



Activities under the ACP-EU NDRR Program

UPDATE # 50

for January – March 2021

A – PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The **14th Steering Committee (SC) Meeting of the ACP-EU NDRR Program** will take place virtually on 28 April 2021. This will be an opportunity for the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), the European Commission (EC) and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) to discuss the overall progress of the ACP-EU NDRR Program and the Result Area 2 Program since the last SC meeting in February 2019 in terms of project commitments, geographical scope, financial overview and communication activities.

Additional financing – One regional-level project in the Caribbean received additional funding (more details are provided in section B below).

- **Caribbean** - CDEMA: Disaster Preparedness and Response Capacity Assessment and Technical Assistance.

B – PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Integrating climate and disaster risk considerations into spatial planning in Cameroon

The government of **Cameroon** has prioritized the mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and climate change adaptation into its development planning. Key reforms have thus been led by the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Regional Development and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to increase climate and disaster resilience in Cameroonian cities. These include the integration of resilient concepts into spatial development, which has been undertaken with support from the ACP-EU NDRR's *Integrating climate and disaster risk considerations into spatial planning in Cameroon* project which closed in December 2020.

Throughout implementation, a focus was placed on improving expertise in producing and analyzing climate and disaster risk data in urban settings. Several analytical tools were thus developed, such as a flood risk Atlas and 18 flood risk maps for several neighborhoods in Cameroon's capital city Yaoundé as well as for the municipality of Ngaoundéré, a city in the north of Cameroon. Flood risk layers for Yaoundé were uploaded to a special viewing interface on an online mapping platform for interactive data management.¹ In addition, a report with concrete policy recommendations on DRM integration in Cameroonian urban development was developed for the benefit of the government. This

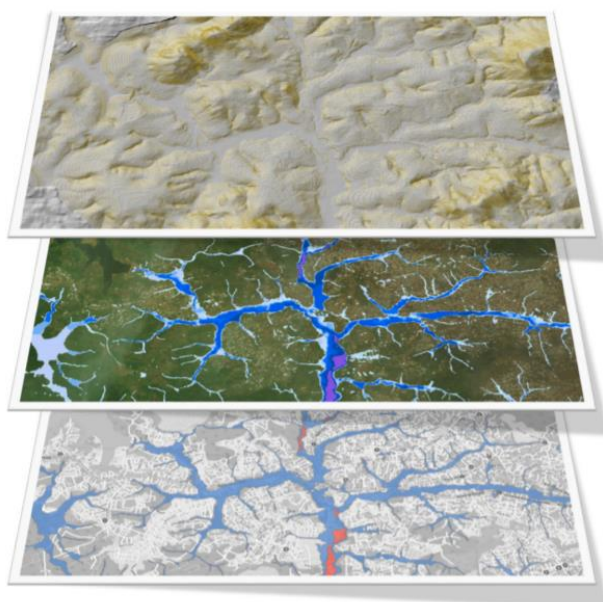


Illustration of the flood risk layers exercise undertaken in Yaoundé, Cameroon

Source: World Bank, *Flood Risk Layers report* (unpublished).

¹ The online mapping platform is accessible at <https://bit.ly/2Q0HtYh>.



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



approach greatly facilitated the integration of climate and disaster risk data into the decision-making process for development planning.

This project also resulted in significant advancements in capacity building of government officials and academic researchers. Final activities included three workshops in Yaoundé in October and November 2020 where 55 participants including 16 women were trained on hydrological modelling, which strengthened the policy dialogue on DRM and urban development. These workshops garnered significant interest from participants, and 44 researchers and students from Yaoundé and Ngaoundéré were also trained in key skills such as land-use mapping, hydrological modelling, and geological data collection. In addition, the results of the modelling exercises outlined above were disseminated at many important venues such as the *2020 General Assembly of the International Association of Francophone Mayors* in Tunis, Tunisia and during dedicated sessions of the *Symposium of the National Order for Civil Engineers of Cameroon*.

As a measure of the application of this project's accomplishments, activities have informed another ACP-EU NDRR project entitled *August 2020 Douala Flood Impact and its Consequences for Urban Planning and Investments*. It builds on the expertise gained during participatory flood modelling exercises and aims to improve the understanding of risks in the aftermath of the 2020 flooding in Doula and its impact on urban planning and investments. This project aims to further improve the government's capacity to rapidly deploy locally accessible flood assessment options through the implementation of a participatory approach to flood mapping. Partners at the local university in Ngaoundéré are currently working on two scientific articles on hydrological and geological modelling.

