

# Annual Report 2024



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## Acknowledgement

UNDRR wants to acknowledge and thank all ARISE network members and enterprises committed to building more resilient societies. They have been dedicating time, effort, and capacities to strengthen the private sector's connection to disaster risk reduction actions.

Cover photos: (Left to right) @ARISE/Philippines, @ARISE/Costa Rica, @ARISE India, @ARISE/Argentina.

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# Foreword

All regions of the world faced devastating disasters in 2024. Extreme heat, perilous droughts, devastating tropical storms, catastrophic floods and landslides robbed people of their lives and livelihoods.

Fortunately, last year we also witnessed how governments, communities and private sector entities stepped up to reduce disaster risks and respond to crises. It has been especially encouraging to see business leaders take more proactive measures to understand their risks and build resilience – not just to protect their investments, but also to protect the communities they serve.

I welcome their efforts because, with the majority of investments being driven by the private sector, their engagement is essential for the successful implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Nowhere is this commitment more obvious than among the members of the ARISE initiative. In 2024, the initiative grew its membership by almost 10 per cent, bringing the total number of members to 635 at the end of 2024. This makes ARISE the largest network of businesses dedicated to disaster risk reduction in the world.

More importantly, this network is more active than ever before. As this 2024 ARISE Annual Report showcases, throughout the year the ARISE community organized dozens of awareness-raising events and capacity-building workshops, developed and rolled out tools, implemented projects and strengthened partnerships.

I am grateful to all ARISE members for their work and would also like to thank all the partners who support ARISE, from governments and donors to civil society organizations and academia – because disaster risk reduction is truly everyone's business.

I hope that this report serves as a source of inspiration for new members to join, and for current members and partners to raise their ambitions even further. With less than five years left to achieve the goals of the Sendai Framework, and by extension, the Sustainable Development Goals, we must continue to push for greater and accelerated action.

ARISE shows what is possible through partnerships and by empowering the private sector to be part of the solution. Let us continue to build on this successful model to achieve resilience for all.



**Kamal Kishore**

Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and ARISE Board Co-Chair

# About ARISE

ARISE, the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies, is a network of private sector entities established by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). In line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the initiative encourages and supports the private sector to put in place policies and practices to prevent the creation of new risk, reduce existing disaster risk, carry out risk-informed investments, build resilience and enhance recovery from disasters.

In joining ARISE, private sector companies voluntarily commit to support and implement the Sendai Framework, aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Climate Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, and the Agenda for Humanity.



“ARISE plays a vital role in fostering collaboration and mobilizing key stakeholders to enhance disaster risk reduction and resilience across regions. Its relevance lies in its ability to bridge public and private sectors, promote inclusive strategies, and drive impactful actions tailored to local and regional contexts. Strengthening networks like ARISE West Africa not only aligns with global resilience goals, but also empowers communities to proactively address emerging challenges. This initiative is indispensable for achieving sustainable and risk-informed development.”

**Almamy Soumaré**

Ets Bouga Té AgriServices, Mauritania



ARISE Global Board members and UNDRR staff engaged in a governance and performance review meeting, reflecting on strategic delivery and private sector engagement in disaster risk reduction. November 2024. @ARISE/UNDRR

# 2024 progress update



“Prior to ARISE, business, government and NGOs mostly worked independently in silos and focused on disaster response, rather than prevention through greater resilience. ARISE has enabled these silos to be gradually broken down, and the needle to shift more towards disaster prevention by mitigating vulnerabilities, particularly in urban environments.”

