



The Sustainable & Resilient Enterprises Platform

A 'network of networks' promoting decent work and sustainable & resilient enterprises in conflict and disaster prone areas.

“ In fragile and conflict-affected States [...] poverty rates are generally 21 percentage points higher than in other States. [...] The threat that their condition poses to the prosperity of others is one compelling reason why the ILO should give priority to them”

Guy Ryder, ILO Director General

The development challenges we face today are unprecedented in nature. Despite large strides in poverty reduction roughly half the world's population still lives on the equivalent of about US\$2 a day. Climate change is producing more natural disasters, with crippling effects for both people and the societies within which they live. While conflict between nations are less frequent than they were in the past decades, conflict within states is increasing. The world is a more violent place than ever before.

The resulting deterioration in social conditions in these States can also destabilize neighbouring States into which problems overflow, in the form of refugees, trafficking, criminality and related manifestations. This requires development actors to look at delivering programmatic assistance to fragile zones in new and innovative ways that can be easily absorbed and will ultimately be the most impactful.

The new global framework for development, the “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” has responded to these challenges in four critically new ways.

First, the importance of decent work as a means of supporting families and communities is explicitly highlighted (SDG 8). Second, building and promoting positive peace is a central objective, rather than just containing conflict and its consequences (SDG 16). Third, preventing crisis along with building resilience to face them, are guiding implementation principles. Finally, the role of the private sector in making these objectives a reality is newly accentuated.

These four issues are connected in intricate ways. Conflict, disasters and other crises aggravate poverty, unemployment and informality, creating a vicious cycle leading to even greater fragility.

In response to these developments and in line with the SDG framework, the ILO has developed a Sustainable and Resilient Enterprises (SRE) Platform. The SRE Platform has been designed as a space to bring together multiple partners to promote decent work and sustainable & resilient enterprises. It is a new and innovative approach to support enterprises and their workers in fragile settings. The material (tools, guides, training aides, etc.) have been developed in a highly adaptable way. They enable and encourage adaption, customization and flexible implementation.

The Sustainable and resilient platform (SRE) is built around the twin concepts of ‘resilience’ and ‘sustainability’.

The concept of ‘sustainable enterprise’ is related to the general approach to sustainable development – forms of progress that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs – an approach which postulates a holistic, balanced and integrated perspective on development. It is one predicated on the fact that because enterprises are part of society; they shape and are shaped by the communities in which they operate.

Resilience is defined as the ability to adapt to disruptions, maintaining enterprise operations and protecting people, assets and enterprise reputation. It refers to the ability of enterprises and their workers to withstand and to recover quickly from any plausible hazard. Resilience against crises not only refers to reducing risks and damage from disasters or conflicts (i.e. loss of lives and assets), but also the ability to quickly bounce back to a stable state.

Putting in place resilience measures to provide physical protections are critically important, but equally important are measures to make the workplace resilient to internal threats. That means creating an environment that is resilient to outside forces that can impact on the business environment, be they political; ethnic; tribal; or religious. It entails creating a safe and inclusive environment that is accepting of all and free of discrimination. These are also critical components of a “resilient enterprise.”

Through investment in resilience measures, enterprises, in particular small ones, their workers and families can be better equipped to face and manage the increasing threats from both natural disasters and conflict.

The Sustainable and resilient platform (SRE) Toolkits

There are two toolkits in the platform consisting of a range of products for enterprises to enable them to:

- *prepare for natural hazards and disasters, ensure their commercial viability if a hazard strikes and have in place the necessary protections for workers;*
- *maintain and manage their businesses in conflict-afflicted zones and to create a safe and inclusive working environment for workers;*

The 4Ps Framework:

All of the tools and the implementing strategies contained in them, are structured around the four main tenets of any business: *People* (workers); *Processes* (means of production); *Profits* (sales and prices) and its *partnerships* (the wider environment it operates in).

Protecting People through increased security, safety measures

Supporting Processes through supply chain management and effective logistical planning

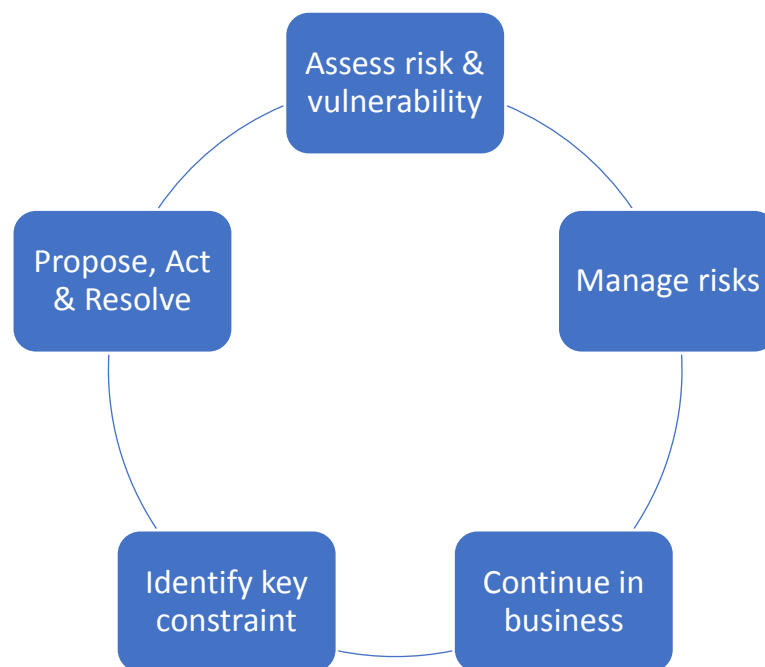
Sustaining Profits through management of risks to products/services

Managing Partnership by identifying key stakeholders and developing ways to deal with different scenarios

Supporting EBMOs

There are an additional range of tools that enable EBMO's to identify the central concerns of enterprises collectively and to assist them in developing proposals to initiate positive change – *before, during or after disaster* or conflict situations.

1. Assess risks and vulnerabilities at the enterprise level
2. Identify what risks/vulnerabilities can be managed and/or minimized
3. Develop a business continuity plan for the enterprise
4. Identify key overarching constraint on private sector
5. Develop a response/proposal; act collectively and resolve constraint



To find out more, head to:

www.conflictdisaster.org