

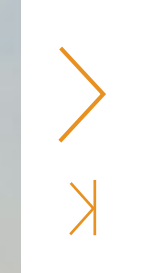
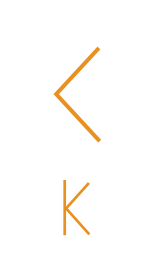


E-MAG
NEWSLETTER
ISSUE #1 • 10/2025



SPECIAL FOCUS ON

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



Breaking the Chain

Perspectives from the OACPS on
Funding Resilience, not Disasters.

[Explore the E-Mag >](#)



E-MAG NEWSLETTER ISSUE #1 • 10/2025

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The Intra-ACP DDR Programme at a Glance Celebrating IDRR Day

WATCH THE VIDEO 





INVESTING IN RESILIENCE TO STOP THE NEGATIVE DOMINO EFFECT

I am honoured to present the inaugural issue of our Intra-ACP Disaster Risk Reduction Programme newsletter, launched today to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13 October 2025). This timing is no coincidence: this year's theme 'Investing in resilience, not in disaster' resonates deeply in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states we serve.

Our regions are among the most vulnerable to natural hazards, which can trigger a domino effect of hardships with far-reaching, disproportionate consequences. We have seen how a single cyclone or flood can set back years of progress.

The Intra-ACP DRR Programme – financed by the European Union with contributions from UNDP and UNDRR – works together with our regional and multilateral partners across Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific to reduce disaster risks, building resilient communities. The Programme focuses on disaster prevention, training and preparedness to safeguard communities; as well as response and recovery following a disaster. We know that every euro spent on resilience today saves lives and livelihoods tomorrow. From strengthening early warning systems to training first responders and community volunteers, our aim is to equip people at all levels with the skills and plans to reduce and manage disaster risks, thus saving lives, livelihoods and contribute to broad sustainable development objectives.

In short, we are helping to shift the mindset from reacting to disasters towards preventing them, ensuring that when nature challenges us, it no longer

catches our communities unprepared.

This first newsletter amplifies voices and success stories from across the ACP, bringing both an institutional and human perspective. Decision-makers and ordinary citizens alike share their experiences, reminding us why our work must deliver real results for those on the ground. These testimonies all underscore that resilience is about people and the concrete changes we can bring to their lives.

From Madagascar's innovative use of parametric insurance to protect farmers from climate shocks, to a city in Kenya weaving disaster risk reduction into its urban plans, the message is clear – smart investments in resilience are paying off. We also hear from small island states: in Timor-Leste communities are stepping up preparedness after past cyclones, and in Fiji a first responder recounts how intensive training is making those crucial first 48 hours after a disaster count.

As you read on, you will discover a series of inspiring examples that we hope can be shared and replicated. Each story in this issue offers a spark of hope. They show that investing in resilience is not a cost, but the smartest investment we can make in our shared future. On this International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, let's reaffirm our bold commitment to fund resilience, not disasters and keep investing in resilience today to secure a safer, brighter tomorrow for all.



Dr PENDO MARO

Team Leader,
Intra-ACP DRR Programme

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



SPECIAL FOCUS ON

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Voices on Resilience Across Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific

“ Resilient financing in Africa will contribute to building community resilience by meeting their basic needs and support long-term sustainability by promoting solutions such as nature-based solutions through regenerative agriculture and improved water management, which are vital for both ecological and human well-being. The African Union, the regional economic communities, member states and partners are synergizing to reach this objective. ”

Mr. MOSES VILAKATI
 Commissioner Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE)
 African Union Commission (AUC)



[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)





SPECIAL FOCUS ON
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Voices on Resilience Across Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific

“To make real progress, we must change how we invest. That’s why for this year’s International Day for Disaster Reduction, we are calling on governments and development partners to fund resilience, not disasters. This means two things. First, we need to increase financing for disaster risk reduction, especially through national budgets and international cooperation. In Africa, where humanitarian needs are growing and climate impacts are accelerating, investing in prevention is not a luxury. It is a necessity. Second, we must ensure that all investments, whether in infrastructure, agriculture, education or health, are informed by risk.”

Mr. AMJAD ABBASHAR
 Chief, Regional Office for Africa, UNDRR





Voices on Resilience Across Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific

“Disaster preparedness and prevention activities have strengthened communities’ knowledge and capacity to plan, coordinate, and implement risk management efforts locally. As a result, they are now better prepared to adapt to and recover from disasters – building resilience networks that reduce risks and minimise impacts.”

MR. AGOSTINO COSME BELLO
Director and Disaster Risk Coordinator
Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste



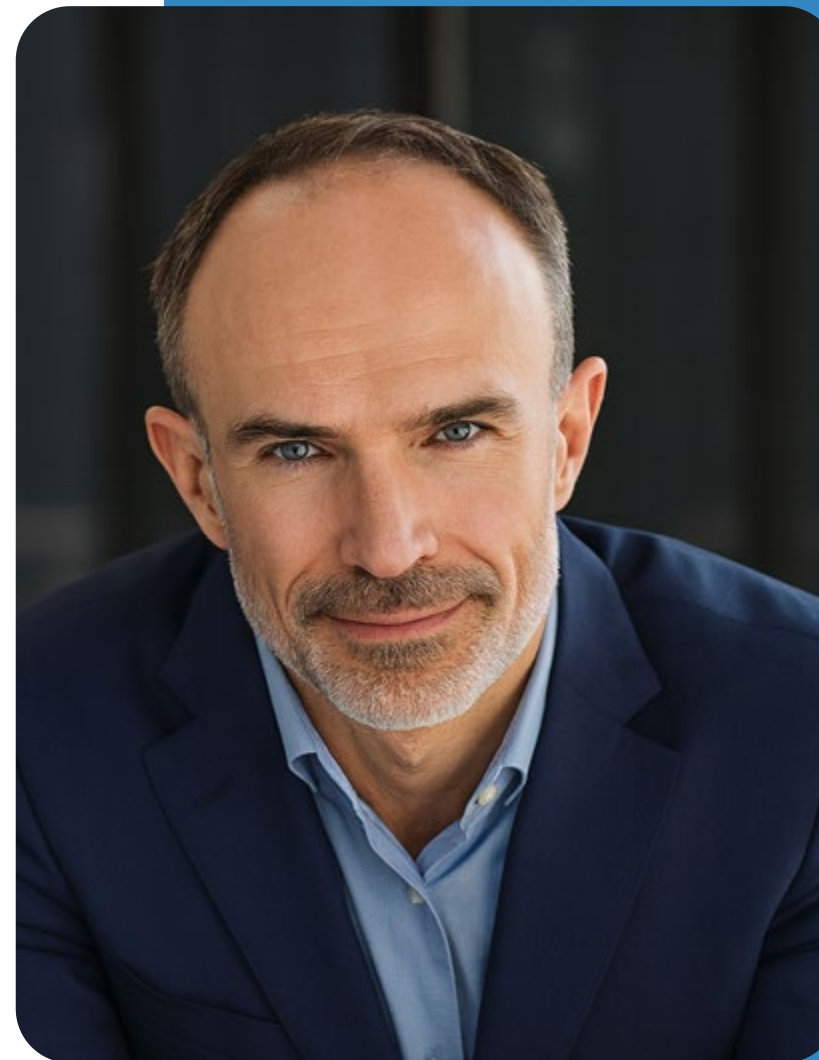
WATCH THE VIDEO 



SPECIAL FOCUS ON

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Voices on Resilience Across Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific



“The GFDRR helps African, the Caribbean and the Pacific countries integrate disaster risk into their national planning and into the priorities that guide development finance from the World Bank and key partners, including the European Commission through its Global Gateway initiative.”

WATCH THE VIDEO



“Resilience is not a cost, it is the smartest investment we can make. Financing resilience is central to Caribbean Development Bank’s mission to reduce poverty and transform lives through sustainable and inclusive development. Building resilience is not optional. It is essential.”

WATCH THE VIDEO



NIELS HOLM-NIELSEN
Practice Manager
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)
World Bank Member



Ms. VALERIE ISAAC
Coordinator, Environmental Sustainability Unit
Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)



SPECIAL FOCUS ON

**INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION**

Voices from those who are at the heart of Disaster Risks



More than words –
these voices reflect
lived realities in the
world's most vulnerable
regions...

WATCH THE VIDEO

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

MADAGASCAR

Parametric Insurance in Action: How Madagascar Is Building Long-Term Resilience to Climate Shocks



Frequently hit by both droughts and cyclones, Madagascar is among the most climate-vulnerable countries in Africa. Yet, rather than remain in reactive mode, the country has turned to parametric insurance as a proactive way to anticipate disasters. With support from the African Risk Capacity (ARC), Madagascar has mobilised swift emergency aid and invested in long-term resilience to better protect future generations.

[+ READ MORE](#)

FIDJI

Inside Fiji's Intensive Emergency Response Training



When disaster strikes, the first 48 hours are critical. Fiji's latest National Emergency Response Team training brought together responders from across the country for seven days of intensive, realistic scenarios. The results: stronger coordination, enhanced skills, and a model for regional emergency preparedness.

[+ READ MORE](#)



MADAGASCAR

Parametric Insurance in Action: How Madagascar is Building Long-Term Resilience to Climate Shocks

Frequently hit by both droughts and cyclones, Madagascar is among the most climate-vulnerable countries in Africa. Yet, rather than remain in reactive mode, the country has turned to parametric insurance as a proactive way to anticipate disasters. With support from the African Risk Capacity (ARC), Madagascar has mobilised swift emergency aid and invested in long-term resilience to better protect future generations.

Since the beginning of 2020, the southern regions of Androy and Anosy have been Madagascar’s geographic position makes it particularly prone to natural disasters. The island’s southern regions suffer from recurring droughts, while the eastern coastline is frequently exposed to violent cyclones. These climate shocks not only endanger lives but also deepen poverty and disrupt vital services like education.

Since the beginning of 2020, the southern regions of Androy and Anosy have been gripped by an unprecedented drought. Rainfall levels have dropped by over 70% compared to seasonal averages, leading to widespread crop failure, massive livestock losses, and dried-up rivers. What began as an environmental crisis has quickly escalated into a humanitarian emergency: according to the World Food Programme (WFP), more than two million people are now facing severe food insecurity. The WFP describes it as “the first famine directly caused by climate change.”

Children are bearing the brunt of the crisis, with acute malnutrition rates exceeding 30% among children under five – a level considered “catastrophic” by the World Health Organization. Health facilities are overwhelmed, and many families are surviving on wild roots, leaves, and other emergency food sources. This dire situation is unfolding against a backdrop of structural vulnerability, exacerbated by widespread deforestation, slash-and-burn agriculture, and accelerated soil erosion.

In response to this reality, Madagascar joined the African Risk Capacity (ARC), a parametric insurance mechanism designed to provide timely financial relief in the aftermath of climate disasters. Between 2020 and 2023, the country received four insurance payouts totalling USD 15.1 million: two in response to droughts (2020 and 2022), and two following tropical cyclones in 2022 and 2023 – including Cyclone Freddy, which struck in February 2023.

What sets parametric insurance apart is its speed. Unlike traditional aid, ARC disburses funds swiftly based on predetermined triggers like rainfall or wind speed, enabling governments to act early. In Madagascar, this meant delivering food assistance to nearly 130,000 households severely affected by Cyclone Freddy, including nutritional support for 15,000 primary school students in the drought-stricken south—children especially vulnerable to food insecurity.

Investing in Long-Term Solutions

But Madagascar’s use of ARC funds has not stopped at emergency response. A portion of the payouts is now being channelled into structural solutions to enhance community resilience.

One flagship initiative is the construction of multi-purpose community shelters. Designed to host up to 1,000 people during future disasters, these buildings are made with locally sourced materials and serve multiple purposes. They provide safe refuge during emergencies, reduce the pressure on public schools (often used as shelters), and contribute to the local economy by creating jobs and boosting artisan and construction supply chains.





MADAGASCAR



WATCH THE VIDEO

“ **ARC is a well-suited mechanism for African countries. It empowers governments to respond rapidly and in a coordinated manner when disasters strike, while also strengthening long-term resilience. For us, it is not just about emergency funding, but about reinforcing national autonomy and reducing structural vulnerability over time.** ”

MS BAKO NIRINA FALINIA RABEVOHITRA

Interim Executive Secretary, Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management Unit (CPGU), Prime Minister’s Office, Madagascar

By investing in such infrastructure, Madagascar is not just reacting to disasters but preparing for them—breaking the cycle of crisis and laying the foundations for long-term resilience.

A Model for Other ACP Countries

Madagascar’s experience shows how parametric insurance, when embedded in public policy, can transform how countries manage disaster risks. Beyond financial relief, it allows governments to take ownership of response plans, allocate resources more strategically, and integrate humanitarian response with development goals.

In regions where extreme weather is becoming more frequent and severe, Madagascar offers an inspiring example of how to combine innovation, local ownership, and smart financing to protect both lives and livelihoods. For other countries in the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) regions facing similar risks, parametric insurance may prove to be a powerful tool—not just to bounce back, but to bounce forward.



WATCH THE VIDEO



Inside Fiji's Intensive Emergency Response Training

When disaster strikes, the first 48 hours are critical. Fiji's latest National Emergency Response Team training brought together responders from across the country for seven days of intensive, realistic scenarios. The results: stronger coordination, enhanced skills, and a model for regional emergency preparedness.

The Pacific faces some of the world's most complex disaster risks, from cyclones, earthquakes, landslides and tsunamis to climate-induced emergencies. Fiji's recent National Emergency Response Team (NERT) Induction Training demonstrates how coordinated, multi-agency preparation can transform disaster response capabilities across the region.

Held in Lautoka, Fiji from August 17–24, 2025, the intensive programme brought together 38 first responders representing Fiji's whole-of-society approach: government agencies, military, police, private sector partners, and NGOs. Under the guidance of 10 facilitators from government agencies, UN organisations, and the Pacific Community (SPC), participants faced realistic scenarios designed to mirror the unpredictable nature of real emergencies.

Realistic Scenarios, Real-World Coordination

The training's centerpiece was a full-scale simulation of a 7.3 magnitude earthquake striking offshore near Volivoli Town. Teams worked through the cascading disaster impacts: ground shaking causing building collapse and landslides, 3–5 meter tsunami waves inundating eastern and northern coastal districts including Volivoli, Keleva, Makanoa, and Orohiti. The scenario challenged responders with mass casualties requiring trauma care, approximately 15,000 displaced people needing emergency shelter, and critical infrastructure disruption affecting roads, bridges, utilities, and telecommunications.

"I came in with maybe 30% knowledge on emergency response, and now I'm going back



Group photo of participants, facilitators and donors for the Fiji NDRMO – NERT Training | Photo SPC



Tsunami Assembly Point sign on Mana Island, Fiji — one of many early warning and preparedness measures that form part of the country's whole-of-society approach to disaster resilience. | Photo Shutterstock

[View more picture](#)

FIJI

80–90%,» reflected Taina Silikiwa, a Training Officer from Fiji’s National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO). «I feel confident that I can teach others and execute my learnings in the field."

Facilitators continuously introduced new complications throughout the exercise, testing inter-agency coordination under pressure. Teams navigated food security challenges for displaced populations, water crises from destroyed reservoirs requiring emergency trucking, education sector disruption, and protection concerns for vulnerable groups including children, women, persons with disabilities, and displaced families.

The programme explored practical challenges like humanitarian logistics and information management. A field visit to the Blackrock Camp humanitarian warehouse in Nadi provided hands-on insights into emergency preparedness systems, showing how relief items are pre-positioned, deployed rapidly, and tracked in real-time, critical capabilities when seaports close and airports become humanitarian lifelines.

Strengthening Pacific Resilience, Together

"The training was intense, but we made it through the simulation exercise and learned a lot," said Roneel Sharma of the Fiji Police Force. "I feel I can now confidently be part of a disaster incident management team handling complex, multi-sector emergencies."

The emphasis on information management proved particularly valuable, exploring how critical data flows from community to national levels when coordinating responses across multiple sectors—from medical care and shelter to infrastructure repair and livelihood restoration.

"This training enhances Fiji’s response capabilities nationally and also at the regional and international level," noted Napolioni Boseiwaqa, Acting Director of NDRMO Fiji.

The success of Fiji’s NERT model offers valuable lessons for other Pacific nations facing similar multi-hazard challenges. The combination of realistic scenarios, multi-agency participation, and emphasis on coordination creates a template that could strengthen regional disaster response capabilities across the Pacific.

Backed by the European Union and the Intra-ACP DRR Programme

This training was made possible through the Intra-ACP Disaster Risk Reduction Programme, funded by the European Union and implemented in the Pacific by the Pacific Community (SPC). It drew on the expertise and coordination mechanisms developed through SPC’s regional initiatives, including the Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific II (BSRP II), the Pacific Humanitarian Warehousing Programme (PHWP), and the Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance II (PIEMA II). Additional support was provided by other development partners, including Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the World Food Programme (WFP), in the form of technical and logistical contributions.



Graduation photos – Honourable Minister Sakiasi Ditoka handling certificates to recipients who have completed the NERT Training | Photo SPC



Appreciation Gift been handed to SPC nominated facilitator Mitieli Koroiwaqa by Honourable Minister Sakiasi Ditoka. | Photo SPC



RESULTS & FIGURES

Community Outreach

451,419^{*} People reached out

through advocacy, awareness-raising and communication initiatives.

Country Outreach

49^{*} Countries reached through direct national-level interventions in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific

79^{*} OACPS members states covered through regional or multi-country actions.

Capacity Building

5,444^{*} DRR Practitioners trained across the 3 ACP regions.

Technical Collaboration

100^{*} DRR Events and Committees organized to enhance knowledge exchange among ACP countries.

^{*} Source: All data presented are extracted from the Intra-ACP DRR Programme's Annual Progress Reports of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF).

Risk-Informed Planning and Development^{*}

36 analytical/knowledge products that incorporate analyses of DRR

17 Disaster Risk Reduction policies and legal frameworks supported

10 response and contingency plans have been developed

7 Disaster affected countries have conducted post-disaster needs assessment

Youth & Inclusivity^{*}

1 Issue Brief on including persons with disabilities in DRR in Africa

A large number

of programme actions integrate youth and inclusivity as cross-cutting priorities.

^{*} Source: All data presented are extracted from the Intra-ACP DRR Programme's Annual Progress Reports of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF).



