



Newsletter

Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network

January 2013 Issue

Special Topic

Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation



This Summary for Policymakers presents key findings from the Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX). It assesses scientific literature on issues that range from the

relationship between climate change, extreme weather and climate events to the implications of these events for society and sustainable development. It examines how exposure and vulnerability to weather and climate events determine impacts and the likelihood of disasters. It also considers the role of development trends in exposure and vulnerability, implications for disaster risk, and interactions between disasters and development.

The report discusses that confidence in projecting changes in the direction and magnitude of climate extremes depends on many factors, including the region and season, the amount and quality of observational data, the level of understanding of the underlying processes, and the reliability of their simulation in models. It gives the following recommendations:

- There is need to integrate disaster risk management (DRM) and adaptation into all social, economic, and environmental policy domains.
- There is need to reconcile decisions between short-term and long-term perspectives on DRM and adaptation to climate change.
- Governments and other relevant parties need to give an emphasis on post-disaster recovery and reconstruction which provide an opportunity for improving adaptive capacity.
- There is need for risk sharing and transfer mechanisms at local, national, regional, and global scales. This could increase resilience to climate extremes.
- There is need to give attention to the temporal and spatial dynamics of exposure and vulnerability when designing DRM strategies and policies.
- There is need for closer integration of DRM and climate change adaptation, along with the incorporation of both into local, subnational, national, and international development policies and practices.

For more information: http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/.

Contents

Special Topic: Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation	1
Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities	2
Event and Training Opportunities	4
Employment/Grant Opportunities	6
AADP Publications Information	8
Useful Links on Drought Status Updates	8

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 (DDC).

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

Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

Education and Natural Disasters

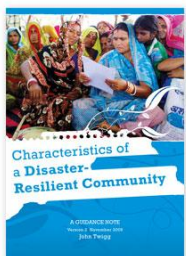


What is the relationship between education and natural disasters? Can education play a role in ameliorating and mitigating them, preparing people in how to respond, and even helping to prevent them? If so, how?

Drawing on research carried out in a number of different countries, including Australia, China, India, Japan, the UK and the USA, the contributors consider the role of education in relation to natural disasters. The case studies expand conceptual and empirical understandings of the understudied relationship between education and natural disasters, uncover the potential and the limitations of education for mitigating, responding to, and potentially preventing, natural disasters. The contributors also consider the extent to which so-called natural disasters, such as mudslides caused by deforestation and flooding areas built on known flood plains, are linked to human behaviour and how education can impact on these.

For more information: <http://www.bloomsbury.com/us/education-and-natural-disasters-9781441166999/>

Characteristics of a Disaster-Resilient Community



A group of agencies, including Practical Action, asked ourselves when we were discussing how to effectively monitor and evaluate our DFID funded disaster risk reduction (DRR) projects. As a result of this debate we commissioned John Twigg and a team of academics to design a resource tool to support us in this work.

The outcome has been the desk-based development of the Characteristics of a Disaster Resilient Community, a guidance note for government and civil society organizations working on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) initiatives at community level in partnership with vulnerable communities. It shows what a 'disaster-resilient community' might consist of, by setting out the many different elements of resilience. It also provides some ideas about how to progress towards resilience.

Based on literature from all over the world (including Spanish), the characteristics are multi hazard and subsequently highly comprehensive to cover different village settings and scenarios. The organisation of the characteristics is in synergy with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), which is especially relevant for those who are keen advocates to ensure that the HFA targets the most vulnerable at the community level.

This is the second edition of the Characteristics. It is based on desk research, discussions with experts and feedback from an extended period of field testing of the pilot edition by a number of agencies, and now contains more explanation of how it can be used, along with illustrative case studies.

The full report is available for download at: <http://practicalaction.org/disaster-resilient-community-2>.

Children's action for Disaster Risk Reduction: Views from Children in Asia



This publication provides children and youth in Asia a platform to report on progress made towards "the need to protect women, children and other vulnerable groups from the disproportionate impacts of disaster and to empower them to promote resiliency within their communities and workplaces" (as recognized in the declaration adopted in Incheon by the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2010) from their own point of view. Previous surveys conducted with children globally show that their views on local governance for disaster risk reduction often tend to be less positive than those of adults in all respects. This suggests that children have contributions to, or views about the process of improving local governance for disaster risk reduction which are unique to children but not yet being taken on board.

