



## BUILDING DISASTER RESILIENCE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA PROGRAM

### Result Area 2

African Regional Economic Communities have DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities operational to support their respective member states and regional and sub-regional Programs

## Activity Report

July 2018 - June 2019



**GFDRR**  
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



**WORLD BANK GROUP**

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Addis Abeba, Ethiopia  
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## Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa Program: Result Area 2 Activity Report 2018–19

This report summarizes the activities and achievements under Result Area 2 of the **Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa Program**: *African Regional Economic Communities have DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities operational to support their respective member states and regional and sub-regional Programs from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.*

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ACP</b>	Africa Caribbean and Pacific
<b>ADRF</b>	Africa Disaster Risk Financing Initiative
<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>ARC</b>	African Risk Capacity
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission
<b>Cat-DDO</b>	Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option
<b>DfID</b>	United Kingdom's Department for International Development
<b>DPL</b>	Development Policy Loans
<b>DRF</b>	Disaster Risk Finance
<b>DRM</b>	Disaster Risk Management
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EDF</b>	European Development Fund
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GFDRR</b>	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
<b>GRADE</b>	Global Rapid Post-Disaster Damage Estimation
<b>GRiF</b>	Global Risk Financing Facility
<b>HSNP</b>	Kenya Hunger Safety Net Program
<b>IBRD</b>	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
<b>IDA</b>	International Development Agency
<b>IRM</b>	Immediate Response Mechanism
<b>KCSAP</b>	Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project
<b>KLIP</b>	Kenya Livestock Insurance Program
<b>KSEIP</b>	Kenya Social and Economic Inclusion project
<b>MoF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>NAIS</b>	Rwanda's National Agriculture Insurance Scheme
<b>NDMA</b>	Kenya National Drought Management Authority
<b>NIEMP</b>	Seychelles National Integrated Emergency Management Plan
<b>NUSAF 3</b>	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund 3
<b>OpenDRI</b>	Open Data for Resilience Initiative
<b>PoA</b>	Program of Action
<b>PSC</b>	Program Steering Committee
<b>SCTP</b>	Social Cash Transfer Program
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Agency
<b>SFDRR</b>	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>UAIS</b>	Uganda Agriculture Insurance Scheme
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>URF</b>	Understanding Risk and Finance Conference
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WRC4</b>	World Reconstruction Conference

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## Introduction

Tropical cyclone Idai made landfall in March 2019 near the port city of Beira in Mozambique and was the most severe natural disaster to affect southern Africa in over three decades, causing widespread damage in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. This catastrophic event is a reminder of the vulnerability of Sub-Saharan African countries to natural hazards. It is also a reminder that disasters most often have a regional impact, and that a regional response is needed in order to help affected populations and communities recover.

The Result Area 2 Program is part of the *Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries, and Communities Program*, launched in 2015 by the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union (EU). The Program implements a comprehensive African Disaster Risk Management (DRM) framework, covering risk identification, assessment, reduction, preparedness, financing, and resilient recovery and reconstruction. Since 2015, the Result Area 2 Program has been enhancing and strengthening the capacities of four African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) – the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) – to improve coordination, planning, policy advisory and knowledge dissemination, advance regional DRM agendas, and better support their respective member states in taking informed decisions in building resilience to disasters.

This Activity Report provides an overview of activities implemented between July 2018 and June 2019 (fiscal year 19; FY19) by the Result Area 2 Program. It highlights how RECs have been providing key technical assistance to their member states through trainings for national and regional DRM stakeholders, including government, academic, civil society, and private sector actors. Some of this year's highlights include the first-ever Hydromet Forums which were held by ECCAS and ECOWAS, providing an opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of hydrological and meteorological (hydromet) service delivery across a range of sectors including agriculture, water, natural resource management, environment, transport, civil aviation, energy and DRM. IGAD organized three consecutive Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forums which provided participants with crucial information on climate early warning and relevant reports on climate and weather predictions. SADC organized several important meetings and trainings, including on hazard risk and disaster risk assessments in the aftermath of tropical cyclone Idai.

Activities undertaken within the Result Area 2 Program show that prevention, mitigation and preparedness to natural hazards is an ever important issue in the policy agenda of governments in Sub-Saharan Africa. As disasters have devastating impacts in entire countries and sub-regions, a fully integrated, multi-sector approach is needed to secure development gains in Sub-Saharan Africa based on improved Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) coordination, planning, policy advisory and knowledge dissemination.

# About the Program

## Background

In 2015, the EU and the ACP Group of States established the 2015-2020 *Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities Program*, financed under the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund. The Program has the overall objective of **strengthening the resilience of Sub-Saharan African regions, countries and communities to the impacts of natural disasters**. These include the potential impacts of climate change on poverty reduction and sustainable development. To achieve this, five results areas were identified, which are implemented by several partners and together make up a complete cycle of DRM measures and capacity building. These are as follows:

R1

Extended Program of Action for the implementation of the Africa regional strategy for DRR. *Implemented by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).*

R2

**African Regional Economic Communities have DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities operational to support their respective member states and regional- and sub-regional Programs.** *Implemented by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).*

R3

Core capacities of the specialized national and regional climate center are improved to meet the needs of DRM agencies and socio-economic sectors for effective use of weather and climate services and community-focused and real-time early warning systems. *Implemented by the African Development Bank (AfDB).*

R4

African countries have improved knowledge of risks through the compilation of historical disaster-related data to inform the assessment and modelling of future risks. *Implemented by UNDRR.*

R5

Multi-risk financing strategies are developed at regional, national and local levels to help African countries make informed decisions and to mitigate the socio-economic, fiscal and financial impacts of disasters. *Implemented by GFDRR.*

GFDRR is responsible for the implementation of Result Areas 2 and 5; this activity report covers the achievements of Result Area 2.

The Result Area 2 Program is financed through an additional contribution of €20 million to the Single Donor Trust Fund of the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Program.<sup>1</sup> A separate activity report presents the activities of the ACP-EU NDRR Program in FY19.

<sup>1</sup> For more information, please see <https://www.gfdrr.org/en/ACP-EU>

## Objective

The specific objective of Result Area 2 Program is **to strengthen and accelerate the effective implementation of a comprehensive African DRR and DRM framework at the regional level in the following African RECs:**

1. The Economic Community of Central African States based in Libreville, Gabon ([www.ceeac-eccas.org](http://www.ceeac-eccas.org))
2. The Economic Community of West African States based in Abuja, Nigeria ([www.ecowas.int](http://www.ecowas.int))
3. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development based in Nairobi, Kenya ([www.igad.int](http://www.igad.int))
4. The Southern African Development Community based in Gaborone, Botswana ([www.sadc.int](http://www.sadc.int))

**The Result Area 2 Program is achieving its objective through the following activities:**

1. Strengthening the coordination capacity of RECs to advance the regional DRM agenda;
2. Reinforcing the RECs' capacities for planning, policy advice and knowledge dissemination, so RECs can better support their member states in taking informed decisions about building resilience to disasters, and better support regional and sub-regional programs on DRM;
3. Facilitating an advocacy platform and improving cooperation and networking among global, regional, and national technical institutions. RECs, their member states' governments, decision makers and DRM practitioners will get access to technical knowledge and best operational practices from a wide range of stakeholders.