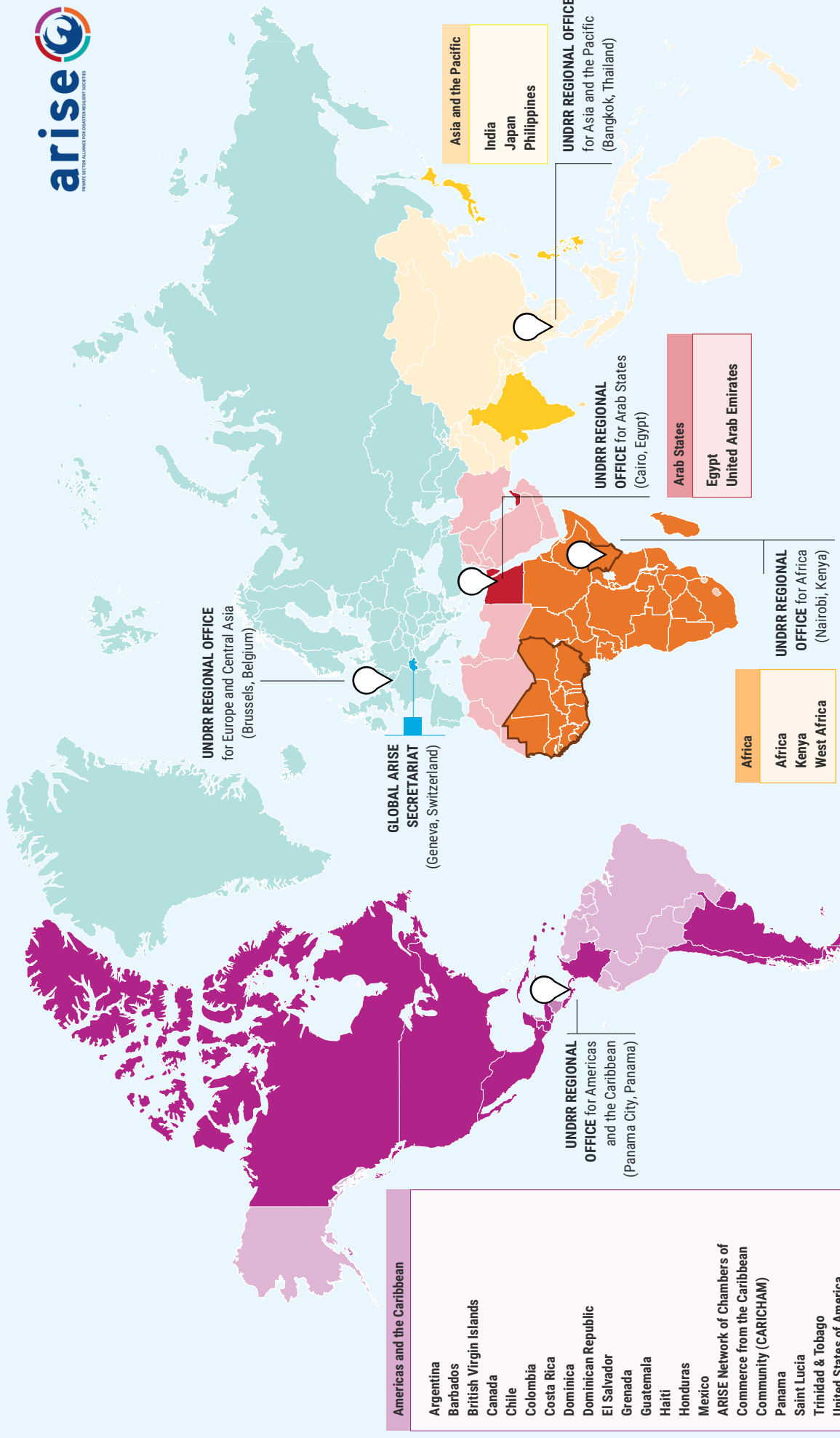
**Aris Papadopoulos**  
Resilience Action Fund, United States of America

## ARISE at a glance

At the end of 2024, ARISE had 635 members and 30 national or regional networks across the world. The initiative is supported by the global ARISE secretariat in Geneva, and the UNDRR regional offices for Asia and the Pacific, the Arab States, Africa, Europe and Central Asia, and the Americas and the Caribbean.



## Map with ARISE networks



GLOBAL ARISE SECRETARIAT



UND RR REGIONAL OFFICES



## Continued growth

ARISE membership continued to grow as new members joined from 17 different countries. At the end of 2024, ARISE consisted of a total of 635 members from 66 countries, an increase of nearly 10 per cent from 2023. ARISE members represented 37 sectors from banks and insurance to retail, real estate and technology companies. While most members are small- and medium-sized enterprises, the initiative has also continued to attract larger companies, especially from countries that have ARISE Networks.

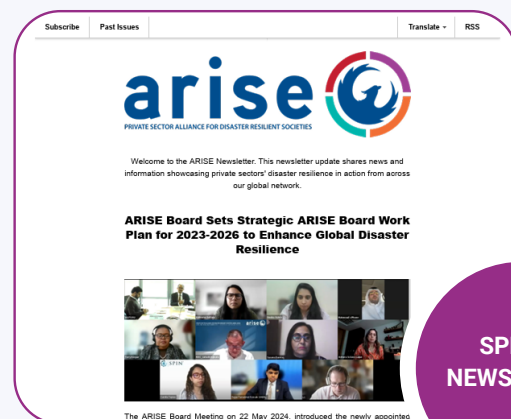
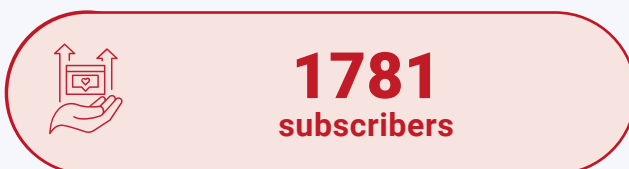
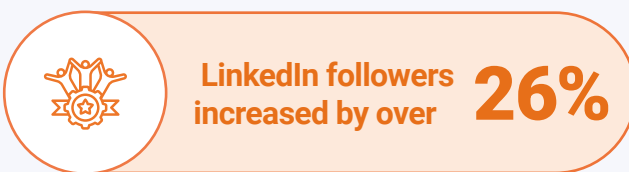


## Increased reach through communications and social media

The [ARISE LinkedIn page](#) provides a virtual platform for the ARISE Networks, members and other disaster risk reduction (DRR) professionals to share recent developments, insights and lessons learned. In 2024 ARISE further strengthened its social media presence and reach. Social media (LinkedIn) followers increased by over 26 per cent (from 1,952 to 2,654), and while more stories and updates were posted, the engagement rate<sup>1</sup> also improved significantly – by over 21 per cent.

