



Report On

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025: Key Outcomes, Challenges, and Future Directions

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Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025: Key Outcomes, Challenges, and Future Directions

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1. Introduction

The increasing frequency, severity, and complexity of disasters globally have underscored the critical importance of comprehensive, forward-looking disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies. The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR), organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), serves as the world's foremost forum for reviewing and advancing implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030). The 7th GPDRR, held in Geneva, Switzerland, in June 2025, came at a pivotal juncture in the global risk landscape, amid rising threats from climate-induced hazards, pandemics, technological disruptions, and socioeconomic fragilities (UNDRR, 2025).

With only five years remaining until the conclusion of the Sendai Framework, GPDRR 2025 was framed by a sense of urgency. Despite measurable progress in disaster mortality reduction and improved early warning systems, significant challenges remain in reducing disaster-related losses, enhancing risk governance, and mobilizing sufficient financing (UNDRR, 2023). The midterm review of the Sendai Framework (UNDRR, 2023) had highlighted persistent gaps between global commitments and local-level implementation, particularly in vulnerable regions.

This GPDRR brought together over 8,000 participants from governments, civil society, academia, indigenous communities, and the private sector, providing a critical platform to align global efforts. Major thematic areas included scaling early warning systems, addressing the climate-disaster risk nexus, promoting risk-informed urban development, strengthening DRR financing, and enhancing data-driven decision-making (IISD, 2025).

Importantly, the conference emphasized that disaster risk is no longer a stand-alone issue. It is deeply intertwined with sustainable development, humanitarian action, and climate adaptation agendas. Thus, the outcomes of GPDRR 2025 are not merely technical recommendations, they represent global commitments toward resilience-building, equity, and systemic change.

This report captures the key themes, achievements, gaps, and future pathways emerging from GPDRR 2025, positioning it within the broader agenda of sustainable development and global risk governance.

2. Key Themes and Outcomes of GPDRR 2025

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2025 convened in Geneva served as a global milestone, marking both reflection on achievements and a forward-looking agenda for reducing disaster risk worldwide. With participation from heads of state, international organizations, grassroots leaders, private sector representatives, and scientific experts, the conference addressed critical areas of progress and persistent gaps. The outcomes from GPDRR 2025 reflected the evolving nature of disaster risks in a world increasingly shaped by climate change, urbanization, pandemics, and technological disruptions.

2.1 Early Warning Systems for All by 2027

One of the flagship commitments reaffirmed at GPDRR 2025 was the implementation of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative by 2027. Recognizing that half the world's population still lacks adequate early warning coverage, participants emphasized scaling up investment, particularly in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (UNDRR, 2025).

Progress made under EW4All since its launch in 2022 was highlighted, including integration of warning systems with local governance structures. Countries like Bangladesh and Fiji shared successful models where community-based warnings have significantly reduced disaster mortality.

The outcome document stressed that early warning must go beyond technological alerts, it must include actionable information, social protection linkages, and community engagement. The Global Multi-Hazard Alert System (GMHAS) was identified for expansion, with enhanced coordination between WMO, UNICEF, and national meteorological services (WMO, 2025).

2.2 The Climate-Disaster Risk Nexus

Climate change remains the most significant driver of emerging disaster risks globally. GPDRR 2025 underlined the urgent need for integration between climate adaptation policies (UNFCCC) and disaster risk reduction (Sendai Framework). Delegates repeatedly stressed that DRR must be central to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Several country representatives noted the growing impact of compound disasters for example, simultaneous floods and heatwaves as well as the increasing frequency of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) in mountainous regions. The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (IPCC, 2023) was frequently cited in discussions as further evidence of the mounting risks.

A significant breakthrough was the commitment from several donor countries to channel a greater share of climate adaptation financing directly to local DRR initiatives.

2.3 Urban Risk and Risk-Informed Development

Rapid urbanization, especially in the Global South, is amplifying disaster vulnerabilities. GPDRR 2025 placed strong emphasis on integrating risk-informed urban planning into national development strategies. The Principles of Resilient Urbanization presented at the conference called for:

- Mandatory risk assessments for new infrastructure.
- Nature-based solutions (e.g., green roofs, floodable parks).
- Prioritization of informal settlements in risk reduction efforts (UNDRR, 2025).

Mayors from cities such as Nairobi, Jakarta, and Lima shared case studies on local urban DRR innovations. However, participants also acknowledged that major gaps remain, particularly in financing for informal settlements and engaging urban poor populations in planning processes.

