

AFRICA REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

*TOWARDS DISASTER RISK-INFORMED DEVELOPMENT FOR A RESILIENT AFRICA IN A
COVID-19 TRANSFORMED WORLD*

16– 19 NOVEMBER 2021, NAIROBI, KENYA

Concept Note for sessions

Event title	Special Session: Improved understanding and management of disaster risk
Date and Time	Thursday, 18 November, 12:00-13:00 EAT
Venue/ Room no.	virtual
UNDRR ROA Focal Point/s	Katarina Mouakkid Soltesova Isabel Njihia
Organizers	UNDRR
Background and Rational	<p>The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction emphasizes that policies and practices for disaster risk management need to be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. Adequate risk information is required for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness actions and effective response to disasters.</p> <p>Understanding and managing risk in Africa requires a skillful positioning of DRR as a bridge between the humanitarian and the development domain. A large percentage of the countries' population is highly vulnerable and require humanitarian assistance. Weak governance and fragile government institutions, complex situations and armed conflict overlap with malnutrition, inequality and poverty and disease outbreaks overlap further increase the vulnerability of affected populations and reduce their coping capacity. Demographic growth, concentration of populations in urban areas and associated land use change, environmental degradation, poverty and inequality compounded by growing weather variability and climate change significantly contribute to increased disaster risk, both intensive and extensive.</p> <p>The speed and the nature of development engenders new risks, which are often little understood and only gradually acknowledged and addressed. UNDRR's Global Assessment Report (2019) states that "chained events like NATECH disasters are often overlooked, and their importance is recognized only when the full brunt of their impact becomes visible in terms of medium- to long-term health effects, persistent water and soil pollution, and major economic losses due to clean-up and recovery." Rapidly growing urban environments</p>

create new as well as compound risks arising from natural hazards frequently exposing populations already socially, economically and politically marginalised.

The intensifying climate crisis manifests through increasing frequency, intensity and scale of shocks and makes more uncertain future hazard patterns. More attention is being paid to interconnected impacts, bringing to light the need to rethink institutions and institutional arrangements in a way that would allow multi-stakeholder action across sectors, across scales and in an more inclusive manner. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the complex linkages between diverse hazards and how impacts cascade across the social, economic, ecological and political systems, spotlighting the need for cross-sectoral efforts and multi-scale institutional response to address them.

Risk reduction, prevention, adaptation, protection, all contribute to making communities more resilient. With that aim in mind, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation planning and intervention design require diverse types of information. In a context of increasing inter-dependencies, complexity, uncertainty and where an acknowledgement of the systemic nature of risk is becoming a requirement, new expectations arise for data, risk assessment methodologies and tools, technology, aiming to foster risk management that is inclusive, anticipatory, integrated and adaptive.

The expectation on data is for it to be open and to reflect the FAIR principles – being findable, accessible, inter-operable and reusable. To enable data sharing it is necessary to pursue the formulation of and adherence to dedicated protocols, mechanisms and appropriate data governance arrangements. Data standardisation, with compatible formats and available metadata, and data exchange are essential in allowing for new information to emerge as well as for its update by diverse DRR stakeholder. Disaggregated data is a requirement for inclusiveness. A priority for numerous initiatives is to make data less fragmented, and therefore less uneven its distribution and access. Likewise, there is appetite for data on socio-economic vulnerability to be more systematically incorporated in risk analysis.

In the domain of technology, where innovation is paramount, inter-operability is a long-term objective to foster exchange, learning, innovation, coordination and to contribute relevant and cost-effective information for manner for risk management. Risk assessment methodologies, on their part, are expected to rely on predictive analytics, include user behavior analytics, provide indication of direct and indirect impacts, allow for results to be comparable, but also accurate and relevant for stakeholders who operate at different scales.

To achieve risk-informed investment and development it is required that risk information feeds into strategic and policy documents and be actively integrated in decision making processes. The science-policy interface therefore needs to promote dialogue and collaboration among scientific and technological communities and policymakers for effective decision-making in disaster risk management.

