



SUMMARY REPORT

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Geneva, 2 June 2025

Intra-ACP DRR Programme Side-Event “Resilient Together” Highlights Progress and Way Forward on Governance, Investment and Early Warning Systems



On 2 June 2025, on the margins of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2025 in Geneva, the Intra-ACP Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Programme convened a high-impact side-event under the banner “**Resilient Together: EU-Africa Caribbean Pacific Partnerships for Smarter Risk Governance and Strategic Investment**”. Co-funded by the European Union and UNDP/UNDRR as part of the 11th EDF Intra-ACP DRR Programme, the event co-organised with the implementing partners brought together over 50 participants, including government officials, implementing partners, regional organisations, academia, civil society, youth and Indigenous representatives from African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States .

Key Objectives and Framing

The side-event aimed to:

- Showcase proven results and lessons learned under the Intra-ACP DRR Programme, emphasising tangible successes and persistent challenges at national and regional levels.
- Elevate inclusive strategies that ensure meaningful participation of women, youth, Indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities in shaping resilience agendas.
- Influence global DRR policy by feeding locally grounded insights into international discourse.



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- Strengthen partnerships among European, regional and national stakeholders to reinforce sustainable, community-driven resilience measures.



Opening remarks underscored the urgency of integrating DRR and climate action in light of mounting natural hazard threats. Dr Pendo Maro, Team Leader TA-DRRP, expressed gratitude to UNDRR and the Swiss Government for hosting the event on the 10th anniversary of the Sendai Framework. Representatives from the African Union Commission, UNDP, UNDRR and the EU emphasised tailored, context-specific approaches rooted in community realities, robust early warning systems, strong governance frameworks and strategic investment.

Segment 1: Governance for Stronger DRR

Moderated by Dr Pendo Maro, with panel contributions from UNDP, UNDRR and the African Union Commission, this session examined how to mainstream DRR across sectors and governance levels. Key messages included:

- The necessity of coherent, integrated approaches to embed DRR and climate adaptation in development planning, overcoming sectoral silos and fostering synergies across finance, planning, environment and agriculture ministries.
- Identification of strategic entry points (finance, stakeholder engagement, institutional anchoring, legal frameworks, knowledge management) through rigorous national context analyses. Case studies illustrated progress in Burundi, Cameroon and Ethiopia under the Intra-ACP DRR Programme, with emphasis on decentralisation and South-South cooperation.





- The pivotal role of national DRR platforms as coordination hubs bridging policy and local realities; their institutionalisation requires sustained political will, legal and financial backing, and inclusive participation.
- High-level advocacy (e.g., the President of Mozambique as AU DRR Champion) demonstrates that sustained political engagement is essential to embed DRR in governance systems, mobilise resources and secure long-term resilience.
- Beneficiary testimony (Kenya) highlighted decentralised DRR models, the importance of budgeting for local DRR plans, and adoption of “Early Warning for All” roadmaps, underscoring the shift from response to prevention-focused governance .

Segment 2: Strategic Investment for Resilience

Moderated by Valery Yao (AUC) and Dr Pendo Maro, this segment addressed access to DRR and climate finance, featuring insights from the Technical Assistance team, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), African Risk Capacity (ARC) and University of the West Indies. Key outcomes included:

- Consensus on the need for tailored technical assistance to improve ACP countries’ access to DRR and climate finance, aligning support with existing initiatives (EU Global Gateway, Team Europe Initiative) to scale impact and unlock international resources .
- Presentation of multi-level analyses to align national priorities (from NAPs, NDCs, GCF portfolios) with financing flows in sectors such as agriculture, water, renewable energy and disaster preparedness. Regional variations in project implementation and readiness uptake were noted, with proposals for flexible, demand-driven support.
- CDB highlighted integration of DRR and climate resilience into development planning for Small Island Developing States, the role of sectoral strategies (e.g., tourism), and importance of disaster risk financing instruments (parametric insurance, social protection).
- ARC showcased its data-driven risk profiling and insurance mechanisms, recent early payouts in Southern Africa and the critical role of political engagement to embed risk transfer in national agendas.
- Caribbean perspectives emphasised community-based risk assessments, the need for sustained financing beyond project cycles, and the value of evidence (e.g., State of the Caribbean Climate Report) to guide policy and local action.
- Overarching message: sustained investment, stronger collaboration across governments, academia and communities, and demonstration of socio-economic benefits are vital to scale inclusive, long-term resilience strategies.





