

AFRICA-ASIA DROUGHT RISK MANAGEMENT PEER ASSISTANCE NETWORK



Newsletter

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Special Topic

International Disaster Database



Development and relief agencies have long recognized the important role played by data and information in mitigating the impacts of disasters on

vulnerable populations. Systematic collection and analysis of these data provides invaluable information to governments and agencies in charge of relief and recovery activities. It also aids the integration of health components into development and poverty alleviation programmes. Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) has a long history of standardized data compilation, validation and analysis. It provides free/open access to its data through its website. One of CRED's core data products is the International Disaster Database (EM-DAT).

EM-DAT is a global database on natural and technological disasters developed in 1988. It contains essential core data on the occurrence and effects of more than 18,000 disasters, including drought disaster, in the world from 1900 to present, which fit at least one of the following criteria: 10 or more people killed; 100 or more people affected; declaration of a state of emergency; and all for international assistance. It offers an objective basis for vulnerability assessment and rational decision-making in disaster situations.

The database compiles geographical, temporal, human and economic information on disasters from various sources, including UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, insurance companies, research institutes and press agencies, and helps policymakers identify disaster types that are most common in a given (sub-)regional and/or country and have had significant historical impacts on specific human populations. In addition to providing information on the human impact of disasters, such as the number of people killed, injured or affected, EM-DAT provides disaster-related economic damage estimates and disaster-specific international aid contributions. Also available on the website are various analyses, trends, maps and related documents. The methodology for data capture, validation for drought and famine was developed with the International Research Institute of Climate and Society.

EM-DAT database is accessible at <http://www.emdat.be/database>. For more information regarding the EM-DAT, please visit <http://www.emdat.be/>.

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About AADP

Africa-Asia Drought Risk Peer Assistance Network (AADP) is a network established under the *Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Project*. The project is designed to mitigate the risks of drought and improve human livelihoods in Africa and Asia by creating an enabling environment for inter-regional knowledge sharing among drought-prone countries and facilitating the up-scaling of proven drought risk management (DRM) practices.

AADP provides the DRM practitioners and policymakers with a variety of peer learning and capacity development support to, based on their priorities, operational gaps and capacity needs, building on the pool of experiences and expertise of the ongoing [African Drought Risk and Development Network initiative \(ADDN\)](#).

The project is funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by the UNDP Drylands Development Centre.

For more information, please visit the [AADP project website](#).

Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

UNCCD and UNDP Strengthen Strategic Collaboration to Change Life of Drylands Populations



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



A Programme of Cooperation was signed between the UNDP and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification UNCCD on March 28, 2012, that formalizes a long-standing strategic partnership to address poverty among the poorest populations on Earth. This programme is motivated by the findings of a joint study UNDP and UNCCD jointly conducted two years ago on the scope of poverty in areas affected by desertification, land degradation and/or drought. In view of the current scenarios of climate change, the partnership identifies three priority areas of action:

- To support affected countries to align their National Action Programmes with the 10-year Strategy of the UNCCD and in mainstreaming the Programmes in national and sectoral development planning;
- To undertake knowledge sharing and learning to improve the awareness of drylands and the desertification, land degradation and drought challenges facing the dryland populations; and
- To conduct policy analyses and advocacy, giving particular attention to the linkage between sustainable land management, climate change and biodiversity.

Drylands Development Centre, the Secretariat of the AADP, will serve as the main implementing body of the programme within the UNDP and continually commit in the process of 1) mainstreaming DRM into national and sectoral planning, 2) strengthening linkages and coordination among the practitioners working in drought-prone dryland regions, and 3) providing DRM policy support at different levels, leveraging the existing drought network frameworks.

The UNCCD-UNDP Programme of Cooperation (2012-2014) can be found at http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/UN%20system%20organisations/Cooperation_agreement_UNCCD_and_UNDP.pdf. For more information, please also visit <http://www.unccd.int/en/media-center/MediaNews/Pages/highlightdetail.aspx?HighlightID=71>.

Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction & Development



The Asia Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development (Gateway) promotes mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction (DRR) into development planning. It is an internet based portal which provides users with a platform for information sharing, building networks, accessing technical services and promoting regional cooperation among partners working on mainstreaming DRR in Asia and the Pacific. The Gateway intends to enhance regional access, especially among policy makers and decision makers, to information on good practices, policy options, methods and tools, and programs on DRR, whilst serving as a regional hub that provides quick and easy access to networks and organizations doing work in disaster management. The Gateway identifies disaster management services available to governments in the region and facilitates value-added regional level analysis.

The Gateway is a partner initiative and will aggregate relevant information from existing DRR online sources, including drought, on policies legislation, frameworks, strategies and national development plans, publications, organizations,

news articles and events, among others, in the region, thereby promoting an online community of practice. Key to the success of the Gateway is the partners and information sharing mechanisms that have been established. The Gateway is administered by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

For further details on the Gateway, please visit <http://www.drrgateway.net/>.

Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development



The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) is an inter-governmental organization for 18 contracting Member States in the Eastern and Southern Africa Regions. It was established in 1975 in Nairobi, Kenya, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, with the aim to provide quality Geo-Information and allied ICT products and services in environmental and resource management for sustainable development in our member countries and beyond.

With approximately 50 staff members, RCMRD provides training support to some 400-500 people per year in surveying and mapping, remote sensing, geographic information systems, and natural resources assessment and management. Part of the ongoing support is the development of national disaster databases in the Horn of Africa and the active usage of GIS and remote sensing for disaster management and early warning. The development of national disaster databases represents a low-cost, high impact strategy for visualizing risk patterns and trends and their relationship to development indices such as poverty. It also implements projects on behalf of its member States and development partners. SERVIR Africa project, for example, is a regional visualization and monitoring system for Africa that integrates satellite and other geospatial data for improved scientific knowledge and decision making in disasters, including drought, ecosystems, biodiversity, weather, water, climate, oceans, health, agriculture, and energy. Using GIS and other techniques and based on a variety of environmental data manipulation, information for early warning systems for food security and drought management is provided to Member States and other stakeholders.

For further information regarding the RCMRD, please visit <http://www.rcmr.org/index.php>.

The Year That Shook the Rich: A Review of Natural Disasters in 2011



This Review, published by the Brookings Institution – London School of Economics, analyses some of the major events and trends related to natural disasters and humanitarian disaster response in the world in 2011. In terms of both the number of disasters and the number of people affected by them, 2011 was a below-average year in comparison with the previous decade. However, the report stresses that there are still major methodological difficulties in terms of measuring the effects of natural disasters, especially when it comes to measuring the economic costs of disasters and understanding the particular characteristics of slow-onset disasters such as drought - the deadliest form of disaster.

After providing an overall assessment of natural disasters in developed and developing countries in 2011, the report focuses particularly on drought disaster and demonstrates the way in which the intersection of drought, political instability and conflict has led to a catastrophe with high human casualties, using the case of famine in Somalia, which was declared in mid-2011 for the first time in the past twenty years. Although there were warning signs in Somalia for

almost a year before famine was declared, the international community was unable to prevent its outbreak due to continuing conflict and the resulting lack of humanitarian access to affected communities.

The full report is downloadable at

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2012/03_natural_disaster_review_ferris/03_natural_disaster_review_ferris.pdf.

Analysis of the 2011 Drought Response in Kenya



This study, commissioned by the Kenyan chapter of Transparency International (TI), set out to analyse the integrity of food assistance in Kenya in relation to the 2011 drought response, with a focus on the Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ASALs) of north and north-eastern Kenya. The key areas of analysis included the:

- policy and institutional environment for food assistance programmes in Kenya;
- risks pertaining to different types of food assistance and food security programmes in Kenya that might increase possible capture and diversion, and prevent access to food for targeted beneficiaries; and
- lessons learnt through which stakeholders can improve the formulation of food security policies and programming in Kenya.

