



PROGRAM REPORT
NOVEMBER 2023

UNPACKING GOVERNANCE MEASURES AND LOCAL ACTIONS FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Disaster Risk Management Series

PROGRAM SUMMARY

In a world increasingly vulnerable to disasters and climate change, the importance of building resilience in communities and safeguarding food security cannot be overstated. Climate change and natural disasters, such as droughts, floods, and extreme weather events, pose significant threats to food security, particularly in developing regions like Africa. As climate patterns become more erratic and disasters more frequent, it is imperative to empower communities with the knowledge and tools necessary to adapt, respond, and recover.

To address these issues, we are hosted a 2-part series on Disaster Risk Management to address critical issues at the intersection of climate change, disaster risk, and adaptation within the context of Nigeria and Africa. These sessions see the urgent need to build resilience and adapt to the ever-growing challenges posed by climate change and its associated impacts. Some of the issue areas that were discussed include climate change-induced disasters, food security threats, and community resilience.

The series provided a platform to explore these issues comprehensively to promote dialogue on viable solutions.

The two sessions, seeking to compliment each other, will collectively identify innovative and context-specific strategies that are vital for ensuring the well-being and stability of communities. The series is tightly connected to the broader adaptation goals of Nigeria, as it reinforces the imperative for effective adaptation measures to tackle ongoing climate challenges. By shining a spotlight on these issues, we contribute to the development of strategies that align with regional and global climate adaptation objectives.

We centred our discussions around three key objectives;

Showcasing Indigenous Wisdom: Spotlight the rich tapestry of indigenous practices in DRR and preparedness. We aim to stocktake these indigenous practices, celebrate these age-old traditions and highlight their relevance in the modern world. Develop a space for discourse around DRR as it relates to flooding, desertification and inter-regional migration, advocacy and knowledge sharing

Promoting Cross-Cultural Learning: We aspire to create a dynamic platform where grassroots communities, indigenous leaders, DRR experts, and policymakers can come together. Our space was designed to encourage the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and stories across cultures.

Strengthening Community Resilience: We inspire grassroots communities to take pride in their indigenous practices and explore their integration into contemporary DRR approaches. This way, resilience can be amplified at the community level.

GOVERNING DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS

FACILITATED BY MR. AMUSAT KABIRU KOLAWOLE

This session of the series identifies DRM frameworks from a global to local context, highlighting the Sendai Framework to the Local emergency Management agency (LEMA) establishment frameworks as well as analyze the effectiveness of such frameworks and entities, highlighting where they have served as catalysts in ensuring information gets to those most in need, and disaster management programs have effect change in communities most in need. The interactive session provides opportunities to interrogate the current systems by examining their scope of implementation to provide valuable feedback and recommendations on how we can build stronger institutions.

During the session, several key points were discussed regarding disaster risk management (DRM) and governance in Nigeria. The impact of disasters, whether direct or indirect, was emphasized, underscoring the need for proactive measures in disaster risk reduction. It was highlighted that Nigeria currently lacks a structured preparedness system, and the existing paradigm shift in the country remains reactive rather than proactive.

Governance, defined as the process of enforcing decisions within an organization or society, was discussed in the context of reducing disaster risk without creating new challenges. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) was identified as the coordinating agency for disaster risk governance in Nigeria. The importance of advocating for proactive disaster risk management and reduction in the country was emphasized. The session also raised concerns about the need for a functional and active early warning system, policies that proactively address disaster reduction, and a shift from reactive to proactive disaster risk management at all levels. The discussion called for community involvement, local understanding of risks, effective local emergency agencies, and a reflection of continuity in government within disaster risk governance. Furthermore, the impact of poor budgetary frameworks on the effectiveness of DRM governance was highlighted, emphasizing the need for adequate resources to support an effective disaster risk management framework.

