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Guidance Notes for Caritas
Africa Member Organizations

June 2021

A Guide to Advocacy in Disaster Risk Reduction Preparedness and Governance.

Hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor (Laudato Si, 49).

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PREFACE



“God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth” (Genesis 1:28)

Pope Francis in the Encyclical *Laudato Si*, encourages us to integrate questions of justice in the debates of the environment so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor (LS 49).

Rooted in the Gospel and in the Catholic Social Teaching, Caritas Africa makes the preferential option for the poor a fundamental principle in its work to witness the love of God to people in precarious situations in which Jesus Christ has identified himself. As indicated in its 2019-2023 Strategic plan, the advocacy work of Caritas Africa responds to challenges in Africa by promoting the integral, sustainable and inclusive development of populations within its region.

An online survey conducted in 2020, by Caritas Africa in collaboration with CAFOD established that key disasters in Africa region are: floods, drought, conflict, epidemic such as Cholera and Ebola), Insect infestation such as the desert locusts), cyclones, landslides, and earthquakes. In response to disasters within their respective countries, Caritas Africa Member organizations are involved in a number of Disaster Prevention Initiatives and Disaster Risk Reduction activities such as; the development and management of water resources, reforestation, distribution of drought resistant seeds and crops, involvement in humanitarian watch, collecting and sharing disaster alerts with multi-stakeholders, facilitation of training sessions on community managed disaster risk reduction, development of Emergency Preparedness and Response plans and conducting advocacy targeting local and national Governments.

The teachings of the Catholic Church on solidarity, call on us to be concerned and responsible for the well-being of neighbours. To effectively do this, we have to understand the social justice issues behind the challenges that we face in Disaster Risk Management. As we promote justice and peace through nexus approaches, we should encourage the full participation of the local communities economic, social and political life.

It is my sincere hope that this guidebook will be instrumental in the integration of advocacy in our Disaster Risk Management initiatives in Africa Region. We encourage all the 46 National Caritas Organisations and all 506 Diocesan Caritas Organisations to pilot the use of this document as an expression of solidarity with the local communities whom we accompany in our humanitarian, development and peace initiatives.

On behalf of Caritas Africa, I express my sincere appreciation to Caritas Australia for providing financial and technical support that enabled us to produce this Advocacy in Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction guide which will be instrumental in staff capacity building

We thank the team of consultants who led the authorship of this guide: Mary Wachira, Team Leader, Program & HR Management Expert, Miriam Ningome, CMDRR, Gender and Social Inclusion Expert and Rahab Ngumba, Business and Organization Development Expert.

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We commit to provide our support to use this guide at all levels of Caritas Africa to see a significant reduction of disasters in Africa in-terms of lives saved, livelihoods safe guarded and a protected environment. We encourage the local communities to take charge of their environment and hold the government and all relevant authorities including civil society and private sector to account on the need for Disaster Risk Reduction, Preparedness and Good Governance.

Mr. Albert Mashika

Regional Executive Secretary

Caritas Africa

PREAMBLE

Caritas Africa is the network of 46 National Member Organizations (MOs) in 46 sub-Saharan African countries including islands in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. It is the socio-pastoral arm of the Catholic Church and one of the seven regions of the Caritas Internationalis Confederation. At the sub-national level, the Caritas network in Africa is represented by 507 Diocesan Caritas organisations. They are part of the local communities they serve, and focus on human development, peace building and economic justice, while practically responding to some of the world's largest and most complex humanitarian emergencies.

Through its Regional office, Caritas Africa is well positioned to utilize various platforms at the regional, national, and sub-national levels to influence legislation and -through the Church structures- engage with decision makers at different levels on Disaster Risk Reduction, Preparedness and Governance.

In April 2021, Caritas Africa was granted observer status governing body of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), this important step recognizes the role of civil society in providing expertise and informing governments on local needs and opinions as well as identifying on the ground realities on policy decisions in the humanitarian-development and peace nexus.

Caritas Africa collaborates with the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) has observer status at the African Union. The MOU between SECAM and the AU mandate both parties to: a) consult one another and prepare programmes for cooperation; b) invite each other to attend and send observers to meetings of their respective organs on matters of mutual interest in line with their respective rules and procedures; c) cooperate in order to attain their specific objectives, at national, continental and international levels, and promote, social and economic aspirations of their members; d) cooperate in the field of training, capacity building, seminars, and the dissemination of reports.

Caritas Africa's DRR Advocacy initiatives seek to (1) Develop evidence for DRR advocacy through research (2) Influence legislation and DRR strategy implementation and (3) Strengthen the capacity of Caritas Africa Member Organisations in DRR advocacy.

The guide is informed by the notion that Faith based organisations such as Caritas play a significant role in humanitarian crises due to their constant and uninterrupted presence in communities. They are also among the first responders during emergencies. The guide is intended for use by program staff at the National and Diocesan Caritas in Africa region working with grassroot communities to help them identify critical disaster risks they encounter or are likely to face and how they can engage with local government bodies, civil society, private sector, and all stakeholders. It serves as a reference document on how to enable grassroot communities come up with advocacy messages and campaigns that can be used to influence policy and practice at local, national, regional, and global level.

We recommend that the users also interact with this guide (www.iirr.org) and other existing manuals within the Caritas Internationalis Confederation.

ACRONYMS

AMECEA	Association of Member Episcopal Conference in Eastern Africa
AFRP	Africa Region Platform
AU	Africa Union
AUC	African Union Commission
BBB	Build Back Better – Sendai Framework (2015 – 2030) principal objective
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CMDRR	Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central Africa States
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
REC	Regional Economic Community
MO	Member organisation
MCA	Member of the County Assembly
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
PDRA	Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment
PPMEL	Participatory Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SECAM	The Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNDRR	United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Advocacy

In Caritas Africa is about persuading people to make changes, whether in policy, practice, systems, or structures. Advocacy is about speaking for others, working with others, and supporting others to speak for themselves. It is a way of taking community voices to a different level of decision making.

Ally

Is a person or organization cooperating with you for mutual benefit

Capacities

Refers to individual and collective strength and resources that can be enhanced, mobilized, and accessed, to allow individuals and communities to shape their future by reducing disaster risk. This includes prevention, mitigation, and survivability of the individual and readiness of the community.

Climate Change Adaptation

Is the process of adjusting to current or expected climate change and its effects. It is one of the ways to respond to climate change, along with climate change mitigation. For humans, adaptation aims to moderate or avoid harm, and exploit opportunities; for natural systems, humans may intervene to help adjustment. With prevention, mitigation and adaptation measures, we can avert the risk of “severe, widespread and irreversible” impacts – Wikipedia

Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction

Can be defined as “a process of bringing people together within the same community to enable them to collectively address common disaster risks and pursue common disaster risk reduction measures. It is a process that mobilises a group of people in a systematic way towards achieving a safe and resilient community. It envisions a dynamic community that is cohesive in making decisions, deals with conflicts, resolves issues, manages collective and individual tasks, respects the rights of each individual, demands their rights and addresses and bounces back from hazard events” (Binas, 2010)

Community Vulnerability Assessment

Vulnerability analysis is the process of estimating the susceptibility of ‘*elements at risk*’ in the community to various hazards.