OUTCOMES FROM THE FIELD

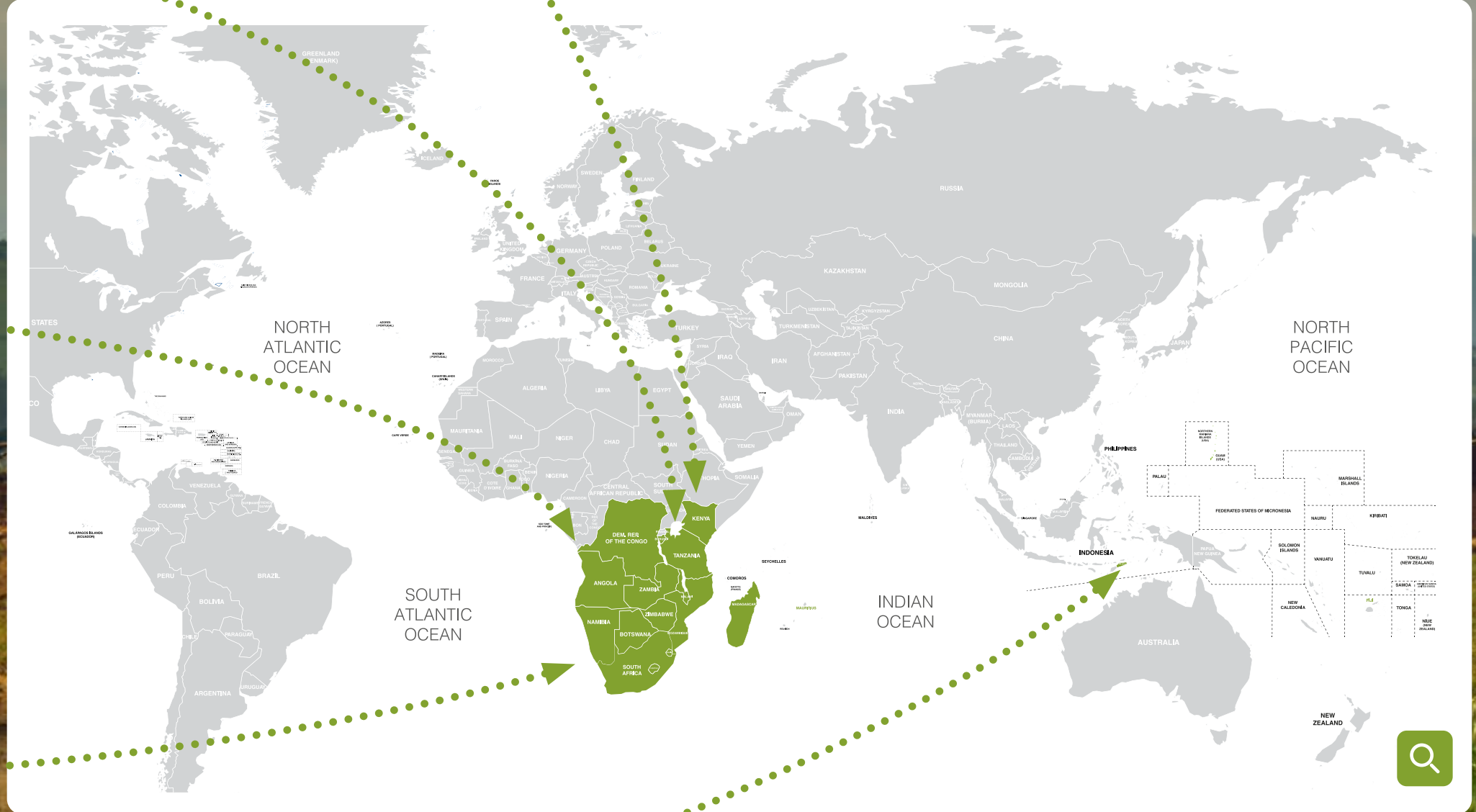
📍 **KENYA**
Mombassa Advances Resilience Planning for Safer Urban Future 

📍 **BURUNDI**
Turning Climate Risks into Development Opportunities 

📍 **ZAMBIA**
Planning to Protect: Zambia's Proactive Drought Response 

📍 **SOUTHERN AFRICA**
Building Surge Capacity in Southern Africa 

📍 **TIMOR-LESTE**
Timor-leste Steps Up Risk Preparedness 





BURUNDI

By Beth Allen, Communications Expert, UNDP

Turning Climate Risks into Development Opportunities

Home to more than 13 million people, Burundi faces frequent floods, droughts, and landslides that disrupt lives and livelihoods, and erode development gains. In response, UNDP, the European Union, and UN partners convened a national dialogue that brought together more than 40 government leaders to chart a course for resilience. Their goal? To ensure disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation become the backbone of Burundi's sustainable development.

In recent years, extreme rainfall and recurrent flooding have displaced families, destroyed livelihoods, and severely impacted communities across Burundi, one of the world's most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change. With financial support from the European Union as part of the Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance and Recovery Capacities project, UNDP facilitated a landmark national dialogue in September 2025. More than 40 participants from government ministries and priority sectors took part, supported by an international facilitation team including UNDP, UN Habitat, UNICEF and IOM. Over the course of four days, they exchanged lessons from Burundi and beyond, sharing good practices for integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into national development priorities.

Driving practical solutions through knowledge sharing and collaboration

The workshop created an open and collaborative space for participants to share experiences and lessons from a wide range of sectors – from agriculture to urban planning. Participants discussed examples of how disasters have affected communities, highlighting challenges and successful interventions.



Government leaders, UN partners, and sector experts meet in Gitega, Burundi for a national dialogue on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation | Photo: UNDP



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BURUNDI

What emerged was a shared understanding: resilience-building must be integrated into decision-making as a core principle at every level, from local to national. Through interactive sessions and group exercises, participants worked together to draft an action plan that embeds disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into sectoral plans. These plans aim to ensure that communities, particularly the most vulnerable, are better equipped to anticipate and withstand climate shocks, protect lives and livelihoods, and safeguard development gains for the long term.

By aligning sectoral strategies with resilience principles, the workshop has laid the groundwork for a coordinated approach that strengthens both local and national capacities, promotes sustainable development, and fosters a culture of proactive planning.

Embedding resilience into development as a pathway for the future

The early feedback has been encouraging. This shared process helped build momentum for collaborative, whole-of-government action. Looking ahead, the plan will guide national institutions in mainstreaming resilience across sectors, while offering a model for other countries facing similar climate risks. The lesson is simple but powerful: disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are strategies that act as a shield against loss, but they also provide a pathway to sustainable, inclusive development. By weaving resilience into the fabric of planning, Burundi is laying the foundation for a safer future.

“ Disaster Risk Reduction can be a pathway to sustain development while also protecting lives, livelihoods, and offering a vibrant future for generations to come. ”

IOANA CREITARU
Global Disaster Preparedness Lead,
UNDP



Group photo of workshop participants in Burundi holding certificates after completing training on integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into sustainable development planning, with UNDP and partners' banners in the background.



SOUTHERN AFRICA

By SADC

Building Surge Capacity in Southern Africa

Nyanga, Zimbabwe – Between 24 August and 4 September 2025, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), in collaboration with key humanitarian partners, completed a milestone in regional preparedness: the training of the second cohort of its Emergency Response Team (ERT). The 10-day induction course, hosted by the Republic of Zimbabwe, marked a significant step toward strengthening regional disaster readiness and response mechanisms.

Backed by the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the training programme is part of broader efforts to enhance regional resilience and reinforce coordination capacities in the face of increasingly frequent and severe disasters.

Preparing ERT Members for Rapid Deployment

The primary objective of the training was to familiarise ERT members with SADC’s emergency coordination mechanisms and prepare them for rapid deployment during sudden-onset emergencies. Trained ERT personnel will be deployed to assist national authorities in coordinating regional humanitarian efforts whenever disaster strikes.

The opening ceremony was presided over by Honourable Engineer B. Kabikira (MP), Deputy Minister of Local Government and Public Works, who underlined the urgency of reducing disaster risks and protecting development gains. He also called for innovations in geospatial technologies, harmonisation of standards, and investment in response logistics. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Dr. Edwar Kallon reaffirmed

SADC successfully conducts training of the second cohort of its Emergency Response Team (ERT)



Members of the SADC Emergency Response Team (ERT) during the induction training in Nyanga, Zimbabwe (August–September 2025). The programme prepares responders for rapid deployment to sudden-onset emergencies across the Southern African region. | Photo SADC

[View more picture](#) < >



SOUTHERN AFRICA

the UN’s commitment to supporting SADC through the Sendai Framework, while Nana Dlamini, Acting Head of SADC’s Disaster Risk Reduction Unit, praised the growing momentum of regional collaboration and capacity-building.

Simulated UNDAC Mission and Hands-On Exercises

Delivered through a combination of plenary sessions, group work, desktop simulations, and scenario-based exercises, the training followed the UNDAC mission cycle adapted to SADC’s regional context. The programme focused on core areas such as inter-agency coordination, civil-military engagement, information management, and search and rescue.

A Strategic Investment under the 11th EDF Intra-ACP NDRRP

The training was part of the Disaster Risk Management Strengthening in SADC (DRMSS) project, funded by the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) under the Intra-ACP Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Programme. It builds on SADC’s longstanding collaboration with OCHA and other international partners to scale up regional response capacities.

Diverse Participation from Across the Region

The second ERT cohort brought together disaster management professionals from 13 SADC Member States: Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Es-watini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe – reinforcing the spirit of cross-border solidarity and mutual support in times of crisis.

“ This training marks another step forward in our regional journey to strengthen disaster response. The momentum is real – and growing. ”

NANA DIAMINI
Acting Head
SADC’s Disaster Riskreduction Unit



The second cohort of the SADC Emergency Response Team (ERT) celebrates the successful completion of their induction training. The ceremony was attended by high-level representatives from the Government of Zimbabwe, the SADC Secretariat, the United Nations, and other key stakeholders. | Photo SADC



TIMOR-LESTE

Timor-Leste Steps Up Risk Preparedness

A Strategic Shift Driven by the World Bank

With support from the ACP-EU Disaster Risk (DRM) Management Programme, managed by the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), Timor-Leste is making significant progress in strengthening its national disaster risk management framework. The ongoing technical assistance is laying the groundwork for long-term resilience at both national and urban levels.

Since Tropical Cyclone Seroja struck in 2021, causing over USD 245 million in damages and affecting over 30,000 households, the need for deeper systemic change has become undeniable. The objective of the technical assistance is to support the Government of Timor Leste in addressing climate and disaster risks, through enhancing the government’s knowledge of and capacity for climate and disaster resilience— with concrete progress already underway.

