The Sahel Resilience Project held its first Board Meeting on 31 March 2021. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the African Union Commission (AUC), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) co-chaired the meeting, which convened 44 participants from project organizations and member states.

View our presentations in [English](#) and [French](#).

The Project Board formally endorsed the annual work plan for 2021, project governance and risk mitigation arrangements, communication and advocacy strategy, and priorities for 2021.
The project re-programmed funds to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic at the regional level and in the seven project countries allocating $100,000 to each country in June 2020. Total provisional resource envelope is $1,442,000 US dollars to date, disbursed as follows:

- Allocation of $742,000, regional activities initiated in the third quarter of 2020 continued through the first and second quarters of 2021.
- Comprehensive assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and the role of disaster risk governance in the Western Sahel and Lake Chad Basin region by Data-Pop Alliance; the project provided on 15 April inputs to refine the methodology of the assessment in disaster risk governance (ongoing)
- The concept note shared with and validated by the African Union's Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment for a COVID-19 Recovery Framework for Africa resulted in a formal request on 20 April from AUC to UNDP to further support the development of this framework in the continent (ongoing)

Discussions with key actors

- The Sahel Resilience Project explored with UN-Habitat the next steps to advance the project’s strategic engagement in urban resilience and a regional urban risk assessment in the seven project countries by UN-Habitat on 1 April
- UNDP, the World Bank and ECOWAS jointly organized a brainstorming workshop on the establishment of a community of practice on recovery in West Africa on 6 April
- The project team discussed with World Bank expert(s) complementarities and ongoing initiatives in disaster risk financing and public expenditure, and institutional reviews in West Africa and the Sahel region on 6 April
- The Resilience Hub for Africa (Nairobi) introduced UNDP’s Resilience Offer on 9 April with a view to identify opportunities for cross-collaboration with the Sahel Resilience Project in policy advice and programmes that support regional institutions and national governments in Africa and the Sahel region; also browse here UNDP Global Service Offer on Disaster Early Warning and Preparedness
- The project team participated in a peer-to-peer learning workshop on Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and Disaster Recovery Framework Adaptation in Africa on 21 and 22 April
- UNRWA held a meeting with the MIT research project on disaster data and analysis in Mali and Senegal on 27 April, in which the Sahel Resilience Project discussed information exchange and how to build on the data gathered
• Comprehensive assessment of the status of multi-hazard early warning systems (MEWS) by CIMA Foundation to assess an operational framework for early warning systems in AU member states, which implementation will be funded by the Government of Italy, UNDP and AUC held a joint review of the assessment progress on 1 April (ongoing)

 Allocation of total $700,000 for seven countries: national activities initiated in the third quarter of 2020 continued through the first and second quarters of 2021.

Burkina Faso
Risk communication, community engagement and information management capacity building for COVID-19 and crisis response.

Chad
Establishment of a disaster information management system at the national level for effective crisis/COVID-19 response.
Support to the Directorate of Civil Protection for COVID-19 response and a disaster risk management framework to track and monitor progress.

Mali
Promotion of local economy: 18 SME cooperatives produced 116,000 face masks. COVID-19 mitigation: 51 focal persons disseminated information on protection measures in some 40 schools and distributed 5,000 masks to pupils from vulnerable communities around Bamako at the start of the school year 2020-2021.

Mauritania
Assessment of technical and operational needs of the different services involved in the response, as well as the needs of populations and communities. Support for the establishment of multisectoral coordination mechanism at the level of each wilaya (region) of Mauritania for effective crisis management.

Niger
Analysis of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on nutritional and pastoral food security and other socio-economic sectors in Niger.

Nigeria
Management and disposal of medical waste in collaboration with UNDP Accelerator, and support for data collection.

Senegal
Establishment of an operational early warning system to collect disaster data, including sectoral data with an epidemic window integrating COVID-19 data.
Advocacy spots on protection measures prepared in 5 languages by women’s groups, and broadcast 20 times by 50 community radios.
Resilience-building news April 2021

The Sahel Resilience Project has initiated three foundational studies. Findings from these studies will help establish the baseline on the implementation status of the Sendai Framework and the AU’s Programme of Action, the status of multi-hazard early warning systems in Africa and identify entry points in COVID-19 recovery for building the resilience of those most impacted by the pandemic and strengthening the role of disaster risk management institutions in better responding to epidemics (read also above).

Flagship study

- **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 the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) under the auspices of the African Union Commission is expected in June/July 2021. Following a series of virtual and in-person consultations in project countries – Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal – and regionally in March, ODI submitted draft country chapters; AUC and UNDP reviewed the structure and content of the report together with ODI on 14 April, and UNDP granted an amendment to the contract extending ODI’s collaboration for a full translation of the report into English and French, which will also include bilingual feedback from all stakeholders (ongoing).

Regional partners

- PeriPeri U, project partner in the academic sector, builds teaching capacity in the area of disaster risk reduction and resilience-building and mobilizes researchers and students from its partner universities for disaster data collection in the Sahel region; UNDP and PeriPeri U/Stellenbosch University reviewed the status of activities and future areas for research and training, and a potential Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations on 27 April.
- UN Women, project partner in gender mainstreaming, plans for a guide for gender-age-disability disaggregated disaster data in risk-informed development planning and across sectors; a 6-month consultation of a gender expert was readvertised in April.

National activities

- The project held monthly coordination meetings with Disaster Risk Reduction focal points in UNDP Country Offices in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal to discuss the implementation of project activities in 2021 and monitor the completion of specific activities in response to COVID-19, of which yearly completion is expected end May 2020 (read above).
- UNDP DRR Teams in Country Offices are processing the recruitment of national UNVs – one in each of the seven project countries – to help implement project activities and coordinate with national stakeholders (ongoing).
What happens in May?

Engagement with key actors

- Follow-up discussions with partner organizations (AUC, ECOWAS, UN Women, PeriPeri U, AGRHYMET) on 2021 work plans and activity implementation (monthly).
- Transfer of project funds to AUC, ECOWAS and AGRHYMET to start implement project activities.

Regional capacity-building

- Recruitment of an expert to conduct capacity needs assessment of AGRHYMET towards the establishment of a regional information platform for the analysis of disaster statistics.
- Capacity building of AUC in urban risk management through an expert consultant to support AUC in urban risk management.
- Capacity building of AUC and ECOWAS through two experts in communications and advocacy about disaster risk reduction and climate resilience, risk-informed development and COVID-19 socio-economic response and recovery.

Reports

- Report on COVID-19 Response (June 2020)

Partners

The Sahel Resilience Project is funded by Sweden and UNDP with an overall budget of $7.5 million US dollars over three years (2019-2022).

The project is based on partnerships between UNDP, regional, and national institutions working in the area of disaster risk reduction and COVID-19 response:

- African Union Commission (AUC)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- UN Women
- Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)
- PeriPeri U/WASCAL (Secretariat hosted by Stellenbosch University)
- AGRHYMET Regional Centre

The project focuses on the transboundary dimensions of disaster risk and climate pressures in the Western Sahel, aiming to strengthen national commitments to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the African Union’s Programme of Action in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal.

Five Areas of Action

1. Data for decision-making: Increased capacity of tracking the domestication of 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 online

africa.undp.org
@ResilienceSahel (Twitter)

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