



From Risk to Resilience: Towards a New Generation of Financing Strategies for Development

Date: Wednesday, 1 October 2025

Time: 09:00–10:30 (Panama time, GMT-5)

Interpretación services: Spanish-English

Registration: https://undrr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KMTqM1HYSumZnHT8Op-kMg

Organizers: Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English and Spanish.

Presentation

Latin America and the Caribbean average annual losses in infrastructure are estimated at USD 58 billion, while national budgets continue to dedicate most resources to response rather than prevention. Fiscal constraints, multiple competing priorities, and limited access to affordable international finance hinder investment in resilience. At the same time, innovative approaches to financing —anchored in risk reduction, inclusiveness, and sustainability—are urgently needed to protect development gains and ensure resilient societies.

Despite the growing recognition of the importance of disaster risk reduction (DRR), the cases included in UNDRR's Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk in Latin America and the Caribbean (RAR) (2024) show that national resource classified as DRR remains minimal—less than 2.5% of the annual budget—and continues to be unbalanced, with approximately 80% of available funds directed to response. Likewise, international cooperation for risk reduction and climate adaptation continues to represent only a small share of the total Official

Development Assistance received in the region, accounting for about 6% of total financial cooperation flows, according to the RAR. The financing currently available, which is mainly reactive, is insufficient to overcome persistent vulnerabilities and the high economic losses associated with disasters, underscoring the need for more effective risk-informed decision-making.

Despite the long-term benefits of investing in resilience, limited fiscal space, the pressure of multiple development priorities on public budgets, and the rising cost of international finance pose significant challenges for investment in DRR. It is therefore imperative to improve and expand the ways in which countries access and allocate resources for DRR. Countries in the region need to rethink their public investments and the regulatory frameworks of sectoral public policies so that they incorporate resilience considerations, while also advancing the development and implementation of innovative strategies that increase access to resilience-specific financing and improve resource allocation to ensure that policy and investment decisions are properly risk-informed. Risk reduction can no longer operate in isolation; it must become an integral component of the sustainable development agenda. Risk reduction is not a sector, but a development outcome, built on multisectoral interventions and robust governance and financing mechanisms that foster strategic foresight, adaptive planning, and the inclusion of the most vulnerable populations.

In this context, the Sevilla Commitment, the outcome of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development, highlights the importance of increasing investment in DRR and disaster risk financing, promoting risk-informed investments for resilient

infrastructure development. It also recognizes that disasters represent one of the greatest challenges to debt sustainability, promoting debt clauses resilient to the financial impacts of climate events and sustainability assessments that integrate investments in resilience. The Sevilla Commitment further calls for a more responsive international financial architecture that supports social protection during crises and improves the availability of data on risks and resilience. These integrated commitments reflect a financing approach that prioritizes resilience, equity, and sustainability in the face of growing global risks.

This session is part of the framework of the “Risk to Resilience Financing Initiative” prompted by UNDRR and the Financing Facility for Resilient Human Development led by UNDP, both part of the Sevilla Platform for Action. These two initiatives complement each other: the first promotes collaboration for the effective use of domestic resources for risk-informed development investment and innovative financing instruments for DRR; the second is a strategic platform that brings together actors at all levels—multilateral and regional organizations, national and local governments, development banks, private sector stakeholders, and civil society—under a common purpose: to accelerate financing and investments that strengthen countries’ capacities to anticipate, adapt, and respond to complex and interconnected crises.

Objetives

Within the framework of collaboration between the Issue-Based Coalitions (IBCs) on Climate Change and Resilience and on Equitable Growth and Financing

for Development, this dialogue seeks to promote a discussion on a new generation of financing strategies for risk-informed investment, protecting the development gains achieved in the region and projecting them more resilient in the face of the increasing frequency and intensity of climate events. This contributes to the priorities of the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) to strengthen regional support and partnerships in order to accelerate progress towards the SDGs at the subregional level and in transboundary and transnational contexts.

Session Objectives:

- Strengthen the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as a central component of development financing policies in the region.
- Promote innovative instruments and mechanisms to increase and improve financing and investment in resilience.
- Foster regional cooperation and partnerships to advance the resilience agenda within development financing policies in the region.

Expected results

- Practical recommendations to strengthen the integration of resilience into the development financing agenda.
- Strengthening of networks among UN agencies, funds and programmes, and other key actors in the development financing agenda.

Tentative Agenda

Time	Session	Presenters
5 min	Welcome and Opening Remarks	IBC Equitable Growth and Financing for Development Co-Chair
25 min	Introduction. Resilience for Sustainable Human Development	Under Pressure: Recalibrating the Future of Development in LAC (Regional Human Development Report) – UNDP From Risk to Resilience: Strategic Investments for a Sustainable Future (Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk in LAC) – UNDRR
40 min	Panel. From Theory to Practice: Resilience Experiences in LAC	Moderator: CEPAL Panelists: ECLAC: The contribution of adaptation and resilience investments to debt sustainability WFP: Insurance for municipalities in the Amazon UNDP: Adaptive Social Protection Strategy in the Dominican Republic UNDRR: Integration of DRR in infrastructure reconstruction projects in Costa Rica
15 min	Discussion	Moderator: UNDRR
5 min	Closing and Next Steps	IBC Climate Change and Resilience Co-Chair

References

UNDRR (2024). Informe de Evaluación sobre el Riesgo de Desastres en América Latina y el Caribe.

CDRI (2023). Global Infrastructure Resilience: Capturing the resilience dividend.

UNDRR & OCHA (2023). Overview of disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean.