



Activities under the ACP-EU NDRR Program

UPDATE # 49

for October – December 2020

A – PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The **Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) Fall 2020 Consultative Group (CG) Meeting** was held virtually on 9 December 2020. The CG was an opportunity (i) for GFDRR to provide an update on the COVID-19 response, including on World Bank operations and emerging lessons learned (ii) present the draft GFDRR Strategy for 2021-2025; and (iii) provide an update on the ongoing World Bank umbrella trust fund reform and implications for GFDRR. Participants also had the opportunity to preview highlights from the 2019-2020 GFDRR Annual Report.

New proposals – two Window 3 proposals in Africa were approved for funding during the period under review (more details are provided in section C below):

- **Cameroon** - Mapping of the August 2020 Douala Flood Impact and Its Consequences for Urban Planning and Investments;
- **Sudan** - Floods damage assessment and recovery support.

B – PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Integrating urban and coastal resilience in The Gambia

The government of **The Gambia** is undertaking a detailed assessment of the flood and coastal risks of its capital city Banjul and its surrounding region. By increasing its capacity to collect and analyze data, the government will be able to inform long-term urban development strategies that integrate resilience to flood and erosion risks, thereby improving urban neighborhoods and minimizing the economic fallout from these types of risks. This is being undertaken with support from the ACP-EU NDRR *Integrated urban and coastal resilience* project, which is building on the findings of a risk analysis compiled under a previous ACP-EU NDRR project entitled *National disaster risk assessment and strengthening of the National Disaster Management Agency*.

The first phase of this effort consisted of collecting sufficient data to produce detailed risk maps of the urban and coastal areas of Greater Banjul. The collected data was used to model risks associated with flooding, coastal erosion, sea-level rise and land deformation. It also included the development of an investment plan to promote a multi-sectoral approach to reducing these risks. Additional funding granted to this project in August 2020 currently supports the Gambia's National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) in developing its ability to process high-quality data and using it to inform new policies, laws, and regulations.

Work has now begun on implementing activities related to this additional financing, which is divided into two components. The first component focuses on promoting the use of nature-based solutions to reduce risks from coastal hazards. This will be done by providing policy recommendations to support the protection and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources and by identifying solutions that mitigate flood and erosion risks and support better management of the ecosystem. The second component is focused on managing solid waste in flash flood situations due to its significant environmental, social, and economic impact. An assessment of the main sources of marine pollution will be conducted, and include a review of the existing legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks governing solid waste management to inform policy recommendations. An assessment of the recycling industry and its potential will also be conducted to identify opportunities for recovering materials.

More information on this project is available at: <https://bit.ly/3IDkGwv>.



Launch of a new regional geospatial data platform in the Caribbean

Disaster risk information is key to help countries harness the challenges posed by climate change. Through the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Caribbean countries such as **Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** have prioritized developing risk information in order to gain knowledge and awareness about disaster risks that are becoming an increasing threat to the region.

In this context, a new regional geospatial data platform, the geospatial **Caribbean Risk Information System (CRIS)** was launched in November 2020, with support from the ACP-EU NDRR *Caribbean Risk Information Program II* project. Managed by CDEMA, this platform serves as a “one-stop-shop” for gathering and sharing information and data on DRM, ensuring that Caribbean countries have access to data on DRM. So far, the platform has increased awareness about flood risk management in Saint Lucia and Grenada, and about hazard information for infrastructure in Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and increased knowledge about coastal and urban resilience in Grenada.

More information on this project is available at: <https://bit.ly/3mY6YES>.

The CRIS platform can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/2LbByNZ>.

The launch event of the CRIS can be viewed at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3mRgtWu>.

A video about the CRIS platform can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/37I50SM>.

Addressing school safety in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the context of climate change and the COVID-19 crisis

To address rapid urbanization in cities that are already affected by climate change, the government of **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** has sought to advance a comprehensive urban resilience and economic growth agenda. This is being undertaken with support from the ACP-EU NDRR *Urban transformation and resilience for inclusive economic growth* project.

Activities have included the review of several legislative documents which improve the regulatory framework for the enforcement of the *Building Codes* as well as the *National School Safety Policy*, the latter having been approved by Cabinet in December 2019. Spearheaded by the Ministry of Education, these policy guidelines have helped incorporate risk considerations into infrastructure investments and informed the reconstruction and design of critical buildings such as schools, health facilities and emergency shelters. In light of the COVID-19 crisis, health and policy experts were also mobilized to provide guidance to the Ministry of Education on the *COVID-19 Action Plan*, allowing for the safe re-opening of schools. This has been essential to keep providing education to children in a safe and healthy environment in the midst of the pandemic.