More information on the *Integrating climate and disaster risk considerations into spatial planning in Cameroon* is available at <https://bit.ly/3bA6Yrm>.

More information on the current *Mapping of the August 2020 Douala Flood Impact and Its Consequences for Urban Planning and Investments* grant is available at: <https://bit.ly/3kZz8PS>.

Informing Uganda's investments in disaster risk management

Uganda's second *National Development Plan* which is its economic development plan for 2015-2020, prioritized disaster management as a necessary pillar for sustainable development. This prioritization was informed by the ACP-EU NDRR *Uganda Risk Assessment and Resilience Action Plan* project which closed in December 2020.

The government of Uganda and the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) benefitted from technical assistance that aimed at building long-term resilience at the national and local levels in Uganda. Specific actions were undertaken throughout the course of this project including to: (i) build a comprehensive understanding of national disaster risks in Uganda; (ii) build community resilience through detailed risk and vulnerability assessments; (iii) mainstream multi-sectoral Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation considerations at the community level; (iv) provide targeted support to the city of Kampala to help build its DRM capabilities; and (v) measure Uganda's overall progress towards building resilience.

This project resulted in a comprehensive review of Uganda's legal and institutional capacities to implement DRR and climate change adaptation policies, especially in the capital city of Kampala. To this end, the project supported the design of the *Kampala Disaster Risk and Climate Change Resilience Strategy* which is helping the KCCA and government officials to codify and understand the disaster risks that the city faces. These were also captured in the city's disaster and climate risk profile through geographic areas of hazard and risk, and specific vulnerabilities in the infrastructure networks.

As part of this overarching strategy, the KCCA was also supported as it updated its *Emergency Preparedness and Response Framework* and the *Advanced Flood Impact Warning Action Plan* which entailed activities such as an OpenStreetMap exercise or the strengthening of community awareness on risk reduction actions and response during emergencies. These important policy outputs are defining clear mechanisms to build resilience at the national level but also within local communities in Uganda. Overall, this project developed national-level efforts for prioritizing disaster management, thus providing a solid foundation for enhancing country-wide resilience but also inspired local-level initiatives that helped find solutions to local challenges.



More information on the *Uganda Risk Assessment and Resilience Action Plan* project is available at <https://bit.ly/3t0wtrQ>.

Improving disaster preparedness and response capacity in the Caribbean region

National disaster management organizations in vulnerable Caribbean nations are confronted with institutional weaknesses resulting from insufficient investments in human and financial resources. These prevent them from deploying adequate preparedness and response systems both in anticipation and in the aftermath of disaster events. To address this challenge, the ACP-EU NDRR Program is supporting the *Disaster Preparedness and Response Capacity Assessment and Technical Assistance program*, an initiative to improve regional and national efforts in disaster preparedness and response in coordination with the **Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)**. More details on the outputs for the five Caribbean countries involved in this initiative are provided in the article below.

At the request of CDEMA, additional funding was provided to this regional project to replicate a very successful communications campaign that was developed and rolled-out in Haiti for the 2020 hurricane season. Spearheaded by the Haiti Civil Protection General Directorate in the summer of 2020, the campaign promoted early warning and emergency preparedness messages via multiple distribution channels, including radio, television, and social media. The campaign was also publicized on national television and print media which had a high impact, reaching about 5 million people.² These efforts were made possible through the European Union (EU) funded Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility.³

The additional funding for the ACP-EU NDRR project will support CDEMA in the preparation and dissemination of a similar communication campaign on risks from hurricanes and other hazards in other Caribbean countries. It will include multiple components and varied distribution channels, including radio, television, and mobile messaging.

More information on the *Disaster Preparedness and Response Capacity Assessment and Technical Assistance* program can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3eqvm0B>.

Caribbean countries work together to improve regional disaster response

In the frame of the same initiative outlined above for the Caribbean region, five countries in the Eastern Caribbean, **Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadine**, set out to improve their capacities in disaster preparedness and response in the face of the increasing number of extreme weather events such as category 5 hurricanes. This was undertaken with support from the ACP-EU NDRR's *Disaster Preparedness and Response Capacity Assessment and Technical Assistance* projects in each of these countries, which closed in December 2020.

