



## Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa Program Result Area 2

African Regional Economic Communities have DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities operational to support their respective member states and regional and sub-regional Programs

### Activity Report July 2019 – June 2020



**GFDRR**  
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



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## Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa Program: Result Area 2

### Activity Report 2019–2020

This report summarizes the activities and achievements under Result Area 2 of the **Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa Program**: *African Regional Economic Communities have DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities operational to support their respective member states and regional and sub-regional Programs* from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.



Flood, Ethiopia.  
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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACP	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific
AfDB	African Development Bank
AUC	African Union Commission
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CityRAP	City Resilience Action Planning
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DiMSUR	Disaster Risk Management Sustainability and Urban Resilience
DRF	Disaster Recovery Framework
DRM TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FY	Fiscal Year
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
GHACOF	Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
NDRR	ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OACPS	Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
PDNA	Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
R2	Result Area 2 Program
RECs	African Regional Economic Communities
REPARC	Parliamentary Network for Disaster Resilience in Central Africa
RIASCO	Regional Interagency Standing Committee on Disasters
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARCOF	Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNHABITAT	United Nations Human Settlement Program
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WASCAL	West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

## Executive Summary

The Result Area 2 Program (the Program) is part of the *Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries, and Communities* Program, launched in 2015 by the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)<sup>1</sup> and the European Union (EU). The Program implements a comprehensive African Disaster Risk Management (DRM) framework, covering risk identification, risk assessment, risk reduction, disaster preparedness, disaster risk financing, and resilient recovery and reconstruction. Since 2015, the Result Area 2 Program has been enhancing and strengthening the capacities of four African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) – the Economic Community of 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) – in improving their coordination, planning, policy advisory and knowledge dissemination, advancing regional DRM agendas, and better assisting their respective member states in taking informed decisions to build better resilience to disasters.

This Activity Report provides an overview of activities implemented between July 2019 and June 2020 (Fiscal Year 20; FY20) by the Program. It highlights how despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which struck the African continent as of March 2020, the RECs have successfully transitioned their activities to remote and digital venues and continued to provide member countries with key technical assistance to improve human, institutional, and financial resources dedicated to strengthening disaster resilience.

Highlights from FY20 include a series of concurrent high-level conferences held prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the **8<sup>th</sup> Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Central Africa Regional Platform and the 4th Central Africa Ministerial Conference on DRR**, bringing together around 90 experts from various sectors and type of organizations. ECOWAS formulated a **regional flood management strategy for West Africa** to guide its member states on flood mitigation policy and to coordinate future regional responses to flooding events. IGAD provided guidance to its member states and DRM stakeholders via the Greater Horn of Africa Outlook Forums on the **implementation of national DRM programs**, and updated regional risk profiles and strategies. SADC has continued to strengthen regional efforts to enhance urban resilience through analytical support and policy advice to cities in the Southern Africa region. A meeting of the SADC Committee of ministers responsible for DRM also brought together representatives from thirteen SADC member states to assess the impact of significant regional disaster events, such as the 2019 cyclones Idai and Kenneth, to endorse the regional resilience strategic framework for 2020-2030 and SADC's disaster preparedness and response strategy for 2016-2030.

Each REC also validated its own **regional DRM gender sensitive strategy and/or action plan** to fully integrate gender considerations into DRM policies and programs over 2020-2030, with provisions that include the collection of gender-differentiated data; seeking out the knowledge and experiences women have of hazards and disaster recovery; and prioritizing recommendations for gender-specific recovery needs.

Activities under the Result Area 2 Program demonstrate the importance of regional cooperation as RECs lay the foundations of their DRM strategies for the upcoming decade. The devastating, multifaceted impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic further emphasize the necessity of a multi-sectoral approach to building resilience against disaster shocks, which includes considerations for the communities most susceptible to those shocks, and ensuring that recovery and reconstruction processes are resilient and sustain development gains.

<sup>1</sup> This organization was previously known as the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, and changed its denomination in April 2020. More information can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3hf6BSQ>.



A farmer watering his crops in Burkina Faso.  
Photo credit: iStock.com

## Program Overview

### Program Description

The Result Area 2 Program contributes to the achievements of the 2015-2020 *Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities Program*, which was established in 2015 by the EU and the OACPS and financed under the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund. The Program has the overall objective of **strengthening the resilience of Sub-Saharan African regions, countries and communities to the impacts of natural disasters**. These include the potential impacts of climate change on poverty reduction and sustainable development. To achieve this, five results areas were identified, which are implemented by several partners and together make up a complete cycle of DRM measures and capacity building. These are as follows:

**R1**

Extended Program of Action is developed for the implementation of the Africa regional strategy for DRR. Implemented by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

**R2**

**African Regional Economic Communities have DRR coordination, planning and policy advisory capacities operational to support their respective member states and regional- and sub-regional Programs. Implemented by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).**

**R3**

Core capacities of the specialized national and regional climate center are improved to meet the needs of DRM agencies and socio-economic sectors for effective use of weather and climate services and community-focused and real-time early warning systems. Implemented by the African Development Bank (AfDB).

**R4**

African countries have improved knowledge of risks through the compilation of historical disaster-related data to inform the assessment and modelling of future risks. Implemented by UNDRR.

**R5**

Multi-risk financing strategies are developed at regional, national and local levels to help African countries make informed decisions and to mitigate the socio-economic, fiscal and financial impacts of disasters. Implemented by GFDRR.

GFDRR is responsible for the implementation of Result Areas 2 and 5.<sup>2</sup> This activity report covers the achievements of Result Area 2. Activities under the Result Area 2 program are implemented by the four RECs and World Bank teams. GFDRR ensures day-to-day coordination with the European Commission, the OACPS Secretariat, the implementing partners of the ACP-EU *Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities Program*, and other relevant stakeholders.

<sup>2</sup> Result Area 5, also known as the Africa Disaster Risk Financing Initiative completed its activities and was closed in February 2020.

**Administrative arrangements:** The Result Area 2 Program is financed through an additional contribution of €20 million to the Single Donor Trust Fund of the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Program, and falls administratively under this Program.<sup>3</sup> A separate activity report presents the activities of the ACP-EU NDRR Program in FY20.

**Steering Committee meetings:** Result Area 2 governance operates through the Steering Committee of the ACP-EU NDRR Program – consisting of representatives from the European Commission, the OACPS Secretariat, and the World Bank – which meets regularly to review progress, provide advice and guidance, and address needs arising from program implementation. During the meetings, the overall portfolio, financial overview, and status of the monitoring framework of the Result Area 2 Program is presented. The Steering Committee meeting for FY20 had to be postponed to a more suitable time for several reasons, including the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Result Area 2 Program is also represented during the Steering Committee meetings of the *Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities Program*. The 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting<sup>4</sup> of this Program was held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 10 October 2019, in the margins of the 15<sup>th</sup> Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction.

**Program extension:** Due to the COVID-19 crisis and its associated direct consequences, several activities under the Result Area 2 Program have experienced delays. These activities included 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; the extension applies to activities under the Result Area 2 Program. This provides more time to adapt to the new realities and find solutions for delivering remote and virtual support, and to allow activities to achieve their expected results. At the same time, Program activities continue to strengthen governments' capacity in DRR and DRM, both critical to addressing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly as World Bank in-country partners face the challenge of needing to respond to complex and compound risks.

**Coordination with other partners:** Various program-wide activities require – and encourage – regular coordination among development partners, particularly among the partners implementing the other four Result Areas of the *Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa Program*. As mentioned above, RECs attended the Program's 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting which seeks to oversee and validate the overall strategic direction and policy guidance of the Program. In addition, the Steering Committee is held on the margins of the Africa Working Group on DRR, which gathers several key stakeholders, including the AUC, member states and development partners. The Steering Committee thus serves as an opportunity for RECs to coordinate with other Result Areas of the Program as well as international, regional and national DRM stakeholders.

<sup>3</sup> For more information, please see <https://www.gfdr.org/en/ACP-EU>.

<sup>4</sup> The 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee meeting took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 18 February 2016, the 2<sup>nd</sup> one in Livingstone, Zambia on 27 October 2016 the 3<sup>rd</sup> in Addis Ababa on 9 March 2017, the 4<sup>th</sup> in Mombasa, Kenya on 28 September 2017, the 5<sup>th</sup> in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia on 15 March 2018, the 6<sup>th</sup> in Yaoundé, Cameroon on 6 September 2018, and the 7<sup>th</sup> in Hawassa, Ethiopia on 5 April 2019. The Program Steering Committee is made up of the AUC, the RECs, AfDB, UNDRR, the World Bank-GFDRR, and the ACP Secretariat as well as the EU, African Center of Meteorological Application for Development, The European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites and the hosting Government.

