



## Special Topic

April 2016 Issue

### Humanitarian Data Exchange



## HDX Humanitarian Data Exchange

The Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) is an open platform for sharing data managed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

(UNOCHA). The goal of HDX is to make humanitarian data easy to find and use for analysis. Launched in July 2014, HDX has been accessed by users in over 200 countries and territories.

HDX provides data about the context in which a humanitarian crisis is occurring (e.g., baseline/development data, damage assessments, geospatial data), including drought related crisis; data about the people affected by the crisis and their needs; and data about the response by organisations and people seeking to help those who need assistance. Some of these are curated indicators (about 130 indicators) collected by UNOCHA from multiple sources, ensuring they are comparable across countries and have gone through a quality-control process. The database also have datasets which registered partner organisations have shared. For example, as of 1 April 2016, HDX contains over 80 curated indicators and datasets provided by registered partners related to 2015-16 El Niño.

Anonymous users can view and download the data from the site. Searching for datasets on HDX is done in two ways: by searching for key words that you type into the search bar found at the top of almost every page on HDX, and by filtering a list of search results. Entering a search term causes HDX to look for matching terms in the titles, descriptions, locations and tags of a dataset. The resulting list of items can be further filtered by clicking on the blue filter icon at the top of the page (in the search bar). You can filter by location, tag, organisation, license and format.

Registered users, who are associated with an entrusted organization, can access more features. After signing up, you can: 1) follow the latest changes to data, locations, organisations, topics and crises; 2) share datasets publicly or privately, and join organisations to get access to private datasets; 3) add data visualizations as gallery items alongside datasets; 4) contact data contributors (coming soon).

Please visit <https://data.hdx.rwlab.org/> for further details on the HDX and its diverse datasets.

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### About AADP

[Africa-Asia Drought Risk Peer Assistance Network \(AADP\)](#) is a network established by [the UNDP Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification \(GC-REAL\)](#) 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 \(ADDN\)](#).

Click [here](#) to view past issues of AADP newsletter.



## Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

### Alliance for Global Water Adaptation



Founded in September 2010, the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) is a group of regional and global development banks, government agencies and ministries, diverse non-governmental organizations, and the private sector focused on managing water resources in a sustainable way — even as climate change alters the global hydrological cycle. Water provides coherence to climate change adaptation and

mitigation, integrating energy, water, food production and agriculture, and ecosystems and the environment. AGWA is focused on how to help experts, decision makers, and institutions in the water community work more effectively. We want to work with you, through and across our network.

One of the main areas of emphasis for AGWA's efforts is providing technical guidance for water resources planners, managers, and engineers to implement robust water management. We do this in a number of ways, ranging from on-the-ground projects to technical documents and guidelines. As a means of expanding the pool of resources and information for technical managers, AGWA developed a separate website, "AGWA Guide" at [www.agwaguide.org](http://www.agwaguide.org).

For more information on AGWA and its activities, please visit <http://alliance4water.org/>.

### Global Gender and Climate Alliance



Launched in 2007, the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) works to ensure that climate change policies, decision-making, and initiatives at the global, regional and national levels are gender responsive which is critical to solving the climate crisis. The Alliance is an open international network of more than 2,100 members, including over 600 organizations, which comprise a unique partnership of UN

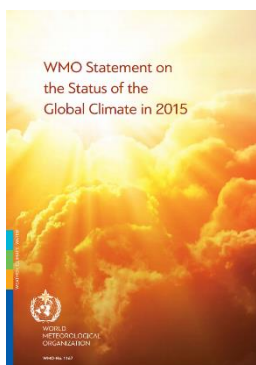
agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other institutions. GWA is a demand driven and autonomous organisation, which provides space for its members to effectively collaborate on gender and climate change issues.

