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the African Union Commission



RISK
GOVERNANCE

CASE STUDY

GOVERNANCE & PREPAREDNESS

Africa Establishes Continental Civilian Capacity Mechanism for Disaster Preparedness and Response

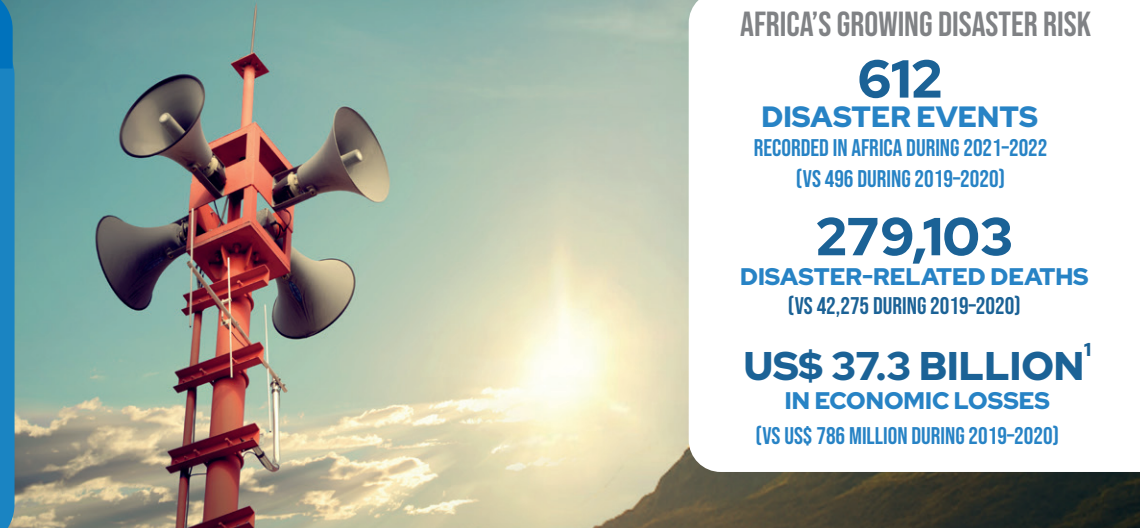
African Union Heads of State and Government adopted the Statute establishing the Continental Civilian Capacity Mechanism for Disaster Preparedness and Response (3CMDPR) in February 2025. The mechanism aim to strengthen continental coordination, preparedness and rapid deployment capacities to support disaster stricken countries in responding effectively to emergencies and disasters.

AFRICA'S GROWING DISASTER RISK

612
DISASTER EVENTS
RECORDED IN AFRICA DURING 2021-2022
(VS 496 DURING 2019-2020)

279,103
DISASTER-RELATED DEATHS
(VS 42,275 DURING 2019-2020)

US\$ 37.3 BILLION¹
IN ECONOMIC LOSSES
(VS US\$ 786 MILLION DURING 2019-2020)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

01 COUNTRY/REGION/LOCATION
African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities

02 RISK ADDRESSED
Large-scale disasters, weak coordination, delayed emergency response

03 IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD/TIMEFRAME
2022-2025: establishment phase; operationalisation initiated in 2025; 2026 - Hosting Country under identification and establishment of the Governing Board of the Mechanism ongoing

04 ACTORS/IMPLEMENTING AND LOCAL PARTNERS
AUC, RECs, Member States, Partners

05 KEY BENEFICIARIES
National DRM institutions, AUC Member States, RECs

CONTEXT AND CHALLENGE

Africa faces increasingly complex and transboundary disasters driven by climate change, environmental degradation, rapid urbanisation and vulnerability to natural and human-induced hazards. While Member States have made significant efforts to strengthen national disaster management systems, response capacities remain uneven and cross-border coordination mechanisms are often fragmented. Delays in mobilising emergency assistance, limited interoperability and insufficient and inadequate preparedness arrangements reduce the effectiveness of disaster response efforts. In addition, the absence of a continental operational framework has constrained rapid deployment of expertise, equipment and emergency support during major disasters that exceed national capacities. This gap has limited Africa's ability to effectively coordinate and provide timely, collective responses to large-scale emergencies, highlighting the need for a strengthened continental mechanism for disaster preparedness and response.

WHY THIS ACTION MATTERS?

