



## SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS

The impact of disasters, both in terms of frequency and magnitude, is increasing. During 2005-2015, 700 thousand people lost their lives due to disasters that affected over 1.5 billion people, with women, children and people in vulnerable situations disproportionately affected. The total economic loss was more than US\$1.3 trillion.<sup>1</sup>

Disasters inordinately affect lower-income countries. Sub-Saharan Africa, home to two-third of Least Developed Countries globally, is prone to recurrent disasters, largely caused and exacerbated by natural hazards and climate change.

During 2005-2015, Sub-Saharan Africa experienced an average of 157 disasters per year, to which around 10,000 people lost their lives annually, while a total of 180 million people were affected.<sup>2</sup> The Horn and southern parts of Africa endured El Niño and its effects in 2015-2016, while floods occurred in other parts of the continent. The Ebola outbreak in western Africa is an additional example of disasters that have impacted communities in the region. Beyond floods and droughts, Africa faces natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tropical cyclones. In addition epidemics have a heavy toll on the lives and livelihoods.

## PROGRESS IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Realising that disaster risk reduction is a more effective way of addressing disasters than response, African countries, under the leadership of the African Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), have taken several steps to develop and

strengthen an enabling environment for its implementation. The Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted in 2004 to 'contribute to the attainment of sustainable development and poverty eradication by facilitating the integration of disaster risk reduction into development'. The implementation of the Strategy was strengthened by a Programme of Action extended in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, a 15-year agreement was adopted by the international community, to reduce disaster impacts by 2030. In November 2016 Government Ministers, heads of delegation and national disaster management agencies from 47 African countries developed a strategic Programme of Action (POA) to align disaster risk reduction with the priorities and targets of the Sendai Framework. The Mauritius Declaration, a statement of strong political commitment that calls for implementation of the POA and allocation of budgetary support to disaster risk reduction was forwarded for adoption at the African Union Summit in January 2017.

Coordination mechanisms have been established at continental, sub-regional and national levels through disaster risk reduction platforms and working groups. Integration of disaster risk reduction into key sectors, particularly education and health, is cited as a key success.

However, while fair achievements have been realised in disaster preparedness and response mechanisms little progress has been seen in addressing underlying causes of disasters and disaster risk. One of the key reasons for the limited progress made in this direction is the limited budget for disaster risk reduction investments.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Sendai Framework, Para 4

<sup>2</sup> Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT)



It has been reported that in the last 20 years, the amount spent on disaster risk reduction accounts for just 0.4 percent of the total amount spent on international aid.<sup>3</sup> There is a strong need for more sustainable 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 80 million EUR financing for the programme - 'Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities'. It was launched to provide effective implementation of an African comprehensive disaster risk reduction framework. The programme, funded from the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund and covering a period of five years, is being implemented in Africa as part of 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 provides analytical basis, tools and capacity, and accelerates the effective implementation of, an African comprehensive disaster risk reduction and risk management framework.

The Programme has five result areas implemented by four implementing 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 (WB/GFDRR), and the African Development Bank's ClimDev Special Fund (AfDB/CDSF).

The focus of each result areas is:

1. Result 1 (AUC and UNISDR): Strengthened Regional disaster risk reduction monitoring and coordination
2. Result 2 (WB/GFDRR): Enhanced DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities of Regional Economic Communities

3. Result 3 (AfDB/ClimDev): Improved capacity of national and Regional Climate Centres for weather and climate services
4. Result 4 (UNISDR): Improved risk knowledge through disaster databases for future risk modelling
5. Result 5 (WB/GFDRR): Disaster risk financing policies, instruments and strategies developed at regional, national and local levels

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

### Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

With support from the Programme, Africa was the first region to officially adopt a position on a post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction at the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of Africa Regional Platform and 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction. This was subsequently endorsed at the African Union Summit in January 2015 giving it continent-wide scope recognition and impact.

The Programme also facilitated high-level African participation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. In the run-up and at the Conference, Africa spoke with one voice to highlight the specific needs of the region in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is a voluntary, non-binding agreement that aims to prevent new and reduce existing risk and to strengthen resilience to natural and man-made hazards, in order to achieve substantial reductions in disaster losses.