In the second half of 2011, the research team with the support of TI Kenya undertook four field studies in East and West Pokot, Turkana and Wajir and conducted over 100 interviews with humanitarian practitioners, local authorities and Government representatives in the field and in Nairobi. The research team also held focus group discussions with over 200 beneficiaries at the community level, and carried out a desk-based review of key policy documentation and related literature. This report synthesises the findings from this research as well as input and feedback from the study's stakeholder group and other key informants. The main question explored by the study was the extent to which different food assistance instruments in Kenya – in-kind, cash transfers and vouchers – posed different types of risks.

The full report is available for download at http://tikenya.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/food-assistance-integrity-study_web.pdf.

Event and Training Opportunities

Joint IGAD Ministerial and High-Level Development Partners Meeting on Drought Resilience in the Horn of Africa (Nairobi, Kenya; April 3-4, 2012)



Several high-level meetings have been convened by the African Union and other African institutions to address both the short-term humanitarian crisis and the medium-term and long term development efforts required in the Horn of Africa since August 2011. These have included an unprecedented African Union (AU) - hosted pledging conference in Addis Ababa, and a Government of Kenya-hosted summit of

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and East African Community (EAC) Ministers and Heads of State, focusing on long-term solutions to drought and famine. The latter, held in September, resulted in agreement around a set of key strategies to overcome drought emergencies in the Horn of Africa, and called for development partners, private sector, and civil society, to "work with and walk with" the AU, IGAD, and national governments in the Horn of Africa to coordinate planning and investments to achieve stability, resilience and growth.

The Joint IGAD Ministerial and High-Level Development Partners on Drought Resilience in the Horn of Africa scheduled for April 3 and 4, 2012, in Nairobi, Kenya will build on these progresses. IGAD and Development Partners, including both relief and long term development actors, will come together around African-led planning for risk reduction and sustainability in the Horn of Africa. The meeting will be divided into the Drought Resilience Platform Experts Meeting on April 3 and the IGAD Ministerial Meeting on April 4.

For more information on the event, please visit <http://www.hornofafricadevelopment.org/default.html>.

Third Annual China International Disaster Reduction and Emergency Service Show (Beijing, China; May 7-9, 2012)



The 3rd Annual China International Disaster Reduction and Emergency Service Show (IDRES CHINA 2012) will be held on May 7-9, 2012 at China World Trade Center, Beijing. IDRES CHINA is a comprehensive exposition with the theme of disaster protection, reduction and

emergency, hi-tech characteristic, whose purpose is to provide an open platform for disaster reduction and emergency industry. Recently, China allots ten billions yuan to buy disaster reduction equipment and products every year, which means government's great attention to Chinese disaster reduction affair. This show is the biggest one of this field around the world, which covers 12,000 squares, and engages nearly 200 exhibitors from the US, Germany, France, UK, Denmark, Austria, Israel, Japan and China. Scope of the exhibition encompasses, among others:

- Disaster Forecast and Inspection: Disaster warning, prevention, measurement, test and quality inspection equipment and application tech including earthquake, meteorology, ocean, flood, drought and fire disaster.
- Disaster Assistance Tech and Equipment: Emergency communication equipment including satcom stations, shortwave radio, mobile emergency communications vehicle, emergency communication net system, video conference system, mobile video tech, satellite navigation system, GPS, RS, GIS service and so on.
- Emergency Security Equipment: Emergency conduction and command platform, emergency rescue and conduction system, storage cart, command car, camping car and other special vehicle, smoke equipment, water treatment system, all sorts of environment protection tech, etc.
- Achievement Display: Advanced technology of disaster prevention and relief, software stimulation, programme, education and training, design and urban emergency system, etc.

Please visit <http://www.ecidrea.com.cn/en/index.asp> for further details regarding the IDRES CHINA 2012.