The National disaster management organizations in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines each underwent an institutional assessment of their current preparedness and response systems which were captured in separate assessment reports. These evaluations served to identify institutional bottlenecks that prevented an effective disaster response. A common issue was the lack of investment in financial and human resources, and outdated legislation. The five institutional assessment reports were presented and discussed with national stakeholders during 5 country-level situational awareness workshops.

In addition, an *Investment Proposal and Strategic Roadmap* report was developed, building on the findings of each participating country's institutional assessment report. It provides an overview of the critical gaps and vulnerabilities identified across the five islands with regards to their emergency preparedness and response capabilities, including on governance and legislation, situational awareness, human resource development, and equipment and facilities. Based on this analysis, the report proposed a set of key investment solutions in each

² A World Bank Feature story published in October 2020 summarizes the communications campaign and the main messages, accessible at <https://bit.ly/3IZunp7>.

³ For more information, please see: <https://www.gfdr.org/en/caribbean-rrb>.



category, as well as a roadmap for implementation. The strategic roadmap report will be available for dissemination in the coming months.

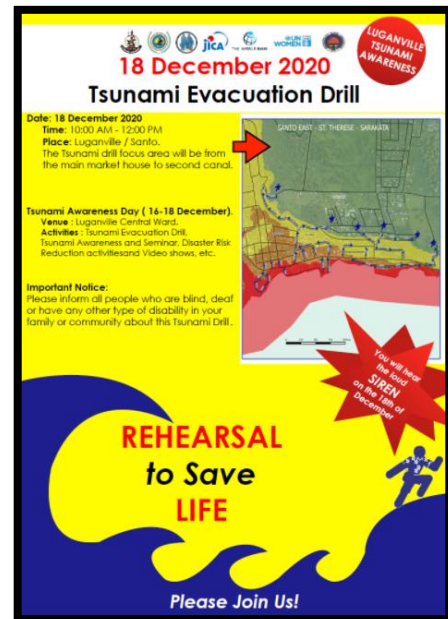
More information on the country-level projects can be found hereafter: Dominica <https://bit.ly/3nAbbjl>, Grenada <https://bit.ly/3u2o6gl>, Saint Kitts and Nevis <https://bit.ly/32W1cvj>, Saint Lucia <https://bit.ly/3nARpEw>, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines <https://bit.ly/3aNrUdN>.

Raising tsunami awareness in Vanuatu

Given **Vanuatu's** increasing exposure to natural hazards, the government is striving to reduce the underlying drivers of disaster risks and to take effective action as early as possible after a disaster. This is being accomplished with support from the ACP-EU NDRR *Strengthening the institutional and legal framework for DRM* project, implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu and its Department of Strategic Planning, Policy, and Aid Coordination, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, and the Ministry of Climate Change and Natural Disasters.

The government has been tackling the need for a disaster risk reduction framework and for the harmonization of disaster management policies at the national, sectoral, and provincial levels. In addition, the government of Vanuatu has continued its efforts to understand and prepare for natural hazards and risks, including through a workshop on tsunami risks and impacts that was organized in the context of disaster risk governance at the provincial level in the in the Fall of 2020. Vanuatu's National Disaster Management Office also organized a tsunami drill on 7-9 December 2020 that included the public at large and was attended by over 345 people. This drill raised the public's awareness about tsunamis and was promoted as part of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's (UNDRR) "World Tsunami Awareness Day", under one of the targets of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*.

More information on this project can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2Ruyz2p>.



Promotion flyer disseminated by the government of Vanuatu for a tsunami evacuation drill
Source: Government of Vanuatu.

C – POST DISASTER RESPONSE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building on post-disaster assessments and gender knowledge in Sudan

Following a request for assistance from the government of **Sudan** to undertake a rapid damage, loss, and recovery needs assessment for the 2020 seasonal floods, the ACP-EU NDRR *Post-disaster and recovery needs assessment following floods* project was launched in October 2020. It aims to evaluate the impact of the 2020 seasonal floods on Khartoum and other affected areas in Sudan, and to estimate the needs to produce a preliminary recovery strategy.

In addition to an ongoing assessment, activities have included capacity building of Sudanese officials. Several trainings were thus organized in December 2020 on Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA) and Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) methodologies as well as gender knowledge, which were attended by 29 government officials and civil society representatives, including 15 women. Furthermore, 16 representatives, including 7 women, covering most administration units across the three localities in the State of Khartoum were trained in December 2020 on damage assessment, loss calculations, and recovery strategies to help communities in potential future disaster situations.

