

Compilation of criteria for effective disasters targets

To be reviewed and refined at the Experts Workshop on Disasters targets and indicators for the post-2015 development agenda, 25 March 2014.

DRR-specific criteria

- 1. Prevent risk creation, as well as risk reduction.** Much of the progress so far has been on reducing existing risk; this involves retrospective risk measures, such as early warning systems and contingency plans; this is the more ‘humanitarian end’ of DRR. Greater progress is needed on risk prevention (reducing the underlying risk factors to avoid unacceptable risk creation); this involves anticipatory risk measures, such as active environmental, ecosystems and land use management. This is the more ‘development end’ of DRR and is where there has been the least progress to date.
- 2. Focus on local implementation:** The MDGs were not “localized;” they remained largely the domain of national-level actors yet it is largely at the local level that implementation actually happens. Community-level implementation has repeatedly been identified as a gap within the HFA framework’s implementation, and this mistake cannot be repeated in the SDGs. There should be a focus on strengthening community/household resilience (the capacity of people to absorb, adapt and thrive in the face of shocks and stresses), for example through empowerment and social protection, the more people-centred aspect of DRR.
- 3. Reduce the impact of extensive disasters as well as intensive ones.** The DRR debate is often driven by large-scale natural disasters but recurrent small-scale disasters are a key driver of poverty and hence must be addressed through the SDGs.
- 4. Ensure that risk is reduced for the most marginalised.** The most vulnerable individuals and communities suffer most from disasters. It is they who live in the riskiest areas and lack access to insurance, services, and social protection that makes disaster resilience possible. If disaster risk is to be integrated into the SDGs, these communities cannot “be left behind”. The most vulnerable should be the explicit target of action to reduce disaster risk, both in the SDGs and elsewhere.
Amongst other things, this is likely to mean that targets should allow for disaggregation by characteristics of the individual or household (e.g. sex, age, income, disability, religion, race, or ethnicity); economic activity; and spatial disaggregation (e.g. by metropolitan areas, urban and rural, or districts); to ensure that disparities are not hidden by national averages.

General criteria for targets

- 5. Be simple and motivating.** The target should be easy to understand and straightforward to communicate. This is likely to lead to a focus on simple outcomes (eg reductions in losses) rather than inputs/processes (such as existence of legislation). The targets should be ambitious, achievable and of high importance and relevance to policy makers. This may suggest that the target should not be based on aspects that are already improving (eg mortality rates).
- 6. Be measurable based on solid data.** To the greatest extent possible the target should be based on international standards, recommendations and best practices; be constructed from well-established data sources, quantifiable, comparable internationally and consistent to enable measurement over time; there should be the potential for a baseline to be created.

These criteria are pooled from several different sources: BRC/IFRC’s [Options for including community resilience in the post-2015 development goals](#), Oxfam, Christian Aid and others’ [How disasters disrupt development: recommendations for the post-2015 development framework](#), ODI’s [Options for including disaster resilience in post-2015 development goals](#) and SDSN’s draft [Indicators for sustainable development goals](#).