



Gravitazz Institute

For disaster reduction and emergency management

Monthly Newsletter

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Editorial

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On the 13th of this month, the DRR community celebrated the 2016 International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR), with the theme: "Live to tell: Reducing global disaster mortality". Sadly, Hurricane Matthew had just hit Haiti a few days before, causing over 1,000 casualties. This was the deadliest event encountered by the Caribbean country since the 2010 earthquake, corroborating in the process the relevance of this year's IDDR theme.

African States actively took part in the IDDR commemoration. While the City of Windhoek in Namibia chose to create public awareness on the high mortality rates caused by knife stabbing and motor vehicle accidents, Kenya organized its 4th national symposium for DRR. In Nigeria, the University of Ibadan and the GNDR organized a session to strengthen existing DRR mechanisms. In the meantime, Malawi celebrated this crucial day by showcasing fire and rescue drills.

In this month's newsletter, we have striven to feature external content – highlighting some examples of national IDDR celebrations, as well as DRR findings arising from Civil Society Organizations – so as to highlight the variety of realities and priorities which exist amongst continents, regions and countries in terms of vulnerability to disasters and other hazards.

As always, we welcome external contributions to this publication and look forward to receiving your feedback. In the meantime, we hope that you enjoy the read as well as our new design!

*A message by: Millan Atam,
Managing Director, GIDREM*

Overview of DRR Events



- **Thursday October 10**

Hurricane Matthew was a very powerful, long-lived and deadly tropical cyclone which became the first Category 5 Atlantic hurricane since Hurricane Felix in 2007. The horrific arrival of Hurricane Matthew on the shores of Haiti brought 145mph winds and torrential rains that have destroyed more than 3,200 homes, displaced 15,000 people, and killed over 1,000 people.

- **Thursday 13 October 2016**

The world celebrated International Day for Disaster – The UN Secretary General declared in a report that “over the past 20 years, 90% of the 1.35 million people who have died in 7,056 disaster events have come from low and middle-income countries”.

- **October 11-19**

Typhoon Sarika is the Pacific’s 21st named storm of 2016. It hit China’s southern province Hainan and a northern area of the Philippines. It had gained strength equivalent to a category 4 hurricane.

- **Friday 21 October 2016**

Train accident in Eseka, Cameroon – At least 70 people were killed and nearly 300 injured when a packed passenger train travelling between Cameroon’s two largest cities derailed and overturned.

- **Sunday 30 October 2016**

EA powerful 6.6-magnitude earthquake rocked central Italy injuring at least 20 people, in the strongest tremor to hit the country in more than three decades. This follows a devastating quake in August, which killed nearly 300 people and flattened entire villages.



