



Disaster Management Working Group

ISSUES NOTE

BRICS 2025

1. Background Information

The increasing frequency and severity of disasters, exacerbated by climate change, pose critical challenges for the Global South. Addressing social vulnerabilities in this context requires inclusive and community-oriented approaches that promote effective prevention, preparedness, reduction and response strategies. Developing community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans that support Community-Based Early Warning Systems (CBEWS) and resilient infrastructure is essential to protect vulnerable populations.

BRICS members have consistently highlighted the importance of sustainable development and disaster resilience, as evidenced in the Kazan Declarations and further solidified in the ministerial declaration of the G20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group. Both documents emphasize resilient infrastructure, equitable disaster response, and the empowerment of vulnerable communities.

The subject of this working group aligns with these commitments, providing an opportunity for collaboration among BRICS countries, leveraging their shared experiences and capacities in disaster risk reduction (DRR). It also aligns with the guiding theme of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction—"Everyday Counts, Act for Resilience Today"—as well as its three cross-cutting themes: "Managing current and future risks and uncertainties in a rapidly changing climate and global context," "Prioritizing gender equality, accessibility, and inclusion to leave no one behind," and "Accelerate action for our collective sustainable future" (<https://globalplatform.undrr.org/2025/about-gp/themes>).

Historically, disaster resilience has been addressed within the BRICS framework through initiatives of the Disaster Management Working Group. This theme broadens the focus by integrating solutions tailored to the specific vulnerabilities of member nations, promoting community-level engagement, and fostering partnerships with the G20 for scalable impact.

2. Priorities

The capacity-building of local leaders and stakeholders plays a central role in creating communities prepared to recognize risks and cope with disasters. Education and communication programs that prioritize communities at higher risk, with special attention to traditionally underrepresented groups such as women, youth, and Indigenous peoples, not only promote fairness but also expand the capacity of communities for prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. This approach values local leadership, strengthens community governance, and ensures active and informed participation in risk management.

Hence, the implementation of Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Plans (CBDRR) is fundamental to the process of diagnosis, monitoring, and territory

management by disaster-prone communities through participatory mapping, social mobilization, and community-based disaster risk reduction actions. Awareness, the production of local knowledge about risks, and social engagement empower the creation of inclusive Community-Based Early Warning Systems (CBEWS) that are essential to addressing the disproportionate impacts of socio-environmental disasters on the most vulnerable populations, such as women, children, the elderly, Indigenous peoples, and people with disabilities. By integrating local knowledge and modern technologies, these systems ensure effective communication and a more efficient response from communities, meeting the specific needs of each group. This approach strengthens community resilience and reduces adverse effects on vulnerable populations.

The development of resilient infrastructure, such as schools, health centers, and community shelters, is a strategic priority to ensure that these facilities remain functional during emergencies. Modernizing these structures not only increases their resistance to extreme events but also promotes sustainability, using technologies such as renewable energy and water management systems.

The integration of nature-based solutions, such as reforestation, watershed conservation, and ecosystem restoration, contributes to reducing disaster risks and promoting environmental sustainability. These practices mitigate the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events while strengthening the adaptive capacity of communities and contributing to the preservation of natural resources and the mitigation of climate change.

Finally, sustainable financing models are indispensable to ensure the continuity and effectiveness of disaster resilience initiatives. Innovative approaches, such as partnerships with multilateral development banks and local co-financing, enable the scalability and replication of projects in different contexts. Additionally, forming local networks integrating universities, research institutes, civil society organizations, social movements, and community collectives supports collaboration and ensures the stability of financial resources. These strategies encourage cooperation between the public and private sectors and promote long-term sustainable development, protecting the most vulnerable communities.

During Brazil's chairship, the following priorities will be pursued to advance disaster resilience in BRICS countries:

2.1. Production of community-based disaster risk reduction plans

Promoting education and communication processes for local leaders and stakeholders of disaster-prone communities, with an emphasis on women, youth, and Indigenous communities, strengthening knowledge and skills for prevention, preparedness, reduction, and disaster response.

2.2. Implementation of Inclusive Community-Based Early Warning Systems (CBEWS)

Developing early warning systems adapted to local communities, integrating local knowledge, focusing on vulnerable groups, and leveraging modern technologies for effective communication.

2.3. Development of Resilient Infrastructure

Strengthening the readiness of critical facilities, such as schools, health centers, and community shelters, ensuring sustainability and adaptability.

2.4. Integration of Nature-Based Solutions

Promoting ecosystem restoration and sustainable practices, such as reforestation and water resource management, to reduce disaster risks.

2.5. Sustainable Financing Models

Establishing innovative financing mechanisms with multilateral development banks and local co-financing to ensure the scalability and longevity of resilience projects.

These initiatives reflect BRICS' commitment to leading global efforts to address the growing challenges posed by climate-induced disasters. By developing community-based disaster risk reduction plans, early warning systems, and resilient infrastructure, the Brazilian chairship aims to create a practical and adaptable model tailored to the unique needs of the Global South. This approach fosters knowledge exchange and technological collaboration among BRICS countries, showcasing the group's capacity to deliver disaster risk reduction solutions that are both locally effective and globally applicable. Moreover, prioritizing the inclusion of women, youth, Indigenous peoples, and other vulnerable groups in planning and implementation strengthens social justice while enhancing the overall impact of these efforts. By mobilizing the expertise and engagement of all societal sectors, this holistic vision positions BRICS as a global leader in community-centered disaster risk management, offering a resilient and sustainable development model that can inspire other international coalitions and regions.



COOPERATING FOR AN INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD