

## Making African cities resilient

Nairobi, Kenya 13 October



**SIGNING IN:** From left: Andrew O. Mondoh, PS MOSSP, Hon. Esther Murugi, Minister, MOSSP, Head, UNISDR Africa, Pedro Basabe and former Mayor of Nairobi, Geoffrey Majwja during the International Day for Disaster Reduction

Several countries around the Africa region joined the rest of the world to mark the International Day for Disaster Reduction on 13 October. The event was held within the ongoing World Disaster Reduction theme: “*Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!*” During this year’s International Day, Nairobi city joined the campaign as the seventh

African City to strengthen their role and commitment towards reducing risk to disaster. Other municipalities that have already signed up include: Bukedia District (Uganda), Dalifort-Foirail (Senegal), Durban, (South Africa), Kisumu (Kenya), Overstrand Municipality

(South Africa) Maputo, (Mozambique) and St. Louis (Senegal). Maputo and Overstrand Municipality, signed up during the Planning Africa Conference convened on 14 September in Durban.

### Kisumu joins campaign

*Kisumu, Kenya, 8 December* Kisumu, the third largest city in Kenya and the leading communication and trading center for countries of the Great Lakes Region including Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, joined the UNISDR-led campaign *Making Cities Resilient, My city is getting ready!* at a ceremony on 8 December, adding to the list of over 150 other municipalities worldwide.

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## Forum on community-based DRR<sup>1</sup> and CCA<sup>2</sup> held in Kisumu

*Kisumu, Kenya, 6-8 December 2010*

Over 100 participants across East African convened from 6-8 December during a Conference on *Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation*. The conference, organized by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre in (ICPAC) in partnership with UNISDR and World Bank GFDRR addressed integrated approaches to community-based disaster management strategies and promoted sustainable development. Participants spent the last two days drafting a plan of action towards developing a climate risk management programme in countries throughout the East African



A rainmaker from the local Community. PHOTO/ COURTESY

region. The participants agreed to strengthen the partnership between climate change scientists disaster risk managers and community-based organizations to help address climate-related

disasters in Africa, such as drought, floods, cholera and malaria.

**For more information**  
<http://www.unisdr.org/news/v.php?id=17140>

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*Happy reading*

## UN agencies in Africa strengthen efforts to deliver as one



Dr. Asha-Rosa Migiro, the Deputy Secretary-General of the UN and Pedro Basabe, Head, UNISDR Africa, (left) during the 11th RCM-Africa meeting in Addis Ababa. PHOTO/ Courtesy

Africa and several UN agencies are members of cluster four on Environment, Population and Urbanization, led by UNEP regional office for Africa (ROA).

The report of cluster four includes inputs from clusters members and informs about the Africa regional Strategy and Programme of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015) as well as the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Nairobi, April 2010.

### For more information:

[www.unisdr.org/news/v.php?id=16508](http://www.unisdr.org/news/v.php?id=16508)

<http://www.uneca.org>

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 14-15 November  
UNISDR was among the several UN organizations that participated in the 11th Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa).

The meeting closed with participants assenting to strengthen their efforts to deliver as one for the AU and its NEPAD Programme. Key presentations focused on the need of the RCM, cluster and sub-clusters to be more result and impact oriented. The UNISDR, Regional Office for

## UNISDR supports WFP-FAO cooperation on DRR/ DRM

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 18-19 October -- Over 80 participants from various organizations including, AU/NPCA, IGAD, SADC, IOC, COMESA, ECHO and the UN gathered during the WFP/FAO seminar to discuss collaboration and implementation of DRR/DRM programming in the field level in order to enhance community resilience and improve food security. The seminar brought together experts who are working on the socio-economic aspects of food insecurity, crop production monitoring, GIS/Remote Sensing specialists and EC program managers to share experiences and to build collaboration. The UNISDR representative, Pedro Basabe highlighted the goals of the HFA 2005-2015, Africa Regional Strategy and National Level Implementation for DRR in Africa. UNISDR also advocated for strengthening of networks, coordination among partners and information sharing as basics for successful implementation of sustainable programmes for drought risk reduction.

### For more information:

[www.unisdr.org/news/v.php?id=16508](http://www.unisdr.org/news/v.php?id=16508)

## World Disaster Campaign update: Making African cities resilient

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### St. Louis Mayor awarded as resilient cities campaign champion

Saint Louis, Senegal, 16-18 December The Mayor of Saint Louis, Cheikh Mamadou Abiboulaye Dieye was awarded as a global champion for *Making Cities Resilient, My City is Getting Ready* by UNISDR in recognition to his efforts and achievements in advancing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in Saint Louis City.

The awarding ceremony was held during a regional conference on *Climate Change and Local Governance: African Cities Commit*. The conference was held to discuss climate change and variability impact on cities and the role for local governments to engage in meaningful climate change adaptation related action.

The meeting was organized by the City of Saint Louis in collaboration with several partners, including UNISDR, UNHABITAT, United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) Africa and the University of Saint Louis.

