

The socio-economic impact includes damage to infrastructure, displacement and death of people, particularly among adults in the prime working ages and among children under five, economic decline, increasing number of orphans and lower human development. The impact on households is devastating, with growing numbers of child-headed households and impoverished families.

While the impact of disasters is immediately felt in the humanitarian sector, its tentacles reach far and

wide, cutting across all sectors, from agriculture to education, industry and commerce to investment, environment to gender. For instance, high mortality rates among children and the productive sector of the population do not only mask demographic data such as life expectancy, but paint a negative picture of issues such as economic and human development resulting in reduced investments in the region. In addition, damage to rural communities threaten future food security and by extension the health and education sectors.



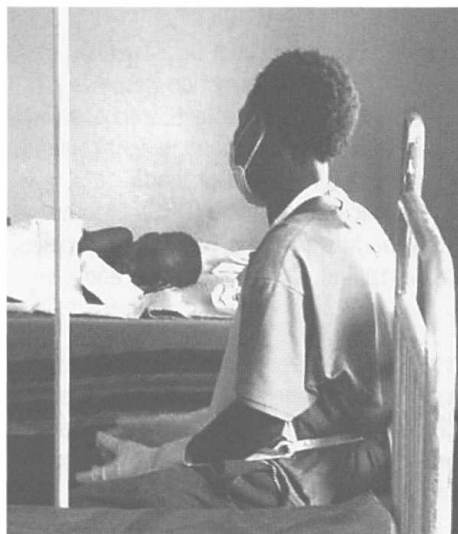
Land degradation, Zambia



Flooding, Zimbabwe



Flooding, Mozambique



Ebola, Democratic Republic of Congo



Dead elephant, South Africa



Food distribution, Malawi

DISASTER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION: SARDC INITIATIVE

In 1995, SARDC in partnership with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies started a Disaster Management Information Project (DMIP). Its objective was to provide accessible and accurate information on disasters and disaster related vulnerability in the southern African sub-region. From December 2002 to March 2003 SARDC in collaboration with the UN-Institute of Disaster Reduction (ISDR) resuscitated the project through collection building and updating the bibliographic database. The bibliographic database containing more than 2700 records can be accessed in searchable format on the following link:
<http://databases.sardc.net/wwwisis/resources.htm>

To complement these initiatives, SARDC has produced a directory of organizations involved in disaster management work in southern Africa.

Strengthening Regional Capacity for Disaster Management Project

Under the ProVention Consortium Disaster Risk Reduction project, SARDC-Information Resource Centre (IRC) implemented the project Strengthening Regional Capacity for Disaster Management covering the SADC countries i.e. Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Mauritius, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The project produced a directory of organizations involved in disaster management work in southern Africa which will assist policymakers, researchers and organizations involved in disaster related work to be aware of initiatives elsewhere.

Activities Undertaken

- Reviewed disaster management contacts databases, directories and websites.
- Listed organizations involved in disaster-related work.
- Designed and distributed questionnaire to disaster-related organizations.
- Designed database for disaster-related organizations in SADC.
- Checked Websites and directories for profiles and followed up by distributing questionnaire to obtain accurate records.
- Data input, edit and compilation of database/directory.

How to access the directory

The information contained in the directory is arranged in alphabetical order first by the country and then by the name of the organization.

The following shows the database layout, sample information supplied by one of the respondents and is a reflection of the information as it appears in the directory.

Name of Organization	Disaster Management & Mitigation Unit Office of the Vice President
Acronym	DMM-OVP
Type of Organization	Government
Physical Address	Plot 25B Road Rhodespark Lusaka, Zambia.
Postal Address	P.O. Box 38963, Lusaka, Zambia
Tel.No.	260 1252 692
Fax.No.	260 1255 725 .
Email	dmmu@zamtel.zm
URL/Internet	www.dmmu-ovp.gov.zm
Name of Contact	Mwanza, Jones L .
Title of Contact	National Coordinator .
Org. Profile	The DMMU is the lead Disaster Management Coordination institution in Zambia, placed within the ambit of the second highest office in the land. The unit is strategically located to coordinate all activities pertaining to Disaster Management . Established in 1994 and became fully operational in 1998 the unit has scored a number of achievements including initiating regional disaster management training programmes. The unit currently has a strength of twenty fully trained disaster managers having undergone training at Cranfield University's CDMC.
Disaster Related Initiatives	Initiated training of Disaster Management practitioners in the country and from neighbouring countries.
Geographical Focus	Zambia
Major Keywords	Disaster Preparedness; Disaster Reduction; Disaster Response; Disaster Recovery; Disaster Prevention.
Other Keywords	Agriculture, Floods/Cyclone, Health Related, Refugees, Food Insecurity, HIV/AIDS, Forecasting and Early Warning Drought/Famine, Rehabilitation, Landmines.

