

[Country Sheet II: European Commission]

Comprehensive Support from Disaster Prevention to Disaster Relief and Recovery Assistance

1.1. Disaster Prevention

- The **10th EDF ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR)** supported **Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation activities in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries through technical assistance, capacity development and advisory/analytical work.** It sought to prevent, mitigate and enhance preparedness to natural hazards at regional, sub-regional, national and local levels in ACP countries along priority areas: (i) Mainstreaming of DRR; (ii) Risk identification and assessment; (iii) Early warning systems and communication on DRR; and (iv) Risk transfer and integration of DRR into post-disaster recovery
- The **11th EDF Intra-ACP Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Programme** is a concrete example of a coordinated response to reduce the impact of natural hazards and disasters, including those related to climate change and biological hazards, and on increasing overall resilience in 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.
- The **Global Climate Change Alliance+ (GCCA+)** has also for more than a decade supported communities in adapting to climate change by promoting sustainable livelihoods to reduce poverty, natural resource-depletion and disaster risk. EU GCCA+ commitments make it one of the largest climate initiatives in the world. Several projects under the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) umbrella have tackled DRR more specifically, such as the **Scaling-up Pacific Adaptation (SUPA)** project or the **Pacific Adaptation Climate Change and Resilience (PacRes)** project.
- The **Up-Scaling Community Resilience through Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) project** features scalable, community-based models of Ecosystem-based DRR in five countries- Ethiopia, Uganda, Haiti, India and Indonesia- and promotes the upscaling of community models and enhance community resilience by restoring the degraded ecosystems, improving livelihoods, and reducing climate risks with a strong women engagement and also

linking them to national policies or programme. The programme has been working since 2013 and it is currently in its second phase.

- The **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** has been working closely with its members, including the EU, and SIDS representatives in setting up Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS). Launched in 2021 at COP26 during the World Leaders Summit, IRIS is a dedicated initiative to achieve sustainable development through a systemic approach to promote resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in SIDS.
- The EU allocates more than €75 million of its annual humanitarian funding to targeted disaster preparedness actions. This includes investments in early warning systems, monitoring and building national and local capacities for response. In 2023, the EU is allocating invested €78 million to disaster preparedness actions. The EU also aims to mainstream disaster preparedness across all its humanitarian actions..

1.2. Disaster Relief and Recovery Assistance

- Over the last decade, the EU has supported various disaster risk financing activities. These include for example the **Global Partnership on Disaster Risk Financing Analytics project** and the **Africa Disaster Risk Financing Initiative (ADRF)** which were both implemented by the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).
- Under the 11th EDF **Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Programme** some specific actions aim to strengthen disaster risk financing and insurance response to the impact of natural hazards:
 - A **grant to the African Risk Capacity (ARC)**, a specialised agency of the African Union (AU) currently assisted by the World Food Programme (WFP), will provide member states of the ARC with capacity building services, contingency planning and a risk pooling and transfer facility. The Action will leverage on synergies with the programme "Strengthening disaster risk responses to food crises in African countries through the Global Network Against Food Crises", signed in January 2020.
 - In the Pacific, the programme **Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific – Phase II (BSRP II)** implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) will increase the availability of risk financing tools and strategies in targeted countries in the Pacific.

- In the Caribbean, a financial contribution to the **Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF)** under the Caribbean-EU partnership on the Green Deal in the framework of the new Euroclima Caribbean Programme is foreseen, to be financed from the Caribbean Regional programme. The aforementioned Caribbean Resilience Programme will also enhance the capacity of Caribbean region in developing disaster risk financing and strategies.
- The newly launched **Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience** in Africa will also promote **Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI)** mechanisms to protect vulnerable populations against residual risks, with a contribution to the **Global Shield against Climate Risks**.
- Furthermore, the EU has been supporting local governments' access climate finance via the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL). LoCAL helps local government authorities in developing and least developed countries including SIDS access the climate finance, capacity development and technical support they need to respond and adapt to climate change. Climate and weather-related events requiring humanitarian assistance are intensifying. As a result, the EU humanitarian budget allocated for disasters caused by natural hazards has steadily grown over the years, integrating dedicated programmes and tools. The Emergency Toolbox is dedicated to emergency response outside of the EU. It is designed to rapidly respond to emergencies and provide first-line funding in the aftermath of a crisis. Within the Toolbox there are various mechanisms for disaster response. **ALERT (Acute Emergency Response Tool)** responds to large scale hazards and technological disasters and allocates funds within 24-48 hours. The **Small-scale tool** assists a limited number of people affected by a natural or human disaster. The **Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF)** belongs to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The EU contributes to this fund up to €200,000 per action. In 2022, €29.5 million was provided through the toolbox mechanisms.
- The Copernicus Emergency Management Service, which provides information for emergency response and disaster risk management, counts with the "On Demand Mapping component", which provides detailed information for selected emergency situations that arise from disasters. It can provide geospatial information in the immediate aftermath of a disaster or

supply this type of information to disaster risk activities for prevention, preparedness and recovery phases.

