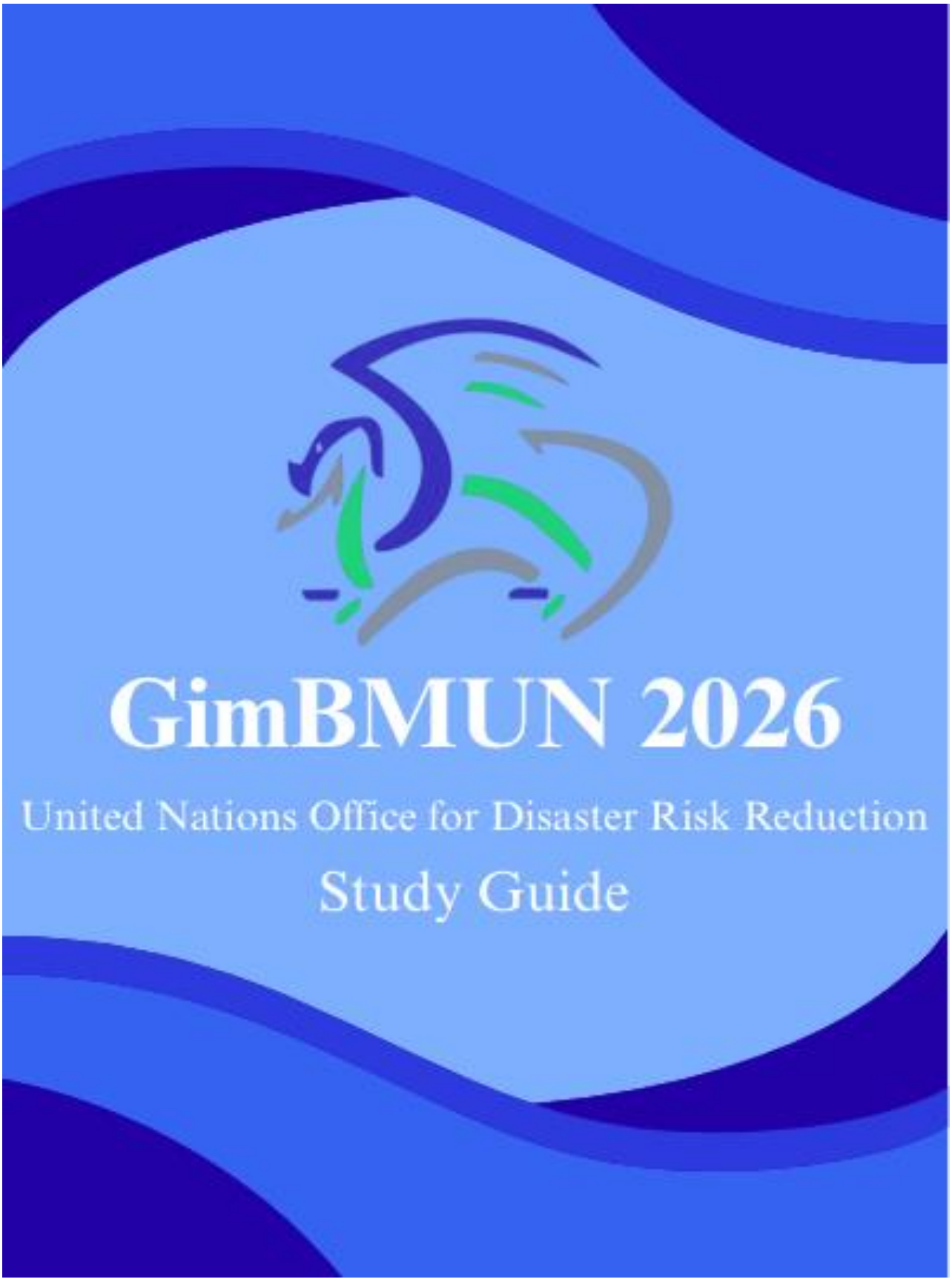
GimBMUN 2026
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
Study Guide

GimBMUN 2026

Gimnazija Bežigrad, Ljubljana

(United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction) – **Study Guide**

Written by---Parnian Rohani and Tara Borojevic---

Ljubljana, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Introduction of the chairs