A Disaster

Is a serious disruption occurring over a short or long period of time that causes widespread human, material, economic or environmental loss which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) aims to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards like earthquakes, floods, droughts and cyclones, through an ethic of prevention. Disasters often follow natural hazards. A disaster’s severity depends on how much impact a hazard has on society and the environment.¹

A Goal

This is the purpose of your advocacy effort; it is your vision for long-term change.

¹ [https://eird.org/esp/acerca-eird/liderazgo/perfil/what-is-drr.html#:~:text=Disaster%20Risk%20Reduction%20\(DRR\)%20aims,on%20society%20and%20the%20environment.](https://eird.org/esp/acerca-eird/liderazgo/perfil/what-is-drr.html#:~:text=Disaster%20Risk%20Reduction%20(DRR)%20aims,on%20society%20and%20the%20environment.)

Governance

Is the umbrella under which disaster risk reduction takes place. The existence of public awareness, political will and sufficient capacity are key to making disaster risk reduction (DRR) an underlying principle in all relevant development sectors.²

A Hazard

According to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), a hazard is a natural process or phenomenon that may pose negative impacts on the economy, society, and ecology, including both natural factors and human factors that are associated with the natural ones.

An Opponent

Is a person or organization who is against, disapproves or resists what you are advocating for.

Prevention

Covers activities designed to impede the occurrence of a hazard event and/ or prevent such an occurrence from having harmful effects on communities and facilities. Usual examples are safety standards for industries, land use regulations. Other non-structural measures are poverty alleviation and assets redistribution schemes such as land reform, provision of basic needs and services such as preventive health care, and education.

Resilience/Resilient

The capacity of a system, community or society potentially exposed to hazards to adapt, by resisting or changing to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning and structure. This is determined by the degree to which the social system can organize itself to increase its capacity for learning from past disasters for better future protection and to improve risk reduction measures.

Risk

The probability of harmful consequences, or expected losses (deaths, injuries or damage to property, livelihoods, economic activity, or the environment) resulting from interactions between natural or human-induced hazards and vulnerable conditions.

Stakeholder

A stakeholder is a person, group, organization, or system who affects or can be affected by the issue you wish to advocate on.

Sustainable Development

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; it contains within it two key concepts: the concept of “needs”, the essential needs of the world’s poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment’s ability to meet present and future needs. (Brundtland Commission, 1987)

Vulnerability

The conditions determined by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards.

Target Audience

The person (or group of people) who can help bring about the change you hope to achieve.

2 https://www.preventionweb.net/files/17429_4disasterriskreductiongovernance1.pdf

1. CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Preliminaries

“We can see signs that things are now reaching a breaking point, due to the rapid pace of change and degradation; these are evident in large-scale natural disasters as well as social and even financial crises, for the world’s problems cannot be analyzed or explained in isolation. There are regions now at high risk and... the present world system is certainly unsustainable from a number of points of view, for we have stopped thinking about the goals of human activity.” (Laudato Si, 69)

1.1.1 The Disaster Risk Profile of Sub-Saharan Africa

Africa is the fastest urbanizing continent and faces mounting challenges as the population rapidly concentrates in under resourced cities. The rapid processes of urbanization mean that the disaster risk profiles of countries in Africa are evolving from predominantly rural, with drought, food security and floods as the main challenges—to urban, with challenges from floods, pollution, and landslides.

Africa continues to face natural hazards and extreme weather challenges that impact adversely on lives, livelihoods, and developmental potentials. Hazard-related disasters include floods, droughts, pest/disease outbreaks, land/mud slides, storms/cyclones, and earthquakes/volcanoes. Many African countries are extremely vulnerable to extreme weather events. They face even greater risks in the future as human induced climate change increasingly alters the weather and climate patterns that societies have come to depend on. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Sahel will experience increasingly higher average temperatures as well as changes in rainfall patterns over the course of the 21st century. These trends will affect the frequency and severity of floods, droughts, desertification, sand and dust storms and water shortages.

In 2020, heavy rain and extensive flooding occurred over large parts of Africa and Asia. Heavy rain and flooding affected much of the Sahel and the Greater Horn of Africa, triggering a desert locust outbreak. The year 2020 was also one of the three warmest years on record, despite a cooling La Niña event. The global average temperature was about 1.2° Celsius above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) level. The six years since 2015 have been the warmest on record. 2011-2020 was the warmest decade on record.

Extreme weather combined with COVID-19 was a double blow for millions of people in 2020. However, the pandemic-related economic slowdown failed to put a brake on climate change drivers and accelerating impacts, according to a new report compiled by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and an extensive network of partners. Pockets of conflict are experienced in arid and semi-arid areas due to lack of adequate resources such as land, water, food, and pasture. Africa has experienced many politically instigated conflicts that are linked to armed militia, change of regimes, post-election violence that led to loss of lives, displacement of people and loss of economic assets. Terrorist attacks have been experienced in the horn of Africa and West Africa that are linked to Islamic extremists, which calls for inter-religious dialogue. Another cause for concern is the unemployed youth youths who are being recruited and radicalized.

1.1.2 Role of Faith Communities and Inter-Religious Forums in CMDRR

Evidence suggests that at least 84% of the world’s population identify with a particular religious group. The critical role that faith actors play in the sustainable development agenda continues to gain recognition by multi-stakeholders globally. Notably, the United Nations has an Inter-Agency Task force on Engaging Faith Based Actors for Sustainable development³ Religious bodies and structures often wield power and authority. Since they are also often at the forefront of development and DRR efforts, it is integral that development practitioners and disaster workers consult with and work beside these groups. Church leaders in some countries wield more influence than any other form of authority, including chiefs and politicians.

3 <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27504/UNIATF2018.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Religious groups often understand or are indeed at the heart of important community dynamics and power structures. This is especially true where local religious institutions are key providers of education, health services, emergency relief and general development.

“This report on the State of the Global Climate 2020 shows that we have no time to waste. The climate is changing, and the impacts are already too costly for people and the planet. This is the year for action. Countries need to commit now - to net zero emissions by 2050. They need to submit, well ahead of COP26 in Glasgow, ambitious national climate plans that will collectively cut global emissions by 45 per cent compared to 2010 levels by 2030. And they need to act now to protect people against the disastrous effects of climate change,” UN Secretary-General.

Faith Communities (FC)

“Faith communities” is a term used to refer to formal organizations of persons with common beliefs and commitments, usually with designated leaders. Each community may include houses of worship, regional and national judicatories and local, regional and national religious leadership. Each community may also include faith-based non-profits, human service organizations, and local and national disaster response organizations. The term includes religious schools, seminaries and colleges, as well as faith-based hospitals, clinics, burial societies and cemeteries.