These activities support and are aligned with the strategic approach articulated by the AUC's Plan of Action, the RECs' DRR Strategies, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. They target the four RECs and their key partners, such as African universities and research centers, river basin authorities and technical organizations.



## Expected Results & Targets

### The main expected results of the Result Area 2 Program are:

1. DRR strategies of RECs have become operational in line with their respective action plans, building on the achievements of previous DRM initiatives;
2. Regional knowledge and understanding of DRM is enhanced, with a particular focus on strengthening national decision-making capacities;
3. Cooperation and networking is improved among the RECs on the one hand, and global, regional, and national research institutions and technical centers on the other, in order to strengthen DRM and integrate it into sustainable development;
4. Advice and technical assistance is provided to RECs' member states for the development of national DRM policies, strategies and risk reduction programs; and
5. Regional capacities for the support of Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs) and recovery/reconstruction planning are improved.

### The achievement of the expected results is monitored against the following targets, to be reached by July 2020:

1. The four African RECs have operationalized their DRR strategies according to their respective action plans, building on the achievements of previous DRM initiatives;
2. At least eight sub-regional training events have been organized under the leadership of the respective RECs;
3. The four African RECs have developed capacity to advise and provide technical assistance to their member states in developing national DRM policies, strategies and risk reduction programs; and
4. The four RECs have developed and/or improved their capacity to support respective member states undertaking PDNAs and recovery planning.

## How we work

Activities under the Result Area 2 program are implemented by the four RECs and World Bank teams. GFDRR ensures day-to-day coordination with the European Commission, the ACP Secretariat, implementing partners of the ACP-EU *Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities Program* and other relevant stakeholders.

Result Area 2 governance operates through the Steering Committee of the ACP-EU NDRR Program – consisting of representatives from the European Commission, the ACP Secretariat, and the World Bank – which meets regularly to review progress, provide advice and guidance, and address needs arising from program implementation. During the meetings, the overall portfolio, financial overview, and status of the monitoring framework of the Result Area 2 Program is presented. In FY19, the Steering Committee met in Brussels, Belgium in February 2019.

In addition, the Result Area 2 Program is also represented during the Steering Committee meetings of the *Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan Africa Program*. In FY19, a Steering Committee meeting was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in September 2018, followed by a second one in Hawassa, Ethiopia in April 2019.



Stone Town, Zanzibar  
Source: iStockphoto

## Cross-cutting: Gender Inclusion and Engagements with Civil Society

**Gender inclusion** is a key operating principle for GFDRR, which launched its Gender Action Plan 2016-2021<sup>2</sup> to accelerate its commitment to understanding and addressing the different needs of men and women, and to promote the empowerment of women in strengthening resilience. It focuses on (i) programming, analytics and advisory services and (ii) knowledge, learning and innovation.

Significant progress was made in integrating gender considerations to the Result Area 2 Program. Gender mainstreaming in DRR and DRM has been prioritized as an essential aspect of building resilience to natural hazards that is inclusive of all segments of society, given the different vulnerabilities of women and men. In this light, since April 2019, ECCAS, ECOWAS and SADC have developed regional gender strategies and action plans, which will be finalized by April 2020 and presented to respective member states. The objective of this activity is to develop a realistically ambitious and practical 10-year gender strategy and action plan for mainstreaming gender considerations into DRM policies, plans of actions and programs.

In addition, RECs have promoted the participation of women in capacity building events on DRM and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). In FY19, 417 women participated in 42 events with the support of the Program. Representatives from the RECs participated in international events which focused on gender and social inclusion issues, including the Knowledge Partnership Day in Brussels in November 2018 and the fourth edition of the World Reconstruction Conference in Geneva in May 2019.

In 2018, GFDRR launched the **Citizen Engagement** Action Plan 2019-2023<sup>3</sup> to increase the share of grants with citizen engagement activities in GFDRR's portfolio. Increasing the DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities of RECs cannot be achieved without civil society engagement.

Since the Program's onset, RECs have been actively encouraging the inclusion of civil society organizations (CSOs) in their engagements. The RECs' capacity building activities and their engagement at international events and fora involve civil society as much as possible in order to increase linkages and improve DRR coordination at regional and sub-regional level. In FY19, several specific collaborations between RECs and civil society have been highlighted. ECCAS has continued to work alongside the Parliamentary Network for Disaster Resilience in Central Africa (REPARC). Many CSOs were brought together through large-scale events supported by the RECs, such as the Hydromet Forums organized by ECOWAS and ECCAS, the three Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forums organized by IGAD, and a training course held by SADC for disaster managers on meteorological forecasting and early warning systems (EWS) with the African Center for Disaster Studies.

<sup>2</sup> The GFDRR Gender Action Plan is available at <https://www.gfdr.org/en/gfdr-gender-action-plan-2016-2021>

<sup>3</sup> The GFDRR Citizen Action Plan is available at <https://www.gfdr.org/sites/default/files/Draft%20Citizen%20Engagement%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

## FY19 Highlights

Through the Result Area 2 Program, **nearly 1,800 stakeholders** participated in **42 capacity-building** events during FY19, including 417 women. Among the stakeholders, 766 people were trained on DRM, 189 were trained on post-disaster needs assessment and disaster recovery framework (DRF) methodologies, and 809 were invited to conferences.



**ECCAS** continued to strengthen and intensify its regional commitment to DRR. In November 2018, the inaugural **ECCAS Hydromet Forum** was held in Gabon, bringing together 143 participants from all 11 ECCAS member countries as well as several international organizations. The **7<sup>th</sup> DRR Platform for Central Africa** was held in Burundi in January 2019 on the theme "*Defining a system for evaluating the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Central Africa.*" In April 2019, ECCAS also organized a PDNA/DRF training in Chad on the issues of displaced persons and health risks.



**ECOWAS** continued to support its member states in strengthening their national DRR coordination mechanisms. The **first ECOWAS Hydromet Forum** and DRR platform was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in September 2018, bringing together 218 participants from governments, development partners, civil society, academia, and the private sector. In April 2019, a consultation was held in Dakar, Senegal, to facilitate the development of the **ECOWAS flood management strategy** and the ECOWAS Hydromet Initiative. A training workshop on disaster preparedness was also held in Lomé, Togo, in April 2019.



**IGAD** provided continued technical assistance on hazard risk assessment to its member states, building their DRR capacities through the use of **earth observation and geospatial technologies**. Strategic guidance was also provided to participants of the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forums which took place in August 2018, February 2019 and May 2019. These participants represented national DRM institutions and media representatives and were given guidance to provide national climate actors with **information on climate early warning and weather predictions**.



**SADC** organized several crucial meetings and trainings including hazard risk and disaster risk assessments in the aftermath of the March 2019 tropical cyclone Idai. SADC also provided a training course for disaster managers on **meteorological forecasting and early warning systems** with the African Center for Disaster Studies at the South Africa North West University in August 2018. A **new collaboration with UNHABITAT and the DRM Sustainability and Urban Resilience sub-regional technical center** was launched to support urban resilience planning and provide policy advice to eight cities in the SADC region. In addition, a regional workshop on preparedness to El Niño took place in Namibia in December 2018.