<p>Session Objectives</p>	<p>The session is a space for diverse DRR stakeholders involved in the production and use/application of risk information for risk management to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate the importance of risk information for DRR stakeholders to better deliver on their mandates. • reflect on diverse requirements for data, technology, methodologies and the resulting risk information to provide relevant inputs for disaster risk management to feed into humanitarian and development planning; • take stock of knowledge products available to stakeholders who require risk information for planning and management at different scales; • showcase good practice and learning from DRR and development initiatives which have been informed by multi-hazard and multi-sectoral risk assessments; • discuss ways to integrate of data and risk information for equitable planning, enhancing collaboration among stakeholders at the local and national level; • promote use of multi-hazard risk assessment, based on disaggregated data and reflecting the multiple dimensions of vulnerability; • provide recommendations on data standardization and assessment methodologies to foster use / applications of risk information; • promote partnerships between DRR stakeholders to increase collaboration to foster trans-boundary and integrated risk management as well as risk-informed multi-sectoral development planning. 												
<p>Session format and programme <i>(detailed agenda)</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="560 1213 625 1243">Time</th> <th data-bbox="771 1213 868 1243">Session</th> <th data-bbox="1161 1213 1258 1243">Panelist</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="560 1281 706 1310">12:00-12:05</td> <td data-bbox="771 1281 917 1310">Introduction</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1281 1291 1310">Moderator</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="560 1352 722 1381">12:05 – 12:15</td> <td data-bbox="771 1352 1128 1470">Enhancing data literacy, data standardization and exchange in support of early action.</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1352 1388 1541">Gemma Connell Head of Regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa UNOCHA</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="560 1579 706 1608">12:15-12:25</td> <td data-bbox="771 1579 1096 1785">Strengthening regional risk information for trans-boundary risk management and enhancing national capacities for application of risk information.</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1579 1437 1696">Ahmed Amdihun Coordinator, DRM Unit IGAD-ICPAC</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Time	Session	Panelist	12:00-12:05	Introduction	Moderator	12:05 – 12:15	Enhancing data literacy, data standardization and exchange in support of early action.	Gemma Connell Head of Regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa UNOCHA	12:15-12:25	Strengthening regional risk information for trans-boundary risk management and enhancing national capacities for application of risk information.	Ahmed Amdihun Coordinator, DRM Unit IGAD-ICPAC
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	<p>12:25-12:35 Understanding risk across interconnected sectors to reduce system-wide impacts and to strengthen national development planning.</p> <hr/> <p>12:35-12:45 Understanding systemic risk for urban resilience planning and management.</p> <hr/> <p>12:45-13:00 Discussion and closing</p>	<p>Russell Dlamini CEO NDMA Kingdom of Eswatini</p> <hr/> <p>Johan Minnie Manager (Head) Disaster Risk Management Centre City of Cape Town</p> <hr/> <p>Moderator</p>
Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of requirements for high quality risk information relevant for planning and risk management. • Sharing of experience and best practice related to risk assessment, data, methodologies and the translation of science to policy. 	
Key messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledging the systemic nature of disaster risk, the management of which requires a diversity of risk information, dynamic partnerships, and willingness to think out of the box. • Emphasizing the importance of high quality, standardized, disaggregated data to ensure relevance of risk information for inclusive and sustainable development planning. • To achieve risk-informed investment and development it is required that risk information feeds into strategic and policy documents and be systematically integrated in decision making processes. 	
Proposed Moderator of the Session	Amos Makarau, Director, Regional Office for Africa, WMO	
List of Panellists/Speakers and their interventions	<p>Gemma Connell, Head of Regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa, UNOCHA Ahmed Amdihun, Coordinator, DRM Unit IGAD-ICPAC Russell Dlamini, CEO NDMA, Kingdom of Eswatini Johan Minnie, Manager (Head): Disaster Risk Management Centre, City of Cape Town</p>	
Reference Documents	<p>UNDRR (2019), Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, Switzerland, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR); Chapters 2 and 3. https://gar.undrr.org/sites/default/files/chapter/2019-05/Chapter_2.pdf</p>	

	<p>https://gar.undrr.org/sites/default/files/chapter/2019-05/Chapter_3.pdf</p> <p>Highlights: Africa Regional Assessment Report 2020 https://www.undrr.org/publication/highlights-africa-regional-assessment-report-2020</p> <p>Guidance Note on Using the Probabilistic Country Risk Profiles for Disaster Risk Management. https://www.undrr.org/publication/guidance-note-using-probabilistic-country-risk-profiles-disaster-risk-management</p> <p>Africa Road Map for Improving the Availability, Access and Use of Disaster Risk Information for Early Warning and Early Action, including in the Context of Transboundary Risk Management. https://www.undrr.org/publication/africa-road-map-improving-availability-access-and-use-disaster-risk-information-early</p> <p>Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF) https://www.preventionweb.net/understanding-disaster-risk/graf#KeyDocuments</p>
Technical Equipment requirements	Online platform Hopin