

Spotlight on:

The 2021 ARISE Annual General Meeting (AGM)



The 2021 ARISE Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place virtually on 7 October and reunited ARISE Board Members, Network Leaders, ARISE Members, and Affiliates; UNDRR ARISE Focal Points; and a range of distinguished speakers. The AGM

served the purpose of exchanging insights on the Network's key achievements, confirming the engagement on the set of strategic objectives, and further increasing opportunities for private sector commitments to risk-informed development. The annual event was structured in two identical but separate sessions to allow ARISE stakeholders from different times zones to join. Over 250 participants attended the event.

The **meeting** saw three main objectives:

1. Showcase opportunities and ideas for ARISE leadership through the presentation of initiatives and projects related to the four ARISE Priority Areas – SMEs, investment, insurance, and resilient infrastructure (AGM Part 1).
2. Provide ARISE members with a common understanding of possibilities to engage in upcoming UNDRR events, particularly in the Regional Platforms for DRR which took place in November in Africa, the Americas, the Arab States, and Europe, and the Global Platform for DRR, to be hosted in Bali in May 2022 (AGM Part 2).
3. Stocktake progress and achievements against the ARISE four Priority Areas and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), with a presentation of the ARISE baseline study and a discussion on the Network's strategic focus for 2022-2025, given that the 2020-2021 KPIs have been achieved, with a focus on SMEs (AGM Part 3). The exchanges, which took place during the AGM, directly fed into the two virtual Board Meetings convened on 19 and 26 October, and the second Network Leaders Call of 2021 held on 16 November, allowing for the adoption of new KPIs to be launched in early January 2022.

Upcoming events related to ARISE Priority Areas

January-February 2022

19 January: International Recovery Forum 2022

27 January: ARISE US Symposium on "Strategies for Flood Risk Reduction"

3 February: UN Global Compact/UN Women session on Empowering Women in the Workplace, Marketplace, and Community

Following months

25-29 April: UNCTAD's eCommerce Week 2022

23-28 May: Seventh Session of the Global Platform for DRR

19-22 September: Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR

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Amplify your reach by sharing your events and publications with us. We want to hear from you!

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- Email us at: arise@cc.preventionweb.net
- Submit directly on the ARISE website: <https://www.ariseglobalnetwork.org/learn/share>

This AGM was also an occasion for the Network to thank former ARISE Co-Chair Martha Herrera (CEMEX) for her leadership and engagement, and to welcome Hans-Peter Teufers (UPS Foundation; [link to bio](#)) as new Co-Chair, Fernando Britto (AI Systems Research, [link to bio](#)) as new ARISE Vice-Chair, and Paula Pagniez (Willis Tower Watson; [link to bio](#)) as new Global Board Member.

News round-up: Global

COP26-related events and reports



This year's COP26 has been a breakthrough for risk and resilience, and a unique opportunity for the private and finance sectors to take a lead in tackling climate and disaster risk, following the already successful [Foods System Summit](#), which took place in September. UNDRR and its key partners were engaged in [various events](#) ahead of and during COP26. These included: two webinars on [‘Accelerating financing for climate and disaster risk prevention and de-risking investment’](#) (20 October) and [‘Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Practices in Small and Medium Sized Enterprises’](#) (11 November). Both events were related to the launch of key UNDRR reports, related to two of the four ARISE Priority Areas – investment and SMEs –, and published respectively in October and in November 2021:

- [‘Opportunities for delivering risk-informed investment: Addressing the barriers’](#) documents the progress that has been made and the barriers that need to be overcome for taking risk-informed decisions. It also provides eight concrete recommendations for stakeholders – both investment decision-makers and policy-makers – to take immediate action to incorporate disaster risk into their investment decisions.
- [‘Increasing SME uptake of disaster risk reduction: recommendations for policymakers, financiers and the broader business community’](#) appeals to relevant stakeholders to take action that not only supports SMEs – which are globally more affected by disasters than larger businesses – but also promotes overall resilience and mutual benefit. Compiling evidence from case studies, stakeholder interviews, a workshop and adapted modelling, the report identifies four key reasons SMEs underinvest in DRR and highlights ways governments, financial institutions, and large businesses can actively support their reactivity in the face of disasters.



Click on the covers to access and download the reports.

Likewise, the Insurance Development Forum (IDF)'s presence at COP26 (including ARISE Member Willis Tower Watson) resulted in [three critical successes](#) for the resilience and adaptation agenda:

- The launch of a partnership between IDF and the Vulnerable Group of 20 Countries (V20) on risk and resilience analytics, which paves the way for the establishment of the Global Risk Modelling Alliance (GRMA);
- The joint establishment of the Global Resilience Index Initiative (GRII), as a multi-partner initiative under the patronage of IDF SteerCo members, UNDRR Head Mami Mizutori, Mark Carney, and Eric Andersen;
- IDF's increasing support to the humanitarian sector, including a growing partnership with the START Network.

Read more on UNDRR's engagement at COP26 [here](#).

UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) Annual Meeting

ARISE was an active player in UNDRR's Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) Annual Meeting, which took place in December 2021, and consisted in a review of the progress accomplished by the SEM over the past two years. The meeting's key outcome was an agreement on the new SEM workplan for 2022-2023, under the leadership of ARISE Vice-Chair Fernando Britto. This new workplan includes several entry points for interested ARISE Members, to connect with other stakeholder groups and engage in global policy processes.