Khartoum, Sudan.  
Photo credit: iStock

## Program-Wide Activities

### Coordination with other Result Areas

Various program-wide activities require – and encourage – regular coordination among development partners, in particular among the partners implementing the other four Result Areas of the *Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa Program*. RECs attend this Program's Steering Committee which seeks to oversee and validate the overall strategic direction and policy guidance of the Program. In addition, the Steering Committee is held on the margins of the Africa Working Group on DRR, which gathers several key stakeholders, including the AUC, member states and development partners. The Steering Committee thus serves as an opportunity for RECs to coordinate with other Result Areas of the Program as well as international, regional and national DRM stakeholders. In FY19, two Steering Committee meetings were held:

- The 6<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting <sup>4</sup> took place on 6 September 2018 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on the margins of the 13<sup>th</sup> Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (4-5 September).
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting took place on 5 April 2019 in Hawassa, Ethiopia, on the margins of the 14<sup>th</sup> Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (3-4 April).

### International Conferences



Participants during the Focus Day, 9 November 2018.  
Source: European Commission

On 9 November 2018, a **Focus Day on the ACP-EU NDRR Program** took place in Brussels, Belgium, attracting over 90 participants – including government officials from ACP countries and Regional Economic Communities, the ACP Secretariat, the EC, and the WB. The theme of the Focus Day was “Mainstreaming DRM and CCA in ACP countries.” DRR and DRM Representatives from ECCAS,

ECOWAS, IGAD, and SADC were in attendance and shared their perspectives. Some of the observations from the REC participants included the need to: improve collaboration between the DRM, adaptation, and development spheres; support planning by increasing DRR data sharing among scientists and other DRM institutions; and reduce dependency on external funding. The RECs' representatives noted that while it was important to increase awareness of DRM and support the development of DRM legislation, it was also necessary to go beyond advocacy by implementing solutions and enacting legislation.

<sup>4</sup> The 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee meeting took place in Addis Ababa on 18 February 2016, the 2<sup>nd</sup> one took place in Livingstone on 27 October 2016 the 3<sup>rd</sup> took place in Addis Ababa on 9 March 2017, the 4<sup>th</sup> took place in Mombasa, Kenya on 28 September 2017, the 5<sup>th</sup> in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia on 15 March 2018. The Program Steering Committee is made up of the AUC, the RECs, AfDB, UNDRR, the World Bank-GFDRR, and the ACP Secretariat as well as the EU, African Center of Meteorological Application for Development, The European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites and the hosting Government.

The summary report of the Focus Day, a short video, and all Power Point presentations delivered during the meeting are available at: <https://bit.ly/34pw4n9>

The fourth edition of the **World Reconstruction Conference (WRC4)** was held in Geneva on 13 and 14 May 2019 in conjunction with the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva, 13-17 May 2019), and gathered over 1,000 participants from national and local governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, and international organizations from around the world. The overall goal of the conference was to build consensus to renew and accelerate efforts towards reaching inclusive recovery processes. The conference aimed to promote inclusion as integral to resilient recovery and examined why certain minority groups are left behind by post-disaster recovery processes, and how they can better be included.

In addition to organizing a strategic retreat (see below), the Result Area 2 Program enabled representatives from the four participating RECs to attend the conference and participate in many sessions which focused on topics ranging from civil protection, urban and rural settings, risk financing, and promoting women's leadership in recovery or conflict sensitivity. Furthermore, post-disaster training demonstrations were organized during the two days of the conference.

- More information about WRC4 can be found at <https://www.gfdr.org/en/WRC4>.
- The Joint Communique can be found at <https://bit.ly/2VSNjN8>.
- The link to the highlight video and to all interviews can be found at <https://bit.ly/2ERIKZb>

On the margins of WRC4, a **Result Area 2 Program strategic retreat** was held on 12 May 2019 in Geneva which was attended by representatives of ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC, GFDRR and the World Bank, to agree on respective work programs milestones.



Yoa Lake, Chad  
Source: iStockphoto



## The Program in ECCAS

The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) brings together 11 Central African member states with a total population of over 181 million: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and São Tomé and Príncipe. The mandate of ECCAS is to promote regional cooperation among, and integration of, its member states. This involves leading the political dialogue on DRR and climate change, on which regional cooperation is still developing; collaboration has previously focused on questions of peace and stability in the Great Lakes region and the Central African Republic.

The region has a wide geographic footprint and is vulnerable to a large variety of natural disaster risks. The Central African Republic, Chad, and the Democratic Republic of Congo are flagged in the 2018 INFORM Index for Risk Management as among the 10 countries facing the highest overall disaster risk globally. Natural disaster risk in Central Africa is exacerbated by environmental degradation, such as the deforestation of the Congo Basin Forest.

At ECCAS, the DRM and CCA Unit is housed within the Department of Physical, Economic and Monetary Integration. DRR is addressed through three strategic priorities in the ECCAS General Policy on Environment and Natural Resource Management, adopted in 2007: (i) the fight against land degradation, drought and desertification, (ii) the fight against climate change, and (iii) the assessment and early warning for natural or manmade disasters. In 2017, Ministers adopted a revised version of the 2012 Central Africa Regional Strategy for Risk Prevention, Disaster Management and CCA, bringing it in line with the four priorities of the Sendai Framework for DRR.

### **Five components are implemented under the Result Area 2 Program in ECCAS, which contribute to:**

1. Building regional knowledge of hazards, vulnerability and risks through the mapping of trans-boundary hazards;
2. Reinforcing regional and national capacities in DRR and CCA;
3. Strengthening the policy dialogue and legislation dealing with DRR and CCA;
4. Enhancing regional capacity for response and post-disaster assessments and reconstruction planning;
5. Strengthening technical and managerial capacity at the ECCAS Secretariat.



## Activities in ECCAS, FY19

**ECCAS** continued to strengthen and sharpen its regional commitment to DRR. In November 2018, the inaugural ECCAS Hydromet Forum was held in Gabon, bringing together 143 participants from all 11 ECCAS member countries as well as several international organizations. The 7th DRR Platform for Central Africa was held in Burundi in January 2019 on the theme “Defining a system for evaluating the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Central Africa.” In April 2019, ECCAS also organized a PDNA/DRF training in Chad on the issues of displaced persons and health risks.

### **Component 1: Building regional knowledge on hazards, vulnerability and risks through the mapping of trans-boundary hazards**

ECCAS has started developing a **regional assessment which will contribute to a better understanding of hazards, vulnerabilities and disaster risks** in Central Africa. Specifically, the assessment will identify areas of regional importance for managing natural disasters, and provide guidance on related policies in the region. The Terms of Reference for the regional assessment has been finalized and its operationalization will be undertaken in FY20. Some of the implications of this work entail the identification and mapping of hazards and major risks covering the regional and national levels as well as the provision of capacity building for stakeholders in Central Africa on conducting state-of-the-art hazard, vulnerability and risk assessment including the use of relevant data and information. Such knowledge on hazards, vulnerabilities and risks will be useful for Central African communities, countries and regional entities in their respective development processes and will also be useful to all stakeholders in Central Africa in terms of sustainable and climate-resilient development.