The derailed Cameroonian train. Photo Credit: Google Image

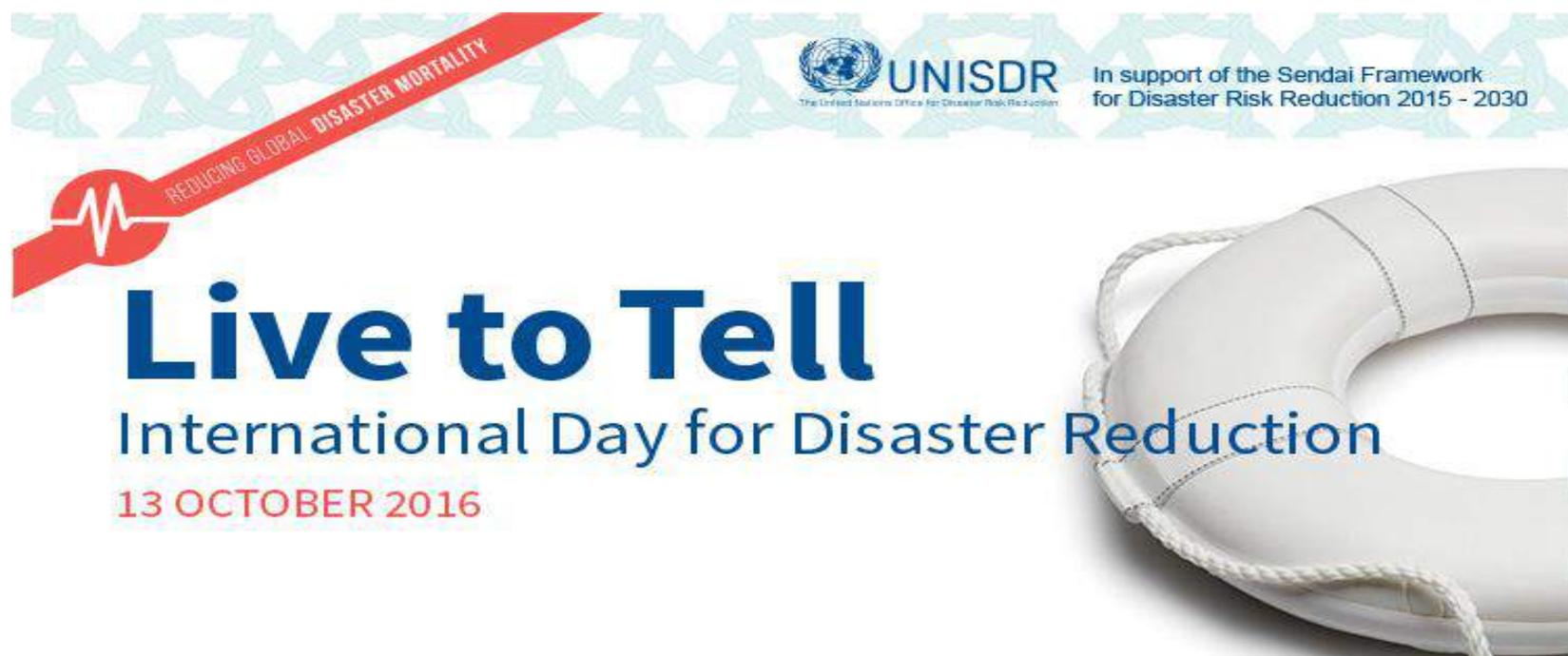
- **Sunday 30 October 2016**

Egypt floods - 22 people were killed and 72 injured in a flood caused by torrential rains in Egypt. The Government prompted the military to take the lead in rescue and relief efforts, clearing streets inundated by water and distributing food to affected families.



Alexandria's flooded Corniche. PhotoCredit: Asmaa Abdelatif

International Day for Disaster Reduction: Reflecting on the past, present and future



By Victoria Kamara

The 2016 edition of the International Day for Disaster Reduction marks the launch of the new “Sendai Seven” campaign, centred on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR).

International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR), held every 13 October, celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face. On July 11 2016 the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mr. Robert Glasser, launched “The Sendai Seven Campaign – 7 Targets, 7 Years”, an advocacy initiative to encourage implementation of the SFDRR 2015-2030 with the goal of saving lives, reducing disaster losses and improving management of disaster risk.(1) IDDR encourages every individual, community and government to take part in building more disaster-resilient communities and nations.

This started in early 1989, following a call by the UN General Assembly. The UN General Assembly sees IDDR as a way to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and

disaster reduction. That includes disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. IDDR was originally celebrated on the second Wednesday of October (Resolution 44/236, 22 December 1989), but after two decades the UN General Assembly formally designated 13 October as the annual date (Resolution 64/200, 21 December 2009). The world today is facing unprecedented crises and growing challenges. With 98.5 million people affected by disasters in 2015 and 65.3 million forcibly displaced, humanitarian needs are rising steadily and outstripping resources.

The year 2016 may well prove to be a turning point in terms of how humanitarian aid should better respond to crises. For one, the need is great. For instance, forced migration from conflict is at its highest since World War II (IDMC, 2016)(2); the number and scale of disasters triggered by natural hazards are increasing (UNISDR, 2016)(3); and 2015 was the hottest year ever recorded (NASA, 2015)(4.) Worldwide, women and children are up to 14 times more likely than men to die in a disaster, and roughly 60% of preventable maternal deaths and 53% of preventable under-5 deaths take place in conflict and disaster settings. Other groups affected disproportionately include persons living with disabilities, older persons and indigenous people.



HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Residents struggling through Haiti devastating Hurricane Matthew

Photo Credit; Hector Retamal/AFP

The UN Secretary General's message for IDDR 2016 highlights the risks that millions of people are experiencing due to rising sea levels, earthquakes, droughts, heatwaves, floods and storms amongst others., emphasizing on the fact that "We can replace material possessions, but we cannot replace people". Adding that he was repeatedly appalled at how many people die in disasters he also pointed out that the majority of victims are invariably the poor and vulnerable. Mr Ban Ki Moon also called upon people to move from a culture of reaction to one of prevention and build resilience by reducing loss of life.

The 2004 World Disaster Report published by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) highlighted the challenges of "soaring urban populations, environmental degradation, poverty and disease" which "are compounding seasonal hazards such as droughts and floods to create situations of chronic adversity"(5).

These findings are still relevant in 2016 as urban populations continue to soar (by the end of 2004, 49% of humanity lived in cities; by 2015 this had increased to 54 %). Extreme poverty remains a global challenge. While the close of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the end of 2015 noted progress in poverty reduction, the final report recorded 836 million people living in extreme poverty (UN, 2015)(6). The same report also referred to a

50 % global increase in carbon dioxide emissions since 1990, the continued destruction of rainforests, overexploitation of marine fish stocks, and water scarcity that affects 40 % of humanity which is "projected to increase" (UN, 2015, 8)(7).

While many of the challenges identified in the 2004 edition remain, the world in the past 12 years has also witnessed some massive events and changes. Between 2004 and 2016, the UN's annual appeal for international aid increased from 3.7 billion to 20.1 billion US dollars (Banning-Lover, 2016)(8). Since 2004, there has been a number of massively destructive events. Such as the South-East Asian Boxing Day tsunami, which killed approximately 230,000 people across 14 countries. The 2010 floods in Pakistan directly affected around 20 million people, and have continued to displace substantial numbers each year.

With regards to drought, between 2011 and 2016, more than 36 million people in the Horn of Africa were severely affected in what has been called the worst drought in 60 years caused by the unusually strong El Niño phenomenon. The Haiti earthquake of 2010 provided a terrifying 'perfect storm' of a major earthquake striking one of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere.

The death toll comprised between 100,000 and 316,000 (the uncertainty of the figure highlighting the precarious governance of the country) served to illustrate weaknesses in urban areas which are ill-prepared for such disasters. The Ebola outbreak in West Africa, beginning in March 2014, led to 11,310 deaths across Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea (WHO, 2016)(9).



