



TOWARDS DISASTER RESILIENCE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: BUILDING REGIONAL CAPACITY FOR COORDINATION, PLANNING AND POLICY ADVICE IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

PROGRAM RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS
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Michael Jeddah. Libreville - Gabon. 2018. Online Image. Flickr.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With rapid population growth, urbanisation and development challenges induced by climate change, communities in Sub-Saharan Africa are disproportionately vulnerable to disasters.¹ Between 2008 and 2018, over 157 million people were directly or indirectly impacted by natural hazards. Many of the hazards they face are hydrometeorological. These are predicted to get worse as climate change impacts growth, development, and stability as communities struggle to keep temperature rise below 2°C in line with international commitments.²

PROGRAM CONTEXT

In continuation of the previous support, the European Union (EU) signed an agreement (2013) with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Secretariat³ to program resources to accelerate the integration of disaster risk management (DRM) into development planning and programs, strengthening its links with poverty reduction and climate change adaptation (CCA). In 2014, the “*Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities*” Program was established under this agreement. The €80 million Program was financed by the 10th European Development Fund and covered five Result Areas (RA) in support of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It was implemented over five years from 2015 to 2020 (extended by a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic).

This report highlights some achievements of RA2 – *African Regional Economic Communities have DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities operational to support their respective Member States and regional- and sub-regional Programs* – that were implemented by the four Regional Economic Communities (REC) – Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) – with implementation support from the World Bank and its Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The RECs bore the responsibility of sharing regional DRM knowledge, promoting good practices, coordinating preparedness and response actions, and formulating regional policies and strategies on DRM along five expected results summarised here. More details follow in the main report.

01. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies of RECs have become operational with their respective action plans, building on the achievements of previous initiatives.

The RECs, through their respective DRR Units, supported a range of activities that strengthened the policy dialogue on DRR in their respective regions. All RECs participated in the Third World Conference on DRR in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan to inform the global policy document on DRR with the sub-regional perspectives from Sub-Saharan Africa. They have since then all formulated their own Sub-Regional Strategies and Action Plans, aligned with the Sendai principles. All RECs also developed respective gender strategies and action plans to formulate nuanced approaches for special consideration of gender, youth, and vulnerable groups.

1 UNDRR, 2020.

2 World Bank, 2014.

3 Renamed Secretariat of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) in April 2020.

02. Regional DRM knowledge and understanding is enhanced, with a focus on strengthening national decision-making capacities.

The Program focussed on strengthening the understanding of weather and climate related hazards and enabled ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC sharing knowledge and formulating relevant policies. Program highlights included among others the formulation of the ECOWAS Flood Risk Management Strategy underpinned with analytical work on flood hazard hotspots and guidance on best practice for flood forecasting. For Southern Africa a regional study on urban risk and resilience was prepared in collaboration with UNHABITAT. Analytical work on the status of hydromet and early warning services was implemented in ECCAS, ECOWAS and SADC. Hydromet Forums – convened by ECCAS, ECOWAS and SADC in 2018 and 2021- brought together national meteorological, hydrological, and disaster risk management agencies, development partners, academia, private sector and civil society to discuss strengthening these services for sustainable development. IGAD and SADC also supported climate outlook forums like Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF) and Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) to disseminate regional and seasonal climate outlooks and information.

The Program also enabled the RECs to participate in global knowledge and advocacy conferences, such as the Understanding Risk and the World Reconstruction Conferences. These provided opportunities to build capacity in the latest trends, in tools and methodologies for understanding risk.

03. Cooperation and networking among the RECs and global, regional, and national research and technical centers are improved to strengthen integration of DRM and sustainable development.

Practice research and capacity building activities supported by the Program included university-led training programs on DRM and related fields; internship opportunities for master students and graduates at ECCAS and ECOWAS; as well as training in hazard assessment using GIS and earth observation in IGAD. Practice research programs were established with North-West University and Stellenbosch University in SADC and the West Africa Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) in ECOWAS. In addition, master students and graduates joined the SADC DRR Conference, ECOWAS Hydromet Forum, and ECCAS Hydromet Forum in 2018 and 2021. This exposed them to state-of-the-art DRM practice in their regions and opportunities for networking for knowledge transfer and professional growth.

04. Technical assistance provided to RECs’ Member States for development of national DRM policies, strategies, and risk reduction programs.

Through the program, the RECs developed strong partnership programs with their Member States, which included technical assistance for capacity building, strengthening national platforms and DRR policies, promoting peer learning among Member States, and encouraging analytical support and trainings. ECCAS and ECOWAS also supported their Member States’ national disaster management institutions with office equipment, including desktop computers, printers, and related software.

05. Regional capacities for the support of Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA) and recovery/ reconstruction planning are improved.

The RECs supported several trainings on PDNA methodology and recovery planning for Member States experts at regional and national levels under the Program. The Program supported an evaluation of 10 years of supporting countries in conducting PDNAs to draw lessons and prepare a roster of regional experts in recovery planning. The Program also supported the establishment

of the SADC Humanitarian Operations Centre (SHOC), an Emergency Response Team (ERT) of regional experts, and the Disaster Response Funds of SADC and IGAD.

CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

Through the Program, the RECs strengthened their institutional capacity for regional collaboration, coordination, communication, and information-sharing. The enhanced capacity of the RECs in leading the development, adoption and implementation of regional policies, strategies, and action plans has been appreciated by their Member States.

However, challenges remain. The achievements of the Program are fragile and require sustenance over a longer timeframe. DRM continues to be perceived as a sector of investment rather than a mainstreamed element in all development policy and programs. As such, it competes with regional priorities like agriculture, power, transport, health, education, etc. While the Program has boosted DRM in Sub-Saharan African RECs, it also provided some lessons to take forward.

- Regional entities are the missing pieces of the resilience puzzle. Regional cooperation is the theme of the Program. It enabled RECs to convene Member States, development partners, private sector, academia, and civil society on regional initiatives and priority actions.
- RECs recognize that it is time to move from advocacy to action. As the RECs have formulated regional policies, plans and strategies, there is a strong call for moving on to actions for implementation.
- Strengthening DRM mainstreaming must be a multi-level cascade. Strengthening DRM/CCA mainstreaming should be designed for all stakeholders in a holistic cascading framework.
- Regional policies and programs can only be as effective as the Member States that support them. Over the years, many regional organizations have focused on implementing donor funded programs, while Member States have been in arrears to pay their membership fees.
- Political advocacy is as important as technical know-how. There is a need to balance functional and technical capacity building. The effectiveness of this Program is due to its design of balancing technical assistance with regional leadership development.
- Capacity building is a programmatic outcome, not a project output. Technical assistance and capacity building are time-taking and energy-intensive processes. These initiatives should have a longer timeframe as it takes sustained effort and time to build capacity.
- It will take a sizable, programmatic, framework approach to support RECs. A programmatic framework of longer-term engagement by development partners may be attempted as the blueprint of sustainable DRM capacity development of the regional entities.

II. FOREWORD



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AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGIONS

I am happy to present this publication on some of the results and achievements of the program for ‘Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan Africa’. This report specifically deals with Result Area 2 of the program – i.e. African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities to support their respective member states and regional and sub-regional programs. It is funded by a grant of Euro 20 million from the European Union’s 10th European Development Fund (EDF), through the World Bank’s Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, as one of the five Result Areas. The projects under this Result Area have been implemented with the support of the World Bank’s Global Practice for Urban, Resilience and Land in the Africa region, under the supervision of the Africa Regional Integration Unit in the Bank. Its development objective is to strengthen the DRR collaboration, coordination, planning, policy advisory and knowledge dissemination capacity of the RECs to better serve its member states. EU has also funded DRR capacity building in African RECs through the 9th EDF and is programming the next round of grant funding to sustain resilience-building in the Sub-Saharan African RECs.

The Inter-Governmental Agency on Development (IGAD), Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Commission of Central African States (ECCAS) and Southern African Development Community (SADC), their respective member states and communities, were the recipients and beneficiaries of this programmatic assistance from 2015 to 2021. We appreciate the significant efforts made by the RECs in successfully implementing this Program.

Building resilience to disasters and climate shocks requires collective action by countries and stakeholders within countries. It is important to complement national efforts with building capacities and supporting initiatives at the sub-regional and regional levels. At the sub-regional levels, the RECs can play a key role on regional coordination, technical cooperation, knowledge exchange, south-south cooperation, and giving individual countries benefits of scale economics. The support provided to the RECs under the program has focused on equipping them with the capacities for discharging their mandated responsibilities. The technical assistance and capacity building support from the European Union have been timely and crucial in strengthening the RECs to rise to the development challenges posed by disaster and climate risks.

We hope that this publication will highlight the achievements and results of the capacity building initiatives undertaken with the four RECs covering Sub-Saharan Africa over the last six years, and will help inform the way forward in building regional capacities for disaster and climate resilience in Africa.

III. ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS

AUC	African Union Commission	FUTA	Federal University of Technology Akure
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ANPC	Agence Nationale de la Protection Civile	GHACOF	Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation	GECEAO	Regional Consultation of Committee for Disaster Management in West Africa
CERFE	Italian Centro di Ricerca e Documentazione Febbraio '74	GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
CILSS	Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel	GIS	Geospatial Information Systems
CSC	Climate Services Center	GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
CSIR	Center for Scientific and Industrial Research	GSAP	Gender Strategies and Actions Plans
DIMSUR	Technical Centre for DRM, Sustainability and Urban Resilience	HAND	Height Above Nearest Drainage
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre
DRF	Disaster Recovery Framework	IDRF	IGAD Disaster Response Fund
DRM	Disaster Risk Management	IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	IRD	French Institut de recherche pour le développement
ERT	Emergency Response Team	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
EU	European Union	NDAMA	National Disaster Management Agency
EWS	Early Warning Systems		
FANFAR	Operational Flood Forecasting and Alerts in West Africa		

NDRR	Natural Disaster Risk Reduction	UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	UNECA-SROWA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa-Sub Regional Office for West Africa
NMHS	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
NWU	North-West University	UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
OACPS	Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States	WASCAL	West African Science Services Center on Climate Change and AdaptedLand Use
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	WFP	World Food Programme
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment	WMO	World Meteorological Organization
PIU	Project Implementation Unit		
R2	Result Area 2 of the Program		
RCC	Regional Climate Centre		
REC	Regional Economic Communities		
REPARC	Central Africa Parliamentarians' Network for DRR and Climate Change Adaptation		
RINA	Rapid Impact Needs Assessment		
SADC	Southern African Development Community		
SARCOF	Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum		
SHOC	SADC Humanitarian Operations Centre		
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee		
TWG	Technical Working Group		
UN	United Nations		
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme		

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1 INTRODUCTION

Arne Hoel / World Bank. Under a shaded tree, 2006. Online Image. Flickr.

1.INTRODUCTION

1.1 REGIONAL OVERVIEW OF DISASTER RISK IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

While Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for only a fraction of the global greenhouse gas emissions, it is the most vulnerable region in terms of climate change impacts. Over 157 million people were directly or indirectly impacted by natural hazards between 2008 and 2018¹; a figure set to continue to rise with increasingly severe and frequent weather events predicted even if global temperatures are constrained below 2°C in line with international commitments².

"NEARLY TWO DISASTERS OF SIGNIFICANT PROPORTIONS HAVE BEEN RECORDED EVERY WEEK IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA SINCE 2000, WITH AROUND 12.5 MILLION PEOPLE PER YEAR AFFECTED."³

Most disasters in the region are 'hydrometeorological', resulting from floods, droughts, and secondary impacts such as disease. By 2030, it is projected that 118 million people, or 7% of the 1.6 billion population of Sub-Saharan Africa, will be exposed to drought, floods, and extreme heat⁴. This could be especially catastrophic for a region highly dependent on agriculture for employment and income, as well as food. Of the 11 countries most exposed to disaster-induced poverty worldwide, eight are in Sub-Saharan Africa⁵.

Growing from 227 million to more than 1 billion - a fivefold increase - Sub-Saharan Africa has seen the largest relative growth in population between 1960 and 2018 across the globe. This is set to double to 2.2 billion by 2050. As a result, the share of Sub-Saharan Africa in the world's population, which was 7 percent in 1960 and 14 percent in 2018, is projected to reach 23 percent by 2050.

Despite great strides in development, with the proportion of people living below the poverty line decreasing from 56% in 1990 to 40% in 2018, the rapid population growth means that in absolute terms, the number of people living on less than US\$ 1.90 per day is greater than ever before. 433 million Sub-Saharan Africans were estimated to be living in extreme poverty in 2018, up from 284 million in 1990⁶. There are close links between poverty and natural hazards vulnerability, as poorer people are often pushed to more hazardous areas and have less coping capacity during hazard events.

Sub-Saharan Africa is also rapidly urbanizing, with around 65 million more urban residents each year. The current urban population of 472 million is expected to more than double over the next 25 years; this is a proportional increase from 44% to around 65%⁷. Urbanization can exacerbate climate and natural hazards risks by concentrating vulnerable communities and valuable assets, compounded by environmental externalities such as pollution.

1 UNDRR, 2020. Highlights: Africa Regional Assessment Report (forthcoming). Nairobi, Kenya. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). <https://www.undrr.org/publication/highlights-africa-regional-assessment-report-2020>

2 Turn Down the Heat: Confronting the New Climate Normal, World Bank 2014

3 UNDRR, 2016. News Post: Central African Lawmakers Step Up Disaster Risk Reduction (p.1). <https://www.undrr.org/news/central-african-lawmakers-step-disaster-risk-reduction>

4 Overseas Development Institute. 2013. Disasters threaten to derail the global war on extreme poverty. Available: <https://odi.org/en/press/disasters-threaten-to-derail-the-global-war-on-extreme-poverty/>

5 Overseas Development Institute. 2013. Disasters threaten to derail the global war on extreme poverty. Available: <https://odi.org/en/press/disasters-threaten-to-derail-the-global-war-on-extreme-poverty/>

6 Schoch, M. and Lakner, C. 2020. The number of poor people continues to rise in Sub-Saharan Africa, despite a slow decline in the poverty rate. Available: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/number-poor-people-continues-rise-sub-saharan-africa-despite-slow-decline-poverty-rate>

7 Center for Strategic & International Studies. 2018. Urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa Meeting Challenges by Bridging Stakeholders. Available: <https://www.csis.org/analysis/urbanization-sub-saharan-africa>

Thus, a complex development challenge of population growth, rapid urbanization and entrenched poverty is aggravating the disaster and climate risk profile of Sub-Saharan Africa.

THE WORLD BANK PREDICTS THAT SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA WILL NEED BETWEEN US\$ 14 BILLION AND US\$ 17 BILLION PER YEAR FROM 2010 TO 2050 TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND REDUCE VULNERABILITY TO DISASTERS.⁸

Furthermore, DRM efforts occur in a context of persistent technical, institutional, and financial capacity constraints. To protect lives, livelihoods, and sustainable development in Sub-Saharan Africa, it is imperative that regional DRM knowledge, cooperation, capacity, and legislative frameworks are developed and strengthened. Building disaster resilience across the Sub-Saharan African countries and communities is not just a high priority, but an essential condition, for achieving socio-economic development, peace, stability, and growth in the region.

1.2 THE DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAM FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Several development partners of Sub-Saharan Africa have been supporting disaster and climate resilience building at local, national and regional levels. In particular, the World Bank, European Union and several bilateral partners have been working towards building resilience for sustainable growth and development in Sub-Saharan Africa through sustained engagements with governments, regional economic communities, private sector, civil society, academia, and technical institutions. In continuation of previous financial support, the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP)⁹ signed an agreement in 2013 to program resources to support and accelerate the effective integration of DRM into development planning and programs, strengthening its links with poverty reduction and climate adaptation, and the integration of ACP countries in the regional economy.

Table 1. Key partners of the “Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities” Program

INSTITUTION	OVERVIEW AND ROLE
	EUROPEAN UNION (EU) The EU entered into the Cotonou Agreement with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States in 2000. The Program whose results and achievements are described in this publication was financed by the European Development Fund.
	ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES (OACPS) The African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States, instituted by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975, has all African, Caribbean, Pacific countries except Cuba as members. In April 2020, it was recognized as an international organization as the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).
	GLOBAL FACILITY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION AND RECOVERY (GFDRR) GFDRR is a global partnership and grant-funding mechanism, managed by the World Bank. It provides technical assistance and capacity building services to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework by integrating DRM, CCA and resilient recovery in development strategies and investments.

8 World Economic Forum. The Global Risks Report 2016. 11th Edition. 2016. Geneva
9 Named Secretariat of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) since April 2020.

Under this agreement, the program “**Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities**” program was established in 2014, underscoring the partnership between the African Union Commission, Sub-Saharan African regional economic communities and countries, and the EU. The objective was 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 on poverty reduction and sustainable development.

The €80 million Program, financed by the 10th European Development Fund, covered five Result Areas (See Table 2 below) in support of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) over five years (2015 to 2020, extended to 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic). It facilitated the Framework’s implementation through comprehensive support on risk identification, risk assessment, risk reduction, disaster preparedness, disaster risk financing, and resilient recovery. The purpose of this report is to present the achievements of the Result Area 2 (R2) of the Program.

Table 2. Overview of the “Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities” Program and its implementing partners

PROGRAM NAME Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities	
PROGRAM OBJECTIVE Strengthening the resilience of Sub-Saharan African regions, countries, and communities to the impacts of natural disasters	
Implemented by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Office for DRR (UNDRR).	RESULT AREA 1 Extended Program of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR.
Implemented by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).	RESULT AREA 2 African Regional Economic Communities have DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities operational to support their respective Member States and regional- and sub-regional Programs.
Implemented by the African Development Bank (AfDB).	RESULT AREA 3 Core capacities of the specialized national and regional climate center are improved to meet the need of DRM agencies and socio-economic sectors for effective use of weather and climate services, and community-focused and real-time early warning systems (EWS).
Implemented by UNDRR.	RESULT AREA 4 African countries have improved knowledge of risks through the compilation of historical disaster-related data to inform the assessment and modelling of future risks.
Implemented by GFDRR.	RESULT AREA 5 Multi-risk financing strategies are developed at regional, national and local levels to help African countries make informed decisions and to mitigate the socioeconomic, fiscal and financial impacts of disasters.

1.3 STRONGER TOGETHER - AN INTER-REGIONAL APPROACH TO DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

The Sendai Framework acknowledges the pivotal role of regional cooperation in reducing disaster risk and the importance of strengthening regional and national mechanisms to support policies and strategies, share information, and promote mutual learning, training and capacity building.

To support this aspect of the Sendai Framework, Result Area 2 (R2) of the Program supported the following African Regional Economic Communities (RECs):

- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)



Peter Kapuscinski / World Bank. Farmers harvest their crops near Kisumu, Kenya. 2015. Online Image. Flickr.

OVERVIEW OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES (ECCAS)

Established: 1983. Received upgrade to Commission status in 2020

Headquarter: Libreville, Gabon.

11 Member States: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and São Tomé and Príncipe.

Total population: 204 million (2020)¹.

Website: <https://ceeac-eccas.org/>

ECCAS DRM and CCA Unit is housed within the Department for Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development.

