

## Disaster risk financing policies, instruments and strategies developed at regional, national and local levels

Implemented by GFDRR/WB, the objective is to develop multi-risk financing strategies at regional, national and local levels to help African countries make informed decisions, to improve financial response capacity after disasters and mitigate the socio-economic, fiscal and financial impacts of disasters.

This is being achieved through national capacity building to generate, access and use disaster risk information including the development of hazard, exposure and vulnerability datasets with a view to incorporating disaster risk information in decision making. A key component of this result includes development of strategies to increase financial resilience against natural hazards and knowledge sharing on risk financing solutions.

Coherence of activities across the Programme is ensured through strong institutional mechanisms, under the leadership of the African Union Commission.

Strengthened capacities of climate centers and cultivation of functional real-time early warning systems, development of risk financing strategies customized to the unique needs of each country, centralization of historical disaster data that is readily available through harnessing modern technology, improved DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities of regional economic communities and effective coordination and monitoring capacity in the implementation of the Programme of Action, will enable Africa to anticipate, prepare for and respond to disasters and disaster risk, ensuring robust lives and livelihoods of their populations.

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# BUILDING DISASTER RESILIENCE TO NATURAL HAZARDS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN REGIONS, COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES



## BACKGROUND

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to two-thirds of the world's Least Developed Countries and is prone to recurrent disasters, largely caused and exacerbated by natural hazards and climate change. High levels of poverty that are prevalent in the continent often intensify the impacts of natural hazards. Lack of early warning systems, poor risk governance and civil protection mechanisms further impact the communities, leading to an inability to cope when disaster strikes.

While the magnitude and intensity of disasters is increasing in the region, national capacities to systematically record the disaster losses and damages are low. Inadequate information to enable risk-informed decisions thus continues to pose a great challenge in the continent.

Reported disasters resulting from natural hazards have increased in Africa in the past 30 years. Between 1985 and 2015, the most common occurrences of natural hazards in Africa recorded in both the national and international disaster databases are floods, epidemics and droughts.

Between 2005 and 2015, Sub-Saharan Africa experienced an average of 157 disasters per year and approximately 10,000 people lost their lives annually, while a total of 180 million people were affected. Whereas overall losses in human lives dropped between 2005 and 2015, the number of people affected and needing immediate assistance rose during the same period. This may indicate that African countries' capacity to respond to disaster has relatively improved but the general level of disaster risk reduction (DRR) is still limited.

The impact of disasters is further exacerbated by limited budgetary flexibility to address the multi-faceted nature of risk. There is a need for more sustainable humanitarian and development financing in order to equip governments and communities with the ability to become resilient in the face of natural hazards.

## THE PROGRAMME

In 2013, the European Union approved a EUR 80 million financing for the programme - 'Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities'. The programme, funded from the 10th European Development Fund and covering a period of

five years, is being implemented in Africa as part of the cooperation between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States.

Launched at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the programme aims to strengthen the resilience of sub-Saharan African regions, countries and communities to the impacts of natural disasters, including the potential impacts of climate change, in order to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development.

The Programme will have five key results, each guided by a set of activities at various levels, implemented by four partners: the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR/WB), and the African Development Bank's ClimDev Special Fund (AfDB/CDSF).



### R-1

### Strengthened Regional DRR monitoring and coordination

Jointly implemented by AUC and UNISDR, the objective is to ensure that the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa is systematically operationalized.

This is being done through improving the coordination and monitoring mechanisms, advancing political commitment, advocacy and communication tools, and capacity development including through education and training.



### R-2

### Enhanced DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities of Regional Economic Communities

Implemented by GFDRR/WB, the objective is to ensure that Africa Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are equipped with DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities.

Key activities include capacity development of Regional Economic Communities to provide advice and technical assistance to member states in developing national DRR

programmes, enhancing regional knowledge on DRR frameworks and improving cooperation and networking among global, regional, and national research institutions, and regional capacity development for post disaster needs assessments and recovery planning.



### R-3

### Improved capacity of national and Regional Climate Centres for weather and climate services

Implemented by AfDB/ClimDev, the objective is to ensure that the core capacities of the specialised national and Regional Climate Centres are improved, to meet the needs of DRR agencies and socio-economic sectors for effective use of weather and climate services and community-focused and real-time early warning systems.

This is being achieved through building the capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS), strengthening the communication between NMHS and DRR authorities to ensure delivery of appropriate, relevant and timely early warning information at national level, providing DRR Hydromet infrastructure, besides thematic and institutional support.



### R-4

### Improved risk knowledge through disaster databases for future risk modelling

Implemented by UNISDR, the objective is to ensure that African countries have improved knowledge of risks through the compilation of historical disaster-related data to inform the assessment and modelling of future risks.

National capacity building to enhance risk knowledge lies at the core of this result. This includes disaster loss accounting, and understanding and utilising analytical risk assessments to estimate the full spectrum of risk the country faces. This is followed by enhancing national capacity to incorporate climate change adaptation and DRR into public investment and development planning systems. Good practices and experiences are shared through global and regional publications including the Global Assessment Reports.