



ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program 2019 - 2020 Activity Report



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program 2019 - 2020 Activity Report

This report summarizes activities and achievements under the Africa, Caribbean, Pacific-European Union Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (ACP-EU NDRR) Program from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.



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Notes: The financial contributions and expenditures reported are reflected up to June 30, 2020; all dollar amounts are in US dollars (\$) unless otherwise indicated.

Design: Websiteprojects sprl

Cover Image: Streets of Maputo, Mozambique. Source: iPhoto.com

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACP	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific
ADRF	Africa Disaster Risk Financing Initiative
CAFF	Saint Lucia Climate Adaptation Financing Facility
Cat-DDO	Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CHaRIM	Caribbean Handbook for Risk Information and Management
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRF	Disaster Recovery Framework
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EP&R	Emergency Preparedness and Response
EU	European Union
EWS	Early Warning Systems
FY20	Fiscal Year 2020 (1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020)
Geo-CRIS	Caribbean Risk Information System geospatial platform
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
GRADE	Global Rapid post disaster Damage Estimation
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IGN	Dominican Republic's National Geographic Institute - <i>Instituto Geográfico Nacional</i>
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KCCA	Kampala Capital City Authority
MEPyD	Dominican Republic's Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development - <i>Ministerio de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo</i>
MettelSat	Democratic Republic of Congo's National Hydrological and Meteorological Service
NDRR	Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (ACP-EU NDRR Program)
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OACPS	Organization of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States
PDNAs	Post-Disaster Needs Assessments
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
RECs	African Regional Economic Communities
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SIREN-RD	Dominican Republic Damage Collection and Assessment System for the Dominican - <i>Republic Sistema de Recopilación y Evaluación de Daños para la República Dominicana</i>
SWIFT	Survey of Well-being via Instant and Frequent Tracking
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UR	Understanding Risk

Foreword

Since its inception in 2011, the **Africa Caribbean Pacific-European Union Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (ACP-EU NDRR) Program** has been a driving force in helping countries of the Organization of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS)¹ - strengthen their resilience to climate change and disaster risks. The Program has worked alongside key stakeholders such as governments, international organizations, donors, civil society, the private sector and academia to protect sustainable development gains from the impacts of disasters. In Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) the Program continued to implement and expand its activities, including during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak which first emerged at the end of 2019.

This report highlights the Program's FY20 activities in partnership with stakeholders from OACPS countries to produce practical guidance for integrating the principles and policies of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) into development planning at the local, national, and regional levels. Significant to note during this period was the interest of a number of participating countries in pairing their existing activities focusing on reducing the impact of disaster events, with their national responses to epidemics and pandemics, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. One example of this was the integration of COVID-19 response with storm preparedness in the Caribbean and the Pacific. The Program also responded to a high demand for improvements in urban infrastructure to make cities more climate resilient, helping metropolitan hubs such as Accra, Antananarivo, Banjul, Kigali, and Lilongwe adopt policies that strengthen urban resilience. Interventions include flood risk management and improved data collection through hydrometeorological mapping.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented an immense challenge to building resilience against climate change and disaster risks, especially for OACPS member countries, who are among the most vulnerable and hazard prone in the world. These countries have had to respond to the ongoing health emergency in addition to extreme events from natural hazards and climate change-related risks. This year alone, hazards have included locust invasions in East Africa which are causing acute food insecurity; devastating tropical cyclones in the Pacific; and the threat of an above-average hurricane season in the Caribbean. Despite the new realities of the pandemic, the Program has made commendable efforts to continue to work alongside countries across the regions of the OACPS, to build a climate and disaster risk resilient future. Following an agreement between GFDRR, the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), and the Secretariat of the OACPS, the Program has been extended from November 2020 to December 2021. This allows adequate time for the Program to adapt its activities to the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to seek innovative ways of implementing its support and services, such as through remote and virtual avenues, to achieve its agreed objectives.

The regional and national DRM agencies and institutions that manage disaster preparedness and response have been at the forefront of the pandemic response, with technical assistance from the Program. Activities supported by the Program are fundamental in facing the dual crisis of disasters events that are further compounded by the heightened socio-economic vulnerabilities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Such activities include institutional strengthening for DRM, risk identification, the use of geospatial expertise, resilient infrastructure, and disaster preparedness and recovery measures. Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and DRM is thus crucial in responding to complex emergencies compounded by natural hazards and climate change and protecting communities that are most exposed and vulnerable to these risks.



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¹ OACPS is a new international organization under the revised Georgetown Agreement. For more information, please see: <https://bit.ly/32727Jj>.

Executive Summary

This report highlights the results achieved by the ACP-EU NDRR Program during FY20.

The ACP-EU NDRR Program has continued to implement and expand its portfolio. The Program **awarded 17 new projects during the course of FY20, totaling over \$4 million** in new awards. It granted additional funding to ongoing country-level projects in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Malawi, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Solomon Islands, as well as to a regional project supporting the Caribbean Disaster Management Emergency Management Agency. This expands **the Program's total portfolio to 147 projects, benefitting over 70 countries**, since its inception. Highlights in each region are presented below.

In **Africa**, the Program's portfolio numbered 31 active projects, 8 of which were launched in FY20. This included a new regional initiative in **Southern Africa**, which established a risk financing framework for agriculture and food security, resulting in new risk financing tools and improved data collection methods for member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Several governments in Sub-Saharan Africa, such as **Benin, Kenya and Malawi**, have continued to introduce key policy reforms on DRR and DRM in support of the uptake of climate change and DRM as national priorities. In **eSwatini**, the National Disaster Management Agency developed its institutional capacities to prepare for and respond to droughts through a series of workshops for government institutions. The governments of **Ghana, Malawi, and Rwanda** responded to flooding risks by developing their abilities to conduct hydrological modelling, flood-risk mapping, and hydrometeorological forecasting. In addition, emergency preparedness has become an increased focus in **Lesotho** and the **Seychelles**, where governments are strengthening policy frameworks and standard operating procedures to face increasing natural hazards. The Program also continued to provide countries across the continent with support in the aftermath of disasters to improve the effectiveness of response and recovery activities. More information on the ACP-EU NDRR FY20 portfolio in Africa can be found on pages 20-39.

In the **Caribbean**, the Program provided technical assistance to 18 active projects in FY20, 8 of which were launched in FY20. The **Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)** is coordinating a regional initiative to improve disaster preparedness and response capacity in five Eastern Caribbean states, including policy reforms and investment plans to maximize effectiveness when responding to disasters such as category 5 hurricanes. Another regional project developed disaster risk information in several Caribbean islands and included the creation of an online tool to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on CDEMA member states. The **Dominican Republic** is benefitting from improved data collection methods to compile a virtual repository of disaster data that will inform potential needs for recovery and reconstruction. In **Haiti**, a new project is analyzing how disasters have a different impact on women and girls, and how best to integrate gender considerations into DRM. **Saint Lucia** is undertaking initiatives to improve its understanding of how disaster risks threaten its public infrastructure and how they affect poor and socially vulnerable communities. The government of **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** is addressing the rapid growth of its cities by adopting a comprehensive urban redevelopment and economic growth plan which integrates resilience to climate change. More information on the ACP-EU NDRR FY20 portfolio in the Caribbean can be found on pages 32-39.

In the **Pacific**, the Program provided technical assistance to 10 active projects in FY20, 1 of which was launched during the fiscal year. Under a new project in **Papua New Guinea**, government ministries and agencies are undergoing an institutional review of their DRM policies to identify potential gaps and priority reforms, including an assessment of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery systems, which have become crucial in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Fiji** and **Samoa** have finalized new construction guidelines for residential and school buildings to optimize their resilience to disaster risks. In **Kiribati**, the findings from a case study on spatial development have helped the government identify needs and options to make future urban expansion and the construction of low-income housing resilient to climate change. In the **Solomon Islands**, a new digital data portal is making it easier for specialized agencies responsible for land use planning, emergency management, infrastructure development, and urban communities to access and share data on flood risks. Finally, a regional project supported the governments of **Fiji, Tonga** and the **Solomon Islands** with hands-on training on the use of drones in a post-disaster context, leading to concrete improvements in government agencies' use of these innovative tools in their day-to-day operations. More information on the Program's FY20 portfolio in the Pacific can be found on pages 40-45.

Towards the end of FY20, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a worldwide disruption of economic activity and threatened to overwhelm ACP countries with fragile healthcare sectors. The Program has nevertheless continued to strengthen the capacity of governments to integrate DRM and DRR into their development agendas. This has been critical in facing the pandemic, particularly since World Bank in-country partners have faced the challenge of needing to respond to complex and compound risks. To adapt to new realities, find solutions to support ACP countries, and ensure activities achieve the expected results, the GFDRR team has worked with the European Commission on a **no-cost extension of the ACP-EU NDRR Program** from November 2020 to December 2021. More information about how the Program has continued to support ACP countries during the COVID-19 crisis can be found on page 48.

The ACP-EU NDRR Program provided new opportunities for stakeholders and experts to share their knowledge and expertise by co-financing the *Understanding Risk (UR) West and Central Africa* conference, held in November 2019 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The Program sponsored several delegates at the conference, which was held under the theme of *"Human Capital and Innovation for a Resilient Society"*. The event gathered over 600 participants who explored new approaches to understanding and responding to the risk of natural hazards in West and Central Africa. Capacity building activities are further outlined on page 46.

Finally, GFDRR focuses its grant financing in strategic areas where there is a high likelihood of leveraging additional financing to scale up disaster and climate resilience operations, whether from the World Bank or other sources. Several projects implemented under the ACP-EU NDRR Program have leveraged a total of around **\$800 million** in FY20, including leveraging from several external partners. More information on the ACP-EU NDRR Program's leveraging of DRM investments can be found on pages 49-51.



Panel Discussion at Understanding Risk West and Central Africa.
Source: World Bank

Program Overview

Program Objectives and Description

The ACP-EU NDRR Program was launched in October 2011, and is managed through a €54.5 million single donor trust fund managed by GFDRR. Its objective is to address preparedness for natural hazards and the prevention and mitigation of disasters at the regional, sub-regional, national and local levels in ACP countries, focusing on four priority areas:

Mainstreaming of DRR

Risk identification and assessment

Early Warning Systems (EWS) and communication on DRR

Risk transfer and integration of DRR into post-disaster recovery

All activities implemented under the ACP-EU NDRR Program provide technical assistance and strive to build the capacities of ACP countries in DRM and CCA, and to integrate multi-sectoral and multi-hazard risk management approaches into national and regional development planning. The Program fosters informed decision-making on resilience, recovery, reconstruction and long-term development planning. It achieves its objectives by implementing three strands of activities or “Windows”:

Window 1
regional and sub-regional level projects

Activities at the regional level, advancing the national DRR agendas of ACP countries through regional and sub-regional cooperation.

Window 2
country-level projects

Activities at the national level, driving DRR and CCA policy development and implementation in ACP countries through need-based and demand-driven technical assistance.

Window 3
post-disaster, capacity building and recovery activities

Activities which improve the ability of ACP countries to respond to disasters efficiently and effectively by building ex-ante capacity to conduct Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs), by providing rapid technical assistance, and by mainstreaming DRR in recovery planning.

Projects are demand-driven and needs-based. Standard eligibility criteria apply to all projects, namely: (i) an **official request** from governments and or regional or sub-regional organizations to demonstrate ownership; (ii) **consultation with the respective EU Delegation** to confirm that project proposals are complementary to other EU Country, Regional and/or Intra-ACP projects, and (iii) **alignment with the World Bank's strategies** in the respective country.

Supporting African Regional Economic Communities: In 2014, the Program was expanded with an additional €20 million for regional activities to support the DRM coordination capacity of African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), specifically the Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). This supplementary contribution falls administratively under the ACP-EU NDRR Program, but the activities contribute to the achievement of the 2nd Result Area (R2) of the ACP-EU Program “*Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries, and Communities*.” A separate activity report presents the activities of the R2 Program in FY20.

Coordination with other partners: The Program works with national and local governments, communities, civil society, and other partners including United Nations (UN) agencies and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). This is in addition to coordinating with EU delegations, with more specific examples given on pages 11-12.

Steering Committee meetings: A Steering Committee – consisting of representatives from the European Commission, the OACPS Secretariat, and the World Bank – meets regularly to review progress, provide advice and guidance, and address needs arising from project implementation. During the meetings, the overall portfolio, financial overview, and status of the monitoring framework is presented. The FY20 Steering Committee meeting for the ACP-EU NDRR Program had to be postponed to a more suitable time due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Program extension: Several ACP-EU NDRR grants experienced delays in implementing activities due to the COVID-19 crisis and its associated direct consequences. This included activities related to institutional strengthening for mainstreaming DRM into policy and legislation, technical workshops, capacity building sessions, data collection exercises and knowledge sharing events. The GFDRR team therefore worked with the European Commission on a **no-cost extension of the ACP-EU NDRR Program** from November 2020 to December 2021. This extension provides World Bank teams and government counterparts with more time to adapt to the new realities and find solutions for delivering support in more remote and virtual ways, and to complete activities to achieve their expected results.



Kampala, Uganda.
Source: iStock.com

Outcomes - Expected Results & Targets

The main expected results of the ACP-EU NDRR Program are:

Improved resilience of ACP countries to the impact of natural disasters;

Better preparedness of the population in disaster-prone areas;

Reduction of the cost of response in the event of natural disasters.

The achievement of these results is measured against the following targets, which are to be reached by the new Program closing date in December 2021.

	Achieved as of June 30, 2020	Ongoing	Status As of June 30, 2020
30 ACP countries have integrated DRR and CCA in the national planning process	23	16	Target on track to be surpassed
20 countries have developed risk tools to guide vulnerability reduction	25	17	Target surpassed
3 river basins have enhanced flood risk management capacity	2	6	Target on track to be surpassed
6 sub-regional institutions have functioning DRR capacity	6	—	Target reached
20 countries have access to operational EWS for natural disasters	11	5	Target on track to be reached through regional activities
15 countries have developed risk financing and insurance strategies	12	5	Target on track to be surpassed
20 countries have developed national capacity for PDNAs	18	4	Target on track to be surpassed
15 countries have undertaken multi-stakeholder PDNA and recovery planning	20	2	Target surpassed
5 countries have effective implementation of DRR in the recovery phase	3	9	Target on track to be surpassed
10			

Cooperation with European Union Delegations on the ground

The implementation of ACP-EU NDRR regional and country-level projects involve relevant EU Delegations as much as possible. Several examples below highlight the contribution of such delegations to ACP-EU NDRR projects and activities in FY20.