More information on this project can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3qo9k2i>.



Community vulnerability mapping in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Following the dramatic floods of June 2018 in **Côte d'Ivoire's** capital city Abidjan which caused significant damage to infrastructure and around 1,140 residential buildings, the government requested support to address these recurrent natural hazards. Through the ACP-EU NDRR *Abidjan - PDNA, Recovery Framework and Technical Studies for Urban Resilience to Flood Risk* project, the Ministry of Safety, Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Construction, Housing and Urbanism and the Ministry of Infrastructure have spearheaded the development of a PDNA and DRF.

In addition to these immediate post-disaster recovery activities, community vulnerability mapping activities were also carried out to develop a better understanding of flood risks in Abidjan. In doing so, a partnership was launched between government agencies, universities and civil society organizations, as part of a larger World Bank/GFDRR initiative called *Open Cities Africa*.⁴ The objective is to enhance collaboration on resilient urban planning and flood risk management, and to develop strategic spatial information that will help the planning of future activities and investments in a more resilient way.

The preliminary results of these activities are compelling: over 220,000 buildings have been digitalized using a combination of satellite imagery and 20 on-the-ground mappers including 8 women that were trained on using the OpenStreetMap platform. Land use has also been mapped in the Abidjan area by a team of 20 mappers including 10 women that were also trained for this activity. Furthermore, an Atlas of Abidjan's neighbourhoods has been produced and a web-based mapping platform has been developed to access information collected that will be available for dissemination in the coming months.

More information on this project can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2PhgN51>.



Vulnerability mapping of the capital city of Côte d'Ivoire, Abidjan.
Source: *Open Cities Inception Report*.

⁴ For more information, please see: <https://opendri.org/project/open-cities-africa/>.



Development and operationalization of the Zimbabwe Recovery and Resilience Framework

Zimbabwe experienced the most devastating natural disaster in the country's recorded history when tropical cyclone Idai hit the eastern part of the country in March 2019. In the aftermath of the disaster, the government initiated an exercise which resulted in the publication of a Rapid Impact and Needs Assessment (RINA)⁵, conducted with support from the World Bank and GFDRR. To translate the RINA's findings into action, the government developed the Zimbabwe Recovery and Resilience Framework (ZRRF), with support from the ACP-EU NDRR *Development and operationalization of the ZRRF* project, whose activities were completed in December 2020.

Spurred by the need to improve recovery coordination following tropical cyclone Idai, the ZRRF supports Zimbabwe's progress from early cyclone recovery to achieve longer-term resilience and disaster preparedness. One of the key elements of the ZRRF includes a financing framework which outlines ways in which existing and future financial resources can best be deployed to support recovery from and resilience to future shocks in Zimbabwe. Other aspects of the ZRRF include the development of an institutional framework that sets out the prioritization of these needs, as well as an innovative and flexible approach to the results-based monitoring of recovery and resilience work being undertaken in Zimbabwe. A final report that summarizes the achievements and innovations of the ZRRF was developed in December 2020 and will be available for dissemination in the coming months.

More information on this project can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3eOQIKN>.

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

Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

Regional assessment of hazards, vulnerabilities and risks in ECCAS countries

An atlas of hazards, vulnerabilities and risks for the ECCAS region was finalized. The atlas meets a need to understand, spatialize and contextualize natural hazards in the ECCAS region. It introduces a range of approaches and maps to explain perceived and experienced risks, their consequences and their physical, socio-cultural, historical or geographic determinants.

A virtual workshop was organized on 29-30 March 2021 to disseminate the results of this atlas. The workshop brought together technical experts and sectoral focal points from the eleven ECCAS member states, basin authorities and universities, gathering around 40 participants including 2 women.

Strengthening hydromet services and flood and drought management in Central Africa

A draft guidance report on the introduction and improvement of forecasting and early warning systems in Central Africa was developed by a consortium composed of Deltares⁶, Concept⁷ and Terea⁸. The report will be validated by relevant sectoral focal points within ECCAS during a workshop to be held in April 2021. This report serves as a basis for the draft regional framework for ECCAS Hydromet services modernization and plan of actions which will be presented during the same workshop.

