



NZAMIBIA

**COUNTRY
IMPACT
STUDY 2021**

Partnership Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative

The CADRI Partnership is a global UN led partnership that works towards strengthening countries' capacities to pursue integrated and coherent solutions to reduce disaster and climate risks across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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Conception: Polina Bliznyuk

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FOREWORD.

In 2015, in the context of a national drought emergency – the worse drought in 35 years that affected 30 million people - the Office of the Prime Minister of Namibia called upon the UN System to conduct a skill capacity audit of the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) system with a focus on strengthening drought preparedness.

In response to this request, in 2016 the CADRI inter-agency partnership facilitated a diagnosis of DRM capacities which informed the development of a National Disaster Risk Management Framework and Action Plan covering the period 2017-2021, as well as the UN Partnership Framework 2019-2023.

In 2021, the CADRI Board of Directors selected Namibia to review the impact of the CADRI inter-agency support to Namibia, five years after the capacity diagnosis took place.

This impact study sought feedback from the government and the UN Country Team on the relevance, usefulness, and practicality of the technical support provided. The study examines to what extent the CADRI services have contributed to increased investment in capacity development for gender responsive Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. More specifically it assesses the level of uptake and status of implementation of recommendations by the government and the UN Country Team.

This impact study was undertaken under the leadership of IOM and UNDP in their capacity as co-chairs of the CADRI Programme Assurance Group, as part of the CADRI monitoring & evaluation (M&E) plan to support the CADRI Board of Directors in their oversight function.

CADRI technical support



Scoping mission
25-27 May 2016



Capacity assessment mission
11-22 July 2016



Validation of recommendations
9 Sept. 2016



NDRM Committee endorses recommendations
15 Feb. 2017



Prioritization of DRR across sectors
20 Feb-30 March 2017



National DRM Framework and Action Plan
30 June 2017

CADRI multi-disciplinary team

5

CADRI experts:
FAO, IOM, OCHA,
UNDP, WHO

7

UNDAC experts:
South Africa, Malawi,
Mozambique, Nigeria,
Germany, Estonia, UK Map
Action

5

government experts

5

UNCT experts

Capacity diagnosis coverage

3

sectors:
agriculture, health,
environment

21

central level institutions

14

local level institutions

4

regions:
Ohangwena,
Zambezi, Khoma,
Hardap

THE ACTION.

Responding to the Office of the Prime Minister's request, in July 2016 the CADRI inter-agency partnership deployed a multidisciplinary team to Namibia to facilitate a diagnosis of DRM capacities – policies, systems, skills - covering three sectors: agriculture, health and environment.

In September 2016, the CADRI team presented the findings and recommendations to the Office of the Prime Minister. Recommendations were later endorsed by the inter-ministerial national disaster risk management committee in February 2017 and informed the development of a National Dis-

aster Risk Management Framework and Action Plan covering the period 2017-2021, as well as the new United Nations Partnership Framework 2019-2023. Six (6) key recommendations were prioritized for immediate implementation.

In 2017-2018, the CADRI Partnership supported the UN Country Team in the formulation of a concept note for UN Joint programme in support of the country risk information management system.

COUNTRY PROFILE.

Improving capacities to reduce disaster and climate risk is particularly critical for an upper-middle-income country like Namibia, that on one hand relies on its natural resources to boost its economy and create livelihoods, and on the other is extremely vulnerable to disasters and climate change.

Disaster and climate risks pose serious threats to key sectors like mining, agriculture, including fisheries and livestock, wildlife tourism, and hydro-power energy.

Recurrent droughts and floods cause acute food insecurity and malnutrition, affecting people's livelihoods and triggering rural-urban migrations. In December 2021 – March 2022, an estimated 30% of the population face acute food insecurity - IPC Phase 3 (crisis). Food insecurity is further compounded by COVID-19 mitigation measures.

Namibia often experiences epidemic outbreaks including meningitis, malaria, dysentery, and cholera.

MAIN FINDINGS.

There is broad consensus that the CADRI Partnership engagement in Namibia made a significant contribution to enhance country systems to reduce disaster risk and had a lasting impact on the national policy and institutional landscape. It also contributed to a great extent to enhanced UN-Government collaboration and coordination. The government strong leadership and buy-in at the highest level (Prime Minister Office and 6 cabinet Ministers) was a major success factor.