In **Africa**, EU Delegations are kept abreast of the implementation of ACP-EU NDRR projects in various ways, including regular updates; inviting EU officials to workshops, trainings and capacity building events to ensure coordination; and utilizing EU expertise on the ground in project execution. For example, the *UR West and Central Africa* conference in Abidjan, **Côte d'Ivoire** in November 2019, co-funded by the ACP-EU NDRR Program,² benefitted from the presence of the EU Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Jobst von Kirchmann, who gave the keynote address. During the opening ceremony, Mr. Kirchmann underlined the "EU's commitment to helping developing countries prepare for, withstand and recover from disaster events, through several actions", including the ACP-EU NDRR Program which, he said, provides essential "technical assistance, capacity building and advisory and analytical services to beneficiary countries".



Mr. Jobst von Kirchmann, EU Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire during the opening ceremony of the UR West and Central Africa.
Source: World Bank

Under a regional project that uses disruptive technologies in **Africa's fastest-growing cities** to overcome risk information gaps, several EU technical specialists attended the *African Drone Forum*³ in Kigali, Rwanda in February 2020. The Forum brought together EU counterparts within the Delegation to SADC, colleagues from the European Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection in Nairobi, and a senior drone expert from the Commission's Directorate General for Mobility and Transport. In addition, the project's activities drew on EU expertise, with imagery from the EU's *Copernicus Program* serving as input data for some of the project's outputs. Results from this project will also be directly accessible for analysis through the *Urban Thematic Exploitation Platform*, a European Space Agency project which allows users to access and analyze earth observation data for specific themes.

Several other projects in Sub-Saharan Africa involved EU counterparts in their implementation. In **Zimbabwe**, representatives of the EU and the World Bank sit on a Steering Committee, convened by the government, that oversees and provides guidance for the development of a recovery and resilience framework funded by the ACP-EU NDRR Program. In **Cameroon**, the Municipality of Yaoundé, the EU Delegation and the World Bank country team found synergies between activities of an ACP-EU NDRR project focusing on participatory DRM mapping activities and other EU initiatives regarding the best way to store and make collected data available, as well as the development of an observatory for urban transit. In the **Gambia**, EU Delegation representatives took part in two consecutive stakeholder workshops, in February and March 2020, providing an opportunity for the exchange of information on ongoing EU initiatives in the Gambia, including through the *Global Climate Change Alliance+ (GCCA+)*.

² The proceedings of the conference are available in English at <https://bit.ly/39WyHQB> and in French at <https://bit.ly/2zjHNSU>.

³ For more information, please see: <https://www.africandroneforum.org/>.

In the **Caribbean**, regular coordination takes place with the EU Delegation in Barbados regarding the implementation of projects. In FY20, the development of a new regional spatial data platform called Geo-CRIS⁴ was specifically discussed at coordination meetings. The platform was launched as part of the Program's *Risk Information Program regional project*, which ensures that Caribbean countries - specifically **Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia**, and **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** - have access to reliable data on DRM. In addition, meetings with EU Delegation counterparts were organized as part of the 11th CDEMA conference in Sint Maarten in December 2019.⁵

ACP-EU NDRR projects implemented in the **Pacific** benefit from effective collaboration with the EU Delegation in Suva, Fiji. Project updates are regularly provided, especially on related World Bank investments in relevant Pacific island countries (PICs) supported by the Program, such as in **Fiji, Samoa, Tuvalu** and **Vanuatu**. Coordination with other EU initiatives are also discussed; one such is the *Pacific Initiative for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Resilience*.⁶ In addition, a meeting between Representatives from DG DEVCO's East, South-East Asia and Pacific unit and World Bank representatives in Suva was held in November 2019 to discuss ongoing initiatives in the Pacific, including ACP-EU NDRR projects.



Vaiaku, Tuvalu.
Source: iStock.com

⁴ The new Geo-CRIS database is accessible at: <https://geocris2.cdema.org/>.

⁵ More information about the conference can be found here: <https://www.cdema.org/cdm11/>.

⁶ More information can be found at <https://bit.ly/32TxxDO>.

Strengthening resilience to climate and disaster risks during the COVID-19 global pandemic

The ACP-EU NDRR Program has continued to support ACP countries during the global COVID-19 pandemic, adapting ongoing activities to respond to changing priorities and supporting countries in strengthening their financial resilience to natural hazards to mitigate the economic hardships caused by the pandemic.

An adaptative approach to face the pandemic

ACP countries are among the most vulnerable countries in the world to natural hazards and the adverse effects of climate change. Governments in these regions have had to quickly adapt to the realities of the COVID-19 outbreak and its impacts, while continuing to invest in building resilience to natural hazards - the effects of which are compounded by the pandemic. Countries have been developing their pandemic responses and integrating them within their existing disaster preparedness and response strategies and institutions. This has been highlighted in several ACP-EU NDRR projects, which have had to adapt certain activities to the new realities imposed by COVID-19.

In **Africa**, a project in **Cameroon**⁷ focusing on participatory DRM mapping activities has provided a valuable entry point and key data to quickly respond to new requests from the government for assistance in tackling COVID-19. Collected data on DRM has for example fed into a World Bank-led COVID-19 contagion hotspot mapping exercise. In addition, ongoing dialogue as part of this project's implementation have allowed the government of Cameroon and World Bank teams to explore synergies for the collection of additional data with local groups of mapping activists. In **eSwatini**⁸, the National Disaster Management Agency is spearheading and coordinating the country's COVID-19 response, benefitting from operating procedures that are being developed as part of an ongoing ACP-EU NDRR project which aims to build a national drought prevention and response strategy. In **Cabo Verde**⁹, desk work is being conducted with photos of school buildings to obtain key structural and functional information that will help overcome restrictions imposed by the pandemic on conducting field inspections. This will enable the continued development of a functional assessment, with spatial information of coverage of basic services and the accessibility of school infrastructure.

In the **Caribbean**, several regional projects have adapted their activities to tackle the consequences of the pandemic. As part of activities to develop disaster risk information in several Caribbean islands, an online tool was created by **CDEMA** quickly after the start of the COVID-19 crisis to monitor its impact.¹⁰ CDEMA is also using a new strategic roadmap and investment plan to handle the double crisis of pandemic outbreak and hurricane impacts during the 2020 season.¹¹ Other adaptative measures have been introduced under country-level projects such as in **Saint Lucia**¹², where a government request led to the development of a study on the impacts of COVID-19 on the agricultural sector. This is designed to help the Ministries of Finance and Economic Development as well as the Saint Lucia Development Bank to take informed decisions for a key sector of their economy in response to the effects of the pandemic.

In the **Pacific**, the National Disaster Center and other relevant government agencies in **Papua New Guinea**¹³ are spearheading an assessment of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery systems which has been adapted to address issues related to health emergencies and pandemics.

⁷ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/341ojou>.

⁸ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/3iZx1cR>.

⁹ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/3ctQDDE>.

¹⁰ The CDEMA COVID-19 regional surveillance website is accessible at <https://www.cdema.org/COVID19/>.

¹¹ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/3gvy1EC>.

¹² For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/3l4Oyll>.

¹³ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/33svCqm>.

Strengthening financial resilience

Countries are facing increased fiscal pressure to tackle disaster preparedness, resilience, and response in the midst of the economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to this increased pressure, ACP countries have been strengthening their financial resilience to natural hazards by using specialized tools such as the Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (Cat-DDO)¹⁴ Development Policy Financing. This tool provides countries with pre-agreed financing that can be used in the immediate aftermath of disaster events, while providing an opportunity for governments to strengthen the legal, policy, and other institutional aspects of their DRM policies.

As of June 2020, nine ACP countries have triggered Cat-DDOs, providing access to essential pre-approved funds to help prepare for and respond to natural hazards. **Six of these operations had received support from the ACP-EU NDRR Program** (in **Malawi**, the **Seychelles**, the **Dominican Republic**, **Tuvalu**, **Vanuatu**, and **Samoa**), and another three from the EU-funded Africa Disaster Risk Financing Initiative (in **Cabo Verde**, **Kenya**, and **Madagascar**).¹⁵ Through the support from these programs, essential technical assistance and policy dialogue contributed to the design and helped these countries qualify for Cat-DDO operations; these in turn strengthen their respective DRM frameworks.



Social distancing due to Covid-19 on a market in Kenya.
Source: World Bank / Sambrian Mbaabu ([here](#))

¹⁴ A Cat-DDO is a contingent credit line that provides immediate liquidity to countries in the aftermath of a natural disaster: <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/563361507314948638/product-note-cat-ddo-ida-english-2018.pdf>.

¹⁵ For more information on the Africa Disaster Risk Financing Initiative, please see: <https://www.preventionweb.net/resilient-africa/>.

Three examples underline how ACP-EU NDRR projects supported some of the prior actions essential for the approval of Cat-DDO operations in these respective countries. The government of **Malawi**¹⁶, through its Department of Disaster Management Affairs, has been working to overhaul its institutional framework to integrate climate change and DRM into its urban planning policies, and the Lilongwe City Council has been investing in its flood risk planning, supporting the design of the \$70 million World Bank-financed *Development Policy Operation and Disaster Risk Management Cat-DDO*, approved in June 2019. In the **Dominican Republic**¹⁷, the government improved its capacity to collect disaster-related data and to quantify economic losses associated with disasters, while its Ministry of Finance developed new technical and institutional capacities in disaster risk financing. This contributed to the approval of the \$150 million World Bank-financed *Dominican Republic: DRM Development Policy Loan with a Cat DDO*, approved in September 2017. **Samoa**¹⁸ applied recently revised national building codes that reduce the threat posed by cyclones and floods to buildings; this assisted the country in reaching its own requisites for the \$13.7 million World Bank-financed *Second Resilience Development Policy Operation with a Cat-DDO*, approved in November 2018.

ACP countries have been making key adjustments to adapt to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis while maintaining their ability to prepare and respond to natural hazards. By minimizing the financial disruptions caused by the pandemic and strengthening their preparedness and response capacity, countries can continue investing towards building disaster resilience and improving their institutional response frameworks.



Town street, Senegal.
Source: iStock.com

¹⁶ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/33tFgZR>.

¹⁷ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/30sDBBX>.

¹⁸ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/2PkVAZx>.

Cross-cutting Issues

Gender inclusion, women's empowerment, and engagement with civil society are key operating principles of the ACP-EU NDRR Program and more broadly of the work of GFDRR.

Gender Inclusion and women's empowerment

Gender issues are well-established in development approaches and have been globally recognized as fundamental to DRR. As outlined in its **Gender Action Plan 2016-2021**,¹⁹ which identifies specific actions and outcomes that promote gender as an essential component of DRM, GFDRR monitors the progress and results on mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment in its portfolio. FY20 has seen a continued trend of gender considerations being included in the Program's portfolio, with several new projects that had a gender-specific focus.

In **Cabo Verde**, a project approved in FY20²⁰ is aimed at strengthening the planning capacity of the Ministry of Education to ensure the quality of interventions on school infrastructure to reduce its exposure to natural hazards, with a specific focus on improving girls' safety. A review aimed at identifying improvements of the functional aspects of school infrastructure at the national level considered gender-related issues in areas such as water and sanitation. This approach will improve the safety and resilience of schools to natural disasters and, importantly, the quality of learning environments for children, and especially girls.

In **Haiti**, a new project that was also approved in FY20²¹ is supporting several government agencies, including the Civil Protection Directorate (within the Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities) and the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Women's Rights, in tackling gender inequalities as part of their DRM efforts. An analysis is being undertaken to improve the understanding of gender gaps in Haiti's DRM sector. It will provide recommendations and practical suggestions to the Civil Protection Directorate within the Ministry of Interior and Territorial Collectivities, and to the National System for DRM, to integrate gender issues into the sector. This underlines the government's drive to recognize that disasters often reinforce gender inequalities by putting women and girls at a further disadvantage, and that women have critical contributions to make in risk management and recovery.

In **Vanuatu**²², a multi-pronged policy analysis was conducted to identify the areas that need to be strengthened for an effective national DRM and CCA framework to take root. In this context, the revision of the National DRM Act included consultations with women's associations and gender-focused civil society groups to take gender-responsive needs into consideration in the revision of the policy.



Group of women in Tanzania.
Source: iStock.com

¹⁹ The GFDRR Gender Action Plan 2016–2021 is available at: <https://bit.ly/3kxsKyH>.

²⁰ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/2RV0uck>.

²¹ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/3mPu7tt>.

²² For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/3ctecN2>.

Engagement with Civil Society

In several projects, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have continued to inform project designs and are also serving as implementing partners for a number of them. This is in line with GFDRR's **Citizen Engagement Action Plan 2019-2023**²³, which calls for an increase in the number of grants with citizen engagement activities in GFDRR's portfolio.

As part of an ACP-EU NDRR project in the **Republic of the Congo**²⁴, national and local stakeholders in the cities of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire are engaging local government, civil society, and the private sector in developing the data needed to meet urban resilience challenges. The local government is working hand and hand with communities and technical leaders to get a better sense of their perception of risks, and to collect, analyze and map risk-related data to update an open source database. A workshop organized in January 2020 brought together government stakeholders and civil society, including five CSO groups: the Local Development Committees for the Ngouaka and Soukissa neighborhoods; the Communal Management and Development Committees; a research and development group (*Groupe d'études de recherche et d'appui au développement*); and the Brazzaville Marien-Ngouabi University. This project is being implemented under the World Bank/GFDRR *Open Cities Initiative*, which is being undertaken in 10 other African cities.²⁵

In order to better inform policymakers and to introduce new social protection measures, the government of **Saint Lucia**²⁶ is focusing on three key thematic areas central to building resilience among the most economically vulnerable: risk-informed social protection; risk-informed poverty analysis; and climate resilient farming. Regarding the latter activity, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives has spearheaded a consultation with several CSO groups, including the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, farmers' organizations and cooperatives, fisheries cooperatives, and youth groups. The objective is to enhance farmers' access to financing for climate-resilient agricultural activities through a specifically created state body. These consultations have also helped redesign activities to reduce the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Several projects in the Pacific include community groups in the implementation of activities. In the **Solomon Islands**²⁷, analyses investigating urban flood risks in the capital city Honiara were conducted with both local and central government agencies, as well as civil society actors. Specifically, the Honiara City Council, the Guadalcanal Provincial Council, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Planning involved local and national civil society actors in the consultations associated with the activity and are included in the government's taskforce for the study. Under a regional project implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the **Republic of the Marshall Islands** and the **Federal States of Micronesia**²⁸, community hazard vulnerability mapping exercises were conducted in full consultation with local CSO groups through three consultation workshops. This included engaging with civil society stakeholders through community consultations that enhanced community-based DRM activities that fed into the development of an effective regional and national early warning system.

²³ The GFDRR Citizen Action Plan 2019-2023 is available at <https://bit.ly/2R2mSjt>.

²⁴ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/33YdFPd>.

