

# Overview of the UNDRR Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

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# UNDRR

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

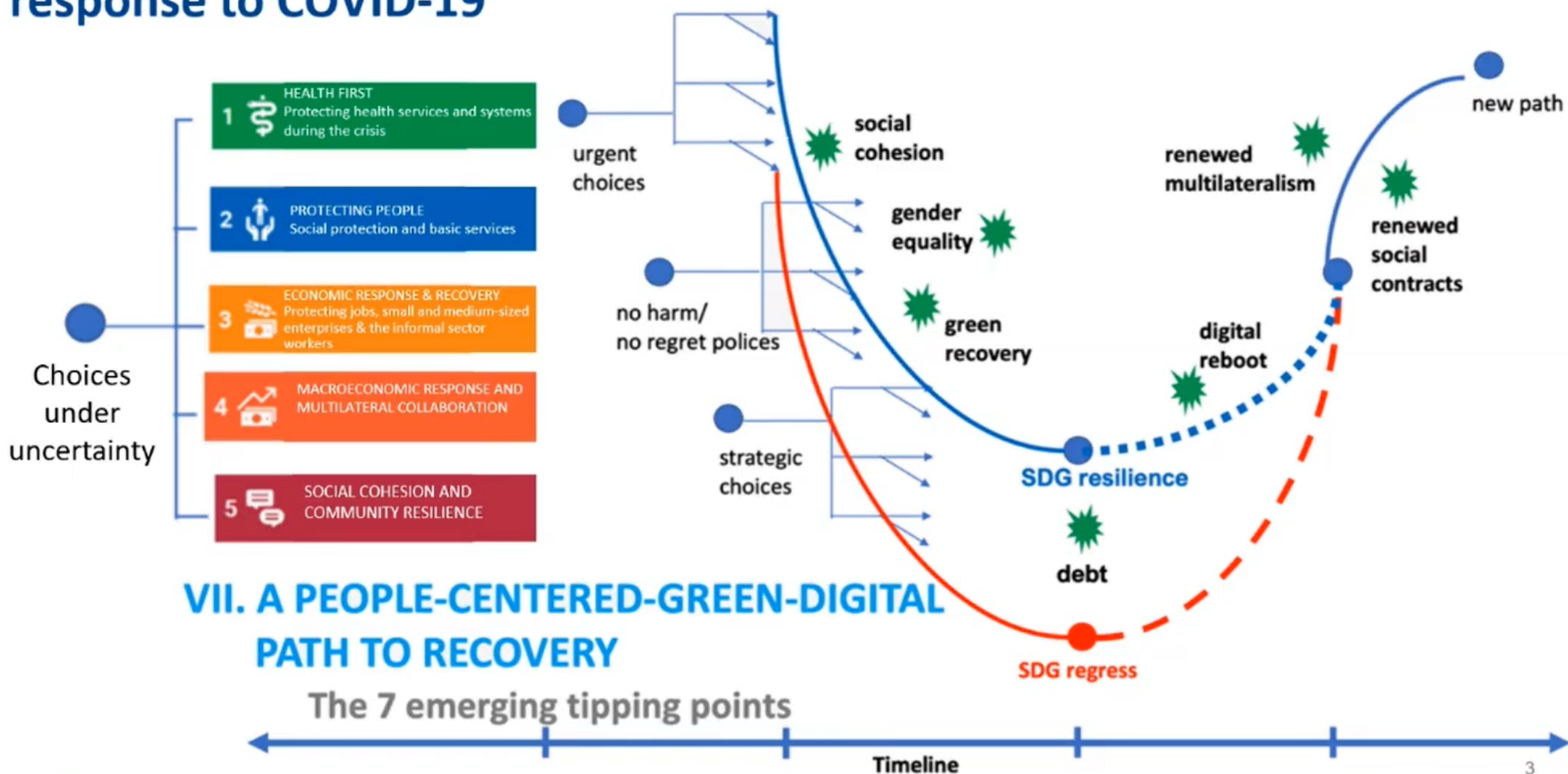
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**SEDAI FRAMEWORK**

FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030



# GLOBAL: UN Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19



# UN regional response

Issue-based Coalitions	COVID-19 Related areas of work
Climate Change Mitigation	Linkage between COVID-19 and air pollution; COVID-19 recovery and green economy
Building Resilience	Enforcement of Bangkok Principles; integration of biohazards into national strategies; sharing lessons learnt from past disasters.
Inclusion and Empowerment	Analysis of social protection measures in response to COVID-19; technical support on identifying those furthest behind
People Mobility and Urbanisation	Assessing impacts of COVID-19 on urbanization and mobility; outreach to networks of local governments;
Human Rights (HR) and Gender Equality (GE)	Assessment of impacts of stimulus packages on GE and HR & technical support at national level



# UNDRR strategy to combat COVID-19

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- Strategic goals in line with the larger UN strategy:
  - Prevent deaths and contain spread of pandemic.
  - Protect the most vulnerable from socio-economic impacts.
  - Prepare to “recover better.”
- Objectives of the UNDRR strategy
  - Evidence and learning on COVID-19 prevention, risk reduction and risk management.
  - Biological hazards (pandemics) are integrated in disaster risk reduction and development planning and programming.
  - UNDRR partnerships are leveraged and key stakeholders are supported.
  - Information and advice are disseminated to key audiences.
- Accelerate political momentum for the implementation of the **Bangkok Principles** for implementation of health aspects of the Sendai Framework.