Parnian Rohani

Hello delegates, my name is Parnian Rohani, and I will be your chair for UNDRR GimMUN 2026. I am a third-year student in the DP program, and I'm originally from Iran. Since this is a beginner committee, I would like to remind you all that it's okay to be inexperienced and nervous for your first conference; however, we promise to be very patient and to remind you of the rules whenever you would like. We are also available for any questions to help alleviate your stress and reduce that overwhelming feeling (you can contact me at parnian.rohani@gimb.org for any questions that may arise). With that said, I'm looking forward to yet another fantastic conference filled with new experiences, fruitful discussions, and plenty of networking. I sincerely hope we have made a non-biased and helpful study guide that will make you feel more prepared for the conference at hand. See you all soon!

Tara Borojevic

Dear Delegates, My name is Tara Borojević, and I am a second-year IB student at Gimnazija Bežigrad. This year I have the honour of serving as the cochair of the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Committee. I would firstly like to welcome you all to this MUN session. I encourage you to find your voice, be confident in expressing your beliefs, and represent your country with pride. This study guide should provide you with the information to prepare your resolutions for the conference. However, I encourage you to conduct further research on the topic to gain a better understanding. If you have any inquiries please do not hesitate to contact me via email at tara.borojevic@dijaki.gimb.org. I look forward to working with all of you and hearing your perspectives!

Introduction to the committee

What is UNDRR? The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction coordinates international efforts to reduce disaster risks. Its role is vital in advancing the global agenda for disaster resilience and supporting countries in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from various types of hazards. The UNDRR facilitates developing and implementing strategies and frameworks to reduce disaster risks, increase preparedness, and build resilience. The UNDRR was established in 1999 as the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), following the growing recognition that disaster risks were escalating and that more coordinated global action was needed to address these risks. In 2005, the ISDR was renamed the UNISDR, reflecting its broader mandate as part of the United Nations system. They have one big ambition: to help decision makers across the globe better understand and act on risk (*DRR and UNDRR's History*, 2023).

Introduction to the topic

Water-related disasters, such as floods and tsunamis, have become increasingly significant threats worldwide, driven by factors like climate change, urbanization, and unsustainable land use. Whether it's too much or too little water, nine out of ten disasters triggered by natural hazards during the last decade were water-related (*Water Risks and Resilience*, 2023). These disasters have devastating impacts on human lives, ecosystems, and economies, particularly in vulnerable regions. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) has made substantial efforts to strengthen preparedness, response, and recovery frameworks to mitigate these impacts, emphasizing resilience and proactive measures.

In this context, the UNDRR focuses on enhancing early warning systems (*Early Warnings for All (EW4All)*, 2024), improving infrastructure, and fostering international cooperation to reduce the risks associated with water-related disasters. Strengthening flood and tsunami preparedness is essential for minimizing loss of life, protecting communities, and ensuring faster recovery in the aftermath of such events. This approach involves a combination of scientific research, policymaking, public awareness campaigns, and the integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development plans.

By focusing on building robust disaster risk management strategies, the UNDRR is working to ensure that countries and communities are better equipped to anticipate, respond to, and recover from water-related disasters. This comprehensive approach is crucial in addressing the growing challenges posed by these events and safeguarding vulnerable populations worldwide.

(MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF WATER-RELATED DISASTERS: STRENGTHENING FLOOD AND TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY EFFORTS.)

History of the topic:

Since ancient times, many civilizations (e.g., Chinese, Indian, and Mesopotamian) have settled in areas with high water availability (e.g., coastal, river, and flood-prone areas) due to favorable geographic conditions, which facilitate economic growth, such as accessibility (transportation and commerce) and food production (fertile land). In contrast and applying the opposite logic, most ancient Greek civilizations avoided the establishment of their major urban centers close to rivers, lakes, or rich springs in order to protect populations and infrastructure from floods and water-related diseases (Angelakis et al., 2023).

Since then, recovery efforts and preparedness have naturally increased significantly to avoid such water-related issues. For example, after the catastrophic Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, the UNDRR (back then the ISDR) worked with countries to develop tsunami early warning systems, such as those for the Indian Ocean and the Pacific region. The Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) was created after the disaster to help mitigate future risks (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2025). In addition, in 2005, the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) was adopted during the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan. Its goal was to substantially reduce disaster losses by 2015, in lives, and the social, economic, and environmental assets of communities and countries (*Hyogo Framework for Action*, 2021). Water-related hazards such as floods and tsunamis were included in the framework, calling for the enhancement of early warning systems, preparedness strategies, and the integration of disaster risk reduction into national policies.

