



# Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network

Monthly Newsletter

February 2017 Issue

## Special Topic

### ReliefWeb Drought Updates



ReliefWeb, a specialized digital service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, is the leading

humanitarian information source on global crises and disasters. ReliefWeb's editorial team monitors and collects information from more than 4,000 key sources, including humanitarian agencies at the international and local levels, governments, think tanks and research institutions, and the media, and identify and select the content that is most relevant to global humanitarian workers.

As of 1 February 2017, ReliefWeb's [disasters page](#) maps out over a dozen ongoing drought and drought-related food insecurity disasters at national and (sub-)regional levels all over the world. These include, among others, the [crisis in Sahel \(2011-2017\)](#), [food insecurity in Southern Africa \(2015-2017\)](#), [2015-2017 drought in South East Asia \(2015-2017\)](#), [drought in the Pacific \(2015-2017\)](#).

The [RefiefWeb blog](#) also provides an updated information on humanitarian crises in 25 countries in the Southern and Eastern Africa region in the past 18 months as a result of severe drought caused by the worst El Niño phenomenon in 35 years. According to the blog post, the worst hit in terms of deteriorating food security include drought-ravaged areas of Angola, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Madagascar, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique in the Southern Africa. In the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region, a combination of drought, conflict and economic shocks has seen the number of food-insecure people double from 11 million in September 2015 to 23.4 million a year later. The worst-affected countries are Ethiopia (9.7 million people), South Sudan (4.8 million), and Sudan (4.42 million).

The ReliefWeb content is delivered not only through the [reliefweb.int website](#) but also through various other channels including social media networks and our new, cutting-edge mobile [apps](#) and [API](#) - so that humanitarian workers can access key content anywhere anytime.

Stay informed on key drought and other related humanitarian developments in Africa, Asia and beyond so as to make informed development/humanitarian decisions and to plan effective responses.

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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 \(GC-RED\)](#) 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

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### Asia-Pacific ICT & DRR Gateway



#### ICT & DRR GATEWAY

Asia and the Pacific is the most disaster prone region in the world. In 2015 alone, 160 disasters were reported in the region, accounting for 47 per cent of the world's 344 disasters, and these caused over US \$45 billion in damages. Rapid economic growth and population expansion over the coming decades, along with the impacts of climate change, will increase the exposure and vulnerability of the region to

disasters. The Asia-Pacific Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Gateway, an initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, is an online portal providing policymakers and relevant stakeholders with news, tools and resources with regard to information & communications technology and disaster risk reduction from a wide spectrum of international organizations, regional agencies and national ministries in Asia and the Pacific. In particular, the online portal offers:

- **News & Publications:** News updates, events and publications with regard to ICT & DRR;
- **Hazard Alert Maps:** Latest hazard information provided through alerts and a variety of maps;
- **E-Learning & Tools:** Links to e-learning platforms, tools and other relevant resources; and
- **Online Communities:** Overview of online communities fostering stakeholder dialogue.

Further details on the Asia-Pacific ICT & DRR Gateway and its resources are available at <http://www.drrgateway.net/>.

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### South Asia Drought Monitoring System



#### Drought Monitoring System

[www.dms.iwmi.org](http://www.dms.iwmi.org)

International Water Management Institute. Numerous drought indices - including the Integrated Drought Severity Index, Standardized Precipitation Index, and Soil Moisture Index - have been developed to provide advanced drought monitoring and assessment information for various purposes. In tandem, these indices not only paint an accurate picture of any particular drought episode, but provide invaluable decision-making tools.

SADMS's newly launched interactive online portal provides a wide array of precipitation and related information garnered primarily from the freely available satellite imagery to improve current capabilities in drought monitoring and prediction and provide regional to district scale information about drought's effect on agriculture. The drought severity maps that are produced deliver continuous geographic coverage over large area for the first time, and have inherently finer spatial detail (500m resolution) than other commonly available global drought products such as NESDIS NOAA, MODIS Global Terrestrial Drought Severity Index using different data and approaches. The online portal is expected to help in data sharing and viewing of all available drought and related maps for the entire region instantly.