Result Area 2 Program **Components** in ECCAS:

01. Building regional knowledge of hazards, vulnerability, and risks through the mapping of trans-boundary hazards;
02. Reinforcing regional and national capacities in DRR and CCA;
03. Strengthening the policy dialogue and legislation dealing with DRR and CCA;
04. Enhancing regional capacity for response and post-disaster assessments and reconstruction planning; and
05. Strengthening technical and managerial capacity at the ECCAS Secretariat.



¹ UNCTAD. 2021. Total and Urban Population, Annual. <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/wds/TableView/tableView.aspx?ReportId=97>

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)

Established: 1975 by the Treaty of Lagos.

Headquarter: Abuja, Nigeria.

15 Member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

Total population: 397 million (2020)¹.

Website: <https://www.ecowas.int/>

ECOWAS DRM Unit is housed in the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs under the overall guidance of the Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender.

Result Area 2 Program **Components** in ECOWAS:

01. Strengthening DRM policies and institutions at the national and regional levels;
02. Strengthening regional flood management capacity;
03. Enhancing regional post-disaster recovery planning; and
04. Strengthening capacity and coordination for DRM.



¹ UNCTAD. 2021. Total and Urban Population, Annual. <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/wds/TableView/tableView.aspx?ReportId=97>

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD)

Established: 1986 to deal with drought and desertification in the Horn of Africa.

Headquarter: Djibouti, Djibouti.

8 Member States: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda.

Total population: 290 million (2020)¹.

Website: <https://igad.int/> and <https://www.icpac.net/>

IGAD DRM Unit is hosted by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) in Nairobi, Kenya.

Result Area 2 Program **Components** in IGAD:

01. Strengthening the capacity of IGAD to lead the region's DRM and CCA agenda, and of IGAD Member States to implement DRM and CCA interventions to improve resilience to natural hazards;
02. Strengthening DRM and CCA coordination capacity in the IGAD region; and
03. Strengthening the IGAD DRM Unit.



¹ UNCTAD. 2021. Total and Urban Population, Annual. <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/wds/TableView/tableView.aspx?ReportId=97>

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

Established: in 1980.

Headquarter: Gaborone, Botswana.

16 Member States: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Total population: 363 million (2020)¹.

Website: <https://www.sadc.int/>

The DRR Unit is housed under the Deputy Executive Secretary, Regional Integration.

Result Area 2 Program **Components** in SADC:

01. Enhancing regional disaster preparedness and response institutional and coordination mechanisms;
02. Operationalizing national and regional DRR information and knowledge management systems;
03. Strengthening the regional DRR policy advocacy and capacity development program;
04. Enhancing mainstreaming of DRR in development plans and strategies; and
05. Strengthening the implementation and coordination capacity of the SADC Secretariat.



¹ UNCTAD. 2021. Total and Urban Population, Annual. <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/wds/TableView/tableView.aspx?ReportId=97>

The Sub-Saharan African RECs are nodes of politico-economic regional integration and play a key role in facilitating collaboration of their respective Member States with the AU Commission to promote growth, peace, and stability. As regional institutions representing Member States, RECs ensured that the R2 Program components and activities were customized to the sub-regional context while also retaining a regional approach. The RECs are responsible for sharing regional DRR knowledge, promoting good practices, coordinating preparedness and response actions, and formulating regional policies and strategies on DRR.

The Result Area 2 Program was designed to achieve its development objective by:

01. Strengthening the coordination capacity of the RECs to advance the regional DRM agenda;
02. Reinforcing the REC's capacity for planning, policy advice and knowledge dissemination to enable them to support their Member States in taking informed decisions about disaster resilience, and support regional programs on DRM; and
03. Facilitating an advocacy platform to improve cooperation and networking among global, regional, and national technical institutions.

The expected results of the Result Area 2 Program are:

- a. DRR strategies of RECs have become operational in line with their respective action plans, building on the achievements of previous DRM initiatives;
- b. Regional knowledge and understanding of DRM is enhanced, with a particular focus on strengthening national decision-making capacities;
- c. Cooperation and networking among the RECs and global, regional, and national research institutions and technical centers are improved to strengthen DRM and integrate it into sustainable development;
- d. Advice and technical assistance are provided to RECs' Member States for the development of national DRM policies, strategies, and risk reduction programs; and
- e. Regional capacities for Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs) and recovery/reconstruction planning are improved.

The following targets monitor the achievement of the expected results:

- The RECs have operationalized their respective DRR strategies according to their action plans, building on the achievements of previous DRM initiatives;
- The RECs have organized at least eight sub-regional training events;
- The RECs have developed capacity to advise and provide technical assistance to their Member States in developing DRM policies, strategies, and risk reduction programs; and
- The RECs have improved their capacity to support Member States in PDNAs and recovery planning.

The participating RECs have dedicated DRM Units to support the integration of regional DRM policies into national development strategies, policies, and planning. These units are responsible for capacity building, technical assistance, and coordination functions to strengthen national DRR institutions to raise awareness, implement DRR measures, and take actions for greater resilience to climate and disaster risks. In the course of implementing the R2 Program, the DRM Units collaborated closely with a broad spectrum of global, regional, and national partners, the private sector, civil society, technical and academic institutions, river basin authorities, etc.

ECCAS, ECOWAS and IGAD had one regular position each for a DRM Officer in their design when the Program was launched, and built their Project Implementing Unit (PIU) around this position. SADC had no regular funded position for DRM when the Program began, and during implementation, created regular positions for managing DRM activities in addition to the PIU funded by the Program.

1.4 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This report presents the salient achievements of the Result Area 2 of the “Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities” Program. Based on a meticulous scrutiny of Program documents and over 30 interviews with key stakeholders, the report is shaped by the testimonies and stories of some main stakeholders. The report also attempts to summarize the lessons learnt and recommendations as a forward-looking conclusion. It is not intended to be a monitoring and evaluation report. Table 3 below presents respective highlights and key achievements of the Program in the different participating RECs.

Table 3. Overview of the different expected results of the Program.

EXPECTED RESULT	ECCAS	ECOWAS	IGAD	SADC
ER1	Network of Parliamentarians for DRR in Central Africa (REPARC)	Gender responsive DRR Strategy and Action Plan	Policy Framework for Integrating DRM and CCA	SADC DRR Conference
ER2	Regional Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment for Central Africa	ECOWAS Flood Risk Management Strategy	Climate Smart Agriculture Initiative in Kenya	Planning for Urban Resilience in Southern Africa
ER3	Capacity building and practice research in Central Africa	Regional Hydromet Forums and Conferences	Training in Hazard Assessment Using GIS and Earth Observation Tools	DRR Practice Research in Southern Africa
ER4	DRR Strategies in 5 Member States	Post-Disaster Rapid Assessment training in Togo	DRR Strategies for Sudan, South Sudan, and Somalia	Lessons learned and Post-Disaster Support to Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe after Cyclones Idai and Kenneth
ER5	PNDA trainings			

2. STRENGTHENING REGIONAL DIALOGUE AND POLICY ON DRR



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2. STRENGTHENING REGIONAL DIALOGUE AND POLICY ON DRR

EXPECTED RESULT #1: RESPECTIVE DRR STRATEGIES OF RECS HAVE BECOME OPERATIONAL IN LINE WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE ACTION PLANS, BUILDING ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PREVIOUS DRM INITIATIVES.

In this expected result, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC made it a priority to align their respective regional DRR policies and strategies with the Sendai Framework for DRR. Validated by their Member States, the RECs' regional DRR strategies have been instrumental in mainstreaming cross-cutting issues such as gender, social, health and climate change with the overarching goal to develop common regional policies and strategies and support Member States to strengthen preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Developing regional and national DRR strategies refers to target E of the Sendai Framework: "Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk strategies" (UNDRR, 2015). All actions and related results (outcomes and outputs) of the Program are interconnected with its Expected Result #1.

As guiding policy tools, the regional DRR strategies are built around tangible targets and indicators with realistic timelines. The strategies also serve as planning tools and enable the monitoring and evaluation of the defined goals. Furthermore, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC provided guidance and support to their Member States in the development of national DRM strategies, DRR policies and action plans consistent with regional policies and strategies.



UN Habitat CityRAP, Mozambique

2.1 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RECS TOWARDS THE EXPECTED RESULT #1

The participating RECs, through their respective DRR Units, supported a range of activities that strengthened the dialogue and policies on DRR in their respective regions. The following two sets of policies are particularly important:

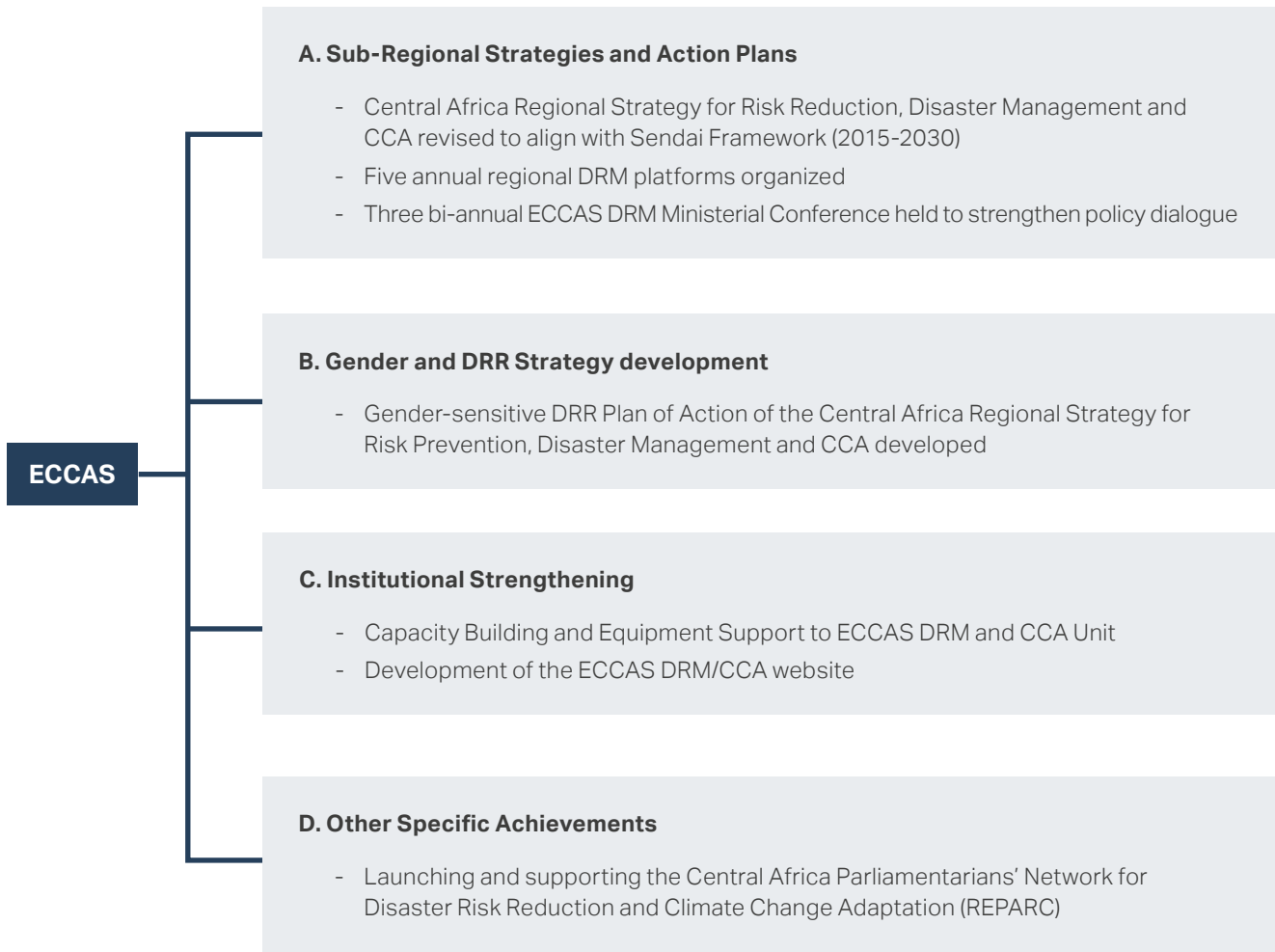
- The generic DRR policies, strategies and action plans that aimed at breaking down the targets of the Sendai Framework to specific, sub-regional targets and actions. In fact, one of the first actions supported under the Program was the participation of the four RECs at the Third UN World Conference on DRR in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan, to inform the global policy document on DRR with the sub-regional perspectives from Sub-Saharan Africa. The policy recommendations and targets of the Sendai Framework were then taken forward at the regional and sub-regional levels and informed the respective sub-regional strategies with support from the Program.
- The specific strategies and action plans on the role of women, youth and other vulnerable groups in risk reduction, preparedness and response to disasters that stem from the generic policies. This priority area was widely acknowledged across all the RECs, which have developed gender strategies and action plans tailored to the respective sub-regional contexts, using common standard and methodology. For example, as the ECOWAS DRR Plan of Action 2015-2030 already defined gender informed specific actions, the initiative focused on further guidance on the contextual background and implementation of the gender actions in the region.

All actions and expected results are grouped along the following four headings:

- Sub-regional DRM policies, strategies, and action plans
- Gender Strategy and Action Plan (GSAP)
- Institutional strengthening
- Other Specific Achievements



Isabelle Forge/ World Bank. 2020.



A. SUB-REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

The Program supported ECCAS to update the Central Africa Regional Strategy for DRR and CCA to align with the Sendai Framework for DRR. It also facilitated its translation and printing in the four ECCAS official languages. The Program supported five annual regional DRM platforms: in 2015 in Kinshasa, in 2016 in Yaoundé, in 2017 in Brazzaville, in 2019 in Bujumbura, and in 2019 in Kinshasa. Each platform brought together an average of 80 participants, including DRR, Climate, Water and Meteorology focal points, government representatives, the private sector, technical and academic organizations, community-based organizations, civil society organizations (including women's and youth groups), Parliamentarians, and development partners such as the EU.

The meetings contributed to updating the Central African Plan of Action for DRR in accordance with the African DRR Plan of Action, to prioritize activities and to reinforce the integration of DRR into national legislations. The platforms proposed recommendations on the way forward for the ECCAS Secretariat, Members States, and partners, regarding the need for capacity building on DRM and CCA and strengthening of hydromet services.

The ECCAS DRM Ministers' Conference is organized back-to-back with the regional platform every two years. During the Program, three ministerial meetings have been held (in 2015, 2017 and 2019). The communiqué

of the 4th ministerial conference in 2019 provided recommendations for contingency plans for Rwanda and DRC for volcanic risk management; for the establishment of funding mechanisms for disaster response in ECCAS; for the mainstreaming of gender in DRM activities of ECCAS Member States; and for the integration of DRM in academic curricula. The Program provided resources for follow up action on the recommendations on gender mainstreaming and DRM training.

B. GENDER AND DRR STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

The Gender-sensitive ECCAS DRR Plan of Action was developed to help address gender disparity in the field of DRM by mainstreaming gender into different DRR activities. Its objective was to guide ECCAS Member States on the methods and actions aimed at improving economic, social, and cultural inclusion of women in DRM. The ECCAS DRM Gender Strategy and Action Plan was adopted in a validation workshop organized by ECCAS in Libreville in 2020. The workshop convened 59 participants, including 29 women from all ECCAS Member States. It was the starting point for ECCAS to mainstream gender into its Regional Strategy for DRR and CCA.

C. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

The Program facilitated the establishment of a DRM and CCA Unit in the ECCAS Secretariat. It also helped set up a fully equipped Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to support the DRM coordinator. The PIU comprised a DRM Specialist, a DRM Expert, a Financial Assistant, a Procurement Analyst, a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist and an Accounting Assistant.

The Program supported the development of an ECCAS DRR website (<http://www.grc-ceeac.org/>), which went online with relevant data, information and videos in 2020. Key deliverables are regularly uploaded, and the website is updated with information from the Climate Prediction and Application Centre for Central Africa (Centre d'Application et de Prévisions Climatologiques de l'Afrique Centrale - CAPC-AC), based in Douala.

D. OTHER SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

ECCAS launched its Central Africa Parliamentarians' Network for DRR and CCA (REPARC) in 2015. The Program supported the group's participation in regional and international events, providing an opportunity for its members to better understand DRM/CCA issues and stakes in order to lead the disaster and climate resilience agendas in their respective constituencies, parliaments, and governments.

The REPARC was a strong advocacy mechanism for accelerating awareness building and knowledge exchange on DRM and CCA in national parliaments, and for expediting the legislative processes to institutionalize these development imperatives into national development planning and policies.

A. Sub-Regional Strategies and Action Plans

- DRR Plan of Action 2015-2030 formulated and adopted
- Regional consultation workshops conducted in Accra, Ghana and Lome, Togo
- 2 Sub-regional DRR Platforms conducted (in Abidjan and virtually);

B. Gender and DRR Strategy development

- DRM Gender strategy and Plan of Action (GSAP) formulated and adopted by ministers responsible for gender;
- Regional consultation meetings in 2019 and 2020 in Dakar, Senegal
- Coordination with ECOWAS Gender Center;

B. Institutional Strengthening

- Strengthening of DRR Division with technical expertise in DRR Governance and Flood Risk Management;
- Training program for ECOWAS staff in procurement, financial management, project administration;

D. Other Specific Achievements

- Meetings of regional disaster preparedness committee;
- Contribution to global and regional conferences (Global Platform Geneva, Switzerland);
- Contribution to regional coordination meetings (Africa Working group on DRR)

A. SUB-REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

The formulation of regional DRR policies and strategies that converge ECOWAS Member States around a common vision, policy, and implementation strategy was one of the key actions of the Program in West Africa. The ECOWAS DRR Plan of Action 2015–2030 was formulated following a series of consultations with experts from Member States in 2015 (Lomé) and in 2016 (Accra). It provides an overview of measurable targets, gender-responsive actions and an implementation budget, and it is aligned with the Sendai Framework.

ECOWAS organized back-to-back regional DRR Platforms with experts from Member States, academia, civil society, technical institutions, development partners and the private sector in 2018 (Abidjan) and 2021 (virtual) at the Hydromet Forums.

B. GENDER AND DRR STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Following the development of the ECOWAS DRR Plan of Action 2015–2030, stakeholders called upon the regional bloc to develop a DRM Gender Strategy and Action Plan (GSAP) in order to guide the implementation of the Plan of Action in a gender-responsive manner and provide analytical underpinning for gender actions. Under the leadership of the ECOWAS Gender Center in Dakar, consultations with regional stakeholders were conducted in 2019 and 2020. A DRM Gender Strategy and Action Plan was finally adopted by the ministers responsible for gender in 2021 at the ECOWAS Hydromet Forum and Subregional DRR Platform.

C. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

The Program strengthened the ECOWAS Humanitarian Affairs Department with additional expertise in DRR governance and flood risk management. From 2018 to 2021, the Program supported two long term experts to ensure timely implementation of all actions and manage the regional policy dialogue on DRR and flood risk management. In addition, the Program supported training for ECOWAS experts involved in project implementation in project management, procurement, and financial management.

D. OTHER SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

ECOWAS played a leadership role in policy development in West Africa. The bloc organized the Regional Consultation of the Committee for Disaster Management in West Africa (GECEAO) in 2017 in Monrovia in collaboration with technical partners, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNECA's Sub-Regional Office for West Africa (UNECA-SROWA), and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDAMA) of Liberia. The purpose of the meeting was to identify ways to continuously strengthen the capacity of governments and institutions to improve preparedness efforts and respond effectively to disasters, including climate-related hazards affecting vulnerable communities.