²⁵ For more information, please see: <https://opendri.org/project/open-cities-africa/> and <https://opencitiesproject.org/>. A Results in Resilience story about Open Cities Africa is accessible at: <https://bit.ly/2Q3ZktW>.

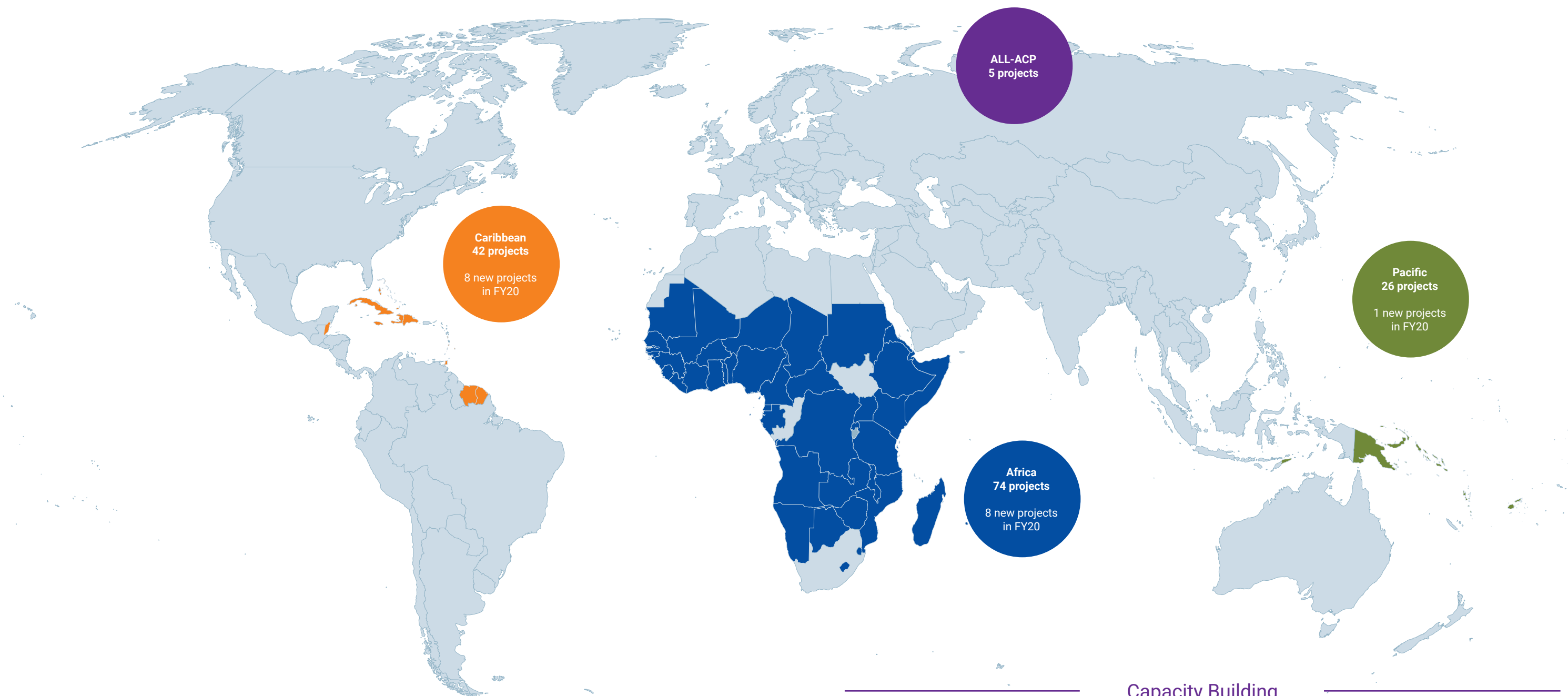
²⁶ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/3crsihD>.

²⁷ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/32YApzq>.

²⁸ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/300IBNI>.

Where the Program Operates

Distribution per region, as of June 30, 2020



Distribution per Window of Activity, as of June 30, 2020

Window 1 Regional projects	Window 2 Country-level projects	Window 3 Post-Disaster & Capacity building activities
30 3 new in FY20	77 13 new in FY20	40 1 new in FY20

Capacity Building

In FY20, the ACP-EU NDRR Program organized **181** training events (**799** since Program inception), benefitting **10,073** participants (**34,372** since inception)

People trained on DRM in FY20
6,801 (23,638 since inception)

People trained on PDNAs in FY20
612 (3,634 since inception)

People invited to conferences in FY20
2,660 (7,100 since inception)

Knowledge Products

In FY20, the ACP-EU NDRR Program has developed **135** knowledge products (481 since inception)

Overview of Activities in FY20 The Program in Africa



Activities in Africa

Activities in Africa in FY20 have addressed institutional, regulatory, and policy gaps within countries' disaster preparedness and response frameworks in key thematic areas such as urban resilience, flood hazard preparedness, and threats to agriculture and food security. These activities are accompanying reforms that are improving government and societal responses to disaster risk, such as adopting new legislation which incentivizes disaster and climate resilient construction practices for residences and schools, or providing training on new methodologies to collect, store and interpret data, providing policymakers with additional tools to make informed decisions. More countries across the continent are also shifting their strategies to provide a greater emphasis on preparedness as well as response, recognizing that ex-ante preparations are necessary for a more effective approach to protecting development gains from disaster impacts.

In FY20, the portfolio for Africa numbered 31 active projects, including nine regional-level projects (Window 1), 19 country-level projects (Window 2) and three post-disaster and capacity building activities (Window 3); eight of these were approved for funding during the year.

Regional-level projects

In FY20, two new regional projects were launched. The first of these introduced new **disruptive technology** to address data gaps in managing exposure and climate risks in **Africa's fastest growing cities**. The project is described in greater detail in an "In Focus" feature on page 29.

The second project focused on enhancing a coordinated regional approach to tackle systemic climate-related risks that threaten the agricultural sector and food security in 6 **SADC** countries - **Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, South Africa** and **eSwatini**. The latest technology for the modelling of **agriculture and food security risks** was harnessed to overcome data constraints and identify investment opportunities to improve agriculture statistics and agroclimatic data for risk management, and to develop digital solutions through innovation challenges. This led to the development of new agriculture risk financing tools and methods, including public policy actions and programmatic investments at both national and regional levels that were captured in a regional policy note, and have since been adopted by several SADC member states. In addition, a network of experts and institutions was created to facilitate regional collaboration, bringing together stakeholders from the public and private sectors, academia, and international organizations that are now working together towards improving the management of risk financing in food security and agriculture in the SADC region.

Other regional projects were implemented as part of the Result Area Program, which are outlined in a separate activity report that presents the activities of the R2 Program in FY20.

Country-level projects

In FY20, six country-level projects were launched, in **Cabo Verde, Eswatini, Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi, and Zimbabwe**, outlined below along with all other active projects that had been launched prior to FY20.

In **Benin**, key **regulatory reforms for DRM** are being undertaken by the Ministry of Planning and Development, the National Agency for Civil Protection (under the Ministry of Interior), and the Ministry of Living Conditions and Sustainable Development. Technical, legislative and institutional capacity for managing climate and disaster risks are being improved with the revision of the *Urban Planning and Development Code*, which has enabled the government to rethink urbanization and promote the sustainable development of cities in relation with their environment and taking into account disaster risks. The elaboration of *Safer Schools Technical Guidelines* and a *Safer Schools Strategy* also contributed to the government's understanding and integration of resilience into the planning, design, construction and maintenance of educational facilities. In addition, consultations have been undertaken regarding the integration of DRM and climate change considerations in land-use planning tools, thereby increasing opportunities for risk-informed territorial planning. Furthermore, the *Operations Manual for the Disaster Response Fund* was updated and validated during a consultation workshop which brought together 40 Directors and Heads of Departments representing the Ministries of Planning, Finance, Treasury, Economic Planning, Social Affairs, and Health as well as the National Agency for Civil Protection.

In **Cabo Verde**, **school infrastructure** is exposed to a range of adverse natural events, putting children at risk in the case of a natural disaster. The Ministry of Education is strengthening its planning capacity to ensure the quality of interventions in school infrastructure, in order to reduce exposure to natural hazards. Technical assistance is reinforcing the intervention and implementation strategies and prioritization criteria of the *National Plan for the Rehabilitation and Extension of School Infrastructure*, which is aimed at rehabilitating, strengthening and expanding school infrastructure in the country by 2021. Existing information on school infrastructure at national level that has been collected includes a recent national database of school infrastructure from the Ministry of Education. Based on this information, a preliminary identification of structural typologies has been developed, prompting the Ministry of Education to work on the improvement of their databases and strengthening of their *Education Management Information System*. A preliminary identification of schools exposed to natural hazards has also been conducted with the available information on school infrastructure and hazard information. In addition, a diagnostic of the financial environment is being expanded to support the preparation of the Ministry of Education's implementation strategy, and to identify financing partners and opportunities to improve current and future investment plans in this sector.

A project in **Cameroon** is contributing to increased climate and disaster resilience in several cities by integrating urban resilience concepts into spatial development and strengthening the capacity of development sectors to **integrate climate and disaster resilience into strategic planning**. The approach taken is to include a focus on urban settings, and to improve expertise in producing, analyzing climate and disaster risk information, and integrating it into development planning decision-making processes. Activities in FY20 included the organization of four workshops on integrated planning for DRM, bringing together 102 participants from the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Territorial Administration, the National Observatory of Climate Change, the City Councils of selected municipalities including Yaoundé, and the universities of Yaoundé and Ngaoundéré. Hazard mapping activities were also conducted in Yaoundé to collect hydrometeorological data, leading to the production of flood hazard maps which fed climate change and disaster risk considerations into urban and land use plans, and investments plans. In addition, a training course was designed to build the capacity of Cameroonian academia and professionals in generating risk information and integrating climate and DRM into development and urban spatial planning.

Aligned with the *Climate Risk Early Warning System Initiative*²⁹, the **Democratic Republic of Congo's** National Hydrological and Meteorological Service (MettelSat) is working to improve its national **climate and early warning services**. Several innovative approaches included the development of a strategy for MettelSat to address flood and climate change in the N'Djili and Kalamu Watersheds. In addition, work is being undertaken to rehabilitate several MettelSat buildings, including the MettelSat Headquarters and the building that houses technical functions for MettelSat in Kisangani. Furthermore, a contract was signed in May 2020 with an international consortium to acquire new meteorological and hydrological equipment to modernize the services provided by MettelSat to its clients.

In the capital city of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, Kinshasa, the Provincial Ministry of Planning, Public Works and Infrastructure is committed to enhancing the city's **resilience to flood, landslide and erosion risks**, especially along the N'Djili river. Technical assistance is helping identify investment options and neighborhood improvements, in particular the selection of environmental infrastructure to reduce exposure to these hazards. Several analytical products are being developed, including a flood, erosion and landslide risk assessment, a vulnerability analysis and neighborhood flood modelling, as well as a diagnostic report on urban planning and nature-based solutions. To disseminate the initial results of these analyses, two workshops were conducted in February and March 2020 to 12 representatives of the government of the City province of Kinshasa, including 5 women. This will empower local government actors to implement risk-informed decisions in their local constituencies.

²⁹ For more information, please see: <https://www.crews-initiative.org/en>

FY20 has seen an increase in focus on enhancing **disaster preparedness** in ACP countries. In **eSwatini**, the National Disaster Management Agency is actively engaged in developing a more substantive and sustained preparedness program to prepare for drought. The project is described in greater detail in an "In Focus" feature on page 30.

Urban resilience has continued to be a focus of several ACP-EU NDRR projects throughout FY20. In the **Gambia**, urban and coastal DRR measures are being adopted by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) to promote resilient infrastructure in selected districts of the Greater Banjul area. This included mapping activities, with the creation of high-resolution satellite images to map exposure and assess the current status of the city's shoreline. A preliminary flood and coastal risk assessment was also conducted to promote recommendations for risk mitigation investments. Furthermore, in order to ensure sustainability of activities and products created, all new information is being made available to the NDMA through a digital database.

Communities living along the Odaw River Basin of the Greater Accra region in **Ghana** are vulnerable to flooding risks. Ghanaian government agencies including the Hydrological Services Department in the Ministry of Works and Housing, the Ministry of Inner Cities and Development, and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development have been working to strengthen **flood risk preparedness and solid waste management** with the Program's support. Flood mitigation solutions have been identified in the Odaw urban watershed, facilitated by flood modelling work in the Odaw basin. These have led to the proposal of nature-based solutions and the planning of green infrastructure for targeted infrastructure investments, as captured in the *Accra flood and climate risk mitigation strategy* report, which will be publicly available once finalized. Communities living along the Odaw river and are vulnerable to floods are also being supported through a mapping initiative based on drone imagery, which will lead to community-level risk mitigation interventions. Through additional funding for this project, new activities in 2020 started to identify sustainable measures to improve the collection, treatment, and disposal of solid waste in the Greater Accra region at the behest of the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, which will use new insights gained to further promote climate mitigation. Finally, demonstrating the government's commitment to enhance gender-parity in its interventions, a working group on gender has been established to integrate gender aspects into the project's activities.

The government of **Kenya** is working to strengthen its **institutional, planning and policy frameworks to manage climate and disaster risk**. Several key policies related to DRM have been updated by the National Disaster Operations Center and the National Drought Management Authority to enhance emergency response capacities and strengthen the legal framework for DRM. This included (i) the revision of the *2009 National Emergency Response Plan*, which entailed updating the methodology that has been used by the National Disaster Management Agency for the development of county-level multi-hazard risk profiles; (ii) preparing a guidance note for the formulation of county-level emergency operation plans; and (iii) approving the *DRM Policy and Act* through the National Assembly. In addition, the government has strengthened its building regulatory framework to encourage safe and resilient construction practices, with several improvements to the *Building Code*, including the integration of hazard maps. Policy dialogue was also undertaken through an international benchmarking exercise to support the government to strengthen the *Built Environment Bill*, which is designed to give the building code legal value and to ensure its enforcement.



Flood erosion risk assessment in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (unpublished).
Source: World Bank

The government of **Lesotho** is improving its **emergency preparedness and response** capabilities by strengthening the regulatory and policy framework for DRM and translating policy into action. The Lesotho Meteorological Services updated the *Meteorology Services Strategy 2019-2023* and the *Early Warning System Strategy*, increasing its understanding of actions to be taken to improve meteorological services in the country. Regarding disaster preparedness, the Disaster Management Authority has reviewed the *National Resilience Strategic Framework* and the *Disaster Risk Management Bill 2020*, with a view to developing multi-hazard contingency plans focusing on flood and drought induced hazards as well as pandemic-induced hazards, to **tackle the COVID-19 crisis**. To respond to the pandemic, which has emphasized the importance of resilience in the health sector, the *Public Health Bill* has been reviewed and updated, and discussions have centered on supporting increased coordination across government for better emergency response.