The directory is available and can be accessed on the following SARDC website links

<http://databases.sardc.net/wwwisis/resources.htm>
(as a searchable database)

http://databases.sardc.net/dima/disaster_directory_4_s_africa.pdf (in pdf)

The Directory provides an outline of disaster related activities being undertaken by organizations in the SADC region and provides a profile for the region's efforts on the world scene.

The directory will form the basis of a more collaborative framework in the management of risk and disasters in southern Africa. Both the bibliographic database and directory of organizations will work towards developing a long-term process for monitoring risk and disasters in southern Africa.

Further Disaster Information Management Initiatives

Without reinventing the wheel, SARDC proposes to put in place in collaboration with partners a sustainable mechanism that coordinates their efforts while creating a platform for enhancing debate on this socio-economic development challenge.

SARDC has a well-established Information Resource Centre with databases on disaster management, state of the environment and water resources management, as well as related programmes on gender and development, regional economic development and governance including conflict prevention, with website access and preparations for expanding "virtual library" access at advanced stages. SARDC has strong information resources at sub-regional level, and well-established capacity and experience in facilitating linkages, and establishing and sustaining development partnerships.

SARDC plans to adopt a multi-sectoral approach to disaster information management, with participation from social, policy, technical and economic sectors.

A well-coordinated continental response will require the development of a collaborative institutional and data framework to support analysis and interpretation functions, facilitate greater harmonisation at sub-regional and national levels, and create a strong base for a reporting process for the region. To strengthen the coordinated approach and address the insufficient regional level comparative data and lack of strong linkages with national assessments and reporting processes, there is a need to establish a collaborative and participatory institutional framework involving a number of institutions and sectors, and a data network infrastructure.

In response to this initiative, and to the fact that no development agenda can be successfully articulated on the continent without addressing disaster

management, this project proposes a regional information initiative that also seeks to expose and act upon the interface of policy, poverty and information access in the management and reduction of disasters. The harmonization of national and regional initiatives, and inter-sectoral and institutional responses to disaster management is a key factor in mitigating the effects on people and economies.

An initiative that promotes accessible methods of information collection, analysis and dissemination while targeting disaster management organizations and policy-makers is needed, especially in bridging the gap between national, sub-regional and regional efforts.

SARDC proposes to put in place a sustainable mechanism that supports their efforts through information access while creating a platform for enhancing debate on this socio-economic development challenge. The ultimate goal is to contribute towards solutions to reduce the burden of disasters on development efforts in Africa. The project will be implemented in conjunction with sub-regional organizations, drawn from governmental institutions as well as non-governmental and private sector, and will include outreach to the media and parliaments. The geographical coverage of the project will be the African continent.

There is no region-wide disaster information centre covering the wide variety of hazard or risk conditions on Africa but there are specialized documentation centres that are expanding their activities into related fields of risk. SARDC is one such highly regarded centre (Living with Risk, 2002).

RATIONALE FOR FURTHER PROJECT WORK

Disasters, whether natural or human-made are one of the greatest threats to the NEPAD goals of sustainable socio-economic development and poverty eradication in Africa. Changing land use patterns and global warming suggest that serious floods may recur in the future. The responses to all forms of disasters across the continent should be fundamentally informed by the intricate relationship between poverty and disaster management.

Poverty clearly can be caused by and result from disasters, and poverty is a significant factor impacting on disaster mitigation and management.

In depriving people of access to health facilities, schools and media, poverty limits their access to information and preparedness. While access to education and information can widen people's capacity to adopt and implement appropriate policies, poverty can hinder that access increasing the vulnerability of households to the impact of disasters. Thus, policies and interventions should take into consideration the interface of policy, poverty and information access.

AU members states are currently at serious risk of failing to achieve one of their main objectives, "Health for All" in the 21st Century as adopted by the World Health Organisation (WHO). As the environmental degradation and management of water resources continues to escalate, showing no signs of relenting in the region, SADC chances of achieving this goal are also diminishing.

While there seems to be a plethora of information including statistics, it is often conflicting, inaccurate or inaccessible to those who need to use it. Current information is scattered, and generally not accessible for use in mainstreaming to other sectors, and is often raw data or unusable data for the immediate purpose. Best practices are often not accessible beyond local level. SARDC recognizes efforts on related issues and initiatives are in place throughout the continent. Most of these efforts lack a sub-regional or regional context and exist uncoordinated.

DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Development Goal

The objectives of socio-economic development leading to poverty eradication, and consolidation and maintenance of democracy, peace and security are advanced through disaster reduction based on wide ownership and knowledge of strategies and best practices at regional, sub-regional and national levels.

Project Objective

Regional, sub-regional and national capacities to manage disasters in a coordinated manner are strengthened, through development of an appropriate institutional collaboration and data framework for information access, monitoring and assessment.

STRATEGIES FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

A well-coordinated continental response will require the development of a collaborative institutional and data framework to support analysis and interpretation functions, facilitate greater harmonisation at sub-regional and national levels, and create a strong base for a reporting process for the region. There is **Error! No index entries found** need to establish a collaborative and participatory institutional framework involving a number of institutions and sectors, and a data network infrastructure.

In response to this initiative, and to the fact that no development agenda can be successfully articulated on the continent without addressing disaster management, this project proposes a regional information initiative that also seeks to expose the interface of policy, poverty and information access in the management and reduction of disasters.

Implementation begins with establishment of a small working group of selected participants with knowledge of specific subject areas or sub-regions. These need not be representative as this is an informal grouping or think tank for purposes of start-up, and should be very limited in number. This working group will form the basis of a future technical advisory committee, and will work on the terms of reference for establishment of a steering committee of sub-regional representatives.

An institutional framework will be established at sub-regional levels involving the inter-governmental agency and initially one or two reliable non-governmental partner organizations from each sub region that could be situated at research institutions, universities or non-governmental agencies that are already working on disaster-related subject areas, have an interest in information and some infrastructure, and may be at national or sub-regional level. The identification of these partner institutions at sub-regional level is key to building the regional network, and some time and analysis must be spent on this process.

During this period, a parallel process of information collection can begin for sub-regional and regional levels, based on the existing mechanisms in southern Africa and elsewhere, with categorization and cataloguing for initial database entry and website

access. These mechanisms and processes will be reviewed as the project progresses, with participation from the key institutions in all sub-regions, and an appropriate regional mechanism will be developed during the course of the project. This will require a documentation working group that will develop, among other things, appropriate templates, software analysis, and a thesaurus of keywords. This group should meet at least once annually, and establish an active electronic discussion group as an ongoing mechanism for consultation and sharing of ideas.

Capacity building for sub-regional institutions including intergovernmental agencies can begin only in the latter half of the project phase, and is dependent on results of the initial implementation. This will be a beginning and will lay a foundation, as capacity building is an ongoing exercise, and may not be uniform across sub-regions as they differ in requirements and existing capacity.

The strategy envisaged includes a strong process of impact monitoring and analysis, after initial implementation processes have been established. It is essential that this be viewed as an ongoing process, with clear plans for phases, for the sustainability of the process, supporting as it does the development plans of the region.

OUTPUTS/RESULTS

- 1 Strong regional/sub-regional partnership and networks are established and maintained for the purpose of increasing ownership and participation of stakeholders in disaster reduction.
- 2 Multi-sectoral information on disaster reduction is accessible to governments and inter-governmental agencies, organizations, individuals, private sector and other stakeholders, including parliaments and media.
- 3 The capacity of sub-regional and national institutions to collaborate on disaster reduction strategies through information, access, exchange and analysis is supported and strengthened for purposes of reducing vulnerability.
- 4 Strengthening and institutionalizing partnerships, building on information capacity achieved, developing indicators for sub-regional monitoring and GIS mapping.

Annex 1

The Southern African Research And Documentation Centre (SARDC)

SARDC is an independent regional information resource centre which seeks to enhance the effectiveness of key development processes in the SADC region through the collection, production and dissemination of information, and enabling the capacity to generate and use information.

SARDC was established as a non-profit foundation in 1987, in Harare and Maputo, in response to an expressed need within southern Africa for greater access to information about the region. Its objective is to improve the base of knowledge about economic, political, cultural and social developments, and their implications, by making information accessible to governments and policy makers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, regional and international organizations,

development agencies, parliaments, and the media. The Centre has grown to 10 departments, including five for specific programming areas and five departments offering professional services support for information resources and knowledge management, information technology, publishing, marketing, finance and administration, and project development.

Particular areas of interest related to risk reduction include the State of the Environment in southern Africa, disaster management information devoted especially to drought and other socio-economic and political issues relevant to the development process and governance that have a direct bearing on matters of risk awareness and management practices. In this respect, SARDC hosts the I Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre for Southern Africa (IMERCSA) which provides users with current information on environment and

disaster management in southern Africa. IMERCSA is the leading regional centre for global reporting on the State of the environment, producing relevant databases, reports, books, factsheets and newsletters, including on shared watercourses. SARDC is also well placed to facilitate seminars, conduct briefings and undertake consultancies for information exchange on environmental issues, human development, gender, electoral processes and related aspects of information networking, including specialised work with parliaments and media.

