



Disaster Risk Reduction in West Africa Challenges and Opportunities

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What science says

- A reality happening very fast: people at risk of hunger projected to increase by 10 – 20% by 2050.
- Worst impacts expected on the poorest & most food insecure: in some African countries, yields from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50% by 2020.
- The demand for food will double within the next 25-50 years, primarily in developing countries

Regional Context

- West Africa is comprised of at least six different climactic zones, with several countries extending across several different zones;
- There is tremendous uncertainty over how weather patterns will change in West Africa, although there are predictions that the drier areas will become will become more arid, and coastal zones will experience rising sea levels and increased flooding.



Increase in the risk of hunger and under-nutrition because of:

- Increases in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters
- deteriorating environment and land productivity
- reduced availability of water
- deteriorating sanitation conditions and increasing undernutrition
- increasing conflicts over scarce resources

➤ (IPCC 2007)



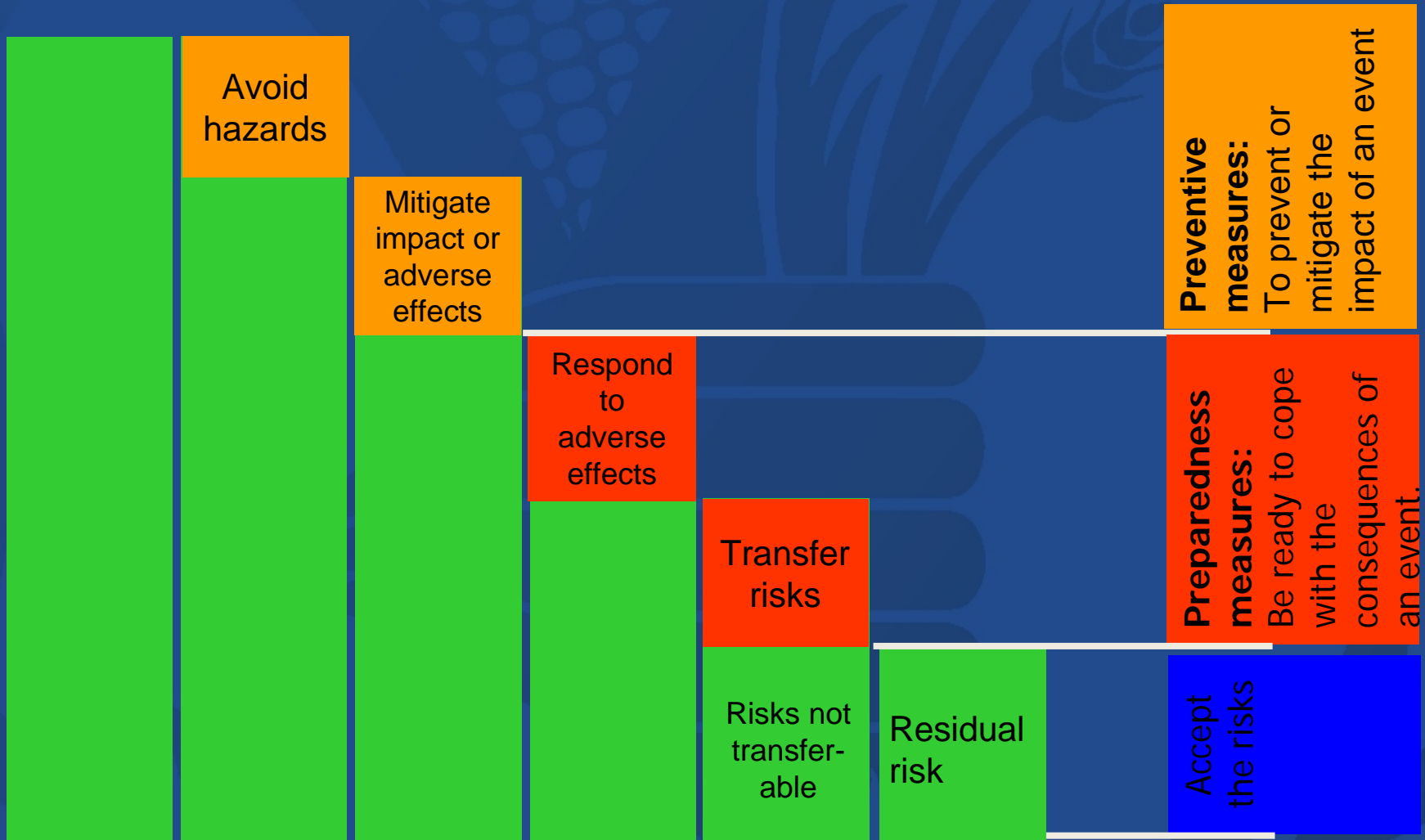
Context West Africa

- More frequent and intense weather related events and disasters;
- Rural to urban migration (often due to a lack of opportunities in rural areas) has increased urbanization and led to more people living in areas prone to flooding in urban and peri-urban areas;
- Declining coping capacities/more livelihoods at risk of disasters;
- Climate change and its uncertainties is a risk multiplier.