The ARISE secretariat and ARISE Networks also continued to share news, web stories and events on the ARISE website. The page was regularly visited, and views increased by nearly 40 per cent, reaching 4,746 (up from 2,948).

Two newsletters were sent, one in spring and one in autumn, reaching 1,781 subscribers.



SPRING  
NEWSLETTER

<sup>1</sup> Number of interactions per number of followers.



## Enhanced focus on SME resilience

UNDRR launched a new two-year project in 2024 on strengthening the disaster resilience of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Targeting Barcelona (Spain), Bridgetown (Barbados) and Sendai (Japan), the project aims to develop SME capacity to plan, invest and make decisions based on an increased understanding of risk and risk reduction options. The project implementing partners – local authorities and business networks, including ARISE Networks – met in November to share insights and experiences, and plan for future interventions. The UNDRR secretariat also began developing materials, such as a landscape assessment study and business continuity planning (BCP) guidance, that will help advance work on the local level.



## Active engagement in in-person and virtual events

The global ARISE secretariat and the UNDRR regional offices organized and supported several opportunities for global, regional and local stakeholders to engage in DRR efforts and implement the five commitments<sup>2</sup> of ARISE.

- **26 March** The UNDRR Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia launched a BCP tool to bolster the resilience of Serbian SMEs. Tailored specifically for the Serbian business context, the tool was accompanied with a detailed guidance document to aid its effective use.
- **21 June** The UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Global Compact Network Thailand hosted a 60-minute webinar on DRR and resilience in the private sector, featuring successful strategies from the Philippines.
- **27 June** UNDRR/ARISE and the ARISE Kenya Network spoke at a webinar on building resilience in the face of disruption that was organized to mark International Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day.
- **14–18 October** The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) was organized by UNDRR and hosted by the Government of the Philippines. ARISE Philippines hosted a booth at the Forum tent to showcase collective efforts in promoting disaster resilience.

<sup>2</sup> When joining ARISE, members commit to 1) raise awareness with respect to disaster risk and private sector mobilization; 2) influence private sector peers in their spheres of expertise; 3) share knowledge, experience and good practices; 4) be a catalyst to generate innovation and collaboration in developing risk-informed business strategies; and 5) implement projects and activities to achieve the targets of the Sendai Framework.

- **21–24 October** UNDRR organized a session entitled “The role of private business and investment in creating or reducing risk” at the ninth session of the Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The session was moderated by ARISE West Africa. The Regional Platform also marked the official launch of the three ARISE Networks in Africa: Africa, Kenya and West Africa, and provided a platform for defining the 2025 priorities for private sector engagement in the region.
- **23 October** The UNDRR Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, together with the Waterloo Climate Institute at the University of Waterloo, the Trade Facilitation Office of Canada and ARISE Canada hosted a webinar training series for Canadian businesses with supply chains in Latin America. As part of the project entitled “Building resilience to disasters in supply chains: A co-produced innovation tool to understand, plan and invest in climate change adaptation”. Additional sessions were also hosted in October and November for interested stakeholders in Colombia, Honduras and Mexico.
- **6 November** The UNDRR Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia organized a workshop entitled “Building resilience of SMEs in south-east Europe” as part of the Europe and Central Asia Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The session focused on developing strategies for better risk assessment, enhancing BCP, and fostering a culture of preparedness and recovery in SMEs. Participants learned about the Quick Risk Assessment (QRA) Tool and the BCP Toolkit, both of which were specifically designed to support SMEs in identifying and mitigating disaster risks.
- **25 November** Organized by UNDRR/ARISE, ARISE United Arab Emirates and Sobha Realty, the ARISE Symposium on Climate and Disaster Resilient Infrastructure convened leaders from the private and public sectors, real estate professionals, infrastructure experts, and international organizations. Participants explored innovative strategies for developing infrastructure that can withstand the challenges of climate change and disasters, including the growing threat of extreme heat.
- **25 November** UNDRR/ARISE organized a workshop on SME resilience that brought together representatives from Spain, Barbados and Japan, along with members of the broader ARISE community. The session kicked off a two-year project (2024–2026) UNDRR has undertaken in Barcelona, Bridgetown and Sendai to strengthen the disaster resilience of SMEs. It facilitated the planning for the next stage of the project, and enabled participants to exchange experiences, insights and innovative solutions, particularly around the importance of BCP and specific incentives for SMEs to further invest in DRR.
- The global ARISE secretariat also convened two Global Board meetings on 22 May and 25 November, as well as the ARISE Network Leaders Meetings on 25–26 June.

# Spotlight on ARISE networks

ARISE national and regional networks (ARISE Networks) are set up in alignment with the specific needs of the respective country and region, with the overall mandate to promote, enhance and support the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Historically, the networks have served as platforms for awareness-raising, capacity-building and public-private partnerships. At the end of 2024, 30 ARISE Networks had been established globally.

