GHANA

BACKGROUND

Ghana is exposed to floods and droughts, particularly in the Northern Savannah belt. Epidemics, pest infestations and wildfires also occur across the country. Additionally, there are urban hazards and coastal hazards, such as storm surges, landslides and coastal erosion.

In 2010, floods in the White Volta River Basin affected hundreds of thousands of people and destroyed many of their livelihoods. The floods had immediately followed a period of drought that had damaged the initial harvests, which underscores the high variability in climate and hydrological flows in northern Ghana. Nowadays, urban floods regularly affect major cities in the country, with the last major event occurring in Accra in October 2011.

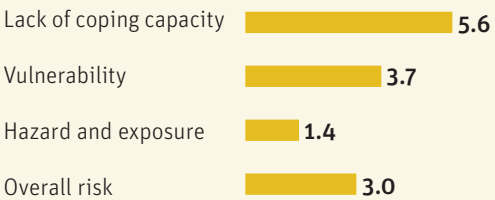
Current development dynamics and demographic changes put even more people at risk of disasters in Ghana. These dynamics are related to increasing rural poverty, rapid urbanization, growing urban and coastal neighborhoods and declining ecosystems. A high dependence on natural resources in rural areas, lack of secure livelihoods and limited informal and formal social safety nets contribute to these vulnerabilities.

QUICK FACTS

COUNTRY INDICATORS[1]

GDP per capita (PPP)	**$3,992**
Total Population	**25,904,598**
Income Level	**Lower middle**
Poverty[2]	**24%**
Urban Population	**53%**

RISK PROFILE[3]



KEY PRIORITIES

1. Risk reduction approach
2. Land use planning
3. Local and national DRM Policies
4. Legislative framework to enforce DRM strategies

[1] World Bank: free and open access to development data in countries around the globe. http://data.worldbank.org/

[2] Poverty rates at national poverty lines, World Bank Open Data.

[3] INFORM: a global, open-source risk assessment for humanitarian crises and disasters. INFORM uses a scale from 0-10 (10 is the highest level of risk) http://www.inform-index.org/

Over the last decade, Ghana took important steps towards a proactive approach to reducing risks. The *Ghana Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation* summarizes the government's, and its development partners', strategic support to disaster risk management (DRM). A National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (2011–2015) was validated and adopted by disaster management stakeholders to ensure that all public institutions and non-governmental organizations factor DRM into their organizational planning, budgeting and operations.

To further advance the DRM agenda, priorities include: (i) shifting the DRM national agency's approach from response-oriented to prevention-oriented; (ii) Integrating DRM into urban and land use planning; (iii) establishing mechanisms and strategies to integrate DRM into national and local development policies; and (iv) creating a legislative framework to enforce DRM strategies.

GFDRR PROGRESS TO DATE

GFDRR's technical and financial support to Ghana started in 2008, following the floods of 2007-2008 in the north of the country. The following year, a DRM country plan was formulated together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), involving national and international development partners.

Further, the White Volta Flood Hazard Assessment was initiated after the floods during September and October of 2010 led by the World Bank Africa Disaster Risk Management team with GFDRR support. This assessment: (i) produced hazard maps for different return periods; (ii) identified critical investment needs for hydro-meteorological services; and (iii) provided the basis for establishing a fully operational early warning system for floods, and identifying structural and nonstructural disaster mitigation measures.

In this process, national partners agreed for the first time upon the institutional arrangements and responsibilities for flood forecasting and management. By combining meteorological and river modeling data, the system alerts authorities through a sharing network that includes computer and text messaging. Rapid decisions can then be made, including whether a town or village should be evacuated.

LOOKING AHEAD

Over the next three years, GFDRR proposes to increase efforts in support of Ghana's disaster risk reduction programs by helping the government: (i) implement the Ghana Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation 2010–2015; (ii) foster advocacy and build capacities of national partners in coordination with UNDP; (iii) strengthen flood risk assessment and forecasting in the northern regions; and (iv) ensure sustainability, improvement and expansion of the flood forecasting system to cover the area upstream of the White Volta River and its tributaries.

PROJECTS AWARDED BY GFDRR 2007-2015

Project	Description
Disaster Risk Management Country Plan Phase II **US$800,000 I Start date: 2013 (ongoing)**	Aims to reduce the country's vulnerability to natural hazards. Activities include (i) strengthening relevant policy, strategy and institutional capacity, and supporting advocacy for disaster risk reduction; (ii) identifying risks and supporting early warning and hydro-meteorological systems; (iii) reducing underlying risks and vulnerabilities, particularly in the water sector; (iv) and improving disaster preparedness for effective response.
Disaster Risk Management Country Plan Phase I **US$700,000 I Start date: 2013 (Ongoing)**	Aims to strengthen the government's capacity in disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Activities include: (i) establishing a core training curriculum for staff; (ii) further developing the White Volta flood forecasting system; (iii) reducing underlying risk factors by supporting integrated water resource management initiatives; and (iv) supporting recovery efforts through a systematic approach to damage, loss assessment, and data management.
Disaster Preparedness and Watershed Management **US$943,000 I 2008–2012 (Completed)**	Strengthened the Water Resource Commission's capacity for ex-ante risk, and post disaster, assessments. Activities included: (i) carrying out a flood hazard assessment for the White Volta in Ghana, with hazard maps for different return periods; (ii) developing an operational flood forecasting system; and (iii) assessing the impact of potential structural and nonstructural measures, including investments in hydrological and meteorological services.

Pillar 1 Risk Identification
Pillar 2 Risk Reduction
Pillar 3 Preparedness
Pillar 4 Financial Protection
Pillar 5 Resilient Recosntruction

GFDRR KEY PARTNERS

UNDP	The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supports a number of initiatives set forth in the Ghana Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation 2010-2015.
World Bank	The following projects are part of the World Bank's efforts to mainstream DRM: ■ **Ghana Social Opportunities Project:** Improves targeting of social protection programs and provides income support to poor households through LEAP grants and LIPW infrastructure in targeted districts. ■ **Sustainable Land and Water Management Project:** Expands the area under sustainable land and water management practices in selected watersheds. ■ **West Africa Regional Fisheries Program:** Supports the sustainable management of Ghana's fish and aquatic resources.

GFDRR STAKEHOLDERS

National Services	Water Resources Commission (WRO), Hydrological Services Department (HSD), Ghana Meteorological Agency, National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO)
Regional Organizations	Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS), Volta Basin Authority (VBA)
International Organizations	World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Food Programme