Thus this publication seeks to document the perspective of children from seven Asia countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) on how disasters and climate change affects their lives and their rights. It highlights their views on what they believe their role can be in addressing disaster risk and climate change in their community and what they are expecting from their government, NGOs and the private sector. By presenting their own experiences of participating in disaster risk reduction activities, it aims to highlight the capacity of children in order to inspire other children and youth, as well as encourage local governments, NGOs, and the private sector to support child-centered community risk reduction and climate change adaptation

The full report is available for download at: <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/29304>

Gender should be at the Heart of Climate Policies and Programmes



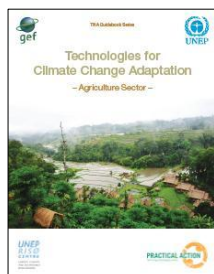
Among developing country decision-makers, there is little argument that the impacts of climate change are causing harm now. The effects are widely felt, from small island nations on the frontline of climate change, to densely populated deltas affected by sea level rise, from melting glaciers in mountain regions to drought- and storm-affected territories inland. Dozens of developing countries are taking action to adapt to the impacts of climate change and to embrace low carbon development paths, recognising the benefits of green growth for economic competitiveness and stability.

From all of these dimensions, climate change has particular implications for women. Women's wellbeing and life choices are profoundly influenced by social institutions: even without climate change impacts, they face gender inequalities which typically lead to higher rates of poverty and a deeper experience of poverty than among men. Climate change imposes resource scarcity that affects women deeply, especially in those areas where they are the primary farmers and managers of fuel wood and water.

Will we ensure that adaptation and mitigation do not leave women relatively worse off? Will we take this chance to protect and enhance women's and girls' life choices, making a better future for all? This publication outlines some of the initial steps the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) is taking to ensure that development is both climate compatible and fair to women and men.

View full document: <http://cdkn.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/CDKN-gender-and-cc-final.pdf>

Technologies for Climate Change Adaptation – Agriculture Sector



The agriculture sector faces the daunting challenge of providing adequate food and other necessities to a growing world population, which is projected to increase to nine billion by 2050. Since the agriculture sector is still one of the most important economic sectors in many developing countries – providing employment and the main source of income to the poor – it is not surprising that most developing countries are interested in technologies for adapting agriculture to climate change. Technologies and practices do exist, or have been developed in different parts of the world, to facilitate adaptation to climate change in the agriculture sector. These range from improved weather forecasts to water conservation, drip irrigation, sustainable soil management, better livestock management, and change in crop types and planting, among others. Some of these measures may need investment while the others primarily require improving awareness and building capacity to deal with new practices.

This guidebook provides information on 22 technologies and options for adapting to climate change in the agriculture sector. It describes what policy makers, development planners, agriculture experts and other stakeholders in countries should consider while determining a technology development path in agriculture. NGOs, rural communities and agricultural practitioners could examine and include appropriate options in their portfolios of technologies and options for agriculture. The guidebook is expected to stimulate further work on identifying options for climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector in different parts of the world.

The full report is available for download at: <http://www.nri.org/files/climate/tna-guidebook-adaptation-technologies-in-agri-sector-aug-2011.pdf>.

Event and Training Opportunities

5th Africa Drought Adaptation Forum – ADAF5 (Arusha, Tanzania; February 11-12, 2013)



Under the framework of the African Drought Risk and Development Network (ADDN), the UNDP-DDC and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's (UNISDR) Regional Office for Africa, are jointly organizing the 5th Africa Drought Adaptation Forum (ADAF5) in Arusha, Tanzania, February, 11-12, 2013. Since 2005 fora have been organized to create an enabling environment for knowledge sharing and to facilitate the up-scaling of proven practices among drought-prone countries, with an ultimate goal of mitigating the risks of drought, building resilience and improving human livelihoods in Africa.

The ADAF5 will feature methods and tools which measure the impact of drought risk reduction practices across the region. It will also provide practical examples regarding impact and cost-effectiveness of drought risk reduction measures. It will focus on and present elements of a standardized methodology and introduce broadly applicable indicators that evaluate and aggregate short and long-term changes and trends in drought resilience as a result of interventions in quantitative values, and tools to build strong evidence that drought risk reduction really works. The ADAF5 will be held back to back with the Fourth Africa Regional Platform for DRR. 44 Sub-Saharan African government Focal Points for DRR will be invited to attend both fora along with experts from UN agencies, NGOs, academic and technical institutions, national, regional intergovernmental institutions and the Africa Union.