This section highlights some of the work that ARISE Networks and their members carried out in 2024. Please refer to the [ARISE website](#) for a more comprehensive overview of activities, projects, and initiatives as reported and carried out by ARISE Networks during the year.



"Being part of a global network like ARISE provides Filipino businesses with access to international best practices and innovative solutions for disaster resilience and sustainability. This can help them stay competitive and adopt cutting-edge strategies."

Maria Teresita P. Medado,  
Asia Pacific College, Philippines



Representatives at the workshop on Strengthening SME Resilience, in Dubai on 25 November 2024.



## ARISE Africa Networks: Launching ARISE Networks in Africa

From 21 to 24 October 2024, the ARISE Africa (sub-Saharan), Kenya and West Africa Networks participated in the ninth session of the Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Namibia. They co-organized a round-table session, “Act now for the resilient Africa we want”, which brought together stakeholders from the private sector, government, academia and civil society.

The session formally launched the ARISE Africa, Kenya and West Africa networks as platforms for collaboration and knowledge-

sharing. It also created a space to foster stronger relationships between diverse actors and the private sector in support of DRR. Participants identified priorities to enhance private sector engagement in risk reduction efforts, in partnership with governments, academia and development actors. The session also highlighted the importance of promoting risk-informed business practices and integrating disaster risk considerations into business strategies, decision-making and investment processes to enhance resilience and reduce vulnerabilities.



A group of people shopping at Nkoleton market, Cameroon. Mboasoftware/Shutterstock



## **ARISE Argentina Network:** Enhancing agricultural resilience through climate-smart insurance solutions

To improve agricultural risk management and mitigate the impacts of adverse weather events, the Ministry of Agriculture of Argentina launched the Comprehensive Risk Management in the Agro-industrial System (GIRSA) programme. This initiative aims to provide insurance coverage for small and medium-sized horticultural and floricultural producers under greenhouse protection. As part of this effort, the ARISE member Sancor Seguros actively participated in climate risk evaluation, the estimation of coverage parameters and the definition of the insurance model, working alongside agricultural entities and provincial agencies.

In 2024, the programme focused on evaluating the results of pilot experiences, adjusting conditions for future tenders and promoting the scheme to new producers. ARISE Argentina played a key role in coordination and promotion, facilitating public-private dialogue spaces and enhancing technical capacities in climate risk management. This included awareness

workshops, dissemination of the benefits of indexed insurance and the promotion of best adaptation practices in collaboration with participating insurance companies.

This initiative marks an important step towards the adoption of climate-smart insurance by small horticultural producers. It has also strengthened public-private dialogue around risk management, which facilitated the identification of technical improvements for future contracts and coverage options, paving the way for enhanced resilience. Furthermore, by promoting a greater understanding of climate change, the programme has created new opportunities for private sector investment in climate resilience.

As one participating farmer stated, “With greenhouse insurance, we feel more secure. Before, any hailstorm or strong wind could wipe out everything. Now we know we have a safety net.”



@ARISE Argentina Network



## ARISE Barbados Network: Engaging in policy dialogue

The ARISE Barbados Network, the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), convenes a Risk Management and Crisis Recovery Committee that aims to strengthen the resilience of its members and support business recovery. The committee also supports BCCI's engagement in the Emergency Management Advisory Council, enabling the Network to advocate for policies that integrate the private sector, particularly SMEs, into national DRR strategies. In 2024, the committee contributed to three key areas: the Comprehensive Disaster Management Audit to evaluate Barbados' capacity across mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery (inputs to inform

future national disaster risk management programmes and enable more strategic allocation of resources), a high-level forum convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to strengthen Barbados' data architecture for climate analytics and decision-making (inputs for evidence-based climate policy, risk assessment and investment decisions), and the National Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) Advisory Committee to review and advance Barbados' MHEWS policy. Through its committee, ARISE Barbados provided private sector perspectives and technical inputs that helped shape national DRR strategies and climate policy frameworks.



An EWS transmits the water level in the canal every 10 minutes to alert the community to the possibility of flooding, and also reports the temperature and wind speed and direction in Speightstown, Barbados. @UNDRR



### **ARISE Canada Network:** Contributing to the largest DRR conference in Canada

In September 2024, the ARISE Canada Network endorsed the inaugural Canadian Emergency Preparedness and Climate Adaptation (CEPCA) Convention – the largest DRR conference yet held in Canada – over three days in Ottawa. The event explored the evolving landscape of disaster resilience, with strategic discussions on risk reduction, climate adaptation and infrastructure resilience.

As an endorsing partner, ARISE Canada played an active role in plenary sessions, contributing to high-level discussions on promoting resilient business practices, mobilizing investment in risk reduction, and strengthening cross-sector collaboration. With its growing presence, the network continues to be a strong voice for resilience within Canada and globally.