Better Policies and Stronger Financial Architecture

An assessment on Disaster Resilient and Responsive Public Financial Management carried out by the World Bank under this technical assistance identified several key enablers already in place: clear protocols for emergency declarations, contingency funding provisions in the annual budget execution decree, robust post-disaster financial audits, and the Ministry of Finance’s disaster recovery data center plan. Building on these foundations, the assistance is supporting efforts to systematically integrate climate and disaster risks into public asset management, including outlining how public investment planning decisions and private infrastructure development should be guided by harmonized and comprehensive building codes.



The devastating impact of Tropical Cyclone Seroja in 2021 — which caused damages estimated at USD 245 million — highlighted the vulnerability of rural infrastructure. Many communities, especially in flood-prone zones, continue to struggle with fragile housing conditions. | Photo Shutterstock

[View more picture](#) < >



TIMOR & LESTE

The recommendations call for institutionalising a whole-of-lifecycle approach to asset management – from planning and design to maintenance – to ensure the long-term viability of public investments. This is paving the way for the development of a National Disaster Risk Management Financing Policy, a crucial step towards embedding resilience in preventive planning and public financial management.

Accelerating Urban Resilience in Dili

At the municipal level, Dili is benefitting from a hazard, exposure and analysis that has identified high-risk sites at the Comoro and Maloa rivers, the Dili waterfront, and Lake Tasitolu, which are particularly vulnerable to urban flood and earthquake risks. Based on these findings, the technical assistance proposes a set of hybrid interventions that combine grey infrastructure with nature-based solutions. These measures aim not only to reduce flood risk, mitigate coastal erosion, reduce water pollution, but also to protect biodiversity, while also attracting tourism, supporting livelihoods, and promoting environmental sustainability.

To facilitate continuity between technical assistance and future investments, an overview of urban resilience engagement in Timor-Leste has also been developed. It includes the recommendation to establish a national steering committee to enhance coordination, ensure stakeholder engagement, and foster local ownership of proposed resilience solutions.

Strengthened Synergies with Development Partners

The efforts led under the technical assistance project are part of a broader national resilience agenda. Complementary initiatives are supporting national priorities in other key sectors: the FAO and the EU have launched a €3 million risk management strategy for the agricultural sector; UNDP is supporting rural communities with climate-smart infrastructure and risk information systems. Other development partners, such as the Asian Development Bank, are also contributing to improved living conditions in selected municipalities, particularly in rural areas exposed to climate hazards.

A Compelling Trajectory for Climate-Vulnerable States

By reinforcing its disaster risk financing framework, structuring its policy environment, and implementing a forward-looking urban resilience strategy, Timor-Leste is charting an ambitious and credible path towards climate resilience. This success story illustrates the added value of coordinated action between the European Union, the World Bank, and national institutions— a model that holds promise for other vulnerable states striving to build safer, more resilient futures.



In Dili, hazard mapping around priority zones such as Tasitolu Lake guides hybrid interventions combining infrastructure and nature-based solutions to support resilient and inclusive urban development. | Photo Shutterstock




ZAMBIA

Planning to Protect: Zambia's Proactive Drought Response

In the face of intensifying droughts across Southern Africa, Zambia has emerged as a compelling example of how foresight, strategic partnerships, and financial preparedness can protect communities from climate shocks. Through its collaboration with the African Risk Capacity (ARC), Zambia not only secured early funding but also laid the groundwork for long-term disaster resilience.

In the 2021/2022 agricultural season, Zambia confronted a severe drought. As rainfall deficits took their toll across key agricultural regions, the government activated its parametric drought insurance coverage through ARC. Unlike traditional insurance, parametric coverage is triggered automatically when satellite data shows that agreed thresholds (such as rainfall or crop yield) have been breached. It offers rapid payouts, enabling governments to respond early and effectively.

Zambia had joined the ARC risk pool with the financial support of international partners which contributed USD 300,000, and the Multi-Donor Trust Fund, which added another USD 500,000. The Government of Zambia itself contributed USD 200,000, forming a one-million-dollar shield to protect its most vulnerable populations.

This foresight paid off. As drought conditions worsened, Zambia received a swift insurance payout of USD 5.37 million. These funds reached more than 78,000 households across 12 drought-affected districts, where communities used the support for food purchases, basic needs, and livelihood protection.

From Financial Support to Strategic Capacity

But the impact of this intervention went far beyond a financial transaction. As Dr. Gabriel Pollen, National Coordinator of the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) of Zambia, explained : read on the right side.



[View more picture](#) < >

“ This partnership between the Government of Zambia and the African Risk Capacity (ARC) has proven fundamental in the country’s disaster risk reduction efforts. By drawing on ARC’s technical expertise, the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit has strengthened national capacities and co-developed a strategic DRR framework. ”

DR. GABRIEL POLLEN
National Coordinator of the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) of Zambia


ZAMBIA

The collaboration led to significant technical capacity-building within the DMMU, reinforcing its role as Zambia’s institutional hub for disaster preparedness. In addition, ARC’s Africa RiskView tool – a cutting-edge satellite and data-based risk monitoring platform – enabled real-time analysis, guiding both the trigger event and the subsequent response.

A Final Implementation Plan was developed jointly by ARC, the Zambian Government, and key partners. It ensured that the payout was targeted efficiently, based on pre-agreed protocols. Of the over 52,000 households supported through this plan, many were reached via cash transfers through Zambia’s existing Social Cash Transfer Programme. The disbursements began as early as October 2022, demonstrating how pre-arranged funding can deliver real-time support.

A Blueprint for Regional Resilience

From bustling markets to quiet villages, the ARC payout helped families avoid deeper food insecurity and protect their livelihoods. It also served as a model of solidarity, showing how African-led solutions can foster resilience in the face of climate extremes.

Zambia’s approach has offered valuable lessons for other ACP countries. By joining regional risk pools, co-developing response plans, and investing in early action, governments can transform the way disasters are managed. Planning ahead isn’t just prudent – it’s powerful.

As Zambia continues to face climate challenges, its proactive stance stands as a beacon for regional resilience. The ARC partnership is not just a story of aid, but of empowerment, capacity, and collaboration – a true African solution to an African challenge.



SEEDS OF RESILIENCE

ZAMBIA’S JOURNEY FROM DROUGHT TO RECOVERY

WATCH THE VIDEO




Mombasa Advances Resilience Planning for a Safer Urban

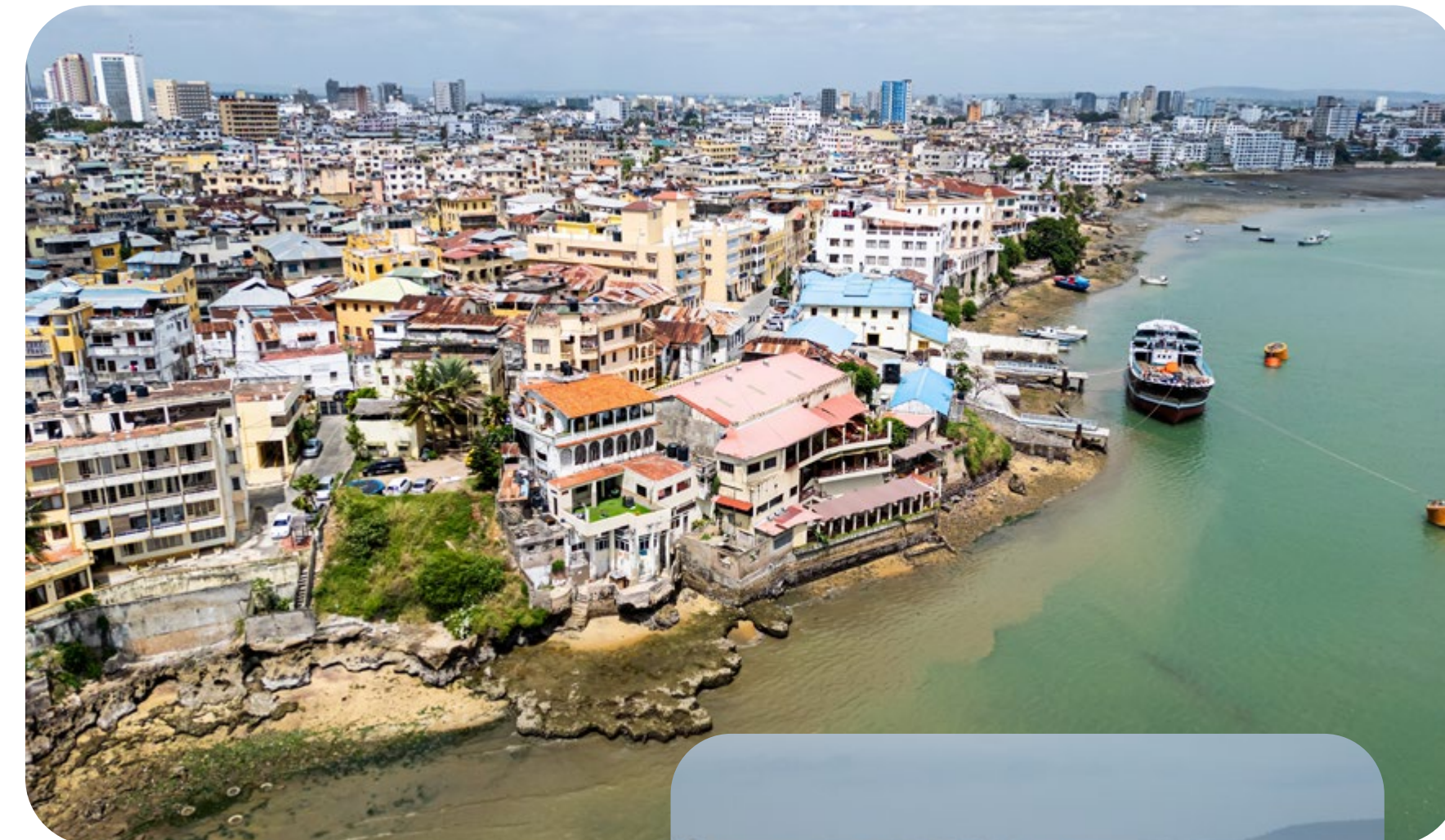
With support from the ACP-EU Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Programme, managed by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the coastal city of Mombasa is making significant strides in addressing the increasing threats posed by climate change. Current efforts are helping to lay a solid foundation for resilient urban development planning and informed infrastructure investment.