2.4 Financing for Disaster Risk Reduction

Financing disaster risk reduction (DRR) was a central focus at GPDRR 2025, with global losses from disasters exceeding USD 300 billion annually. Yet, investment in prevention remains inadequate. Delegates emphasized that focusing on response over prevention is unsustainable. The Resilience Bonds Partnership was introduced to incentivize proactive risk reduction by offering favorable insurance terms. Additionally, the expansion of Loss and Damage financing under the UNFCCC aims to align DRR with climate adaptation. A growing demand emerged for mandatory disclosure of disaster risks by financial institutions. However, significant funding gaps persist, particularly in vulnerable, low-income regions (UNDRR, 2025; IISD, 2025).

2.5. Data, Technology, and Innovation

One of the central themes at GPDRR 2025 was the critical need to close the data divide between high-income and low-income countries in disaster risk reduction (DRR). Effective risk assessment, early warning, and response depend increasingly on access to open data, geospatial technologies, and artificial intelligence (AI). Recognizing that data gaps disproportionately expose vulnerable populations, governments, international agencies, and private-sector partners committed to expanding data accessibility in disaster-prone areas. Special emphasis was placed on real-time monitoring systems powered by satellite imagery and machine learning. However, delegates stressed that data must be paired with local capacity building to translate information into meaningful action (UNDRR, 2025).

2.6 Inclusion and Equity in Disaster Risk Reduction

GPDRR 2025 strongly reaffirmed that inclusion is not optional, is foundational to effective disaster risk reduction (DRR). Across multiple dedicated sessions, participants emphasized that sustainable resilience can only be achieved when the voices of the most vulnerable are actively centered in decision-making processes. Special focus was given to Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR), with notable examples such as Amar Jyoti School in India, which demonstrated how integrating disability considerations into school safety plans not only protects students with disabilities but also strengthens institutional preparedness for all. Equally emphasized was the integration of indigenous knowledge systems, particularly in regions like Kenya, where community-based disaster planning led by Indigenous elders has enhanced local responses to droughts and floods. Furthermore, gender-responsive DRR received renewed attention, acknowledging that women and girls disproportionately bear the impacts of disasters and must have leadership roles in preparedness planning. Youth engagement emerged as another critical pillar, with several youth-led organizations presenting innovations in community mobilization and climate-related DRR. Collectively, these discussions underscored that equity in

DRR is not merely a moral imperative which is a strategic necessity for building more resilient, cohesive societies capable of withstanding future hazards.

2.7 Midterm Review and Accelerating Sendai Framework Implementation

As the 2030 deadline for achieving the goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction draws near, GPDRR 2025 provided a crucial opportunity to assess progress and recalibrate global strategies. Delegates acknowledged that while important strides have been made in disaster preparedness and risk reduction, the pace of implementation remains uneven, especially in low-income and climate-vulnerable countries. To address these concerns, the official outcome document the Geneva Commitments on Risk Resilience set forth a bold agenda to accelerate action in the next five years.

A key priority identified was the systematic integration of DRR into national and sub-national budgets, recognizing that risk reduction must be embedded not just in policy documents but in financial decision-making. Participants also emphasized the need to scale public-private partnerships, particularly to leverage technological innovations, infrastructure investments, and private capital for resilience-building efforts.

Another significant outcome was the renewed focus on risk-informed health systems. The experience of the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted how biological hazards can intersect with natural and technological risks, underscoring the need for multi-hazard preparedness within public health infrastructures. Strengthening local healthcare capacities emerged as essential for tackling future pandemics alongside disasters like floods, earthquakes, and wildfires.

Finally, the forum emphasized the critical need to bridge the gap between humanitarian response and long-term DRR. Too often, disaster funding focuses on immediate relief while neglecting systemic prevention and resilience measures. The Geneva Commitments call for better alignment between humanitarian aid programs, climate adaptation efforts, and disaster risk governance, ensuring that every dollar spent on disaster response also contributes to reducing future risks.

2.8 Linkages with Other Global Agendas

A defining highlight of GPDRR 2025 was its focus on integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) with broader global agendas. Delegates stressed that disasters intersect with climate risks, development challenges, and rapid urbanization, requiring coordinated responses. Key frameworks identified were the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the New Urban Agenda. Participants emphasized embedding DRR indicators into national SDG reporting and aligning climate finance with resilience-building. An integrated monitoring system was proposed to streamline efforts across frameworks. The consensus was clear: resilience is not sectoral—it is essential for achieving sustainable, equitable, and climate-safe development globally (UNDRR, 2025).

