



REPORT OF THE

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Sub-regional Platform: Mainstreaming & Implementing DRR into Development Frameworks in the SADC Region

28 to 29 November 2013

**Gaborone International Convention Centre
Gaborone, BOTSWANA**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Disaster Risk Reduction Unit (DRRU) would like to express their gratitude to the European Union (EU) for funding the Regional Political Cooperation Programme; under which the workshop was held. We are also grateful to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) for their support to workshop participants and technical assistance during the workshop.

We are particularly grateful to Dr. Alexander Phiri, Dr. Lius Artur, Dr. Bernard Manyena and Sara Welsh who conducted national studies for DRR Mainstreaming in Malawi, Mozambique and Southern African sub-region respectively. The results of their studies immensely enriched the dialogue on mainstreaming and implementing DRR in the SADC Sub-region.

Special thanks go to participants from Member States for their invaluable contributions to the work of the SADC DRRU, in particular for their participation at the Sub-regional Platform on Mainstreaming & Implementing DRR into Development Frameworks in the SADC Region.



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I. Introduction and Background

The Secretariat of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) through the EU funded Regional Political Cooperation Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly organized the Meeting of Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Subregional Platform. The meeting took place from 28 to 29 November 2013 at the Grand Palm Hotel in Gaborone, Botswana.

The sub-regional platform for Southern Africa was established in 2010. This is a forum to bring together DRR practitioners and stakeholders to discuss the implementation of the regional DRR programme for the SADC sub-region. The establishment of this platform is as a result of a workshop held on Mahe Island in Seychelles. It brought together participants from government departments managing DRR institutions and programmes in Member States, the UN and cooperating partners working in the SADC region, donors, NGOs and the private sector participants. The set-up and governance structure of the platform were agreed at the aforementioned 2010 workshop, and the SADC DRR Unit was mandated to serve as the Secretariat for the sub-regional platform. The Southern Africa sub-regional Platform on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction held on the 28-29 November 2013 was the second meeting of the platform since its establishment.

Disasters are increasing in number, frequency and severity in Africa. This is due to the escalation of hazards such as drought and floods in particular. The high vulnerability of the people and economies of the region is also a major factor leading the high frequency and intensity of disasters in Southern Africa. The projected escalation of meteorological-related hazards as a result of climate change is set to heighten the incidence and worsen the impacts of the associated disasters in the region. Despite the significant impact of natural disasters on Africa's core development sectors, such as agriculture, energy, health, infrastructure, education, as well as environment, disaster risk reduction (DRR) continues to be inadequately integrated into development policies and strategies at various levels in the region. The consequence is that every disaster occurrence results in enormous set back on food security, economic growth, poverty reduction and overall progress towards sustainable development.

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) emphasizes the need for countries to systematically integrate disaster risk reduction, as appropriate, into development policies and planning at all levels, including in poverty reduction strategies and sectors and multi sector policies and plans. The African Regional Strategy for DRR (ARSDRR), and the Programme of Action (POA) for the Implementation of the Strategy (2006-2015) provide the policy framework for disaster risk reduction in Africa. The aim of the ARSDRR is to contribute to the attainment of sustainable development and poverty eradication by facilitating the integration of DRR into development. Against the backdrop of increasing incidences, severity and scale of natural disasters, it is crucial to render greater momentum to achieve effective mainstreaming of DRR as a core development



priority within regional, sub-regional and national development policies, programmes and strategies and ensure effective implementation of DRR interventions.

It is in this context that the meeting of the Southern Africa Community DRR platform focusing on the theme of “Mainstreaming and Implementing DRR in SADC sub-region” was organized. This theme was selected in order to promote integrated and wide stakeholder actions to translate the various DRR frameworks already adapted at sub-regional and national levels, to concrete on the ground results for the achievement of resilience and ensure sustainable development. Moreover, the meeting is also taking place at a time when consultations are underway towards the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) as called for by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/199. In this regard, the theme provides scope to reflect on the progress in the implementation of HFA 1 and identify SADC’s priorities for HFA 2.