In the current debate on climate change, both water and gender receive insufficient attention. GWA brings out both aspects to ensure attention for those that are affected most by climate change: poor women and men in situations of more serious and more frequent floods and droughts. GGCA brings a human face to climate change decision-making and initiatives to integrate a gender perspective into policy and decision making, ensure that financing mechanisms on mitigation and adaptation address the needs of poor women and men equitably, build capacity at all levels to design and implement gender-responsive climate change policies, strategies and programmes, and share practical tools, information, and methodologies to facilitate the integration of gender into policy and programming.

Please visit <http://gender-climate.org/> for more information on GGCA and its activities.



## WMO Statement on the Status of the Global Climate in 2015



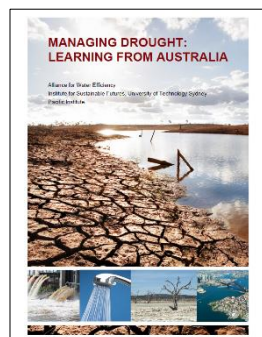
As part of its mandate to provide authoritative information about weather, climate and water, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) conducts annual assessments of the state of the global climate. The statement on 2015 covers many aspects of the climate system, drawing on numerical objective analyses

The year 2015 stood out in the historical record of the global climate in many ways. Modern records for heat were broken: 2015 was a record warm year both globally, i.e., 0.76 °C above 1961–1990 average, and in many individual countries. Heatwaves were extremely intense in various part of the world, leading to thousands of deaths in India and Pakistan. Record extreme precipitation led to flooding that affected tens of thousands of people across South America, West Africa and Europe.

Dry conditions in southern Africa and Brazil exacerbated multi-year droughts. The influence of one of the strongest El Niño on record that developed in the later part of 2015, in combination with climate change from human activities, can be discerned in many of the year's weather and climate events. The warming trend and an increasing number of disasters are expected to continue for several decades. That emphasizes the need to invest in adaptation as well as mitigation. One of the most powerful ways to adapt to the consequences of climate change is to strengthen disaster early warning and climate services.

The full report is available for download at [http://library.wmo.int/pmb\\_ged/wmo\\_1167\\_en.pdf](http://library.wmo.int/pmb_ged/wmo_1167_en.pdf).

## Managing Drought: Learning from Australia



Overall, Australia survived its worst drought in recorded history, the Millennium Drought, which lasted from 1997 until it officially ended in 2012, demonstrating world leading innovation and exceptional examples of water planning and management driven by crisis. Yet there are also examples of missed opportunities, as well as initiatives and decisions that did not work well. The research presented here reflects on some of the key lessons from the Australian Millennium Drought experience in order to assess the opportunities for California in the United States and other urban cities all over the world.

This report serves as a powerful resource for urban water planners and managers as it grapples with drought and seeks to build resilient and sustainable water systems. It provides a one-stop shop overview of the key events and initiatives implemented in Australia's four largest cities – Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane (and the surrounding south east Queensland region), and Perth. The work represents one interpretation of the drought and responses, informed by significant engagement with utilities and governments throughout that period, and a close working knowledge of the water systems and the policy environment. Specific attention is given to the role of demand-side measures in reducing the impact of drought. In Australia, urban water efficiency was the quiet achiever – saving more water at lower cost and greater speed than supply options.

The full report is available for download at <http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=9554>.



## Event and Training Opportunities

### Asian Business Forum 2016 Risk Reduction and Resilience Building (20-21 April, 2016; Bangkok, Thailand)



The private sector is increasingly affected by extreme weather events and major catastrophes such as floods, droughts, storms, earthquakes and tsunamis. The disaster impacts on business will continue to rise unless investments are made to improve climate change mitigation and adaptation. While private sector entities are affected by disasters, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are particularly vulnerable to disasters due to a lack of investments in disaster risk management.

Addressing this gap is crucial because SMEs account for more than 97% of all enterprises in Asia.