### Implementing the Sendai Framework in Africa

Through three sessions of the Africa Working Group for Disaster Risk Reduction, supported by the Programme, a 'Programme of Action on Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa' was drafted. The Programme of Action sets out the means of implementation, key actions with



Launch of the Programme at the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development

<sup>3</sup> Kellet, Jan and Alice Caravani (2013). Financing Disaster Risk Reduction: A 20 Year Story of International Aid. GFDRR and ODI

timeframe and responsible entity for implementation. Political commitment was demonstrated through two High Level Meetings of African Ministers responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction. While the **Yaoundé Declaration** issued by the Ministers at the 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Meeting in Cameroon in July 2015, called for the alignment of the Programme of Action for Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction with the Sendai Framework and set the stage for the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the **Mauritius Declaration** from the 5<sup>th</sup> High Level Meeting held in Mauritius in November 2016 adopted the Programme of Action. The declarations are pledges made by the Ministers to endorse the outcomes of the Africa Regional Platforms and request their endorsement at the highest level in the African Union.

## Stakeholder Mobilisation

Participation of diverse stakeholder groups in disaster risk reduction initiatives and activities has increased and been strengthened. Parliamentarians have come together in support of disaster risk reduction, at national level (Kenya and Uganda) and regional level (East and Central Africa).

A network of youth delegates has been formed to promote disaster risk reduction – the Programme of Action for implementation of the Sendai Framework highlights youth leadership. Media personnel have networked to form the Disaster Risk Reduction Network of Africa Journalists (DIRAJ). All the stakeholder groups conducted consultations and developed respective positions to support implementation of the Sendai Framework at the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Platform.

One of the key measures to promote continental disaster risk reduction coordination and stakeholder mobilisation is the biennial Africa Regional Platform. The Programme has supported convening of two sessions of the Africa Regional Platform: The Fifth Session of the Africa Regional Platform was hosted by the Government of Nigeria in May 2014, with support from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), AUC and UNISDR.

The Sixth Session of the Africa Regional Platform and Fifth High Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, 22-25 November 2016 was hosted by the Government of Mauritius, in collaboration with the AUC, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat and UNISDR.



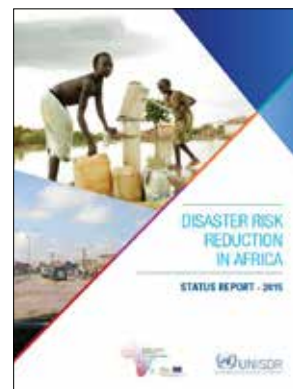
The 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Platform was attended by around 800 delegates from 47 African countries, regional economic communities, United Nations, other international organisations and stakeholder groups.

## Monitoring Disaster Risk Reduction

The Africa Status Report 2015 was presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Platform that showcased areas where disaster risk

reduction efforts are bearing fruit and pointing out the areas that still require enhanced efforts.

A total of 33 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have submitted progress reports on disaster risk reduction in the last round of progress reporting (2013-15) for the Hyogo Framework for Action. These progress reports are instrumental in informing the progress made at national levels across the globe and supported the development of a key inventory of policy and institutional development in Member States.



## Public Awareness and Advocacy

Advocacy and disaster risk reduction messaging was strengthened through several tools, including online means. Momentum on public awareness was around the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR), a UN General Assembly-mandated day celebrated every year on 13 October. With support from the Programme, three IDDRs were celebrated across Africa: IDDR 2014 with a theme 'Resilience is for Life' focused on the older persons as agents of change, while IDDR 2015 with a theme 'Knowledge for Life' focused on the value of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge.



IDDR 2016: 'Live to Tell'

IDDR 2016 marked the launch of the "Sendai Seven Campaign: Seven Targets, Seven Years", beginning with a theme 'Live to Tell' focussing on Sendai Framework Target 1 (Reducing disaster mortality).

Year 2016 also saw the launch of a new UN international day – the World Tsunami Awareness Day celebrated every year on November 5<sup>th</sup> - was celebrated as a special event at the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Platform in Mauritius.

## Strengthened Capacity of Regional Economic Communities

Regional Economic Communities play a pivotal role for regional integration in Africa and have spearheaded many initiatives to further integrate sub-regional policies and capacity building initiatives for risk reduction, response and recovery planning. The "Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities" has supported these efforts since 2015:

- ECCAS launched a high-level policy forum with the creation of the Central Africa Parliamentarians Network for Natural Disasters Resilience in October 2015 in Kinshasa, DR Congo. Following that, the Second Central Africa Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Management,

also held in Kinshasa, prepared and released The Kinshasa Declaration on the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Central Africa.

