In February 2021, the Sahel Resilience Project engaged in:

- High-level virtual meeting between ECOWAS Commissioner for social and gender affairs Dr. Siga Fatma Jagne and UNDP Dakar Hub Manager Njoya Tikum on 10 February 2021 to discuss the status of the Sahel Resilience Project and UNDP-ECOWAS partnership.
- Preparation of Project Board meeting (virtually) under the leadership of ECOWAS, to be held on 24 March (tentatively).
- Consultations on 2021 annual work planning and implementation of project activities with UN Women, ECOWAS, AU, AGRHYMET.
- HACT Micro Assessment of Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC (ongoing).
- Discussion with UN HABITAT on Urban Risk Management initiatives in West Africa/Sahel.
International Women's Day 2021 on 8 March:
"women have shown their leadership in time of crisis; we hope that 2021 will be an opportunity for women and girls to make a difference for a resilient COVID-19 recovery #IWD2021."
The Sahel Resilience Project had re-programmed activities to respond to COVID-19 pandemic at the regional level and in the seven project countries allocating $100,000 to each country in March 2020. A yearly report on COVID-19 support will be ready in April.

Ongoing activities are:

Regional Assessments

- Inception Report by the Data Pop Alliance (DPA) for the Assessment of Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 and Role of Disaster Risk Governance in Western Sahel.

National Response

- **Burkina Faso**: Risk communication, community engagement and information management for COVID-19/crisis response (ongoing).
- **Nigeria**: Sound management and disposal of health care wastes with UNDP Accelerator Lab (ongoing).
- **Mauritania**: Assessment of technical and operational needs of the different emergency services, and of the needs of populations and communities; support for the establishment of multisectoral coordination mechanism in each wilaya (or region) of Mauritania for effective crisis management.
- **Mali**: Support for local economic activity including the production of face masks, safe education in schools and enhanced safety of vulnerable groups against the spread of COVID-19 (completed).
- **Niger**: Analysis of the effects of the pandemic on nutritional and pastoral food security and other socio-economic sectors in Niger (completed).
- **Chad**: Establishment of a disaster Information management system for effective crisis COVID-19 response; support for the Directorate of Civil Protection for COVID-19 response and a disaster risk management framework (ongoing).
- **Senegal**: Establishment of an operational early warning system and collection of disaster data including COVID-19 information; communication of COVID-19 mitigation measures by women’s groups on community radios; multi-sectoral coordination at the national and sub-national (regional) levels for COVID-19 response and recovery (ongoing).
Resilience-building News February 2021

Regional Assessments

- Launch by the African Union Commission (AUC) of a Comprehensive assessment of the status of multi-hazard early warning systems (EWS) with a view to develop an institutional and operational framework for EWS in AU Member States; inception workshop led by CIMA Research Foundation on 23 February.
- Continued discussions on the concept paper for COVID-19 Recovery Framework for Africa, developed as part of UNDP’s support to the African Union’s Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) for COVID-19 Recovery.
- Preparations for the upcoming senior experts’ consultations in 7 project countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal) for the Assessment of the implementation of the Sendai Framework and post-disaster recovery in project countries by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

National Consultations

- Consultations on annual work planning and activities for 2021 with DRR units in UNDP Country Offices in Mauritania and Chad held in February, following earlier coordination with Country Offices in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal (January).
- Consultation with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in Nigeria on the country’s priorities for 2021, which may include integrating the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in the Nigerian DRR system and launching a sensitization and awareness campaign through national and subnational workshops about secondary school safety and reducing security risks.

What Happens in March?
In March, we will engage in:

- Discussion with UNDRR on Making Cities Resilient 2030 Campaign in Africa and Urban Risk Management initiatives in West Africa/Sahel to explore potential collaboration in project implementation.
- Follow-up discussion with ECOWAS on 2021 Annual Work Plan and project implementation.
- Technical discussion with UNHABITAT on urban risk assessment and urban risk management plans.

Regional Assessments

- The Assessment of Challenges faced by the Sahel countries in the implementation and domestication of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction /AU Programme of Action and post-disaster recovery by ODI is expected in June 2021. As part of the assessment process, a series of consultations will provide key stakeholders/senior experts in project countries with the opportunity to discuss the preliminary findings from the research, and the priorities for disaster risk reduction and disaster recovery moving forward, from early March onwards.
- Planning for a capacity needs assessment of AGHRYMET towards the establishment of a regional information platform for the analysis of disaster statistics.
- Development of a Practical guide on risk and vulnerability assessment methodologies that will harmonize gender, disaster, climate and conflict risk analysis by ECOWAS and UN WOMEN.

Regional and National Support

- Capacity building of ECOWAS DRR and AUC/DREA in preparedness for disaster response and recovery, and in urban risk management through the recruitment of short-term DRR consultants.
- Handing over of IT equipment (two laptops and accessories) to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Government of Nigeria, for systematic collection and analysis of disaster data for Disaster Risk Reduction and Risk-informed development in Nigeria on 8 March.

Our Partners

Sweden and UNDP support the Sahel Resilience Project with an overall budget of $7.5 million US dollars over three years.

Anchored in a partnership for disaster risk management with the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), UN Women, and UNDP, the Sahel Resilience Project coordinates with regional bodies and institutions – the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the university consortium PeriPeri U/WASCAL (Stellenbosch University), and the specialized agency AGHRYMET – and with national disaster management agencies.

At the national level, the Sahel Resilience Project aims to enhance disaster risk reduction strategies and resilience-building, implemented by Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal. The project puts a strong focus on data collection and their commitments to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Africa Programme of Action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.
Five Areas of Action

1. **Data for decision-making:** Increased capacity of tracking the domestication of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the implementation of the African Union's Programme of Action in the Sahel region through enhanced data collection, analysis and reporting systems.

2. **Risk governance:** Strengthened regional and multi-country regulatory, policy and budgetary frameworks for translating disaster and climate data into risk-informed development.

3. **Preparedness for recovery:** Enhanced regional recovery and resilience-building processes that address underlying disaster and climate change risks and restore pathways to sustainable development in the Sahel countries.

4. **Resilient urban areas:** Enhanced regional capacities for urban risk management.

5. **Regional engagement:** Enhanced innovations and knowledge of risk-informed development through regional dialogue and South-South exchanges.

Follow us on Twitter
@ResilienceSahel

©UNDP Africa 2021, Sahel Resilience Project. All rights reserved.
Photo credits: ©UNDP and ©Shutterstock (licence).