Special Topic

April 2015 Issue

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Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030 was adopted by 187 governments on 18 March 2015 at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan. The Sendai Framework is the first major agreement of the Post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and four priorities for action. It underlines states' commitment to addressing DRR and resilience building with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. The preamble reaffirms all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and recognizes that addressing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, while respecting the mandate of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), represents an opportunity to reduce the risk of disasters, including drought, in a meaningful and coherent manner.

The Sendai Framework sets seven targets to assess progress at the global level, which aim to:

- Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, and lower average per 100,000 global mortality between 2020-30 compared to 2005-15;
- Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, and lower the average global figure per 100,000 between 2020-30 compared to 2005-15;
- Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP by 2030;
- Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030;
- Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local DRR strategies by 2020;
- Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this framework by 2030; and
- Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

Please visit http://www.wcdrr.org/ to view the Sendai Framework and other WCDRR outcome documents.

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).

AADP's Drought Online website aims to offer an easy access to a growing collection of DRM related resources... **More >**

Click here to view past issues of AADP newsletter.

Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

Drought-Net: A Global Network to Assess Terrestrial Ecosystem Sensitivity to Drought

All ecosystems will be impacted to some extent by climate change, with forecasts for more frequent and severe drought likely to have the greatest impact on terrestrial ecosystems. To effectively forecast terrestrial ecosystem responses to drought, ecologists must determine the mechanisms underlying ecosystem sensitivity to drought across a range of different ecosystem types, and then improve existing modelling frameworks by incorporating such variation within the context of broader environmental gradients. Traditional site-based approaches cannot provide this knowledge because site-specific experiments are conducted in ways that makes comparisons among ecosystems difficult. Coordinated experimental networks, however, are ideally suited for comparative studies at regional to global scales.

Drought-Net will advance understanding of the determinants of terrestrial ecosystem sensitivity to drought by bringing together an international cadre of scientists with expertise that spans a wide range of terrestrial ecosystems, but with a common interest in drought. It will design and coordinate three complementary research coordination activities:

- Planning and coordinating new research utilizing standardized measurements to leverage the value of existing drought experiments across the globe;
- Finalizing the design and facilitating the establishment of a new international network of coordinated drought experiments, i.e., International Drought Experiment (IDE); and
- Training highly motivated graduate students to conduct synthetic and network-level research through Distributed Graduate Seminars focused on drought.

For more information on Drought-Net and IDE, please visit http://wp.natsci.colostate.edu/droughtnet/.

UNFCCC Database on Local Coping Strategies

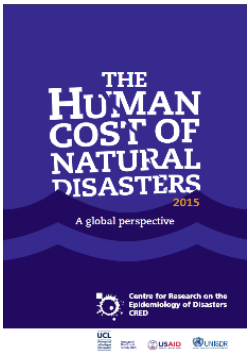
The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international environmental treaty, which was negotiated at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and entered into force in 1994. The objective of the treaty is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. UNFCCC Database on Local Coping Strategies is intended to facilitate the transfer of long-standing coping strategies/mechanisms, knowledge and experience from communities that have had to adapt to specific hazards or climatic conditions to communities that may just be starting to experience such conditions, as a result of climate change.

The database can be searched by climate hazard (including drought/aridity), impact (such as loss of crops and water shortage) or coping strategy (such as rainwater harvesting and soil conservation), or a combination thereof, by selecting from the scroll-down menus. Please note that not all combinations of hazard/impact/strategy will lead to identification of a specific adaptation action. Following the submission of a query, you will be presented with a list of corresponding adaptation actions and associated case studies. Additional information on the case studies will also be provided, and

include a short summary on the coping practice, details on resource requirements, non-climate benefits and potential maladaptation, as well as contact information and links to relevant files and web sites.

For further details on the database, please visit
http://maindb.unfccc.int/public/adaptation/index.pl?id_hazard=1&id_impact=&id_strategy=&id_region=.

The Human Cost of Natural Disasters 2015: A Global Perspective

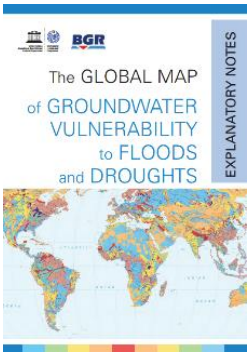


Between 1994 and 2013, the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters recorded 6,873 natural disasters worldwide within the Emergency Events Database, which claimed 1.35 million lives or almost 68,000 lives on average each year. In addition, 218 million people were affected by natural disasters on average per annum during the past two decades. In particular, drought affected more than one billion people between 1994 and 2013, or 25% of the global total. This is despite the fact that droughts accounted for just 5% of disaster events in this period. Some 41% of drought disasters were in Africa, indicating that lower-income countries are still being overwhelmed by drought despite effective early warnings being in place.

