

Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in Togo's Interim Strategy Note (2008-2010)

Togo has faced periodic disasters--mainly droughts, floods, landslides--in the recent past. For example, between 1971 and 2007 alone, an estimated 0.55 million people were affected by 2 major droughts and 0.4 million people by 6 major floods. Keeping this high disaster risk profile in view, GFDRR engaged proactively to ensure that the World Bank country assistance strategy considered the risks to the country's economy and poverty reduction efforts. Togolese Republic is a low-income country whose economy is largely dependent on agriculture, the sector responsible for employing 65% of the labor force and accounting for about 44 percent of the national GDP. Floods and droughts affect the agriculture sector most.

As a part of its ongoing effort to mainstream disaster risk reduction in development strategies, GFDRR—through the World Bank's corporate process—highlighted disaster risks and their adverse effect on long-term development planning and poverty reduction efforts. As a result, the ISN noted the government's plan to promote economic recovery, amongst others, by preventing and managing disasters. Moreover the Interim Strategy Note (2008-2010) for Togo aims at supporting Togo's national capacity and institutions to manage and prevent disasters, both the Togolese National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the National Adaptation Project on Climatic Change (PANA), in cooperation with UNDP.

Togo is a priority country for GFDRR where it plans significant scale up of its activities for reducing risks faced by the country from natural disasters.