II. Objectives of the Workshop

The main objective of the workshop was to promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction (DRR) into development frameworks, and to enhance implementation of DRR interventions at all levels. The specific objectives were to:

- (i) Enhance understanding among participants from SADC Member States on mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Southern Africa development planning process in order to build capacities to achieve a disaster resilient development;
- (ii) Facilitate the sharing of good practices, including tools and approaches as well as lessons learned at various levels that will contribute to strengthening capacities for DRR mainstreaming and implementation in Southern Africa. In this connection, the meeting discussed findings of the assessment reports on the status of DRR Mainstreaming in Malawi, Mozambique and SADC Subregion; and
- (iii) Provide a platform for SADC and its Member States to consult on the implementation of HFA1, identify articulate and agree on the subregion’s inputs to HFA-2 arrangements. These consultations on HFA-2 arrangement were intended to help the SADC Secretariat to provide inputs to the development of the Africa Position by March 2014.

III. Workshop Proceedings

The workshop was attended by about 50 national level policy makers and experts from leading institutions on disaster risk reduction as well as from ministries/agencies responsible finance or planning, agriculture, land, local government, rural development and meteorology, from SADC member States and the Secretariat. The African Union Commission was represented in the

platform. Experts from universities in the sub-region also attended the meeting. UN agencies namely ECA, UNISDR, UNDP and OCHA were also represented in the meeting.

The representatives of SADC Secretariat – DRR Unit, UNDP, UNECA and UNISDR delivered opening remarks, welcoming participants to the workshop. The official welcome and opening of the workshop was done by Titus Makosha, Deputy Secretary General of the Botswana Red Cross Society, representing the host country.

In order to realize the set objectives, the meeting entailed plenary presentations and discussion as well as focused group work on the topics clustered under the following main sessions:

- (i) DRR Mainstreaming: the concept, process, progress and good practices;
- (ii) Scaling up DRR Mainstreaming in SADC: the road map;
- (iii) Reviewing the implementation of HFA-1
- (iv) Consultation on the formulation of the HFA-2 framework.

IV. Major conclusions, recommendations and way forward

Participants’ understanding and knowledge of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction interventions into development frameworks was enhanced. In addition the workshop provided inputs to enrich the national and sub-regional assessment reports on DRR mainstreaming and implementation for Malawi, Mozambique and the SADC sub-region. SADC sub-region has made progress in the implementation of HFA-1, however the subregion is confronted with major challenges which should be addressed to accelerate implementation. The platform therefore identified priority actions to enhance HFA-1 implementation. In the context of the HFA-2, the meeting agreed on SADC priorities to feed into the Africa position on HFA-2. The following are the main recommendations and actions on the various subthemes of the meeting.

A. *Scaling-up DRR Mainstreaming in SADC*

- (i) Subregional and national level training (Training of Trainers) on DRR mainstreaming should be carried out to create awareness and build a critical mass of cross-sectoral experts to promote the mainstreaming of DRR into sector policies, plans and programmes. This should be informed by capacity needs assessment.
- (ii) Guidelines for Subregional and National level guidelines for DRR mainstreaming should be developed and disseminated.
- (iii) DRR focal points/liaison units should be established within priority SADC departments and national sector ministries as well as agencies to facilitate DRR mainstreaming into subregional and nation development frameworks.
- (iv) Cross-boarder hazards and risks need to be addressed. The SADC Secretariat capacity to identify and support countries in collectively reducing and managing such risks should be strengthened.