### **Component 2: Reinforcing regional and national capacities on DRR and CCA**

The **Central Africa Regional Strategy for Risk Reduction, Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation** and its plan of action have been updated in line with the Sendai Framework and further translated and printed in the four ECCAS official languages: French, English, Portuguese and Spanish. The documents have been uploaded and made available on the ECCAS DRM webpage which is now operational, providing information to its member states and stakeholders: [www.grc-ceeac.org](http://www.grc-ceeac.org). Additional products such as a flyer and roll-up banners have also been created for outreach activities of the ECCAS DRM and CCA unit.

**Capacity building and institutional strengthening** activities in ECCAS member states have continued in order to develop and strengthen national DRR and DRM strategies in Central Africa, in line with the Sendai Framework. A consortium of firms was recruited in June 2019 to contribute to the capacity building of DRM experts and key stakeholders in the ECCAS region. The selected consortium includes the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (*Institut de Recherche et de Développement*), the CERFE (*Association de Recherche et Formation*), as well as the International Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, and the University of Buea (Cameroon).

The consortium will provide the ECCAS Secretariat and its member states with a baseline study report demonstrating a detailed overview of current capacity-building needs in the region. Two regional DRR capacity development training workshops will be organized to facilitate South-South knowledge exchange and the sharing of best practices on DRM at regional level. These capacity building activities include stakeholders from media, academia, CSOs, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector to better contribute to the implementation of DRR activities in Central Africa. In addition, an online DRR training module for capacity development and a comprehensive report on lessons learned, best practices and recommendations for improvements will be developed.

ECCAS has started to develop a **gender strategy and action plan for DRR** (see *In Focus story on page 17*).

Several activities have been undertaken to **reinforce the day-to-day work of the ECCAS national DRM focal points**. This includes logistical support in terms of IT & communication equipment. To this effect, a request for quotations has been launched by ECCAS in June 2019. National focal points will benefit from computers, printers and Wi-Fi modems. This activity will be complemented in FY20 by organizing trainings to national DRM focal points in the use of the various software to be supplied and installed.

In addition, six internship positions have been opened in order to strengthen DRM and CCA capacities of the ECCAS Secretariat. The first two students from the University of Marien Ngouabi (Republic of Congo) and the University of N'Djamena (Chad) started their internship in July 2019. This activity will provide an opportunity for young students to learn what is being done at the ECCAS General Secretariat. Interns will also help to establish a database on the results of academic research on DRM and CCA carried out by students and made available to the member states. The objective is to also enable ECCAS to create future expertise for member states and the sub-region.

### Component 3: Strengthening the policy dialogue and legislation on DRR and CCA

On 14-16 November 2018, ECCAS and the World Bank organized the **inaugural ECCAS Hydromet Forum** in partnership with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the AfDB, UNDRR and other development partners. The event offered a platform for exchanging views on how hydromet services can contribute to climate-resilient development and adaptation planning. There were 143 participants from the 11 ECCAS member states and international institutions. National focal points and experts on hydrology, meteorology, and DRR participated in the Forum, together with those from civil society, academia, and the media. Parliamentarians from the REPARC Network, the private sector, sub-regional institutions such as the Global Water Partnership Central Africa, the Congo River Basin Commission, and EU delegations, also participated. The Forum demonstrated the benefits of hydromet service delivery across a range of sectors including agriculture, water, natural resource management, environment, transport, civil aviation, energy and DRM. It also underlined that hydromet services are essential for scaling up resilience to climate and disaster risks, so that lives and livelihoods can be protected and Central Africa's hard-won gains and development aspirations for growth can be preserved and improved. Following extensive discussions at the Hydromet Forum, the representatives of ECCAS member states' institutions, members of REPARC, and other stakeholders in building disaster and climate resilience present at the Forum, agreed on key steps to drive the hydromet agenda forward in Central Africa. In the final communiqué, the delegates, among others:

- called on partners to scale up support for the modernization of hydromet, EWS, and DRM services;
- called for further support from national governments to ensure that national meteorological, hydrological and EWS and services have the enabling and financial environment to adequately perform their mandates;
- acknowledged the importance of the REPARC Network for the promotion of disaster resilience and CCA of Central Africa;
- stressed the importance of expediting the operationalization of the Regional Climate Center for Central Africa, established in Douala, which will serve the ECCAS region;
- urged ECCAS and its member states to scale up support for applied research and professional education on weather, water, climate and early warning services;
- stressed the importance of promoting gender mainstreaming and the inclusion of youth, vulnerable groups and community –based organizations in the design and implementation of integrated approaches for weather, water, climate and early warning services in support of sustainable development.

The agenda of the ECCAS Hydromet Forum and a summary of the final communiqué is available at: [www.bit.ly/ECCASHydromet](http://www.bit.ly/ECCASHydromet)

A story about the event is also available at: <https://goo.gl/c2nLm3>



ECCAS organized the **7th DRR Platform for Central Africa** from 28 January to 1 February 2019 in Bujumbura, Burundi. The theme of the Platform centred around “*defining a system for evaluating the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Central Africa.*”

Over 65 participants attended the Platform including experts from ECCAS member states as well as representatives from REPARC, the national Red Cross, NGOs, the EU delegation and other development stakeholders.

Several recommendations were formulated to the ECCAS Secretariat, ECCAS Members States and partners regarding needs for capacity reinforcement on DRM and CCA, strengthening of hydromet services and the importance of the REPARC. The latter also held its annual meeting in Bujumbura on the margins of the Platform, and discussed several of its activities, including the introduction of a specific law on DRR in the legislation of each of its member states.

In December 2018, the ECCAS DRM unit participated in the **24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 24)** in Katowice, Poland, to reinforce ECCAS Secretariat’s leadership in terms of strengthening weather, water and climate services as part of their regional function to improve the delivery of public goods, as well as in support of CCA and DRM. The event was an opportunity to (i) exchange knowledge, information and ideas and take stock of progress made in climate services with other stakeholders; (ii) raise awareness among Central Africa stakeholders about the benefits of investments in weather, water and climate services and EWS; (iii) mobilize new partnerships for DRM and CCA in Central Africa and strengthen the partnership for the implementation of climate resilience activities and the projected road map on the modernization of climate services; and (iv) showcase ECCAS achievements in the field of DRM, including the reduction of losses and damages related to climate change.



Participants at the 7th Platform for Central Africa.

Source: ECCAS

## Component 4: Enhancing regional capacity for response, post-disaster assessments and reconstruction planning

ECCAS organized a **national post-disaster needs assessment and disaster recovery framework training** in N'Djamena, Chad on 1-5 April 2019, attended by 65 participants. Special emphasis was put on the issue of displaced persons (both internal and transborder) and on health risks, as the country and subregion are subject to a series of epidemics. The training mainly targeted public institutions at both national and local levels, including representatives from several ministries as well as international organizations such as the EU, the EU Aviation Safety Agency, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, the Red Cross of Chad, the German Development Agency (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ*) as well as several NGOs including Ades International, BRACED, and the Women's Associations Information and Liaison Group.

ECCAS has started activities for the development of a regional framework and action plan for hydrometeorological and climate services. An expression of interest was launched in June 2019 for a study on ECCAS regional and national hydromet and flood/drought EWS and services. This study will provide an in-depth overview of the state of meteorology, hydrology and climate services and EWS in Central Africa, and draft a regional framework to improve decision-making for flood and drought management in the region.



