



# AFRICA-ASIA DROUGHT RISK MANAGEMENT PEER ASSISTANCE NETWORKS

## Special Topic

November 2015 Issue

### Code for Resilience



Code for Resilience (CfR) is a multi-year global initiative supported by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the World Bank Group, and Code for Japan. It works with wide-ranging global partners from the public, private, community, and civic tech sector, aims to build communities' resilience to natural disasters through innovative uses of information and communication technologies. Through a series of virtual and in-person activities, CfR fosters collaboration around the development of relationships, ideas, and tools (both software and hardware) in improving community resilience. CfR focuses on the ability to identify risk, reduce the risks from, and respond to major natural disasters.

In 2014, over 1,000 software and hardware developers participated in 11 hackathon events in nine countries over the period of the initiative. They met with disaster risk management (DRM) experts to catalyze software and hardware innovations and created tech-based tools for specific disaster resilience challenges defined during community workshops and by the public. The resulting apps from these events range from support to rescuers during an emergency to a maternal health digitization tool. A global panel of judges then selected 10 finalists from more than 60 submitted apps. Some of the apps focus specifically on drought disasters.

Three grand prize winning teams include a mobile app from Indonesia that monitors floods, a Japanese app that focuses on evacuation maps, and another Indonesian app that informs the user in disaster situations using real-time location data. All the finalist and winning web tools and apps are available for review and use at <http://www.codeforresilience.org/apps>.

2015 CfR activities focus on:

- **The CfR Fellowship and Mentoring Program** to engage talented technologists further in building tools, communities, and capacity to improve communities' resilience to natural disasters; and
- **CfR coding events** to provide participants with basic training opportunities on DRM and product development, based on which teams are formed to work on their selected projects and proposals.

Please visit <http://www.codeforresilience.org/> for more information on CfR and its ongoing project – i.e., prototypes of applications designed by teams of hackers that address disaster resilience problem statements.

### Contents

<b>Special Topic: Code for Resilience</b>	<b>1</b>
Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities	2
Event and Training Opportunities	5
Positions and Grant Opportunities	6
AADP Publications Information	7
Useful Links on Drought Status Updates	7

### 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).

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



## Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

### ResilientAfrica Network



The ResilientAfrica Network (RAN) is a partnership of 20 African universities in 16 countries. It is led by Makerere University with Tulane University's Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy, Stanford University and the Center for Strategic and International Studies as partners. RAN aims to strengthen the resilience of communities to shocks and stresses, including climatic ones such as drought, by nurturing and scaling innovations from the different universities. It will apply science and technology to strengthen the resilience of African communities against natural and man-made stresses. The architecture of RAN in Africa consists of four Resilience Innovation Labs (RILabs). Each RILab has themes of focus as follows:

- **The Eastern Africa RILab** located in Uganda examines community resilience in the face of chronic conflict and displacement as well as climate change and variability;
- **The West Africa RILab** based in Ghana focuses on population growth and urbanization, from fast-growing cities and low-income settlements to refugee camps, working to understand local adaptive capacities;
- **The Horn of Africa RILab** located in Ethiopia examines the impact of drought and chronic displacement on local communities and regional dynamics; and
- **The Southern Africa RILab** based in South Africa concentrates on the impact of chronic disease, especially HIV/AIDS, on access to livelihood assets and understanding local adaptive strategies.

Please visit <http://www.ranlab.org/> to learn more about the RAN in general and activities by each RILab more specifically.

### Rainwater Harvesting Implementation Network



Rainwater Harvesting Implementation Network (RAIN) is an international network with the focus on making the concept and practice of rainwater harvesting familiar to people in areas that lack sufficient and safe water sources - women and children in particular – with special focus on Africa and Asia. Started in December 2003, RAIN focuses on field implementation of small-scale rainwater harvesting projects, capacity building of local organisations and knowledge exchange on a global scale.

More specifically, RAIN offers three services:

- **RAIN Advice:** we provide concrete advice on all elements of rainwater harvesting programmes and projects. No need for you to reinvent the wheel!
- **RAIN Intelligence or Knowledge:** we'll tell you everything you want and need to know about rainwater harvesting. And while we're at it, you can share your experiences with us. Work with us to spread the knowledge!
- **RAIN Implementation:** come and work with RAIN on rainwater harvesting and bring about real change on the ground. Together, we can develop and manage programmes and projects.

For further details on RAIN and its services on the ground, please visit <http://www.rainfoundation.org/>.