### **ARISE CARICHAM Network:** Curating resources in multiple languages

In 2024, as part of the efforts of the ARISE community in the Caribbean region, led by the Network of Caribbean Chambers of Commerce (CARICHAM), their Centre of Excellence made progress in supporting Caribbean micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in strengthening disaster resilience.

The Centre upgraded its digital platform: a multilingual resource access is now available in Spanish, French and Dutch, ensuring equitable support for non-English-speaking communities. The upgrade complements the Centre's existing suite of over 100 curated resources across five thematic pillars: business resilience, digital transformation, financial management, MHEWS and operational management. These tools were developed to equip MSMEs with practical guidance to navigate crises and build long-term sustainability.



**"This expanded access marks a critical step in ensuring no entrepreneur is left behind due to language barriers. It's a commitment to inclusivity and resilience at scale."**

**Petipha Lewis,**  
CARICHAM



## **ARISE Colombia Network:** Embedding business continuity into local emergency networks

In 2024, the ARISE Colombia Network supported the integration of business resilience tools into local emergency networks in collaboration with the Instituto Distrital de Gestión de Riesgos y Cambio Climático (IDIGER) and Bogotá's Mutual Aid Committees (CAMs), expanding their work in resilience. The initiative introduced practical tools such as business continuity plans, impact-based scenario evaluations, and early warning systems. Around 60 CAMs took part in this initial phase. This innovation expanded the CAMs' focus on response beyond emergency brigades to include managerial profiles, encouraging companies to integrate disaster risk considerations into their core business strategies. It also strengthened the capacities of participating businesses in resilience, fostered collaboration between companies and supported the development of Bogotá's School for Disaster Risk Management for Mutual Aid Committees. While still in its early stages, the programme is set to scale nationally.



@ARISE Colombia Network



**"These workshops enable the appropriation and understanding of business resilience, and therefore help ensure territorial resilience in the event of disasters."**

**Olga Almonacid,**  
Seguros Sura Colombia



## ARISE Costa Rica Network: Improving water management practices

In Costa Rica, more than 2,000 Community Associations for the Administration of Aqueduct and Sewerage Systems (ASADAS) play a vital role in delivering water and sanitation services, but face growing climate and operational risks. To address this, the “Cuidemos el Agua” (“Let’s Protect Water”) project was launched in 2023, led by Procter & Gamble (P&G) in partnership with Alianza Empresarial para el Desarrollo (AED) and Liga Cuenca. The initiative focuses on strengthening community water governance, and has already benefited more than five ASADAS and over 3,000 families.

ARISE Costa Rica, led by AED, played a pivotal role in technical coordination and cross-sector collaboration. AED acted as

the main liaison between P&G, ASADAS and local partners, ensuring that climate risk considerations were effectively embedded into water management practices. In 2024, AED supported a student’s research thesis at the University of Costa Rica, which assessed vulnerabilities across seven ASADAS and produced a risk management plan to help communities anticipate and respond to future threats.

Through this work, ARISE Costa Rica has influenced the private sector by promoting sustainable water management, critical for rural resilience. The initiative also introduces climate risk-informed strategies that support the long-term, resilient development of communities.



@ARISE Costa Rica Network



## ARISE Dominican Republic Network: Introducing a disaster resilience toolkit for MSMEs

ARISE Dominican Republic, with technical support from ARISE Mexico, presented a disaster resilience toolkit for MSMEs to the Risk Management Commission of the Consejo Nacional de la Empresa Privada (CONEP) or National Council of Private Enterprise, with active participation from members such as the Red Nacional de Apoyo Empresarial a la Protección Ambiental (ECORED), leader of the ARISE Network, and Grupo Universal. The dissemination of the toolkit is expected to increase the adoption of resilience practices among MSMEs, enhancing their preparedness and ability to respond effectively to emergencies, contributing to the broader economic and social stability of the country.

Recognizing that MSMEs often encounter challenges such as scarce resources and limited knowledge on the importance of risk management, the introduction of the tool and the resulting discussions increase MSMEs' understanding and adoption of resilience practices by integrating risk management into their daily operations, while also emphasizing the role of larger companies in supporting MSMEs across the value chain, strengthening joint resilience efforts.



A seller at her counter. Dominican Republic. Montana Redonda/Unsplash



## ARISE El Salvador Network: Restoring mangroves while embedding environmental conservation into insurance

El Salvador, highly vulnerable to tropical storms and hurricanes, faces significant degradation of its mangrove ecosystems. Since 2020 Davivienda Seguros, through its Green Life Insurance product, in partnership with Fundemas, has implemented a mangrove restoration programme in Barra de Santiago, Ahuachapán. This initiative has restored 8 hectares of mangrove forest and planted over 26,200 mangrove seedlings, capturing 1,892 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and benefiting 70 families.