More information on this project is available at <https://bit.ly/2LFrbpU>.



Re-opening of schools during COVID-19 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
Source: Ministry of Education



Enhancing the regulatory framework for DRM in Samoa

In **Samoa**, the Ministry of Works, Transport, and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment have worked together to strengthen the country's institutional policy framework for DRM and climate change adaptation, with the support of the ACP-EU NDRR *Enhancing capacity for strengthening the implementation of building codes and for improving multi-hazard systems* project.

Activities have included the review of several legislative documents including the recently updated guidelines for the application of the *National Building Code*, which is helping to strengthen new residential housing against climate-related risks and earthquakes. These guidelines have also informed the *Building Practitioners Licensing and Registration Policy*, which was approved by the Cabinet in early 2020. This policy allows the government of Samoa to regulate the standards governing building practitioners and contractors, to issue licenses to carry out construction works in accordance with the *National Building Code*, and to register suitably qualified building contractors. The government has also communicated the new building guidelines to stakeholders in the private sector and reached out to communities to raise awareness of climate and disaster-related risks.

More information on this project is available at: <https://bit.ly/2K6oWH2>.

C – POST DISASTER RESPONSE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Post-disaster and recovery needs assessment following floods in Sudan

Following unusually heavy seasonal rains in August 2020 across much of Central and North-Eastern Africa, **Sudan** experienced some of the worst flooding in decades, and was particularly affected by the prolonged rains in the Blue and White Nile catchment.

The government of Sudan requested assistance to undertake a rapid damage, loss, and recovery needs assessment for the 2020 seasonal floods and its recovery planning. This resulted in the approval in October 2020 of the ACP-EU NDRR *Post-disaster and recovery needs assessment following floods* project. The objective of this assessment is to evaluate the impact of the 2020 seasonal floods for Khartoum and other affected areas in Sudan and to estimate the needs to produce a preliminary recovery strategy. The assessment will be conducted by the United Nations Development Program, the EU and the World Bank, and adapted from the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) methodology. It will be applied to the context of Sudan in a manner to undertake a rapid and concise assessment. This activity will therefore result in a report led and approved by the government, providing: (i) an assessment of the damage, loss, and recovery needs in the affected sectors and districts; (ii) priority recovery needs for each sector; and (iii) suggested recovery interventions.

For more information, please see: <https://bit.ly/3qo9k2i>.



A resident removes buckets of waters from the Blue Nile floods within the Al-Ikmayr area of Omdurman in Khartoum.

Source: © REUTERS/Mohamed Nureldin Abdallah accessed [here](#).

Mapping of the Douala flood impact and its consequences for urban planning and investments

The 2020 rainy season in **Cameroon** has seen above-average seasonal cumulative rainfall. The resulting conditions triggered significant flooding and led to the temporarily displacement of populations as well as material damages in various regions of the country. Since July 2020, the floods have affected over 150,000 people and displaced over 1,500 families.



In this context, the government of Cameroon, through the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Municipality of Douala, requested technical assistance to improve the understanding of risk, specifically the impact of the August 2020 flood events in Douala, and its consequences for urban planning and investments. This resulted in the approval in October 2020 of the ACP-EU NDRR *Mapping of the August 2020 Douala Flood Impact and Its Consequences for Urban Planning and Investments* project. The objectives are to (i) provide technical support to local and national government partners to assess the impacts of the August 2020 floods in Douala; and (ii) further ongoing capacity building for the government's use of low-cost, collaborative, and open data collection approaches to DRM.

The project is being implemented in coordination with the European Union (EU) Delegation as well as other organizations including the French development agency (*Agence française de développement – AFD*), and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

For more information, please see: <https://bit.ly/3okuRXL>.

D - RESULT AREA 2 OF THE “BUILDING DISASTER RESILIENCE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA” (R2)

Understanding Risk Forum 2020 – Regional Economic Communities reflect on the status of hydromet and early warning services

In the frame of the virtual *Understanding Risk Forum 2020*, a session was organized on 3 December 2020 entitled *Drawing a regional picture of Hydromet and early warning services in Africa*. The session brought together around 40 experts from ECOWAS, ECCAS, IGAD and SADC to reflect on the status of hydromet and early warning services in their respective sub-

regions, but also linking this theme with other areas such as climate-smart agriculture. The session featured some of the achievements from the Result Area 2 Program, including support to the ECOWAS flood risk management policy, the ECCAS hydromet forum, the ongoing stocktaking by SADC of weather, water, climate and early warning services in Southern Africa as well as IGAD's climate outlooks and climate-smart agriculture activities.