Ebola Outbreak in West Africa
Photo Credit: Seyllou/APP



Rescuers at work at a collapsed house following the quake in Amatrice
Photo Credit: Reuters

Other large-scale disasters – such as Japan’s 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami and the Philippines’ 2013 Typhoon Haiyan – as well as numerous smaller disasters triggered by natural phenomena – reinforce the increasing threat of such events. The number of disasters continues to rise, as a result of a combination of increased vulnerability (from more people living in disaster-prone areas) and climate change. During 2015, a total of 574 reported disasters, caused by earthquakes, floods, landslides and heat waves, had killed almost 32,550 people, affected over 108 million people, and caused US\$ 70.3 billion in damage.

For 2016, the greatest humanitarian challenge has been forced displacement across the world, coupled with hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes and wildfires.

Disaster risk reduction is intrinsically tied to key issues in Global current affairs, namely sustainable development and climate change. Promotion of sustainable development is crucial in order to minimise the impact of natural and man-made disasters in the world. However, any serious sustainable development planning must adopt a holistic perspective that looks not only at current conditions and short-term goals, but also incorporates anticipated future impacts of climate change.



Residents react to the devastating damage of the Eartquake in Italy

Photo credit: Reuters

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Secretary-General's Message on International Day for Disaster Reduction 2016



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited Tacloban City, in the Leyte Province of the Philippines, to assess the relief and rehabilitation efforts for the survivors of Super Typhoon Yolanda/Haiyan. UN Photo/Evan Schneider

"Last year, Governments adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and embedded its objectives in the 2030 Development Agenda. Today, we launch the "Sendai Seven Campaign: Seven Targets, Seven Years", which highlights how we can all contribute to reducing disaster losses. This year's target is reducing loss of life. We can replace material possessions, but we cannot replace people I am repeatedly appalled at how many people die in disasters. The majority of victims are invariably the poor and vulnerable.

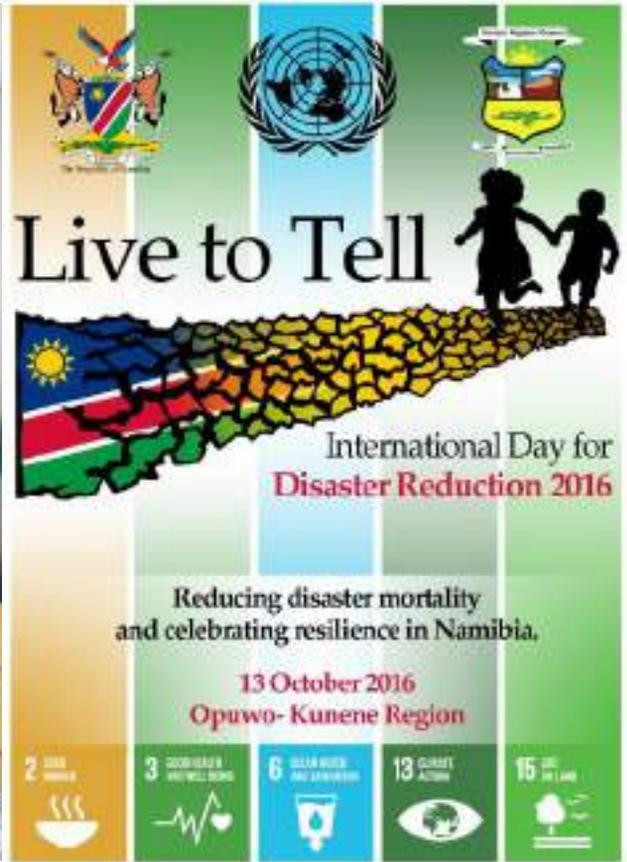
Today, hundreds of millions of people live at risk from rising seas, earthquakes, drought, heatwaves, floods and storms. They live on marginal lands, beneath unstable hillsides or on storm-exposed coastlines. This is why eradicating extreme poverty -- the first of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, is essential to reducing disaster risk. The report "Poverty & Death: Disaster Mortality 1996-2015" published today by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), is a damning indictment of inequality. High income countries suffer huge economic losses in disasters, but people in low income countries pay with their lives.

On this International Day for Disaster Reduction, I call on all Governments to work with civil society and the private sector to move from managing disasters to managing risk. Let us move from a culture of reaction to one of prevention and build resilience by reducing loss of life."

Ban Ki-moon

Celebrating 2016 International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR)

CITY OF WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA CELEBRATIONS



City of Windhoek celebrated the IDDR on 15 October at a community hall in the heart of an informal settlement in the Okuryangava area. The focus was on knife-stabbing and motor vehicle accidents.

*Photos Credits: City of Windhoek
Anthea Basson*

LILONGWE, MALAWI CELEBRATIONS



Malawi celebrated the IDDR with fire and accident rescue drills, songs, drama performance and others. It was graced with the Vice President of the Country (who is also the Minister for Disaster Management), the UN Resident Coordinator.

Photos Credit: Department of Disaster Management Affairs Malawi (DoDMA)

Preparing for the African Regional Platform: Contributions from the Civil Society



Global Network
of Civil Society Organisations
for Disaster Reduction

CONCERN
worldwide

Driving action for disaster-affected communities: recommendations by African Civil Society Organizations and Concern Worldwide for the sixth session of the Africa Regional Platform

Between 22nd and 25th November, African governments and a range of other actors will meet in Mauritius for the sixth session of the Africa Regional Platform to discuss the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). The SFDRR was adopted by UN member states in March 2015 and provides a critical strategy for building resilience and addressing the impact of disasters, which represent a severe threat to millions of people in Africa and across the world. But the framework will only be relevant if it is effectively implemented and tackles the root causes of disaster risk. We believe that this first continental meeting on DRR after Sendai must be seen as a concrete opportunity to set up a functional path to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable communities, of which the majority are in Africa.