Participants during the ECCAS PDNA and DRF training in N'Djamena, Chad in April 2019

*Photo credit: World Bank*

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## In Focus: Gender strategy and action plan for disaster risk reduction in Central Africa

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Women and girls are among the most vulnerable groups to disasters, often because of cultural and behavioral restrictions on women's mobility and socially ascribed roles and responsibilities. Understanding the different needs and capacities of women and men and integrating gender considerations is a crucial step for effective DRM.

In 2019, ECCAS began to develop a **gender strategy and action plan for DRR**. Inclusive consultations with all ECCAS governments have been undertaken for this assignment. Several other stakeholders were also consulted including in the private sector, civil society, and academic organizations with the aim of developing practical gender-responsive frameworks that are inclusive to all segments of society, and to build capacity for gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction initiatives across the region.

Concrete steps already taken include assembling relevant policy, strategies and plans for DRM and gender issues, analyzing these issues in the context of the ECCAS region, and obtaining feedback from the ECCAS DRR and gender units. The strategy and plan of action for the gender mainstreaming initiative have been agreed with all relevant stakeholders and the link with other policies has already been identified, underlining the added value of this initiative.

The gender strategy and action plan aim to guide all 11 ECCAS member states to put **particular attention on the principle of equality between men and women in order to improve economic, social and cultural inclusion**. The strategy will allow member states to rationalize and integrate gender principles in all their interventions as well as to sensitize and advocate for the principles of gender equality, to strengthen the overall capacities of women and youth and to engage men in the promotion of gender equality and the fight against gender-based violence.



Woman with her child in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau  
*Photo credit: iStock*



Pointe-Noire, Republic of Congo  
*Photo credit: iStock*



## The Program in ECOWAS

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) brings together 15 West African member states with a total population of approximately 320 million: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. ECOWAS' vision 2020 is a borderless region where people have the capacity to access and harness resources through the creation of opportunities for sustainable development and environmental preservation.

Natural hazards pose a real threat in West Africa, with about 75 percent of its population living in areas that are affected at least once every two years by a tropical cyclone, drought, flood or earthquake. Some of Africa's most populous cities such as Lagos and Abidjan are located on the West African coast, major rivers like the Niger, Volta, Senegal and Gambia crisscross the region, and the vast, drought-vulnerable Sahel and Savannah zones span borders.

At ECOWAS, the DRR program is housed in the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs under the overall guidance of the Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender. ECOWAS is committed to fulfilling its peace and security mandate, and stated in its 2006 Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction that disasters and conflict are linked and mutually reinforcing. ECOWAS is increasingly upscaling its work on DRR, adopting the DRR Plan of Action 2015-2030, which builds on the 2010-2015 Regional Policy on DRR and the Sendai Framework for DRR.

### **Four components are implemented in ECOWAS under the Result Area 2 Program. These contribute to:**

1. Strengthening DRM policies and institutions at the national and regional level;
2. Strengthening regional flood management capacity;
3. Enhancing regional post-disaster recovery planning; and
4. Strengthening capacity and coordination for DRM.



## Activities in ECOWAS, FY19

**ECOWAS** supported several of its member states in strengthening their national DRR coordination mechanisms, with the goal of providing the same support to all 15 member countries by May 2020. The first ECOWAS Hydromet Forum and DRR platform was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in September 2018, bringing together 218 participants from governments, development partners, civil society, academia, and the private sector. In April 2019, a consultation was held in Dakar, Senegal, to facilitate the development of the ECOWAS flood management strategy and the ECOWAS Hydromet Initiative. A training workshop on disaster preparedness was also held in Lomé, Togo, in April 2019.

### Component 1: Strengthening DRM policies and institutions at the national and regional level

ECOWAS continued to provide support to its member states in **strengthening their national DRR coordination mechanisms**. To this effect, several national events and workshops were held in FY19, providing institutional support on DRM, stakeholder coordination and consultations, as well as on the development of national DRR policies and strategies. A preliminary **Consultative Meeting for ECOWAS DRM Focal Points** took place on 17 July 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria, to discuss the ECOWAS DRR strategy and provide guidance for its implementation, and to facilitate knowledge exchange on the DRR agenda in the ECOWAS region. Several national workshops were then organized, attracting stakeholders from the private sector, CSOs, women and youth groups, universities, government departments and development partners.

- In Banjul, the **Gambia** on 2-4 October 2018, the national workshop attracted 52 participants. It galvanized support for an increase of political commitment for DRR in the Gambia, including adequate budget allocations, and called for a stronger role of the private sector in DRM in the country.
- In Conakry, **Guinea** on 22-26 October 2018, the national workshop on DRR gathered 59 participants. The workshop provided a venue to discuss ways to strengthen coordination and training mechanisms on DRR and DRM in Guinea.
- In Niamey, **Niger** on 19-21 March 2019, a national platform for DRR gathered 70 stakeholders. The event saw the validation of the national DRR strategy and its plan of action as well as the elaboration of a roadmap for the government including budget considerations.
- In Bamako, **Mali** on 25-27 March 2019, 50 participants gathered for a similar workshop adopting the national DRR strategy.
- In Monrovia, **Liberia** on 6-8 May 2019, 50 participants were brought together for a workshop on the principles of DRR which enabled the development of a roadmap for aligning its national strategy with the respective ECOWAS policies.
- In Ouagadougou, **Burkina Faso** on 11-13 June 2019, 57 participants supported the national forum on DRR, which convened around issues of coordination, policy formulation as well as relief and recovery. The participants of the forum formulated recommendations for the National Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Council.



Participants at the national DRR strategy review workshop in Niamey, Niger in March 2019.

*Photo credit: ECOWAS*



Participants during the national forum on DRR in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in June 2019

*Photo credit: World Bank*

## Component 2: Strengthening regional flood management capacity

**Strengthening regional flood management capacity** is key to helping ECOWAS member states prepare for disasters. Several capacity building activities were organized together with the ECOWAS Secretariat in FY19 to provide knowledge and capacity building on floods for ECOWAS member states:

- On 18 September 2018 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, a **research collaboration on DRR policies and flood management** was launched by the ECOWAS Secretariat and the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL). The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the way forward on policy support for flood management, the identification of hotspots, and capacity building around flood forecasting in the ECOWAS region.
- On 17-21 March 2019, ECOWAS and AGRHYMET<sup>5</sup> discussed in Niamey, Niger the possibilities for **closer collaboration on flood forecasting, and weather and climate services**. It was proposed that AGRHYMET would play a stronger technical role and will assist ECOWAS with technical advice on flood, water and climate services.
- A **consultative meeting on ECOWAS flood management strategy** took place on 1-2 April 2019 in Dakar, Senegal which brought together experts from member states and regional organizations, including the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development, WASCAL, AGRHYMET, and WMO. The meeting enabled participants to (i) discuss the zero draft of the ECOWAS flood management strategy; (ii) review technical reports on the mapping of flood hotspots in West Africa; (iii) discuss capacity building needs; and (iv) take stock of existing member state flood management related policies, strategies and approaches to facilitate the formulation of the ECOWAS regional flood management strategy.