Faith-based communities provide informal and formal services related to disaster response. Informally, faith-based communities rally around community members, offer moral uplift, and assist in fulfilling unmet needs. In other cases, faith-based organizations enter into mutual aid agreements with local, state, and international partners in disaster response and recovery efforts. Examples of mutual aid agreements include collecting donations, sheltering, and providing food services. The services carried out by faith-based organizations contribute to maintaining and strengthening behavioural health following disaster.

Inter-Religious (IR)

Refers to groups, coalitions, activities, or other efforts connecting representatives from multiple religious’ traditions typically formed to foster dialogue, learning, and tolerance, to reduce hatred, mistrust and violence. Today, a



Central African Bishop Joins Muslims in Prayer.

growing number of interreligious groups have moved beyond trying to help religious traditions understand each other, to help them work together and build alliances and coalitions that solve some of the most serious problems in their communities

Faith communities and inter-religious forum helps the government comprehend the needs and capabilities of the community, understand and access the resources available to respond to disaster, and to develop plans for preparation and disaster response.

The Role of FC and IR Forums

Potential Partners:

Faith communities are a significant potential partner, that when engaged through competent outreach by government can help their communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters or emergencies. If actively and effectively engaged by local and/or state level emergency and preparedness managers, faith communities are a valuable resource in all stages of the disaster lifecycle—mitigation, risk reduction, prevention, and preparedness planning, as well as response and recovery.

Disseminating Information

Faith communities have a role of disseminating the preparedness and response plans established by government to help their congregations and the community prepare for and recover from a disaster. Local religious leaders, if educated on the local emergency response plan, and engaged by local emergency and national disaster risk management, can serve as trusted voice conveying accurate information to their members and followers.

Partnerships

The rise in awareness of the value of partnerships between government and faith communities has led to a desire on the part of government agencies to develop policies, practices, and processes that promote a culture of diversity and religious literacy and competency to help build these valuable associations. In the very best cases these policies



Archbishop of Bangui, Dieudonne Nzapalainga (R), addresses the president of Muslim Community, Imam Omar Kobine Layama (L) and Protestant Reverend Nicolas Gueret Koyama (C) on November 8, 2013 in Bangui. Credit: Matthieu Alexandre/ Caritas.

and practices include not just emergency preparedness and response plans, but human resources policies and procedures, dress codes, event and workplace menus, work hours that might reflect an employee's need to pray several times a day, and equal treatment regarding religious holiday time off, among other considerations. Equally important is the need to develop and train staff in a way that reflects this same culture in their interactions with each other and the community.

Understanding

Government agencies and faith communities must improve their understanding of each other's missions, goals and objectives, organizational structure and funding challenges to more effectively develop sustainable partnerships, and deliver needed services. To date, the record of government emergency managers and disaster preparedness officials' engagement efforts with faith communities, national, state and local community-based organisations (CBOs), denominational emergency response agencies, and disaster "interfaith" groups, while well intentioned, has been inconsistent and has produced limited success. There are, however, outstanding examples of success that are the exceptions, which serve as a reminder that it is possible for this work to be done effectively.

Outreach Campaigns

Often lack structure, clear goals and objectives, religious literacy and competency, and a systematic operational strategy. One consequence is that those faith communities willing to work alongside their local governmental agencies are bombarded with multiple government contacts—often with inconsistent messages, and unclear or unrealistic expectations.

Too many times these outreach efforts come without the requisite sustainable financial and training support to accomplish initiative goals, which are often grant-related that government seeks to push off onto the faith communities.

Further Reading

1. Field Guide: Working with USA Faith Communities (pg. 24-25)
2. World Meteorological Organization: State of the Global Climate 2020 (<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/climate-change-indicators-and-impacts-worsened-2020>)

Photo: Caritas Isiolo



2. CHAPTER TWO

“As Catholics, we are part of a community with a rich heritage that helps us consider the challenges in public life and contribute to greater justice and peace for all people.” United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

2.1 Advocacy and Its Role in Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction and Good Governance

2.1.1 Introduction

The CMDRR process is aimed at bringing about changes in people’s lives so that basic rights to food, shelter, clothing, health care, clean water, basic education, and clean environment are enjoyed as a foundation of safety.

In some instances, DRR projects may undermine the access of the poor to these rights and thus destroy their foundations of safety. When hazard events occur in communities whose foundation of safety has been undermined, disaster ensues. To ensure that the development process contributes to disaster risk reduction, making policy advocacy an integral part of the process is important. While development work targets the community members at risk, advocacy work should identify what needs to be changed or implemented by the power wielders – duty bearers - to improve the safety and resilience of the groups at risk. Advocacy targets the powerful decision makers to influence their thinking, action and behaviour and move them into taking steps to achieve the desired change.

2.1.2 The Role of Advocacy in CMDRR

Prevention

Drought is a common event in East and Horn of Africa. The disasters that follow bring a lot of interest and sympathy to Africa. Such disasters present a scope of global advocacy and resource mobilization, and Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction would gain greater visibility and relevance in the context of disaster and recovery activities. The impact of disaster can best be reduced by taking preventive steps in advance. As the saying goes “Prevention is better than cure” it is important to build a culture of prevention. The benefits of prevention are not tangible because we are preventing disaster to happen. But the “Rule of Thumb” is that for every dollar of disaster risk reduction or prevention we use, we save three (3) in possible disaster response.

Mainstreaming CMDRR

We should mainstream CMDRR in all sectors at local and national level. It is important to start by engaging communities at grass root level in tracking early warning signs to mitigating hazards to prevent them from progressing to disasters. One of the key challenges of advocacy though is to use that evidence to show the benefits of CMDRR is both effective and efficient.

Articulating Community Concerns

Throughout the CMDRR management cycle from local to global level. As a church (Caritas), we work with people at the grassroots level to ensure that the voices of those we want to assist are heard, their fears, their resolve and their aspirations.

Listening

To the communities and recognizing their knowledge. This will give them advocacy voice since what is said is informed, considered and insightful and especially because it comes from those who work at the grassroots level and can be shared globally.

Awareness:

Communities should take lead in mitigating hazards and disasters. However, majority of the people at grassroots level are not aware of the policies and government departments in place that would help address these. Through participatory assessments and DRR planning (longer term and contingency planning), advocacy would be appropriate to link the communities to the relevant authorities and resources available to them to deal with the hazards.

2.1.3 Good Governance in DRR

Governance influences the way in which national and sub-national actors (including governments, parliamentarians, public servants, the media, private sector, and civil society organizations) are willing and able to coordinate their actions to manage and reduce disaster-related risk.

Good disaster risk governance can be measured by lives saved, fewer people affected and reduced economic and social losses. The better we prevent or mitigate hazards, the more effective we are in avoiding disasters. In the CMDRR Approach, disasters are man-made as they reflect lack of or poor planning and implementation of disaster risk plans. The CMDRR approach promotes the ethic of prevention and preparedness to likely hazards.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) aims to reduce the damage caused by natural and man-made hazards. Natural hazards include floods, droughts, storms, cyclones, earthquakes, and landslides. Man-made hazards include conflicts, epidemics, and accidents. Disasters follow hazards when people fail to prevent or mitigate the latter. A disaster's severity depends on how much impact a hazard has on people, communities, nations, environment, animals, livelihoods and infrastructure.