This briefing¹ is addressed to national governments who are developing their positions for Mauritius. It identifies six key factors that need to be in place for an effective implementation of the SFDRR and recommendations as to how these can be achieved.

1. Ensure policy coherence

The SFDRR sits alongside other global policy frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals), and the Paris Agreement on climate change, containing commitments to build the resilience of vulnerable people. Taken together, these policy frameworks can support and reinforce each other but there is also a danger of confusion and conflicting approaches if they are not tackled in a joined-up way.

Recommendation: Governments should consider setting up national and sub-national focal points with oversight of the implementation of all relevant policy frameworks. This would help to mainstream and monitor progress of indicators and targets as well as ensuring convergence of these frameworks during implementation.

2. Involve local communities

Disasters are experienced at local level and it is affected people who often have the clearest understanding of the risks they face. They are an important source of knowledge and technical expertise for tackling disaster risk, they understand how disasters impact on different groups in their community, and the success of any resilience initiative depends upon their participation and support.



Ethiopia Flood and landslide caused by heavy rains

Photo credit: Muslimpress

Recommendation: Governments should listen to the voices of disaster-affected communities and involve them fully in plans to implement SFDRR. By engaging with and strengthening community groups and connecting them to wider local and national governance structures, governments can ensure that the needs and voices of disaster-affected people are central to resilience planning.

3. Devolve sufficient power and resources to local government

Strong local and regional government is an important factor in the success of community resilience-building. Consultation of local communities, development of local disaster management plans, collection and sharing of early warning information are some of the key aspects of resilience which will be undermined if local or regional government is unable to play a significant role. This issue has been recognized by the African Working Group for DRR which identifies 'decentralizing powers and resources to catalyze actions at the local level'² as a strategic intervention area to be achieved by 2018.

Recommendation: Governments should follow this recommendation to devolve sufficient responsibilities, authority and budget to regional and local governments to enable them to better engage with disaster-affected communities and drive the implementation of SFDRR on the ground.

4. Take an integrated approach to risk

Building resilience to disasters involves a multi-sectoral approach which addresses the range of different factors which make people vulnerable and the connections between them. Implementing the SFDRR will therefore require an integrated approach at national level to mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction across all sectors.

Recommendation: Governments should coordinate planning and implementation across ministries and departments and should ensure that national and local frameworks of laws, regulations and public policies take an integrated approach by setting out the roles and responsibilities of different actors around disaster risk.

5. Support Early Warning Early Action

Early Warning Early Action is a crucial component of resilience, responding quickly and decisively to prevent or reduce disaster risk before it escalates into a full-scale crisis. Early action maintains livelihoods and development gains. The UN and implementing agencies have begun work to develop a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to institutionalize early action for forecast crises such as drought. These are procedures the UN and implementing agencies will commit to undertake collectively when there is a significant risk of a weather-related disaster, based on pre-agreed thresholds and triggers.

Recommendation: National governments should engage with and support this process of developing SOPs, making their own commitments to support and institutionalize early action. Governments should ensure that these Early Warning Early Action systems are well resourced at all levels and can respond rapidly to mitigate the impact of an impending disaster.

6. Support the role of Civil Society

The SFDRR has emphasized the role of civil society organizations and the key contribution of the field activities they undertake. This recognition is also important from governments as CSOs serve as a vital bridge between local communities and decision-makers. The SFDRR offers a real opportunity to enhance cooperation and coordination actions between CSOs and governments.

Recommendation: Governments should support the key role of civil society organizations in providing technical, advisory and material support in the field to improve and promote best practices that will reduce the exposure of the most vulnerable communities. We suggest that each government offers at least one place to a CSO in their national delegation during such important summits and supports their broader engagement as much as possible.

Contact:

Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction

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Gravitazz Continental Initiative (GCI) Segment



Gravitazz Continental Initiative (GCI) is a Not for Profit company with offices in Midrand, South Africa, with a focus on the African Continent. The foremost interest of GCI is to draw attention to neglected issues regarding the African continent. GCI promotes, supports and strengthens all initiatives geared at promoting good governance, accountability and sustainable management of land across the African Continent and there by significantly improving livelihoods, contributing to socio-economic development, promoting conservation and empowering communities to determine their own long-term destinies.

GCI is the secretariat of the Africa Coalition Against Land Grabs (ACALAG). ACALAG was formed in 2014 a vision of a democratic, land-grab free and sustainable Africa in which communities enjoy sovereignty over their land and attendant natural resources.

The coalition seeks to identify, document and review country-specific land transactions, build credible evidence for advocacy on the impact of land grabs on communities and ensure capacity strengthening of land-dependent communities by facilitating and organizing opinion and global solidarity of African organizations, land activists and allies committed to the eradication of land grabbing on the continent.

“Learn more about Africa Coalition Against Land Grabs (ACALAG)’s national and international role, and about our views on the ICC’s decision to focus on investigating environmental-related crimes linked to environmental destruction and unlawful dispossession of land as reflected during our interview by Corruption Watch in September. Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiTMbHq5ofA&t=24s>”

Find out more about us on!