- (v) The capacity of the SADC Secretariat and Member States should be strengthened to generate and disseminate strategic information to support advocacy and promote mainstreaming DRR into sectoral policies, plans and programmes.
- (vi) Documentation and dissemination of tools, methodologies and good practices on DRR mainstreaming should be enhanced to enable learning and support DRR mainstreaming by sector ministries and agencies. Cross-country sharing of experiences should be facilitated by the SADC Secretariat.
- (vii) SADC Secretariat should play a major role in mobilizing and coordinating provision of technical support to assist countries in mainstreaming and implementation of DRR.
- (viii) Ministries responsible planning and finance should facilitate allocation of finance in support of DRR mainstreaming and implementation.
- (ix) A SADC plan of action on DRR mainstreaming as part of the broader SADC DRR PoA should be developed, supported and implemented. This should draw on the priority actions (on the various mainstreaming spheres) identified during the platform meeting.
- (x) The SADC Secretariat should mobilize various partners, including UN Agencies, the World Bank/GFDRR and other development partners to support the implementation of the Mainstreaming Plan of Action.

B. Accelerating implementation of HFA1 priority areas in Southern Africa

- (i) *Ensure that DRR is a national and local priority with strong institutional basis for implementation*
 - Strengthen existing Subregional, National and subnational DRR coordination mechanisms in the SADC Subregion.
 - Develop capacity Subregional and national capacities on Disaster Risk Reduction
 - Advocate for more funding for DRR in Southern Africa
 - Provide clear budget line in lines ministries and sectors for DRR activities
 - Strengthen Local Governments and community organizations on DRR
- (ii) *Identify, assess and monitor disaster risk, enhance early warning*
 - Enhance Early warnings through technological innovation
 - Support risk mapping to identify and address vulnerabilities and build resilience
 - Adopt multi-hazard approach on DRR through establishment of integrated multi-hazard early warning systems
- (iii) *Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of Safety and resilience at all levels*

- Promote advocacy for DRR at all levels
 - Develop robust community level communication strategy
 - Promote DRR championship in different sectors
- (iv) *Reduce the underlying risk factors*
- Support Member States in developing Social Protection Policies addressing DRR
 - Advocate for Public-Private Partnerships in DRR
 - Support sectoral capacity building on mainstreaming DRR at all levels
- (v) *Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels*
- Prioritize DRR in emergency preparedness and response
 - Support SADC Member States to strengthen their capacities on Disaster preparedness and response
 - Support the SADC Secretariat to establish a functional Regional Emergency Response Team
 - Support SADC Member States to develop and simulate Contingency Plans
 - Develop and adopt cross border DRR Strategies and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)



C. *SADC priorities for HFA-2*

- Climate change and climate variability should be properly mainstreamed into DRR
- Promote Resilience delivery systems (safe schools, safe hospitals, etc.)
- Pursue Public-Private Partnership for DRR
- Promote Social Protection and social networks to address underlying risk factors
- Promote Risk Analysis and promote technology transfer on green infrastructure development
- Develop and implement monitoring and evaluation systems to enhance accountability for DRR
- Support and promote Risk Transfer
- Develop funding mechanisms to support acceleration of DRR mainstreaming at all levels
- Support Risk governance with strong component of community delivery systems
- Clearly define funding lines and linkages between DRR, climate change adaptation and Climate resilience
- Strengthen urban planning and risk governance including good regulation and enforcement
- Enforce legal national framework implementation to protect infrastructure (fisheries, tourism and offshore)
- Adopt DRR inclusive approach with involvement of Local experts on DRR
- Address environment/ecosystem degradation (mining, industries)
- More public education on DRR at community level
- Take into consideration urban and emerging risk and invest on rural develop to address urban risk
- Promote and piloting local innovation and technologies to address DRR related issues
- Harmonize and promote conventional and indigenous knowledge
- Support capacity building in Education for DRR as a tool of mainstreaming
- Shift from institutional development to infrastructure development
- More awareness and education of population and communities in most at risk urban areas
- Regional Institutions to be more active on promoting good risk governance through increased of technical capabilities of practitioners and decision makers.
- Develop targets and indicators on DRR
- Strengthen DRR decentralization to empower local authorities on DRR
- Strengthen research application and sharing of scientific and indigenous knowledge on DRR
- Consider DRR as opportunities for a better development
- Promote information sharing and dissemination of good practices
- Take into consideration technological hazards in the HFA 2 Frameworks.