Climate Changes: Flood/Drought Dynamics (Terni, Italy; May 18, 2012)



Floods and droughts are among the most damaging natural hazards, with floods being globally the most significant disaster type in terms of loss of human. From an economic perspective, changes in the hydrological cycle can impose great pressures and damages on a variety of industrial sectors, such as water management, urban planning, agricultural production and tourism. Because of the central importance of water in the Earth system, the question of how the water cycle is changing, and how it may alter in future as a result of human behaviour, presents one of the greatest challenges of this century.

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report highlighted the increasingly strong evidence of change in the global water cycle and associated environmental consequences. It is of critical importance to climate prediction and adaptation strategies that key processes in the atmospheric water cycle are precisely understood and determined, from evaporation at the surface of the ocean, transport by the atmosphere, condensation as cloud eventual precipitation, and run-off through rivers following interaction with the land surface, sub-surface, ice, snow and vegetation. Despite their obvious environmental and societal importance, our understanding of the causes and magnitude of the variations of the hydrological cycle is still unsatisfactory. Powerful tools for climate description or simulation, as remote sensing and sophisticated mathematical models, are today available, but the prediction of future changes of precipitation regime on continental regions remains uncertain, especially for extreme events as floods and droughts.

The workshop, “Climate Changes: Flood/Drought Dynamics”, will be held as part of the Umbria Water Festival, the first international festival dedicated to water as a planet resource to discover and preserve, with the aim to explore future flood/drought prospects associated with the climate change as these are shown by observed data and models, their reliability and uncertainly.

For more information on Climate Changes: Flood/Drought Dynamics, please visit http://www.umbriawaterfestival.it/_pdf/convegni-caos_brochure.pdf.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Programme Officer (Migration Health and Gender) – International Organization for Migration (Closing Date: April 12, 2012)



IOM • OIM

Under the overall supervision of the Chief of Mission and the direct supervision of the Health Programme Officer for Somalia based in Nairobi, Kenya, and regional health support team, the successful candidate will provide programmatic oversight, strategic guidance and technical advice for the provision of basic healthcare services, strengthening the referral systems for emergency health assistance, providing protection to drought affected internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other migrants, with a focus on victims/survivors of sexual and gender based violence, as well as support to HIV/AIDS initiatives. Core responsibilities of the position

includes, but are not limited to:

- Provide project management, strategic guidance and technical advice for the provision of sex and age sensitive emergency health assistance including protection, to drought affected IDPs and other migrants;
- Coordinate and implement the projects in a timely manner in collaboration with suboffices in Somaliland and Puntland, Somalia Programme and Regional Health Support Team;
- Monitor the projects' progress, specifically aimed at documenting and evaluating results, as well as increasing effectiveness and recommending appropriate action;
- Establish and maintain strong partnership and liaison with partners and other stakeholders;
- Provide support in managing the health and psycho-social component of a larger project that provides assistance to drought affected persons in Somalia in close coordination with other service areas of the International Organization for Migration in Somalia.

Please visit http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/about_iom/recruitment/SVN_2012_37.pdf for more information on the position.

Niger Food for Peace Officer GS13 – United States Agency for International Development (Closing Date: April 13, 2012)



U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of Food for Peace (FFP) provides grants for food assistance to private voluntary organizations and the World Food Program to support food security enhancing programs through the direct distribution or the sale of food made available by the U.S. government. Niger, one of the world's poorest countries, faces a host of complex food issues requiring FFP assistance. Niger suffers from recurrent drought and pest attacks (e.g., locust swarms), resulting in frequent shortages of the major food staples, millet and sorghum. The livelihoods of the vast majority of Niger's population (85% rural) and Niger's economy are dependent on rain-fed agriculture and pasture conditions for livestock; therefore, periodic drought has heavy humanitarian consequences for Niger.