Please visit <http://dms.iwmi.org/> to find more information on SADMS and online portal contents.

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## Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED)

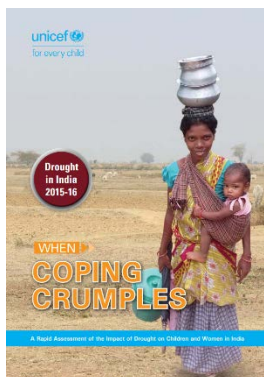


Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) is a multi-partner programme launched in 2015, which aims to help people become more resilient to climate extremes, such as droughts, floods and cyclones, in South and Southeast Asia and in the African Sahel and its neighbouring countries. To improve the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation methods into development approaches, BRACED seeks to influence policies and practices at the local, national and international level.

With financial support from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, BRACED has been providing funding to 15 projects by non-governmental organisations across 13 countries (i.e., Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Senegal, Niger, Mauritania, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Myanmar, and Nepal) over three years. The BRACED Knowledge Manager consortium, led by the Overseas Development Institute, seeks to build a new approach to knowledge and learning. It acts as a centre for developing and disseminating resilience knowledge and ensure BRACED contributes to a sustained and transformational impact on people's resilience to climate extremes beyond the communities directly supported by funded projects.

Please visit <http://www.braced.org/> for more information on BRACED, including the respective partner projects and knowledge resources.

## When Coping Crumples: A Rapid Assessment of the Impact of Drought on Children and Women in India



In 2014-15, India had a 12 percent deficit in rainfall, followed by a 14 percent shortfall in 2015-16. As per the response filed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Government of India, in the Rajya Sabha on the 29 April 2016, 266 districts across 11 states have officially declared drought in 2016. Some of these districts were experiencing repeated droughts over the past two to three years leading to serious food and drinking water security concerns. This document presents a rapid drought impact assessment that was carried out by UNICEF's India Country Office in June-July 2016 in eight states with the aim of providing insights into drought management practices and their effectiveness. It identifies UNICEF's role in supporting efforts to achieve long-term climate and disaster resilience. A contextual analysis was done of drought and drought-like situations over three to five drought years. The report explains the impacts on women and children due to various factors like climate variability, unsustainable development decisions, and environmental degradation.

It was observed that prolonged development deficits have increased insecurities and hardships for children, women and their families. Extended or repeated exposure to drought ends up exacerbating these inherent vulnerabilities. The study confirmed that 'drought' is created by the same socio-political processes that perpetuate vulnerabilities and their consequences. Within the complex drought picture composed of a multitude of causal factors, the consequences include hunger and drinking water stress created by unsustainable development practices.

The full report is available for download at [http://www.preventionweb.net/files/51553\\_pubdoc117.pdf](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/51553_pubdoc117.pdf).



## Event and Training Opportunities

### Fifth International Conference on Climate Services (27 February - 3 March 2017; Cape Town, South Africa)



The Climate Services Partnership (CSP) is a platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration aimed at promoting resilience and advancing climate service capabilities worldwide. CSP's ongoing series of International Conferences on Climate Services (ICCS) was launched in New York in 2011, with the aim at

building the bridge between the production and use of climate services, developing the maturity of climate service practices, and fostering a community of climate service actors.

ICCS5 will focus on capacity development (with a particular focus on activities and persistent challenges in Africa. Capacity building, including formal education are key elements of climate services implementation and sustainability, and will also be a major focus of the conference. The conference will give attention to professional educators of climate science, sustainability, mitigation and adaptation, and how we can grow their capacities and harvest and develop further those already working in the area. The opportunities for new collaborations in training, capacity development, and education will be explored.

Please visit <http://www.climate-services.org/iccs/iccs5/#> for further details concerning ICCS5.