And more recently, in 2015, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was created (2015-2030) (*What Is the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction?*, 2023). This framework was the successor of the HFA in 2015, further strengthening the global approach to disaster risk reduction. It introduced a more inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction, recognizing the role of local governments, private sectors, and civil society in reducing water-related disaster risks. The framework highlighted the need for enhanced early warning systems, particularly for floods and tsunamis, and stressed the importance of preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. The goal was to reduce the global mortality rate from disasters and increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies (*Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, 2015).

Current situation

We all hear about big water-related disasters that have taken millions of lives; they all seem so distant and out of reach, and most of the ones we are aware of happened a decade ago. However, water-related disasters are happening all around the world, possibly the very second you're reading this. For example, in April of 2025, there was a flash flood in Somalia that left four people dead, three of them being children, and nearly 30,000 impacted by flash floods caused by moderate to heavy rains in several areas of Somalia over the last week. On March 21 to 24, 2025, continuous heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds began impacting Ulanga District in Morogoro region, particularly in Iragua ward, leading to the collapse of 433 houses. The heavy rains have displaced 2,165 people, who are now in urgent need of shelter and aid, and many more are expected to be displaced in 2025. On the 21st of August, monsoon floods killed more than

700 people in Pakistan, with children being the most affected in this natural disaster (*Monsoon Floods Kill More Than 700 in Pakistan, With Heavy Rains Set to Continue*, 2025)

The most recent UN World Water Development Report 2025 states that they are focusing on glaciers and mountains to simultaneously mitigate and adapt to rapid changes in our frozen water resources. By detailing the connections between mountain fresh water, essential services, and the natural world, this publication highlights the critical importance of conserving the cryosphere to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This report is a big step in the right direction since Mountain regions are important water towers, sustaining human settlements home to 14% of the world's population. Reports like this provide a glimpse of the action taken to mitigate this global crisis.

Furthermore, global powers such as the USA and China are investing hundreds of billions. The USA is primarily focused on modernization and system enhancements, while China has launched an ambitious 170-billion-dollar plan in 2023, targeting water conservation and infrastructure projects through 2035. In Europe, significant investment needs are underscored by the European Investment Bank's estimate of €60 billion annually to support infrastructure in water, energy, transport, and telecommunications. (*Water Security: How to Ensure Access to Water in a Changing World*, 2025).

Furthermore, water-related disasters occur all around the world, including in Slovenia. In August 2023, Slovenia suffered its worst national disaster due to heavy rainfall. triggered unprecedented flash flooding. Most of the country (183 of the 212 municipalities in Slovenia) were impacted.

In conclusion, aside from countries' independent actions, the UNDRR is doing the following for mitigating and strengthening water-related disasters: 1. Establish a new generation of hazardous events and losses and damages tracking system for water-related disasters (i.e., The enhanced system will replace the existing deslnventar with a more comprehensive and interoperable tracking system that will cover both hazardous events, as well as disaggregated losses and damages at localized scales). The new system addresses prior problems and improvements added to the new systems, such as Increased complexity of risks and impacts: Deeper understanding of underlying risks, triggers, causes, and both direct and indirect effects, along with cascading impacts. Data governance, institutionalization, and sustainability: Strengthen governance, institutionalization, and sustainability of databases and information systems. Technological innovation in Digital and Data Technologies: Address significant changes in technological options, capacities, and needs with solutions tailored to maturity levels. Methodological evolution for assessing effects and impacts: Consider evolving methodologies for assessing losses, damage, and impacts, along with adhering to data

standards. Interoperability of Systems: Enhancing support for data use and reuse, connecting and integrating multiple sources, fostering complementarity.

2. Enhance national capacities to collect and report official statistics on water-related disasters using the Sendai Framework Monitor that contributes to SDG monitoring. This Sendai Framework Monitor works by collecting data such as disaster losses and damages, including those related to water, it also helps national reporting which means member states use the monitor to report on their progress against global targets and indicators, contributars to both the sendai framework and the SDG monitoring process. Thirdly, it helps by analysing data and making improvements. The collected data is used to identify trends, assess vulnerabilities, and inform risk-informed decision-making. This helps in strengthening national disaster risk reduction strategies and improving resilience. And lastly, it helps with capacity building. Initiatives like those supported by UNDRR aim to build national capacities for collecting, analyzing, and utilizing disaster risk knowledge, including those related to water-related disasters.