Participants at the consultative meeting on flood management strategy and ECOWAS Hydromet program, Dakar, April 2019

*Photo credit: World Bank*

<sup>5</sup> The AGRHYMET Regional Centre was established in 1974 as a specialized institute of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) composed of nine member states (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal). It is an interstate public institute with a legal status and financial autonomy. It has an international status and is based in Niamey, Niger. Its main objectives are contributing to achieving food security and increased agricultural production in the CILSS member states and improving natural resources management in the Sahelian region.

### Component 3: Enhancing regional post disaster recovery planning

ECOWAS representatives during the training on rapid assessments in Lomé, April 2019  
Photo credit: World Bank



ECOWAS facilitated a training on rapid assessment methodology which took place on 15-17 April 2019 in Lomé, Togo and was attended by 52 participants.

### Component 4: Strengthening capacity and coordination for DRM

On 19-21 September 2018, the **ECOWAS Hydromet Forum and DRR Platform** was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, bringing together 218 participants, including 37 women, from governments, academia, civil society, meteorological institutions, NGOs, the private sector and development partners (*see In Focus story on page 23*).

The objective of the event was to deliberate on and set priorities for how weather, water, climate information and DRM strategies and services can be strengthened, and to discuss how the delivery of climate services can be improved to achieve sustainable development and reduce disaster and climate risk in the ECOWAS region. The Forum was convened and organized under the leadership of ECOWAS, in partnership with the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and in close coordination with the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology, the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites User Forum, and with support and technical contributions from the French Development Agency (*Agence Française de Développement – AFD*), AfDB, the Permanent Interstate Committee for drought control in the Sahel, UNDP, UNDRR, WASCAL, WFP, WMO and the World Bank/GFDRR.

- The Proceedings of the ECOWAS Hydromet Forum are available at <https://bit.ly/39MvClh>
- A feature story on the ECOWAS Hydromet Forum is available at <https://bit.ly/2W4SKrc>

Participants at the workshop for sensitizing community leaders on DRR in April 2019 in Abidjan.  
Photo credit: World Bank



A workshop for **sensitizing community leaders on DRR** took place on 2-4 April 2019 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, attended by 52 participants. This workshop, supported by the ECOWAS Commission, was a capacity building and training program on mainstreaming hazard information and DRR principles in planning. It was also an opportunity to discuss partnerships with the private sector and civil society.

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## In Focus: Boosting investments in hydromet for resilient development throughout West Africa

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Across West Africa's buoyant cities, weather and climate variability are making a distinct impact on people, communities, and industries. From Dakar to Niamey, people directly face the impact of hydrological and meteorological hazards, as rising temperatures and sea levels impact their everyday lives and livelihoods.

Hydromet services directly support water resource management for irrigation, hydropower, renewable energy and improved water supply for livelihood. They also provide early warnings, alerts and advisories, which can help communities adopt smarter agricultural practices, better resource management systems, and improved disaster risk management strategies. Hydromet services also reduce the socio-economic impacts of floods, droughts, and natural hazards, to enable food security, mitigate offshoots of fragility, and boost commerce, tourism, and trade—sectors that promote economic development and employment.

With the key aim of strengthening and sustaining regional and national hydromet, early warning, and DRM services, ECOWAS and development partners, along with the World Bank and GFDRR launched the **ECOWAS Hydromet Forum and Disaster Risk Reduction Platform** in September 2018. For the first time, West African governments, academics, civil society organizations, international partners, and the private sector worked together through the platform and Forum to **integrate regional disaster risk reduction initiatives and to fully implement the ECOWAS DRR policy and the ECOWAS DRR Plan of Action 2015 – 2030.**

The **ECOWAS Hydromet Initiative** was launched at the Forum. The initiative works to strengthen the observation, transmission, interpretation, and dissemination of hydromet data and information for various sectors from small-scale farming and fisheries, to large scale industries like aviation and transport, and for all West Africans. The initiative will strengthen hydromet, early warning, and disaster risk management services, so that climate, weather, and water resources can serve, rather than hamper the growth and prosperity of people and communities in West Africa.

This makes a world of difference for the end users of hydromet services—from fishermen, farmers, and small rural businesses, to the people living in bustling cities—so that sectors like agriculture, trade and tourism, which drive economic development can enable West Africans to thrive.



ECOWAS Hydromet Forum and DRR Platform.  
*Photo credit: World Bank*



Idanre Hill, Nigeria.  
*Photo credit: iStock*



## The Program in IGAD

The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) brings together eight East African member states, covering a population of around 230 million people: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda. Its mandate is to lead the general political dialogue on food security, environmental protection, peace and humanitarian affairs in those countries.

Some 70 percent of the IGAD region is made up of arid and semi-arid lands, which receive less than 600mm of rain annually, leaving the main economic activity of agriculture vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and potentially affecting food security. In 2011, the worst drought in 60 years hit the region, showing the devastating effects of climate change.

The IGAD DRM Unit is hosted by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) in Nairobi, Kenya. In 2016, IGAD presented its new Regional Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan 2016-2020, which places resilience at the heart of the DRM approach. This Plan states that IGAD will promote climate data gathering and the availability of early warning information, as well as the mainstreaming of climate information in key sectors. Acting on such data for effective DRR, however, remains a challenge ahead.

### **Three components are implemented in IGAD under the Result Area 2 Program, and contribute to:**

1. Strengthening the capacity of IGAD to lead the region's DRM and CCA agenda, and of IGAD member states to implement DRM and CCA interventions to improve resilience to natural hazards;
2. Strengthening DRM and CCA coordination capacity in the IGAD region;
3. Strengthening the IGAD DRM Unit.

## Activities in IGAD, FY19

IGAD provided continued technical assistance on hazard risk assessment to its member states, building their DRR capacities through the use of earth observation and geospatial technologies. Strategic guidance was also provided to participants of the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forums which took place in August 2018, February 2019 and May 2019. These participants represented national DRM institutions and media representatives and were given guidance to provide national climate actors with information on climate early warning and weather predictions.

### Component 1: Strengthening the capacity of IGAD to lead the region's DRM and CCA agenda, and of IGAD member states to implement DRM and CCA interventions to improve resilience to natural hazards

IGAD provided **strategic guidance to strengthen the region's DRM and CCA capacities**. This materialized through the organization of three consecutive Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forums (GHACOF). Following each Forum, an IGAD DRM Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting was held to follow-up on planned DRM activities, to share recent progress in the areas of DRM and CCA, and to provide capacity building such as on the use of geospatial and earth observation technologies (*see In Focus story on page 28*).

- The **50<sup>th</sup> edition** of GHACOF took place in Kigali, Rwanda, on 27-30 August 2018, gathering 23 people from national DRM institutions and representatives of the media. The Forum issued a consensus on the regional seasonal climate outlook for the months of October to December 2018. Upon returning home, DRM participants were able to provide climate-dependent sectors with information on climate early warning and relevant reports on the climate and weather predictions.
- The **51<sup>st</sup> edition** of GHACOF was held on 12-13 February 2019, in Entebbe, Uganda, bringing together 18 participants. Seasonal climate forecasts were presented by the Forum for the months of March to May 2019.
- The **52<sup>nd</sup> edition** of GHACOF took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 27-29 May 2019, gathering a total of 128 participants. During this Forum, the climate forecasts for the period June to September 2019 were presented and DRM focal points discussed the sectoral implications of the forecasts. The meeting also focused on updating IGAD members on the progress of implementation including the lessons learnt and challenges faced.