What this 20-year review of disaster impacts reveals is that there is still much progress to be made on tackling the underlying drivers of risk such as poverty and more proximal factors. We need to have better understanding of the specific risks that link negative impacts to disaster events. Sound studies that provide such convincing evidence on ways in which disasters affect individuals, families and communities are badly needed. This report helps frame the debate on disaster risk reduction in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It also underlines that climate-related disasters have come to dominate the risk landscape to the point where they now account for more than 80% of all major internationally reported disasters. As resources get tighter, objective evidence is needed to fine tune the focus of our investments in preparedness and mitigation. For this, we need sound and convincing data. We also need equally sound analyses. We need to know which disasters are priorities for which countries, who are most likely to be affected and why, are disasters losses really increasing and where.

The full report is available for download at http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/PAND_report.pdf.

The Global Map for Groundwater Vulnerability to Floods and Droughts

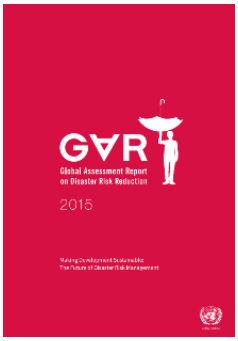


One third of the global population depends on groundwater for their drinking water, in arid and semi-arid areas the dependency is between 60 and 100%. About 40% of the worlds food is produced by groundwater-irrigated farming. While surface water is much more vulnerable to pollution and climatic variations, groundwater plays a vital role for water and food security. But this security might be at risk by natural hazards like floods and droughts. Especially in emergency situations, decision makers need to know where to access safe groundwater resources for drinking water purposes. . Beside, surface water resources, permeable rocks and river sediments are highly vulnerable to floods and droughts as well as coastal aquifers to tsunamis. Deep aquifers are of major interest because they provide potential sources of drinking water in emergency situations. These groundwater bodies must be protected and adequately managed in order to substitute drinking water supplies which are polluted or have been exhausted by hydro-climatic disasters.

The Map of Global Groundwater Vulnerability to Floods and Droughts at the scale of 1: 25 000 000 ('Global Groundwater Vulnerability Map F.D.') was developed to give an overview about the vulnerability of the aquifers and call to the attention of decision makers the areas most prone to flood and drought impacts. It is the result of a joint effort of the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme's project 'Groundwater for Emergency Situations', the International Association of Hydrogeologists and the 'World-wide Hydrogeological Mapping and Assessment Programme.' Groundwater vulnerability maps will support planning, regulation, management and decision-making, can help in making environmentally sound decisions regarding land use and groundwater protection, and may also assist in the formulation of flood and drought risk assessment and risk mitigation policy. They will also create public awareness about environmental and groundwater protection issues, because the term 'vulnerability' is explicit and readily understood by those who are not groundwater specialists.

Please visit http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002324/232431e.pdf to view the explanatory notes of the publication.

Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015



The 2015 Global Assessment Report on DRR (GAR15), *Making Development Sustainable: The Future of Disaster Risk Management*, is the fourth in the series coordinated by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA). As the HFA draws to a close, GAR15 questions whether the way in which DRR has been approached under the HFA is really fit for purpose in a world now threatened by catastrophic increases in disaster risk. In Part I of GAR15, new evidence on contemporary patterns and trends in disaster risk is presented in order to assess the extent to which the expected outcome of the HFA has been achieved.

Parts II and III examine whether the way DRR has been approached is appropriate to address an increasingly accelerated generation and accumulation of disaster risks. One section within Part III focus particularly on agricultural drought risk and examine how the patterns of agricultural drought can be expected to change with climate change. For example, losses in maize production from a 1-in-25-year drought in Malawi could be 23 per cent higher in the years 2016 to 2035 than they were from 1981 to 2010. Given that agriculture contributes 30 per cent to Malawi's GDP, this could push the country over a resilience threshold in terms of the national economy as well as poverty. However, in the Rift Valley in Kenya and in Niger, where agriculture generates 30 and 38 per cent of GDP (respectively), the losses would actually decline in the same climate change scenario.

GAR 2015 main report and other related data and documents are all available for download at http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2015/en/home/.