SARDC, being a regional organization with offices in Mozambique and Zimbabwe, representation in Tanzania and an established network of partner organizations that include SADC institutions, is well placed to implement a project on an issue of cross-cutting nature such as disaster information management. SARDC has implemented widely acknowledged projects on issues that include environment and water issues, gender and democracy. SARDC's involvement in the gender arena contributed to the development of gender policy for the SADC region and to the SADC gender strategy approved by Heads of State in 1997.

Our organizational strengths cover the preparation of accurate, reliable and accessible information through working with a wide range of expertise throughout the region, and disseminating the information through relevant networks, organizations, governments, parliaments and media. We do not expect to have all relevant technical expertise in-house, but have strength in building highly motivated teams and working groups made up of individuals from different countries and disciplines. This has been used effectively, for example, in producing the Mozambique National Human Development Report for the past four years; producing a number of State of the Environment reports in the SADC region; working with UNEP to contribute to the Africa and Global Environment Outlooks as the collaborating centre for southern Africa; and working with national partners to produce national gender profiles for SADC member states.

The SARDC staff numbers 50 people including eight in Maputo, of which about 30 are professionals and the others support staff. All are citizens or residents of southern Africa, and about half of the staff at all levels are women. There are a number of students on attachment, and the most recent South-South Fellow was from Brazil.

SARDC launched its Disaster Management Information Project (DMIP) in 1995, with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, with financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency. The first phase of the DMIP sought to contribute to the UN-proclaimed International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-1999) by improving the information and knowledge base for disaster management in southern Africa. This was achieved through documentation and dissemination of existing and new technical and non-technical information related to measures for the assessment, prediction and mitigation of both natural and human-caused disasters.

The project aimed to provide accessible and accurate information on disasters in the southern African region. The information is targeted for use by relief agencies, policy makers, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, development agencies and the media, in the region and internationally, as a resource for training and policy planning so that appropriate and proactive measures can be taken when a disaster strikes. The first phase of the DMIP, concluded in 1998, documented information on key disasters in southern Africa, including drought, floods, epidemics (such as cholera, dysentery and HIV/ AIDS), civil conflicts, storms and cyclones, internal and cross-border displacement, and factors worsening household vulnerability. Through the project, a library with computerized bibliographic and contacts databases was set up. The library's collection comprises both published and un-published information dating back to 1960. To date, the project's literature holdings number over 2,400 books, scientific papers, disaster plans and profiles, etc. The contacts database holds about 500 entries. The results have been highly appreciated and are used by individuals and agencies in disaster reduction and response today.

From December 2002 to February 2003 SARDC has been working on the bridging phase of the Project Strengthening Disaster Information Management in Africa in conjunction with the office of the UN Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR). The project sought to update the databases with current information, promote Disaster Information Management and widen access to disaster information in Africa in general and southern Africa in particular.

Methodology Reliable and accessible information relevant to the SADC region is generated through a process of participation, networking, wide consultation and ownership, and targeted dissemination, reaching into national, regional and global policy processes. SARDC provides information and analysis of current policies and issues through special reports and news features, books, fact sheets, chronologies, policy analysis, seminars, conferences, specialist service, and website . This information is well-received because of its scope and accessibility, drawing positive responses about the quality and mix of information, analysis and documentation, which makes it available to a cross-section of society, from policy makers and parliaments to media and NGOs.

Databases SARDC has an information resource centre containing over 12,000 subject files on regional issues, a library of books and periodicals, and computerized databases of selected materials that are retrievable through the use of keywords and maintains specific bibliographic and contact databases on primary areas of interest. SARDC has an extensive website of publications and articles, and is establishing a "virtual library" of internet access to its data bases and other resources.

Institutional Capacity SARDC has 15 years of institutional experience in documenting, analysing and communicating trends in regional development, in publishing and distributing the results, and monitoring impact, and a range of qualified staff from the SADC region as well as an extensive network of regional partner organizations and contacts. Language capacity in English, French, Portuguese and Swahili. With an extensive network of partner organizations and contacts in the SADC sub-region and beyond, SARDC is strategically positioned to contribute to identifying multi-sectoral solutions and collecting/disseminating policies and good practices.

Partnerships SARDC works in close partnership with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), with SADC environment sector through a formal Memorandum of Understanding, and with the SADC Gender Unit, SADC Water Sector and others through informal agreements or contracts. SARDC also has an MOU with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).