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INTRA-ACP DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMME

Implemented with EU, SADC, IFRC, OCHA,  
UN Habitat with Member States and Technical  
partners



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## CASE STUDY

### PREPAREDNESS

# Strengthening Risk Governance and Preparedness in Southern Africa

With EU support through the Intra-ACP DRR Programme, IFRC, SADC, OCHA and UN-Habitat are strengthening regional disaster preparedness and coordination in Southern Africa to address growing climate and disaster risks. Through strategic partnerships, the initiative is advancing risk-informed governance, people-centred multi-hazard early warning systems, preparedness capacities and regional emergency coordination to build a more resilient region.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 01 COUNTRY/REGION/LOCATION

**Southern Africa** – a region of 16 Member States facing recurrent climate shocks, disaster risks and growing humanitarian vulnerabilities.

### 02 RISK ADDRESSED

Floods, droughts, tropical cyclones, epidemics, extreme temperatures and transboundary hazards.

### 03 IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD/TIMEFRAME

Implemented under **DRMSS Project (2023–2027)**, supporting people-centred multi-hazard early warning systems, preparedness capacities and regional emergency coordination (Oct 2023–May 2026).

### 04 ACTORS/IMPLEMENTING AND LOCAL PARTNERS

**SADC, IFRC, OCHA, UN Habitat with Member States and Technical partners.**

### 05 KEY BENEFICIARIES

**16 SADC Member States Disaster Management Institutions, Regional and Specialized Institutions related to DRR and At-Risk Populations.**

## CONTEXT AND CHALLENGE

**Southern Africa is a region of 16 Member States increasingly exposed to recurrent and interconnected hazards, including floods, droughts, tropical cyclones, epidemics and extreme temperatures.** Shared river basins, cyclone corridors and interconnected food systems mean disasters frequently transcend national borders, requiring stronger regional cooperation to protect lives, livelihoods and development gains.

Climate change is intensifying risks, while socio-economic vulnerabilities and uneven institutional capacities amplify impacts. Fragmented risk information, uneven early warning systems and coordination gaps have constrained preparedness, highlighting the need for harmonised regional systems, shared risk analysis and stronger emergency coordination mechanisms.

## WHY THIS ACTION MATTERS?

**Regional disasters increasingly exceed national capacities, with floods, cyclones, droughts and epidemics** often crossing borders and affecting shared systems, livelihoods and economies.

- **By linking people-centred multi-hazard early warning systems based on linking regional risk assessment to SHOC operationalisation, ERT preparedness and emergency deployments, the DRMSS Project strengthens Southern Africa's capacity to anticipate, prepare for and coordinate response to disasters.**

- **This approach helps ensure that scientific risk intelligence translates into practical preparedness, anticipatory action and coordinated regional emergency response, reducing losses and strengthening resilience across Member States.**

See the intervention and results on page 2 →



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## INTERVENTION AND APPROACH

The intervention supports Southern Africa's transition towards a more coordinated and risk-informed regional preparedness system through technical support delivered by IFRC and SADC under the EU-funded DRMSS Project. A comprehensive Regional Risks Assessment analysed hazards, vulnerabilities and coping capacities across 264 Admin 1 areas in all 16 SADC Member States, creating a shared evidence base for preparedness, anticipatory action and regional planning. Findings informed a people-centred Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) Framework to strengthen monitoring, warning dissemination and cross-border interoperability.

In parallel, the project strengthened the operational readiness of the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC) through improved infrastructure, coordination systems and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Emergency Response Team (ERT) induction trainings and simulation collaboration with OCHA reinforced regional preparedness and response coordination. These investments translated into operational action, with SADC ERT deployments to Mozambique floods (January 2026) and Madagascar following Tropical Cyclone Gezani (February 2026), demonstrating growing regional response capacity.

## PROGRAMME OUTPUT ALIGNMENT

### OUTPUT 3.1 : PREPAREDNESS

This action supports the Intra-ACP DRR Programme by strengthening preparedness and risk governance, translating regional risk evidence into practical systems and institutional capacities that help beneficiaries strengthen early warning, operational coordination and emergency readiness across Southern Africa.



*We sincerely appreciate SADC for its swift response and timely deployment. This support is critical to strengthening national coordination, response and relief efforts during this emergency..*

H.E. MS. LUÍSA CELMA MEQUE

President, National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction  
Republic of Mozambique

## RESULTS AND CHANGE

- 1 A harmonised Regional Risks Assessment across 16 Member States and 264 sub-national areas strengthened understanding of hazards, vulnerabilities and coping capacities, enabling more evidence-based preparedness and regional planning.
- 2 A people-centred Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) Framework strengthened regional approaches to risk monitoring, warning dissemination and interoperability, helping connect risk information to anticipatory action and preparedness.
- 3 Strengthening of the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC), alongside SOP development, ERT induction trainings and simulation exercises, improved coordination systems and readiness for cross-border emergencies.
- 4 The SHOC Regional capacities were tested in practice through SADC ERT deployments to Mozambique floods (January 2026) and Madagascar following Tropical Cyclone Gezani (February 2026), demonstrating stronger coordination and response across borders.

### EARLY CONCRETE UPTAKE IN ONGOING INVESTMENTS:

#### ADVANCING ANTICIPATORY ACTION ACROSS SADC

Regional risk evidence, MHEWS priorities and SHOC coordination systems are already informing preparedness planning and simulation exercises across SADC, helping strengthen anticipatory action and cross-border readiness.



#### STRENGTHENED EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY IN ACTION

SADC ERT deployments to Mozambique floods (Jan 2026) and Madagascar after Cyclone Gezani (Feb 2026) demonstrated strengthened regional surge capacity, supporting emergencies affecting over 651,843 and 400,000 people respectively.

### KEY ENABLERS OF SUCCESS



STRONG TECHNICAL  
PARTNERSHIP (IFRC  
– SADC – OCHA)



SCIENTIFICALLY RIGOROUS  
(RISK ANALYSIS  
& EVIDENCE BASE)



STRENGTHENED  
SHOC OPERATIONAL  
SYSTEMS & SOPs



SIMULATION-BASED  
PREPAREDNESS & CROSS-B  
ORDER INTEROPERABILITY



### SOURCES

- [SADC Regional Risks Assessment \(2025\);](#)
- [SADC MHEWS Framework \(2025\)](#)
- [SHOC Technical Assessment Reports;](#)

- [SHOC SOP Documentation;](#)
- [DRMSS Project Documentation; floods and droughts in Kenya](#)
- [ERT Induction Training Reports;](#)

- [SADC ERT Mission Press Releases – Mozambique \(2026\) and Madagascar \(2026\)](#)