3. Facilitate easy access to data and information on water-related disasters through the publicly accessible and analytical portal and assist countries in a better understanding of risk. The UNDRR, through its efforts like tracking loss and damage and monitoring the Sendai Framework, is committed to providing easy access to data and information on water-related disasters. This includes a publicly accessible and analytical portal that assists countries in better understanding risk. The data and information are used to benchmark progress on adaptation and disaster risk reduction, inform risk assessments, and analyze impacts for early action.

BLOCK POSITIONS

Block one: high-risk countries (Somalia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Venezuela, South Africa, Lebanon)

This block includes a wide range of developing nations that are highly vulnerable to water-related disasters such as floods and tsunamis. Countries such as Somalia, Bangladesh, and Kenya frequently experience devastating floods that result in widespread displacement, infrastructure damage, and loss of life. Similarly, nations like South Africa, Pakistan, and Venezuela face recurring challenges related to water management and disaster recovery.

Due to limited financial and technological resources, these countries advocate for stronger international cooperation, increased disaster resilience funding, technology transfer, and support for early warning systems. Their primary goal is to ensure equitable

access to disaster preparedness resources and to strengthen their capacity for effective response and recovery after disasters.

Block 2: disaster-prone but more resilient countries (Philippines, Mexico)

This block consists of countries that are highly vulnerable to water-related disasters but have made significant progress in strengthening their national disaster risk management strategies. Nations such as the Philippines and Mexico have invested heavily in early warning systems, emergency response infrastructure, and public education campaigns to mitigate the impacts of floods, tsunamis, and related disasters.

While these countries have developed stronger internal capacities, they continue to seek international support, particularly in the areas of technological innovation, capacity building, and funding for large-scale infrastructure projects. Their primary focus in international discussions is to enhance resilience through partnerships, knowledge-sharing, and access to advanced disaster mitigation technologies.

Block 3: developed countries and major donors (USA, UK, Germany)

This block includes countries that are also facing water-related issues, such as floods and heavy rainfall, but they do not require donors or international help, and they find value in fostering international relations by being major international donors. They help developing countries by sharing expertise, technology, and financial resources. The USA, UK, and Germany have made similar approaches such as infrastructure investment, early warning sign systems, climate change adaptations, flood insurance, and public awareness and preparedness.

These countries have strengthened their internal capacity and are not relying on international help at the moment since they have made and invested in all the necessary advancements. Their primary focus is to minimize risk, enhance resilience, and protect communities from the increasing impacts of flooding, extreme weather events, and rising sea levels, largely driven by climate change.

Block 4: Profiting, self-investing countries (China, UAE, Bahrain)

This block includes countries that possess the means to assist and build resilience without fearing for their economy. They also encounter significant challenges related to water-related disasters such as floods, landslides, and tsunamis. Moreover, they have taken action by investing in innovative infrastructure and technologies to protect their populations, economies, and natural environments from such risks.

China, the UAE, and Bahrain have all taken steps for water-related disaster mitigation. And because of their proactive stance, they no longer need external assistance and are widely self-sufficient. And because of this, they are now looking to help countries that need assistance by lending resources, money, and general assistance. Aside from this Their primary focus is the continuation of investments and improvements to the steps already taken, and to focus on their nations to ensure thorough and complete preparedness.

PAST UN ACTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

"International decade (2018-2028) for action- water for sustainable development"

"Water and climate coalition (founded in 2020)" (a community of multi-sectoral actors, guided by high-level leadership and focused on water action, making this happen.)

"The UN SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework"

"The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2013-2030)"

"Hyogo Framework for Action (2006- 2015)"

"UNEP-DHI Centre on water and environment"

"UNEP-DHI Partnership (which provides online tools such as the flood and drought portal)"

"The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement (2016)"

"Resolution A/RES/59/279 (2005): Emphasized the need for sustained international support beyond immediate relief, focusing on medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction"

"Resolution A/RES/60/15 (2005): Called for enhanced coordination among UN agencies and encouraged donor countries to fulfill pledges for tsunami recovery efforts."