Africa

Eighth Africa Regional Platform for DRR | Towards disaster risk-informed development for a resilient Africa in a COVID-19 transformed world



The Eighth Africa Regional Platform for DRR (AfRP) took place on 16-19 November, in Nairobi, Kenya, in hybrid format. The AfRP welcomed over 750 participants who engaged in 37 sessions, including 12 pre-conference events. A number of private sector consultations were organized by the ARISE Africa Network during the first day of the Platform. They focused on adopting voluntary commitments to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa. Both the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration and the Programme of Action Matrix were endorsed as key outcome deliverables of the event. They

referred several times to the importance of private sector engagement in implementing the Sendai Framework and supporting the development of risk-informed and resilient plans at the regional, national, and local level. Click on the enclosed links to watch the recordings of Day One, Day Two and Day Three of the Regional Platform.

Webinar on 'Strengthening the role of the African Private Sector in Disaster Risk Management' for the International Day of DRR (IDDR)

UNDRR ARISE Africa and the UNDP-OCHA Connecting Business Initiative (CBI) jointly organized a webinar focused on 'Strengthening the role of the African Private Sector in Disaster Risk Management', on 13 October. The event was held in celebration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, a global event which takes place yearly to raise awareness about disaster risk reduction, strengthen international collaboration around resilience, and provide advocacy tools to promote a culture of risk-awareness and sustainable development. The session focused on highlighting the key challenges and the existing opportunities for private sector engagement in disaster risk management in Sub-Saharan Africa. CBI and ARISE Africa also mentioned that they plan on renewing their collaboration by holding a series of awareness campaigns and virtual roadshows leading to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, in May 2022. The event's recording is available here.



Americas and the Caribbean

ARISE US Symposium on ‘Wildfire Risk Reduction - Connecting the Dots’



On 21 September, ARISE US organized a Symposium on wildfire DRR for insurers, governments, engineers, risk managers, financial services, and community organizations. Read more about the speakers and watch the recording of the event [here](#). A paper by Dr. Peter Williams, Chair of the ARISE US Network, which summarizes the key issues addressed during the Symposium, is also available [here](#).

ARISE Forum for the Americas and the Caribbean

The ARISE Forum for the Americas and the Caribbean took place on 28 October as a preparatory event of the Seventh Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas and the Caribbean (see below). In a region where communities are particularly exposed to disasters, this Forum was an opportunity for business leaders to discuss the role of the private sector in strengthening risk-informed governance and public-private partnerships supporting disaster risk reduction. The key topics addressed were closely related to the ARISE Priority Areas and included: cost and benefit modelling for resilient infrastructures; SMEs resilience competitiveness and sustainability; and Business Continuity Plans lessons from COVID-19, among others. The recordings of all Forum sessions can be consulted [here](#).



Seventh Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas and the Caribbean | Building resilient economies



The VII Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas and the Caribbean was convened virtually by the Government of Jamaica and UNDRR’s Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, from 1 to 4 November and featured more than 120 panelists who participated in 30 different sessions. The Platform’s objectives were: present an overview of the progress achieved in the region since the 2018 Regional Platform; review the Regional Action Plan and key priorities associated to it; and identify new mechanisms to promote the

integration of disaster risk reduction across different sectors, particularly the financial sector. The programme featured a parallel session dedicated to ‘Integrating risk and hazard information in public and private investment’, organized jointly between the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Disasters in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). A side event focused on ‘Strengthening SMEs Resilience’ organized by ARISE, the Caribbean Chambers of Commerce (CARICHAM) Network, and the University of the West Indies (UWI). The need for enhanced public-private partnerships and investments in disaster risk prevention and reduction was emphasized in all of the Regional Platform’s key outcome documents. Watch the recordings from Day One, Day Two, Day Three and Day Four of the event by consulting the above links.

Arab States

High-Level Dialogue on International Cooperation to Scaleup Financing for DRR for the International Day of DRR (IDDRR)

In commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNDRR's Regional Office for the Arab States organized a High-Level Dialogue on 'International Cooperation to Scaleup Financing for DRR', which was held as a special session of the UN Hub at Expo 2020 Dubai. The event brought together key UN, private sector, and political stakeholders from the region to discuss challenges, opportunities, and next steps towards delivering on the 2015 landmark UN agreements, including the key pillars of the Sendai Framework for DRR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, among others. The panelists highlighted the necessity to provide urgent funding to developing countries, which currently require an estimated \$70 billion to meet their adaptation plans. Read the full story [here](#).



Launch of the ARISE Egypt Network



On 25 October, a group of Egyptian CEOs, business associations, and business leaders and the UNDRR Regional Office for the Arab States, launched the ARISE Egypt Network, which is the second Network to be established in the region after ARISE UAE. ARISE Egypt's key priorities will be to increase the resilience of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), integrate disaster and climate risks into the financial sector's investment decisions, and support resilient infrastructure development in the region, in line with ARISE's global four Priority Areas. Click [here](#) to read more.

Fifth Arab Regional Platform for DRR | From risk to resilience: accelerating local action for DRR

Hosted by the Government of Morocco, the Fifth Arab Regional Platform for DRR: "From Risk to Resilience: Accelerating Local Action for Disaster Risk Reduction" was organized as a virtual event from 8 to 11 November. The Platform reunited over 500 participants from 55 different countries. ARISE Members from the region presented a Voluntary Action Commitment for the Private Sector in DRR during Day Two's Plenary Stakeholder Session, in which they pledged to support the implementation of the Prioritized Action Plan 2021-2024 of the Arab Strategy for DRR by: raising awareness; exercising influence; sharing knowledge; catalyzing innovation and collaboration around DRR; and implementing projects and activities to achieve targets of the Sendai Framework. These commitments directly echo the ones adopted by ARISE UAE in 2020, which were updated last June, to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework. ARISE Members also participated in Thematic Session 3 on "Building a Better Future: Financing Disaster Risk Reduction for Climate Adaptation and Resilience", with the International Real Estate Federation presenting on resilient infrastructure.