Gravitazz Continental Initiative/ Africa Coalition Against Land Grabs



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Gravitazz Continental Initiative

The International Criminal Court to focus on Environmental Crimes: What it means for land-grabbing in Africa

By Lonje Mwendera

The month of October has seen the International Criminal Court (ICC) hug the limelight with the potential withdrawal of some of its member-states which have decried the role of the ICC as a tool by Western powers to target Africans. This has seen some African countries threatening to withdraw, with Burundi and South African already taking the first step, and indications that Kenya, Namibia and Uganda may follow suit.

What is little known is that the ICC is breaking new grounds in another direction. On September 15 2016, it issued a Policy Document on Case Selection and Prioritisation (1) containing a new focus that would make possible the investigation and prosecution of crimes linked to environment destruction, illegal exploitation of natural resources and unlawful dispossession of land. The introduction of the document reads "The Office will seek to cooperate and provide assistance to States, upon request, with respect to conduct which constitutes a serious crime under national law, such as the illegal exploitation of natural resources, arms trafficking, human trafficking, terrorism, financial crimes, land grabbing or the destruction of the environment".

The Prosecutor of the ICC, H.E. Fatou Bensouda, was in South Africa earlier this month to give a talk at a symposium on Engaging South African Youth in International Justice (2), which Gravitazz Continental Initiative (GCI) attended, and during which she confirmed the above statement. The ICC, which started being operational in 2002, is mandated to try individuals for crimes which are considered international in nature, or harmful to the international community, namely: war crimes, crimes against humanity, crimes of genocide as well as crimes of aggression, which are in practice often perpetrated by warlords, army generals and others representatives of the military. According to its latest policy document, the Court will now pay special attention to crimes committed in light of "the destruction of the environment, the illegal exploitation of natural resources or the illegal dispossession of land" when selecting cases.

The proposal does not broaden the Hague-based Court's mandate – established by the 1998 Rome Statute. However, it shows that these international crimes are not only committed by armed groups and militia but also by corporate company executives and government officials (3).



The ICC sits in The Hague (Netherlands): it became operational in 2002, when the 1998 Rome Statute entered into force

Land Grabbing in Africa

Land in Africa has generally been seen as a community good which is passed on from one generation to another. However, arable land is becoming increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few big commercial companies and government officials, at the detriment of local communities. Land in Africa is a source of livelihood, with almost 70% of people depends on agriculture (4). In countries like Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia or Zimbabwe, local smallholder farmers have been tilling the land that has been the treasured possession of their families for many years, that has been passed on to them and which they expect to pass on to their children.



Africa has vast arable land that is attractive to foreign countries and companies for agricultural investment

The new ICC emphasis is therefore seen as a bold move in the right direction and welcoming news among global and national land – especially land-grabbing – activists. There are about 60 million hectares of farmland worldwide leased to foreign investors, the bulk of that land being in Africa, which 70% is concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa only. Gillian Caldwell, Executive Director of Global Witness, a non-governmental organisation that focuses on exposing crimes arising from the demand of natural resources, welcomed the policy saying that “it is a powerful message that the terrible impacts of land grabbing and environmental destruction have been acknowledged at the highest level of criminal justice” (5).

Under the new focus, company executives and government officials could now be held liable for illegal land deals. This will undoubtedly have an impact on how business is conducted in Africa, where countless communities are vulnerable to land grabbing and related forced displacement. The Africa Conference on Land Grab, which took place in South Africa in October 2014 and which was hosted by Gravitazz Continental Initiative (GCI), highlighted that over 60 million hectares of arable Africa land was leased to foreign companies (6).

Foreign governments are acquiring land in Africa in order to grow crops and feed their populations as they face shortages of arable land. Others are acquiring land for biofuel production and in order to meet their increasing energy demand. For instance, the

government of Saudi Arabia acquired large hectares of land in Ethiopia for rice farming to be exported back to Saudi Arabia. The government of Sudan also agreed to give Saudi Arabia almost 800,000 hectares of agricultural land which has caused an outcry from local farmers. In Mozambique, about 101,171 hectares of land was bought by Swedish businesses to produce biofuels that displaced thousands of small scale farmers (7).

While Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is to be encouraged and promoted, it has to be done in a responsible manner which guarantees the interest of all involved parties, particularly the affected communities. Land acquisition by foreign entities is not a bad idea in itself, especially when the reason behind it is to feed food-insecure populations. However, African governments need to be forward-thinking and to establish large-scale farming as a means of revenue instead of giving complete control to foreign entities.

Another trend consists in local government officials and business men either purchasing huge amounts of land at cheap rates or being offered the land by the ruling government as part of their performance bonus or to buy their loyalty. This was seen during the land reform in Zimbabwe, where, according to Zim Online News, Cabinet Ministers, senior army and government officials, as well as judges, were given almost five million hectares of land for personal use, pushing local

farmers away from their land. According to Zim Online, land reform only benefited few top government officials and left the majority of small holder-farmers vulnerable and landless (8).