ECOWAS experts also joined the 3rd World Conference on DRR in Sendai, Japan in 2015, and the Global Platform for DRR in 2019 in Geneva. They also regularly attended the Africa Working Group on DRR, hosted by UNDRR and the AU Commission, with the view to translate global policies into regional and sub-regional actions.



World Bank. Women of the Délali Association. 2015. Online Image. Flickr.

IGAD

- IGAD DRM/CCA Strategy and Framework

- IGAD DRM/CCA Strategy and Framework

- IGAD Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in DRM and Climate Change Adaptation 2020-2030

- IGAD Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in DRM and Climate Change Adaptation 2020-2030

- Project Implementation Unit (PIU) established;
- Training program in management

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- Training program in management

- IGAD Framework for Mainstreaming DRM in School curricula;
- Demonstration of climate-smart agriculture as community-based climate adaption and resilience measure

- IGAD Framework for Mainstreaming DRM in School curricula;
- Demonstration of climate-smart agriculture as community-based climate adaption and resilience measure

The Program supported the IGAD DRR Unit in the development and validation of the IGAD Flood Risk Management Strategy 2020-2030. The strategy aims to support sustainable development within the IGAD region by strengthening resilience to flood risk. The IGAD Regional Framework for Integrating DRM and CCA was validated and adopted in 2019 to build resilience of Member States against adverse hydrometeorological hazards and guide them on the integration of DRM and CCA.

IGAD validated and adopted its Gender and DRM Strategy in May 2020. The strategy, which covers the 2020-2030 period, provided an opportunity to update DRM and CCA activities using a gender lens. It is focused on the roles and responsibilities of IGAD, and on its support to Member States in mainstreaming gender in DRM strategies and action plans. This strategy builds on the 2019 IGAD DRM Strategy, which incorporated the Sendai Framework.

The Program supported IGAD in strengthening its DRR unit (based in ICPAC in Nairobi) with technical and implementation capacity. A project coordinator, a DRM expert, a monitoring and evaluation officer, a financial officer/accountant, a procurement officer, an administrative assistant and a driver were recruited to support the project throughout its implementation. Members of the PIU also received various trainings in financial management, monitoring and evaluation, procurement, and leadership skills.

The IGAD Framework for Mainstreaming DRM in school curricula was developed and adopted with support from the Program. Its main aim is to guide the IGAD Member States on how to mainstream DRM and CCA into sustainable development and economic growth processes through the school curricula. This approach puts a strong focus on prevention, preparedness, and resilient recovery.

The Program directly financed a Climate-Smart Agriculture Adaptation project in Kulan, Eastern Kenya in association with the Kenya Red Cross. The goal of the project was to improve disaster resilience of vulnerable communities in arid and semi-arid zones by promoting CCA measures and climate-smart agriculture practices that address climate and disaster risks.



SADC

SADC

A. Sub-Regional Strategies and Action Plans

- High-level conference of ministers responsible for DRM (February 2020 in Zanzibar, Tanzania) urging Member States to align national frameworks with the SADC Regional Resilience Strategy Framework 2020-2030

B. Gender and DRR Strategy Development

- SADC Gender Strategy and Action Plan formulated

C. Institutional Strengthening

- Access to data and information related to DRR strengthened in the region through the SADC Information Management Portal

D. Other Specific Achievements

- SADC DRR Conference in 2018 (Pretoria, South Africa)

A. SUB-REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

In 2020, the Program supported the SADC DRM ministers' conference in Zanzibar, which resulted in the adoption and launch of the SADC Regional Resilience Strategic Framework 2020-2030. The framework provides an umbrella policy guidance for regional actions towards resilience building in Southern Africa.

Under the guidance of SADC and the World Bank team, DIMSUR/UNHABITAT was engaged to conduct a regional analysis on the drivers of urban risk and resilience in Southern Africa. The study, funded by the Program, looked into commonalities and regional policies driving urban resilience in Southern Africa. In addition, the Program provided concrete support for participatory planning and actions for resilience building in six Southern African cities – Lusaka and Chipata (Zambia), Lilongwe (Malawi), Dondo (Mozambique), Fomboni (Comoros) and Mutare (Zimbabwe) – using the City Resilience Action Planning (CityRAP) framework.

B. GENDER AND DRR STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

A regional Gender Strategy and Action Plan was formulated following a close collaboration between gender focal points from Member States, civil society, and gender and DRM experts from the SADC secretariat. The document prioritizes actions that ensure gender equality and gender sensitivity in DRR policies, planning, action plans and strategies for the region and proposes concrete measures for gender equality in DRR mainstreaming.

C. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Knowledge and information management has been a critical bottleneck for the coordination of DRM issues in Southern Africa. The Program supported the SADC Secretariat in establishing an online portal that provides the latest information related to Member States' policies, hazards, risks and regional actors for optimum regional cooperation and knowledge exchange. The Program provided support for the strengthening of the SADC DRR unit with additional staff for project management, procurement, and financial management capacity.

D. OTHER SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

The Program supported the first regional SADC DRR Conference in 2018 in Pretoria. The event was hosted by SADC and the Government of South Africa, and was organized by the World Bank. With about 150 participants from all SADC Member States, the conference brought together experts from civil society, development partners, academic and regional institutions to discuss emerging issues on DRM policies and practice in Southern Africa. In 2021, the Program further supported the SADC Hydromet Forum, organized virtually by the World Bank at the request of the SADC Secretariat. The Forum convened technical experts from SADC Member States, the SADC Secretariat, river basin organizations, global centers of excellence such as WMO, and other stakeholders. It resulted in the formulation of a common approach to modernize hydrological, meteorological, and early warning services in Southern Africa.

The Program supported SADC in the formulation of guidelines for mainstreaming DRR in sector policies such as water, energy, agriculture, and food security. In total, five sectorial "mainstreaming guidelines" were formulated, in addition to overall guidelines advising national, regional, and local governments, as well as the private sector, on how to take DRR issues into account in the formulation of new development policies, plans and investments.



UN Habitat CityRAP, Zambia

2.2 CASE STUDIES RELATED TO “STRENGTHENING REGIONAL DIALOGUE AND POLICY ON DRR”

CASE STUDY: GENDER RESPONSIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Due to social and economic inequalities, women are more likely to die and suffer from a disaster than men.¹ In their role as caregiver for the elderly and children, women often prioritize to stay with these groups rather than to seek shelter in a disaster event. After a disaster, women are also more likely to face domestic and sexual violence², which explains why many even avoid going to shelters for fear of assault and exploitation. In addition, specific nutritional needs for pregnant and breast-feeding mothers often cannot be satisfied when droughts and floods reduce the availability of food. Cultural food hierarchies of feeding men and boys first exacerbates the situation for women, many of whom suffer from malnutrition as a result.

To address these issues, the four RECs undertook to make their regional DRR strategy and action plan gender-responsive by addressing the root causes of gender inequality. The Program supported the RECs in mainstreaming gender in DRM policies and strategies. Over 200 consultations – bringing together DRR and gender focal points, academics, and NGOs – were organized with the RECs and their Member States to understand challenges and priorities. From understanding how early warning needs to be communicated to different gender needs, to prioritizing women’s safety in disasters, and ensuring that special needs for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers are catered for, the discussions were multifaceted and led ECOWAS, ECCAS, IGAD and SADC to formulate their Gender Strategy and Action Plan (GASPs) to strengthen integration of gender in DRR.

“Understanding the dissimilar needs and capacities of women and men is critical for effective and gender-inclusive DRM,” says Dr. Siga Fatima Jagne, ECOWAS Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender.

“We all know well that disasters affect men and women differently: It is now time for us to ensure that all our efforts, all our funding, all our programs, are gender-responsive,” she says.³

Participants of the validation workshops stressed the need to circulate the gender analyses and strategies widely and ensure Member States update their national DRR strategies in line with it. The workshops further stressed the need for an operationalization plan and underscored the importance of awareness campaigns supported by media, civil society, and the private sector.

“The GSAP provides a leverage and critical pathway for development stakeholders to plan effectively for a community-wide intervention. As a frontline worker in DRR, with experience in intervention strategies for impacted communities, the GSAP has been applied in engagement situations for planning and building back better. We look forward to the future opportunities of total unbundling of this unique document to aid full implementation of gender mainstreaming across regions,” says Tosin Victoria Apiriola-Ajayi, Executive Director at Women Environment and Youth Development Initiative.

¹ IUCN. 2008. Disaster and Gender Statistics Fact Sheet. Available: https://www.unisdr.org/files/48152_disasterandgenderstatistics.pdf

² IUCN. 2008. Disaster and Gender Statistics Fact Sheet. Available: https://www.unisdr.org/files/48152_disasterandgenderstatistics.pdf

³ Closing Remarks from the ECOWAS Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender at the Regional Validation Workshop for the ECOWAS DRR Gender Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030 Dakar, Senegal, 11-12 February 2020

The Program directly supported the RECs in focusing on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in DRM policies, strategies, and action plans. In SADC and IGAD, which had an existing DRR strategy, the gender scheme was mainstreamed into the existing strategies. In ECOWAS, the DRR Plan of Action 2015-2030 has a strong focus on DRR gender actions. ECCAS had adopted a gender action plan in 2012, and took the opportunity to integrate gender considerations into its DRR Plan of Action.

CASE STUDY: NETWORK OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR DRR IN CENTRAL AFRICA (REPARC)

The Network of Parliamentarians for DRR in Central Africa, known by its French acronym REPARC, was set up in 2015 to address DRR and CCA measures in the 11 ECCAS Member States, and increase political support to implement the Sendai Framework and its Plan of Action. It currently comprises Parliamentarians from Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and São Tomé and Príncipe.

The Program facilitated annual meetings of the network to deliberate and build their knowledge base on DRR issues, including hydromet services. The goal was to raise political awareness of the national assemblies on climate and disaster risks and their effective management.

REPARC’s work is guided by the Sendai Framework, the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR, and the Yaoundé Declaration, with the following five objectives:

- Facilitate the integration of DRR and CCA into national laws;
- Organize training and capacity building for its members;
- Promote experience sharing and solidarity among ECCAS Parliamentarians;
- Build a resilient community based on democracy, social justice, and peace in Central Africa; and
- Ensure political advocacy for integration of DRR and CCA in national policies.

In 2016, REPARC held its first annual meeting in Libreville, Gabon, during the PDNA/ Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) training workshop. Parliamentarians discussed progress and challenges related to advocacy and regulations at the national level. Acting as a regional network ensures more powerful, cross-cutting impact as knowledge and resources are shared. Attending conferences on DRR and CCA thus improved the Parliamentarians’ appreciation of the DRM agenda and strengthened political awareness, although maintaining the political momentum in between meetings was a challenge in the initial period.

The REPARC Annual Report 2020 highlighted some key progress, including advocacy efforts made with local populations and Parliamentarians. In Gabon, for instance, a DRM bill will be soon presented to the National Assembly, and DRR has been included in the new Hydrocarbon Code and Urban Planning Code. In Congo, a DRR civil society network has been launched.

CASE STUDY: POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR INTEGRATING DRM AND CCA

To address coherence issues in existing DRM initiatives, the Program supported the development of a Regional DRM Strategy in the IGAD region. The strategy defined the vision, mission, outcomes, goals, guiding principles and targets, in alignment with the Sendai Framework, to ensure vertical and horizontal coherence among different DRM programs and plans. IGAD's vision (2020¹) is

"TO ACHIEVE A REGION WHERE LIVES, ASSETS AND LIVELIHOODS ARE SAFEGUARDED FROM ADVERSE EFFECTS OF NATURAL AND HUMAN-MADE HAZARDS."

The strategy aims at supporting Member States to strengthen DRM institutions, capacities, and mechanisms to enhance resilience to natural and human-made hazards in a holistic, gender-sensitive and integrated manner. The guiding principles of the strategy take a multi-hazard approach for inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data.

The Regional Strategy built momentum for South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia to prepare their first-ever national DRR strategies, with support from the Program.

"Having a Regional Strategy in place has helped establish a framework within which Member States can develop their own national DRM strategies," says Dr. Joshua Banak, Director-General of Disaster Management and DRR National Focal Point from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management of Republic of South Sudan.

"The development of the strategy was a "great opportunity" for South Sudan – with its young institutions – to engage with regional partners to begin mainstreaming DRR," says Dr. Banak.

"The Regional Strategy gave us an understanding of the meaning and effectiveness of DRR. It strengthened our partnership with other UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs, and we are now well-connected to global and regional DRR platforms and forums. The national DRM strategy for South Sudan has been submitted to cabinet for endorsement. This is a big step for us." Dr. Mahmudul, Senior Policy Adviser for DRR for South Sudan, says that global and regional guidance was key to develop South Sudan's national strategy.

"WE ENFORCED AN ALL-HAZARD, ALL-SECTOR AND ALL-SOCIAL LEVELS (CALLED PAYAM) APPROACH. WITH SUPPORT FROM IGAD, A WORKING GROUP CONSISTING OF SEVERAL MINISTRIES DEVELOPED A DRM ROADMAP. WE WENT OUT TO ALL TEN STATES OF SOUTH SUDAN TO GET LOCAL FEEDBACK ON WHAT SHOULD BE IN THE NATIONAL DRR STRATEGY. IGAD ALSO HELPED DESIGN A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH IN OUR CONSULTATION PROCESS."

With support of the program, the IGAD DRM Strategy and Framework has set the tone, but more work needs to be done to **"better harmonize DRR activities across the region, and to integrate cross-cutting issues in all social and economic sectors of sustainable development,"** concludes Dr. Banak.

1 Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), 2020: IGAD Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management.. Kenya

CASE STUDY: SADC DRR CONFERENCE

The Program supported in 2018 the first SADC DRR Conference in Tshwane/Pretoria, South Africa. The event brought together 178 participants from SADC members states, academia, civil society groups, UN organizations, the private sector, and donor agencies to discuss risk and resilience in the SADC region. Many sessions facilitated discussion on best practices and solutions for DRR coordination and planning in Southern Africa.

The conference consolidated lessons from regional DRR programs to inform future planning, and focused on regional capacity, disaster management and humanitarian coordination. It was a **"key governance activity for SADC to identify DRM issues and adopt a program of action"** says Dr. Mmaphaka Ephraim Tau, Deputy Director-General of the National Disaster Management Centre for South Africa.

Executive Secretary Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax invited all key stakeholders to implement the conference commitments in line with national, regional, and international DRR frameworks.

"We call upon SADC Member States and financial, technical, and academic partners to move beyond developing policies, plans, and strategies to accelerate the implementation of coordinated actions" Dr. Tax commented. Russell Dlamini, CEO of the Eswatini Disaster Management Agency, who led the national delegation, said the conference provided an opportunity to engage with a **"network of DRR practitioners, and to share experience from different countries in the region."** The conference also enabled Member States to develop partnerships and learn from each other's challenges. **"It is important to seize the opportunity for improvements to drive long-term changes toward greater institutional response for DRM and disaster resilience"** Dlamini says.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Tax went on to urge Member States **"to accelerate the implementation of the provisions of the approved Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy and Fund to prevent and minimize loss of lives and livelihoods during future disasters."**

Dr. Tau noted that the conference initiated high-level government support for DRR and generated the momentum leading to the first 'Meeting of Committee of SADC Ministers Responsible for DRM', hosted by Tanzania in 2021. This momentum needs to become self-sustaining for longer term resilience in Southern Africa.



World Bank. 2018. SADC DRR Conference.

1 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat. 2019. SADC Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Conference: Resilience for Sustainable Development, March 26-28, 2018. Pp 6.

3. STRENGTHENING REGIONAL HAZARD, VULNERABILITY AND DISASTER RISK KNOWLEDGE

3. STRENGTHENING REGIONAL HAZARD, VULNERABILITY AND DISASTER RISK KNOWLEDGE

EXPECTED RESULT #2: REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF DRM IS ENHANCED WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING NATIONAL DECISION-MAKING CAPACITIES (UNDERSTANDING RISK)

With about 157 million people affected by disasters in Africa between 2008 and 2018, the continent's economies and livelihoods are particularly vulnerable to natural hazard. But knowledge and understanding of the underlying hazard, vulnerability, and transboundary risks is insufficient and patchy. A reason why Priority Action 1 of the Sendai Framework highlights the need to invest in understanding risk, stating,

"DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT NEEDS TO 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." (UNDRR, 2015).

In this context, the R2 Program supported the RECs with assessing hazards, transboundary and regional risk-mapping; understanding drivers of urban risk and resilience; and learning best practice in flood forecasting. The objective was to enable the formulation of risk-informed regional policy and action plans on resilience.

3.1 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RECS TOWARDS THE EXPECTED RESULT #2:

The Program supported the four participating RECs to strengthen the understanding of hazards vulnerabilities and risks; exchange on best practices on assessing, forecasting, and analyzing risks; and effectively communicate the risk information to communities and policy makers. The outcomes and outputs of this support are grouped along four themes:

- Risk Information: Analytical work facilitating better understanding of natural hazards and transboundary risks;
- Hydromet Analytical Work: Analytical work in support of weather, water, climate and early warning services to inform regional policies and actions;
- Regional knowledge sharing and Hydromet Forums;
- Other Specific Achievements.