Segment 3: Advancing Early Warning Systems and Data

Moderated by Dr Pendo Maro, with experts from AUC, GFDRR, SPC, SADC, SHOC, Tuvalu and others, this session focused on data access, interoperability and the evolution of early warning systems (EWS). Key conclusions were:

- The core challenge is not mere data availability but its harmonisation, sharing and application across sectors and borders. Fragmented systems and limited interoperability impede forecasting, contingency planning and resilience investments.
- Effective EWS must evolve beyond detection and alerts to support strategic, risk-informed decision-making. This requires integrating local knowledge with scientific data, strengthening legal/policy frameworks and ensuring “last mile” connectivity so that information reaches end users and communities.
- GFDRR and CREWS initiatives are enhancing forecasting capacity in Pacific and Caribbean pilot projects, though each context presents unique technical, institutional and capacity challenges.
- Pacific realities: shift focus from data collection to strategic use of existing data for investment decisions; enabling environments (policies, infrastructure planning) must be informed by risk information.
- SADC experiences: sufficient national data exist, but harmonisation and regional coordination remain urgent; institutionalising vulnerability reporting and data-sharing arrangements will guide investments in prevention and resilience. SHOC’s development of situation rooms and integration of multi-hazard systems (e.g., AMHEWAS) illustrate progress but underscore need for clear regional data-sharing agreements and connectivity to local actors.
- Tuvalu and SPC highlighted tailored multi-hazard EWS combining technical upgrades with community engagement, demonstrating the importance of alignment between technical systems and local preparedness.
- Final reflections: improving sustainable financing, data interoperability, integration of Indigenous and local knowledge, and capacity-building for human resources are critical to accelerate implementation and ensure inclusive, contextually relevant DRR and EWS.





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Conclusions and Recommendations

Across the three segments, the following overarching themes and action points emerged:

1. **Integrate DRR and Climate Action:** Urgent need for coherent approaches that embed DRR and climate adaptation in development planning, breaking sectoral silos and promoting cross-sector collaboration at local, national and regional levels.
2. **Strengthen Governance Platforms:** Institutionalise and empower national and regional DRR platforms through sustained political will, robust legal/regulatory frameworks, inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement and reliable financing mechanisms.
3. **Enhance Access to Finance:** Provide tailored technical assistance to improve ACP countries' access to DRR and climate finance, aligning with global initiatives (Global Gateway, TEI) and demonstrating socio-economic benefits to attract sustained investment.
4. **Evolve Early Warning Systems:** Shift from data collection to strategic use, ensuring interoperability, integration of local knowledge, enabling policy frameworks and last-mile connectivity; leverage partnerships (GFDRR/CREWS, SPC, SHOC) to scale actionable forecasting and preparedness measures.
5. **Promote Inclusive Approaches:** Ensure active participation of women, youth, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and marginalised groups in co-design, implementation and evaluation of DRR policies, finance mechanisms and EWS.
6. **Foster Regional Cooperation:** Strengthen collaboration among Regional Economic Communities, thematic centres and implementing partners to harmonise data protocols, share best practices, and coordinate multi-country responses to transboundary hazards.
7. **Invest in Capacity and Knowledge Sharing:** Build technical and institutional capacities (including human resources, infrastructure and digital tools) for climate-informed decision-making; facilitate South-South cooperation and knowledge exchange across ACP regions.
8. **Demonstrate and Communicate Benefits:** Systematically monitor, evaluate and communicate the socio-economic benefits of DRR interventions and climate services to secure political and financial support, ensuring sustainability beyond individual project cycles.

Next

Steps

The Intra-ACP DRR Programme's Technical Assistance Team will:





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- Engage implementing partners and national focal points to translate the recommendations into actionable plans, including follow-up technical assistance for finance access, governance strengthening and EWS enhancement.
- Coordinate with regional institutions and development partners to pilot context-specific initiatives that reflect the side-event's conclusions, ensuring inclusive stakeholder engagement throughout design and implementation.



About the 11th EDF Intra-ACP DRR Programme

The 11th EDF Intra-ACP DRR Programme is a six-year, €100.5 million initiative co-funded by the European Union, UNDP and UNDRR, implemented by the African Union Commission, Caribbean Development Bank, Pacific Community and other partners. It aims to reduce disaster impacts and enhance resilience across all OACPS member states by strengthening governance, early warning systems and climate adaptation capacities. As the programme enters its third year, it continues to advance inclusive, community-driven approaches to DRR, aligning with continental and global frameworks, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement.

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