For more information: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events/v.php?id=30143>.

Fourth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Arusha, Tanzania; February 13-15, 2013)



Africa Regional Platform for
Disaster Risk Reduction
Fourth Session, Arusha, Tanzania
13-15 February 2013

The African Union Commission in collaboration with the UNISDR will organize the Fourth Africa Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), to take place in Arusha Tanzania from 13 to 15 February in combination with the 5th Africa drought Adaptation Forum planned for 11-12 February 2013. The Africa Regional Platform for DRR, which is

facilitated by UNISDR, functions as the primary regional mechanism to support the implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies and programmes at regional, sub-regional and national levels, to monitor their progress and to facilitate coordination and information-sharing between governments, sub-regional organizations and UN agencies.

The 4th Africa Regional Platform for DRR meeting will focus on the progress made at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels in the implementation of Africa Strategy, Programme Action and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), facilitate tools and mechanisms to accelerate its implementation and initiate the dialogue for DRR post 2015 framework. The meeting will also serve as a consultation event for the up-coming Fourth Session of the Global Platform for DRR scheduled from 19-21 May, 2013, in Geneva, Switzerland.

For more information visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/africa>.

Disaster Risk Reduction in Emergencies Course (London, UK; February 11-15, 2013)



Amidst the context of global climate change and population growth, the number of natural and human-made emergencies every year has increased drastically in the past decade. Although floods, earthquakes, droughts, and other natural hazards cannot be prevented, their impact on communities can be limited through disaster risk reduction (DRR) practices.

The course examines reducing exposure to hazards, lessening vulnerability of people and property, wisely managing land and the environment, or improving preparedness for adverse events. Blending theory with practice, this workshop takes participants through good practices in the stages of the disaster risk management cycle and the commonly used terminology, frameworks, tools and approaches to effective DRR. The curriculum also covers a selection of global DRR documents and frameworks, including the United Nations-endorsed Hyogo Framework for Action and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) system.

For more information: <http://www.redr.org.uk/en/Training/find-a-training-course.cfm/url/DRRFEB13>.

3rd Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum (Incheon, Republic of Korea; March 18-20, 2013)



The 3rd Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum will be held on March 18-20, 2013, in Republic of Korea. The main theme of the forum will continue to be on “Mainstreaming Adaptation into Development” with a focus on key selected topics. The Forum is hosted by the

Korea Environment Institute in association with the Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change.

Successful adaptation to a changing climate needs sensible strategies that guide and learn from actions. The 3rd Adaptation Forum will assist decision-makers at all levels of government, in business and communities be more strategic and effective in addressing the challenges of development in a changing climate. It will provide excellent opportunities for a range of actors working in different sectors and systems to share their knowledge about successes, and failures, to effectively adapt to climate. The needs and interests of critical and neglected groups will be highlighted alongside the need for improving knowledge management. The mixture of plenary and panel discussions as well as diverse side-events will provide participants with an outstanding opportunity to interact and learn about the latest ideas and practices in mainstreaming adaptation. The key outcome of the 3rd Forum will be improved adaptation strategies and actions.

Find full information on: <http://www.apan-gan.net/>

Making Resilience a Reality: Concordia Theatre (Hague, Netherland; March 20-21, 2013)



Global Network
of Civil Society Organisations
for Disaster Reduction

The conference brings together network members, other civil society representatives, advisers and all those with a commitment to supporting community led resilience to learn from the Views from the Frontline findings, participate in discussions to formulate clear

recommendations for a post HFA and related frameworks, share in the launch of the next phase of Views from the Frontline based on Action and Learning and in the establishment of a new structure for the network to strengthen it at regional and national level.

The Global Network for Disaster Reduction invites you to participate in an international conference with the goals of:

1. Formulating recommendations for a post HFA framework based on the Views from the Frontline action research, regional and online consultations and conference workshop discussions;
2. Agreeing a Joint advocacy strategy to put forward these recommendations at national, regional and international forums such as the forthcoming Global Platform for DRR;
3. Establishing the next steps for views from the Frontline with the launch of the Action and Learning research programme; and
4. Presenting the proposed new structure for governance of the Global Network for Disaster Reduction.