In other countries such as Tanzania, agriculture has attracted top business men and white collar employees who have started investing heavily into farming by acquiring huge lands from local chiefs. Thanks to their money and education levels, they are able to manipulate land contracts to their advantage, putting small local farmers out of business and out of land. In Malawi, top Indian business men acquire land from local chiefs at very cheap rates to build factories. These deals are done without the full knowledge of the local communities who find themselves displaced from their ancestral land. The majority of small-holder farmers or villagers do not have any formal education and do not understand the implications of the fine prints on legal documents; they are consequently left at a disadvantage during contract negotiations.

The new ICC emphasis on environmental crimes gives many African small holder farmers and local communities who were displaced due to illegal land deals an opportunity to fight and reclaim control of their land especially if they are not getting any help from



The majority of small holder farmers in Africa are women who struggle to access land

local government. It further gives small holder farmers and local communities the chance to bring to justice corrupt government officials and business executives who take advantage of them in negotiating illegal land deals that displace farmers and offer them compensation that is not worth the value of the land.

The ICC's decision to incorporate environmental crimes into its portfolio of crimes which could be investigated would hopefully encourage good governance, accountability, and sound land management in Africa, further contributing to sustainable

development and equal land rights for all, especially for women who are at disadvantage when it comes to accessing land.

This will eventually encourage African governments to have proper legal frameworks or procedures to protect the rights of small holder farmers and communities from illegal land deals.

As a result of a lack of education and exposure, many African land owners are coerced by corrupt officials or business executive into signing over their land with little compensation. They also do not understand that it is a crime for officials to buy land through intimidation or taking advantage of them. Thus, the new ICC mandate will bring to light that such deals could be investigated if they were suspected to have been concluded illegally, and the people will be more careful when negotiating land deals as they will be aware of their rights.

While the new focus on environmental crimes is seen as a big step in holding land grabbers accountable, there are still many factors to consider. The ICC can only investigate and prosecute cases that took place after its establishment in 2002, which will not help local farmers or villagers that were displaced before this date. Besides, the ICC can only take action if the crimes happened in any of the countries that have ratified the Rome Statute, which is unfortunate to local farmers and villagers that are forcibly displaced in countries which have not done so (9).

In light of the above limitations, there is a strong need for land activists and other organisations, such as Africa Coalition Against Land Grab (ACALAG), to increase their efforts in raising awareness on instances of environmental crimes and lobby governments to refer cases of illegal land grabbing to ICC.



Land Rights for women in Africa

About the writer:

Lonje Mwendera is the Coordinator of Gravitazz Continental Initiative (GCI). She is responsible for primary research, advocacy and fundraising for the organization. She is also responsible for coordinating the Africa Coalition Against Land Grabs (ACALAG), an initiative in which GCI is a Secretariat.

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Our Top Reads This Month

El Nino and Climate Change Adaptation

Articles

- ***This El Niño Is A Huge Humanitarian Crisis – But It Didn't Have To Be (Oxfam)***
URL: <https://blogs.oxfam.org/en/blogs/16-09-22-el-nino-humanitarian-crisis-didnt-have-be>
- ***IFRC Calls for Disaster Funds to be Released Early to Transform Humanitarian Response to El Niño and Climate-Related Crises (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)***
URL: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/press-releases/general/ifrc-calls-for-disaster-funds-to-be-released-early-to-transform-humanitarian-response-to-el-nino-and-climate-related-crisis/>
- ***Linking Disaster Risk, Development and Climate Change (UNISDR)***
URL: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/50483>
- ***Nature For Lives: Investing In Ecosystems For Disaster Risk Reduction (International Union for the Conservation of Nature)***
URL: https://social.shorthand.com/IUCN_Ecosystem/nC56FWK4R6/nature-for-lives

Reports

- ***World Economic and Social Survey 2016: Climate Change Resilience - an Opportunity for Reducing Inequalities (United Nations)***
URL: https://wess.un.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/WESS_2016_Report.pdf
- ***Climate Change in Kenya: Projections, Impacts and Way Forward (Save the Children International)***
URL: http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/5_sci_east_africa_resilience_series_-_climate_change_in_kenya.pdf
- ***Assessing the Evidence: Migration, Environment and Climate Change in Kenya 2016 (International Organization for Migration)***
URL: <https://publications.iom.int/books/assessing-evidence-migration-environment-and-climate-change-kenya>
- ***Climate Resilient Planning Kit: A toolkit to improve resilience of Basic Service Delivery systems (Overseas Development Institute, BRACED)***
URL: <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/10891.pdf>
- ***Exploring the Potential of Ecosystem-based Approaches (Platform for Climate Adaptation and Risk Reduction (PLACARD))***
URL: <http://www.placard-network.eu/wp-content/PDFs/NBS-policy-brief.pdf>
- ***Nature-Based Solutions to Address Global Societal Challenges (International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN))***
URL: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2016-036.pdf>

Building Resilience to Reduce Disaster Risk

Articles

- ***What is Resilience and Why Does it Matter Now More Than Ever? (100 Resilient Cities (100RC))***
URL: http://www.100resilientcities.org/blog/entry/what-is-resilience-and-why-does-it-matter-now-more-than-ever#/_Yz5jJmg%2FMSd1PWI%3D/
- ***Data-Driven Preparedness For Disaster (Devex)***
<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-data-driven-preparedness-for-disaster-88950>
- ***Opening up a World of Data for Resilience: A Global Effort to Help Access and Use Countries' Disaster Risk Information (World Bank)***
URL: <http://blogs.worldbank.org/voices/opening-world-data-resilience-global-effort-help-access-and-use-countries-disaster-risk-information>
- ***The Holistic Approach to Extreme Flooding Resilience (BRINK)***
URL: <http://www.brinknews.com/asia/the-holistic-approach-to-extreme-flooding-resilience/>
- ***We Need More Media Coverage of Disaster Prevention (BBC)***
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/mediaactioninsight/entries/bf83817e-1ecc-4bb2-96f8-a058eae9f860>
- ***Low Spending to Prevent Disasters Exposes Poor: Red Cross (Thomson Reuters Foundation)***
<http://news.trust.org/item/20161013090236-thh4l/>