As one of East Africa’s largest port cities and a vital hub for trade, transport, and tourism, Mombasa plays a critical role in Kenya’s economy. But its strategic location and rapid urban growth have made it increasingly vulnerable to climate hazards – placing people, infrastructure, and ecosystems at risk.

A targeted technical assistance implemented by the World Bank is accelerating Mombasa’s transition towards a more climate-resilient future. Working hand-in-hand with national and municipal authorities, this technical assistance is enabling risk-informed urban planning while laying the groundwork for green and inclusive infrastructure investments aligned with the city’s long-term development goals.

Investing in resilient and green infrastructure

Mombasa’s metropolitan area is exposed to a range of complex risks, including coastal erosion, extreme weather events, and inadequate drainage compounded by urban development in flood-prone zones. The ongoing project, Enhancing Infrastructure Resilience in the Mombasa Metropolitan Area, aims to improve understanding of urban infrastructure vulnerability to floods and coastal erosion and to inform infrastructure investments and resilient urban planning.



In Mombasa, Kenya’s bustling coastal city, the proximity of Tudor Creek’s protected mangrove reserve illustrates both the risks and opportunities of urban expansion. As climate change intensifies, this fragile interface between city and nature has become central to risk-informed urban planning. | Photo Shutterstock and Kang Chun Cheng.



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KENYA

A strategic flood risk assessment is well advanced, with preliminary exposure analysis conducted for the Mombasa City County. The assessment incorporates climate scenarios to anticipate future risks and informs the prioritization of risk reduction measures, with an emphasis on nature-based solutions. Results from this assessment are already guiding investment strategies of the EU, the World Bank, and other development partners. The forthcoming final report will propose a roadmap of actionable solutions, from early warning system upgrades and improved drainage infrastructure to the restoration of protective coastal ecosystems like mangroves. It will also identify potential for green, grey, or hybrid infrastructure investments aligned with Mombasa’s long-term resilience strategy.

Building stronger institutions and governance systems

Beyond infrastructure, this project also aims to strengthen the city’s institutional capacity to manage climate risks. A complementary capacity needs assessment is examining the current policy framework, zoning laws, building codes, and urban development plans. The goal is to identify opportunities for mainstreaming resilience across all stages of urban planning and implementation.

Preliminary findings already indicate a growing awareness among city authorities of the vulnerabilities faced by Mombasa. These insights are being integrated into local risk management strategies and are contributing to more effective coordination between public institutions, technical experts, and civil society. Public awareness efforts are also advancing, empowering local communities to take preventive action and engage more actively in resilience-building initiatives.

Linking to broader development priorities

The impacts of this technical support are already being felt. For example, the EU-funded Global Gateway Mombasa-Kilifi highway project passes through a flood impact zone and needs to integrate these risks into its design and implementation.. Similarly, Mombasa’s solid waste circular economy project – part of the Clean Oceans Project Identification and Preparation (COPIP) initiative, and funded by EIB – is also benefitting from the outputs produced, recognising poor waste management as a key factor exacerbating flood risks.

Through improved risk assessments, targeted policy advice, and institutional capacity building, this initiative is not only shaping more resilient infrastructure, but also equipping local communities with the tools to better prepare for future disasters. With sustained support from the European Union and global development partners, Mombasa is laying the foundations for a more sustainable urban future – one that embeds long-term resilience at the core of its economic and environmental progress.



As part of Mombasa’s solid waste circular economy project under the Clean Oceans initiative, local teams cleaned up Old Town’s shores — tackling the waste that fuels flood risks and harms marine ecosystems. Community action is key to resilience, and today’s cleanup showed just how powerful it can be. | Photo: Mombasa County Government.





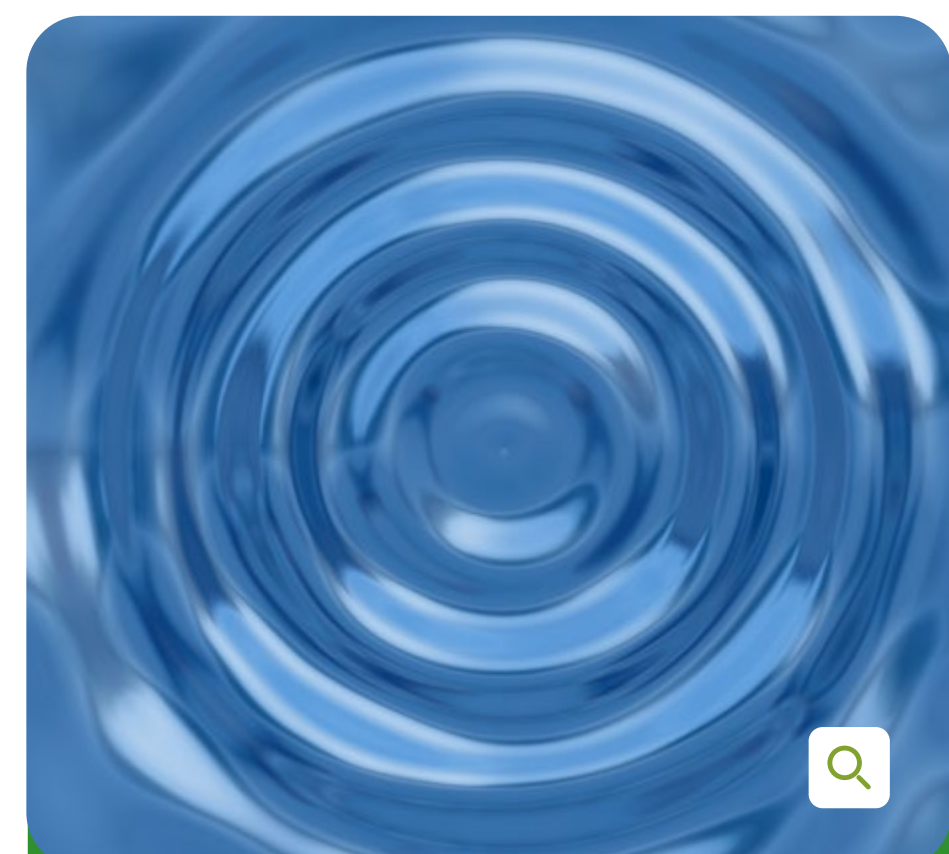
NEWS & EVENTS

Explore the Latest from Across the ACP Regions

Photo: Amos Gumulira



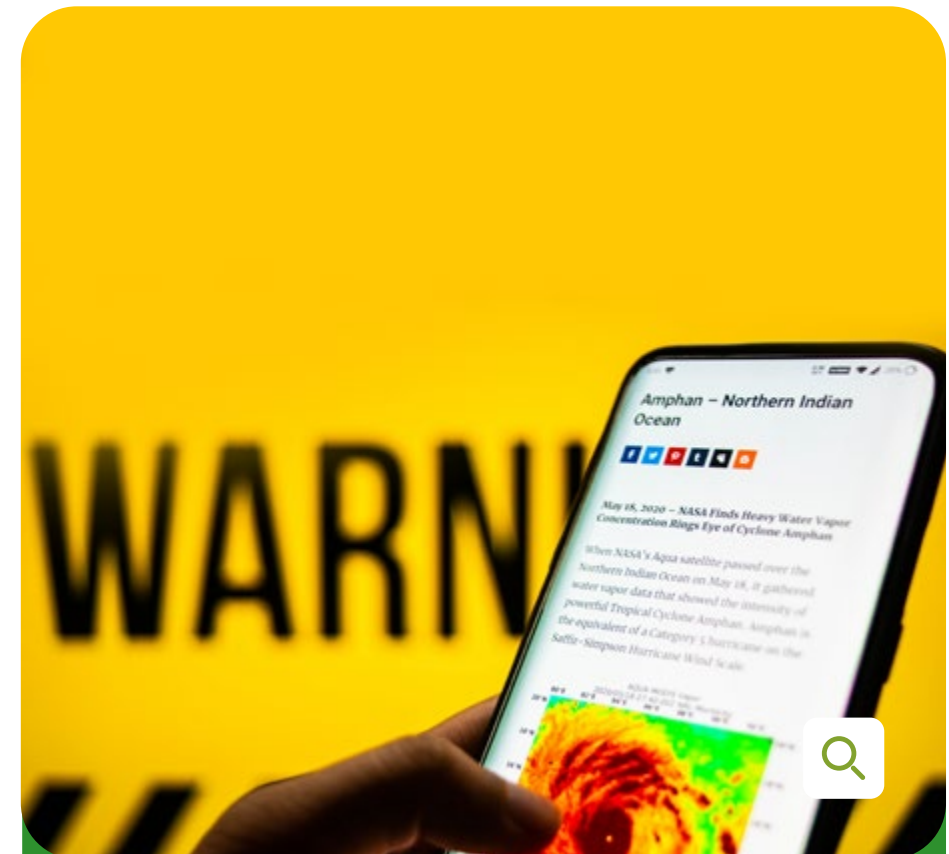
Malawi Receives \$3.3M Drought Insurance Payout to Boost Resilience.