The IGAD DRM unit also worked on developing capacity of some of its member states on **hazard assessment and monitoring using earth observation and Geographic Information Systems technologies** to enhance DRR efforts in each country. In partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Program, several trainings took place between October 2018 and March 2020 in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda, attended by a total of 122 participants, including 48 women.

Training in Somalia (left); Sudan (centre); and South Sudan (right).

Photo credit: IGAD



## Component 2: Strengthening DRM and CCA coordination capacity in the IGAD region



Promotion of climate smart agriculture in the IGAD region

Photo credit: World Bank

Activities to strengthen **IGAD's coordination capacity and to advance the regional DRM agenda** culminated in the launch of IGAD country consultations on the development of a **regional framework on flood risk management** and country reports submitted on the level of flood risk hazards in IGAD member states.

Furthermore, activities related to the implementation of **climate-smart agriculture** continued and included trainings of farmers on group dynamics and cooperatives as well as on technical backstopping in agronomy. In FY19, a total of 203 farmers have been trained, including 118 women and 85 men.

In addition to these activities, several meetings have focused on increasing coordination on specific topics linked to DRM and CCA in the region.

- The IGAD regional consultative meeting on the development of a **regional strategy on flood risk management** was conducted on 13-14 December 2018, in Nairobi, Kenya and was attended by 25 water experts from the ministries of member states responsible for water resources. The experts provided their input for guidelines for the establishment of a regional strategy for flood management in IGAD and its member states.
- Several **post-disaster needs assessment and disaster recovery framework** trainings took place between February and May 2019 in Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya, benefitting a total of 137 people including 43 women. The trainings focused on imparting knowledge and skills on the PDNA and DRF approaches and methodologies with the aim of creating a pool of professionals and civil servants that would be able to undertake PDNAs on the ground.



Participants during the PDNA and DRF training in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2019.

Photo credit: World Bank



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## In Focus: Fostering multisectoral regional dialogue and coordination on disaster risk reduction in eastern Africa

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The 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction recognizes that regional, sub-regional and cross-border cooperation is essential to support the efforts of national and local authorities to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards. Translating this agenda into action has taken multiple forms including through the organization of regional forums to ensure multisectoral dialogue, coordination and implementation of DRR measures. This has been the case in the Eastern African region, under the impetus of IGAD.

As an example of fostering regional cooperation on DRR, IGAD member states convene every four months to the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forums (GHACOF). The GHACOFs produce the **seasonal climate outlook** for the IGAD region and provide an opportunity for a wide range of sector DRM focal points – from water and agriculture to livestock experts – to discuss the implications of weather forecasts for disaster risks, and the corresponding preparedness needs. It brings together meteorological agencies, disaster risks management agencies, and partner organizations from all 11 IGAD countries dealing with climate and weather forecasts matters.

In addition to regional forums, IGAD also provides targeted trainings. For instance, on the margins of GHACOF Forums, IGAD brings together key stakeholders to share recent progress in the areas of DRM and CCA and to train them on specific topics such as how to use geospatial and earth observation technologies or how to monitor the progress of implementation of the Sendai Framework. The latter trainings equip participants with the knowledge and skills to track the progress in implementing the seven targets of the Sendai Framework for DRR, and how its related dimensions are reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals.

These events and regional gatherings highlight the importance that IGAD DRR and DRM stakeholders meet to share intra-regional experiences related to the management of disaster and climate risks. It is also a reminder of the crucial aspect that the recommendations produced by these regional events have, as they are considered and implemented at the national level.



Participants during GHACOF 50 in Kigali, Rwanda.  
*Photo credit: IGAD*



## The Program in SADC

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) brings together 15 Southern African member states, with a total population of around 260 million: Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Its goal is to alleviate poverty, and support socio-economic development, peace, and security through cooperation and regional integration.

SADC has made substantial progress towards the achievement of development goals. However, differences between countries remain, and ongoing development is put under pressure by the increasing threat of natural disasters. There has been an increase in the frequency, magnitude and impact of drought and flood events since 2000, and climate change brings additional problems to island states such as the Seychelles.

SADC has identified key DRM challenges for the region, including under-funded and ill-coordinated institutional frameworks for DRR at different levels of government, the lack of comprehensive and constantly updated risk assessments and analysis, and weak information and knowledge management systems. In November 2016, SADC ministers responsible for DRM adopted the SADC Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy, which builds on the DRM program that was endorsed in 2008 by the SADC summit of heads of state and government and the SADC Council in 2009. The SADC DRR Unit became operational in 2009, and is responsible for coordinating regional preparedness and response programs for trans-boundary hazards and disasters, working closely with the SADC Climate Services Center.

### **Five components are implemented in SADC under the Result Area 2 Program. These contribute to:**

1. Enhancing regional disaster preparedness and response institutional and coordination mechanisms;
2. Operationalizing national and regional DRR information and knowledge management systems;
3. Strengthening the regional DRR policy advocacy and capacity development program;
4. Enhancing mainstreaming of DRR in development plans and strategies; and
5. Strengthening the implementation and coordination capacity of the SADC Secretariat.

## Activities in SADC, FY19

**SADC** provided a training course for disaster managers on meteorological forecasting and early warning systems with the African Center for Disaster Studies at the South Africa North West University in August 2018. A new collaboration between UNHABITAT and the DRM Sustainability and Urban Resilience sub-regional technical center was launched to support urban resilience planning and provide policy advice to eight cities in the SADC region. In addition, a regional workshop on preparedness to El Niño took place in Namibia in December 2018. SADC organized several crucial meetings and trainings including hazard risk and disaster risk assessments in the aftermath of the March 2019 tropical cyclone Idai.

### Component 1: Enhancing regional disaster preparedness and response; institutional and coordination mechanisms

Several activities have been undertaken to reinforce the SADC's capacity for planning, policy advice and knowledge dissemination, so they can better support their member states in taking informed decisions about building resilience to disasters, and better support regional and sub-regional programs on DRM. These included:

- As part of the collaboration with the African Center for Disaster Studies at the North West University (NWU) of South Africa, a **training course** for disaster managers on **meteorological forecasting and early warning systems** was conducted from 27 to 31 August 2018 in Potchefstroom, South Africa. The collaboration with the NWU supports SADC in professionalizing continued education in the field of DRM. The course was joined by 16 participants, including 7 women, from SADC member states and NGOs in the region.
- On 17-19 December 2018, SADC and the government of Namibia hosted the regional **El Niño Preparedness Forum** to discuss the latest projections and potential impacts of the El Niño phenomenon for the SADC region in 2019 and agree on joint actions and regionally coordinated activities in preparation for the upcoming season. A total of 68 experts from SADC member states, the SADC Secretariat, regional and international organizations, and humanitarian actors, participated in the three-day event in Windhoek, Namibia.
- In June 2019, SADC hosted a coordination meeting of the **Regional Interagency Standing Committee on Disasters** (RIASCO) that brought together DRM experts to discuss ways to enhance regional coordination in terms of the response to the cyclones that affected the SADC region as well as other disaster events such as drought and Ebola. The meeting was attended by 20 participants and discussed lessons learned from tropical cyclone Idai.

