



# Intra-ACP Focus Day

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management and  
Climate Change Adaptation in ACP countries

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## ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program

*An initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group, funded by the European Union and managed by GFDRR*

# Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in ECOWAS Region

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# Context

## Socioeconomic and human development attributes of West Africa

- ❖ ECOWAS is a regional economic union of fifteen (15) countries. (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d' Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo).
- ❖ Since its creation on 28 May 1975, (ECOWAS) has been promoting economic cooperation and regional integration as a tool for an accelerated development of the West African economy.
- ❖ In 2015, ECOWAS countries collectively had an estimated population of over 349 million with an area of 5,114,162 km<sup>2</sup> (1,974,589 sq mi).
- ❖ Current GDP per capita (US\$) was at level of 1,555.17 US\$ in 2017, down from 1,602.82 US\$ previous year, this is a change of 2.97 %.
- ❖ Poverty is high, with 43 percent of the population below the international \$1.90 per day poverty line in 2013 (the most recent estimate).
- ❖ The low levels of human development in the sub-region compounds the vulnerability and hazard risk situations in most ECOWAS member States, resulting in low adaptive and coping capacities to disaster events such as flooding, storms, epidemics and droughts.

## Hazard risk profile in West Africa

- ❖ Number of reported disasters has increased significantly in recent decades, putting at risk recent development gains in the region.
- ❖ Climate change is expected to increase drought conditions, coastal erosion and affect the vegetation patterns in the sub-region, while tidal waves and storm surges are likely to intensify.
- ❖ According to the most recent data from the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), disasters such as droughts and floods have affected over 34 million people across the African continent (including 19 million in West Africa) resulting in economic losses exceeding \$ 1.3 billion between 2011 and 2012.
- ❖ Climate change is expected to increase drought conditions, coastal erosion and affect the vegetation patterns in the sub-region, while tidal waves and storm surges are likely to intensify.
- ❖ In order to reduce the impact of natural and man-made disasters in West Africa, several notable actions has been taken by the ECOWAS Commission:
  - ✓ ECOWAS Policy for DRR adopted by heads of states in 2007
  - ✓ ECOWAS has developed a new Programme of Action (POA) for the period 2015-2030 in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, The AU Regional Policy for DRR and the ECOWAS DRR policy.





# Perspective on mainstreaming DRM & CCA in West Africa

## How is Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation mainstreamed in ECOWAS

- ❖ In West Africa, there is a growing awareness that disasters are generally linked to problems of human development. The emerging issue of mainstreaming DRR in development programming is noted as a plausible way to implement the needed links between DRR, climate change adaptation (CCA) and sustainable development, thus providing avenues for practical action for both ECOWAS, National Governments and other actors in the region.
- ❖ There are several policies that have been adopted at the sub-regional and national levels that have elements of DRR mainstreamed into them:
  - ✓ ECOWAS Agricultural Policy
  - ✓ The ECOWAS environmental policy
  - ✓ ECOWAS implementation of The African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD)
- ❖ The main tools and approaches used by the ECOWAS Commission, member States and their development partners to mainstream and implement DRR activities at the sub-regional and national levels include:
  - ✓ Training and capacity building;
  - ✓ Advocacy and public awareness raising; Environmental impact assessments;
  - ✓ Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs);
  - ✓ Vulnerability Capacity Analysis (VCA);
  - ✓ Development of national platform on DRR and enhanced collaboration.
  - ✓ Collaboration with development partners

## Main challenges/needs faced at regional level in terms of mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation

- ❖ DRR integration/mainstreaming into most of the ECOWAS Member States national development policies, plans and strategies cannot be said to be significant.
- ❖ Most of the DRR elements displayed in the documents with regard to institutional capacity and debilitating disaster risk situations in the subregion and most Member States do not correlate as such.
- ❖ DRR is still a relatively new approach in the country; as such legislative leverages and level of awareness on the subject are low.
- ❖ Capacity for teaching, mentorship and research on DRR related issues are grossly inadequate.
- ❖ A large number of personnel in the MDAs and NGOs would need requisite capacity building and training in DRR for them to appreciate its relevance to development and to enhance the efforts being made to mainstream and implement DRR at the subregional and national levels in West Africa.
- ❖ To address the current challenges in accessing disaster risk information, there is need to establish strategic DRR data centres to enhance storage and retrieval of DRR information at the subregional and national levels.
- ❖ There is need for a more enduring collaboration and sharing of sensitive DRR information among the academic/research institutes, hydrological and meteorological agencies, planning and decision-makers so as to ensure effective DRR delivery.