## Global Soil Partnership



**GLOBAL SOIL  
PARTNERSHIP**

The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) is an open, interactive, responsive and voluntary partnership, hosted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. It aims develop awareness and contribute to the development of capacities, build on best available science, and facilitate/contribute to the exchange of knowledge and technologies among stakeholders for the sustainable management and use of soil resources. The renewed recognition of the central role of soil resources as a basis for food security and their provision of key ecosystem services, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, has triggered numerous regional and international projects, initiatives and actions. Drought is part of the GSP's thematic foci, since agricultural drought is closely linked to the level of level of soil moisture for plant growth.

The GSP's five main pillars of action include:

- Promote sustainable management of soil resources for soil protection, conservation and sustainable productivity;
- Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education awareness and extension in soil;
- Promote targeted soil research and development focusing on identified gaps and priorities and synergies with related productive, environmental and social development actions;
- Enhance the quantity and quality of soil data and information: data collection (generation), analysis, validation, reporting, monitoring and integration with other disciplines; and
- Harmonize methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable soil resources management and protection.

Please visit <http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/en/> for more details on the GSP and its regional soil partnerships.

## El Niño Ready Nations



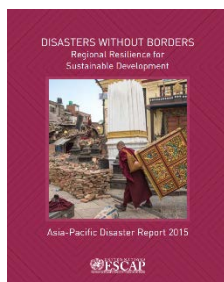
El Niño is a recurring phenomenon in the tropical Pacific Ocean, appearing on average at least once in a decade but often returning at 2-to-7 year intervals, generally lasting from 9 to 12 months or longer. A Nation whose government takes El Niño occurrences as serious quasi-periodic threats and seeks to enact policies to protect its citizens, their livelihoods, and properties—both public and private—can be considered an El Niño-ready nation (ENRN). It is a proactive approach to better prepare governments, National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services and civil societies for the adverse effects of the El Niño Southern Oscillation cycle and how to secure lives and livelihoods of individuals living countries most effected by El Niño and its weaker counterpart, La Niña.

ENRN website was developed and designed by the Consortium for Capacity Building, an educational, outreach, and networking organization at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Their main focus is on enhancing the value and use of climate, water, and weather information for the betterment of societies and the well-being of individuals and their livelihoods. ENRN websites provides timely information on El Niño related weather forecasting and climatic hazards, including drought. In the latest report, the number of food insecure people in East Africa region is expected to increase by 83%, from approximately 12 million people at the start of 2015, to 22.1 million people by the start of 2016, as a result of observed/anticipated heavy floods and drought sparked by the El Nino weather phenomenon.

For further details on ENRN, please visit <http://elninoreadynations.com/>.



## Disasters without Borders: Regional Resilience for Sustainable Development – Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2015

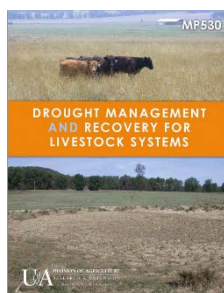


This flagship publication of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific provides an overview of the state of disaster resilience in Asia-Pacific region, and places disaster risk reduction at the heart of sustainable development. It identifies emerging new risks in the region and the sectors that are most at risk. The report focuses on cross-border disasters, such as earthquakes, droughts, tropical cyclones and floods, and highlights that only by coming together in the spirit of cooperation can the Asia-Pacific region hope to become truly disaster resilient.

The report identifies several neglected areas of disaster risk reduction that need to be addressed urgently. *Inter alia*, drought was described as a forgotten disaster in Asia-Pacific, generally receiving less attention from the media, policymakers and politicians due to its slow and silent nature, while pushing vast numbers of people into debt and poverty. Since 1970, across Asia and the Pacific drought has affected more than 1.6 billion people and cost an estimated \$53 billion in damage. The report shows how the impact can be mitigated by treating drought as a long-term, recurring risk. The report also analyses the value of early warning systems and maps out how to provide right information to right people at the right time. The report concludes that while investing in disaster risk reduction is proven cost effective, the political commitment has not transformed into adequate actions on the ground.

The full report is available for download at <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Full%20Report%20%20%5BLow-Res%5D.pdf>.

## Drought Management and Recovery for Livestock Systems



The drought of 2011-2012 in Arkansas, the United States of America, taught cattle producers some hard lessons. As the drought in Arkansas intensified, teams of animal science experts from the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture held workshops and conferences across the state to reach affected livestock operations as quickly as possible.

The information offered at those meetings formed the basis of the publication entitled “Drought Management and Recovery for Livestock Systems.” The team earned multiple awards for its emergency response, and the prize money from those awards helped fund the book’s printing.