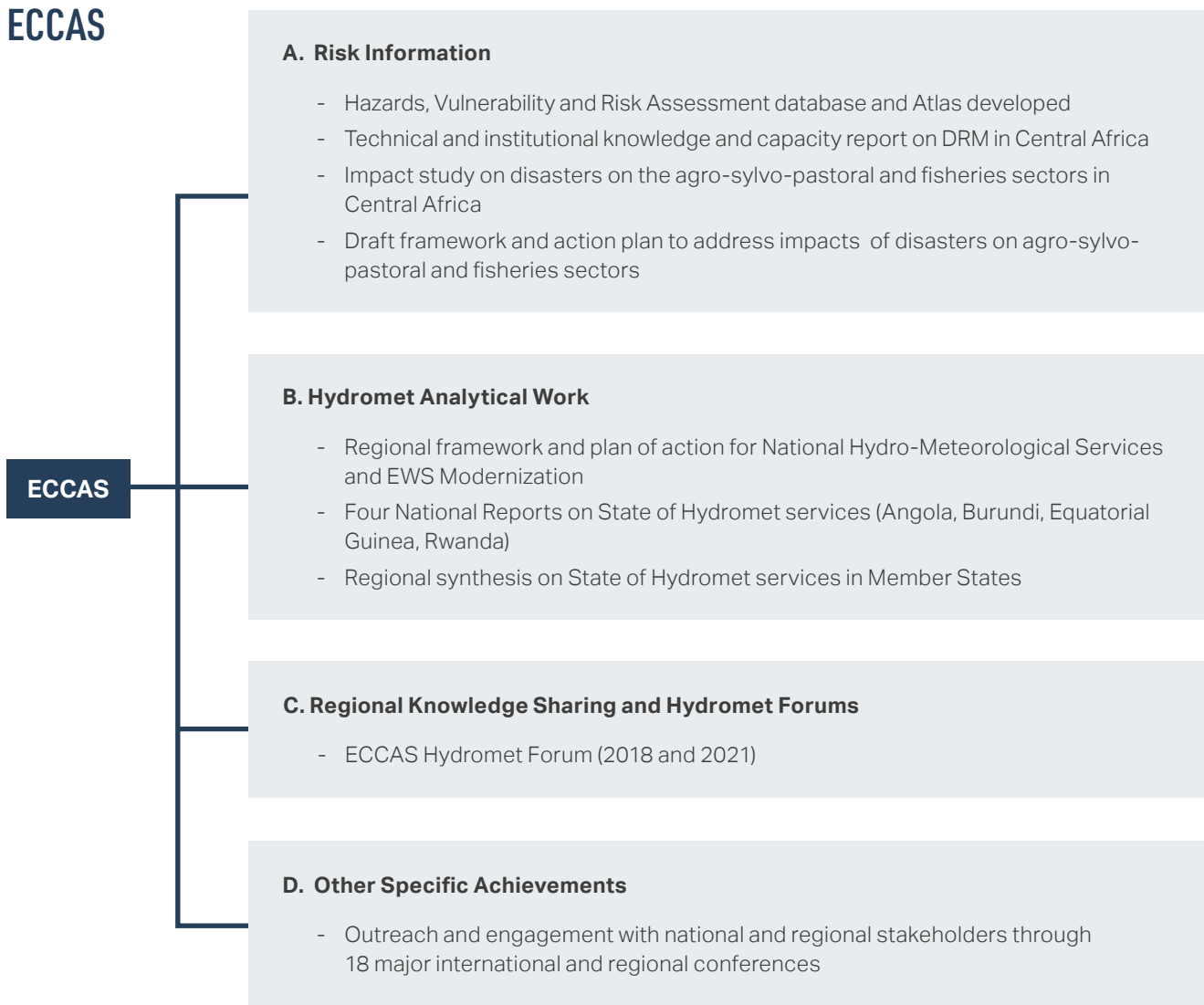
The Program enabled the RECs to participate and contribute to global knowledge and advocacy conferences, such as the Understanding Risk Conference and the World Reconstruction Conference. The events provided an opportunity to build awareness on the latest global trends in tools and methodologies for understanding risks.

The regional climate outlook forums and Hydromet Forums – conducted by ECCAS, ECOWAS and SADC in 2018 and 2021 – have been key highlights of the Program's support. The meetings brought together representatives from national meteorological, hydrological, and disaster risk management agencies, international partners, as well as members of the private sector and civil society, to discuss strengthening

Arne Hoel / World Bank. Parched soil by the White Nile, Khartoum, Sudan. 2005. Online Image. Flickr.

weather, water, climate, and early warning services to support sustainable development of the regions. In 2021, the Hydromet Forums were conducted in SADC for the first time ever and in ECOWAS, and ECCAS for the first time in a virtual format, connecting over 1,000 regional and international experts and decision-makers. In addition, IGAD and SADC supported the regional climate outlook forums – the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF) and the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) – throughout the Program to disseminate regional and seasonal climate outlooks and information.

ECCAS



A. RISK INFORMATION

The Program supported the development of a Regional Hazards, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, as well as an Atlas, with the objective to map major hazards and risks in the ECCAS region and build awareness through hazard, vulnerability assessment and risk analysis. This geo-referenced database of national and transboundary natural hazards, vulnerability and risk serves as a major tool for decision-makers to focus on primary areas at risk (see below case study: *Regional Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment and Atlas*), and complements the ECCAS water information system, also partly supported by the Program.

The study “*DRM technical and institutional knowledge and capacity report in Central Africa: Analysis of Strengths and Weaknesses*” was also produced with the support of the Program. The report includes a baseline compilation of capacity building resources and needs of DRM practitioners in the ECCAS region, and identifies areas of South-South cooperation among key stakeholders, such as regional organizations, universities, and research networks, to strengthen DRR.

Finally, the Program supported the development of the report “*Impacts of disasters on the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors in Central Africa*” to strengthen the resilience of the agriculture sector and rural populations through better knowledge of the effects of natural hazards. The analysis identifies the types of damages and losses per natural hazard since 2010, how the sectors respond to crises and how food security and livelihoods are impacted during and after disasters. The report also highlights the lack of data and the need for governments to process it in a systematic way. Providing a guide on existing mechanisms such as climate-smart agriculture, the study finally identifies agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors’ specific needs for hydrometeorological services, and informs the ECCAS draft regional framework and action plan in order to address impacts of disasters at regional and national levels.

B. HYDROMET ANALYTICAL WORK

The Program has allowed to deepen the region’s knowledge about hydromet services. National status reports were produced for Angola, Burundi, Equatorial Guinea and Rwanda. The four reports include baseline studies on national hydrological and meteorological services; an inventory of observation, transmission, and data processing networks (meteorological/climatological, hydrological and piezometric monitoring); the institutional and human resources framework; and a description of major challenges. The reports also provide a framework for planning hydromet modernization initiatives in the countries of the region.

A regional synthesis on the state of hydromet services in Member States was also developed. The study summarizes the legislative, institutional, technical, financial, and educational aspects as well as the human resources status of the services in the 11 countries of ECCAS. It also highlights the constraints hampering the proper functioning of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS). The synthesis, based on virtual stakeholder consultations, showed that insufficient budgets, the lack of investment, the inability to recruit and retain qualified staff, the obsolescence of equipment, and the inadequacy of the systems, combined with governance issues, are holding back NMHS’ efforts to improve services. The WMO categorizes NMHSs according to their technical standards and service delivery capabilities.

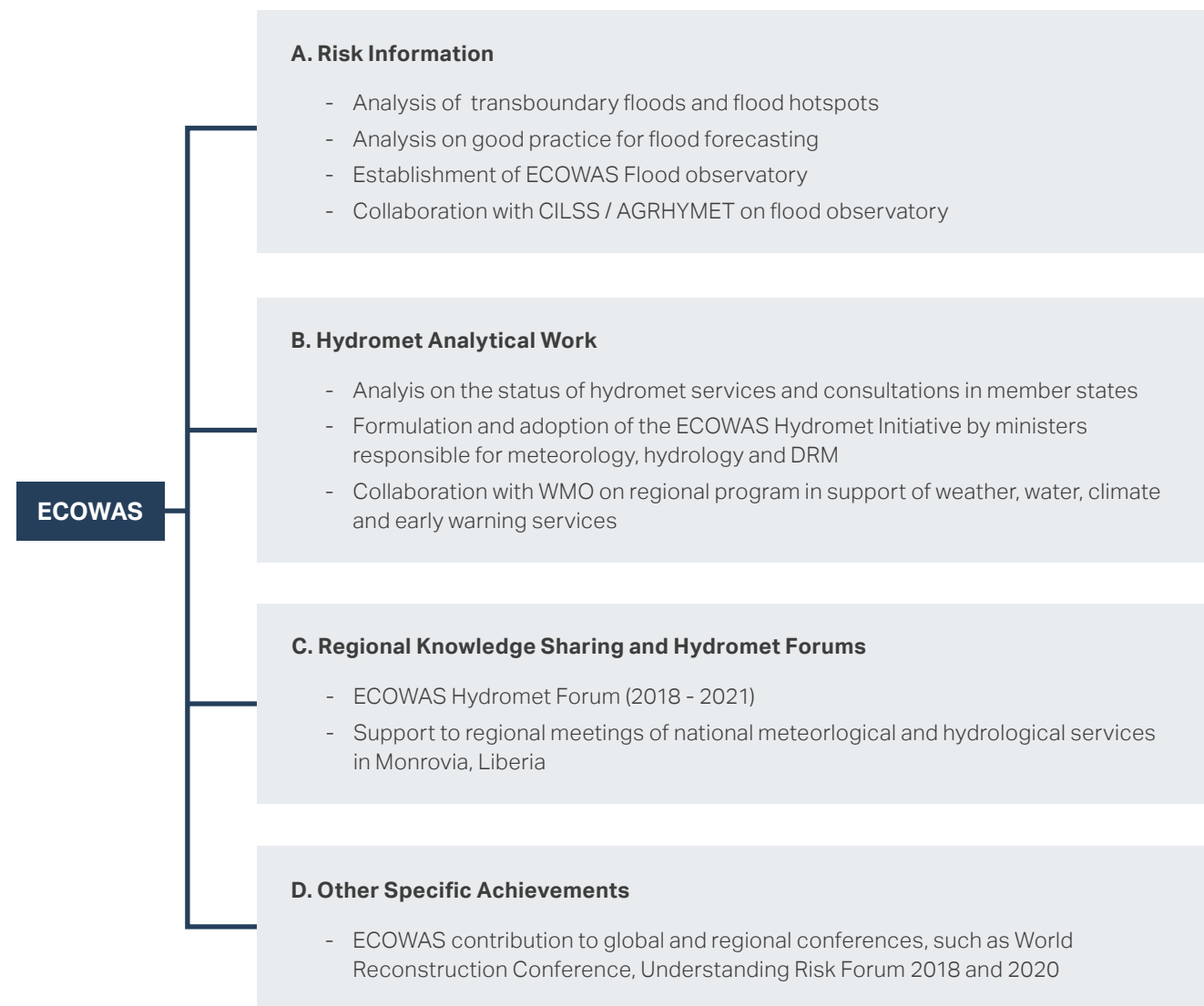
Apart from Rwanda and Angola, all NMHSs are categorized as “basic” with regard to their hydromet service level. In some countries, NMHSs interact in a structured manner with the ministries of disaster prevention or civil protection. However, interaction with other users remains limited. The report gives recommendations for decision-makers for a thorough and sustainable modernization of hydromet services to the growth and development sectors, and end-users.

C. REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND HYDROMET FORUMS

The Program supported ECCAS to convene Hydromet Forums in 2018 and 2021, with the support of the World Bank and the World Meteorological Organization. The events brought together participants from all 11 Member States; DRM, CCA, meteorology, water and agriculture experts; government representatives; civil society organizations (including women’s and youth groups); Parliamentarians; members of the EU delegation; and other development stakeholders. The forums’ final communiqués provided a roadmap for the improvement of the hydromet services in the region.

D. OTHER SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

The Program facilitated ECCAS outreach and engagement with national, regional, and global partners through 18 major international and regional conferences, including the UNDRR Global Platforms for DRR, the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties each year between 2016 and 2019, the Understanding Risk Conferences, the World Reconstruction Conferences, the European Development Days, the Focus Day on the ACP-EU NDRR Program, and the Africa Regional Platforms for DRR (in 2016 and 2018).



A. RISK INFORMATION

The Program facilitated the collaboration of ECOWAS with the West Africa Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), a scientific organization leveraging leading universities in 10 countries in West Africa. Together with other partners, WASCAL conducted an analysis of flood hazards, vulnerability and exposure in the 15 ECOWAS countries, focusing on flood hotspots and transboundary flood risks. Flood hazard and exposure maps were created for different return periods, based on the hydrological drainage network data and open-source topographic and geographic data. The flood hazard maps, based on the Height Above Nearest Drainage (HAND) approach, provided an overview on areas exposed to flood hazards. However, more detailed and model-based data would be required to refine flood hazard maps that consider the effective rainfall and runoff, which are originating factors of flooding in West Africa's river systems. Nevertheless, the flood hazard and exposure maps provided guidance on the formulation of ECOWAS' Flood Risk Management Policy and the consultation process that led to its adoption in 2021.

Building upon the flood hazard mapping, a flood forecasting analysis was prepared based on different models of forecasting at the regional level. A proof of concept for a regional, open-source flood forecasting model

was established with the aim to eventually set up a flood observatory. In 2020, the Program supported ECOWAS to commission AGRHYMET, the regional agro-hydrometeorology center of the Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), to provide training and establish the observatory. Since 2021, ECOWAS has the capacity to access AGRHYMET's flood forecasting products and services under the FANFAR project (Operational Flood Forecasting and Alerts in West Africa¹). In this regard, the Program has strengthened the operational and technical collaboration between ECOWAS, WASCAL and AGRHYMET on flood management.

B. HYDROMET ANALYTICAL WORK

The Program supported the development of the ECOWAS Hydromet Initiative, adopted by the Ministers responsible for meteorology, hydrology and DRM in 2021. The initiative calls for joint efforts from governments, the private sector, and development partners to increase support to hydromet and early warning services in the region. It is based on an analysis of the gaps and needs in the 15 ECOWAS countries. Consultations with Member States and regional organizations were conducted between 2019 and 2020, and a validation workshop was held in Dakar in 2020. The technical study was complemented by an economic analysis of the benefits and costs of investing in hydromet and early warning services. The analysis found that every dollar invested in hydromet services in West Africa could yield a return of 7 to 10 dollars. To ensure WMO standards, the Program facilitated WMO technical oversight in the development of the Initiative and the Flood Management Strategy.

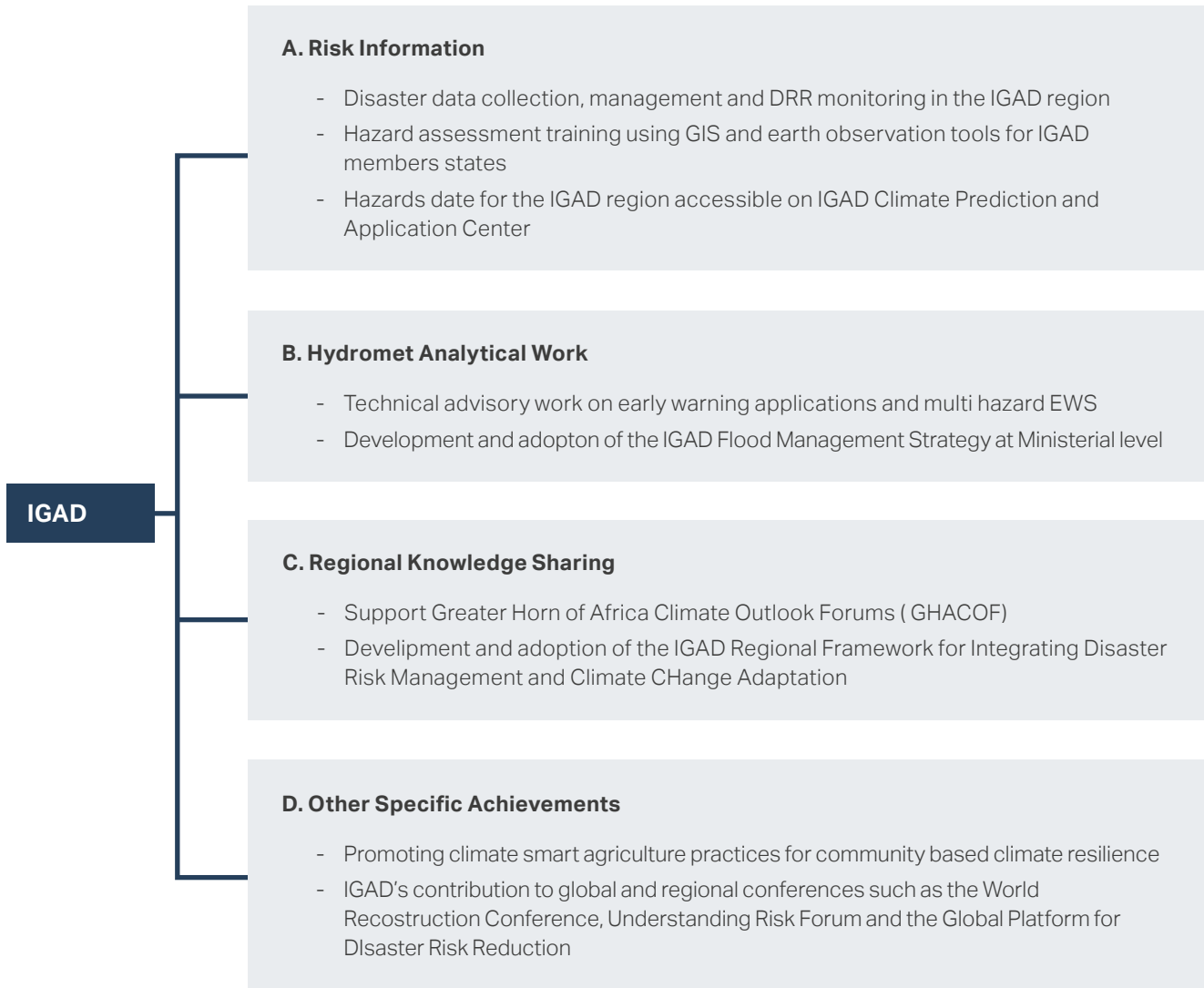
C. REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND HYDROMET FORUMS

The Program supported ECOWAS to convene representatives from national governments, regional entities, river basin organizations, UN agencies, development partners, the private sector, and civil society in 2018 and 2021 for the ECOWAS Hydromet Forums and Subregional DRR Platforms. The meetings were organized by ECOWAS and the World Bank, in partnership with WMO, and were co-hosted by the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and The Gambia respectively. In 2018, more than 250 participants joined the first forum in Abidjan, and called for the establishment of a hydromet initiative and policy instruments for managing flood risk in West Africa. Due to COVID-19, the second forum was conducted virtually in 2021 with over 500 participants. The ministers responsible for meteorology, hydrology and DRM attended the event, and adopted the ECOWAS Hydromet Initiative, the Flood Risk Management Strategy and the Gender Strategy and Action Plan. In addition, the Program supported the regional coordination meeting of the directors of the national meteorological and hydrological services of the 15 Member States, which took place in October 2019 in Monrovia, Liberia.

D. OTHER SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

ECOWAS participated in numerous global and regional forums, such as the World Reconstruction Conference and the Africa Hydromet Forum in both 2017 and the Understanding Risk Forum in 2018, to exchange with global experts about best practices and latest knowledge on DRM. In addition, ECOWAS joined in 2020 and 2021 several virtual conferences, such as the virtual Understanding Risk conference, where ECOWAS' work on flood management was discussed.

¹ Further information can be found on www.fanfar.eu



A. RISK INFORMATION

The Program supported IGAD in setting up and strengthening consultative mechanisms, most notably the DRM Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which facilitated an experience sharing dialogue among IGAD countries on disaster and climate risks, and on how they are managed in the region. The Program also supported IGAD to convene the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF) twice every year during the project. The forums were attended by scientists, policy makers, members of Parliament, IGAD experts, local leaders and DRM TAC members, and focused on the development of contingency plans based on climate forecasts for the region.

Through the Program, IGAD also organized trainings on hazard assessment, using GIS and earth observation tools. This activity was implemented in eight countries of the region.

B. HYDROMET ANALYTICAL WORK

Based in Nairobi, the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) is a specialized institution of IGAD and provides climate services and tools, including climate monitoring and forecasting, to governments, economies, and communities in the region. ICPAC is the WMO designated Regional Climate Centre (RCC) for Eastern Africa and covers 11 countries. It serves as an important tool to help IGAD, which has focused on hazard monitoring and EWS to map floods and droughts (the most common hazards of the region). The ICPAC Climate Data Center provides open-source data products, including on climate (past data and forecasting), environment and agriculture. Its climate data library is a free, accessible online data repository and analytical tool available to all. Further information can be found here (<http://digilib.icpac.net/>).

The Program supported ICPAC to discuss and disseminate the seasonal forecasting of the region through the GHACOF, and enabled the group to monitor early warning information in a timely manner, coordinating the information between all stakeholders. Another significant feature of the GHACOF was its advisory services to end users in sectors pertaining to sustainable development and economic growth.

C. REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING

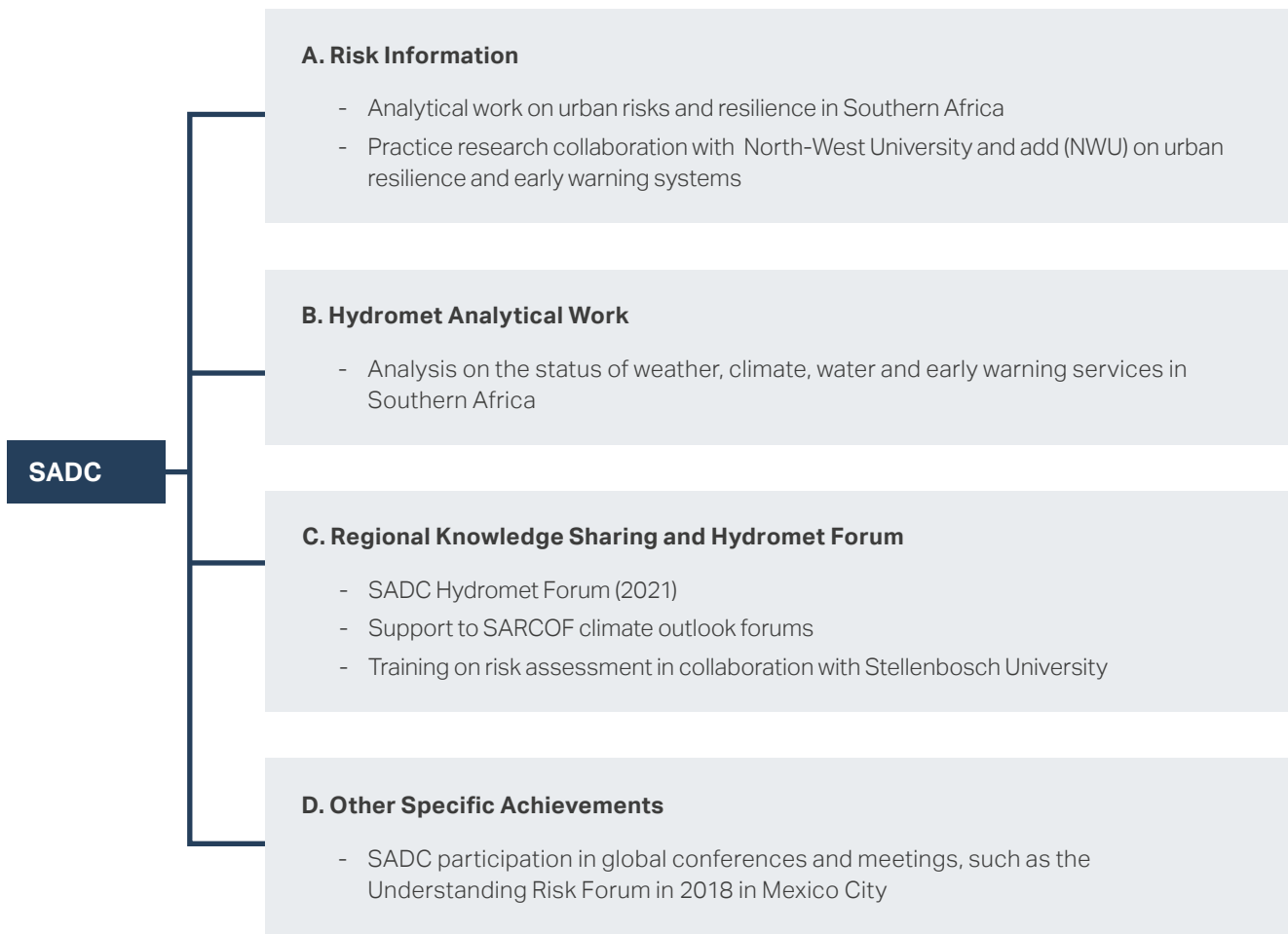
The Program facilitated the collaboration between IGAD and UNDRR on the program “Sendai Framework Monitor and Disaster Loss Databases (DesInventar) – Accelerating disaster data collection, management and DRR monitoring in the IGAD region” to share knowledge and expertise, discuss methodologies, assess progress, and identify challenges to enhance availability and use of disaster loss and damage data in the region.

D. OTHER SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

The Program also enabled IGAD to collaborate with the Kenya Red Cross to implement the Climate-Smart Agriculture Initiative to build resilience for 6,500 drought-stricken residents of Kulan, in Eastern Kenya. The initiative aimed to address threats caused by climate change on agricultural stability and productivity in fragile regions such as the Horn of Africa. In the face of climate and agro-ecological risks, preserving food security requires agricultural production systems to increase productivity and adapt to low output variability.



Peter Kapuscinski / World Bank. A woman carries a bucket of water from Lake Vitoria at Dunga Beach in Kisumu, Kenya. 2015. Online Image. Flickr.



IGAD also produced a documentary highlighting the main hazards affecting the region and the importance of DRM. The documentary was created using documentation on the Program’s impact in various locations of the region.

A. RISK INFORMATION

The Program supported the development of a regional information management system to facilitate the exchange of information among Member States and with the SADC Secretariat. An online portal was created and provides an overview of key contacts in Member States, risk information, as well as legislation and institutional issues. Formative work was also made possible with the Program’s support on urban risk and resilience through the services of DIMSUR Center of UNHABITAT and the practice research collaboration with the NWU, South Africa.

B. HYDROMET ANALYTICAL WORK

In 2020 and 2021, a regional analysis of the status and strengthening of weather, climate, water, and early warning services in Southern Africa was conducted through data collection and consultations across Member States as well as global, river basin and other regional organizations. The assessment includes the meteorological analysis and a regional investment framework for strengthening and modernization, and offers guidance on private sector engagement and collaboration with universities. The findings of the report were validated in several virtual in-country and regional workshops. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the analytical work was conducted through virtual workshops, online questionnaires, and collaborative remote mapping tools.

C. REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND HYDROMET FORUM

The Program facilitated the organization of the first SADC Hydromet Forum in 2021 jointly by the SADC Secretariat, the World Bank and WMO. The Forum built upon the momentum of other knowledge exchange events supported by the Program, including the SADC DRR Conference, conducted in 2018 in Pretoria, and the Hydromet Forums in Western and Central Africa in 2018 and 2021. The SADC Hydromet Forum hosted more than 340 online participants to discuss issues on the current state and way forward of hydromet services in the region, as well as working with the private sector and academic institutions to strengthen hydromet services.

The Program supported the SADC Climate Service Centre to host the SARCOF in 2017 with the aim to disseminate the findings of the seasonal climate outlooks to regional experts and decision makers. Several seasonal disaster preparedness meetings were also organized to improve disaster response preparedness.

In partnership with the PeriPeriU network of universities anchored in the Stellenbosch University of South Africa, a virtual training on risk assessments and use of risk information in an applied context was organized in early 2021. More than 40 experts from SADC Member States joined the online training, which was accredited by the Stellenbosch University, allowing successful participants to receive academic credit.

D. OTHER SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

As one of the fastest urbanizing regions globally and home to two of Africa’s megacities (Kinshasa in DRC and Gauteng (Pretoria-Johannesburg area) in South Africa), better understanding of the drivers of urban risks and urban resilience was an urgent imperative for SADC. The Program allowed the SADC Secretariat to collaborate with UN-HABITAT on a regional analysis on the drivers of urban risks, trends in urbanization and opportunities for building urban resilience. The analysis complemented the City Resilience Action Planning (CityRAP) work in six Southern African cities. The results were presented at the virtual Understanding Risk Forum in 2020 and were disseminated through a training of trainers in 2020 in George, South Africa. The outputs of practice research on urban resilience were summarized in a policy note, produced in collaboration with NWU, University of Botswana, and an NGO: Development Initiative Network Malawi.

The Program also enabled the SADC Secretariat to participate in several global forums, such as the Understanding Risk Forum in 2018 in Mexico City. The events facilitated knowledge exchange and experience-sharing with global experts on good practices in various aspects of DRM.

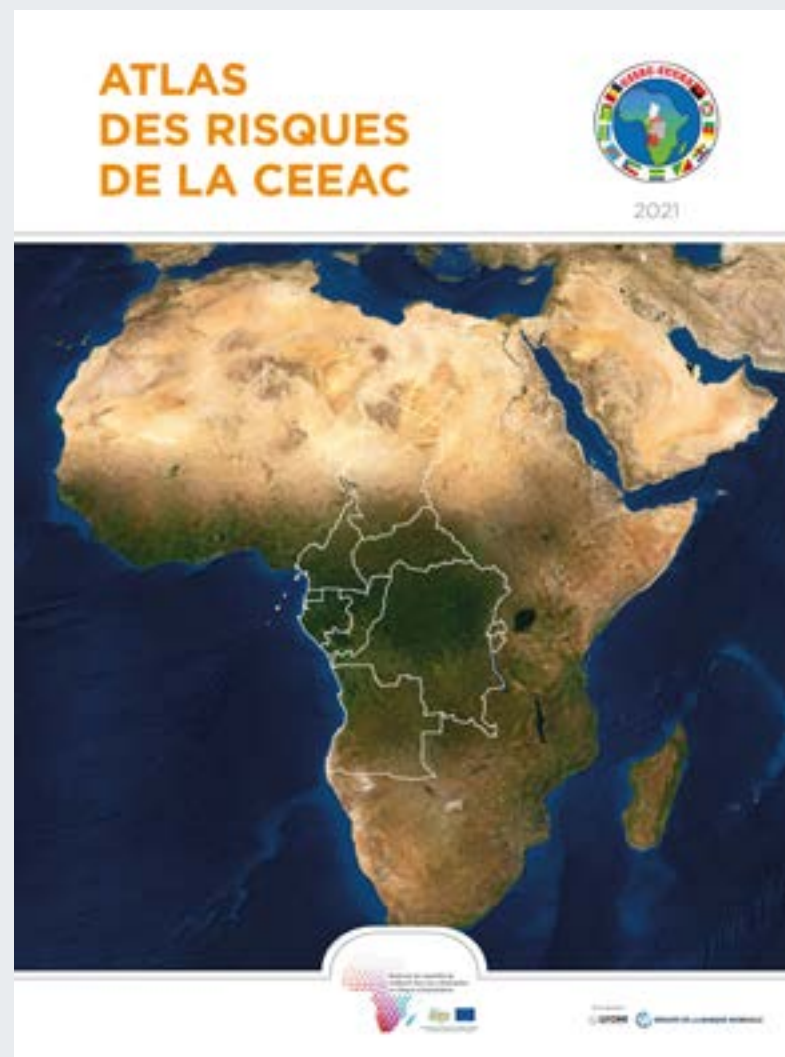
3.2 CASE STUDIES RELATED TO “STRENGTHENING REGIONAL HAZARD, VULNERABILITY AND DISASTER RISK KNOWLEDGE”

CASE STUDY: REGIONAL HAZARD VULNERABILITY RISK ASSESSMENT FOR CENTRAL AFRICA

Continuing the region’s drive to strengthen regional knowledge of DRM, ECCAS developed a regional hazard, vulnerability and risk assessment, as well as an atlas, to consolidate and improve the disaster risk knowledge base for Central Africa. To support this, hazards and vulnerabilities across all ECCAS Member States were mapped at various geographical scales.

The assessment provides key information for decision-makers on exposure and vulnerability, and identifies areas of regional importance such as transboundary disaster risk. It is an unique tool to build public and government awareness on hazards, vulnerabilities, and risks. The atlas contextualizes hazards, and introduces a range of approaches and maps to explain risks, their consequences and physical, socio-cultural, historical or geographic determinants. It also presents key hazard maps and summarises major risks including “deep dives” into 20 key cities.

By identifying transboundary hazards zones, the assessment and atlas illustrate how risks spread across borders and also emphasize the importance of regional coordination and response for managing risk.



Due to Covid-19, the workshop presenting the results was organized virtually in 2021. It brought together technical experts and sectoral focal points from the 11 Member States, basin authorities and universities. The meeting of 40 participants enhanced the capacity of regional stakeholders to understand vulnerability and risk assessments, and to use the database and atlas for formulating policies and plans.

The Program support has ensured that all data is free to access, based on GIS layers, for non-commercial use by public and private organizations. The Program also complements the Water Information System.

CASE STUDY: ECOWAS REGIONAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The ECOWAS Regional Flood Risk Management Strategy was developed to strengthen the coordination and capacity for flood risk management. It provides guidance for common actions and is aligned with several contextual frameworks, including the ECOWAS DRR Plan of Action (2015-2030). The strategy also provides guidance to intergovernmental organizations, Member States, their national services, and river basin organizations on flood risk management. Based on an analysis of flood management policies, and mapping of flood hotspots in West Africa, it aims to respond to knowledge and governance gaps at national and regional levels.

A consultative process led to the formulation of the Strategy and culminated in a regional validation meeting in 2020 in Dakar, Senegal. The strategy was adopted by ministers responsible for meteorology, hydrology, and DRM in 2021. One WASCAL expert commented ***“even by just bringing representatives of each organization into the same room, a small network is being built and the dialogue is open.”***

Looking ahead to the implementation of the strategy, the expert added that ***“each Member State has different levels of capacity in terms of infrastructure, and institutional settings, to deal with flooding. It is important to support Member States in training, and access to location-based risk information, to allow them to implement the actions. Working collaboratively across the region thus helps build the required political support and mutual accountability.”***

CASE STUDY: CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE IN KENYA

With Program resources and technical oversight from the World Bank, IGAD’s Climate Prediction and Application Centre commissioned the Kenya Red Cross Society to launch in 2018 a climate-smart agriculture pilot project in Kulan, in Eastern Kenya. The objective was to improve farmers’ resilience to climate and disaster risks, and create innovative approaches to address food insecurity.

From 2017 to 2019, the initiative trained 203 farmers (including 118 women and 85 men) in climate-smart agricultural practices, such as soil management, resilient ecosystems, and water productivity. It promoted drought-resistant crops, like sorghum and millet, and introduced agroforestry for nutrition. It also provided additional income through fruits and vegetables (watermelons, tomatoes, and onions) and through active demonstration plots for climate-smart agriculture.

For a pastoralist community practicing small-scale agriculture, these changes required a lot of capacity-building.

“It was challenging at times – especially when it came to convincing farmers to try crops, they were unfamiliar with and switch to a new irrigation system,” says Eva Wanjiku of the Kenya Red Cross.

Despite challenges linked to poor roads, regional insecurity, and initial hesitation from farmers, the community embraced the project and engaged in climate-smart agriculture. The initiative helped the local community adapt to the new reality of prolonged droughts while taking advantage of the region’s under-utilized agricultural potential. Learning from the climate and weather predictions presented at the GHACOF, IGAD was able to provide climate services to support farmers to plan better and make informed choices.

In the end, the initiative resulted in better productivity, increased income, and improved nutritional benefits.

“The project has revolutionized farmers’ incomes” says Wanjiku.

CASE STUDY: PLANNING FOR URBAN RESILIENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Africa's fast-growing cities are crucial stakeholders in disaster and climate resilience. This is especially true for Southern Africa, a fast-urbanizing region that hosts two African megacities, Kinshasa, and Gauteng (Pretoria-Johannesburg area). Demand from population and urban growth have outpaced local and national authorities' capacity to provide infrastructure, resulting in informal settlements. The settlements tend to be in areas with greater exposure to natural hazards and face increasingly severe climate impacts.

In this context, the Program commissioned the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, through its Technical Centre for DRM, Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DIMSUR) in Mozambique, to provide analytical support and build capacity for urban resilience in Southern Africa. The Program supported resilience planning in six cities in Southern Africa: Lusaka and Chipata (Zambia), Lilongwe (Malawi), Dondo (Mozambique), Fomboni (Comoros) and Mutare (Zimbabwe) through the City Resilience Action Planning (CityRAP) methodology, a participatory planning tool for small to intermediate districts within bigger cities.

The CityRAP tool engages city authorities and community members to work together to identify the most pressing urban issues that need intervention on infrastructure, waste management, water supply, drainage, bridges, dams, and reforestation. The final output is a planning document, called the City Framework for Action, highlighting the priorities for urban resilience. Complementary training helps cities translate this plan into bankable project proposals to approach donors or private companies for funding.

The success of the CityRAP tool is not in localizing DRM efforts, but in following a bottom-up approach influencing national and regional DRM coordination. Despite challenges, the CityRAP initiative was met with great interest from the municipalities and communities that took ownership. For example, in Mutare, Zimbabwe, the CityRAP tool has been instrumental in redirecting the focus of the city towards an inclusive and holistic DRR approach. As a sign, the consensus catchphrase adopted by representatives of the beneficiary communities for the pioneering phase of the CityRAP process was: "what is for us without us, is not for us".

Kimberley Sithole, Chairperson of the Urban Resilience Team, commented: ***"CityRAP Tool has placed the city in the position to play a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of truly resilient urban localities buttressed by proactive beneficiary participation and stakeholder buy-in."*** Similarly, in Lusaka, where CityRAP was implemented in 2019, the program led to a fruitful conversation between residents and municipal focal points, leading to a "willingness to address the issues together and to see each other's perspectives better".

The initiative revealed a high demand from cities and municipal districts for the tool. Even though urban resilience is a complex concept, the CityRAP process allows all stakeholders, including beneficiaries, to have a better awareness of the issues and stakes.



4. CAPACITY BUILDING AND PRACTICE RESEARCH



4. CAPACITY BUILDING AND PRACTICE RESEARCH

EXPECTED RESULT #3: COOPERATION AND NETWORKING ARE IMPROVED AMONG THE RECS ON THE ONE HAND, AND GLOBAL, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNICAL CENTERS ON THE OTHER, TO STRENGTHEN DRM AND INTEGRATE IT INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

Sub-Saharan Africa has a diverse landscape of universities and academic institutions. Some universities have joined forces to advance research and capacity building in specific areas such as climate research, water resources management and DRR. For example, PeriPeriU is a continent-wide network of universities – hosted by Stellenbosch University in South Africa – promoting capacity building on DRR. Likewise, WASCAL is a network of universities in 10 West African countries encouraging joint research and capacity building on applied issues related to climate change.

One of the main achievements of the Program has been in facilitating practice research and technical support to the RECs by bringing these networks and universities on board. The Program also helped replace piecemeal trainings with more systematic capacity building programs.

4.1 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RECS TOWARDS THE EXPECTED RESULT #3

Research and capacity building activities supported by the Program were multi-faceted. They included various university-led training programs on DRM and related issues; internship opportunities for master students and young graduates at ECCAS and ECOWAS; tailored training courses in hazard assessment using GIS and earth observation tools in IGAD; and practice research and academic networking, in partnership with NWU and Stellenbosch Universities of South Africa, in SADC.

In addition, master students and young graduates joined the first SADC DRR Conference in 2018, the ECOWAS Hydromet Forum in 2018, and the ECCAS Hydromet Forum in 2018. This enabled them to be exposed to state-of-the-art DRR practice in their regions and take opportunities for networking for knowledge building and professional growth.