The objective of the *Asian Business Forum 2016 Risk Reduction and Resilience Building* is to reflect on and recognize various efforts and initiatives on resilience building in the private sector, and learn from the challenges and good practices in the region. This will help the private sector, including SMEs, governments and development partners translate the global and regional commitments into their own terms and articulate their priority actions for the coming years in order to strengthen business resilience and ultimately build safe and resilient communities. The forum program consists of: 1) panel discussion on 'Policy Environment and Priority Actions for Private Sector Engagement in Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction'; 2) thematic discussion on country case studies on 'Enabling Environment for Strengthening Disaster Resilience of SMEs'; and 3) a number of targeted technical sessions.

Please visit <http://www.adpc.net/igo/contents/blogs/ABF2016/index.asp?pid=1046> for further details on the forum.

### Global Water Safety Conference 2016 (25-28 April, 2016; Palawan, Philippines)



The Global Water Safety Conference will be organized jointly by the International Water Association and the Philippine Water Works Association on 25-28 April 2016. With the slogan of *a pathway to universal access of safe drinking water and sanitation and improved service delivery*, the conference aims to profile innovative regulatory and operational initiatives as well as capacity building approaches and other relevant tools that effectively enhance the implementation of Water Safety Planning (WSP).

The conference will have an extensive programme with topics ranging from leading practices and lessons learned from WSP implementation; innovative policies and regulations for drinking water quality management; improving resilience to climate impacts from catchment to consumer; and sanitation safety plan implementation and integration with WSPs. Workshops and Technical Sessions will be held on 25-27 April, while side events like trainings will be arranged on 28-29 April. One of the side events will focus on "Flood and drought management tools from catchment to tap" and showcase a computer software-based decision support system with tools to support planning from the transboundary basin to water utility level by including better information on floods and droughts.

Please visit <http://www.iwa-network.org/events/global-water-safety-conference> for more information on the conference.



## Singapore International Water Week – The Global Platform to Share and Co-Create Innovative Water Solutions (10-14 July, 2016; Singapore, Singapore)



The Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) is the global platform to share and co-create innovative water solutions. The biennial event gathers stakeholders from the global water industry to share best practices, showcase the latest technologies and tap business opportunities. The 7th SIWW, or SIWW 2016, will be held in conjunction with the 5th World Cities Summit and the 3<sup>rd</sup> CleanEnviro

Summit Singapore, from 10 – 14 July 2016. SIWW 2016 reinforces the global sharing and co-creation of innovative water solutions. Aligned with this objective, Water Convention offers a platform for water experts to share their solutions and practical experience, and address the challenges that spans over five different themes: 1) delivering water from source to tap; 2) effective and efficient wastewater management; 3) water for liveability and resilience; 4) water quality and health; and 5) water for industries.

In addition to the Technical Sessions, the event will offer “the Hot Issues Workshop”, a highly interactive, panel discussion-based sessions, providing a focused platform to stimulate more open engagement between experts and delegates on ‘hot’ or emerging issues facing the water industry. One of the hot issues to be discussed will be *Developing Urban Water Systems for Flood and Drought Resilient Cities*.

Further details on SIWW 2016 and its programmes/sessions will be available at <http://www.siww.com.sg/>.

## Positions and Grant Opportunities

### Accountant for Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Program – African Development Bank (Closing date: 28 April 2016)



The Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Program (DRSLP) is a 15 year multi-phased, multi-national investment program financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB), which is being implemented to address the negative impact of recurrent drought in countries of the Horn of Africa region. It is implemented within the framework of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development's (IGAD) Drought Disaster and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI).

DRSLP II Somalia component is a 5-year project to be implemented in Puntland, Somaliland and South Central regions of Somalia. The medium and long term goal of the programme is to stabilize the pastoral and agro-pastoral production systems and improve livelihoods and resilience of the production systems. The programme is currently looking for and accountant who obtains at least five years in management financial transactions of projects financed by multilateral development banks.

Please visit <https://cv.niras.com/jobs/2192> for further details on the position. Further details on DRSLP is also available at <http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/the-drought-resilience-and-sustainable-livelihoods-program-10235/>.