- ECOWAS consulted its member states and regional stakeholders in November 2015 in Lome, Togo on the ECOWAS DRR Plan of Action 2015-2030 to align it with the Sendai Framework. In October 2016 the final draft was validated and adopted in Accra, Ghana.
- SADC formulated a comprehensive work program for 2016 and 2017 supporting the regional parliamentary DRR network. It will focus on the coordination of the El Niño response in Southern Africa and bringing forward a regional support program on recovery planning.

As of June 2016, the Program has provided training and invited to a conference a total of 187 persons, within which 27 were women and 33 were CSOs representatives.

### Risk Knowledge

Over 400 national staff have been trained in disaster loss accounting through 3 sub-regional and 6 national workshops. As a result a total of 19 African countries have developed national disaster loss databases. These databases will support countries to better understand the impact of disasters and develop high-impact disaster risk reduction strategies in national and development plans due to improved risk estimation.

The national disaster loss databases are not only the basis for customised early warning systems but also for the risk profiles, informing investment strategies for effective disaster risk management.

Countries are being supported to conduct an analytical assessment of catastrophic risk to construct 'hybrid loss exceedance curves' that estimate the cost of the full spectrum of risk the country faces. This crucial piece of analytical information will help countries design an optimal portfolio of risk-sensitive investments. This component is under implementation and is expected to be in place in three countries in the Horn of Africa by early 2017.

Incorporation of disaster risk reduction and climate change action into the national public investment and development planning process is critical to build on risk estimation and optimal risk management. Mechanisms to track risk-related investments will kick-off in 2017 and provide the growth of and best practices available across the continent.

Efforts have also been made to support integration of disaster and climate risk information. With support from the Programme, regional weather forecasts in the Greater Horn of Africa are supported and integrated with disaster risk information for effective early warning and resilience programming.

### Africa Disaster Risk Financing (ADRF) Initiative

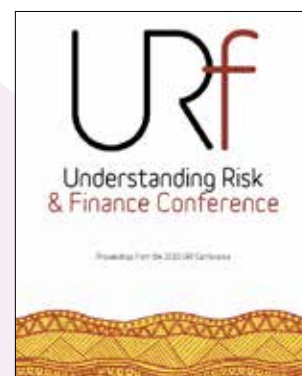
African countries are supported to develop disaster risk financing policies, instruments and strategies that have the potential to significantly reduce disaster losses, speed recovery and build resilience to natural hazards.

The ADRF Initiative has already yielded results in supporting governments with efforts to strengthen capacity to design and implement disaster risk financing strategies at regional, national and local levels.

The ADRF Initiative is facilitating the development of simplified multiple-hazard country risk profiles for Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal and Uganda. These profiles clearly demonstrate the risk posed by a variety of natural hazards, as well as illustrating how these risks could impact socio-economic growth and be influenced by climate change. This information will be used to inform on the financial losses arising from disasters.

During the first two years of the Program, the ADRF initiative has focused on identifying risk financing needs and priorities. A series of important preparatory missions were carried out by the operational team to lay the ground work for strategy development by opening risk financing dialogue in 12 countries, identifying key local partners, as well as exploring the potential for synergies among other relevant programs led by development and humanitarian organizations. The ADRF Initiative is now working on formulating these priorities into strategies for action by building up elements of disaster risk financing strategies. This includes review of existing budget instruments and expenditure frameworks, assessing current response tools and funding sources, exploring the potential to establish contingency funds and use contingent loans/grants, assessing use of sovereign-level insurance contracts, and strengthening delivery mechanisms, such as through national social protection systems, for cash transfers funded by contingency funds or insurance solutions.

The ADRF Initiative is also supporting knowledge-sharing and best practices on risk assessment and risk financing solutions. The flagship event was the Understanding Risk and Finance Conference, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 17-20 November 2015, in partnership with the AUC, the EU and the Government of Ethiopia. The conference gathered 450 participants and a wide range of African partners including the African Development Bank, Addis Ababa University, African Risk Capacity, and UNISDR along with private sector firms and insurance companies.



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