# Supporting lessons-learned and knowledge exchange

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- UNDRR Asia-Pacific organized a series of **webinars** and published **issue briefs** to highlight the most relevant information and actionable recommendations on priority topics:
  1. Leave no one Behind in COVID-19 Prevention, Response and Recovery.
  2. Reducing COVID-19 Vulnerability Amongst Displaced Populations and Migrants.
  3. Combating the dual challenges of climate-related disasters and COVID-19.
  4. Business resilience in the face of COVID-19.
  5. Risk communication to prevent the spread of COVID-19: Countering the 'Infodemic'.
  6. Opportunities for Resilient Recovery.
  7. The Human Rights Dimensions of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  8. Disaster-Responsive Social Protection: Lessons from COVID-19.

# Strengthening business resilience against COVID-19

- ROAP partnered with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) to launch a **Business Continuity and Recovery Planning Toolkit** aimed specifically at SMEs.
- Toolkit includes:
  - Awareness-raising brochure
  - Planning Tool organized around ‘10 tips’ to make businesses resilient.
  - Brief guide for impacted businesses with an ‘additional 5 tips.’
- Capacity development in application of the toolkit through online **e-Learning course**.
- A **Quick Risk Estimation** is being developed to enable small businesses self-assess their risk to COVID-19
- **Tourism sector resilience** in the Pacific



## Available languages

English	Chinese
Japanese	Nepali
Indonesian	Sinhala
Thai	Cebuano
Filipino	Bangla
Hindi	

Download at [undrr.org/bcp-ap](https://undrr.org/bcp-ap)

# Enhancing health aspects of DRR Governance

UNDRR Asia-Pacific is supporting countries to implement the **Bangkok Principles** which aim to reduce the risk of health emergencies such as pandemics by promoting systematic cooperation, integration and coherence between disaster and health risk management. Key action:

1. **Review of DRR strategies** to assess the level of integration of biological hazards into DRR planning and institutional mechanisms.
2. **Technical Advisory Document** to provide a substantive basis for integrated disaster risk reduction
3. **Technical Guidance:** developing guidance and tools on how to integrate biological hazards into national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.
4. **Review document on DRR governance in Asia-Pacific** (*under development*)



# Initial findings of review of the integration of biological hazards into national DRR strategies

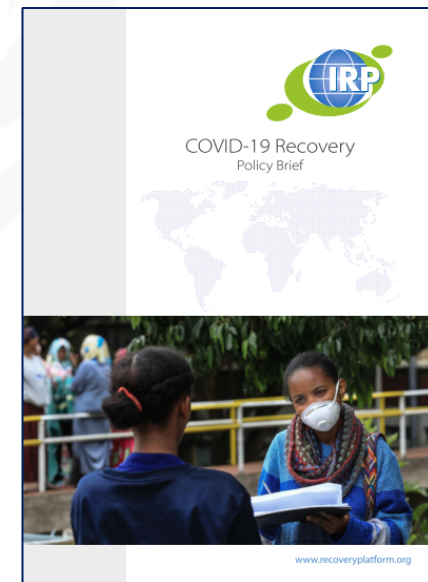
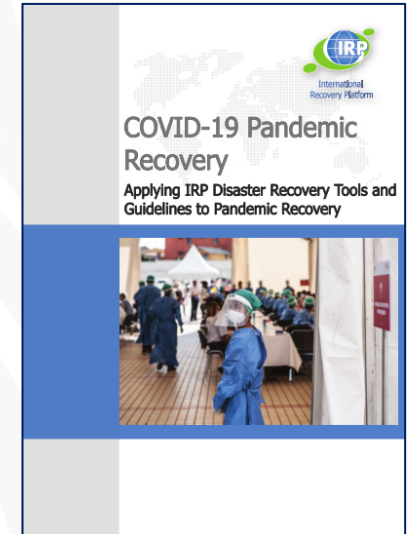
- Strategies are rarely based on a multi-hazard risk profile.
- Post-2015 strategies include biological hazards within the “extended” Sendai hazard scope, but no specific provisions in most.
- Disaster profiles cite health impacts of past pandemics but not social and economic impacts or how to protect key economic sectors.
- Many cite importance of disease surveillance and aim to build multi-hazard early warning system but offer no details.
- Health ministries and local health agencies are listed as actors but no details on roles and responsibilities.
- Mainstreaming DRR into the health sector focuses mostly on building health infrastructure resilience and preparedness to natural hazards.



# Knowledge products by IRP to support COVID-19 recovery

**International Recovery Platform (IRP)** developed two knowledge products to support COVID-19 recovery.

1. “**Applying IRP Disaster Recovery Tools and Guidelines to Pandemic Recovery**” (issued on 18 May, available at <https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/71895>)
2. “**COVID-19 Recovery Policy Brief**” (issued on 15 June, available on the IRP website at <https://bit.ly/2ANtfSL>)
  1. Suggests **8 principles** for recovery from COVID-19
  2. Presents **9 key actions** to be undertaken by governments.
  3. The brief features a checklist of the proposed actions along with these key actions.



# Lessons from COVID-19 crisis and response

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- Countries need to adopt a multi-hazard approach to disaster risk planning to guard against simultaneous and cascading disasters – this includes integration of biological hazards.
- Strengthening of DRR governance strengthens prevention of and preparedness to effectively combat disasters of all dimensions and scale.
- Transparency, information sharing, and transboundary cooperation are critical to mounting quick and appropriate responses.
- Exclusion of the informal sector and marginalized groups from planning creates health risks and human rights concerns and could delay recovery.

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# Thank you

**Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**