## Program Objective

The specific objective of Result Area 2 Program is **to strengthen and accelerate the effective implementation of a comprehensive African DRR and DRM framework at the regional level in the following African RECs:**

- 1 The Economic Community of Central African States based in Libreville, Gabon ([www.ceeac-eccas.org/](http://www.ceeac-eccas.org/));
- 2 The Economic Community of West African States based in Abuja, Nigeria ([www.ecowas.int/](http://www.ecowas.int/));
- 3 The Intergovernmental Authority on Development based in Nairobi, Kenya ([www.igad.int/](http://www.igad.int/));
- 4 The Southern African Development Community based in Gaborone, Botswana ([www.sadc.int](http://www.sadc.int))

The Result Area 2 Program is achieving its objective by:

- 1 Strengthening the coordination capacity of RECs to advance the regional DRM agenda;
- 2 Reinforcing the RECs' capacities for planning, policy advice and knowledge dissemination, so RECs can better support their member states in taking informed decisions about building resilience to disasters, and better support regional and sub-regional programs on DRM
- 3 Facilitating an advocacy platform and improving cooperation and networking among global, regional, and national technical institutions. RECs, their member states' governments, decision makers and DRM practitioners will get access to technical knowledge and best operational practices from a wide range of stakeholders

These activities support and are aligned with the strategic approach articulated by the AUC's Plan of Action, the RECs' DRR Strategies, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. They target the four RECs and their key partners, such as African universities and research centers, river basin authorities and technical organizations.

## Outcomes - Expected Results & Targets

The main expected results of the Result Area 2 Program are:

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

The achievement of the expected results is monitored against the following targets, to be reached by December 2021:

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

## Implementation Progress - FY20 Highlights

Through the Result Area 2 Program, **1 893** stakeholders, including **617** women, participated in **38** capacity-building events during FY20. Among the stakeholders, **762** people were trained on DRM, **242** were trained on PDNAs and Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) methodologies, and **889** attended conferences.



**ECCAS** has continued to support its five Member states in developing national DRM strategies and action plans, and reinforced capacity building and knowledge exchange through targeted workshops on DRM and related items. The partnership with the academic sector from ECCAS member state universities provided the opportunity to six master's students to undertake an internship within ECCAS DRM Unit. Furthermore, the draft regional synthesis report on the state of hydrometeorological and climate services and early warning systems in Central Africa has been developed, as have national reports for four Members states (Angola, Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda).



**ECOWAS** continued to support its member states in strengthening their national DRR coordination mechanisms. In addition to finalizing its DRR gender strategy and action plan 2020-2030, ECOWAS expanded its member states' flood risk management capacities by developing a comprehensive **flood management strategy**. ECOWAS and the AGRHYMET Regional Center also launched a partnership on flood forecasting and management in April 2020. Finally, an annual meeting of the directors of national hydrometeorological services in Monrovia, Liberia, explored strategies for closer coordination of services across West Africa, with a focus on quality management and data exchanges.



**IGAD** coordinated and finalized its regional gender strategy and action plan for DRM and CCA. Strategic guidance was provided to IGAD member states through the **Greater Horn of Africa Outlook Forums**, giving participants updates on seasonal climate forecasts and on the implementation of DRM activities. IGAD also provided DRM practitioners with training on the use of **earth observation and geographic information system techniques**, such as remote sensing. In FY20, IGAD led efforts to foster peer learning exchanges on disaster data collection and management between focal points of the Sendai Framework, with the goal of improving timely reporting and accelerate monitoring in the region.



**SADC** has been working to strengthen regional efforts to enhance **urban resilience** by providing policy advice to cities in the Southern Africa region. Coordination on DRR was enhanced through the **23<sup>rd</sup> Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum** in August 2019, which provided vital climate information for key socio-economic sectors to assist in the achievement of SADC industrialization and development goals, in areas such as agriculture, health, water infrastructure, transport and energy. SADC also organized a meeting for **DRM ministers** representing its member states in February 2020, where several key strategies were endorsed, including the draft regional resilience strategic framework for 2020-2030, the African Union's Program of Action on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework, and the SADC disaster preparedness and response strategy and fund for 2016-2030.

## Cross-cutting Issues: Gender Inclusion and Engagement with Civil Society

Gender inclusion is a key operating principle for GFDRR, as shown in its commitment to integrate women's experiences, knowledge, needs, and empowerment as part of its efforts to build resilience to climate change and disaster risk. GFDRR's dedication to addressing different gender needs in DRM investments and to the empowerment of women in strengthening community resilience is outlined in its **Gender Action Plan 2016-2021**,<sup>5</sup> which identifies specific actions and outcomes that promote gender as an essential component of DRM.

In FY20, each of the 4 RECs finalized their **regional DRM gender sensitive strategies and/or action plans**, which were then validated by their respective member states.<sup>6</sup> These documents serve as regional roadmaps for the next ten years to guide member states on how to mainstream gender considerations into DRM policies and programs, and are aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). Gender mainstreaming has been prioritized as an essential aspect of building resilience to climate and disaster risks that is inclusive of women, and of addressing gender disparity issues in the field of DRM. While each of these action plans address regional concerns, they share common threads such as the collection of gender-differentiated data, broadcasting vital information through gender-sensitive communications, and promoting inclusive reconstruction and recovery.

Furthermore, RECs have placed Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) representing the interests of women and youth at the forefront of regional DRM policymaking. This is also in line with GFDRR's **Citizen Engagement Action Plan 2019-2023**,<sup>7</sup> which calls for an increase in the number of grants with citizen engagement activities in GFDRR's portfolio. In FY20, RECs continued to engage with CSOs through capacity building workshops and by supporting their participation at international events. For example, representatives from women and youth groups contributed to the 8<sup>th</sup> Central Africa Platform and the 4<sup>th</sup> Central Africa Ministerial Conference in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, in October 2019.

RECs have also recognized the importance of the **academic sector** in designing and implementing DRM policies and actions, taking into particular consideration the quality of research academia can provide. For example, the consortium including the French research institute for development (*Institut de Recherche pour le Développement* - IRD), the University of Buea (with the center of Excellence of *Peripheri U university partnership*), the Red Cross/Red Crescent's Climate Center, and the CERFE (*Centre de Recherche et de Formation en Eco-éthologie*), a nonprofit research and training organization, has provided key assistance to ECCAS member states. This has included targeted capacity building events for experts from ECCAS member states, developing online DRM training modules, and the launch of a study tasked with evaluating the response by national DRM and DRR systems to the COVID-19 pandemic in the region. ECOWAS maintained its institutional support for regional flood management capacity, especially through several trainings, which included the active participation of the *University of Lomé*. Within SADC, *Stellenbosch University* in South Africa is helping establish a regional applied research and capacity building network to improve knowledge sharing between academic institutions and to share educational and professional training programs on DRM.

<sup>5</sup> The GFDRR Gender Action Plan is available at <https://bit.ly/3h8RcDu>.

<sup>6</sup> The **ECCAS** strategy is available in English at <https://bit.ly/37IVuF3> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3czTDhV>. The **ECOWAS** strategy is available in English at <https://bit.ly/2BTyvF2> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3hcYgQM>. The **SADC** strategy is available at <https://bit.ly/30uPFmO>. The **IGAD** strategy is available in English at <https://bit.ly/332jGLZ> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3f9zBud>.

<sup>7</sup> The GFDRR Citizen Action Plan is available at <https://bit.ly/2R2mSjt>.

## The Program in ECCAS



The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) brings together eleven Central African member states with a total population of over 181 million: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and São Tomé and Príncipe. The mandate of ECCAS is to promote regional cooperation among, and the integration of, its member states. This involves - inter alia - leading the political dialogue on DRR and climate change, on which regional cooperation is still developing; collaboration has previously focused on questions of peace and stability in the Great Lakes region and the Central African Republic.

The region has a wide geographic footprint and is vulnerable to a large variety of natural disaster risks. The Central African Republic, Chad, and the Democratic Republic of Congo are flagged in the 2020 INFORM Index for Risk Management as among the ten countries most vulnerable to natural disaster risks, based on factors such as socio-economic vulnerability. Natural hazards in the region are exacerbated by environmental degradation, such as the deforestation of the Congo Basin Forest.

At ECCAS, the DRM and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Unit is housed within the Direction for Environment and Natural Resources under the Department for Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development. DRR is addressed through three strategic priorities in the ECCAS General Policy on Environment and Natural Resource Management, adopted in 2007: the fight against land degradation, drought and desertification; climate change; and the assessment of and early warning for natural or manmade disasters. In 2017, Ministers adopted a revised version of the 2012 Central Africa Regional Strategy for Risk Prevention, Disaster Management and CCA, bringing it in line with the priorities of the Sendai Framework for DRR.

### Five components are implemented under the Result Area 2 Program in the ECCAS region:

- 1 Building regional knowledge of hazards, vulnerability and risks through the mapping of trans-boundary hazards.
- 2 Reinforcing regional and national capacities in DRR and CCA.
- 3 Strengthening the policy dialogue and legislation dealing with DRR and CCA.
- 4 Enhancing regional capacity for disaster response and post-disaster assessments and reconstruction planning.
- 5 Strengthening technical and managerial capacity at the ECCAS Secretariat.

