduction and the relevance of integrating risk analysis in planning documents such as the Humanitarian Programme Cycles (HPCs) and Common Country Assessments (CCAs).



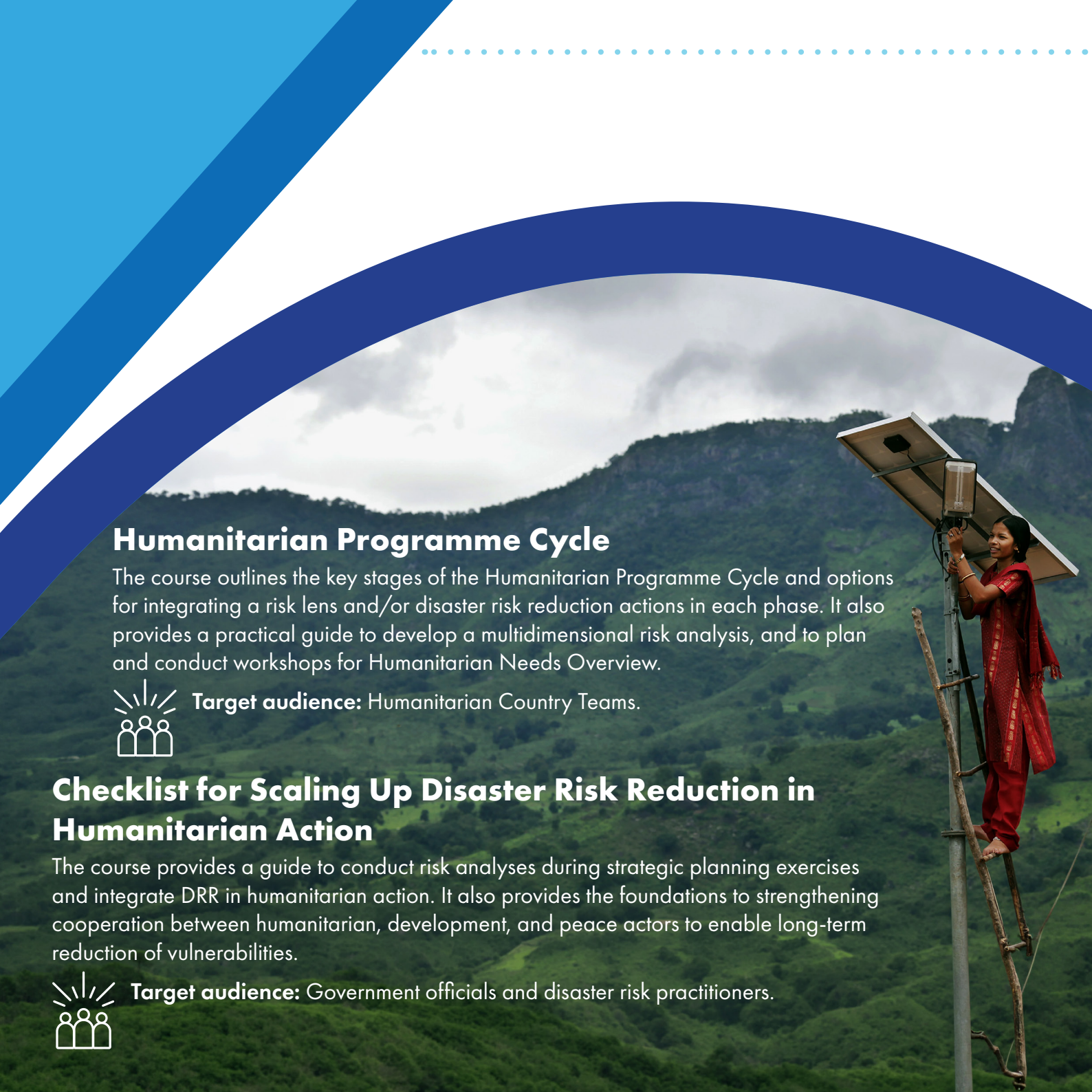
Target audience: UN Resident Coordinators and high-level government officials.

Common Country Assessment

The course reviews methods to use a risk-sensitive approach in the formulation of Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework processes. It offers a practical guide to plan and prepare and conduct a risk analysis workshop for CCAs.



Target audience: UN Country Teams.



Humanitarian Programme Cycle

The course outlines the key stages of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle and options for integrating a risk lens and/or disaster risk reduction actions in each phase. It also provides a practical guide to develop a multidimensional risk analysis, and to plan and conduct workshops for Humanitarian Needs Overview.



Target audience: Humanitarian Country Teams.