EMPOWERING LOCAL ACTION FOR RESILIENCE

FACILITATED BY EMMANUEL DENNIS -

The second session of the series focuses on advancing and empowering local action that promote preparedness measures at the grassroots level. Discourse for this session centered on training, resource allocation, and local policy development, all working in harmony to bolster biodiversity and reduce disaster risks.

The session delved into the significant reasons why Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) matters, exploring key aspects of climate change and its undeniable scientific evidence. The urgent need to scale up indigenous knowledge and practices in tandem with addressing extreme weather temperatures was underscored.

The session emphasized that approximately 40% of the global population is vulnerable to the repercussions of global warming, especially those located in susceptible regions. Specific examples, such as the floods in Kenya in September 2023, highlighted the tangible impact of climate change on communities. The session identified climate change as a destabilizing factor in the Horn of Africa, amplifying existing instabilities.

Furthermore, the discussion drew attention to the acute food insecurity faced by at least one in five Africans,

emphasizing the inadequacy of synthetic fertilizers for food security and the necessity to shift towards organic fertilizers for sustainable agriculture.

Urbanization was addressed in the context of sustainability, emphasizing the imperative to design urban centers capable of withstanding environmental challenges through built environment strategies. The importance of engaging young people in building resilience, the critical role of community members in environmental education, and the need to modernize production and storage capacities of farmers were also highlighted.

The session stressed the significance of incorporating farm value-addition technologies to enhance profits for farmers.

Moreover, the role of seed banks and food banks in assisting farmers with seasonal planting decisions was underscored. The session concluded by emphasizing the collective responsibility of individuals and sectors to collaborate, utilizing both scientific and local knowledge to build resilience. Ultimately, the message conveyed was that building resilience is a choice, and failure to do so could lead to dire consequences for all.

OUTCOMES & RECOMMENDATION

The series brought to the forefront the critical importance of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), addressing various interconnected factors that underscore its significance. The series emphasized the compelling scientific evidence supporting the reality of climate change, necessitating urgent action. Participants recognized the need to amplify indigenous knowledge and practices in the face of extreme weather temperatures causing widespread human and environmental crises. The following outcomes/recommendations emerged;

Promoting Proactive Measures: The series highlighted the urgent need for Nigeria to shift from a reactive to a proactive approach in disaster risk reduction. Recommendations include the development and implementation of structured preparedness systems to effectively address both direct and indirect disasters.

Enhancing Governance for DRR: Recognizing governance as a pivotal factor, the session suggested strengthening the coordinating role of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in disaster risk governance. This involves ensuring a centralized and coordinated response to disasters, emphasizing the importance of governance in effective risk reduction.

Advocacy for Policy Reform: To promote proactive disaster management, there is a need for sustained advocacy efforts. Recommendations involve actively promoting and implementing policies that proactively address disaster reduction. This includes raising awareness about the limitations of the current reactive paradigm and advocating for strategic shifts in disaster risk management approaches.

Community-Driven Resilience Building: Recognizing the pivotal role of community members, the session recommended community-driven and inclusive approaches. This involves actively involving local communities in environmental education, engaging youth in resilience-building efforts, and fostering collaborative initiatives at all levels that utilize both scientific and local knowledge.

Enhancing Youth Engagement: Acknowledging the significance of youth in building resilience, the series recommended actively involving young people in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. This involves creating platforms for youth engagement, empowering them to contribute to resilience-building initiatives.

Sustainable Agriculture and Food Banks: Emphasizing the importance of sustainable agriculture, the session recommended integrating modernized production and storage capacities for farmers. This includes incorporating farm value-addition technologies and establishing seed banks and food banks to enhance agricultural practices and ensure food security.

“As we move on, communities must be encouraged to initiate, own and sustain their DRM processes and systems to have better and more impactful solutions and interventions.”

Emmanuel Dennis Ngongo

“Investment in risk reduction and local resilience building can only be achieved through harmonized and collective participation in disaster risk governance, working in silos will not yield results.”

Mr. Amusat Kabiru Kolawole

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DRM SERIES IS HOSTED BY SURGE AFRICA

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