In **Madagascar**, the Ministry of Land Use Planning is working with national DRM agencies and municipal authorities to **strengthen urban resilience** in the capital city Antananarivo, through targeted analytical interventions in urban planning and DRM. This has culminated in the development of two analytical products: a technical study on green infrastructure and risk-informed urban design options, and a study for community-led solid waste management. These products will help the government address some of the key drivers of urban risks. These include uncontrolled urban growth which has led to a steadily increasing concentration of urban poor in flood-prone areas. Mitigating measure could include drainage and flood retention through the use of nature-based solutions such as wetlands and urban parks, which simultaneously improve flood management and urban living conditions.

Several governments in Sub-Saharan Africa have continued to introduce key **policy reforms on DRM and DRR**. To support the uptake of climate change and DRM as priorities in **Malawi**, several bills, policies and guidelines have been adopted in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management Affairs and the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services. These include the revision of the *National Meteorological Policy*, the *National Urban Policy*, the *National Transport Policy*, the *Safer Schools Construction Guidelines*, as well as the *DRM Bill*. These revised policies will provide a solid foundation for continuing to integrate and mainstream DRM into the country's development agenda. Furthermore, additional funding for this project was granted in FY20 to facilitate the integration of climate change and DRM in urban strategies and planning in the major urban centers of Malawi, as proposed by the *Malawi National Urban Policy*. In particular, it supports the development of a flood risk assessment for the capital city Lilongwe, in collaboration with the Lilongwe City Council. It will evaluate the magnitude and potential impact of floods across the city as a whole, provide a detailed understanding of the drivers and mechanisms behind the ever-increasing frequency of river and surface water (fluvial and pluvial) flooding, and provide recommendations for the development of a comprehensive flood risk management strategy.

Also in **Malawi**, the government has realized that **disaster preparedness** is the first step in a shock-responsive DRM structure that will safeguard development gains, support steady economic growth, minimize expenditures on relief and recovery, and help build resilience in the face of climate change. The Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development is working to strengthen its capacity to prepare for disasters, to minimize the effects and impacts of disasters in the most vulnerable areas of the country. This is achieved through strengthening the drought early warning system, developing contingency plans, and building the capacity of civil protection committees.

In the **Republic of Congo**, the Ministry of Large-Scale Works and Urban Development and the Municipalities of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire are committed to developing tools for central and local governments to be better prepared for disaster risks, and to **integrating urban resilience in strategic planning**. Community mapping activities have continued, whereby over 300 volunteers - half of them women - received trainings on leadership dynamics and change, to help them voice their needs, participate in community planning and implementation, and help strengthen community ownership. The methodology includes exploratory walks around neighborhoods, and focus groups with residents who share their perception of the risks in their neighborhoods and living spaces. The qualitative information gathered is then combined with quantitative data that is collected, also through a participatory process, and subsequently made available in a publicly available platform called Open Street Map. The data from community maps will directly inform neighborhood upgrading plans, bolstering physical investments. The ACP-EU NDRR Program is supporting activities in the Republic of Congo under a larger GFDRR initiative entitled *Open Cities Africa*,³⁰ which engages local government, civil society, and the private sector in 11 cities in Sub-Saharan Africa in developing the information necessary to meet disaster resilience challenges.

³⁰ For more information, please see: <https://opendri.org/project/open-cities-africa/> and <https://opencitiesproject.org/>. A results in Resilience story about Open Cities Africa is accessible at: <https://bit.ly/2Q3ZktW>.

Risk information activities have continued in **Rwanda** with the creation of flood hazard maps and the production of hydrologic models, with the aim of developing an operational flood early warning system for the Sebeya River Basin in the North-Western part of the country. Technical assistance has also been provided to support the government's meteorological agency "Météo Rwanda" for the processing, quality control and integration of rainfall observational products, including real-time rainfall data from automatic weather stations and weather radar stations. Following a request for additional support in early 2020, several new activities have focused on urban resilience in the capital city Kigali, with the development of a stormwater and wetland model, as well as the elaboration of nature-based solutions in the urban landscape of the City of Kigali. These are helping to identify investments that could mitigate the impact of flooding in precarious neighborhoods, and strengthen resilience.



Hillside homes, Rwanda.
Source: iStock.com

Another project is tackling **urban and coastal resilience** in the city of Saint-Louis, **Senegal**. The Municipality of Saint Louis, the Technical Support Department, and the Regional Development and Municipal Development agencies are actively involved in the elaboration of an urban and coastal resilience plan for the city. The first step has been to increase the understanding of the risks related to coastal erosion, which has led the government to develop several analytical products, including (i) a *Coastal Risk Management Solution* study which will highlight ways to protect the area of the city known as the “*Langue de Barbarie*” and feed into the further development of a coastal zone risk management plan; and (ii) a *Hydrodynamic and Sediment Transport Model* study of the Saint Louis Delta. Technical inputs have also included an environmental and social impact assessment of high-risk populations affected by coastal erosion. Several workshops were organized in FY20 to ensure that all stakeholders are involved in the design of these important analytical pieces, emphasizing a participatory, iterative and inclusive approach aimed at empowering local communities and ensuring full ownership of the project’s outputs.

In the **Seychelles**, the Ministry of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, the Planning Authority under the Ministry of Habitat, Infrastructure and Land Planning, and the Department of Risk and Disaster Management are working to improve their **emergency preparedness and response** mechanisms. The first *National Emergency Response Plan* was finalized and successfully used in Seychelles’ response to COVID-19. Furthermore, technical assistance was provided on risk-based land planning to the National Planning Authority, with the approval of the *Spatial Data Policy* by the Cabinet in June 2020, marking a big step forward in geospatial data sharing.

Since 2015, the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) of **Uganda** has been striving to improve its understanding of disaster risks, with support from the Program. This intervention has helped in **building community resilience**, mainstreaming multi-sectoral DRR and CCA considerations at the community level, and measuring progress towards building resilience. The project is described in greater detail in an “In Focus” feature on page 31.



Participants during a workshop discussing the proposed spatial strategy approach in Saint-Louis, Senegal.
Source: World Bank

Post-Disaster Activities



Community mapping activities in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
Source: World Bank



Community mapping activities in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
Source: World Bank

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the Ministry of Safety, Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Construction, Housing and Urbanism and the Ministry of Infrastructure continued preparing a **Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF)**. This entailed developing a better understanding of flood risks in the capital city of Abidjan through community vulnerability mapping activities. In doing so, a partnership was launched between government agencies, universities and CSOs, as part of a larger World Bank/ GFDRR initiative called *Open Cities Africa*.³¹ The objective is to enhance collaboration on resilient urban planning and flood risk management, and to develop strategic spatial information that will help in the planning of future activities and investments in a more resilient way.

Devastating floods in **Mali** in May 2019 affected several parts of the capital city Bamako. In the aftermath, the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection undertook and finalized a **rapid damage assessment and DRF**, with support from the Program.³² The rapid assessment was combined with a household survey targeting 157 families in the affected areas to capture the social and human impact of the disaster. In addition, the DRF was developed to inform recovery and reconstruction needs. This included drone mapping activities which enabled a better understanding of the recovery needs.

Following the passage of tropical cyclones Idai and Kenneth which made landfall in **Mozambique** in March and April 2019 respectively, technical assistance has been provided to the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Public Works and Water Management, the Ministry of Health and the National DRM Agency to focus on **recovery activities**. In FY20, this included the finalization of the *Disaster Recovery Framework*, and the

Resilient Housing Recovery Strategy. The latter focuses specifically on resilient housing and private sector recovery, and was developed in collaboration with the newly established Reconstruction Office. An assessment of safer health facilities is also being undertaken.

³¹ For more information, please see: <https://opendri.org/project/open-cities-africa/>.

³² The rapid assessment and disaster recovery framework are both available at: <https://bit.ly/3a8nTPB>.

The Ministry of Finance in **Sierra Leone** requested assistance in strengthening **resilient recovery** activities in the country, following the 2017 landslides which affected the capital city of Freetown. Building on the rapid needs assessment, also funded by the ACP-EU NDRR Program³³, technical assistance has been provided to strengthen the country's emergency preparedness and response capabilities, as well as its institutional and policy framework for effective DRM. In FY20, a policy guidance note on institutional arrangements for DRM has been delivered to the Office of National Security, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Environment, the Freetown City Council, and the Western Area Rural District Council. In addition, terms of reference were developed to update the country's *DRM Framework* to specifically include technical assistance for early warning systems and emergency preparedness and response drills.

Zimbabwe experienced the most devastating natural disaster in the country's recorded history when tropical cyclone Idai hit the eastern part of the country in March 2019. The ensuing *Rapid Impact and Needs Assessment*³⁴ indicated that 60,000 people had been displaced, 18,000 houses had been destroyed, and a total of 270,000 people had been directly impacted. To guide long-term recovery efforts, the government of Zimbabwe is developing and operationalizing the Zimbabwe **recovery and resilience framework** with support from the Program. In FY20, a draft financing framework report was developed, outlining ways in which existing and future financial resources can best be deployed to undertake recovery efforts and enhance resilience to future shocks. This will be complemented by an implementation framework, which will help the government strengthen existing structures and local capacity for disaster preparedness, recovery and risk management, and ultimately to improve decision-making on where recovery resources are used.

A description of all the ACP-EU NDRR projects implemented in the Africa region can be accessed on the ACP-EU NDRR website at <https://www.gfdr.org/en/acp-eu/projects>.



Harare, Zimbabwe.
Source: iStock.com

³³ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/3cxPo6c>.

³⁴ The RINA was jointly conducted by the Government of Zimbabwe and the World Bank with support from other GFDRR funding sources and can be accessed at <https://www.gfdr.org/en/publication/zimbabwe-rapid-impact-needs-assessment>.

In Focus: **Disruptive technologies for disaster risk management in Africa**

The growth of African cities is reflective of a significant continental demographic shift; it is estimated that by 2100 a majority of the continent's projected population of 4.2 billion people will be living in cities (United Nations). Yet there are significant disparities in understanding how growing population centers are vulnerable to disaster and climate risks, as well as how to reduce exposure to these risks. High quality, actionable risk data is critical in determining threats and managing exposure, yet it is a resource that is unevenly distributed. Most data-collection efforts for information such as population concentrations and the location of housing and facilities have been reserved for larger megacities, despite small and medium-sized cities often having higher growth rates.

To address the information gaps that affect risk and exposure management in the continent's fastest-growing cities, the *Disruptive technologies for disaster risk management in Africa* project is promoting the use of new technologies that yield detailed, actionable data for urban policymakers to identify and mitigate vulnerabilities. Based on the most recent improvements in satellite imagery, survey applications, the accessibility of drones, and artificial intelligence for image classification and analysis, these technological innovations will significantly enhance the quality of risk mapping in urban areas, and enable a detailed understanding of exposure levels for urban planning.

The innovative methods promoted by the project have generated considerable interest since its formal launch in October 2019, as the original list of 20 cities* prioritized for study was expanded to 118 throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. The list of metrics to be explored in each of these studies - which include analysis of population build-up and density, spatial urban indicators, population estimates and growth-rates, and population at risk of hazards - has been expanded to include the collection of 3D data.



Community members using technology for vulnerability mapping activities
Source: World Bank

The project's drone component has also generated significant interest, as evidenced during the *African Drone Forum*, which was held in Kigali, Rwanda in February 2020. This event convened over 1,000 participants from across the continent and provided an opportunity for knowledge exchange on the use of drones for disaster risk analysis and urban surveys. Through large-scale engagements such as this Forum, and through trainings, and the development of policy notes on the use of drones in urban settings, the ability of stakeholders to harness drone technology for DRM purposes has improved.

The project was able to adapt to the global COVID-19 pandemic by integrating infection rates in the data it collected. The use of satellite imagery, artificial intelligence, and drone surveys have helped identify COVID-19 hotspots in urban settings, triggering demands for additional investments in digitalizing urban data using low cost local tools and satellite-based inputs. Project activities have also been adapted with the disseminating of knowledge on the use of drones for DRM applications and through sharing remote mapping tools via digital means such as webinars.

By developing operational services that harness new technological opportunities in risk mapping at the continental, metropolitan and local scales, this project has demonstrated the need to use the latest innovations to tackle disaster risks and support Africa's most pressing development challenges.

* Accra, Antananarivo, Brazzaville, Kampala, Kinshasa, Monrovia, Ngaoudere, Pointe-Noire, Saint-Louis, Seychelles (Victoria), Zanzibar (Stonetown), Dar es Salaam, Freetown, Dakar, Niamey, Lusaka, Bamako, Conakry, Abidjan, Ibadan.

In Focus: Strengthening technical and institutional capacity to manage climate and disaster risks in eSwatini

Sustainable development in the Kingdom of eSwatini is challenged by the vulnerability of the country to climate-related shocks, including droughts, wildfires, and floods. These hazards negatively impact health, food security and productive economic activity, while disproportionately affecting the rural poor. The government has sought to reduce eSwatini's vulnerability to droughts and their socioeconomic consequences, as they recurrently threaten national food and water security, and regularly compromise the livelihoods of the rural poor. With support from the ACP-EU NDRR Program, the government's National Disaster Management Agency is working to develop sustained resilience to droughts, through activities such as improving EWS; introducing risk insurance mechanisms; identifying vulnerabilities in the country's agricultural, water, health, and education sectors; and encouraging knowledge sharing through workshops and publications.

Government-identified priorities in the national disaster and climate agendas have been successfully advanced since the inception of the project in August 2019, resulting in the adoption of crucial legislation, policies, and guidelines. These include the *National Urban Policy*, the *National Transport Policy*, the *Guidelines for Safer School Construction*, and the completion of the *Disaster Risk Management Bill*. These important legislative documents will provide a solid foundation for the government of eSwatini in managing climate and disaster risks. The coordination of multiple sectors, namely urban, transport, and education, has played a key role in advancing climate change and DRM as national agenda priorities.

In February 2020, the National Disaster Management Agency also hosted a series of workshops aimed at strengthening eSwatini's institutional capacities and understanding of drought preparedness and DRM. These workshops focused on (i) providing local government entities with tools to identify vulnerabilities and measures that can be taken to mitigate drought impacts; (ii) training participants on the principles of disaster risk financing and understanding how the government could use financing instruments to fund disaster response; (iii) introducing participants to the Composite Drought Index for eSwatini, an early warning system; and (iv) training government technical specialists on map composition and IT issues with the Composite Drought Index. The workshops were attended by a total of 290 participants, who gained first-hand experience with different aspects of DRM and developed an understanding of the need to disseminate this new knowledge to their own communities for maximum impact at the local level.



