

# ECOWAS DRR STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION



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# BACKGROUND

- **ECOWAS is a Regional Organization of Fifteen Member States, established with a mission to promote integration in all field of economic activity, including social and cultural matters and to improve the living standard of the people in West Africa;**
- **In general, the region has been characterised particularly by trans-border conflict, civil wars, economic stagnation as well as both social and political insecurity.**
- **In recent times, disasters triggered by natural events have increased in occurrence and severity in West Africa particularly the Sahelian zone**
- **Over 75% of the population lives in areas affected at least once in every two years by a tropical cyclone, flood, drought or an earthquake.**
- **These affected population require social and/or economic assistance and temporary work to guarantee their wellbeing and to alleviate their sufferings.**



# GLOBAL/REGIONAL FRAMEWORK

In January 2005 at the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction, over 168 Countries, unanimously adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

The HFA defines as one of its strategic goals the “development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards” and recommends the creation of national platforms for disaster risk reduction as a multi-sectoral coordination mechanism.

The African Union has, together with the NEPAD Secretariat, developed the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (the African strategy), and Plan of Action for implementation.



# LEGAL FRAMEWORK/MANDATES OF ECOWAS

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs was established under Article 16, within the framework of Articles 2 (d) and 3 (f) of the ECOWAS Protocol for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security.



Articles 4, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61 and 63 of the ECOWAS Revised Treaty articulates measures for social justice, human security, civil protection, a peaceful environment as well as stability in the region as prerequisites for economic development



Article 2 (d) and 3 (f) of the ECOWAS Protocol for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security of December 1999, laid down the principles and mandated the development of effective policies that will help alleviate the suffering of the population and restore life to normalcy after complex humanitarian emergency and disasters.



## **JUSTIFICATION FOR A POLICY ON DRR IN WEST AFRICA**

**In accordance with the ECOWAS Revised Treaty and in recognizing the fact that:**

**Increasing disasters and increasing vulnerability-can only be address effectively through disaster reduction intervention from the community through the national and sub regional levels**

**Disaster reduction is a development challenge that should be addresses through development interventions;**

**Many countries in the sub region are developing frameworks for DRR and the need for a sub regional policy framework to support national efforts in this direction**

**And to fulfil mandatory requirements of ECOWAS under the Revised Treaty and the Protocol relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace and Security.**

**The ECOWAS Commission continues to focus its attention on creating a sub-regional entity of resilient countries and communities where natural hazards and disasters do not negatively impact economic, social and environmental development.**

**In this case, and in line with Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the Africa Regional Strategy and its programme (2006-2015), a sub-regional Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction was developed and adopted by the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government at the 31<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Summit in Ouagadougou on January 19 2007,**



## OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

Advocate for and raise awareness on disaster risk reduction

Integrate disaster risk reduction into development policies, planning and programmes

Develop and strengthen institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards

Incorporate risk reduction approaches in emergency preparedness, rehabilitation and recovery

Enhance the contribution of disaster reduction to peace and security of the sub-region



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY OF THE POLICY

Providing an Inter-Governmental framework for collaboration and partnership for ECOWAS Member States in Disaster Risk Management.

Promote integration of DRR into ECOWAS Member States National development Policies, Plans and Programmes.

Facilitate the development and strengthening of institutional capacities for disaster forecasting, prevention, early warning, mitigation of effects and rebuilding for future risk reduction.

Facilitate the establishment and strengthening of viable National Platforms

Enhance the contribution of disaster risk reduction to peace and sustainable development of the sub region

Development of a viable ECOWAS  
**Inter-Departmental  
Coordinating  
Committee (ICC)**