In 2024 alone, the project restored 1.8 hectares of mangroves and planted 5,000 seedlings, while producing 15,000 more in community-run nurseries. In addition, 500 metres of drainage channels were opened to support water restoration, and 6.2 hectares of previously restored areas were placed under active maintenance. This year, 40 families directly benefited from the restoration activities, and 33 local stakeholders were trained in mangrove restoration techniques. Working with

Davivienda on this project also enabled the collection of ecological data and baseline studies on carbon capture. The community, through the Association of Women of Barra de Santiago (AMBAS), played a central role by clearing invasive weeds, collecting red, black and white mangrove seeds, and opening channels to bring water to dry zones, facilitating natural regeneration.

A key outcome of this initiative is its innovative model that integrates environmental values into a life insurance product. A portion of the policy's proceeds is allocated to fund mangrove reforestation and protection efforts, creating a sustainable funding mechanism. This approach not only supports conservation, but also engages customers and businesses in shared responsibility for climate resilience and environmental sustainability. The model is now being replicated in Honduras and Costa Rica, generating a multiplier effect by linking business development, disaster risk mitigation and biodiversity protection.

2020



2024



@ARISE El Salvador Network



"Inviting companies to participate in the ecological restoration of mangroves meant starting from scratch. But with the results achieved after three years of work, we've witnessed increased awareness, community development, a growing love for the mangrove and, above all, a deeper respect for the ecosystem services it provides."

Maythé Cornejo,  
FUNDEMÁS



## ARISE Grenada Network: Business continuity planning workshop and National Stakeholder Consultation

ARISE Grenada, through the Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce, an active member of ARISE CARICHAM, spearheaded several initiatives to strengthen business continuity and disaster preparedness in 2024.

One flagship effort was a BCP train-the-trainers workshop, hosted on 21–22 January 2024. With support from USAID and other partners, this hands-on training equipped 28 participants with the skills and knowledge to train local businesses in disaster preparedness, risk management and operational resilience.

This was followed by the National Stakeholders Consultation – Managing Business in Uncertain Times, held on 23 January 2024. This forum brought together 18 representatives from the public and private sectors to discuss Grenada's

disaster management framework and identify strategic opportunities for the private sector to support national-level DRR.



**"Workshops like these ensure that resilience is not just policy – it's practice. We're building a generation of business leaders who are ready to adapt, respond and recover."**

**Eudine Louison,**  
Grenada Chamber of Industry  
and Commerce



@ARISE Grenada Network



### **ARISE Guatemala Network:** Supporting risk-informed decision-making of the financial sector

In 2024, the ARISE Guatemala Network led by CentraRSE, in collaboration with UNDRR, developed, validated and piloted the Disaster Risk-Informed Decision-Making tool for the financial sector in Guatemala. Rather than being applied directly by financial institutions, the tool is provided to businesses seeking credit, enabling them to assess disaster, environmental, social and reputational risks. This empowers companies to make more informed, risk-aware investment decisions and align their operations with sustainability and resilience goals.

Throughout the validation phase, CentraRSE engaged with private sector companies and financial institutions to ensure that the tool was adaptable and effective. A pilot

implementation with Banco Internacional assessed three SMEs in the sectors of lithography, automotive parts and basic sanitation through structured interviews and site visits.

This achievement marks a milestone in the integration of climate and disaster risk into the credit and investment risk management models of the financial sector in Guatemala. It not only strengthens the resilience of banking operations, but also positions the financial sector as a key catalyst for long-term sustainability and DRR. The pilot and related initiatives have strengthened sector-wide engagement, with participating banks expressing strong interest in continuing similar efforts.



### **ARISE Honduras Network:** Bridging disaster risk management, sustainability, and health and safety at work

In October 2024, the Fundación Hondureña de Responsabilidad Social Empresarial (FUNDAHRSE), leader of the ARISE Honduras Network, in collaboration with Presentes Corporación, a member of ARISE Colombia, organized a three-session workshop for member companies engaged with the ARISE initiative to build awareness and capacity around integrating disaster risk management, sustainability and occupational health into business strategies, contributing to broader resilience goals aligned with the Sendai Framework.

Experts from Presentes Corporación guided discussions for over 60 participants on multi-hazard risk identification, climate change adaptation, sustainable business practices, crisis response, and the importance of fostering healthy and resilient organizational cultures. As a result of the sessions, a risk identification and management process was developed, and the development of business continuity plans was initiated by participating companies.



### **ARISE India Network:** Innovating tools to support smarter, safer bridge management

In 2024, ARISE India Network member the UBMS Research Group (URG) contributed to DRR by developing two innovative tools: Global Analytics for Bridge Management (GABM) and Global Analytics for Resilience and Risk Management (GARM). GABM identifies ageing and deteriorated bridges on critical routes, assesses their vulnerability to natural hazards, and supports data-driven, cost-effective decision-making without the need for Internet connectivity or extensive engineering manpower. GARM aggregates bridge data to prioritize resilience investments, taking into account structural health, financial considerations and socioeconomic impact. Both tools have undergone internal testing by URG and several affiliated companies on a non-

commercial basis, demonstrating high accuracy and practical utility.