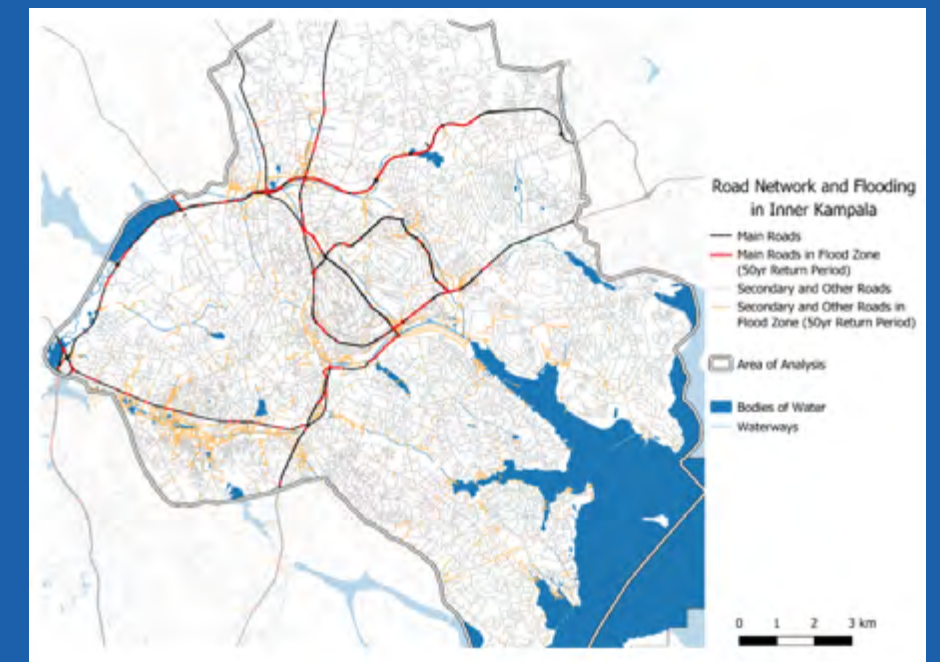
Representatives plotting drought-prone communities on a map during the series of workshops organized by the eSwatini National Disaster Management Agency.
Source: World Bank

In Focus: Building long-term resilience at the national and local levels in Uganda

Uganda's overall framework for economic development, the *National Development Plan*, identified disaster management as one of the enabling sectors that need to be strengthened to achieve sustainable development. Since 2015, the ACP-EU NDRR *Risk assessment and resilience action plan* project has been supporting activities aimed at building long-term resilience at the national and local levels in Uganda.

One of the objectives is to build a comprehensive **understanding of Uganda's disaster risks**, especially in the capital city Kampala. In FY20, the project supported the development of a World Bank background paper which outlines a high-detail city-level analysis of Kampala to better understand the localized impacts of natural hazards on urban infrastructure networks (accessible at <https://bit.ly/33Q12qP>). This document benefitted from the latest methodology developed in the GFDRR flagship report *Lifelines: the resilient infrastructure opportunity* (available at <https://www.gfdr.org/en/lifelines>).

In addition, the government of Uganda has been working to develop the *Kampala Disaster and Climate Resilience Strategy*, whose initial results reveal that every year the city loses an average of \$99.7 million to floods, that more than 170,000 people are frequently affected, and that an estimated 98 percent of the city's buildings are at risk from flooding. A participatory approach is being used in the development of this strategy; a preliminary workshop organized in November 2019 provided officials from the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and other local stakeholders with invaluable insights into the city's disaster and climate risk profile. The Strategy will also have important policy implications at the city and national levels, as it will be used as a key input of the forthcoming five-year *Strategy for Kampala*, and also considered as a national model for improved resilience at the local level by the National Planning Authority and the Office of the Prime Minister.



Road network and flooding in Kampala, Uganda.
Source: World Bank

Community resilience has been identified as another priority area for building long-term resilience in Kampala, especially through enhancing emergency preparedness and response activities. The KCCA has started revising its emergency preparedness and response framework, including institutional arrangements and a draft operational plan. The draft framework formalizes multi-agency planning and coordination structures and operationalizes the 2010 *Uganda Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management*. The *Kampala Disaster and Climate Resilience Strategy*, mentioned above, also includes specific recommendations for strengthening community awareness on risk reduction actions, warning systems, and response during emergencies, indicating the need to design and implement a coordinated public communication structure.

One of the innovative aspects of this project is the development of specific policy actions and analytical products at both the national and local levels. National-level efforts are thus providing a solid foundation for enhancing country-wide resilience but are also inspired by local-level initiatives that help to find solutions to local challenges. In the longer term, these activities are deepening the understanding of the causes and risk factors associated with flooding and building capacity at the local and national levels for government, private sector and community stakeholders in building long-term resilience to disaster risks in Uganda.

Overview of Activities in FY20 The Program in the Caribbean



Activities in the Caribbean

Activities in the Caribbean in FY20 have addressed the vulnerability of economic growth and financial stability in several countries that are faced with recurring disasters. This has prompted governments to strengthen their fiscal resilience, using new tools to limit economic losses and inform equitable economic reconstruction efforts that also benefit poverty reduction goals and support welfare for poor and marginalized households. Countries have also sought to reduce their socio-economic vulnerability to disasters by soliciting technical assistance in protecting and preserving essential infrastructure, such as transportation networks, public utilities including energy production and water treatment, health, education, housing, and urban assets, thereby reducing disaster impacts on economic activity and people's livelihoods.

In FY20, the portfolio for the Caribbean region counted 18 active projects, including two regional-level projects (Window 1), 14 country-level projects (Window 2) and two post-disaster and capacity building activities (Window 3). Eight of these were approved for funding during FY20.

Regional-level projects

A new initiative was launched in FY20 to enhance **disaster preparedness** in Eastern Caribbean countries under the auspices of the CDEMA, and was implemented in **Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Lucia**. The initiative is made up of five country-level projects and one regional-level project and is described in greater detail in an "In Focus" feature on page 38.

Building on a previous ACP-EU NDRR project³⁵ that developed **disaster risk information** through the Caribbean Handbook for Risk Information and Management (CHaRIM)³⁶, governments from participating countries - **Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** - expressed the need for hands-on training to accompany officials using CHaRIM in their day-to-day work, and to continue strengthening the platform. A follow-up project launched in FY20 is focusing on addressing this demand and on strengthening the capacity in the Caribbean to design and guide hazard and risk assessments. It also aims to use the resulting information for decision-making, and to develop a regional spatial data platform to ensure access by the participating countries to DRM and CCA data.

In FY20, a new regional geospatial data platform, the Geo-CRIS (Geospatial Caribbean Risk Information System) was launched,³⁷ to ensure that Caribbean countries have access to data on DRM. Geo-CRIS integrates the CHaRIM GeoNode and the Caribbean Risk Information System, serving as a "one-stop-shop" for gathering and sharing information and data on DRM. So far, the platform has increased awareness about flood risk management in Saint Lucia and Grenada, and about hazard information for infrastructure in Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and increased knowledge about coastal and urban resilience in Grenada. Several CDEMA staff were trained to ensure the operationalization, sustainability and maintenance of the platform. Furthermore, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project supported the creation of a webpage to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on CDEMA member states.³⁸



The CDEMA Covid-19 dashboard supported by the ACP-EU NDRR Program which tracks the impact of the pandemic in CDEMA member states.
Source: CDEMA ([here](#))

³⁵ For more information about this ACP-EU NDRR project, please see: <https://bit.ly/3mKkoVo>.

³⁶ For more information, please see <http://www.charim.net/>.

³⁷ The new Geo-CRIS database is accessible at: <https://geocris2.cdema.org/>.

³⁸ The CDEMA COVID-19 regional surveillance website is accessible at <https://www.cdema.org/COVID19/>.

Country-level projects

In FY20, six country-level projects were launched, in **Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent & Grenadines**, outlined below along with all other active projects that had been launched prior to FY20.

To address **infrastructure resilience**, in particular the resilience of a road network that is vulnerable to natural disasters, the government of **Belize** is prioritizing the transport sector in its medium-term investment planning, considering both its vulnerability and socio-economic importance. Technical assistance is being provided to the Ministry of Works, the Ministry of Economic Development, and the Belize Social Investment Fund to better manage road infrastructure assets by building institutional capacity with the aim of reducing disaster and climate risk vulnerability. Best practices are being identified in road asset management, and a comprehensive analysis developed on existing road maintenance procedures, through the *Transport Asset Management Technical Analysis* report, which is currently being finalized. In addition, a roadmap is being developed to integrate the update of the roads condition database for the Ministry of Works. Technical support is also being provided to national and district level officers so they can better integrate climate and disaster risk into road management and maintenance.

Two projects in the **Dominican Republic** are enhancing the government's capacity to **build physical and fiscal resilience to disasters** by promoting DRR policies in key sectors and improving its access to reliable **risk information**.

The first is supporting the government in developing technical and institutional capacities in disaster risk financing and targeting DRM policies and investments towards promoting shared prosperity. In FY20, the Dominican Republic's National Geographic Institute (*Instituto Geográfico Nacional - IGN*) under the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (*Ministerio de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo - MEPyD*) received support in developing the national spatial data infrastructure, to enhance work on risk information and risk data in the country. In July 2019, a high-level technical delegation of 12 people from the Dominican Republic traveled to Madrid, Spain. The objective was for IGN technical officials to see firsthand how the Spanish Spatial Data Infrastructure is managing geographic information, and to visit public entities that generate geographic information. After additional funding was provided to this project in FY20, a methodology and technological tool entitled Damage Collection and Assessment System for the Dominican Republic³⁹ (*Sistema de Recopilación y Evaluación de Daños para la República Dominicana - SIREDRD*) was developed with MEPyD to assess economic losses from disasters. This included the creation of a mobile application and a web platform that serves as a repository of actionable disaster risk information for MEPyD, to inform public investments and territorial planning. For this activity, a methodology was developed for the relevant sectors - water, agriculture, education, housing, energy, and public works - to collect field data on damages after a disaster using mobile devices, to inform MEPyD on the potential needs for recovery and reconstruction.



A table-top exercise discussing the new SIREDRD tool developed with MEPyD, in the Dominican Republic.
Source: MEPyD ([here](#))

The other project in the **Dominican Republic** provided technical assistance to MEPyD to design a Survey of Well-being via Instant and Frequent Tracking (SWIFT), in collaboration with the National Statistics Office. This tool will provide a deeper understanding of poverty and well-being trends, and identify the transmission mechanisms and effects of disasters on other dimensions of well-being such as health, education, quality of living, and access to services. In FY20, several activities were conducted to support the launch of the survey, including trainings of supervisors and interviewers, and the collection of a pilot survey in which the questionnaire and logistical procedures were tested and adapted for the final tool. The SWIFT will therefore include a component to collect information about the adaptation mechanisms, and set a baseline to enable the government to monitor the effects of disasters on household welfare. In the longer term, this analysis will inform the government about how to better protect the poorest people living in hazard-prone areas through DRM and climate resilience interventions, and to improve the targeting of recovery financing for poverty reduction impacts.

The government of **Jamaica** is determined to strengthen its **institutional capacity for disaster vulnerability reduction** and **mainstreaming DRM in policy development**. Several ministries have spearheaded the development of key analyses, policy guidelines and strategies to support this objective. One such initiative is the finalization in FY20 of the *National Resettlement Strategy* related to DRM, providing the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation with a clearer understanding of the issues relating to resettlement at the local level to address the impacts of disaster shocks. Technical assistance was also provided to Jamaica's Ministry of Transport to conduct a transport sector infrastructure disaster risk analysis. The latter enhances understanding among public authorities on the impact of disasters on transport infrastructure, and the involvement of local counterparts, from government and academia, in the resettlement dialogue. Furthermore, in collaboration with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, a Gap analysis for emergency preparedness was developed and shared with first responders, to improve standard operating procedures related to dealing with emergency situations.

In **Saint Lucia**, the government is fully committed to tackling its **vulnerability to disaster risks** and to **enhancing DRM and DRR measures**. Through the Ministry of Finance's Planning and Accounting Departments, the government of Saint Lucia is working to improve its understanding of how disaster risks are affecting the country's public infrastructure, by exploring ways to improve and inform the DRM strategies and policies to better protect the poor and socially vulnerable. This is being supported by two projects which are described in greater detail in an "In Focus" feature on page 39.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is facing rapid urbanization in cities that are already affected by climate change. To address these challenges, the government has sought to advance a comprehensive **urban resilience and economic growth agenda**. This includes a redevelopment plan for the capital city of Kingstown, and the construction of a new city on the grounds of the old airport at Arnos Vale to boost the tourism sector. After this project received additional funding, activities in FY20 have included the improvement of housing resilience through the drafting of the *Housing Policy-White Paper*, endorsed by the Cabinet in December 2019. This important piece of legislation provides the framework and a critical element for political consensus for the development of the *Housing Policy*, which would ensure that the housing needs of poorer and more vulnerable communities are addressed. Additionally, in order to better incorporate risk considerations into infrastructure investments, technical inputs were added to the Housing Policy. These included inputs on slope stabilization works, road rehabilitation, river defense strengthening, coastal protection and the reconstruction or design of critical buildings such as schools, health facilities and emergency shelters. The project has also supported the review of several legislative documents which improve the regulatory framework for the enforcement of the building codes, including the Building Regulations approved by Parliament in December 2019, the *National Land Policy*, and the *Climate Change Policy*, which were approved by the Cabinet in December 2019. Finally, school safety was taken into account in the urban resilience agenda, as evidenced by the School Safety Policy which was approved by Cabinet in December 2019, improving the safety of 30,000 students and 2,000 teachers. In addition, the Policy will prioritize schools that are also used as emergency shelters.

³⁹ A video about the SIREDRD tool is accessible at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sFD13Wuah48>.

Building on the findings and recommendations of a previous ACP-EU NDRR project,⁴⁰ the government of **Suriname** is investing in **flood mitigation** along the Saramacca Canal, helping build climate resilience in the Greater Paramaribo area by reducing the risk of flooding. A follow-up project has enabled social and environmental impact assessments of the proposed investment and has supported the preparation of a technical assessment and the examinations needed to detail the new activities to be financed. This has also included the identification and analysis of potential non-structural measures, to be financed under the investment plan, which contribute to its long-term sustainability. After the approval of the investment, several fiduciary trainings were held in FY20 to strengthen the government of Suriname's capacity in financial management and procurement, attracting a total of 12 representatives, including 5 women, from the Ministry of Public Works. These capacity building trainings were accompanied by technical trainings aimed at expanding the government's capacity in modelling, forecasting and warning of potential flooding hazards.

In an effort to reduce its vulnerability to natural disasters, the government of **Haiti** has been improving its capacity to address recurrent devastating climate shocks. Three ACP-EU NDRR projects are contributing to this objective by supporting the government of Haiti in several ways.

