The capacity assessment of AGRHYMET/CILSS, the Niamey-based data centre in agrometeorology, hydrology, and climate, continues with the objective to establish a regional information platform to support disaster management and risk-informed development in the Sahel region. UNDP will help the centre acquire computer equipment to develop an online regional risk information system.

UN Women recruited an expert to work for the Sahel Resilience Project on a guide for gender-age-disability disaggregated disaster data in risk-informed development planning and across sectors; the guide will build on ECOWAS Disaster Risk Gender Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030 that was supported by the World Bank Group and agreed upon by...
Engagement with ECOWAS

UNDP recruited a DRR-Recovery Coordination Specialist to provide high quality technical support to ECOWAS Humanitarian and Social Affairs Directorate. We are delighted to have Prof. Edwin Iguisi on board to support the ECOWAS Commission and member states in the areas of multisectoral coordination for COVID-19 response and recovery, socio-

African Union's COVID-19 Recovery Coordination Mechanism

• The African Union Commission (AUC) this month adopted the terms of reference for the COVID-19 Recovery Coordination Mechanism for Africa, with ongoing support by UNDP (Sahel Resilience Project, Recovery Team, Africa DRR and Governance teams), AfDB, FAO, WHO, and a team of expert consultants focusing on disaster risk management, recovery, and human impacts.

• Four levels of coordination have been adopted: (i) logistical coordination between UNDP and the AUC; with a technical working group for recovery that meets bi-weekly; (ii) inter-departmental technical mechanism for AUC technical departments; (iii) multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary coordination mechanism similar to the core group of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWGDRR); and (iv) the AU political organs (Assembly of the Union, Executive Council and Specialized Technical Committee (STC); the roles of stakeholders and timelines for the process have been agreed and are guided by scheduled African Union meetings, including the Assembly of the Union in February 2022.

• The African Union Commission is developing together with UNDP a series of webinars for its departmental technical teams. The objective of the webinars is to create awareness and build consensus on the approach to recovery for AUC technical departments and RECs to provide effective continental leadership and guidance on a comprehensive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 and to contribute to future preparedness for pandemics and other disasters. A letter of invitation to participants has been drafted by the AUC DRR unit and the events are scheduled for the week of 23 August 2021.

Read more | AUC COVID-19 Recovery Coordination Mechanism |

Engagement with ECOWAS

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Action Plan 2020-2030 that was supported by the World Bank Group and agreed upon by member states in 2020, to ensure that disaster management data, and policies, are gender-sensitive. We are thrilled to have Evelyne Batamuliza on board for the preparation of this guide.

• The Sahel resilience project is expecting to conclude in August the agreement with UN-Habitat on a regional approach to urban resilience in the Sahel based on the existing UNDP-UN-Habitat Collaborative Framework for joint work.
economic assessment, early warning systems, preparedness for response and recovery, as well as for the integration of disaster and climate risks in development.

- Niger hosted the 14th Regional Consultation on Disaster Management in West Africa (GECEAO) on 12 and 13 July in Niamey. The meeting was jointly organized by ECOWAS through its member states, in partnership with the Office of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). UNDP supported the organization of the meeting by ECOWAS through the Sahel Resilience Project. The GECEAO, chaired by Niger for the current and next year, is a platform that brings together West African member states annually to review joint recommendations on disaster preparedness and response. The 2021 meeting focused on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and improved flood management, early warning, civil-military coordination in the context of conflict and manmade disasters and regional capacity building. On this occasion, the Sahel Resilience Project was presented as a joint effort between UNDP and ECOWAS to reduce disaster risk and strengthen risk governance and policy frameworks, to translate disaster and climate change data into risk-informed development.

- Following consultations with ECOWAS and national governments, a review of public expenditure and institutions on disaster risk reduction and climate change will soon be undertaken in Burkina Faso, Niger and Nigeria. This activity aims to strengthen regulatory and policy frameworks to translate disaster and climate data into risk-based development planning and budgeting in the Sahel region.

- The review of public expenditure and institutions on disaster risk reduction and climate change under the auspices of the project could also be used as a resource mobilization tool at the annual Conference of the Parties (COP), to be held in Glasgow, United Kingdom, from 31 October to 12 November. ECOWAS has previously suggested exploring how the project countries, and the Sahel region in general, could develop a common position by participating in the COP negotiating groups.