## Activities in ECCAS, FY20

### Component 1: Building regional knowledge on hazards, vulnerability and risks through the mapping of transboundary hazards

ECCAS has continued its efforts to build regional knowledge on DRR and DRM, through the development of knowledge resources linked to hazard mapping and vulnerability identification. This includes the development of a regional assessment contributing to a better understanding of **hazards, vulnerabilities and disaster risks** in Central Africa. During FY20, relevant data was collected, a database was developed to store relevant information collected related to DRR and DRM, and preparatory work began on a regional atlas of hazards, vulnerabilities and risks. This assessment will (i) provide key information at national level for decision makers and (ii) identify areas of regional importance such as transboundary areas for managing natural disasters and providing guidance on related policies in the region.

### Component 2: Reinforcing regional and national capacities on DRR and CCA

Under this component, five main activities were pursued to strengthen ECCAS member States and regional capacities as a whole: (i) supporting five Member states in developing national DRM strategies and action plans; (ii) reinforcing capacity building and knowledge exchange through targeted workshops on DRM and related items; (iii) improving partnerships with the academic sector through internships in the ECCAS DRM Unit for Master's students from ECCAS member state universities; (iv) mainstreaming gender in the Regional Strategy for Risk Prevention, Disaster Management and CCA Action Plan; and (v) providing key office equipment and targeted training to the DRM unit of ECCAS Member States.

Capacity building and institutional strengthening activities in ECCAS member states have continued, in order to develop and strengthen national DRR and DRM strategies in the region, and to align these strategies with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. During FY20, draft national DRM strategies and action plans were finalized for the Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Chad, the Central Africa Republic, and São Tomé and Príncipe. Member states and other international stakeholders such as the UNDRR and African Union Commission are providing comments before these national DRM strategies and action plans are finalized.

ECCAS not only started developing DRM strategies to reinforce national capacity on DRR and CCA, but also continued throughout FY20 to reinforce capacities for its member states by organizing DRM/CCA **regional training workshops**, bringing together government experts, DRR and meteorology focal points, representatives from civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), media, academia and the private sector.

A partnership including the French research institute for development (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement - IRD); the University of Buea (with the center of Excellence of Periperi U university partnership); the Red Cross/Red Crescent's Climate Center; and the CERFE (Centre de Recherche et de Formation en Eco-éthologie), a nonprofit research and training organization, began preparation of DRM online modules to be made accessible to ECCAS member states and universities with the objective of providing online capacity reinforcement opportunities on DRM and CCA. The consortium also launched a study to evaluate the current response by regional national DRM and DRR systems to the COVID-19 pandemic in the region. Finally, the consortium provided targeted capacity building events for ECCAS Member states experts:

- A workshop was held in January 2020 in **Douala, Cameroon**, which provided an opportunity for 54 regional DRR experts, of whom 12 were women, to share their knowledge ranging from forecasting services to knowledge products on populations that are exposed to disaster risks, and to improve communication and coordination networks between them. Modules at the workshop included: (i) detailed formal presentations on specific hazards (seismic and volcanic hazards, toxic gas emissions, landslides, health hazards, floods); (ii) specific sessions on how to engage communities in preparing and responding to these hazards and disasters, and how to integrate all these aspects into mathematical modelling as a decision support tool; (iii) participatory sessions structured through role-playing, to understand the complexity of the functioning of an early warning system, and to introduce the forecasting-based funding approach and the consideration of impacts based on hydro-meteorological type forecasting; and (iv) a field visit for all the participants to illustrate how data collection is organized, and how the city of Douala uses it to prevent flood risks. A video of the event including participants' interviews was developed.<sup>8</sup>



ECCAS regional workshop for DRR in Douala in January 2020.  
Photo credit: World Bank

- A second workshop was held in March 2020 in **Libreville, Gabon**, focusing on the social aspects of DRR for 49 participants, of whom 17 were women, including representatives of regional NGOs for women and youth and parliamentarians, to share experiences on topics such as social vulnerability and resilience and on participatory approaches. The workshop included presentations on social aspects inherent to DRM/DRR (for example, social vulnerability, community resilience, participatory approaches and the roles of different social actors, the enhancement of popular information, communication, gender aspects, issues of vulnerable subjects and the role of young people, legal frameworks, scientific research, and training). It also included participatory sessions on "operational didactics", involving group work for the elaboration of draft working instruments useful in the DRM/DRR and addressing the following themes: (i) collaboration between scientists and local communities for monitoring natural hazards, (ii) information, education and communication plan for urban DRM; (iii) involvement of social actors in the preparation of a contingency plan; (iv) vulnerability training for high-school children; (v) democracy, participation and representation in DRM/DRR; and (vi) upgrading of DRM/DRR governance systems from the local to the national level. The workshop concluded with the adoption of a Final Declaration, relating to the workshops in Douala and Libreville. A video of the event including participants' interviews was also developed.<sup>9</sup>



ECCAS regional workshop for DRR in Libreville in March 2020.  
Photo credit: World Bank

<sup>8</sup> The video about the event (in French) can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3a4A1jl>.

<sup>9</sup> The video about the event (in French) can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3cjho7k>.



ECCAS gender action plan for DRM validation workshop  
in February 2020 in Libreville, Gabon.  
Photo credit: World Bank

Within the framework of regional capacity building in the field of DRM/CCA, the ECCAS DRR unit hosted 6 **master's students from several ECCAS Member State universities for three-month internships**, assisting them towards the completion of their respective master's theses. To date, two students have validated their master's thesis while the remaining four have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In FY20, ECCAS finalized and validated its **Gender Responsive Regional Strategy for Risk Prevention, Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan**<sup>10</sup>. Inclusive consultations were undertaken with the eleven ECCAS member states DRM and gender focal points, as well as with several stakeholders from the private sector, and civil society – including women and youth NGOs, and academic organizations. The aim was to develop practical

gender-responsive frameworks that are inclusive to all segments of society, and to build capacity for gender mainstreaming in DRR initiatives across the region. In February 2020, ECCAS organized a validation workshop in Libreville, Gabon, bringing together 59 participants, including 29 women, to review and validate the draft DRR gender responsive strategy action plan in the region. This marked the starting point for ECCAS in mainstreaming gender considerations into the *Central Africa Regional Strategy for Risk Prevention, Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation*. This strategy will guide member states on how to address gender disparity issues, and how to improve economic, social, and cultural inclusion between genders in the field of DRM.

Other activities in FY20 included support by ECCAS for the **operational and technical capacity** of the national disaster management organizations of its member states. A lack of material and financial resources characterizes the vast majority of ministerial departments in charge of disaster risk reduction, particularly in Central Africa. To assist DRR focal points in filling some of these gaps, ECCAS has issued a call for tender to provide its eleven member states with technical and network equipment. A total of 44 laptops, 22 desktops, 11 multifunction laser printers and 22 Wi-Fi modems will be distributed to facilitate data management, information exchange and regular communication. During FY20, key office equipment has been provided and targeted training delivered to the DRM units of six ECCAS Member States: Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, and Sao Tomé and Príncipe.

### Component 3: Strengthening the policy dialogue and legislation on DRR and CCA

From 30 September to 4 October 2019, two events were held concurrently in Kinshasa, DRC to enhance regional coordination for DRR and CCA policies: the **8<sup>th</sup> DRR Central Africa Regional Platform** and the **4<sup>th</sup> Central Africa Ministerial Conference on DRR**. These events are described in greater detail in an In-Focus feature on page 19.

<sup>10</sup> The ECCAS Gender responsive DRM Strategy Action Plan is available at <https://bit.ly/37iVuF3> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3czTDhV>.

#### Component 4: Enhancing regional capacity for response, post-disaster assessments and reconstruction planning

Two main activities are developed under this component: (i) on the preparedness side, reinforcement of ECCAS regional and national capacities and (ii) on the post disaster side, trainings for ECCAS Member states to carry out a PDNA and develop a recovery/reconstruction framework.

On the preparedness side, the consortium led by the Deltares Institute, an independent institute for applied research in the field of water and subsurface, is working on an assignment to better understand the state of meteorology, hydrology and climate services and early warning systems in Central Africa, and to draft a regional framework to improve decisions making for flood and drought management in the region. The draft regional synthesis report on state of hydrometeorological and climate services and early warning systems in Central Africa has been completed, as have national reports for four Members states (Angola, Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Deltares has adapted its work and continued its activities by holding virtual meetings with ECCAS member states relevant stakeholders.

Two **PDNA and DRF trainings** were organized by ECCAS' DRM unit with support from the World Bank and GFDRR and trainers from the EU and United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Special emphasis was placed during these trainings on the issue of fragility and conflict, as the region is frequently impacted by political instability.