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# Focus on the ACP-EU NDRR Program

## ACP-EU NDRR project(s) contribution to mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in ECOWAS :

- Strengthen DRM policies and institutions at national and regional level :**
  - ✓ The project support ECOWAS and its member states in the first year to validate and adopt the Plan of Action through a regional consultation workshop,
  - ✓ Furthermore it provide support for developing a strategy and institutional framework for national disaster management / civil protection agencies .
  - ✓ Establish sub regional DRR platform,
  - ✓ Providing institutional capacity support to Member States (Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Burkina Faso)
  
- Strengthen regional flood management capacity through development of a regional flood management strategy and study on the trans-boundary impacts of floods –**
  - ✓ Supporting establishment of a harmonized framework for flood forecasting in West Africa .
  - ✓ Review and update the 2010 study on impacts of transnational floods in West Africa and initiate the consultation with River Basin Authorities, technical and scientific institutions as well as NGO and CSO.
  - ✓ A feasibility study on such a regional flood forecasting mechanism will be launched and piloted.
  - ✓ Support in organizing and hosting of West Africa Hydromet Forum
  
- Enhance regional post disaster recovery planning :**
  - ✓ The project is providing comprehensive support to ECOWAS for better managing post disaster needs assessments and recovery planning, investing in capacity building, building regional (ECOWAS) guidance notes on recovery planning and assisting member states in establishing base line data for economic impact assessments and recovery planning.
  
- Capacity strengthening and coordination (training, human resources, institutional capacities)**
  - ✓ The project support ECOWAS with recruitment of DRR technical specialists / project officers providing guidance and support to ECOWAS on disaster risk reduction. ECOWAS will furthermore be supported to participate in Global, Regional and various joint strategic s program related activities on climate change.



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# Lessons learned

**What are the lessons learned in the process of developing and implementing solutions for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation.**

- ❖ DRR can be mainstreamed into agriculture and land use practices to build local resilience to climate related hazards.
- ❖ Effective DRR mainstreaming into different sectors of the economy cannot be achieved without adequate understanding and partnership with relevant stakeholders in such sectors.
- ❖ The initiative to succeed requires multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder consultation and commitment as well as multilateral collaboration for funding and technical support.
- ❖ Capacity-building and training in DRR should be carried out in order to enhance awareness of relevance to development and scale-up efforts being made to mainstream and implement DRR.
- ❖ The PDNA require multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder consultation for ownership and implementation and require a level of commitment from government, local, political and community leaders, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations and other related local level institutions.

**How could mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation be further enhanced.**

- ❖ Strategic DRR Data Centres should be established to enhance storage and retrieval of DRR information.
- ❖ Advocacy and public enlightenment on DRR should be stepped up. Moreover, appropriate legislation should be promulgated; and competent DRR desk officers be designated in ministries, departments and agencies for effective DRR mainstreaming and follow up.
- ❖ EWSs should be strengthened and mechanisms for information sharing and early warning between meteorological services and DRR experts should be established to give appropriate alerts to prevent or mitigate risk and ensure adequate preparedness in the subregion.
- ❖ ECOWAS member States should embark on decentralization of DRR activities to the local communities and the populations that are at the frontier of disasters.
- ❖ Countries should enact appropriate legislations to institutionalize DRR funding at all levels of government.
- ❖ Member states and subregional organizations should promote collaboration and sharing of sensitive DRR information among the academic/research institutes, hydrological and meteorological agencies, planning and decision-makers so as to ensure effective DRR delivery.

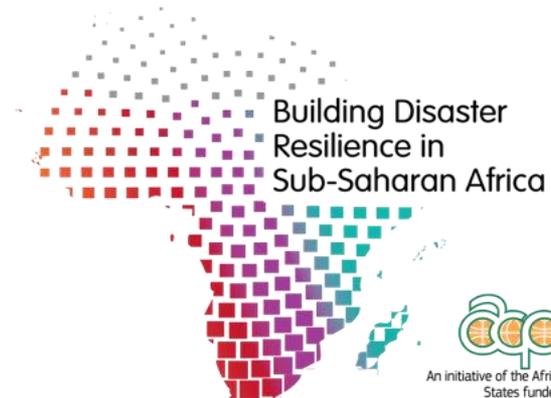


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# THANK YOU



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