Other regional engagement

The Sahel Resilience Project participated in a UNDP collaborative webinar on the digital future of early warning and preparedness in Africa on 6 July. The regional exchange provided an opportunity for country offices and regional centres to discuss UNDP service offer and share experiences in providing early warning and preparedness expertise in the continent, to explore digital solutions and emerging ideas related to human-centered multi-hazard early warning and preparedness. The webinar will serve as a springboard for the development of future concept notes and innovative project proposals - or components of existing proposals that would benefit from these ideas - based on the understanding of the digital barriers that still exist in early warning and preparedness, as well as on the opportunities that can be exploited to overcome these barriers.
The project re-programmed activities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic at the regional level and in the seven project countries from June 2020 onwards. Total provisional resource envelope is $1,442,000 to date (initially for 6 months in 2020, extended to 2021).

**Regional Activities**

A total amount of $742,000 was allocated for regional activities in 2020 and extended into 2021 to undertake the below assessments that are near completion:

- **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. Key national stakeholders are being consulted in the seven project countries in order to validate the preliminary findings of the assessment and enable national ownership of the findings and recommendations. This series of consultations took place in Burkina Faso on 29 June and Nigeria on 30 June and continued in Mali and Senegal on 12 and 16 July, respectively. Another consultation was organized for some 40 participants invited by the National Emergency Management Agency in Nigeria on 30 July on disaster risk governance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN Resident Coordinators are supporting these national consultations to ensure the participation of the UN system and government agencies in each project country. They will continue on 10, 12 and 16 August in the three remaining countries namely: Chad, Mauritania and Niger.

- **Comprehensive assessment of the status of multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS)** by CIMA Foundation for the African Union Commission. Following the assessment of the current state of multi-hazard early warning at continental, regional and national levels, CIMA presented the institutional arrangements and operational concepts in a validation workshop with member states, representatives from RECs, and the United Nations on 26 July. Participants discussed a roadmap and next steps for the implementation of a multi-hazard early warning framework in Africa. The implementation phase will be funded by the Italian government.

**National activities**

A budget of $100,000 in average has been allocated for each of the seven project countries ($784,261 in total). Disaster management agencies also received two laptops each – in some countries with modems and subscriptions for online meeting platforms – to support disaster risk data collection and analysis. These country activities, made possible by the flexibility of the Swedish government that allowed the project to reprogramme funds for all seven partner countries, resulted in a rich and varied set of interventions that each country can now build on to better respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and a possible future epidemic.

Activities are almost complete in all countries, with Burkina Faso having been able to convene some 60 participants in a validation workshop for one of the last planned activities on 22 July for PBAC on the Community mobilization strategy for early recovery, which
A workshop was held in N'djamena on 6 and 7 July 2021 to present a roadmap for the institutionalization of a national platform – at present largely ad hoc – for disaster risk reduction in Chad. For the Directorate General of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization, it has become crucial to have a permanent structure in the form of a DRR platform to improve disaster prevention and the coordination of disaster response and recovery. The workshop adopted a roadmap from July 2021 to December 2023 that will lead to preparing a regulatory framework for DRR. This framework will establish institutional structures at national and sub-national levels and define the mandates and operational aspects of a national platform for DRR in Chad.

Ongoing recruitment of national UNVs – one in each of the seven project countries – will help UNDP teams in country offices implement project activities and coordinate with national disaster management agencies. Two United Nations Volunteers have joined the project to date. We are thrilled to have Idrissa Mali and Lamoudi Hermann Tankaono on board, respectively in Niger and Burkina Faso country offices.

On 22 July, Namley invited the Community Mobilization Strategy for Crisis Recovery, which provides a set of COVID-19 IEC materials, and operational guidance to address community needs and priorities in emergency response and disaster recovery focusing on the central region, the high basins and the Boucle du Mahoum.

Read more about national responses | COVID-19 response in the Sahel region
10 August onwards

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (project)

ECOWAS and the Sahel Resilience Project will launch the Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (DRR-CC PEIR) in three countries namely in Burkina Faso, Niger and Nigeria. This joined collaboration with the Inclusive Budgeting for Climate change in Africa Project will serve as an effective tool for objective performance tracking of DRR and CC investments as well as for scenario-based planning (see tentative dates in October).

