Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC)

The RCC serves as a non-binding regional mechanism to promote peer advocacy and exchange of expertise in disaster and climate risk management. The meetings provide an opportunity for the member countries to showcase good practices and discuss ways to transform policies and frameworks into practice. Established in 2000, the RCC is comprised of National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) of 26 member countries from the Asia and the Pacific region. Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) serves as the RCC Secretariat.

The Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM)

GIDRM commissioned by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), supports selected international and national, governmental and non-governmental actors in their ambition to achieve coherence between the Sendai Framework and the Paris Climate Agreement, as well as the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, with regards to planning, implementing and reporting on disaster risk management. More information about the GIDRM and practical coherence can be found on www.gidrm.net.

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RCC | REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE on DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Policy Brief
April 2019

Coherence across global frameworks: Policy paths
Perspectives from Asia and the Pacific

At a glance

In Asia and the Pacific, the pursuit of coherence across the post-2015 global frameworks has gained particular attention both during the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in July 2018, and the 14th meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) in December 2018. Countries are making progress on the many fronts to coherence across global frameworks. However, they also identify challenges including the capacity gaps for implementation, weak data-policy linkages, and mismatches between local governments' plans and national budgets. This policy brief presents key action points from countries in Asia and the Pacific as possible entry points and tangible ways to further coherence.
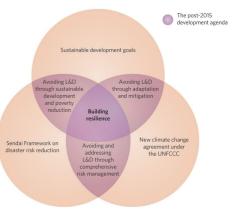
Background

Disaster and climate resilience feature prominently across the major post-2015 international frameworks—namely the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While the frameworks refer to their respective objectives and mandates, taken together, they present a complete resilience agenda that has the potential to deliver change at the scale and pace required to meet global commitments by 2030.

Coherence in planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of these frameworks is not only an opportunity to increase the efficiency, efficacy, and sustainability of each framework but also a prerequisite to attain the inter-linked targets of these frameworks. Processes such as mainstreaming, localization, harmonization, integration, and alignment can all play a role in promoting coherence.

Resilience as reflected in three major international agreements

The post-2015 development agenda

Sustainable development goals

Avoiding L&D through sustainable development and poverty reduction

Avoiding L&D through adaptation and mitigation

Building resilience

Sendai Framework on disaster risk reduction

Avoiding and addressing L&D through comprehensive risk management

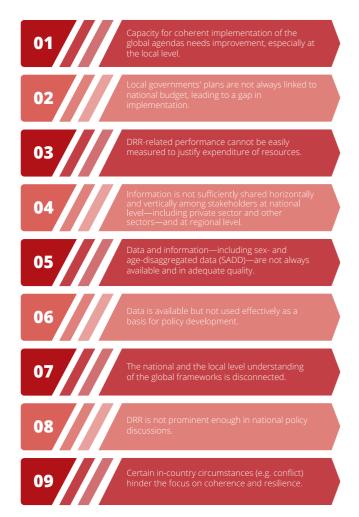New climate change agreement under the UNFCCC

Source: E. Roberts, S. Andrei, S. Huq, & L. Flint. "Resilience synergies in the post-2015 development agenda," Nature Climate Change 5 (2015), 1024-1025.

Challenges to coherence

During the 14th meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) held in Kathmandu, Nepal, in December 2018, member countries exchanged progress towards coherence and identified key challenges to coherence as follow:

01 Capacity for coherent implementation of the global agendas needs improvement, especially at the local level.

02 Local governments' plans are not always linked to national budget, leading to a gap in implementation.

03 DRR-related performance cannot be easily measured to justify expenditure of resources.

04 Information is not sufficiently shared horizontally and vertically among stakeholders at national level—including private sector and other sectors—and at regional level.

05 Data and information—including sex- and age-disaggregated data (SADD)—are not always available and in adequate quality.

06 Data is available but not used effectively as a basis for policy development.

07 The national and the local level understanding of the global frameworks is disconnected.

08 DRR is not prominent enough in national policy discussions.

09 Certain in-country circumstances (e.g. conflict) hinder the focus on coherence and resilience.

Key action points

In consideration of the opportunity costs that can arise if countries do not consider disaster risk management in their national policies on sustainable development, as well as the possible trade-offs among competing priorities and interests, RCC member countries identified a number of key action points as tangible ways forward to promote coherence at the regional, national, subnational, and local level. A follow-up survey further ordered the action points by priority levels:

Higher priorities	Medium-level priorities	Lower priorities
1. Establish and/or strengthen government platforms for information sharing.	1. Share examples of communities' entry points to engaging in the coherence	1. Establish regional pool of laws, policies, and good practices on coherence
2. Establish and share minimum standards for local governments and communities.	2. Establish or strengthen damage & losses registries and statistics	2. Review countries' tools and guidelines on coherence
3. Conduct local level advocacy and training programs on coherence.	3. Compile good practices for information management across global agenda	3. Broaden statistical frameworks to promote coherence
4. Build capacities on information and data management for global agendas.	4. Identify entry points for resilience in countries with a fragile context	4. Translate the global agendas into local languages.
5. Develop a template for policy briefs for parliamentarians and lawmakers.	5. Develop a framework or scheme to connect data to policy making	5. Develop CSOs' guidelines to engage in local level policy development

A call for action

There is no single solution to enhancing coherence across global frameworks. The range of action points presented by the RCC member countries reemphasize the value of a holistic approach targeting all levels of planning, implementation, and reporting in this pursuit. The RCC is committed to promoting partnership at different levels and assisting countries in Asia and the Pacific to harness the benefits from sustainable development and resilience, translating policies into practice, further strengthening linkages across sectors, and reinforcing tools, methods, and processes to measure impact. The RCC calls upon development partners to support and invest in regional efforts in enabling coherence through the provision of technical support, including through the initiation of peer-to-peer learning and documentation of good practices and support of governments of RCC member countries in strengthening risk governance—a cornerstone of resilient development.