Weak governance is a driver of disaster risk and is linked to many other risk drivers such as poverty, inequality, poorly planned urban development, poor land use management and globalized economic development. In most cases, disaster risk is disproportionately concentrated in lower-income countries with weak governance.

Effective legal, policy and institutional frameworks on disaster risk reduction and management (DRR/M) are required to prevent and respond to the hazards using the multi-hazard approach to resilience.

Governance is the umbrella under which disaster risk reduction takes place. The existence of public awareness and participation, political will and sufficient capacity are key to making disaster risk reduction (DRR) an underlying principle in all relevant development sectors. Good governance requires that countries apply the 17 sustainable development goals (SDG) – 2030, Africa Union Agenda 2063 and Sendai Framework 2030.

Disaster Risk Governance involves many actors, but the State, as the Sovereignty holder, retains control on these issues. Indeed, only the State has the capacity to engage legal, administrative, and economic reforms to involve all stakeholders in the decision-making processes and assign them the powers and means necessary for their missions. Institutional failure has been identified as the root cause for underdevelopment and susceptibility to disasters and the two have interdependent relationship. It has been demonstrated that only if a country's governance structure enables the implementation and enforcement of public policies conducive to a country's economic and social development can sustainable livelihoods be achieved and susceptibility to disasters be reduced. Accountability, participation, predictability, and transparency (principles) are identified as the key features of a governance structure that fosters development and supports risk reduction.

With its significant experience in DRR, democratic governance, and development, Caritas Africa is taking forward the practical and conceptual work on DRR governance and mainstreaming.

3. CHAPTER THREE

“Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor.” - Pope Francis, Address to the Archbishop of Canterbury, 6/14/13

3.1 The Advocacy Cycle Applied in CMDRR

Advocacy takes place in many ways and at many levels, through various approaches and methods. However, the basic steps are common to all advocacy actions at the national, district/state/County or local level. It is advisable to include an advocacy component in all your DRR programmes and budgets. Advocacy is an essential supportive element of your toolkit, and your programme needs a budget line for it.

The Advocacy steps are:

Step	Activity
1	Identifying advocacy issues using the vulnerability and capacity assessments
2	Research – Understanding the Issue and collecting evidence
3	Identifying your target- audience
4	Formulating the advocacy goal and objective
5a	Formulating and advocacy message
5b	Pre-testing key messages
6	Advocacy in action
7	Putting it all together

3.1.1 Step 1: Identifying Advocacy Issues Using Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments

Vulnerability and capacity assessments are a widely used and understood as participatory tools within Caritas Africa. The end result of the assessment is a long term DRR plan and a contingency plan. The DRR plan has components for institutional capacity development, DRR measures to prevent, mitigating the hazard and building community and individual capacity to cope and respond. However, there are a whole range of similar planning tools. Whatever participatory tools you use, it is important to follow up your participatory assessment with advocacy, awareness-raising and knowledge sharing efforts. The following are some key areas of focus where vulnerability and capacity assessments can be used to link community voices and concerns to decision-making and resources at the local or national level:

- Linking vulnerability and capacity assessments or risk assessments to disaster risk reduction knowledge-sharing and wider perspectives.
- Using the results (plans) to persuade relevant stakeholders of the need for disaster risk reduction interventions and collaborative action.
- Taking community voices (captured in the assessment process) to a different level of decision-making. See sample CMDRR plans.
- Using areas of intervention identified in the vulnerability and capacity assessment as a basis to engage local partners and other organizations to work together using information gained through the process to build persuasive advocacy messages.
- Conducting vulnerability and capacity assessments with different agencies to learn about advocacy issues together, build relationships and share skills to improve effectiveness.

Example of advocacy issue in DRR in Niger

Caritas Développement Niger (CADEV) says violent attacks by militants from Boko Haram have added to the challenges as tens of thousands of people have been forced to leave their homes in the Diffa region of south-east Niger. Diffa is one of the poorest regions in the world and women and children represent 85 percent of the refugees and internally displaced persons.

Raymond Yoro, secretary general of CADEV, says the situation is dire. “The humanitarian situation in Niger is worsening day by day due to the security crisis in Diffa, Tillabery and Tahoua,” says Yoro. “The number of people in need has increased to 2.3 million, an increase of 400,000 compared to 2017.”

Yoro says an estimated 1.4 million people will require food assistance in Niger in 2018. CADEV is particularly concerned about more than 380,000 young children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (S) and 922,000 others with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).

In Diffa, CADEV plans to strengthen the resilience of 1500 households with unconditional cash transfers, give displaced children access to recreation centers and assist 500 women and 200 young people with income generating activities. (<https://www.caritas.org/author/caritas/>)

Example of advocacy issue in DRR in Mauritania

Advocacy can be thought of as a means of favourably influencing the wider political, economic, social, and environmental context where these factors contribute to the vulnerability of a community (or are one of the underlying causes of hazards). For example: In Mauritania severe acute malnutrition rates are at their highest since 2008 with half a million people threatened with hunger. According to a survey conducted in February, 147,507 people could be suffering from acute malnutrition. Caritas Mauritania will work in Gorgol and Brakna providing food and farming assistance to 23,300 people.

“Despite the hope brought by some traces of rain here and there, the humanitarian situation remains worrying in rural areas,” says Caritas Mauritania. Access to adequate food and water remains the number one problem and Caritas is working to protect people’s livelihoods while providing food and other assistance.

Caritas Mauritania is urging partners to provide financial support so it can implement its emergency program to support people in their local areas and avoid migration to large urban centers. (<https://www.caritas.org/category/africa/>)

Task:

In your area, identify an advocacy issue by reviewing DRR plans, strategies, policies and talking to communities. Build on this issue as you go through this guide.

3.1.2 Step 2: Research: Understanding the Issue and Collecting Evidence

Effective advocacy is based on verifiable information. It is important to thoroughly understand the issue you plan to advocate on. The following questions are helpful in organizing your information.

- What is the problem?
- How big and how serious is the problem?
- What are the root causes?
- What are the adverse effects of doing nothing?
- What do you want changed?

Once you have researched the issue, you can start to organize it into messages that help you communicate clearly. The following example shows how important evidence is to building a persuasive argument.

Understanding the issue: Access to clean water for drinking and washing is a matter of life and death in many parts of the world.

How big is the issue and how serious is the problem? Over 2.2 billion people in the world do not have access to safe water and 4.4 billion do not have adequate sanitation, even though this is a fundamental right. The effect of this on people's lives and health is massive. In the absence of a reliable water source, communities may have to rely on contaminated water. People in water-scarce areas walk far in search of water – over 5 km – and it is worse in drought-prone areas.⁴ Women and girls are mostly affected since they are the ones who fetch water for households. With no latrines, people defecate in the bush and contents get flushed into water sources during rains – not forgetting flies bringing dirt from them back into homesteads. Women and girls are also exposed to abuse and sexual assault since people use the bush at night or early morning for privacy.