These tools offer significant value to government agencies and private sector firms involved in bridge inspection, safety monitoring and infrastructure consultancy. By enabling real-time risk assessment and lifecycle management for bridge infrastructure, GABM and GARM help protect critical transportation networks, especially in regions vulnerable to extreme weather events. These advancements directly support safer emergency response, stronger infrastructure resilience and sustainable development, in line with ARISE India's commitment to building disaster-resilient communities.



### **ARISE INTEGRARSE Network:** Launching an e-learning course on disaster risk prevention

In 2024, the Central American Integration for Corporate Social Responsibility (INTEGRARSE) Network, leader of the subregional ARISE Network for Central America and the Dominican Republic, developed and launched a virtual course on disaster risk prevention management, hosted on the Integra-RSE platform. The course includes modules on risk identification, business continuity planning, stakeholder engagement and integrating DRR into sustainability strategies. It equips professionals and business leaders across Central America and the Caribbean with practical tools to assess disaster risks,

design mitigation plans and foster a culture of organizational resilience.

The launch event attracted nearly 200 participants and featured contributions from UNDRR and private sector leaders. Maythé Cornejo of FUNDEMAS led the launch, presenting the course structure and objectives, and offering a live demonstration of the Integra-RSE platform to encourage wider participation. By the end of 2024, 165 individuals had registered for the course and 52 had completed it.



“The course is designed for participants to explore concepts and strategies for mitigation and planning, as well as the methods to integrate risk management and prevention in their business strategies aligned to sustainability. We look to provide companies with the knowledge and tools necessary to protect their assets, personnel and communities in times of crisis, ensuring greater business resilience.”

Olga Sauma,  
Red Integrarse



### **ARISE Japan Network:** Digitalizing a role-playing game

In 2024, an ARISE member company, Japan Construction Engineers & Co., in collaboration with Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Keio University, developed a digital version of the Evacuation Activity Game (EVAG) role-playing game. Recognizing the limitations of scaling a physical game, the digital version of EVAG, launched at APMCDRR 2024, enhances the tool’s universal applicability and contributes to reducing damage caused by weather disasters while improving disaster preparedness across all regions of the world. EVAG enables players to experience realistic disaster scenarios and decision-making processes from diverse perspectives. By focusing on inclusive, action-oriented disaster education, the game builds critical awareness and decision-making capacity among players, strengthens self-help and mutual aid capacities, ensuring that early warning systems translate into effective evacuation and response actions.



“The objective of EVAG is to enhance self-help and mutual help capabilities, ensuring that no one is left behind in the event of a disaster. The effectiveness of early warning systems in reducing human suffering will depend on the ability of people to take action in response to the information provided. I expect the digital EVAG game to make a significant contribution to disaster risk understanding and mitigation in countries and regions where infrastructure development and investment has been slow.”

Kiyomi Nakamura,  
Japan Conservation Engineers & Co.



## ARISE Mexico Network: Updating the “Resilience in a Box” platform for MSMEs

ARISE Mexico launched the Resilience in a Box platform in May 2024 – an innovative initiative designed to strengthen the resilience of MSMEs. The launch event, held on 23 May 2024, introduced the first three of ten modules focused on organizational leadership, risk awareness, and financial, economic and legal sustainability. These modules also offer commercial incentives to support continuous learning. The event brought together 97 in-person and 649 online participants, marking the start of a unique collaboration between public and private actors committed to building more resilient and prosperous communities.

By the end of 2024, 184 companies had completed the platform’s self-assessment and 123 had registered to begin their resilience journey. ARISE Mexico members played a central role in developing the platform’s content, learning objectives, diagnostic tools and supporting materials. They also helped promote the initiative through social media campaigns, training participation and specialized workshops on business resilience.

Resilience in a Box brings innovation by combining self-diagnostic tools, practical training and commercial incentives

to motivate MSMEs to adopt strong governance, planning and disaster recovery practices. With its multisectoral collaboration and emphasis on free, accessible, action-oriented learning, the platform is helping businesses become more resilient and contributing to stronger, better-prepared communities across Mexico.



“The platform will serve as a space to host all the knowledge and experience contributed by the organizations, companies and consultants involved in this project on risk reduction and business resilience. Being open-access and offering specialized courses, Resilience in a Box helps to educate and guide MSMEs to strengthen themselves against disasters and other adversities.”

José Serrano,  
SkyAlert



@ARISE Mexico Network



## ARISE Panama Network: Rolling out the Disaster Risk Management Toolkit

In 2024, Sumarse, leader of the ARISE Network in Panama, developed a Disaster Risk Management Toolkit with technical support from Soluciones Resilientes. The Toolkit is a practical resource designed to help organizations plan for, prevent and respond to disasters while ensuring business continuity. It includes guides, regulatory frameworks, templates and standard operating procedures, offering accessible formats to support multi-hazard risk management in operations.

In September 2024, Sumarse shared the Toolkit with its disaster risk management working group, reaching 31 individuals

across 19 organizations. Feedback was positive, with users appreciating the simple and accessible design and its usefulness for raising awareness, promoting best practices and strengthening internal disaster risk management capacities.