## Master of Science in Disaster Management (Resilience, Response and Relief) - Hong Kong Polytechnic University & University of Manchester (Closing date: 29 April 2016)



This online Master programme provides participants with the opportunity to develop and

expand knowledge, understanding and judgment in theoretical and practical disaster management and humanitarian action. It is designed to equip students with advanced knowledge, and to continue their personal development in disaster risk management and humanitarianism. More specifically, the programme is underpinned by a multidisciplinary approach that enables graduates to conduct theoretical and practical analysis, as well as evaluation to support disaster management and humanitarian action in global health contexts.

This fee-based flexible programme is jointly offered by the School of Nursing at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at the University of Manchester that enables part-time students to obtain a master's degree without residency and boundary restrictions. It is conducted by experienced disaster teaching team members who are trainers for continuing education courses and postgraduate programmes in disaster management.

For further details on the programme, please visit <http://odihpn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/MScDMRRR.pdf>.

## Coordinator of the Science, Technology and Implementation Unit – United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Closing date: 1 May 2016)

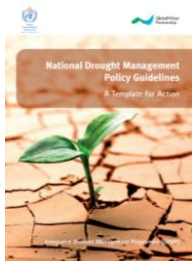


The objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements. UNCCD is currently seeking a Coordinator who manages the work of the Science, Technology and Implementation unit (STI),

which serves the UNCCD Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.

STI supports scientific cooperation and organizes the periodic reporting and assessment of the status of implementation under the UNCCD. It facilitates the use of the latest scientific knowledge in policy-making concerning land degradation and drought, and coordinates cooperation with scientific platforms and institutions working on issues relevant to land degradation and drought. The Coordinator manages ways and means to foster the UNCCD implementation, building on the available scientific knowledge and the information collected through national reporting. The unit also supports coordination and information exchange within and among the regional implementation annexes of the Convention and facilitates access to capacity building.

For more information on the position, including the application procedure, please visit <http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/The-Secretariat/Vacancies-and-consultancies/Documents/VA%20Coordinator,%20STI%20,P-5.pdf>.



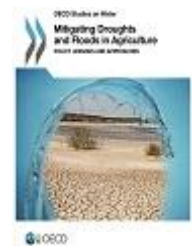
### National Drought Management Policy Guidelines: A Template for Action (2014)

The National Drought Management Policy Guidelines provide a template for action that countries can use in the development of a national drought management policy and drought preparedness/mitigation plans. The process is structured in 10 steps that can be adapted by countries to reflect their institutional, infrastructure, legal, socio-economic and environmental context. It includes case studies from Brazil, Mexico, Morocco and the USA and will be continuously updated based on the experiences gained in the guidelines' application. The guidelines respond to a need for action oriented drought policies, which Governments articulated at the [High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policies](#). The document is available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).



### Guidelines for preparation of the Drought Management Plans (2015)

The recommendations for the development of a drought management system described in these Guidelines provide a set of basic steps that many drought-affected countries can use to develop national drought policy aimed at risk reduction. The Guidelines are intended for those countries that are trying to move from crisis management to drought risk reduction policy. The step-by-step planning process is based on the National Drought Management Policy Guidelines (2014) and was harmonized especially for the European Union and/or accession countries in compliance with the key principles of integrated water management and within the context of the Water Framework Directive.



### Mitigating Droughts and Floods in Agriculture: Policy Lessons and Approaches (2016)

The agriculture sector is particularly exposed to risks of floods and droughts, which may become more frequent and severe due to climate change in the context of increased demand for food and urban space. This report proposes a comprehensive analysis of, and a set of key recommendations on policy approaches to the sustainable management of droughts and floods in agriculture. It builds on recent trends, experiences and research from OECD countries in this area, in particular Australia, Canada, France, Spain and the United Kingdom. It also provides a general policy framework that could be useful for countries to analyze their own drought and flood policies, as well as to identify ways forward.

## 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>