"Resolution A/RES/62/91 (2007): Reiterated the importance of continued support for disaster-affected countries and the development of early warning systems."

"Resolution A/RES/63/137 (2008): Focused on strengthening emergency relief and rehabilitation, highlighting the need for disaster risk reduction strategies."

"Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS)"

"Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS)"

"International Early Warning Programme (IEWP)"

SUMMARY AND ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

Summary

Water-related disasters such as floods and tsunamis pose increasing threats globally due to factors like climate change, rapid urbanization, and unsustainable land use. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) plays a key role in coordinating international efforts to enhance preparedness, response, and recovery from these disasters. Over the years, major frameworks like the Hyogo Framework for Action and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction have shaped global strategies, emphasizing early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, international cooperation, and community education.

Past catastrophic events, such as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, highlighted the urgent need for more effective disaster risk management, leading to initiatives like the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System and the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System. Current efforts by the UNDRR focus on better data collection, national capacity-building, and easier access to disaster information, supporting countries in reducing the impacts of future water-related disasters. Despite progress, ongoing challenges remain, especially for vulnerable and developing nations that still require international support and resources.

To be fully prepared for the conference, delegates are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the past UN actions and resolutions mentioned, explore the suggested links, and conduct additional research on country-specific policies and recent developments in disaster risk reduction.

Useful links and further reading

1. extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.unwater.org/sites/default/files/app/uploads/2019/10/UN_Water_PolicyBrief_ClimateChange_Water.pdf
2. https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/30961
3. The UN Environment Programme
4. https://www.undrr.org/undrr-homepage
5. Also, take a look at the bibliography; all the sources used will be extremely helpful

Key terms and guiding questions

Key terms include: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Water-Related Disasters, Flood Preparedness, Tsunami Preparedness, Early Warning Systems (EWS), Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS), Hyogo Framework for Action (2005–2015), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030), Recovery and Reconstruction, Resilience, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS), International Early Warning Programme (IEWP), Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure, climate change.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What is the main goal of UNDRR?
2. What effect does climate change have on natural disasters?
3. Past water-related disasters (in your assigned country) and how they were managed?
4. What is the foreign policy of (insert country)?
5. How does the UNDRR monitor and support water-related disaster preparedness today?
6. What major global events (e.g., the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami) influenced international disaster preparedness efforts?
7. How effective have past UN frameworks and resolutions been in reducing the impacts of water-related disasters?
8. What gaps still exist in global water-related disaster preparedness and response?
9. How can countries with fewer resources be better supported in building resilience?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Admin. (2024, March 16). *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*. The All India Disaster Mitigation Institute. Retrieved April 26, 2025, from https://www.googleadservices.com/pagead/aclk?sa=L&ai=DChcSEwiU7r77qvWMAxXpqYMHHWzXLXIYABAAGgJlZg&co=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwiLLABhCEARIsAJYS6ulEQCg0zzVfLpbWo0fDl93bZy5kTxRgE44LgN-3xYeitJjmMyH503QaAt62EALw_wcB&ohost=www.google.com&cid=CAESVuD2rYzG1t48dG_wEYGR9spJzhfp3DUci2Zb0avWSEuy8LnV0hpulECKB4rYIzoRbwP6fh3M0UrbVYd70tH2rq43xiv6UVmdokaznQQ-4r1LQzcv7tCU&sig=AOD64_0uQ_dwj2xiZg_CwiiFgJArZQAXAA&q&adurl&ved=2ahUKEwiup7X7qvWMAxV4-AIHHfjzGbMQ0Qx6BAgJEAE

***DRR and UNDRR's history*. (2023, May 17). UNDRR. Retrieved April 26, 2025, from https://www.undrr.org/our-work/history**

Early warnings for all. (n.d.). World Meteorological Organization. Retrieved April 26, 2025, from https://earlywarningsforall.org/site/early-warnings-all#:~:text=The%20Early%20Warnings%20for%20All,called%20for%20by%20the%20United

Hyogo Framework for Action. (2021, June 14). Retrieved April 26, 2025, from https://www.preventionweb.net/sendai-framework/Hyogo-Framework-for-Action