Funding Resilience in the Caribbean: Breaking Barriers to Climate Finance.



African Working Group to Advance Windhoek Declaration Implementation.



East Africa Steps Up: Early Warning Systems Go Impact-Based for Droughts and Floods.



[→ EXPLORE THE EVENT CALENDAR](#)



Malawi Receives \$3.3M ARC Payout to Support Drought-Affected Communities and Refugees

In late July 2025, the African Risk Capacity (ARC) disbursed a total of US \$3.38 million to the Government of Malawi following the triggering of parametric drought insurance coverage for the 2024/2025 agricultural season. The payout includes US \$3.07 million under the traditional sovereign policy and US \$311,000 from the anticipatory coverage.

In preparation for the season, Malawi had subscribed to a dual insurance policy with ARC – combining both a traditional sovereign risk coverage and an anticipatory policy. This forward-looking arrangement enabled Malawi to access early financial resources to mitigate drought impacts before they escalated into a humanitarian crisis.

The payout, delivered under ARC’s contingency planning framework, is enabling the government to expand social protection measures, including food distribution, cash transfers, and other emergency support interventions. These actions aim to reach over 311,000 people, particularly vulnerable farming households and drought-affected communities.

Importantly, a portion of the funds has also been allocated to support refugees living in the Dzaleka camp, including individuals mainly from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Ethiopia. This intervention is being implemented in collaboration with UNHCR and the Government of Malawi, as part of a coordinated response to the El Niño-induced drought.

This dual-policy approach demonstrates a significant innovation in climate risk financing in Africa. While the traditional policy responds to confirmed disasters, the anticipatory component enables earlier interventions, helping to protect lives and livelihoods before the full impact is felt.

This initiative was supported by African Risk Capacity (ARC) under the Intra-ACP Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Programme, funded through the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) of the European Union. It illustrates how timely, risk-informed financing can enhance climate resilience and strengthen disaster preparedness in ACP countries.





Funding Resilience in the Caribbean: Breaking Barriers to Climate and Disaster Finance

Accessing funding for disaster resilience remains a persistent challenge for Caribbean Countries. Recognizing this, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has placed financing for resilience at the heart of its strategic agenda. CDB's implementation of the Caribbean Action for Resilience Enhancement (CARE) Programme, under the 11th EDF Disaster Risk Reduction Programme funded by the European Union, demonstrates a strong partnership that mobilised much needed financing to enable Caribbean resilience.

At COP29, CDB, in collaboration with the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), co-hosted a side event titled "Enhancing Strategic Collaboration Across African, Caribbean and Pacific States for Climate and Disaster Resilience." The event spotlighted the most pressing barriers that continue to limit the region's ability to access and effectively utilise financing for climate and disaster resilience. Among these barriers are limited technical and institutional capacities, at national and regional levels, to prepare strong funding proposals and deliver approved projects and programmes within the expected timelines. These limitations arise from a combination of factors, including weak project management, procurement challenges, and administrative inefficiencies, all of which continue to constrain Caribbean countries from fully leveraging available financing.

The CARE Programme is providing tailored technical assistance to potential beneficiaries in proposal preparation and project execution. These efforts are already yielding results. Several projects are either in advanced stages of preparation or under implementation. To date, nine projects have been approved with total financing from the CARE Programme amounting to USD 9,180,352 (Approximately EUR 8.57 million). These include four regional projects focusing on: i) supporting the sustainable management and use of natural capital in the Eastern Caribbean; ii) providing decision-support systems, tools, and educational resources to improve climate and disaster awareness and promote

behavioral change; iii) strengthening institutional capacity for early warning systems and coastal and marine ecosystem management; and iv) enhancing resilience and disaster preparedness of water utilities across the Caribbean through regional collaboration and targeted technical support.

At the national level, five country-specific projects have also been approved, including: Belize: Implementation of multi-hazard impact-based forecasting and an early warning system for the Belize River watershed; Dominica: Enhancing the sustainability and resilience of the agriculture sector; Jamaica: A feasibility study for the Kingston Harbour Walk; Jamaica: Improving water resource management and climate resilience in coastal and inland watersheds; and Saint Lucia: Building the capacity of the Water and Sewerage Company Inc. (WASCO) to integrate climate resilience into policies, planning, and development.

Looking ahead, four additional projects are under preparation for financing under the CARE Programme. These include one project to support the organisational restructuring of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, and three national projects in Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, and Suriname, respectively.

Ensuring access to reliable and affordable finance at scale for resilience-building efforts remains a pressing priority for Caribbean countries. Through initiatives like the CARE Programme, CDB and the EU are collaborating to strengthen institutional capacities, thereby laying the foundation for a more resilient and sustainable future.



Top: A lush agricultural landscape near Constanza, Dominican Republic. **Bottom:** the Mona Water Reservoir in Jamaica. Through its support to the water and agriculture sectors, the Caribbean Development Bank contributes to strengthening climate resilience and food security in vulnerable rural communities across the Caribbean. | Photo Shutterstock



African Working Group to Advance Windhoek Declaration Implementation

African institutions are mobilising to turn Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) commitments into action. From 11–13 November 2025 in Madagascar, African Union Member States and partners will meet for the 23rd Session of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction to fast-track implementation of the Windhoek Declaration and Africa’s Common Position on DRR.

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Regional Office for Africa (UNDRR-ROA), in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), are co-organising the 23rd Session of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWGDRR). The session will take place in person from 11 to 13 November 2025 in Antananarivo, Madagascar, under the theme “From Commitments to Action: Delivering on the Windhoek Declaration and the Africa Common Position.”

The gathering aims to align regional efforts behind the Windhoek Declaration adopted in October 2024 and the Africa Common Position to the 2025 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR). Both frameworks outline Africa’s collective priorities for implementing the Sendai Framework and advancing DRR financing, inclusive approaches, early warning systems, and anticipatory action.

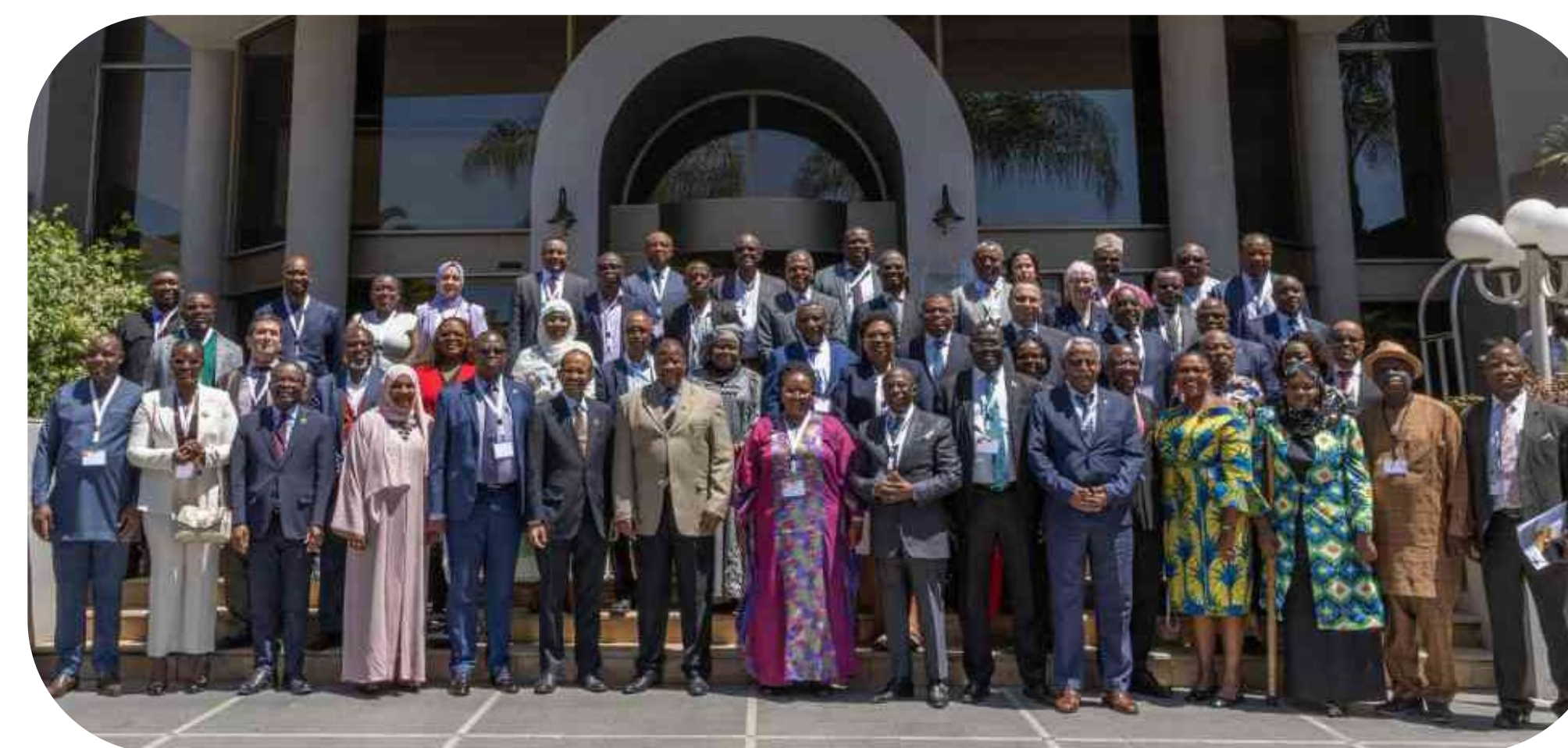
Hosted in the SADC region, the session will feature high-level deliberations and technical panels focused on priority areas, including disaster risk knowledge, inclusive risk governance, and the critical role of financing mechanisms to scale up action. It will also assess progress since the 22nd session held in Kampala in April 2025, where participants adopted an action plan as a blueprint for delivery.

