



Side Event - Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction- 16-19 November 2021

Concept Note

Event title	Going beyond traditional financing instruments to address today's disaster risks in fragile and vulnerable countries.
Date and Time	17 November from 15:30 - 16:30 (Nairobi Time).
Location	Click to register or join meeting
Thematic Focus Area	Financing DRR and risk informed investments and development
Organizing Team Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. African Union (AU) 2. The Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) 3. United Nations office on Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) 4. The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) 5. European Union (EU)
Background and Rationale	<p>Countries in Africa are challenged by the increasingly complex nature of risk and its impacts. The most common disasters on the African continent and its Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are triggered by hydro-meteorological or climatological hazards, predominantly droughts, floods, storms (storm surge, dust and sand) and cyclones (eg.in Southern Africa). In recent years, these disasters have been happening in parallel, with cascading effects that amplify a country and communities' vulnerabilities. Development induced vulnerability and climate change coupled with inadequate institutional capacities continue to amplify risks and exacerbate disasters.</p> <p>In light of fast-changing risk landscapes, increased financing for resilience is urgent and essential. However, in light of the complexity and compounded disaster risk, there is a need to understand risks better for an informed risk investment for resilience. Evidence shows that, assessing a country's multi-hazard risk profiles helps governments gain a holistic understanding of hazard interactions and their contribution to risk reduction. In determining country's multi-hazard risk profiles and making assessment, the completeness and reliability of hazard data are critical. This influences the physical risk reduction approach to take, the availability and cost of risk financing and risk transfer instruments. Traditionally, governments entirely bore financial liabilities of disaster management through, for example, budget reallocations. However, this practice puts enormous pressure on scarce resources, particularly as many governments are already facing debt distress, due to challenges to service existing high levels of international debt as a consequence of their increasing vulnerabilities to climate change and disaster risk. The cascading and complexities of new risks will require a paradigm shift towards un-orthodox financial arrangements. Therefore, in addition to traditional financing sources, non-traditional financial instruments will need to be introduced.</p> <p>In recent years, Africa's Risk Reduction agenda has received a significant boost following investments such as the landmark programme - "Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities" which was financed by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific (OACPS), under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF). The programme induced major institutional changes in favour of risk</p>



	<p>reduction and laid strong foundation under which concrete risk reduction programmes can be undertaken. One of the components of the programme focuses on Disaster Risk Financing with the aim to support countries in developing financial decision-making tools and integrated national risk financing strategies to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development.</p> <p>Despite progress made, African countries are witnessing increased disasters with far-reaching consequences on development gains. COVID-19 has further heightened and compounded recovery efforts from the disasters and further made disaster risk management ever more complex. Existing disaster funds have been depleted to respond to growing impacts of COVID-19. Using disaster management funds for COVID-19 response means that other disasters are being given limited attention. Furthermore, this state of affairs predisposes countries to more disasters as fiscal spaces shrink. There is a need to start embarking on comprehensive recovery processes that take into account not only COVID-19 but other disasters that have occurred before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
Session objectives	<p>The session objective is to showcase successes made under the 10th EDF Intra-ACP Natural Disaster Reduction Programme in Africa and to deliberate on the current disaster risk financing realities on the continent. The following areas will be discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Multi-risk financing strategies at regional, national and local levels to help African countries make informed decisions ii. Financial capacity of countries before, during and after a disaster; iii. Mitigating the socio-economic, fiscal and financial impacts of disasters in African countries, including Africa’s Small Island Developing States. iv. Financing cascading disaster risks, including recovery from COVID-19
Agenda and Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction from Moderator (5 mins) • Opening Remarks (5 mins) • Moderated Panel- Hard Talk format. Panellists will respond to specific targeted questions around creating the enabling data environment for new and innovative risk financing to be considered in an integrated disaster risk management (10 mins) • Moderated Panel- Hard Talk format. Panellists will respond to another round of specific targeted questions around supporting countries in developing holistic risk financing strategies (10 mins) • Moderated Panel- Hard Talk format. Panellists will respond to a last round of specific targeted questions on best practices in mitigating the socio-economic, fiscal and financial impacts of disasters in African countries (10 mins) • Feedback and questions from the audience. (15 mins) • Moderator Summary (5 mins)
Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key lessons learnt in taking up innovative disaster risk financing tools within sustainable development policy frameworks and agendas of Africa’s developing countries.
List of Panellists	<p>Representatives (to be confirmed) from OACPS, EU, AU, ARC, African Development Bank, ECCAS, IGAD, SADC, ECOWAS, GFDRR, UNDRR.</p> <p>Moderator (Setting the Scene) – Joseph Intsiful, Senior Climate Information and Early Warning Systems Specialist, Green Climate Fund (GCF)</p> <p>Opening Remarks- OACPS Assistant Secretary General Christelle Pratt</p>



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barry Maher, Senior Financial Sector Specialist GFDRR Climate Finance Specialist. 2. James KINYANGI, Coordinator for ClimDev Africa – African Development Bank. 3. HOA Eric, Programme Manager, EU Delegation to the African Union - EEAS-ADDIS ABABA. 4. Francois KAYITAKIRE, PhD, Director of Research and Development African Risk Capacity (ARC) Agency 5. Gatkuoth Kai Technical Coordinator Rural Economy & Agriculture Department, AUC 6. Roberto Schiano Lomoriello, UNDRR Associate Expert
Reference Documents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. African Union Commission (AUC) Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities 2. Report - Building disaster resilience to natural hazards in Sub-Saharan African regions, countries and communities
Technical equipment requirements	Not Applicable