Firstly, the government of Haiti is striving to strengthen its **disaster preparedness and response capacity**, in particular through the Civil Protection Directorate within the Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities. It is implementing risk information and contingency planning activities in sectors that are essential for disaster preparedness and emergency response, including education, health, and transport. For example, a thorough review of the Haiti post-disaster public financial management system was finalized, identifying recommendations for strengthening the system, including the Ministry of Economy and Finance's emergency fund to ensure better reporting and transparency of post-disaster expenditures. In addition, given that 90 percent of the country's emergency shelters are located in schools, a risk assessment of Haiti's school infrastructure has been undertaken, which will in turn develop a better understanding of the current deficiencies in school safety. A strategic plan to address these weaknesses is also currently being developed.



A neighborhood in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.
Source: World Bank ([here](#))

Secondly, through relevant local authorities, the government of Haiti is integrating critical aspects of DRM into **municipal development and urban resilience** activities in Cap-Haïtien, the country's second largest city. The municipal authorities of this coastal city, under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities and the Ministry of Public Works, are conducting flood risk reduction investments, large hydraulic engineering works and non-structural risk reduction measures in urban watersheds, including green infrastructure initiatives. This has entailed the conceptualization and implementation of flood risk reduction measures along the area called "Bassin Rhodo" and the urban ravines of Cap-Haïtien - key requirements prior to undertaking the implementation of integrated flood risk reduction investments in urban watersheds. In addition, a spatial analysis of the Cap-Haïtien area was conducted to establish the factors which inform neighborhood selection and prioritization, including urban expansion patterns, hazard exposure, vulnerability of infrastructure, poverty levels, and land uses. This has been coupled with the development of a flood risk assessment as a key input for the upgrading of a section of the Cap-Haïtien waterfront.

⁴⁰ More information about the previous ACP-EU NDRR project can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3iPv6HH>.

Finally, the government of Haiti is focusing on tackling several **strategic priorities for gender in DRM**. Women in Haiti are particularly vulnerable during and in the aftermath of disasters, as recovery efforts can be ill-suited to address women's needs and challenges. A gender gap analysis is being conducted which will evaluate gender approaches and identify progress and gaps, providing a baseline to carefully monitor progress on integrating gender in DRM. A technical working group has been established to agree on the objectives, priorities and action plan for the study, and is co-led by the Civil Protection Directorate within the Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities and the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Women's Rights. The analysis will also provide recommendations to tackle the exacerbation of gender inequalities in the aftermath of disasters, and to promote civil society engagement, community resilience, women's leadership and climate change adaptation. A specific focus is given to a gender approach in the context of disaster preparedness, looking for example at ways to promote good behavior in shelters to increase safety and operating management procedure; redesigning Early Warning System messaging and testing visual protocols to illustrate threat types; and strengthening Early Warning System curricula within schools.

Post-Disaster Activities

Following Hurricane Maria, which caused significant damages and losses across the island of Dominica in September 2017, the government initiated multiple large-scale housing reconstruction programs. The ACP-EU NDRR Program is supporting the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Planning, and the Ministry of Finance in enhancing **resilient reconstruction** in the country.⁴¹ In FY20, activities have supported the design, implementation and operationalization of a management information system to store and manage all data related to housing reconstruction programs, including applications, surveys, screening, assessments and subsequent management. This has been crucial to support the assignment of site visits to surveyors, monitor the rate of successfully completed site reports, assess performance, and provide feedback regarding these country-wide housing recovery programs. In addition, transparent beneficiary identification and selection processes have been developed to support the collection of data and identification of engineering needs during site and building assessments. Overall, these activities are improving the uptake of resilient building practices to limit the damage from natural hazards in Dominica.

A description of all the ACP-EU NDRR projects implemented in the Caribbean region can be accessed on the ACP-EU NDRR website at <https://www.gfdr.org/en/acp-eu/projects>.

⁴¹ A Results in Resilience story about this project is available here: www.bit.ly/RiRDominica.

In Focus: Disaster Preparedness and Response Capacity Assessment in the Caribbean

The above-average 2020 hurricane season in the Caribbean, which saw the early formation of several tropical storms, is indicative of the increasing number of extreme weather and climate events striking the region. The National Disaster Management Organizations of vulnerable Caribbean nations are confronted with institutional deficiencies and obstacles, resulting from insufficient human and financial resources, that prevent them from deploying comprehensive preparedness and response systems both in anticipation and in the aftermath of disaster events. The necessity of a coordinated regional framework to improve resilience has become all the more urgent in the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

In this context, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in improving national and regional capacities for preparedness and response. It also assists five countries - **Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** – in strengthening their national disaster agencies. This is being undertaken as part of the *Disaster preparedness and response capacity assessment and technical assistance project*, launched in FY20.

The National Disaster Management Organizations in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines each underwent an institutional assessment and evaluation of their current preparedness and response systems after a stakeholder engagement workshop held during the *UR Caribbean conference* of May 2019 to define the scope of the assessments. Conducted by the Disaster Management Center of Bournemouth University in the United Kingdom, these assessments are informing policy reforms and investment solutions to address critical gaps and determine the most effective organizational structure and funding model. To date, a strategic roadmap and corresponding investment plan have been designed to provide guidance on addressing the gaps in human and financial resources. One of the weaknesses identified in the initial results of the assessments was the need for the collection and management of actionable information.

At the request of CDEMA's member states, additional funding was provided for this project to undertake a series of situational awareness workshops to identify gaps in information collection and management. These are aimed at building the capacity of participating Caribbean countries, especially in handling the twin threat of the impacts of the 2020 hurricane season and the COVID-19 crisis.

In a region that is frequently subject to Category 5 hurricanes, preparedness and response is a key pillar of comprehensive DRM. Strengthening preparedness systems and improving the capacity of national disaster agencies through this ACP-EU NDRR initiative is crucial in increasing resilience and effectively responding to natural disasters.



Nassau, Bahamas.
Source: iStock.com

In Focus: Measuring the impact of disaster events on poverty and social responsibility in Saint Lucia and reducing disaster risks specific to public infrastructure

As a small island developing state, Saint Lucia's social welfare, economic stability, and public infrastructure are at risk from extreme weather and climate-related risks. Poor communities are especially vulnerable to disaster shocks. Moreover, the state of key public infrastructure, such as poor solid waste management practices and fragile water infrastructure, means that the impacts of climate events are compounded through increased flooding, accumulation of debris, and the loss of water supplies. Two ongoing ACP-EU NDRR projects highlight Saint Lucia's efforts in integrating risk awareness and resilience in its social protection policies, and reducing the vulnerabilities of its housing sector to protect gains in poverty reduction.

Following a request from the government for support on including the poor and socially vulnerable in its DRM strategies, the *Measuring the impact of disaster events on poverty and social vulnerability* project is exploring ways to improve and inform its DRM strategies and policies to better protect the poor and socially vulnerable. The project has focused on three key thematic areas central to building resilience among the most economically vulnerable: risk-informed social protection, risk-informed poverty analysis, and climate resilient farming. Under the social protection component, a new social targeting tool has been developed to better identify people eligible for government assistance programs, improving the efficiency of Saint Lucia's social welfare system. Under the poverty analysis component, a household survey will be conducted to better understand households' coping mechanisms in the aftermath of disaster events. The climate resilient farming component has improved farmers' access to financing for climate-resilient agricultural activities through the Saint Lucia Climate Adaptation Financing Facility (CAFF). Following an additional funding request for this project in June 2020 by the Saint Lucia Ministry of Finance in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, CAFF-related activities are being redesigned so that financial support can be provided to small businesses and the agricultural and fisheries sectors, to reduce the pandemic's financial impacts.

The *Measurable reduction of disaster risks specific to public infrastructure* project is another initiative aimed at supporting the government of Saint Lucia in reducing risk and prioritizing investments in resilience, this time focusing on sensitive public infrastructure and utilities, in particular urban housing, solid waste management and water resources management. Activities such as field visits to solid waste management facilities and water treatment and storage facilities have been instrumental in developing action plans to increase these sectors' resilience to disaster risks, such as new investments in community drainage systems and updating the country's National Water Policy. Additional funding was also granted to this project which has adapted activities to the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting the government - in particular the National Emergency Management Office - to develop alternative methods for community engagement and awareness during the 2020 hurricane season, taking social distancing requirements into account.

These two projects complement each other, as the effective protection of Saint Lucia's most vulnerable communities from disaster risks depends on the resilience of public infrastructure delivering services such as water supply and waste management.



Castries, Saint Lucia.
Source: iStock.com

Overview of Activities in FY20 The Program in the Pacific



Activities in the Pacific

Activities in the Pacific in FY20 assisted countries in making their governmental institutions more responsive to disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, and in establishing these concepts as priorities in national policymaking. These reforms are also intended to inform community resilience and community-based disaster response, enabling governments to provide better guidance on post-disaster recovery and reconstruction. The new policies have also informed the disaster and climate resilient expansion of affordable urban settlements.

In FY20, the portfolio for the Pacific region numbered ten active projects, including three projects at the regional level (Window 1), and seven at the country-level (Window 2). One of these projects was approved during the year.

Regional-level projects

In the **Republic of Marshall Islands** and **Federated States of Micronesia**, a regional project managed by the IOM is enhancing the **resilience of local communities** to disaster risk and helping them adapt to climate change with the support of local CSOs. The project is described in greater detail in an “In Focus” feature on page 45.

Another regional project is increasing the capacity of several PICs - **Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga** and **Vanuatu** - to **mainstream DRM and CCA in the design of infrastructure investments**. Several knowledge products were developed in FY20, including a Knowledge Note entitled *Spatial development in Pacific Island Countries: toward affordable and resilient urban settlements*, which explores the challenges and opportunities for urban development in PICs, identifying a continuum of strategies for enabling the resilient development of human settlements. Another Knowledge Note, *Tourism Recovery in the Pacific: Building Resilience After COVID-19*, was also developed, providing governments in the region with solutions and recommendations for facing the economic realities of the pandemic in one of the most affected sectors of their economy. Finally, another Knowledge Note is currently being developed consolidating lessons and best practice for structuring and utilizing post-disaster financing mechanisms such as Cat-DDOs. This will help PICs identify options for institutional changes and policy reforms that can strengthen DRM. The tools and methodologies developed through the project contribute to the larger World Bank-funded *Pacific Resilience Program*, which supports investments in infrastructure in these countries.

The third regional project, the UAV4Resilience-Utilizing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) – completed during the fiscal year - is described below, under the section on post-disaster activities.

Country-level projects

In FY20, several Pacific countries have continued to pursue **institutional strengthening for DRM**. Through a new project launched in FY20 in **Papua New Guinea**, the Treasury, the National Disaster Center and other relevant government agencies are working to adapt current policies and institutional arrangements to increase community resilience and community-based disaster recovery, and to identify areas where strengthening and harmonization are needed for effective DRM. The project is described in greater detail in an “In Focus” feature on page 44.

In **Fiji**, several government ministries, - the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Tourism; the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts; the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development; and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Meteorological Services - have finalized the preparation of guidelines for the implementation of the *National Building Code*. This has strengthened the country's capacity to improve the design and construction of single-story houses and schools to prepare for climate and disaster risks. The new guidelines of the National Building Code include practical solutions and illustrations showing best practices for the design and construction of new buildings.



The village of Namarai Viti Levu, Fiji which had been affected by cyclone Winston in February 2016.
Source: World Bank

In **Samoa**, the Ministry of Works, Transport, and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment have worked together to strengthen the country's institutional policy framework for DRM and CCA. The new guidelines for the application of the revised *National Building Code* are helping to strengthen new residential housing against climate-related risks and earthquakes. These guidelines have also informed the *Building Practitioners Licensing and Registration Policy*, approved by the Cabinet in February 2020. This policy allows the government of Samoa to regulate the standards governing building practitioners and contractors, to issue licenses to carry out construction works in accordance with the *National Building Code*, and to register suitably qualified building contractors. The government has also communicated the new building guidelines to stakeholders in the private sector and reached out to communities to raise awareness of climate and disaster-related risks.

In **Tuvalu**, technical and analytical work was undertaken with the Tuvalu Climate Change and Disaster Policy unit, the Disaster Management Office, and the National Disaster Committee to review existing DRM policies, plans and regulations to identify potential gaps and identify priority reform actions and to enhance the government's capacity to implement the *National Strategic Action Plan* for climate change and DRM.

In **Vanuatu**, a multi-pronged policy analysis was conducted to identify areas that need to be strengthened for an effective national DRM and CCA framework to take root. A collaboration between the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and the National Disaster Management Office led to the revision of the *National DRM Act* and the *National Subdivision Policy*, and to the development a *Disaster Recovery Framework*. These revisions will provide advice and key recommendations for implementing post-disaster recovery and "build back better" measures.

In the **Solomon Islands**, the government is committed to investigating **urban flood risks** and to providing quality information to better manage and reduce flood risks in the capital city and suburbs, that make up the Greater Honiara area. After additional funding was provided to this project FY20, several key analyses were conducted in collaboration with both central and local government agencies, namely the Honiara City Council, the Guadalcanal Provincial Council, and the Ministries of Environment and Planning. These included the drafting of five working papers which support the design and development of fit-for purpose flood modelling for Honiara's main river system. The draft papers have taken flooding 'hot spots' into consideration, as well as both hard and softer mitigation options. Potential improvements are being considered for flood risk early warning capabilities to strengthen flood warning systems and community preparedness, as well as for evacuation routes. These working papers will inform a final report which will include the preparation of a detailed flood risk study, the investigation of flood risk management options and a flood risk management plan, building and strengthening the city's disaster preparedness and resilience to weather extremes.

The **resilience of key infrastructure and cities** has continued to be a priority for the government of **Kiribati**. Several documents have been finalized, including a review of the country's long-term *Coastal Security Strategy*, a collection of lessons for affordable and resilient housing, as well as a report on urban service provision in the capital city South Tarawa. These are helping in the identification of crucial factors to plan for climate resilient allocation and the financing of safe and affordable land for urban expansion, especially for lower-income households, which have been prioritized by government institutions including the Office of the President and the Ministries of Lands and Fisheries.

Post-Disaster Activities

Although the Program did not support any new post-disaster projects in FY20, specific post-disaster activities were conducted as part of ongoing regional or national-level projects. For example, the government of **Vanuatu** requested support in the aftermath of the Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Harold, which struck in April 2020. As part of the World Bank's overall response, a **remote assessment** of the damage-affected provinces was conducted using the Global Rapid post disaster Damage Estimation (GRADE) methodology⁴², building on activities of the ongoing project in Vanuatu outlined above. Despite the COVID-19 crisis, work continued with relevant stakeholders to ensure that emerging needs were met. The report underlined the fact that the cost of direct damages was estimated at slightly less than 10 percent of Vanuatu's 2018 gross domestic product, with direct damage to buildings at \$65 million, and total direct damages at between \$80 to 100 million.