Key results:

- **Joint analysis and consensus building around priorities.** The capacity diagnosis provided a comprehensive analysis of the country's DRM system in terms of strengths, gaps and challenges. It included a local capacity diagnosis for the Zambezi and Ohangwena regions. It also included a skill audit of the Directorate for DRM with recommendation on strengthening vertical and horizontal coordination, information management and human resource management.
- **Accelerating institutional reform.** The momentum created with the validation of CADRI findings and recommendations in 2017 has triggered the establishment of additional local DRM committees which were provided for by law and not yet fully operational at all four levels (regional, local authority, constituency, and settlement) and the central-regional coordination mechanism for disaster preparedness was strengthened.
- **Influencing national policy development.** Expert advice received from CADRI Partners has influenced policy and strategic planning for DRR and its alignment with the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction.
 - The main outcome was the development of a National Disaster Risk Management Framework & Action Plan for the period 2017-2021. The recommendations of the capacity diagnosis were integrated into the Framework and Action Plan, including sectoral priorities for agriculture, health and education.
 - The capacity diagnosis also informed the review of the National Drought Policy under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.
- **Enhancing Government - UN coordination of emergency response.** CADRI provided direct support to the establishment of the UN emergency and humanitarian focal points (EHFP) and the institutionalization of the DDRM-EHFP meeting (first joint meeting in April 2017). This national coordination network mechanism has been instrumental in 2020 to coordinate response towards the COVID-19 pandemic. WHO used it to facilitate the participative development of the National Action Plan for Health Security.
- **Prioritizing DRR in the UN Framework.** The UN Partnership Assistance Framework 2014-2018 did not consider DRR as a development challenge. It includes one target of supporting 6 ministries and 13 communities with DRM SOPs. The 2018 UN Common Country Assessment was directly informed by the CADRI analysis. Subsequent to the CADRI engagement, the UN Partnership Assistance Framework 2019-2023 identifies disaster and

climate risk as core development challenges and plans for specific interventions that are aligned to CADRI recommendations such as conducting climate and disaster risk assessments in agriculture, mainstreaming DRM and CCA in sectors, and most importantly supporting a multi-hazard risk information management system across sectors. The UNCT also reported that the CADRI process contributed to increase UN agencies staff knowledge/understanding on DRR.

- **UN programming.** A number of CADRI recommendations were implemented for with support from CADRI partner agencies such as the establishment and equipment of the regional Emergency Operation Centres (WFP), the development of a multi-hazard DRR strategy for the agricultural sector (FAO), the training of government and agropastoral communities in DRM (FAO), and the training on integrated disease surveillance and response (WHO in collaboration with the Namibian Red Cross Society).
- **Mobilizing financing for DRR.** Building on CADRI recommendations, a UN joint programmatic concept note helped accessing USD 3 million from the CERF. Additional financing was mobilized to support the 2019 drought emergency response partially based on the CADRI recommendations.
- **Quality, relevance, timeliness of CADRI services.** The level of expertise and its thematic and geographic variety mobilized by the CADRI Partnership in support of the UN Country Team and Government has been greatly appreciated as well as its facilitation of consensus building on key priorities. All country stakeholders who took part in the process concur that the CADRI missions were well planned and organized, and outputs were produced in a timely manner.

Implementation status of the six recommendations prioritized by the Government

There is mixed progress in the implementation of the recommendations by country stakeholders. Half of the six recommendations can be considered implemented.

	Recommendations	Implementation status	Comment
1	Methodology for risk identification, assessment to create national risk profile	Development of national guidelines to conduct the national risk assessment. Not implemented.	
2	SOPs to formalize data and information exchange among various technical institutions, line ministries, DDRM, NSA, University	Implemented. In 2018, the government approved SOPs for disaster preparedness and response ¹ , which include provisions for information management and sharing, including for Food security and nutrition, WASH, Solid waste, Livestock and crops, Shelter, Health and Education sectors.	SOP might need updating with the new National Plan being developed (2021).
3	National DRM awareness, communication strategy	Implemented. National DRM awareness, communication strategy developed.	
4	Education sector: Curriculum and teaching material on DRM	Not implemented.	A comprehensive curriculum audit of primary to tertiary education is ongoing (2021).
5	Review and Alignment of DRM Policy to Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction	Implemented. The National Disaster Risk Management Framework & Action Plan 2017-2021 is aligned to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.	
6	Open-source common central database on multi hazard risk, socio-economic data, vulnerability, and historical disaster impact data	Not implemented.	

¹ Disaster Risk Management Standard Operating Procedures, Office of the Prime Minister, Directorate Disaster Risk Management, 2018.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION.