The establishment of the 3CMDPR creates Africa's first continental institutional mechanism dedicated to strengthening disaster preparedness and coordinated emergency response. It enhances regional solidarity, strengthens operational coordination between Member States and RECs, and facilitate rapid mobilisation and deployment of expertise and resources during crises.

The mechanism also reinforces implementation of the Sendai Framework and the AU Programme of Action for DRR while supporting anticipatory action, early warning systems and cross-border cooperation for more effective and timely disaster response across the continent. Investments integrate resilience and sustainability from the outset.

¹ AU (2019). Africa Biennial Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2018. The report can be found at <https://au.int/en/documents/20200805/first-africa-biennial-report-disaster-risk-reduction-synopsis-report>.

See the intervention and results on page 2 →



RISK GOVERNANCE



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RRP
INTRA-ACP DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMME

INTERVENTION AND APPROACH

The African Union Commission, through the Disaster Risk Reduction Unit, facilitated the development, validation and adoption of the Statute establishing the Continental Civilian Capacity Mechanism for Disaster Preparedness and Response (3CMDPR). The mechanism was formally adopted by AU Heads of State and Government in February 2025 following endorsement by the Executive Council and Specialized Technical Committee processes.

The mechanism establishes a continental governance structure composed of a Governing Board, Secretariat,

Sub-Regional Hubs and National Liaison Offices. It enables rapid deployment of human and material resources, supports harmonisation of operational procedures, strengthens anticipatory action capacities and promotes real-time information exchange through AMHEWAS-linked systems.

The initiative also developed an operational roadmap for implementation and defined procedures for coordination between Member States, RECs and continental institutions during disaster response operations.

RESULTS AND CHANGE

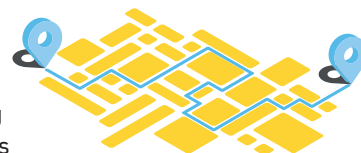
1 The adoption of the 3CMDPR significantly strengthened Africa's institutional architecture for disaster preparedness and response. Member States now have an agreed continental framework for requesting and coordinating emergency assistance during large-scale disasters. The mechanism improves interoperability between national systems, supports rapid mobilisation of expertise and equipment, and enhances preparedness planning across regions.

2 The mechanism also strengthens coordination between continental early warning systems, RECs and national disaster management institutions while reinforcing Africa's capacity to manage transboundary and climate-related risks collectively. The operationalisation roadmap provides a foundation for future deployment capacities, contingency planning and regional disaster response cooperation and capacity building.

EARLY CONCRETE UPTAKE IN ONGOING INVESTMENTS:

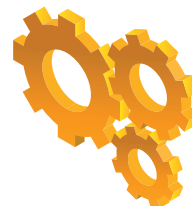
IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

The AUC developed a **roadmap** for operationalising the mechanism following adoption by AU Heads of State and Government in February 2025.



REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM

The mechanism integrates AMHEWAS and REC disaster structures as operational coordination and information-sharing platforms.



PROGRAMME OUTPUT ALIGNMENT



This action contributes to the Intra-ACP DRR Programme output on Preparedness by strengthening continental disaster coordination systems, improving institutional response capacities, supporting anticipatory action and enabling rapid mobilisation of regional disaster assistance mechanisms across Africa.



The Relevance of the Continental Civilian Capacity Mechanism for Disaster Preparedness and Response has been strongly recognized by the Executive Council, comprising Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which instructed the African Union Commission to work closely with Member States on the modalities for its implementation. This commitment was further reinforced through its adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, demonstrating strong political support for the operationalisation of the Mechanism..

ROBERTO SCHIANO LOMORIELLO

Regional Coordinator Africa
DAI Global

KEY ENABLERS OF SUCCESS

**AU POLITICAL
ENDORSEMENT
AT HIGHEST LEVEL**



**ALIGNMENT WITH
SEDAI FRAMEWORK
PRIORITIES**



**STRONG REC AND
MEMBER STATE
ENGAGEMENT**



**INTEGRATION WITH
AMHEWAS EARLY
WARNING SYSTEM**



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SOURCES

Statute of the Continental Civilian Capacity Mechanism for Disaster Preparedness and Response – AU DRR Governance Programme documentation and meeting notes.

Interim Narrative Report 2025 – Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance for Resilience in African Regions and Countries



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