Mayors from various countries including, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Guinea

Cheikh Mamadou, Mayor of Saint Louis (right), receiving the award as campaign champion from Alioune Badiane, Director, UNHABITAT Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States (left) and Youcef Ait-Chellouche, UNISDR high level representative (centre) during the awarding ceremony in Saint Louis City



Bissau, Namibia

among others participated in the meeting.

The Saint Louis declaration highlighted the need for a global partnership to support local action in African cities in order to increase resilience against climate change impacts.

The delegates also made an appeal to UNISDR to provide support to local governance in developing the climate change adaptation agenda in the urban setting.

### Private sector partnership

Nairobi, Kenya, 25 October -- A group of investors in partnership with UNISDR held an Entrepreneurial Finance Seminar to provide Kenyan entrepreneurs with training on capital formation options in the over-the-counter market in the USA.

The meeting was part of UNISDR's effort to strengthen its partnership with the private sector to advocate for disaster risk reduction and *Making Cities Resilient* campaign.

### For more information about the campaign:

[www.unisdr.org/campaign](http://www.unisdr.org/campaign)



## Head of State retreat on food and climate change

*Arusha, Tanzania, 3 December* -- More than 400 high level personalities from the East Africa Community (EAC) attended the Head of states retreat. The participants included the Presidents of Tanzania, Kenya and Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, Ministers, Heads of national departments, scientific community, experts, EAC Secretariat, Media and a few special guests from the FAO, IUCN, UNISDR, Embassy of Sweden and USAID.

Main topics discussed by selected policy advisors and experts included the status of food security and climate change impacts in East African countries and globally.

Substantive discussions followed and recommendations were provided. The EAC summit is expected to endorse the EAC Climate Change Policy (EACCCP), the EAC Food Security Action Plan 2010-2015 and the Ministerial Declaration on Food security and Climate Change that incorporate DRR.

### For more information:

[http://www.eac.int/news/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=311:retreat-food-security-climate-change&catid=48:eac-latest&Itemid=69](http://www.eac.int/news/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=311:retreat-food-security-climate-change&catid=48:eac-latest&Itemid=69)

## CARE launches Adaptation Learning Programme

*Nairobi, Kenya 1 December* -- UNISDR attended the official launch of CARE's Adaptation Learning Programme (ALP), a five year running programme with a goal to increase the capacity of vulnerable households in sub-Saharan Africa to adapt to climate variability and change. The programme targets 40 local communities living in exposed areas of Kenya, Niger, Ghana and Mozambique.

CARE has developed a framework for their holistic Community-based Adaptation (CBA), which includes four cross cutting key segments. The elements include disaster risk reduction, building resilient livelihoods, develop local capacity and tackling underlying causes of vulnerability.

Lessons and experiences will be shared with policymakers and adaptation practitioners across Africa and beyond.

### For more information:

<http://www.care.dk/english/where-we-work/global-programmes/47-alp>

### Regional update

**The UNISDR in partnership with the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is working closely with the following intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) to promote the DRR agenda in Africa.**

#### Second African ministerial conference report to be submitted to AUC

The report on the second African Ministerial Conference on disaster risk reduction including the Africa Programme of Action till 2011 will be submitted to the AU summit to be held in Addis Ababa, from 17-31 January 2011.

#### UNISDR signs agreement with ECCAS

The MoU with Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) was signed to strengthen collaboration on disaster risk reduction.

A memorandum of understanding between the two bodies will pave the way for cooperation on technical assistance for disaster risk reduction in Central Africa, which will include developing and signing a data sharing protocol. It will also allow the two entities to work together to assess key institutions within ECCAS specializing in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

#### Capacity assessment for ECOWAS countries

Niamey, Niger -- UNISDR has carried out capacity assessment of specialised regional institutions in West Africa for DRR technical assistance to (Economic Community Of West African States) ECOWAS Member States. The main objective was to assess capacity and identify specific roles and comparative advantage of sub-regional specialized institutions, and networks as well as review how their services and supporting role for countries can be enhanced particularly, the areas of risk monitoring and early warning.

#### Meeting with the Disaster Governing Council

As part of UNISDR cooperation with ECOWAS to support member states in matters relating to disaster risk reduction in the West Africa sub-region, UNISDR met the members of the Gambian Disaster Governing Council to brief them about a national programme in integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change. The meeting was a follow-up of his previous visit, on programme implementation. **For more information:**

<http://observer.gm/africa/gambia/article/isdr-official-meets-vp>

### Data sharing protocol

UNISDR is in the process of facilitating and designing effective and implementable data sharing protocol by involving regional and sub regional specialized institutions on seasonal forecasts and information on climate related hazards. The data sharing protocol will improve the availability of information and coordination within the network.

#### ECOWAS

The French draft of data-sharing protocol was adopted at the first consultation meeting in Lome, Togo held on 30 September - 1 October 2010. ECOWAS Commission is currently finalizing the English draft version. The signing is scheduled for 2011 whilst discussions on political buy-in are underway with River Basin development authorities, ECOWAS Water Resource Coordination Unit and other relevant stakeholders.

