UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE

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ONLINE

01 JAN 2026 - 31 DEC 2026

Synergizing Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Action Learning Path

Climate and Environment

Sustainable development and the SDGs



LANGUAGE	DURATION	ENROLL BY	PRICE	LOCATION	TARGET
English	3 hours	31 Dec 2026	Free	ONLINE	Everyone

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NEW AND EXPANDED VERSION

This updated and expanded learning path, developed in partnership with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), builds on the success of the original course and responds to the growing demand for practical guidance on integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate action.

The learning path is organized into two complementary modules. The first module introduces the fundamental concepts, frameworks, and approaches for promoting coherence between DRR and climate change adaptation through Comprehensive Risk Management (CRM). The second module provides a deeper exploration of real-world applications, showcasing case studies and good practices from different regions and governance levels where DRR and climate action have been successfully integrated.

Through this combination of foundational knowledge and practical examples, participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of how synergizing DRR and climate action can strengthen resilience, optimize resources, and support coherent risk management strategies.

Spanish and French versions will be available soon!

Introduction

Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are inherently complementary, sharing the common objectives of reducing risks, decreasing vulnerability, and strengthening resilience. Despite these synergies, the governance and implementation of DRR and CCA have often evolved in parallel at global, regional, national, and local levels. National DRR strategies and national adaptation plans are frequently developed independently, limiting opportunities to maximize resources, expertise, and impact.

Recognizing these challenges, this updated learning path explores how greater coherence between DRR and climate action can support more effective and sustainable risk management. Participants will first examine the foundations of integrated Comprehensive Risk Management and the policy frameworks that encourage collaboration across sectors and institutions. They will then explore how these principles have been translated into practice through real-world examples and implementation pathways.

Global frameworks increasingly promote synergies between DRR and climate action. The Paris Agreement recognizes the importance of reducing risks and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction emphasizes understanding disaster risk, including climate-related risks, and encourages coherence across policies and strategies. Similarly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the importance of integrated approaches, particularly through Sustainable Development Goal 13 on Climate Action.

The alignment of national adaptation plans and disaster risk reduction strategies is therefore a key enabler for achieving the objectives of these international frameworks and advancing resilient, risk-informed development.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this learning path, participants should:

- Have a clear understanding of the synergies between DRR and CCA.
- Understand the Comprehensive Risk Management (CRM) approach and its role in promoting coherence between DRR and climate action.
- Be able to define and explain integration between DRR and climate change adaptation.
- Identify good practices and implementation pathways for DRR and climate action integration.
- Analyze real-world examples of successful DRR and climate action synergies across different contexts.
- Facilitate further changes in attitudes and behaviours towards the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
- Apply lessons learned from case studies to support more coherent and effective risk management approaches.

Course methodology

UNSSC online courses are designed to deliver maximum learning outcomes through carefully chosen high-quality learning materials.

This online course combines a self-paced study module with applied learning components, such as case studies and interactive scenarios.

The course presents successful case stories about countries that have harnessed the synergies between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, optimizing scarce resources and strengthening resilience.

This online course gives learners the opportunity to complete activities when it best fits their schedule. Participants are largely free to determine their own weekly study plan.

Demanding two hours of study, this UNSSC online course incorporates the same high academic rigour as any UNSSC face-to-face programme.

Course contents

Module 1 – Promoting Coherence between Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

This module introduces the foundations of synergizing DRR and climate action. Participants will explore the rationale for integration, key concepts and frameworks, the Comprehensive Risk Management approach, and the policy and institutional mechanisms that support coherent risk governance.

Module 2 – Implementation Pathways for Coherent Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Action

This module offers a deep dive into practical implementation. Through case studies and examples from local, national, regional, and global contexts, participants will examine how DRR and climate action synergies have been applied in practice, the challenges encountered, lessons learned, and factors that contribute to successful integration.

Target audience

The module is targeted at decision-makers and shapers, and disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation focal points, who are directly involved in developing national disaster risk reduction strategies and national adaptation plans at the local, subnational, national, regional, and international levels.

Other officials and stakeholders that can contribute to advancing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation synergies can also make use of the course.

Cost of participation

This course is free of charge.