

Country Risk Profiles and Disaster Risk Reduction National Workshops

Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in
Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities



 
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Country Risk Profiles and DRR National Workshops

The impacts of disasters, both in terms of frequency and magnitude, are globally on the rise. Understanding disaster risk is the Sendai's first priority for action: "policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment."

Disaster risk assessment should be the main driver of the disaster risk management cycle. The latter includes sustainable development strategies, climate change adaptation planning, national disaster risk reduction across all sectors, as well as emergency, preparedness and response.

As part of the programme Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities, UNISDR and CIMA Research Foundation have developed 16 Country Risk Profiles for Floods and Droughts for the following countries: Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Côte D'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia (Republic of The), Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Eswatini (the Kingdom of), Namibia, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

The Country Risk Profiles provide a comprehensive view of hazard, risk and uncertainties for floods and droughts in a changing climate and socio-economic situation, projected over the next 50 years. Many different and complementary methods and tools are available for analyzing risks. The Country Risk Profiles are based on a Probabilistic Risk Assessment.

As mentioned in UNISDR Words into Action Guidelines: National Disaster Risk Assessment, a "Probabilistic risk considers a large number of possible scenarios, their likelihood and associated impacts. In this method, a significant amount of scientific information on hazard, exposure and vulnerabilities, [...] is used to simulate (or model) the complex phenomenon of disaster risk."

The Profiles present the quantitative estimation of the impacts of floods and droughts and their associated likelihood. The assessment is based on available satellite and statistical geospatial data and information on country socio-economic condition. The impact of flood and droughts in terms of affected population and GDP, is estimated under current climate condition and socio-economic situation as well as for projected future scenarios of climate change, population and GDP growth.

The profiles include the estimates, under current and future climate, of the monetary losses for the different sectors identified by the Sendai targets, namely: agriculture, productive asset, critical infrastructures, housing, services and transportation; moreover, the physical damages to health, education and transportation sectors are also assessed.

Complementary to the preparation of the Country Risk Profiles, UNISDR and CIMA Research Foundation are organizing 5-days Disaster Risk Reduction National Workshops in each of the Country. The target participants to the workshop are: Civil Defence Ministry/agency, Disaster Risk Reduction agencies, line-ministries such as Ministry of Agriculture, Environment, Natural resources, Education, Health as well as universities and academia.

The 5-day workshops aim at transferring the technical and scientific knowledge of Country Profile as well as cost-benefit analysis to national stakeholders, which are the ultimate beneficiaries of the action. Indeed, the overarching purpose of workshop is to increase risk knowledge, involvement and engagement of stakeholders through an improved awareness of disaster risk assessment and risk modelling.

The specific objectives of the workshop are:

- › Enhanced level of technical and scientific knowledge and understanding of the specific country results of probabilistic risk assessment for floods and droughts;
- › Improved knowledge on National Budget Review using the OECD DRR/CCA Budget Marker for identifying public investments and cost-benefit analysis to advocate for funds and risk financing tools;
- › Improved understanding on how to develop Risk informed DRR strategies for flood and droughts based on the state of the art technical and scientific knowledge available;
- › Increased awareness of the importance of the Sendai Framework and its link to the SDGs for DRR at international and local levels.

The Country Risk Profiles and the Disaster Risk Reduction National Workshops are two complementary actions. Combined with the local knowledge, they aim not only at providing a more complete picture of the likelihood and the impacts of floods and droughts, but also at improving the understanding of risks and at supporting the integration of scientific results into informed decision-making process. Furthermore, they contribute at translating scientific evidence into improved flood and droughts risk management towards a substantial reduction of disaster impacts.