Components of DRR



Challenges

- **Weak institutional linkages, a lack of clear leadership and coordination within Governments** can lead to implementation delays - for example, one ministry is put in charge of a process that necessitates a greater role from other ministries;
- Finding **appropriate partners** in the field with capacity and commitment to follows established norms and standards; and,
- **Governments** should lead the process at national level for all programmes, but **inadequate capacity** can pose challenges.



Opportunities

- There is a need to **scale up** environmental/NRM and agricultural programmes to build resilience and thereby reduce the risk of disasters, such as drought and flooding;
- Excellent cumulative experience exists across the region in building resilience to droughts and floods, and this can be tapped to further build capacity of governments;
- **DRR platforms** at national and regional levels present opportunities to bring together government entities and to **facilitate better coordination** and collaboration;
- **Multi-stakeholder participation** and **good coordination** are crucial for greater **impact** and **sustainability** going forward.



WFP Policy on DRR

The WFP Strategic Plan (2008–2011) recognizes the need for WFP to further engage in disaster risk reduction by making it a Strategic Objective. The goals of that Strategic Objective are the following:

- i. To support and strengthen capacities of governments to prepare for, assess and respond to acute hunger arising from disasters.
- ii. To support and strengthen resilience of communities to shocks through safety nets or asset creation, including adaptation to climate change.

Intervention areas

- 1. Disaster response and preparedness (DRR, EPR, humanitarian assistance)**
Scaling up to meet the new challenges; new focus on mega-disasters, urban areas, environmental displacement, others;
- 2. Safety nets/social protection**
Cash and in-kind transfers; employment generation schemes; MCHN; SFP; Weather indexed insurance, others
- 3. Systems, services and tools (“public goods”)** – services and capacity development in VAM, EPR, EW, DRR (to be upgraded to incorporate climate risk analysis) as well as new tools
- 4. Advocacy and public policy** – Advocating in support to the most vulnerable and at risk countries and communities; Supporting the development of national policies and programmes aimed at reducing impact and empowering poor segments of society to deal with CC



Guiding Principles

- DRR with focus on Food Security will become a central part of WFPs work
- Technical capacities for planning and implementation of DRR projects need to be enhanced and DRR toolkits developed
- Partnerships with other agencies are key to success; often the lead may be with partners specialized in DRR, with WFP in supporting role
- Whenever possible, governmental institutions should be in the driver's seat, with WFP in advisory and capacity building function



Toolkit 1: Integrated Risk Assessments

- One-time exercise, multi-disciplinary approach, static view
- Involving several branches of WFP
- Can include participation of partner agencies and government
- Results can serve as base for design of country strategy and/or dialogue with government and partner agencies

Tools:

- Various kinds of survey tools, including VAM tools
- Satellite imagery
- Multi-layered Risk Mapping, making use of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) of OMEP



Tools Box

Support to HCTs and Governments

- Risk Analysis
- EPR Training
- National and IA Contingency Planning Process
- Simulation to test Plans
- Post-Crisis assessment
- EP in-country EP capacity Assessment
- National Early Warning systems
- Sub-Regional Contingency Plans
- Support to Regional Institutions



Toolkit 2:

DRR Units within Government

- Typically set up as part of DRR Unit within Government
- Principal functions are continuous risk monitoring and mapping with the purpose of providing guidance for DRR
- Triggering of Early Warning messages and Disaster Alarms
- Switch to Disaster Management mode in case of disasters

Tools:

- Risk assessment and mapping tools
- Modules for capacity building
- Technical Support from WFP's experts



Toolkit 3:

Community-Driven DRR Projects

- Based on participative risk screening process
- Wide range of projects are possible, for example infrastructure (irrigation, protective dams,...), farming systems adaptation (introduction of drought resistant crops), reforestation, early warning systems
- Income generation is an important aspect
- Technical lead is usually with partner organization



CC effect on development/humanitarian debate:

Blurring lines between humanitarian assistance and longer term development



Moving upstream from crisis response to crisis prevention: i.e integrating CC aspects into development planning

