

**Question and Answers**  
**Mainstreaming and Identifying Funding Sources**  
**for Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Humanitarian Programmes**  
**Thursday, 13 March 2025, 14:00 – 15:30 CET**

**Q:** What are the main challenges in mainstreaming DRR in humanitarian programming?  
(Sahdia Khan)

**A:** Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into humanitarian programming is crucial for building resilience and reducing vulnerabilities of the communities we serve as Humanitarian actors. In our DG ECHO and partners experience, these are some of the challenges (I will list some, but I can talk on them if needed be, the list is not importance or priority wise organised).

- Short-Term Funding vis a vis Long-Term Preparedness needs (this applies to Disaster Risk)
- Not enough coordination and NEXUS between Humanitarian, Development, and Peace Building actors. Humanitarian actors focus on immediate relief, while development agencies handle long-term resilience, creating a gap in integrating DRR.
- Need to strengthen collaboration across sectors, to avoid siloed approaches, and enable a comprehensive humanitarian-development-peace nexus strategies
- There is insufficient institutional support to Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction from governments, donors, humanitarian and development actors in general. It is common to see prioritization immediate response over risk reduction and preparedness.
- Data and Risk Information needs to be improved, availability and quality of multi-sector assessments and specially multi risk analysis. They are necessary to build the Disaster preparedness strategies. To act ahead.
- Lack of real-time risk assessments and early warning systems in crisis-prone areas.
- Poor availability of disaggregated data (e.g., on gender, disability, and age) makes it harder to design targeted DRR interventions. (Sandra Ruiz Romero DG ECHO)

**Q:** If I am not mistaken Sandra Ruiz Romero from DG ECHO mentioned that DG ECHO wants to invest more in governance and capacity building of partners. Could she kindly outline what this means for the sub-Saharan Africa context and how DG ECHO plans to

collaborate with UNDRR on these matters (governance and capacity building)?

(Anonymous)

**A:** Yes, DG ECHO is working across the board in Disaster Preparedness. We work with a Systems-build approach, governance indicators are essential and taken into consideration when we make our funding decisions. Please, also consider the Joint Research Centre (<https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index>) open source and used by all donors (all EU Member States) and other donors as FCDO, USAID BHA. (Sandra Ruiz Romero DG ECHO)

**Q:** For Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS), What are the implications of the termination of USAID funding for Zimbabwe Red Cross, and how have you been able to adapt as funding has been withdrawn? Have you been able to maintain frontline services? (Colin McQuistan)

**A:** ZRCS activities have been affected by the termination of funding by USAID. The organisation had a WASH project running in one of the districts and the project had to end abruptly and handing over of the completed assets to the communities is currently taking place. As ZRCS we have been able to adapt through our own fundraising initiatives using Strategic Business Units, and considering raising funds through partners such as IFRC, Finnish Red Cross, Danish Red Cross , British Red Cross and others to cover the gap that has been left by USAID.

This affected our WASH project which was being implemented in one of the districts. However, the country is facing Cholera epidemics and as an organisation we cannot fold our arms but we are actually making use of our resource mobilisation strategies to respond to emergencies. This however is not enough to cover all the affected people in-country. We are, however, collaborating with other organisations and the Government departments in our response mechanisms. (Mathias Begede, Zimbabwe Red Cross Society)

**Q:** I want to know what specific tasks a signatory National NGO is required after signing online? (Ahmed Abib Mohumed)

**A:** Hi Ahmed - The Charter is not a legally binding document but a statement of commitment. Organizations adopting the Charter should be committed to addressing the climate and environment crises, both through their programmes and the way in which they work. Organizations will be expected to translate the commitments in the Charter into time-bound targets and action plans within a year. For more information about the Charter

and what it means to sign, you can see the website's FAQ page: <https://www.climate-charter.org/faq/> (Natasha Westheimer, Secretariat, Climate and Environment Charter)

**Q:** For Paul of Zimbabwe Red Cross: Is the EU stepping up to fill the gap left by the loss of USAID funding? (Sanjay Khanna)

**A:** We have been working with other partners within the EU and they are covering other resilience projects in other parts of the country. We are however in the process of reaching out to the EU for further support as usual. (Mathias Begede, ZRCS)

**Q:** Are there some multi-country funding opportunities you would recommend? (Simon Burdett)

**A:** Not sure of specific multi-country opportunities but, depending on the donor, there may be significant interest in multi-country work. UNDRR recently supported Early Warning Systems and associated simexes in the Indian Ocean Region and the project included information-sharing and learning between the different countries which made the project stronger than just having a single country focus. Usually calls for proposals will detail if single- or multi-country work expected. (Emilia Wahlstrom, UNDRR)

**Q:** How could the clusters support access to climate financing? (Siobhan McGrath)

**A:** A couple of things come to mind. Better data of humanitarian climate impacts (both past and future), based on humanitarian experience. This can be used as justification for climate financing, as outlined by Nick. Clusters can also help frame a discussion within the cluster of how humanitarian response will be impacted by climate in the future, and what needs to change in terms of service delivery, and how climate financing can help (even if not used for response directly). It may also be easier for a broader group of entities to approach development actors/donors than individual entities trying to access climate financing individually. (Emilia Wahlstrom, UNDRR)

**Q:** There are so many resources and tools mentioned here from various organizations. National governments have their own tools too and sometimes it can be confusing which one is best to a certain context. At national to downwards level, is there a platform or a mechanism that help in attaining coherence and help reduce duplication? e.g. The Humanitarian sector has a cluster approach. (Janice Ian Manlutac, Oxfam)

**A:** This is a great question and true that there are a lot of tools. Working with national/local authorities is key indeed. I would say that the coordination mechanisms depend a lot on country context. What we do see is that, sometimes, there is less coordination on the development side than on the humanitarian side. (Emilia Wahlstrom, UNDRR)

**Q:** Another question to speakers, what has been your experience on the use of AI to help with data analysis or even Early Warning System especially for communities that may not have resources to create their own mechanisms due to resource constraints. What are the challenges and opportunities you see for AI's application in our sector? (Janice Ian Manlutac, Oxfam)

**A:** I think there are a lot of opportunities for AI and for sure the sector is using more and more technology, which only makes sense. At the local/national level though, we must also think of the last mile (e.g. how can we get all this fancy analysis and outcomes out to communities and turned into action). It's not always about the products but about being able to act on them, for which capacity, resources and agency is needed. Eg., still a lot of work needed on "basic" information management, disaster preparedness, community awareness, etc. (Emilia Wahlstrom, UNDRR)

**Q:** For Ben Webster- When can we expect the deliverable "Consulted draft high-level principles for financing in DRR for consideration by the DRR Working Group (UNDRR with the engagement of WB, CDP, CAF, AfDB, ADB, IDB, UNDESA, G20 Sustainable Finance WG, Investors Advisory Board, South Africa Reserve Bank and Ministry of Finance of South Africa)" of Priority 4: Financing Frameworks for Disaster Risk Reduction of the G20 working group on DRR? (Anonymous)

**A:** I believe that UNDRR colleagues are finalizing a 'zero draft' of DRR financing principles to share with G20 members in the next few days...it will then be discussed at the next DRR Working Group meeting in April. I hope that helps! (Ben Webster, REAP)

**Q:** Thank you Emilia. Yes, where extreme weather events cross borders, there can be a reason for funding cross-border initiatives... perhaps some regional funders could become more interested or some future climate finance with combinations of insurance companies? (Simon Burdett)

**A:** Yes, and interesting you mention insurance! This is becoming more important where work in one country informs work in another. (Emilia Wahlstrom, UNDRR)