- The first training, held from 22 to 26 July 2019 in Bangui, Central Africa Republic, was attended by 48 participants, including 15 women. It was geared toward public institutions; representatives attended from the ministries of Humanitarian Action, Territorial Administration, Agriculture, Civil Aviation, Meteorology, Education, Environment, Urban Development, Communication, Defense, Gender, Health, and Planning, and from several NGOs.
- The second PDNA training took place from 29 July to 2 August 2019 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, attended by 48 participants, including 8 women. The training included representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action, Agriculture Livestock and Fishery, Transport, Meteorology, Integration and Promotion of Women in Development, Education, Foreign Affairs, Tourism and Environment, Water/Sanitation, Social Security, Communication, Youth, and Health.



Participants during the ECCAS PDNA/DRF trainings in Bangui and Brazzaville in July/August 2019.  
Photo credit: World Bank

#### In Focus: Regional exchanges on DRR in Central Africa including meteorological and climate change experts

The 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for DRR recognizes that regional, sub-regional and cross-border cooperation is essential to support the efforts of national and local authorities to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards. Translating this agenda into action has taken multiple forms, including the organization of regional forums to ensure multisectoral dialogue, coordination and implementation of DRR measures.

This has also been the case in the Central African region, under the impetus of the ECCAS Secretariat. Established under the Sendai Framework, the Central Africa DRR Platform is an annual multi-stakeholder forum that brings together regional technical experts and stakeholders to share initiatives, experiences and progress related to DRR in the region. This Platform is organized in parallel with the Central Africa Ministerial Conference on DRR (held every two years) which, inter alia, adopts the results of the Central Africa DRR Platform, and officially requests the Governments of ECCAS Member States to implement decisions made.

In this context, the **8<sup>th</sup> DRR Central Africa Regional Platform and the 4<sup>th</sup> Central Africa Ministerial Conference on DRR** were held from 30 September to 4 October 2019 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. These events brought together approximately 90 participants, including national DRR focal points, national climate focal points, national meteorology focal points, government representatives, women's groups, youth groups, CSOs, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Democratic Republic of Congo national health representatives, and ECCAS representatives. They helped to clarify actions and roles related to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR in Central Africa, and to identify regional and national solutions on DRR. Another role of the ECCAS DRR Regional platform is to bring together experts from the three key sectors fully involved in DRR issues : climate change, hydromet and DRM.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Central Africa DRR Platform was an opportunity to review progress made in the implementation of the commitments taken during the 7<sup>th</sup> Central Africa DRR Platform in Burundi in January 2019. Specific sessions during these gatherings focused on targeted themes, including an update on the management of the Ebola crisis in the region; a thematic discussion bringing together stakeholders from the Parliamentary Network for Disaster Resilience in Central Africa (REPARC); and a session focusing on disaster risk financing in the region.

The recommendations from the Ministerial segment include, among others, (i) the elaboration of contingency plans for Rwanda and the DRC for the management of volcanic hazards; (ii) the establishment of a funding mechanism for each ECCAS member state for emergency response in the event of disasters; (iii) the inclusion of the gender dynamic in DRR activities in all ECCAS member states, and (iv) the importance of the role of the REPARC Network (including parliamentary representatives) of DRR for the ECCAS region. Another highlight of these events was the launch of the ECCAS website focusing on DRR and DRM issues (accessible here: [www.grc-ceeac.org](http://www.grc-ceeac.org)).

These events generated attention from the local media, highlighting the importance of ECCAS DRR focal points meeting to share intra-regional experiences related to the management of disaster and climate risks. It was also a reminder of the crucial aspect that recommendations coming out of these regional meetings are considered at the ministerial level and implemented, in turn, at the national level.



Representatives attending the 8th Central Africa Platform.  
Source: ECCAS

## The Program in ECOWAS



The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) brings together fifteen West African member states with a total population of over 349 million: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. ECOWAS' Vision 2020 calls for a borderless region where people have the capacity to access and harness resources through the creation of opportunities for sustainable development and environmental preservation. In addition, in June 2020, ECOWAS commenced the process of developing its Vision 2050 to firm up the aspirations and development priorities of the West African region for the next 30 years, while consolidating the gains made in the implementation of programmes and projects identified under the Vision 2020.

Natural hazards pose a real threat in West Africa, with about 75 percent of its population living in areas that are affected at least once every two years by a tropical cyclone, drought, flood or earthquake. Some of Africa's most populous cities, such as Lagos and Abidjan, are located on the West African coast, major rivers like the Niger, Volta, Senegal and Gambia crisscross the region, and the vast, drought-vulnerable Sahel and Savannah zones span national borders.

ECOWAS' DRR program is housed within the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs, under the overall guidance of the Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender. ECOWAS is committed to fulfilling its peace and security mandate, and stated in its 2006 Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction that disasters and conflict are linked and mutually reinforcing. ECOWAS is increasingly upscaling its work on DRR, having adopted the DRR Plan of Action 2015-2030, which builds on the 2010-2015 Regional Policy on DRR and the Sendai Framework for DRR, and a new DRR gender strategy and action plan for the 2020-2030 period which was approved in February 2020.

**Four components are implemented in ECOWAS under the Result Area 2 Program. These are:**

- 1 Strengthening DRM policies and institutions at the national and regional level;
- 2 Strengthening regional flood management capacity;
- 3 Enhancing regional post-disaster recovery planning; and
- 4 Strengthening capacity and coordination for DRM, respectively.

## Activities in ECOWAS, FY20

### Component 1: Strengthening DRM policies and institutions at the national and regional level

Following a comprehensive desk review of existing gender policies, plans, and guidelines within its Commission and member states, ECOWAS and its Department of Social Affairs and Gender finalized a **Disaster Risk Reduction Gender Strategy and Action Plan**<sup>11</sup> for the 2020-2030 period. The priorities identified in this strategy include: (i) support for a gender-sensitive approach to risk identification and assessment; (ii) a push for a gender-equitable governance structure; (iii) ensuring equal opportunities for women and men to mitigate risk and build resilience; and (iv) promoting equal opportunities for the participation of both women and men in all stages of the DRR cycle. On 11-12 February 2020, ECOWAS ran a validation workshop for this action plan in Dakar, Senegal, bringing together 47 participants, including 23 women. Participants included DRR and gender focal points from ECOWAS member states, CSOs, and the private sector. During the workshop, participants discussed the implementation arrangements for the newly validated DRR Gender strategy, recognizing the work already achieved and to be completed in the coming years.

### Component 2: Strengthening regional flood management capacity

In FY20, ECOWAS led and coordinated the development of a **flood management strategy for West Africa**. This activity is described in greater detail in an In-Focus feature on page 24.

Institutional support on DRM, and especially on regional **flood management capacity**, was also enhanced through the organization by ECOWAS of several national events and workshops, providing stakeholder coordination and consultations, and promoting the development of national DRR policies and strategies. These trainings brought together stakeholders from the private sector, CSOs, women and youth groups, universities, government departments and development partners.

- On 26-28 August 2019, ECOWAS organized a three-day **training workshop on flood forecasting and early warning** in Lomé, Togo, in collaboration with the West African Science Centre for Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) and the *University of Lomé*. The event was attended by 52 hydrology and meteorology experts, of whom 10 were women, from members states and the ECOWAS Commission. The trainings focused on national and regional policy frameworks for DRR and early warning systems, hydrological modelling and relevant geographic information systems (GIS) applications.



ECOWAS workshop on Regional Awareness Training on Flood Forecasting and Early Warning Systems in Lomé, Togo in August 2019.  
Photo credit: World Bank

<sup>11</sup> The ECOWAS gender strategy is available in English at <https://bit.ly/2BTyvF2> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3hcYgQM>.

- From 14 to 18 November 2019, ECOWAS and WASCAL worked with the AGRHYMET Regional Center<sup>12</sup> in Niamey, Niger, on designing **training programs and policy briefs for flood management**. This was formalized in April 2020, when ECOWAS and AGRHYMET launched a partnership on flood forecasting and flood management. Under this cooperation, AGRHYMET provides technical expertise to ECOWAS member states on flood forecasting, as well as training and access to the model used by the grant funded by the EU under Horizon 2020 and entitled *Reinforced cooperation to provide operational flood forecasting and alters in West Africa*.<sup>13</sup>
- An **exercise simulating floods and mudslides** was held on 26-28 February 2020 in Freetown, Sierra Leone, for the benefit of community volunteers, the Freetown District Disaster Management Committee, first responder groups including the Red Cross of Sierra Leone, the World Food Program, other UN agencies and NGOs, and national and local government departments. The exercise which brought together 46 participants, including 14 women, was aimed at improving preparedness and coordination in case of future disaster events and made use of the latest application of existing disaster preparedness policies, contingency plans and emergency procedures on a given disaster scenario.
- Despite the impact of COVID-19 on the organization of trainings and capacity building events, an e-learning course was organized in April and May 2020 by ECOWAS on the **introduction to geospatial information technology applications, flood forecasting and early warning systems in West Africa**.<sup>14</sup> This course was facilitated by WASCAL and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and was attended by 53 participants, including 11 women, from national hydrometeorological and DRM services. The course comprised three modules: (i) national and regional DRR policies; (ii) the use of geospatial information for DRR; and (iii) an introduction to hydrological modelling for flood forecasting and early warning systems.