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. (2015, June 29). UNDRR. Retrieved April 26, 2025, from https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica | Britannica. (n.d.). Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved April 26, 2025, from https://www.britannica.com/editor/The-Editors-of-Encyclopaedia-Britannica/4419

Water risks and resilience. (2023, March 16). Retrieved April 26, 2025, from https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/sendai-framework-action/water-risks-and-resilience

What is the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction? (2023, April 4). UNDRR. Retrieved April 26, 2025, from https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework#:~:text=Targets%20and%20indicators,-The%20Sendai%20Framework&text=The%20Sendai%20Framework%20outlines%20seven,against%20which%20to%20assess%20progress.&text=A%20set%20of%2038%20indicators,Framework%20for%20Disaster%20Risk%20Reduction.

Adane, Z. (n.d.). *3 Strategies for Water-Wise Development in Ethiopia*. World Resources Institute. Retrieved April 28, 2025, from https://www.wri.org/insights/strategies-water-risk-insecurity-ethiopia

British Geological Survey. (2024, December 5). *Improving water security in the Philippines*. Retrieved April 28, 2025, from https://www.bgs.ac.uk/news/improving-water-security-in-the-philippines/

Improving water, sanitation, and hygiene in Tanzania: Challenges, solutions, and entrepreneurial Opportunities – Global Council for the Promotion of International Trade. (n.d.). Retrieved April 28, 2025, from https://gcpit.org/improving-water-sanitation-and-hygiene-in-tanzania-challenges-solutions-and-entrepreneurial-opportunities/

Ishaque, W., Sultan, K., & Rehman, Z. U. (2024). Water management and sustainable development in Pakistan: environmental and health impacts of water quality on achieving the UNSDGs by 2030. *Frontiers in Water*, *6*. https://doi.org/10.3389/frwa.2024.1267164

Kenya's water Crisis: Our mission | Water.org. (n.d.). Water.org. Retrieved April 28, 2025, from https://water.org/our-impact/where-we-work/kenya/

Paulo. (2022, July 19). *Water solutions in Lebanon: who and what is standing in the way? - ReWater MENA*. ReWater MENA. Retrieved April 28, 2025, from https://rewater-mena.iwmi.org/news-events/water-solutions-in-lebanon-who-and-what-is-standing-in-the-way/

Rendon, M., Schneider, M. L., & Kohan, A. (2025). *Unraveling the water crisis in Venezuela*. Retrieved April 28, 2025, from https://www.csis.org/analysis/unraveling-water-crisis-venezuela

Smart and participatory water solution in Bangladesh. (2018, November 19). PreventionWeb. Retrieved April 28, 2025, from https://www.preventionweb.net/news/smart-and-participatory-water-solution-bangladesh

Stoll, D. (2024, May 31). *Water crisis in South Africa: causes, effects, and solutions*. Earth.Org. Retrieved April 28, 2025, from https://earth.org/water-crisis-in-south-africa/

Water and sanitation issues in Mexico - our impact. (n.d.). Retrieved April 28, 2025, from https://www.googleadservices.com/pagead/aclk?sa=L&ai=DChcSEwisme3F4_qMAxVasYMHHHYR_BL8YABAAGgJlZg&co=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwzrzABhD8ARIsANlSWNPAn3XadMVPor5Do6MiXUc6nwl2_I_bls-wlaqcoU-8MU5o2wx8wksaAjeWEALw_wcB&ohost=www.google.com&cid=CAESVuD2I4Wb-jdnAF50sM8UiXUV87lEqF_--Ien-7fuWlMQHDoXSOArsodN0vYeTkVgFDFicIqyuKBn-ewRJorw8kj_61ncEZ7NtYixx3KIM1IYMT-7xgUh&sig=AOD64_35AaByXuyCmkuWX4_wEiD6Hq9EuQ&q&adurl&ved=2ahUKEwin1uXF4_qMAxVC1QIHHbLcFIAQ0Qx6BAgeEAE

Yinuo. (2023, March 1). *INTERVIEW: Turn the tide on water crisis with game-changing commitments, urge co-hosts of UN conference*. United Nations Sustainable Development. Retrieved April 28, 2025, from https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2023/03/interview-turn-the-tide-

on-water-crisis-with-game-changing-commitments-urge-co-hosts-of-un-conference-2/