What are the adverse effects of doing nothing and what is the solution? Lack of safe water and adequate latrines increases the incidence of diarrheal disease and children have an even greater health impact. An estimated half a million people around the world die from drinking dirty water each year. There is need to work with communities to identify and develop suitable water sources for domestic use and for basic irrigation. These include protected hand dug wells, boreholes, spring capping and simple rural water supply schemes.

What do you want changed? Access to water and sanitation needs to be prioritized for the poorest people, the sick and vulnerable. It is important to be aware of all aspects of the issue so that you are a trustworthy and accurate source of information. Advocacy messages based on experience and information gathered from the field is essential in forming a persuasive advocacy message. Vulnerability and capacity assessment reports are key sources for gathering evidence to support disaster risk reduction issues. In addition to information collected during the assessment process, try to collect information such as statistics and policies from government ministries, colleagues, other organizations, international declarations, and academic institutions.

3.1.3 Step 3: Identifying Your Target

a. Mapping Stakeholders

There are no hard or fast rules to tell us whom to involve in your advocacy activities and how. What we know is that stakeholder involvement is context-specific; what works in one situation may not be appropriate in another. A good way to identify appropriate stakeholders is to start by asking questions. The following questions are not an exhaustive list but they are a guide. Some of the questions can be answered through the vulnerability and capacity assessment process.

- Who are the “powerless” and “voiceless” with whom special efforts may have to be made to include or convince? Who are the representatives of those affected by the issue?
- Who is responsible for providing the service(s) related to this issue?
- Who is likely to mobilize for or against the issue?
- Who can make the advocacy effort more effective through their participation or less effective by their non-participation or outright opposition?
- Who can contribute financial and technical resources to your advocacy activities?

⁴ <https://www.unwater.org/water-facts/water-sanitation-and-hygiene/>

Once you have identified stakeholders related to your issue, it is important to map the advocacy environment (in other words, to find out who is doing what) on disaster risk reduction and advocacy at the level you plan to target your advocacy initiative. This enables you to find out who the major players are, and identify key relationships, issues, opportunities, and approaches. In doing this you will also avoid duplicating efforts and may find partners or key people to support your initiative. This process is the simplest at the local level where there are generally a much smaller number of actors. These local actors are also likely to be those responsible for action.

b. Allies and Opponents

Using the results of your research (stakeholder mapping) you now need to determine potential allies and opponents. The following questions are helpful in analysing who can support your advocacy initiative and who may oppose it.

The following points are useful in helping to identify allies.

- Look for other organizations, groups and individuals working on similar advocacy issues.
- Do networks or alliances exist, or do they need to be established?
- How can you contribute to the efforts of other organizations?
- What role do these organizations want your organization to play and what contribution do they expect from you?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of forming alliances or coalitions with each of them?
- Do other organizations see yours as a value-adding partner or ally to their efforts?

The following questions are useful in identifying opponents:

- Are there any organizations, groups or individuals that oppose the proposed policy or change?
- What threats do these organizations, groups and individuals pose to the success of your advocacy initiative?
- What can you do to reduce the influence of opponents?

Managing Opponents

Although you may be fully committed and understand the disaster risk reduction change you are advocating for, others may take time to appreciate your idea or your position. There are common reasons why people resist when a new concept is proposed:

- **More work.** People may perceive your proposal as increasing their workload and therefore as a burden. Try to highlight how your proposal will reduce future workloads.
- **Not their idea.** People may reject your proposal simply because they did not think of it first. This is especially true for those who are more senior than you.
- **Unmet interests.** Your idea may not include one of the other person's basic interests (e.g., to be seen to be in charge or to feel valuable) or may be outside their usual way of working or areas of work.
- **Fear of losing face.** People may feel that accepting your proposal, even if it is a good one, may cause them to look bad, to lose face.
- **Too much too fast.** If your idea seems too big, wide-ranging, or complicated it may be simpler for people to just say "no".

Frustrated by people's resistance, you may be tempted to push, persuade, or insist. But pushing may make it more difficult for others to agree. It points out that the proposal is your idea. It fails to address their unmet interests. It makes it harder to accept without the appearance of giving in to pressure. Instead of pushing the person toward agreement, draw them in the direction you want them to go. Build them a bridge across the gap/hole between you and them by:

- Involving your opponents.
- Asking for and building on their ideas.
- Asking for feedback. Offering them a choice.
- Not dismissing them as irrational.

- Helping them save face.
- Going slow to get there in the end.

If reaching agreement on the whole proposal seems unlikely at first, break it into steps, and agree on one at a time. This approach will make the unthinkable gradually seem possible. Start with the issue that is the easiest for people to agree on.

c. Identifying the target audience

Once you have information about your issue, identified stakeholders and can speak confidently and accurately about the issue, you need to ask who has the power to bring about the change you are advocating for. This is your target audience.

There are two groups within the target audience: the primary audience (the decision makers with the authority to directly bring about the necessary change) and the secondary audience who can influence decisions of the primary audience.

The following target audiences were identified by a group working on reducing river erosion: Primary audience: farmers upstream and downstream, local village chairman, local administration, local police department, land office, local Member of Parliament, local NGOs, and local soil merchants/traders. Secondary audience: Community members, community leaders, local religious leaders, the media, and local schoolteachers

It is important for person doing advocacy to understand the audience well and to see the issue from their perspective. The advocate must think about what will motivate a target audience to support a cause. The greatest challenge is the ability to put yourself in your audience's shoes and see how they will benefit from supporting your cause. As well, we should think of the potential risks and rewards your target audience will face by joining forces with you. You should be able to list the benefits or interests related to the issue from the audience's perspective. Field workers often have considerable insight into the characteristics of the different local target audiences and how decisions are made by those in authority. Some key factors to keep in mind when thinking about how to influence your target audience are:

- The size, age, location, and gender of the audiences
- The current audience's knowledge about the advocacy issue
- Who supports change, do they want to maintain the status quo or change?
- People who are neutral but might be persuaded to support the change.
- Who does the target audience get information or advice from? How is information communicated?
- Who is willing to speak in support of change?
- Who has the power to influence change?
- What might people opposing change say, how can you respond?
- How decisions are made and how can you to influence decision-makers?
- What policy is available and how it is implemented?
- Does the target audience know my organization and network?

3.1.4 Step 4: Formulating an Advocacy Goal and Objectives

A first step is to define the purpose of your advocacy effort and to determine what you want to achieve. It is important to have defined goals and objectives that are within your field of experience and capacity to achieve.

Examples of Advocacy Goals and Objectives

Goal: To improve the standard of living of a community through better access to government agricultural services.

Objective: Seventy per cent of vulnerable and marginalized farmers have access to local livestock department services by the end of 2022.

Goal: To enhance the economic status of the fisherwomen in a community to increase their coping capacity.

Objective: To persuade other stakeholders (NGOs, government, and others) to commit to funding an alternative livelihoods programme for 1,000 fisherwomen in alternative livelihood options within two years.