Isabelle Forge/ World Bank, 2020.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND PRACTICE RESEARCH



ECCAS

The Program facilitated an internship program for master’s students in partnership with six universities in Central Africa from Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Republic and DR Congo. It also helped establish a practice research and training program with regional universities as well as an international research consortium composed of the French Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) (The Research Institute for Development), the Italian Centro di Ricerca e Documentazione Febbraio ’74 (CERFE) (the Italian Research and Documentation Center February 1974), the University of Buea (Cameroon), which is part of the PeriPeriU network of universities, and the International Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (IRC). Additionally, a training module on DRM and hazards in Central Africa has been developed and the Curriculum of DRM Master’s Program drafted.

ECOWAS

Under the Program, WASCAL – together with other science partners such as the Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA) in Nigeria and the Center for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Ghana – supported, from 2018 to 2021, practice research and capacity building activities in the ECOWAS region. The team of experts from these universities provided applied research and analytical work on flood hazard mapping, on identifying best practices for flood forecasting, and on conducting policy analysis and research. In total, four face-to-face and online training courses were provided on flood risk management and applied GIS. The training program was complemented by the partnership between ECOWAS and AGRHYMET.

IGAD

IGAD supported a regional training on DRR for journalists and DRM technicians. A training session was also provided to the regional Sendai Framework monitoring delegates and experts in collaboration with UNDRR. In addition, IGAD conducted a regional training on disaster risk assessment, monitoring and EWS, as well as eight trainings (in eight countries) on hazard assessment using GIS and earth observation tools.

SADC

Two practice research and collaboration programs were established with NWU (South Africa), University of Botswana, Development Initiatives Networks Malawi, as well as with the PeriPeriU network of universities, hosted by Stellenbosch University (South Africa). The collaboration with the team of experts led by NWU focused on three one-week applied training courses on EWS, DRR governance and urban resilience. In addition, practice research involved extensive surveys and the production of policy papers in these areas. The collaboration with the PeriPeriU network of universities focused on academic networking. Finally, graduates and master students from NWU played an instrumental role in supporting the first SADC DRR Conference, which was held in Pretoria in 2018.

4.2 CASE STUDIES RELATED TO “CAPACITY BUILDING AND PRACTICE RESEARCH”

CASE STUDY: REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING AND PRACTICE RESEARCH IN CENTRAL AFRICA

The Program supported the development of a DRR Capacity Building Support initiative, involving 60 experts and key stakeholders from government, academia, civil society, media, and the private sector. Two workshops were organized in Douala (Cameroon) and Libreville (Gabon) in 2020. The technical presentations and interactive activities focused on a review of specific hazards, engaging communities for disaster preparedness and response, and using modelling tools to support disaster resilience decision-making. A field visit was also carried out to the Tongo Bassa environmental observatory, managed by the Douala Sustainable City project team, to observe various tools used to monitor and prevent flood risk.

A main success of the initiative was the organization of a South-South DRM knowledge exchange activity to share best practices among DRR practitioners. Participants were able to share their respective expertise, ranging from forecasting services to knowledge products related to populations at risk of disasters.

Marie Tamoifo Nkon, Youth and Gender Civil Society Representative and Executive Director of the Association Jeunesse Verte du Cameroun, disseminated best practice to her network in 2020 through several presentations. She explains:

“AS NETWORK COORDINATOR, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE DRM SPACE. AT OUR LEVEL, WE FOCUS MORE ON FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY. DRR AND DRM WAS USUALLY LEFT TO HIGHLY SPECIALIZED, TECHNICALLY EDUCATED PEOPLE, SO IT WAS NOT ALWAYS VERY INCLUSIVE. THE TRAINING GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN THE BASICS OF DRM AND TO BE ABLE TO SHARE THESE WITH MY NETWORK. THE MORE OF THESE EVENTS WE DO, THE GREATER THE PARTICIPATION IS. WE THEN PUT THE DRR FOCAL POINTS IN CONTACT WITH THE YOUTH AND GENDER NETWORKS SO THEY CAN CONTINUE DIRECT CONVERSATIONS TOGETHER.”

These workshops are the first step of ECCAS's contribution to DRR/DRM capacity building in Central Africa countries, but Marie Tamoifo hopes to see these training sessions rapidly manifest in tangible community action. **“I really hope to see the decisions being made, and the work being done, become visible on the ground and impact people's lives,”** she says. **“Overall, the program has strengthened our capacity, we better understand what is at stake, but we would like to move forward with more tangible actions.”**

The ECCAS Commission also hosted six master's students from six Member States universities, providing them with opportunities for internships on DRR and climate adaptation work. With the support of their academic supervisors, the students delivered six theses on topics such as “Urban resilience: Vulnerability of populations to the risks of floods and landslides (Case of Libreville).” The internships provided a hands-on experience to students, enabling them to gain practical skills on DRR, CCA and regional policies. By attending regional workshops and researching critical DRR themes, students also expanded their understanding of the challenges facing their countries and the region.

Several interns shared their experience:

“This internship changed my way of perceiving the management of DRR. The knowledge acquired allowed me to make my relatives aware of the special attention that must be paid to DRR, by explaining to them the causes and consequences of many disasters that occur at the sub-regional level. In the end, I hope to round the curve of DRR progression in Central Africa by campaigning for healthier and more responsible actions for populations in my country and in the sub-region,” says Janvier Biol Ndereyimana, a Program intern from Burundi.

“My internship at ECCAS was a success and helped me understand issues related to gender, but above all it gave me an overview of the links between gender and climate change,” says Eunice Kasuma Mbuy, a Program intern from Democratic Republic of Congo.

“Thanks to this internship, we participated in various working meetings and sub-regional workshops, which allowed us to have a regional vision of DRM. I feel capable to apply these achievements in my country and the sub-region so that these risks are minimized,” says Georgia Paola Charline Nguenendji Kizzo, a Program intern from Central African Republic.

“I worked with the DRM team, which made it easier for me to do my research, to have access to strategic documents, and to get know the people involved in risk and disaster management. All these lessons learnt gave me the vision to work on DRR in Brazzaville to help my country which is exposed to disaster risks,” says Edvan Seydel Mbete Matondo, a Program intern from Congo.

CASE STUDY: DRR PRACTICE RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC NETWORKING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Between 2017 and 2019, the Program financed the NWU, together with the University of Botswana and the Development Initiative Network Malawi (an NGO working to alleviate poverty and create lasting change for vulnerable communities), to support practice research and training programs for experts from the SADC Member States.

A team of researchers developed three research papers and three training sessions around major DRR topics, including public-sector budgeting, multi-hazard EWS, and urban planning for DRR. The papers were peer-reviewed, and their findings validated at regional workshops. The training was a bona fide success. The courses forced people to **“move out of their silos”** and were **“a particularly good learning experience,”** says Livhuwani Nemaconde, a principal researcher at NWU and co-lead of the project.

They also helped create a *“network”* of DRR professionals. Following the sessions, various WhatsApp groups were created – and are still being used – by practitioners to share information, data, and early warnings. These groups were extensively used during the Idai and Kenneth cyclones that hit Southern Africa in April 2019. **“Whenever there are disaster-related issues in a country, they share it on the platform, and send information to each other. It's like a community of practice,”** Nemaconde says. **“It's a really good example of how people can organize themselves if they've got a common interest. Still, the challenge going forward will be to keep this “momentum” going,”** he says. The success of the initiative highlights the role SADC can play as facilitator, convener and knowledge broker across the Member States. **“Just by getting people together and to know each other, the training sessions created a connection, which translated into a much better network later on,”** adds Professor Dewald Van Niekerk of NWU and co-lead of the project.

CASE STUDY: TRAINING IN HAZARD ASSESSMENT USING GIS AND EARTH OBSERVATION TOOLS

IGAD conducted a series of technical trainings for its Member States in hazard assessment, especially for drought and flood hazards. The Program supported this initiative through financing IGAD's partnership with the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The goal was to increase the countries' capacity to develop spatial databases and mapping to identify high-risk areas to minimize disaster risks and mitigate their impacts.

The training brought together 226 participants, including 94 women, from eight Member States. Participants came from different departments, including health, environment, and infrastructure. National staff were trained on open-source remote sensing and GIS tools. UNITAR and IGAD conducted post-training surveys that showed that more than 93% of trainees "strongly agreed" that the content was relevant or that they would recommend the training to colleagues.

Ms. Hafsa Ahmed, a GIS expert for the Government of Sudan, says the training helped her improve her knowledge about GIS and earth observation. She explains:

"THE TRAINING INCREASED MY ANALYTICAL CAPACITY IN INTERPRETING RAINFALL IMAGES AND HAZARD MAPS, AND ANALYZING VULNERABILITIES. I USE THE SKILLS FROM THE TRAINING IN MY DAY-TO-DAY WORK TO DEVELOP RAINFALL AND HAZARD MAPS FOR THE IGAD GEOSPATIAL WEB PORTAL."

Ahmed became a trainer and delivered a training session on GIS tools in Djibouti with 20 participants from DRR institutions in the departments of agriculture, infrastructure, and statistics. **"The good thing about the GIS and earth observation tool is that it is relevant to multiple sectors,"** she adds.

Due to increased capacity, the Central Bureau of Statistics of Sudan is now able to visualize the census data through the ArcGIS application, allowing for GIS mapping and analysis, says Ahmed. She adds that having a GIS hazard map at hand helped identify risk areas when Sudan was hit by devastating floods in 2020.

Looking forward, one of the main challenges will be to **"sustain the knowledge and skills learned, taking into account the high turnover of staff in ministries and public agencies in many East African countries,"** she says.

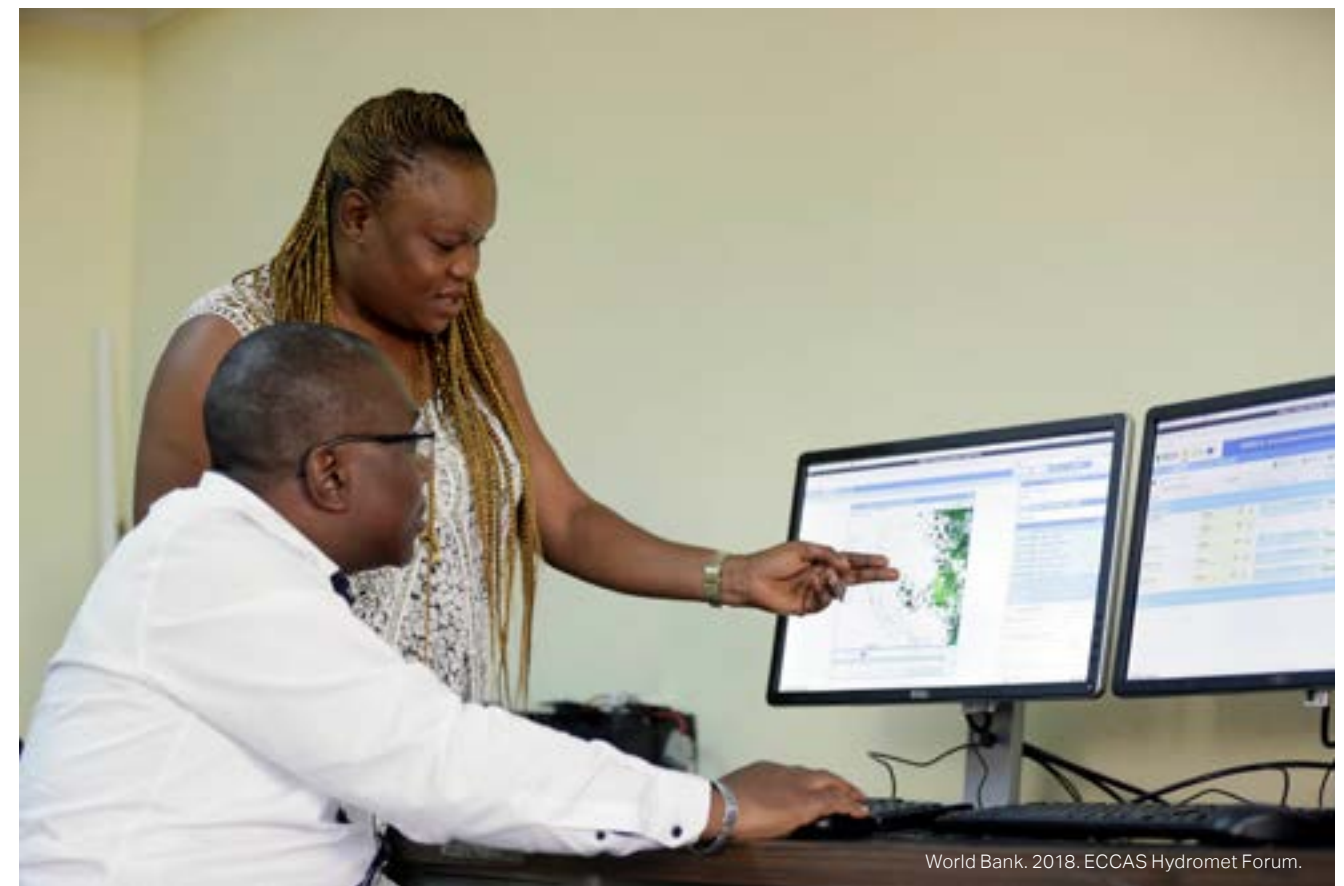
CASE STUDY: REGIONAL HYDROMET FORUMS AND CONFERENCES

To underscore the need for regional collaboration on weather, water, climate, and early warning services, collectively referred to as "hydromet services," ECCAS, ECOWAS and SADC hosted several Regional Hydromet Forums. In 2018, the forums took place in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) and Libreville (Gabon) and focused on advocating for strengthening hydromet services. In 2021, the forums were conducted virtually, with up to 500 online participants joining, to formulate concrete plans, initiatives and calls for actions for the modernization of hydromet services in the regions.

The Hydromet Forums and other conferences, such as the 2018 SADC DRR Conference, were implemented with multiple stakeholder participation, and served as a learning opportunity for many students across the regions. For example, WASCAL graduate school students at the University Félix Houphouët-Boigny in Abidjan gained first-hand experience in conference organization, hosting, and reporting from sessions. Similarly, students and graduates from University Omar Bongo in Libreville were involved in the ECCAS Hydromet Forum while the SADC DRR Conference in Pretoria received assistance from NWU students.

Strengthening regional networks enables the countries to work together, share knowledge and resources, and leverage economies of scale. Dr Fofana Rafatou, an expert hydrologist at the Volta Basin Authority who attended the ECOWAS Hydromet Forum in Abidjan, explains that the initiative **"Created opportunities to learn new perspectives"**.

She says: **"IT WAS VERY ENRICHING, AND WITH THIS NEW KNOWLEDGE, DECISION-MAKING CAPACITY HAS BEEN IMPROVED. BECAUSE OUR WORK COVERS MULTIDISCIPLINARY FIELDS, THE FORUM OFFERED OPPORTUNITIES TO FAMILIARIZE WITH ALL MATERIAL."**



World Bank. 2018. ECCAS Hydromet Forum.



5 POLICY ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES

Dominic Chavez/World Bank. A view of Beira, Mozambique after the impact from cyclone Idai. 2019. Online Image. Flickr.

5. POLICY ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES

EXPECTED RESULT #4: ADVICE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ARE PROVIDED TO MEMBER STATES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL DRM POLICIES, STRATEGIES, AND RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMS (NATIONAL POLICIES/SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES)

The RECs have recognized the importance of robust disaster risk governance structures, as stated in the Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Target 13.1) on Climate Action: “Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and disasters in all countries.” One of the fundamental instruments to achieve this target is for countries to have national DRR strategies elaborated (as well as regional DRR policies, as stated under Expected Result #1). The alignment of regional and national DRM policies and strategies to the Sendai Framework has been a priority of the Program. The RECs have supported their respective Member States to ensure that the national policies are tailored to the country context and follow a multi-hazard approach.

Member States have benefited from guidance in mainstreaming DRR into national policies and multiple sectors, including agriculture, environment, health, and infrastructure. The national DRR platforms – which involved governmental institutions, ministries, local partners, civil societies, and the private sector in an inclusive participatory approach – have helped to support the development of national DRR policies and strategies.

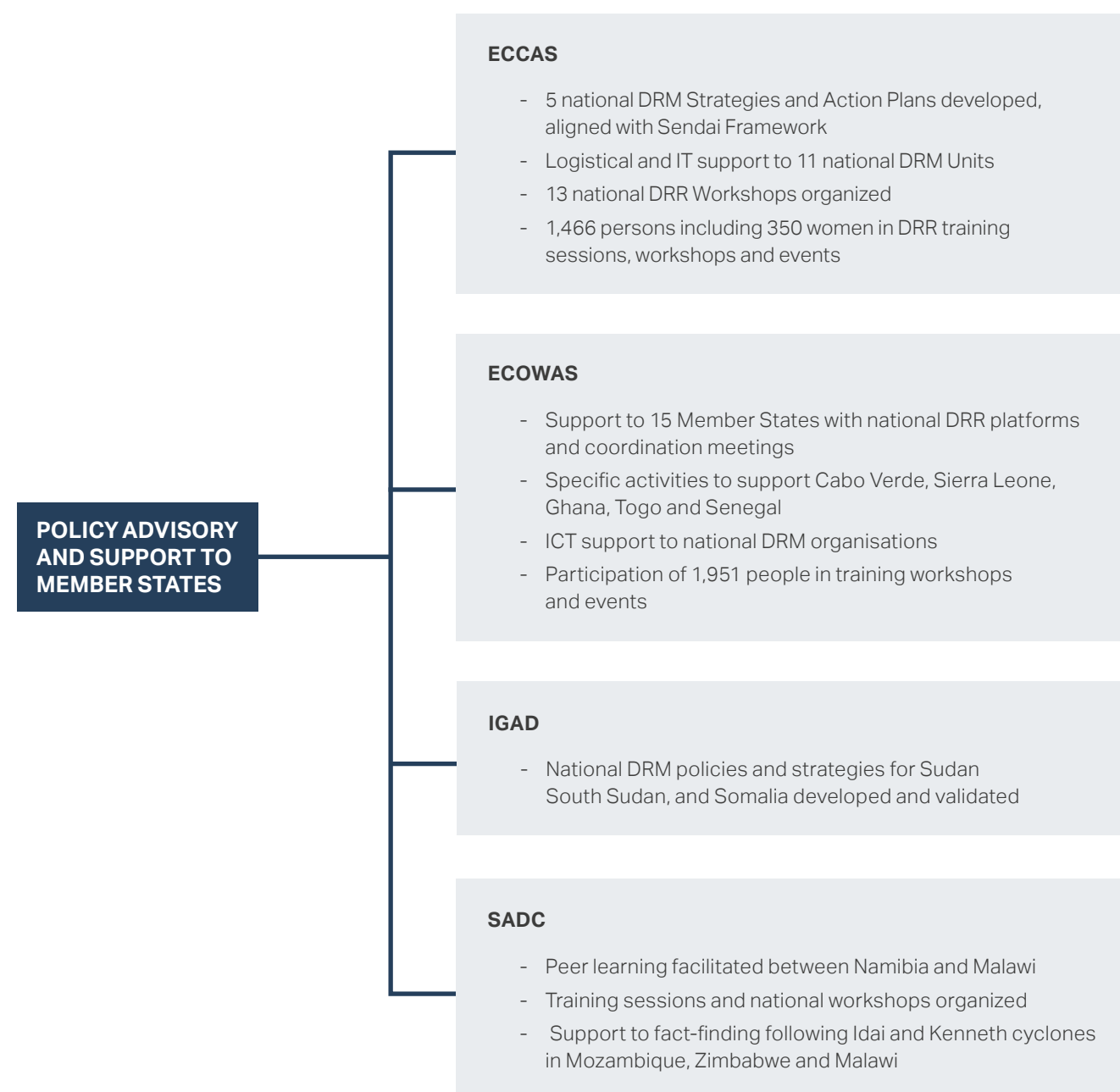


World Bank. 2018. ECCAS Hydromet Forum.

