

Strategy 11. Verify and adapt business continuity plans (BCPs)

Efforts to avoid the next pandemic and the next disaster should continue, but when it comes to risk management, it is important to consider these events as being inevitable, and to be well prepared. This should also be seen as a test to improve sustainability by directly applying the lessons learned from this pandemic. We need to see disasters as a real risk, even events that are said to happen only once in a hundred years, and to develop business continuity plans (BCPs) accordingly.

Key points for achieving the SDGs

1. It is important to have proper early warning systems in place and to establish information sharing systems.¹⁸ This is necessary not only multilaterally (between countries) but also at all levels, including national and local government levels, and it can also serve as the basis for building partnerships.
2. Develop evacuation manuals that take infectious diseases into account, and establish related implementation systems. Also, establish disaster cooperation agreements and other arrangements for public-private collaboration.
3. Enhance medical systems: Develop, encourage and deploy telemedicine technologies.¹⁹

Key targets to help achieve the SDGs

- 1.5 (Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations)
- 3.2 (End preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age)
- 3.d (Strengthen the capacity for risk reduction and management of health risks)
- 11.5 (Reduce the numbers of deaths and people affected, and substantially decrease direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters)

¹⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Japanese cooperation to 'Leave No One's Health Behind': Towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC)" <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100101479.pdf>

¹⁹ Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2020): Sustainable Development Report 2020, 9- 12pp.

11.b (Develop and implement holistic disaster risk management in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030)

13.1 (Strengthen resilience to climate-related disasters)