More information about the session and the recording can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3qig7cX>.



Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

Report on technical and institutional knowledge and capacity for DRM in Central Africa

The ECCAS Secretariat supported the publication of a report entitled *Technical and institutional knowledge and capacity in the field of Disaster Risk Management in Central Africa: Analysis of Strengths and Weaknesses*. It was developed by several organizations including the French institute for development (*Institut de Recherche pour le Développement – IRD*), the Cerfe (Centre de Recherche et Documentation Febrario) the University of Buea-Peri Peri U and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Center. The report takes stock of the capacity building needs in terms of DRM in Central Africa, highlighting the role of key stakeholders in the region such as regional organizations, universities and research networks. The report also identifies appropriate areas of collaboration to strengthen and professionalize Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) capacity in Central Africa, including through education programs, inter-university collaboration and South-South cooperation. Furthermore, the report provides examples of good practices in terms of capacity building and describes the contents of all master's programs related to DRM in several ECCAS member states, including in Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon. The report is accessible in French at <https://bit.ly/2XDQ9Eu>.





Validation of national DRM strategies and action plans in Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic and São Tomé and Príncipe

Several countries including **Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic** and **São Tomé and Príncipe** have adopted their national DRM strategies and action plans with support from the Result Area 2 Program. These were validated during workshops organized by the ECCAS Secretariat and the Global Safety and Environment Consortium (GLOSEC). These workshops were able to take place face-to-face following the lifting of travel restrictions in the region. More information on each workshop can be found below:

- The validation workshop of Cameroon's *National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan* was held from 10-11 November 2020 in Yaoundé, gathering 36 participants including 14 women from sectoral ministries, civil society and international partners.
- The validation workshop of São Tomé and Príncipe's *National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan* took place on 16-17 November 2020 in São Tomé, gathering 32 participants including 13 women from sectoral ministries and civil society.
- The validation workshop of Central African Republic's *National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan* took place on 25-26 November 2020 in Bangui, gathering 40 participants including 10 women from sectoral ministries, civil society and international partners.
- The validation workshop of Chad's *National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan* was held on 2-3 December 2020 in N'Djamena, gathering 40 participants including 10 women from sectoral ministries, civil society and international partners.



Photos of participants during the four validation workshops in Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic and São Tomé and Príncipe.
Source: ECCAS

Publication of the REPARC annual report 2019-2020

The 2019-2020 annual report of the Parliamentary Network for Disaster Resilience in Central Africa (REPARC) was published. The REPARC is a key stakeholder in regional exchanges on DRR in Central Africa and has been supported by the Result Area 2 Program to bring stakeholders together for thematic discussions and capacity building. In the foreword of the report, the President of REPARC, Honorable Moudoua Apollinaire Adonis from Gabon highlighted that the COVID-19 crisis has had a strong impact on REPARC's activities. Nevertheless, he also highlighted that key progress was achieved during the period, including the constant advocacy efforts made with local populations and parliamentarians. Several examples underlined in the report also include **Gabon**, where a *DRM Bill* is under revision and will soon be presented to the National Assembly, and where DRR has been introduced in both the new *Hydrocarbon Code* and the new *Urban Planning Code*. Another example includes **Congo**, where a DRR civil society network has been launched. The report is available upon request.



Publication of a suite of reports that highlight the strengthening of hydromet services, flood and drought management in Central Africa

Four new national reports on the state of the art of National Hydro Meteorological Services (NHMS) were produced by a consortium managed by the independent institute for applied research in the field of water and subsurface, Deltares¹. In addition, a regional synthesis for the ECCAS region was also finalized. More information about the reports can be found under Section E below.

The **regional synthesis report** is available in French at <https://bit.ly/38FBbUx>, the **Angola** report is available in French at <https://bit.ly/3i7DzXg>, the **Burundi** report is available in French at <https://bit.ly/35BCYrL>, the **Equatorial Guinea** report is available in French at <https://bit.ly/3sm1hUx>, and the **Rwanda** report is available in French at <https://bit.ly/38GX5qo>.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Capacity-building workshop to revitalize the national platform for disaster risk reduction of Senegal

A national workshop was held in Dakar, Senegal on 8-10 December 2020 attracting 52 participants, including 8 women, from various ministries and civil societies. The objective was to revitalize the national platform for DRR and develop a consensus roadmap for the development of Senegal's national DRR strategy and its action plan for 2020-2030.