Impacts of natural disasters on the agro-pastoral and fisheries sectors in Central Africa

An expression of interest has been launched in early 2021 for a study that aims to develop better knowledge and information on the effects of natural disasters in the agro-pastoral and fisheries sectors in the ECCAS region and on possible coping solutions. More specifically, the study has the objective to: (i) assess and/or estimate the damage and losses caused by natural disasters in agriculture and fisheries sectors of ECCAS Member States ;

⁵ The RINA is available at <https://www.gfdr.org/en/publication/zimbabwe-rapid-impact-needs-assessment>.

⁶ For more information, please see: <https://www.deltares.nl/en/>.

⁷ For more information, please see: <http://www.concept.tn/>.

⁸ For more information, please see <http://www.terea.net/en/>.





(ii) identify specific sectoral hydrometeorological service's needs ; and (iii) propose an appropriate mechanism to strengthen and build the livelihoods of rural populations affected by natural disasters in ECCAS Member States.

Analysis of nature-based solutions to reduce natural disaster impacts in Central Africa

Another expression of interest has been launched in early 2021 for a study that will explore how ecosystems and nature-based solutions (NBS) can be promoted to reduce and mitigate natural disaster impacts in the ECCAS region. This assignment will particularly (i) develop an overview of the role of major ecosystems in DRR in the ECCAS region ; (ii) present relevant NBS case studies from the ECCAS region; and (iii) identify opportunities and gaps in the legal and regulatory environments for the promotion of NBS in the region.

Second ECCAS Hydromet Forum

The organization of the second ECCAS Hydromet Forum started with the support of a communication firm. The second edition will take place on 4-6 May 2021 and its objective is to share and disseminate achievements made on Hydromet at regional level and use them as a lever to modernise Hydromet services in ECCAS Member States. The event aims to bring together various sectors as users of Hydromet services, including agriculture, livestock, fisheries and the environment, and will place particular emphasis on private sector participation.

For information, the event website is accessible at <https://bit.ly/3eDePoz>. The proceedings of the first Hydromet Forum are available in English <https://bit.ly/3m2jIQV> and French <https://bit.ly/3frKpb4>.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

COVID-19 recovery needs assessment and recovery planning training in Ghana.

A national training on PDNA, COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment (CRNA) and recovery planning was held in Accra, Ghana on 22-25 March 2021. The training was a hybrid virtual event with online trainers and participants convened in person which gathered 25 participants including 5 women from various ministries and civil society. The main objective of the training was to familiarize officials on the PDNA, CRNA and DRF methodologies.



PDNA, CRNA and DRF training in Accra, Ghana in March 2021.

Source: ECOWAS.

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

IGAD's strategic guidance on the region's disaster risk management and climate change agenda

IGAD provided strategic guidance to strengthen the region's DRM and climate change adaptation capacities by organizing a virtual Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF) on 17 February 2021. The Forum was attended by 250 participants (including 60 women), including scientists, policy makers, members of parliaments, IGAD staff, local leaders, and DRM experts. The event included a presentation on seasonal climate forecasts for the March-May 2021 period.

An IGAD DRM Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting was held ahead of the forum on February 15, 2021 to share updates on the implementation of DRM activities in the region, and to coordinate activity planning. It was





an opportunity to discuss ways to improve climate datasets to best serve DRR activities at regional and national levels. The meeting gathered 18 participants including 6 women.

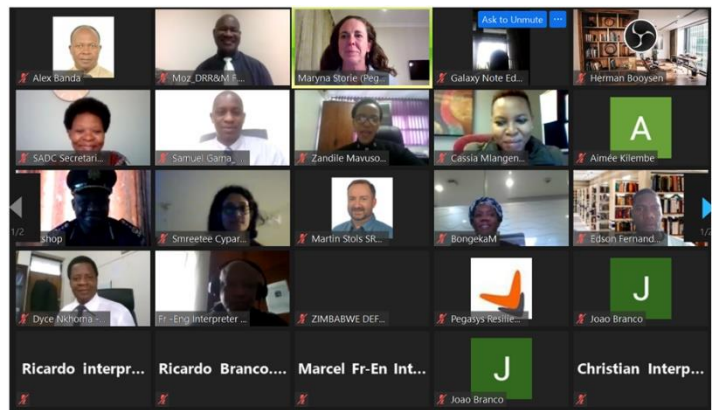
Another meeting on climate impacts and advisory was held ahead of the GHACOF on 16 February 2021, gathering 31 people including 11 women. The IGAD team worked on the assessment of past climate performance of the October-December 2020 period and discussed the delivery of advisories for the March-May 2021 period. These detailed advisory reports are generated for the DRM sector with the support of IGAD’s Member States.