3. Challenges Identified

While GPDRR 2025 showcased notable progress in advancing global disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies, it also exposed several persistent challenges that continue to hinder effective implementation. These challenges, if left unaddressed, risk undermining the achievement of the Sendai Framework targets by 2030. Key challenges identified include:

3.1 Policy Implementation Gaps at the Local Level

Although many countries have formulated national disaster risk reduction plans, a significant disconnect remains between national policy and local execution. Particularly in rural and peri-urban regions, local authorities often lack the financial resources, technical skills, and institutional capacity to translate DRR frameworks into practical action. The absence of decentralized funding mechanisms further exacerbates these gaps, making localized preparedness and response uneven.

3.2 Underinvestment in Preparedness and Prevention

Participants repeatedly underscored that global disaster financing remains disproportionately focused on response and recovery rather than proactive risk reduction and preparedness. This imbalance is especially pronounced in low-income countries, where competing development priorities, constrained fiscal space, and limited access to international climate or resilience funds hinder sustained investment in prevention (UNDRR, 2025). Calls were made for shifting investment strategies toward long-term, anticipatory financing models to reduce future disaster impacts.

3.3 Data Deficiencies Hindering Risk Assessments

Accurate and accessible data is the backbone of effective risk assessment and early warning systems. However, data gaps remain particularly acute in disaster-prone regions, including fragile and conflict-affected states. Challenges include:

- Lack of disaggregated data (by gender, disability, socioeconomic status).
- Limited integration of indigenous and community-based knowledge systems.
- Weak interoperability between national datasets, geospatial technologies, and early warning mechanisms. Without bridging these data divides, it becomes difficult to conduct accurate risk profiling or ensure that no vulnerable population is left behind.

3.4 Private Sector Underrepresentation in Fragile or Conflict-Affected Areas

Private sector involvement in fragile or conflict-affected regions remains limited due to security risks, weak governance, and unstable markets. Yet, these regions urgently need resilient infrastructure and recovery support. GPDRR 2025 urged innovative financing models like blended finance and risk-sharing to incentivize engagement and build partnerships for sustainable, inclusive resilience (UNDRR, 2025).

4. Next Steps

Building on the momentum generated at GPDRR 2025, the global disaster risk reduction community outlined several strategic priorities and milestones for advancing resilience agendas in the coming years. These next steps are essential for accelerating the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and ensuring its alignment with broader global challenges.

1. COP30 (Brazil, 2025): Integrating DRR into Climate Finance

The upcoming 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to be held in Brazil later this year, was identified as a critical policy window for embedding disaster risk reduction into climate finance negotiations.

- Objective: Position DRR as a core pillar of adaptation financing, ensuring that resilience-building projects are eligible for major global climate funds, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund.

2. GPDRR 2027 (South Africa): Regionalizing the Global Agenda

It was officially announced that the next Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR 2027) will be hosted by South Africa, with a special emphasis on Africa's vulnerabilities and leadership in DRR.

- Objective: Elevate African perspectives and showcase regional innovations in anticipatory action, community-led preparedness, and locally driven recovery models.

3. Strengthening Integration Across Agendas

The coming years will also see enhanced efforts to strengthen integration between DRR, climate action, sustainable development (SDGs), and humanitarian response. UN agencies and member states committed to supporting:

Integrated national risk strategies that align with both the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030. Shared indicators and reporting frameworks to track progress cohesively across global commitments. Enhanced participation of marginalized groups especially youth, women, Indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities in shaping DRR strategies.

4. Fostering Local and Regional Leadership

Recognizing that effective disaster risk reduction happens closest to the risks, GPDRR 2025 reinforced the importance of:

Decentralized funding mechanisms to empower local governments. Regional platforms for peer learning (e.g., ASEAN, African Union, Caribbean DRM forums). City-to-city cooperation on urban resilience and climate adaptation, building on platforms like Resilient Cities (ICLEI) and UNDRR's Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030).

5. Conclusion

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2025 marked a pivotal moment in global resilience efforts, urging a decisive shift from reactive disaster response to proactive, inclusive risk management. With the Geneva Commitments emphasizing integration with climate action and sustainable development, GPDRR 2025 underscored resilience as a shared development responsibility.

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