As part of the regional project *UAV4Resilience-Utilizing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)*,⁴³ a series of hands-on trainings was organized in January and February 2020 on the use of drones in a post-disaster context, bringing together a total of 62 participants from Tonga and Solomon Islands, including 5 women. The trainings led to concrete improvements in the participants' use of UAVs in their day-to-day operations. Following the passage of Cyclone Tino and Cyclone Harold in January and April 2020 respectively, course participants were able to take UAV images and provide the Tonga National Emergency Operations and Management Committee with up-to-date post-cyclone information to help inform response decision-making. In addition, a guidance note was published to document the best uses of UAVs in collecting geospatial data in Pacific Island States and is intended for use by local technological agencies that are looking to integrate UAV usage into their data collection workflow.⁴⁴



Use of drones in the Pacific Islands.
Source: World Bank

A description of all the ACP-EU NDRR projects implemented in the Pacific region can be accessed on the ACP-EU NDRR website at <https://www.gfdrr.org/en/acp-eu/projects>.

⁴² The GRADE approach is a remote, desk-based, rapid damage assessment method deployed soon after a disaster. For more information, please see: <https://bit.ly/2BXxtlp>.

⁴³ A Results in Resilience story about this project is available at <https://bit.ly/2EmkNLS>.

⁴⁴ The guidance note can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3dUZVsN>.

In Focus: Strengthening the policy and institutional framework for DRM in Papua New Guinea in the context of COVID-19

Papua New Guinea is extremely vulnerable to natural hazards and particularly exposed to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, cyclones, floods, droughts, and tsunamis. With the increasing risk from disasters and variability of the impacts of climate-related hazards, the government of Papua New Guinea is pursuing more explicit disaster risk reduction and prevention policies and strategies.

In this context, the Treasury, the National Disaster Center and other relevant government agencies of Papua New Guinea have been working together to review existing DRM policies and identify potential gaps and priority policy and institutional reform actions, with support from the Program. Activities include technical assistance for the development and strengthening of DRM regulation and policies and targeted technical inputs on increasing community resilience and community-based disaster recovery. The government is working to align policy and institutional actions with Papua New Guinea's *Medium-Term Development Plan III* (2018-2022), and the *National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework* (2017-2030).

In the midst of these important reforms, the global COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the country's vulnerability to health-related emergencies. These have a significant impact on livelihoods and food security, and have exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities. Under the project, an assessment of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery systems in Papua New Guinea is being undertaken to support the National Disaster Centre. Activities related to the assessment have been adapted to include health emergencies and pandemics to help support the government in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

In addition, the pandemic has prompted the government to focus on strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) systems. A desk-based review of lessons learned from previous disasters in Papua New Guinea will provide an assessment of the opportunities for the country's EP&R systems. This should help in establishing a framework to improve efficiency, avoid duplication of efforts and enhance the benefits of collaboration among key government and emergency response entities in the case of natural disasters and pandemics.



Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea.
Source: iStock.com

In Focus: Enhancing the resilience of communities in Micronesia and the Republic of Marshall Islands

The north Pacific sub-region is subject to extreme natural events, such as typhoons, tropical storms, flooding and drought. The International Organization for Migration has been implementing an ACP-EU NDRR project in Micronesia and the Republic of Marshall Islands since 2017, enhancing the resilience of communities to disaster risk and assisting in their adaptation to climate change. The scope of project activities includes risk mapping and the planning of community investments, facilitating increased community resilience to meet adversities posed by climate change.

Technical data collection and consultations with local authorities and civil society organizations in Micronesia and the Republic of Marshall Islands have led to the design of an effective regional and national early warning system, and the evaluation of infrastructure like public buildings and schools. Since project inception, almost 550 people, including over 270 women have been trained on EWS and community-based DRM in capacity building sessions. Lessons learned from the project have highlighted the facts that communities are recognizing the importance of communicating during the early signs of a disaster event, and that there is a need for strong systems to alert the entire community and difficult-to-reach populations.

Hazard vulnerability mapping exercises were undertaken in 18 targeted communities in the Marshall Islands. The outcomes have been captured in lessons learned which can be used by the communities to help implement local DRM Plans. A survey was also conducted in 82 communities, informing the national discourse and government plans for capacity building for community EWS. These activities have helped ensure more participatory methods to better prepare communities for disasters and take action during disaster events, while supporting the production of community maps that can be updated and used during emergencies.



Republic of Marshall Islands survey coverage (circled).
Source: International Organization for Migration

Capacity Building

The ACP-EU NDRR Program enables capacity building and the sharing of best practices, during international, regional or national events and workshops, where policymakers, DRM practitioners, civil society actors and academics share insights from their respective countries or regions.

In FY20, the ACP-EU NDRR Program has organized 178 events, attended by around 10 000 people. Some of these events have taken the form of conferences; the Program supported the Understanding Risk (UR) West and Central Africa conference, which was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in November 2019. Others take the form of trainings and workshops. For example, more than 580 people in ACP countries attended Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and DRF trainings in FY20. Capacity building activities were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, involving travel restrictions and worldwide health precautions which prevented the organization of in-person meetings, events and conferences. Nevertheless, several new ways of implementing activities with governments and DRM stakeholders have been found to continue supporting ACP countries in strengthening their resilience to disaster and climate risks.

Understanding Risk West and Central Africa

The ACP-EU NDRR Program co-financed the *UR West and Central Africa* conference,⁴⁵ held in November 2019 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The conference theme was *Human Capital and Innovation for a Resilient Society*, and it was attended by 600 participants from 42 countries, including representatives from all 33 West and Central African countries. The event was preceded by the *West Africa Coastal Areas* marketplace⁴⁶ and followed by the *2nd African State of the Map* conference,⁴⁷ allowing attendees to engage in these other gatherings. The conference brought almost 150 young leaders and innovators from the region together and created many positive connections between delegates.

The event included ten workshops, ten ignite presentations, four plenaries, twenty technical sessions, three side events, three high level site visits, and two social events. Approximately 130 speakers addressed the conference, of which 30 percent were women and 60 percent were from the West and Central Africa region. Some of the highlights of the sessions included:

- A high-level site visit, organized in collaboration with the Ivorian Ministry of Sanitation, to the new landfill and transfer stations, with sharing of experience on Public-Private Partnership arrangements for solid waste management;
- A high-level plenary on Youth and Digital Skills Towards a Resilient Society;
- The Third Meeting of the Open Cities cohorts;
- A highly interactive Disaster Risk Financing plenary;
- A private-public-civil society exchange on private capital mobilization for solid waste management in Africa;
- Knowledge exchanges and the sharing of regional experience on flood risk analysis;



Participants during the UR West and Central Africa conference.
Source: World Bank

⁴⁵ This event was also co-financed by the EU-funded Africa Disaster Risk Financing (ADRF) Initiative. The ADRF Initiative is part of the ACP-EU cooperation program Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa. For more information, please see <https://www.preventionweb.net/resilient-africa/>.

⁴⁶ More information can be found here: <https://www.wacaprogram.org/article/waca-marketplace-1>.

⁴⁷ More information can be found here: <https://2019.stateofthemap.africa/>.

- Discussion on building public-private partnerships for hydrometeorological services in Africa; and
- Knowledge exchanges between young entrepreneurs and leading international firms such as Google, Facebook or Mapillary on innovation and technologies (e.g. remote sensing, drones, artificial intelligence, machine learning, 3D camera, etc.) for mapping, urban services and resilience in multiple sessions.

Several documents related to the *UR West and Central Africa* conference are available, including the conference proceedings,⁴⁸ the full agenda and summary,⁴⁹ and a video⁵⁰ which features footage from the event, including plenaries, side events, and interviews with participants and speakers.

Capacity building on post-disaster and recovery activities

Several PDNA and DRF trainings were organized in FY20 under the ACP-EU NDRR “*Disaster Recovery Framework Guide Roll-out*” project, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the EU.⁵¹

- In Arusha, Tanzania in July 2019, a training was delivered to 51 participants including 7 women, from the Tanzania Prime Minister's Office, line Ministries, local government, CSOs and universities.
- In Mombasa, Kenya in September 2019, a training gathered 40 participants, including 6 women, from the Kenya National Disaster Operation Centre, technical representatives of line ministries involved in PDNAs and recovery planning, and county officials. The objective was to develop a regional pool of recovery specialists and professionals, and to generate a pool of certified trainers capable of conducting PDNA and DRF trainings and coaching at the national and regional levels.
- In Bamako, Mali in October 2019, a training was delivered to 38 participants representing different sectors, including civil protection, health, education, transportation, water facilities, the environment, agriculture, statistical analysis, urban development, and civil society. The objective of the event was to familiarize participants with PDNA and DRF methodologies and concepts such as the economic impact of disasters, how to design a DRF framework and recovery strategy, and the contingency planning process.



Participants during the PDNA/DRF training in Arusha, Tanzania in July 2019.
Source: GFDRR

Under the same grant, a revised and updated version of the DRF guide that was originally issued in 2015 was been published in March 2020.⁵² The guide is intended as a practice-based, results-focused tool to assist governments and partners in planning for resilient recovery following a large-scale disaster. This updated guide provides new and improved examples of recovery experience, focusing on the specifics of disaster recovery at the local level, and on recovery in conflict and post-conflict contexts.

⁴⁸ The UR West and Central Africa conference proceedings are available in English at <https://bit.ly/39WyHQB> and in French at <https://bit.ly/2zjHNSU>.

⁴⁹ The full agenda and summary of the UR West and Central Africa conference can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/389oKNW>.

⁵⁰ The video of the event is available at <https://youtu.be/c5iJZfL5Epg>.

⁵¹ Several PDNA and DRF trainings were also organized as part of the Result Area 2 Program.

⁵² The DRF guide is available at <https://bit.ly/2w61l2s>.

Innovative ways to build capacity in the context of the COVID-19 crisis

In the last quarter of FY20, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the implementation of several ACP-EU NDRR projects. Capacity building activities such as in-person trainings, workshops or events in particular have had to be postponed or cancelled in view of travel restrictions and the implementation of social distancing measures. Nevertheless, several examples of activities under ACP-EU NDRR projects underline how governments, development partners and World Bank teams have adapted their modus operandi to the new necessary health guidelines.

In **Cameroon**, travel restrictions resulted in innovations that allowed continuous implementation of the *Integrating climate and disaster risk considerations into spatial planning* project, and new forms of collaboration with the government that could in fact increase the likelihood of sustainability. Workshops that were supposed to be organized in-person in the last quarter of FY20 will instead be recorded as video tutorials and delivered to the relevant government counterparts in order to continue capacity-building activities. The videos can later be reused by these participants, or even benefit other stakeholders facing similar issues in other countries. In addition, the latest training on climate change impact modelling was conducted online, and contributed to the creation of an active online chat conversation where participants continue to provide guidance as they apply what they have learnt in their work.

Several measures were taken to continue capacity-building activities as part of the *Disaster preparedness and response capacity assessment and technical assistance* initiative the Program is supporting in the **Caribbean**. Remote regional and national capacity-building assessments were conducted by the Disaster Management Centre from Bournemouth University in the United Kingdom in Dominica, Grenada, Saint. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Project activities will continue remotely through a series of online situational awareness workshops to identify gaps in information collection and management. These will be aimed at building the capacity of participating Caribbean countries, especially in handling the twin threat of the COVID-19 crisis and the impacts of the 2020 hurricane season.

In **Samoa** for instance, despite an outbreak of the measles in December 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic since early 2020, the implementation of activities under the ACP-EU NDRR project have continued. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, training of government staff to enhance their understanding of the *National Building Code* and on how to use these guidelines has continued. Between April and June 2020, these trainings were conducted using a combination of virtual and in-person meetings for government staff, including the use of multiple rooms for the latter to comply with social distancing requirements.



Fiji's recovery from Cyclone Winston
Source: [World Bank](https://www.worldbank.org/)

Leveraging Investments in Disaster Risk Management

The ACP-EU NDRR Program has continued to benefit from GFDRR's ability to harness the World Bank's convening power and technical expertise, and also to leverage the World Bank's financing capacity and attract financing from other sources.

As of FY20, the ACP-EU NDRR Program has leveraged just under **\$4 billion** through **co-financing, enabling, and informing** in leveraging, of which around **\$800 million was committed in FY20**. The leveraged amount is calculated through a portfolio analysis which differentiates types of leveraging and highlights related leveraging achieved. In FY20 several ACP-EU NDRR projects supported the leveraging of additional resources from other partners than the World Bank, highlighting the ability of GFDRR and World Bank technical assistance activities to attract expertise and financing from external actors. It also underscores the cross-sectoral nature of ACP-EU NDRR activities that involve a wide-range of stakeholders and partners. These additional investments stemming from ACP-EU NDRR activities are outlined below.

Co-financing is the joint or parallel financing of a project through loans and/or grants to increase its scale. In this instance, an ACP-EU NDRR project is part of a broader financing package with other funding sources. These different funding sources finance the same program, objective, components, and expected results together, to avoid the fragmentation of aid. Co-financed leverage in FY20 included:

The **eSwatini** drought preparedness project in eSwatini, financed with \$200,000 from the Program, co-financed the \$45 million World Bank-financed *Water Supply and Sanitation Access project*.

The **Urban Transformation and Resilience for Inclusive Economic Growth** project in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, financed with \$840,000 from the Program, co-financed through the \$20 million World Bank-financed *Second Fiscal Reform and Resilience Development Policy Credit with Cat-DDO*.

The **Enhancing capacity for improving design and construction of single-story houses and schools for climate and disaster risk** project in Fiji, financed with \$100,000 from the Program, led to the co-financing of a \$65 million loan by the Asian Development Bank to support greater private sector investment and participation in Fiji.⁵³

\$1.14 million grant amount

\$130 million FY20 approved leveraged finance

⁵³ More information can be found at <https://bit.ly/32RW38d>.

Enabling development financing refers to the ability of an ACP-EU NDRR project to trigger financing that would not have been available without that project. This includes, for example, cases where activities funded through the Program directly support the design and/or implementation of a DRM operation, or where an ACP-EU NDRR project ensures that a country meets the eligibility criteria for a World Bank loan (Development Policy Operation). Enabled leverage in FY20 included the following cases:

The **Enhancing capacity for improving design and construction of single-story houses and schools for climate and disaster risk** project in Fiji, financed with \$100,000 from the Program, enabled the \$64 million World Bank-financed *Fiji Second Fiscal Sustainability and Climate Resilience Development Policy Operation* project.