Goal: To enhance safe shelter in a community.

Objective: A community becomes aware of the importance of adopting safe shelter measures and the government constructs 10 more safe schools by 2023.

Goal: To reduce river erosion because of soil removal.

Objective: Sixty percent of community people are sensitized about the risks associated with losing soil and the local government implements river erosion policies by 2024.

3.1.5 Step 5a: Formulating an Advocacy Message

A message is a statement that is designed to persuade others of your position or point of view. A message explains what you are proposing, why it is worth doing, and the positive impacts of your proposal.

Use the **See, Judge and Act** method to inform, motivate, persuade, and move the target audience into action.

- **THE SEE-JUDGE: and Act method** is grounded in the Catholic Social Teaching and guides us on how to look at a situation, analyse it and take appropriate action. The vulnerability and capacity assessment process and analysis may also provide baseline information for advocacy messages.
- **SEE:** Disaster Risk Management issues that affect lives of communities we work with, facts and science.
- **JUDGE:** What needs to change? What is the stand of the Church on the issue? Who has the power is it the local or National government? Is it the media? Where is change already happening? Who can we work with in our advocacy agenda?
- **ACT:** Lobby, roll out of advocacy campaign, prayer, communication activities, awareness raising, etc
- **CELEBRATE:** Recognise success of your advocacy actions; did you effectively influence a process? Has anything changed?

Using the See, Judge and Act Formula:

1. **Statement:** Write a simple statement.
2. **Evidence:** Give evidence.
3. **Example:** Use an example or personal story from your own experience.
4. **Action:** Now put your message into action

The following is an example from Oxfam⁵

Simple statement: People living in poverty are the hardest hit by disasters.

Evidence: The mud houses of the poor are the first to be washed away. Lower income groups invariably suffer the most from Bangladesh's annual floods. It is no coincidence that the flood affected Indian states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and Terai region of Nepal, which lie at the bottom of the pile in terms of poverty indicators, struggled the most to cope.

Example: Parboti Rani, a woman in the affected area, said: "We have been homeless five times due to river erosion and floods. Flood washed away my home and all household resources. During the floods we took shelter in the embankment and were hungry for days."

Action: Advocate for investment in livelihoods programmes to improve the resilience of the most vulnerable people.

"You have to make sure people don't misunderstand you. You need to do some groundwork. You need to prepare [people] according to their background. Nazmul Azam Khan, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society"

It is important to adapt your advocacy messages to each audience and to consider the best approach (e.g., through meeting, media, letters) and the best time to approach the target audience. Audience analysis provides a basis for message development. It is helpful to map out the characteristics of your target audience and understand the way they make decisions. When you know your audience, you can decide what sort of key messages and communication styles would be most effective to inform, persuade and motivate them into action. It is important to be able to change your message, messenger, language, and timing according to whom you are trying to influence.

For example, if you are talking to a farmer about the risks associated with climate change and the benefits of raised shelter, you would present your message differently than if you were discussing the same issue with a scientist. You need to think about the best way to communicate with each audience.

Using slogans

Sometimes it is useful to use a slogan to capture the essence of the advocacy theme. For example, one year the International Federation's World Disasters Report started with the phrase "Disasters don't discriminate. People do". This is a challenging and thought-provoking statement and was used to get the attention of audiences. Alternatively, the International Federation slogan "Together for humanity" shows how the Red Cross Red Crescent works collaboratively to alleviate human suffering. Some National Societies added their own slogan or extended the Federation slogan, e.g., "Together for humanity. Stop discrimination" or "Discrimination thrives in the shadows. Together we must chase these shadows away".

The following are examples of slogans from the International Day for Disaster Reduction, which is held every year in October to create global awareness of disaster risk reduction:

2003 Turning the Tide on Disasters - Towards Sustainable Development

2004 Learning from Today's Disasters for Tomorrow's Hazards

2006-2007 Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School

3.1.6 Step 5b: Pretesting Key Messages

“When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don’t adjust the goals, adjust the action steps”. Confucius

Disaster risk reduction advocacy messages must be clearly understood and appeal to the target audience. Messages must be simple, yet powerful. It is important to pre-test the key messages that you have designed. In the field this pre-testing phase would involve community members, other disaster risk reduction practitioners and if possible, a small sample of members of the target audience.

Good messages are:

- Targeted to a specific group.
- Focused on a specific problem.
- Action-oriented
- Simple – using local languages and common terms.
- Attractive and interesting
- Prominently visible
- Repetitive



3.1.7 Step 6: Advocacy in Action

There is a range of different ways to deliver your advocacy message, for example, face-to-face meetings, a presentation, TV, or radio announcements. To build confidence or practice advocacy skills, it is possible to simulate putting advocacy into practice and building skills in making presentations, working with the media, community meetings and meetings with government officials. Participants can role-play:

- Face-to-face meetings with local government authorities
- Meeting a community group
- Meeting media
- Internal advocacy with Red Cross Red Crescent leadership

Role-playing gives participants an opportunity to put themselves in someone else's shoes and try to understand how people may think and feel about an issue. Participants can take different positions on the issues: strongly opposed, neutral and strongly in favour. Through this process the participants come to understand the value of seeing things from a different point of view and that different people have different ways of responding to an issue.

Feedback from role-plays

Participants in role-playing developed the following tips for advocacy in meetings:

- Throughout the meeting, keep your advocacy objectives in mind.
- Create interest in and understanding of them.
- Highlight the negative effects of doing nothing and the positive aspects of action or change.
- Build support for your advocacy theme and remember to allow time to present the solution; people do not want to hear only problems.
- You want to influence decision-making, so clarify the purpose of the meeting from the beginning but be relaxed and friendly in your approach and manner.
- Keep discussions on track; know what you are willing to compromise on and what you are not willing to compromise on.
- Raise your most important point first so that you do not run out of time before addressing the most important issue.
- After the meeting, think about how well you met your objectives and how you could make your presentation better for the next meeting.
- It is a big job keeping all this in mind during a meeting, but with practice you can do it.

Follow up⁶

- If you meet your target audience in person, give them a one-page summary of your proposal. After your meeting, send the summary again, with a letter of thanks and a summary of any points agreed on during the meeting.
- If you are asked about specific facts and figures, be sure to provide them. Take the opportunity to restate your key points.
- Arrange for an ally to contact the target audience with a similar message to yours.
- If your target audience has specific concerns, arrange for them to meet an expert who can address those concerns.

3.1.8 Step 7: Putting It All Together:

Advocacy plan and evaluation plan provides a road map to guide the advocacy initiative. When you have identified your goals, objectives, and target audience, and drafted your advocacy activities, it does not take long to put it all together in a table like the example below⁷ that you could then share with others:

Example layout for an advocacy action plan						
Objectives	Activities	Target	Indicators	Timing	People Responsible	Review Planned
Objective 1	1.a.	1.a.	1.a.	1.a.	1.a.	Xx/yy/zz
	1.b.	1.b.	1.b.	1.b.	1.b.	
	1.c.	1.c.	1.c.	1.c.	1.c.	
Objective 2	2.a.	2.a.	2.a.	2.a.	2.a.	Aa/bb/cc
	2.b.	2.b.	2.b.	2.b.	2.b.	