Participants will include representatives from AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the private sector, technical partners, and non-member organisations. AUC and UNDRR will coordinate with SADC and the host country to potentially organise a field visit to showcase Madagascar’s community-based DRR innovations.

According to the AU and UNDRR, the AWGDRR serves as the principal platform for monitoring continental DRR progress, fostering cooperation among African stakeholders, and supporting the operationalisation of the Programme of Action for implementing the Sendai Framework in Africa.

The organisers are encouraging delegations to promote gender-balanced and inclusive representation, particularly of women and persons with disabilities.

Participants are invited to confirm their attendance by 10 October 2025 by registering at the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/hLGPRxT6K0>. The agenda and concept note will be shared ahead of the event.



Ministers and heads of delegations attending the 9th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in October 2024.



East Africa Steps Up: Early Warning Systems Go Impact-Based for Droughts and Floods

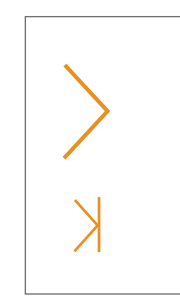
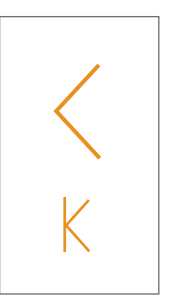
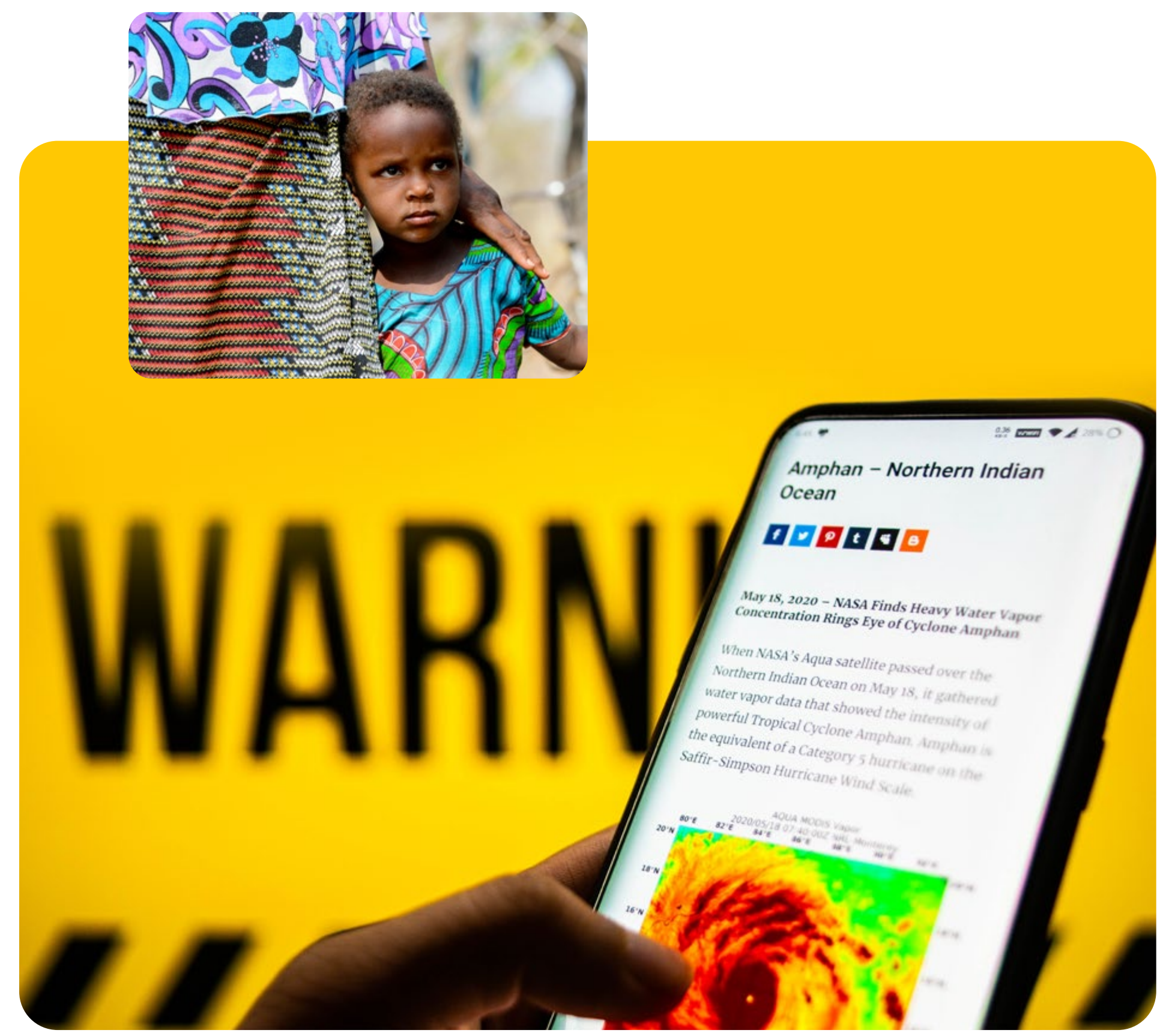
Across Eastern Africa, a new generation of early warning systems is taking shape. Thanks to a pilot project co-led by UNDRR and IGAD partners, governments and communities now have better tools to predict not just hazards, but their human impacts. With Kenya and Ethiopia leading the way, this user-driven approach is making early warnings more inclusive, timely, and actionable for vulnerable populations.

Traditional alerts often warn of rainfall or drought, but don't say who will be affected or how. The EarlyWarning4IGAD project is changing that. By integrating exposure and vulnerability data, it helps predict real-life consequences—like crop failure or displaced families—so authorities can act before disaster strikes.

With support from the Intra-ACP DRR Programme and partners like IGAD-ICPAC, CIMA and UNU-EHS, a new methodology was co-developed and validated in June 2025 with stakeholders from Kenya and Ethiopia. It's now embedded in East Africa's Hazard and Drought Watch platforms, with inputs from 62 stakeholder groups.

Women, persons with disabilities, and displaced people face unique risks. Phase II of the project created tailored vulnerability profiles for these groups to inform early action. Phase III, launched in 2025, is now testing how to integrate this into national flood and drought alerts in Kenya.

The work continues, with the Kenya Meteorological Department now aiming to expand these tools nationally. Together, partners are building a future where early warning means early protection—for everyone.






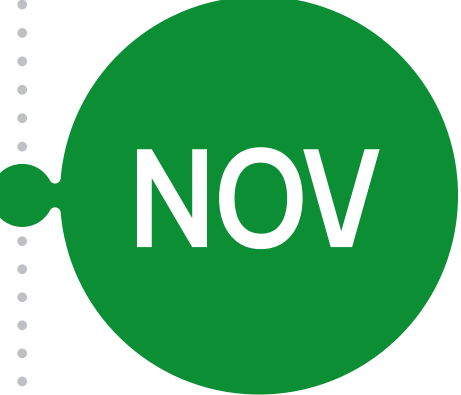
NEWS & EVENTS

Upcoming Events – Next Six Months

2025




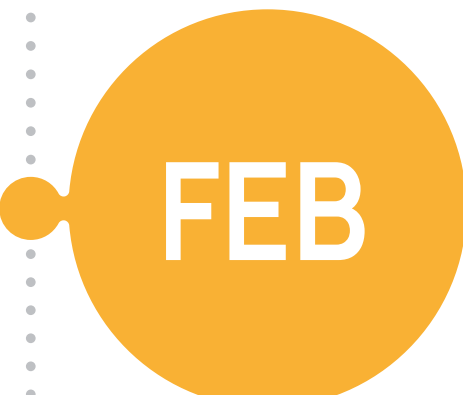

13/10
International Disaster Reduction PreventionDay
Encourages every citizen and government to take part in building more disaster-resilient communities and nations.
Organiser: The United Nations General Assembly.
Coordination: The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

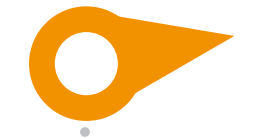

11-13/11
23rd Session of the African Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction
Location: Madagascar
Organiser: African Union Commission, UNDRR, Regional DRR partners
Why relevant: Regional intergovernmental mechanism advancing Sendai Framework priorities in Africa.
Link: not published online yet

10-21/11
UNFCCC COP30 (30th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC)
Location: Belém, Brazil
Organiser: UNFCCC Secretariat, Government of Brazil.
Why relevant: Global climate negotiation platform; critical for climate resilience and coherence with Sendai Framework DRR goals.

2026

10-11/02
Mid-term Review / Risk Reduction Hub Event
Location: (Venue TBC – UNESCO)
Organiser: UNESCO – Risk Reduction Hub (Education & DRR)
Why relevant: Explicitly linked to the Sendai Framework mid-term review; focuses on education and resilience in disaster risk reduction.

25-28/03
Desertif'actions 2026
Location: Montpellier, France
Organiser: UNCCD, OSS (Sahara and Sahel Observatory), CARI
Why relevant: International summit on land degradation and desertification, linked to climate resilience and Sendai Framework priorities.

