Call for Contributions to the Development of the Sendai Framework "Words into Action" Implementation Guides

Background

The Sendai Framework[1], adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction on 18 March 2015, is a roadmap that will chart the global course over the next 15 years. During the consultations and negotiations that led to its finalization, strong calls were made to develop practical guidance to support implementation, ensure engagement and ownership of action by all stakeholders, and strengthen accountability in disaster risk reduction.

Reflecting that, paragraph 48 (c) of the document calls upon "the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), in particular, to support the implementation, follow-up and review of this framework through [...] generating **evidence-based and practical guidance for implementation** in close collaboration with States, and through mobilization of experts; reinforcing a culture of prevention in relevant stakeholders [...]".

In order to support that process, a number of targeted Sendai Framework implementation guides shall be developed, building upon the experience of the development and use of the similar "Words into Action" guide created during the 2005-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action era. [2]

The Sendai Framework is the cornerstone of future work in disaster risk reduction; yet it is not the only document that will guide global implementation of disaster risk reduction. Functionally, the Sendai Framework is also linked to the draft convention on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters of the UN International Law Commission. In addition, it is part of the post-2015 agenda, other components of which include: Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development; the upcoming COP21 climate change agreement; and the outcome documents of the World Humanitarian Summit and Habitat III in 2016. In this context, "Words Into Action" constitutes practical guidance on how responsibilities can be carried out, where mutual reinforcement can be reached, and will be a fundamental tool for the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

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[1] The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: 2015-2030 http://www.preventionweb.net/go/sendai-framework

[2] In 2007, UNISDR in broad consultation with stakeholders developed the report "Words into Action: A Guide to Implementing the Hyogo Framework." This guide distilled a wealth of worldwide experience on how to manage and reduce disaster risks. It targeted national governments and their subsidiary local governments, including decision makers, leaders and practitioners, and other civil servants. The guide was also used by civil society organizations, community organizations, the private sector, academia, international and regional organizations, and others working to reduce disaster risk.

Development of the Sendai Framework
"Words into Action" Implementation Guides

Three-Tiered Approach

"Words into Action" will require three approaches:

Pocket guide - *Targeted implementation guidelines in printable, searchable publication format.* For example, a "Guide on Critical Infrastructure" can describe the issue from a Sendai Framework lens and include sections targeting national authorities, local authorities, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, such as the education, health, transportation, energy and water sectors. Actors will be guided to online discussions, resources and contacts.

Stakeholder engagement– *Identification and engagement of leading organizations, communities of practice and networks in ongoing online dialogues.* During the development process of the "Words Into Action" guides, there is a need to better identify and exchange with existing expert groups and communities of practice to learn from their experience, and update guidance as implementation practice evolves.

'How to Do Disaster Risk Reduction' on PreventionWeb – *Regularly updated online spaces feature expertise and trend analysis relevant to the topic of each guide.* From specific sectoral or thematic perspectives, experts can connect with stakeholders, find and share experience, curate key publications and provide analysis to better understand how to do disaster risk reduction.

Process for the Development of the Guides

Stakeholders will support the "Words Into Action" guide development and review process. UNISDR will issue an open call for participation, working with the partners who organized sessions at the World Conference. The guides should therefore be:

- Led by and engage key relevant stakeholder communities and expert groups;
- Transparent and consultative;
- Drawn from existing guidelines and state-of-the art practice on "How to Do DRR";
- Easily actionable, understandable and accessible by stakeholder, topic and sector.

Each "Words Into Action" guide should go through the following four steps:

1. Identify the topics and for whom these guides will be useful – the clients, including Governments, local governments, stakeholder groups, or communities and individuals, depending on the topic.
2. Identify who can lead the topic, and determine the community of practice behind this topic.
3. Take stock of materials already available on the topic, and the scope of the guide to be developed.
4. Determine the process for developing the guide, including peer reviews, and periodic review, including the distribution of responsibilities among partners and the resource requirements.

It should be noted that there is still a need to incorporate the details and lessons of Hyogo Framework so they are not lost, as many countries have many "unfinished business" from that era.

In addition, as there are already many documents outlining some form of guidance to implement the Sendai Framework, submitted to the World Conference, it is important to build on these documents. Many of these are available on preventionweb.net and wcdrr.org. One good resource to use are the case examples submitted by various stakeholders on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework, available here: http://www.wcdrr.org/celebrating

As the "Words Into Action" guides will only be useful if they are available in local languages, a process for translation and quality control needs to be put in place.

Review and Update of the Guides

Practice and research will identify ways to give content to the provisions of the Sendai Framework and to fill possible gaps. The "Words into Action" guides are an important tool to capture practice, learning and progress. Thus, the guides shall offer practical guidance to further Sendai Framework implementation, including the voluntary commitments of stakeholders.

UNISDR will initiate and support the review and revision of the "Words Into Action" guides and updates presented to venues such as the Regional and Global Platforms on Disaster Risk Reduction, where the sharing of "live" lessons learnt on implementation can be promoted.

Timeline

Each guide will have its own timeline for development depending on the priority of its intended use. All guides are expected to be completed by December 2016 at the latest.

Application to participate in working groups

UNISDR invites stakeholders to nominate experts or representatives to help develop the "Words into Action" guides. Please send a message nominating an expert or individual to participate in a working group addressed to the specific UNISDR focal point per topic as listed in the concept notes for each topic.

It is expected that experts or representatives nominated to participate in the working groups will be able to contribute substantively and actively to the work of the group.

View working groups terms of reference:
http://www.preventionweb.net/english/drr-framework/words-into-action/TermsOfReference.pdf

View all concept notes by topic and contact information online:
http://www.preventionweb.net/drr-framework/sendai-framework/wordsintoaction/