### Component 3: Enhancing regional post disaster recovery planning



Participants during the national PDNA and DRF training in Monrovia, Liberia in March 2020.  
Photo credit: ECOWAS

Enhancing regional capacity for response, post-disaster assessments and reconstruction planning remains a priority for ECOWAS. As part of the support provided to its member states, a **training on emergency preparedness and response** was held in Cotonou, Benin, on 20-22 November 2019. It was focused on strengthening the operational capacity of national and regional actors for prevention, preparedness and response to emergencies, and assisted with the update of national contingency plans. The training was attended by 50 participants, including 7 women.

A **PDNA and DRF training** took place in Monrovia, Liberia on 3-6 March 2020, bringing 33 participants together, including

12 women. In this exercise a pool of recovery specialists was trained on PDNA and DRF approaches and methodologies, with the goal of establishing a group of professionals and civil servants able to undertake needs assessments on the ground and build the capacities of national DRR actors in their respective countries.

<sup>12</sup> The AGRHYMET Regional Centre was established in 1974 as a specialized institute of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) composed of nine member states (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal). It is an interstate public institute with a legal status and financial autonomy. It has an international status and is based in Niamey, Niger. Its main objectives are contributing to achieving food security and increased agricultural production in the CILSS member states and improving natural resources management in the Sahelian region.

<sup>13</sup> For more information, please see: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/780118>.

<sup>14</sup> More information on the e-learning course can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3g61nca>.

### Component 4: Strengthening capacity and coordination for DRM

ECOWAS continued to provide trainings and capacity building to its member states, to enhance coordination and technical knowledge on DRM and DRR in the region. On 19-21 February 2020, ECOWAS and the National Institute of Meteorology of Guinea-Bissau ran a **training of national civil protection service staff**, attracting 50 participants, including 25 women. This training focused on the interpretation and application of hydrometeorological data and information for DRM purposes. The training contributed to a better understanding by the national civil protection staff of the importance of hydrometeorological data and its application for enhanced preparedness and disaster response. The workshop specifically focused on (i) interpreting hydrometeorological information in the context of DRR; (ii) establishing warning and communication systems based on the interpretation of forecasts and climate outlooks; and (iii) aligning national hydrological and meteorological services with the needs of civil protection and disaster management services.



Participants during the training of national civil protection service staff in Guinea Bissau in February 2020.  
Photo credit: ECOWAS



Handover of technical equipment at the ECOWAS Secretariat in June 2020  
Photo credit: ECOWAS

ECOWAS also supports the operational and technical capacity of the national disaster management organizations of its member states. An example of this support is the procurement of technical and network equipment tailored to each country's needs. On June 30, 2020, the Resident Representative of ECOWAS in Côte d'Ivoire, Ambassador Babacar Carlos Mbaye, handed over technical equipment in a ceremony to the **Executive Secretariat of the National DRR Platform**. The new equipment, which includes computers, printers, and projectors, will facilitate data collection and the planning of emergency operations.

## In Focus: Development of a regional strategy for flood management in West Africa

The West Africa region is frequently impacted by floods, affecting livelihoods and economies, and jeopardizing development gains. With the effects of climate change, hydrometeorological disasters could occur more frequently, and with more severe impacts. Strengthening regional flood management capacity is therefore key to helping ECOWAS member states prepare for flood-related hazards. In recent years, and with support from the Result 2 Program, ECOWAS together with other regional and continental organizations have worked toward finding regional answers to better manage weather and climate risks in the region, especially those related to floods.

This work has culminated in FY20 with ECOWAS leading the development of a **flood management strategy for West Africa**, which when finalized will become a policy document guiding member states on flood mitigation, coordinating regional initiatives and effective responses to floods in the region. Several key milestones have shaped this agenda through FY20 with support from the Result Area 2 Program, and under the strategic guidance of the ECOWAS Secretariat.

In October 2019, a working group of 20 experts and stakeholders from ECOWAS member states, the WMO and development partners met in Conakry, Guinea to work on a first draft of the flood management strategy and its main technical aspects. This working group was followed by the **13<sup>th</sup> regional meeting of the directors of national hydrological and meteorological services** in October 2019 in Monrovia, Liberia, providing another opportunity for 50 participants, including 5 women, to discuss issues of regional importance for a closer coordination of hydrometeorological services, with a focus on quality management and data exchange in West Africa. These in-depth consultations were followed by the presentation of a **first draft of the regional flood management strategy for West Africa** in February 2020, gathering 50 participants together in Dakar, Senegal. Next steps include additional consultations to finalize the flood management strategy, and to have it validated by ECOWAS member states.

The development by ECOWAS of the first regional flood management strategy will address the urgent need to strengthen weather, water, climate and disaster management services in West Africa. These consultations and regional exchanges have also created the momentum to support the modernization and capacity building of these services in the region.



Flooding in Lomé, Togo, West Africa.  
Source: iStock.com

## The Program in IGAD



The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) brings together eight East African member states, with a total population of around 230 million people: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda. Its mandate is to lead the general political dialogue on food security, environmental protection, peace, and humanitarian affairs in those countries.

Some 70 percent of the IGAD region is made up of arid and semi-arid lands, which receive less than 600mm of rain annually, leaving the main economic activity of agriculture vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and potentially affecting food security. In 2011, the region was hit by the worst drought in 60 years, showing the devastating effects of climate change. In 2019-2020, the worst desert locust infestation in decades ravaged the region, destroying vegetation and crops and threatening food security in a region where 24 million people are already food insecure.

The IGAD DRM Unit is hosted by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), based in Nairobi, Kenya. In 2016, IGAD presented its new Regional Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan 2016-2020, which places resilience at the heart of the DRM approach. This Plan states that IGAD will promote the gathering of climate data gathering and the availability of early warning information, as well as the mainstreaming of climate information in key sectors. IGAD has also been integrating gender considerations into its DRM planning since 2020 and the adoption of its strategy and action plan. Under the leadership of the IGAD Secretariat, and, in close collaboration with the World Bank, IGAD undertook the formulation of a customized Gender Strategy and Action Plan in Disaster and Climate Risk Management (2020-2030). This entailed a comprehensive desk review of existing gender policies, plans and guidelines within the IGAD Secretariat and its Member States. The IGAD Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Mainstreaming Gender in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change adaptation was validated on May 14, 2020.

**Three components are implemented in IGAD under the Result Area 2 Program, and contribute to:**

- 1 Strengthening the capacity of IGAD to lead the region's DRM and CCA agenda, and of IGAD member states to implement DRM and CCA interventions to improve resilience to natural hazards;
- 2 Strengthening DRM and CCA coordination capacity in the IGAD region;
- 3 Strengthening IGAD's DRM Unit.

## Activities in IGAD, FY20

**Component 1:** Strengthening the capacity of IGAD to lead the region's DRM and CCA agenda, and of IGAD member states to implement DRM and CCA interventions to improve resilience to natural hazards

Gender has been a central theme for IGAD in FY20, as it coordinated and finalized the **Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Mainstreaming Gender in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation** for the period 2020 to 2030. This activity is described in greater detail in an In-Focus feature on page 29.

IGAD also provided strategic guidance to strengthen the region's DRM and CCA capacities by organizing three consecutive **Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forums** (GHACOF) through FY20. An IGAD DRM Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held following each forum to share updates on the implementation of DRM activities in the region, and to coordinate activity planning. Members of the DRM TAC include representatives from IGAD member states, the African Union, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), ICPAC, the International Federation of the Red Cross, and the World Bank.

- The **53<sup>rd</sup> edition** of GHACOF was held on 26-28 August 2019 in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, attracting 254 participants. Organized under the theme of *"Early Warning for Early Action in Support of Climate Resilience"*, this event included a presentation on seasonal climate forecasts for the October-December 2019 period, and their implications for sectors such as agriculture, food security and water resources. The DRM TAC meeting that followed this Forum updated committee members on the implementation of early warning systems.
- The **54<sup>th</sup> edition** of GHACOF was held on 27-29 January 2020 in Mombasa, Kenya, and was attended by scientists, policy makers, parliamentarians, local leaders, and climate information users. Convened under the theme of *"Mitigating Climate Risks for Resilience"*, the Forum presented the seasonal climate outlook for the period of March-May 2020. The DRM TAC organized following this edition shared updates on the regional strategy and action plans for mainstreaming gender considerations into DRM, as well as the regional flood risk management strategy. Several trainings were held on the margins of the Forum, on topics which included PDNAs and the use of GIS.
- Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the **55<sup>th</sup> edition** of GHACOF was held virtually on 18 May 2020 and attended by 140 participants connected online. This edition was held under the theme *"Climate Services for Early Action"*, and presented seasonal forecasts for the period June-September 2020. It also included discussion of such subjects as the impact of the desert locust outbreak which has affected the region since early 2020, and the mitigation measures taken by IGAD.