Opening ceremony of the workshop to revitalize Senegal's national platform for DRR
Source: ECOWAS

Training on COVID-19 vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning in Nigeria

A capacity building workshop focusing on COVID-19 vulnerability assessment in **Nigeria** was held in Abuja, Nigeria on 1-3 December 2020, bringing together 41 participants including 22 women from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). The objective of this training was to strengthen the understanding on livelihood impacts of COVID-19 overlaid with environmental and socioeconomic impacts and addressing those in the COVID-19 recovery framework. This workshop was also an opportunity for NEMA to receive dedicated information, communication and technologic equipment provided by the ECOWAS Secretariat, through their recipient-executed grant. This equipment will improve the operation of disaster management organizations.



(Left) Official opening ceremony of the NEMA capacity building workshop in Abuja Nigeria; (Right) Handing over of equipment by the Commissioner Social Affairs to the Director General of NEMA.

Source: ECOWAS

¹ For more information, please see: <https://www.deltares.nl/en/>.



Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

Somalia DRM Policy validation workshop

A DRM policy validation workshop was held on 21-22 December 2020 in Mogadishu, Somalia, gathering 95 participants including 17 women. The objective was to review the final draft of the *Somalia DRM Strategy* which was developed by the Somali government through the Department of Disaster Management, under the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, in collaboration with IGAD. The *Somalia DRM Strategy* was reviewed and updated to align it to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the African Union Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa and the IGAD Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management.

IGAD documentary film

The IGAD Secretariat is currently working on the development of a documentary film that showcases activities undertaken in the frame of the Result Area 2 Program. This documentary will summarize the DRM issues faced in the IGAD region, as well as the activities and achievements of the Result Area 2 Program. The first segment was produced and presented to the World Bank team for feedback and is due to be updated and finalization in January 2021.

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

Understanding Risk Forum 2020 - Building urban resilience in Southern Africa

In the frame of the *Understanding Risk Forum 2020*, a session was organized on 3 December 2020 entitled *Building urban resilience in Southern Africa*, which gathered around 40 experts from the region. It highlighted the analytical work of the Disaster Risk Management Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR) sub-regional technical centre² supported by the Result Area 2 Program, with the objective of facilitating capacity-building for SADC member states in the areas of urban vulnerability and resilience.

More information on the session can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3sb8kPH>.

Virtual consultation workshops on weather, climate, water and early warning services in Southern Africa

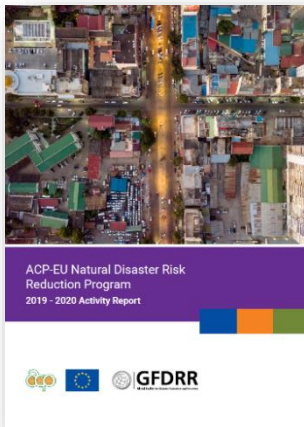
The SADC Secretariat is currently undertaking a stocktaking exercise, entailing the development of a study that will assess the status of hydromet and early services in Southern Africa and identify regional investment priorities. In the frame of this stocktaking exercise, 16 virtual country consultation workshops were conducted from October to mid November 2020. These workshops aimed to gather the views of expert representatives from national hydrological, meteorological and DRM entities of all SADC member states about the status of the services and opportunities for strengthening regional collaboration on early warning systems. The results of this regional analytical work will be shared in April 2021.

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





E – RECENTLY PUBLISHED



ACP-EU NDRR Activity Report 2019-2020

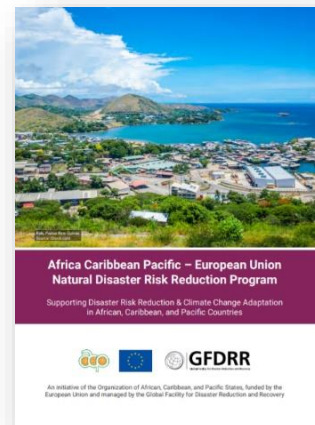
The ACP-EU NDRR Program Activity Report highlights the results achieved in 2019-2020 across Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific, underscoring how the Program adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also responded to a high demand for improvements in urban infrastructure to make cities more climate resilient, helping metropolitan hubs such as Accra, Antananarivo, Banjul, Kigali, and Lilongwe adopt policies that strengthen urban resilience. In 2019-20, 17 new projects were funded, bringing the ACP-EU NDRR's total portfolio to 147 projects supporting over 70 ACP countries.

The report is available at <https://bit.ly/2LhVPRz> (the French version is forthcoming).

ACP-EU NDRR Program Brochure

The updated ACP-EU NDRR Brochure provides a global overview of the **ACP-EU NDRR Program**, its objectives, how it works and where it operates. Highlights include results from the Program's operations since it was launched in 2011 and its accomplishments in ACP countries. The brochure reflects the participation of the European Union, the Organization of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States, and GFDRR.