Remember that advocacy work can be slow and time-consuming, and so needs a long-term commitment if you are to achieve real change. Your action plan should reflect this.

“Keep in mind that the best way to learn advocacy is by doing it! Whatever you learn in one initiative will likely be helpful in planning the next, even if the issues are different. We hope you will discover that advocacy can help improve your programming and be professionally rewarding, all at the same time.” CARE, Advocacy Tools and Guidelines

Monitoring and evaluation is an effective learning tool. Analysing the strengths and weaknesses of advocacy activities helps identify and correct errors and highlight good practice. Monitoring and evaluation is a tool that can help determine how close you are to meeting your goals and objectives. Advocacy, which can include public campaigning and awareness-raising or more private strategies of lobbying, research and documentation and policy influence, is more difficult to assess than other more traditional development interventions.⁸ However, asking the following simple questions is a good start:

- What worked well?
- What did not work well?
- How can we make it better?
- What do we need to make it better?

⁷ WaterAid. Advocacy. What is it all about? A Guide to Advocacy Work in the Water and Sanitation Sector, 2007.

⁸ Roche C. Impact Assessment for Development Agencies: Learning to Value Change, Oxford, Oxfam, 1999.

How well did you do?⁹

Advocacy Activity	What worked well	The evidence	What did not work so well	Changes for the future of the campaign
Meeting with the Member of County Assembly(MCA)/ Member of Parliament (MP)/ Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made all the points we wanted to make. Got his/her agreement that the problem needed government action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed to structure the discussion according to our plan. Verbal agreement to follow up with of Parliament Member (MP)/ Governor's MP Office by letter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failed to gain his/her signature on our petition calling for specific action. Forgot to bring campaign pack for him/her. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to focus on getting public support from him/her Must follow up meeting with campaign pack and thank you letter

It is important to record how much you are doing, how much you have done and how much you have still to do. The following are some examples of questions that are useful to help track your progress:

Process

- How many meetings have your team attended to advocate on the issue?
- What kind of awareness-raising material has been produced?
- How much of it has been distributed?
- How many allies are you working with?
- Do you have an information pack to give when meeting authorities?
- Do you have a one-page summary outlining your advocacy issue?

Outcomes

- Has awareness of your issue among leaders, the media or the public increased?
- Have any policies changed as a result of your advocacy?
- Are the voices of vulnerable people being heard by those with authority?

Impact

- Has sustainable change been achieved?
- Are vulnerable people empowered to advocate effectively for themselves?
- Has a change in behaviour occurred?

REFERENCES

<http://old.www.iup.edu/leadership/resources/1.html> (1 of 4) [10/13/2008 2:28:00 PM]

4. CHAPTER FOUR

4.1 Conclusion

Despite successes in building the capacity of CMDRR committees to demand implementation of their DRR plans by local government, high level policy advocacy work needs to take place to ensure wider support for this type of appropriate investment and commitments.

Building advocacy capacity within communities so that they can secure support from the Government and other stakeholders, and ensure their needs are communicated and responded to, is particularly crucial; given the political and economic marginalization of these communities and their low social and economic resource base for mitigating disasters on their own.

Capacity for advocacy needs to be built by developing skills and relationships to influence key stakeholders, and for understanding the policy context and the resources available. It also requires linkages with regional and national advocacy organizations to ensure that demands are fed into policy discussions at all levels. Linkages with other CMDRR committees to share experiences and advocate together is essential also.

Large scale hazards cannot be prevented by one agency, hence there is need to use the multi-agency and multi sectorial approach. Hence the need to create platforms which provide a mechanism for collaboration and cooperation and joint learning and accountability.

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR, Governments and like-minded institutions have supported the development of Global, Regional, National and Local Platforms (NPs). For effective advocacy, Caritas staff need to carefully develop targeted messages to their appropriate level depending on the magnitude of the issue or action required.

Photo: Caritas Isiolo



5. ANNEX 1

5.1 A summary of disaster risk profiles of the five (5) sub-African regions

5.1.1 Southern Africa Disaster Risk Profile

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is a Regional Economic Community comprising 16 Member States; Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. SADC is therefore an inter-governmental organization. It is headquartered in Gaborone, Botswana. In the 25 years of its existence, SADC has made tremendous achievements in a number of areas of regional cooperation and integration notably, in the areas of governance, democracy, peace and security; infrastructure and services; trade, industry, finance and investment; food, agriculture and natural resources among others (SADC, 2021)

Approximately half of the population in the SADC region lives below the international poverty line of US \$1 per day, according to the International Council on social welfare. Poverty is made worse by several factors, which include:

- High levels of disease, in particular HIV and AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.
- Social and civil conflict.
- Natural disasters, such as recurrent droughts and floods that reduce food security.
- Unemployment.
- Low industrial growth and productivity, which is reinforced by high levels of migration of skilled labour out of the region.

Member States of SADC are vulnerable to a range of natural disasters and, since many events affect several countries simultaneously, a regional approach to managing the risks is appropriate and necessary. Since 2000, countries in Southern Africa have experienced an increase in the frequency, magnitude and impact of drought and flood events. Climate change is significantly affecting the region and increases risks related to water resources, fire and agriculture and food security. SADC has not developed a protocol on disaster risk reduction or management.

Long-term drought continued to persist in parts of southern Africa, particularly the Northern and Eastern Cape Provinces of South Africa, although winter rains helped in the continuing recovery from the extreme drought situation which peaked in 2018.

Tropical Cyclone Eloise made a landfall early morning on 23 January 2021 near Mozambique's city of Beira, causing widespread damage and flooding on a long swathe of coastline. The storm is also bringing heavy rainfall to neighbouring southern African nations.

Many poor households in Zimbabwe, parts of Mozambique, Lesotho, and extreme southern parts of Malawi, affected by the 2019/20 drought, are currently experiencing Crisis as it is the peak of the lean season. While the rest of the region is facing mainly stressed outcomes until the start of the harvest begins at the end of March/early April. In April and May, food security across most countries with favourable rainfall and limited conflict is expected to improve with Minimal and Stressed expected through at least September.

Despite the favourable conditions across much of the region, conflict has disrupted the agricultural season and some disruption due to tropical cyclones and continued poor macroeconomic conditions in Zimbabwe. In conflict-affected areas of northern Mozambique and DRC, crisis outcomes are expected to persist throughout the outlook period as displaced populations have difficulty engaging in agricultural activities and have limited access to income. In southern areas of Madagascar, similar outcomes are expected to continue due to the drought conditions. While poor macroeconomic conditions are expected to continue in Zimbabwe, household purchasing power in urban areas is expected to remain low, where stressed outcomes are expected to persist.