The **Supporting evidence-based decision making for a clean, resilient and inclusive Greater Accra** project in Ghana, financed with \$550,000 from the Program, enabled a \$1 million contribution from the government of The Netherlands, through the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (*Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland – RVO*) aimed at financing feasibility studies and tender documents for dredging activities in the Odaw Canal in Accra.⁵⁴ In addition, a contribution from the Green Climate Fund for further financing is under discussion and will be confirmed in FY21.

The **Enhancing disaster risk reduction and urban resilience in Cap-Haïtien** project in Haiti, financed with \$350,000 from the Program, enabled the \$56 million World Bank-financed *Cap-Haïtien urban development project*.

The **Strengthening the institutional capacity for planning and preparedness to improve climate and disaster risks management** project in Lesotho, financed with \$450,000 from the Program, enabled the \$20 million World Bank-financed *DRM Development Policy Financing with Cat-DDO*.

The **Strengthening technical and institutional capacity to manage climate and disaster risks** project in Malawi, financed with \$400,000 from the ACP-EU NDRR Program, enabled the \$80 million World Bank-financed additional financing to the *DRM Development Policy Financing with Cat-DDO*.

The **Programmatic Technical Assistance - Building Climate and Disaster Resilience** regional project in the Pacific, financed with \$1 million from the Program, led to the co-financing of the \$15.37 million World Bank-financed *Pacific Resilience Project II under the Pacific Resilience Program*.

\$2.85 million grant amount

\$236.47 million FY20 approved leveraged finance

⁵⁴ For more information, please see: <https://bit.ly/303Lm0v>.

Informing the mobilization of resources involves an ACP-EU NDRR project laying the groundwork for conceiving larger investments from national governments or development partners. For instance, an ACP-EU NDRR project provides evidence such as risk assessments, PDNAs, or a recovery plan that provides analytical work or evidence which helps to influence the design of a larger investment. The latter would thus have been designed differently had the activities under the project not taken place. Informed leverage in FY20 included the following:

The **Rapid assessment and disaster recovery framework** project in Mali, financed with \$230,000 from the Program, informed the \$250 million World Bank-financed *Bamako Urban Resilience project*.

The **Strengthening disaster risk management and building climate resilience** project in Mozambique, financed with \$500,000 from the Program, informed the \$130 million World Bank-financed *Cyclone Idai and Kenneth Emergency Recovery and Resilience project*.

The **Building disaster and climate resilience** project in Haiti, financed with \$500,000 from the Program, informed the \$20 million World Bank-financed *Haiti COVID-19 Response and Resilience Development Policy Operation*.

The **Measuring the impact of disaster events on poverty and social vulnerability** project in Saint Lucia, financed with \$380,000 from the Program, informed the \$20 million World Bank-financed *Saint Lucia Human Capital Resilience project*.

The **Strengthening atolls for climate-resilient future urban expansion** project in Kiribati, financed with \$455,000 from the Program, informed the \$15 million World Bank-financed *South Tarawa Water Supply project*.

Circa \$2 million grant amount

\$435 million FY20 approved leveraged finance



Savusavu, Fiji.
Source: iStock.com

Annex I: Communication and Visibility

Between July 2019 and June 2020, various reports, project outputs and outreach documents were published.

Reports

ACP-EU NDRR Activity Report 2018-2019

The ACP-EU NDRR Program Activity Report highlights the results achieved in 2018-2019 across Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific, exploring successes such as promoting resilient recovery and investments in Sierra Leone, supporting urban transformation for inclusive growth in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and building community resilience in the Solomon Islands. In 2018-19, 22 new projects were funded, bringing the ACP-EU NDRR's total portfolio to 126 projects supporting over 70 ACP countries.

The report is available in English <https://bit.ly/2SaBWfD> and in French <https://bit.ly/3IPJxgE>.



Result Area 2 Program - Activity Report 2018-19

This report summarizes the activities and achievements under Result Area 2 of the "Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa" Program for 2018-19. During the period, the RECs continued to provide key technical assistance to their member states through trainings for national and regional stakeholders in DRM. Gender mainstreaming saw significant advances as RECs have started developing their regional gender strategies and plans to build a society-wide resilience to natural hazards. The report also highlights increased cooperation between CSOs and the RECs to improve coordination on DRM and DRR at the national, regional, and local levels.

The report is available in English <https://bit.ly/2Am9BgS> at and in French at <https://bit.ly/37k6rq8>.

Mali – Rapid damage assessment and Disaster Recovery Framework

Following devastating floods in May 2019 in Bamako, Mali, which affected several parts of the capital city, the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection undertook a rapid damage assessment and a Disaster Recovery Framework to inform recovery and reconstruction needs. It estimated the total damages and loss at nearly \$9 million and the recovery and reconstruction needs at nearly \$33.5 million.

The rapid assessment is available in French at <https://bit.ly/33zVTU> and the Disaster Recovery Framework at <https://bit.ly/2C2Mt7S>.

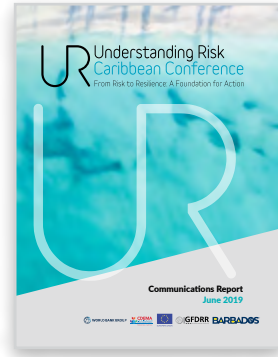


Proceedings and blog post on the UR Caribbean Conference

On 27 to 31 May 2019, the Government of Barbados, CDEMA and the EU, in partnership with the World Bank/GFDRR organized the UR Caribbean Conference. The conference gathered over 500 delegates from more than 20 Caribbean countries and was co-financed by the ACP-EU NDRR Program.

The Proceedings of the conference can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/2G43bCe>.

In addition, a blog post was also published, which mentions the conference and the ACP-EU NDRR program, and can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/38m8Yza>.



Proceedings of the fourth edition of the World Reconstruction Conference (WRC4)

On 13 and 14 May 2019, WRC4 held in Geneva, Switzerland, gathered over 1,000 participants from national and local governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, and international organizations from around the world. It was jointly organized by the ACP Secretariat, the European Commission, the UNDP, World Bank and GFDRR, and hosted by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The ACP-EU NDRR Program facilitated the participation of over 50 delegates from Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries to various WRC4 sessions, including as speakers and panelists.

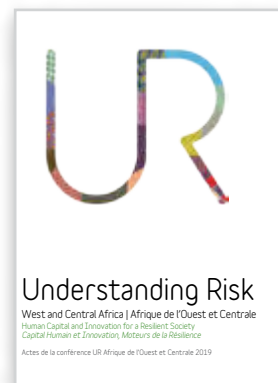
The Proceedings of the conference can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/2UuyiPx>.

Proceedings of the UR West and Central Africa conference

The UR West and Central Africa conference, “Human Capital and Innovation for a Resilient Society”, took place from 20 to 22 November 2019 in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. Over the course of technical workshops and plenary sessions, the conference provided an opportunity for participants to exchange experiences and insights on the crucial challenge of understanding the risks of natural disasters in West and Central Africa.

The ACP-EU NDRR Program funded the participation of several delegates as speakers and participants. This conference was also organized with financial support from the EU under the ACP-EU Africa Disaster Risk Financing Initiative, managed by GFDRR.

The proceedings are available in English at <https://bit.ly/39WyHQB> and in French at <https://bit.ly/2zjHNSU>.



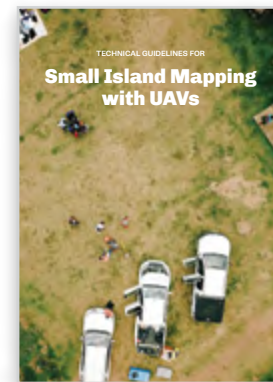
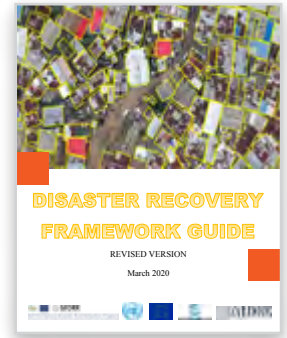
Disaster Recovery Framework guide

A revised and updated version of the DRF guide that was originally issued in 2015 was published in March 2020. The guide is intended as a practice-based, results-focused tool to assist governments and partners in planning for resilient post-disaster recovery following a large-scale disaster.

This updated guide provides new and improved examples of recovery experience, focusing on the specifics of disaster recovery at the local level, and on recovery in conflict and post-conflict contexts.

This Guide was published under the ACP-EU NDRR “Disaster Recovery Framework Guide Roll-out” project which was launched in 2016.

The DRF guide is available at <https://bit.ly/2w61l2s>.



Guidance note for disaster assessments in the Pacific islands

A guidance note was published to document the best uses of UAVs in collecting geospatial data in Pacific Island States, intended for use by local technological agencies that are looking to integrate UAV usage into their data collection workflow.

This note was published under the “UAV4Resilience – Utilizing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for Disaster Risk Assessments in the Pacific Islands project” which was launched in 2017 to develop the abilities of Fiji and Tonga to carry out disaster and climate risk assessments, and to identify post-disaster damage.

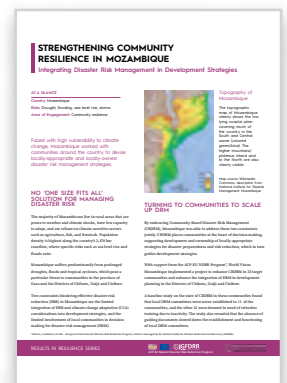
The guidance note can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3dUZVsN>.

Results in Resilience series

Results in Resilience: Strengthening Community Resilience in Mozambique

A Results in Resilience story was published which highlights how working with local communities helped to enhance the integration of DRM in development planning in Mozambique, with support from the ACP-EU NDRR Program.

The document can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/2lYXQW2>.



Results in Resilience: Strengthening Disaster Management Policy in Pacific island countries

A Results in Resilience story was published which highlights how PICs are developing national policy and regulatory frameworks to address the threat of climate and weather-induced disasters, with support from the ACP-EU NDRR Program.

The document can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/312llyx>.



Videos



Building physical and fiscal resilience of the Dominican Republic to ensure shared prosperity

A video was produced under the ACP-EU NDRR Building Physical and Fiscal Resilience to Ensure Shared Prosperity project showcasing the development of a methodology and technological tool entitled Damage Collection and Assessment System for the Dominican Republic.

The video is available at <https://bit.ly/3112ZPq>.

Reducing disaster impacts in Saint Lucia

Several videos were produced under the ACP-EU NDRR “Measurable reduction of disaster risk specific to public infrastructure” project, which is supporting the government of Saint Lucia to better understand disaster risk affecting public infrastructure. The videos are available at <https://bit.ly/3e4QLtg>.



UR West and Central Africa video

A video was developed featuring footage from the UR event in Abidjan which was co-funded by the ACP-EU NDRR Program, including plenaries, side events, and interviews with participants and speakers. The video is available at <https://youtu.be/c5iJZfl5Epg>.

• ANGOLA • ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA • BELIZE • CAPE VERDE • COMOROS • BAHAMAS •

• BARBADOS • BENIN • BOTSWANA • BURKINA FASO • BURUNDI • CAMEROON •

• CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC • CHAD • CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE) • CONGO (KINSHASA) •

• COOK ISLANDS • CTE D'IVOIRE • CUBA • DJIBOUTI • DOMINICA • DOMINICAN REPUBLIC •

• ERITREA • ETHIOPIA • FIJI • GABON • GAMBIA • GHANA • GRENADA • REPUBLIC OF GUINEA •

• GUINEA-BISSAU • EQUATORIAL GUINEA • GUYANA • HAITI • JAMAICA • KENYA • KIRIBATI •

• LESOTHO • LIBERIA • MADAGASCAR • MALAWI • MALI • MARSHALL ISLANDS • MAURITANIA •

• MAURITIUS • MICRONESIA • MOZAMBIQUE • NAMIBIA • NAURU • NIGER • NIGERIA • NIUE •

• PALAU • PAPUA NEW GUINEA • RWANDA • ST. KITTS AND NEVIS • ST. LUCIA •

• ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES • SOLOMON ISLANDS • SAMOA •

• SÃO TOME AND PRINCIPE • SENEGAL • SEYCHELLES • SIERRA LEONE • SOMALIA •

• SOUTH AFRICA • SUDAN • SURINAME • SWAZILAND • TANZANIA • TIMOR LESTE • TOGO •

• TONGA • TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO • TUVALU • UGANDA • VANUATU • ZAMBIA • ZIMBABWE •



Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.
Source: iStock.com

The ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program Partners

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES

The Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), previously known as ACP Group of States, was created by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975. It comprises 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific states, who are signatories of the Cotonou Agreement, which binds them to the European Union.

Among the OACPS objectives is the sustainable development of its member states and their gradual integration into the global economy. In this regard, as early as 2004 the OACPS - then called ACP Group of States - took the initiative to pioneer action on disaster risk reduction and resilience. It achieved this by drawing the European Union's attention to the need to expand its scope from humanitarian response, to a more pro-active and holistic approach to the prevention and management of disaster risk to natural hazards.

The ACP-EU NDRR Program is part of a long-standing cooperation between the OACPS and the EU. It brings together disaster risk management and climate resilience entities from the OACPS members, with specialised partners such as GFDRR, to address OACPS members' vulnerabilities to exogenous shocks, through integrated measures on climate adaptation, environmental protection and disaster risk management.

For more information: www.acp.int

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union (EU) is the leading donor of development aid and climate finance. The EU finances the NDRR Program by a grant of €54.5 million to a single-donor Trust Fund, under the 10th European Development Fund.

The EU is at the forefront of the international agenda on climate resilience, supporting developing countries in preparing for, withstanding and recovering from disaster events. The EU is fully engaged in supporting the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In 2019 the EU adopted a new plan to transform the EU into a low-carbon and climate-resilient society; the European Green Deal. A new, more ambitious EU strategy on adaptation to climate change has been announced by the European Commission as one of the main priorities of the Green Deal. Reinforcing the call to strengthen the efforts on climate-proofing, resilience building, prevention and preparedness, the new Adaptation Strategy, to be adopted in early 2021, calls for action in Europe but also beyond EU borders. This reaffirms that global challenges, such as climate resilience, require a global response.

In its cooperation with the OACPS, the EU has placed at the core of its interventions the need to reduce vulnerability and to build the resilience of regions, countries and communities.

For more information: www.europa.eu

GLOBAL FACILITY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION AND RECOVERY

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is a global partnership established in 2006 to support developing countries in understanding, managing, and ultimately reducing risks stemming from natural hazards and climate change. GFDRR's mission is to facilitate implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement by ensuring that development policies, plans, and investments—including post-disaster reconstruction—are designed to minimize disaster risks and build the resilience of people and economies to climate change. GFDRR provides grant financing, technical assistance, training and knowledge sharing activities to mainstream disaster and climate risk management in policies and strategies.

For more information: www.gfdrr.org



Conakry, Guinea.
Source: iStock.com

ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
World Bank Brussels Office
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www.drrinacp.org



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

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