The brochure is available at <https://bit.ly/2KtDpwI> (the French version is forthcoming).



Result Area 2 Program – Activity Report 2019-2020

This report summarizes the activities and achievements under Result Area 2 of the “Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa” Program for 2019-2020. The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) continued to provide key technical assistance to their member states through trainings for national and regional stakeholders in DRM. It also highlights how despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which struck the African continent as of March 2020, the RECs have successfully transitioned their activities to remote and digital venues and continued to provide member countries with key technical assistance to improve human, institutional, and financial resources dedicated to strengthening disaster resilience.

The report is available at <https://bit.ly/39RQsTI> (the French version is forthcoming).



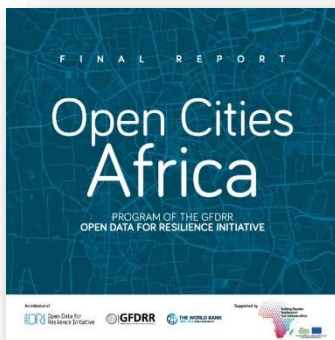
International Day for Disaster Reduction - Strengthening disaster risk governance in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific

On the occasion of the 2020 International Day for Disaster Reduction, on 13 November 2020, an article was published highlighting how the ACP-EU NDRR Program is strengthening disaster risk governance in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

The article underlines how ACP countries have taken great strides in making their governing institutions more responsive and resilient to disaster risks. With technical assistance funded by the EU through the ACP-EU NDRR Program, these countries have been improving their institutional capacities to respond to disasters and mitigate potential risks by promoting multi-sectoral DRM policies and reforms, embracing new technologies that improve the quality and accessibility of information, and empower voices that had been previously ignored when dealing with the socioeconomic repercussions of disasters.



The article is available at <https://bit.ly/38wVmnw>.



Final report of the Open Cities Africa initiative

The final report of the Open Cities Africa highlights how this regional initiative led by GFDRR has been engaging with local governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector to develop information infrastructures that address these data gaps and facilitate the transfer of information between key stakeholders. This initiative had received funding from the ACP-EU NDRR Program and the European Union's Africa Disaster Risk Financing (ADRF) Initiative.³

The final report is available in English at <https://bit.ly/3ntW6i5> and in French at <https://bit.ly/32KAeXK>. An article on the ACP-EU NDRR Program website is available at <https://bit.ly/3pxGo7g>.

Video on the new Geospatial Caribbean Risk Information System

With support from the ACP-EU NDRR Program, a new regional geospatial data platform, the Geospatial Caribbean Risk Information System (CRIS) was launched in November 2020. This platform managed by CDEMA serves as a "one-stop-shop" for gathering and sharing information and data on DRM, ensuring that Caribbean countries have access to data on DRM. A video about the CRIS platform can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/37I50SM>.



³ For more information about the ADRF Initiative, please see: <https://www.preventionweb.net/resilient-africa/>.



Result Area 2 - Report on technical and institutional knowledge and capacity for DRM in Central Africa



This report entitled *Knowledge and technical and institutional capacities in the field of Disaster Risk Management in Central Africa* presents the results of a baseline study analysis for capacity building in DRM within ECCAS. This activity contributes to building the capacities of DRM experts to better support the implementation of DRM activities in Central Africa and sharing knowledge and best practices in disaster risk management.

The report provides an overview of the main disaster risks within ECCAS, including droughts, floods, landslides, volcanic hazards, and epidemics. This report outlines the strengths and weaknesses in preparing for and responding to these risks, and cites the response strategies implemented by ECCAS member countries.

The report is accessible in French at <https://bit.ly/2XDQ9Eu>.

Result Area 2 - Strengthening hydromet services, flood and drought management in Central Africa

ECCAS has been working alongside the World Bank to evaluate the state of National Hydrological and Meteorological Services (NHMS) and of the early warning systems of its member states. Individual country reports were produced analyzing the services of Angola, Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, and Rwanda, as well as an overall assessment of NHMS throughout ECCAS' 11 member countries. These reports evaluate the legislative, institutional, technical, financial, and educational resources dedicated to supporting hydrological and meteorological services.

The regional synthesis report is available in French at <https://bit.ly/38FBbUx>, the Angola report is available in French at <https://bit.ly/3i7DzXg>, the Burundi report is available in French at <https://bit.ly/35BCYrL>, the Equatorial Guinea report is available in French at <https://bit.ly/3sm1hUx>, and the Rwanda report is available in French at <https://bit.ly/38GX5qo>.