Event and Training Opportunities

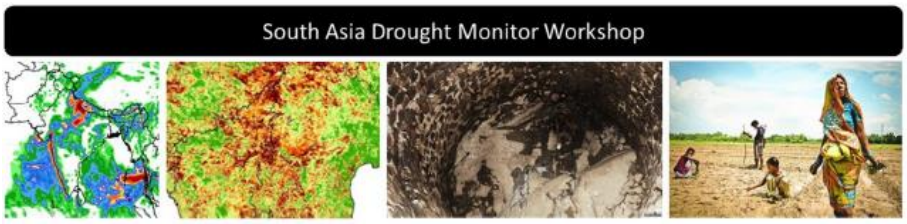
Interactive Workshop: South Asia Drought Monitoring System (12-17 April, 2015; Daegu and Gyeongbuk, Korea)

Many countries around the world have been experiencing unusual weather phenomena in the past years. While severe flooding occurred during the long monsoon season in some parts of the world, extreme heat and drought plagued other parts of the worlds. Water shortages, water pollution, water-related diseases and changing climate are creating growing challenges for water management. Every three years since 1997, the World Water Forum mobilizes creativity, innovation, and know-how around water. Serving as a stepping-stone towards global collaboration on water challenges, the Forum is a unique multi-stakeholder platform where the water community and the policy and decision makers from all regions of the world can work together to find joint solutions. It is the largest international event which seeks to advance the cause of water.

Under the theme of 'Water for Our Future,' the 7th World Water Forum will take place in Daegu and Gyeongbuk of Korea. It aims to address which sectors are crucial in a view of implementation and what action tools are most available in various subjects. Not only drawing the future we want, but also identifying engines for change and sharing all the wisdom to use those are our main goal to step further towards implementation. At a time when the UN Millennium Development Goals set in 2000 is due to expire and the Sustainable Development Goals should be established, the 7th World Water Forum will be a historic moment in drawing more actions to tackle water challenges.

Please visit http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/main/ for more information on the 7th World Water Forum 2015.

Interactive Workshop: South Asia Drought Monitoring System (20 April, 2015; Dhaka, Bangladesh)



A Needs and Capacity Assessment Survey on drought monitoring was conducted in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka with the assistance of Global Water Partnership's (GWP) Country Water Partnerships in early 2014. The assessment revealed that there is no validated system of early warning on drought that could meet the requirement for a high spatial resolution in any of the surveyed countries. Further impetus to develop the South Asia Drought Monitoring System (SADMS) was given at the workshop on drought monitoring held in 5th South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-5) in Pune, India on April 2014, which gathered climate experts of the region.

With this background, an interactive workshop will be organized with the aim to provide a platform for enhanced interactions between the water community and the climate community within the South Asian countries with the objective of making best use of the SADMS. This event is being scheduled in combination with SASCOF-6 and the Climate

Services User Forum for the Water Sector which will be taking place from 21 to 23 April 2015 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The objectives of the workshop are:

- Present the beta version of SADMS in corporation with key partners in South Asia;
- Have a dialogue with national partners of their country requirements to ensure it responds to the need of users;
- Start a discussion on how to integrate the results of the SADMS to regional, national and state level decision making processes; and
- To have initial awareness on the final product and attract the attention of key actors in the water and climate community.

For more information on the workshop, please visit http://www.gwp.org/en/gwp-in-action/Events-and-Calls/Interactive-workshop---South-Asia-Drought-Monitoring-System-SADMS-20-April-2015-Dhaka-Bangladesh/.

African Drought Conference (11-15 May, 2015; Windhoek, Namibia)

The majority of African countries continue to be inadequately prepared to cope with droughts, which are set to become more frequent with climate change. Indeed only a few countries in the world have fully-fledged drought management policies, while interventions in most countries tend to focus on reacting after the event rather than mitigating the impacts from droughts through enhancing preparedness over the long term. In line with its role as the president of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP11), President, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in Namibia is organizing the African Drought Conference in follow to the outcomes of the High Level Meeting on National Drought Policies held in Geneva in 2013, and will focus on identifying the specific needs of African countries in the area of effective drought mitigation, with a view to developing a strategic framework for enhancing resilience to drought events on the African continent.

The overall objective of the Conference will be to develop an overarching strategic framework for Africa to enhance its resilience to the impact of drought events. It is expected that the Conference will set in motion the process to develop a strategic framework for enhancing resilience to drought at the African level that will contribute to poverty alleviation, economic development and enhance environmental and human well-being. The work of the Conference will be guided by an agenda for action white paper document, which will be circulated in advance of the conference. With this in mind, the outcomes of the conference will be brought to the attention of the African Union for possible endorsement of African heads of states and governments. Namibia, as president of the COP11 bureau, will also transmit a report on the outcomes of the conference to UNCCD COP 12 in October 2015.