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

Enhancing capacity building on emergency preparedness

SADC, together with its Member States, organized a series of virtual trainings and meetings on disaster preparedness for the southern African region:

- The first virtual simulation exercise on emergency operations was organized on 10 February 2021 and gathered 71 participants.
- A second virtual validation meeting was held on 22 March 2021 to discuss a number of key reports: (i) *the Regional Disaster Risk Situational Assessment Report*; (ii) *the Roadmap for the Transit of Humanitarian Resources*; (iii) *the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operation Centre Standard Operational Procedures*; (iv) *the SADC Emergency Response Team Standard Operational Procedure*; and (v) *the SADC Standby Force Contingency Plan*.
- The third virtual training on emergency operation was organized on 25 March 2021 and gathered 48 participants.



Virtual validation meeting with SADC and its Member States.
Source: SADC.



E – RECENTLY PUBLISHED



Fiji- New Guidelines to improve the resilience of homes and schools

In the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016, which damaged or destroyed over 30,000 houses and 495 schools, the government of Fiji has sought to improve compliance with construction norms.

To this end, the government has worked on developing a set of guidelines based on the lessons learned from tropical cyclone Winston to improve the resilience of single-story houses and schools against future storms and earthquakes, with support from the ACP-EU NDRR Program's *Enhancing capacity for improving design and construction of single-story houses and schools for climate and disaster risk* project. The guidelines are addressed to individual homeowners and builders, as well as to community-level institutions responsible for overseeing the construction of schools. These guidelines were also promoted in a nation-wide outreach and awareness campaign by the country's building industry.

The Guidelines are accessible at <https://bit.ly/2NQbBV8>. More information about this ACP-EU NDRR project can be found at <https://bit.ly/3uysyUI>.

Results in Resilience: Disruptive Technologies for Disaster Risk Management in Africa

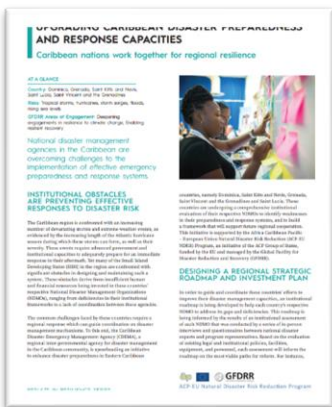
A Results in Resilience story was published in January 2021 highlighting how the ACP-EU NDRR Program has supported local communities and institutions across Sub-Saharan Africa on technological innovations that facilitate data collection and risk assessments. These innovations include the promotion of technologies such as satellite imagery, artificial intelligence, and the use of drones. The document can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3pR8old>.



Results in Resilience: Upgrading Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Response Capacities

Another Results in Resilience story was published in January 2021 highlighting how the ACP-EU NDRR Program has supported the CDEMA to advance institutional improvements in terms of preparedness and response in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The document can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3spbfUj>.





Website Article – Informing resilient recovery policy, planning, and investments in Freetown, Sierra Leone

An article was published on the ACP-EU NDRR Program’s website highlighting how Sierra Leone was able to chart a path towards resilient recovery after the devastating landslide in the capital city Freetown in August 2017.

The Program financed the rapid assessment in the aftermath of the disaster, and a follow-up project that aimed to strengthen the country’s emergency preparedness and response capabilities, as well as its institutional and policy framework for effective DRM. This culminated with the inauguration in November 2020 of a new National Disaster Management Agency for Sierra Leone. This major milestone that involved collaboration between the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency and the National Water Resource Management Agency will improve the country’s capacities to deal with a future disaster event, but also enhance its early warning systems.



The article can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/3pWQcqz>.



Website Article – Haiti’s path to building resilience to multiple disaster risks – the importance of partnerships

An article was published on the ACP-EU NDRR Program website highlighting how the Haitian government and its partners are addressing institutional weaknesses and bolstering the country’s DRM capacities. This is undertaken with coordinated support from the EU-funded Caribbean Regional Resilience Building Facility and the ACP-EU NDRR Program, both managed by GFDRR.

The article can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/3uTA0u0>.