- **UN Country Team ownership.** Despite having developed a joint programme concept note to support a multi-hazard risk information system, the CADRI Partnership was not successful in promoting a joint UN programme.
- UNCT DRR programming remains limited under the new UNPAF and not enough has been done to integrate the CADRI recommendations into individual agencies' programmes. This takes into consideration that resource mobilization opportunities are constrained in an upper-middle-income country and the fact that DRR only attracts short term emergency response financing (such as CERF and Japanese Supplementary Budget Funds) while CADRI capacity development recommendations require long-term financing.
- **Recommendation:** The UN EHFP should meet regularly to monitor the status of implementation of the recommendations. A dedicated staff should be nominated to support coordination around DRR/DRM/CCA issues within the UN Resident Coordinator Office or the lead agency of the UNPAF results group on Environmental Sustainability. Concurrently the CADRI should engage with the UNCT to periodically monitor implementation.
- **UN Country Team programming framework.** The UNPAF 2019-2023 has a dedicated pillar on Environmental Sustainability that covers DRR but DRR is absent from economic and social transformation.
- **Recommendation:** In the next UNPAF 2024-2027, another approach could be to mainstream DRR (and CCA) in other pillars (governance and economic and social transformation) to shift to resilient development planning. Namibia is in the process of developing its 6th National Development Plan (NDP 6) and this presents an entry point to mainstream some of the recommendations that were not implemented and support them through the next UNPAF.
- **Civil society engagement.** The CADRI Partnership methodology did not engage civil society in the diagnosis of strengths and gaps and the identification of recommendations.
- **Recommendation:** With the new CADRI tool, the methodology is expected to promote more engagement and collaboration with civil society, including academia and think tank.
- **Localization.** Despite the two local capacity diagnosis for the Zambezi and Ohangwena regions, there was limited uptake of capacity building recommendations at sub-national level.
- **Regional cooperation.** The mobilization of three government experts from the sub region (South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique) by CADRI was positive. The SADC could play a lead role in the roll out of the capacity diagnosis and planning tool.

LESSONS.

- Acknowledgment of the relevance/usefulness of CADRI service offer to diagnosing country's DRR/CC capacities;
- Brought together country stakeholders around common analysis of challenges and goals;
- CADRI methodology/approach is a best practice for "delivering as one" and strengthening coordination.

METHODOLOGY.

The Annual Country Impact Study consists of a series of interviews with country stakeholders (government, UN Country Team, the National Society, and when relevant civil society and private sector) which are complemented by a desk review of CADRI products and national policy documents and UNCT programmatic documents.

a) Semi-structured interviews with in-country stakeholders:

- A series of 8 interviews of 45 minutes each with the Resident Coordinator, selected UN Head of Agencies, Government representatives (national/local), the National Red Cross/Red Crescent Society, as well as, when relevant, Civil Society representatives, and private sector entities

a) Desk Review:

- Desk Review of previous United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, National DRR Strategies; UNCT Joint Programmes in DRR/CCA & agency specific DRR/CCA project

Roles and responsibilities

The CADRI Programme Assurance Group (PAG) has overall responsibility to ensure oversight of CADRI activities at country level on behalf of the CADRI Board of Directors. The country impact study interviews are co-led with the PAG Co-chairs on behalf of the PAG and other PAG members are welcome to join the interviews.

- Angelica Broman - Senior Advisor HDPN, IOM
- Patrick Gremillet - Partnership Advisor, UNDP

Interviews are organized and the report is consolidated by the CADRI regional facilitator for Eastern & Southern Africa.

- Arnold Ambundo - CADRI Regional Facilitator

List of Interviewees for the CADRI Partnership impact study in Namibia

1. Mr. I-Ben Nashandi - Executive Director, Office of the Prime Minister
2. Ms. Hellen Likando - Deputy Director, Disaster Risk Management Unit, Office of the Prime Minister
3. Mr. Sen Pang - UN Resident Coordinator in Namibia
4. Ms. Kiki Gbeho - Former UN Resident Coordinator in Namibia
5. Mr. Junjie Zhang - Special Assistant to the Resident Coordinator
6. Mr. Nelson Zakaapi M&E Analyst - Resident Coordinator Office
7. Mr. Elvis Odeke - Head of Programs WFP Namibia
8. Mr. Obert Mutumba - M&E Officer, WFP Namibia
9. Mr. Ernst Mbangula - Planning M&E Manager, UNICEF Namibia
10. Dr. Zeko Sikota - Programme Manager, WHO Namibia
11. Mr. Alexis Armstrong - Deputy Representative, UNDP Namibia
12. Ms. Martha Naanda - Programme Specialist, UNDP Namibia
13. Mr. Mekondjo Hitila - Programme Officer, UNDP Namibia
14. Ms. Glynnis Harrison - Secretary General, Namibia Red Cross Society
15. Mr. Justus Kauatjirue - Disaster Management Coordinator, Namibia Red Cross Society
16. Mr. Pertcias Masule - Food Security and Livelihoods Coordinator, Namibia Red Cross Society

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