Input by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
Report of the Secretary-General
Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing
Countries for the Decade 2014 - 2024

IV. Follow-up and review and progress on Roadmap for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the remaining five years
Progress continues to be made on the disaster risk reduction related deliverables in the Vienna Programme of Action roadmap. By the end of 2021, 22 LLDCs have reported to the Sendai Framework Monitor that they have national disaster risk reduction strategies in place. This is up from 19 countries in 2020.

Activities aim to build capacity on the collection of disaster data and risk analytics and strengthening multi-sectoral risk governance to promote risk-informed economic and development policy. LLDCs participated in the Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction in November 2021 in Europe and Central Asia, Africa, and the Arab Region where Governments committed to strengthen coordination and implementation of disaster risk reduction activities and build resilience, including addressing transboundary cooperation for risk reduction.

In Central Asia, UNDRR has provided support to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in conducting a gap analysis of disaster loss data collection systems and establishing disaster data steering committees with the aim of establishing national disaster loss databases in each country by the end of 2022. The Almaty Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction has been capacitated as trainers of Sendai Framework monitoring to ensure sustainability for support to countries of the sub-region. Furthermore, the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan have developed national platforms for disaster risk reduction in order to strengthen risk governance with an all-of-government approach.

Similarly, in Asia, UNDRR provides policy and technical support to Bhutan, Lao PDR, Mongolia and Nepal. Each country has been supported to develop Disaster Risk Reduction Status Reports which provide a snapshot of the country's progress under the four priorities of the Sendai Framework, along with key challenges and recommendations for strengthening the disaster data collection and risk governance. Notable progress has been made in Lao PDR where the national disaster risk reduction strategy has been reviewed to ensure alignment with the Sendai Framework and ensure coherence with climate change adaptation planning instruments. Disaster risk reduction has, subsequently, been integrated as a priority into the new National Socio-Economic Development Plan as a priority. Lao PDR and Nepal have also been supported to improve collection, management, analysis, and reporting of disaster loss data.

In Africa, UNDRR is working with the African Union Commission and the International Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to support LLDCs to strengthen early warning systems. For example, Ethiopia and Malawi have been supported to develop early warning systems by using the myDEWETRA open-source platforms accompanied by training on inter-institutional arrangements needed to enhance data sharing mechanisms and standard operating procedures. South Sudan has received training on disaster loss data collection and has established a national

platform for disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, a series of policy reports from Niger, Malawi, and Uganda provide key messages and priority actions for enhancing policy coherence between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in order to bridge institutional and policy divides and strengthen comprehensive risk governance to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda[1].

Progress is also being made at the local level through the implementation of the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative. UNDRR has supported local authorities in Chisinau (Moldova), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Entebbe, Jinja and Mukono (Uganda), and Mutare (Zimbabwe), among others, to conduct assessments of each city's disaster resilience in order to build capacity for risk-informed planning and inform the develop local disaster risk reduction strategies. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, a particular focus has been given to the resilience of the public health sector in urban areas.

Financing for disaster risk reduction remains a challenge for LLDCs. UNDRR conducted a study on the "Multiple Benefits of DRR investment" in Zambia which analyzed the costs and possible economic gains of risk-informed investment in housing, productive assets, and public infrastructure[2]. In Ethiopia, UNDRR worked with the National Disaster Risk Management Committee to apply the "risk sensitive budget review" tool to track and promote investments that contribute to the reduction of disaster risk in public budgets[3]. Similarly, in Nepal, UNDRR and the Asian Development Bank have supported the Government to track and assess public expenditure in disaster risk management at decentralized level to enhance the evidence base on the level of alignment among policies, plans and budget allocation processes and to identify ways to risk-inform planning and investments in all sectors including infrastructure.

V. Conclusions and recommendations
In the Political Declaration of the midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action, Member States expressed their determination to build economies and societies in LLDCs that are resilient to disasters in the remaining five years. While progress has been made, the pace is not fast enough to keep up with the increasing frequency, intensity, and socio-economic impact of disasters. In particular, greater attention is needed to strengthen risk governance between the LLDCs and their neighbouring countries to address transboundary risk and build resilient cross-border infrastructure links. To do so, LLDCs require sustained technical and financial support to promote the integration of risk reduction and resilience into national development and economic planning. The ongoing midterm review of the Sendai Framework and its high-level meeting at the General Assembly in May 2023 is a critical opportunity to identify good practice, gaps, and challenges in implementing a risk-informed approach to development and climate action in the LLDCs. The midterm review process can, therefore, provide vital information to the review of the Vienna Programme of Action and the development of its successor by identifying risk reduction and resilience building priorities specific to the LLDCs which can be taken forward and supported in the next programme of action.

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[1] https://www.undrr.org/publication/niger-policy-coherence-between-disaster-risk-reduction-and-climate-change-adaptation and https://www.undrr.org/publication/uganda-policy-coherence-between-disaster-risk-reduction-and-climate-change-adaptation and https://www.undrr.org/publication/malawi-policy-coherence-between-disaster-risk-reduction-and-climate-change-adaptation
[2] https://www.undrr.org/publication/multiple-benefits-drr-investment-zambia
[3] https://www.undrr.org/publication/ethiopia-risk-sensitive-budget-review