2. Promoting the Development of Early Warning Systems

2.1 Capacity Building and Development of Meteorological Observation Equipment and 2.2. Cooperation with International Organizations

- Several actions on EWS have been funded by INTPA in the past years across developing countries, with a strong focus on ACP countries, LDCs and SIDS. Examples of ongoing INTPA programmes include:
 - **CLIMSA - Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications programme:** we are supporting access to climate information and capacity strengthening of Regional Climate Centres to ultimately improve the provision of early warnings, and climate- and enhance risk-informed decision making in ACP countries
 - **CREWS – Climate Risks and EWS**, a contract with the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) of the WB has just been signed. This contract includes a contribution to CREWS ;
 - **GMES - Global Monitoring for Environment & Security (GMES) & Africa programme** focuses on the information services value chain in 45 African countries, including early warnings for coastal areas, through the Earth Observation data provided by Copernicus. Examples of actions implemented under the programme include marine and coastal areas management in Western Africa to monitor coastal vulnerability and ocean’s health and the coastal ecosystems mapping in northern Africa (Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia).
 - **Copernicus** – the EU has a few ongoing initiatives linking Copernicus Earth Observation data and services with institutional and **private** users in developing countries.
 - As part of the intra-ACP Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Programme in the Pacific, **the Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific (BSRP) – phase II** action provides reliable disaster and climate risk data to feed EWS and enhance preparedness and prevention.

- In addition, INTPA is designing with partners, including EU Member States, further actions in support of the **United Nation's Global Early Warnings for All initiative**, namely:
 - The **TEI on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in Africa** (EUR 1 billion) is comprised of 4 pillars: (1) Support collection, analysis, and aggregation of and access to risk data and support to regional and national early warning systems and mechanisms; (2) Strengthen policy, governance and risk-informed decisions; (3) Enhanced access to climate adaptation finance; and (4) Strengthen Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance solutions for Africa through e.g. enhancing the Global Shield against Climate Risks. **Support to early warning systems, is being addressed under pillars 1 and 2.**
 - The **Space and Earth Observation in Africa flagship** will leverage EU Space and Earth Observation Programmes such as Copernicus to support risk-informed, evidence-based and inclusive development in the Green Transition. It currently includes three pillars: (1) Space Dialogue, (2) Space and Earth Observation-based environmental services, and (3) Boosting the African private sector in the Space and Earth Observation fields. Support to key elements of the hydro meteorological services value chain, in particular observing and monitoring of weather, climate and water phenomena. **Support to early warning systems is envisaged under Pillar 2.**
 - The Sub-Saharan Africa Programme **Scientific and Technological Support to Regional Centres of Excellence related to Green Transition** includes climate and disaster resilience as one of the main priority areas. Through continued support to Regional Climate Centres, Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres, or regional situation rooms and other institutions this Programme would also support early warning.

- Under the **Copernicus programme**, the EU supports countries in the assessment of natural hazards by complementing their early warning and information systems in real-time. These tools contribute to early analysis and actions through early warnings. The **Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System** provides alerts and estimates the impacts of earthquakes, tsunamis, tropical cyclones, floods, volcanoes, and droughts worldwide.
 - The **European and Global Flood Awareness Systems** provides overview maps of flood probabilities up to 15 or 30 days in advance as well as seasonal streamflow outlooks..
 - The **European and Global Forest Fire Information Systems** forecast meteorological fire danger and provide near real-time information on active fires and burnt areas.

- The **European and Global Drought Observatories** give information on drought risks in Europe and worldwide, including meteorological indicators, soil moisture anomalies, vegetation stress, and low river flows.

3. Other Cross-Sectional Activities

3.1 Knowledge Sharing

- Many DRR programmes supported by the EU have knowledge sharing component. Some specific examples would include for example:
 - In January 2021, a **Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Disasters and Climate Resilience** was launched on the edX platform (available until December 2022). It aims to inform people about the value of NbS in combatting the climate crisis as well as to call them to action. The course has been developed by UNEP experts and the Partnership of Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDDR); thanks to support from the EU. The course has brought together **60,000+ participants and 190+ countries**.
 - Under the **Making Cities Sustainable and Resilient: Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 at the local level programme** with UNDRR and UN-Habitat, **eleven capacity building and knowledge sharing workshops were organized at the global and regional levels**, including four kick-off workshops in each region, one global Training of Trainer programme, five regional sharing of experience and one global experience sharing workshop at the end of the Action. Additional to this, at least 59 workshops and many more meetings and consultations were held in each beneficiary city throughout the implementation period, involving more than **1,972 participants from various government and non-government sectors**.

3.2 Contribution to the United Nations and Multilateral Frameworks

- The EU is collaborating with a range of UN bodies and agencies such as UNDRRR, UNDP, WMO, UNEP or UN-Habitat, just to cite a few. See examples outlined in the sections above.
- The EU participates at different multilateral frameworks at continental, regional and national

level.

- As part of the Global Gateway, the EU Commission is working with several EU MS to develop and roll out Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) with strong resilience and DRR components.

3.3 Promotion of Climate Disaster related Services and Technologies

- See 2.1. Capacity Building and Development of Meteorological Observation Equipment