

UNDRR Foresight Sprint

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

June 3rd 2025

Background Information

The UCL Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarianism (DRRH) Society was grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Foresight Sprint on resilient investment, organised by the UNDRR on Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025. This workshop brought together five universities from around the world to critically assess the development and impact of future disasters, and the underlying drivers that can reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience at the local and national level. Each university identified wildcard hazard events (low probability, high impact hazards) relevant to their nation and their potential impacts in 2050. UCL DRRH selected extreme space weather resulting in a national blackout. This scenario was selected as the focus for all universities to develop a resilience roadmap, with mitigation strategies to address the root causes of the event.

Based on our findings, UCL DRRH developed the attached one-page overview and a 90-second video. In our work, we identified pivotal actions that led to the lack of adequate preparation and the consequences of the 2050 event. We then discussed three decisive actions (short-term, medium-term and long-term) that can be taken to prevent the 2050 reality. Our work was showcased at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. It will also be sent to the UK Government to advocate for greater preparedness efforts, and to facilitate collaboration between universities and the government in resilience building.

Biographies

1. Makela Jean

Member, Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarianism (DRRH) Society, University College London (UCL)

Makela Jean is a dedicated Graduate student studying MSc Risk, Disaster and Resilience at UCL. Makela is passionate about developing effective early warning systems, generating risk knowledge, enhancing risk communication and emergency management. Her interests also include investigating the relationship between disasters, inequality and vulnerability, and strengthening synergies between early action at the local and national levels.

With a strong ambition for bridging the social, physical, and technological dimensions of disaster risk reduction, Makela served as a youth delegate for the Government of Saint Lucia at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28). She further honed her skills through an internship with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Currently, she is undertaking her research project in harnessing geospatial technology to create multi-hazard risk maps in Small Island Developing States and investigating the factors that influence the effectiveness of this technology. Outside of her academic pursuits, Makela enjoys reading, singing, dancing, and binge-watching a good TV show.

Makela welcomes any further communication via LinkedIn ([linkedin.com/in/makela-jean](https://www.linkedin.com/in/makela-jean)) or through email (makela.jean.24@ucl.ac.uk).

2. Iman Chaudhry

2024-2025 President, Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarianism (DRRH) Society, University College London (UCL)

Iman Chaudhry has recently completed her undergraduate degree studying BSc Global Humanitarian Studies at UCL. As the 2024-25 President of UCL's Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarianism (DRRH) Society, she has led with a strong commitment to amplifying youth voices in DRR, encouraging fresh perspectives in traditionally expert-driven spaces.

Passionate about risk and resilience, Iman worked with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) to develop a Resilience Maturity Assessment tool in partnership with the Corporate Chief Resilience Officers (CCRO) Network, supporting businesses in strengthening their resilience strategies. Iman previously contributed to projects with Holcim, exploring the intersection of security, resilience and corporate-community relations.

Iman is currently an intern at Needhams1834, where she is gaining hands-on experience in business continuity and crisis management consulting. She plans to continue her academic journey this autumn by pursuing an MRes in Risk and Disaster Reduction at UCL, aiming to bridge research and practice in risk and resilience.

Iman welcomes further communication via LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/in/imanchaudhry1) or by email at iman.chaudhry.22@ucl.ac.uk.