The book includes chapters from experts in climatology, agricultural economics, veterinary medicine, forages and livestock including cattle, goats and horses. The book offers a comprehensive look at tactics to manage through drought and recovery when the rain falls again, many of which could be applicable in the contexts of Africa and Asia. For example, the book provides the detailed explanations on the measures and the approaches to feed livestock species and maintain water for livestock both in quality and quantity.

The full report is available for download at <http://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/mp530.pdf>.



## Event and Training Opportunities

### Understanding Risk and Finance Conference (17-20 November, 2015; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)



The Understanding Risk and Finance conference represents a global forum for policy makers and financial sector experts to discuss effective strategies and approaches in mitigating the socio-economic, fiscal, and financial impacts of disasters, including drought. Under the overarching theme of *building financial resilience of African nations and communities to climate and disaster risks*, the conference will address the key topics of disaster risk assessment tools and applications,

financing tools and approaches available to policy-makers, and a discussion of the opportunities and challenges associated with efforts to strengthen financial resilience against disasters in the region.

The conference also aims to introduce some 300 attendees to the Understanding Risk (UR) Community of Practice, a global network of approximately 3,300 members from more than 120 countries, among them members of Governments, regional institutions, the financial and insurance sector, international organizations, and academia. UR community members share knowledge and experience, collaborate, and discuss innovation and best practice in risk assessment and are brought together every 2 years through the UR Forums.

For more information regarding the Understanding Risk and Finance conference, please visit <https://www.understandrisk.org/urfinance>. Please also visit <https://www.understandrisk.org/> for further details on the UR.

### 7th International Conference on Integrated Natural Disaster Management (15-16 February, 2016; Tehran, Iran)



7th International Conference on Integrated Natural Disaster Management (INDM) will bring together Iranian and international experts in risk and disaster management in Tehran, Iran in February 2016. The conference will cover a broad range of topics - in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 - from the need for an improved understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of exposure, vulnerability and hazard characteristics, to the strengthening of disaster risk governance, avoidance of creation of new risks, climate change adaptation, GEO-information, disaster medicine, and socio-economic vulnerability. The main disasters of focus at the conference include, among others, earthquakes, floods, droughts, landslides, and hurricanes.

The international cross-sectoral conference will focus on four priority areas for action:

- Understanding disaster risk;
- Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
- Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience; and
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

For further details concerning the 7<sup>th</sup> INDM conference, please visit <http://www.un-spider.org/news-and-events/events/7th-international-conference-integrated-natural-disaster-management>.





## Positions and Grant Opportunities

---

### Resilience Programme Team Leader – Concern Worldwide (Closing date: 11 November 2015)



Concern Worldwide is leading a Consortium which is bidding for the Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) component of the United Kingdom Department for International Development's Building Disaster Resilience in Pakistan Programme (BDRP). The CBDRM component of the programme is aimed at helping communities to mitigate and prepare for disasters, including drought, floods and earthquakes, with improved

early warning systems, risk information, community level response mechanisms, improved linkages with Disaster Management Authorities and community based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures.

The Team Leader will head the Programme Implementation Unit and will be responsible and accountable for the overall management and oversight of the programme including: overseeing the contracts management and implementation, risk management and financial accountability, external representation and relationship management with the donor, consortium members and government counterparts, and ensuring compliance with Concern and donor's policies and procedures. S/he will be responsible to provide direction and support to the team, and technical leadership to ensure high quality programming to achieve programme results.

Please visit <https://jobs.concern.net/VacancyDetail.aspx?VacancyUID=000000002453> for further details of the position and the application procedure.

---

### Science Officer – Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (Closing date: 22 November 2015)



Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) is a decade-long research programme, dealing with the challenges brought by natural disasters, including drought disasters, mitigating their impacts, and improving related policy-making mechanisms. The International Programme Office, located within the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, is the focal point for the coordination and promotion of the Integrated

Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) programme. The IRDR Science Officer will be able to operate in an international environment at the interface of science, practice and policy-making, including interactions with the UN and other regional organisations.

More specifically, the IRDR Science Officer will monitor the development and implementation IRDR's core projects and other related programme activities and help prepare annual reports, background papers, and write inputs to publications and websites. He/she will also act as a focal point for the broad IRDR community and provide substantive support in planning and executing IRDR meetings.

Please visit <http://www.irdrinternational.org/opportunities/jobs-science-officer/>

---

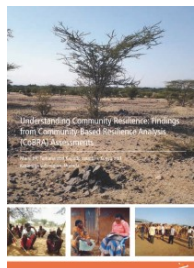


### Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) Conceptual Framework and Methodology (2014)

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/](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/](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>