Reports

- ***Striving Toward Disaster Resilient Development in Sub-Saharan Africa – Strategic Framework 2016-2020 (Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), World Bank Group)***
URL: <https://www.gfdr.org/sites/default/files/publication/disaster-resilient-development-sub-saharan-africa.pdf>
- ***Understanding Risk - Building Evidence for Action: Proceedings from the 2016 UR Forum (Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR))***
URL: <https://understandrisk.org/wp-content/uploads/UR-venice-proceedings.pdf>
- ***A Conceptual Approach for Evaluating the Multiple Benefits of Urban Flood Management Practices (Wiley, Journal of Flood Management)***
URL: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jfr3.12267/full>
- ***Building Resilience to Drought: Learning from Experience in the Horn of Africa (Global Water Partnership (GWP); Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); World Meteorological Organization (WMO))***
URL: http://www.droughtmanagement.info/literature/GWP_HOA_Building_Resilience_to_Drought_2016.pdf
- ***Implementing the Sendai Framework to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR))***
URL: http://www.preventionweb.net/files/50438_implementingthesendaiframeworktoach.pdf
- ***Resilience Scan April-June 2016: A review of Literature, Debates and Social Media Activity on Resilience (Overseas Development Institute (ODI))***
URL: <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/10894.pdf>

- ***Adapting and Reacting to Measure an Extreme Event: A Methodology to Measure Disaster Community Resilience***

URL: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1876610216307135>

Resilient Cities

Articles

- ***What Works To Build Urban Resilience – And What Doesn't? (Thomson Reuters Foundation)***
URL: <http://news.trust.org/item/20161017150716-kvtuw/?source=gep>
- ***How Can Scientists Play a Bigger Role in Shaping the Future of Cities? (Stockholm Environment Institute)***
URL: <https://www.sei-international.org/blog-articles/3565>

Reports

- ***Habitat III – New Urban Agenda (UN-HABITAT)***
URL: <https://www2.habitat3.org/bitcache/97ced11dcecef85d41f74043195e5472836f6291?vid=588897&disposition=inlin e&op=view>
- ***Addressing Climate Change in National Urban Policy – A Policy Guide for Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Urban Development (United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT))***
URL: http://www.preventionweb.net/files/50711_addressingclimatechangeinnationalur.pdf
- ***How to Make Infrastructure Climate Resilient (EMCompass)***
URL: <https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/5f53054c-d88a-4700-9d16-69a552a4ec6c/Note-14-EMCompass-How-to-Make-Infrastructure-Climate-Resilient.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>

African Solutions to African Problems

- ***As Prices Plunge, Africa Surges Into Clean, Cheap Solar Energy (Thomson Reuters Foundation)***
URL: <http://news.trust.org/item/20161011155844-3lapv/>
- ***Crickets, Birds, Weather data Combine to Guide African Farmers (Thomson Reuters Foundation)***
URL: <http://news.trust.org/item/20160926094651-bs83o/>
- ***Benin Develops a Coordinated Early Warning System for Weather Related Hazards (FloodList)***
URL: http://floodlist.com/africa/benin-develops-co-ordinated-early-warning-system-weather-related-hazards?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Floodlist+%28Floodlist%29
- ***How Kenyan Communities Embrace Flood Resilience Strategies (Devex)***
URL: <https://www.devex.com/news/how-kenyan-communities-embrace-flood-resilience-strategies-88871>
- ***Kenyan Farmers Sow Resistance To Drought, Boosting Seed Demand (Thomson Reuters Foundation)***
URL: <http://news.trust.org/item/20161010071820-1ggbs/>
- ***Climate Information And Early Warnings To Save Lives And Build Livelihoods In Uganda (UNDP Uganda)***
URL: <https://undp-adaptation.exposure.co/innovative-climate-data>

- **Engage Uganda Earthquake Victims on Proper House Reconstruction (Daily Monitor)**
URL: <http://www.monitor.co.ug/OpEd/Commentary/Engage-Rakai-earthquake-victims-on-proper-house-reconstruction/689364-3399336-12t7fd3z/index.html>
- **Zimbabwe: Red Cross Embarks On Resilience Projects (The Standard)**
URL: <https://www.thestandard.co.zw/2016/09/25/red-cross-embarks-resilience-projects/>
- **Dakar's Threatened "Green Lung" Gets Reforestation Boost (Thomson Reuters Foundation)**
URL: <http://news.trust.org/item/20161017161014-8ud61/>
- **Dakar Suburbs Strive To Turn Floodwaters From Foe To Friend (Thomson Reuters Foundation)**
<http://news.trust.org/item/20161027102626-pwgc0/>
- **Maintaining Zero Ebola Infections Through Communication with Affected Communities in Gambia (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC))**
URL: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/africa/gambia/maintaining-zero-ebola-infections-through-communication-with-affected-communities-72562/>
- **Swap Maize for Millet? Zimbabwe's Farmers Just Say No (Thomson Reuters Foundation)**
<http://news.trust.org/item/20161007120959-256e5/>

