

Sendai Framework Focuses On “Natural” and “Man-made” Hazards

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ABOUT RIKA

RIKA is a social entrepreneurship startup (DIPP-29629) with an aim of bringing research into the core of disaster management activities in India and other parts of South Asia. Resonating the Sendai declaration in relation to the need for widening the scope of Science and Technology in the disaster management, we at RIKA envision to act as a bridge connecting academic research, policy makers and field practitioners to make informed decisions and use of new technologies

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Introduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted at the Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan, on March 18, 2015. It is the outcome of stakeholder consultations initiated in March 2012 and inter-governmental negotiations from July 2014 to March 2015, supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction at the request of the UN General Assembly.

Para 15 of the framework mentioned:

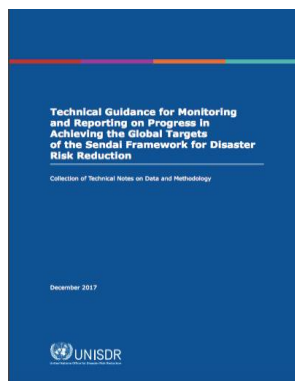
“The present Framework will apply to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks. It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors.”

Thus, while the earlier global framework (Hyogo Framework for Action: 2005-2015) focussed on “natural” disasters, the new framework has expanded its scope to different types of hazards and risks, including cascading hazards and technological hazards.

What is happening at global and national level

Following the adoption of Sendai Framework (SF), a technical guidance note is prepared for the monitoring and reporting on the progress in achieving the global targets, which was published in December 2017. The UN Global Assessment Report (GAR 2019) has therefore included specific topics on the additional hazards and risks of the SF in chapter 4:

- Biological hazards and risks
- Technological Hazards and Risks:
 - Chemical / industrial
 - Nuclear / radiological
 - NATECH (Natural hazards induced technological disaster)
- Environmental hazards and risks



The type of hazard associated to a disaster will affect the method of attribution of deaths to the event.

Each type of hazard has a pattern of mortality and morbidity. For example, deaths due to heat wave are often estimated by calculating excess mortality across a population, in which cases, deaths due to heat stress, cardiovascular and other chronic diseases are usually included. For the purposes of monitoring and reporting deaths for Target A of the Sendai Framework, it is recommended to focus on the direct causes of death that are more feasible to attribute, collect and report.

The views expressed here are from some of the discussion notes from an international forum discussion on Sendai new hazards, participated and facilitated by the author.

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What needs to be done

SFDRR Priority 1: Understanding risk

- Enhanced understanding on complex and cascading hazards and its disaster risks is essential.
- Importance to account complex risks in the framework of risk assessment and reduction, and approaches to include aspects such as health, etc.
- Complex/cascading risks perspective needs to be taken into account when developing risk assessment at all level (global, regional, national to local)
- Inform decision makers with good examples/cases and scenarios that visualized the imagined complex risks
- Scientific forums and communities to continuously address and offer new methods of assessment and understanding complex risks that are accessible to users to address this issue
- Strengthen scientific capacities to develop technological risk foresights for long term development planning.

SFDRR Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance

- Encourage mechanisms of incentives to engage private companies and industries as well as other sectors that are interdependently exposed by the complex risks (e.g. Traffic, infrastructures, etc.).
- Bilateral/multilateral agreements to address trans-boundary complex risks
- Continuous support for good governance in complex risks reduction
- Stronger engagements of government-university-private sectors to fill capacity gaps relevant to complex risks.

SFDRR Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

- Considerations of complex risks and its risk reduction coexisting with current infrastructure, land scarcity.
- Human capital investments in dealing with complex risks of today and the future, including investments in youth and young scientists, local government, and relevant sectors.
- Scientific communities help to secure institutional knowledge (e.g past crisis, risk assessment) past and establish and facilitate institutional knowledge learning and exchanges.

SFDRR Priority 4: Disaster preparedness for effective response

- Non-traditional risk awareness and education approaches for complex risks, inline with the advancements of technology and engagements of interdependent sectors/stakeholders/multi-agents
- Encourage advancements and support of science communication at all level, particularly under developed/developing countries to ensure accessible and understandable messages of complex risk management.
- Scenario development that respond to political-economic interests to motivate engagements and awareness for effective response by all stakeholders