D. Way - Forward

The meeting agreed on the following follow-up actions and way-forward to realizing the above recommendations:

- (i) Participants, representatives of DRR and other lead agencies to provide the three consultants (on Mainstreaming DRR – Malawi, Mozambique & SADC sub-region) with additional comments and inputs to the reports.
- (ii) SADC Secretariat to work jointly with UNDP, ECA and UNISDR to formulate the SADC mainstreaming plan of action based on the priority actions identified during the meeting and share with the member States for comment and inputs.
- (iii) The SADC DRR Unit should further conduct consultations with member States and partners on the HFA-2, and consolidate the SADC position for presentation to the African Working Group Meeting on DRR in March 2014.

V. Conclusion

The SADC Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Sub-regional Platform enhances the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation's contribution to SADC's vision. Specifically, the workshop is one of the SADC DRRU's strategic initiatives to execute the Organ's mandate of enhancing regional capacity in respect of disaster management and coordination of international humanitarian assistance. This further contributes directly to the SADC/European Union Contribution Agreement on Regional Political Cooperation with specific focus on Key Result Area 3 of; enhanced regional capacity in respect of disaster risk reduction, disaster management as well as coordination and support of humanitarian assistance.

The platform facilitated advocacy work and dialogue on mainstreaming of DRR in the SADC Region. It also served as a ground breaking forum for consultations on SADC position /agenda for HFA-2. Finally, the platform contributed to capacity building for Member States on DRR Mainstreaming.



Annex 1: List of participants

SADC DRR Mainstreaming 28-29 November 2013, Gaborone									
Participants									
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N.B. Congo DRC participants did not attend the meeting

Annex 2: Workshop Programme



SADC Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Sub-regional Platform on Mainstreaming & Implementation of DRR in the SADC Sub-Region

Gaborone, Botswana. 28 - 29 November 2013

Day 1: Thursday, 28 November 2013

08:30-09:30 *Registration*

09:30-10:30 **Session I: Opening of the meeting**

- Welcome Remarks by SADC Secretariat
- Remarks by UN Agencies
- Opening Statement by Botswana Red Cross Society
- Introduction and objectives of the workshop by SADC Secretariat

10:30-10:45 *Tea/Coffee Break*

10:45-13:00 **Session II: Mainstreaming and implementation of disasters Risk Reduction interventions**

- Mainstreaming of DRR in development frameworks – the process tools and good practices - *UNDP*
- Mainstreaming DRR interventions – overview and expectations from the Joint ECA-UNISDR Project - *ECA*
- Discussions

13:00-14:00 *Lunch*

14:00-16:00 **Session II: Continued**

- Presentation of the Assessment reports on mainstreaming and implementation of the DRR interventions (progress, good practices and lessons learned)
ECA/UNISDR

- Malawi *Dr. Phiri*
- Mozambique *Dr. Artur*
- SADC sub-region *Dr. Manyena*

- Discussion

16:00-16:15 Tea/Coffee Break

16:15-18:00 Session III: Road map for scaling up DRR mainstreaming in the SADC Subregion

- Discussion of the road map and way forward in scaling up DRR Mainstreaming in the SADC Subregion - *SADC Secretariat*

Day 2: Friday, 29 November 2013

09:00-11:00 Session IV: Accelerating Implementation of HFA1 and SADC Position on the post-2015 Global Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (HFA2)

- Overview and accelerating implementation of HFA1 and expectations for the Post-2015 Global Disaster Reduction Framework (HFA2) - *UNISDR*
- SADC Subregional progress in DRR and priorities for SADC position on HFA 2 - *SADC Secretariat*

11:00-11:15 Tea/Coffee Break

11:15-13:00 Session IV: Continued

- Discussions on the SADC expectation and position on HFA 2 - *SADC Secretariat*

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Session V: Consideration and Adoption of Key Conclusions and Recommendations of the Meeting - *SADC Secretariat and partners*

15:30-15:45 Tea/Coffee Break

15:45-16:30 Session VI: Closing of the meeting - *SADC Secretariat and partners*