### Third Global Summit of Research Institutes for Disaster Risk Reduction (19-21 March 2017; Kyoto, Japan)



The Global Summit of Research Institutes for Disaster Risk Reduction (GSRIDRR) has been organized since 2011 with the aim to bring together research organizations involved in DRR to reassess and reflect on the challenges posed, and discuss and identify new paradigms based on the lessons learned from recent disasters, including atmospheric and water related disasters, around the world. The Third GSRIDRR, or GSRIDRR 2017, will

build on the achievements of the last two Global Summits and the project by the Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI), which was formally established during the Second SDRIDRR with the following objectives:

- To serve as an advocate for key research policy statements that are in line with real, evidenced-based disaster research needs.
- To carry out a more detailed assessment of key research challenges and to identify priority research areas
- To identify pioneering scientific initiatives to effectively reduce the gaps between science and practice in disaster risk reduction activities.
- To share and build on achievements, and outcomes of past and ongoing GADRI Projects addressing research gaps.
- To foster links between local and international organizations and their programs through the GADRI network.

GSRIDRR 2017 is an opportunity for various stakeholders in local governments, private sector and others to engage in risk management information, share responsibility and resources, and voice in unification evidence-based statements for implementation. Please visit <http://gadri.net/summit/> for more information on GSRIDRR 2017.



## Positions and Grant Opportunities

### Communications and M&E Specialist – Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute (Closing date: 17 February 2017)



The Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI), a newly established regional center of excellence on groundwater hosted by the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa, is currently seeking a Communications and M&E Specialist. The incumbent will be responsible for outreach, awareness raising, dialogue and advocacy work; monitoring and reporting of SADC-GMI activities as well as managing the access and exchange of information and knowledge using ICT, print, audio and visual media.

Key responsibilities of this position include, among others:

- Supporting the Director of the SADC-GMI with the day-to-day running of the Communication and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) functions supported in the SADC-GMI Articles of Association and its Business Plan; and
- Assisting the Senior Groundwater Specialist in the collection, assessment and integration of the available deliverables of the predecessor Groundwater Drought Management Programme (GDMP) (includes research reports and data, mapping, communication materials, website, and groundwater monitoring tools and IT-equipment) into the SADC-GMI activities.

For further details on the position, please visit [http://www.actionappointments.co.za/uploads/1/5/3/7/15374534/jd-communication-m\\_e\\_specialist\\_1.pdf](http://www.actionappointments.co.za/uploads/1/5/3/7/15374534/jd-communication-m_e_specialist_1.pdf).

### 2017 Land for Life Award – UNCCD (Closing date: 28 February 2017)



JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE  
2017 LAND FOR LIFE AWARD  
*Recognizing the Excellence*

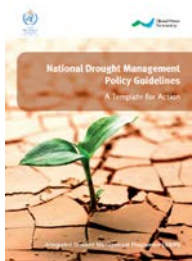
The Land for Life Award was initiated by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and its partners in 2011. On the theme “Land and Human Security”, the 2017 Award aims to identify and honor individuals or organizations that showcase effective and creative sustainable land management approaches. These approaches should contribute to stability

and security for communities who have suffered from the impacts of land degradation and desertification as well as drought. In particular, they should be helping communities at risk or forced to abandon their homes due to insecurity deriving from environmental degradation.

While the Award does not carry a monetary prize, Award winners will receive an individually-tailored support package from the UNCCD secretariat to highlight their success stories, which includes: networking with interested organizations, profiling their initiatives nationally and internationally, and opportunities to showcase their award-winning actions at national and international events. The winners will also be requested to act as a “spokesperson” for achieving Land Degradation Neutrality at selected high-level policy-making sphere.

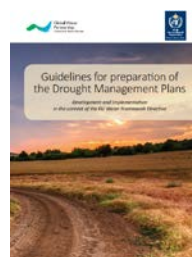
Please visit <http://www2.unccd.int/news-events/invitation-nominate-2017-land-life-award-candidates> for more information regarding the Award including the selection criteria and nomination procedure.





### 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>  
 South Asia Drought Monitoring System: <http://dms.iwmi.org/>