Training course  
at NWU on DRR  
Policy, Planning and  
Legislation.  
*Photo credit: SADC*



## Component 2: Operationalizing national and regional DRR information and knowledge management systems

A new **collaboration to support urban resilience planning and to provide policy advice to eight cities in the SADC region** was launched between IGAD, the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT) and the Disaster Risk Management Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR) sub-regional technical center based in Maputo, Mozambique.<sup>6</sup> The center will combine analytical work in support of urban policy and planning instruments at the regional level and provide guidance to cities to develop city resilience assessments plans. Initial discussions took place in Gaborone, Botswana, regarding the selection of cases, participating countries, and cities.

## Component 3: Strengthening the regional DRR policy advocacy and capacity development program

On 19-23 November 2018, a SADC regional training course took place at the University of Botswana in Gaborone, **focusing on DRR advocacy, information management, and dissemination**. The training was jointly organized by the University of Botswana, NWU, and SADC. It was joined by 23 experts from SADC member states' governments and NGOs who learned about and shared best practices for effective advocacy and information management strategies for DRR.



Practical exercise  
as part of the SADC  
training course in  
November 2018  
Source: North West  
University and University  
of Botswana

<sup>6</sup> DiMSUR was supported by the ACP-EU NDRR Program between 2013-2015. For more information, please see <https://bit.ly/2VN20xt>.

## Component 4: Enhancing mainstreaming of DRR in development plans and strategies

Activities outlined below helped to provide an advocacy platform and improve cooperation and networking among SADC regional, and national technical institutions.

- A **regional DRR workshop**, which was organized on 26 to 28 June 2019 in Windhoek, Namibia, provided a platform to (i) engage with member states on disaster events that have affected the SADC region recently; (ii) consult member state delegates on SADC's draft Resilience Strategy; and (iii) engage member states on issues relevant for mainstreaming in regional and national policies, including gender sensitive DRR as well as ecosystem-based DRR. The workshop was attended by 66 participants, including 19 women, and was organized in partnership with the Government of Namibia, NWU, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, as well as Cowater-Sogema, which contributed to different technical aspects of the consultations.
- The **collaboration with academic institutions** in Southern Africa, coordinated by NWU also progressed. From 25 to 29 March 2019, a course on DRR policy, planning and legislation was held at the NWU campus in Potchefstroom, South Africa with 19 participants, including 8 women, from 10 SADC member states. The training focused on the basics of scenario planning, public policy formulation and implementation, and legislative review. The training also provided a venue for member states to share their experiences and reflections on cyclone Idai, as well as for South Africa to discuss lessons learned from its amendment process to the country's Disaster Management Act.

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## In Focus: Response to tropical cyclone Idai affecting the Southern African region

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In March 2019, tropical cyclone Idai made landfall near the port city of Beira in Mozambique. The cyclone hit the rest of Mozambique and then moved inland, affecting parts of Malawi and Zimbabwe. It brought widespread flooding and destruction, and had a devastating impact on both urban and rural areas, destroying water, electricity, communication, transport, and social infrastructure as well as homes and agricultural property. To date, several million people have been affected, with near total damage in the worst impacted areas. It has been classified as the worst cyclone to hit the SADC region in recent history. This disaster was followed a few weeks later by tropical cyclone Kenneth, affecting the same region and causing more damages and further affecting these populations.

The SADC Secretariat helped to **coordinate and monitor the response on the ground** and reiterated the need to enhance coordination to foster a complementary response at the national level. The response to tropical cyclone Idai underlined SADC's critical role in collecting evidence and documenting lessons learned for enhanced preparedness as well as improved future response and coordination.

In the aftermath of the disaster, SADC continued its efforts to **provide an advocacy platform and improve cooperation and networking among regional and national technical institutions**. Tropical cyclone Idai was a reminder that it is crucial to reinforce SADC's capacity for planning, policy advice, and knowledge dissemination, so it can better support its member states in taking informed decisions about building resilience to disasters.



A view of Beira, Mozambique following the impact of tropical cyclone Idai in May 2019.

Photo credit: Dominic Chavez/World Bank (accessible at <https://bit.ly/2AWZews>)

# The R2 Program Partners

## ACP GROUP OF STATES

The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) is an intergovernmental organization created by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975. It is composed of 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific states, signatories of the Cotonou Agreement (known as the "ACP-EC Partnership Agreement"), binding them to the European Union. The ACP-EU NDRR Program operates in ACP countries and regions.

Among the ACP Group's objectives is the sustainable development of its member states and their gradual integration into the global economy. In this regard, as early as 2004 the ACP Group took the initiative to pioneer action on natural disaster reduction and resilience. It achieved this by sensitizing the European Union's attention to the need to expand its scope from humanitarian response, to a more pro-active and holistic approach to prevention and management of natural disaster risk.

The ACP-EU NDRR Program is part of a long-standing cooperation between the ACP Group and the EU. It brings together natural disaster and climate resilience entities from the ACP regions, with specialized partners such as GFDRR, to address ACP countries' vulnerabilities to exogenous shocks, through integrated measures on climate adaptation, environmental protection and natural disaster risk management.

For more information: [www.acp.int](http://www.acp.int)

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## EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union (EU) is the leading donor of development aid and climate finance. The EU finances the NDRR Program by a grant of €54.5 million to a single-donor Trust Fund, under the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund.

The EU is at the forefront of the international agenda on Resilience, supporting developing countries in preparing for, withstanding and recovering from disaster events. The EU is fully engaged in supporting the implementation of the new Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The EU's efforts to reduce vulnerability and to build the resilience of regions, countries and communities, stem from the EU's Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2011), the Action Plan on Resilience in crisis prone countries (2013) and the Action Plan on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (2016). These plans pool humanitarian and development resources to deliver on flagship initiatives such as the Global Alliance for Resilience in the Sahel (AGIR), Supporting the Horn of Africa's Resilience (SHARE), Global Climate Change Alliance plus (GCCA+) and DIPECHO. In its cooperation with the ACP Group of States, the EU has put at the core of its interventions the need to reduce vulnerability and to build the resilience of regions, countries and communities.

For more information: [www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)

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## GLOBAL FACILITY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION AND RECOVERY

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is a global partnership established in 2006 to support developing countries in understanding, managing, and ultimately reducing risks stemming from natural hazards and climate change. GFDRR's mission is to facilitate implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement by ensuring that development policies, plans, and investments—including post-disaster reconstruction—are designed to minimize disaster risks and build the resilience of people and economies to climate change. GFDRR provides grant financing, technical assistance, training and knowledge sharing activities to mainstream disaster and climate risk management in policies and strategies.

For more information: [www.gfdrr.org](http://www.gfdrr.org)



Kampala, Uganda  
Source: iStockphoto

## Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa Program - Result Area 2

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)  
World Bank Brussels Office  
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[www.gfdr.org](http://www.gfdr.org)



Building Disaster  
Resilience in  
Sub-Saharan Africa



**GFDRR**  
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



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