12 August

International Youth Day

Social media campaign with the Africa Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risks Reduction (AYAB DRR)
Youth Dialogue on Prevention of Violent Extremism to exchange and share lessons learned and emerging good practices under the Africa Regional Programme

10, 12, 16 August

Socio-economic Impact of COVID-19 and Disaster Risk Governance in the Western Sahel and Lake Chad Basin, Regional Consultations (continued)

The consultations with key stakeholders will continue in the three remaining countries, namely: Chad, Mauritania, and Niger (read also above).

20 August

UNDP-UN-Habitat Collaborative Agreement

UNUH-UN-Habitat Collaborative agreement will be established in August for joint work on a regional and national framework for urban risk management. This will enable local governments to plan and undertake practical actions to strengthen the resilience of their cities and urban areas. The agreement targets local governments with limited experience in risk reduction and resilience planning and urban population of a size of maximum 250,000 people.

24-26 August

Regional UNDESA and UNECA Training on INFFs (virtual)

Regional UNDESA and UNECA Joint Training on the Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) methodology to build back better

26-30 August

Recovery Coordination Mechanism for Africa (virtual)

Series of three webinars by the African Union Commission (AUC) to explain the COVID-19 Recovery Coordination Mechanism for Africa to AUC technical departments

28 August

Africa Strategic Framework for Multi-hazard Early Warning and Early Action Systems (report)

Submission of the Africa Strategic Framework for Multi-hazard Early Warning and Early Action Systems by the CIMA Foundation to the African Union Commission

30 August

Capacity Assessment of AGRHYMET/CILSS Regional Centre (report)

Submission of the Capacity Assessment by UNDP Sahel Regional Project of AGRHYMET/CILSS, the Niamey-based data centre in agrometeorology, hydrology, and climate, in view of supporting the establishment of a regional information platform to disaster risk data and risk-informed development in the Sahel.

14-16 September

High-level UN Women Forum on Risk-Informed Recovery, and Resilience Action in the Lake Chad Basin, Yaoundé, Cameroon

A High-level Regional Forum by UN Women Africa on Inclusion, Leadership, Participation of Women and Girls in Humanitarian, Risk-Informed Recovery, and Resilience Action in the Lake Chad Basin will be held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, including a specific session by the Sahel Resilience Project and the participation of identified women-led organisations

15 September

Domestication of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction/Africa PoA (report)
Submission of the Comprehensive Assessment of in the Domestication in the Sahel Countries of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction/Africa Programme of Action by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) to the African Union Commission.

17 September

Assessment of Socio-economic Impact of COVID-19 and Disaster Risk Governance (report)

Submission of the 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 to ECOWAS

28-29 September

Training on Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data (virtual)

UN Women and PERIPERI U will arrange a 2-day virtual training on the collection of sex, age, and disability disaggregated data.

4-5 October

3rd Lake Chad Basin Governor’s Forum for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development Yaoundé, Cameroon

The Lake Chad Basin Governor’s Forum for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development will hold its third meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The forum aims to advance the commitments made at the second meeting in 2019 and continue the process of consolidating a credible and effective mechanism for regional cooperation for short-, medium- and long-term stabilization recovery and resilience interventions across the Lake Chad Basin region. The Governor’s Forum is jointly organized by the host country, and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), UNDP, the African Union, the Mari Ahtisaari Centre (CMI) and funded by the German Foreign Office, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the European Union, the Netherlands and the African Development Bank Group.

17, 18, 22 October (TBC)

Training on DRR and CC PEIR and Budget Tagging (virtual, in-person)

Training for government officials in charge of finance and planning in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (DRR-CC PEIR) of three countries, namely: in Burkina Faso, Niger and Nigeria.

For more information

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Our Partners

The Sahel Resilience Project is funded by Sweden & UNDP with an overall budget of $7.5 million 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/CILSS 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.

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- [@ResilienceSahel](https://twitter.com/ResilienceSahel) (Twitter)
- [West and Central Africa Annual Report 2020](https://africa.undp.org)

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