5.1 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RECS TOWARDS THE EXPECTED RESULT #4

Throughout the program, the four RECs developed a strong partnership program with their Member States, which included technical assistance on strengthening national platforms and DRR policies, peer learning among Member States, and analytical support and trainings. In addition, ECCAS and ECOWAS supported their Member States' national disaster management institutions with office management tools, including desktop computers, printers, and related software.

The key achievements for the RECs on the Expected Result #4 are summarized as follows:



ECCAS

While the ECCAS regional strategy for DRM and CCA was adopted in 2015 and also aligned with the Sendai Framework for DRR, most Member States had not yet developed national DRM strategies, Burundi and Rwanda being the only two countries with a DRM strategy or policy. ECCAS therefore decided to support its Member States to develop their strategies. The Program provided assistance for the development of five national DRM strategies and action plans aligned with the Sendai Framework in Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Chad, and São Tomé & Príncipe.

The Program supported IT hardware and software support, including software training, to the 11 national DRM Units of ECCAS to address the lack of capacity and equipment. Thanks to the Program, all ECCAS DRM focal points now have operational computers and printers.

In addition, the Program facilitated 13 national DRR workshops, and 1,466 people, including 350 women, participated in project trainings, workshops and events to improve DRR capacity and knowledge.

ECOWAS

An important part of the Program was to enable ECOWAS to assist its Member States in capacity building, operations support, policy advice and stakeholder engagement. The support, provided in all the 15 countries of ECOWAS, included the provision of state-of-the-art office and IT equipment (printers, desktop computers, and copy machines) to facilitate the day-to-day operation of the national DRM organizations. In addition, ECOWAS assisted its Member States on different activities, such as training workshops on recovery planning and assessment methodologies in Togo and Senegal; DRR and DRM training needs assessments in Ghana; simulation exercises in Sierra Leone; risk assessments in Brava Island (Cabo Verde); and training sessions for members of the national platforms.

IGAD

IGAD supported the development of national DRM policies in line with the Sendai Framework in Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. This enabled the three Member States to formulate their first-ever DRM policies. The goal of the DRM strategies and policies is to catalyze the development of programs and plans that consider climate change and disaster risks. The government entities responsible for DRM would be able to track the monitoring and evaluation indicators to update their policy over time. This DRM policies are to be integrated in environment and water policies for operational coordination in prevention and response.

SADC

SADC's support to its Member States focused on peer learning and peer review among Member States. The Program helped establish a framework for the peer review process that enabled Member States to support each other in implementing the Sendai Framework. Malawi and Namibia were the two countries that participated in the peer review process and tested the established framework. The initiative is expected to be rolled out to other Member States. The SADC Secretariat further supported Member States with different training activities and conducted a fact-finding mission to Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe following the Idai and Kenneth cyclones in 2019.

5.2 CASE STUDIES RELATED TO “POLICY ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES”

CASE STUDY: NATIONAL DRM STRATEGIES IN FIVE ECCAS MEMBER STATES

The Central Africa Regional Strategy for Risk Reduction, Disaster Management and Climate Adaptation served as the blueprint for fostering national DRM strategies. The Program enabled the ECCAS DRR Unit to provide technical support to five Member States – Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Central Africa Republic, Chad, and São Tomé & Príncipe – to revise or develop their national DRR strategies and action plans, in line with the Sendai Framework and the AU Strategy. Those documents have been peer-reviewed by UNDRR and the AU Commission, and validated during national workshops by DRR national focal points and representatives from ministries, local authorities, and NGOs.

These strategies will be guiding documents for decision-makers and will be essential to support the implementation and monitoring of risk reduction priorities. Furthermore, they define key responsibilities for government and non-government actors and identify technical and financial resource requirements. In Cameroon, for example, the document will be a tool for planning and guiding the DRM policy, according to Yap Mariatou, the Representative of the Minister of Territorial Administration of Cameroon.

While the elaboration of these five national DRM strategies and action plans is an important step, further support for coordination mechanisms, legislative mandates, human and financial capacities, as well as strong political buy-in, will be required to enable their implementation.

CASE STUDY: POST DISASTER RAPID ASSESSMENT TRAINING IN TOGO

In 2019 ECOWAS supported Togo’s Agence Nationale de la Protection Civile (ANPC) in training on data collection and analysis techniques related to Post Disaster Rapid Humanitarian Assessment. The training workshop included capacity building, regional policy guidance, and best practice sharing. It brought together 50 participants from the DRR Platform, prefectures, ANPC staff, and civil society organizations. The workshop included presentations, group work, practical exercises, role plays and debates.

The training addressed the shortcomings identified in rapid post disaster assessments. It focused on developing standardized rapid post-disaster assessment tools to ensure harmonized and well-coordinated evaluations. According to Lt. Col. Yoma Baka Director General of the ANPC, in the past, the post-disaster information was often imprecise, contradictory, and insufficient. This had a significant impact on planning and decision-making, including identifying priority needs and organizing response and recovery efforts.

Participants were trained to apply different tools, such as a disaster identification sheet, rapid assessment sheet, disaster data collection tool, and the action plan tool, with the objective to improve data collection and allow rapid, real-time response planning. Digitizing the data further enabled detailed analysis, as the data can be disaggregated to consider key indicators such as gender, age, and disabilities. Understanding the needs and priorities of primary risk bearers and affected populations is critical for DRM. The data enabled an end-to-end, people-centered approach.

According to Lt. Col. Yoma Baka, the impact of the training was already felt on the ground. He explains:

“Togo has already had numerous flooding events this year, and the sheet has been used to collect the necessary information. However, it is still required that we train more actors, particularly at the municipal and local levels.”

CASE STUDY: LESSONS LEARNED AND POST-DISASTER SUPPORT TO MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE, AND ZIMBABWE AFTER CYCLONES IDAI AND KENNETH

In 2019, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe were hit by tropical cyclones Idai (March 14, 2019) and Kenneth (April 25, 2019). On making landfall, these cyclones crippled economies and livelihoods in the Southern Africa region, prompting the SADC Secretariat to support the affected countries with contingency resources and strengthen resource mobilization. Impacted countries received global contributions of US\$204 million for response and recovery support. Based on the losses and damages reported by the Government of Mozambique, Cyclone Idai alone affected three million people, of which 2,347 were injured, 278,000 displaced and over 1,000 left dead. In addition, over 800,000 hectares of land were left inundated, leading to loss of food stocks and peaks in food prices.

Considering the situation, the affected countries requested technical assistance for building local capacity for conducting Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA). In addition, the government of Malawi held a PDNA training in April 2019, and a Rapid Impact Needs Assessment (RINA) in Zimbabwe as a pathway towards recovery.

In order to draw lessons from the disaster(s), SADC collaborated with its Climate Services Center (CSC) to review the early warning mechanism related to the cyclone alert tool. Although the CSC provided a timely alert, problems lay in the interactions between the CSC and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) and with possible national limitations in the monitoring and tracking of live cyclone updates. The review revealed there may have been dysfunctional radar systems equipment and insufficient operational capacity. The exercise utilized numerous tools to gather information on preparedness, early actions, response, and recovery. A range of interactive evidence-generating approaches were used to acquire relevant data.

To improve monitoring and collaboration, the SADC Secretariat established a regional Technical Working Group (TWG) comprising representatives from the different directorates and units. One major achievement of the TWG was the SADC Regional Appeal for Humanitarian Assistance in Response to Tropical Cyclone Idai in April 2019.



Sarah Farhat / World Bank. In Beira, Cyclone Idai caused damage to infrastructure. 2019. Online Image. Flickr.

CASE STUDY: DRR STRATEGIES FOR SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN, AND SOMALIA

The IGAD sought to develop national DRM and CCA policies to enhance coherence in planning towards sustainable development and regional resilience. Under the Program, IGAD supported the governments of South Sudan, Sudan, and Somalia in drafting their respective DRR strategies or policies, with the goal to design appropriate initiatives and ensure resource allocation towards managing existing risk and preventing new risks.

In collaboration with the IGAD DRR unit, The Republic of South Sudan was able to draft its National Strategy for DRM in 2019. The goal of this strategy according to its main document is

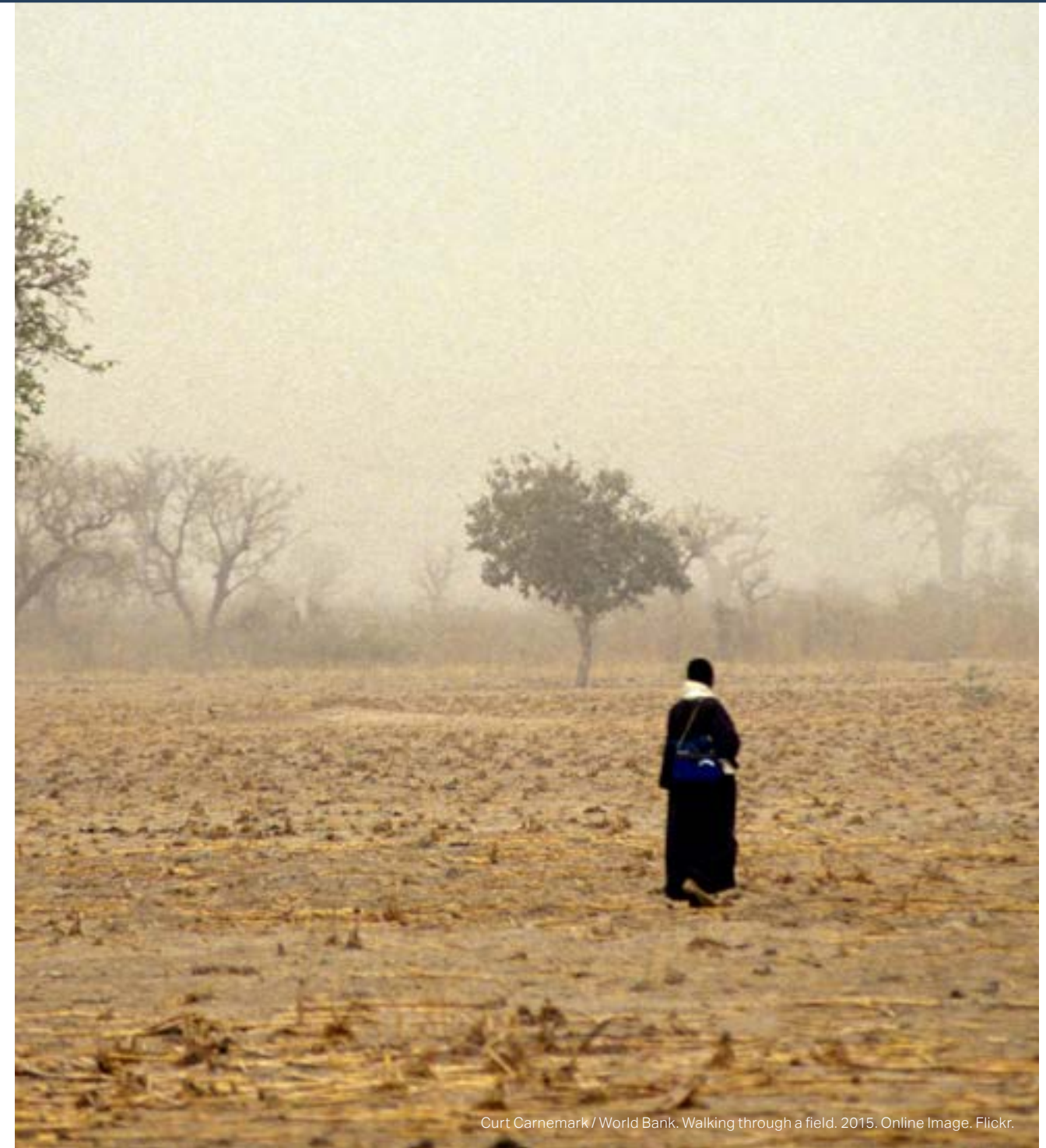
“TO CREATE A UNIFIED, FLEXIBLE AND EFFICIENT SYSTEM, WHICH WILL ENSURE REDUCTION OF NATURAL AND HUMAN INDUCED DISASTER RISKS THROUGH CONCERTED EFFORTS AND COORDINATED ACTIVITIES OF THE AGENCIES AS DEFINED IN THE SOUTH SUDAN REGULATORY AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS”.

This strategy is particularly important, given the country’s situation. South Sudan, which gained its independence on July 9, 2011, following a peaceful secession from Sudan, is prone to several natural and human-induced hazards, which are often disastrous and worsen the economic conditions of communities, making them socially vulnerable. These hazards include droughts, floods, human and livestock epidemics, environmental degradation and pollution, and conflicts. Disaster damage and losses have been on the increase in recent years with severe costs on the population. Rapid population growth, poor urban planning, climate variability and climate change, state fragility and conflicts have been the drivers of these natural hazards, in addition to migration and internal displacement of populations.

Similarly, the IGAD DRR Unit supported the Government of Somalia in the development of its National DRM Policy, whose objective is to provide a legislative framework for embedding DRM within the appropriate government entities. The policy was validated in 2020, and is expected to strengthen national capacities for effective disaster preparedness, response, mitigation, prevention, recovery, and resilience.

In addition, the Government of Sudan was supported by the IGAD DRR Unit for its DRR Strategy development in 2018. The document included key recommendations from international conventions and protocols on DRM, and is in line with the country’s priorities and targets.

6. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RECOVERY PLANNING



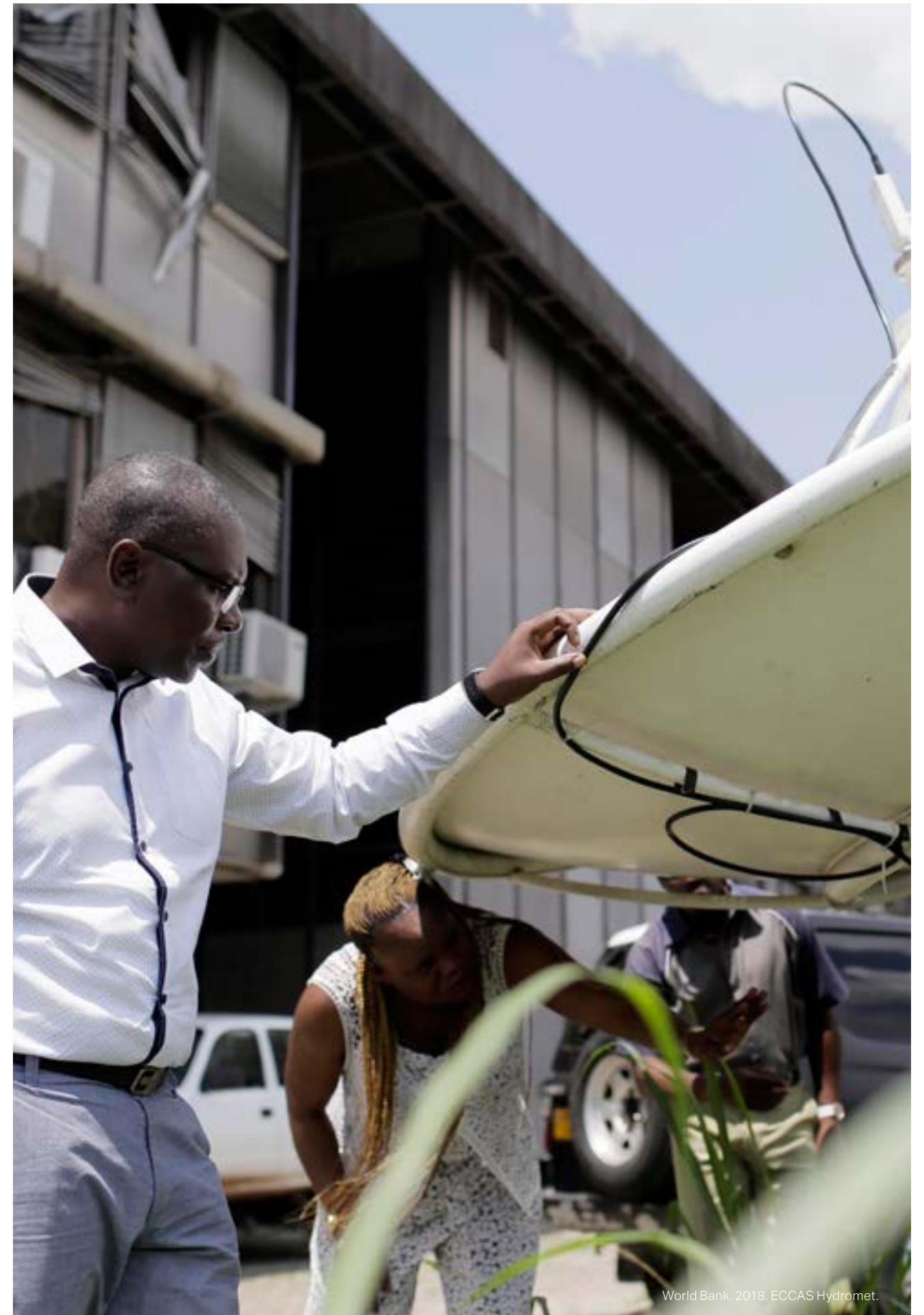
Curt Carnemark / World Bank. Walking through a field. 2015. Online Image. Flickr.

6. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RECOVERY PLANNING

EXPECTED RESULT #5: REGIONAL CAPACITIES FOR THE SUPPORT OF POST-DISASTER NEEDS ASSESSMENTS (PDNAS) AND RECOVERY/ RECONSTRUCTION PLANNING ARE IMPROVED.