SADC DRM TAC meeting in Dar es Salaam in August 2019.  
Photo credit: World Bank



Participants in the GHACOF 54 event in Mombasa, Kenya in January 2020.  
Photo credit: IGAD

## Component 2: Strengthening DRM and CCA coordination capacity in the IGAD region

One of IGAD's core mandates is to strengthen the coordination capacity of its member states and to advance the regional DRM agenda. In FY20, this was achieved through the capacity building and knowledge exchange events focused on increasing coordination on specific topics linked to DRM and CCA, ranging from community-based DRM, to risk information, to hazard assessment. These regional workshops were aimed at better supporting IGAD member states in taking informed decisions about building resilience to disasters, and more effectively supporting regional and sub-regional programs on DRM.

- A regional training on **community-based DRM** and CCA was conducted in Mombasa, Kenya, on 15-19 July 2019. A total of 39 participants, 11 of them women, attended the training, including DRM and CCA technical experts from member states and ICPAC representatives. Participants were introduced to technical approaches on community-based DRM and CCA programming in member countries, and participated in the development of a generic training manual on community-based DRM and CCA.
- A **Hazard Assessment training** using GIS and earth observation technology was organized in Naivasha, Kenya, on 22-26 July 2019. The training, which was completed by 21 participants including 6 women, focused on building the capacities of national staff on earth observation, on using remote sensing, and on steps and methods for hazard assessment according to global and regional practices. The training provided a platform for technical experts to discuss the existing methods and tools at the national level for hazard assessment.
- A training of trainers on **PDNA and DRF approaches** took place in Mombasa, Kenya from 2 to 7 September 2019. It was organized in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the UNDP, the EU, and GFDRR. The training brought together 31 participants, including 7 women, from the Kenya National Disaster Operation Center, technical representatives of line ministries involved in PDNAs, and recovery planning and county officials. The objective of this training 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.

- IGAD also held a workshop on **accelerating disaster data collection, management and DRR monitoring** from 2 to 5 March 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya, attracting 30 participants, including five women. This was an opportunity for focal points of the Sendai Framework and representatives from IGAD statistical offices and from other sectors working with disaster data, including agriculture, infrastructure, education, and health, to discuss timely reporting and foster peer learning exchanges to accelerate disaster data collection, management and DRR monitoring in the IGAD region.



Regional training on community-based DRM and CCA in Mombasa, Kenya in July 2019.  
Photo credit: World Bank



Hazard Assessment Training in Naivasha, Kenya in July 2019  
Photo credit: World Bank

The implementation of **climate-smart agriculture activities** in IGAD member states has continued in FY20, through the Climate-Smart Agriculture initiative. Its objective is to strengthen the resilience of the community to environmental and climate change shocks and stresses, through the promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices in an integrated manner. Example of these practices are soil and nutrient management, resilient ecosystems and water use efficiency and productivity in arid and semi-arid area. A pilot initiative in arid and semi-arid area of North Eastern Kenya was launched in FY20; during the implementation period, a total of 203 farmers, including 118 women, were trained in group dynamics and cooperatives.

Visits on climate smart agricultural practices were organized for farmers from and for IGAD member states. Five exchange visits were carried out for farmers to learn from each other through experience and knowledge sharing. Moreover, a field exchange visit for agriculture and DRM authorities from IGAD member states was held in December 2019. The main objective of the visit was to allow experts to interact with farmers in the semi-arid region of Kenya to learn from each other, with practical examples of successful integration of climate-smart agricultural practices in the agropastoral community. The second objective was to glean key lessons learnt from implementing climate-smart agricultural in arid and semi-arid areas, and to understand the challenges when implementing a similar initiative in their member states. The visit included 19 participants from IGAD member states. Periodic field visits were conducted by the IGAD Secretariat to monitor activities and receive firsthand information from the beneficiaries of the initiative. Furthermore, from 14 to 16 August 2019, an IGAD team led by the DRM coordinator visited the Dadaab refugee complex in Kenya to assess the feasibility of climate-smart activities in a context of humanitarian relief.

The IGAD Secretariat also continued to support its member states in **flood risk management** activities Following country consultations and country reports submitted on the level of flood risk hazards in its member states, IGAD has advanced in the development of a regional framework on flood risk management. The *Regional Flood Risk Management Strategy* is currently being validated. The strategy, which is aligned to the Sendai Framework, identifies four key priorities and corresponding interventions required to tackle the challenges posed by flood risks in the region. The expected outcome of this strategy is to guide and inform regional flood risk management interventions in the IGAD region.

## In Focus: Gender strategy and action plan for disaster risk reduction in Eastern Africa

Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to disasters and their aftermath, as a result of cultural and behavioral restrictions and their roles and responsibilities. To be inclusive, it is essential that the different needs and capacities of women and girls in emergency situations be acknowledged, and gender considerations integrated in the design and implementation of a comprehensive DRM approach. For example, in the agricultural sector, vulnerability is particularly high among women and girls, who are disproportionately dependent on small-scale agricultural livelihoods that rely on favorable climate conditions, making them highly vulnerable to disaster shocks, such as floods or drought. This is particularly relevant in Sub-Saharan Africa, where women represent a large proportion of the agricultural workforce

Under the leadership of the IGAD Secretariat, and in close collaboration with the World Bank, IGAD has finalized its **Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Mainstreaming Gender in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation** for the period 2020 to 2030. The strategy was validated on May 14, 2020, during a virtual workshop which was attended by DRR and gender focal points from IGAD member states, NGOs, and other technical partners. IGAD and its member states discussed implementation arrangements for the gender strategy and how best to maintain participants' understanding of the importance of a gender-responsive DRM sector in the coming years. The validation of the strategy followed extensive consultations between IGAD member states on the state of gender mainstreaming at the national level. Some of the main topics discussed included the selection of relevant policies relating to DRM and gender in the region, the operationalizing of the strategy, and agreement on the development of a study of potential complementarities with other relevant policies in the region.

The process of developing and adopting this regional strategy entailed in-depth consultations which brought several strategic priorities for gender to the fore, with the expressed need to address them. These include the collection of sex-disaggregated data; the involvement of women in governance and decision-making; and gender-sensitive risk mapping. The strategy will guide all IGAD member states in their interventions, advocating for the principles of gender equality.

The IGAD gender strategy is available in English at <https://bit.ly/332jGLZ> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3f9zBud>.

*"IGAD, in particular the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC), is committed to gender equality and to mainstreaming gender empowerment in all aspects. As a regional organization, IGAD actively encourages and promotes gender inclusivity and diversity, across all of IGAD's member states. Under the ACP-EU funded disaster resilience program, ICPAC commissioned the development of the IGAD DRM Gender Strategy and Action Plan, with particular focus on gender mainstreaming and empowerment at the sub-regional, national and sub-national levels within the IGAD region. We are proud to disseminate the IGAD DRM Gender Strategy and Action Plan for wide circulation and implementation by all stakeholders."*

**Dr. Guleid Aartan, Director of IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center (ICPAC), Nairobi**



Market in Jimma, Ethiopia.  
Source: iStock.com

## The Program in SADC



The Southern African Development Community (SADC) brings together sixteen Southern African member states, with a total population of over 345 million: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The SADC's goal is to alleviate poverty, and support socio-economic development, peace, and security through cooperation and regional integration.

SADC has made substantial progress towards the achievement of development goals. However, differences between countries remain, and the gains from development are under pressure from the increasing threat of natural disasters. There has been an increase in the frequency, magnitude and impact of drought and flood events since 2000, and climate change brings additional problems to island states such as the Seychelles. In 2019, tropical cyclones Idai and Kenneth successively affected several SADC members, including Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, bringing widespread flooding and destruction, with a devastating impact on both urban and rural areas. These disaster events were a reminder regional efforts need to be reinforced to improve coordination and networking among regional and technical institutions in Southern Africa.

SADC has identified key DRM challenges for the region, including under-funded and ill-coordinated institutional frameworks for DRR at different levels of government; the lack of comprehensive and constantly updated risk assessments and analysis; and weak information and knowledge management systems. In November 2016, SADC ministers responsible for DRM adopted the SADC Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy, which builds on the DRM program that was endorsed in 2008 by the SADC summit of heads of state and government and in 2009 by the SADC Council. The SADC DRR Unit became operational in 2009, and is responsible for coordinating regional preparedness and response programs for trans-boundary hazards and disasters, working closely with the SADC Climate Services Center. The project implementation unit of the SADC DRR Unit consists of: (i) an Executive Secretary Assistant heading the unit; (ii) a Senior Program Officer; (iii) a Liaison Officer; and (iv) a Financial Management Expert.

