



GUINEA-BISSAU

Taking Initiatives for National Disaster Management

Disaster Context

The country has faced several hazards, including climate variability, that have caused significant deterioration of living conditions and impacted natural resource management and agriculture production. In the past, international organisations such as the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), UNDP, and regional organisations Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Cordal in the Sahel, Le Centre Regional de Formation et d'application en Agrometeorologie et Hydrologie Operationnelle and Gambia River Basin Development Organisation supported the government with capacity-building activities, including training and workshops.

Finally, UNITAR and UNDP proposed the creation of a National Committee on Disaster and Risk Management. The committee was created, but its operations were hampered by political instability. Armed conflict between 1998 and 2000 forced donors to focus their activities on humanitarian assistance to displaced populations. Since the end of hostilities, the government has actively undertaken recovery activities, mainly with international support.

Project Title

National Disaster Management

Sectors

- Coordination of the UN system disaster management team
- Climate change

Funding

The mechanisms for funding are under consideration.

Partners

- (UNITAR)

- Various regional organisations
- Government of Guinea-Bissau

Programme Activities

- Support to the UN system's disaster management capacities through a joint response
- Coordination with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and coordination with the preparation of a national plan for environmental management

Several priority measures were identified:

- Land planning
- Institutional support to agro, hydro and meteorological services
- Ad-hoc action to reduce vulnerability in the Rio Geba basin
- Creation of a relief centre
- Addition of more prevention mechanisms
- Increased awareness of the population
- Increased political will to reduce disasters