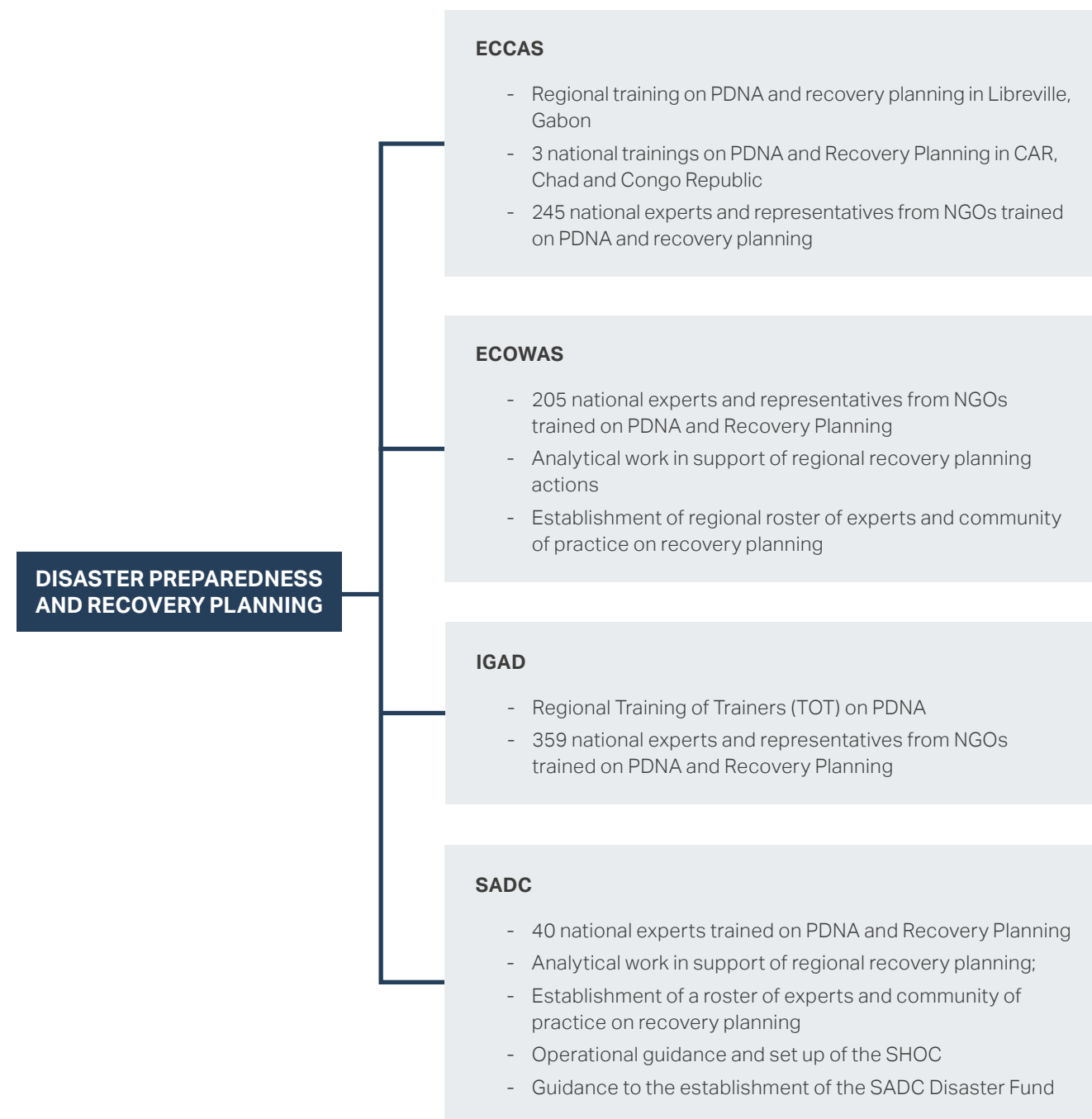
Natural hazards impact people, livelihoods, and economies across Africa. Between 1970 and 2015, 460 million people were affected by hazards in the continent. Disasters also have macro-economic impacts and have reduced GDP growth in many countries. Supporting countries to enable resilient recovery and build back better is a key priority for the RECs and the Program. The Sendai Framework puts emphasis on “Building Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction under its Priority 4.

PDNA are a key instrument in supporting countries to systematically assess disaster damages and losses and plan for resilient recovery and reconstruction. It is based on the Joint Declaration on Post-Crisis Assessments and Recovery Planning of the World Bank, the EU, and the UN Development Group on post-disaster recovery, signed in 2008. Providing training in PDNA and recovery planning has thus been an essential element of this Program.



6.1 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RECS TOWARDS THE EXPECTED RESULT #5

The participating RECs have supported different capacity building and training programs related to PDNA and recovery planning under the Program. PDNA trainings were organized for Member States experts at regional and national levels. In partnership with UNDP, the experience from more than 10 years of supporting countries in conducting PDNA was evaluated with the aim to draw lessons learnt and prepare a regional roster of experts in recovery planning. The Program also supported the establishment of the SADC Humanitarian Operations Centre (SHOC), created an Emergency Response Team (ERT) of regional experts, and set up the SADC Disaster Fund.



ECCAS

The Program facilitated training for ECCAS Member States on PDNA and Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF). The objective of the sessions, which benefited a total of 245 people, was to build national capacity on how to address challenges of a post-disaster situation and future needs to plan a resilient recovery. These sessions included one regional event in Libreville (Gabon) and three national training workshops that took place in N'Djamena (Chad), Bangui (Central African Republic) and Brazzaville (Congo Republic) in 2019.

Those trainings were organized with support from the World Bank/GFDRR and trainers from the EU and UNDP. The events were attended by sectoral experts from the ECCAS Secretariat, focal points of the 11 Member States, government representatives, Parliamentarians of REPARC, and DRM specialists. Statisticians, meteorologists, hydrologists, climatologists, and agricultural, educational, environmental and health experts also joined the workshops.

ECOWAS

In West Africa, several PDNA trainings were supported by the Program. These included virtual and country level trainings in The Gambia (2017), Cabo Verde (2017), Liberia (2020), Ghana (2021) and Senegal (2021). With the support from WASCAL and UNDP, a review of the PDNAs in the region since 2009 was conducted. Guidance was provided for establishing a roster of experts from the ECOWAS Member States.

IGAD

In the IGAD region, 10 national PDNA trainings were conducted under the Program. The IGAD DRR Unit also organized in 2019 a Regional Training of Trainers to develop a regional pool of DRM practitioners with the capacity of imparting professional training in PDNA and DRF methodologies. Participants included DRM focal points and technical officers earlier trained in PDNA methodology.

SADC

In addition to a regional PDNA training for experts from SADC Member States in 2019 in Pretoria, SADC utilized the Program resources to put a strong emphasis on disaster preparedness, humanitarian coordination and response capacity. The establishment of the SHOC has been a main achievement of these efforts. The Program supported the formulation of the operational aspects of the SHOC, which is to be based in Mozambique. An Emergency Response Team (ERT) was also created. To this purpose, experts from Members States were trained and received material and personal protective equipment. Finally, the Program supported the institutional, logistical, and organizational detailing of the SADC Disaster Preparedness Fund, whose goal is to facilitate post-disaster recovery.

6.2 CASE STUDY RELATED TO “DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RECOVERY PLANNING”

CASE STUDY: STRENGTHENING PDNA CAPACITY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Trainings in PDNA and recovery planning, in line with the joint protocol on post-disaster recovery of the World Bank, the EU and UN agencies, were conducted across all four RECs. The trainings were jointly conducted by the RECs, the involved Member States and experts from the World Bank, UNDP, and the EU.

The PDNA trainings elaborated on joint assessment and recovery planning for governments after a disaster. Each training session taught a standardized approach and methodology for conducting PDNAs, how to formulate recovery strategies and plan for the successful implementation. The sessions were tailored to the specific national context. In Chad, for example, the training focused on displaced persons and health risks, and increased the visibility of ECCAS actions in DRM and CCA in the region. The training increased the visibility of ECCAS actions in DRM and CCA in the region, and allowed national experts to share experiences about disaster events, emergency preparedness and implementing activities under the national action plans.

In Liberia, Abraham B. Tamba Senior, Administrator at the Emergency Medical Response Department of the Ministry of Health, says:

“THE TRAINING GAVE US A BETTER PERSPECTIVE OF INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE ON PDNA. IT HELPED US CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS ON THE LOSS AND DAMAGES AFTER A DISASTER AND THE NEEDS OF THE SURVIVORS.”

To uphold best practice in PDNA training, especially in times of a health pandemic, Senior suggests that Liberia establishes **“a committee consisting of experts to advise the National Disaster Management Authority. This would ensure a multi-sectoral approach to the pandemic response and sustains the knowledge acquired”**, he says.

“OUR MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT IN LIBERIA IS LEADING A BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE FOR SUCH A COMMITTEE THAT INVESTIGATES MAJOR TRANSPORT INCIDENTS IN A MULTI-SECTORAL MANNER.”

Senior highlighted that combining technical and scientific solutions with local expertise and capacities plays an important role in mitigating disasters.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Sarah Farhat / World Bank. The village of Soavina in Madagascar. 2019. Online Image. Flickr.

7.CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sendai Framework acknowledges the pivotal role of regional cooperation in DRR and calls for strengthening regional mechanisms to support the development and implementation of policies and strategies, share information, and promote mutual learning, training, and capacity building. The Program under review, financed by the ACP-EU and implemented by the World Bank/GFDRR, supported four African RECs (ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, and SADC) in augmenting their capacities to support implementation of the Sendai Framework.

This report presents the activities, knowledge products and strategies supported by the Program in the four RECs and how they achieved the five expected results holistically. The four pre-defined targets to monitor the achievement of expected results have been achieved:

- The four RECs have operationalized their DRR strategies according to their respective action plans, building on the achievements of previous DRM initiatives.
- At least eight sub-regional training events have been organized under the leadership of the respective RECs.
- The four RECs have developed capacity to advise and provide technical assistance to their Member States in developing national DRM policies, strategies, and risk reduction programs.
- The four RECs have developed and/or improved their capacity to support Member States undertaking PDNAs and recovery planning.

7.1 PIVOTAL ROLE OF THE PROGRAM FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Through the Program, the four RECs strengthened their institutional capacity for regional collaboration, coordination, communication, and information-sharing within and across the regions. The enhanced role of the RECs, acknowledged by their Member States and partners, is evident in their leadership in the development, adoption and implementation of regional policies, strategies, and action plans. Examples include the ECOWAS Flood Risk Management Strategies, and the mainstreaming of gender in DRM Strategy and Action Plans, adopted by all four RECs. With these strategies and policies, the Program created a lasting impact in the regions. All stakeholders, including Member States, development partners, the private sector, academia, and civil society, were convened by the RECs in regional initiatives such as the DRR Platforms, and Hydromet Forums. The Program thus enabled the RECs to perform their role in implementing the Sendai Framework through focusing on regional priority actions.

Regional policies, strategies and action plans provide the contextual frameworks for the development of national DRR strategies and action plans. The Program supported the RECs in providing timely assistance to fragile Member States, which traditionally have less access to state-of-the-art technical assistance and collaboration. The Program supported the development of national policies and strategies, especially in Somalia, South Sudan, Cameroon, and Central African Republic. Facilitating support to Member States and supporting fragile countries catching up with their neighbors was one of the concrete achievements of the Program. In addition, the Program strengthened IT infrastructure of national DRM units in ECOWAS and ECCAS. Overall, the Program has demonstrated that regional collaboration program/initiatives can provide crucial additional support to fragile and vulnerable countries in formulating their national policies and strengthening institutional capacities.

Regional knowledge sharing and capacity building events through the program served to enhance South-South cooperation, transboundary collaboration, and mutual learning. Collaborative actions taken under the Program – such as regional geographic information databases and joint policy advocacy to integrate DRR and CCA in IGAD and ECCAS, and pre-season preparedness, response and early actions planning in SADC and IGAD – reinforced regional integration and built communities of practice. The Hydromet Forums are good examples of convening stakeholders on urgent priorities for action.

Simultaneous to the institutional strengthening, policy development and regional collaboration, the Program supported training and capacity building at regional and national levels in ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, and SADC regions. Intensive training of national civil servants in PDNA methodology in all RECs, and GIS training in IGAD, are examples of focused capacity development achievements of the Program. It also facilitated collaboration with university and research networks in Western, Central and Southern Africa. The Program supported training initiatives that leveraged this link to universities, such as the ECCAS internship program, practice research on flood management with WASCAL, and the research and training programs with Stellenbosch and NWU (South Africa), University of Botswana, and civil society such as Development Initiative Network Malawi. This synergy enhanced knowledge and built capacity for the next generation of DRM practitioners and policymakers.

The Program has facilitated regional integration and drew international attention to the climate and disaster risks faced by Sub-Saharan Africa. The Program enabled the RECs to perform their role as a bridge between the national and global levels, to represent their regions in global fora, and to catalyze collaboration between national governments, stakeholders and development partners towards disaster and climate resilience. The Program also provided much-needed additional support to vulnerable countries and their DRM Units for policy development and efficiency enhancement.

7.2 REMAINING CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD

The Program enabled RECs to strengthen regional and national DRR coordination, policy, planning, operational capacity, knowledge, and institutional mechanisms. Such efforts take time to mature and become self-reliant as investments in knowledge and capacity building have longer-term gestations. Thus, the achievements of the Program are fragile and require sustenance over a longer timeframe.

DRM continues to be perceived as a sector of investment rather than a mainstreamed element in all development policy and programs. As such, it competes with a host of regional priorities ranging from peace and stability, water and agriculture, power and transport, gender, health, education, and others. The underlying drivers of risk are inextricable in socio-economic development processes; resilience gives best results when mainstreamed. In other words, resilience is not a sector by itself, but an inseparable element of all sectors. In IGAD, development of a regional DRM strategy for integrating DRM and CCA (encompassing both natural and human-made hazards) is a good example of mainstreaming coherently across traditional sectors.

In Sub-Saharan African DRM processes, relative emphasis has remained on post-disaster response, recovery, and reconstruction. An equal emphasis must evolve for ex-ante prevention, risk information, risk reduction, risk financing and preparedness, including EWS, to protect lives and livelihoods. The Program has made strides in mainstreaming DRM in development planning and investments, and in balancing the emphasis equally on ex-post and ex-ante DRM. However, this is a continuous process, and it needs to be sustained over time with ownership from national and regional leaderships.

The regional Hydromet Forums, convened by ECOWAS, ECCAS and SADC, are good examples of bringing together national governments, the private sector, academia, and civil society to focus on ex- ante aspects of DRM, including risk information, risk reduction and preparedness. Risk information in particular informs benchmarking for risk financing and insurance.

Some of the challenges to regional cooperation at the operational level include the implementation gap between policy and practice, disparity in national institutional capacities, availability of predictable and adequate financial resources, and tailoring strategies and plans to local risk profiles. Closing this implementation gap requires ground-truthing of regional and national DRR strategies by giving greater emphasis on establishing an “enabling environment” for inclusive local actions aimed at tangible benefits at the community level, particularly for the more vulnerable and marginalized.

Continued capacity building and technical assistance are required to strengthen sub-national and local risk governance capabilities to mainstream disaster risk considerations into development planning and implementation, with particular focus on gender and vulnerable groups. The Program’s support for IGAD’s Climate-Smart Agriculture pilot, in collaboration with the Kenya Red Cross, is a good example of participatory community-based DRM and CCA practice and deserves to be scaled up.

Transboundary hazards, for example floods occurring along major rivers, are of relevance for the RECs and a driver behind some of the regional policies and actions. Regional policies and initiatives are only as good as the underlying data, models, and assumptions. For example, the limited sharing of hydromet, hazard and other location-based risk information remains one of the key constraints for regional policy initiatives. Establishing protocols and setting up enabling systems for effective data sharing will be critical in the future.

Going forward, RECs will continue to function as pivots between national and global institutions, and nodes of regional cooperation for national governments. The Program has provided crucial support to policy formulation, strategy development and planning actions. The challenges and opportunities from this point lie in developing and following a concerted roadmap for implementation, measurement, and reporting on actions, at regional and national levels. This includes regional and local cooperation to strengthen gross operational capacities; developing principles, standards, and approaches; formation of “communities of practice” to share knowledge and support peer learning; together with guidance to Member States to access both domestic and external financial resources for implementing resilience-building actions.

7.3 LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

REGIONAL ENTITIES ARE THE MISSING PIECES OF THE RESILIENCE PUZZLE.

The critical aspect of regional integration and regional cooperation is the central theme of the Program. It consistently enabled all stakeholders, including Member States, development partners, the private sector, academia, and civil society, to be convened by the RECs on regional initiatives that focused on the connecting issues and the implementation of the Sendai Framework through regional priority actions. Therefore, a lesson to be internalized in the design of future operations is to maintain the regional space as a crucial collaboration and coordination fulcrum to ensure sustainability, ownership, and resource optimization through economies of scale. This regional focus also ensures additional support to the more vulnerable countries in devising policies, strategies, and action plans for resilience priorities.

RECS RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS TIME TO MOVE FROM ADVOCACY TO REGIONAL DRR ACTIONS.

Now that the RECs have advocated for a strong regional program on DRR and formulated regional policies, plans and strategies, such as the ECOWAS Flood Risk Management Strategy and GSAP, they call for a move to action. This can have different forms and includes concrete implementation support enabling Member States to build resilience and benefit from regional programs. One concrete action is the sharing of data and related data sharing policies for hazard, vulnerability, and risk. Going forward, future Programs should consider establishing and strengthening data portals and make sure information is accessible to Member States.

STRENGTHENING DRM MAINSTREAMING MUST BE A MULTI-LEVEL CASCADE.

Interventions in strengthening DRM/CCA mainstreaming should be designed for all stakeholders in a holistic framework. For example, programs may be designed as a cascade with components for the local level with civil society and communities, the national level with national governments, and the regional level with regional economic commissions, with lateral components for academia, the private sector, and technical organizations such as river basin authorities. This multi-level design will ensure that the outputs and outcomes of one level reinforce the outputs and outcomes of another level. Otherwise, the DRM/CCA demand from national governments generated through this program will dissipate. In the same logic, even within a regional economic commission, the intervention should address all relevant units, such as water, agriculture, energy, hydrology, meteorology, education, health, and not remain confined to civil protection and disaster management.

REGIONAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS CAN ONLY BE AS RELEVANT AS THE MEMBER STATES THAT CARRY THEM.

Over the years, many regional organizations have focused on implementing donor funded-programs, while Member States have been in arrears to pay their membership fees. Future programs can only be successful if RECs also carry them with substantial co-financing, and if Member States therefore step up their efforts to clear arrears (where applicable) to the respective regional organizations. The provision for mandatory co-financing, either in cash or in staff support, is thus important for RECs and their Member States.

POLITICAL ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP ARE AS IMPORTANT AS TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW.

There is a need to balance functional capacity building with technical capacity building. The effectiveness of this project is due to its design of doing more than improving technical skills. The project allocated enough resources to develop the ability to take effective decisions and actions on DRM, including improving coordination and developing policies and plans. These non-technical aspects of capacity building prove to be key in achieving capacity building outcomes.

CAPACITY BUILDING IS A PROGRAMMATIC OUTCOME, NOT A PROJECT OUTPUT.

Technical assistance and capacity building are time-taking and energy-intensive processes. Therefore, all capacity building initiatives should have a longer timeframe as it takes more effort and time than money to build capacity. There is a compelling case for a programmatic approach for capacity building in cross-cutting areas such as DRM/CCA and in mainstreaming. Capacity building programs, practice learning, and south-south exchange have proven to be successful once they are anchored in the region and are carried by regional universities or networks. This proved to be easier, for example, in Southern Africa where there is a strong network of universities focusing on research and capacity building on DRR. Institutionalizing these partnerships will be important to sustain long-term collaboration. It includes the establishment of networks and rosters of experts, which can be called upon by the RECs and Member States for specific issues. For example, some RECs like ECOWAS have established rosters of experts in recovery planning and conducting PDNA, which can support Member States.

IT WILL TAKE A SIZABLE, PROGRAMMATIC, AND MEDIUM-TERM FRAMEWORK APPROACH TO SUSTAIN SUPPORT FOR RECS.

A programmatic framework of longer-term engagement may be attempted by development partners as the medium-term blueprint of support for a region. This will introduce predictability and adequacy in the flow of resources, improve country ownership and enhance donor coordination. It will also ensure that every region is funded according to its needs and potentials, and there is no unintended imbalance in the funding of different regions.

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