For more information visit: www.globalnetwork-dr.org/news/370.html.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Program Director - Disaster Risk Reduction/Climate Change Adaptation (Closing date: January 12, 2013)



MercyCorps
Be the change

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) / Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Program Director will be responsible for providing leadership well as supervising and coordinating all aspects of program

implementation for Mercy Corps' DRR / CCA activities across the islands of Indonesia, primarily focused in Sumatra, Java, and Maluku. Based in Jakarta, Indonesia, the DRR/CCA Program Director works closely with the Director of Programs to coordinate program implementation and ensure inter-program learning and quality.

Mercy Corps Indonesia implements a series of integrated programs in urban Jakarta, Java, throughout Sumatra, and Maluku, in the sectors of nutrition and health, livelihoods/food security, access to financial services, water and sanitation, community development, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Cross-cutting themes emphasize community mobilization and participation, and working in partnership with and leveraging the resources of local government, local NGOs, and private sector partners.

Mercy Corps' programming in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation is expanding with a current portfolio of six programs in Java, Sumatra and Maluku. This growing portfolio has resulted in the need for the creation of the new Program Director position to oversee all these initiatives.

Find additional information at <http://www.mercycorps.org/>

Programme Specialist – Disaster Risk Reduction (Closing Date: January 21, 2013)



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

UNDP works closely with governments in high disaster-risk countries to build capacities at the national, sub-national and local levels for reducing disaster risk. A major role of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) is to support UNDP Country Offices in the formulation and implementation of programme and projects for disaster risk reduction. As part of this support, BCPR fields Disaster Risk Reduction Advisors (national or international) in selected high disaster-risk countries.

Based in Nouakchott, Mauritania, and under the overall authority of the RC-RR and the supervision of the Deputy Resident Representative (Programmes) of the Country Office and the technical supervision of the BCPR Regional CPR/ Disaster Reduction Advisor for West and Central Africa, the Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor is responsible for providing technical advice and strategic direction for the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction and recovery programmes at the country level. In particular, he/she is expected to:

- Distil lessons learned and good practices and share them with the CO, the UNCT, BCPR, the CPR Network and the wider disaster reduction community of practice (COP). Participate in regional and global practice development meetings on disaster risk reduction and recovery.
- Mentor UNDP/ UN system staff members and/ or project personnel working on disaster reduction issues
- Advocate, promote awareness and understanding of the links and mutually supportive goals and objectives of disaster reduction, sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- As appropriate, on behalf of UNDP/ UN system provide policy level advice to the host government in development of institutional, legislative and policy frameworks for disaster risk reduction and recovery.
- As needed, based on country level experience, provide inputs for the formulation of UNDP/ UN system policy, guidelines and practice notes on disaster risk reduction and recovery. Report on key trends in UNDP/ UN system programme portfolio at the country level and its policy implications.
- Facilitate advocacy efforts related to mainstreaming disaster reduction into UNDP/ UN system supported development initiatives in the country.

For more information visit: <http://unjobs.org/vacancies/1357610313492>



Guidelines and Lessons for Establishing and Institutionalizing Disaster Loss Database

This report documents the experiences of the UNDP Regional Programme on Capacity Building for Sustainable Recovery and Risk Reduction in implementing disaster loss databases using the DesInventar methodology. The Regional Programme has been established in response to the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, and is managed by the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok's Crisis Prevention and Recovery Team. DesInventar is based on a relational database structure and a disciplined expert assisted structure for data collection and classification that permits the homogeneous capture, analysis and graphic representation of information on disaster occurrences and losses. The findings from this review of database implementation concludes that disaster loss databases with validated data and inventories are essential for identifying and tracking patterns of disaster risk, and that they are a fundamental requirement for implementing efficient and effective DRR policies.



Technological Cooperation and Climate Change: Issues and Perspectives

A Consultation on "Technology Cooperation for Addressing Climate Change" was organized jointly by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF), Government of India and UNDP in India. This publication comprises commissioned papers which were presented and discussed at the consultation. The publication presents critical viewpoints related to climate change technologies and technology cooperation in order to highlight associated issues, challenges and opportunities. To this effect, it brings together perspectives for enabling more informed discussions on issues of technology cooperation for addressing climate change and is a significant contribution to national and global discussions on Climate Technology Cooperation Mechanism.

The full publications are both available for download at: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/>.

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/english/regional-integration/is/csc/>
 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>