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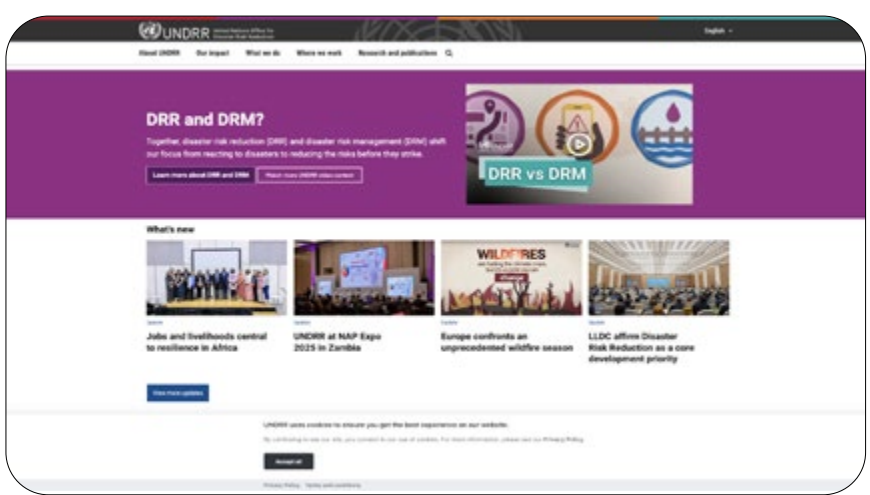




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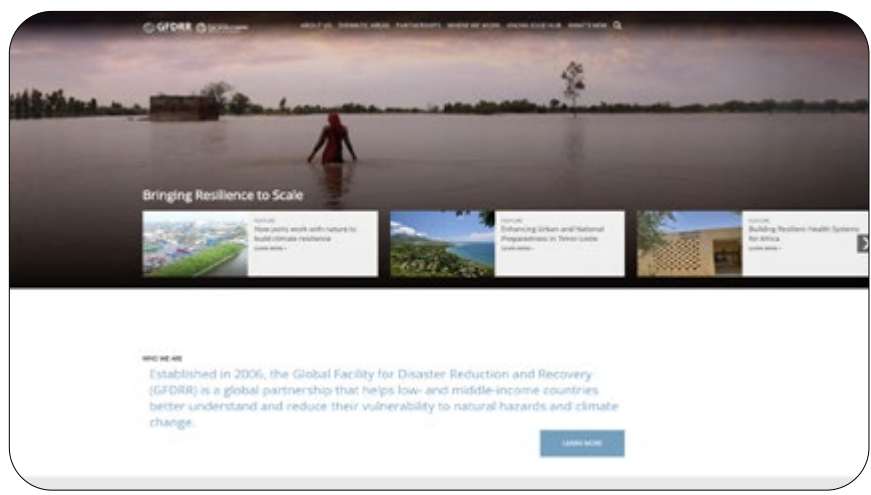
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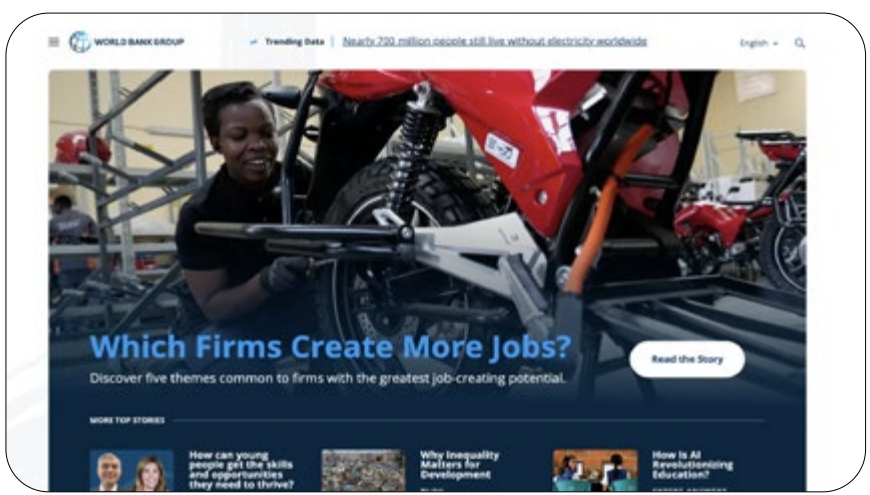
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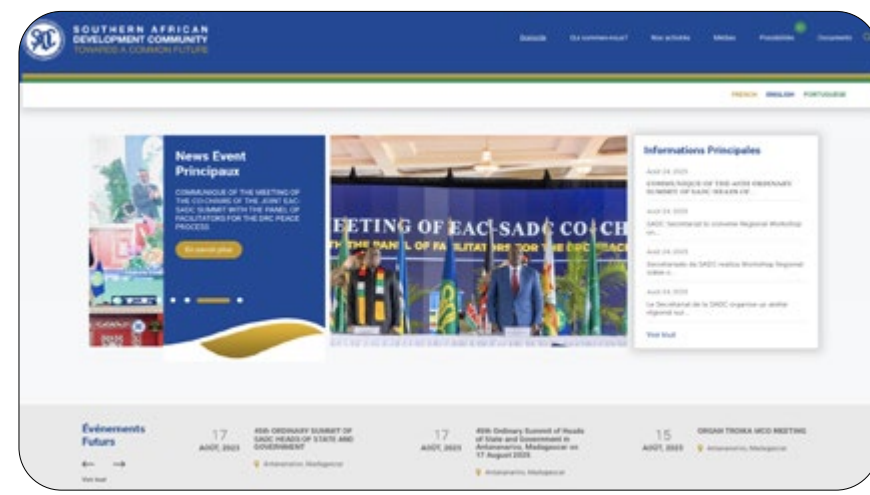
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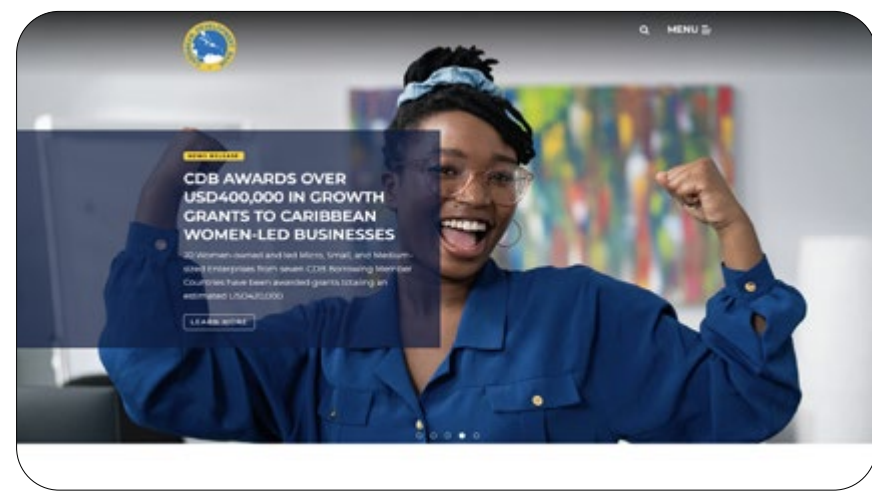
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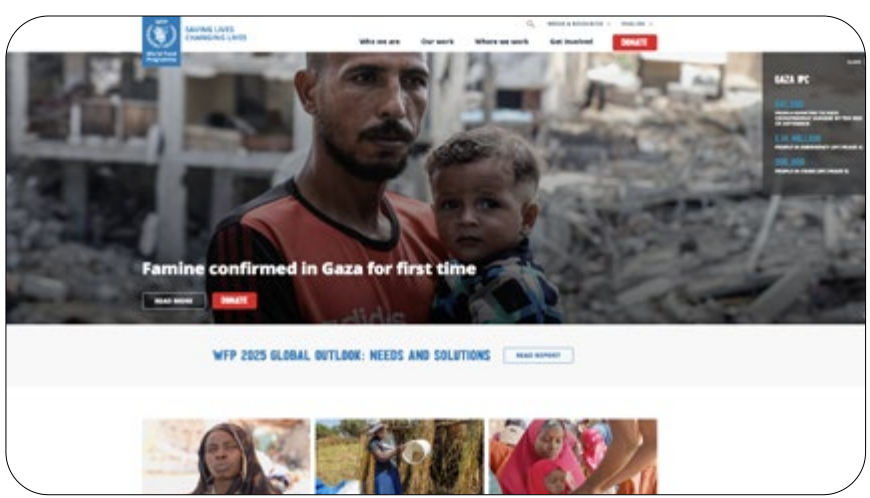
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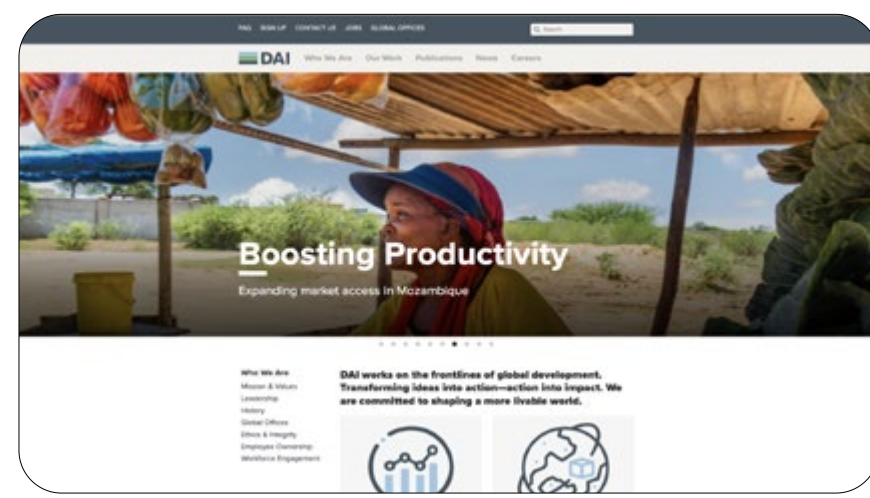
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