Under the leadership of the SADC Secretariat, and, in close collaboration with the World Bank, SADC undertook the activity for the formulation of a customized Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Plan & Action (2020-2030). The SADC Gender Strategy and Action Plan (2020-30) for mainstreaming gender in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation was formulated and validated in February 2020.

**Five components are implemented in SADC under the Result Area 2 Program. These contribute to:**

- 1 Enhancing regional disaster preparedness and response institutional and coordination mechanisms;
- 2 Strengthening the regional DRR policy advocacy and capacity development program;
- 3 Enhancing the mainstreaming of DRR in development plans and strategies; and
- 4 Strengthening the implementation and coordination capacity of the SADC Secretariat.

## Activities in SADC, FY20

### Component 1: Enhancing regional disaster preparedness and response; institutional and coordination mechanisms

Several meetings and capacity building workshops were held during FY20 to enhance SADC's **regional disaster preparedness and response**, and to better support its member states to reinforce their institutional and coordination mechanisms on DRM.

- A **training of trainers on PDNA and DRF approaches** was held on 23-27 September 2019, in Pretoria, South Africa. The training was organized under the impetus of SADC, in collaboration with the EU, UNDP, and the World Bank/GFDRR. It was delivered to 32 participants including 16 women, representing member states and the SADC Secretariat, and demonstrated to participants how to apply a standardized approach and methodology in conducting a PDNA, and how to formulate appropriate recovery strategies.
- A **workshop on SADC Disaster Preparedness, Response and Early Warning Actions Planning** was held on 12-14 November 2019 in Maputo, Mozambique, in advance of the 2019-2020 lean season and the flood/cyclone season. A series of interactive presentations and discussions promoted knowledge, information, and experience sharing. Participants from member states shared tools, actions, and strategic and impact-driven actions as lessons for the development of contingency scenarios and planning for drought, floods, and epidemics affecting crops, livestock, and people. Participants were also able to discuss coordination and monitoring for tracking seasonal developments at the regional and national levels, and to review multi-sectoral and multi-hazard contingency plans.



Participants during the PDNA/DRF training of trainers in Pretoria in September 2019.

Photo credit: GFDRR

### Component 2: Operationalizing national and regional DRR information and knowledge management systems

SADC continued its efforts to support **urban resilience planning**, and to provide policy advice to cities in the Southern Africa region. This activity is described in greater detail in an In-Focus feature on page 34.

In addition, a **regional study on the status and investment needs of the national hydrometeorological and early warning services** is being developed by the SADC Secretariat and the SADC Climate Service Center. Other contributors to the study include the WMO, the national hydrometeorological services of individual SADC member states, and regional river basin organizations. The study will focus on assessing climate and weather services in Southern Africa; provide an investment plan for strengthening early warning and hydrometeorological services; and provide specific guidance for private sector engagement and academic networking.

### Component 3: Strengthening the regional DRR policy advocacy and capacity development program

During FY20, after inclusive consultations with all member governments, SADC finalized and validated its **Gender-Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Plan & Action Plan 2020-2030**.<sup>15</sup> The strategy identifies several priorities to enhance the inclusion of women in the DRR cycle, including: (i) collecting gender-sensitive data to enhance the understanding of disaster risks; (ii) empowering women to fully participate in institutional arrangements and policy formulation; (iii) introducing targeted actions to promote gender equality; and (iv) promoting women in the process of disaster preparedness for effective response.

SADC also organized several key events to provide regional DRR advocacy and strategic guidance to its member states on DRR capacity development.

- From 28 to 30 August 2019, the SADC Secretariat, through its Climate Services Centre, convened the **23<sup>rd</sup> Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-23)** in Luanda, Angola, under the theme, *“Understanding the Earth System to Build Resilience Against Recurring Extreme Weather and Climate Events in SADC Region”*.<sup>16</sup> SARCOF-23 issued an Early Warning Advisory Bulletin for the 2019-2020 Southern Africa regional rainfall season, and discussed preparedness measures across Southern Africa based on this forecast. The event was attended by 15 participants from member states and the SADC secretariat, including 5 women. SARCOF-23 was an opportunity to ensure that all SADC member states were weather-ready and climate-smart through the development and dissemination of the regional rainfall outlook for the 2019-2020 season. In a two-phased process, SARCOF-23 followed the climate expert meeting held on 19-27 August 2019, also in Luanda. The meetings provided climate information vital for socio-economic sectors such as agriculture, health, water infrastructure, transportation and energy, which are all key to SADC strategic industrialization goals and investments. Building on this climate and weather projection, the SADC Secretariat conducted the **2019/2020 pre-season Disaster Preparedness, Response and Early Actions Planning Workshop** in Maputo, Mozambique, from 12 to 14 November 2019.
- On 20-24 January 2020, SADC held a **regional consultative meeting** in Johannesburg, South Africa, bringing together delegates from its member states and from the United Nations Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (RIASCO). 81 participants attended, including 34 women, representing all sixteen SADC member states, the SADC Secretariat, the World Bank, international partners and consultancy firms. The event provided an opportunity to discuss the institutional and operational setup of the SADC humanitarian operations center and the SADC disaster fund, as well as analytical work on information management and gender mainstreaming for DRR.
- On 29-31 January 2020, SADC held a **multi-dimensional expert meeting** in Johannesburg, South Africa, with the objective of developing a SADC Standby Force Contingency Plan and Standard Operating Procedures for the SADC Standby Force interventions in humanitarian response operations that will enable the region's effective and coordinated response to disasters. The meeting was organized in response to a decision of the SADC 2019 Council of Ministers that directed the SADC Secretariat to activate the SADC Standby Force Pledged Resources, manpower and equipment to be placed on notice for humanitarian assistance deployment. The event was attended by 43 participants from the region, of whom eight were women.

<sup>15</sup> The SADC gender strategy is available at <https://bit.ly/30uPFmO>.

<sup>16</sup> More information about SARCOF-23 can be found at <https://bit.ly/32cHxHU>.

- The **SADC Committee of Ministers** responsible for DRM gathered on 21 February 2020, in Zanzibar, Tanzania, representing thirteen SADC member states.<sup>17</sup> It provided an opportunity for Ministers to discuss the impact of recurrent disasters in the region that led to loss of lives and destruction of property and infrastructure, including cyclones Idai, Kenneth, Belna and Diane, the impacts from droughts, and pandemics such as Ebola outbreaks. Ministers endorsed the review of regional strategies, including the draft Regional Resilience Strategic Framework for 2020-2030, the African Union Program of Action on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework, and the SADC Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy and fund for 2016-2030.



Official Group photo from the SADC Conference of Ministers responsible for DRR in Zanzibar, Tanzania in February 2020.  
Photo credit: SADC

- The steering committee for the **Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction, Coordination, Policy Advisory Capacity project** was convened virtually by SADC on June 3, 2020, with representatives of the SADC Secretariat, the World Bank and a delegation from the EU. During this meeting, participants (i) encouraged the SADC Secretariat to continue their efforts in monitoring consultancies as a driver of successful project delivery, (ii) agreed on the details for the next virtual SADC DRR conference; and (iii) agreed on the details for the next virtual steering committee meeting.

### Component 4: Enhancing the mainstreaming of DRR in development plans and strategies

In line with increased cooperative efforts between academic institutions in the region, Stellenbosch University is facilitating the establishment of a regional applied research and capacity building network on DRM in Southern Africa. It has submitted an inception report for this engagement, outlining ongoing activities which include (i) evaluating relevant academic institutions and the availability of existing educational and professional training programs through a wide range of sectors related to DRR; (ii) identifying potential avenues for additional collaboration and highlighting existing networks; (iii) identifying financing and organizational models to sustain an academic network dedicated to DRR in Southern Africa; and (iv) highlighting relevant policies from SADC and the African Union.

<sup>17</sup> More information about this event can be found at <https://bit.ly/3aNr5zJ>.

## In Focus: Enhancing urban resilience planning in Southern Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa can be regarded as the world's fastest urbanizing region. Urban areas now represent 472 million people, and this population will double over the next 25 years. The global share of African urban residents is projected to grow from 11.3 percent in 2010 to 20.2 percent by 2050.

Against this backdrop, SADC has been working to strengthen regional efforts to enhance urban resilience, with support from the Result Area 2 Program. In 2019, a partnership was established between SADC, the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAT), and the Disaster Risk Management Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR)\* sub-regional technical center, with the objective of facilitating capacity-building for SADC member states in the areas of urban vulnerability and resilience. It is also aimed at supporting the SADC Secretariat in identifying policies and guidance on collaboration with cities and local governments to strengthen urban resilience in Southern Africa.

