

METHODOLOGY OF THE RISK REDUCTION INDEX

1. Analysis of the capacities and conditions

The RRI methodology allows for a study to be undertaken at different levels within a country (national, subnational and local) with the objective of obtaining a clear and detailed picture of the capacities and conditions affecting disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA).

The conditions and capacities for DRR and CCA are the factors that affect the ability of stakeholders to reduce and control risk in an effective and efficient manner in different countries and locations. This notion is based on the idea that a country or area must have certain social, economic, environmental, organisational and/or governance characteristics to be able to effectively reduce risk. The design and implementation of a method that can be applied to understand these conditions and capacities and measure changes in them over time, is quite complex; however, the RRI has simplified this task by classifying these conditions and capacities into four risk drivers (DARA).

2. Representative territorial unit (RTU)

The analysis is developed using the concept of Representative Territorial Unit (RTU). A number of RTUs are selected in each country to examine the conditions and capacities for DRR and CCA. A survey is conducted with key informants who have extensive knowledge of the risks in the areas (RTU) identified.

RTU is a new concept that refers to a geographically defined area within a country that is subject to certain hazards and patterns of vulnerability that are representative of other areas in the same country with similar characteristics. A RTU can exceed the limits of a municipality or any other political or administrative division within a country, but its boundaries must be clearly defined in terms of risk type (DARA).

A summary of the criteria used to delimit the RTUs and an example of a risk typology are outlined below:

RTU Typology	Risk Typology
Urban areas (i.e. marginalised areas within large urban centres, metropolitan areas).	Exposure to high intensity, low recurrence threats with potential for intensive losses (i.e. earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or hurricanes that could produce severe losses in small areas).
Rural areas (i.e. with subsistence agriculture and/or livestock).	Exposure to low-to-medium intensity, high recurrence hazards with potential for extensive losses (i.e. floods or landslides that regularly produce limited losses in large areas).
Urban expansion areas (i.e. service centres, centres for trade, production and tourism).	Exposure to low intensity, low recurrence hazards with potential for extensive losses (i.e. droughts that occasionally produce widespread losses).

3. Key informants

Representatives from different sectors in each RTU provide information on the conditions and capacities that encourage or hinder effective risk management. The key informants that are selected represent six sectors and meet the characteristics detailed below:

Sectors	Characteristics
National Government	Direct presence in the RTU
Local (Regional) Government	Balance between sectors
International organisations	UN agencies, IFRC, international NGOs and regional organisations with a direct presence in the RTU
National civil society	National NGOs with a presence in the RTU, universities and other research institutions
Local civil society	Local NGOs, community leaders and grassroots organisations such as women's groups
Private sector	Multi-national, national and local enterprises and other associations for productive activities with a direct presence in the RTU

4. Underlying risk factors/drivers

The information is collected from key informants' perception through a questionnaire divided into different sections focused on an analysis of the conditions and capacities for DRR and CCA. These sections are based on four risk drivers (environment and natural resources, socioeconomic conditions, land use and the built environment, and governance) and measure the relative importance of each driver of risk.

The notion of risk drivers refers to a set of processes, both physical and social, that significantly contribute to the construction, creation and existence of disaster risk. As noted above, the RRI identifies four risk drivers that capture a number of different processes: (1) Environment and natural resources; (2) Socioeconomic conditions; (3) Land use and the built environment, and; (4) Governance (DARA).

5. Local and national workshops

After the information has been analysed, a national workshop is organised with the participation of the key informants from each RTU to present, explore and validate preliminary results of the questionnaire and to propose areas of intervention to promote DRR and CCA, and also the actors and institutions that should be involved and take the lead.

Finally, a second workshop takes place at country level with the dual aim of scaling-up local knowledge of the conditions and capacities affecting DRR and CCA in the RTUs and securing high-level commitments from regional, national and international institutions for policy action.