## PROGRESS TO DATE

**Establishment of a DRR Division within the Department of Humanitarian and Social Affairs in 2008.**

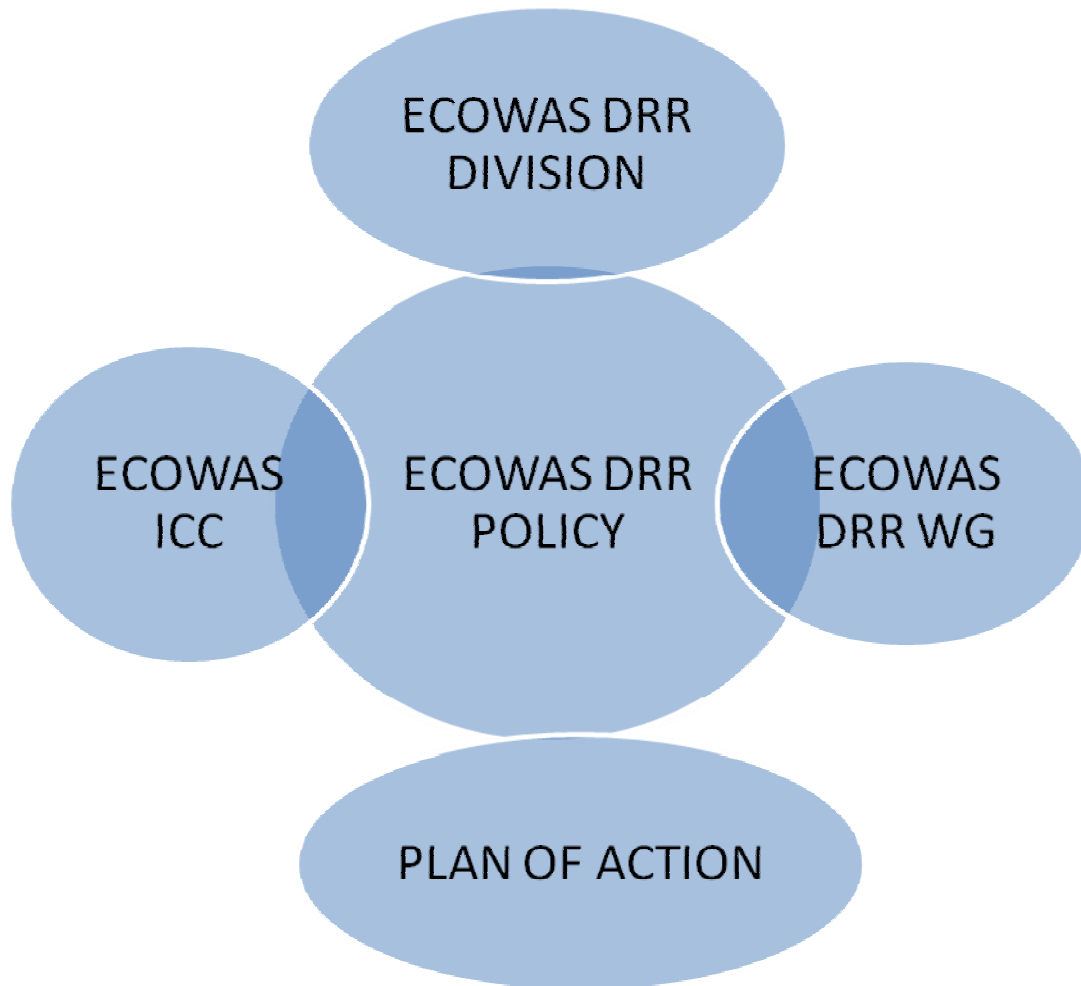
**ECOWAS Inter-Departmental Coordinating Committee (ICC) inaugurated by on September 16<sup>th</sup> 2008**

**ECOWAS DRR Working Group was also inaugurated on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2009.**

**Plan of Action developed and validated for full implementation of the Policy 2010-2015**



# OUTCOME OF THE POLICY





# ECOWAS DRR PLAN of ACTION

The Plan of Action have several activities for implementation of the ECOWAS DRR policy highlighted in a matrix format.

These activities include: developing guidelines to strengthen National Platforms, mainstreaming DRR into development planning, implementing mitigation activities, e.g. hazard/vulnerability mapping and early recovery through NGOs, CBOs, Institutions and Member States, Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management into Climate Change adaptation strategy

The ECOWAS DRR Plan of Action highlight a number of strategic priorities for the development of capacities for disaster risk reduction in West Africa

The Action Plan emphasizes the development of institutional capacities for disaster forecasting, prevention, early warning, mitigation of effects and rebuilding for future risk reduction. .



# Programme/Activities

- Popularization and implementation of the ECOWAS DRR Policy
- Develop programmes/activities to increase ECOWAS capacity in the field of planning, preparedness and managing emergencies and natural disasters.
- Increasing ECOWAS ability to provide quick responses to emergencies in Member States.
- Training and capacity building for National Platform personnel in the region
- Facilitate the availability of response resources/equipment during emergency and natural disaster in the region
- Facilitate the establishment and functionality of ECOWAS Humanitarian Depot (Mali)
- Develop effective communication system and network between ECOWAS and Focal Points of National Platforms within Member States.
- Support efforts in equipping National Focal Platforms, create a pool of scientists , experienced emergency preparedness and response personnel.
- Strengthen collaborating with other partners (UN agencies, WB, INGOs, NGOs, IFIs etc)
- Integrating DRM into Climate Change into activities



# INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

DRR Division charged with the responsibility of supporting, facilitating and coordinating the implementation of the Policy within the Commission and the sub-region.