#### ECCAS

The French data-sharing protocol draft was drafted by the ECCAS disaster risk reduction advisor, and was discussed in the first consultation meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon on 20 September as well as at ACMAD Regional Climate Outlook Forum for Central Africa (PRESAC4) 4-5 October 2010. The process is on-going to revise the draft protocol based on inputs received in these meetings.

#### SADC

A protocol document is being drafted by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Disaster Risk Reduction Unit by taking into consideration the discussion for data sharing needs among the member states along Zambezi River Basin held during the SADC-ISDR/GFDRR-OCHA Preparedness Workshop from 5-8 October 2010.

## Mozambique promotes multi-stakeholder dialogue for the HFA progress monitoring at the local level

Maputo, Mozambique December 15-17 The National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC), in collaboration with the forum of civil society organizations and UNISDR Regional Office for Africa, is seeking to promote greater multi-stakeholder dialogue as part of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the progress monitoring at the local level.

Meetings were held in Maputo to explore the scope for an effective dialogue. These efforts contribute to addressing the recommendations formulated at the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Reduction (16-19 June 2009) and will assist in developing guidance for other countries.

Similar efforts are currently also taking place in Peru, Armenia, Nepal and Indonesia.

## KSUP announces results of the socio-economic survey

Nairobi, Kenya, 10 December --UNISDR representative, Ron Cadribo attended the Korogocho Slum Upgrading Programme (KSUP) Conference. The KSUP is implemented by a partnership of the Italian Cooperation, UNHABITAT and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Local Government, under the Kenya – Italy Debt for Development Programme (KIDDP).

The conference was organized with the purpose of sharing the results of the socio-economic survey, which was conducted in Korogocho as part of the upgrading exercise.

For the UNISDR the project is an important contribution towards the 2010-2011 World Disaster Reduction Campaign, “*Making cities resilient, My City is getting ready*”.

It is to be noted that the UNISDR had participated in the lodging of the project, where the Nairobi City signed for the campaign.

### For more information:

<http://www.ksup.org/index.php?view=events&event=10>

## Towards coordinating project on drought risk reduction in the Horn of Africa

Kampala, Uganda 12-16 A multi stakeholder group visited Karamoja to discuss with local and national actors about the drought conditions and also identify gaps and needs to implement the ECHO decision for drought risk reduction in Uganda and the Horn of Africa.

The team of ECHO representatives in Kampala, DanChurchAid, FAO, ACTED and UNISDR, accompanied by a delegation of the EC visited four communities with pastoralist and agro-pastoralist background in different areas of Karamoja.

Meetings were held with two district commissioners to discuss disaster management in the area, the laboratory run by CND which detects livestock diseases, as well as the dam project managed by the Ugandan government to boost agriculture.

Discussions were held about efforts to develop a timely drought early warning



Disease-free seed is distributed for planting at Karamoja  
IDP PHOTO/FAO

system, based on meteorological data and community information, as well as the development and implementation of district disaster management plans, and community based disaster risk reduction measures, among other topics such as capacity building through pastoralist field schools, among others.

Deliberations were made to effectively coordinate the National Platform for DRR on the district and the community level for drought early warning and implementation of mitigation measures.

The team accompanied by UNOCHA and UNDP held a debriefing meeting with the Office of Prime Minister in charge of disaster reduction and the national platform geared to strengthen cooperation for project implementation.

## African Union and partners hold DRR meeting

Nairobi, Kenya, 13-15 December-- The workshop on disaster risk reduction was organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) in Nairobi in partnership with UNISDR and Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). The purpose of the workshop was to facilitate implementation of the African Regional Strategy for DRR and the Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of (2006-2015). The first step was to reactivate the Africa Working Group on DRR and the group agreed on the terms of reference, its composition, functions and operations. The AUC will communicate the decision to the regional economic communities and stakeholders to request them to designate members to the group.



## Experts discuss way forward on Africa climate strategy

Nairobi, Kenya 16-18--December AUC held the Africa climate change expert meeting in Nairobi. The meeting was considered as a continuation of an earlier expert meeting, to discuss a second draft of the Africa Climate Strategy.

The expected output of the meeting was a revised draft of the Africa climate change Strategy on Africa Climate Change strategy which provides opportunities for building synergies between climate change and disaster risk reduction as also indicated in the extended Africa Programme of Action 2006-2015 for DRR.

The Climate Change Strategy should also strengthen joint programming and resource mobilization for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

UNISDR Regional Office for Africa, would like to warmly welcome our newest colleagues as we bid farewell to Yoko Hagiwara and Titus Kuuyour

**Meanwhile, we wish you all happy holidays and a disaster free New year!**

Courtesy of: Pedro Basabe, Youcef Ait-Chellouche, Yoko Hagiwara, Rhea Katsanakis, Maria Hauer, Anne Ogoti, Humphrey Ngunjiri, Aliou Dia, Dominique Kuitsouc, Edward Turvill, Titus Kuuyour, Peninah Gathoni and Sarah Wakasa