UPCOMING TRAININGS AND EVENTS

Events

- **5 November 2016 (World):**
1st Edition of the World Tsunami Awareness Day
URL: <http://www.unisdr.org/2016/tsunamiday/>
- **7-18 November 2016 (Marrakesh, Morocco):**
22nd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22)
URL: <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/>
- **22-25 November (Mauritius)**
6th Session of the Africa Regional Platform and 5th High Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction
URL: <http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2016/afrp>
- **25-26 November 2016 (Belo, Bamenda; Cameroon):**
3rd International Symposium on Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts, Space Economy, Climate Change, Vulnerability, ICT and Entrepreneurship An integrated Solution for Sustainable Development in ACP Countries
URL: <https://iaaweb.org/content/view/671/884/>

Trainings

- **5 November 2016 – for 7 weeks (Online Course via Edx.Org):**
A Resilient Future: Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction
Organizer: Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
URL: <https://www.edx.org/course/resilient-future-science-technology-epflx-tech4drr>
- **21 – 25 November 2016 (Nairobi, Kenya) – Goolee Institute:**
Training Course on Climate-Smart Livelihood Management and GIS Techniques
URL: <http://www.gooleeinstitute.com/climatechange.php>
- **28 November – 02 December 2016 (Nairobi, Kenya) – Indepth Research Services:**
Training Course on Mapping Nutrition Preparedness in Emergencies
URL: http://indepthresearch.org/health-and-social-care-institute/training-course-on-mapping-nutrition-preparedness-in-emergency?utm_source=PW&utm_medium=10/Ke&utm_campaign=PW13/10/Ke
Training Course on Climate change Adaptation in a Changing Environment
URL: http://indepthresearch.org/humanitarian-work-capacity-development-institute/2755-climate-change-adaptation-in-a-changing-environment?utm_source=GP&utm_medium=14Ke&utm_campaign=GP14/10/Ke
- **28 November – 02 December 2016 (Nairobi, Kenya)**
Training Course on Agro Entrepreneurship and Market Facilitation
URL: http://indepthresearch.org/agriculture-food-security-and-rural-livelihoods-development/training-course-on-agro-entrepreneurship-market-facilitation-c4?utm_source=RW&utm_medium=14Ke&utm_campaign=RW14/10/Ke

UPCOMING TRAININGS AND EVENTS

- December 05-09 December 2016 (Nairobi, Kenya) – Indepth Research Services:**

Training Course on Causes and Minimization of Post-Harvest Losses
 URL: http://indepthresearch.org/agriculture-food-security-and-rural-livelihoods-development/training-course-on-causes-and-minimization-of-post-harvest-loss-c6?utm_source=RW/TCCMPHL&utm_medium=RW/TCCMPHL/Ke&utm_campaign=RW/TCCMPHL/Ke

Training Course on GIS and Remote Sensing For Climate Change Impact Analysis and Adaptation
 URL: http://indepthresearch.org/geospatial-information-systems-and-earth-management/courses-on-gps-gis-remote-sensing/training-course-on-gis-and-remote-sensing-for-climate-change-impact-analysis-and-adaptation-6?utm_source=Reliefweb&utm_medium=GISClimateChange&utm_campaign=jk

Training Course on ICT for Disaster Response
 URL: http://indepthresearch.org/ict4d-and-mobile-technologies/courses-on-ict-for-governance/2810-ict-for-disaster-response-drr-training?utm_source=RW/TCTDR&utm_medium=RW/TCTDR/Ke&utm_campaign=LI/TCTDR/Ke

Training Course on Use of GIS and Remote Sensing in Disaster Risk Management
 URL: http://indepthresearch.org/geospatial-information-systems-and-earth-management/courses-on-gps-gis-remote-sensing/training-course-on-use-of-gis-and-remote-sensing-in-disaster-risk-management-7?utm_source=Reliefweb&utm_medium=DRR&utm_campaign=jk

Multimedia

- Webinar: Adaptation Pathways – From Concept to Practice**
 URL: <http://www.assar.uct.ac.za/news/webinar-adaptation-pathways-%E2%80%93-concept-practice>
- Full Movie: Before the Flood**
 URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90CkXVF-Q8M>
- Podcast: Before the Flood – on Climate Change and Rising Sea Levels**
 URL: http://www.100resilientcities.org/blog/entry/podcast-before-the-flood-on-climate-change-and-rising-sea-levels#/-_Yz5jJmg%2FMid1PWI%3D/

CONTACT GIDREM

About GIDREM

Gravitazz Institute for Disaster Reduction and Emergency Management (GIDREM) specializes in disaster reduction and humanitarian emergencies. It has its offices in Midrand, South Africa, but covers the African continent. It was established to assist practitioners and decision-makers with practical hands-on strategies and approaches to disasters and other environmental challenges.

Please contact us should you wish to contribute to the next edition of our newsletter to be published early November or should you wish to engage with us in any way. We are also constantly looking to enrich our pool of consultants: kindly send your CV to elodie@gravitazzcontinental.com if you would like to be placed in our roster.

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DIMA Connect: <https://a-better-africa.com/show/dima-connect-johannesburg-gauteng>



Gravitazz Institute

For disaster reduction and emergency management