Checklist for Scaling Up Disaster Risk Reduction in Humanitarian Action

The course provides a guide to conduct risk analyses during strategic planning exercises and integrate DRR in humanitarian action. It also provides the foundations to strengthening cooperation between humanitarian, development, and peace actors to enable long-term reduction of vulnerabilities.



Target audience: Government officials and disaster risk practitioners.



Local DRR

Local DRR Strategies

Based on the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) Initiative, this course provides local governments and municipalities with conceptual foundations and case studies of effective DRR practices and tools implemented by cities around the world.



Target audience: City and local government officials, disaster management professionals, and representatives from academic and training institutions working on disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.





Resilience of Local Governments

A Multi-sectoral Approach to Integrate Public Health and Disaster Risk Management

Building on the Public Health System Resilience Scorecard for Cities and the Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Framework developed by UNDRR and the World Health Organisation (WHO), the course provides a practical guide to link public health and disaster risk management strategies with a multi-sectoral approach.



Target audience: Local government officials, health professionals, disaster management professionals, academic and training institutions working on disaster risk management.



Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation of Early Warnings for All

Based on a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework and process developed by the Early Warning for All (EW4All) pillars leads UNDRR and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), this course provides a practical guide to EW4All Logic Model and M&E Framework and evaluate end-to-end, people-centered, Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS).



Target audience: Government officials, program planners, and M&E specialists at national disaster risk management agencies, DRR practitioners from international organizations, research institutions, and academia interested in M&E practices for early warning systems.

After-Event Reviews (AERs)

Developed by EW4All Pillar Leads UNDRR, WMO, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), After-Event Reviews (AER) provides a structured, learning-oriented methodology to assess what happened, why it happened, how early warning systems performed, and how it can be improved.

The AER training course aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to plan, conduct, and facilitate AER processes, providing a step-by-step guidance to enable learners identify practical improvements and strengthen institutional readiness.



Target audience: Government officials, early warning system practitioners, disaster risk reduction professionals, and partners supporting EW4All implementation.



DELTA Resilience

Leveraging the DELTA Resilience (Disaster and hazardous events, losses and damages tracking and analysis systems) developed by UNDRR in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the WMO, this self-paced online training course serves as a practical tool on how to use the DELTA Resilience system to track hazardous events, assess associated losses and damages, and collect, manage, and analyze data, as well as practical steps required to establish and maintain robust national systems.



Target audience: National and subnational government officials responsible for data collection, management, analysis, reporting, and risk-informed planning, programme and technical officers, researchers, civil society organizations, and technical partners supporting countries in establishing and using national disaster data systems.

Training Centres

UNITAR's affiliated centres offering specialized training

Capacity building on advancing all of society disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response

CIFAL York, Canada and York University



Climate recovery reporting for communicating impacts of extreme weather events with their survivors using trauma-informed processes

CIFAL Victoria, Canada and University of Victoria



National planning for hurricane and earthquake preparedness at airports

CIFAL Merida, Mexico and Group of Airports of Southeast Mexico



Emergency preparedness and management, disaster response coordination

CIFAL Miami, USA and Florida International University



Pacific Island data science for disaster risk and response including extreme weather, debris tracking and language equity

CIFAL Honolulu, USA and Chaminade University of Honolulu



Capacity building on national data systems for drought, wildfire and climate risk management

CIFAL Banjul, The Gambia and University of The Gambia

Training on flood disaster risk management

CIFAL Nigeria and Rivers State University



Hazard identification assessments for non-nuclear disasters
CIFAL Lebanon and Global CEO Alliance



Institutional capacity building for integrating the SDGs into disaster risk governance, impact measurement, and national development strategies with a focus on arid-region risks including sandstorms, drought, and environmental sustainability
CIFAL Saudi Arabia and Majmaah University



Inclusive disaster risk reduction and reconstruction for Persons with Disabilities at the forefront of accessible and sustainable communities
CIFAL Japan and Higashi Nippon International University



Vulnerability assessments on water-related disasters
CIFAL Bangkok, Thailand and Asian Institute of Technology



Capacity building for effective planning, public governance and financing for disaster risk reduction, local resilience, and climate action
CIFAL Jeju, Republic of Korea and International Peace Foundation



Systems-based, policy-driven training on urban resilience, climate risk, and sustainable disaster risk management bridging governance, infrastructure, and community perspectives
CIFAL Singapore and Nanyang Technological University



Understanding the human drivers of disasters, disaster preparedness and reconstruction, disaster waste management and invasive species monitoring, management and control, port resilience
CIFAL Newcastle, Australia and University of Newcastle



Disaster risk financing for flood and stormwater management
CIFAL Durban, South Africa and eThekweni Municipality



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