In March 2020, Africa like other parts of the world was affected by the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Most Southern African countries have gone through a second wave, where cases significantly increased across the region in December 2020 and started to decline in February 2021. As at May 2021, most countries are experiencing a third wave with new variants of the Virus. Many lives have been lost to the pandemic. Countries across the region adopted different levels of restriction measures to reduce the spread of the virus; however, this did result in some economic impacts. Both formal and informal employment were negatively affected, and income for most households decreased, especially in Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Mozambique. As a result, poor households in urban areas are likely to continue experiencing stressed outcomes during most of 2021. Other health epidemics in Africa have been Ebola and Dengue fever.

5.1.2 Central Africa's Disaster Risk Profile

Economic Community of Central Africa States - ECCAS has 11 Member States: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, and São Tomé - Príncipe. Most of the Countries are landlocked and border the Sahara Desert to the north.

Out of a total of 36 countries worldwide with 'very high' and 'high' risk profiles, half of them are African, according to the INFORM Index for Risk Management. Central African Republic, Chad, and Democratic Republic of Congo are in the top 10 ranking for the highest overall disaster risks. Central African Republic and Chad are among the 10 countries globally facing the highest levels of risk in the Climate Change and Environmental Risk Atlas. Of the 32 countries identified globally as the most vulnerable in the atlas, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad and Democratic Republic of Congo are also at 'extreme risk' in the Food Security Risk Index and exhibit high levels of poverty and/or conflict and displacement, all of which compound the potential impact of hazards.

ECCAS disaster risk reduction data base, which will support the development of policies, strategies, institutions, early warning system and human resources was completed and validated. Member States were also called upon to develop and strengthen disaster risk reduction frameworks and dialogue among all stakeholders, to ensure for better synergy in disaster resilience actions. They were also requested to ensure that their national strategies are developed and aligned with the Sendai Framework and other global agreements.

5.1.3 West Africa's Disaster Risk Profile

West Africa has been described as a hotspot of climate change. The reliance on rain-fed agriculture by over 65% of the population means that vulnerability to climatic hazards such as droughts, rainstorms and floods will continue. Yet, the vulnerability and risk levels faced by different rural social-ecological systems (SES) affected by multiple hazards are poorly understood. To fill this gap, this study quantifies risk and vulnerability of rural communities to drought and floods. Risk is assessed using an indicator-based approach. A stepwise methodology is followed that combines participatory approaches with statistical, remote sensing and Geographic Information System techniques to develop community level vulnerability indices in three watersheds (Dano, Burkina Faso; Dassari, Benin; Vea, Ghana).

The results show varying levels of risk profiles across the three watersheds. Statistically significant high levels of mean risk in the Dano area of Burkina Faso are found whilst communities in the Dassari area of Benin show low mean risk. The high risk in the Dano area results from, among other factors, underlying high exposure to droughts and rainstorms, longer dry season duration, low caloric intake per capita, and poor local institutions. The study introduces the concept of community impact score (CIS) to validate the indicator-based risk and vulnerability modelling.

The CIS measures the cumulative impact of the occurrence of multiple hazards over five years. 65.3% of the variance in observed impact of hazards/CIS was explained by the risk models and communities with high simulated disaster risk generally follow areas with high observed disaster impacts. Results from this study will help disaster managers to better understand disaster risk and develop appropriate, inclusive, and well-integrated mitigation and adaptation plans at the local level. It fulfils the increasing need to balance global/regional assessments with community level assessments where major decisions against risk are taken and implemented.

5.1.4 East Africa's Disaster Risk Profile

The East African Sub-Region of AMECEA countries includes Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Malawi, Zambia, Sudan and South Sudan and are prone to natural hazards such as floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides, volcanoes, strong winds, lightning and their secondary impacts of diseases and epidemics. Drought, floods, landslides, and epidemics are the most frequent disasters in the Sub-Region. Besides, there are pockets of development challenges faced by countries who have experienced many years of political instability, poverty and persistent food insecurity which are exacerbated by climate change e.g., South Sudan.

Sudan is also faced by internal conflict and excessive burden of communicable diseases, e.g., malaria, tuberculosis, hepatitis, vaccine-preventable diseases, and neglected tropical diseases in the south. Other natural hazards such as heat wave, dust storm can cover vast regions and last for days in the central part of the country. In 2020 Covid-19 pandemic hit the region as well as other parts of the world and this has had a negative impact on the economy and all forms of employment. Locust infestation in parts of East Africa led to food insecurity. The impact of climate change is experienced in different ways in the region.

5.1.5 North Africa's Disaster Risk Profile

The North African countries are vulnerable to natural, industrial, and human-made hazards and disasters with considerable impacts on lives, livelihoods, and properties. The region of North Africa is exposed to a variety of natural hazards including coastal, urban and river floods, earthquakes, desertification, drought, sand encroachment, rockslides, sandstorms, and water scarcity, as well as to industrial and transport-related hazard and epidemics.

River flood, urban flood, coastal flood, water scarcity, extreme heat and wildfire are classified as high, whereas earthquake and tsunami are categorized as medium. The Sahara Desert literally cuts off North Africa from the rest of Africa.

North Africa region comprises Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sahrawi Republic, and Tunisia. All the seven countries except Sahrawi Republic are members of the League of Arab States. All the North African countries are members of the African Union. Although, there is no coordinated development strategy within the entire region, countries have aligned their socio-economic development strategies with Africa Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris agreement on climate change. In 2004, the North African countries and the other African Union member states, adopted the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ARSDRR) and its Program for Action. In 2010, except the Sahrawi Republic, the League of Arab States adopted the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ASDRR).

Annex 2: Background Documents

1. Caritas Africa Advocacy Strategy 2020-2023
2. Caritas Internationalis Guidelines for conducting Advocacy.

Video Resources:

3. Reducing disasters: Sendai Framework for DRR (2015 – 2030) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-9m6mb-bLY>
4. Understanding disaster risk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-SWl3J1aQc>
5. Introducing Disaster risk reduction and resilience: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iugLHrcs_fm
6. The Sendai Framework for DRR and SDGs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6soXnTsgZg>

Books & Case Studies

7. MDRR: experiences from Horn of Africa (Cordaid, IIRR): https://www.cordaid.org/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/01/CMDRR_experience_Horn_of_Africa_1.pdf
8. Building resilient communities: Case studies from Kenya: http://www.partnersforresilience.nl/downloads/files/PfR_Kenya_web.pdf

Online Resources:

9. https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Publications/disasters/reducing_risks/DRR-advocacy-guide.pdf
10. Field Guide: Working with USA Faith Communities (pg. 24-25)
11. <https://crcc.usc.edu/files/2015/02/FieldGuide-HighRes.pdf>
12. UNISDR: www.unisdr.org/africa
13. Prevention web: <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/preventionweb>
14. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: <http://www.unfccc.int>
15. Sustainable development goals (SDGs) - end poverty, reduce inequalities and tackle climate change: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment>
16. Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Approach – Caritas Australia
17. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
<https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>
18. Laudato Si https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html
19. African Union Commission Program of Action on DRR
https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/33005-doc-sendai_framework_for_drr_2015-2030-en.pdf