To help improve, monitor, and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the assistance in Niger, USAID requires the services of a FFP Officer (FFPO) for Niger hired through a US or Third Country National Personal Services Contract for a period of two years, with extension options for a total of four years, subject to availability of funds. The position is based at the U.S. Embassy in Niamey, but it is expected that approximately 40% of the FFP Officer's time will be spent traveling throughout Niger to monitor program activities and assess food aid needs. The FFPO is responsible for ensuring effective management of FFP resources and programs in Niger. His/her primary responsibility is to monitor FFP non-emergency food aid programs and report on their implementation to FFP/Washington and the Embassy. The FFPO will also be expected to assist with emergency programs as they occur. As the FFPO, the incumbent is responsible for ensuring that Regional Executive Office and Regional Financial Management Office staff in Senegal are provided appropriate documentation on all financial and administrative matters related to Food for Peace in Niger in a timely manner. The FFPO is also responsible for ensuring that all supporting documentation supporting transactions processed by the US Embassy in Niamey are properly forwarded to USAID/Senegal within the specified timeframe.

Please visit <http://reliefweb.int/node/480504> for more information on the position and the application procedure.

**Drought Risk Management: Practitioner's Perspectives from Africa and Asia (2012)**

This report reviewed the current institutional and programmatic landscape in the realm of drought risk management (DRM) in the two regions and mapped out some of the main DRM capacity gaps and gap-filling opportunities. The exercise is based upon the consultations with key individuals in both continents, an online survey of some 400 practitioners working in drought-related fields and focused discussions at the First Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum held in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2011. It highlighted important similarities in DRM issues across Africa and Asia and identified priority areas to which the inter-regional south-south cooperation could add value.

The full publication and the issue brief are both available for download at:

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable_land_management/drought-risk-management-from-africa-and-asia.html.

**Mainstreaming Drought Risk Management: A Primer****Intégration de la Gestion du Risqué de Sécheresse: Manuel introductif (2011)**

The overall purpose of this Primer is to provide a basic roadmap for mainstreaming drought risk reduction concepts and practices into development planning and programming at different levels. It outlines a stepwise approach to define the drought risks within a given context. It also presents a methodology for translating the risk assessments and metrics into specific policy measures, planning instruments and measurable interventions.

The full publication is available for download at:

<http://www.undp.org/drylands/docs/Mainstreaming%20DRM-English.pdf> (English)

<http://www.undp.org/drylands/docs/Mainstreaming%20DRM-French.pdf> (French)

Useful Links on Drought Status Updates**Africa**

African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development: <http://www.acmad.ne/index.htm>

Experimental African Drought Monitor: http://hydrology.princeton.edu/~justin/research/project_global_monitor/

Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Africa: <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>

Food Security & Nutrition Working Group Update: <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/fsnwg/drought>

IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC): <http://www.icpac.net/Forecasts/forecasts.html>

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) Africa: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Africa.aspx>

Prevention Web Africa: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/africa/>

Relief Web Africa: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc115?OpenForm&rc=1>

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Climate Service Centre: <http://www.sadc.int/dmc/>

UNOCHA (Southern & East Africa): <http://ochaonline.un.org/rosea/LatestUpdates/tabid/6652/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

UNOCHA (West & Central Africa): <http://ochaonline.un.org/Bulletinshumanitaires/tabid/3099/language/fr-FR/Default.aspx>

Asia

Asian Disaster Reduction Center: <http://www.adrc.asia/latest/index.php>

East Asian Drought Monitoring System: <http://atmos.pknu.ac.kr/~intra2>

FEWS NET Central Asia: <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>

IRIN Asia: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Asia.aspx>

Pacific Disaster Center/World Natural Hazards Website: <http://www.pdc.org/iweb/pdchome.html>

Prevention Web Asia: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/asia/>

Relief Web Asia: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc115?OpenForm&rc=3>

SAARC South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network Weekly Disaster News: <http://www.saarc-sadkn.org/about.aspx>