For more information on the Conference, please visit http://www.newera.com.na/2015/03/26/namibia-host-drought-conference/ or contact unccdcop11@met.na.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Sahel Resilience Adviser – Save the Children (Closing date: 14 April 2015)

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organisation for children, working in 120 countries to save children's lives, fight for their rights and help them fulfil their potential. Covering 5 Sahel countries, namely Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mauritania and Chad, the Roots to Resilience in Sahel (R2RS) Program would be implemented across five inter-linked pillars including: 1) learning and research; 2) safety net systems; 3) early-warning information systems and surveillance; 4) strengthening service systems; and 5) advocacy and synergy. R2RS will model resilience principles such as flexibility, communication and collaboration, conscientiousness towards the future and dynamics of change and engagement with the varied resilience of different groups (e.g. gender, age and ethnicity).

As a member of the Niger technical team, the Sahel Resilience Adviser (SRA) will serve as the focal person for the full development of the guiding document for R2RS Program, covering the following aspects: program design, partnership development, fund raising strategy, advocacy plan and research. SRA will represent Save the Children in partnerships and networks that advance the resilience work in Niger. More specifically, as a key member of R2RS project steering team at the country level, SPA will provide support to the group in meeting its key performance indicators. He/she will also work with national and regional staff on building program partnerships for R2RS Program implementation and sustainability.

Please visit https://www.savethechildren.net/jobs/job-details/1981 for further details on the position.

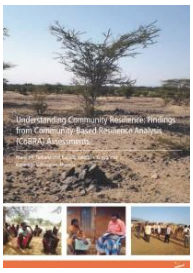
Consultancy for Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters Programme – Plan International (Closing date: 24 April 2015)

Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) is a global programme which aims to responds to the most immediate impacts of climate change and extreme climate events through grants to NGOs and their partners to scale up proven technologies and practices. An alliance led by the Plan International recently initiated the BRACED Alliance Myanmar Project targeting 3 diverse climatic zones where vulnerable groups are increasingly exposed to extreme climate events including extreme temperatures and drought. The impacts of these climate extremes are further exacerbated locally by processes attributed to climate change and variability. These include the shortening and intensification of monsoons; an increase in sea surface temperature and an overall increase in heat and drought indices.

The proposed consultancy services will finalize the most appropriate composite indices (along with formula and index value calculation guidance) that can measure resilience to climate extremes and disasters at individual, household and community levels in context of BRACED targeted areas in coastal, hilly and dry zones in Myanmar. He/she will assess the data requirements for the project to better collect data on contextual vulnerabilities as well as intended and unintended changes as result and within the scope of the project. He/she will also develop a comprehensive set of questionnaires (focusing on what the project needs to know) covering the first and second part of this consultancy – which need be tracked by the subsequent baseline survey to be implemented in Q2, 2015.

Please visit http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Plan%20Myanmar%20Consultant_Apr%2715.pdf for more information concerning the position.

Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) Conceptual Framework and Methodology (2014)
In order to ensure that drought prone communities move onto a path of resilience building and sustainable development, rather than being pushed back to poverty trap with increased vulnerability, an integrated multi-faceted approach at scale is clearly required. Community-Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) is a tool which intends to measure and identify the key building blocks of community resilience, or "resilience characteristics", and assess the attribution of various development/humanitarian interventions in attaining these resilience characteristics. In disaster affected areas, where protracted crises with spikes in need are the norm, resilience measurement tools are required through which to document evidence of groups of interventions that have high impact and spur positive changes at household and community levels. This publication presents the conceptual framework that underpins the CoBRA model and describes in brief the methodology that supports the model: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable_land_management/CoBRA/cobra-conceptual-framework/.



Understanding Community Resilience: Findings from CoBRA Assessments in Kenya and Uganda (2014)
In the last few years, as natural disasters, particularly drought, and other crises have pushed communities to the limits of their adaptation and coping capacity, 'disaster resilience' has emerged as a key goal for governments and other development and humanitarian stakeholders in the Horn of Africa. This report summarizes the findings of the first round of CoBRA field testing in four drought-prone locations in Kenya (Marsabit, Turkana and Kajiado counties) and Uganda (the Karamoja sub-region). Individual assessment reports for each location are attached as Annexes to this report. The CoBRA approach is largely qualitative, based on understanding resilience from a community perspective. It does not identify any preconceived components of resilience but rather allows communities to define it, assess their progress in achieving it, identify households that are more (or fully) resilient and specify the interventions they believe best build resilience: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable_land_management/CoBRA/CoBRA_assessment/.

Useful Links on Drought Status Updates

Africa
African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development: http://acmad.net/new/
Experimental African Drought Monitor: http://drought.icpac.net/
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/english/regional-integration/is/csc/

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

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http://www.undp.org/drylands/

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