The Toolkit promotes training and awareness, fosters a culture of risk management and resilience, and optimizes resources by consolidating practical, adaptable tools for different contexts. It is intended to be regularly updated and expanded to remain relevant to evolving needs.



## ARISE Philippines Network: Scaling a product for resilient home-lending

Build Change worked with six Filipino microfinance institutions to scale a resilient home-lending product that has expanded financial access for low- and middle-income households. The initiative targeted communities highly susceptible to hazards, especially typhoons and earthquakes. By the end of 2024, the product had enabled 1,319 predominantly women-led households to strengthen and improve their homes, retrofitting the houses to withstand typhoons and earthquakes. These strengthened homes now serve as proof-of-concept models for resilience. The initiative has also increased beneficiaries' knowledge about hazards and risks.



@ARISE Philippines Network



### **ARISE Trinidad and Tobago Network:** Supporting business continuity planning

Recognizing the Caribbean's vulnerability to natural hazards, the American Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad & Tobago (AMCHAM T&T), which leads the ARISE Trinidad and Tobago Network, has prioritized building the capacity of SMEs through BCP workshops, helping businesses resist, cope with and recover from disasters. In 2024, the network organized two BCP workshops and hosted a dedicated session, Partnering for Preparedness, at the AMCHAM T&T Conference. These activities emphasized the importance of collaboration, trust-building and shared responsibilities among stakeholders to improve disaster preparedness.

In addition, AMCHAM T&T collaborated with UNICEF and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management on a resource-mapping exercise to strengthen humanitarian coordination. ARISE T&T also contributed as a featured speaker at the Trinidad and Tobago Disaster Risk Management Conference 2024, sharing insights on national and regional resilience challenges and opportunities. These efforts have helped improve SME readiness, foster public-private collaboration, and advance national commitments under the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.



### **ARISE United Arab Emirates Network:** Improving the resilience of the real estate sector

In 2023 the ARISE United Arab Emirates Network, UNDRR and the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) launched the Real Estate Resilience Tool, aimed at helping businesses value, assess and plan for asset and operational resilience. In 2024, the tool was rolled out and piloted by companies. One of the ARISE United Arab Emirates member companies, Kaizen Asset

Management Services, implemented the tool across most of its property portfolio and reported tangible savings and returns on resilience investment. Less than 2 per cent of their portfolio was affected by the 2024 floods that caused substantial damage to homes and vehicles and disrupted operations, particularly at Dubai International Airport.



## ARISE United States of America Network: Aiming to improve coastal resilience

In June 2024, the ARISE-US Network partnered with the Waterfront Alliance to develop a new coastal resilience scorecard, aimed at helping coastal communities better understand, mitigate and manage risks from disasters such as hurricanes, storm surges and tsunamis. Building on ARISE-US's existing series of successful assessment tools, including the city scorecard and the wildfire scorecard, the new instrument integrates the "ten essentials" of the Sendai Framework with the Waterfront Alliance's Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines (WEDG) standards for waterfront development, creating the first comprehensive resilience tool focused specifically on coastal hazards.

Throughout 2024, the partners focused on compiling data, consolidating advice and drafting the scorecard tool, aiming to complete the first draft in the first half of 2025. Designed to be accessible for free use, while allowing for for-profit applications where appropriate, the scorecard aims to offer coastal communities a practical, holistic approach to assessing vulnerabilities, strengthening disaster preparedness, and building long-term resilience.



Waterfront Alliance staff took a walking tour of the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project with representatives from NYCDDC, July 29, 2024. Photo Credit: Jourdan Hercsek

# Looking ahead

In 2024, UNDRR initiated an assessment to review the performance, governance and delivery architecture of ARISE. Representatives of the ARISE global board, network leaders, members and United Nations partner organizations, as well as UNDRR staff, provided inputs, shared lessons learned and made recommendations. When completed in 2025, the findings will inform the global ARISE secretariat on how the initiative could be adapted to better engage the private sector in advancing DRR.

However, the mission of ARISE remains as important as when it was originally launched in 2015. The private sector continues to be a key partner in creating risk-resilient societies, contributing to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

With the world seeing more rather than fewer extreme weather events and other natural hazards, more businesses are expected to move from managing disasters to managing risks. After all, it is widely understood that resilience is no longer optional, but essential for the long-term sustainability of companies

and societies alike. Reducing risks and planning ahead make all the difference – when faced with extreme weather events and natural hazards, it's these measures that separate businesses that thrive from those that fail.

Beyond the ARISE review process, 2025 will provide a great opportunity for the ARISE community to collectively pause, assess, recognize and highlight the contributions private sector entities are making in advancing DRR efforts. The remaining years of the Sendai Framework are critical for fulfilling Sendai's promise by 2030. Much has certainly been accomplished, yet the work is far from over. For ARISE, this means catalysing more localized action, ensuring that the work is creating real-world impact and successful models are being replicated across contexts and regions. Borrowing from the theme of the eighth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, every day counts, so we need to act for resilience today.

Ultimately, success hinges on foresight, not hindsight.



# Annual Report 2024