The partnership announced itself in FY20 with several activities that have enhanced **urban resilience planning** and provided policy advice to cities in the Southern Africa region. As part of its analytical work on urban resilience in Southern Africa, UNHABITAT delivered a regional assessment report on urban vulnerability and resilience in the SADC region. It also delivered a report on a training course to introduce the City Resilience Action Planning (CityRAP) methodology for urban resilience planning, as part of a series of trainings on urban resilience planning in Southern Africa.\*\*

SADC, UNHABITAT and DiMSUR also organized an academic exchange and training on the CityRAP methodology for urban resilience planning, held in South Africa on 21-27 February 2020, with support from the Result Area 2 Program. 39 experts attended, including 14 women, from nine universities in Botswana, Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania, as well as representatives from municipal and provincial governments from South Africa and Zimbabwe. This event was part of a series of trainings on urban resilience planning and analysis in Southern Africa, implemented with the support of UNHABITAT.

As one of the most important transformations that African countries will undergo in this century, urbanization is regarded as a complex issue that intersects with other development policy issues such as climate change and migration. As demonstrated by the recent efforts of the SADC Secretariat, a holistic collaboration between actors is a good start to reducing exposure to risks associated with unmanaged urbanization.



City Resilience Action Planning training in South Africa in February 2020.  
Photo credit: SADC

\* For more information about DiMSUR, please see <http://dimsur.org/>. DiMSUR was supported by the ACP-EU NDRR Program between 2013-2015. For more information, please see <https://bit.ly/2VN20xt>.

\*\* The report is accessible at <https://bit.ly/3icYVlk>.

## Annex 1: Communication and visibility outputs



### Result Area 2 Program - Activity Report 2018-2019

This report summarizes the activities and achievements under Result Area 2 of the “Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa” Program for 2018-2019.

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

### Result Area 2 Program – DRM Gender Responsive strategies and action plans for disaster risk reduction

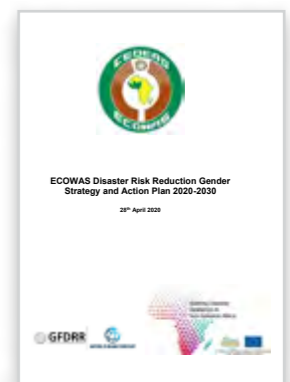
ECCAS, ECOWAS, SADC and IGAD have finalized and published their respective regional gender strategies and action plans, which were presented to their respective member states.

The **ECCAS** gender strategy is available in English at <https://bit.ly/37iVuF3> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3czTDhV>.

The **ECOWAS** gender strategy is available in English at <https://bit.ly/2BTyvF2> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3hcYgQM>.

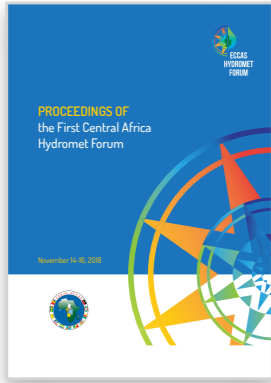
The **IGAD** gender strategy is available in English at <https://bit.ly/332jGLZ> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3f9zBud>.

The **SADC** gender strategy is available at <https://bit.ly/30uPFmO>.



### ECCAS – article on the 8th Central Africa Platform and the 4th Central Africa Ministerial Conference on DRR

An article was published showcasing the 8<sup>th</sup> Central Africa Platform and the 4<sup>th</sup> Central Africa Ministerial Conference on DRR, which took place from 30 September to 4 October 2019 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, under the aegis of the Result Area 2 Program. The article is available at <https://bit.ly/2HdL40r>.



### ECCAS – Proceedings of the ECCAS Hydromet Forum

On 14-16 November 2018, ECCAS and the World Bank organized the inaugural ECCAS Hydromet Forum in partnership with WMO, the African Development Bank, UNDRR and other development partners. The event offered a platform for exchanging views on how hydromet services can contribute to climate resilient development and adaptation planning, bringing together 143 participants from the eleven ECCAS member states and international institutions.

The proceedings of the Forum are available in English at <https://bit.ly/2BTtRH7> and in French at <https://bit.ly/2MO6X6d>.

### ECCAS – Videos of the regional capacity building workshop for DRR

A video was published about the ECCAS regional capacity-building workshops for Disaster Risk Reduction which were held in January 2020 in Douala, Cameroon and in Libreville, Gabon respectively. The video (in French) of the former workshop can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3a4A1jl> and of the latter workshop at <https://bit.ly/3cjho7k>.



## The R2 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](http://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.

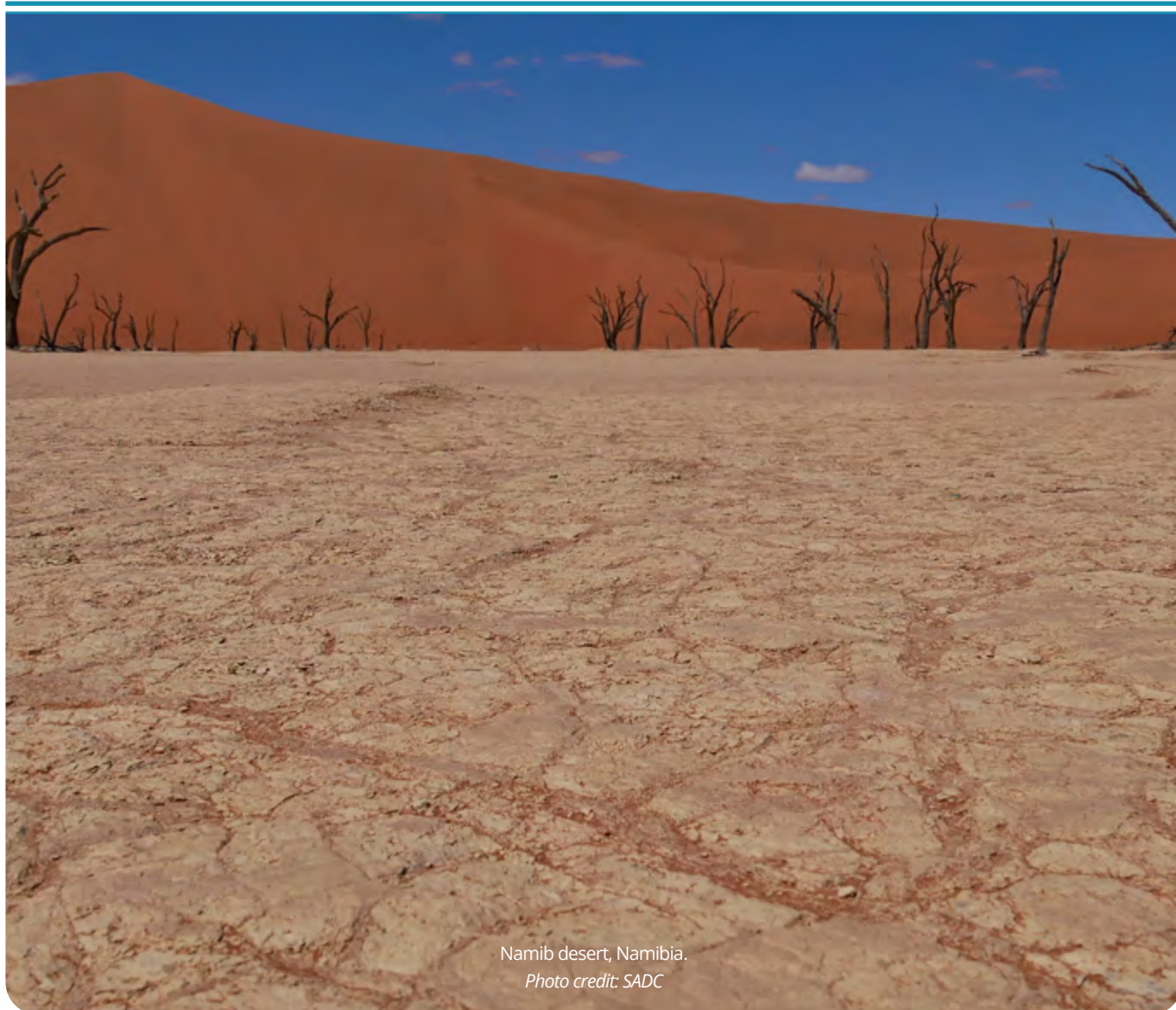
In its cooperation with the OACPS, the EU has placed at the core of its interventions the need to reduce vulnerability and to build the resilience of regions, countries and communities.

For more information: [www.europa.eu](http://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.gfdr.org](http://www.gfdr.org)



Namib desert, Namibia.  
*Photo credit: SADC*

## Building Disaster Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa Program Result Area 2

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)  
World Bank Brussels Office  
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For more information: [www.gfdr.org](http://www.gfdr.org)



**GFDRR**  
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



**WORLD BANK GROUP**