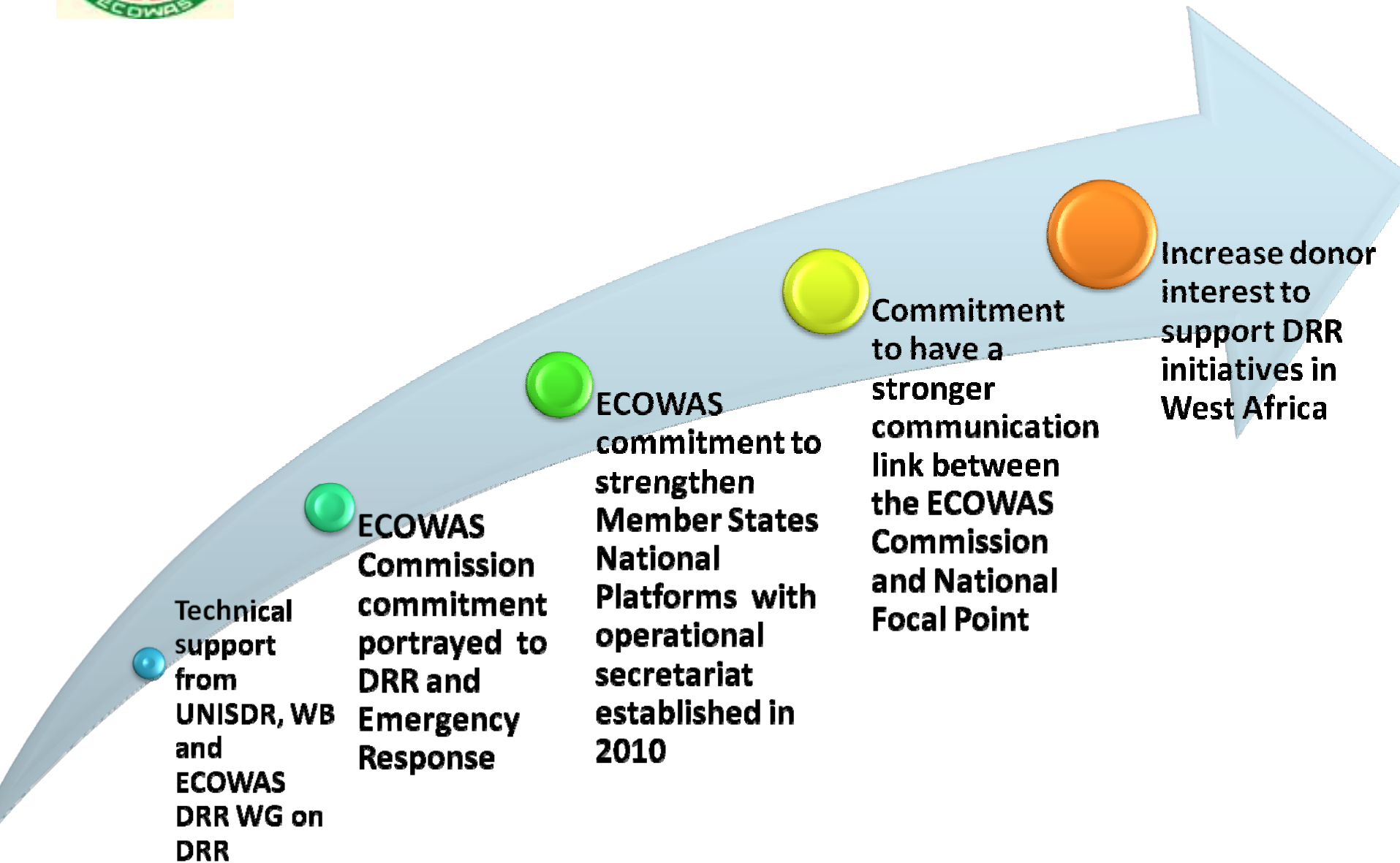
Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee ensure effective mainstreaming of DRR priorities and approaches into the activities of key departments of the Commission.

National Platforms are multi-stakeholder national mechanisms that serve as advocate of disaster risk reduction at different levels

The DRR Division will work closely with its strategic partners including: the AU, UN Agencies, Bi-lateral Donors, INGO's, CSOs, NGOs, IFRC, and the World Bank.



# OPPORTUNITIES





# CHALLENGES

- **Insufficient political will/commitment to push DRR planning and policy implementation**
- **Inadequate explicit core DRR funding for Government line-Ministries, and at the Regional Level**
- **Delay in the access to funding for DRR and Emergency Response**
- **Limited capacity at the national and regional level**
- **Transforming policies and guidance provided in the policy documents into regional actions by policy and decision makers, disaster managers.**
- **Assessment of regional country hazard risks, and development of vulnerability profile**
- **Comprehensive approach to mainstreaming disaster risk management into development strategies at national, sector and local levels**
- **Building institutional capacity and coordination mechanisms**
- **Strengthen disaster and emergency response capacities**
- **Information, knowledge management, multi-media communication on integrating DRM/climate risk management in sector operations**

**END**

**Thank You !**

